

KEEPING UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN GREEN ISLAND

FROM MY DESK TO YOUR HOME

November 16, 2011

Dear Friends,

I had the nicest time with the five surviving members of The Last Man's Club at the Legnard-Curtin American Legion Post on Veteran's Day. They decided last year, when they had six members left, that they would hold their final meeting in 2011 instead of waiting until there was only one or two of them left. Their sixth member, Tom Greaves, died on September 9th. That left Ted Tornesello, George Reinoehl, Al Valenty, Ed Boudreau and Ed Spalding to have their final meeting and open their bottle of Cognac. The candle lighting ceremony during the meeting was very moving. It was sad to hear so many familiar names called, including my Dad's, and have no response of "here." So many of these wonderful men have left us in the last few years, but the sadness was turned to respect and awe as you listened to the five remaining members tell their war experiences to the reporters and photographers from the Troy Record and Times Union. Both papers gave our fellows beautiful coverage on their front pages and told their stories. The five members invited four of us, Commander Anthony Lazzaro, Historian T-Boy Collins, Past Commander Balky Kehn and yours truly, to be their guests. The ladies at the Legion did a great job cooking and serving the nine of us a delicious turkey dinner. The members opened their precious bottle (with a little "cork difficulty") and respectfully raised their glasses to all of their deceased members. They then graciously shared their "liquid gold" with their four guests. While I appreciated their gracious generosity, I sat looking at my glass feeling that if I took a sip I would be struck dead on the spot because I knew I had no right to share in this celebration. I had not witnessed the horrors of the war or known the terror they must have felt while under attack. I knew my lips should never taste their reward. But I also knew it was a privilege to have been invited to be their guest (I might add the only woman ever invited) and they sincerely were inviting their guests to share in their celebration of life and service to their country. I said my Act of Contrition (just in case I was struck dead) and put the glass to my lips – and it was smoooooth! Their bottle had survived – just as they had – and was now being enjoyed. I can't thank these gentlemen enough for allowing me to share in their celebration. I was truly honored – just as I am honored to have known these five men and many of their comrades who have gone before them. They truly are "The Greatest Generation."

It is hard to get back to the business at hand after telling that story, but here goes.

Fire Chief Bob Bourgeois has informed me that a senior citizen got a call from a company trying to collect personal information to be used in case of an emergency. Of course this would require a small fee and her credit card number. Thank goodness she did not give

them anything because this is surely a scam. PLEASE DO NOT GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO ANYONE WHO CALLS YOU. This is one of the number one scams and how someone's identity is stolen. You should only give out credit card information if you initiated the call and even then you should be very careful. Some of the scammers come door to door also, so please use caution and never open your door unless you know who is on the other side.

I am so excited to be having our "Festival of Trees" in the River Park again this year. It will be held on Saturday, December 3rd. We will start decorating around 2:00 p.m. and will be serving hot chocolate and treats throughout the day. Santa is scheduled to arrive at 5:00 p.m. and we will light our trees and sing Christmas carols. Santa has promised to stay for a while and listen to all the last minute requests from the good little boys and girls, so make sure you bring your lists. Even if you don't have a tree, we would love to see all of you and invite you to place an ornament on the Relay for Life Tree or the Veteran's Tree and partake in the goodies and singing. It is a great way to start off the holiday season and see your neighbors before we get stuck in the house for the winter.

The "Giving Tree" will be up in the Village Office on December 1st. I know the economy is in tough shape, but if you are fortunate enough to be able to share a little, please stop in and get a tag to buy a gift for someone who is not as fortunate. Our residents have done an unbelievable job every year that allows us to make Christmas a reality for kids who might not have one if not for the generosity of all of you. If your circumstances allow you, please help us. Each year you have cleared every tag from the tree which means no child has gone without Christmas. Please help us keep our "undefeated" record.

Winter is just around the corner and that means SNOW. Please cooperate when we have snow removal so we can keep our streets clear for emergency vehicles. It's also nice to be able to park your car right up to the curb after snow removal. I also know you have a lot better ways to spend \$125.00 than on a ticket and a tow. Let's hope this winter is a little milder than last year. I swear it seemed like it snowed every day! I'll take an inch on Christmas Eve and then I think we should go directly to March or April and just skip January and February. All in favor please signify by saying "aye."

We will be having our swearing in ceremony for all the recently elected officials. It has tentatively been set for Friday, December 30th at the Community Center. More info will be available in December's newsletter.

Please see the other newsletter for lots of things going on with the Senior Citizens (Holiday Party), the American Legion (Santa Breakfast and New Year's Eve Party) and the Church of the Good Shepherd (dinners, Living Nativity and Pancake Supper).

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving. It is my most favorite holiday of the year. I love cooking for my family and spending the day together. I think we are having 24 for dinner and a few more for dessert, so that will be a "piece of cake" – or in this case – pie!

Sincerely,



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
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NOVEMBER 2011

CHRISTMAS CAROLING & TREE LIGHTING

The Village of Green Island will hold its annual "Festival of Trees" on **Saturday, December 3rd**, at the River Park. Tree decorating starts at 2:00 p.m. There will be two community trees again this year, one for Relay for Life and one for our Veterans. Everyone is welcome to place an ornament on either or both of these trees, free of charge. Santa will arrive at 5:00 p.m. to light the trees, sing Christmas Carols and see all the good little children. ***Come and bring your family for this wonderful event!***

GIVING TREE

Our "Giving Tree" will be up on December 1st at the Village Office, please stop in and take a tag. This is a great opportunity to grant a child a "Merry" Christmas. All presents must be returned with the original tag by Tuesday, December 20th.

SNOW PLOWING AND REMOVAL

Just a reminder on snow removal. Last month's newsletter listed the order of street plowing. Please keep that list handy for the coming season and it is also available on our website at www.villageofgreenisland.com. Any questions, **PLEASE CHECK WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, OR SOMEONE IN CHARGE OF THE SNOW PLOWING OPERATIONS, BEFORE YOU PARK YOUR CAR ON ANY STREET YOU THINK HAS BEEN PLOWED.**

The Police Department travels the streets to announce the time that snowplowing operations will begin. If you do not hear the announcement, it will not be considered a legitimate excuse for not moving your vehicle. If you have any questions about snow plowing operations, please call the Police Department at 273-2401 or the Department of Public Works at 273-5565. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

RECREATION NEWS

Thank you to the Vagabond Club, Heatly PTO and the American Legion for sponsoring the Halloween Parade.

ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE SPAGHETTI DINNER
TO BENEFIT ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

The Albany County Legislature's Majority Caucus will be holding their annual Spaghetti Dinner (spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, bread and butter, coffee, tea, soda, and dessert) to benefit their Adopt-A-Family Program on Friday, December 9th, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Watervliet Elks, 501 4th Avenue, Watervliet. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children under 12 Free. For those on the go, take-out is available.

The Majority Caucus has adopted numerous families in Albany County, including many in Green Island, for several years now. This is a great cause and helps put a smile on the faces of some who might believe they have nothing to smile at. Please contact Sean Ward at 273-8710 or sward1@nycap.rr.com if you would like tickets.

GREEN ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS HOLIDAY PARTY

- The Senior Citizens will be hosting a **Holiday Party** featuring "**The ACCENTS**" on Friday, December 9th from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the American Legion. Tickets are \$20.00 for senior citizens and \$25.00 for the general public and includes beer, wine, soda and snacks. Call 272-7262 for more information.
- Senior Gift Cards are now available for the holiday season!!! A \$3.00 donation gift card can treat seniors to lunch. **They make great stocking stuffers.**

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

- **Friday, November 25th** - **FREE Community Dinner from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome!
- **Friday, December 2nd** - **SPAGHETTI and MEATBALL DINNER** from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. with **TAKE-OUTS** starting at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$9.50 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12 and **FREE** for children under 5.
- **Sunday, December 11th** – Annual "**LIVING NATIVITY**" at 7:00 p.m. This free 45 minute presentation will be followed by refreshments.
- **Friday, December 16th** – **PANCAKE and SAUSAGE SUPPER** from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by Youth Fellowship Group and the cost is pay what you will!

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

Holiday Breakfast with Santa

On **Saturday, December 17th** the American Legion Auxiliary #927 is having a **Holiday Breakfast with Santa from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Breakfast will consist of Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Home Fries, Pancakes, Toast, Coffee, Tea and Juice. The cost is \$7.00 is per person and children under 5 are Free. You do not need to purchase a breakfast to see Santa. For more information call 272-1198.

New Year's Eve Party

On **Saturday, December 31st**, The American Legion will host their annual **New Year's Eve Party from 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.** The cost is \$30.00 per person or \$60.00 per couple and includes open bar, food and DJ. Deadline is December 19th. Sign up early and don't miss out. Limited to 120 people. Call 272-1198 for reservations.

Further updates throughout the month are available at www.villageofgreenisland.com.

JUST A REMINDER THAT THE VILLAGE, TOWN and GIPA OFFICES will be closed Thursday, November 24th, 2011 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.