



**Marcellus Village
Newsletter
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Dear Village Residents,



The Board of Trustees welcomes you to a new year and hopes that the Christmas season has been most enjoyable for you and yours. As we close out the year and begin another, the Board would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to all who helped to make the year a noteworthy one in our

history. The Board would also like to provide residents with some information and reminders as we look forward to a bright new year.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP!

There will be curbside pickup of Christmas trees again this year in the Village. The Highway Department will begin on Monday, January 5, 2015 and will continue through January 29, 2015 to do this. After that, residents will still be able to bring their trees down to the area behind the Village Hall and dispose of it as they do with grass clippings during other times of the year.



HEALTH CARE AND PENSION COSTS

Health care costs continue to rise, and both the Village and its employees will be required to pay, on average, an increase of about 13% for coverage, beginning in January 2015. Health care coverage is comparable to last year. Pension costs for next year have remained steady and have been projected by the Village Treasurer to be within allotted budget amounts.

COMPOST PROJECT

The Village has received an update from the NYS DEC regarding the funding that was to accompany our Compost Project. This project began in the summer of 2010 with a testing and feasibility study that called for the conversion of bio-solids (sludge) from our WWTP to composting. In January 2011, engineering studies and resolutions were approved, as well as an application to the NYS DEC for a recycling grant that would pay for half of the cost of building the composting facility – approximately \$400,000. We were told at the time that processing of the grant would take three to four years. The Village was notified in mid December that the process seems to be coming to a favorable conclusion and that the grant monies would be available soon. We are very grateful to the DEC for the processing of the grant, and equally grateful to our Treatment Plant Operators,



Greg Crslyer and Ryan Riefler, whose ideas for this project first spearheaded Village interests. We would also extend many thanks to MRB Group, in particular Brian Romeiser and Jim Oberst for their dedication to task and for all of the efforts they extended on behalf of our Village residents.

SEWER CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

The final phase of the project was completed earlier this year and we have completed making final payments to the contractors. With this done, we will proceed to scheduling a final consolidation project meeting, which should involve compilation of all expenses involved and then forwarding the results to the NYS DOS for payment of the \$600,000 grant awarded the Village back in 2012 and for which the Village had to first borrow and bond before reimbursement by the State. This should help to reduce what the State Comptroller has called "fiscal stress" for our Village.



VILLAGE-TOWN SEWER AGREEMENT

The consolidation of operation, maintenance, repair, and billing of the Village-Town-School sewer systems under the direction of the Village is completed by virtue of a new Intermunicipal Agreement signed by both the Village and the Town in October, a copy of which is on file in the Village office for public inspection. Having been awarded a \$600,000 Local Government Efficiency Grant in 2012, monies were used to pay for system-wide improvements as well as targeted improvements throughout the Village, Town and School District. It is a tribute to all parties involved that this ten-year agreement, which will last until December 31, 2024, is now complete and is an excellent example of consolidation of governmental services. Now that the consolidation is complete, the Village, which had to borrow the money beforehand, begins the process of having the State of New York reimburse the Village for the grant monies of \$600,000, awarded by the State of New York back in 2012.

CREEKWALK

Right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions by NYSDOT for the project are moving forward and should be secured within the next several months. The Village will end up owning the ROW after acquisition by the NYSDOT. Unfortunately, because of delays, all rights-of-way will not be secured until May 1, 2015, which means that construction of the trail will be delayed until the spring. Because costs have risen significantly in the years since the Village was first awarded monies for the project back in 2002, construction of the walk is planned for the south segment only, from Marcellus Park to Main Street. With a probable period of usefulness of 20 years, the cost of the project, as well as its enjoyment, will be borne not only by present, but also by future residents of the Village.



DRAINAGE ISSUES

On October 29, 2014, an informational meeting was held at the Marcellus Fire Station for both Village and Town residents to discuss some of the drainage and flooding issues that continue to result from heavy rains in the community this past summer. Representatives from both the Village and the Town, Onondaga Soil & Water Conservation, Code Enforcement Officers and an engineering firm

(MRB) were in attendance to offer some thoughts regarding the drainage situation and potential solutions to the flooding that occurs in the Village following heavy rains. It was noted that there will not be an easy fix to the drainage issue, and it will also require the full cooperation of those residents whose properties are affected by the heavy rains. Most of the areas of great concern are on private property and, as such, neither the Village nor the Town is able to provide much assistance without proper easements. There was good attendance at the meeting and many were able to express their own concerns regarding the situation. The meeting concluded with the caution that solutions to the drainage issues in the Village would not be easily found or inexpensive. The Village and its engineer will attempt to seek grant monies for an overhaul of a dated Drainage Study and request some help from Onondaga County to help mitigate several problem areas. Obtaining substantial grant monies seem to be the only way to bring about long term beneficial results.

F.O.G. (Fats, Oils, Grease) PROGRAM

During this holiday season, our Treatment Plant operators continue to urge our residents to become more aware of the problems with grease in our sewer system. Grease will stick to household and sewer pipes, and over time, grease buildup can block pipes and cause sewage backups. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system – they only shred solid material into smaller pieces. Our operators urge you to scrape



grease and food scraps from cooking surfaces into a container and put in the trash or compost. Do not put fats, oils or grease (F.O.G.) of any type down your drain or garbage disposal. Do use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids – and then empty them in the trash for disposal. In recent weeks, there has been an increase of calls from residents who have had sewer backups and these have been attributed, for the most part, to grease buildup and blockage in a resident's sanitary sewer, not the Village sewer main – this will often require a call to a plumber by the resident.

BOB CRYSLER PROCLAMATION

The Village was saddened recently by the passing of its long-time Highway Chief, Bob Crysler, for whom the Village Board announced a Proclamation at its November meeting. Bob was a fixture around the Village for over 20 years and his knowledge of Village infrastructure and his attention to the needs of the Village and its residents was exceptional. Bob retired several years ago, but he often came back to visit, as well as allow current employees to benefit from his expertise. He will be sorely missed by his own and by his Village family.

OLDE HOME DAYS

Meetings of the Marcellus "Olde Home Days - 2015" will take place at the Village Hall, beginning on January 8th. Scheduled for June 5th, 6th, and 7th in the Village and in Marcellus Park, the Olde Home Days promises to be

special again this year. Another fun filled weekend for our residents and we urge those who wish to participate to attend the first meeting, on January 8, 2015.

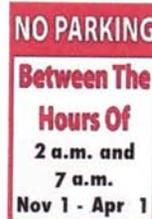


VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

At its December meeting, the Village Board approved the continuation of the Village Infrastructure Program, an agreement whereby Onondaga County agrees to provide financial assistance to the Village for the construction and maintenance of public improvements in the Village. This is the fourth year of a ten year agreement and it provides about half of the income that the Village once received in the form of sales tax revenue from the County. While the Village was fortunate to have received some revenue from the County, our financial future is far from satisfactory, and may continue to result in additional cuts in Village services or a rise in taxes in the next budget year.

PARKING

We remind Village residents that there is no overnight parking (from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.) on Village streets from November 1st to April 1st. If ticketed by Village Police, the fee will be \$35.00. In addition, there is no parking on the village right-of-way (from the sidewalk to



the road). We would urge residents to use the Village parking lots for any overnight, not long-term, parking situations. There are two (2) municipal parking lots that can be used - one is behind the Village Hall on Slocombe Ave and the other is off West Main Street, west of the Catholic Church. The Village has also received some complaints that some are violating the two-hour parking limit during the day, particularly on North and Main Streets. Again, for long-term parking, we urge residents and business owners to use the public lots.

STREET and SIDEWALK PLOWING

We also remind residents that during the winter months, our Village Highway plows not only the streets of the Village, but also the front sidewalks. It is residents responsibility to keep their own sidewalks clear of snow and ice. In addition, if residents have their driveways plowed, they need to inform the independent snow plow drivers that they or you must clear the village sidewalks after plowing. In addition, it is not permitted to plow snow into the street, nor across the street onto the Village right-of-way. It is also illegal to park cars or other vehicles on the village sidewalks, some of which are broken because vehicles have been parked on them. The Board would welcome input from residents regarding cracked or broken sidewalks so that repairs can be scheduled. Please notify the Village Clerk (673-3112).

SOME REMINDERS

The Village Office will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2015 and there will be **NO DELAY** for trash collection because of that holiday. On Monday, January 19th the Village Office will be closed to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and also closed on Monday, February 16, 2015 for Presidents' Day. Thank you for reading this newsletter and we hope that the New Year is a bright and happy one for you and yours.



John P. Curtin, Mayor
Patrick W. Cox, Trustee
Sara N. Tallman, Trustee
Dawn M. O'Hara, Clerk
Antonino J. Providenti, Treasurer
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney