

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

FEBRUARY 2017

STORMWATER COALITION OF ALBANY COUNTY

The Stormwater Coalition of Albany County was formed in 2008 via an inter-municipal agreement between 13 municipalities and the University at Albany. The Village of Green Island is a charter member and Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Sean Ward, had been Chairman of their Board of Directors from its inception until 2016. The purpose of the Coalition is to foster cooperation and to provide for the provision of joint shared services related to compliance with the NYSDEC SPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit program and Federal Clean Water Act requirements. For more information about the Stormwater Coalition, please log on to their website at www.stormwateralbanycounty.org. This website has very specific information about how our community benefits from the program and includes educational components for homeowners, businesses and contractors. We also do our own outreach. This is just an example of our many efforts to educate the public in the quest for clean water. For further information about Green Island's MS4 program contact Sean Ward at 273-2201 or seanw@villageofgreenisland.com.

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Just a reminder that all exemptions must be filed with the Assessor's office on or before March 1, 2017.

NEWS FROM HEATLY SCHOOL

PRE-K and KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018 & REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION

- **Kindergarten Registration** - Parents need to pick up a registration packet for their child for the 2017-2018 Kindergarten school year if the child is not in the Green Island Universal Pre-K this year. A parent may stop into the school office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. any day before March to pick up a packet. At this time parents will be required to sign up for a time for your child's screening. Screening day will be Thursday, March 23rd. Any questions, please call the school office at 273-1422.
- **Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program Registration** – Heatly School is now enrolling for 2017-2018 school year. Please come to Heatly School to pick up your enrollment packet or call 273-1422 and sign up for registration before April 7th, 2017. **Registration dates:** Wednesday, April 12th and Thursday, April 13th
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Location:** Heatly School Office.
- **Request for Transportation** - Residents of the Village of Green Island who are requesting transportation for their children to private and/or parochial schools within the 15-mile limit that has been established by the Green Island Board of Education, should submit their request(s) no later than **April 1st, 2017**. Questions may be directed to and forms obtained from: Mrs. Kimberly Watkins, Heatly School, 171 Hudson Avenue, Green Island, New York 12183 (518-273-1422).

HEATLY SCHOOL LOOKING FOR RESIDENT INPUT

- Residents will have the opportunity to give input pertaining to the Smart Schools Investment Plan at the next School Board Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 2, 2017. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Library which is located at 171 Hudson Avenue. Information about the plan is found on the district website: www.greenisland.org.

GREEN ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS – SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Green Island Senior Citizens will be having a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on behalf of the Green Island Little League on **Friday, March 10th** from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Michael A. Cocca, Sr. Community Center, 5 George Street. Dinner will consist of salad, spaghetti & meatballs and dessert. The cost of the dinner is \$10.00 and \$5.00 for children 10 and under.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #927

St. Patrick's Day Dinner sponsored by the American Legion Post #927 will be held on **Friday, March 17th, 2017** from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Corned Beef or Ham Dinner will be served with potatoes, cabbage, carrots, rye or soda bread, coffee/tea and dessert. Cost is \$12.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 5 – 12, 4 and under is FREE. Take-out is available, sorry no deliveries. For more information, please call 272-1198.

WELCOME TO GOT KIDS?

We have a new business in the Village – GOT KIDS? It is a consignment shop for Children's Clothes and related items. GOT KIDS? is located at 151 George Street and hours are Tuesdays from 2 to 6 p.m. and Thursdays from 2 – 7 p.m. For further information, please visit the Village website at www.villageofgreenisland.com and click on BUSINESSES and all businesses are listed alphabetically.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

February 17, 2017

Dear Friends,

Well Old Man Winter finally caught up with us. We avoided him until this month – but he found us. I still won't complain because up until now we have been very lucky. However, I felt really sorry for our crew out working on the snow removals. They didn't even get to bask for a few hours after the first clean up and the next storm came right in. Then we had a second clean up on Tuesday. For the most part, everything went like clockwork. We had to tow a few cars on both days. We try very hard to avoid it, but if people don't move their cars, we have to ticket and tow them. It is the only way to get the snow piles back to the curb so people can park and keep the roadway wide enough to get the fire trucks through in an emergency. We were discussing today how efficient our snow removal process is. This is my 15th winter as mayor and when I first took office we had two storms in a week that each produced two feet of snow. That's four feet in a week. We survived and learned a lot. A normal cleanup 15 years ago started at 7 or 8 a.m. and finished up between 6 and 7 p.m. We now start plowing at 8 a.m. and finish up between noon and 1 p.m. I can't even begin to tell you how hard our employees work to make our village safe and clean. We are very lucky to have this great team in Green Island and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for all their hard work and dedication. I am sure they would love to hear a good word from you too!

While we are very lucky to have a great team and wonderful residents, sometimes people forget about common courtesy. I received a letter from a resident who owns a home here and loves the community. She moved here with her family because of the "small neighborhood feel" and the feeling of safety. She likes that most people are friendly. She does, however, have a neighbor that intentionally parks in front of her home after she has cleared the snow, forcing her to park elsewhere, making it difficult to get her children safely into their car. She proposed a plan to allow homeowners to park in front of their own homes. While that would be wonderful, it has been struck down in the courts. What is possible is that we all show a little courtesy and common sense in these issues. I explained to her that I feel her pain. My husband cleared the sidewalks in front of our home and plowed through the snowbanks in two spots so we could get to our sidewalk and every day, people coming to the school park and block the access through the snowbanks. I have seen people clear a space so they can put their garbage cans in them so the DPW guys can pick them up – and someone will park right in front of

them. Now that is just plain rude! Maybe we all need to dust off our old wooden rulers from grade school that said “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” Probably nobody under the age of 60 remembers those rulers, but I do. And I also remember kinder and gentler times. Let’s all try to be kinder to our neighbors.

OK --- On to more positive things.

We try to give a little plug to any new business in town. Our newest one is “Got Kids?” It is a consignment shop for children’s clothes and related items. They are located at 151 George Street. More info and hours of operation are in the other newsletter. Please check it out. And our best wishes for their success.

One of the things I love most about Green Island is that we all watch out for each other and try to help when help is needed. Our Green Island Senior Citizens are trying to help out the Green Island Little League by hosting a spaghetti and meatball dinner at the Community Center on Friday, March 10th. All the info is in the other newsletter. Please support them!

Speaking of food, the American Legion is sponsoring a St. Patrick’s Day Dinner on March 17th. Everybody is Irish on March 17th, so let’s show them our support.

I am going to end my letter on a very serious subject – Heroin addiction. We recently held a meeting with business owners and school staff after a dangerous situation in a public restroom in which two police officers ended up being transported by ambulance to the hospital for exposure to a dangerous drug being used in the restroom by a drug user. We are working on putting together an informational meeting on how to keep you and your family safe. We are hoping to pull it together for some time in March and we will let you know as soon as we have a date. This isn’t just for people who may have a family member or friend that uses these drugs. This is a meeting for EVERYONE to learn the dangers of exposure in public places even if you never used a drug. There is no way I can explain in this letter the importance of being educated about this, so PLEASE make every effort to attend!

That’s it for this month. I have really gone all over the map on different subjects in this letter. I hope when you read it that it will make sense. If you have any questions, you can email to me at: mayor@villageofgreenisland.com.

Hope you had a Happy Valentine’s Day! Spring is just around the corner!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan