



**Marcellus Village
Newsletter
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Dear Village Residents,



The Board of Trustees welcomes you to a new year and hopes that the Christmas season has been most enjoyable for you and yours. As we close out the year and begin another, the Board would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to all who helped to make the year a noteworthy one in our history. The Board would also like to provide residents with some information and reminders as we look forward to a bright new year.

YES, THERE IS CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP!



There will be curbside pickup of Christmas trees again this year in the Village. The Highway Department will begin on Thursday, January 4, 2021 and will continue through January 25, 2021. After that, residents will still be able to bring their trees down to the area behind the Village Hall and dispose of it as they do with grass clippings during other times of the year.

HEALTH CARE AND PENSION COSTS

Health care costs have resulted in a slight decrease for health and a slight increase for dental coverage, for both the Village and its employees beginning in January 2021. Health care coverage is similar to last year, with some increase in deductibles. Pension Costs for next year have been projected to be within the allotted budget amounts.

POLICE WARNING FROM CHIEF BERNIE PODSEIDLICK

Residents should be aware of the fact that some thieves have been active in the Village and Town, following FedEx and other vehicles delivering and leaving packages unattended at various locations and then stealing such packages – so called “porch pirates.” Chief Podseidlik urges residents to be vigilant about such activity and to notify the police if they have suspicions. The Chief reminds everyone, once again - Lock your houses and cars. The average time it takes for a thief to get inside a vehicle and get out is about 20 seconds. In less than a minute, items may be gone and it isn't until you get into your vehicle that you



notice items are gone. This has been going on in other nearby communities as well. Please call the police if you have suspicions or want to report a robbery (315-673-2079). After 2 a.m., however, the Marcellus Police are not on duty and the only responder would be a single Sheriff's car, whose patrol extends from Onondaga Hill to Skaneateles – call **9-1-1**

UPDATE ON WWTP UPGRADES

With two years of construction of a very costly project having been completed, sewer users in the Village, Town and School District can be assured that a modern, fully operational water pollution control plant will serve their needs well into the 21st century. Funding for the project can only come from sewer rate increases, and the recent increase has brought the average annual rate for a Village sewer user up to about \$540.00 – a quarterly increase of about \$25.00, or an annual increase of about \$100.00. This is an average estimate, since sewer rates are based on water usage in the Village. For Village users, those rates have been reflected in the most recent utility bills. For Town sewer users the increase will be quite significant, given that outside users pay an additional 25% over that of the average Village sewer user. Beginning In January 2021, the average town sewer user will begin to pay approximately **\$677.00 annually**, an annual increase of about \$128.00. In order to prepare our Treatment Plant for operation well into the 21st century, these increases, while hefty, are unavoidable.

NEW BUSINESSES IN THE VILLAGE
As we mentioned at recent Board meetings, a new business has opened on the site of the former florist shop at 1 North Street, called Field's Antique Maps and Frames, a business that specializes in original, local, regional, United States and World Mid 19th Century Maps. Also, a new business called Nine Mile Trading has opened at 3 East Main, specializing in handmade crafts and unique items for sale. Another new business is now open on the site of the former North Street Diner called Dusty's Diner, and we welcome Dusty and his business to the Village.

VILLAGE PLANNING BOARD

The Board met on December 16, 2020 to listen to a developer regarding development of the Roche Property, about 20 acres of land at the south end of the Village, which property was annexed to the Village in 1978. Since 1978, plans have come and gone, parties have lost interest or passed away, and Linda Roche now owns the property exclusively. Linda

has contracted with a developer who is interested in development of the property, to include approximately 25 new residential lots, building quality homes as well as preserving the natural beauty of the land. The proposed subdivision off South Street would be called “Baltimore Ridge” and would be accessed from Dunlap Ave and Baker Street. Sewer follows natural flow and would hook up to existing conditions as would water, since there are stubs at the end of both Baker and Dunlap. The developer would need subdivision approval and will need to file a full environmental assessment form as well. The Planning Board will be the lead agency and Village Engineers will need to review complete plans. There are a number of issues that will have to be addressed, including surface water runoff, site grading on individual lots, road construction, sidewalks, curbing, and lighting, among others. At a later date, probably February or March, a public hearing will be scheduled so that residents have the

opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas regarding this proposed development.

F.O.G. (Fats, Oils, Grease) ADVICE

During this holiday season, our Treatment Plant operators continue to urge our residents to become more aware of the problems with grease in our sewer system. Grease will stick to household and sewer pipes, and over time, grease buildup can block pipes and cause sewage backups. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system – they only shred solid material into smaller pieces. Our operators urge you to scrape grease and food scraps from cooking surfaces into a container and put in the trash or compost.



OLDE HOME DAYS – June 4, 5, and 6



The Olde Home Days is now under the direction and management of the Marcellus Rotary and tentatively and depending on the pandemic, the first meeting of the 2021 OHD Committee will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at the Welcome Center in the Park, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Scheduled for June 4th, 5th, and 6th, the Olde Home Days promises to be special again this year – another fun filled weekend for our residents.

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

At its December meeting, the Board approved the continuation of the Village Infrastructure Program, whereby Onondaga County agrees to provide financial assistance to the Village for maintenance of public improvements in the Village. This is the 10th year of a ten-year agreement and it provides about half of the income that the Village once received in the form of sales tax revenue from the County.

PARKING

We remind Village residents that there is no overnight parking (from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.) on Village streets from November 1st to April 1st. If ticketed by Village Police, the fee will be \$35.00. In addition, there is no parking on the village right-of-way (from the sidewalk to the road), nor on the sidewalk. We would urge residents to use the Village parking lots for any overnight, not long-term, parking situations.

There are two (2) municipal parking lots that can be used - one is behind the Village Hall on Slocombe Ave and the other is off West Main Street, west of the Catholic Church.



STREET and SIDEWALK PLOWING

We remind residents that during the winter months, our Village Highway plows not only the streets of the Village, but also the front sidewalks. It is residents responsibility to keep their own sidewalks clear of snow and ice. In addition, independent snow plow drivers must clear the village sidewalks after plowing. It is not permitted to plow snow into the street, nor across the street onto the Village right-of-way. It is also illegal to park vehicles on village sidewalks, some of which are broken because of illegal parking. We welcome input from residents regarding broken sidewalks so that repairs can be scheduled. Please notify the Village Clerk (315-673-3112).

NEW TOWN HALL APPROVED
Following a vote on December 8 2020, residents of the community overwhelmingly approved a referendum for construction of a new



Town Hall. The Marcellus Town Board has been seeking a solution for over a decade, having explored many options. The Town Board believed the best long-term solution was constructing a new town hall on Main Street, right next door. The Board collaborated with town officials and employees, community members, and QPK Design, and its vision is a dignified but modest building that will meet the needs of the people of Marcellus for generations. The Village Board is in full support of the vote, especially since its location remains in the Village Center and its design mirrors the look and feel of our Village streetscape, and includes public bathrooms and additional public parking as well.

GREEN GATEWAY PROJECT

The Green Gateway Project is one that we hope will result in an environmentally positive gateway entrance to our Village – at the site of the former woolen mill on North Street. Printed copies of a project summary are provided for the benefit of residents and are available in the Village office, as well as on the Village website (click on <http://villageofmarcellus.com> and then on News, then Village News). While the coronavirus has recently interrupted and delayed our plans for the Village and the students at MCS to continue working on the site, it is hoped that conditions will soon improve so that the project will begin anew in the months ahead.

VILLAGE MAIN STREET FAÇADE GRANTS

In the spring, Onondaga County approved 13 commercial projects and 1 public project under the County Main Street Façade Grant program, in a plan that awarded almost \$300,000 in funding for Marcellus businesses. Several projects have been completed and property owners have already been reimbursed, including a repaving of the two Village parking lots, remarkable renovations of 17 North Street, 19 South Street, 14-18 West Main, 3 North Street, 60 East Main, 20-22 West Main, 52-56 East Main and 5 East Main Street. Other projects are in the works and some have been delayed because of material shortages and contractor scheduling but we expect them to be completed within the next several months.

SOME REMINDERS

The Village Office will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2021 and there will be **NOT BE A DELAY for trash collection** because of the holiday. On Monday, January 18th, the Office will be closed to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and also closed on Monday, February 15, 2021 for Presidents' Day. There will be **NO** trash delays on these days either. Thank you for reading this newsletter and we hope that the New Year is a bright and happy one for you and yours.



John P. Curtin, Mayor
Timothy P. Manahan, Trustee
John J. Murphy, Trustee
Charnley A. Abbott, Clerk
Antonino J. Provvidenti, Treasurer
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney