

# Hempstead Today

WWW.VILLAGEOFHEMPSTEAD.ORG

WINTER 2018



Mayor Don Ryan

## Mayor's Message

Welcome to the first edition of Hempstead Today, a revamped version of our newsletter that aims to help residents stay informed and up-to-date on the most current events and activities taking place in our Village.

The newsletter is packed with pertinent and useful information in an easy to read format. Among the topics covered on the following pages you will learn about a new State initiative that's providing more than one million dollars in funding to nine different organizations in our Village that will help empower many of our residents. There's also information about a number of important improvements and upgrades either completed or underway by our Department of Recreation and Parks that will greatly benefit our children and at our Water Plant that will help protect one of life's most precious commodities and ensure we have an abundant supply of water for our future generations. In addition, there are reminders pertaining to water and property tax bills due along with tax exemption filing info for those who might qualify. Be sure to also check out some of the available youth oriented programs conducted by the Hempstead PAL and Parks & Recreation as well as a number of upcoming events that residents are invited to participate in. Enjoy the issue.

## ESPRI Program Provides Needed Benefits

### \$1.1 Million in State Funding Awarded to 9 Projects

Recently, the Village of Hempstead and United Way of Long Island named nine local projects as recipients of \$1.1 million in state funding as part of the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI). The grants awarded range from \$98,000 to \$200,000.

"We are pleased to be part of this statewide initiative and are especially grateful to those in our community involved in the ESPRI efforts to reduce financial hardships in our neighborhoods," said Mayor Don Ryan. "The nine organizations selected will now be able to use the funding they receive to empower Hempstead Village residents with resources and opportunities that will help put them on the path to economic independence."

As the convener of the Village of Hempstead – ESPRI, United Way of Long Island brings together a task force of multiple agencies, organizations and residents to address financial hardships in the community. Back in March, the nonprofit issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking eligible organizations with an established track record of providing services to Village residents to submit grant applications to reduce poverty in the community.

After an extensive analysis and evaluation of the needs of the community and our residents, nine projects were selected and approved for funding through the Village of Hempstead ESPRI. The programs in alphabetical order are:

**Community Development Corporation of Long Island (\$110,000)** will provide financial literacy and long-term financial coaching sessions for low-to moderate-income families.

**Family and Children's Association (\$110,000)** will provide a college and career readiness program for high school students by helping them attain placement test scores needed to avoid remedial non-credit college courses.

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## Hempstead Village Celebrates 375th Anniversary



*The Garner family poses with a street sign replica following the street renaming ceremony that officially changed Nichols Court to James A. Garner Way. (From l to r): Darrell Garner (son) Ruby Vincent Garner (wife), Mayor James Garner and Yolanda Garner Hutcherson (daughter).*

Well over a 1,000 residents along with local officials, community leaders and dignitaries from around the country recently gathered to culminate the year-long celebration of 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.

Throughout the day, 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. That exhibit remains on display in the Village Court Room so others can enjoy it as well.

All in all it was a fabulous day and 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.

## Shop Local, Shop Hempstead

Supporting the small businesses in the Village by shopping local is important, not only during the holiday season but throughout the year. Local commerce is an integral part of Hempstead's overall economic well-being. Many establishments in our Village can provide the same products and services found elsewhere so please remember to shop local.

# Water Plant Update

Earlier this year, the Village issued a water conservation alert asking residents to conserve water usage due to the need to temporarily remove several wells from service where a compound, Chlorodifluoromethane, Freon 22, was discovered after being put, for the first time, on the Nassau County Department of Health's Water Quality Monitoring Requirements. At the same time, the Village Water Department took action by putting together a long-term plan to address this unwanted situation.

Thanks to the cooperation of our residents in conserving water overall pumpage was reduced and we were able to get through the peak summer water usage season without having to enforce any mandatory water restriction measures. However, please note that our Water Conservation Alert is still in effect so we ask that you continue practicing conservation measures on an ongoing basis in order to further protect this valuable resource.

Currently, the Village is in the process of waiting for final approvals from the Nassau County Department of Health to build an air stripping tower at the Laurel Avenue plant that will ultimately remove any Freon 22 found and allow the water supply to remain safe and plentiful. Work on the air stripping tower is expected to begin next spring and be completed by next summer. Grant money from the State will help subsidize the cost of this project.

Additionally, in a move to further ensure the Village's future water supply remains abundant, two new wells are slated to be built at Kennedy Memorial Park. An application for the new wells has already been submitted to the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Village is waiting for the proper permits in order to proceed with drafting plans and moving things forward. Grant money from the State was awarded for this project as well. The work is targeted to begin later next year and be completed in late 2020 or in 2021.

Updates on both of these initiatives will be provided as they further evolve. For more information, including discovering ways to conserve water, please visit the village website at [www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org)

# Hempstead Village Treasurer Receives Distinguished Award

Village of Hempstead Treasurer Raymond J. Calame was recently honored by the NY State Society of Municipal Finance Officers with its Distinguished Finance Officer of the Year Award. The organization made up of City and Village finance officers represents over 300 municipalities in NYS. Calame has served as Treasurer of Hempstead Village since 2005 and has been a member of the organization since 2006, including serving as President from 2015-2016.

"For 13 years, Ray has been a dedicated employee of Hempstead Village and his expertise in financial matters have proven to be invaluable time and again," said Mayor Don Ryan. "Being recognized with this award is a testament to his professional contributions and we extend heartfelt congratulations for this well-deserved honor."



*Hempstead Village Treasurer Raymond J. Calame accepts the NY State Society of Municipal Officers Distinguished Finance Officer of the Year Award from board member Marianne Lobaccaro, who also serves as President of the Long Island Village Clerks and Treasurers Association.*

## Voluntary Water Testing

The Village has conducted testing for lead and copper corrosion in household plumbing for many years and is preparing for the next round of sample collection. The USEPA mandates that priority be given to collect samples from houses having lead service lines or those that used lead solder on the pipes. If you have a lead service line entering your home please contact the water plant at 516-478-6252. The Village will be mailing letters to homes suspected of having lead water service lines in order to request voluntary participation in the next round of sample collection. Participation is at no cost to residents so please reply if you receive such a letter.

## TAX EXEMPTION REMINDER

Mayor Ryan and the Board of Trustees wants to remind Hempstead Village residents of tax exemptions available to those who may qualify. The filing period for exemptions is currently underway and will run through December 31. A list of exemptions is as follows:

**ALTERNATIVE VETERANS** - Veterans who served in the military during World War 1, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Persian Gulf War may qualify for an exemption of 15 to 25 percent exemption off their assessed value.

**SENIOR CITIZENS** - All persons on the deed must be 65 years of age, except if husband and wife are sole owners, only one must be 65. Income of all owners cannot exceed \$36,400 yearly. This exemption is renewable each year.

**CLERGY** - Real property that is owned and occupied by a member of the clergy is exempt from general municipal and school district taxes to the extent of \$1500 of assessed value.

**IMPROVEMENTS TO PROPERTY PURSUANT TO AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990** - Real property altered, installed or improved for persons with disabilities is exempt from taxation to the extent of any increase in value attributable to these improvements up to 10 years.

**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS EXEMPTION** - Property owned and occupied by volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers with at least 5 (five) years of enrolled service are eligible to an exemption of 10 percent of the assessed value.

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION EXEMPTION** - Real property that (1) is owned by a nonprofit corporation or association organized or conducted exclusively for one or more specific purposes (religious, educational, charitable, hospital, or moral or mental improvement of men, women, or children) and (2) is used exclusively for carrying out one or more of these purposes is wholly exempt from taxation and is exempt, for certain purposes, from special ad valorem levies and special assessments.

If you believe you may qualify for any of these exemptions, please stop by the Village Tax Assessor's office during regular business hours, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., to pick-up an application. You can also call 516-489-3400 ext. 9 with questions or for any other information that will help assist the filing process.

# Parks & Recreation Upgrades for Hempstead's Youth

As part of the Village's ongoing efforts to provide quality parks and recreational services to Village residents a number of improvements have been implemented or are in the works.

Earlier this year, the old turf field at Lincoln Park was completely replaced with new artificial turf surface. In addition, the outdoor basketball court was completely refurbished, including a resurfacing and restriping of the entire area just in time for the busy summer season.

