

Community Newsletter

April 29, 2025



Update on the Water Project

As the temperatures begin to increase, so does the amount of construction. Many residents have recently received letters notifying them that their property has been identified as being part of the service line verification project or will be required to hook into the new water main on Chester St, Sands St, or Third Ave. Since that letter, the Village Council unanimously approved the following motion:

Property owners impacted by the 2025 DWSRF project are required to connect to the water system when their private well fails (defined as requiring a permit from the Oceana Health Department) or when the property is sold or transferred, whichever event happens first.

Property owners impacted by the DWSRF 2025 project who connect to the system prior to April 24, 2026 will only be charged for the meter, not the connection fee. Homeowners connecting after this date will be charged the full connection fee and meter cost per the ordinance.

- **Connection Timeline:** Pursuant to the Village Water ordinance, all of the effective properties will be required to connect, however, this requirement will be enforced at the time a private well fails (defined by requiring a permit from the Oceana County Health Department), or the property is sold/transferred. This is a policy change from the original timeline of one year from when the system becomes operational.

- **Connection Fee:** Homeowners who connect to the system by April 24, 2026 will not be charged the connection fee. However, any connections made after that date will be charged the connection fee that is in place at the time of the connection. The Village is currently reviewing these fees as part of the water rate study and is anticipating an increase.
- **Water Meters:** All homeowners, regardless of when they connect to the system, will have to pay for the water meter.

We understand that this is a substantial change from the previous policy for this project and would like to apologize for all of the confusion and miscommunication.

The rest of the project is moving rapidly with the water line nearly complete on both Chester and Green St. Testing for those lines will take place throughout this week and curb stops will begin being placed soon after that.

Construction has also begun on the new wellsite for the driveway and well building. With all of the construction happening this summer, I would like to remind everyone to please be cautious when driving near construction sites and look for postings indicating which roads are closed to through traffic. The contractors have been working hard on ensuring that traffic delays for residents within the construction zone are minimal.

Rachel Witherspoon



Changes in Village Hall

The Village has experienced a lot of change in the last year which has been difficult for both those in Village Hall and residents outside of it. In recent weeks, even more change has taken place with the departure of two employees and the retirement of a third.

While these changes present a challenge and may require some patience as we go through the hiring process, they also present many opportunities here in the Village.

We have the opportunity to keep our zoning administrator on as the Parks & Rec Director.

We have the opportunity to hire a DPW Supervisor and allow them to build the team they need here in Pentwater.

We have the opportunity to reassess our needs, see what attracts talent to the Village, and build depth in our benches.

Simply put, I firmly believe these opportunities are going to help the Village in many different ways and in the meantime, we are making sure that all Village services continue.

Our new zoning administrator has already begun and hit the ground running! In just a few weeks he made himself a dynamic part of our Village team, helping out in a variety of ways!

Tony Kies, our DPW employee, is currently working with IAI on our water system while we complete the hiring process for our DPW Supervisor. Tony is receiving excellent training and together they are identifying some areas for improvement.

Our Municipal Marina opens on May 1st and with it are three incredible employees: Pete, Anna, and Waylon. They have been working hard the past few weeks to get the Marina ready for boaters and looking like the gem it is to our community!

The Police Department PSO's will begin in June after their annual training and a new code enforcement officer has recently started. As summer heats up, we will likely be seeing a lot more of our part-time officers as well.

Spring leaf collection was completed by Turning Leaf this year and they will be handling all the lawncare for the Village this summer. Please note that because of this, Village leaf collection for Spring 2025 has **ended**. If you still have leaves, please take them to the Township Transfer Station.

It would be an understatement to say that the Village has a lot going on at the moment and because of that and the recent changes, I am asking for continued patience as we transition over the next few months.

If you have any questions or concerns about Village operations or current projects, please feel free to reach out to manager@pentwatervillage.org.



Daffodils

As warmer temperatures approach, so do the daffodils! Please keep your eyes out for the daffodils planted by the Pentwater DDA on your way into and out of town.

The daffodils are the perfect way to welcome in the warmer weather along with all the neighbors we haven't seen for the last few months.

If you happen to be walking by the daffodils, we encourage you to take a moment to stop, take a picture, and share it with your friends explaining that "Pentwater is the Village of Daffodils". If nothing else, we hope the bright yellow flowers make you smile!