



**Marcellus Village
Newsletter
Volume 24
Issue #4
Winter 2019-2020**

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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 Thursday, January 2, 2020 and will continue through January 27, 2020. 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 3% for health and 0% for dental coverage, for both the Village and its employees beginning in January 2020. 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.

POLICE CHIEF RESIGNATION



As a result of his recent election as Supervisor of the Town of Lysander, Village Police Chief Robert A. Wicks is retiring from the Marcellus Police Department effective December 31, 2019. At its December meeting, the Board accepted his resignation, with much regret, effective December 31, 2019 and presented him with a Certificate of Excellence, thanking him for his dedicated

service of ten years (2009-2019) to the Village of Marcellus and its residents. The leadership of Chief Wicks of the Police Department for the last ten years has been extraordinary, particularly his strong support of community policing and his ability as well as those of his officers to reach out to the residents of our Village. His role in establishing a School Resource Officer Program at the Marcellus Central School District, now ten years old, is especially noteworthy and his ability to command the respect of his officers, the Village staff, residents of the Village of Marcellus as well as members on the

Board of Trustees is most commendable. The Village was indeed fortunate to have Bob Wicks in its employ for the last ten years and we wish him congratulations and the very best as he assumes a new role as Supervisor of the Town of Lysander.

UPDATE ON WWTP UPGRADES

The \$7.7 million treatment plant upgrades mandated by NYSDEC to remove phosphorus from the plant's effluent continues to be underway with an expected substantial completion date of January 31, 2020. We have received complaints from several Town residents living near the plant, as to the noise that emanates from the blower pumps as well as the lights that shine constantly and are disturbing to the residents. The operators have installed light shields on several of the indicator lights, and the lights have been adjusted so that they reflect down and not out. DEC regulations require that the plant be constantly monitored and after hours dimming would require the spending of thousands of dollars. The Village is looking into the planting of arbor vitae trees with the expectation that these would help to shield much of the plant from the neighbors. The operators have also installed deadening wrap on the blower intakes, as well as built some walls around the blowers, which seem to have reduced the noise significantly. We might also note that the 40th meeting of the Construction Project Team took place on December 18, 2019 and the next is scheduled for January 8, 2020.

INCREASE IN SEWER RATES

Because of mandated WWTP upgrades, the Board has increased the sewer rents significantly within the last three years. This has meant a minimum quarterly sewer rate, for Village sewer users, of \$100.00 (from \$75.00) and a minimum annual cost of \$400 (from \$300) and an average annual cost of about \$541.39 (from \$413.13). The annual cost for outside users is anticipated to be \$676.74 (from \$516.41). In order to prepare our Treatment Plant for operation well into the 21st century, these increases, while hefty, are unavoidable.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION PROJECT

It was this time last year that we expressed our thanks to former Trustee Bob Wilson for organizing and leading our 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. Unfortunately, Bob passed away last month and at its November meeting, the Board passed a Proclamation recognizing the service and memory of former Trustee Robert J. Wilson. Many of his contributions will remain on full display in our fair Village for years to come, particularly the downtown decorations which provide much community pride and create a mood that makes people feel good about how our Village looks. Bob was one of a kind, and he is sorely missed, but not forgotten and we would like to publically express our condolences to his family.



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.



OLDE HOME DAYS – June 5, 6 and 7



The Olde Home Days is now under the direction and management of the Marcellus Rotary and the first meeting of the 2020 OHD Committee will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at the Welcome Center in the Park, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Scheduled for June 5th, 6th and 7th, the Olde Home Days promises to be special again this year – another fun filled weekend for our residents.

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).

POLICE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION

At its regular Meeting on December 23, 2019, the Board appointed a new officer to the Marcellus Police Department. Officer Patrick DiCrasto will serve as a Village Patrolman following his retirement and a very distinguished career with the Syracuse Police Department. This appointment will be effective on January 1, 2020 and the Board is pleased to make this appointment and wishes Officer DiCrasto continued success as a member of the Marcellus

Police Department. In addition, the Board approved, at the request of Police Chief Wicks, the promotion of Officer Rich Curran, presently a Police Detective in the Marcellus Police Department, to the position of Police Sergeant in the Department. This promotion will be effective on Wednesday, January 1, 2020. We wish continued success for Officer Curran in his new role as Police Sergeant.

ELECTION 2020

Village elections will be held in Marcellus on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, from Noon to 9 p.m. One two-year term and one four-year term on the Village Board, for both Trustee positions, will be on the ballot, and we urge Village residents to participate in the selection process.

VILLAGE MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION GRANT

Onondaga County Community Development has reached out to the Village regarding the Village Main Street Revitalization Grant Program. This program is an initiative for elected officials to work with local business owners to develop a proposal that will positively impact Main Street and Village Center areas. The revitalization involves aesthetic improvements, business creation/retention and beautification that will lead to healthier and more economically vibrant communities. Proposals will be evaluated and villages selected based on the overall impact of the project. The Application for Funding must be completed by any interested business owners in sufficient detail, particularly the project description and estimated costs, and returned to the Village by January 10, 2020. Once all of the completed applications have been submitted to the Village, we (the Village) will combine the proposed projects into one application and submit that application along with the proposed projects as addenda to the application. The reason for this is that we were told that such an application would have a better chance of approval than multiple single applications. The limit for the five villages chosen is \$300,000 each, with a 25% match by the business owner. While some projects might be rather costly in scope, others might be small, but together the application's chance of success will look better. If some projects are large, and would utilize a large amount of the total to be awarded, that business owner might be asked to provide more than the 25% match, which would increase our chances of having all projects funded. The Board continues to be excited about the potential of this grant opportunity and we encourage those interested in participating, to complete the application and submit to the Village Office, 6 Slocombe Ave, Marcellus, NY 13108, or by email to marcellusmayor@twcny.rr.com by January 10, 2020

SOME REMINDERS

The Village Office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 and there will be a **ONE-DAY DELAY for trash collection** because of the holiday. On Monday, January 20th, the Office will be closed to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and also closed on Monday, February 17, 2020 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
Timothy P. Manahan, Trustee
Charnley A. Abbott, Clerk
Antonino J. Provvidenti, Treasurer
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney