

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND
20 CLINTON STREET
GREEN ISLAND, NY 12183
(518) 273-2201
www.villageofgreenisland.com
JANUARY 2024

Green Island Police Department Telephone Numbers
EMERGENCY – 911
NON EMERGENCY TO DISPATCHER – 518-655-7854
ANONYMOUS DRUG TIP LINE – 518-655-7971
PHONE TREE LINE TO GIPD OFFICERS – 518-765-2351

SNOW PLOWING AND REMOVAL

Just a reminder on snow removal. If the Village is going to do a curb-to-curb snow removal, a snow emergency will be declared in advance of the operation. Residents are strongly encouraged to sign up for Alert notifications. The order of street plowing is available on our website at www.villageofgreenisland.com/village/public-works.

It is the responsibility of the property owner and occupant/tenant, jointly, to keep sidewalks free from snow and ice. According to the Village Ordinance, snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow/ice has stopped. In addition, it is illegal to shovel, throw or deposit snow or ice in any street or roadway.

GARBAGE CONCERNS

Garbage barrels and recyclables cannot be put out to the curb until 12 p.m. on the day before scheduled pickup. The lid of the barrels must close. Large items, anything that cannot fit into a barrel, would fall into the bulk pickup category and would be picked up on a Thursday. All bulk pickup must be registered first by emailing tarab@villageofgreenisland.com or calling 518-273-2201, at least 24 hours in advance.

In the event of snow please be sure to clear a path to your barrels. If DPW can not easily get to the barrels, the barrels may not get picked up. Let's all do our part to help keep our Village clean. Place all garbage in your barrels and keep all other items off the curb and out of site until your scheduled pickup day. Thank you for your cooperation.

RECYCLING PROTECTS OUR ENVIRONMENT

Although it is now more expensive for the Village to dispose of recyclables, it is still beneficial for our environment to do so. Curb side Single Stream Recycling is easy. All you have to do is put clean and rinsed non-returnable glass, plastics, tin cans, cardboard, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, office paper, etc. in a plastic bag (preferably clear) **outside of your barrel** on a regular pickup day.

Returnable bottles and cans can be removed from the waste stream and taken to a redemption center, such as, the Bottle and Can Company at 7 James Street in Green Island. The Bottle and Can Company will reimburse you 6 cents per item every day. You also have the option to donate your returnables to your favorite local charities that have a pre-set account.

Christmas trees and yard waste is also picked up curbside on regular pickup day. Please place grass and leaves in a biodegradable paper bag and place next to your barrel and recyclables. Please don't put dirt, bricks or stones in the bags. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Public Works at 518-273-5565.

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

You may be eligible for a senior citizen tax exemption on your primary residence if you are 65 or older by 12/31/24 **AND** your total gross income is \$58,400 or less. Property Owners with a Basic STAR exemption turning 65 by 12/31/24 may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR. All exemption applications are due 3/1/24. Please contact the Assessor's Office for more information at 518-273-2201. Appointments are strongly encouraged.

CORONAVIRUS Information

The Village has a limited supply of Covid-19 at-home test kits. If interested, please call the Village Office at 518-273-2201.

RECREATION NEWS

Thank you to everyone who sent a donation in support of the Green Island Food Pantry and/or the Green Island Christmas Program this holiday season. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Special thanks go out to the following groups that assisted those that needed just a little extra help throughout the holiday season: Green Island School District employees and retirees, Green Island Senior Citizens, American Legion Women's Auxiliary, Silhouette, the Sunday Night Bowling League, Lynn Fraim and the Christmas Pajama Project, Peter Jones and Hannaford of Niskayuna, Victory Bible Church, and all of our anonymous Santa's Helpers (shoppers and wrappers – you know who you are), all those that took tags from the Giving Tree or gave a monetary donation, and any others that may have assisted in any other way. Many people and organizations are involved in this program and the Village is extremely appreciative of all of them.

VOLUNTARY REGISTRY FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The voluntary registry for vulnerable people is a tool that the Village can use to help residents within the community during an emergency situation. People who are at risk due to a disability, frailty or health issue, regardless of age are encouraged to complete a form. All information will be used for emergency purposes only and will be kept strictly confidential.

Forms will be made available on the Village website www.villageofgreenisland.com, the Village Office (20 Clinton Street), and the Community Center (5 Center Street). Completed forms must be returned to the Village Office, C/O Voluntary Registry for Vulnerable People – 20 Clinton Street, Green Island, NY 12183. For questions or more information please contact Maggie Alix at 518-273-2201 or Maggie.Alix@villageofgreenisland.com.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #927

The Sons of the American Legion Post #927 are hosting a **CHICKEN PARMIGIANA DINNER** on **Saturday, February 24th, 2024** from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$12.00 for adults, \$6.00 for kids 6 – 12. Cost includes Chicken Parmigiana, Pasta, Salad, Roll and Dessert. Eat-In or Take-Out is available. Advance orders are recommended. For further information, please contact the American Legion at 518-272-1198.

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN WORKSHOP-CAPITAL REGION OPPORTUNITIES

The Capital District Regional Planning Commission is excited to announce that registration is now open for an in-person seminar on how businesses can leverage our region's Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) to unlock opportunities and minimize risks within global supply chains. This free half-day workshop is being held Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 from 10:00am – 1:00pm at the Capital Region Chamber – 5 Computer Drive South, Albany, NY 12205. If interested you can register online at www.niwt.org or by calling 518-453-0850.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

January 17, 2024

Dear Friends,

Well, the snow finally found out where we were hiding! But considering it is the middle of January, I don't think we have done too bad so far. I hope the rest of the winter is just as mild and Spring arrives early. Our DPW/GIPA guys continue to do a great job plowing the roads and clearing the sidewalks. Did you ever notice, the snow always seems to come on Garbage pick-up days when they are busy or on the weekends when they hope to get a little "down time?" I guess Mother Nature has a warped sense of humor! Please see the other newsletter to refresh your memory about snow removal procedures.

Thank you to all who made our Christmas Gift Program and Holiday Food Basket Program such a success. To all the volunteers and the generous donors, your willingness to give your time and your resources continue to amaze me year after year. Thank you so much!

Our Festival of Trees was once again a beautiful event. All 36 trees were taken again this year and we have a waiting list of folks who would like to participate next year if there are any openings. Thank you once again to Santa and Mrs. Claus for visiting us during this busy season. And thank you to all the participants for getting your decorations down so the guys could remove the trees before the snow came. And a special thanks to our DPW/GIPA guys who get the trees up, run the electricity and take the trees down every year. We couldn't do it without you!

See the other newsletter for details on the American Legion's Chicken Parm Dinner on Saturday, February 24th at the Post. They put on a great dinner every time and I promise you won't leave hungry. Actually, you will probably have to ask for a take-out container to bring home what you can't finish. Let's give them our support.

Please see the other newsletter with lots of other information, including how to sign up for a voluntary registry for vulnerable people during emergencies. In the old days, we called it a "shut in" list and it was for people who lived alone and couldn't get out of the house. But a lot of things have changed through the years, including many new people moving into town, changes in the health care system and people not knowing their neighbors like they did years ago. Please help us get reconnected so we can take care of each other – especially in times of emergencies!

Speaking of emergencies, our power outage last Saturday was a perfect example of how important “teamwork” is. National Grid had a situation on their lines outside of the village which caused our loss of power in town. Our DPW/GIPA guys worked with Grid to locate the problem, but unfortunately the damage caused to our lines was more extensive and took longer to repair. All lineman crews were staged in the western part of New York because of the storms out there. The closest crew was five hours away and they had to be released from where they were staged. While waiting for the out of town crew to arrive, our guys prepped the site, which included clearing the site and actually building a road to accommodate the trucks and equipment to install a new pole to replace the damaged one. Considering all the setbacks and the horrible weather conditions they had to work in, I am amazed that they were able to get it done as fast as they did! Once we knew it was going to be a while for the repairs to be completed, we opened up the Community Center, which has a generator, to any residents who needed a warm place to stay and they could charge their phones. We were able to do this because two employees volunteered to man the Center until the power came back on. They were there from Saturday afternoon until 4 a.m. on Sunday. That’s what I call “teamwork” and I appreciate the efforts and dedication of these employees, and of all our employees, who work every day to make our village the best it can be!

As an elected official, I have learned to bite my tongue for many years. I began my career as a public servant in 1984 on the Town Board, then in 1991 on the Village Board and I just started my 22nd year as your Mayor. I expect to take the punches. I do not have Facebook or any other social media sites because I see them mostly as a place of negativity and I choose to avoid that. Since our last emergency, people have been informing me of the negative comments being made about our response to the power outage. **I COULD NOT BE MORE PROUD OF OUR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL RESPONSE TO THIS EVENT.** Do any of you have any idea how much it hurts these dedicated employees who worked their butts off in a dangerous situation while enduring freezing cold rain and snow to get the job done? You may have been inconvenienced, but they were in danger, freezing and tired! You should be ashamed of yourselves. Next time we have an emergency, you might want to put down your phone and go check on a shut in, or shovel an elderly person’s sidewalk or see if they need anything. Or maybe you should get on your knees and thank God you aren’t the one working on the power lines in the dark in the middle of the night!

Sincerely,
Ellen