

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND
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DECEMBER 2012

HOLIDAY GARBAGE PICKUP

During the Christmas and New Year holidays, garbage normally picked up on Tuesday of those two weeks will now be picked up on Thursday, December 27th and Thursday, January 3rd. Wednesday pickup will remain on normal schedule and Tuesday pickup will return to normal schedule after those two dates. Please contact the DPW at 273-5565 with any questions.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN (AGAIN)

Santa Claus will be making another appearance in Green Island aboard the Green Island Power Authority float on Sunday, December 23rd. He and his helpers will be parading through every street in the Village starting at 4:30 p.m. so be on the lookout during this time. Please note that if it rains, Santa will be unable to appear because of his fear of catching a cold so close to Christmas. Let's hope for a nice clear day or even a light snow will do.

FLU SHOT CLINIC

The Albany County Department of Health and the Village of Green Island are teaming up to sponsor a FREE flu shot clinic for anyone aged 16 years of age and older on Friday, January 4th. The clinic will be held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Green Island Community Center which is located at 4 George Street. Walkups will be accepted while supplies last but it is best to call the Village Office at 273-2201 to reserve a spot for yourself. If you have not yet received a flu shot you are highly encouraged to do so at this event as the flu virus is expected to hit harder than normal this season. Those that have health insurance coverage should bring their ID card with them.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP) AND WEATHERIZATION

The Albany County Department of Social Services is offering help to those income eligible residents who cannot afford rising heating costs this winter. Applications are available at the Cornell Cooperative Extension HEAP Office located at 230 Green Street in Albany on the 3rd floor. Please call 463-4268 for further information.

Homeowners may also be eligible for the Albany County Weatherization Program in which your house can be audited for any energy loss. Owners may be able to receive funds for such items as weather-stripping doors and windows and even furnace repairs/replacement. To find out more information please call Tom Dolan at 756-8650. It doesn't cost you anything to call.

GREEN ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

Registrations for the upcoming 2013 season are underway! Take advantage of the early registration fee of only \$30 for a single child or \$60 for a family if registered by January 27th. Registration will be held at Heatly School on January 27th, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The cost for registering after this date will be \$40 for a child and \$80 for a family. Please visit www.greenislandll.com periodically for more information and as always, no child will be turned away for financial reason.

Green Island Little League will be hosting a Tag Day at Crossgates Mall on Friday, December 28th and Saturday, December 29th. Any child who volunteers 2 hours at Tag Day will receive FREE registration. To sign up please contact Ralph Razzano (273-1676), Dave Monahan (270-5968) or Jen Johnson (522-2579)

RECREATION NEWS

Thank you to Dan Alix, Jill Alix, Adriana Brown, Anita Brown, Larry Brown, Victoria Brown, Alyssa Burdick, Jaseem Chapman, Brittany Charette, Alex DeCianni, Adrienne Desrosiers, Jeff Dorrance, Nate Duffy, Matthew Etman, Shaun Ford, Heather Gregory, Cayla Heffern, Melissa Heffern, Cameran Henderson, Mercedes Hogan, Austin Horton, Patrick Humphrey, Derrick James, Michael Johnson, Chris Karziel, Nancy Kipp, Abby Mahoney, Kirsten Mason, Blair McGuirk, Dave McGuirk, Josh McHargue, Ellen McNulty-Ryan, Sarah Milliner, Marie Mock, Dianna Mohamed-Ali, Tom Mullins, McKenzie Patalino, Brenda Persons, Andrea Pitcher, Megan Russell, Mark Ryan, Katherine Smith, Christina Stebbins, Laura Strizzi, Katie Stufflebeam, Jesse Sullivan, Kristin Swinton, Madelon Swinton, Kyle Thibodeau, Beth Vanderheyden, Sean Ward, Monica Weisenforth, Thomas Weisenforth, Lydall, the Senior Citizens, and the Church of the Good Shepherd the for contributing to the success of this year's food drive and **Thanksgiving** deliveries.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion Auxiliary #927 would like any Halloween costumes that anyone would like to donate. To donate please call Brenda Persons at 271-6184 to make arrangements to drop them off.

PLEASE POST THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

Also, be aware that the January Village Board, Planning Board and GIPA meetings normally held on the third Monday of the month will be held instead on Tuesday January 22nd beginning at 6:00 pm due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

December 16, 2012

Dear Friends,

It is Sunday afternoon and I'm sitting at my desk at my office in the funeral home. I'm looking out the window and it is a gray day and the snow has just begun to fall. It's the kind of day you want to stay inside – all bundled up in a blanket and drinking hot chocolate. But I have work to do, so that will have to wait. It seems like I never stop working, but I love what I do, so don't feel sorry for me working on a Sunday. If you want to feel sorry for someone, please make it the families in Connecticut who just lost 20 beautiful, innocent children and six adults who died trying to save all the children. I can't imagine the pain they are experiencing. I could ask myself "why" until hell freezes over – but none of us will ever find a reason that makes any sense. What I do know is that my desire to live every day as if it was my last has been greatly reinforced. My need to keep my family and friends close to me has grown even stronger. We all search for a way to make sure this doesn't ever happen again – but there is no sure way to prevent that. That doesn't mean we can't try to improve safety on all fronts – it just means there are no guarantees. What I do know is that I will not allow this tragic event to make me live every day in fear. I will not stop enjoying life and seeing all it has to offer. If we do that, we will have allowed one deranged individual to suck away all that is good in life. What this tragedy should do is: make us hug our kids tighter, never stay mad at someone we love, try to make the world a little better by helping those less fortunate, thank God for the tremendous blessings that we have – and NEVER take them for granted. We must somehow take the emotions we have from this tragedy and use them to make the world a better place. Otherwise, 20 tiny children and six heroic adults have died in vain. *Let's do it for them!*

