

KEEPING UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN GREEN ISLAND

FROM MY DESK TO YOUR HOME

July 18, 2012

Dear friends,

I'd like to start this month's letter by telling you about the things we are doing to try to save money and keep taxes down. We are in the process of applying for several grants. We were awarded a \$595,000.00 grant to do some much needed work on Albany Avenue. We are trying to obtain more grants for matching funds so we can really do all the repairs and redesigns that would give us the best possible long term results. Several businesses and homeowners in that area have put considerable money into their properties and this project would enhance their efforts and make an attractive entrance to our community. I'll keep you posted on how we make out with the grants and the scheduling for the work to be done.

Another grant we are applying for is to upgrade the Paine Street Park. We have a generous benefactor who is giving us some money to put in a sprinkler park and Jim Besho from Albany Engineering has been working very hard (pro bono I might add) on the design and getting the equipment. Any time you have a municipal project it gets complicated with compliance for all the entities involved (Health Dept., Labor Dept., etc.) and we thought we would have it in for this summer, but now it looks like construction will begin in the fall. We have to replace sewer and water lines, but hopefully our village employees will be able to do some of that work. While we were walking the park to get details for our grant application, I notice that a large tree on Bleeker Street was in bad shape. It had a rather large crack down its trunk that led to a large branch of the tree. As much as I hate taking down a tree – this one had to go because it created a true danger. I had to have a large tree taken down in my front yard several years ago and it cost over \$2,000. I knew this would cost even more because it involved taking down part of the fence. This was one of those unexpected things that can really put a crimp in the budget – but our guys came through!!! The guys in GIPA and DPW did the job on Friday the 13th (that part scared me a little) and they did an excellent job!!! They saved us thousands of dollars and I want to thank them for being resourceful. Another project we are doing to save some money is moving our food pantry to the building that houses the building inspector and Section 8. Again, the DPW and GIPA men are retrofitting the former kitchen there to store the food. The modular trailer that houses the food pantry and YOGI is going to be removed from the park. It has seen better days. It is in need of some major repairs that would be very costly and it costs a fortune to heat in the winter. It doesn't owe us anything because the moduls were given to us by the company that leased them to Heatly while construction was going on at the school. The evening activities at YOGI during the winter months have diminished to almost nothing because of poor attendance by our youth. We cut it down to just a few nights and the attendance did not improve. It makes no sense to keep this open so we are going to remove the modular from the park and repurpose that area of the park.

The kids who work the summer jobs at the park and with DPW are doing a great job cleaning up the streets. Every resident could help this effort by weeding the curb in front of your house and sweeping up. The weeds this year have been wicked. Please help us keep our village looking nice.

You may notice some changes in the near future in our dispatching at the Police Station. In the next few months, we will be using the Albany County Sheriff's Department dispatching on a trial basis to see if it will work for us. If it does, it will save us a considerable amount of money on a long term basis. If it doesn't appear to work for us, we will continue to dispatch as we presently do with part time dispatchers 24/7. Our three night time dispatchers have been with us for decades. They have almost 70 years of combined service to our community. While I am very hesitant to change things, we must look at all ways to economize. Our equipment is dated and things are constantly changing in telecommunications. This new system has worked for Watervliet and Cohoes and our public safety teams work very closely with those two cities, so we are going to give it a try. Please be patient during this period and I promise to keep you updated. As of this writing, we don't have a scheduled start date, but it will probably be in the next month. In an emergency, you can still call our direct number (273-2401) or 911. We will give you detailed instructions for any changes once we are up and running. Please be assured this will not compromise the response time of our emergency services.

Our concerts are going great. We had beautiful weather for our first two concerts. But, as I write this letter, it is Wednesday and it isn't looking too good for the Rymanowski Brothers. Every other day except Wednesday looks nice. Come to think of it, this might be the third time the Rymanowski Brothers will be under the bridge. Maybe they are taking over as the "Bad Weather Band" for poor Ernie Williams. We are lucky to have the space under the Collar City Bridge to go to when we have inclement weather. The kids working for DPW this summer just repainted the concrete piers (to cover the graffiti) and the Fire Department went down and gave it a good hose down to clean it up. And since we spent so much time under the bridge last year, we even got a Port-A-Potty for there this year! We will have fun no matter where we are. The schedule is on our Website and you can pick up a schedule at the Gig-A-Bite shed at any of the concerts. Make sure you keep Sunday, July 29th from 2 to 5 p.m. open for our "Sunday in the Park" with Skip Parsons Riverboat Jazz Band. We will also be having a patriotic hat contest that day and lots of extra goodies to tickle your taste buds. Hope to see you there.

Please be aware that the Governor has declared a ban on any outdoor burning until October 10th. The dry weather has created a very dangerous potential for fires. Our housing stock in the village is old, mostly of wooden structure and very close together. These factors are a bad mix when it comes to fire so please abide by the ban.

Welcome to Pastor Kristi Van Patten who is the new Pastor at the Church of the Good Shepherd. I haven't had the privilege of meeting her yet, but I hope to in the very near future. She has her work cut out for her because following an act like Pastor Ken Scott is not an easy task, but I'm sure she is up for the challenge. She arrived just in time for the Village Wide Tag Sale on August 4th that is sponsored by the Church of the Good Shepherd. My family participates in it every year so I had better get my money in so we can be on the map.

