

KEEPING UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN GREEN ISLAND

FROM MY DESK TO YOUR HOME

December 17, 2011

Dear Friends,

I can't believe it is almost Christmas. As I sit at my desk on this Saturday afternoon, I realize that Christmas Eve is exactly one week away – and I haven't done a thing to get ready for the holidays. Thank God I have a great husband who has decorated the interior of our home to look like something on the front of a Christmas card and has wrapped all the gifts (he and my daughter did all the shopping). I feel like Scrooge because I haven't done anything, but I have been preoccupied with my duties as a funeral director. As I said in a newsletter earlier this year, this has been the saddest year I can remember in my over 30 years as a funeral director in our community and it doesn't seem to be letting up. It seems like all the same people come in to every wake and say they have never lost so many friends and family in a single year. Sometimes I get a little overwhelmed with the sadness because I know almost every person I bury and this year it has definitely been a challenge to avoid becoming absorbed by the sadness. But thanks to my belief that we go from this life into an eternal life where there is no more pain or suffering, I think of all those friends I have lost this year and try to imagine what a wonderful Christmas they are having in heaven with all the people they had loved and lost before them. They are probably looking down at us and enjoying the fact that they don't have to shop, wrap, decorate or cook for the holidays. They get to enjoy the true meaning of Christmas without all the hassle. Maybe if I'm good, I too will be able to enjoy what they have. If not, at least I'll be warm!!!!

Now that I've depressed all of you, I'll try to get on to the more positive things going on. Our Festival of Trees on December 3rd was ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL!!! We couldn't have asked for better weather, more beautiful trees or nicer people to spend the day with. We have a lot of people to thank for making it all so nice. Our guys at GIPA and DPW did a great job getting the park and trees ready and my husband, Mark, did so much work organizing everything and making all the plaques. We saw some new faces decorating this year as well as some folks who have sponsored a tree since our very first year. We also need to thank Santa for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come help us light the trees, sing a few carols and take last minute requests from all the kids. Frosty the Snowman (aka: Ellen Connery) also joined us again this year and we had the addition of Rudolph, played by Colin Lansing, complete with a bright blinking nose. Everyone thought the hot chocolate tasted especially good this year. I told them it was "stirred with love" and that's what made it so good. All in all, it was a perfect day and evening, with all my little elves wrapping it up with our annual rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas. I never get tired of that one because you never know how it is going to go and we always have a few new surprises every year. If you haven't been up to the River Park yet to see the trees, please take a walk some evening and stroll through. They are all beautiful and every one is different and decorated with love. I look out my bedroom window every night before I go to bed and say goodnight to the trees. I miss them when they come down.

Just a reminder to everyone who has a tree – PLEASE DO NOT take your lights and decorations off until the weekend of January 7th and DPW will be removing the trees on January 9th.

I would also like to thank Santa and the GIPA staff for “touring” the Island on Monday, December 12th to spread the holiday cheer. The float looked amazing and Santa was his jolly old self (although I’m sure he was a little chilly). Thanks for going above and beyond to bring a little happiness to all our residents. We really do appreciate it!

The Senior Citizens had a great Christmas Party at the American Legion on December 9th. “The Accents” had everyone up dancing and having a good time. Donna Lazzaro and her crew in the kitchen did an excellent job of feeding us delicious treats all night long and I know Jill Alix, executive director of the Seniors, appreciated all their help. It was also nice to see so many young people join us for the evening. Just goes to prove there is nobody too young or too old to have a great time together. Thanks also to the Green Island Gazebo Fund for sponsoring the band. We are exploring doing another party, maybe a “Cabin Fever Party” in March to shake off the winter blues and celebrate the approach of Spring. What do you think? Is it a good idea?

We have been extremely lucky so far this winter with the weather, but we know that dirty old snow and ice will be coming our way. Please cooperate with our DPW crew when we have snow removal so we can keep our streets safe and open for emergency vehicles to get through.

Last but not least, we would like to invite everyone to join us for the Swearing In Ceremony for all our recently elected Town and Village Officials. It will take place on Friday, December 30th at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Center (Senior Citizens Center) at 5 George Street. Please join us to wish our officials well as they start their new terms of service to our community.

I guess that’s it for this month. I didn’t mean to depress anyone with the beginning of my letter, but so many folks have expressed what I said that I just wanted them to know that we are all in this together and together we will get through just about anything as long as we have each other’s support and love. And that is something that we are never short on in this community. We have proved it over and over again that together we stand strong. I am proud to be your Mayor and friend and I look forward to 2012 being a happy, healthy and productive year for all of us.

May God bless you and your families with a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND
20 Clinton Street
Green Island, NY 12183
518-273-2201
www.villageofgreenisland.com

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SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Everyone is invited to the **SWEARING IN CEREMONY** for our recently elected Village and Town officials. It will be held on **Friday, December 30th** at 1:00 p.m. at the Green Island Community Center, located at 5 George Street, Green Island. **All are welcome and invited to attend!**

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

The Albany County Department of Social Services is offering help to those income eligible residents who cannot afford rising heating costs this winter. Applications are available at ACAP Cohoes Outreach, 20 White Street, Cohoes, 518-237-9201 or information can be downloaded from the Albany County website, <http://www.albanycounty.com/departments/dss/heap.asp?id=661>.

Homeowners may also be eligible for the Albany County Weatherization Program in which your house can be audited for any energy loss. Owners may be able to receive funds for such items as weather-stripping doors and windows and even furnace repairs/replacement. To find out more information please call Tom Dolan at 756-8650. It doesn't cost you anything to call.

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVES

American Legion Post No. 927, 35 Cohoes Avenue, Green Island will be hosting a **BLOOD DRIVE** on Tuesday, December 27th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. To make an appointment please call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit redcrossblood.org.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 2416 7th Avenue, Watervliet will be hosting a **BLOOD DRIVE** on Thursday, December 29th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. To make an appointment please email Linda at Dunbarld@aol.com or call 1-800-Red-Cross.

All presenting donors will be eligible to enter for a chance to win a Home Theatre Package from Best Buy on either day. The need for blood is ongoing. The supply isn't.

RECREATION NEWS

Thank you to Jill Alix, Adriana Brown, Anita Brown, Larry Brown, Victoria Brown, Keith Bullock, Luke Burns, Tina Burns, Brittany Charette, Angelica DeCianni, Felisha Dingley, Jeff Dorrance, Rachel Files, Heather Gregory, Maeve Gurbey, Cayla Heffern, Melissa Heffern, Austin Horton, Michael Johnson, Chris Karwiel, Jon King, Nancy Kipp, Kathy Kirch, Kirsten Mason, Blair McGuirk, McKenzie Patalino, Jill Peltier, Ellen McNulty-Ryan, Mark Ryan, Taylor Sedgwick, Scott Siegel, Billy Skiba, Bobby Skiba, Katherine Smith, Christina Stebbins, Craig Strizzi, Laura Strizzi, Kristin Swinton, Jesse Tilley, Beth Vanderheyden, Monica Walsh, the Senior Citizens, Horizon Milling and the Heatly Elementary for contributing to the success of this year's food drive and Thanksgiving deliveries.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

On **Saturday, February 18th, 2012**, the American Legion will be holding a **Lasagna Dinner** sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Post 927 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The dinner includes Lasagna, Salad, Roll, Coffee/Tea and Dessert. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 4 – 12 and FREE Pasta for Kids 3 and under. Delivery is available. For further information, please contact the Legion Post at 272-1198.

On **Saturday, March 17th, 2012**, the American Legion will be hosting a **St. Patrick's Day Dinner** from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 4 – 12 and for children 3 and under – FREE. Dinner will be your choice of Corned Beef & Cabbage or Ham & Cabbage, served with potatoes, carrots, bread/butter, coffee/tea and dessert. Presale is recommended. For further information call 272-1198 and Delivery will be available.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Christmas Services will be held at 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on **Christmas Eve** and at 9:30 a.m. on **Christmas morning**. Everyone is welcome attend!

There will be a **Roast Beef Dinner** on **Saturday, January 7th, 2012** from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$9.50 for adults, \$5.00 for children, under age 5 are FREE. Takeout will begin at 4:00 p.m.

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER TO BENEFIT NORTHEAST KIDNEY FOUNDATION

There will be a **Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner** on **Saturday, March 3rd, 2012** at the American Legion Post No. 927, 35 Cohoes Avenue, Green Island to benefit the Northeast Kidney Foundation for their WALK to be held on June 10th, 2012. Tickets will be \$10.00 sold in advance or \$12.00 at the door. Children under 3 will be free. Takeout will be available. For further information or tickets, please contact Denise Cesare at dcesare@aol.com or by calling 518-378-7739 or 518-598-2171.

PLEASE POST THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Village and Town Offices will be closed on Friday, December 23rd, Monday, December 26th, Friday, December 30th and Monday, January 2nd in observance of the Christmas and New Year Holidays.