

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – June 2015

Since the minutes from our regular monthly Board meeting are not formally approved and posted on the Village website until the following month, it seems that our residents might be more fully informed of Village affairs by having regular updates posted on our website sooner, rather than later. To that end, it has been decided to provide our readers with some monthly updates, and if there are any concerns or a need for more information, please call (673-3112) or email (marboard@twcnny.rr.com) the Village Office.

**Increase Refuse Rates** – at its June meeting, the Board approved a resolution to increase Village refuse rates from \$41.00 a quarter to \$45.00 per quarter, effective July 1, 2015. This is the first such increase in refuse rates in eight (8) years, and reflects a need to keep pace with rising costs associated with refuse collection.

**Create Positions of Special Police Officers** – at its June meeting, the Board approved a motion to create two Special Police Officer positions in the Village Police Department, which work involves responsibility for maintaining order and providing security in public buildings, schools and courtrooms. Creating these positions will help satisfy the requirements of the Onondaga County Civil Service Department and its Personnel Roster and allow these officers to work beyond the 1040 hours specified in part time positions.

**Appoint Special Police Officers** – at its June meeting, the Board approved a motion to appoint Matthew Hayes and John Scanlon, who are School Resource Officers at present, as Special Police Officers in the Marcellus Village Police Department, at the School Resource Officer rate ranging from \$25.50 to \$26.50 per hour.

**School Resource Officer Contract** – the Board also approved a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the School Resource Officer Agreement between the Village of Marcellus and the Marcellus Central School District, whereby the School District and the Village have determined that it is in their mutual best interests to enter into this Agreement to continue to provide for the assignment of three officers of the Marcellus Police Department to serve as School Resource Officers in the Marcellus Central School District. A copy of the agreement is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

**Girl Scout Thank You** – On behalf of the Village Board, I would take this opportunity to publically thank Girl Scout Troop 10352 and its troop leader, Ms. Joanne Satter, for their efforts at cleaning up Main Street after the Memorial Day Parade on May 25<sup>th</sup> as part of a community service project. The efforts of the scouts in completing this project are most appreciated by the Village of Marcellus and its residents.

**Olde Home Days** – was again successful, with probably some of the best weather we have ever had for the event – last month we thanked a number of people for their efforts in helping to beautify the Village flower boxes in time for Memorial Day and Olde Home Days. We also thank our Highway Department for the work they did in helping to beautify the Village in time for these special events, as well as the Village Police Department, to whom we give much credit for no vandalism or other serious problems during the weekend.

**Trucks in the Village** – we continue to receive complaints that a great many trucks, loaded with gravel, stone and dirt, have been coming through the Village, often spilling some of their loads on Main and North Streets and leaving a mess for our Highway Department to clean. Our Highway Chief was able to convince the truck dispatcher to have the trucks take a Scotch Hill Road route, but residents on that road registered complaints to the County and the trucks are back in the Village, using Main Street and North Street, which are State roads. We have registered our complaints to the County DOT, which has forwarded our concern to Honeywell, the company behind the cleanup of Onondaga Lake and to the State DOT, from whom we have not heard back.

**Creekwalk** – the project is continuing to move forward, and the advertisement for bids has been published. These bids are due by July 1, 2015, when the bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. There was also a pre-bid conference held on June 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., at which time the engineer was available to answer any questions from potential bidders. At present, there are five (5) contractors who have expressed interest, with several more expected. If some residents wish to become more familiar with the project, we urge them to check out the home page – <http://villageofmarcellus.com/>

**Code Enforcement and Officer** – our new Code Officer, Mark Taylor, is settling into his job, becoming familiar with code issues in the Village. Rental inspections continue, in particular the Braeside Apartments, with 125 separate units. In addition, several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance.

**Compost Project** – compost continues to be available for residents and if any residents cannot pick up compost during normal business hours, please call the Treatment Plant (673-4491) to make an appointment with one of the operators. The operators are available to answer questions and to help load compost for residents. Trees, grown by operators at the plant nursery, are also available for on a first-come-first-serve basis.

**Sidewalks** – per the Highway Chief's recommendations, repairs will be made to selected areas on South Street, Bradley Street and First Street pending budgetary concerns.

**Street repairs** – per the highway chief's recommendation, repairs to Hillside Drive and Baker Ave are being planned for this summer, in addition to some repair on Beach Road. Budgetary constraints must also be considered.

**Trees** – some tree removals have been or will be done on Orchard, South, and Bradley Street, along with some trimming. Also, there is a need to grind a number of tree stumps from last year's removals. About six tree plantings will take place in late summer or early fall.

**Sewer Consolidation Grant Project** – is complete and the Village has assumed full responsibility of the entire sewer district. The Village has also been reimbursed monies granted by the State back in 2012 and this reimbursement has certainly lessened the fiscal stress of the Village. We are, however, in the midst of a State audit of the project, which should be finalized soon.

**Scotch Hill Project sidewalks** – Community Development has notified us that our sidewalk project on Scotch Hill might be eligible for funding. Before that happens, however, the Village will be required to have residents on Scotch Hill submit an income survey to Community Development so as to determine if this project is eligible for hardship consideration. Recent HUD requirements have altered those areas of the Village eligible for Community Development funds, meaning that no areas of the Village are now being considered. With an income survey, strictly confidential, it is hoped that new sidewalk on Scotch Hill from North Street to the Village line will find approval.

**TMDL and Phosphorus Removal** – we have received some welcome support from our Congressman, John Katko, in the form of a letter to the EPA and a subsequent return letter to the Village from the EPA, expressing interest in some of the concerns that we have expressed about this unfunded mandate. We have written a letter to the DEC, asking for a response to concerns noted by the EPA and we are waiting on that response.

**SRO Contract** – with the Marcellus Central School District has been completed and signed by all parties concerned. Details of the contract, which will provide three (3) Village police officers (SROs) on the Marcellus Central School Campus, are provided in the agreement, and is available for public inspection. We also want to

publically thank Sgt. Earl Smith, who has been the SRO at the High School for the last five years. Earl is retiring and will be missed very much by the students and staff at MCS. This year, the Senior Class dedicated its yearbook to Earl, a sign of the respect that the students had for our Village officer.

**Planning Board** – is reviewing several projects in the Village, including a second story addition to the Reagan Building on South Street and the redevelopment of 8 Paul Street.

**New Businesses** – new businesses that opened before Olde Home Days included the EMS Bakery at 14 West Main Street and Papa's Pizzeria Express at 18 West Main Street. We welcome these new businesses and encourage residents to patronize them. They are most welcome.

**New Website** – we are in the process of developing a new website. The domain name will remain the same, as will much of the information and, until we go live, Bill Reagan will continue to do the updates. We would again thank Bill Reagan for all that he did for the Village in maintaining our site, without pay for so many years.

**Announce Village Meetings for July 2014** – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. I would make special note of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, which will be celebrated on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and on which day, the Village Office will be closed. In addition, there will be no delay in trash pickup that week. Also, the *Teal There's A Cure Run/Walk* will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, beginning at 9 a.m. in Marcellus Park. The Village-wide Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and there is no permit needed on that day for Village residents. A reminder to residents that July is Battery Collection Month. Residents should place old alkaline batteries into special yellow bags and place them on top of a closed trashcan or trash bag. Do not place the battery bags in the blue bin. There are a number of Summer Community Events at Marcellus Park – Thursday nights from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Annex Pavilion. Concerts are free and appropriate for the entire family. Finally, the Marcellus Community Band Concert will take place at Marcellus High School on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 7 pm at the High School.

**Thank you, Dr. Craig Tice** – on behalf of the Village Board, I would like to thank Dr. Craig J. Tice, Superintendent of Marcellus School District, for all that he has done for the Village. His efforts in negotiating and implementing a School Resource Officer Program at the school, along with his help and that of his staff, in helping to arrange for the implementation of the Sewer Consolidation Grant Project, are particularly noteworthy. Our loss is Fayetteville-Manlius's gain, and we wish him much success in his new position as the School Superintendent of that district.

**Special Memo from the Police Chief** – I received a memo from Chief Wicks regarding several of his officers and thought that it would be appropriate to share it with residents.

TO: Mayor Curtin  
FROM: Chief Wicks  
DATE: 6/22/2015

Over the last year, I have received numerous calls from residents and citizens regarding our officers. When most police departments receive calls regarding their officers; the calls are usually citizens complaining about the officers. The calls I receive are usually people calling to commend our officers.

Although I don't recall every conversation, the most recent calls went like this:

A resident called to inform me that her husband had passed away and Detective Pitman responded and

handled the call. The lady could not be more complementary about how Detective Pitman investigated the call. According to the caller, Detective Pitman was extremely compassionate and stayed with the caller until she was able to have the funeral home respond and take care of her husband. The caller wanted to make sure that

I knew how professional and caring Detective Pitman was during this very upsetting and sensitive time for the caller.

A motorist called regarding Officer Fortino. The motorist broke down in the village while she was having a problem with her car shaking. While on patrol, Officer Fortino stopped to help the motorist. Officer Fortino noticed that the lug nuts on the motorist's front wheel had almost come completely off and only two were still on the wheel. Officer Fortino took one lug off of her remaining wheels and put it on the front wheel so that she could drive home. The motorist was extremely complementary and said that she could not say enough about how well Officer Fortino treated her. This is not something that our officers are expected to do, but like out other officers, Officer Fortino will take the initiative and help whenever he can.

When I stop by the schools, school employees and parents make it a point to tell me what a good the SROs are doing. Sgt. Earl Smith has decided to retire and not work at the school full time. Last week almost all the High School administrators, teachers, employees and senior students wore red shirts and tan pants (the color of Earl's uniform). This was done to show Earl how much everyone respected him and that he was going to be missed.

These are only a few examples of the work our officers do on a daily basis and the respect that our community has for them.