



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 Wednesday, January 2, 2019 and will continue through January 25, 2019. 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 have resulted in an increase of about 2% for health and 0% for dental coverage, for both the Village and its employees beginning in January 2019. Health care coverage is similar to last year, with some increase in deductibles. Pension Costs for next year have been projected to be within the allotted budget amounts.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

At a special emergency Board meeting held on December 3, 2018, the Board implemented an emergency No Parking Ordinance on First Street, Meadow Street and Second Street between the hours of 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday, until at least the spring of 2019. This traffic ordinance became necessary because the increased number of automobiles parked on those streets has made snow plowing virtually impossible. First Street, and the other streets became virtually one-way streets and emergency vehicles would have a very difficult time trying to navigate those streets between those hours. The ordinance has worked very well – students and staff at MCS are now parking on campus, in designated places and the parking situation in and around the school is now fluid. However, the Board found it necessary to again expand the “no parking” restrictions in the area in order to adapt to the continually changing conditions and the Board approved another traffic ordinance, whereby no parking is allowed on either side of the upper part of Reed Parkway, between Second Street and Highland Drive, between

the hours of 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday, until at least the spring of 2019. The Board did not expand the “no parking” restriction on all of Reed Parkway because parts of that street are wide enough to accommodate two vehicles, even with parking on both sides.

UPDATE ON WWTP UPGRADES

The \$7.7 million treatment plant upgrades mandated by NYSDEC to remove phosphorus from the plant’s effluent are well underway. Construction of two new clarifiers, a new UV tank, a new head works building and modifications to the control building are in progress and on schedule. The financing package of grants and loans have helped to keep the cost of the project down, but an increase in sewer rates has become necessary.



INCREASE IN SEWER RATES

Because of mandated WWTP upgrades, the Village Board has increased the sewer rents significantly within the last three years to offset the cost of design and construction to meet the mandated requirements for phosphorus removal. However, we have found it necessary to approve another sewer rent increase of approximately 33%. This will mean a minimum quarterly sewer rate, for Village sewer users, of \$100.00 (from \$75.00) and a minimum annual cost of \$400 (from \$300). The average annual cost will be about \$540 (from \$415) for a Village resident. However, since the Village bills in arrears, this new increase will not become evident until the April 1, 2019 billing. It might be noted that sewer rates in nearby communities are quite similar and in most situations, are higher than those in Marcellus. The annual cost for outside users is anticipated to be about \$675 (from \$516). In order to prepare our Treatment Plant for operation well into the 21st century, these increases, while hefty, are unavoidable.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION PROJECT

It is with much gratitude that we express many thanks to former Trustee Bob Wilson for organizing and leading our recent Village Christmas Decoration Project. Bob contacted a number of businesses, organizations and individuals in the community, asking for donations to help fund the purchase of 30 new Christmas decorations with LED lights. While some were major gifts from businesses and individuals, there were also a number of smaller gifts, and we wish to express many thanks to everyone who was so generous to the Village and to Bob’s appeal. Installed on the telephone poles by our DPW department, we invite you to take notice of them when you are Main, North and South Streets. We are sure that you will agree they provide much community pride and create a mood that makes people feel good about how our Village looks.



F.O.G. (Fats, Oils, Grease) ADVICE

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.



INCREASE IN REFUSE RATES

Following approval of a new garbage hauler contract in November, the Board, at its December meeting, approved a resolution to increase refuse rates from \$45.00 a quarter to \$50.00 per quarter, effective January 1, 2019. This is the first increase in refuse rates in three (3) years, and reflects a need to keep pace with rising costs associated with refuse collection, particularly OCRRA recycling rates.

OLDE HOME DAYS – May 31, June 1 and 2



The Olde Home Days is now under the direction and management of the Marcellus Rotary and the first meeting of the 2019 OHD Committee will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at the Welcome Center in the Park, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Scheduled for May 31st, June 1st, and 2nd, the Olde Home Days promises to be special again this year – another fun filled weekend for our residents.

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VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

At its December meeting, the Board approved the continuation of the Village Infrastructure Program, whereby Onondaga County agrees to provide financial assistance to the Village for maintenance of public improvements in the Village. This is the 9th 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.



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 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, independent snow plow drivers must clear the village sidewalks after plowing. 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 vehicles on village sidewalks, some of which are broken because of illegal parking. We welcome input from

residents regarding broken sidewalks so that repairs can be scheduled. Please notify the Village Clerk (315-673-3112).

LED LIGHTING IN THE VILLAGE

Utilizing a \$100,000 grant to implement clean energy projects, the Board approved a retrofitting of many Village lights, including historic lights on Main, North and South Streets as well as the coach lights on Kinderwood Drive, to direct wire LED type fixtures. Other LED retrofits have also occurred in the Village Hall, the Village Garage and the Treatment Plant. The grant will also add six new historic lampposts, with LED fixtures, on Chrysler Street and Paul Street.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Now Operational



ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

The station, installed last year as part of a NYSDEC grant, has a defective screen, although it still charges vehicles, if a consumer has the appropriate app. EV Connect has forwarded the issue to the manufacturer so that the company can send and install a new screen.

PARKING PROJECTS

Recently two parking lot projects have been or will be completed in the Village. A new library parking lot has been created across from the Marcellus Free Library on Maple Street, providing additional



space for library patrons, as well as convenient book return and postal drop-off boxes. The Village has been instrumental in helping Andrew Aupperle, President of Siteworks, Inc. of Marcellus to complete this project, which included

some Village roadwork as well. Siteworks is to be commended for its professionalism, attention to detail and genuine cooperation with the Village in completing this project. Another parking lot extension is associated with the North Street Apartments on Paul Street. This extension not only adds more parking at the apartment complex, but also calls for the installation of refuse dumpsters for the apartments at 34 North Street, a significant improvement over the use of individual trash cans, especially on garbage pickup days. Regrettably, winter weather has hampered the efforts of contractors to finish this project, now delayed until spring.

SOME REMINDERS

The Village Office will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 and there will be a **ONE-DAY DELAY for trash collection** because of the holiday. On Monday, January 21st, the Office will be closed to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and also closed on Monday, February 18, 2019 for Presidents' Day. There will be **NO** trash delays on these days. 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
 Sara N. Tallman, Trustee
 Kevin F. O'Hara, Trustee
 Charnley A. Abbott, Clerk
 Antonino J. Providenti, Treasurer
 Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney