

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

JULY 2015

RECREATION NEWS

Soccer Clinic – August 3rd – August 7th at Veterans Memorial Stadium. The clinic will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for K – 6th Grades. Thank you to **Bimbo Bakeries** for sponsoring this year's clinic. Registration forms are available at the Paine Street Park and the Village Office.

The **Tri-City Valley Cats Street Team** will be visiting the Paine Street Park on **Thursday, July 30th** from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** In return Green Island will be going out to a Valley Cats game later on that evening. Be the first to reserve your ticket by calling Maggie Alix at 273-2201. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Movie Night – Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and watch a movie the whole family can enjoy. Movie Night is FREE. The movies begin at approximately 8 p.m. and will take place on: Friday, August 7th and Friday, August 14th and Friday, August 21st. Movies will be posted at the park and on the Green Island Recreation Facebook page.

Dance Party – Join us for a good old fashioned “DANCE PARTY” in the Park, **Friday, August 14th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Entertainment provided by DJ LAZZ.

“Like” the Green Island Recreation Department page on Facebook for up to date information on what’s happening at the park this summer!

LAWN AND LEAF BAGS
CLEARANCE SALE

We still have “lawn and leaf bags”, so if you would like to stock up, now is the time to do it. We can't compete with the markets and hardware stores when it comes to pricing them. It also has become a storage problem. So we are going to reduce what we have left down to 4 for \$1.00 until they are gone. They are available for purchase at the Village Offices during regular office hours.

KEEP OUR RIVERS CLEAN

Please remember that it is illegal by law to intentionally place or allow flowing waste into our catch basins. Please help us out and sweep the curb line of dirt, grass clippings and other debris in front of your properties when you can and never throw or allow such debris and/or liquid chemicals and/or petroleum such as dirt, grass, grease, cleaners, gasoline or oil into the catch basin. Please report any emergency spill or report violators to the Green Island Police Department at 911 immediately. Thank you for your cooperation. Together we can help keep our waterways clean and free from debris.

DIG SAFELY NEW YORK-CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Homeowners are reminded to call Dig Safely New York every time you dig into the ground, even if it is in your own back yard. This is so that all utilities in the ground can be located before digging. The number is simply 8-1-1. Failure to do so can result in the obvious danger, and can be very expensive, as the utility companies will charge you back for any damages, which could be in the thousands of dollars. We recommend that you call our building department at 273-2201 beforehand if you have any questions. They also have literature about the Dig Safely program for your use.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

The Code Enforcement Office reports that there are many inflatable pools throughout the Village. Please note that any pools with a water depth of over 18 inches must be in compliance with the same code regulations as the larger pools including secure fencing and lot coverage requirements. Electrical inspections by an independent agency may be required as well. To avoid the issue of non-compliance please call Maggie at the Village Office at 273-2201 for further information.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Legnard-Curtin Post American Legion will be hosting the "4th Annual Commander's Cup" on Monday, August 17th, 2015 at the Frear Park Golf Course in Troy. The time of the event is 8:00 a.m. with a "Shotgun Start" and the cost is \$100 per person. The cost includes: green fees, cart, and continental breakfast on the course. Dinner to be held at the Green Island American Legion after the tournament. The Dinner is a Hot & Cold Buffet and a two (2) hour open bar. The cost for Non-Golfers is \$30.00. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Donna Lazzaro at 274-1237 or the Legion Post at 272-1198. The deadline for reservations is August 10th, 2015.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The **Annual Villlage Wide Garage Sale** will be held on **Saturday, August 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Maps, Breakfast, Lunch and Merchandise will be available at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 89 Hudson Avenue, Green Island, NY. Tables will be available for rent at \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. To be included on the "**Yard Sale Map**", please send your check for \$3.00 made out to the **Church of the Good Shepherd**, P.O. Box 1523, Green Island, NY 12183 by July 26th. Thank you.

There will **NOT** be a Community Dinner for the month of July, but there will be a dinner on Friday, August 28th, at 5:30 p.m.

Save the date: Saturday, September 12th, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. – **Pulled Pork and Salad Dinner.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

July 15, 2015

Dear Friends,

I start this letter with a heavy heart. June and July have been tough months for our community as we lost two men who were so much a part of us that their middle names could have been "Green Island." Father Don Kelly, a native of Green Island and former Pastor of St. Joseph's Church, died on June 13th and Mike Cocca, Vice Chairman of GIPA and former Deputy Mayor of Green Island and a native and lifelong resident of Green Island, died on July 4th. Father Don was one of the gentlest souls I have ever met. Besides leading his parish for many years, his ability to guide families through emotional times when they had lost a loved one was truly a gift. He was so happy when the Bishop assigned him to his hometown parish. He loved sitting in the River Park with his buddies in the "Liar's Club," having lunch at the Senior Center and being invited to Sunday dinner at the homes of some of his parishioners. Every time he came to our home for dinner he paid his tab by "tickling the ivories" on our piano. Father Don was everything a clergyman should be and we have all lost a true friend.

How do I describe Mike Cocca? If you knew him, you would see my dilemma. He was one of the most intelligent individuals I have ever met. His engineering background was invaluable in his public service to our community. His ability to read and understand people was amazing. His willingness to share his gifts was limitless. He was a mentor to many – including me. His gift of his time and talents to so many organizations was much appreciated and will be sorely missed. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle, public servant and friend. The best way we can honor both of these special men is to take the traits that we admired most about them and put them into practice in our everyday lives. They made the world a better place – and now it is our turn to keep it going. Thanks Father Don and Mike for being such great role models for us. Keep an eye on us down here and now that you have connections with people in "higher places," let them know we can use all the help we can get! Rest in peace.

Now back to earth. We kicked off the 2015 Summer Concert Season --- under the bridge. But it wasn't all that bad. We had a record crowd for being under the bridge, the weather was comfortable, the "Swing Docs" were great, the food was delicious and we have our new shed down there so we didn't have to lug all of our equipment. All in all, it was a nice start. And last week we were in the River Park and had the Accents --- and it was AWESOME. I think it was one of the best concerts in our 12 year history. We had people up dancing who NEVER dance. We sold the most food we have ever sold at a Wednesday night concert. The Gig-A-Bite crew was really hopping. We are off to a great start so I hope we keep it up. Please join us every Wednesday.

Our Summer Recreation Program is going very well. Maggie and Mr. Mullins and their crew are doing a great job. We had a bit of a rough patch last month, but since we started enforcing our "residents only" policy and making it

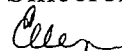
clear we will not tolerate any violence or foul language, things have been great. The kids are enjoying the spray park and all the daily activities and Mr. Mullins is the biggest kid there! This park is a jewel and sometimes we take things for granted. When you see Maggie and Mr. Mullins, please take the time to say "thank you" for all that they and their staff do for us. And take the time to thank our DPW and GIPA guys for all they do to keep our parks so nice. It only takes a few seconds, but it means the world to those folks when they know you appreciate their efforts. And I bet it will make you feel better too! Give it a try.

I have spoken with Michele Bourgeois and after 13 years of dedication and hard work, the decision has been made to end our Relay for Life in Green Island. But it won't be the end of Relay. Green Island will be merging with the Albany-Colonie Relay. I know how hard it is to run this Relay. My husband, Mark, and I did it for the first five years and we started from scratch. Michele and her family and committee have been doing it for the last eight years. They have tried to recruit new committee members, but their numbers dwindled every year. It is a tremendous task and I don't know how they have pulled it off the last few years, but they did. I want to thank them for all their hard work and dedication. You are special folks and I hope your good deeds come back to you many times over!

We got a few calls from residents the other day about people going door to door asking about people's National Grid bills. I want you to know that any solicitor has to get a permit from the Village Clerk and very few are ever granted because applicants must go through a background check and pay for the permit. Most solicitors don't want to go through the process. If a solicitor comes to your door you have several choices: (a) don't answer the door, (b) call the Police and have them checked out (if you are not comfortable dialing 911, the direct number to Albany County Dispatch is 765-2352), (c) ask to see their solicitor's permit, (d) all of the above. I strongly suggest that parents advise their children to not open the door if they are home alone and that Senior Citizen not open their door and just call the Police to check them out. The solicitors here on Monday were not from National Grid and were not dressed professionally. We traveled the streets for quite a while trying to find them, but had no luck. We have also had a few residents tell us that they saw individuals trying to get into cars in the middle of the night. Unfortunately they didn't tell us until the next day. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, if you see something, call 911 or the Dispatch number above and let our officers check it out. They won't be mad if it turns out to be nothing. Better safe than sorry. We probably could have caught the culprits if someone called ASAP.

Well, it appears that I have talked long enough because I am running out of space. I do hope you are all having a lovely summer --- now that it has finally arrived. I hope to see you at the concerts and in the Paine Street Park enjoying the spray park with your kids. I hope the kids who challenge me every year to stand on my head at the concerts are practicing for a showdown this summer. I still hold the title --- but I am NOT getting any younger, so now might be the time to take the old lady down!!!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan