



Village of Port Dickinson

Newsletter Spring 2015

Important Telephone Numbers:

Village Hall Business – 771-8233

Building Inspector & Code Officer 771-8233

Police – 722-1255

Fire Department Non Emergency 771-8233

Police & Fire Emergency – 911

WEBSITE: www.portdickinsonny.us

MAYOR: Kevin M. Burke – 723-5674

TRUSTEES:

Administration & Code: James DeGennaro 773-8078

Police & Fire: Michael Cashman 724-6764

Public Works & Parks: Bob Aagre 217-4122

Water & Sewer: Charles Harding 722-2534

FROM THE MAYOR: Our 2015-16 tentative budget does not increase our tax rate. This is primarily due to the increase of total assessed valuation of the village and the management of your Village Board, Clerk and Treasurer in controlling costs. This being done while maintaining the quality of life and the services we all have enjoyed. We are continually facing unfunded mandates from NYS and Federal Agencies in regard to storm water, drainage and numerous other directives. We are continuing the plans to merge our Public Works Department with the Town of Dickinson and will keep you informed of this schedule.

Recent news articles listed the Village as being “Fiscally Distressed.” This audit relates primarily to the budget of 2013-14. The Comptroller referred to the Villages practice of using the surplus fund balance to minimize tax increases. In our response to NYS we stated *“it was our intention while completing the annual budget to propose the minimum annual tax increase for our residents that would sustain our operations. This has been our goal for the last several years even prior to the Governors initiative of the Tax Cap. In using these surplus funds to retain the lower tax increases we always felt we had maintained what we believed to be a respectable fund balance to fund emergency type expenditures and non-recurring expenses based on past experiences. This also takes into account that many of the residents of our Village are on limited personal income and thus are not in a position to readily accept significant increases to local taxes. On an annual basis we did adopt a balanced budget by identifying and estimating expenditures to provide the services that the Village provides to its residents. We then estimated all sources of revenue to fund these services.”*

EMERGENCY FLOOD WATER CONTROL PUMPING FACILITY.

The construction of this new facility located adjacent to Watson Avenue at the levee will continue this Spring. This pump will have a propane powered engine thus eliminating the need for emergency generators in the event of a power failure. Also to be installed is a concrete pond and ramp where portable pumps can be safely located in the event of the need for additional pumps. Monitoring equipment and remote cameras to detect water levels on both sides of the levee will also be installed.

The current 6,000 gallon per minute pump will be replaced by a 9 to 10,000 GPM pump. This is a NYSDEC project that has been contracted out to a local construction company. We are grateful to Senator Libous and his staff for assisting us with this project.

BUILDING PERMITS are MANDATORY

The following require permits (not limited to)

All New Structures & Construction including In & Above Ground Pools, All Decks, Certain Size Sheds, Hot Tubs, All Additions, Fire Place/Wood Burners, Porches and *Handicap Ramps

**Virtually all Handicap Ramps per the NYS Building code do not comply and would require a variance. The Village passed a resolution to allow these non-compliant ramps only for the temporary period that they are needed, but still require a permit.*

CALL THE BUILDING INSPECTOR @ 771-8233 WITH ANY QUESTIONS PRIOR TO INITIATING YOUR PROJECT. THIS WILL ALLOW YOU TO AVOID DELAYS, LEGAL ACTION & ADDED COSTS.

Please allow time for the Inspector to return your call.

You can pick up permit applications at the Village Hall.
PLAN AHEAD!

If you initiate construction without a permit the permit cost increases to \$100.

YARD WASTE PICKUP: Starts Tuesday*April 7.

ALL DEBRIS MUST BE IN SOLID CONTAINERS. Max. 40lbs. Overweight containers/bundles will not be picked up. **NO PLASTIC BAGS. BRANCHES MUST BE TIED IN 4 FT. LENGTHS.** Place containers/bundles between the sidewalk and the curb after 2PM on Mondays. **If the preceding Monday is a Holiday then pickup will be on Wednesday so place containers to the curb on Tuesdays.*

FREE SHADE TREES and Free Planting. The Village Tree Restoration Program funded by the Nimmonsburg Rotary Club will have 25 free shade trees available for Village residents. Please call the Village Hall 771-8233 and reserve one.

SPRING TIME VOLUNTEER PAINTERS: painters needed to spruce up some of our public spaces. Leave a message at the Village Hall for Trustee Bob Aagre if you would like to donate a few hours. No experience necessary only a desire to make their community look better.

PARK FUNCTIONS: If you wish to reserve the Park Pavilion, Ball Fields etc. call the Village Office ASAP. Don't wait and miss out. Village residents have priority until April 1.

CODES TO BE ATTENTIVE OF:

- **Discharging/Mowing Grass into the street is illegal.**
- **Garbage, Recycling and Lawn Debris Containers,** may be placed to the curb the day prior to the day of pickup. For lawn debris that would be 2PM on Monday. Containers must be removed from the curb area no later than 9PM the evening of that pickup. All debris must be in suitable containers to prevent blowing and scattering. *Please be considerate of your neighbors!*
- **Canine Waste: you must clean up after your dog. Violation is a \$25 Fine and potential seizure and impoundment of the dog.** 22-3A.

In addition to our Code Enforcement Officer, violations are reported by the Police and Public Works employees.

PORT DICKINSON COMMUNITY ASSOC:

Membership drive currently in progress as new members are always needed. Plans to finish new out building and press box for the upcoming baseball & softball season. 2ND Annual combined civics popular **SUMMER FUN PROGRAM** at CV High School will again be offered this summer.

Please support their fund raising activities as 100% of all proceeds and donations go directly to support the youth programs. Consider a donation to the PDCA as they are tax deductible and it will go a long way in serving our youth and community.

Watch for activity on the PDCA Sign on Chenango St. at the Community Park entrance.

For PDCA information call: Rob Moss 723-6388

Visit the PDCA WEB SITE for more information

www.portdickcommunity.org

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Your Fire Department like all Volunteer Departments is always in need of additional members and especially if you're available during the day. Please call the Village Hall at 771-8233 and leave your name and a FD Representative will contact you about how you can serve your community. Please keep in mind that there are various involvement levels in which to serve. It is a very admirable way to serve your community. Please support the Fire Department with their upcoming Fund Raisers as all proceeds directly benefit our Fire Fighters.

YOU CALL THEY'LL BE THERE!

TO HELP OUR FIREFIGHTERS PLEASE:

- **When you see a Blue Light behind you while driving please allow them to pass.**
- **Make sure your Smoke and CO2 Detectors are working properly. Replace batteries annually**

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Call the Police if you see or hear any Suspicious or Unusual Activity.

Be a good neighbor and protect the quality of life we all enjoy. **Help your Police Officers help YOU!** Don't hesitate to call them if you have any questions or concerns. **You can report anything anonymously and in total confidence if you wish.**

722-1255 or 911 for Emergency

Crime Prevention Advice.

- Always lock your vehicles.
- Close your garage doors when your home is vacant.
- Door to door solicitors are Police regulated.

All solicitors must register prior at the Village Hall with proper ID. Registered solicitors are allowed from 9AM to sunset, not on Sundays or Holidays.

Evening and weekend calls to the PD Police are received by Broome County Emergency Services. If you have a problem at these times such as water or sewer or desire to talk to an officer, just state your problem/request to the dispatcher and a Port Dickinson Officer will either visit you or phone you if you request.

WATER RUN OFF – The EPA & the NYSDEC is asking all residents to be aware of what we allow to flow into the waters of streams and rivers in respect to runoff. Our street drains are marked to indicate which ones flow directly into rivers and streams. Please be cautious in applying any fertilizers/weed killers with respect to overuse or misuse.