The City Council has set the maximum levy for 2020 at $1,192,658.60, which represents a 34.7% increase from 2019. The Truth in Taxation meeting for citizen input regarding the 2020 budget will be held at the Village Hall on December 3rd at 6:30pm. Copies of the budget can be found on the City website or are available at the City office during regular business hours.

Mark your calendars...

Saturday, October 19th, 9am to noon
Heavy Metal Day
Behind the bank. See list of items that can be dropped off on the City’s website.

Thursday, October 24th
Village Center Revitalization Open House
Learn about improvements planned for downtown, 5 to 7 pm upstairs in the Village Hall. Walkabout at 5 pm sharp.

Wednesday, October 30th
Compost Site Closing
The compost site will close its gates for the season on Wednesday, October 30, 2020 or earlier if it snows.
Watershed District’s levy up 30.5%

Taxpayers will see a 30.5% levy increase from the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District in 2020.

The district’s board of managers approved next year’s budget of $1,291,688 with $466,900 from state and federal grants. The 2019 budget was $978,695. The total levy increase is from $590,000 to $770,000.

Questions or comments about the increase can be directed to the CMSC Watershed District board. For contact information, see cmscwd.org/about-us/staff-and-management.

WD board has open seats

The watershed board has two openings for board members. The board does not currently have a representative from Marine on St. Croix. To apply, contact Watershed District Administrator Mike Isensee: (651) 433-2150 or mike.isensee@cmscwd.org

Trash collection fee will increase slightly

The City of Marine has renewed its contract with Advanced Waste Disposal. Residents can expect collection fees to increase approximately $18 per quarter, in part due to fee increases at the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Center.

2020 Pricing at Recycling & Energy Center

The Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board made two recent decisions regarding pricing at the Recycling & Energy Center:

• The hauler rebate will be set at $0 beginning in 2020
• The tipping fee will be set at $82 per ton in 2020 and $84 per ton in 2021

What is the hauler rebate?

Prior to 2016, when the R&E Center was privately owned, the counties provided a hauler rebate (subsidy) to waste haulers to encourage them to bring waste to the R&E Center instead of to landfills. Now under public ownership, the counties require trash be delivered to the R&E Center by law, and the hauler subsidy is no longer needed.

What will be done with funds previously used for hauler rebates?

The funds will be used in both counties to increase waste reduction, reuse and recycling, which will support healthy communities and help meet the state goal of a 75% recycling rate.

What are tipping fees?

Tipping fees are fees paid by waste haulers to deliver (or tip) trash at the R&E Center. The revenue from tipping fees pays the cost of operating the R&E Center. The 2019 tipping fee is $79.00 per ton of trash. Before 2016, when the R&E Center was privately owned, the tipping fee was $86.22 per ton and waste haulers received a rebate.

Why is R&E increasing tipping fees?

The tipping fee pays for the operation of the R&E Center. The tipping fee is increasing from $79 per ton in 2019 to $82 per ton in 2020, to cover increased R&E Center operating expenses such as labor and transportation of materials. Beginning in 2020, waste haulers will not receive a hauler rebate. This change will appear as an increase to the tipping fee, and haulers may pass this cost on to customers.

What impact will these changes have on a trash bill?

Generally, a household produces about one ton (2,000 pounds) of trash each year. At a 2019 tipping fee of $79 per ton, with a rebate resulting in a net tipping fee of $69, the monthly disposal cost is estimated at $5.75 for an average household. With the 2020 tipping fee set at $82 per ton with no rebate, the monthly disposal cost would be $6.83, an increase of $1.08 per month for the average household.
2019 Hunting Season Information

Hunting Safety Reminders

- Be aware while walking trails, parks
- Wear bright orange clothing

Permits are required for any person(s) hunting with a firearm. These permits are available at the City office during regular business hours. Property owners interested in allowing bow hunters on their property to hunt deer should contact the City office. Any questions regarding hunting regulations or to report any suspicious or illegal activity may contact Conservation Officer Scott Arntzen at 763-413-4881

It is against the City Code to discharge a firearm within the limits of the City of Marine on St. Croix without a permit, which when signed by the Mayor, are approved for the purpose of hunting only. (Chapter 9, Section 1).

Bow Hunting September 15 - December 31 Shotgun November 3 - 11 Muzzle Loading November 24 - December 9

Mill Site draws 8,000 in summer 2019

Fall Work Day: October 2

More than 8,000 people walked the Marine Mill Site trails this summer (June-August)! Perhaps you were one of them, and enjoyed the view of the river, a hike down to the waterfall, or a respite on one of the new benches. The Mill Site has become a popular destination within our village.

The trees our community planted are growing like crazy, restoring the site to a river bluff forest similar to its origins.

You are welcome to join in on helping to maintain the trees — the Marine Mill Committee has scheduled a fall work day on Wednesday, October 2, at 9:30 a.m. Just bring your gloves, pliers, wire cutters, and loppers. We’ll be removing cages from some of the trees that have grown tall, and may tackle some buckthorn removal. A Sentence to Serve crew will also be lending a hand.

An arborist recently cut several large box elders from the site as part of the on-going site forest management plan, which calls for gradual removal of box elders and ashes (the latter in anticipation of emerald ash borer).

The goal is to establish a more stable, long-term forest of native trees, including white pine, hackberry, basswood, red and white oak, and sugar maple.

To volunteer or for more information, contact: Jim Schoeller, 651-497-5972.
Thank You! 2019 Marine Art Fair

The City of Marine on St Croix and the Marine Public Safety Department would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2019 Marine Art Fair a memorable and successful event. The event raised $18,000 dollars for the Fire and Rescue Department. A special thank you goes out to Mary Skamser, Diane Mills and Lynette Peterson for their hard work as part of the Art Fair Committee.

Burn Permits

The cost per permit is $5.00 for piles or $15.00 for a prescribed burn permit. Each permit is good for up to 3 consecutive days. You can contact the City office during regular business hours Monday through Thursday to obtain a permit. No permit is required once there are 3 inches or more of snow on the ground.
The City of Marine has an ordinance in place regulating the placement of snow on streets and sidewalks. The ordinance is as follows:

“All snow and ice not removed from public sidewalks by the owner or occupant of any building or lot abutting a public sidewalk 12 hours after the snow and ice has ceased to be deposited thereon, and unless acting under a specific contract with the City or with written special permission from the City, no owners or occupants of real property, or any person on behalf of any such owner or occupant, shall push, deposit, pile, or otherwise place in any public street, alley, sidewalk, or trail right-of-way, any snow or ice from such private real property or from public boulevards adjoining such private real property.”

The City will charge for the removal of any snow resulting from the violation of this ordinance.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Public Trails Announcement

As the seasons begin to change, so does the use of the City’s public trails. While the City encourages all residents to use and enjoy the City trails, there are a few guidelines to remember which will help improve safety and enhance the beauty of the trail system.

General Use Guidelines:

- No motorized traffic (except for motorized wheelchairs)
- Keep right so others can pass
- Keep all pets on a leash and remove all waste
- Obey traffic signs and rules
- Pick up garbage and litter
- Respect adjoining landowners rights and privacy
- Warn other trail users when passing
- Share the trail with others
- Stay on designated trails; do not take shortcuts
- Enjoy the beauty of nature and do not disturb the plants and animals.

During the winter months many of our trails are used for cross country skiing. Volunteers from Jackson Meadow groom some of these trails and walkers are asked to try and avoid the groomed ski trails.
Ski Trail Etiquette

• People are allowed to walk on the Jackson Meadow ski trails. They are mostly public trails.

• However, the trails are not groomed for the purpose of walking, snowshoeing or fat biking. If you choose to walk on the groomed ski trails, try to stay on the multi-use trail (see map on next page).

• Instead of walking down the middle of the trail, hikers are asked to walk on the opposite side of the classic skiing tracks (see graphic below).

• If you are sinking more than an inch into the ski trail, you are doing damage. Please find another trail to walk until the snow is firm. This is most likely to occur after new snow or fresh grooming.

• If temperatures are warm and the trails are soft, please stay off altogether (walking or skiing). When the snow refreezes boot or ski tracks freeze and make grooming difficult.

• If you are on the trail with a dog, please do not leave poo on the ski trail.

• If you would like a better understanding of what goes into maintaining the ski trails, call Andy Powell at 612-743-8780 and ride along for some laps on the groomer.
HELP WANTED—STONEHOUSE MUSEUM

The Stonehouse Museum needs your ideas and plans for the years ahead. All Marine residents and friends are invited to an informal meeting on Saturday, October 12 at 10am in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall. Come and help the Civic Club as we plan for the future. Coffee and cookies will be served.

Urban Forest:
Tree Planting Event

Marine has a newly appointed Forest Advisory Committee, with members Kitsi Vadheim, Felicia Cochran and Leslie MacKenzie. This committee was one of the requirements for our community to receive Tree City USA designation. It will plan an annual Arbor Day celebration and find ways to engage our community with activities that protect and expand Marine’s urban forest.

First order of business is TREE PLANTING. Fifteen trees (10 Kentucky coffee and 5 catalpa) have spent the summer in the gravel bed at the Marine elementary school parking lot. Now that the trees have grown great root systems, they’re ready to be planted. The City Council approved a plan to replace dead and dying trees in Burris Park, Oakland Cemetery, the public trails in Jackson Meadow, and by the new pollinator garden on Robert. Additional trees will be added on the north, east and west of the school property, extending the “children’s forest” and adding shade by the playground.

JOIN US in establishing these beautiful trees in their new homes as part of a weekend tree-planting workday. Watch the City website, the Marine Booster Facebook page, and Nason Hill NextDoor for more details.

Restoration continues at Oakland Cemetery

During the week of September 21st, the Marine Restoration Society welcomed back a crew from Northern Bedrock Preservation to Oakland Cemetery to continue restoration efforts. They also hosted a head/foot stone preservation training workshop to the larger community with the goal of building local sustainability and developing volunteer preservers and protectors of the cemetery. Residents and families are encouraged to walk the cemetery to observe the work completed at Oakland Cemetery.

This event was made possible by a generous donation by the Marine/Scandia Lions Club, the many volunteer run events such as the Marine Fourth of July race, the Marine Progressive Dinner, individual donations and support from the Marine City Council and staff. Special thanks to Jason and Tommy for prepping the cemetery and securing necessary materials.

Marine Restoration Society: Next Meetings

- September 25
- November 6

Meetings are held at 7 pm in the council chambers. Visitors and new members are always welcome!
Winter is approaching but things are heating up at the Marine Community Library. It’s the perfect time to stop in and browse our regularly-updated collection of books and other media and view our rotating art displays. Through October, we’re featuring the little-known paintings of longtime Marine resident Montfort Dunn.

Sound of Simon Concert and much more

This year’s Library fundraising event features the music of the Sound of Simon, a fabulous Simon and Garfunkel tribute group that faithfully recreates the duo’s celebrated parade of hits. Join us for this fun show, Sunday, October 13th at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall. For more information and tickets, visit: marinecommunitylibrary.org.

In addition to a fine line-up of speakers this fall, we’re pleased to announce the sixth season of the popular Marine Documentary Night, held the first Thursday of the month from October through February.

Also, watch the mail for our annual fundraising appeal. Remember that your gifts are the primary financial support that keeps the Library going strong!

Upcoming Events

All events are held at Marine Village Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 3
Documentary Night - Love Them First: Lessons from Lucy Laney Elementary
This powerful documentary follows the determination of a charismatic north Minneapolis school principal as she sets out to undo history in a troubled school. It’s a story of inspiration, heartbreak, perseverance and the power of love.

Sunday, October 13
Sound of Simon
A fundraising concert to benefit Marine Community Library.

Thursday, November 7
Documentary Night – Gayle Knutson Film Retrospective.
A chance to see the short film work of Gayle Knutson, Marine resident and co-chair of the Marine Film Society.

Thursday, November 21
MinuteEarth – Science and Stories About Our Awesome Planet
Join Alex and Peter Reich, co-founders of the popular YouTube channel MinuteEarth, for an entertaining and informative look into creating science content on YouTube.

