

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – January 2024

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).

Another Police Update – the Prescription/Drug Drop-Off Box as well as the drop-off box for needle and syringe disposal, both located in the lobby of the Village Hall, continue to be a welcome addition to the Village. Any numbers of individuals continue to take advantage of using the drop-off boxes to dispose of any prescription or other drugs, as well as needles and syringes anonymously.

No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should know as of November 1, 2023, there is no parking allowed on any street in the Village of Marcellus from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. so that the Highway Department can plow snow. This no parking ban will remain in effect until April 1, 2024. 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.

Snow Plowing – as in the past, we would like to alert independent snowplow operators that it is illegal to plow or shovel snow or ice during snow removal operations upon a village sidewalk or other public way. While most of the independent snowplow operators in the Village comply as much as possible with the law, there are some who need to be reminded that if a driveway is being plowed, that snow **CAN NOT** be plowed into the street. **NOR** can the snow be plowed out of a driveway, across the street and into the village right-of-way across from the plowed driveway. Some drivers have claimed that they have no place to put the snow. That, however, is not an excuse to put the snow into the street, nor across the street when plowing. The Village is not responsible for snow that accumulates on a resident's property and the Village is not responsible for removing snow that has been plowed onto the Village right-of-way. We ask that independent snowplow drivers take this into consideration when they are plowing residential properties in the village. No snow should be plowed onto a village street or sidewalk, and any that has been must be removed before finishing the job.

Notes on the Governor's Budget – Governor Hochul's State of the State Address earlier this month contained several excerpts that affect local government, a summary of which is available online at:

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/FY2025\\_NYS\\_Executive\\_Budget\\_Briefing\\_Book.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/FY2025_NYS_Executive_Budget_Briefing_Book.pdf)

A friendly reminder what not to flush from your Village Operators: 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 does not mean it will 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!

Planning Board – again, we make mention of the fact that the February meeting of the Planning Board will be held on February 28, 2024. This is a change from the regularly scheduled meeting and was changed at the January 18, 2024 regular meeting of the Planning Board.

Baltimore Ridge Development – continues to move along, and as of this date, two houses are complete and occupied, and several more are under construction. The utilities, roads and sewer infrastructure were turned over to the Village in fall of 2023.

The 2024-2025 Main St Grant Program was recently announced by Onondaga County Community Development. The Village Clerk has reached out to property owners that are eligible for the project and will submit a complete application in late February. The Village is most grateful to County Executive Ryan McMahon and the Office of Community Development as well as the Onondaga County Legislature for continuing this grant program, which provides funds to help revitalize and beautify Village centers throughout the County. The Village of Marcellus was awarded this grant in 2020, 2021, and again in 2023. Details of the program are on file for public inspection in the Village Office.

Olde Home Days, 2024 (May 31, June 1 and 2) – the Marcellus Rotary Club and the OHD Committee have begun planning the 2024 OHD event to be held the weekend of May 31-June 2. Information will be made available in the coming weeks regarding tentative events, committee chair contacts, vendor and non-profit participation, sponsorship, and other areas. The Marcellus Olde Home Days Facebook page will be updated as planning continues through the spring. At this time, questions and information requests can be directed to Charnley Abbott, OHD Chair at [charnleyabbott@gmail.com](mailto:charnleyabbott@gmail.com).

Green Gateway – 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. In November of 2023, the Village dedicated the pedestrian Bridge and outdoor classroom to former Mayor John Curtin in appreciation of his outstanding public service to the Village of Marcellus. John was an educator for over 20 years and served the Village of Marcellus for 28 years, retiring as Mayor of the Village in 2023. These areas will be forever known as “Curtin’s Crossing” and will be a symbol of our commitment to learning, where the boundaries between education and nature intertwine.

Future Farmers of America Club thru Marcellus High School donated two beautiful wreaths that were hung on the Village Highway Garage and WPCP during the holiday season. The Village Board and DPW thank the students for the donation and brightening up the buildings for the holiday season.

The Village and Town Highway Departments have been working with Marcellus Highschool Students this winter on multiple projects for their senior independent studies. One of these projects include extending the Creekwalk from Main Street thru Limerick St, Kinderwood Dr, Orchard St and Old North Street to the Green Gateway. Their vision is to connect the Town Park to the Village Park via a walking path. Other projects include a Pavilion, flower beds, an ADA compliant fishing platform, and rebranding of the Green Gateway.

New draft regulations and testing procedures have been released by the DEC regarding PFAS in wastewater. It is unclear what effect these regulations will have on the Wastewater facility. This situation is being monitored closely by our Operators and we expect more information in the coming months.

Flower Lane- the Village was recently awarded a CREST grant from the State for drainage improvements and road reconstruction on Flower Lane. MRB Group has recently completed the Survey portion of the process and is now completing the design phase of the project.

Wastewater Update- Village Attorney Jeff Brown is reviewing the Sewer Contract with Marcellus Central School District. It is expected to be completed soon.