

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
Village of Green Island
20 Clinton Street
Green Island, NY 12183
518-273-2201
www.villageofgreenisland.com

AUGUST 2019

HEATLY SCHOOL PARKING AND TRAFFIC PROCEDURES

In an effort to keep our children safe, beginning the first day of school and on all days that school is in session the Green Island Police Department will be enforcing parking and traffic flow procedures in the area of Heatly School.

ARCH STREET between George Street and Hudson Avenue will be CLOSED to eastbound vehicle traffic from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. It will also be closed at any time that school is dismissed early. Traffic will be allowed traveling WEST on ARCH STREET. In addition, a reminder that the crosswalk pattern at Hudson Avenue and Arch Street changed last year and the crosswalk on the south side of Hudson Avenue has been removed. The other two (2) remain as is.

Those dropping off students in vehicles must look closely at parking signs in front of school. Drivers must not leave their vehicles while parked in the area marked by signs in front of school. Double parking is also not allowed. Please drop off children at the sidewalk and in a timely fashion so as to keep traffic flowing at busy times. Those that must leave their vehicles unattended must park in a legal parking spot down the street or around the corner from school.

We ask that you follow these simple rules and please listen to our Crossing Guard and Police Officers. This will make for a better and safer drop off area for our children. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

HUDSON AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Work will begin soon on the Hudson Avenue Improvement Project which will include new ADA compliant ramps at the intersections, a new storm sewer system, new pavement, road signs and markings, all in an effort to create a safer thoroughfare for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. With any project, it also brings the nuisance of traffic detours and delays. Given the fact that it will occur near our school, the issues seem more complicated. We will make every effort to create the least amount of impact on the area, especially around our school, but please note that no matter what we do there will be detours and delays in that area for at least short time frames. We ask that you remain patient and cooperate at all times. **The Village will be holding an informational meeting to discuss the project on Wednesday, September 4th at 6 p.m. at the Green Island Municipal Center. Please attend and be informed.**

GREEN ISLAND FAMILY PICNIC – SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2019

The Village of Green Island will sponsor the **“GREEN ISLAND FAMILY PICNIC”** to be held on **Sunday, September 15th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the Paine Street Park.

Included will be food vendors, face painting, balloon animals, bouncy bounce, as well as live entertainment by “Hands of Time”. The Albany County Sheriff will be bringing the Safe Kids RV and the Green Island Police Department will take on the kids in a game of kickball.

Anyone interested in a booth or in need of further information regarding the picnic, should call Elijah Legault at the Village Office, 518-273-2201 or email Maggie Alix at Maggie.Alix@villageofgreenisland.com.

Check the **Department of Parks & Recreation Facebook page** for more updates as **“Family Day”** gets closer!

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

A **HUGE THANK YOU** goes out to, Tom Mullins and the entire Park Staff for putting on another successful summer program. Thank you for doing such a tremendous job!

Thank you to Daryl Whited and the Watervliet School District, NYS Nutrition Consortium and NYS Department of Health, The Food Pantries and CDPHP for bringing the FREE healthy lunch program and "Stan the Produce Van" to the Paine Street Park.

Thank you to the Albany County Recreation Department and Grind Time Basketball for bringing Lacrosse and Basketball to our town.

Thank you to Green Island residents, Tammy Layton, for hosting a weekly Story time and craft session and Alisha Hope for overseeing the Green Island "Little Library" in the park.

Thank you to all the families, parents and children, for spending your summer with us. We hope you had as much fun as we did!

STOP SIGNS AND OTHER TRAFFIC ISSUES

We have received previous complaints about vehicles speeding and not stopping and/or rolling through stop signs and with school starting soon there is added concern. The stop sign complaints have been targeted at intersections on Tibbits Avenue, Swan and Bleecker Streets but are not limited to those areas. Please be aware that the Green Island Police Department will be adding traffic enforcement details to those and other areas around the Village to assure the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and other vehicles. When on the details, officers will also be on the lookout for all traffic infractions including speeding, seatbelts and improper use of cellular or other mobile devices. Safety is of the utmost importance and while nobody likes enforcement action, it sometimes becomes necessary. Please abide by law so that we can remain a safe community. Your cooperation is appreciated by all.

PLEASE DON'T FEED ANIMALS

We have had previous complaints about wild animals and birds causing a nuisance in the Village. This can cause a dangerous situation for our residents and especially children including the possibility of being bitten or contracting a serious illness. **PLEASE DO NOT FEED ANY ANIMALS OR BIRDS OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME, INCLUDING YOUR OWN PETS.** Wild animals and nuisance birds are attracted by food sources left outside and are attracted closer to homes because of that. An enclosed bird feeder meant only for small birds is okay but please locate them according to instructions so as not to attract those it was not intended for. By not providing a feeding source for these animals and birds we create less of a chance that they will populate in our neighborhoods. Please cooperate for the good of our residents and especially our children.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Village of Green Island will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on **Friday, September 13th from 1 to 6 p.m.** at the Community Center located at 5 George Street. If you wish to make an appointment, please go to www.redcrossblood.org. In the upper right hand corner look for "Find a Blood Drive" and enter zip code 12183. Then click on Green Island Community Center and this will bring you to the available appointments where you can schedule your appointment.

NEWS FROM AMERICAN LEGION

- If you are a **VETERAN** (past or present duty) and not receiving cards from the Ladies Auxiliary, please contact Brenda Persons at 518-271-6184
- Just a reminder that the "Clothing Bin" in the American Legion parking lot is for clothing, shoes, bedding and pocketbooks. They **CAN NOT** accept household items (**dishes, pots, pans, glasses, toys, Christmas trees, Oxygen tanks, etc.**) or oversized items. They must fit in the bin. **Thank you for your cooperation!**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

August 16, 2019

Dear Friends,

I can't believe August is going by so quickly and the kids will be back to school soon. We only have two concerts left at the River Park. The concerts have been a lot of fun with great music, dancing and delicious food. Our specials will be sausage and peppers over pasta and hot fudge sundaes on the 21st and pasta fagioli and free cake (all calories removed) on the 28th. And as always, we will have our burgers, hot dogs and homemade desserts. Hope you will be able to join us!

The Paine Street Park summer program is also coming to a close on the 22nd. The kids have had a great summer with Mr. Mullins and the park staff, enjoying the sprinkler park, the playground equipment and the basketball courts. They also enjoyed the free healthy lunch program and lacrosse and basketball camps, thanks to our friends in other local, county and state organizations (please see other newsletter). Thanks to Maggie Alix, our Recreation Director and Elijah Legault for their hard work in making this program so successful.

We will be having our annual "Green Island Family Picnic" on Sunday, September 15th from noon to 3 p.m. at the Paine Street Park. Please join us for music, food, entertainment and a visit from the Albany County Sheriff's Department. Our Fire Department is working on presenting some tips on fire safety and of course our Police Department will be hosting their annual "Kick Ball" tournament featuring the Kids vs. the Cops. Please come and cheer them on.

The Green Island Police Department and the Green Island Senior Citizens are both collecting school supplies for the upcoming school year. If you would like to donate some supplies, please drop them off at either location.

The Green Island Senior Citizens Club received a grant from Albany County to rehab their bocce court behind the Community Center. It should be finished soon and Jill Alix, who is the Executive Director at Seniors, would like to make it available to residents who may have a bocce team and no place to play. If you are interested, please give her a call at (518) 272-7262.

We will be sponsoring our Fall Blood Drive on Friday, September 13th from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Community Center at 5 George Street. I will be at the Blood Drive but I will not be calling my usual donors to schedule appointments. If you would like to schedule an appointment (and I hope you do), please go to www.redcross.org. In the upper right hand corner look for "Find a Blood Drive" and enter zip code 12183. Then click on Green Island Community Center and this will bring you to the available appointments where you can schedule your appointment. I hope to see you there. Your blood donation saves many lives!

I know that many residents have security cameras in and outside their homes. I spoke to Chief Parker to see if he thought it would be a good idea to log a registry of the locations of such cameras. That way, if we have a crime committed in a certain area, we could possibly obtain useful information from those cameras.

He thought it was a great idea. I spoke with Tara Bourgeois in our office and she said she would be willing to collect the information on the location of the cameras and make a registry of them for the Police. If you have security cameras and you would be willing to help the Police if they have a problem in your area, please call Tara at (518) 273-2201 and give her your address and contact information. We have been able to solve some crimes from the cameras that we have on public buildings, but that scope is limited. You could be a great resource to the Police if you would be willing to register. Let's do all we can to keep our community safe!

The next couple of months are going to be a real pain in the butt for those of us who live and work on Hudson Avenue. We are going to be doing major construction work, which includes new storm sewer lines, new handicap sidewalk ramps and road paving. I can already hear people putting complaints on their Facebook page saying "why did you wait until the kids went back to school to do this?" (I don't have Facebook but everyone feels the need to tell me when we are getting bashed). We received over a million dollars in grants to put towards this project and we have to follow all Federal and State guidelines and approvals in order to meet the requirements for the grants. Unfortunately, the timing is now. So I am going to ask you all to try and make the best of it. We will work with the contractors to make it as painless as possible, but it is going to take a lot of patience from everyone. There will be detours, dirt and dust, parking issues and noise – but it will all be worth it when it is done. I am going to especially ask the parents of students in Heatly to cooperate. Some days it may be best for you to park on George Street or the Ford parking lot and walk you children to the school. I wish I had a magic lamp that I could rub and a Genie would come out, say "poof" and it would all be done --- but there are no Genies to be found. Let's just be grateful that we got the grants! And I want to give a big thank you to our own Sean Ward for working so hard on those grants! He is a quiet guy, but he knows how to get the job done.

I was going to try and get through one letter without talking about dog poop, but I can't. I am still getting complaints about dog owners not picking up their pet's "deposits." Please be a responsible pet owner. And if we get a lot of people to register their security cameras --- you may just get caught on "Candid Camera" and that will be accompanied by a nice fine. The poop bags are a lot less expensive!

That's it for this month. Hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,



Ellen McNulty-Ryan