

A VIEW OF THE FALLS

Office of the Mayor - Richard B. Milne

September 2, 2014

Dear Community Members;

Well we certainly can't say the spring/summer hasn't been interesting. The rainfall and storms this year have been very difficult to keep up with. Residents have asked if our village sewer lines (both waste and storm) have the capacity to keep up with flows. This has often been asked because yards and basements that normally don't flood or get wet have certainly been tested.

While we have completed a sewer project on North Main Street, this work has not impacted any of our sewer lines in a negative way. In fact this has helped our flows and will aid future and current development. The flooding in yards and basements were simply a by-product of extremely high impact and high volume storms that came in too short a time span. The ground was fully saturated and the rain just kept coming.

Intermixed with the rains was the wind storm or micro-burst that devastated many areas of the village. This storm brought back memories of the ice storm. Not as bad in some ways but worse in others, certainly the massive trees that were uprooted were a terrible sight to behold. But with a great effort and support of many neighbors helping neighbors we turned around the village quickly. (Even though clean-up in some yards continues today).

The Village Highway/DPW staff did an exemplary job and we saw their full capabilities in the days that followed the storm. We also had the help of six other municipalities' highway staff. The Town of Mendon spent four days assisting the village. Village of Pittsford – 2 days, Villages of Lima, Churchville, Webster and East Rochester all spent a day as well. Their support of “manpower” and equipment in a time of need was very much appreciated. While we (Honeoye Falls) offered all those that supported us payment for time spent, only one municipality requested payment. The support during this storm clean-up was generally looked at as an emergency situation and all those that helped us certainly know that Honeoye Falls will be there to help them if needed as well in the future.

In total this storm cost about \$40,000 for cleanup and repairs. The Village of Honeoye Falls total was around \$25,000 and the estimated expense of the municipalities that supported us was around \$15000. This certainly does not take into account the cost that residents had to pay on their own property and insurance coverage payments. Unfortunately there is not state financial support for a local emergency such as this (something that we need to work on) so we get to carry the tab.

On other topics, we've had many positive comments (as usual) about the hanging flower baskets that adorn Main Street along with the United States flags. We appreciate the positive commentary and will continue this practice. Unfortunately, the heavy rain and humid weather swings hurt the root systems so we have to take the baskets down a bit earlier than normal.

The village is also planning to install a sidewalk extension on Paper Mill Street. This extension will add sidewalk from Ontario Street to the approximate area where the current sidewalk ends. It may very well be necessary to include a raised crosswalk from one side of Paper Mill to the other. We had hoped that we'd receive a grant to help pay for this additional sidewalk, unfortunately the grant application was just denied so we'll need to install the walkway fully on village funds. The Village Board has committed to completing this project and at this time a spring 2015 timeline is planned. Local residents will be presented the plan when fully developed.

Lastly; School is obviously back in session again, we ask that all motorists slow down, watch for students walking or riding bikes to school and be especially cognizant of those leaving (after school and evening programs) in twilight and dark evening hours.

Rick Milne, Mayor
Village of Honeoye Falls