

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND
20 Clinton Street
Green Island, NY 12183
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www.villageofgreenisland.com

DECEMBER 2016

SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Everyone is invited to the Swearing In Ceremony for our recently elected officials for the Village. It will be held on Saturday, December 31st at 12 Noon at the Michael A. Cocca, Sr. Community Center, 5 George Street, Green Island. All are welcome and invited to attend!

GARBAGE PICKUP

REMINDER: If we have snow banks at the curb, please remember to shovel a space wide enough for the DPW crew to be able to roll your garbage can through on trash pick-up days. Please do not park in front of those open spaces or DPW will not be able to take your garbage.

RECREATION NEWS

Thank you to Jill Alix, Anita Brown and Larry Brown, Ellen McNulty-Ryan and Mark Ryan, Kristin Swinton, Rachel Files, Tami Weisenforth, Heather Johnson, Christina Stebbins, Lynn McGivern, Tara Bourgeois, Michele Bourgeois, Bob Bourgeois, Cole Bourgeois, Beth Vanderheyden, Blair McGuirk, Tod Ward, Lyn Hebert, the Heatly Varsity Girls Soccer Team, the National Honor Society, the National Junior Honor Society, the Junior High Student Council, the Senior Citizens, Dawn and Dennis McEwen, Kathy Mascelli of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lydall, CapCom and Stewart's Shop for contributing to the success of this year's food drive and **Thanksgiving** deliveries.

STORMWATER COALITION OF ALBANY COUNTY

The Stormwater Coalition of Albany County was formed in 2008 via an inter-municipal agreement between 13 municipalities and the University at Albany. The Village of Green Island is a charter member and Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Sean Ward, had been Chairman of their Board of Directors since its inception until March 2016 and still serves as a member to date. The purpose of the Coalition is to foster cooperation and to provide for the provision of joint shared services related to compliance with the NYSDEC SPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit program and Federal Clean Water Act requirements. For more information about the Stormwater Coalition please log on to their website at www.stormwateralbanycounty.org. This website has very specific information about how our community benefits from the program and includes educational components for homeowners, businesses and contractors. We also do our own outreach as well and periodically mail out flyers to many businesses that show best management practices as it relates to their operations. This is just an example of the many efforts to educate the public in our quest for clean water. For further information about Green Island's MS4 program contact Sean Ward at 273-2201 or seanw@villageofgreenisland.com.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

Senior Gift Cards are now available for the HOLIDAY SEASON!!! A \$3.00 donation gift card can treat a senior to lunch.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

New Year's Eve Party – On Saturday, December 31st, from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The cost is \$50 per person or \$100 per couple and must be paid to Donna Lazzaro by December 21st, 2016. Price includes: Food, Open Bar (No Shots), DJ, Champagne Toast, Hats and Noisemakers. Any questions, contact Donna at 274-1237 or 272-1198.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Service – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day Service – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 30th – FREE Community Dinner – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A free delicious dinner for all to enjoy. Bring your family and friends, all at no charge. Everyone is welcome!

Saturday, January 10th – “Family Style” Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner – 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Adults - \$12, 12/Under - \$6 and 5/Under – Free. Take outs available starting at 4:00 p.m. Free delivery in Green Island.

Saturday, January 17th – “All you Can Eat” Pancake Breakfast – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit and beverages. PAY WHAT YOU WILL! Take outs available. FREE delivery in Green Island. Sponsored by the Good Shepherd Youth Group.

For further information on any of the items, please call 272-5531.

PLEASE POST THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Village, GIPA and Town Offices will be closed on Friday, December 23rd, Monday, December 26th, Friday, December 30th and Monday, January 2nd in observance of the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Also, please note that the January 2017 Village Board, Planning Board and GIPA meetings normally held on the third Monday of the month will be held on Tuesday, January 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m. due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

December 15, 2016

Dear Friends,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!!! We had some snow and the Festival of Trees in the River Park looks awesome. We had a great time decorating and lighting the trees with Santa on December 3rd. Sometimes things are soooo busy, you wonder if it is worth doing a lot of the "extra" things that we do in Green Island. I felt that way the morning of the tree decorating. Sometimes people don't realize just how much work goes into an event like that. They think you just show up that day and it all falls into place. It doesn't. Work starts in September getting all the letters out, then there is recording the returns, hunting down those who didn't respond by the deadline date, filling in open spots from a waiting list, printing and laminating all the plaques, marking off placement for the trees, ordering the trees, staking and securing the trees, running the electrical connections, putting up the Festival banners, shopping for and preparing the treats, making sure Santa can make the trip from the North Pole, setting up the sound system, etc.... I honestly was so tired that day I wondered if it should be our last one. Then when people started arriving, one of the first people I spoke to was a lady from out of town. She was helping some friends who had one of the trees. She wanted to tell me she had just told her friends that they were so lucky to have grown up in a place like Green Island. She said she grew up in the suburbs and it was nice --- but she never felt the sense of "community" that we have here in Green Island. I started to wonder if God had sent her here that day to give me a pep talk. Everything started to look brighter. A little later in the day, someone who doesn't hand out a lot of compliments thanked me for making this such a nice event for the kids to visit with Santa. But the final "sign from God" was late that night as I went to my bedroom window to say "good night" to the trees (which I do every night) and their beauty could not be denied. The lights were glistening and I could almost see, hovering over the trees, all the souls who are being remembered at this time of year in that park. I knew it would not be our last Festival. I knew that all the hard work of the guys in DPW and GIPA (Tony, Steve, Rich, Larry, Giuseppe and Joe), and my wonderful husband, Mark, was a labor of love – and that their efforts were appreciated. And I thank God for sending me His signs (and a kick in the pants) to never let us lose what makes Green Island so special!

Speaking of special, and what makes our hometown so great, I have to take my hat off to all of you who came to the Village Office and took tags for our Giving Tree. In four days, you emptied the tree, making it possible for a lot of

families to have a wonderful Christmas. Your generosity never ceases to amaze me – be it Christmas gifts, food for our food pantry, a benefit for someone who is ill – you NEVER let us down. Thank you.

You are all invited to the swearing in ceremony for our recently elected Village Trustees, Rick Jones, Barb Belokopitsky and Garry McGivern. It will be held on Saturday, December 31st at noon at the Community Center. Please join us to show Rick, Barb and Garry our support and wish them good luck as they approach another two years of guiding our community.

Please make sure to read the other newsletter and mark down the dates of many events happening around town and holiday office closings.

I think that's it for this month --- and this year! I can't believe it is almost 2017. I am finishing my 14th year as mayor and my 32nd year since going into office on the Town Board in 1984. I know you are all wondering: "How is that possible since she is only 39?" I have to tell you, I would never have stayed at it this long if I didn't have the cooperation and dedication that I have from every single department in this village: Police, Fire, Water and Sewer, Recreation, DPW, GIPA, Town employees and Village Office staff, especially Sean and the ladies in the office (I call them "my girls" but my daughter says that isn't politically correct, but I say it with the utmost respect) who put up with my crazy schedule and strange requests every day. But they must be happy, because they haven't bailed on me yet and I love hearing their laughter when I go into the office. I have never seen a crew enjoy their jobs so much. And believe me, it isn't always a picnic when you deal with the public. Some people are never happy, but "my girls" make the best of every day and appreciate all the nice folks they deal with on a daily basis. And I sincerely appreciate the cooperation I get from our residents, whether it be shoveling sidewalks and moving cars for snow removal, complying with some new trash regulations, keeping an eye on your neighborhood and calling 911 when you see something, supporting our Green Island organizations, businesses and school, and just plain old "being a good neighbor." Thank you for making Green Island a great place to live, work, raise your children and enjoy all of God's blessings!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan