

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND
20 Clinton Street
Green Island, NY 12183
518-273-2201
www.villageofgreenisland.com
DECEMBER 2024

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

SENIOR CITIZENS (65 yrs. and older) - There are exemptions available to those senior citizens that are or will be 65 prior to December 31, 2025. The exemptions are income based. One of the owners must meet the age requirement and the home must be the primary residence. Exemption renewal applications will be mailed out toward the end of December. If you have not received your renewal application by January 15th, please contact the Assessor's office. New applicants can receive an application by calling the Assessor's office.

The **ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION for the 2025 ROLL** will be based on the applicant's 2023 income. The **NEW INCOME LIMIT of \$107,300** will be based on the applicant's **2023 Adjusted Gross Income**. The income limit applies to the combined income of all owners (residents and non-residents), and any owner's spouse who resides on the property. The STAR exemption is only an option for homeowners prior to 2015. If you became a homeowner after 2015, you may be eligible for the STAR credit check.

The **RP-467 Senior Citizen** exemption for County and/or Village tax purposes is available for those 65 and older with an annual income not to exceed \$58,400 for county purposes and \$29,000 for village purposes. This exemption is based on the applicant's **2023 Total Gross Income**.

The RP-467 Senior Citizens exemption and the ENHANCED STAR exemption are two (2) separate exemptions.

Due to changes enacted by the NYS Legislature, all recipients of the **Enhanced STAR must** enroll in the Income Verification Program. NYS Tax and Finance will determine your eligibility for the Enhanced STAR. If you are denied, or more information is needed, you will be contacted directly by the State.

New Homeowners – Due to law changes approved by the Governor and the NYS Legislature, the BASIC STAR program has been restructured. The NYS Tax Department will administer all NEW STAR applications, taking responsibility from your local assessor. **If you have recently purchased your home and are eligible for the STAR benefit you MUST register with NYS Department of Tax and Finance either online at www.tax.ny.gov or by phone at 518-457-2036.**

Alternative Veterans exemptions are available on the residential property of a veteran who has served during a designated time of war, or who has received an expeditionary medal. The exemption was expanded this year to include certain career members of the armed forces. Applications for the alternative veteran's exemption are available at the Village Office.

ALL EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED BY MARCH 1, 2025. If you have any questions, please call the office at 518-273-2201. Applicants are **STRONGLY** encouraged to call to make an **APPOINTMENT** with Maggie Alix.

RECREATION NEWS

Green Island Food Pantry - Thank you to everyone who gave a donation, either of non-perishable items or monetary, in support of the Green Island Food Pantry. Your kindness and generosity have not gone unnoticed. A special thank you to Peter Jones from Hannaford for graciously donating all the turkeys. The Thanksgiving baskets were delivered successfully in time for the holiday. The pantry runs on donations from the community; all donations, big or small, are greatly appreciated.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

If you are looking for a last-minute gift for the Special Senior in your life, gift certificates for lunch are available. Lunch gift certificates are \$3.00 each. Call Jill at 518-272-7262 or stop in at the Senior Center if interested.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

The Town and Village of Green Island will be holding a Swearing-In Ceremony for the recently elected public officials on Saturday, December 28th, 2024, 11:00AM at the Green Island Community Center – 5 Geroge Street. This is a public event, and all are welcome to attend.

WATER DEPARTMENT – IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Village water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct the situation. The New York State Department of Health determined that our public water supply well field was under the direct influence of surface water, and we would have to provide additional treatment or find a new source of water. You do not need to boil your water. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. This is not a situation requiring that you take immediate action. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. We do not know of any cases of contamination. However, until improvements are made, there is an increased chance that disease-causing organisms could contaminate the water supply. We are currently working with the Department of Health to modify our water system to comply with the State Drinking Water requirements. For more information, please visit <https://villageofgreenisland.com/village/water-sewer/>. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Maggie Alix by phone at 518-273-2201 or via email at Maggie.Alix@villageofgreenisland.com.

PLEASE POST THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Village, GIPA and Town Offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 31st and Wednesday, January 1st in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Changes to garbage pickup:

Tuesday, December 24th moved to Thursday, December 26th and NO BULK PICK UP

Wednesday, December 25th moved to Friday, December 27th

Tuesday, December 31st moved to Thursday, January 2nd and NO BULK PICK UP

Wednesday, January 1st moved to Friday, January 3rd

Also, please note that the January 2024 Village Board, Planning Board and GIPA meetings normally held on the third Monday of the month will be held on Tuesday, January 21st beginning at 6:00 p.m. due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREEN ISLAND

December 17, 2024

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I love having my family together and enjoying our traditional recipes that have been handed down from generation to generation. I love making the “McNulty potato dressing” which was given to my Mom by her mother in law (my Nana McNulty) many years ago. My husband sets a beautiful table, but he also cooks his Mom’s sausage dressing. I usually bake several apple pies and pumpkin pies, but I finally realized at my age that I can’t do it all anymore – so I bought them (gasp, gasp!). And you know what? They were pretty darn good, so I am doing the same thing next year. The most important thing is being together. Thanksgiving will ALWAYS be my favorite holiday!

Moving on to Christmas. We had our Festival of Trees on December 7th and it was lovely. Hot chocolate and cookies while everyone decorated and then Santa and Mrs. Claus joined us at 5 p.m. to light the beautifully decorated trees. The kids and grown ups performed the 12 Days of Christmas for Santa and then Santa and Mrs. Claus stayed to visit with each child and listen to their Christmas wishes. If you haven’t been to see the trees in the River Park, you should take a walk through to see them. They are especially beautiful after dark.

If you hear strange noises around sunset each night, it is probably just me chasing the crows. I have been chasing these little buggers for the last 20 years. They start coming in from the country in October and they leave in March. As long as we keep them moving before the sun sets, they won’t make Green Island their home. Their “droppings” can cause a serious health hazard and there are thousands of them, so that’s a lot of poop.

We will have a Swearing-In Ceremony for our recently elected Village Trustees on Saturday, December 28th at 11 a.m. at the Community Center at 5 George Street. Rick Jones, Joe Liotta and Barb Belokopitsky are sitting board members and Shelly Heffern is newly elected and is replacing Garry McGivern who decided to retire after many years of faithfully serving our community. We wish Garry the best and truly appreciate his many years of service. Everyone is invited to join us on the 28th to wish our Trustees well and thank Garry for his dedication.

I am not sure what else we can do to stop people from parking in the Fire Lane at the River Park. We have signs posted, the curb is painted yellow and we even had the road painted this summer and people still park there. The night of the school's Christmas Concert, seven cars parked in the Fire Lane and completely blocked the road. A bicycle couldn't have gotten through, let alone a Fire Truck or Police Car. This is unacceptable and it must stop. All the violators were given tickets. Next time they will be ticketed AND towed. Public Safety is our main priority. It is also a poor use of our resources to have Police Officers spending time ticketing vehicles. PLEASE be a responsible driver.

There is a ton of information in the other newsletter, so please make sure to read it. There is important info from the Assessor's office about applying for certain property tax exemptions, how to apply and important deadlines that must be met. If you are unsure of what to do, please call the office and make an appointment to meet with Maggie Alix. Also, please make note of holiday office closures and changes in garbage pick ups.

There is also information on a mandated disclosure of a drinking water violation from the NYS Department of Health. Our water is perfectly safe but the NYSDOH is requiring us to change the process of how we have been treating it for many years. We have been treating it as ground water under the direction of the Health Department. But they have now determined it is being influenced by surface water, so the manner of treatment must be changed. This is not an easy or inexpensive task so it will take time and money to get to the ideal final fix. In the meantime, while we will be doing an engineering study, short term remedies will be in place. The bottom line is the water is safe and if anything were to change while we are doing the study, you will receive immediate notification.

Well, I think that's it for me this month. I can't get over how fast this year flew by. My mother always said, "The older you get, the quicker the time goes by." Apparently she was correct. I guess I just didn't pay attention to how old I have gotten. The fact that my grandchildren are all adults should have been a good clue. But they say, "You are only as old as you feel." If that is true, I guess I don't look so bad for being 100!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

