



Week of October 8, 2018

## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Against the backdrop of a picture perfect autumn day with blue skies and temperatures in the low 70's, well over a 1,000 residents along with local officials, community leaders and dignitaries from around the country gathered on Saturday, September 29 to celebrate the Village of Hempstead's 375th Anniversary and a street renaming dedication in honor of Long Island's first African-American Mayor James A. Garner. Nichols Court is now known as "James A. Garner Way."

The ceremony itself was an impressive and touching display of praise and recognition by family members, clergy, Village officials and various public officials and other distinguished guests who reflected on Mayor Garner's many accomplishments and contributions made over his 30-plus years of public service that included serving as Village Trustee from 1984-1989 and Mayor from 1989-2005.

Among those offering accolades to Mayor Garner were former NY Governor David Paterson, Deputy Speaker Earlene Hooper, State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, New York City Public Advocate and State Attorney General candidate Letitia James and former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb. The ceremony, which was led by Garner's daughter Yolanda Garner-Hutcherson, also included musical selections by recording artist Robin S. and Catherine Miller, the reading of Mayor Garner's bio by his son Darrell, an inspiring keynote address by Rev. Malcolm Byrd, pastor of the Jackson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, heartfelt remarks by Mayor Garner and the official street sign unveiling led by Garner's granddaughter Ashanti Williams.

Throughout the day and in addition to the street renaming ceremony, 375th Anniversary attendees enjoyed a variety of amazing fun and exciting activities for the entire family that took place in the adjacent Denton Green Park, including live music, Kids activity zone, as well as the "Flavors of Hempstead" a mouthwatering array of cultural dishes provided by a diverse selection of local restaurants.

Village Hall was also transformed into a museum quality exhibit on past mayors, presidents and founders of Hempstead Village. Hundreds of visitors there were able to gather a great perspective of Hempstead's long history through words and pictures. That exhibit will remain on display in the Village Board Room so others can enjoy it as well.

On behalf of myself, Deputy Mayor Charles Renfroe and Trustees Perry Pettus, LaMont Johnson and Jeffrey Daniels, I wanted to offer special thanks to our 375th Anniversary Committee. Led by Chairman Dr. Sedgwick Easley and Co-Chair Dr. David Gates, the committee made up of Michelle Banks, Reine Bethany, Irene Duszkievicz, Lael Von Elm, Samantha Fountain, Frank Germinaro, Juanita Hargwood, Regina Lattimore, Jenise Richardson and George Sandas performed countless hours of planning and hard work that went into producing such a flawless affair along with prior 375th Anniversary activities that have taken place since the beginning of this year. Your incredible efforts are greatly appreciated.

I also wanted to thank the residents who joined us in the celebration. The large turnout was a great display of community spirit that captured the true essence of what makes Hempstead Village the true hub of Nassau County. All in all it was a fabulous day and one I will fondly remember.

## This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week go to Nosokhare Uzamere. Born and raised in Hempstead Village, Nosa, as he's known to his family and friends, is currently a senior at Hempstead High School where he's not only an honor roll student but also excels in both football and basketball. Playing several offensive positions, including quarterback, receiver and tight end, Nosa helped lead the Hempstead Tigers to the playoffs last year for the first time in 12 years and has put the team in the playoff hunt again this year. Nosa is already looking at several SUNY schools to continue his education next year and possibly receive a scholarship as well.

In addition to his academic and athletic achievements, Nosa recently received a Community Service Award from the Hempstead-Uniondale Rotary Club. A member of the Boy Scouts, Nosa is also active at St. George's Episcopal Church.

Nosa, you are another fine example of one of Hempstead's youth whose future is looking bright. Keep up the good work and congratulations for being recognized as one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead