

**Marcellus Village
Newsletter
Volume 23
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Spring 2018**

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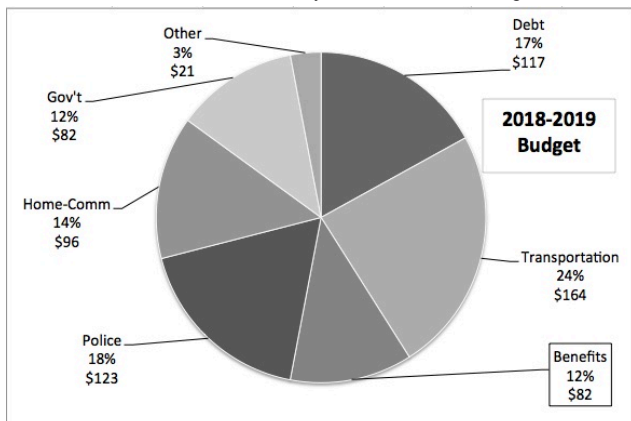


Dear Village Residents,

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on April 2, 2018, and includes appointment of officials, establishing meeting dates, as well as designating official newspapers and depositories. Also, a public hearing takes place on April 2, 2018 to consider the tentative budget of the Village for the next fiscal year. Approval of the budget will take place at the regular Board meeting on April 23, 2018.

The Budget

The proposed General Fund budget for the Village's fiscal year ending May 31, 2019 maintains the Village tax rate at \$6.85 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the third year in a row. Despite no increase in the Village tax rate, this tax levy will generate approximately \$3,500 in additional revenue for the Village, due to an overall increase in the total taxable value of properties in the Village as determined by Onondaga County. This proposed Village tax levy also would not exceed the NYS Tax Cap Limit. The Village also intends to keep its trash collection rates unchanged for the upcoming fiscal year, at \$45 per unit. However, the Village has been informed that there will be no increases in financial assistance from either NYS or Onondaga County for the upcoming budget year. The Village greatly values the work performed by its employees, and will be giving employees a 3% raise in this new budget. Through the continuing efforts of the Village departments to operate as fiscally conservative as possible each budget year, departmental costs have been controlled. This has not only benefited the Village in offsetting



the costs of unfunded mandates by NYS such as pension costs and health insurance, but in addition, it has resulted in the Village's proposed General Fund budget showing a \$30,000 budget surplus for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2019. For Village property owners, the tax rate will remain at \$6.85/1000. The pie chart indicates how monies from a \$685 tax on a \$100,000 home will apply.

Sewer Fund

The Village's Treatment Plant is currently faced with a very costly mandate from New York State requiring the level of phosphorus in the treatment plant effluent to be permanently reduced to 1.0%mg/L. In order to be able to pay for the upgrades to the WWTP, at a projected cost of over \$7 million, the Village has found it necessary to raise sewer rates to all users of the consolidated sewer system in the Village, Town and School District, which is owned and operated by the Village. The minimum sewer rate was previously raised to \$75.00 per unit for Village sewer users and will remain at this rate for the Village's fiscal year ending May 31, 2019. All of this additional sewer usage revenue will serve to build up the Village's Unappropriated Sewer Fund Balance for the sole purpose of paying for these upgrades. The possibility exists, however, that further increases in the Village sewer user rates will become necessary in subsequent fiscal years, depending upon the actual final cost of these WWTP upgrades. Based on this, the Village's proposed Sewer Fund budget shows a \$92,000 budget surplus for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2019.

Increase In Sewer Rates

In trying to offset excessive sewer rates, the Village has been successful in securing some funding, including several WQIP awards of \$80,000 and \$1,000,000, and a EPG grant of \$30,000, as well as zero (0%) percent financing from the Environmental Financing Corporation, and it is hoped that additional funding can be secured to help meet the DEC mandate to upgrade. A potential SAM grant of \$250,000 is pending, as are others. However, the plant upgrade is now over \$7 million and bids have been awarded for the construction to begin in the spring. Funding can only come from sewer rate increases and was hoped that the increases that are already in place will be sufficient to meet the expense involved. Coupled with the disappointing construction bids received in December, it is probable that we will have to raise sewer rates again, this time in excess of 30%. At present, Village sewer users pay, on average \$413.13 annually. A 31% increase would bring that average rate up to \$541.39 – a quarterly increase of about \$32.00, or an annual increase of about \$128.00. This is an average estimate, since sewer rates are based on water usage in the Village. For Town sewer users the increase would be even more astronomical, given that outside users pay an additional 25% over that of the average Village sewer user. An average town sewer user would pay approximately \$676.74 annually, an annual increase of about \$160.00, beginning in 2019.

New Business in the Village – Grand Opening April 7, 2018



A new business will open in the Village at 20 W Main St. *Marcellus Mercantile* specializes in vintage finds, time-worn treasures, well-loved décor to give your home a whimsical one-of-a-kind look a chain store cannot provide. An eclectic mix of authentic vintage finds from a wide variety of time frames and styles are available. Tell them what you like and let them hunt it down for you.

(By appointment only – call or text)

Kim – 315-430-4865, Melissa – 315-439-4197, Sue 315-416-9256

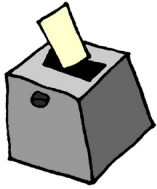
Property Tax Cap

The property tax cap of 2%, another State mandate, complicates our budget and at its March meeting, the Board overrode the tax cap. We expect to stay under the property tax cap but the cap confounds the process and we might not be able to abide by the State's tax cap

formula. Having learned from the experience of several towns, it is best to override, if only to protect the Village from penalty.

From the Mayor

Kevin O'Hara and I would like to thank the voters of the Village for our election as Mayor and Trustee on March 20, 2018. It is our hope that we are able to maintain the Village infrastructure, stabilize the tax rate and the village debt, although an increase in sewer rates, because of mandated upgrades to the WWTP, will be most challenging. Together with Trustee Sally Tallman, we also hope to address drainage issues. We would also thank outgoing Trustee Patrick Cox, whose steady advice and dedicated service was exceptional during his eight-year tenure on the Village Board.



Board Appointments

At its Annual Meeting, the Village Board will re-appoint Ed Carlson to another 5-year term as a member of the Village Planning Board – from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023. In addition, the Village Board will also reappoint Kim Spitzer to another 5-year term as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals – from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023. We are very grateful to Ed and Kim for their willingness to serve, without compensation, on these Boards.



Trash Transfer Site

The trash transfer site for Village and Town residents will begin on April 27th and April 28th, with additional dates on May 4th and May 5th and May 11th and May 12th. The fee schedule remains the same as last year. A permit is required and obtained at the Town office. Tires as well as items with Freon, such as refrigerators, air conditioners or dehumidifiers require an additional fee. Some items are not accepted including garbage, recyclables, hazardous waste, and no contractor debris. In addition, there will be an Electronics Waste Disposal with the trash days this year and this will require a special permit.

Clean Energy Community

Having been designated as a "Clean Energy Community," the Village of Marcellus has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to implement clean energy projects and will include a retrofitting of existing Village lights, including the 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 lighting retrofits will occur in the Village Hall, the Village Garage and the Water Pollution Control Plant. The Village is delighted with this award and most appreciative of the efforts of Ryan Riefler, and others who helped to secure this grant.

Creek Walk

Fred's Trail will reopen for the public when the snow finally leaves the trail. At first glance, it appears that the winter weather has not caused much damage to the trail. Some hardy people braved the elements to walk the trail this winter, although it was not officially open.

Clean The Village For Earth Day

The Village of Marcellus will again participate in an Earth Day Clean Up on Thursday, April 19th, 2018. Third graders from Marcellus School will participate in this event and we welcome any individuals or groups to join us in helping clean the Village of litter lying along the roadsides. We will meet in front of the Village Hall to distribute bags



and gloves. If interested in participating, please show up about 1:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.



Brush Pick-up

With the arrival of spring and a need to clean up before Memorial Day and Olde Home Days, brush pick-up will start soon. With Board's approval, the DPW is going to continue last year's policy in 2018. Brush may be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on Mondays from April 2nd to May 7th. Also, during summer months (June, July and August), brush may be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on the first Monday of each month during those summer months.

Police and School Safety

We call your attention to the issue of school safety. Chief Wicks met recently with MCS Superintendent Brantner during a Channel 9 television broadcast, which we have also placed on our website – <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/recent-news.html> and we urge residents to view. The video highlights how well prepared Marcellus School Resource Officers are to handle threats against the school, better in the Board's opinion than any other school district in the state. The model prepared by Chief Wicks could well be used in other school districts and the Chief has recently visited other school districts as well as State and local officials hoping to encourage some changes that would make the program even more effective.

Olde Home Days

"Olde Home Days 2018" is planned for June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, in the Village and in Marcellus Park, and honoring our Health and Dental Professionals. We congratulate Dr. Andrew Merritt and Dr. Edward Kantor who will be Grand Marshals of the Olde Home Days Parade on June 2nd. Please support Marcellus Olde Home Days. A fun filled weekend is being planned.



Utility Bills

The utility bill that residents receive this month is the last bill for our fiscal year. Please note that if a resident's bill is not paid by April 30, 2018, it will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2018. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 30, 2018, these too will be re-levied onto the owner's taxes for June 1, 2018.

Notice of Sign Placement

Soon, the Highway Department will re-install pedestrian crossing signs on Main Street in the Village. The signs are placed in the road, near the crosswalks, warning motorists that all vehicles must yield to pedestrians who are walking in the crosswalk – a New York State law.



Some Reminders

The Village Office is closed on Good Friday, March 30th and will be closed on Memorial Day, May 28th. There will be a one-day delay for trash collection because of Memorial Day. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we hope you enjoy a beautiful spring and summer.



John P. Curtin, Mayor
Sara N. Tallman, Trustee
Kevin F. O'Hara, Trustee
Dawn M. O'Hara, Clerk
Nino J. Provvidenti, Treasurer
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney