

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

August 16, 2021

Dear Friends,

I can't believe that summer is almost over. It went by so quickly. I wish winter passed that fast! The Summer Park Program went very well this year and the kids sure got a lot of use out of the Spray Pad this year. It was so nice to see Moms, Dads and Grandparents setting up their chairs to spend the day at the park with their kids. And it is always fun to watch Mr. Mullins all wet enjoying the sprinklers with the kids. Thank you to all the park staff for a job well done.

School will be starting in a few short weeks, so please pay attention to the parking regulations and traffic pattern changes (detailed in other newsletter) during morning drop off and afternoon dismissal at Heatly School. This has worked pretty well since we started it a few years ago, but with school closures, limited attendance and virtual learning, we have not been on the normal pattern the last year and a half, so we need to refresh on the procedure. Please follow the directions and pay attention to the Crossing Guard. We want to keep all our kids safe.

The Summer Concerts at the GIG have been going very well, even though two thirds of our concerts so far have been under the bridge due to harsh weather conditions. But, we are very lucky that we have a "rain location" that we can go to. The crowds have been some of the biggest ones ever and we have sold more food this year than any other year. Our "specials" seem to be a hit and I am always happy to say that we have not raised our prices in 18 seasons! And we are able to do that because the whole Gig-A-Bite crew is volunteers. And our sponsors came through better than ever, so all in all, even with the crummy weather, this has been a great year. But we aren't dropping our guard on COVID. We are still sanitizing like crazy and doing our best to socially distance. And our concert goers have been very respectful. I think everyone is being good so we don't have to go backwards. Nobody wants to do that!

Speaking of keeping everyone safe, until further notice, anyone entering any publicly owned buildings in Green Island **MUST** wear a mask when inside the building. That includes the Village Office, Town Office, GIPA Office, Court Room, Municipal Center and the Community Center (Seniors). For those going to the lunch program at Seniors, you **MUST** wear a mask when entering and walking inside the building and can remove it once you sit down and are socially distanced. After you finish your meal, you must put your mask back on before you stand up. If you wish to attend a Village Board, Planning Board or GIPA Board meeting at

the Municipal Center, you must wear a mask and sanitize your hands upon entry. I know everyone is tired of all this, but we just got to have our meetings in person again and we don't want to have to go back to ZOOM meetings. Please cooperate so we can eventually climb out of this hole!

One thing that would REALLY help us get back to normal is for EVERYONE over the age of 12 to get vaccinated. If you won't get vaccinated for your own safety, PLEASE DO IT FOR OUR CHILDREN. The kids under 12 have not yet been approved to get the vaccine so they are at risk – and it isn't their fault. I am praying that soon a vaccine will be approved that can safely be given to the children. These kids have been through so much in the last year and a half. Some kids haven't been inside their school buildings since the pandemic struck. Although we are lucky that technology has made it possible for kids to attend school virtually, they need in person contact; not just because they learn better in person, but the human contact with their friends is very important for their mental wellbeing. Let's ALL do our part to get back to normal!

OK. I think that is enough for this month. Hopefully in the very near future I can write to you that all restrictions have been lifted – but I think that is going to be a ways off. But when it does come, I think we should have a celebration party. Anybody with me?????

Sincerely,



Ellen McNulty-Ryan

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HEATLY SCHOOL PARKING AND TRAFFIC PROCEDURES

In an effort to keep our children safe, beginning the first day of school and on all days that school is in session the Green Island Police Department will be enforcing parking and traffic flow procedures in the area of Heatly School.

ARCH STREET between George Street and Hudson Avenue will be **CLOSED** to eastbound vehicle traffic from **7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.** **Please note the change in dismissal times this year.** It will also be closed at any time that school is dismissed early. Traffic will be allowed traveling **WEST** on **ARCH STREET**. As a reminder, please use the designated crosswalks for safe crossing.

Those dropping off students in vehicles must look closely at parking signs in front of school. Drivers must not leave their vehicles while parked in the area marked by signs in front of school. Double parking is also not allowed. Please drop off children at the sidewalk and in a timely fashion so as to keep traffic flowing at busy times. Those that must leave their vehicles unattended must park in a legal parking spot down the street or around the corner from school.

We ask that you follow these simple rules and please listen to our Crossing Guard and Police Officers. This will make for a better and safer drop off area for our children. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

A **HUGE THANK YOU** goes out to, Tom Mullins and the Park Staff for putting on another successful summer program. A special thank you to our evening Park Staff, Danielle Dawson and Rick Ray. Thank you for doing such a tremendous job!

Thank you to all the families, parents and children, for spending your summer with us. We hope you had as much fun as we did.

The full summer program will end on Thursday, August 26th. On Monday, August 30th, we will re-open for abbreviated hours, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., until Thursday, September 2nd. The park will be staffed in the evening through October 31st.

Thank you to Daryl Whited and the Watervliet School District, NYS Nutrition Consortium and NYS Department of Health for bringing the **FREE** healthy lunch program to the Paine Street Park.

Thank you to County Executive Dan McCoy, Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple and the Albany County Recreation Department for hosting **FREE** summer sports clinics (basketball and track & field) in Green Island. Coming this fall we will host Flag Football on Thursday evenings. Visit the Recreation Department's Facebook page for more info.

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS (Cont'd.)

Movie Nights are back! Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and watch a movie the whole family can enjoy. The movies begin at dusk, approximately 8:00 p.m., and will take place on Friday, August 20th & 27th. Movies will be posted at the park and on the Green Island Recreation Facebook Page.

PLEASE DON'T FEED ANIMALS

We have had previous complaints about wild animals and birds causing a nuisance in the Village. This can cause a dangerous situation for our residents and especially children including the possibility of being bitten or contracting a serious illness. **PLEASE DO NOT FEED ANY ANIMALS OR BIRDS OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME, INCLUDING YOUR OWN PETS.** Wild animals and nuisance birds are attracted by food sources left outside and are attracted closer to homes because of that. An enclosed bird feeder meant only for small birds is okay but please locate them according to instructions so as not to attract those it was not intended for. By not providing a feeding source for these animals and birds we create less of a chance that they will populate in our neighborhoods. Please cooperate for the good of our residents and especially our children.

AMERICAN LEGION – VETERAN MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN

The American Legion will be doing another brick purchase to support the restoration of the monument space in front of the building. There are two (2) basic sizes, and you have the opportunity to purchase a mini-replica as a gift or keepsake. Your brick(s) may honor your family, commemorate an important occasion, recognize a business or memorialize a love one. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A VETERAN TO PURCHASE A BRICK.** Order forms can be picked up at the American Legion. Deadline to order is Friday, September 10th, 2021. Any questions please call the Legion at 518-272-1198.