

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

June 16, 2021

Dear Friends,

I have to start this month's letter talking about one of Green Island's most valued and treasured employees of all time – Sean Ward. Sean has been with the Village for 40 years, working in the Water Department, Recreation Department, IDA and Executive Assistant to the Mayor. Through the years, he has worked under four mayors and I am happy to say with me the longest! He has institutional knowledge that is priceless, but he has decided to retire. He has talked about it for a long time, but none of us thought he would ever do it. I think that granddaughter in Georgia helped him make his decision and being able to play golf whenever he wants didn't hurt the timing of the decision. He has agreed to stay on part time as our CEO of the Industrial Development Agency and that is great because we have a lot of things going on. We wish Sean every happiness in his retirement. There are no words I could say that would relay my appreciation for all he has done for our Village and for me. He will be missed, but he has promised to be never more than a phone call away and we are going to hold him to that promise.

The bright side to all this is that Maggie Alix is taking over the reins from Sean. Like Sean, Maggie has worked for the Village for a long time and served as Recreation Director, Assessor, Building and Code Inspector and has been working with Sean for several months training to take over his position. Maggie works well with every department in the Village and I know she will continue to do an outstanding job for us. Also like Sean, she has a very easy temperament and deals well with the public. I look forward to working with Maggie for many years!

Well the nice weather is finally here. Between being able to be outside and the COVID restrictions being eased, I feel like I just got out of jail. It is nice to see people's entire faces without masks, but we still need to be careful. This pandemic has totally changed our lives forever, but hopefully we will be better, kinder and more grateful human beings after seeing the suffering so many families went through. I know I appreciate the "little things in life" even more than before.

With the nice weather here, opening the summer program at the Paine Street Park is just around the corner. (Do you old folks remember when we called it the Baby Pool Park?) Maggie has a great summer line up ready to go (see other newsletter for details). Can't wait to see Mr. Mullins back playing with the kids. I think he must have the record for the most summers in that park. Let's hope for nice weather and a safe summer!

Last night we held a Public Hearing at the Legion in regards to long overdue changes in our Zoning Laws. If you weren't able to attend and would still like to make a comment, you can go to the Village website, review the Zoning Law (on the website since February) and send any comments within the next week to Maggie Alix at: [maggiea@villageofgreenisland.com](mailto:maggiea@villageofgreenisland.com). There will be a second Public Hearing at our July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and it will be voted on that night at our Village Board meeting. Thank you to the committee members, Lynn McGivern, Kristin Swinton, Maggie Alix, Sean Ward, Tod Ward, Joe Legnard, Michele Bourgeois and Anne Strizzi, who put a lot of time into this endeavor over the last four years. Thanks also to Chuck Voss from Barton and Loguidice who guided us through the process.

Our Village meetings this month (Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>) will still be on Zoom, but we are planning on going back to in person meetings on July 19<sup>th</sup>. It has been difficult doing everything on Zoom, but we are fortunate that technology was able to give us a platform to continue doing business. It has been strange to just see people's faces in boxes on the computer monitor. One board member commented at the end of a meeting that she felt like we were on "Hollywood Squares" and we all laughed. Hopefully the pandemic is over and we can get back to some normalcy. But let's still be careful!

Our Summer Concerts at the River Park Gazebo will begin on Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We sent out copies of the schedule in last month's newsletter, but it is also on the Village website if you didn't get a copy. Hopefully Mother Nature will take pity on us after a tough year and send us nice weather every Wednesday.

Please check out the other newsletter that has lots more information. And please, be a good neighbor by picking up after your dog when out walking and keeping back yard campfires manageable so you don't smoke out your neighbors. And be aware that the Code Enforcement Officer will be addressing high weeds and exterior maintenance issues on properties. Let's do our best to keep our Village looking nice.

Well, that's it for this month. If you see Sean out and about, please wish him well on his retirement. And if you see Maggie, wish her good luck in her new job.

Hope to see your smiling faces around town and at the park and concerts!

Sincerely,



Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan

**VILLAGE NEWSLETTER**  
**VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND**  
[www.villageofgreenisland.com](http://www.villageofgreenisland.com)  
**JUNE 2021**

**RECREATION NEWS**

The Summer Park Program will officially begin on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. The parents of any child wishing to use our facilities this summer will be required to fill out a program registration form. This will help our staff in an emergency situation when parents have to be notified. A registration form can be picked up and dropped off at the Paine Street Park or the Village Office during operating hours. The form can also be found on the Village website at <https://villageofgreenisland.com/village/parks-recreation/>. Completed forms can be emailed to Wendy Richmond at [Wendy.Richmond@villageofgreenisland.com](mailto:Wendy.Richmond@villageofgreenisland.com).

