

FREE, take one ~ Beautify Main St; Cancel the Main St Project!



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... become an MBRA member!



Marshall Minute

FEBRUARY 2020

Come to our annual



**LOVE
MARSHALL
MBRA
Community
Meeting!**

Join us at 7:30 pm on
Tuesday, February 11th
FREE REFRESHMENTS
FREE DOOR PRIZES*

**This meeting drawings will first
be offered to those who have
never won before.
Come try your luck!*

Guest speaker:

Reverend Jonathan Ostman
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Anglican Church
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On the corner of
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www.st-johnthebaptist.org

Marshall Main Street ~Report on the latest

Marshall Community Center
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Join the MBRA for 2020
Annual dues are only \$30 for
residents, \$50 for businesses
~Shop local, shop Marshall~

Have questions or speaker suggestions?
Contact Mary Wilkerson, President
(540) 364-3400

mbraeditor@gmail.com

Editor: Mary Wilkerson
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Your Voice Is Needed Now!

The MBRA is the original grant applicant for this Project beginning over 10 years ago and we have carefully studied it along with the design plans that weren't even "finalized" and given to us by the County until the end of summer 2018. Because of that, we can confidently say **stop the One-Block Main Street Project & Save Our Businesses & Residents from a 5 x increase in Special Tax to go to this \$6 million project!** (*Don't we have water issues that still aren't solved?*)



Our Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (BoS) will cast votes either For or Against awarding the bids for the flawed Main Street Improvement Project which is for ONE BLOCK ONLY, between Frost & Winchester Road.

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3936.pdf>

Photo courtesy of OSHA.gov —————>



Regarding this project we can say, figuratively, that the bridge is out ahead for those of us who are businesses, residents, and purchasers of Marshall products and services!

Some members of our Board of Supervisors have been dismissive of any feedback that is opposed to the Project and dismissive of the MBRA, the original grant applicant for the project! They told us in January that they haven't really heard of anyone against the Project and haven't received any such emails, despite receiving a petition with 130 signatures against it along with the MBRA's official resolution opposing it. There is an intense push from the County to force this project on Marshall. They have already indebted us to it with an increase in the Special Tax of 5 x the current rate which kicks in after construction begins. They also want to expand the Special Taxing District to include the entire Marshall Service District in order to pay for the maintenance of this inherently flawed one-block project!

Help us save Marshall and preserve our residents and our businesses!
There is a low-cost way to improve our town, but with this project hanging over our heads, VDOT will not proceed.
Ask our Supervisors to stop incurring anymore staff hours and costs trying to fix this and CANCEL THE PROJECT NOW!

Turn the page to see how you can best object to this project!

There are a number of things the MBRA has repeatedly been told or led to believe by County officials regarding this Project that we have discovered are not true:

Been told: We need this Project in order to have our sidewalks be the proper width to be Handicap Accessible.

Truth: We walked Main Street last week with VDOT and learned that Marshall's existing sidewalks are already the 5 foot width required to be Handicap Accessible!

Been told: Our sidewalks are in disrepair and we must have this project to repair them and to fix the low spots where water puddles during the rain.

Truth: VDOT has assured us it is their responsibility to repair and maintain Marshall's sidewalks now, but if this project's contracts are awarded by Fauquier's Board of Supervisors, our sidewalks then become the County's responsibility to repair and maintain, and Supervisors tell us that they will make those of us in Marshall's Special Tax District pay for that. Supervisors also want to increase the boundaries of the Special Tax District to make more people pay for this wasteful one-block project! ***Don't we have water issues that are still unsolved?***

Led to believe: That the only way we can beautify Main Street with streetlights is by this project.

Truth: We can have streetlights the entire length of Main Street without this project and it's crippling debt!

Been told: This project will bury Dominion electric lines.

Truth: This project will NOT bury Dominion electric lines.

Been told: The County has found ways to cut the cost to underground power lines in half.

Truth: They have not.

Things you can do to stop this wasteful one-block project:

The next couple of months will be critical! It can be stopped, but only if the people make their voices heard

1. Sign the paper petition
2. Sign the online petition: www.ShapingMarshallTogether.com
3. Contact us to sign a form letter against the project which we will deliver to BoS
4. Email the BoS and copy MBRAeditor@gmail.com on your email to the BoS; Why? Because we have found that emails sent in opposition to something the County is for sometimes get lost and aren't received. Please cc us on your email to the County so we have proof.
5. Come out to the BoS meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Feb. 13th and stand with us for a show of support to STOP this project!
6. Stay connected with us to keep informed of the latest info and to maximize your effect
7. Make sure each and every adult who lives in your home and is against the project signs the petition and a form letter.
8. Spread the word during this critical time. Reach out to others you may know and share this with them.
9. Look for our flyers, signs, and stickers

~It is important to be clear, unequivocal, and polite, when stating your position AGAINST the Project; otherwise, your position may be mistakenly counted as being FOR the Project!

There's a better way to improve our Main Street! See Alternative Plan at www.ShapingMarshallTogether.com

Want to support what we're doing? Join the MBRA and you'll support us with your annual dues!

For MBRA membership forms, simply call or email us! Also, see our website, www.MarshallVa.ORG, and go to "Our Newsletters" tab to see all our past newsletters with additional info.

(Call 540-364-3400 or email MBRAeditor@gmail.com for more info, or to locate a paper petition)

Even if you can afford an increase 5 times the current rate (a 400% increase) of the Special Tax you now pay, think of your neighbors! One gentleman in Marshall's Special (Lighting) Tax District told us of his opposition to this Project. He said, "I can't sign on to this . . .

I can't obligate my neighbors to this; I can't do this to them."

*The following Letter to the Editor was published in the Fauquier Times, January 29th, 2020
and was written by the MBRA Secretary*

Marshall Main Street Project Harms Community, Needs To Be Cancelled

[Marshall Main Street] Project supporters argue that we should proceed with this expensive one-block project that increases the lighting tax to five times because:

- 1) People began working on the project 10, or even 20 year ago, and
- 2) The people who crafted this project spent countless, tireless hours working on it.

Neither of those arguments justify moving forward with this project.

- 1) People's ideas for improving Main Street 10 or 20 years ago are now inappropriate and destructive for Marshall. To argue that we should stick with this project simply because it originated all those years ago is backwards and regressive thinking that boxes us in and does nothing to help the Marshall community going forward.
- 2) If people spent countless hours working hard on a project that will harm Marshall's businesses and residents, do we proceed with it now just because they worked hard on it? No. When you find yourself in a hole, you do not continue digging because of all the hours you have already spent digging. You cut your losses and get out of the hole.

Proceeding with this project in any fashion increases Marshall's Special Lighting Tax to five times what it is today. Our small businesses will suffer due to the high tax rate and extensive construction downtime. Our people will suffer under the increased tax burden, which does not even cover the cost of project maintenance going forward.

Sign the petition below and contact our Board of Supervisors to ask them to cancel the project. For too long, the people of Marshall have been demoralized into submission by the falsehood put forth that this project is a done deal. As we recently learned from then-Chairman Chris Butler, it is not.

We ask the County to stop spending our tax dollars through staff hours spent on re-working this project and forcing it through. We ask that the Supervisors listen to the hundreds of signatures from the Marshall community petitioning against this project.

Sign the petition: ShapingMarshallTogether.com, www.MarshallVa.ORG

Email the Board of Supervisors and cc the MBRA:

BOS@fauquiercounty.gov cc: MBRAeditor@gmail.com

Phone the MBRA at 540-364-3400

Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson
MBRA Secretary

January 14, 2020 Meeting Notes

The MBRA Annual Elections/Member Meeting was concluded by 7:30 pm, and then **Mary Wilkerson, President**, opened January's Community Meeting at 7:30pm. She wished everyone a Happy New Year!

Announcements:

Very exciting news: the **M**arshall **B**usiness and **R**esidents **A**ssociation has had our tax-exempt status restored for each of the past 14 years! Since originally attaining tax-exempt status back in 2005, previous MBRA leadership never filed tax returns. That was a nice surprise for Mary coming into office as president in 2018. If they had filed tax returns, we never would have had to file the full returns, as it would have been only the postcard return. We have a very thorough tax preparer. Mary thanked everyone for your support during this past tumultuous time.

We are very excited this year to continue our MBRA Party on Main Street Showcase Mixers! We will be doing a Spring Sidewalk Stroll, as well. Keep an eye out for fun MBRA events throughout the year!

Marshall Main Street Project:

Marshall Business and Residents Association is a 100% volunteer organization. As you know, our Board voted on December 17th to send Resolutions to both VDOT and the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors, and you can read all about that in our December/January Marshall Minute (on the back table).

For various reasons, we prefer an alternative plan utilizing our tax dollars VDOT already has to improve Main Street. If the one-block Marshall Main Street Improvement Project goes through, Marshall's Special Lighting Tax District has to pay for the sidewalk maintenance, not VDOT.

Preserve our small businesses and our people. The response the MBRA has gotten from people has just been

amazing. People are coming up to us and thanking us for our work opposing the project and informing the people. On the paper petition against the one-block project, there are 130 signatures, as well as hundreds more on the online signature. (See *ShapingMarshallTogether.com*).

Annual MBRA Marshall Christmas Parade:

Question from someone with a concern that parade entries are stopping at the Chevron and not continuing to the end of the Parade route. Many people would like to see the entries continue on to the end of the Parade route at Freestate Road. Mary thanked them for that input and will share that with Brenda. Mary said that Brenda and Eddie Payne do a really great job organizing the Parade every year. We sponsor them and cover the insurance for the parade.

Our featured speaker of the evening was **Brian Roeder of Barrel Oak Winery**, who wanted to share a quick update with everyone on his **Sanctuary at Barrel Oak** proposal. He explained that on Thursday, February 13th at the **Board of Supervisors** meeting at 6:30pm, the BOS will take a vote on the Sanctuary at Barrel Oak.

Quadrupling the size of his existing home, the proposal includes 44 rooms, and 52 events of up to 160 people, and 26 events of up to 80 people.

Brian said that other than George, all other neighbors adjacent to Barrel Oak Winery support the proposal.

Before the site plan, they must do hydro-geological tests. Same as drain field: engineers feel there will not be an impact. Brian said he will prove that.

Two traffic load studies show: 2018 - 155 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled;

Grove Lane (Rt. 55) is under the Crash Rate.

Brian encouraged everyone to please ask if you have questions. He said that if you are supportive of the proposal, it would be very nice if you could be at the BOS meeting on February 13th. He explained that those against the proposal will be there in force.

www.FauquierInn.com is Brian's website, which has lots of materials and information on the proposal.

Mary thanked Brian for coming. She let everyone know that we support polite, respectful dialogue, and explained that the MBRA does not take a position on this topic.

Mary encouraged everyone to avail themselves of the time at the end of this meeting to mingle with others and speak with Brian at the back of the room.

Our annual Love Marshall meeting is next month on Tuesday, February 11th at 7:30 pm! This meeting is lots of fun, and may be our favorite Community Meeting of the year! So come for great door prizes and great chances to win. One speaker will be Father Ostman of the Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist!

The meeting was closed with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:46pm. Minutes taken by *Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson, MBRA Secretary*
See meeting video: www.MarshallVa.ORG and go to "Meeting Videos" tab

~Mark your calendars~

MBRA's 2020 Spring Sidewalk Stroll is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2020 (rain date May 2nd) Tentative hours of 11-3 Stay tuned!



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Finally, a voice for the people and a sense of community. Enjoy free refreshments at MBRA Community Meetings while you find out the latest around town. You don't have to be a member to attend!

*2nd Tuesday of the month,
7:30-8:30 pm held at the
Marshall Community Center*

**Free Monthly Meetings with
refreshments & free raffle
Monthly Marshall Minute
Advertising for Businesses
Marshall Christmas Parade**

**Make Marshall Merry
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**Sidewalk Strolls for Businesses
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**Website www.MarshallVa.ORG with lots of
local info & videos of our meeting speakers**

**Research and study of local concerns to
keep you informed!**

*Did you know we have a YouTube
Channel? Have you missed some of our meetings?
Catch up on all of them by going to YouTube.com
and searching:*

"Marshall VA MBRA"

Or click link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8apq-2C1Hk>

*When the weather's cold, sit down with your
favorite beverage and keep up on the latest info
from our speakers!*

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~~~~~  
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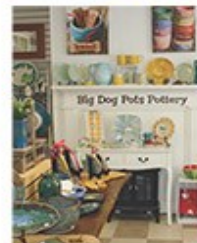
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For inquiries, please call Brenda at 540-270-1795

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