

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – February 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).

DPW Updates – Since it has been a relatively warm winter, both the salt and winter repair budget line items are doing well.

Cheslock Tree Services cut down 3 trees on Reed Street that were recommended on our Tree Inventory List. We are looking into applying for some tree trimming and replacement tree grants thru the DEC.

Last year the treatment plant applied for a free Asset Management Pilot Program thru the DEC and was selected. Earlier this month, CDM Smith began working with operators to start this process. This should take about a year before it is completed.

F.O.G. (Fats, Oils, Grease) – in the wastewater is a topic that had been much discussed and will continue to be on the WPCP's agenda in the months ahead. We continue to provide a flyer that emphasizes the need to keep Fats, Oils and Grease out of the sanitary sewer system.

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, accidentally, must be removed before finishing the job.

2024 Onondaga County Main Street Funding Program - County Executive Ryan McMahan and the Onondaga County Legislature will again provide additional funding for local revitalization efforts in the Main Street areas of Villages in the 2024 calendar year. The Village prepared an application and submitted to Onondaga County on February 16, 2024. Details of the program are on file for public inspection in the Village Office.

Budget – the Village Board has begun to work on its 2024-2025 Budget and there are workshops scheduled to take place in March. The public hearing regarding the Tentative Budget will be held on Monday, April 1.

Property Tax Cap – our Budget is also complicated by the property tax cap of 2%, another State mandate, and at our March Board meeting, the Board might have to vote to override the tax cap. Having learned from the experience of several towns, it is sometimes best to override, if only to protect the Village from penalty. Should the adopted budget vary from the actual budget, resulting in a tax hike of more than 2 percent, the Village would be responsible for a host of penalties for violating the governor’s tax cap. Because the Village might not be able to stay under the tax limit this year, the Board will probably vote to override the tax cap.

Baltimore Ridge Development – continues to move along, and as of this date, all permits have been issued, and development of the site began with the construction of an entrance road, the clearing of a number 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 utilities (water, sewer, cable, telephone, electric and gas) is complete. Construction of several houses has also begun. The utilities, roads and sewer infrastructure has been turned over to the Village.

Code Enforcement – mostly 3-year rental inspections and fire inspections this month. We would also remind residents that all garbage must be contained in a proper receptacle, not left at the curb in plastic bags.

Olde Home Days, 2024 (May 31, June 1 and 2) – the OHD Committee has begun planning for the annual event and more information will be available in the coming weeks.

Green Gateway Project – is one that is 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 interrupted and delayed our plans, the Village, and the students at MCS continue working on projects to improve the site.