

*Marcellus Village  
Newsletter  
Volume 20  
Issue #4  
Winter 2015-2016*

315.673-3112  
marboard@twcny.rr.com

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 4, 2016 and will continue through January 29, 2016 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 10% for coverage, beginning in January 2016. Health care coverage is comparable to last year. Pension costs for next year will decline by about 8% next year, and the Village attributes this to fewer police officer contributions. Both costs have been projected by the Village Treasurer to be within allotted budget amounts.

**ELECTION NOTICE**

The Board has published a legal notice that the office of Village Trustee is to be filled at the General Village Election to be held on March 15, 2016, the term for which office is four years.

**APPOINTMENTS TO PLANNING BOARD**

At a Special Meeting held on October 9, 2015, the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Planning Board Member and Chair, Dan Kwasnowski. Dan accepted a new position that will require him to be out of town during the week. The Board also commends Dan for his many years of service to our community. His expertise will be sorely missed. At that meeting, the Board also appointed Timothy Manahan, a current member of the Planning Board, to the position of Chair of the Planning Board, effective October 21, 2015, and appointed Gabriel Lutwin, of 25 Highland Drive, Marcellus to complete the unexpired term of Dan Kwasnowski, until 3/31/16, as a member of the Village Planning Board.

**TRANSFER OF BANK DEPOSITS**

At a previous Meeting, the Board of Trustees, because the Village became subject to a collateral surcharge or fee amounting to over \$550 every month, adopted a resolution transferring its funds from KeyBank to Solvay Bank and designating Solvay Bank as the official bank for the deposit of all Village monies. We are happy to report that the final transfer is now complete.

**TMDL and PHODPHORUS REMOVAL**

The Village had a visit from SUNY ESF Professor Neil Murphy and five of his students in November. As part of their senior thesis project, the students have agreed to help the Village work on some solutions to the phosphorus removal mandate at the plant. They were given a tour and an explanation of what is going on, and they will have return visits as well. We are excited that their young minds are working for us (at no cost), and we hope to report back with some promising results in the future.

**INCREASE IN SEWER RATES**

At its September Board meetings, following a public hearing, the Board authorized an increase in sewer rates – from \$51 to \$63 per quarter. This increase will become more evident with the January billing that residents will receive, and we would like to make you aware of them, even though they have been in effect since October. The increase will cause the average residential customer in the Village to pay an additional \$15 per quarter, from approximately \$300 per year, on average, to approximately \$360 per year. These rates have increased largely because of increased costs resulting from directives and mandates imposed on the Village by the NYS Department of Conservation (DEC), and this is the first of several increases in sewer rates that the Board will consider in the months and years to come. In order to fund an upgrade to the Sewer Plant, mandated by the DEC, totaling approximately \$5.5 million, our engineers have projected that the cost per sewer user could potentially be as much as \$500 per year, if no other funding is found. If we were able to obtain grants for this project, the cost per user would be reduced according to the value of the grant, and we have been actively pursuing many grant opportunities in recent months. Please be aware of this potentially budget-busting mandate that is being imposed by the NYS DEC.

**AWARD 36-MONTH HAULER CONTRACT**

At its November Meeting, the Board authorized the Mayor to sign a 36-month contract, beginning December 1, 2015 and ending November 30, 2018, with Superior Waste Removal Company for refuse and recycling pickup with in the Village of Marcellus. The three-year cost of this contract was bid at \$273,456.00.

**CREEKWALK**

Right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions by NYSDDOT for the project have been secured and these trees, possible nesting areas for the Northern Long-eared Bat, an endangered species according to the US Fish & Wildlife Agency, in back of McClurg's were cut on November 11<sup>th</sup>. We should now be able to bid the project during the winter and construct in the spring of 2016. With a probable period of usefulness of 20 years, the cost of the project, as well as its enjoyment, will be experienced not only by present, but also by future residents of the Village.



### TEXT-A-TIP

Chief Wicks has announced that Onondaga County has a new way to reach your local police with a crime tip – without revealing who you are. You could be witnessing a violent crime or a suspicious person or something else that police should know about. There are several ways to do this. You can text TIP411, or you can download the County's TIP411 mobile app on iPhone or Android, or you can find the Onondaga County Crime Tips Facebook page (you do not need to log into Facebook to submit a tip). All police agencies countrywide can now be reached at any time with a TIP411 text. It's very important that you type the code for the appropriate police department in your text. For example, **the code for Marcellus Police is TIPMAR.** The TIP411 line offers a way for those who are afraid to get involved to provide information to police, and our local police agency will do its job by investigating tips. Chief Wicks urges residents to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

### 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 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.



### PRESCRIPTION / DRUG DROP-OFF BOX

Chief Wicks would like to announce that a prescription/drug drop-off box, similar to a mailbox, is now located in the lobby of the Village Hall and is available for use by any residents who would like to dispose of any prescription or other drugs anonymously. The County Health Department will stop by monthly to pick up and properly dispose of such items.



### OLDE HOME DAYS

Meetings of the Marcellus "Olde Home Days - 2015" will take place at the Village Hall, beginning on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 7, 2016.

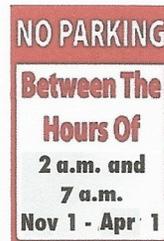
### VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

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 4th 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. 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.

### 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.



### 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).

### 15 MINUTE PARKING

The Board has received a request to designate two existing parking spaces on North Street in front of Calley's Hardware to fifteen-minute parking spaces, in anticipation of the opening of the new North Street Diner. It might be noted that this request has received the prior approval of the owner of the new North Street Diner, and having a maximum timed parking space in front of Calley's Hardware, similar to those so designated in front of First Cup on W. Main Street, would ensure customers would have an opportunity to park while shopping on North Street.

### SOME REMINDERS

The Village Office will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2016 and there will be NO DELAY for trash collection because of that holiday. On Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> the Village Office will be closed to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and also closed on Monday, February 15, 2016 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