

VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2012

IMPORTANT! Please see Mayor's newsletter for information on the transfer of Police/Fire Dispatch services to Albany County.

ALL RESIDENTS PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY CHANGE IN GARBAGE COLLECTION FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th - ELECTION DAY.

RECREATION NEWS

HALLOWEEN PARADE - The annual Halloween Parade will be held on **Wednesday, October 31st**. Cash prizes will be offered for the best costumes and floats. The parade forms at **5:30 p.m.** at the corner of George and Hamilton Streets and will begin at **6:00 p.m.** Rain date will be Thursday, November 1st.

ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

The **Annual Food Drive** to benefit the Green Island Food Pantry will begin with the **BAG DROP OFF** on **Thursday, October 25th** and **PICK UP** will be on **Saturday, October 27th** starting at **10:00 a.m.** The Green Island Department of Parks and Recreation and students from Heatly School sponsor the food drive. Residents are asked to contribute whatever they can to help the needy families in our community. Please refrain from donating expired items.

TIRE RECYCLING EVENT AT DPW GARAGE

Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District will be sponsoring a Tire Recycling Event held at the DPW Garage on Thursday, November 1st from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Old car and light truck tires can be disposed of at no cost. Please see all pertinent information at www.villageofgreenisland.com.

PUBLIC MEETING FOR ALBANY AVENUE AND GEORGE STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

There will be a public meeting held on **Tuesday, November 20th** at the Green Island Municipal Center, 19 George Street at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to give a brief overview of the proposed construction regarding the Albany Avenue and George Street Reconstruction Projects and the projected timeline for the projects.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

In preparation for snow plowing and snow removal, all inoperative or unregistered motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, dumpsters and all types of trailers must be removed from village streets by November 1, 2012. All illegally parked motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, dumpsters and trailers will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

SNOW PLOWING AND REMOVAL

The streets are generally plowed in the following order. However, this procedure is subject to change based upon various emergency conditions, which might arise.

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|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Clinton Street | 6. Arch Street | 16. West Street |
| 2. Albany Avenue | 7. Hudson Avenue | 17. John Street |
| 3. Pine Street | 8. Lafayette Street/Lafayette Park | 18. Mohawk Street |
| Walnut Street | 9. Lower Paine Street | 19. Swan Street |
| Saratoga Street | 10. Hamilton Street | 20. Bleecker Street |
| Whitehall Street | 11. Market Street | 21. Tibbits Avenue |
| Lower Hudson Avenue | 12. Center Street & Center Court | 22. Cohoes Avenue |
| Harlem Street | 13. Upper Paine Street | 23. Veterans Memorial Dr. |
| 4. Cannon Street (So. End) | 14. James Street | 24. Cannon Street (No. End) |
| 5. George Street | 15. High Street | |

All vehicles which are not moved for snow plowing operations will be ticketed and towed. The **fine is \$50.00**, the **fee for towing is \$75.00** and there will be a **storage fee of \$5.00 per day** after the first 24 hours. All fines and fees must be paid at the Green Island Police Department before the vehicle is released. There will be an additional charge if special equipment is required to move a vehicle from the street.

Residents who work out-of-town or who leave their cars on the streets should make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to move their car for snow plowing operations.

The Department of Public Works does an excellent job of keeping our streets open for travel and emergencies until the storm ends and the regular snow plowing operation can be carried out. Some people who have had their cars towed during the past storms have complained that they have moved their car to streets they thought had been plowed and find out that they have not been completely plowed. In order to avoid this problem, **PLEASE CHECK WITH A POLICE OFFICER, 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. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

REASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO START SOON

The Village has signed a contract with Municipal Assessment Services (MAS) to do a reassessment improvement project from November 2012 – July 2014. During the course of the project employees from MAS will do data collection on all parcels. Their employees will have Village issued photo identification on them at all times. If you ever have any concern, please call the Police Department at 273-2401. By October 31, 2012, all property owners will receive a inventory data mailer containing parcel information currently on file. Please be sure to read the introductory letter and follow the instructions regarding the information disclosed on the inventory data mailer. There will be several public meetings at different phases of the project. The first two (2) public meetings will be held on **Thursday, November 8th**. There will be a meeting at 12:30 p.m. for the senior citizens at the Green Island Community Center, as well as, a meeting at 6:00 p.m. for the general public at the Municipal Center. All property owners are encouraged to attend.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

Hydrants will be flushed in Green Island and Maplewood on **Wednesday, November 7th, Thursday, November 8th and Friday, November 9th**. A slight discoloration in the water may occur and washing of laundry is not recommended during this time.

RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC

The Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets has been arranged by the Albany County Department of Health in cooperation with the Capital District Veterinary Medical Society. On **Saturday, November 3, 2012** from **1:00 – 2:30 p.m.** for **cats and ferrets** and **2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** for **dogs** at the Public Works Garage, Cohoes Avenue.

All dogs, cats and ferrets must be on leashes or in carriers. A record of prior vaccination will be required for a three-year immunization. If no record is present, a one-year vaccination certification will be issued. The clinic is open to any Albany County resident. Any inquiry can be directed to Division of Environmental Health Services at 447-4620 or 447-4625. **There will be an \$8.00 donation per animal.**

NEWS FROM GREEN ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS

Tickets are currently on sale for the **Super Raffle** to be drawn on Wednesday, November 28th, 2012! If you would like to purchase a ticket(s), please contact Jill Alix at 272-7262. Tickets are \$1.00. This is a community wide raffle; you do not have to be a member of the senior citizen organization to participate. 1st Prize - \$1,000; 2nd Prize - \$300 and 3rd Prize - \$200. **SAVE THE DATE** - The Annual Holiday Party with "The Accents" will be held on **Friday, December 7th** at the American Legion. More information to follow in the November Newsletter.

Just a reminder that the Village and Town Offices will be closed Tuesday, November 6th for Election Day; Monday, November 12th in observance of Veteran's Day and Thursday, November 22nd, 2012 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

October 15, 2012

Dear Friends,

I'm going to start this newsletter by giving you information about one of the biggest changes we will be making in Green Island. I've talked to you before about keeping our costs down by consolidating services while trying to preserve the level of service we give to our residents. We've made many successful changes in the last few years and we continue to seek out new ideas to further our savings. The next step we are taking involves our Police and Fire dispatch services. As of Thursday, November 1st, all calls to our Police/Fire Departments will automatically go to Albany County's Dispatch Center. I know the thought of this will worry many of our residents, especially our Senior population, but it is an excellent system and I am going to explain how it works so you will be familiar with the protocol BEFORE you need to use it.

If you have an **EMERGENCY**, you should always call **911**. A dispatcher will answer your call and ask for information. While he/she is taking the information, another dispatcher is contacting our Green Island Police or Fire Department with the location of the emergency. The original dispatcher will still be on the line asking you for more information while the Police/Fire Department is in route to your location. Your biggest worry might be that no one is on the way while the dispatcher is asking you questions. **That is not the case. Someone is on the way to your location as soon as the dispatcher has your location and the nature of your emergency.** In reality, this system will have help on the way sooner than our present system because we only have one dispatcher on at a time and he/she can't radio for help until they finish taking the call.

If you are making a 911 call and you have access to a land line (like Verizon or Time Warner), please use the land line to call 911. Because of our close proximity to Rensselaer County, cell phone calls initiated in Green Island, Cohoes and Watervliet often go to a Rensselaer County 911 tower. If this happens, the Rensselaer County 911 dispatcher will transfer the call to Albany County. This problem has existed for years and has nothing to do with transferring our dispatching services.

I spent this morning out at the County's Dispatch Center. I have been there before, but my purpose today was to watch closely and try to ascertain any questions or issues that might come up with the changeover. I was very impressed with amount of training these dispatchers have received. There are seven manned work stations and their precision in executing their duties while remaining totally calm was amazing. Many of our Green Island dispatchers work there full time, so you will be getting many of the same dispatchers you have spoken with here previously, they will just be at a different location. They are familiar with Green Island's layout. And the Sheriff has made arrangements for any of the county dispatchers that have not worked previously in Green Island to go on an orientation ride with one of our Green Island police officers.

If you call any of our present telephone numbers after November 1st, your call will be transferred to the Dispatch Center. I know some people won't call 911 if it isn't a true emergency, so if you have a question, need to speak to an officer or need to pass along some information to our Police department, you can call 765-2352 to speak to a dispatcher.

For the month of November, which will be our trial stage, our present dispatchers will still be sitting at the desk. They will not be answering the calls or dispatching the Police or Fire services. They will just be there as a safety net for the first month in case we run into any unforeseen problems, they can pick up the ball and remedy the problem so it doesn't happen again. Watervliet and Cohoes went to this system several months ago and have worked out some minor bugs, so I don't think we will have any issues. Our three municipalities work so closely when it comes to public safety that I think this move will only enhance our abilities. If you do have any problems, PLEASE don't hesitate to call me at the Village Office at 273-2201 or Chief Parker at 273-2401. I'll get back to you in next month's newsletter about a clerk manning the station for a couple hours a day after the trial period and how we work out snow removal towing/tickets. I must say a few words to thank all of our dispatchers, especially longtime midnight dispatchers **Tom Hickman, Glenn Nash and Mark Swinton**, who have about 70 years combined service to our department, for the fine job they have done over the years. **THANK YOU!**

On to other things:

Our first ever Mayor's Cup, held on Saturday, September 29th at Frear Park for the benefit of the Legnard-Curtin Post American Legion, was a HUGE success. We all had a wonderful time and raised some much needed revenue for the Post. Thanks to all who worked so hard on this event, especially **Ted Koniowka** and **Donna Lazzaro**. They booked Sunday, August 11th, 2013 for the next one – so mark your calendars!

Mark your calendars, too, for our Festival of Trees in the River Park. It will be held on Saturday, December 1st. We will have more details in next month's letter.

I'm just looking at the other newsletter: Halloween Parade, Annual Food Drive, Snow Plowing, meetings for Reassessment Project and Albany Avenue and George Street Reconstruction, Senior Citizens news I like them all except the SNOW one! Please make sure you check out all the news and events in that newsletter.

I'm at the end of the page and I think I can just squeeze in my "sign off" so I guess I'll do just that!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan