

Dear Marseilles Residents,

We are nearing the end of another year and what a year it has been! We are all living through a time that will be written about and studied for many years to come. The overall theme in 2020 has sadly been a nation divided. Strong divides regarding COVID-19, the presidential election, and law enforcement to name a few. The sides were clear and loud. But under all the loudness was a quiet solidarity that rose above it all and gave us something we could count on, our community.

Let's take a moment to reflect on the quick and unsolicited help that came in from Marseilles and our neighboring communities and agencies. Local loan programs, assistance, wellness checks, and utility extensions were put into action. Marseilles Elementary School made sure students continued to receive meals even with school closed and continues to navigate through all the changes that they are presented with daily. Always putting their students first. Marseilles Nursing Service, with just a handful of people and a shortage of elastic, provided and even delivered masks to the community without charge. 2692 in total! This prompted many people and organizations to donate supplies and funds as a way to support their efforts. Our food pantry also received much assistance from the community and provided delivery to those who were homebound. Restaurants posted on their social media pages about the kind and generous acts of their customers. Restaurants also assisted by providing meals to our first responders. Our first responders who we can't thank enough for the risk and sacrifice they face daily in order to take care of others.

To say we are all doing the best we can doesn't begin to describe what we have accomplished in 2020. We remained involved and strong. It's the reason we are able to navigate through the many changes that continue to be put before us.

There are many things we could focus on at this point. We could talk about the economic state of the nation, mistakes that have been made, and our expectations for 2021. I say, at this moment, we focus on what is written above. These are the things that aren't uncertain. These along with many others are our accomplishments for 2020. They are important and impressive. As a community we saved businesses, provided food and necessities, and continuously asked what we could do to help others. That's who we are.

In closing, I would like to say thank you, Marseilles. Thank you for your support, involvement, and concern for the community. We are stronger for it. Have a wonderful and safe holiday!

Sincerely,
Mayor Hollenbeck

