

Town of Grand Island INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The Town of Grand Island will celebrate the Fourth of July and this nation's 250th anniversary of independence Saturday, July 4, with the following events:

- 50th annual Dick Bessel Independence Day Run: The Kids Run starts at 9 a.m. and the adult run commences at 9:10 a.m. Find race registration at <https://score-this.com>.
- 56th annual Independence Day Parade: The parade starts immediately following the Dick Bessel Run (approximately 10 a.m.).

Safety

- Road closures and additional information: Road closures begin at 8:30 a.m. All roads will open at noon. For more information, visit <https://grandislandny.myrec.com>.
- Distribution of items: Spectators must remain on the side of the parade route. Units are instructed that distribution of items must be done along the side – no throwing items from their unit – organizers do not want spectators entering the route in the path of moving vehicles.

Grand Island Neighbors Foundation extends thanks to Greater Buffalo Track Club

Submitted by the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation
David Conboy, President

The Grand Island Neighbors Foundation is deeply grateful to have received a generous \$4,500 donation from the Greater Buffalo Track Club (GBTC), made possible through the proceeds of the Grand Island Half Marathon held at Beaver Island State Park on May 2.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Greater Buffalo Track Club, especially its president, Roger King, and the many

sponsors, volunteers and participants whose support made this successful event possible.

Thanks, as well, to Neighbors Foundation board member Sue Nicol, whose leadership and dedication were instrumental in coordinating our involvement with this important fundraiser. Her efforts helped build a strong partnership that benefits the entire Grand Island community.

As an all-volunteer organization, the Neighbors Foundation relies on the generosity of individuals and organizations such as

the GBTC to fulfill our mission of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

These funds will be used to provide confidential food assistance to Grand Island residents facing food insecurity, helping ensure that local families have access to the support they need.

To learn more about the Neighbors Foundation, request assistance, or donate, please call us at 716-775-7998 or visit www.GIN-neighbors.org.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"



Second graders explore insect life at Eco Island

STORY AND PHOTO
BY ALICE GERARD

Senior Contributing Writer

Eco Island is a place where Grand Island students have the opportunity to explore nature and overcome fears, said director Cyndi Booker.

Eco Island, which is owned by the Grand Island Central School District, is open three to five days a week from October to June.

On April 30, a group of second graders from Kaegerbein Elementary School visited Eco Island to learn about insects and other animals. They looked at insects through a magiscope, which is a type of microscope. They made models of bees, they heard about the life cycle of frogs, and they learned about birds.

"I hope that they develop an appreciation for nature," Booker said. "I want them to be able to ask questions and to really appreciate things. For example, some (children) might be fearful of some animals. I'd really like them to overcome those fears with knowledge. For instance, understanding how bees are and the difference between bees and wasps. Making sure they understand how impor-



Cyndi Booker guides students through making a model of a bee.

tant bees are and the importance of insects in general, because a lot of kids are pretty squeamish about insects. However, when they take a look at them under a magiscope, all of a sudden, it creates a new world for them to take a look at."

Booker said Eco Island is designed to provide interactive learning for the students, as well as for the parents, who function as chaperones.

"It makes it more meaningful," Booker explained. "I think that every person actually benefits from a hands-on learning experience, both young and old. I make it my mission to try to make it as engag-

ing as possible. If we can make little model representations of what they actually see, it's going to stay more permanently with them."

Watching students experience nature at Eco Island is something Booker said she lives for. She said she likes to see "the joy on their faces when they ask questions and when they get excited about coming here. Especially when you hear them saying,

not just to me but to themselves, 'This is the best trip ever' or 'I'm having a great day.' They charge me up in that way. I guess you could say I live for that. I also get a lot of those kinds of comments from parents, too. 'I never knew that before.'

"Parents are the child's first teachers. So, if they can get excited about seeing things that their children are doing, that's going to be passed off to the entire family.

"But I also love the opportunity for kids, as well as parents, to teach me a few things, too. I'm not done learning."

Erie County Sheriff's Office Report

The following Grand Island response activity occurred Saturday, June 6, to Friday, June 12, according to the Erie County Sheriff's Office. ECSO deputies handled a total of 2,259 complaints among its county districts of 15 municipalities, including Grand Island, for the week of this report.

This included 407 premises checks; 10 neighborhood patrols; 143 vehicle/traffic stops; 306 calls to assist other agencies; and 20 arrest warrants served. The following is a small sampling of the noteworthy incidents on Grand Island.

Monday, June 8

• **I-190, assist person** – A walk-in complainant reported that, as she was turning from Whitehaven Road onto I-190, an unknown item flew off the truck in front of her and damaged

her windshield.

• **E. river Road, accident, injury** – After a rollover accident, the vehicle operator was transported to ECMC by Twin City Ambulance. He was later ticketed for operating at an unreasonable speed.

• **W. River/Bush roads, suspicious person** – Two subjects were reported to be walking on private docks along the river. Patrol advised them that they were on private property.

Tuesday, June 9

• **Timber Link Drive, accident hit-run** – A resident of the listed street reported their vehicle, which was parked in the roadway, was struck by a vehicle that did not stop. The accident caused damage to the taillight on the driver's side.

Thursday, June 11

• **Grand Island Boulevard, accident/PDO** – A vehicle backed into a parked vehicle in a motel and campground lot. There was minor damage to both vehicles.

• **E. Park Road, larceny** – A complainant reported finding his recently stolen concrete saw at a pawn shop. After patrol completed a police report, the saw was returned to the complainant.

Wednesday, June 10

• **Wallace Road, suspicious accident** – A resident of the listed street reported an unknown individual unsuccessfully attempted to enter her home through the front door. Patrol's investigation determined the subject went to the wrong address by accident.

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