

August 14, 2011

Dear Friends,

I almost didn't write a letter this month. My heart is very heavy. Last Wednesday, Green Island lost a wonderful woman in a very tragic accident. Carol Lansing was killed when she and two friends were waiting to start a walking tour in Voorheesville with a walking club that they belonged to. All three ladies died. The small villages of Green Island and Waterford are reeling from the sudden loss of these women. Carol was one of the nicest people I have ever met – and I truly mean that. She never had a bad word to say about anyone and she had the patience of Job. She has been a Trustee on our Village Board for the last six years and she has been involved in this community her whole lifetime. She served on Heatly's School Board, she was Secretary of the Green Island IDA, Treasurer of the Senior Citizens Club, president of our Senior Housing and she was very active in the former St. Joseph's Church until its closing and now at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. The day before she died, I emailed her to ask her to once again give me a hand for our Blood Drive in September and she emailed back "Whatever you need, just let me know." That was a typical and sincere response from Carol. She was ALWAYS there for me and our community. She had been "nudging" me to get going on a screened in gazebo behind our Senior Housing that we have been trying to get off the ground for several years. We just met again a couple of weeks ago to get it going, but once again, things got crazy busy and it went to the back burner. Well Carol, I promise you that gazebo will be up for next season. And I think we will put a little plaque in it that reads "As you sit here and rest, say thank you to a little angel named Carol who made it all possible."

Being the giving person that she was, her family had requested memorial donations be made to her parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary. Out of respect for Carol, we cancelled our concert the day she passed away, but we are rescheduling it for Wednesday, September 7th with all proceeds going to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in memory of Carol. While it will be difficult for all of us that night, she would love the fact that it will benefit her church. We will also be raising a new flag at the park that night. It will wave and remind us of the proud American that she was and it will fly over our "Festival of Trees" in December as her family decorates their tree they have gotten from the very first festival six seasons ago.

I truly believe Carol is now an angel in heaven (just as she was on earth) and I have every intention of asking for her help – just as I did while she was with us here on earth, and asking her to use "her connections" to help us poor mortals. Please pray for her family.

Now I'll try to finish this letter.

Our concerts are going well, but we seem to spend more time under the bridge than we do at the gazebo. Thanks to everyone who made our Polish Fest a great success – even though we were under the bridge. Pat Iannone and Katie Slupski did their usual magic with golumpkies and perogies, so everyone was well fed. Thanks to our bakers, too. Thank God Michael Cocca let us use his ovens at Franklin Plaza to cook all our food. Even with using the ovens of everyone in our GIG Crew, we didn't have enough space to get it done. Thank you Michael! And thank you Angie Weisenforth for giving

me my first jitterbug of the season. I hope you come back because I really need the practice!

We are having our public hearing on a new local law tomorrow night (Monday) so this will reach you after the fact (we publicized it last month). We will be voting on a local law to change the parking procedure for dropping off and picking up students at Heatly School. I have talked about it for months, so please obey the signs when school starts in September. There will be Police officers on duty in the morning and afternoon at the school to make sure it goes smoothly. We had to do something because some people were making a very dangerous situation for our students. Tickets will be issued for violations. Please help us to keep our kids safe. I don't think we could handle another tragedy!

Thanks to the Recreation Department for making the summer program such a success. Mr. Mullins did his usual outstanding job with the kids and the park staff. Tom, I don't know what we would do without you. You are an amazing guy!

Besides the great summer program, Maggie Alix did a great job once again with the Friday night movies. They had their camp out on the 5th and enjoyed a pancake breakfast when they got up on the 6th. Thanks to the parents and other relatives who braved it out with the kids. Hopefully the kids will learn from your example and keep this program going for many generations to come. I'll still make the pancakes – but I can't do the tent thing anymore. Sleeping on the ground is for the young!

The helmet program is going pretty good with the Police giving out free helmets to any child who doesn't have one. We have also been giving out coupons for free freeze pops at the concerts to the kids we see who are wearing their helmets. With so many concerts being under the bridge, the kids haven't been able to redeem their coupons. So if they don't get to redeem them this season, we will honor them next year. So kids, put your coupons in a safe place.

All the local municipalities have been having a problem with teens going into unlocked cars and people's back doors trying to rob them. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE LOCK YOUR DOORS IN YOUR CAR AND YOUR HOUSE!!! I know there was a time when you could leave everything unlocked in Green Island but those times are gone. It is up to us to keep ourselves as safe as possible. Also, please don't hesitate to call the Police Station if somebody or something looks strange in your neighborhood. It's better to check it out and it be nothing rather than miss a chance at taking a bite out of crime! You are our eyes and ears. Please help us.

Please see the other newsletter for all the things going on. And please keep Carol Lansing and her family in your prayers.

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Village of Green Island
20 Clinton Street
Green Island, NY 12183
518-273-2201

AUGUST 2011

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

MOVIE NIGHT

Movie Night in the park has been extremely successful. If you have not been to a movie, please join us for our last movie of the summer, Yogi Bear, on Friday, August 19th. The movies begin at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Bike Auction

On Friday evening, August 19th, 2011 the Village of Green Island will be holding a bike auction. The recovered or unclaimed bikes will be on display for inspection from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m., with bidding immediately following at 7:30 p.m. The auction will be held at the Paine Street Park. All sales are final and checks can be made payable to the Village of Green Island.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

A **HUGE THANK YOU** goes out to Tom Mullins, Christopher Karwiel, and the entire Park Staff for putting on another successful summer program. Thank you for doing such a tremendous job!

Thank you to Bimbo Bakeries USA for sponsoring our annual Soccer Camp directed by Coach Larry Brown.

Thank you to the Green Island Power Authority and everyone who attended Movie Night in the park. Thanks to the weather's cooperation we had a very successful movie series.

Thank you to Pastor Ken Scott, the Watervliet School District, NYS Nutrition Consortium and NYS Department of Health for bringing the FREE healthy lunch program to the Paine Street Park. It had an overwhelmingly positive response. We were serving up to 50 free lunches a day. We're looking forward to having the program back again next year!

GREEN ISLAND FAMILY PICNIC – SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

The Village of Green Island will sponsor the "GREEN ISLAND FAMILY PICNIC" to be held on Sunday, September 18th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Paine Street Park.

Included will be many different food vendors, face painting, balloon animals, dunk tank, bouncy bounce, as well as live entertainment by Frank Jaklitsch.

Anyone interested in a booth, or in need of further information regarding the picnic, should call Maggie Alix at the Village Office, 273-2201.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Village of Green Island will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on **Friday, September 9th** from **1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** at the Community Center located at 5 George Street. Please contact Mayor Ellen McNulty-Ryan at 273-2201 if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment and you may also contact the **American Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule an appointment.**

NEWS FROM ASSESSOR'S OFFICE – SCHOOL TAXES

Just a reminder, the Pioneer Bank in Green Island will be collecting school taxes. You can mail your check or money order to Green Island School District, P.O. Box 1541, Green Island, NY 12183 OR pay in person at Pioneer Bank, 148 George Street, Green Island, NY 12183. See your tax bill for more information.

NEWS FROM GREEN ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT **SAFETY HELMET LAW**

The Green Island Police Department will be strictly enforcing the New York State helmet law which requires ALL children less than fourteen years of age to wear safety helmets when they are operators or passengers on bicycles, and when they are in-line skating or on scooters or skateboards. The Police Department will be issuing tickets to the parents of those children seen riding without safety helmets. If your child needs a helmet, contact the Police Department for a free helmet at 273-2401.

GRASS CLIPPINGS IN THE ROAD

Residents are reminded to never purposely sweep or blow grass or any debris into the road so that it goes into our sewers. Please help us out and pick up grass clippings and other debris from your curb before they get into our sewer system. This debris causes pollution and increases the possibility of backup of our system, two (2) things none of us want to see happen. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

FREE Community Dinner – Friday, August 26th from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *Come and enjoy a meal.* Everyone is welcome! No donations required.

Pulled Pork and Summer Salads Dinner – Saturday, September 10th from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Pulled Pork dinner with Summer Salads and Homemade Desserts, the cost is \$9.50. Take out begins at 4:00 p.m.