

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

NOVEMBER 2012

CHRISTMAS CAROLING & TREE LIGHTING

The Village of Green Island will hold its annual “Festival of Trees” on **Saturday, December 1st**, 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 3rd 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 18th.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO DISCUSS EMERGENCY DISPATCHING CHANGES

Mayor Ellen McNulty-Ryan and our public safety officials have scheduled two public meetings to discuss recent changes to emergency dispatching which affect all of us. Both meetings will be held on Tuesday December 4th. The first will be held at 12 noon at the Green Island Senior Center located at 4 George Street and the second will be held at 6 p.m. at the Green Island Municipal Center located at 19 George Street. These are very important meetings so we encourage everyone to attend at least one of them.

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 655-7854 or the Department of Public Works at 273-5565. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

RECREATION NEWS

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

GREEN ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS ARE HOSTING A HOLIDAY PARTY

- The Senior Citizens will be hosting a **Holiday Party** featuring “**The ACCENTS**” on Friday, December 7th 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 (must be 21yrs) 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 a senior to lunch

**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 Senior Center, 1501 Broadway, 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. Please contact Sean Ward at 273-8710 or sward1@nycap.rr.com if you would like tickets.

WELCOME CHEER INTENSTIY ALL-STARS TO GREEN ISLAND

We would like to welcome a new business, Cheer Intensity All-Stars, to our community. They are located at 13 Cannon Street (in the Grimm Complex) and hold cheer and tumbling classes for children ages 1 to adult. New programs start December 1st and all are invited to become part of their team. Please call them at 27-CHEER (or 272-4337) or visit their website at www.cheerintensity.com for more information.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

- **Friday, November 30th** - **FREE Community Dinner** from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome!
- **Saturday, December 1st** - Pancake Dinner from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Includes scrambled eggs and sausage. Suggested Donation is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12 and FREE for children under 5
- **Sunday, December 8th** – Annual "LIVING NATIVITY" at 7:00 p.m. This free 45 minute presentation will be followed by refreshments.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

- **Holiday Breakfast** - On Saturday, December 22nd 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 Monday, December 31st, The American Legion will host their annual New Year's Eve Party beginning at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$70.00 per couple, if paid by December 15th or \$80.00 per couple, if paid by December 22nd and includes open bar, food and DJ. Call 272-1198 for reservations.

GREEN ISLAND SECTION 8 CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Effective **December 3, 2012** applications will be issued for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Payment Program. This is a Federal Government funded program assisting very low-income families, the elderly and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. **Please Note: At the present time there are no openings in the Program. The Purpose is to establish a new waiting list.**

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you are interested in applying, two meetings will be held on Monday, December 3rd. The first will be held at 9:00 am and the second at 6:00 pm. Both will be held at the Green Island Municipal Center, 19 George St., Green Island, NY 12183. We will be advising potential applicants of the qualifications for getting your name on the waiting list. We will also be issuing applications. If you are not able to come to the meeting on Monday, you can pick up applications at the Section 8 Office at 75 Hudson Ave, Green Island, NY 12183 on Tuesday 12/4/12 thru Friday 12/7/12 between 9 am to 1 pm and 2:15 pm to 4:30 pm.

We will accept applications at the Village Office at 20 Clinton St., Green Island, NY 12183 at 9 am on Monday December 10, 2012. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. If you have any questions contact the Green Island Section 8 Office, Village of Green Island, 75 Hudson Ave., Green Island, N.Y., 12183, phone number 629-0368 and ask for Ted Koniowka, Section 8 Administrator.

**JUST A REMINDER THAT THE VILLAGE, TOWN and GIPA OFFICES will be closed
Thursday, November 22nd, 2012 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

November 16, 2012

Dear Friends,

Busy, busy, busy! So many things going on; where do I start? I guess the best way is in chronological order, so here goes!

My favorite place in Green Island ---- the River Park. On Saturday, December 1st at 2:00pm we will be decorating our Christmas Trees for our 8th Annual Festival of Trees. I can't believe this will be our 8th year. It all started with a suggestion in 2005 from Kate Legnard Rainville. Kate and her family have been one of 18 families who have had a tree every year. We now have 36 trees and a waiting list every year. This event couldn't happen without the efforts of our guys in DPW and GIPA, my husband, Mark, and all the "Old Faithfuls" who come back every year. We will serve hot chocolate and cookies during the day and then at 5:00 pm ----- TA-DA ----- Santa will arrive on his sleigh to greet all the kids and sing a few Christmas Carols with us. And rumor has it that Mrs. Claus will be joining Santa this year!!! She says she is coming to help Santa hand out some special gifts to all the children, but I think she is coming to make sure Santa doesn't eat too many cookies. Please join us on December 1st and remember that we have a tree dedicated to our Veterans and one for our Relay for Life. Anyone wishing to place an ornament on either of these trees is welcome to do so; just remember to make your ornament sturdy to withstand the wind and snow.

Our "Giving Tree" will be up at the Village Office on Monday, December 3rd. With the economy the way it is, there are many families still struggling to make ends meet. If you are in a position to be able to help out, please stop in and pick up a gift tag to help make some child's Christmas a reality. This community has come through EVERY year and I'm sure you will do it again this year. That's one of the reasons I like it here – we always stick together!

On Tuesday, December 4th we will be holding meetings for our residents to pass along information on our new emergency dispatch services with the Albany County Sheriff's Department. We have the first couple of weeks under our belt and things seem to be running very well. Any time you make a change to something that has been in place for so long, there is an adjustment period. At this meeting, we hope to answer any questions or concerns that our residents have. Four of our Village Trustees took a little road trip with me to the Voorheesville Dispatch Center and were quite impressed with the operation. After seeing the operation in action and asking many questions, every one of them felt very comfortable with the professional manner in which each call was handled. The dispatchers at the Call Center are especially adept at handling EMS calls, which are probably 95% of our Fire Department calls. All of our Police Officers who work in other Police agencies are already accustomed to 911 Call Center operations, so there isn't any learning curve for them. It is our residents who have the biggest adjustment to make and that's why we thought a couple of public meetings might be helpful. They will be held on Tuesday, December 4th at 12:30 pm after the Seniors noon lunch at the Community Center and at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Center. Please join us for one of the meetings. Even if you don't think you have a question, you might learn something from someone else's question. We want everyone to understand how the system works BEFORE they encounter an emergency situation.

If you own a residential property in Green Island, you should have received a mailer about your property. Please verify or correct the information and return it to the Village Office by December 3rd.

The Albany County Legislature's Majority Caucus will again be holding their annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Watervliet Senior Citizens Center on Friday, December 7th from 3:30 to 7:00 pm. This is a good cause as they adopt numerous families throughout the County to make sure they have a proper Christmas. You get to fill your tummy and help a needy family at the same time. That's a WIN-WIN for everyone.

After you fill your tummy on the 7th at the Spaghetti Dinner, why don't you work it off on the dance floor at the Green Island Senior Citizens "Holiday Party" to be held at the American Legion Post from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. The cost is \$20 for Seniors and \$25 for the general public. Where can you go for a night of great music by "The Accents," beer, wine, soda, lots of snacks and dancing for a bargain like that?

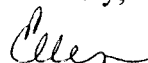
While we are on the subject of food, please see the other newsletter for some great events at the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Legnard-Curtin American Legion.

While I hate to mention the word SNOW- I must. With the new dispatch system in place, there will not always be someone present in the Police Station. However, when we have curb to curb snow removal operations in place (when all vehicles must be moved when your street is announced), we plan to have someone at the desk to answer questions and receive parking and towing fines. If you need to contact the Police Station in a "non-emergency" situation, you may call 655-7854. This number may also be used to contact Chief Parker, Sgts. Mariani, Montanino or Fisher, or any member of the Police Department. If no one answers, you may leave a message and someone will return your call. Please remember, this is for "non-emergency" calls only. In all emergencies, please call 911 for the quickest response.

I'm almost out of space, so I have to talk about my most favorite holiday – Thanksgiving! I love it because I get to cook and feed my family (25 coming this year), but most of all because I have so much to be thankful for. God has blessed me in so many ways: I was born to the best parents in the world and grew up in a happy home with three brothers and a sister; I am married to the sweetest and most understanding guy on this planet; I have three healthy, bright, loving and productive children who have given me four terrific grandchildren to adore and spoil; and I have two jobs that I love: one as a funeral director in my hometown that I love and one as your Mayor – in that same hometown that I love. I hope and pray every day that God will allow me to enjoy these blessings for many more years, but even if He takes me tomorrow, I can honestly say, "*I've had a great run!*"

I better get moving on that Thanksgiving cooking: three turkeys (70 pounds), mashed potatoes, potato dressing (told you about that one a few years ago – "mmmmm"), sausage dressing (Mark makes that one), candied yams, butternut squash, turnips (for my niece, Michele), green bean casserole, peas, lemon jello with red grapes (old family tradition), gravy with mushrooms, two kinds of cranberry sauce, rolls, pumpkin pie, apple pie and blueberry pie (for my daughter, Kristin). The above menu is just another reason why I am so blessed – and so chubby!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan