

Harbormaster's Report to the Village Council

March 2025

What I've been up to:

1. **Seasonal Slip Invoices** – Seasonal slip invoiced went out in January, as usual. Three boaters decided not to renew their 32-foot slips. Those were filled very quickly. Then just last week another 32-foot slip became available. I haven't decided if I'm going to fill that this summer or hold it as a back-pocket slip for transient reservations. It may be too late to find a seasonal as most people have already secured dockage by this point.
2. **Waiting List Invoices** – Waiting List invoices have gone out and are streaming in. Deadline is a 3/31/25 postmark. There were a number of people this year who struggled with following directions. We'd receive the \$25 payment, but not the signed Agreement. Mildly frustrating because it just makes more unnecessary work.
3. **Commercial Slip Invoices** – Commercial slip invoices will go out in early April.
4. **Water Level** – Anyone who has been down to the waterfront has certainly noticed the huge drop in water level. The beaches are gigantic! Like last spring, this is going to cause some challenges and even more so this year. There is currently a 6' drop from the top of the fuel dock to the water. I cannot imagine how difficult servicing small runabouts and pontoons is going to be. There is only 28" of water at the end of the boat launch dock and the dock is pushed in as far as it's going to go. The Lake will surely come up, but based on Army Corps of Engineers forecasts, we will easily be at least a foot below last summer's high. I have reached out to most of our sailboat seasonals to determine how much water they draw. I'll be checking the depth in their slips as we get closer to opening day.
5. **Dockhands** – I'm losing 14 years of talent and experience in the dockhand crew this season. Three dockhands will not be returning because they're moving on with their schooling and careers. This is the largest loss I've experienced in my tenure. I'm going to try to run the Marina with a smaller staff this summer to try to be more efficient with budget dollars and avoid so much down time with the dockhands having little or nothing to do. I will be looking for 2 new crew members. If anyone knows of a teenager or a retiree looking for something to do this summer, please send them my way!
6. **Goose Deterrents** – Goose deterrents will be deployed in early April. We had quite a group wintering-over in Northport. We should all be on the lookout for signs of sick or dead Canada geese. Avian influenza is impacting migrating birds. If anyone sees a dead goose, they should be extremely careful handling it. We will also be looking for a Goose Police chaser this season – someone who can keep an eye on the waterfront parks early in the morning and chase the geese away.

Bill Rosemurgy, Harbormaster