



SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

VILLAGE OF ALDEN

This Newsletter is going to look a little different than its has looked in the past. We are going to discuss and explain the many questions that residents may have

The Village of Alden currently has \$3.85 million in bond anticipation notes. What is a Bond anticipation note? they are municipal loans in where we borrow money for municipal projects. We also have a \$4.5 million 0% interest loan that was used for upgrades to our Sewer and Wastewater treatment plant. Most of the loans have been used for upgrades and repairs to our systems that have been State/County mandated. We apply for grants as often as we can, and some of these projects have been partially funded with these grants. Currently we have 4 sewer lift stations that need to be upgraded with an estimate of \$1.8 million, grants are available for up to 25%. The question that comes up, where do we get the other 75% or \$1.35 million?

Where does our Tax money go? The money that you pay in taxes, fund the day-to-day operations of the Village of Alden. These operations are, employee wages, street plowing, brush and leaf pickup, street and sidewalk maintenance as well as grass cutting and street lights etc. When we hold our tax cap of under 2%, we are working with an increase of about \$20,000. This amount has to offset our cost increases, if it does not, then we have to cut our budget lines to make things work.

The DPW

As many of you know, our Superintendent of Public Works Mark Pruitt retired at the end of May. Mark was employed by the village for over 34 years. At the end of July our current general crewchief is also retiring. Shawn Eastland has been an employee of the village for over 27 years. We congratulate them for their years of dedication to the village and wish them the best in their retirement. We are working on rebuilding and fitting the right employees to carry on for the next generation. Next year we will be taking possession of a new Vac All, this was due to be replaced this year, but the funding was not in the budget. We budgeted half for this year and half for next year to pay for this \$320K piece of equipment, we did this so we didn't have to borrow any money.

Garbage

Garbage is an enterprise fund, this means your general tax dollars cannot fund garbage, this is why it is a separate line item on your taxes. This is the last year that we might be in the garbage business, our trucks are old and need to be replaced. One needs a new packer, the question that comes up do we spend the \$125K on a new body or do we buy a new truck? We have some reserves but not enough for a truck, we have also had a substantial increase in our recycling costs. New York State mandates we collect recycling, our rate went from \$5.00 per ton to \$70.00 per ton, this is what we pay to dump. The rate for

our regular garbage is \$57.60 per ton. The board in good faith cannot keep increasing our rates to stay in the garbage business if there are more economical options. We know that if we contract out the quality and personal service will suffer.

Water and Sewer

This will always be a hot topic of discussion, this year we have had to increase our rates on both sides. These are also enterprise funds as with garbage mentioned above. The rate increase is due to two factors, one is our meters are starting to fail, to date we are looking at around \$200k for the meters that we have replaced or have ordered for replacement. The second item is taken from the first paragraph, our O & M fees do not cover the loans and bonds that we have to pay back. Our rates have not been increased in a number of years and this happens as a result. We have 4 wells that supply our water as well as a connection to Erie County water on Exchange Street.

Fire Department

According to NFPA guidelines, fire apparatus should be replaced every 25 years, currently some of our equipment is of that age and needs to be replaced. Equipment that is of that age might affect our ISO rating. The ISO rating is what insurance companies use to determine your homeowner rates, our ISO rating changes, your rates go up. Over the past few years, the town tried to eliminate the Alden Village Fire Department from protection in the town, for 2 years the town gave us contracts substantially lower than the other departments. We currently have equal contracts with the other departments, but essentially the town received a free year of fire protection from the Village. The Board has decided to purchase 2 used pieces of equipment to extend our service life at a substantial savings, and also help to get our reserves back on track for future purchases.

Developments

There are a couple of projects that are just starting, hopefully this helps to expel some of the rumors that you may have heard. The large project at Slade drive is going to consist of storage facilities, 30 market rate apartments, 56 market rate senior apartments and a couple commercial buildings. The plan also incorporates a campus that will be run by ARC of Erie County, tentatively called Black Water Acres. In this area there is a 12,000 square foot field house that may be available for local groups to use. The village also approved 2 market rate apartment buildings that are going to be built at Rusher drive and Broadway.

Keep In Touch With Us: . Please don't rely on rumors and second hand information. Use the resources below to stay current.

Website: www4.erie.gov/village_alden/

Facebook: Village of Alden, NY

Twitter: Village of Alden@villageAlden

Instagram: Village of Alden

Eire County: www4.erie.gov/covid19

New York State DOH: www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

Village Clerk: Sue Galbraith 937-9216 ex 110 or Deputy Clerk Donna Taylor ex 111: The clerk's office is open 8:30 to 4:30 PM daily. After hours you can leave payments in the drop box at the rear of the building or pay by credit card on the village website. Tax bills will be out June 1 and are due July 1.

Village Court: Judge Louis Mussari, Court Clerk Diane Casell 937-9216 ex 114: Court Clerk hours are Mon.-Tues 9AM to 5PM

Building Dept: Joe Czechowski 937-9216 ex 121: cejoe@rochester.rr.com You may visit the office in person or download forms from the village website and use the drop box to submit them for review. Permits are required for buildings, additions, alterations, certain renovations, re-roofs, fences, sheds, pools etc. If you have questions, call **Before** you start a project. Projects started without a permit will be subject to additional fines and penalties.

Dept. of Public Works: 937-7392 (after hours emergencies 949-0042). The office is open from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Brush pickup is back to the normal first Monday of the month schedule. Maximum diameter is 6". No large chunk wood. Please put butt ends in the same direction facing the street, yard waste is picked up weekly.

Garbage and Recycling: Pickup Day is Wednesday. Please refrain from putting it out the night before if it is windy. We do not supply refuse containers. Weight is limited to 50 lbs. per container or bag. The limit is 8 bags per week. Please note that the importation of garbage/refuse is illegal. We do supply a recycling bin for each residence. If you just moved in and don't have a bin, please contact the DPW office. Please refer to the guide at www.moderncorporation.com to see what items are acceptable. We also accept waste oil. Latex paint can go in the weekly garbage if the lid is removed, and the contents are in a solid state.

Electronics: Village residents can drop electronics for recycling at the DPW building on Railroad St. from 8:30 to 4:00 PM

Household Hazardous Waste: Erie County holds 2, only drop-off events during the year (must register prior to the event), The county also offers a voucher program which allows residents to drop off up to 50 lbs. per year to Hazman in Tonawanda. To find out more go to erie.gov/recycling

Bulk Trash: The next bulk trash day is September 25th. Please check our website to see what can be disposed of.

Sewers: Please do not flush "flushable" wipes. They do not break down and can clog your pipes and ours as well as our plant equipment. Also, sump pump connections to the sanitary sewers are illegal. Both of these issues increase our cost of operations, which is reflected in your sewer bill.

Water: Due to age, several of our remote transmitters are failing. We are replacing them as soon as new ones are supplied to us. In the interim, if the Clerk's office contacts you, please cooperate and provide us with your meter reading to avoid estimated bills. Also, please make sure we have your phone or email contact information. Please contact the Clerks office for billing questions or the DPW for service issues.

Fire and EMS: Our fire chief would like to remind everyone to change smoke and CO detector batteries. To make it easier to find you, the fire dept. sells reflective address markers for \$15 which includes the post and installation. Order forms are available at the Clerk's Office. Both Fire and EMS are in need of new members. We provide the training. If you are interested in serving your community stop at the fire hall Mondays at 7:00 PM

Code RED: The Village has teamed up with the Town of Alden to alert our residents of emergencies, this program also allows us to contact Village residents only. We will be able to notify residents if we have issues with garbage or recycling or other issues that may arise.

Register at <https://public.coderedweb.com> or Text "ALDENNY" to 99411

Open Burning: Is permitted in fire pits for recreational purposes.

Mulch and Compost: is available free to village residents, bins are located next to our waste water treatment plant at the end of Willow Woods.

Food: No one should go hungry in our community. Seniors can contact Alden Meals on Wheels at 937-7105. Families should contact the Alden Marilla Food Pantry at 710-9370.

Dogs/Cats: Village law requires all dogs to be leashed when off the owner's property. In addition, you must pick up after your pet. Cats must be kept on the owner's property. Please be considerate of other residents.

As always, if you have any questions or issues, please call us

Village of Alden Elected officials:

Trustees: Doug Becker, Jeannine Pruitt, Mary Refermat, Mark Cassel

And Mayor Loren Prucnal (aldenmayor@rochester.rr.com) 937-9216 x112

We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:30 for the Work Session and 7:30 for the Board Meeting.

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JUL 13 2023

VILLAGE OF ALDEN

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