



HEMPSTEAD VISIONS

WINTER 2011

VOL. 25 NO.2

Message From Mayor Hall



The Village of Hempstead is home to one of the best law enforcement agencies on Long Island, the Hempstead Police Department. Under the leadership of Chief Joseph Wing, our police officers work hard to ensure our safety; these officers put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve the people of Hempstead.

The Board of Trustees and I were proud to welcome 25 new members of the Hempstead Police Department in 2010. The addition of these officers will make the department more effective, directly benefiting residents. We have an obligation to do everything in our power to protect our residents and to bring criminals to justice. As part of that mandate, our police department will work diligently to improve relationships with the community and to partner with residents around policing.

For, while the brave men and women of the Hempstead Police Department are on the front lines, community cooperation is essential to the safety of our Village. I urge you to keep your eyes open and to report any information you may have about any crime to Crime Stoppers: 800-244-TIPS or CrimeStoppers@pdcn.org. This program is based on the belief that every person can help stop or solve crimes. It offers a cash reward of up to \$2,000 to anyone who gives information leading to the arrest of an offender. All callers remain anonymous. All reward money comes from private donations; no tax money is used to pay the rewards.

The Village will continue to make fighting crime a top priority. Working together the police department and Village residents can create a safe, crime-free community.

Sincerely,

Wayne J. Hall Sr.
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead

Keeping Your Village Safe 25 New Police Officers Hired in 2010

In 2010, the number of Village of Hempstead police officers expanded by approximately 19 percent – the largest expansion by the Village since the 1970’s. The process began last March, when 17 new officers were inducted, and completed this fall, with the addition of 8 more. The Village has been authorized to hire another six to eight police officers over the coming year.

Under the leadership of Chief Wing, police officers are constantly working to keep the Village safe by cracking down on illegal drugs and weapons. With ever-present police patrols in areas formerly known for drugs, prostitution and violent activity, residents have noticed significant progress in public safety.

Since Mayor Hall announced the Village’s commitment to improving the condition of its streets and its neighborhoods, crime has dropped in several key areas: rape has dropped by 75 percent; motor vehicle theft is down 33 percent; robbery is down 15 percent and total crime is down 4 percent.



(L-R) Chief Joseph Wing, Trustees Perry Pettus and Don Ryan, Mayor Hall, Trustees Tony Rosario and Henry Conyers, and new officers Roman Pettway, Anthony Cousins, Christopher Cohen, Christopher Giardino, Keith Carlo and Brian Connolly

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New Additions to Village's Fleet Help Keep Hempstead Clean



The Department of Public Works (DPW) recently unveiled several new additions to its fleet, including a new vac truck, three dump trucks equipped with plows and sanders, a milling machine and a Pelican three-wheel street sweeper. In inclement weather or during potential hazardous conditions, these new additions will provide quicker and superior service to residents.

“The machines are vital in our ongoing program to maintain, improve and beautify Hempstead Village,” stated Mayor Hall. “Our administration is always on the lookout for new and effective ways to develop our community.”

The Village’s fleet is capable of accomplishing all means of infrastructure work. The vac truck specializes in the cleaning of catch bins and sewer lines, while the dump trucks will greatly assist in the clearing of roads and parking lots during wintry weather. The street sweeper will easily handle heavy, compacted dirt and bulky debris, as well as smaller particles found on the streets.

Village of Hempstead Street Repairs Continue Extensive Work Planned for Upcoming Year

The ongoing labors of the Department of Public Works (DPW) have kept the Village of Hempstead’s roads and public areas flourishing. In 2011, the DPW will continue its work to keep the Village as clean and safe as possible.

Repairing the Village of Hempstead’s streets has attracted business to the Village and enhanced safety for motorists and pedestrians alike. The project has been one of our top priorities.

At the time of this printing, roadwork to Lincoln Boulevard, Lafayette Avenue and Linden Avenue are near completion, while Virginia Avenue’s repairs have started and Florence Avenue’s will be finished in April/May. Improvements on Florence Avenue will include the reconstruction of curbs, gutters and catch basins, as well as other miscellaneous upgrades. This 1,550-foot project will be handled exclusively by the Village’s own DPW. The addition of two new employees who specialize in masonry will allow the DPW to handle the project entirely in-house. Without the need to hire an outside contractor, the Village will save approximately \$20,000 on this project.

“I would like to personally thank our in-house crew of 8 hardworking overlay employees who have assisted in this year’s 18 extensive street renovations,” stated Mayor Hall. “And I extend thanks to all the employees who have put in the time to keep our Village clean. Your hard work cannot be overstated.”

The Village is constantly seeking streets in need of repair. Do you find yourself dodging potholes during your morning drive? Are there streets here in the Village that deserve our attention for possible repair or rehabilitation? If you have any questions or would like to request that your street be fixed, please call the Department of Public Works at (516) 489-3400 x270.

HOLIDAY SEASON IN THE VILLAGE IS A TIME FOR JOY!

In the Village of Hempstead, helping others in need during the holidays has been a long-standing tradition. Mayor Hall and the Board of Trustees would like to thank the many organizations that made contributions to last year's special events, and all of those who made personal donations or offered their time to help make the holidays bright for everyone in the Village.



Turkey Giveaway

On November 22, the Village hosted its annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. This year, more than 100 turkeys were donated by a number of local groups, including the Cham Sarang Korean Methodist Church, Bravo Supermarket, Met Foods, Health First, Infinity Health and the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA). During the week of Thanksgiving, turkeys were distributed to senior homes throughout the Village, and full Thanksgiving dinners, along with baskets of canned and dry foods, were provided to those who are sick and shut in. Additionally, Calvary Tabernacle invited all residents to enjoy a free (and delicious!) meal on Thanksgiving Day.

