

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – September 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.

**Stormwater Resolution - CNYPDB – Storm Water Management Program** – a resolution was approved Supporting Participation in the CNY Storm Water Coalition Staff Services and Education Compliance Assistance Program, pertaining to the requirements of the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Storm Water Phase II General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), a copy of which is on file in the Village office for public inspection. The one-year Agreement to participate will cost the Village of Marcellus \$3,600, a cost that is strongly opposed by the Village Board.

**Leaf and Brush Pickup** – the fall brush and leaf pickup dates were approved – brush pickup for 2019 will extend from Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and residents may put our leaves from Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. After November 18<sup>th</sup>, leaf pickup will end, and residents may collect leaves into large brown paper leaf bags and place the bags at the curb for pickup, weather permitting. Only these leaf bags will be picked up after November 18<sup>th</sup>. Residents may also drop off brush and leaves anytime at the Village compost site, located next to the Highway Department garage.

**Closing of First Street for Halloween** – a motion was approved to again close First Street between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Halloween for trick-or-treating, subject to conditions on October 31<sup>st</sup>, which is a Thursday this year.

**Shared Services Agreements** – a motion to submit several shared services agreements to the 2019 County Wide Shared Services Plan, as requested by the Onondaga County Executive, for consideration and adoption was approved. The understandings include Inter municipal agreements by and between the Village of Marcellus and the Town of Marcellus for shared highway as well as police personnel, equipment and services as well as agreements by and between the Village of Marcellus and the Marcellus Central School District for school security services and for shared personnel, equipment and services in the creation and maintenance of an environmental park on the site of a former woolen mill.

**Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement** – the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement was again tabled until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of a new agreement, with Spectrum Communications.

**Announce Village Meetings for October 2019** – Trustee \_\_\_\_\_ – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please note that the Village Office will be closed for Columbus Day, October 14<sup>th</sup>, BUT that there will be NO delay in trash pickup that week. The brush and leaf pickup dates are also listed on the handout, and there is another reminder that First Street will be closed from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Halloween, Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Updates – Mayor

**Creekwalk** – two years later, and Fred's Trail has had a number of walkers and the Village has received a number of compliments. If some residents are not familiar with the now-completed project, we urge them to click on the Village website <http://villageofmarcellus.com/> and then on News, then Village News, then Creek Walk News.

**Green Gateway Project** – last month, for the benefit of our residents, we provided a summary of what the Board and others have been working on since 2016 – a project that we hope will result in an environmentally positive gateway entrance to our Village – at the site of the former woolen mill on North Street. Printed copies of this summary are provided for the benefit of residents and are available in the Village office, as well as on the Village website (click on <http://villageofmarcellus.com> and then on News, then Village News, then Recent News. Also, an article appears on Syracuse.com that highlights the project for those so interested, a copy of which I also on our website. We would also mention that the STEM teachers and students at Marcellus Central have arranged for a volunteer clean up of the site to be

held on September 28<sup>th</sup> and we encourage any who wish to join in the effort to meet on the site from 9 to 12 in the morning.

**2020 Census** – Everyone Counts! – we encourage residents to visit our website and recent news for information on the 2020 Census, particularly “what you need to know” about the census, how this once-a-decade population count affects you and your government, as well as any concerns you may have about your responses to the 2020 Census.

**New Business in the Village** – a new business has opened on the site of the old “First Cup” Restaurant, called Olive and Fern, s business that specializes in antique sales and furniture restoration

**Street repairs – West Main Street** – we hope to have our contractor on site soon so as to complete the storm drainage repairs on a portion of the southern side of West Main Street (also known as County Rt. 41), from #15 West Main (the Grange) west to the Village line. Having also declared this action to be a public emergency permitting the Village to immediately retain a contractor, we are somewhat at the mercy of the contractor, who reassures us that the drainage pipes will be replaced this fall.

**Sidewalks** – because of the decision to reconstruct the sidewalks on the north side of Chrysler Street, budgetary constraints have limited the desire of the Village Board to add other sidewalk repairs in this year’s budget.

**Trees** – some tree removals and stump removals have been or will be done on, as well as some trimming. Some tree plantings are expected to take place in late summer or early fall, but the locations have not yet been determined.

**Parking** – as we approach the winter months, we remind residents that there is no overnight parking (from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.) on Village streets from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. If ticketed by Village Police, the fee will be \$35.00. We urge residents to use the Village parking lots for any overnight parking situations.

**School In Session** – and we urge residents to be aware of the fact that there will be students walking to school, particularly on First Street. Also, the State DOT has begun operation of the flashing lights on North Street and the Village Police Department will be even more vigilant in their enforcement of the traffic laws on that street – 20 mph

**Household and Hazardous Waste** – Do not pour hazardous waste or grease down the drain. Household hazardous waste products (such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides) dumped down the drain are most often not removed by the wastewater treatment process. Harmful chemicals from these wastes end up in rivers, creeks, and lakes where they can eventually enter the natural food chain. Additionally, pouring hazardous waste down the drain can endanger the health of municipal workers, disrupt the treatment process, and accumulate pollutants in aquatic ecosystems. Residential users can rid their homes of dangerous chemicals lurking around by dropping off such waste at four locations in the County, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, WITH AN APPOINTMENT. Appointments must be made (315-453-2866) five days in advance of your drop-off date. We also remind residents to cover garbage cans since those uncovered often attract crows and other pests. Washing out garbage cans and recyclable bins every so often, also helps promote a healthier environment.

**Fall Trash Days** – for Town and Village of Marcellus residents will take place on Fridays, September 27<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and on Saturdays, September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup> (8 am. to Noon). A permit, available by purchase from the Town Hall, is required for this service. Please check the Village and Town websites for more detailed information.

**Repair Plans** - owning a home has its challenges and dealing with emergency repairs is definitely one of them. Not knowing who to call or how much the repair will cost can be overwhelming and frustrating. Home-Serve USA is a company that offers Emergency Repair Service Plans that protect the property owner from expensive repairs that are not typically covered by basic homeowners insurance, a local utility or a municipality. As your home ages, so does the exterior water service line that brings fresh water to your house and to the drainage system that removes sewage from your house to the Village sewer main in the street. If these lines fail, repair or replacement can be expensive and most basic

homeowners insurance doesn't cover repairs to the water and sewer lines on your property. Home-Serve offers an exterior Water Service Line coverage as well as an exterior sewer line repair plan. If you are interested, we urge you to contact Home-Serve at 1-888-752-6740 or [info@homeserveusa.com](mailto:info@homeserveusa.com)

**Striping of Crosswalks** – on Village streets (by the Village) has taken place, along with parking spots on Main Street. Road striping on Main Street (by the County) has not taken place, nor has that on North Street (by the State).

**Village Taxes** – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totaling almost \$19,000 from 25 property owners, a figure significantly less than in previous years. Property owners may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2019, at which time they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

**WWTP Upgrades** – to the plant are still going on, with an anticipated conclusion by the end of October 2019. While it has been a year of construction, we did not experience much inconvenience or interruption in the plant's operation. There have been several change orders to the project, the costs for which have been absorbed by the contingency portion of the budget – which is still rather healthy. Funding for the project can only come from sewer rate increases, and the recent increase has brought the average annual rate up to about \$540.00 – a quarterly increase of about \$25.00, or an annual increase of about \$100.00. This is an average estimate, since sewer rates are based on water usage in the Village. For Village users, those rates have been reflected in the most recent utility bills. For Town sewer users the increase will be rather significant, given that outside users pay an additional 25% over that of the average Village sewer user. Beginning In January 2020, an average town sewer user will pay approximately \$677.00 annually, an annual increase of about \$128.00, beginning in 2020.

**Thank You To Our Employees** – the Village would like to thank all who participated in the work they did on the flower boxes this year, particularly Village employee Kathy Welsh, and our highway crew, whose attention to their care all summer was exceptional and enabled all in the community to enjoy their beauty. In addition, we call your attention to the green space on the corner of Scotch Hill and North Street. Village treatment plant employees continue to address landscaping there and provide another advertisement of the benefits that natural fertilizer can bring. Compost is mixed in with the plantings in the flowerbeds and broadcasted over the lawn area – showcasing the use of compost to the residents of Marcellus.

**Planning Board** – did not meet in September since there were no issues or concerns requiring that it meet.

**Storm Water Management Program** - Participation in the Storm Water Management Program offered by the CNY Regional Planning Board costs the Village \$3,600 each year. The one-year Agreement to participate costs the Village of Marcellus \$3,600, a cost that is strongly opposed by our Village Board. There are 31 municipalities participating, including the Town of Clay with over 58,000 people and the Village of Marcellus with under 2,000 people. Yet, all 31 municipalities pay the same \$3,600. That amounts to about \$8 for every resident of Marcellus and 18 cents for every resident of the Town of Clay. We have protested this seemingly unfair agreement in the past, and we will continue to object to the fee in the future, but we are, at present, somewhat obligated.