



**Marcellus Village
Newsletter
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315.673.3112
villageofmarcellus@gmail.com

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 Monday, January 3, 2022 and will continue through January 24, 2022. After that, residents will still be able to bring their trees down to the area behind the Village Hall and

dispose of them as they do with grass clippings during other times of the year.



ELECTION 2022

Village elections will be held in Marcellus on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, from Noon to 9 p.m. Two four-year terms on the Village Board for Mayor and Trustee will be on the ballot, and we urge Village residents to participate in the selection process.

POLICE WARNING FROM CHIEF BERNIE PODSIEDLIK

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 Podsiedlik 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 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 missing. 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., 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



NEW BUSINESSES IN THE VILLAGE

A Nano Brewery has opened up on a limited weekend basis at #4 East Main Street and an ice cream and deli shop is expected to open soon at #2 East Main. We welcome these new businesses to the Village and encourage our residents to patronize them.

VILLAGE PLANNING BOARD



Members of the Planning Board and Village Board met on October 20, 2021 and again on November 11, 2021 to discuss a proposed development at 8 Paul Street, currently an old lumberyard.

Representatives from Christopher Community presented their concept for a senior housing project at the site on Paul Street and also toured the site with Board members. A Planning Board meeting including a Public Hearing was also held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at the Marcellus Free Library at which representatives from Christopher Community presented updated plans for the project, as well as listened to any comments that residents of the community expressed. The minutes of that meeting and public comment can be found on the Village website. The next meeting of the Planning Board is January 19, 2022.

FLUSHABLE WIPES and F.O.G. (Fats, Oils, Grease) ADVICE

This is a friendly reminder from your Village Waste Water Treatment Plant Operators of what not to flush: The two biggest causes of sewer clogs are “flushable” wipes and fats, oils and grease (FOG).

Unlike toilet paper, wet wipes remain intact and tangle into massive clogs that jam pumps and block pipes. When a product is labeled “flushable” it generally means that it will clear your toilet bowl. It doesn't mean it will definitely clear your pipes or break down in the sewer system or at your wastewater treatment plant. Truly flushable items are ones that break into small pieces quickly, are not buoyant, and only contain materials which will readily degrade in a range of natural environments (like paper, not plastic).

Grease cools as it travels through pipes. Over time, the accumulation of grease builds up and can block an entire pipe. Garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the pipes, they only shred it into smaller pieces. Commercial additives including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, may pass it down the line and cause problems away from the source. The results of a grease-blocked sewer pipe can be sewage overflows in your home, expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by the property owner, and possible contact with disease-causing organisms. It can also add to the cost of operating and maintaining your sewers and the wastewater treatment plant.

Flushing wipes, grease, or other non-disposable items can impact you and your neighbor's sewer system. Thank you for considering the impact these items may have on your sanitary sewer system before you flush!

OLDE HOME DAYS – June 3, 4, and 5

Tentatively and depending on the pandemic, the first meeting of the 2022 OHD Committee will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at the Village Hall, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Scheduled for June 3rd, 4th, and 5th, the Olde Home Days promises to be special this year – another fun filled weekend



for our residents.



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 DPW plows not only the streets of the Village, but also the front sidewalks. It is the responsibility of residents 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).



Local Law #3 of 2021 – Opting Out

On September 30, 2021, elected officials from the Town and Village of Marcellus met for an information session at the Marcellus Fire Department. This session, while not a Public Hearing, was well advertised, was open to the public and the information

regarding the Marijuana Regulatory and Taxation Act (MRTA) offered by a representative from the law firm of Costello, Cooney, & Fearon was very well presented. This presentation was followed by an informative question and answer session with the public in attendance, and with elected representatives of the Town and Village of Marcellus. Following that session, there were a number of matters that the Village Board considered in order to make its decision, and at its December meeting decided to opt out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus, subject to permissive referendum. The reasons for the decision included:

- The legalization of adult-use cannabis is an enormous policy shift affecting many facets of society. This is a complex issue that requires legal expertise and much consideration from community members. The regulatory framework outlined in the MRTA will take time to develop and will require input from communities and stakeholders throughout the State of New York.
- The implementing regulations have not yet been written by the State of New York. If the Village opts out now, it can always opt-in later when we see what the regulations will say. If we opt in we can never opt-out! To opt-in is to sign a contract without knowing its terms and conditions! We should wait to see the State rules and regulations and how they are implemented before making a final decision on dispensaries and on-site consumption. Many other

important State decisions including a social equity plan and a comprehensive study are not due until 2023 and 2024. What is the rush? We do not want to tie the hands of future boards.

- Projected sales tax revenue and/or benefits to the local communities from marijuana sales are highly speculative. Taxes go into a State fund administered by State and County decision points and processes yet to be determined There would be many deductions from total sales taxes before distribution of taxes to local governments.
- Costs to communities are yet to be determined. Direct and other costs of administering and executing the program has not been assessed. These impact social and economic equity, public health and safety, law enforcement, schools, drug rehabilitation, social services, etc.

For these reasons, the Village Board has decided to opt out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus, subject to permissive referendum. Copies of a quick reference guide regarding New York State’s Marijuana Regulatory and Taxation Act (MRTA) are available for residents in the Village Office.

VILLAGE MAIN STREET GRANTS

The Village Board is pleased to announce that the Village was awarded almost \$500,000 through the 2021-2022 Main Street Grant Program. There are 18 projects included in the Village Center and it is sure to make a significant impact on the community. These projects will have to follow all normal application and permitting requirements, and some may be referred to the Planning Board as the process unfolds. The Village is most grateful to County Executive Ryan McMahon and the Office of Community Development as well as the Onondaga County Legislature for providing funds to help revitalize and beautify many parts of the Village of Marcellus, as they did last year when 14 Village properties were awarded almost \$300,000 under the County Main Street Façade Grant program.

HEALTH CARE AND PENSION COSTS

Health Care Costs continue to rise, and both the Village and its employees will be required to pay, on average, an increase of about 7.5% for health coverage and 3% for dental coverage, beginning in January 2022. Pension costs for next year have been projected to be slightly more than the allotted budget. There is an increase of 10%, because of decreased investment returns as a result of COVID.

SOME REMINDERS

The Village Office will be closed on Friday, December 31, 2021 but there will be **NOT BE A DELAY for trash collection** because of the holiday. On Monday, January 17th, the Office will be closed to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and also closed on Monday, February 21, 2022 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