

Week of July 16, 2018

From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Vacations are always popular during the summertime and many of you may be planning to get away for a few days. The following are some suggestions from the police and other experts that you might want to heed to safeguard your home while you're away.

First, make arrangements to stop mail and newspaper delivery, or ask a trustworthy neighbor to collect these items for you, including any hand-delivered circulars, to make it look like someone is at home. You might also ask your neighbor to park their car in your driveway periodically as another way to show some activity while you are gone.

Timers that can be set to turn on lights inside and outside the house are another way of making it look as though someone is home. Set them so that downstairs lights are on in late afternoon and upstairs lights are on in the evening. Another tip is to leave a radio or television on a timer. These worthy and relatively inexpensive investments can be purchased at any hardware store.

Before you leave the house, do a complete check to make sure all doors and windows are closed and locked. Do not leave a key under the welcome mat—this is one of the first places people look to get into the house.

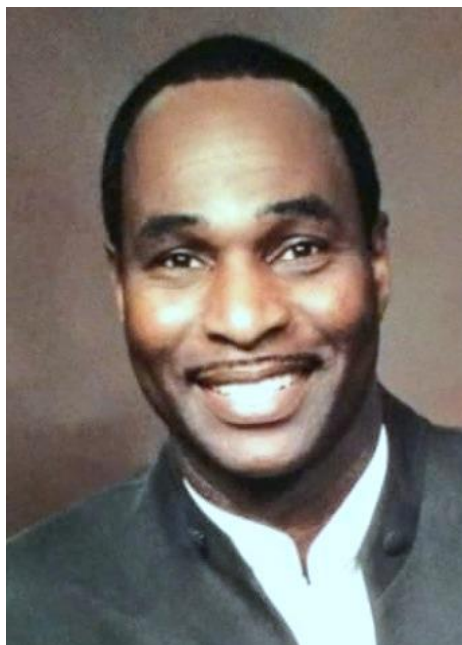
Make sure faucets and small appliances are turned off. You may want to shut down the water main completely to rule out any chance of flooding. Washing machines and dryers should be unplugged to avoid a fire from frayed wiring. Any computers should be unplugged to protect against a power surge in case there is a thunderstorm. Also, be sure the lawn is mowed and watered so potential intruders pass by your house without a second look.

Although you shouldn't broadcast your vacation plans to the whole neighborhood, you can tell the police that you're going to be away and they will send a patrol by to check the house.

For those who partake in social media, wait until you're back from your vacation before posting any pictures or comments about your vacation. Doing so ahead of time or while you're away should be avoided.

Remember—it is better to be safe than sorry. A little time spent preparing the house for your absence could save you from an unpleasant surprise upon your return and give you peace of mind so you can truly enjoy your well-deserved vacation.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



Arthur Morrison get the nod for this week's Best of Hempstead accolades. Arthur has been a resident of Hempstead Village for more than 60 years and came here as a teenager after being orphaned at birth and living with three different foster families. After graduating Hempstead High School Arthur went on to earn degrees at both Hofstra University, majoring in Math and Spanish and at Penn State University majoring in Zoology. His interest in teaching math almost shifted toward medicine when he was accepted in Harvard Medical School. However, that opportunity was dashed when Arthur was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served and was honorably discharged. That led Arthur back to his passion to teach Math and he served as an educator in that subject at Hempstead High School from 1973 until his retirement in 1998.

While his career as a teacher was certainly an accomplishment in and of itself, Arthur's involvement with mentoring Hempstead's youth is where his contributions are truly notable. Besides teaching, Arthur has been employed as a team member in Hempstead's Department of Parks and Recreation since 1968. Back then he began informally mentoring high school students, which eventually led to a formal program based out of Kennedy Memorial Park that Arthur helped launch in 1976 and has led ever since, helping to tutor teens in math, Spanish and chemistry. From the early 1970's until the early 2000's Arthur also ran a teen basketball league. Then in 2005, Arthur got involved in another initiative that was launched by former high school students while they were attending college. A series of state grants they secured led to the formation of Morrison Mentors. That program, which still exists today is run out of a house located across the street from Jackson Street School and specializes in helping elementary kids in math, computer science and communication technologies.

Amazingly, Arthur has also been the godfather to 48 children, all of them who have earned their college degrees through his care and guidance.

Over his long history in mentorship Arthur has easily helped tutor more than 5,000 of Hempstead's youth not to mention the thousands of students he taught at Hempstead High School. I had the pleasure of teaching with Arthur at the High School as well and seeing firsthand the countless lives he has positively influenced over the years. Therefore, it's a distinct honor for me to recognize Arthur as one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead