

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

April 13, 2013

Dear Friends,

Well, I thought we had Spring – then we had Winter again – then we had Spring – then we had Winter again..... Will Spring ever come and stay? At least it isn't snowing ---- yet! I hope Spring gets her soon because we have a lot of stuff going on --- and it requires nice weather.

Little League opening day is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Opening day is one of those days that I have seen rain, dust storms, freezing temperatures and temperatures so hot they had to give the kids a rest from the blazing sun. So what do you think it will be this year? It doesn't matter because the players and their hard working parents and coaches will make it a great day for all. And I hear they are getting their field redone by the Valley Cats! New season and a new field - has all the makings of a great year for the Little League. Good luck boys and girls!

We are planning our annual "Spring Street Cleaning" for Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. We will begin at 8:00 a.m. and it runs just like snow removal. When your street is announced, you must move your vehicle while the sweeper goes through. If you do not move your vehicle you will be ticketed. We don't like to ticket but we need to keep our streets clean and there is a lot of winter grime to get up. So help us keep our Village nice by moving your vehicle when we announce your street.

The Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. More details will follow in next month's letter but I just wanted to let everyone know so you can put it on your schedule. Some people take it for granted, but this is one of the ways we can show our Veterans that we appreciate the sacrifices they have made for us. We need to be there for them – just as they have been there for us!

The Green Island Seniors Citizens have rescheduled their cancelled "Cabin Fever Party" to a "Spring Fling" to be held on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Legion. If they get snow for this one I think Jill will throw in the towel! And the shovel! Let's think positive and show up for an evening of great music, dancing, drinks, food and fun. Please purchase your tickets early so they can accurately plan for refreshments and set up.

Speaking of refreshments, please see the other newsletter for details on some yummy events being planned by the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Legnard-Curtin American Legion Post. You can make your tummy happy and support some very worthwhile causes at the same time.

I told you last month I would keep you informed about the proposed indoor gun range on Lower Hudson Avenue. It was supposed to go before the Planning Board this month but the owners were not able to get the site plans to the Village Clerk in time to get the legal notice in the paper and have our engineers review it and get their findings back to the board members. So, it will have to be reviewed at the May meeting.

We will be holding our Spring blood drive for the American Red Cross on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. We have extended the hours for this drive because it is being held in honor of Barb McMullen, who is a Deputy Sheriff with the Albany County Sheriff's Department. Barb is going through some

tough medical issues and her wish was to have a blood drive and ask all of her family, friends and coworkers to come and donate so the Red Cross can continue to help other people like they have helped her. She told me she wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for the work of the Red Cross Blood Bank. Most people in her spot would be wishing for a vacation or something else, but she is wishing to help others. Chief Parker knows her well and told me she is one of the nicest people he has ever met. He is the one who came to me to help her get her wish. Well, she's got it. Now we all have to show up, roll up our sleeves and "give a pint." Let's make this the most successful blood drive we have ever had in Green Island. You can schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS ((1-800-733-2767). Walk-ins are always welcome, but we expect this to be a pretty busy day and we don't want to keep you waiting, so please try to schedule your appointment ahead of time.

I can attest to the good that the Red Cross does in supplying blood to those in need. I have been working on blood drives for decades, just as my mother did before me. I have been calling our local donors twice a year for the last decade as we have sponsored blood drives in our Village. I came to see its value first hand as my husband, Mark, started chemo in March to treat chronic lymphocytic leukemia. The five days of chemo went pretty well, but the following week it not only destroyed the bad blood cells, it attacked the good cells as well and he ended up in the hospital with critically low counts. In all, he received nine transfusions and is doing quite well today. Because of a certain antibody in his blood, the Red Cross had to get blood from Connecticut and Rochester blood banks. While it was frustrating that it took a while to get the blood, we were VERY GRATEFUL that they could get the blood that he needed. In the last couple of years it has been increasingly difficult for me to "keep all the balls in the air" with my jobs. I had considered giving up my volunteer work for the Red Cross. After what has occurred in the last couple of weeks, I won't be giving up my work for the Red Cross. I will continue to call my usual donors twice a year and ask for your blood. And we will continue to hold our blood drives at the Community Center. But I could use a few more volunteers to give a couple of hours. Most of my volunteers are folks who aren't eligible to give blood, so they give back by volunteering for registration and canteen. If you are interested in volunteering, just let me know and I'll put you on our team.

I will end this letter with a sincere thank you to all who sent cards, prayers, calls and well wishes to Mark and me. I can't tell you how much it lifted our spirits during a scary time. He is a pretty quiet guy (how he ever ended up with me is nothing short of a miracle), but he was very touched by how many people showed their concern. I told him he better get in shape because the concerts at the GIG are just around the corner and we really need our resident photographer and "ideas man." He has some great ideas for celebrating our "10<sup>th</sup> year of Music at the GIG." More to come in next month's letter.

Enjoy Spring ---- if it ever gets here!

Sincerely,