

*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 Tuesday, January 3, 2017 and will continue through January 27, 2017. 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 2017. Health care coverage is not as good as last year. Pension costs for next year will decline by about 10% next year, and the Village attributes this to lower pension contribution rates by the Village. Both costs have been projected by the Village Treasurer to be within allotted budgets.

HAROLD MUNCY RETIREMENT

At its November meeting, the Board of Trustees announced the retirement of long-time highway worker and chief, Harold Muncy. The Board also issued a Proclamation honoring Harold for his service to the Village and conveyed best wishes in a well-deserved retirement.

NEW DEPARTMENT and APPOINTMENTS

At its October meeting, the Board passed a resolution establishing a new department, combining the Highway and Treatment Plant operations into a single Department of Public Works, and appointed Greg Crysler as the new Superintendent of that Department and Jim LaRose as his Deputy. In addition, the duties of Kathy Welsh, a long-time worker for the Village, were expanded to include additional work at the Treatment Plant and in the Village Office, in addition to her responsibilities as the Police Crossing Guard.

TMDL and PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL

in mid-September, the Village of Marcellus was fortunate to be awarded \$1,379,900 in grant funding and \$4,139,700 in loans to help the Village upgrade its Waste Water Treatment Plant and address the phosphorus removal mandate levied against the Village. The total estimated project cost of this mandate is \$5,600,00 and the grant will provide 25% of the cost. We are grateful for the funding and will continue to look for added funding in order to pay for the remaining cost of the mandated project.

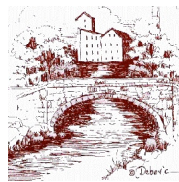


INCREASE IN SEWER RATES

Utility Bills – following recent delivery of Village utility bills, we have received a number of comments regarding the increase in sewer rates. The Board would like to explain the reasons for what appears to be a significant increase in the rates charged each quarter. Rather than publish a rather lengthy explanation in this newsletter, we urge residents to check the Village website to read a letter of explanation. http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/uploads/5/3/9/5/53954069/sewer_increase.pdf If a resident does not have access to the Internet, please call the Village Office (673-3112) and a copy of that letter will be mailed. 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.

CREEKWALK UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The construction of the creekwalk that has taken place in the fall is truly remarkable, and the Village is most grateful to the Town of Marcellus and its highway department for all of the help that has been extended. This has not only helped to reduce the cost of constructing the trail but it also serves as another excellent example of inter-municipal cooperation between the Town and the Village. This spirit of cooperation has always been evident in the past, but it has often been unrecognized. On behalf of the Village of Marcellus and its residents, the Board of Trustees would again like to convey its appreciation and gratitude to the Town and its employees for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration created by the creek walk project between our town municipalities. There remains an eight-foot wide section of the trail to be constructed behind the McClurg Building on Main Street. This will require a retaining wall to be built, along with asphalt paving, concrete work and pavement striping and will be competitively bid in the winter of 2017. For an update and some photos of the trail, residents are encouraged to check the Village website: <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/creekwalk-news.html>. 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.



POLICE WARNING

Residents should be aware that thieves have been active in the community, following FedEx and other vehicles delivering and leaving packages unattended. Chief Wicks urges residents to be vigilant about such activity and to notify the police if they have suspicions. Also, the Police have been out recently asking questions relating to break-ins around the Methodist Church/First Street area. Several cars were broken into last week on First Street as well as on Kelly Ave. This happened at 3:20 am and but for the vigilance of a resident who happened to be awake at the time, more vandalism could have been done. The Chief reminds everyone, once again - **lock up your houses and cars**. It takes a thief about 20 seconds to get inside a vehicle and get out. In less than a minute, items may be gone and it isn't until you get into your vehicle that you notice items are gone. This has been going on in other nearby communities as well. Please call the police if you have suspicions or want to report a robbery. After 2 a.m., Marcellus Police are not on duty and the only responder would be a single Sheriff's car, whose patrol extends from Onondaga Hill to Skaneateles.

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. There have been an increase in calls from residents who have had sewer backups and these have been attributed 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 again 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. In the next few months, there will also be a drop-off box for needle and syringe disposal. If residents need to disposal of needles or syringes, the Police Department is willing to collect and dispose of them.



OLDE HOME DAYS

Meetings of the Marcellus "Olde Home Days - 2017" will take place at the Village Hall, beginning on January 5th. Scheduled for June 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 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 5, 2017.

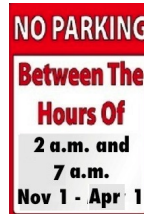
VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

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 7th 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. Despite this 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).

RETIREMENT and APPOINTMENTS

In the fall, Kurt Field retired as Deputy Code Enforcement Officer and Dave Weber was appointed as his replacement. In addition, two officers were appointed to the Police Department. The appointees included Sean Clere who now serves as a Village Patrolman as well as a School Resource Officer at Marcellus High School, following his retirement and a distinguished career at the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, In addition, Officer Rich Curran was appointed as a part-time Village Patrolman, following his retirement and a distinguished career at the Syracuse Police Department.

SOME REMINDERS

The Village Office will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2017 and there will be **NO DELAY** for trash collection because of that holiday. On Monday, January 16th the Village Office will be closed to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and also closed on Monday, February 20, 2017 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. Provvidenti, Treasurer
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney