

**VILLAGE NEWSLETTER**  
**VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND**  
20 Clinton Street  
Green Island, NY 12183  
518-273-2201  
**www.villageofgreenisland.com**  
**DECEMBER 2018**

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Everyone is invited to the Swearing In Ceremony for our recently elected and appointed officials for the Village. It will be held on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon at the Michael A. Cocca, Sr. Community Center, 5 George Street, Green Island. All are welcome and invited to attend!

**GARBAGE COLLECTION CHANGED DUE TO HOLIDAYS**

Just a reminder that GARBAGE that is normally picked up on Tuesday will be picked up on Thursday and garbage normally picked up on Wednesday will remain the same for the next two (2) weeks due to Christmas and New Year holidays. Pickup will return to normal schedule starting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR**

**SENIOR CITIZENS (65 yrs. and older)** - There are exemptions available to those senior citizens that are or will be 65 during the year that they are filing for the exemption – 2019. The exemptions require that one of the owners meet the age requirement, and that the home is the primary residence. Exemption renewal applications will be mailed out in mid-December. If you have not received your renewal application by January 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact the Assessor's office.

New and renewal applications for the **ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION ON THE 2019 ROLL** will be based on the applicant's 2017 income. The **NEW INCOME LIMIT** of \$86,300 will be based on the **Adjusted Gross Income of the 2017 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 purposes and \$29,000 for village purposes. This exemption is based on the **Total Gross Income for 2018**.

**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 (2) separate exemptions. Senior Citizens exemptions are filed at the Village Office with Brad Canning.**

Due to changes enacted by the NYS Legislature, all recipients of the **Enhanced STAR** **must** enroll in the Income Verification Program. This includes the Enhanced STAR portion of the Senior Citizens Exemption. Starting in 2020, NYS Tax and Finance will determine your eligibility for the Enhanced STAR. If you are denied, or more information is needed, you will be contacted directly by the State. You will only receive information regarding Senior Citizen Exemption from the Assessor's Office.

**New Home Owners** – Due to recent law changes approved by the Governor and the NYS Legislature, the BASIC STAR program has been restructured. The NYS Tax Department will administer all NEW STAR applications, taking the responsibility from your local assessor. **If you have recently purchased your home and are eligible for the STAR benefit you MUST register with NYS Department of Tax and Finance either online at www.tax.ny.gov or by phone at 518-457-2036.**

**ALL EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED BY MARCH 1, 2019.** If you file your tax return after March 1<sup>st</sup>, we will put a hold on your application until we receive your income information. If you have any questions or would like to meet with Brad it is highly advised that you call the Village Office to schedule an appointment, 518-273-2201.

### RECREATION NEWS

Thank you to Jill Alix, Ellen McNulty-Ryan, Mark Ryan, Kristin Swinton, Rachel Files, Tami Weisenforth, Lynn McGivern, Chris Karwiel, Michael Commisso, Emma Heffern, Michele Bourgeois, Sean Ward, Shelby Herrington, Elijah Legault, Larry Brown, the Senior Citizens, Lydall, CapCom, Heatly School and Bimbo Bakeries for contributing to the success of this year's food drive and **Thanksgiving** deliveries.

### SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

**REMINDER - A Holiday Party** featuring "**The ACCENTS**" will be held on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the American Legion. Tickets are \$20.00 (must be 21 yrs. old) and includes beer, wine, soda and snacks. Call 518-272-7262 for more information. Proceeds to benefit the Green Island Senior Citizens.

If you are looking for a gift for the Special Senior in your life, gift certificates for Lunch are available for \$3.00 each. Stop by or call Jill at 518-272-7262.

### NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

**REMINDER - New Year's Eve Party** – On Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The cost is \$50.00 per person and includes: Food, Open Bar (No Shots), Noisemakers, Hats, Music by DJ Laz and a champagne toast at midnight. Deadline to sign up and pay is **Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**. For more information, please call Donna Lazzaro at 518-274-1237 or the American Legion at 518-272-1198

### NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

**Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** – A service of music and stories behind the Advent/Christmas songs at 9:30 a.m./Stay for Refreshments.

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Eve – 6:00 p.m. A quiet service with candlelight and music.

**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Day - 9:30 a.m. Informal 30 minute service. Bring your coffee (and PJ's if needed).

**Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>** - FREE Community Dinner - 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. They do the cooking ... and cleaning. Relax with family and friends. Everyone is welcome!

### NEWS FROM LITTLE LEAGUE

The Green Island Little League will be holding monthly meetings at 6:00 p.m. at the Heatly School Library. Meetings will be held on 1/8, 2/5 and 3/5/19.

Registration will be held on the following dates at Heatly School during CYO Basketball games from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Registration is \$30.00 per child until December 31<sup>st</sup>. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, the fee will be \$40.00. Family prices will be available. No child will be turned away. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Marcia Etman at [etmanm74@aol.com](mailto:etmanm74@aol.com).

**HEATLY SCHOOL - CLASS OF 2020** is having a used shoe drive from now until the end of January. For further information please contact, Aimee Smi, Class of 2020 Advisor at [asmi@greenisland.org](mailto:asmi@greenisland.org) or 518-273-1422.

### PLEASE POST THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*Village, GIPA and Town Offices will be closed on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the Christmas and New Year Holidays.*

*Also, please note that the January 2019 Village Board, Planning Board and GIPA meetings normally held on the third Monday of the month will be held on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. due to the Martin Luther King holiday.*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

December 17, 2018

Dear Friends,

I can't believe Christmas is next week! I don't know where the time goes. I guess I don't pay close attention to its coming because I don't have any "little ones" any more. They don't let you forget for a second that Santa will soon be here. Actually, Santa and Mrs. Claus were just here on December 8<sup>th</sup> for the lighting of the trees at our Festival of Trees in the River Park. Those in attendance did a great job of singing the "Twelve Days of Christmas" for Santa and Mrs. Claus and in turn, Santa and Mrs. Claus returned the favor by visiting with every child and listening to their Christmas wishes. If you haven't had time to "visit" the trees, please make the time. Each family did such a great job of decorating and the lights are spectacular at night. I say good night to them every night from my bedroom window and I miss them when they come down. But, they will be up until New Year's Day, so make the effort to visit. It will put you in the holiday spirit!

I'll tell you what also puts me in the holiday spirit every year – the generosity of all of you who come to the Village Office and take a tag from our "Giving Tree." You never disappoint us and always amaze us by your generosity. No child will be without Christmas in our community and that is because of your generosity and all of the "elves" who wish to remain anonymous, but do an outstanding job in organizing and delivering the presents. Thank you for your generosity and keeping the Christmas spirit alive in Green Island!

All are invited to the swearing in ceremonies for our recently reelected and appointed officials, Rick Jones, Barb Belokopitsky, Garry McGivern and Bob Johnson. It will be held on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Community Center at 5 George Street. Rick, Barb and Garry have done a great job for our community and I know Bob is going to be a great addition to our team. Please come and wish them well as they start their new terms.

There is a lot of important info in the other newsletter pertaining to changes in Tuesday trash pick-up for the holidays, lots of timely info from our new Assessor about exemptions (please don't miss the deadlines!) and meeting schedules for those interested in Little League. We didn't have Little League this past season because of lack of registrations. This was the first time in my lifetime that there was no Little League season. Please don't let this important youth activity fade away. I know there is a group of hard working parents and volunteers trying to get this back up and running, so please help them. Now I am going to

sound like an old fuddy-duddy, but if kids put their “smart phones” away for a little while and got involved with a great organization like the Little League, the world would be a little healthier, friendlier and more fun. Even kids who are too old for Little League can still be involved. I am sure they could use some assistant coaches and maybe some junior umpires. I remember my son training and becoming an ump when he was a teenager. I am sure they could use some help in the concession stand. But none of this can happen if they don’t have enough kids registered to play. Parents, PLEASE don’t let this great organization die! It isn’t just about playing a sport. It is about teaching kids to work as a TEAM, which is something that is becoming a lost art! Let’s keep it alive.

The Green Island Senior Citizens are having their Holiday Party, featuring “The Accents” (with Green Island’s own Steve Karwiel on bass) on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Legion. This is always a great time. See the other newsletter for details.

The Legion is also having their New Year’s Eve party again. This is a great opportunity for folks who want to go out for the celebration but don’t want to drive. “Commander” Donna Lazzaro and her team always do a nice job and make everyone feel welcome. So if you want to enjoy some good music and holiday cheer, call her for a reservation.

The Church of the Good Shepherd is hosting a number of events during the Christmas Season that will make you remember what “the reason for the season” truly is. Please see the schedule for their activities and services in the other newsletter. I know I always feel a little more “centered” when I attend any of the services there. And the congregants work so hard to keep their church open and they make everyone feel welcome. Stop in and say hello. You will be glad you did!

Well I guess that’s it for this month. I want to wish you all the very best Christmas ever! I know some folks are disappointed that we don’t have snow, but to me (and the guys in DPW), that is one of the best presents we could get. We still have time for a “dusting” – but please, no more than that. Santa has magic and he can get his sleigh around without any snow. If you are traveling, have a safe trip. If you are staying at home, enjoy it because – “There’s no place like home.” And for heaven’s sake, don’t forget to leave Santa some milk and cookies!

*“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year”*

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan