

Week of October 15, 2018

## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

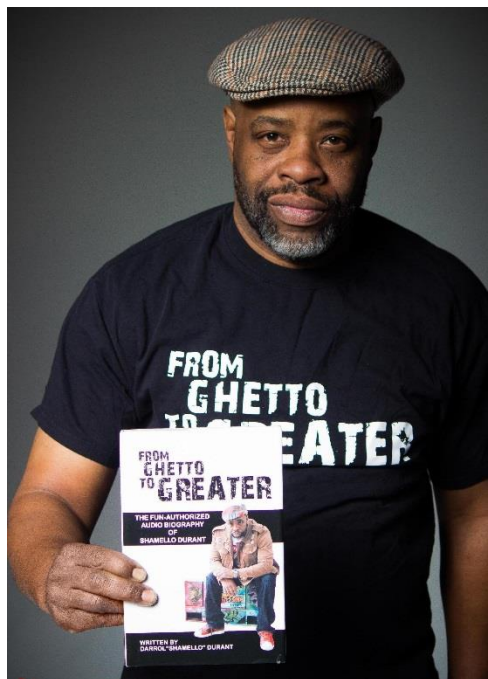
In observance of both National Fire Prevention Month this October now is the perfect time to review and re-learn some basic fire safety rules that can help save lives.

According to fire officials, most fatal fires happen between midnight and 8:00 a.m., and it only takes minutes for a fire to spread through a house or dwelling. Every second counts during a fire; so here are a few tips for increasing the chances of you and your family remaining safe and secure should a fire ever occur.

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Pick a spot outside where everyone will meet once they have gotten safely outside. Make sure everyone knows and understands the escape plan, including baby sitters. Everyone should learn how to lock and unlock all the doors and windows as well.
- Every house should have one or more life-saving smoke alarms. It is recommended that you have one on every floor and place them near sleeping areas and close to the kitchen. Apartment dwellers need to be responsible for providing and maintaining their own smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be equipped with sealed-in, non-removable batteries that last for 10 years. Such alarms do not require any battery changes during their lifespan and are nearly impossible to disable. Alarms with removable batteries should be replaced with newer models. In fact, in April 2019 legislation takes effect banning the sale of smoke alarms with removable batteries.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- If there is a fire—the smoke alarm sounds or you see smoke or smell something burning—instruct everyone to get out of the dwelling immediately. Do not stop to call the fire department. Use a cell phone to call once you are safely outside. If a door feels cool to the touch it is safe to open it. Otherwise look for one of the other ways out.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

By following these guidelines, Village of Hempstead residents can better protect their home and the lives of those around them. In the event a fire ever breaks out, rest assured our world-class Fire Department is always on the ready to respond quickly and with maximum efficiency.

## This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week go to Darrol "Shamello" Durant. Shamello grew up in the Village of Hempstead from the 1970's to 1990's and is a product of Hempstead schools, graduating from Hempstead High School in 1983 and then Hofstra University. Since then, Shamello has distinguished himself as a Grammy nominated, award winning author, songwriter, producer and poet who has had his hand in the tapestry of Hip Hop for almost 30 years. Influenced by the Hip Hop pioneers such as Grandmaster Flash and Run DMC, Shamello has honed his own unique brand of Hip Hop expression and wordcrobatcs, which he has shared with the numerous artists he has worked with. Among them are BBD, Busta Rhymes, Destiny's Child, Dr. Dre and Petey Pablo, to name a few.

Although he now resides in New Jersey, Shamello credits his time spent in Hempstead with providing the soul and soil from whence he became a man. He fondly recalls Percy Jackson Youth Center as his sanctuary during his formative years. Currently, he is looking to bring his one man play, "The Ghetto To Greater Experience," to Hempstead in the summer of 2019. The play chronicles his life's journey as a product of growing up in Hempstead Village, communicated with laughter, music and heart. Shamello is also working on holding a "510 Reunion Concert," at a Hempstead Village venue next summer as a tribute to the studio at 510 South Franklin Street where most of his formidable artistic skills were nurtured back in the late 1980's and into the 1990's. Shamello hopes to attract a number of well-known hip hop artists he has collaborated with to perform at the concert, some of whom also worked out of the same studio as he did back then.

Shamello, you are truly a man of many dimensions with a story to tell and many ways to tell it. We look forward to working with you to allow your message to be brought to our residents. Your incredible accomplishments and contributions make us so proud to call you one of our own. Congratulations on being named one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead