

*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.

YES, THERE IS CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP!

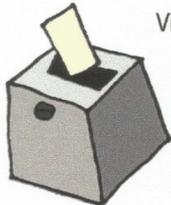
There will be curbside pickup of Christmas trees again this year in the Village. The Highway Department will begin on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 and will continue through January 26, 2018. After that, residents will still be able to bring their trees down to the area behind the Village Hall and dispose 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 9% for health and 4% for dental coverage, beginning in January 2018. Health care coverage is not as good as last year, particularly in the area of co-pays. Pension costs for next year will decline by about 3% from last 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.

ELECTION 2018



Village elections will be held in Marcellus on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, from Noon to 9 p.m. Two four-year terms on the Village Board for both Mayor and Trustee will be on the ballot, and we urge Village residents to participate in the selection process.

NEW VILLAGE BUSINESSES



The Village Board would like to call your attention to a new business in the Village. It is called "Finders Keepers Mining" and is located at 16 East Main Street. Owned and operated by John Lischak, the business includes a Gemstone & Fossil Shop, a Retail Store, an opportunity to do some gemstone

panning, and a party room as well. The business opened in October and its hours are: Tues-Sat – 10am-7pm Sun – 11am-4pm
Mon – Closed Phone – 315-494-1074

TMDL and PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL PROJECT

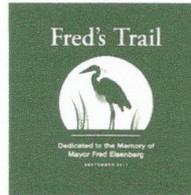
The Bids received on December 5, 2017 for the WWTP Phosphorus Removal and Upgrade Project were very disappointing, especially that for the General Contract. This can be attributed, in large part to the fact that there were not many bids received and that a major project in Oneida County probably took focus away from our rather small undertaking, by comparison. It might be the recommendation of our engineers to reject the bids at our January Board Meeting and rebid at least the General Contract during the winter.



INCREASE IN SEWER RATES

The Village is hopeful that the additional funding from WQIP Round 14 will be helpful in order to meet the DEC mandate to upgrade the treatment plant. This upgrade of over \$5.5 million can only come from sewer rate increases and it is hopeful that the increases that are already in place will be sufficient to meet the expense involved. Coupled with the disappointing bids for the project that were received in early December, it is probable that if no additional funding is received, we will have to put the project on the shelf until the next funding cycle, or scale back the size of the project considerably.

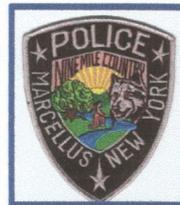
CREEKWALK – FRED'S TRAIL



The creekwalk is in its final stages of completion – paper work for the most part and well as reimbursement from the State. We might also note that the trail is not open nor is it plowed during the winter season. For those interested, please check the Village

Website for an update, some photos as well as a video of Fred's Trail – <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/creekwalk-news.html>.

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. 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 disposal of needles or syringes, the Police Department is willing to collect and dispose of them.



OLDE HOME DAYS

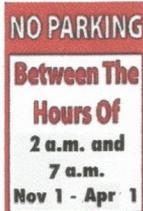
Meetings of the Marcellus "Olde Home Days - 2018" will take place at the Village Hall, beginning on January 4th. Scheduled for June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, the Olde Home Days promises to be special again this year. Another fun filled weekend for our residents and we urge those who wish to participate to attend the first meeting, on January 4, 2018.

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 8th 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), nor on the sidewalk. 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).

POLICE APPOINTMENT

The appointment of Peter Heise, who also serves as a Village Patrolman, to be the School Resource Officer at Marcellus Middle School, has taken place recently. This followed the resignation of Officer Matt Hayes, who opted to take a job with the federal government. We wish Officer Heise and Officer Hayes well in their new positions.

ZEV GRANT

We would note that the Village has been reimbursed \$16,000 by the

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Now Operational



NYSDEC for the Zero Emissions Vehicle Rebate Program. This grant enabled the Village to install an Electric Vehicle charging station in the Village parking lot, as well add lighting,

cameras and asphalt paving to the site. Since this is a 20% match, the Village will accomplish about \$20,000 worth of work for a \$4,000 investment and we again credit our former employee, Ryan Riefler, for his continued efforts on behalf of the Village and its residents.

LEAF PICKUP

Some residents have voiced some concern recently about Village leaf pickup and the setting of a date for the pickup to end. It should be noted that an arbitrary policy must be set, since there is no way to know when the leaves will stop falling. Setting a date, which is usually in early November, does not mean that the DPW will stop picking up leaves. The DPW continues as long as possible, usually into mid-November, before the snows arrive. However, the trucks must be outfitted with plows and salters so as to be ready for snow. When snowstorms occur, any leaves that are still in the Village right-of-way, will remain there until the snow melts and the DPW is able to remove them – perhaps not until the spring of 2018. If residents are able to bag their leaves, the DPW can use one of the pickup trucks to remove them, or residents can bring the bags to the compost site at the rear of the Village Hall.

SOME REMINDERS

The Village Office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018 and there will be a **ONE-DAY DELAY for trash collection** because of the holiday. On Monday, January 15th the Village Office will be closed to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and also closed on Monday, February 19, 2018 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. Provoidenti, Treasurer
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney