

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
Village of Green Island
20 Clinton Street
Green Island, NY 12183
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www.villageofgreenisland.com

MAY 2016

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The annual **Memorial Day Parade** will be held on **Thursday, May 26th at 6:00 p.m.** Lineup is at 5:30 p.m. on **Hudson Avenue**. Please note Hudson Avenue will be closed to traffic at George Street during lineup. All residents are encouraged to attend the parade and the brief ceremony at the Legnard-Curtin Post that follows. Please attend and honor our veterans and those who made the supreme sacrifice. The Green Island Power Authority puts a lot of effort into assembling the Veteran's float for the parade. We would like to fill the float to show our appreciation to our military service men and women. Please contact Maggie Alix at 273-2201 if you would like a ride on the float this year!

NEWS FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works has asked that we remind all residents that they cannot accept lawn/leaf bags with dirt in them. Please remember to remove any and all dirt from lawn clippings and/or leaves that you are placing in the brown bags. Thank you for your cooperation.

2015 ANNUAL WATER REPORT

In order to save on postage and keep with our theme of being environmentally conscious, the annual Village of Green Island Water Report is now available at www.villageofgreenisland.com, scroll to bottom of page and click on Water & Sewer. Please contact Sean Ward at seanw@villageofgreenisland.com if you have any questions or comments related to the report or Anne Strizzi at annes@villageofgreenisland.com if you would like to obtain a paper copy.

PIONEER BANK – “Celebrating You”

Stop by Pioneer Bank in Green Island on **Saturday, May 21st from 10am-2pm** and enjoy popcorn, ice cream, cotton candy, balloon twisters and more as we showcase Green Island's past and present. An event hosted by Bank employees to say thank you to Green Island and show our ongoing support and dedication to our customers and the community. Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Village of Green Island will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on **Friday, May 20th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** at the Community Center located at 5 George Street. Please contact Mayor Ellen McNulty-Ryan at her home telephone of 271-6965 if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment.

NEWS FROM RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Park Identification Cards

The Department of Parks and Recreation is enforcing **RESIDENTS ONLY** in the Paine Street Park between the hours of **6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. seven days a week**. You may obtain a **RESIDENT ID** at the Village Office during regular office hours. *It is strongly advised you call first to make an appointment with Maggie Alix at 273-2201.*

Men's Summer Basketball League Sign-Up

All men, 18 and over are welcome to sign up to play in the Green Island Basketball League. Games are played every Tuesday and Thursday with game times starting at 6:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. All players must be residents of the Village and be able to show proof. The regular season games will begin July 5th. All participants must sign up **before June 1st** at the Village Office or contact Maggie Alix at 273-2201. *Failure to sign up before the league starts could result in not being assigned to a team.* Please do not assume you have been placed on a team. There will be a fee of \$50.00 per player this year. The fee must be paid before June 1st.

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Grievance Day is set for **Tuesday, May 24th** from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Green Island Municipal Center, 19 George Street.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #927

The Legnard-Curtin Post is looking for a few volunteers who would be interested in being in the "Honor Color Guard". Please call the Legion Post at 272-1198.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

- **RUMMAGE SALE** – Saturday, May 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You will find lots of bargains: Clothing (all sizes), Household Items, Books, Jewelry, Shoes, Toys and soooo much more, with a **clothing bag sale** from 12 to 1 p.m.
- **FREE COMMUNITY DINNER** - Friday, May 27th from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. – Everyone is welcome!
- **BAKED ZITI & MEATBALL DINNER** – Saturday, June 11th from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Come and enjoy the dinner in their family friendly atmosphere. Proceeds will benefit upcoming **Mission Trips**. The cost is Adults - \$10.00, Children 12 and under - \$5.00 and under Children under 5 are FREE. Take outs available starting at 4:00 p.m. Eat in/take out and parking available.

TEAM KAMDON AND FAMILY

Team Kamdon and family would like to thank everyone who made the "Bowl a Thon" such a great success. Everyone that put it together, made food, made keepsakes, sold raffles, and made donations. We are so thankful to have the amazing support to help us along this journey. Thank you so much. WE GOT THIS! Team Kamdon

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

May 13, 2016

Dear Friends,

As I typed in the above date, I wondered if I should attempt to write this letter on Friday the 13th, but I am not a superstitious person, so I thought “what the heck.” But I am a person who believes everything happens for a reason and even when bad things happen, many times something good comes out of it. That was the case several times in the last couple of weeks.

The first was a hot water tank “letting go” in the basement of the Police Station, which houses all of the utilities for the entire municipal building and some files. As soon as the discovery was made, quick action was taken by the Police on duty, the administrative staff at the office and the DPW guys. We also enlisted the services of one of our Green Island businesses, Service Master, to help remediate the situation. Once the water was removed, our ever faithful Norman Ouellette came and started working on a new hot water heater and our IT expert, Tenn Chen, came in to get our Internet back up and running. Within hours of this unfortunate event, we were well on our way to normalcy. I can't thank our faithful employees and our support people enough for always coming together to get the job done – no matter what the situation. We are so lucky!

Later that same week (while we were still drying out at 73 George Street), we had to do an emergency demolition of a building at 67 George Street. We had been trying for several years to remedy this situation, but we received no cooperation of the owner and the neighbors on both sides were enduring unfavorable safety and quality of life issues. I requested some help from Albany County Executive, Dan McCoy, and he sent up a County Engineer to assess the building. The engineer determined it to be a public safety hazard and said the building should be torn down ASAP. Our Building and Code Inspector, Maggie Alix, put the wheels in motion and had the building down the next day. Again, another emergency and the troops came together and got the job done. Thank you to all the departments (DPW, Water, GIPA, Police, Administration) who helped us to remedy this safety concern. And thank you to the neighbors for not complaining about the inconvenience during the demolition.

Hats off to our Water Department for Green Island water being named best tasting in Albany County. John Heffern and Robert Foster work hard at keeping their department running so well, along with the help of Billy Heffern, Austin Jones and Craig Strizzi. Thanks guys for all your hard work!

The nice weather is coming and that means the Paine Street Park will be getting busier. Please note in the other newsletter that we will be enforcing the “Residents Only” policy from 6 to 9 p.m. daily. This seems to be the time of day when trouble begins, so we want to do everything we can to avoid problems. Please also be aware that anyone starting trouble, resident or nonresident, at any time of day will be evicted from the park and banned for the season. This park is a beautiful asset in our village and we want our residents to be able to enjoy it without fear of fights and foul language, so please cooperate.

Our Memorial Day Parade will be on Thursday, May 26th at 6:00 p.m. I am happy to tell you that Dave Carl, a very proud former Marine, former Commander of the Legnard-Curtin American Legion Post and our former Fire Chief, will be our Grand Marshal. Please join us in honoring Dave and all of our brave men and women who have given so much so we can enjoy our freedom and our way of life. Without their sacrifices, we would be leading very different lives!

Pioneer Bank will be hosting "Celebrating You" for all Green Island residents on Saturday, May 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Green Island Branch. It will be a little trip down memory lane along with tasty treats for all. The bank employees are doing this to show their appreciation for the support they receive from our residents. Please join them for a day of fun.

Just a reminder that we are hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Community Center on Friday, May 20th from 1 to 6 p.m. I have called my "regulars" and it looks like we should have a good turnout, but we can ALWAYS use more donors. In the summer time, the available blood supply always runs low and that can be very dangerous. Please help us save lives by donating!

Please check out the other newsletter for info on other things happening in our village.

I told you in February about my experience with frozen/burst water pipes in a crawl space at my funeral home. I told you in this letter about the flood in the basement of the Police Station. I had another "crawl space experience" last week at my home. Again it was in a place almost impossible to access and I will spare you the details because this one involved a sewer pipe "incident." I am telling you about this because as I mentioned at the beginning of this letter, I believe that everything happens for a reason --- but sometimes we don't know the reason right away. I am wondering if God is trying to tell me something. Is He trying to tell me?

#1 - I am going to die in a crawl space.

Or #2 - I should just stay out of basements.

I hope it is #2 because #1 would be one heck of a job for the guys in the Fire Department! Chief Bourgeois, maybe we should consider a training exercise in "crawl space extractions" ----- and I can be your "dummy." But please let's use the burst pipe scenario and not the sewer pipe scenario!

That's it for this month. Next month we will talk about the Summer Concerts at the Gazebo!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan

May 16, 2016

PS: Had to add this last note before going to press. I was delighted to be asked to attend the Troy Police Department's 31st Annual Award Ceremony this morning, where our Police Department shared in the "Merit Award" for their assistance in the tragic August 22, 2015 shooting of two police officers, Officer Joshua Comitale and Officer Chad Klein. Green Island Police Officers Louis Perfetti and Matthew Beaudoin were on duty in Green Island at that time and responded, along with numerous other agencies. I wish everyone could have been there this morning to hear this story the many other stories of the bravery of these men and women who protect us 24/7. While Officers Comitale and Klein's physical wounds are healing well, I would dare to say that the emotional wounds will take much longer. We need to keep them in our prayers. And let's keep praying for the safety of all of our men and women in Law Enforcement. And let's show them our support too. In an emergency situation, decisions must be made in a split second. It is easy for the public to criticize or second guess those decisions after it is all over. But unless you are the one staring down the barrel of a gun, you don't get to make the call. Let's show our appreciation and respect for the job they do day in and day out.