

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND
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Green Island, New York 12183
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SEPTEMBER 2020

RECREATION NEWS

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the **Annual Family Day Picnic** has been postponed until September 2021. Thank you in advance for understanding. We look forward to bringing the event back bigger and better next year.

LIMITED MORATORIUM ON DISCONNECTIONS

See link to guidelines for implementation of a moratorium on terminations and disconnection of public utilities (Electric, Water, Sewer, Telephone, Gas) for those with documented hardship during the COVID-19 emergency. It can be found at: www.villageofgreenisland.com/village/water-sewer and www.villageofgreenisland.com/gipa.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES

Some very important projects were completed recently.

The **Green Island-Watervliet Water Interconnect Project** is a metered water connection from the City of Watervliet which will provide us with a redundant water supply in case of emergency. It will be used in case of water breaks, fire protection, loss of water pressure and most of all gives us another source of water supply to protect our Village from loss of water. In addition to our own water supply we now have backup from two cities, Cohoes and Watervliet, if needed. Thank you to the Department of State for providing about 75% of the funding through the Local Government Shared Service Initiative and the City of Watervliet for partnering with us on this project.

The **Hudson Avenue Sewer Separation Project** is substantially completed. This project, fully funded by Luizzi Brothers as an offset project for their Starbuck Island development brings much needed upgrades to our sewer system. The project separated the one combined sewer (combined sewage and storm water) into two lines so that the sewage goes directly to the Albany County Water Purification District for treatment and the storm water goes directly into the Hudson River without sewage mixed in. They also installed two Vortex systems at the outfalls which filters all floatable objects from the storm water into a storage area that DPW will clean periodically. This is a win-win for the environment and saves the Village about one million dollars in construction as well as the cost of treating storm water at the Albany County plant, as it was previous to the project.

The **Hudson Avenue Reconstruction Project** is also substantially completed as ADA ramps have been installed on all corners and paving and striping have been placed. A sidewalk connecting the Green Island Bridge to the City of Watervliet has also been installed in this heavy pedestrian traffic area. We are still waiting for DOT approval to complete the paving of the area around the intersection of the

Green Island Bridge and Lower Hudson Avenue, but that will be done soon. The project was funded with 75% Federal Highway Grants, 12.5% NYSDOT Marchiselli Program Grants and 12.5% local share.

UNITED STATES CENSUS

As you have undoubtedly heard already, every 10 years the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. **The 2020 program is close to the end and we need your help to make sure we are accurately counted.** Data from the census provides the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to Green Island and communities across the country to support vital programs – impacting our SCHOOL, housing, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. **If the school and the government don't receive proper funding, it affects taxes, which in turn affects rent.** The numbers are also used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state and county legislative districts and accurately determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 2020 Census is important for you and our community. The results will help you understand how demographics — including income and education levels — and population size are changing in our area.

The census is a valuable tool for improving communities across the country. If our community members don't respond, our community may not receive the funding it needs with the result being additional burdens on **tax and rent payers**. It is important that everyone understands the importance of the census and participates in the process.

The Village and Town of Green Island employees and officials have been working for the last couple of years preparing for the count and putting us in a good position to be sure it is accurate. More recently, we have been working with U.S. Census officials and enumerators to help get the word out. Please do your part and cooperate so that we can get our fair share. Thank you for your cooperation.

STORM DRAIN MARKERS

Have you noticed the storm drain markers that read **"Don't Dump, Drains to Hudson River"** located near catch basins around Green Island? This marker is a reminder that storm sewers in that area of the Village flow directly to the river and that anything deposited in them will contribute to water pollution that affects swimming, fishing and even drinking water downstream. Please don't dump anything into the catch basins or drains (anywhere) and if you see others doing it contact the Village Office at 518-273-2201 or email to swcoalition@albanycounty.com. Thank you for your assistance.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

September 15, 2020

Dear Friends,

My plea to parents in last month's newsletter to insist that their children wear masks when in public apparently fell on deaf ears. Last week I made my last and final attempt to try and get the kids to follow the guidelines. About a dozen boys were playing football in the River Park. I went into my house and got my box of reusable masks and went to the park to try to make them understand how dangerous it is to not wear a mask. I tried to explain that while they may not become ill, they could bring it home and kill their grandparents. One kid said, "I don't care. I ain't got no grandparents." I continued with my plea and then said whoever doesn't want to listen, just leave. Three of them walked away. The other nine took the masks. I walked home thinking that maybe I got through to a few of them. The next morning I woke up to seeing the masks rolled up and thrown inside my fence onto my lawn. They not only did not wear the masks, they wanted to send me a message that they had no intention of following the guidelines. I got the message loud and clear and I will NOT endanger my health and safety or that of my family by ever trying to reach out to these kids again. I predict that we will be in even bigger trouble with this virus because of the blatant disrespect and ignorance shown by many of our young people. To all of the kids and adults that are following the guidelines, THANK YOU and I hope you stay well!

Jill is still keeping our Senior Citizens lunch program going. Shelby Herrington left her job at the Seniors for a new opportunity last month. Last week Gaylen Catellier came on board to work with Jill and she is doing a great job. Gaylen has a lot of experience in the food industry. She and her late husband, Frank, ran a restaurant in Menands and later in the strip mall on Lower Hudson Avenue. My husband, Mark, Rachel Files and my daughter, Kristin, are still volunteering to help with the lunches. We don't have too many back in person yet, but that is probably good for now because we have to keep everyone distanced. If you do want to come for lunch, you must make a reservation the day before so they can be sure to have enough food.

We are working on some ideas for Halloween and Christmas to try to give the kids some degree of normalcy so they can have a good time, but to keep them safe in the process. Hope to have more on that in next month's letter.

I am going to end my letter this month by telling you I will be closing my funeral home on September 30th. This was a very hard decision to make, but I know it is the right one. This old lady's body just can't keep up with the physical demands necessary to do the job. My father, the late Jack McNulty, established McNulty Funeral Home in 1945 when he returned home from serving in the Navy during World War II. I started working full time with him in 1979 and have been running the business since 1983. I will miss my work as a funeral director and will miss serving the loyal families who have placed their trust in me and my father for 75 years. I will not miss being on call 24/7. This will be my first Thanksgiving and Christmas in 41 years that I won't have to worry about leaving my family if the phone rings! I think I can get used to that. I plan to stay on as your Mayor for a while as long as you keep electing me. We have a great team here in the Village and Town. The team works well because we don't have any "ego" issues and decisions are made on what is best for our community. We are going to have some tough economic times due to the COVID crisis, but as long as we keep our priorities straight, we will make it through. I truly believe that and I hope you do too. It won't be easy – but we can do it!!!

That's it for this month. It feels like Fall is here with temperatures going into the 40s at night, but that just means apple pies, pumpkin pies and cider donuts are just around the corner! Somehow, I always come back to food!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan

PS: Congratulations to Paul and Fortunate Maloney who are celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary on September 17th.