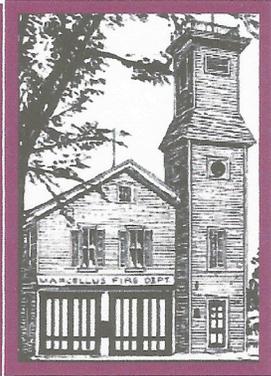


**Marcellus Village
Newsletter
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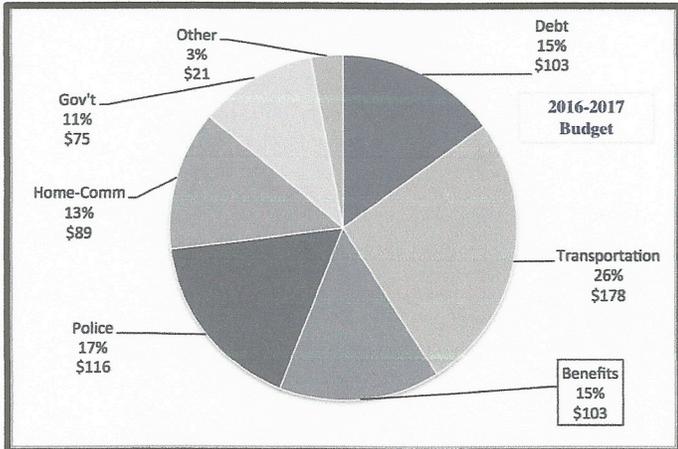


Dear Village Residents,

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on April 4, 2016, and includes appointment of officials, establishing meeting dates, as well as designating official newspapers and depositories. Also, a public hearing takes place on April 4, 2016 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 25, 2016.

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 1.9%, which falls within the Governor's "tax cap" but not "freeze" proposal.



To balance the budget, the Board has cut services, and proposes to raise taxes by about 13 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, such as unfunded state regulations. The Village debt remains slightly less than last year, but still too high, largely because of infrastructure work 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 \$6.72/1000 to \$6.85/1000 or 13 cents/1000. The pie chart indicates how monies from a \$685 tax on a \$100,000 home will apply.

Property Tax Cap and Tax Freeze

The property tax cap of 2%, which is another State mandate, complicates our budget and at a recent workshop, the Board decided to override the tax cap. The Governor has proposed a property tax cap freeze if the Village stayed under the tax cap and moved towards consolidation of some sort. We expect to be able to stay under the property tax cap and we have also moved towards consolidation, particularly of the village, town and school district sewer districts. However, the Governor's "tax cap freeze" proposal complicates the Village budget process and we are unable to abide the formula devised by the State for a tax freeze. The Board certainly favors a tax cap, and we will probably do that, but a tax freeze is not possible. There is no meaningful relief from continuous unfunded State mandates and this, coupled with a cap on the Board's ability to raise revenue, it is very difficult to plan or even survive. There are too many variables in the Governor's tax cap freeze-proposal for the Village and the savings, according to NYCOM, would be quite minimal.

Fiscal Stress

In February, 2015, State Comptroller DiNapoli reported that the Village of Marcellus was "susceptible to fiscal stress." In our response, we noted that much of this stress could 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 had to borrow and bond before being reimbursed. Since then, the Village has been reimbursed for some of the debt it had to assume in order to pay for the consolidation of the village, town and school district sewer system as well as reimbursement from the State for the composting of the sludge project at the WPCP. As we mentioned last year, we were confident that when state reimbursement took place, the village books would look healthy, and the Village Treasurer has confirmed that, indeed, the susceptibility to financial stress envisioned by the State Comptroller's Office has been eliminated. In fact, there does not appear to be any village in Onondaga County that bares the "susceptible to fiscal stress" label.



Board Appointments

At its Annual Meeting, the Village Board will re-appoint Gabriel Lutwin to a full 5-year term as a member of the Village Planning Board – from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2021. In addition, the Village Board will also reappoint Maribeth Rayfield to another full 5-year term as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals – from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2021.

We are very grateful to Gabe and Maribeth for their willingness to serve, without compensation, on these Boards.

Trash Transfer Site

The trash transfer site for Village and Town residents will begin on April 29th and April 30th, with additional dates on May 6th and May 7th and May 13th and May 14th. 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.

Updated Fee Schedule

At its April Board meeting, the Village Board voted to update the Village Fee Schedule, upon recommendation of our Code Enforcement Officer, including that for mobile food vendors, among others, a copy of which fee schedule is on file in the Village Office for public inspection. The fee schedule will also be available on line, at the Village website, under Village Code, Document C.

Creek Walk Project

We have had another setback with the Creek Walk Project, in that the bids that were opened on May 9, 2016 were much too high for the Board to consider. We are in the process of consulting with our engineers and NYSDOT to determine if part of the trail could be constructed at this time, and the remainder constructed when more funds become available.

Clean The Village For Earth Day



The Village of Marcellus will again participate in an Earth Day Clean Up on Friday, April 22nd, 2016. Second 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 4th and end on May 8th, 2016.

⇒ 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 bushes 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 – PLEASE 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 and that, along with other news about the Village sewers can be found at <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/village-sewers.html>

Olde Home Days



Meetings of the "Olde Home Days - 2016" take place at the Village Hall every first Thursday of the month, the next meeting on April 7th. Scheduled for June 3rd, 4th, and 5th, in the Village and in Marcellus Park, the Olde Home Days is honoring the "Public Employees of Marcellus" and its deep involvement in and commitment to 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, 2016, it will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2016. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 29, 2016, these too will be re-levied onto the owner's taxes for June 1, 2016.

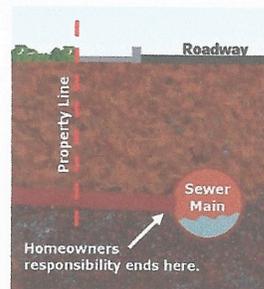
Notice of Sign Placement



Soon, the Highway Department will 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.

Election Results

Congratulations are extended to Sara N. Tallman on her re-election as Trustee on March 15, 2016. Re-elected to a four-year term, Sally will serve until 2020. The Board is grateful for the very dedicated service that she has provided our Village for the past four years and looks forward to continued accomplishment in the future.



Homeowner Responsibility

Homeowners should be aware that they are required to maintain the sewer laterals that extend from their homes to the sewer main, typically located in the middle of the road. Sewer laterals are entirely owned by the private property owner, who is responsible for the entire length of the lateral, to the sewer main.

At the sewer main, the Village assumes responsibility

Some Reminders

The Village Office was closed on Good Friday, March 25th and will be closed on Memorial Day, May 30th. There will be a one-day delay for trash collection because of Memorial Day. 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