



Week of October 22, 2018

From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Once again, the leaves are falling, apples are in season and families throughout the Village have settled in for another school year. As for the youngsters, soon they will all turn into ghosts, goblins, super heroes and other assorted costumed characters on Halloween.

Here in Hempstead, our Department of Parks and Recreation will be hosting its annual Halloween Party. This safe and family fun event will be held on Wednesday, 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. Please note this event is open to Village residents only. For more information, please call 516-478-6246.

For those who will venture out for some traditional trick-or-treating, I'd like to offer some safety tips to you and your family. Following these guidelines will help ensure this holiday is enjoyable for everyone.

- Wear light-colored clothing that's short enough to prevent tripping and add reflective tape to make it easier for cars to see you.
- Make sure children can see well through face masks which should have adequate holes for proper respiration and peripheral vision. Face paint is preferable to a mask.
- Adults should always accompany young children.
- Older children should travel in pairs or in groups at all times and should never venture down a dark, empty side street. Parents should know the route their children plan to take.
- Children should always walk together to the front door of each house and never run across the street or yard. Dark, unlit houses should be avoided.
- Go out in daylight and carry a flashlight in case it's needed.
- Stay within the neighborhood and only visit homes you know.
- Watch for traffic; drivers should use extra precaution as well.
- Only give and accept wrapped or packaged candy.
- Adults should carefully examine all candy BEFORE allowing children to eat any items. Any packages that appear to be tampered with should be discarded.
- Keep costumed children away from pets. The pet may not recognize the child and become frightened.
- Avoid hard plastic or wood props such as daggers or swords. Substitute with foam rubber or cardboard instead.

Let's make it a safe, enjoyable and happy Halloween.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week go to Francisco Guerrero Castro. A native of El Salvador, Francisco came to the U.S. in 1980 as a 14 year old and joined his parents in Hempstead Village who had set roots here a few years earlier. A gifted athlete, Francisco received All American honors playing soccer at Hempstead High School where he graduated in 1985. Francisco continued his education and All-American soccer exploits while attending Ulster Community College, graduating with an Associate's Degree in 1986.

In 1987, Francisco was recruited to play on the first Salvadoran soccer team from San Miguel. After playing soccer professionally for three years, including representing El Salvador while participating in the 1987 Pan-American Games, Francisco returned to the U.S. and enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served in Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War. After being honorably discharged in 1995, Francisco returned and settled in Hempstead Village and began working at his brother's auto body shop, Guanacos Auto Repair, from 1995-2010.

Around 2002, Francisco saw a need in providing sports incentives for the Hispanic youth in our Village so he founded the New York Soccer League Association (NYSLA), to develop soccer programs for boys and girls from the ages of 5 to 18. Sixteen years later, NYSLA is thriving and has helped create a positive environment for thousands of Hispanic kids throughout the community.

In 2010, Francisco caught the entrepreneurial spirit and fulfilled the American Dream by using his extensive prior experience of working with cars to open up his own business in the Village called Sanzivar Auto Repair & Collision.

Francisco, you are a great example of someone who came to this country and by working hard made a better future for yourself and your family. We thank you for your military service as well as your continued willingness to give back to community through your sports related efforts to benefit Hispanic youth. It gives me great pleasure to recognize you as one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead