

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND
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JANUARY 2014

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

There are exemptions available to those senior citizens that are or will be 65 during the year that they are filing for the exemption – 2014. The exemptions require that one of the owners meet the age requirement, and that the home is the primary residence.

New and renewal applications for the **ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION ON THE 2014 ROLL** will be based on the applicant's 2012 income. The **NEW INCOME LIMIT of \$81,900** will be based on the **Adjusted Gross Income of the 2012 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 purpose and \$14,700 for village purposes. This exemption is based on the **Total Gross Income for 2013**.

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 separate exemptions.

ALL EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED BY MARCH 1, 2014.

If you are in the Income Verification Program you have received a letter to confirm your exemption. If you receive this confirmation by mail you do not have to reapply for the Enhanced STAR exemption. All other applicants have received their renewal applications by mail.

RECREATION NEWS

Food Drive

Thank you to the many residents who donated toward our annual food drives here in Green Island. The food that was collected here was more than enough to feed all of our needy families at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are sure that the families that receive the food baskets are very grateful to those of you that contributed and all those who purchased gifts off the Giving Tree.

Special thanks go out to the following groups that assisted with both the food and gift programs for the needy which were held throughout the holiday season: Lydall Manning employees, Green Island School District employees and retirees, Green Island Senior Citizens, Albany County Legislature, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Bimbo Bakeries, Cheer Intensity, Green Island Lanes-bowling leagues, and all of our anonymous Santa's Helpers, (you know who you are) and any others that may have assisted in any way at all. A big thanks to our volunteers that helped prepare and/or deliver the goods including Maggie Alix, Chris Karziel, Ellen McNulty-Ryan, Mark Ryan, Kristin Swinton, Scott Siegel, Rachel Files, Jill Alix, Heather Gregory, Larry Brown, Abby Mahoney, Maddisyn Mahoney, Terrance Florence, Dale Alix, Tami Weisenforth, Sean Ward and Dan Alix. As you can see, we have many people and organizations involved in this program.

"CELEBRATE LIFE" PROGRAM

Our "Celebrate Life" Program, which began on January 1, 2013, was proposed to the Village and Heatly School by Tom Mullins, with a goal of zero deaths or injuries from driving while intoxicated or drugged. We are delighted that Tom's program in Green Island was a success in its first year. We congratulate Tom and all who helped to make this program a success and pledge to continue our efforts in this program in 2014 and many years to come. Tom was also recognized for his efforts by the Albany County Sheriff's Office at a recent awards ceremony.

NEWS FROM THE GREEN ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS

The Seniors will be hosting a "VALENTINE'S DAY" Chicken Parm Luncheon on Thursday, February 13th. The cost is \$9.00 a person and will include a salad, chicken parm, ziti, bread & butter, coffee, tea & Dessert. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. and take-out is available until 1:30 p.m. Call the Senior Center at 272-7262 to make your reservations and/or to place your order for take-out!

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

Please note that there is "**NO PARKING**" in the front or adjacent lot at the American Legion when we have snow removal. It is a private lot used for business parking. All unauthorized vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. We, at the American Legion, thank you for your cooperation!

The Ladies' Auxiliary is looking for names of any veterans or active duty military who are not receiving birthday cards or Christmas cards from the Legnard-Curtin Post #927 Ladies Auxilliary. They would like to be able to say Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas and to thank you for your service to our country. Please call Brenda Persons, Unit President at 271-6184 or 423-2653.

The Sons of the American Legion are hosting a **LASAGNA DINNER** on Saturday, February 22nd from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The dinner includes Lasagna, Salad, Roll, Coffee/Tea and Dessert. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 5 – 12 and FREE pasta for kids 4 and under. **Pre-Sale is Recommended**. Delivery is available. For further information and to purchase tickets, please contact the Legion Post at 272-1198.

NEWS FROM GREEN ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

The Little League will be hosting a SPAGHETTI DINNER at the American Legion Post #927 on Saturday, January 25th from 4 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for kids 5 – 12 and kids under 5 are FREE. All proceeds will go toward the much needed repair of the league's concession stand roof. Contact a Board Member today to pre-order your tickets.

Registration is under way for the 2014 season. The next REGISTRATION date is Sunday, January 26th at Heatly School from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The registration cost for T-Ball ages 4 - 6 is \$35.00, Baseball ages 7 – 13 is \$50.00 and Girls Softball ages 7 – 12 is \$50.00. For more information, please contact a board member or go to website at www.greenislandll.com.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Friday, January 31st, 2014, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Community Dinner at the Church. They will be serving a delicious Soup and Sandwich Supper for all to enjoy. Come, bring your family and friends, all at no charge. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Saturday, February 8th, 2014, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Baked Chicken Dinner at the Church. Bring the family, all are welcome! Proceeds will benefit church projects, missions, and programs. Eat in or take out, parking is available. The cost is Adults - \$10, Children - \$6 and under 5 FREE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

January 11, 2014

Dear Friends,

I have a bunch of stuff to talk about this month and quite frankly, none of it is "happy" stuff. Where should I start? Maybe with the weather!

I don't know if Santa didn't leave Mother Nature any good gifts this Christmas or if she is just in a bad mood, but it reminds me of a plaque that my daughter gave to me many years ago that says: "If Mama ain't happy – ain't nobody happy!" Truer words were never spoken. I used to say "I don't mind the cold, but I hate the snow." My feelings have changed. I now hate the cold more. After spending days shoveling, snow blowing and snow plowing trying to get out from under the last snowstorm, Mother Nature decided to send us subzero temperatures, which of course led to frozen water pipes. First we had them at the Town Offices, which isn't unusual for an old building. We were able to remove some ceiling tiles and get some heat to them BEFORE they split. It was on a Friday, so we were lucky the employees from the Town and GIPA were in the building to let us know something was wrong. If it happened on the weekend, we would have had a tremendous amount of damage. So we dodged a bullet and I was happy and relieved when I left work that afternoon. That is until I got to the funeral home and realized I had frozen pipes in two places. And of course they were in crawl spaces. Now I think I do pretty well for being 62 years old, but I am finally starting to realize my limitations. Picture this: There is a crawl space about two and a half feet high. Now picture me, on my belly, blow dryer in hand, trying to slither through that dirt crawl space, with cob webs and insulation attacking my head, while dragging my three foot butt through the two and a half foot space. Not a pretty sight, but apparently a funny sight from where my husband was observing. I reached my destination about 15 feet from the where I entered and began to thaw the pipe. Success!!! I was never so happy to hear the water start to flow through the pipes. I was able to access the other frozen pipe from the outside, thaw it with that same blow dryer, and seal up the breach in the foundation where the wind was blowing in. I went home a happy woman having averted three potential disasters that day.

We had curb to curb snow removal the next day and it went pretty well. We had to ticket and tow some cars, but we had the streets back in shape by early afternoon. Mother Nature hadn't gotten the best of me --- yet. The weather warmed up on Monday, so I thought we were out of the woods for frozen pipes, only to find out the ones that were really frozen and split don't show their ugly heads until the warmer weather arrives. I went into the funeral home just to double check and found a pipe between the first and second floor had burst and my place was flooded. I thought the damage was only to a first floor bathroom until I went to bring the water soaked ceiling tiles outside and found water running out of the house from the second floor. Now I knew I was really in trouble. My husband and daughter came to try and suck up the water on the second floor with shop vacs and carpet cleaners, but it was like trying to bail out the Titanic with a tea cup. I called "Quick Response" and they were there in two hours. While I sat there waiting, apparently showing my despair and stress, my granddaughter came over to me, started rubbing my back, and began to sing these words to the tune of Danny Boy:

"Oh YaYa girl,
the pipes, the pipes are frozen;
but Quick Response
is on the way right now."

I started to laugh so hard that I couldn't hear the rest of the verse. I realized that no matter what the damage was, I had my family there to support me through it. All it took was a 10 year old to make me see it. I also realized that as bad as it was, there were a lot of people with much worse damage than I had. So, as I sit here on this Saturday afternoon while the Quick Response people are downstairs gutting the rest of my bathroom, in a couple of weeks it will just be a bad

memory. Life is good – but I still hope someone can find out what’s ticking off Mother Nature so she gets in a better mood. Maybe I will have Madelon compose a song for her!!!!

OK. Back to business. Still weather related. I have had several residents call me to complain about people not shoveling their sidewalks, which forces pedestrians to walk in the road. This is dangerous, especially for children. I want to remind property owners that our Code of the Village, Section 140-7 states that they are required to remove snow from their sidewalks within six hours after it has ceased snowing. The penalty, if convicted, can be a fine up to \$250 or imprisonment for a term not to exceed 15 days. We will be discussing this issue with the Village Trustees on Tuesday, January 21st, so if you would like to get your “two cents” in, please attend the meeting at 6:30 pm at the Municipal Center.

We have been working for years to make pick up, drop off and parking at Heatly safer for our students. We passed a local law a couple of years ago and it helped, but isn’t perfect. Some people just refuse to follow the rules and in doing so endanger everyone’s safety. A couple of weeks ago I came home to find four crosswalks blocked, a fire hydrant totally blocked and four vehicles totally blocking the fire lane. I sent a letter home to all the parents (and put it in the Troy Record) informing them that there would be zero tolerance for any such violations and that cars would be ticketed and towed. Last weekend people continued to ignore the warning and were cited. Enforcement with zero tolerance will continue and no excuses will be accepted.

On to happier subjects. Congratulations to Tom Mullins for receiving an award from the Albany County Sheriff’s Department for his work on his “Celebrate Life” Campaign for 2013 and achieving the goal of zero injuries or deaths in Green Island due to driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Tom is outside school every day with his signs and mascots and attends all of our board meetings to keep his message about safe driving fresh in our minds. Thanks, Tom, for making us think before we act!

I had a resident call the Village Office to let us know there appears to be a scam going with someone identifying themselves as being from National Grid and giving rebates. National Grid is NOT making the calls and we want to remind everyone to NEVER give your account numbers or any other personal information to anyone calling you.

I also have been receiving numerous complaints about people letting their pets poop on other people’s property. If you have an animal, please let it do its business in your own back yard. If you are walking your dog, make sure you have a plastic bag with you and PICK UP YOUR MESS! Again, it is the law and the penalty is a fine up to \$250 or 15 days in jail. Just think about what will happen to “Fido” while you are in jail for 15 days! I also have been informed that some residents are taking their dogs to the Little League property and letting them do their business. That is public property and the penalties are the same. I just put a sign in front of my own home reminding a dog owner not to let their pooch do his stuff in my walkway. It’s a lot of fun to park the car and step into a pile of poop when you are getting out. If I catch the perpetrator, I will return their “deposit” to them and then report it to the Police. So beware!

Just once I would LOVE to write a newsletter with all good stuff and not have to talk about poop and fines and parking and scams and

Please see the other newsletter for information from the Assessor, our Seniors, the American Legion, the Church of the Good Shepherd and our Green Island Little League.

Well, I think that’s it for this month. I hope my saga with the water pipes made you laugh. I also hope it made you aware of how things like that can happen even when you think you have it covered. I also hope it makes you realize how important it is to have our families supporting us. Together we can make it through anything! That goes for our “family of Green Island” too!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan