



Week of August 13, 2018

From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

With the hot summer weather still upon us, residents of all ages will be cooling off in swimming pools. While swimming can be a fun recreational activity, it can also be dangerous. Therefore, it's a good idea to establish some safety rules that should be followed.

It seems every year we hear tragic stories of both young children and teens that have drowned in backyard pools. Drowning is the second leading cause of death for children ages 14 and under. Statistics have shown that most incidents occur when adults become distracted.

It takes only about 20 seconds for a child to drown. Adults should maintain constant supervision of children in and around the pool and never leave them unattended. While monitoring the pool, resist the temptation to become immersed in conversation on your cell phone or involved in other activities on any of your electronic devices. It's important to exercise caution and to stay alert at all times.

Flotation devices are not a replacement for a watchful eye, as they can easily lose air or slip from underneath a person. If there are more children in the pool than you are comfortable supervising by yourself, make arrangements for other adults to be present.

Having a backyard pool is a wonderful means of summer recreation for the entire family but it is also a very big responsibility, especially when youngsters live nearby or are visiting. Do not permit swimming alone, running near the pool or playful screaming for help, which may mask a real emergency.

The pool area should also be protected with a fence, at least five feet high, and a self-closing gate. Mark the water depth with a safety rope across the pool to indicate where it gets deeper. Steps and ladders leading to an above ground pool should be secured and locked, or even removed when not in use. First aid and lifesaving equipment should be easily accessible from anywhere on the deck. Keep toys out of the pool when not in use, as they can lure a child back to the water.

For those without a pool, residents can enjoy the swimming complex at Kennedy Park at 335 Greenwich Street, which is open to the public from 10 am to 8 pm seven days a week through Labor Day, September 3. Resident children accompanied by parents will be allowed in the pool for free for the remainder of the month of August. **Please note, this does not include camps.**

During pool hours, trained lifeguards who are equipped and ready to deal with any emergency that might occur constantly monitor our swimming facility. However, the presence of our lifeguards does not relieve adults from the responsibility of keeping a watchful eye on young children and teens both poolside and in the water.

Whether you use your own pool or the one at Kennedy Park, practicing common-sense pool safety measures and staying alert at all times will ensure that the rest of the summer is a safe and happy one for you and your family.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week are extended to Moses Elijah Green II. Moses was born and raised in Uniondale but his ties to Hempstead started at an early age when he participated in a number of sports related activities as he grew up. He has also been an active member of the Jackson Memorial AME Zion Church, under the leadership of Reverend Malcolm J. Byrd.

Only 18 years old, Moses has already led an interesting life at such a young age. He attended high school in China and as a result is fluent in Mandarin, something that will likely be of great benefit in the years ahead. After being admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point, Moses began basic training at West Point's Preparatory School in July and in the fall will be fully enrolled in the Academy's educational program that will prepare him for a possible military career. Moses indicated the school runs a tight schedule and the program is both mentally and physically challenging but he is determined to complete it and the commitment it brings to serve for at least five years in the United States Army.

Based on what he has already accomplished I expect Moses is well on his way toward a productive career in whatever path life leads him on. Good luck to you, Moses, as you embark on your military journey and congratulations for being named as one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead