

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – September 2022

Since the minutes from our regular monthly Board meeting are not formally approved and posted on the Village website until the following month, it seems that our residents might be more fully informed of Village affairs by having regular updates posted on our website sooner, rather than later. To that end, it has been decided to provide our readers with some monthly updates, and if there are any concerns or a need for more information, please call (315-673-3112) or email the Village Office ([clerk@villageofmarcellus.com](mailto:clerk@villageofmarcellus.com)).

**Stormwater Resolution - CNYPDB – Storm Water Management Program** – a motion was made to table a Resolution Supporting Participation in the CNY Storm Water Coalition Staff Services and Education Compliance Assistance Program, pertaining to the requirements of the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Storm Water Phase II General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), a copy of which is on file in the Village office for public inspection. The one-year Agreement to participate will cost the Village of Marcellus \$3,600, a cost that is strongly opposed by the Village Board. The Resolution will be proposed at the Board's October Meeting.

**Leaf and Brush Pickup** – a motion was made to approve the fall brush and leaf pickup dates – brush pickup for 2022 will extend from Monday, September 19th to Monday, October 3rd and residents may put out leaves from Tuesday, October 11th to Sunday, November 13th. After November 14th, leaf pickup will end, and residents may collect leaves into large brown paper leaf bags and place the bags at the curb for pickup, weather permitting. Only these leaf bags will be picked up after November 13th. Residents may also drop off brush and leaves anytime at the Village compost site, located next to the Highway Department garage.

**Police Appointments** – a motion was made to appoint two new officers to the Marcellus Police Department. Officer Vincent Carnicelli will serve as a School Resource Officer at the Lyncourt Union Free School District. This appointment was effective on August 30, 2022, and the Lyncourt Union Free School District will determine the rate per hour. All salaries and expenses regarding this position are reimbursed by the School District. Also, I make a motion to appoint Officer David A. Kimball to the Marcellus Police Department. Officer Kimball will serve as a School Resource Officer at the KCH Elementary School of the Marcellus Central School District, following his retirement and a distinguished career with the Syracuse Police Department. This appointment was effective on September 9, 2022, following the resignation of Officer Jamie O'Brien on that date. The Marcellus Central School District will determine the rate per hour as part of the SRO Contract. As part of the shared services mandate, our Police Department is assisting Lyncourt Union Free School District and Marcellus Central School District with police administrative responsibilities, and supervision particularly in matters related to any criminal activity. Our Police Department has the ability to facilitate this, providing services that might not be otherwise available.

**Village Hall Siding Approval** – having advertised several times in recent months for a qualified contractor to provide services for exterior siding replacement on the Village Hall, 6 Slocombe Ave, Marcellus NY 13108, and having received no

bids from any contractor, the Village responded to a suggestion from the Onondaga County Development Office that we reach out to a vendor on the County list, one who has already been vetted, knows the process and there is no need to go out to bid. In early August, a proposal was received from JK General Contracting, and I make a motion to award the contract in the amount of \$88,500.00, to JK General Contracting, a substantial part of which amount is to be reimbursed to the Village from the Onondaga County ARP Municipal Grants Funding Program. A pre-construction meeting was held late August and in September work began soon after that. The project involves the removal of existing siding from the building, wrapping the building with Tyvek weather seal, installing new vinyl siding on the entire building to include soffit and fascia. In addition, the installation of one (1) new window located on the lower west side of the building and the installation of aluminum wrapping around the windows as needed will complete the project and preserve an historic structure in the Village of Marcellus for future generations. The Village applied for and was granted approximately \$56,000 by the County to help fund this project.

**Village Hall Siding Change Orders** – JK General Contracting has submitted two change orders relative to the Village Hall siding project. The first calls for additional concrete work on the west wall foundation of the building, totaling \$3,800, and the second calls for 130-150 ft fascia board to be installed, repair to parts of the walls, removing fill in outside only ac units and cover miscellaneous pipe holes, totaling \$3,300. A motion was made to approve the aforesaid change orders.

**Village Hall HVAC Upgrade** – a motion was made to approve the estimate of Straight-Line Heating and Air Conditioning in the amount of \$23,780.00 to provide HVAC services for the Village Hall. The scope of services includes the removal of existing heating units in the building and the installation of two (2) furnace/forced air units as well as the installation of appropriate duct work.

**Proclamation - Friends of the Library** – a motion was made to approve the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Friends of the Marcellus Free Library raise money that enables our Library to move from good to great – providing the resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children’s summer reading, and special events throughout the year and,

WHEREAS, the work of the Friends highlights on an on-going basis the fact that our Library is the cornerstone of the community providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of other from ages past to the present, and,

WHEREAS, the Friends understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our Library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials along with expert assistance in research, readers’ advisory, and children’s services, and WHEREAS, the Friends’ gift of their time and commitment to the Library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community, and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that John P. Curtin, Mayor of the Village of Marcellus proclaims October 16-22, 2022, as Friends of Libraries week in Marcellus, NY and urges everyone to join the Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our Library and community so much better.

**Closing of First Street for Halloween** – last year, the Governor said that he would not ban Halloween trick-or-treating amid the coronavirus pandemic. Likewise, the Village Board did not think it can ban trick or treating in the Village. It is certainly up to the parents as to whether or not they want to allow their kids to go trick or treating. What the Board has to do is make sure that the Village and First Street in particular, is safe for the kids. To that end, the Village Board will authorize the Police to close off the street to automobile traffic and assign officers to patrol the neighborhood to ensure that. The Board's thinking is that even if it did not block off the street, the "Halloweeners" and their parents would still congregate on First Street and that would present a very dangerous situation for all concerned. It might be a good idea for those residents who do not want to be exposed to potential hazards, to turn off the lights and retreat to a back room or go out for the night. There are some residents who do that as a general rule every Halloween. The State might provide more guidance in the weeks ahead, but at this point, a motion was made to again close First Street between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Halloween for trick-or treating, subject to conditions on October 31st, which is a Monday this year.

**Green Gateway Pedestrian Bridge** – a motion was made to recognize that at a special meeting held on September 7, 2022, a contract was awarded to Crossroads Highway Supply in the amount of \$117,364.71 to purchase a prefabricated pedestrian steel truss bridge to be installed by the Village and Town employees at the Green Gateway Park. The bridge will create an easy and safe manner for MCS students to cross directly from the school campus to the outdoor classroom, the bridge design and details for installation having been prepared by MCS students in coordination with Village and Town employees in coordination with NYSDEC and Fish and Wildlife personnel. Funding for this part of the project has been secured through the office of NYS Sen John Mannion, for which the Marcellus residents and students are most grateful.

**Set Dates for Fall Trash Days** – the Town Board has approved the schedule for the Fall Trash Day, as follows: Fridays September 23rd and September 30th and Saturdays September 24th and October 1st, 2022. The times for Friday are 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. The times for Saturday are 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. I make a motion to publicize the trash days schedule and encourage Village residents to take advantage of this annual opportunity. There is also a handout that provides more information regarding the fall trash days. There is no electronic waste or shred day planned.

**Shape Up for Veterans Program** – a motion to announce that the County Executive has announced the creation of the Shape-Up for Veterans Program. This is a program that will allow qualified Veterans up to \$15,000 in grant funding to assist in home repairs to keep Veteran residents in their homes. The funding is limited, and we have been asked to spread the word to our residents. A Fact Sheet, some bullet points and the application are on file in the Village Office for those so interested.

**Announce Village Meetings for October 2022** – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. There are also several other handouts including the Brush and Leaf Pickup dates, the Fall Trash Day schedule, and an update regarding the Green Gateway Park. Please note that the Village Office will be closed for Columbus Day, October 10th, BUT there will be NO delay in trash pickup that week. The brush and leaf pickup dates are also listed on the handout, and there is another reminder that First Street will be closed from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Halloween, Monday, October 31st.

### **Updates – Mayor and Board**

**The 2022 Main St Grant Program** – the Village Board is again pleased to announce that the Village was awarded almost \$500,000 for the 2021-2022 Main St Grant Program. There are 18 projects included in the Village Center and this 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. So far, several commercial projects have been initiated and 1 has been completed – the former AOK Gas Station at 31 E. Main Street has been transformed into a beautiful Medical Office complex. In addition, the facade of the Laundromat has been modified with the addition of pavers and a wrought iron fence in the front, and a controlled demolition of the house at 25 North Street has taken place as well.

**Slocombe Ave and Kinderwood Drive** – these projects, to provide road improvements to the Slocombe Ave and Kinderwood area, are now complete. In June, bids were received for the improvements and the bid submitted by Hanson Aggregates NY LLC was awarded the contract in the amount of \$99,445.00. A pre-construction meeting took place in late August, and work was completed soon after that.

**Streets, Sidewalks, Trees** – monies have already been set aside from the budget to complete some highway resurfacing, particularly Slocombe Ave, and repairs on Kinderwood as well as to share in the cost of brush and tree removal and street sweeping with the Town of Marcellus. The DPW budget also calls for starting a design for capital improvement project on Paul St, along with sidewalk repairs on South St and other various locations in the Village, a continuation of street sweeping and repainting of crosswalks, assisting MCS students in the development of the Green Gateway Project and working with students on a design for Flower Lane improvements. Also, tree and stump removals are planned, per the DPW Superintendent's schedule, pending budgetary considerations.

**Creekwalk** – four years later, and Fred's Trail continues to have a number of walkers and the Village has received a number of compliments. If some residents are not familiar with the now-completed project, we urge them to click on the Village website <http://villageofmarcellus.com/> and then on News, then Village News, then Creek Walk News. Trustee Manahan also notes that the trail is very properly maintained by our DPW, trimming overhanging tree branches, and cutting vegetation that would otherwise impede those who use the trail. On behalf of the Board, he would like to thank our DPW for a job well done.

**Green Gateway Project** – (handout) is one that the Village, in cooperation with the Town and the School District and others have been working on since 2016 – a project that we hope will result in an environmentally positive gateway to our Village. Printed copies of this updated 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, then Village Gateway Project. The Green Gateway Project

**Business in the Village** – it is with much regret that we join with others in the Village in lamenting the closing of the Main Street Pharmacy in the Village. After 20 years at his location at #9 East Main Street, Pharmacist and Owner Jamie Cataldi has decided that he can no longer operate the business and has decided to close his establishment. He does want to thank all in the community for their loyal support over the years and wishes to ensure his patrons that their prescriptions have been transferred to Rite Aide of Camillus - 5335 West Genesee Street, Camillus, NY (315-487-0435).

**Parking** – as we approach the winter months, we remind 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. We urge residents to use the Village parking lots for any overnight parking situations.

**School In Session** – and we urge residents to be aware of the fact that there will be students walking to school, particularly on First Street. Also, the State DOT has begun operation of the flashing lights on North Street and the Village Police Department will be even more vigilant in their enforcement of the traffic laws on that street – 20 mph

**Household and Hazardous Waste** – Do not pour hazardous waste or grease down the drain. Household hazardous waste products (such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides) dumped down the drain are most often not removed by the wastewater treatment process. Harmful chemicals from these wastes end up in rivers, creeks, and lakes where they can eventually enter the natural food chain. Additionally, pouring hazardous waste down the drain can endanger the health of municipal workers, disrupt the treatment process, and accumulate pollutants in aquatic ecosystems. Residential users can rid their homes of dangerous chemicals lurking around by dropping off such waste at four locations in the County, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, WITH AN APPOINTMENT. Appointments must be made (315-453-2866) five days in advance of your drop-off date. We also remind residents to cover garbage cans since those uncovered often attract crows and other pests. Washing out garbage cans and recyclable bins every so often, also helps promote a healthier environment.

**Fall Trash Days** – for Town and Village of Marcellus residents will take place on Fridays, September 23rd and September 30th (9 a.m. to Noon and on Saturdays, September 24th and October 1st (9 am. to Noon). There is no E-Waste electronic recycling and NO Community Shred Day. A permit, available by purchase from the Town Hall, is required for this service. Please check the Village and Town websites for more detailed information.

**Tefft Meadows Senior Apartments at 8 Paul St in the Village of Marcellus** – (handout) is a proposed project that will offer affordable living for those 62+ years of age. The project calls for the construction of a new 60-unit senior apartment building with all site amenities including a 60-space parking lot and stormwater facility on the same parcel at 8 Paul St. in the Village of Marcellus. On the Village website at <https://www.villageofmarcellus.com/tefft-meadows.html> the plans and other detail on the proposed Tefft Meadows project can be found.

**Striping of Crosswalks** – we would note that crosswalk striping on North Street (Rte. 174), and Main Street have not been completed by the State or the County (Rt. 41) prior to the start of school. Village pedestrian crosswalk signs remain in place on the east side of the Main Street Bridge, as well as at the intersection of Main and South Streets and on Reed Parkway near the DMS School in order to provide pedestrian safety and slow down traffic in the Village. Our DPW has also installed two flashing speed limit signs on Main Street in order to slow traffic down entering the Village, and the Village DPW has painted its own crosswalks and parking spaces, prior to school opening.

**Village Taxes** – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present (as of September 13, 2022), including penalties, totals \$25,690.34 or 3.84% from 13 property owners, a figure much smaller than previous years. Property owners may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2022, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

**WWTP News** – During the month of August, we noticed a lot of FOG (fats, oils, and grease) flowing into your Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). As a reminder to all residents FOG can not only disrupt the sensitive biology at your WWTP but is also one of the main causes of sewer backups and overflows within your sewer districts. Cooking byproducts from homes and restaurants in our Village get washed down kitchen drains. The fats, oils, and grease build up in sewer pipes over time and create blockages. Those blockages can cause backups and overflows inside your homes or onto public streets and into Nine Mile Creek. Garbage disposals, hot water, and liquid soap do not grind up and wash away the byproducts. The “hot soapy water” only serves to carry byproducts a few feet down your drain – usually somewhere between your foundation and property line. Village Residents are responsible for maintenance and repairs to their sewer lateral from their home to the sewer main. Once the water starts to cool, fats, oils, and grease also cool and collect on the top and sides of the pipe. Here are steps you can take to help prevent a clog: Keep dairy products, fats, grease, or greasy foods out of the sink and the garbage disposal. Garbage disposals only break up food into smaller pieces that easily stick to the grease that collects on the inside of your sewer pipe. Pour cooking fats, oils, and grease in a container with a tight-sealing lid and dispose of it in a trash receptacle on your designated trash day. For greasy pans that need to be soaked, first pour off the grease into a container as mentioned above, then dry wipe the pan with a disposable paper towel or napkin before placing in the sink to soak.

**Compost Project** - Are your gardens ready for their top dressing yet? Compost is still available at the WWTP on a first come first serve basis. To check availability please call 315-673-4491. Pick up times are 8am-3pm M-F.

**Thank You To Our Employees** – the Village would like to thank all who participated in the work they did on the flower boxes this year, particularly Village employees Kathy Welsh and Mallory Reedy, whose attention to their care all summer was exceptional and enabled all in the community to enjoy their beauty. In addition, we call your attention to the green space on the corner of Scotch Hill and North Street. Village treatment plant employees continue to address landscaping there and provide another advertisement of the benefits that natural fertilizer can bring. Compost is mixed in with the plantings in the flowerbeds and broadcasted over the lawn area – showcasing the use of compost to the residents of Marcellus.

**Planning Board** – did not meet in September since there were no issues requiring that it meet.

**Storm Water Management Program** - Participation in the Storm Water Management Program offered by the CNY Regional Planning Board costs the Village \$3,600 each year. The one-year Agreement to participate costs the Village of

Marcellus \$3,600, a cost that is strongly opposed by our Village Board. There are 31 municipalities participating, including the Town of Clay with over 58,000 people and the Village of Marcellus with under 2,000 people. Yet, all 31 municipalities pay the same \$3,600. That amounts to about \$8 for every resident of Marcellus and 18 cents for every resident of the Town of Clay. We have protested this seemingly unfair agreement in the past, and we will continue to object to the fee in the future, but we are, at present, somewhat obligated.

**Baltimore Ridge Development** – continues to move along quite well, and as of this date, all permits have been issued, and development of the site has begun with the construction of an entrance road, the clearing of trees, and the building of the required storm water detention pond. In addition, sight distance conditions on South Street Road, as required by Onondaga County DOT, have been met and the installation of storm and sanitary sewer pipes are complete. Other utilities, water, cable, telephone, electric and gas, are now complete as well. The roads into the development have been stoned, and binder asphalt installation has also been completed. We might note that all of the lots have been sold and building construction has already begun. This will be an excellent project for the Village and thanks are extended to everyone for their efforts and input. Copies of all supporting documents are on file at the Village and are available on the Village website: <https://www.villageofmarcellus.com/baltimore-ridge.html>.