Save the date for the first annual "Mayor's Cup" golf outing to be held at Frear Park on September 29th. This will be a fundraiser for the Legnard-Curtin American Legion Post so they can do some much needed repairs and maintenance on their building. As I have said before, the Legion Post is where we all meet, whether it be a wedding, sports banquet, honors banquet, political gathering, fundraiser for someone in need, a luncheon after a funeral or any number of other social gatherings that take place in Green Island. They have always been there for us – and now we need to be there for them. You don't have to be a good golfer ---- God knows I'm not. You just have to support them and have some fun. If you don't want to golf, you can join us for a delicious Prime Rib dinner at the Post after the tournament. No matter what you choose, you MUST make reservations by either contacting Donna Lazzaro at 274-1237 or the Legion Post at 272-1198. Please don't take it for granted that the Post will always be there. Look around at all the organizations and churches that we have lost over the years due to lack of support. Don't let that happen here. Please support our Legion. We owe it to the men and women who have served our country as they now continue to serve our community. What do ya say???? Golf anyone????

That's it for this month. I have run on to the third page so now I have to go back and reduce the font one more time to get it to fit onto two pages. I hope you can still read it without a magnifying glass when I'm done!!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
Village of Green Island
20 Clinton Street
Green Island, NY 12183
(518) 273-2201
www.villageofgreenisland.com

JULY 2012

OUTDOOR BURNING BANNED UNTIL OCTOBER 10TH

Fire Chief Robert Bourgeois has announced a "Statewide" ban on outdoor burning until October 10th. Cooking grills with a flame lower than six (6) inches and with an attached cover are **exempt**. Please visit our website as noted above for further details and updates.

RECREATION NEWS

Soccer Clinic – August 6th – August 10th at Veterans Memorial Stadium. The clinic will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for K – 2nd grade and from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for 3rd – 6th grade. Thank you to **Bimbo Bakeries** for sponsoring this year's clinic. Registration forms are available at the Village Office, the Paine Street Park, or on the village website.

Boy's & Girl's Basketball Clinic – Free Basketball Clinic open to all ages. Monday, August 6th – Friday, August 10th. Grades K – 4th will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and Grades 5th – 12th will be held from 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. No registration required.

Movie Night – Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and watch a movie the whole family can enjoy. Movie Night is FREE. The movies begin at approximately 8 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the movie will be shown on the following Friday.

Friday, July 20th – The Muppets (PG)
ANNUAL SLEEPOVER, Friday, August 3rd – Harry & The Henderson's (PG)
Friday, August 17th - Alvin & The Chipmunks Chip-Wrecked (G)

"Like" the Green Island Recreation Department page on Facebook for up to date information on what's happening at the park this summer!

The Recreation Department will be supporting the **Albany Dutchman**, especially NCAA Division I players with Green Island roots such as **Zach and Will Remillard and Trevor Lacosse**, on **Wednesday, August 1st, at 7:05 p.m.** Discounted tickets are available by joining us for a night at the ballpark. Tickets are \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for kids (under 12). Please contact Maggie Alix at 273-2201 or by email at maggiea@villageofgreenisland.com to place your ticket order. Checks can be made payable to the Village of Green Island. Orders must be placed by Friday, July 27th. The Dutchman play at the Plumeri Sports Complex (adjacent to Hoffman Park) in Albany. It will be an enjoyable night!

The Recreation Department is sponsoring a Green Island **"Night at the Valley Cats"** on **Thursday, August 16th at 7:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$3.00 for children (under 18 yrs. of age) and \$5.00 for adults. Come and join in the fun! Please contact Maggie Alix by Friday, August 10th, at 273-2201 or by email at maggiea@villageofgreenisland.com to place your ticket order. Checks can be made out to the Village of Green Island.

DIG SAFELY NEW YORK-CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Homeowners are reminded to call Dig Safely New York every time you dig into the ground, even if in your own back yard. This is so that all utilities in the ground can be located before digging. The number is simply 8-1-1. Failure to do so can result in the obvious danger, and can be very expensive, as the utility companies will charge you back for any damages, which could be in the thousands of dollars. We recommend that you call our building department at 629-0367 beforehand if you have any questions. They also have literature about the Dig Safely program for your use.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Building Inspector Ed Iannone reports that there are many inflatable pools throughout the Village. Please note that any pools with a water depth of over 18 inches must be in compliance with the same code regulations as the larger pools including secure fencing and lot coverage requirements. Electrical inspections by an independent agency may be required as well. To avoid the issue of non-compliance please call Ed at the Building Department at 629-0367 for further information.

NEWS FROM THE GREEN ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS

There will be a farmer's market stand at the community center on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. through the month of August. Stop by and get some fruits and veggies!

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Church of the Good Shepherd welcomes Pastor Kristi Van Patten who began leading the church on July 1st.

There will be no free dinners during July and August.

Annual Village Wide Tag Sale will be held on **Saturday, August 4th** from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** There will not be a rain date. To be put on the map send your name, address and \$3.00 to the Church of the Good Shepherd, P.O. Box 1523, Green Island, NY 12183 by July 30th. You may also call Rose Ann Mason at 274-0746. Maps will be available on the day of the sale. The Church will be serving breakfast and lunch, as well as having a yard sale. ***Selling of food is NOT permitted unless you have a NYS Health Department Permit.***