Thursday, December 5
Documentary Night – Decoding the Driftless
This award-winning film offers a scientific exploration of the magical Driftless region of southwestern Wisconsin.
GreenStep Cities committee eyes next steps

Marine’s GreenStep Cities committee welcomes residents and business owners who would like to work on projects that improve our community’s sustainability, energy efficiency, and quality of life. This is an excellent time to join! The group is identifying the action items from those outlined in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. We will also be developing communications and outreach to engage our community.

If you are interested in sustainability, renewable energy, waste reduction and compost, green spaces, walkability and bikeability, food gardens, raingardens, trees, water quality, cost-savings and more, get involved! Contact Leslie MacKenzie, leslie.mackenzie@gmail.com, for the date of the next meeting. The group meets once a month, evening/weekend hours so working people can attend. (Children welcome but no child care provided.)

Organics composting comes to north Washington County

If you’ve ever driven to the Washington County Environmental Center to drop off yard or food waste, you know it’s a long haul from Marine on St. Croix to Cottage Grove Drive in south Woodbury. Well that’s about to change.

Our County Commissioner, Fran Miron, shared news that Washington County signed a lease agreement for a temporary location in Hugo for collection of yard and organic waste, just west of Highway 61 on County Road 4.

The service should be operational in September, with no charge to residents, as operations will be paid with funds now collected by the county as a tax on trash collection. The County is exploring a permanent site for a northern environmental center, much like the one in Woodbury.
Who’s Sleeping in Your Garden?
Winter garden tips from the GreenStep Cities Committee

Did you know that some of our native wild bees, butterflies and beneficial insects hibernate in the winter?

Many beneficial insects overwinter in hollow and solid plant stems. Caterpillars and chrysalises find a home in leaf litter and seed pods. Bumble bees bed down in brush and rock piles or old mouse burrows.

In order to keep these valued visitors safe, take a less aggressive approach to removal of dead plant material in the fall. That way your pollinator-friendly yard and garden can continue to provide benefits long after the flowers are gone.

Don’t cut down the plant stems in your garden.

Leave them 18 to 20 inches until May. If the stems fall down, or you need to take the stems down early, set them aside at the back of the yard or some other out-of-the-way location.

Don’t over mulch.

Our ground-nesting bees need access to bare soil. When plant leaves wilt from frost, they will protect the soil – and the bees.

Leave the leaves.

Go ahead and clean up leaves on the grass, but some leaf litter in your garden beds or foundation plantings can also provide winter habitat.

For more tips, check out this video from the pollinator garden of Julie Weisenhorn, University of Minnesota extension service (https://youtu.be/TlZWfFHoUm).

Hall Rental

Have an event coming up you’d like to have in Marine? The upstairs of the Marine Village Hall is available for rent for wedding receptions, dances, birthday parties, etc.

The maximum capacity is 165 people. There are 120 chairs and 12 banquet tables available for use. The facility is handicap accessible. There is a small, non-commercial kitchen, therefore any event must provide their own outside catering.

Fees and Deposits for Marine Residents are as follows:
Upstairs Ballroom - $300 per day
Council Chambers - $50.00 per day
City Council
Mayor Glen Mills 433-5879
Lon Pardun 433-2130
Bill Miller 433-5354
Charlie Anderson 651-592-9449
Gwen Roden 651-433-2908

Council meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

City Staff
Lynette Peterson, City Clerk/Treasurer
Lori Vogel, Assistant City Clerk
Jason Crotty, Public Works 651-675-6493
Tom Boesel, Public Works
Maintenance Shop 651-433-5492

Planning Commission
Chairman Gerry Mrosla
Ed Sanderson Ron Brenner
Jennifer Henry Kristina Smitten
Scott Spisak Anna Hagstrom

Meetings are last Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Get the newsletter via email:
If you are interested in having the newsletter emailed to you, please email Assistant City Clerk Lori Vogel at lorivogel@cityofmarine.org
The newsletter is also available on our website at www.marineonstcroix.org
Thank you!