Over at Kennedy Memorial Park, final touches are currently underway for the beautiful new skate park. The skate park itself is finished. However, some remaining asphalt and other amenities are in the process of being installed and are expected to be completed by the end of November. The \$300,000 project is partially funded through a New York State grant secured with the help of former Deputy State Assembly Speaker Earlene Hooper. A dedication ceremony is planned for the spring of 2019 that will name the skate park in honor of Jarred Newallo, an avid skateboarder who was killed in a tragic sanitation truck accident in 2014.

In addition, work on creating a new, state-of-the-art, artificial turf athletic field at Kennedy Memorial Park to accommodate football and soccer will be starting in December, weather permitting. The athletic field is expected to be finished in late spring, in time for summer use.

"These upgrades are particularly important for the youth of Hempstead," Mayor Don Ryan said. "I know they will be enjoyed by the community for many years to come."

## Nichols Court Is Now James A. Garner Way

As part of the Village's 375th Anniversary, Nichols Court was officially renamed James A. Garner Way. That means that the address for Hempstead Village Hall, Village Court and Village Police Department is now 99 James A. Garner Way, Hempstead, NY 11550. The Hempstead Library address is now 115 James A. Garner Way, Hempstead, NY 11550. Residents are advised to please update their records accordingly.

## Hempstead PAL Programs

The Hempstead Police Athletic League (PAL) offers a variety of youth oriented activities for interested boys and girls that live in the Village. Currently the organization is offering **Bowling on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 12 noon at Baldwin Bowling Center (2407 Grand Ave.)**. The program is open to boys and girls of all ages. Registration is \$30 and an additional \$7 each day for the two hour program.



For more information about this program or others facilitated by the Hempstead PAL throughout the year, please call Police Officer Roberts at 516-478-6521. PAL programs are designed to prevent juvenile delinquency, steer children clear from gang activity and to aid in the positive interaction of Police Officers and youth.

## Ongoing Recreational Programs

Residents are invited to participate in a number of events and activities coordinated by our Department of Parks and Recreation. Below is a list of some of the available programs that are held year round and targeted specifically toward our youth. More information is available by calling 516-478-6246 or visiting the Village's website at [www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org).



● **Youth Cooking & Ceramics—Every Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park** - Both programs are free for Hempstead village youngsters between the ages of 8-16 with no advance registration required. A great opportunity for kids to learn about nutrition or discover a new craft. All food and supplies are provided at no cost.



● **Self-Defense Class—Every Mon.-Wed.-Fri. from 5-6 p.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park** - Kids ages 6-14 help build self-esteem by learning the art of self-defense from a professional sensei. Free for all Village residents with no advance registration, however, parental permission is required.



● **Boxing Club - Every Mon. through Fri. from 4-8 p.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park** - Open to boys and girls ages 8-18. Annual membership of \$78 in USA Boxing is required for insurance purposes.

## ESPRI Program *Continued from page 1*

**Hispanic Counseling Center (\$125,000)** will establish a community health worker program to reduce challenges and barriers for community residents.

**Leadership Training Institute (\$125,000)** will provide vocational training leading to gainful employment for individuals 18 years of age and older. Participants will receive hard and soft skills training, cognitive behavioral training, support groups and professional mentorship, vocational training materials and resources.

**Morrison Mentors (\$98,000)** will provide after-school STEM enrichment classes and peer-to-peer mentoring for students in the school district.

**The Interfaith Nutrition Network (\$109,000)** will provide mental health/substance abuse services for very low-income and homeless individuals who face multiple barriers to accessing services.

**Town of Hempstead Department of Occupational Resources (\$125,000)** will assist Village residents, 18 and over by guiding participants through sector-based career pathways by offering education and training in demand-driven occupations such as healthcare, business services, manufacturing and hospitality.

**Village of Hempstead Community Development Agency (\$200,000)** will establish a community empowerment resource center.

**Woman's Opportunity Rehabilitation Center (\$98,000)** will provide vocational job training and soft skills training for females who are at risk of incarceration and female ex-offenders.

To learn more about Village of Hempstead - ESPRI please visit: [VillageofHempsteadESPRI.org](http://VillageofHempsteadESPRI.org).





**Village Hall**  
 99 James A. Garner Way  
 Hempstead Village, NY 11550  
[www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org)

**Don Ryan, Mayor**

Charles Renfro, Deputy Mayor  
 Perry Pettus, Trustee  
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## Hempstead CDA Opens Community Empowerment Resource Center

As part of the Village's participation in the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI) the Hempstead Community Development Agency (CDA) recently created a Community Empowerment Resource Center (CERC) to help simplify the process of connecting the community with vital information and a vast array of services that could literally transform lives.

Located at the offices of the Hempstead CDA at 50 Clinton Street, Suite 504, there is never a charge for using CERC computers or referral services, searching the database of programs and benefits, or speaking to one of the knowledgeable resource officers. CERC will work with you one-on-one to direct you to local programs developed to address whatever you and your family may be facing - all free of charge. General areas of service provided by CERC include:

- **Social Support:** Emergency Housing, Transportation, DSS Assistance
  - **Economic:** Financial Literacy, Housing/Homeowners Assistance, Business Planning
  - **Health & Wellness:** Assistance with Medical Needs, Nutrition Assistance
  - **Workforce Development:** Job Training & Placement, Career Counseling, Resume Writing
  - **Justice:** Intervention Programs, Re-entry Assistance, Legal Support Services
  - **Education:** Academic Enrichment, Language Support Services
- For more information about CERC, please call 516-667-6986.*

## Main Street Beautification Project Underway

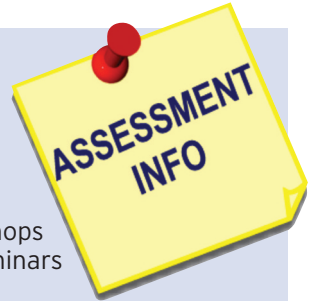
In other CDA news, thanks to \$1.7 million in funding that was awarded to the Village of Hempstead under the Federal-Aid Highway and Marchiselli Aid Local Project Agreement and the New York State Department of Transportation, a variety of roadway improvements are coming soon to the areas on Main Street between James A. Garner Way/Centre Street and Front Street. The work will involve improvements of sidewalks, curbs, gutters, crosswalks and pavement restoration as well as the installation of curb extensions, pedestrian scale lighting, trash receptacles, trees and other plantings, benches, signage and pavement markings. Construction work is slated to be completed in the spring of 2019.

*For more information, please visit [www.villageofhempsteadcda.org](http://www.villageofhempsteadcda.org)*

## MLK Parade – Save the Date

Mark your calendar for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. parade taking place on Monday, January 21. The parade begins at 9 a.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich St.) and ends at Miracle Christian Center (334 Fulton Ave.) where a brief ceremony will follow.

## Tax Grievance SEMINARS



The Village will be hosting several Tax Grievance Workshops in the coming weeks. The seminars will take place on:

- **Thursday, Jan. 3,** at Hempstead Public Library (115 James A. Garner Way) from 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Monday, Jan. 7,** at United Methodist Church (Hempstead Senior Center, 40 Washington St.) from 1-2 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 9,** at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich Street) from 12-1 p.m.

These seminars offer a great opportunity for any resident interested in learning the steps to file a tax grievance, including the process of property valuation and how to file an appeal on the assessed value of your property. Filing is free and members from the Village's Department of Assessment will be on hand to answer questions and provide useful information, including all the necessary applications should you decide to submit a tax grievance. This year's filing period runs from February 1 through February 19. For more information call 516-489-3400 or visit the Village website at [www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org)

## Tax & Water Payment Reminders

Reminder notices were recently mailed to residents referencing all unpaid 2018/2019 first and/or second half property tax payments due. Please note that any property owner still in arrears on March 1 will receive another notice referencing a tax lien sale that will be held in May. It's important for residents to comply with making any first and/or second half 2018/2019 property tax payments due prior to the deadlines. Residents can make property tax payments by check or credit card online by visiting the village website at [www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org) and clicking on the "How Do I" section or by coming to Village Hall (99 James A. Garner Way), Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

Water bills will also be mailed to residents in February and April so please be on the lookout to receive these documents in your regular mail delivery.

In addition, Long Island Rail Road parking permits from now until March 31, 2019 will be prorated at \$30 for Village residents and \$60 for non-residents. As of April 1, 2019, residents parking permits will be \$60 for residents and \$120 for non-residents. For more information, please call 516-489-3400.