



Week of September 3 & 10, 2018

## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

As we say goodbye to summer and another school year begins our thoughts also turn to the fall season that lies ahead. Here in Hempstead Village, this time of year always brings a steady stream of notable activities for our residents. Below are several events taking place in September that you might be interested in marking on your calendar.

For starters, we will be hosting a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony as part of a National Day of Remembrance for the victims, fallen heroes and families of those touched by the 9/11 tragedies. It's sometimes hard to imagine this horrible event took place almost 17 years ago and how much the world has changed since then. This somber tribute will take place on Tuesday, September 11, at 12:30 p.m. at Denton Green Park, across from Village Hall (99 Nichols Court).

On Monday, September 17, Hempstead recognizes National Recovery Month with an event that focuses on recognizing the signs of mental health issues and substance abuse and ways you can begin to address them for you or your loved ones. Sadly, one in five Americans will suffer some type of anxiety disorder at some point in their lives. This sobering fact shows how important both education and treatment is to combat this growing problem. Experts will be on hand that evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich Street) to help those seeking help on a wide range of mental health topics.

On Saturday, September 22, get ready for an action packed afternoon when Hempstead participates in the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of Nickelodeon's Day of Play. This family-fun event encourages children and parents to put down their electronic devices, get active, stay healthy and play outdoors. Among the activities on tap include double-dutch rope skipping, hula-hoop, dancing, tennis, basketball, football, a kickball contest and more. Free healthy snacks will also be given away. The fun starts at 12 noon and runs until 3 p.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich Street)

The following Saturday, September 29 our 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will finally be here. All residents are invited to come out from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in front of Village Hall (99 Nichols Court) and join in on the celebration as we observe our 375th Anniversary in a big way! The festivities kick-off with an official street renaming ceremony in honor of former Mayor James A. Garner. Nichols Court will be renamed "James A. Garner Way". Immediately following will be amazing fun and activities for the entire family which will include live music, Kids activity zone, as well as the "Flavors of Hempstead" a mouthwatering array of cultural dishes provided by our diverse selection of restaurants. There will also be an exhibit on past mayors, presidents and founders of Hempstead. And it's all FREE. This is a celebration not to be missed!

For more details about any of these events and other's on our calendar, please visit the village website at: [www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org) or call 516-478-6286.

## This Week's Best of Hempstead



Vincent Long receives the honors as this week's Best of Hempstead. Vincent moved to the Village in 1980 after retiring as a trolley operator and raising a family in Brooklyn. However, the real story about Vincent is his time serving our country during World War II as one of the first black U.S. Marines trained in a segregated section of Camp Lejeune in North Carolina called Montford Point. His first mission along with a small group of other black Marines was to help prepare for the invasion of Saipan, near Guam, where they unexpectedly faced attack by Japanese artillery. A recent Newsday article vividly captured some of Vincent's memories of his years of military service from 1944-1946 and his time spent as one of the 20,000 young black men recruited into the Marines Corps.

Now 93, but sharp as a tack, Vincent is the last known surviving Montford Point Marine from Long Island. History has mostly forgotten about the Montford Point Marines after the unit was shut down in 1949, a year after President Harry S. Truman ordered the full integration of the U.S. Military. Fortunately though, a film producer working in conjunction with the Montford Point Marine Association, is seeking to produce a feature-length movie about the experiences of America's first black Marines and the challenges they endured in order to serve their country. Knowing that one of

our own residents is among these true heroes whose story may finally be told is truly special. Vincent, we cannot thank you enough for the sacrifices you made as one of the Montford Point Marines. We are proud to have you among us as a resident of our Village and it is a great privilege and honor for me to recognize you as one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead