

**VILLAGE NEWSLETTER**  
**VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND**  
**[www.villageofgreenisland.com](http://www.villageofgreenisland.com)**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

**FESTIVAL OF TREES**

We will be decorating for our “Festival of Trees” on **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**, at 2:00 p.m. We ask the families decorating their trees to stay near their tree and socially distance from other families. Everyone who comes to the park for the event **MUST WEAR A MASK**. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive on their sleigh at 5:00 p.m. to help us light the trees, but they will not be getting off the sleigh. The kids won’t be able to sit on Santa’s knee and tell him what they want for Christmas. But if you help them write a letter to Santa beforehand, they can bring it that day and put it in a special “Mail Box” that we will give to Santa and Mrs. Claus to bring back to the North Pole.

**GIVING TREE**

The “Giving Tree” will go live on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> via Sign Up Genius. This link will be available on FaceBook and the Village website. Please click the link and sign up for a tag. More detailed information will be provided within the link. If you are not tech savvy but would like to sign up for a tag, please call Tara or Maggie at the Village Office at 518-273-2201. One way or another we know our community will ensure our children a “Merry” Christmas. All presents must be returned with the corresponding tag # by Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**SIGNUP AND REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS**

With winter upon us, anyone who has not already signed up and registered for alert notifications by telephone, text or email and would like to do so, registration forms are available at the Village Office and on our website [www.villageofgreenisland.com](http://www.villageofgreenisland.com). Completed forms may be dropped off in the mail slot at the Village Office. All snow emergencies and other Village information will be sent via “Everbridge” Mass Notification. Please contact the Village Office at 518-273-2201 with any questions.

**SENIOR CITIZENS**

Tickets are still available for the Super 50/50 Raffle, to be drawn on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Tickets are \$1.00 each. Don’t miss out on a chance to win big right before the holidays. If you are looking for a holiday gift for the Special Senior in your life, gift certificates for lunch are available for \$3.00 each. The Seniors are partnering with the Heatly Art Department to become pen pals. If you would like to be a pen pal let us know. Call Jill at 518-272-7262.

## **SNOW PLOWING AND REMOVAL**

**Just a reminder on snow removal.** Last month's newsletter listed the order of street plowing. Please keep that list handy for the coming season and it is also available on our website at [www.villageofgreenisland.com/village/public-works/](http://www.villageofgreenisland.com/village/public-works/). Any questions, **PLEASE CHECK WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, OR SOMEONE IN CHARGE OF THE SNOW PLOWING OPERATIONS, BEFORE YOU PARK YOUR CAR ON ANY STREET YOU THINK HAS BEEN PLOWED.**

The Police Department travels the streets to announce the time that snowplowing operations will begin. If you do not hear the announcement, it will not be considered a legitimate excuse for not moving your vehicle. **If you are quarantined, you must make arrangements to remove your vehicle from the street.** If you have any questions about snow plowing operations, please call the Police Department at 518-655-7854 or the Department of Public Works at 518-273-5565 or email [dpw@villageofgreenisland.com](mailto:dpw@villageofgreenisland.com). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**JUST A REMINDER THAT THE VILLAGE, TOWN and GIPA OFFICES will be closed Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in observance of the Thanksgiving Day Holiday!**

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND**

November 16, 2020

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but I feel like I'm living in the "Twilight Zone." I learned many years ago to never say "things couldn't get any worse" – so I won't. But I do know they can get a lot better and I hope that happens soon. But in the meantime, I will try to bring you up to date.

Our Village Offices and public buildings have been closed to the public for months. Employees have been working on staggered shifts and remotely. When they do come in, everyone is masked, temps are taken, forms are filled out and recorded, everything sanitized, socially distanced, no one works at anyone else's work station -- and still we had six employees test positive. I am happy to say all have recovered. That is the most important thing. Now we are working on how to get back to work and stay healthy. The offices and public buildings will continue to be closed to the public. GIPA and the Water/Sewer departments are trying to get caught up and that is why the bills and this letter are going out a little late. If you have called the office in the last few weeks, your calls were not answered because no one was there and we did not have the capability to check messages remotely. We will be working on a solution for that in the near future. And we are looking into more ways for our GIPA and Water/Sewer customers to be able to pay remotely. I am not a fan of working remotely and our Zoom meetings are a real challenge for this old lady, but we are making it work! This is a whole new world and I really liked the old one better, but I don't think we will ever return to the old days. We thought we had a great, safe way to still have Halloween for the kids. We planned a costumed walk through at the Paine Street Park with a dozen organizations sponsoring it and handing out candy. We had to cancel it when we got the positive test results the day before Halloween. Not knowing who had been exposed, there was no way we could endanger the kids and the public until we got a handle on it. I am sorry some people were upset that we cancelled, but public safety must ALWAYS be our first priority!

Working remotely and having the offices closed has made it difficult for us to do our "Giving Tree" for Christmas. But Maggie and her crew are working on it. Anyone who would like to donate, but not have any physical contact, can send a donation check to: Green Island Christmas Program, 20 Clinton Street, Green Island, NY 12183 and the elves will do the shopping. Maggie is also working on an app that you can "pick a tag" if you wish to do your own shopping. She will have instructions for this in the other newsletter. If I try to give you instructions, I

will surely screw it up. So please see her explanation in the other newsletter. I think she will be putting it on the website and Facebook too. If you would like to make a donation to our food pantry, you can make a check to: Green Island Food Pantry and mail it to the same Clinton Street address. We can't take actual food donations this year because we have no way to safely collect it. Please be as generous as you can because there are so many more families struggling this year. You all amaze me every year with your generosity. I am sure you will do it again in 2020.

We will be decorating for our Festival of Trees on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Even that will be "adjusted" this year. We will ask the families decorating their trees to stay near their tree and socially distance from other families. Everyone who comes to the park for the event **MUST WEAR A MASK**. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive on their sleigh at 5 p.m. to help us light the trees, but they will not be getting off the sleigh. I am so sad the kids won't be able to sit on Santa's knee and tell him what they want for Christmas. But if you help them at home to write a letter to Santa, they can bring it that day and put it in a special "Mail Box" that we will give to Santa and Mrs. Claus to bring back to the North Pole. And we won't be able to do our special "12 Days of Christmas" which has become a favorite tradition.

Sometimes I feel very sad about the way things are right now and all the restrictions that we have. But I know we need to do them to keep everyone well. Thanksgiving is my very favorite holiday, and that will be very different for me this year. But I am going to take the opportunity to count my blessings and be thankful for them. Even though I closed my funeral home this year, I am grateful that my father established it 75 years ago and I had a very rewarding career in it for 41 years. I am grateful that the good folks of Green Island have allowed me to be their Mayor for the last 18 years. I am grateful for the amazing employees that we have in our Village and Town, who give 110% every day. I am grateful to the wonderful and generous folks in Green Island who always make sure those less fortunate are taken care of. I am grateful for the anonymous "elves" (you know who you are) that make sure our kids have a joyous Christmas every year. And most of all, I am grateful for the wonderful and supportive family that I have. I don't know what I would do without them. They are my life!

OK. So this was one strange letter --- but 2020 has been one hell of a year! I pray with all my being that 2021 will be better. We can all pray that a vaccine is coming soon. And pray for the families that have lost someone this year and didn't have the opportunity to grieve properly. And pray that when this is all over, we are better and kinder people than when it started. **Just keep praying!**

*With hope and gratitude,  
Ellen*