

Updates From the Mayor

March 2025

- Village Comprehensive Plan- the first draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan for the Village is completed. The environmental review is anticipated to take place over the coming months and the Board is hopeful that the final draft will be ready for adoption over the summer.
- AIM Funding- A total of 375 city and village mayors, managers and administrators signed NYCOM's letter to State Leaders requesting an increase in municipal aid in the 2025-26 State Budget.
- Marcellus Highschool students are continuing to work on their Independent Studies projects with the Village Highway and the Town Highway
- The DPW and Mayor Clark Met with WEP about the Intermunicipal Wastewater Agreement between the County and the Village for emergency services.
- No Parking – regulations during the winter months, which calls for no parking on any Village streets from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m., ends on April Fool's Day, April 1st - no fooling!
- 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 the crosswalk – a New York State law. It is hoped that the signs will make it easier for pedestrians, particularly schoolchildren, to cross Main Street safely as well as cause motorists to slow down as they approach these crosswalks.
- Flag Replacement – the American flags that line several of our streets in the Village will soon be in place. We thank the American Legion for its continuing efforts in helping to keep these flags in good condition – an excellent example of how committed the Legion is to our Village and its residents. Thank you.
- Village Earth Day Participation – the Board would also like to announce that the Village will again participate in an Earth Day clean up on Thursday, April 24, 2025, with a rain day of Friday, April 26, 2025. We hope that students from KC Heffernan Elementary School will help to participate in this event and we welcome any individuals or groups to join us in helping clean the Village of any litter lying along the roadside and village rights of way. If you're interested in participating as a group or an individual contact the Village Clerk at 315-673-3112 for more information.
- Utility Bills – the utility bill that residents receive in April is the last bill for our fiscal year. Residents should note that if not paid by April 30, 2025, the bill will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2025. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 30, 2025, these too will be re-levied onto the owner's taxes for June 1, 2025. Please note that, unlike previous utility bills, payment for this final bill for the year must be made within the month.
- Creek Walk – At first glance, it appears that the winter weather has not caused much damage to Fred's Trail. There were some hardy people who braved the elements to walk the trail this winter, although it was not officially open. We welcome the spring as well as those who will take advantage of this gem in our community.
- Budget – the Village Board is working to finalize the 2025-26 Village Budget in preparation for the Annual Meeting.
- Compost is available at the Village of Marcellus Wastewater Treatment Plant! The Village of Marcellus Compost is produced from wastewater biosolids, through the controlled biological process of composting. At the WWTP, natural decomposition is accelerated enabling us to produce a high-quality product. By controlling the composting process, biosolids are sanitized through the generation of heat, then stabilized to allow for versatility of end use. Through this process, valuable organics generated from the Village WWTP are naturally recycled into a product which is beneficial to plants and the environment. We are able to transform waste into a beneficial product and continue to divert material from landfills. Our compost is safe, and quality tested. The compost has been treated by a process to further reduce pathogens. The Village has analyzed the compost in accordance with the requirement of the EPA & DEC. Compost is hygienically and environmentally safe if it is used properly. Village residents can use the compost on new or established lawns, flower boxes & house plants, flower gardens, and vegetable gardens. Any Village residents can bring a container(s) to the WWTP at 6 Mille High Drive weekdays 8am-3pm. First come first serve. If you would like confirmation of availability, please leave a message at 315-673-4491.
- Increase In Sewer and Refuse Rates – At the December 2024 meeting, the Village Board approved an increase in sewer and refuse rates, effective January 1, 2025. The utility bill received by residents in April will be the first time the new rates are reflected. Sewer rates have not increased since 2019 and in order to prepare our Treatment Plant for operation well into the 21st century, these increases are unavoidable. A new 36-month hauler agreement was executed in October of 2024, and the Board anticipates that the new rate for collection, \$55 quarterly, an increase of \$5 per unit per quarter, will remain stable for the duration of the contract. A copy of the new sewer rate schedule is available on the Village website for public inspection.
- Property Tax Cap – as was mentioned, our Budget is complicated by the property tax cap of 2%, which is another State mandate and at our recent meeting, the Board decided to override the tax cap. We might note that there seems to be no meaningful relief from continuous unfunded State mandates and these mandates, coupled with a cap on the Board's ability to raise revenue, it is sometimes difficult to plan or even survive.