Christmas Tree Lighting and Collection

The Village celebrated the Christmas holiday with an outdoor extravaganza on December 18 at the Denton Green Park. Governor David Paterson was on hand, and Mayor Hall presented him with a special plaque and a key to the Village. All who attended the event were treated to performances by choirs from community churches, synagogues and Village schools. Guests were asked to provide donations of food baskets and other goods that were later distributed to those less fortunate. The evening culminated in the Christmas tree lighting and was a wonderful sight for all. The entire experience was a joyful celebration characterized by appreciation for the diversity in Hempstead Village.



Student Government Day in the Village Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders

Last fall, the Village of Hempstead held its annual Student Government Day at Village Hall. The event, hosted by Mayor Hall and members of the Board of Trustees, gave students in elementary, middle and high school the opportunity to learn about the daily functions of Village government.

Select students participated in Student Government Day, based on the merit of their written essays, which described what they would do to improve Hempstead Village. Winning compositions came from Jackson Main Elementary School, Franklin Elementary School, Barack Obama Elementary School, Alberta B. Schultz Middle School and Hempstead High School.



“Student Government Day is a tremendous opportunity for us as politicians and educators to inform our youth about the importance of government,” said Trustee Don Ryan. “Each year we look forward to sharing our personal experiences and offering advice to the Village youth.”

During the students' visit, they met and talked with Mayor Hall, as well as the Village attorney and members of the Board of Trustees. Students took a tour of the Village's facilities and were then escorted to the Water Plant Department to observe the process of water filtration and distribution throughout the Village of Hempstead. The day ended with a pizza party at the Hempstead Public Library.

Hempstead Public Library: Something for Everyone!

The Hempstead Public Library provides wonderful opportunities for learning, recreation and personal growth for all Village residents. Many exciting events are planned for adults and children in the coming months, some of which are listed below. For more information and a listing of additional activities, visit us online at <http://www.hempsteadlibrary.info/>. The library is located at 115 Nichols Court and is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday (through June).

ADULT PROGRAMS

Yoga in Your Chair!

Presented by Adrienne Samuels

Wednesday, March 2, 7-8 p.m.

Our Healthy Hempstead 2011 initiative continues with a gentle and nurturing Hatha Yoga class consisting of simple yoga sequences, breathing practices, guided relaxation and meditation – all practiced in a seated position. Experience firsthand how this ancient science guides us back to the joy and peace that exists at the core of our being. Perfect for seniors. Registration is required at the reference desk. There is a \$5 Village of Hempstead residents' fee/\$10 non-Village residents' fee, payable at the time of registration.

Cooking Healthy with Acquillia!

Presented by Acquillia Bailey

Saturday, March 5, 2-4 p.m.

Gourmet chef Acquillia Bailey will be at the Hempstead Public Library to present a culinary program all about how to cook healthy. Chef Bailey will present delicious and easy-to-prepare recipes the entire family can enjoy. Registration is required at the reference desk for this free program.

St. Francis Hospital Community Outreach Bus

Friday, March 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The St. Francis Hospital Community Outreach Bus will be at the Hempstead Public Library to provide a FREE basic health screening to adults over 18 years old. For further details about the screening process, please call the St. Francis Community Outreach Department at (516) 629 – 2013.

Breast Health Seminar Presented by Sisters United in Health/Hermanas Unidas en la Salud

Saturday, March 19, 2-4 p.m.

“Healthy Hempstead 2011” continues with a free breast health seminar geared specifically for African American and Hispanic women living on Long Island. Become educated about ways of preventing and treating breast medical issues. This program will have bilingual presenters. Bring your mom, daughter, sister and girlfriends and arm yourself with knowledge. Registration at the Reference Desk is required for this free program.

Resume Writing and Cover Letter Writing Workshop

Wednesday, March 23, 6:30-8 p.m.

This workshop is a MUST for anyone who needs a job and wants to get one quickly. Resumes and cover letters are a crucial component of the job search process. While there are many resources and services out there for consumers and job seekers, this workshop will teach participants how to effectively utilize software to generate professional looking documents that will stand out above the crowd. While computer knowledge is helpful, it is not required to get started. Free floppy discs will be distributed to help participants save their resumes and cover letters in the future. The program will be held in the Community Room. Registration is required for this free program.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Talking Drums

Presented by Kobla Mensa Dente

Thursday, February 24, 4 p.m.

The audience will discover the music of Africa through chants, drums and other instruments in a hands-on, culturally enriching experience for the entire family.

The Circus is Coming!

Tuesday, March 15, 4 p.m.

Create a circus themed clock of an elephant balancing on top of a ball. All clocks include a battery-operated mechanism. For children ages six and up. Materials fee: 50 cents.

Choosing Healthier Snacks

Presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County

Thursday, March 24, 4 p.m.

Explore the differences between treats and healthy snacks, measure the amount of sugar in common beverages, and sample healthy snacks. For children ages 6 through 12. Materials fee: 50 cents.

Stay in Touch!

To stay on top of what's happening in the Village, please join our electronic mailing list by sending your name and email address to Mayor@VillageofHempsteadNY.gov, and listen to the “Hempstead Happening” radio show every Wednesday at 4:15 p.m. on *WTHE-AM (1520)*.

Village Hall • 99 Nichols Court, Hempstead, NY 11550 • (516) 489-3400

Incorporated Village of Hempstead Website: <http://www.villageofhempstead.org/>

Mayor's Office Email: mayorsoffice@villageofhempsteadny.gov

Additional Contact Info: <http://www.villageofhempstead.org/contact.asp>