

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND
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JANUARY 2015

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

There are exemptions available to those senior citizens that are or will be 65 during the year that they are filing for the exemption – 2015. The exemptions require that one of the owners meet the age requirement, and that the home is the primary residence.

New and renewal applications for the **ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION ON THE 2015 ROLL** will be based on the applicant's 2013 income. The **NEW INCOME LIMIT of \$83,300** will be based on the **Adjusted Gross Income of the 2013 Income Tax Return**.

The **Senior Citizen** exemption for County and/or Village tax purposes is available for those 65 and older with an annual income not to exceed \$37,400 for county purpose and \$14,700 for village purposes. This exemption is based on the **Total Gross Income for 2014**.

If you are eligible for the Senior Citizen Exemption you will automatically receive the Enhanced STAR. However, if you are eligible for the Enhanced STAR you may NOT be eligible for the Senior Citizen exemption. They are two separate exemptions.

ALL EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED BY MARCH 1, 2015.

If you are in the Income Verification Program you have received a letter to confirm your exemption. If you receive this confirmation by mail you do not have to reapply for the Enhanced STAR exemption. All other applicants have received their renewal applications by mail.

RECREATION NEWS
Food Drive

Thank you to the many residents who donated toward our annual food drives here in Green Island. The food that was collected here was more than enough to feed all of our needy families at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are sure that the families that receive the food baskets are very grateful to those of you that contributed and all those who purchased gifts off the Giving Tree.

Special thanks go out to the following groups that assisted with both the food and gift programs for the needy which were held throughout the holiday season: Lydall Manning employees, Green Island School District employees and retirees, Green Island Senior Citizens, Albany County Legislature, the Church of the Good Shepherd, The Stewart Shops, Bimbo Bakeries, Cheer Intensity, Green Island Lanes-bowling leagues, and all of our anonymous Santa's Helpers, (you know who you are) and any others that may have assisted in any way at all. A big thanks to our volunteers that helped prepare and/or deliver the goods including Chris Karwiel, Ellen McNulty-Ryan, Mark Ryan, Kristin Swinton, Scott Siegel, Rachel Files, Jill Alix, Heather Johnson, Larry Brown, Anita Brown, Tami Weisenforth, Sean Ward, Tom Mullins, Christina Stebbins, Pryce Wasula and Elijah Legault. As you can see, we have many people and organizations involved in this program.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion will be hosting Valentine's Day DJ/Karaoke on Saturday, February 14th, 2015 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Music provided by DJ Laz. For more information, please contact the Legion Post at 272-1198.

The Sons of the American Legion are hosting a **CHICKEN PARMIGIANA DINNER** on Saturday, February 21st, 2015 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The dinner includes Chicken Parmigiana, Pasta, Salad, Roll, Dessert, Coffee and Tea. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 5 – 12 and FREE pasta for kids 4 and under. Take-out available, no deliveries. For further information and to purchase tickets, please contact the Legion Post at 272-1198.

NEWS FROM GREEN ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

The Little League will be hosting an **ALL YOU CAN EAT Buffet Style Pasta Dinner** on Saturday, January 31st, 2015 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post #927, 35 Cohoes Avenue. They will be serving Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, Penne w/marinara or Fettuccine Alfredo. Bread, butter, salad, soda, coffee, tea and dessert are included. The cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for kids 6 – 10 and kids under 5 are FREE. All proceeds will go to upgrading the bathrooms and some much needed building repairs. There will be raffles including 50-50, an American Girl Doll and more. **Take-out and free delivery is available.** For advanced ticket purchases, please contact Tina Miller at 953-8109 or Dave Monahan at 763-9895 or any board member.

The next **REGISTRATION** for Green Island Little League is **Sunday, February 8th** at Heatly School from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Friday, January 30th – 5:30 p.m. – **Community Dinner** at the Church. The menu includes a green salad, hot main course, coffee/tea, and a delicious dessert. Please come, bring your family and friends, all at no charge. **Everyone is welcome!**

Saturday, February 7th – 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. **Delicious "Meatloaf" Dinner.** The dinner includes meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, bread, salad, dessert, coffee and tea. Proceeds will benefit church projects, missions and programs. The cost of the dinner is \$11 for adults, \$6 for children (5–12 years) and children under 5 are FREE. The event is open to the public with free parking. **Takeout dinners will be available.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

January 18, 2015

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!!!! The holidays are behind us and we still have some winter ahead of us, but I figure we are half way through it and it hasn't been too bad so far. We have had some snow and really cold temperatures, but if the rest of the winter is like the first half, I will be a happy girl. We haven't had to do a curb to curb snow removal yet, which saves us a lot of money. Our DPW crew has done a great job of pushing back the snow and most of you have been cooperative about moving your cars to help them get the job done, but I am getting calls from residents that some neighbors aren't being very "neighborly." Please don't move your car in front of someone else's house and leave it there for a week, preventing the crews from clearing the snow and creating an inconvenience for your neighbor. Fortunately these incidents are few, but they stand out in contrast to some neighborhoods who work together to help out the elderly during these times by pitching in to shovel sidewalks and move vehicles. That kind of caring is what makes our village so special! Thank you.

Thanks to everyone who donated and worked on our Christmas gift and food basket programs. It never ceases to amaze me how generous our community is when it comes to helping out those who are less fortunate. You should be proud of yourselves.

Our Festival of Trees went very well this year with a total of 38 trees. It was REALLY cold the day we decorated, but that didn't stop our decorators from making it one of our most beautiful years yet. Every night before I go to bed I look out my bedroom window and say "good night" to the beautiful trees. And I miss them when they are gone. Thanks again to our DPW and GIPA guys for all their hard work. We couldn't do it without them.

Well I think our ladies at Senior Citizens are finally "sitting pretty" in their newly renovated ladies room. It was an "in house" remodel done by our DPW, GIPA and Water Department crews, along with the help of a couple of volunteers, who shall remain nameless. This remodel was long overdue and it still would not be done if we had to

hire outside contractors to do it because we just don't have the money. I wish those officials "in high places" would stop criticizing local governments and take a look at how we get things done. Maybe "big government" could learn a few valuable lessons from us "little guys." I won't hold my breath.

I am always telling people how great our Senior Citizens Club is and how all the members keep an eye on each other to make sure they are OK because many of them live alone. Jill Alix does a great job keeping them active and Connie makes sure everyone's tummies are happy by serving delicious hot meals Monday thru Thursday. Many treasured friendships have been formed through meeting new folks, and we even have a "love story" that came from a meeting at the club. Ron Warren met Dorothy White at the club. Their friendship turned into love and they were married seven years ago. Dot is the mother of our own Sean Ward and he has many times said these last seven years of his Mom's life have been her absolute happiest. I was always amazed that Ron adapted so well to Dot's kids and grandchildren, having been a bachelor all of his life. And Dot's family loved Ron, a gentleman and a "gentle man," for being so devoted to her. Dot died on Thursday. While her family grieves their loss, they are grateful that these last few years on earth have been her happiest. And I am grateful that such a love story probably would have never happened if it weren't for meeting at our Senior Citizens Club several years ago. I remember going to lunch there after Ron and Dot met. First they started sitting together and then one day I saw them holding hands at the table. I felt like a kid in high school watching this romance bloom. It wasn't long after that they told me they were getting married. So much for those people who tell me Senior Clubs are for old folks! Maybe Jill can start a Match.com down there.

Well I can't think of a better way of ending this letter than by leaving you with a love story, so keep warm and I'll be back next month.

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan