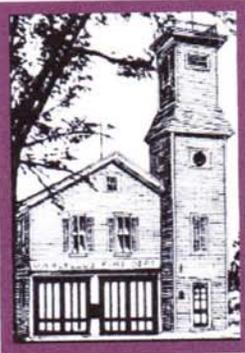


Marcellus Village
 Newsletter
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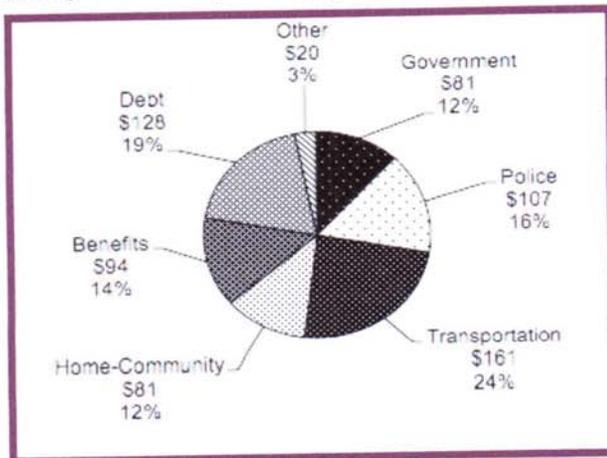
Dear Village Residents,

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on April 6, 2015, and includes appointment of officials, establishing meeting dates, as well as designating official newspapers and depositories. Also, a public hearing takes place on April 6, 2015 to consider the tentative budget of the Village for the next fiscal year. Approval of the budget will probably take place at the regular Board meeting on April 27, 2015.

The Budget

In January, Village property owners received their County and Town taxes, and that bill reflected a tax reduction for Village residents on average of about \$10 for a house valued at \$100,000 in the Village. Similar to the last four years, this tax reduction was made possible by the County, having slashed by more than half the sales tax revenue that once went to the Village, was then able to pass on tax savings to Village property owners in the form of reduced County taxes. Ever since then, the Village has had to make up for that revenue. Last year the County increased somewhat the amount of funding that is allotted to Villages under the Village Infrastructure Program, but not this year. The result is that our budget remains short of what is needed to provide adequate services and we therefore anticipate a slight tax increase of about 1.4%, which falls within the Governor's tax cap freeze proposal.

To balance the budget, the Board has cut services, and proposes to raise taxes by about 9 cents/1000. A pay raise of 2% is planned for all



employees, except for the Mayor and Trustees. All parts of the budget have been trimmed, some more drastically than others. Some budget

items are beyond control, including benefits (retirement and health costs), and unfunded state regulations. The Village debt remains somewhat the same this year, still too high, largely because of infrastructure work completed on Reed Parkway, Reed Street and Highland Drive. Despite cost cutting measures, holding the line on spending, and savings, a tax increase is necessary in order to make up for a loss of sales tax revenue, continued debt service and benefits as well as unfunded State mandates. For Village property owners, the tax rate will increase from \$6.63/1000 to \$6.72/1000 or 9 cents/1000. The pie chart indicates how monies from a \$672 tax on a \$100,000 home will apply.

Property Tax Cap Freeze

The Governor has proposed a property tax credit if the Village stays under a tax cap and moves towards consolidation of some sort. We expect to be able to stay under the tax cap and we have also moved towards consolidation, particularly of the village, town and school district sewer districts. The Village Board favors a tax cap, as long as meaningful relief from unfunded State mandates accompanies it. However, with continued unfunded mandates, coupled with a cap on its ability to raise revenue, it is very difficult to plan or even survive. However, in an attempt to secure a tax credit for Village residents, the Board, at a recent workshop, decided not to override the cap.

Fiscal Stress

In February, State Comptroller DiNapoli reported that the Village of Marcellus is "susceptible to fiscal stress." In our response, we noted that much of this stress could probably be attributed to the debt on the village books and much of the debt will be reduced when the Village is reimbursed by the State of New York for several projects for which the Village has had to bond before being reimbursed. There are four particular sources for this "stress" including: a \$1.6 million borrowed for the Reed-Street-Reed Parkway project - a long term bond that will be paid off in 25 years; a state-promised Local Government Efficiency Grant of \$600,000 for the consolidation of the village, town and school district sewer system; a \$400,000 reimbursement from the state under the Clean Air-Clean Water Act for the composting of sludge project at the WPCP; and an 80% reimbursement of a \$278,000 grant from the State Department of Transportation for the Creek Walk project. We are confident that when full state reimbursement takes place, the village books will look healthy.



Board Appointments

At its Annual Meeting, the Village Board will reappoint Tim Manahan, to a five-year term as a member of the Village Planning Board - from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2020. In addition, the Board will reappoint Kay Kershaw to another full 5-year term as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. We thank Tim and Kay for their willingness to serve on these Boards.

Trash Transfer Site - Town Shred Day

The trash transfer site for Village and Town residents will begin on April 24th and April 25th, with additional dates on May 1st and May 2nd and

May 8th and May 9th. The fee schedule remains the same as last year. A permit is required to enter the transfer site and obtained at the Town office. Tires as well as items that contain freon, such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or dehumidifiers require an additional fee. Some items are not accepted including garbage, recyclables, hazardous waste, roofing shingles and brush over 6 inches in diameter. In addition, a Town Shred Day is planned for May 9th from 8 a.m. to Noon in the Town Parking Lot.

Identify Theft

Our police department urges residents to protect themselves against identity theft. A resident was contacted by someone claiming to be a representative of a cyber security company, telling the resident that, for her protection, she needed to sign onto a website called supportme.com. If residents encounter similar incidents, please contact our police department and please remember NEVER to give out personal information over the phone or Internet.

Creek Walk Project

This project continues to move ahead. The Rights of Way have been secured by the NYSDOT on behalf of the Village and some trees on the site have been cut so as not to disturb the nesting season of the Northern Long-eared Bat. It is hoped that all of the lingering environmental issues have been addressed and that bidding and construction of the trail can begin this spring and summer.

Clean The Village For Earth Day



The Village of Marcellus will again participate in an Earth Day Clean Up on Friday, April 17th, 2015. Third graders from Marcellus School will participate in this event and we welcome any individuals or groups to join us in helping clean the Village of litter lying along the roadsides. We will meet in front of the Village Hall to distribute bags and gloves. If you're interested in participating, please show up about 1:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Contact the Village Clerk (673-3112) for more information.



Brush Pick-up

With the arrival of spring and a need to clean up before Memorial Day and Olde Home Days, the Village Highway crew will start brush pick-up on April 6th and end on May 3rd, 2015.

- ⇒ Limbs cannot exceed 6" in diameter, 8' long and must be piled with large ends facing the same way.
- ⇒ Small brush such as rosebushes, spirea, etc. are to be bundled in units not to exceed 40 pounds.
- ⇒ Weeds and grass clippings will not be picked up and may be brought to the compost site behind the Village Hall.
- ⇒ No leaves, brush or grass are to be piled in any ditch where blocking drainage would occur.
- ⇒ Also, bring any leaves, brush, etc. to the compost area behind the Village Hall next to the Highway garage at any time.

Flushable Wipes Are NOT Flushable!!!

We continue to urge residents to avoid using what are called flushable wipes - they are NOT flushable - nor are dental floss, cotton swabs, hygiene products, kitty litter, facial tissue, fats, oils, and grease. All of these should be put in the trash and only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed. To avoid plumbing problems, which will most likely occur on residential property, not in the Village main, please be aware of this concern. We also reference an Internet video that explains the problems associated with flushable wipes. Please view the following: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLTVqkXVvNk>. It is also posted on the Village website.

Olde Home Days

Meetings of the "Olde Home Days - 2015" take place at the Village Hall every first Thursday of the month, the next meeting on April 2nd. Scheduled for June 5th, 6th, and 7th, in the Village and in Marcellus Park, the Olde Home Days is honoring the "Reagan Companies" and its profound involvement in our community. It promises to once again be very special for our community, with music, a parade, food, crafters, fireworks, rides and, of course, the now famous Duck Race, sponsored by Marcellus Youth Soccer. Please support Marcellus Olde Home Days and the Marcellus community by buying Duck Race tickets - on sale at local businesses, in the Village Office and through individual volunteers. A fun filled weekend is being planned.



Utility Bills

The utility bill that residents receive this month is the last bill for our fiscal year. Please note that if a resident's bill is not paid by April 29, 2015, it will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2015. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 29, 2015, these too will be re-levied onto the owner's taxes for June 1, 2015.

Notice of Sign Placement



The highway department will soon re-install pedestrian crossing signs on Main Street in the Village. The signs are placed in the road, near the crosswalks, warning motorists that all vehicles must yield to pedestrians who are walking in the crosswalk - a New York State law.

Remember

The Village Office will be closed on Good Friday, April 3rd and Memorial Day, May 25th. There will be a one-day delay for trash collection because of Memorial Day. Also, because of Memorial Day, the regular Board Meeting will move to the 3rd Monday, May 18th. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we hope you enjoy a beautiful spring and summer.



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