

## **Newsletter and Community Updates**

**December, 2016**



Above: The graphic arts students that designed and produced our community signs as a school project.

### **In this Newsletter:**

- **Winter Events: Movie Nights and More**
- **Emergency Exit Road Construction Planned**
- **New Playground Planned, Fill Available**
- **Update on Sewer Line Construction**
- **Clubhouse Available for Rental**
- **MLE Updates: Entrance, Security and Lake**
- **A Little Humor... as in, very little**
- **Proposed Budget will be added and this Newsletter will be mailed to all home/land owners**

### **The Social Calendar: Winter Events**

“Trunk or Treat” was a huge success, with many scary costumes, frighteningly decorated vehicles and treats on hand. Planning for more community events is underway. Charles Culver, the Social & Recreational Committee Chair, has planned a January Snow Sculpture contest, weather permitting. It *would* help the event if it actually snowed this year – not too much, just enough for a snow dragon or two. Look for announcements in the coming weeks.

The first monthly “Movie Night” at the MLE Club House club was rousing success. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Community members in good standing can have family members and guests attend at no charge. Look for announcements of the future movie night and coming attractions.

## **Community Improvements Continue:**

### ***Emergency Exit Planned***

Pioneer Construction, the contractor performing road work in our community for Pennsylvania Water, has offered to build an emergency exit road *at no cost to the community*. The construction would give Pioneer a means of disposing of the fill, excess dirt and rocks, created during the sewage and water line construction. The road will exit the rear of MLE going through Camp Speers to Route 739. Camp Speers has approved of the construction of an emergency exit road between MLE and the Camp under an agreement that will restrict use of the road to emergency purposes. The road, once constructed, will have locked gates and is intended to provide an emergency route for MLE residents to access Route 739 as well as giving Camp Speers an emergency back door exit. Approval by the PA Department of Environmental Protection and town had been received and an agreement between Spears and MLE is being drafted.

### ***Playground to be Added, Fill Available***

Pioneer will be donating a playground area in exchange of dumping fill created by the construction. Pioneer has been taking resident requests for homeowner fill. The fill is not clean. Also, Pioneer will deliver only when they are working in the resident's area. Residents will have to request fill. Forms are located in the office. Dump area has to be easily accessible on property.

## **Water and Sewage Construction Project: Review and Update**

Pennsylvania American Water (PAW) has separated the Marcel Lakes Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements Project into two phases. The Phase I portion of the project includes upgrades to the gravity sewer collection system, the potable water distribution system within the gravity collection system, and the headworks/influent pump station at the WWTP. The major infrastructure improvements associated with Phase I are summarized below.

- Approximately 31,000 linear feet of 8-inch and 12-inch gravity sewer pipe.
- Approximately 33,000 linear feet of 6-inch and 8-inch water main.
- Two (2) collection system pump stations and approximately 2,400 linear feet of sewer force main.
- A new Headworks and influent pump station at the WWTP.

Phase I construction started in September 2016. The water and sewer work is scheduled to be substantially complete within 14 months followed by full width roadway restoration within the work areas. As of December 2<sup>nd</sup> the PAW contractor has installed approximately 12,000 linear feet of 8-inch water main, 2,000 linear feet of 6-inch water main, and 3,500 linear feet of 8-inch sewer pipe. The new headworks and influent pump station work at the WWTP is scheduled to start in the February 2017 timeframe.

As part of the Phase I project PAW worked with Delaware Township and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to update the Sewage Facilities Planning Module associated with the Marcel Lakes Collection System and WWTP. The planning module update was approved by Delaware Township. As part of the planning process a planning

approach to new connections for the Marcel Lakes Estates was developed. The initial steps to this approach include:

- **Step No. 1:** PAW constructs Phase I of the Marcel Lakes Collection System Project to correct the identified deficiencies, such as excessive I&I, in the gravity portion of the collection system.
- **Step No. 2:** PAW will continue to collect hydraulic and wasteload management data and categorize the data into two time periods: pre and post collection system improvements. This data will be reported to PADEP through the annual Chapter 94 Reports which will include 5 year projections for new connections. These projections will be used to make capacity needs decisions. Delaware Township will provide the estimated number of new connections for the Chapter 94 Report.
- **Step No. 3:** PAW and PADEP determine the number of available connections based on the corrected gravity collection system (Phase I Improvements).

Once the number of available connections are determined, PAW will work with Delaware Township to address property owner requests for building permits.

The Phase II portion of the project is currently in the design/permit phase. The Phase II portion includes operational and maintenance improvements at the WWTP. The Phase II project, which is located within the WWTP property, is scheduled to begin construction in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2017.

## Lake Updates

### Swamp Things...

Things have not all been going swimmingly when it comes to our lakes. The Board was not satisfied with the performance of the vendor hired to treat the lakes to reduce the lily pad infestation. Increased weed growth made parts of the lakes look suitable for swamp creatures. As a result of spraying just before a rain storm, the treatment was minimally effective. Dick Hanel is screening new vendors looking for a replacement service for 2017. In the meantime, he was advised that lowering the lakes by a foot or two during the winter will assist in curtailing the growth of lily pads as well as reducing the expenses related to spraying. By lowering the water level, the roots of these plants become exposed to the ambient temperature. If we have a cold winter, the cold will damage or destroy these plant root systems.

### Spillway Construction for the “Millennial” Storm

As reported earlier, the PA Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) has ordered that all private lakes have sufficient spillways so that a storm that might happen once in 1,000 years – 34 inches of rain in a 24 hour period – would not result in a breach of the dam. Having to construct larger spillways might cost our community over \$600,000, significantly adding to each home owners’ annual dues. Failing to meet the DEP’s requirements would result in private lake owners *having to drain their lakes!* However, lakes were individually reviewed to determine that such a rainfall, particularly for lakes near or on mountain tops, would receive sufficient runoff to cause the dams to be breached. While we wait for further communications and directions from DEP, the Board approved reviewing the hiring of an engineer to perform a drainage study on the lakes in the hope, and belief, that the geography of our lakes would not result in an influx of waters in excess of their capacity to drain should such a storm occur. We have heard that at least one other community was able to satisfy the DEP an engineer’s report on the drainage parameters for a fraction of the cost of dam modifications.

## Join MLE On FaceBook

Stay connected with your residents in Marcel Lake Estates by joining us on FaceBook. Just go to the address “I live in Marcel Lake Estates” and ask to join.

## Puns For “Educated” Minds

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur’s round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky-maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from a geometry class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blown apart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

**Disclaimer:** This newsletter was prepared by Tom Montrone to help inform the residents of MLEs. Any information included herein is based upon his “best efforts” understanding of these matters and does NOT represent a statement by the MLE Board. Any factual errors are incidental and not intentional misrepresentations. Any questions can be submitted to the Board by contacting MLE by e-mail at [info@marcellakesestates.org](mailto:info@marcellakesestates.org) or by phone at 570-828-8244.