



Week of October 1, 2018

From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Each year, during National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans in the United States.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico, Chile and Belize celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is officially October 12 and falls within this 30 day period as well.

Here in Hempstead Village, Hispanics make up a significant portion of our multicultural population and have had a profound and positive influence on our community through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. As we celebrate the unique influences of Hispanic cultures during Hispanic Heritage Month, let us also rededicate ourselves to realizing our shared aspirations.

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Village will be hosting a celebration on Monday, October 15 from 6-8 p.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich Street). At this special gathering we will recognize the many contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to our heritage and culture. I, along with all of our Trustees, invite the entire Hempstead community to join us for this festive celebration.

Our Department of Park and Recreation will also be hosting its annual Halloween Party. This safe and family fun event will be held on Tuesday, October 31 from 4-7 p.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich St.). There will be games, a bouncy house, face painting, popcorn, a DJ and goodie bag for all the kids.

For information about any of these programs, please call 516-478-6286 or visit our website at www.villageofhempstead.org.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



This past Saturday as part of our 375th Anniversary Celebration, I had the distinct pleasure of joining a large crowd of Hempstead residents and an impressive array of local and regional dignitaries as we recognized former Mayor James Garner during a special street renaming ceremony that officially changed the name of Nichols Court to James A. Garner Way. Therefore, I found it only fitting to follow-up that memorable occasion by extending Best of Hempstead honors to Jim Garner this week as well.

A U.S. military veteran of the Vietnam era, Jim has led a distinguished career that includes success as a businessman and entrepreneur. Jim entered politics back in 1984 when he became a Village Trustee. After serving five years in that position, Jim made history when he was elected Long Island's first African-American Mayor, the start of a four term administration that ran from 1989 to 2005. During his 16 years as Mayor, Jim helped fuel an economic revitalization in the Village that included securing more than \$400 million in community development assistance from Federal and State government as well as the private sector. Those efforts resulted in the construction of much needed senior housing and retail projects such as The Hub and Hempstead Commons, creating hundreds of new jobs and generating significant tax revenues for the Village.

In 2003, Jim made history again when he was elected the first African-American Republican to serve as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. As President of the Conference of Mayors, Garner was the nation's ambassador on city revitalization, community development and public/private partnerships to other city mayors and to corporate America.

After his tenure as Mayor ended in 2005, Garner opened his own consulting firm, Garner Group International and also served as Chief Deputy and Deputy Comptroller for Nassau County from 2011-2017. Over the years, Garner has received numerous awards in recognition of his long list of accomplishments.

Jim, you've been a friend and colleague of mine for decades and your positive contributions to our Village will leave an indelible mark for future generations to come. I'm proud to know you and delighted to recognize you as one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead