



IN THE WORKS

Westfield Department of Public Works

2023 SPRING NEWSLETTER

CONTACT US

The Village of Westfield DPW has a 24-hr. emergency line, **792-7919**, so that residents can report electric, water, sewer, and street emergencies that occur outside our normal business hours. The normal business hours for the DPW office staff are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

If assistance is needed during business hours the numbers to call are:

VILLAGE OFFICE - EASON HALL 326-4961

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT 326-2145

STREET DEPARTMENT 326-3477

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT 326-2832

24-HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER 792-7919

WWW.WESTFIELDNY.COM

All account and billing questions can be addressed by calling 326-4961 ext. 22 or ext. 14. This is also the telephone number to set up a service turn on, final reading, name change, etc.

Get important updates and notices on information such as electric and water service disruptions, street closings, and other essential data by text

TEXT DPW TO 866-594-0550

Or SCAN this
to join!



Normal text messaging rates apply.
Text "STOP" to opt-out. Text "HELP" for help.
Receive up to 4 messages per month.

Village of Westfield 2023 Brush and Yard Waste Pick-up

Guidelines:

- ⇒ All pickups will be done on a **MONDAY**, except in the case of a holiday or severe weather, and then it will be done the day after.
- ⇒ ***All items must be out by 7:00 AM*** on the scheduled day of pickup.
- ⇒ ***Please do not leave items curbside for more than one week.***
- ⇒ ***No return trips*** will be made until the next scheduled pickup date.
- ⇒ **Note** extra pickups scheduled during some summer months. The week before the 4th of July and the week before Labor Day.
- ⇒ Tree trimming and yard work done by contractors is ***NOT INCLUDED*** in pick up and this **will be** strictly enforced. ***ANY and ALL CONTRACTORS*** are responsible for the removal of brush and yard waste they create.
- ⇒ Christmas Trees will be picked up Mondays in January. Place tree curbside.
- ⇒ Please note that all pick ups in November and December will be weather permitting.
- ⇒ Fall leaf pick up will begin 10/23/23. Further details will be sent.

Violations will be handled as follows:

- ⇒ 1st Violation will receive a notice.
- ⇒ 2nd Violation will be excluded from all yard waste pickup for 6 Months.
- ⇒ 3rd Violations will be excluded from all yard waste pickup for a Full Year.

Description of Areas:

Area 1: Picked up 1st Monday, generally. From the Intersection of Main St and Portage St: S Portage St (both sides) to Martin Wright Rd, East to Union St (including Union St Ext. & Camelot Dr); both sides of Union St. down to Main St.

Area 2: Picked up 2nd Monday, generally. From Union St East to Spring St and Bliss St up to Allen Rd; all of Spring St; Main St from Academy St. to Union St.

Area 3: Picked up 3rd Monday, generally. North side of Main St from N Portage St to Cass St; all of Cass St to railroad tracks; going West along Clark St and English St to N Portage St; N Portage St from English St to Main St (both sides).

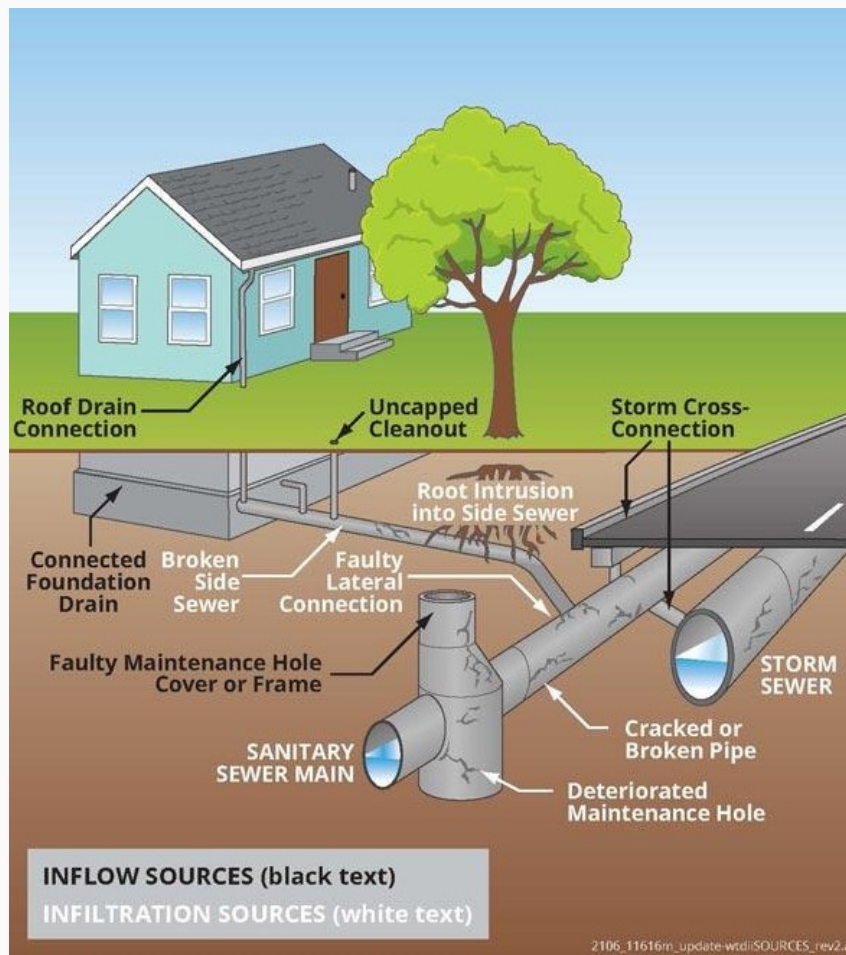
Area 4: Picked up 4th Monday, generally. E Main St from Academy St, both sides from to Village line; Persons St, Colburn St and Jefferson St between Colburn St and Cass St.

Area 5: Picked up 4th Monday, w/Area 4. Everything North of the Railroad tracks down to the Thruway. Everything West of N Portage St and S Portage St.

Village Awarded \$2,352,500 Toward Sewer Projects

In November 2022, the Village was awarded \$2,352,500 from NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA). A preliminary engineering report and application were submitted outlining several projects to improve the sewer system including rehabilitation and replacement of aged sewer mains and manholes and upgrade of the biosolids processing system at the WPCF. Much of our sewer collection system is very old and made up of clay tile pipe and brick manholes. Inflow and infiltration from rain and groundwater easily enter into the sewer system causing more water to be received at the plant than necessary. This causes operational problems and increased costs. Tree roots are another major problem in some of these areas. When they get into the sewers, they can cause blockages and provide another avenue for water to get in.

This project would involve using a combination of replacement of mains and manholes and using a cure in place liner which restores the strength and integrity of the existing pipe. The biosolids processing equipment at the WPCF was installed in the mid 1980's. It is newer than the original plant equipment that was replaced in our last major upgrade project, but at nearly 40 years old, is nearing the end of its useful life. We are currently working to obtain other grant funding toward this project to minimize the burden on our ratepayers. We are hopeful to receive further funding in 2023.



Power Outages Scheduled for May

Power will be out to the entire Westfield Electrical System

- **Saturday, May 6th**
 - Approximately 12 hours
- **Saturday, May 13th**
 - Approximately 8 hours

These outages are required to replace the tap switch on our 115 kV transmission line at our interconnection point with the electric transmission system. To minimize outage time, this work will be done simultaneously with 2 switch replacements National Grid will be doing as well as metering equipment replacements by the New York Power Authority.

We expect to begin switching the power off around 5:00 AM to be ready to start work at 6:00 AM on both days. Outages are expected to last approximately 12 hours on the 6th, and 8 hours on the 13th.

This could change depending on unforeseen circumstances. We understand this will present problems for the community but it is necessary to complete this work to keep our system in good working order and minimize future unplanned outages.

Along with the new switch structures, we are also replacing 3 other structures along our 6-mile 115 kV transmission line that runs from Finley Rd. in Portland to our Bourne St. Substation. Most of this work can be completed with the line energized. This transmission line is the only connection to the power grid that we have, and while we have replaced eight other structures since 2015, it was built in 1971 and has been in service for 50+ years. As such these improvements are necessary.

We understand there is no time for a power outage that won't be an inconvenience, therefore we tried to pick dates and times that would be best for the majority of residents, businesses, and critical functions. We also chose a time when temperatures should be at a point where heating or air conditioning won't be an issue in addition to coordinating with these other parties on their work.

Please prepare in advance to be ready for these outages. If the dates or times change for any reason, we will provide updates as we have them. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we complete these necessary improvements.

Village Named Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation

As the new banner in the Village Hall indicates, the village of Westfield was recently named a 2022 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to urban forest management.

Westfield achieved the recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: Maintaining a tree board or department, having a tree care ordinance, dedicating an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and hosting an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The Tree City program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

“The trees being planted and cared for by the village of Westfield are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride, whether it’s through volunteer engagement or public education.”

Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand,” said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. In 2017, the village board focused on the fact that Westfield had been losing trees due to age, necessary removals, and other causes, and recognized that replacement was lagging. It initiated a tree-planting program called “Re-tree Westfield,” based on a tree management plan created by forestry consultant Bruce E. Robinson, Inc. In 2020 it approved the creation of a Village Tree Board and tasked it with coordinating and advising the village board and the Department of Public Works on tree-related matters. To date, the efforts have resulted in the planting of more than 300 trees.

The village of Westfield recognizes the importance of its “urban forest.” Trees provide natural beauty, improve water quality, help control stormwater runoff, conserve energy by providing cooling shade in the summer while blocking chilling winds in the winter, remove carbon dioxide while producing oxygen, and help to reduce noise.

With the guidance of its Tree Board, Westfield is in the process of having its consultant update the tree inventory and management plan to guide the continued planting of more trees throughout the village. The Village Tree Board can be contacted at treeboard@villageofwestfield.org for information or concerns.



Mayor Michael VandeVelde (left), Christina McLaughlin, Urban Forestry Partnership Coordinator, NYSDEC, and Westfield Tree Board Chair Person Pete Holt are pictured accepting the award. The flag is now hanging in the hallway at Eason Hall.

Village Awarded Funding to Study Resiliency of the Electric System

The Village has been awarded \$100,000 from the NYSERDA proposal 4942, Climate Action for New York Municipal Utilities and Rural Cooperatives. This funding will be used to conduct an engineering study looking into options to improve the resilience and reliability of our electric system.



The Village of Westfield Electric Department serves the entire Village and Town of Westfield, covering 47.3 sq. miles. An increasing number of extreme weather and high wind events have been experienced in recent years. These events put Westfield in a particularly vulnerable position because the entire system is fed from a single, radial feed 115kV transmission line owned by the Village of Westfield Electric Department. This line runs from the switch station on Finley Road in Portland to our Bourne Street Substation. An outage on the Westfield Electric line, or the National Grid 115kV transmission line that it connects to, results in a system-wide outage to our entire Community.

There is no alternative source of power to the Westfield Municipal Electric system. If an outage occurs, the Westfield Village Electric Department utilizes contract staff to provide restoration work. In the event of a widespread weather and outage situation, it may take an extended period to mobilize and conduct repairs before the problems can be addressed. The Westfield Municipal Electric-owned transmission line was constructed in 1971. A few structures have been replaced since then, however, the majority of the 6-mile line remains as it was originally constructed. Approval and permission to build new transmission lines and connect to the transmission system in New York has to go through an extensive approval process and can be extremely expensive.

A consultant will be selected from a list of NYSERDA-qualified contractors. The study will focus on options including; hardening the existing line to prevent outages, assessing the potential and costs of alternate transmission or sub-transmission connections, even those that may only provide partial power, and things that can be done from within the system such as the construction of a microgrid that could provide power to parts of the system during a prolonged outage. This study is expected to begin in the next couple of months.



Electric Department to Install New Sub-Transmission Line

The Westfield Electric System has three substations that serve our community. The Bourne Substation is our transmission substation, taking the voltage on the incoming transmission line from 115 kV down to 34.5 kV. From Bourne Street, there are 2- 34.5 kV circuits that go to the English Substation, and 1-34.5 kV circuit that goes to the Portage Substation. The English and Portage Substations reduce voltage to 5 kV, and through individual substation breakers and out into the distribution system.

Only having one line to provide power to the Portage Substation puts us in a vulnerable position, as we have no redundancy in the event of an outage or equipment malfunction. The line to Portage now must go through one oil circuit breaker (OCB). If that unit failed there is no alternative to get power to that substation. To correct this problem, we hired Power Systems Engineering (PSE) to design a new 34.5 kV line from Bourne to Portage Substation. This will include the replacement of the OCB with 2 newer vacuum circuit breakers. There will also be a new steel A-frame structure in the Portage Substation to direct the new line into the station. The Electric Department will be constructing the new line as well as installing the vacuum breakers and A-frame structure.

We are also going to build a distribution circuit under the sub-transmission circuit that will serve as a backup service to the Village WPCF. The vacuum breakers have been received and the remaining materials have been ordered.

Construction is expected to begin in the Summer of 2023.

Thank You, Mayor Vandavelde



Mayor Michael Vandavelde is leaving office and retiring after serving the Village for 10 years as Mayor. We wanted to recognize him for all he has done for Westfield over the past 10 years. As Mayor, he was instrumental in the Village receiving a \$2.16 Million EDA Federal Infrastructure Grant and a \$1.2 million NYS EFC grant that was used to complete major upgrades to the Village Water Pollution Control Facility. We also received a \$1.8 million EFC grant for water projects during his term that allowed us to complete a major project that improved the Water Plant and Distribution System. The remaining costs of these projects are financed by an EFC 0% interest loan. Several other major infrastructure projects were completed during his term including the Clinton/ Market Street Parking Lot Renovation, the replacement of 1950s-era switchgear in the English Street Substation, improvements to the 115 kV transmission line, and several other substation improvements.

It was apparent to everyone who worked with Mayor Vandavelde that he always had the best interests of the Village residents and employees in mind. The Village infrastructure is in better condition as a whole now than it was 10 years ago in large part due to his efforts. It should be noted that he was also the originator of the idea for this DPW newsletter! Thank you Mayor Vandavelde for your service to this community and for everything you did for the Village employees. We wish you the best in the future!

New Raw Water Pump Station Construction Completed

As of September of 2022, construction has been completed on the new raw water pump station located at the Water Treatment Plant. The pump house was officially put into service on September 7th, just in time for the fall grape harvest.

The pumps transfer water from the Village's reservoir to the Water Plant for treatment and have been operating excellently.

This upgrade included a new building, matching pumps and motors, piping, and updated pump controls. The upgraded building and equipment will be a reliable asset for many years and will allow us to better serve the residents and businesses of our community.



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