

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – May 2019

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 (315-673-3112) or email (clerk@villageofmarcellus.com) the Village Office.

**Public Hearing** – was held regarding Local Law #3 of 2019, which would allow for amending Article II of Chapter 150 to add the option of lowering the Village speed limit of 30 mph. At present, Village speed limit is 30 mph unless signs are posted allowing it be “in excess of”. There is nothing about the limits being “lower than” 30 mph. Therefore, upon recommendation of the Village Attorney, proposed Local Law #3 will allow for revising Chapter 150-18 of the Village Code to add the option of lowering the Village speed limit of 30 mph. At present, the posted speed limit on First Street is 25 mph, mostly because this has been a street heavily travelled by pedestrian school children. It has been at this speed limit since 2001, but never formally adopted into the Village Code. In addition, there has been a recent request to lower the speed limit in front of the Marcellus Free Library on Maple Street, from Orange Street to the end of Maple Street. This would allow a speed limit to be set at 25 mph on that stretch of Maple Street.

**Local Law #3 of 2019** – was approved allowing the Village Board to amend Chapter 150-18 of the Village Code to add the option of lowering the Village speed limit of 30 mph

**Re-levy of Unpaid Sewer and Refuse Charges** – because of a major computer glitch in the Village software program, and a need to reissue sewer and refuse charges, a motion was made and approved to have the Board forego the re-levy of unpaid sewer and refuse charges and to extend the deadline for payment of the quarterly utility bill to the end of June 2019. This also includes a motion to forego special assessments for unpaid vacant dwelling registration and unpaid property maintenance fees to Village of Marcellus property tax bills as well.

**Review Driving Policy** – because the safety and well-being of our employees, as well as that of our residents is very important to the Village, the Board of Trustees desires to protect employees and community members while on the road and reviews the driving policy each year. A motion was made and approved to require all employees of the Village who drive Village-owned vehicles to follow the Village of Marcellus Driving Policy, which was updated this year, a copy of which is on file in the Village Office.

**Authorize Maximum Speed Limits to the Village Code** – the maximum speed limit of twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph) at which vehicles may proceed on or along Village streets is hereby established and/or continued for the following streets and locations:

Name of Street	Location
First Street	Between Slocombe Avenue and Reed Parkway
Maple Street	From Orange Street to the end of the Maple Street

**Storm Water Report** – a motion was made and approved to accept the Annual Storm Water Report completed by W-M Engineering and to keep a copy on file in the Village Office as well as on the Village web site. We thank W-M Engineering and Bill Reagan for their completion of this lengthy report at a cost of \$500.

**Code Officer and Fire Inspection** – fire inspections and rental inspections continue, along with vacant house registrations, code violations being issued for litter and rubbish piles, new library parking approval along with change of occupancy at several sites and several building permits.

**Pedestrian Signs, Benches, Banners and new Flags** – have been re-installed on Main Street and elsewhere by the Highway Department. Many thanks to our Department of Public Works employees for doing this and to our Banner and Flag Committee, headed by Bob Wilson, for all of his efforts in helping to beautify the Village.

**Compost at the Treatment Plant** – will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, residents are able pick up compost but they should also be aware of the fact that construction at the plant might hinder their ability to pick it up. It would be best for residents to call the treatment plant ahead of time (315-673-4491) to determine when it would be most convenient to pick up compost.

**WWTP Upgrades** – to the plant will have been completed, we expect, by the end of August 2019. While it has been a year of construction, we have not experienced too much inconvenience or interruption in the plant's operation.

**Olde Home Days** – is planned for May 31st, June 1st, and 2nd, in the Village and Town, and we urge resident participation. Banners and placemats and posters have been installed and distributed during the first week in May. Advanced ride tickets are now available at selected locations including the Village and Town Halls.

**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 have occurred in the Village Hall, the Village Garage and the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Village is delighted with this award and most appreciative of the efforts of Amanda Mazzoni at the CNYRPB, and others who helped to secure this grant. The project is now winding down, virtually complete, and the Village has now filed for reimbursement by NYSERDA.

**Creek Walk** – Fred's Trail has reopened officially for the public, and our highway department had to do some limited repair to the trail – it appears to have wintered well. We welcome the spring as well as those who will take advantage of this gem in our community. If some residents are not familiar with the project, we urge them to click on the home page of the Village website <http://villageofmarcellus.com/> and then on Village News.

**Sidewalks** – last year at this time, we informed residents of its intention to finish some amenities to the Village right of way on Chrisler Street this summer. The overhead cobra streetlights on Chrisler Street have been replaced with new historic lampposts, similar to those that presently line North, South and Main Streets in the Village. In addition, the Board proposes to extend the Village-owned sidewalk on Chrisler Street, from that where it presently ends at #12 on the south side to the end of the street, and from #9 on the north side to the end of the street, thus completing a pedestrian loop of the entire

street. It is also our hope that in the near future, a pedestrian trail might be created at the end of Chrisler Street, on Village owned property, which would connect with and provide access to the Marcellus Free Library. Also, per the DPW Superintendent's schedule, some new sidewalk will be installed elsewhere pending budgetary considerations.

**Street repairs and Tree removals** – per the DPW Superintendent's schedule, repairs will be made to Highland Drive (the road and driveway aprons) and Slocombe Ave, as well as storm water drainage pipes on West Main Street, pending budgetary consideration. Also tree removals are planned, per the DPW Superintendent's schedule, pending budgetary considerations.

**Flower Boxes** – the new flower boxes that were constructed two years ago by Kyle Denka as part of his Eagle Scout project have weathered very well. They will be filled again this year, using compost from WWTP, giving a good indication of the value of the compost. Kathy Welsh will again be instrumental in the plantings in these boxes using flowers that she has both grown from seed as well as some that she will or has purchased.

**SRO Contract** – with the Marcellus Central School District has been completed and is in the hands of the Marcellus School Board. Details of the contract, which will provide three (3) Village police officers (SRO) on the Marcellus Central School Campus, are provided in the agreement, and may be subject to slight change before final approval by both parties.

**Earth Day Cleanup** – in the Village took place on May 3rd and the 4th graders at Heffernan Elementary School were able to spread out across the Village to help in this cleanup. The Village provided gloves and bags for the cleanup and we would like to thank, once again, Nojaims Grocery Store for providing some refreshments for the students. We sincerely thank the students as well as the staff and faculty at KCH for all of their help in making this annual event so successful.

**Memorial Day** – parade and ceremonies are planned for Monday, May 27th and we urge residents to plan to attend this annual event. The Village Office will be closed on that day.

**Village Web Site** – Village Clerk Charnley Abbott regularly updates our website and she has been most accommodating to our Village and its residents. If there are any items that residents might feel should be included on the site, please contact her at the Village Office (315-673-3112) with your requests.

**Bridge Work on South Street** – there is a planned closure of South Street Road by the Onondaga County DOT (contact is Paul Hood – 315-435-3207) beginning in the fall of 2019 – September or October – for approximately six (6) weeks. The closure of the road, from about the intersection of Bishop Hill Road and South Street to Lee Mulroy road is for bridge maintenance – near Nightingale Mills. Local traffic will be allowed onto the road and Nightingale's will still be accessible but the road will be closed going south from there. This will also affect school bus routes. DOT has a concern about large vehicles travelling north on Route 174 making a turn onto Slate Hill Road and then using Platt Road. It is therefore planning a detour route to the blinking light on Lee Mulroy Road, taking a left onto Main Street and then another left onto South Street (which has limited weight). They do not expect too many large vehicles making deliveries to Nightingales, but there may be a few.

**Conversion of overhead HPS lights to LEDs** – recently, NYSEG converted all of their HPS overhead cobra head lights to LED lights, and some residents have concerns that the LEDs are too bright while some think they are not bright enough. Others are pleased because they can see so much more clearly at night while walking. Generally, the feedback is that most folks are happy with the conversion, especially considering the cost savings of 60% to the Village. There will be an adjustment period as change is never easy but keep in mind that the Village chose a “softer” temperature of light to minimize the brightness associated with LED technology. Sometimes when community members talk about lights being “too bright” they are referring to the color rendering, whereby they can see things more clearly under the LEDs than with the old HPS lights. The LEDs are producing a similar amount of light in terms of lumens but you are able to see more clearly because they have a slightly whiter light than the orange-yellow HPS light color. The Village selected the warmest light option. The new LED street lights are warranted for 10 years, so fewer outages are anticipated for residents. In addition, both the Village and Town of Marcellus were early adopters of the Governor’s push to have all municipalities to be converted by 2025 and this program has shown much progressive improvement for residents of the community. If there continue to be concerns about this conversion, please contact the Village Office and we will try to address those concerns. We also have printed a letter to residents about this LED conversion which is available for public inspection on our website and in the Village Office.

**Planning Board** – met in April to discuss and eventually approve a request to add 272 sq. ft. of office/exam room space at ½ Orange Street, a request that does not require additional parking. Onondaga County Planning Board has also sent its approval, with no comment.

**Announce Village Meetings for June 2019** – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents including special notification of the Marcellus Olde Home Days, sponsored by both the Village and Town of Marcellus, and scheduled for May 31st, June 1st, and 2nd 2019. In addition, the Village Office will be closed for the Memorial Day Holiday and Parade on May 27th and for Independence Day on July 4th. Also, a Village-wide garage sale is planned for Saturday, July 13, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Garage Sale Permits will not be required on that day.