I didn't want to start this letter speaking about this horrific day, but I also didn't want to end my letter talking about it. What is also kind of eerie about it is that while this whole thing was unfolding in Connecticut, I was sitting in the office of Heatly Superintendent, **Dr. Mike Mugits**, with him and **Tom Mullins**, while Tom was presenting a plan about "Celebrating Life" and keeping our kids safe. While Tom was talking about what we could do to attain "zero deaths and zero injuries" in our community by keeping our roads safe from impaired drivers, the First Responders were answering the 911 calls to the Connecticut school. Tom has a great program and Doc Mugits was already coming up with creative ideas on how to expand on the program and get all the kids and parents on board. You will be hearing and seeing more about this program once we get it up and running.

Now I'm going to try and get back to my usual newsletter. Our Festival of Trees on December was the BEST ever. The weather cooperated and families turned out in droves to decorate our 36 trees. At five o'clock sharp, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on his sleigh to the delight of all the children. He and Mrs. Claus did the countdown to the tree lighting and then the kids from the Heatly Chorus sang a couple of carols for us and the whole crowd chimed in for a few more carols before Santa met with each child to get those last minute requests. Santa also gave each child a magic pewter key to put outside their front door so Santa could get in to leave their presents on Christmas (not everyone has a chimney you know). I love seeing the beautiful lights and decorations on the trees. If you haven't seen them at night, please be sure to take a stroll some evening and enjoy them. Also, a reminder to all the tree sponsors: PLEASE don't take you lights and decorations off your tree until after January 1st. We even have a young couple who like them so much they are going to be married in the Gazebo at the end of the month. We have had many weddings in the park, but this will be the first one with the trees all aglow.

Getting back to Santa, he will be "Coming to Town" again on Sunday, December 23rd at around 4:30 pm to go up and down the streets on his sleigh to wish everyone a Merry Christmas

before he goes back to the North Pole to get things ready for the big day. Please come out on your front porch or sidewalk to give him a wave. He may even have a few “elves” with him. Please note that if it rains, Santa will have to cancel because his sleigh doesn’t work in the rain.

I always say Green Island folks are there when you need them, and you proved me right again with our “Giving Tree” this year. You took EVERY tag for gifts for those less fortunate – and we had a lot of tags. One key to our success this year was help from “Cheer Intensity,” the cheerleading trainers who moved to Green Island a few months ago. They came in and took 50 tags and also had a fundraiser to benefit our food pantry. That’s what I call real community support. *“Three Cheers” for “Cheer Intensity.”* Thanks also to **Maggie and her band of elves** that do such a great job of making sure every child has a proper Christmas!

Just looked out my window again and the snow has stopped – for now. But I’m sure it will return so please be prepared to help us out with our snow removal operations during the winter. You all know the drill for curb to curb snow removal (if you are new to town and don’t know the routine, call the Village Office and we will explain). But sometimes when it isn’t too deep, we just keep sending the plows around to go in and out between the parked cars. If you see the plows go through and open up some spaces, please move your car to a cleared parking space so the plows can clean up your old spot on their next run through. This technique has saved us a lot of money in the last few years and also makes it a lot easier for parking when folks come home from work. Also, if we have snow banks at the curb, 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. And please don’t park in front of those open spaces or they can’t take your garbage. These cans are huge and heavy and we are not going to have our DPW guys hurt themselves trying to haul the cans over the snow banks. Please just use a little common sense – and courtesy.

In case you hear some noise around dusk every night, it is probably me or **Joe Legnard** chasing the crows. We were lucky last year, but they have come back this year in record numbers. Fortunately, the crows don’t like my “boomers” and “screamers” (that is actually what the manufacturer calls them), so they respond quite well to my request to vacate the Village. As long as we chase them every night, they won’t roost here. But if we let up for even a few nights and they roost – they stay until March. I don’t know if you have ever heard them in a group, but they make quite a racket – and their “droppings” are quite disgusting and plentiful. I have tried to get the surrounding communities to work with me to “train” the crows to fly to an area where they would do no harm, but nobody wants to work with me – so I just keep chasing them from Green Island.

Congratulations to our three Village Trustees, **Rick Jones**, **Barb Belokopitsky** and newcomer **Michele Bourgeois**, who will be sworn in on Monday the 17th. What a great team! On a somewhat sad note, **Mike Cocca** is retiring from the Board. I will never be able to repay Mike for his dedication and hard work for our community. Most of all I am grateful for his sage advice and guidance in my time as Mayor. He has been my rock. He is not going anywhere though. He will still serve on the GIPA board and will be joining our IDA board. Little does he know, I’m going to keep him just as busy as ever. *Thanks, Mike, for 24 years as a Trustee!*

Just noticed that I have gone onto the third sheet of paper and I’m only allowed two, so I guess I better stop talking and figure out how to reduce the font to fit into my allotted space. But, I can’t do that until I wish you the best holiday season you have ever had! Hug your kids, love your family, if you drink – don’t drive, enjoy your friends and neighbors – and don’t forget to leave milk and cookies out for Santa!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Ellen

PS: I just realized that this is my 118th newsletter to you. That’s a lot of ink and info!