

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND
20 CLINTON STREET
GREEN ISLAND, NY 12183
(518) 273-2201
www.villageofgreenisland.com

JUNE 2013

RECREATION NEWS

Park Program Registration

If you would like to obtain a resident ID card, please contact Chris Karwiel, Recreation Department for an appointment.

The **Summer Park Program** for **Green Island residents** will officially begin on **Monday, July 1st**. The parents of any child wishing to use our facilities this summer will be required to fill out a program registration form. This will help our staff in an emergency situation when parents have to be notified. The registration forms can be picked up and dropped off at the Paine Street Park or the Village Office during operating hours.

Save the dates for the following events happening this summer:

GRAND OPENING – Monday, July 1st at 11:00 a.m. Please join us for the “Grand Opening” of the new Spray Pad Park Area.

Bike Rodeo – Wednesday, July 10th at 1:00 p.m. Please bring your bike and bike helmet to the park by 12:45 p.m. Children will have the opportunity to register their bikes with the Police Department.

Men’s Basketball League - 3 games every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Soccer Clinic – August 5^h – August 9th from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. for K – 2nd Grade and from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for 3rd – 6th Grade. Registration forms are available at the Village Office or on the Village website. August 12th – August 16th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for 7th – 12th Grade.

Boy’s & Girl’s Basketball Clinic – **Free Basketball Clinic** open to all ages. Monday, August 12th – Thursday, August 15th. Grades K – 4 will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. and Grades 5 – 12 will be held 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Movie Night – Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and watch a movie the whole family can enjoy. Movie Night is FREE. The movies begin at approximately 8:00 p.m. Movies will be shown on July 12th and 26th and August 9th and 23rd. In the event of inclement weather, the movie will be shown on the following Friday.

HELMET LAW

Another issue that coincides with nice weather is youths riding on bicycles, scooters and skateboards. The law states that any child 14 years of age and younger must wear a helmet when riding on either of these. We also suggest elbow and kneepads and wrist guards for skateboarders. Our police department will be on the lookout for violators, but more important may even stop those that are wearing helmets to tell them "good job".

REMINDER – DOGS AND POOPER SCOOPER LAW

It is illegal to bring any animal, with the exception of a guide dog, into any **public park**. **This includes all parks, Heatly School yard, the Little League and Veteran's Memorial Stadium.** It is also illegal to allow your animal to defecate on any public or private property without picking up the mess, for obvious reasons, including the fact that if it washes into the storm drains it could go directly to the river, which would be a violation of the "***Clean Water Act***". If you wish to walk your dog, make sure you are prepared to clean up after him or her. We are also receiving complaints, and the Police have issued tickets to violators who allow or fail to secure their animals (dogs) to run at large. Please make sure dogs are secured in fenced areas or if out for a walk with a responsible owner/handler, make sure the dog is on a leash. Violators are subject to fines and the possibility that the animal will be transported to the Humane Society, which could be costly to the owner.

NEWS FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

As summer approaches and residents are outside cleaning around their homes, it is important to remember the maintenance of the exteriors. The New York State Fire and Building Uniform Code has a section called "Property Maintenance" - this section covers all exterior wood surfaces other than decay resistant wood. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint needs to be corrected by protective coating or painting. Window frames, siding, cornices and balconies on all buildings, houses and garages are all included in "Property Maintenance" Section.

The Village Code has a section of law, which specifies that homeowners must maintain grass and weed growth on their properties. Failure to do so will result in legal action against that property owner and if the Building Inspector orders the owner to clean the property and the owner refuses then the Village will hold a public hearing and if the owner does not respond, the Village DPW will be directed to clean up the property and a hefty bill will be attached to your property taxes. The Building Inspector will conduct a survey and notify homeowners if they have buildings that are subject to this ruling. Please cooperate by making our community a more attractive place to reside.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 am – All Welcome!

FREE Community Dinner - Friday, June 28th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Enjoy a great meal featuring hamburgers and hot dogs this month, socialize with your friends and neighbors, at **no charge. ALL WELCOME!**

The annual **Village Wide Garage Sale** will be held on Saturday, August 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is a \$3.00 fee to have your name and location on the map. Those who would like their names and locations on the maps should send their information and \$3.00 to the Church of the Good Shepherd, P.O. Box 1523, Green Island, NY 12183. Maps are available at the Church of the Good Shepherd on the day of the sale. For more information contact 274-7648.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

June 14, 2013

Dear Friends,

I have lots to talk about this month but I'm not sure where to start, so I guess I will start with the storm and 24 hour power outage. A 24 hour outage is not something we are accustomed to in Green Island because we maintain our own distribution system, but the problem was not in our system. The problem was in the feed/supply line that is owned by National Grid and brings the power into Green Island. Some people think that because we generate power at our hydro plant that we use that power. We do not, nor can we because of contract restrictions that were in place long before we acquired the hydro plant. We are, however, working on being able to use our own power because we believe it would be more cost effective and more reliable for our customers – that means you. But I digress – let me get back to the storm. National Grid worked very hard to get us back up and running, but they had much more pressing and dangerous issues than ours. That said, they did a great job for us and we are grateful for their cooperation.

But if I'm going to talk about a great job done, I will tell you that without a doubt we have the best team in our Village and GIPA crews. Every single department showed up in full force and stayed on the job until it was done. Some of them worked 36 hours straight! While I know it was an inconvenience to have power out for 24 hours, we were lucky! If you look around at the devastation in the area, we escaped without any personal injury to residents or employees. Whenever we have a weather related event like this, I am always surprised by some of the strange things that can happen. The wind from this storm caused a 300 pound trampoline to fly into the air and attach itself to cable and phone lines 25 feet in the air. You had to see it to believe it. Once it was determined it was not touching any power lines, our Fire Department addressed it and made quick work of releasing it and removing potential danger to life and property. While they were doing that, the GIPA crew was removing dangerous trees and limbs from power lines and inspecting all of our lines before being able to give National Grid the OK to restore power to the Village. By about midnight, we had all lines cleared and reattached, but were then informed by Grid that their line that feeds our Village was down. That's when the waiting game began – and we waited. Some residents became upset that we could not give them a timetable for restoring power but the truth is – we didn't know; and neither did Grid. They were doing their best under the circumstances. Nobody wanted the power on more than I did. I had a wake scheduled at the funeral home for three o'clock, but the family of the deceased wanted the wake in Green Island so my husband hooked up our small generator so we could have lights and we made the best of it. Everyone coming into the funeral home was very understanding and just kept reiterating that as long as no one was injured, we could get by with a few inconveniences. That was the spirit I was looking for.

We had a "critique" meeting the other day with all of our departments: Police, Fire, DPW, Water and Sewer, GIPA and administrative staff. The purpose of the meeting was to go over how everything went during the event and how can we continue to improve upon things the next time. One of the issues the GIPA guys were very concerned about was the safety of people trying to clear things near downed or compromised electrical lines. They asked me to pass along the message that if we have another event of this type, PLEASE get word to emergency personnel about the location and nature of the problem but then stay indoors and do not attempt to help before the crew arrives to assess the situation. They explained to me that a tree can actually be "energized" and that you could be electrocuted without ever coming into direct contact with the line. It certainly made me reassess how I will respond in the future. All in all, we were very pleased with how the response to the storm emergency was handled. I can't express how grateful I am to all of our employees for the hard work and dedication that they give to their jobs. Thank you! And to the few people who chose to go on Facebook and criticize our

handling of the emergency, I say to you don't be so quick to criticize when you have no idea what is going on and how hard so many dedicated people are working. It is easy to sit in your home, nice and dry and comfortable, while our men and women are out in the wet and clammy weather, clearing debris from the streets, climbing poles to clear lines, checking on shut-ins to make sure they are OK and doing our best to keep residents informed as best we could. If you could "walk a mile" in their shoes, you would view things very differently.

Now on to my favorite topic: *Summer Concerts at the GIG!!!!* We have a really great line up for our 10th Season! Yes, that's right – TEN YEARS! I can't believe that much time has passed since we built the Gazebo and began the summer concert series. Most people don't realize how much work goes into this labor of love. Contacting our generous sponsors (who make it possible to run this series at no cost to the taxpayers or attendees), booking all the bands, doing all the graphics and printing for the schedules, specials, fans and sponsor lists (my husband, Mark, does all this), working up the menus and "specials" for each week and last, but most important, our great GIG-A-Bite crew, Rachel Files, Rachel Perfetti, Christa Caruso, Kristin Swinton, Julie Iannone and Scott Siegel, who cook and serve their delicious treats. And let's not forget our volunteer bakers, Annie Lazzaro, Pat Iannone, Michele and Donna Bourgeois, Christa Caruso, Scott Siegel and Theresa Files, who produce and deliver those delicious baked goods every week. I have included an extra page to my newsletter this month that gives you the concert schedule, the weekly food specials and the list of our generous sponsors. Please stick it on your refrigerator so you will have it handy each week. Mark also had soda can cozies made this year to commemorate our tenth year. On opening day you can get one free with every \$5.00 that you spend on food. If there are any left after opening day, they can be purchased for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 ---- what a deal!!! The profits made at the GIG-A-Bite shed are used to make improvements at the park and to support other groups, like our Senior Citizens, by sponsoring the band for their Christmas fundraiser each year. We have also purchased picnic benches for the Paine Street Park and are hoping to do something nice at the new "Sprayground" in the Paine Street Park. It's a win-win all around.

Another exciting event we have coming up is the opening of the new "Sprayground" at the Paine Street Park. We will be dedicating it on Monday, July 1st, at 11:30 a.m. We aren't sure if everything will be done with the landscaping for opening day. The bad weather has put the project a little behind but we are hoping the weather will improve between now and the opening so we can put on the finishing touches. If not, we will just keep plugging along after the opening. This "Sprayground" would not be possible without the generosity of some special people. John and Lynda Kutey gave our Village \$200,000.00 for the project and Jim Besha from Albany Engineering donated all of his time and talents for the design, engineering and construction oversight. Todd Grimm from Grimm Building Materials donated the concrete infrastructure and pavers to go around the fencing. I hope you will join us on the 1st to thank these generous people who have made this water park a reality. You can even bring your bathing suit and give it a try. Might feel good on a hot day. Don't worry, I won't bring my bathing suit!

Well, I think that about wraps it up for this month. Can't wait to see you at the concerts. I'm on for making the cheese and fruit boards (which were a sell out last year), the pasta fagioli and the "Road Kill" chili (that one will be a surprise to you and me both!). I fully plan on dancing 'til I drop, but I'm seriously considering canceling my annual "head stand contest" with the kids this year. My balance just isn't what it used to be --- but that doesn't mean I am "unbalanced." What the heck --- I'm in for another year--- but will I be able to hold on to my undefeated title? Anyone up for the challenge?

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan