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BRANDY L. WITTHOFT, TRUSTEE
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VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS
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Notice to Residents in the Village & Town Sewer Districts
Re: Smoke Testing of the Sanitary Sewer System

August 10, 2026

Dear Resident,

Beginning Monday, August 24, the Village of Marcellus will be conducting smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system throughout the Village and Town sewer districts. Testing will occur between 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM each day and is expected to be completed by Friday, August 28. Residents do not need to be home during the testing.

Smoke testing is performed to identify locations where groundwater and stormwater may be entering the sanitary sewer system. Locating these sources of inflow and infiltration helps improve system efficiency, reduce operating costs, and protect the long-term integrity of the Village's sewer infrastructure.

During the testing, a non-toxic, non-staining smoke will be introduced into the sanitary sewer system through selected manholes. The smoke is manufactured specifically for this purpose and is safe for people, pets, plants, and the environment. It has a distinctive temporary odor but leaves no residue or stains and typically dissipates within a few minutes where ventilation is adequate.

Village personnel, along with a representative from the New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA), will observe areas where smoke exits the system. This may include storm drains, roof gutters, yard drains, and other locations that could indicate illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system. Personnel may be seen walking through neighborhoods and around the exterior of properties during the testing.

Smoke should not enter your home unless there is a defect in your plumbing or a drain trap has dried out. To help prevent smoke from entering your home, please pour water into or briefly run all infrequently used plumbing fixtures—such as sinks, bathtubs, showers, and utility sinks—before August 24 to ensure all drain traps contain water.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to maintain and improve the Village and Town sanitary sewer system.

If you have any questions regarding this test, please contact the Village of Marcellus Water Pollution Control Plant at 315-673-4491. Additional information, including the Safety Data Sheet, is available at <https://www.villageofmarcellusny.gov/sanitary-sewer-system-smoke-testing.html>

Sincerely,

Chad A. Clark
Mayor, Village of Marcellus

CC: Brandy Witthoft, Trustee
Jamie Curtin, Trustee
Charnley Abbott, Village Clerk
Jennifer Plis, Treasurer
Paul Stacey, Codes Enforcement Officer
Mallory Zabinski, DPW Superintendent

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Town of Marcellus