**Save the dates for the following events happening this summer:**

**Bike Rodeo** –Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. Please bring your bike and bike helmet to the park by 12:15 p.m.

**Free Breakfast and Lunch Program** – Free breakfast and lunch will be provided daily from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., starting July 6<sup>th</sup> through August 20<sup>th</sup>.

The **Summer Concert Series** will begin Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. There are FREE concerts every Wednesday through September 1<sup>st</sup>. The concerts are held in the Hudson River Park, just north of Heatly School. **RAIN LOCATION** is the east side of Hudson Avenue, under the bridge.

The **Sprinkler Pad** schedule will coincide with the summer program, which is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. The hours of the summer program are 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The park will remain open until 9:00 p.m. Weather permitting the sprinklers will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The **Albany County Department of Recreation** and the **Green Island Recreation Department** will sponsor several recreational activities this summer. The activities are **FREE** for all Albany County residents, and the equipment will be provided. This is the perfect opportunity to try a new sport or continue playing a sport you already enjoy. Members of our staff will be present to ensure everyone is having fun. The programs will be held at either the Paine Street Park or Veterans Memorial Stadium. More information will be provided on how to register. Here is our tentative schedule:

Football:	Thursdays	July 15-August 19	6:00pm-9:00pm	ages 5-14
Basketball:	Saturdays	July 10-August 14	10:00am-12:00pm	ages 6-12
Track and Field:	Weekdays	August 2 – August 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm-8:00pm	ages 11-17
Lacrosse:	Saturdays	September 11 <sup>th</sup> – October 16th	6:00pm -7:30pm	ages 7-11

In addition to our daily activities there will be Movie Nights and other special events. "LIKE" the Green Island Recreation Department on Facebook for updates on what's to come, you won't want to miss it.

**HELMET LAW**

Another issue that coincides with nice weather is youths riding on bicycles, scooters and skateboards. The law states that any child 14 years of age and younger must wear a helmet when riding on any of these. We also suggest elbow and kneepads and wrist guards for skateboarders. Our police department will be on the lookout for violators, but more important they may even stop those that are wearing helmets to tell them "good job".

## **REMINDER – DOGS AND POOPER SCOOPER LAW**

It is illegal to bring any animal, with the exception of a guide or therapy dog, into any **public park**. **This includes all parks, and the Little League and Veteran's Memorial Stadium.** It is also illegal to allow your animal to defecate on any public or private property without picking up the mess, for obvious reasons, including the fact that if it washes into the storm drains it could go directly to the river, which would be a violation of the "**Clean Water Act**". If you wish to walk your dog, make sure you are prepared to clean up after him or her. We are also receiving complaints, and the Police have issued tickets to violators who allow or fail to secure their animals (dogs) from running at large. Please make sure dogs are secured in fenced areas or if out for a walk with a responsible owner/handler, make sure the dog is on a leash. Lastly, we have also heard complaints about dogs that are habitually barking. This is a violation of our Local Law. Violators are subject to fines and the possibility that the animal will be transported to the Humane Society, which could be costly to the owner.

## **RECREATIONAL AND OTHER BACKYARD FIRES**

We have recently received a few complaints about backyard fire pits, recreational fires, etc. This is not new around this time of year and usually can be solved by keeping a small manageable fire in a safe area of your property, through communication with neighbors and by being "neighborly" when talking to them. Most of the time that approach works.

If not, and when police and fire personnel are called, the NYS Fire Code is pretty clear that a fire is prohibited if the burning is "offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions.....". The Code also states in Section 307.4.2 that "Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material.....". Section 307.4.3 states that "Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15' of a structure or combustible material." If our personnel are called they will enforce the law, most likely making you extinguish the fire immediately and depending on the situation cite you as well. Please be a good neighbor and don't allow yourself to be put in to that situation. Thank you for your cooperation. **LANDLORDS PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR TENANTS.**

## **NEWS FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT**

As summer approaches and residents are outside cleaning around their homes, it is important to remember the maintenance of the exteriors. The New York State Fire and Building Uniform Code has a section called "Property Maintenance" - this section covers all exterior wood surfaces other than decay resistant wood. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint needs to be corrected by protective coating or painting. Window frames, siding, cornices and balconies on all buildings, houses and garages are all included in "Property Maintenance" Section.

The Village Code has a section of law, which specifies that homeowners must maintain grass and weed growth on their properties. Failure to do so will result in legal action against that property owner and if the Building Inspector orders the owner to clean the property and the owner refuses then the Village will hold a public hearing and if the owner does not respond, the Village DPW will be directed to clean up the property and a hefty bill will be attached to your property taxes. The Building Inspector will conduct a survey and notify homeowners if they have buildings that are subject to this ruling. Please cooperate by making our community a more attractive place to reside.