

# City of Marine on St. Croix MOSC TIMES

July, August, September 2020



## Important Dates

July 9	City Council Meeting
July 28	Planning Commission Meeting
August 11	Primary Election
August 13	City Council Meeting
August 23	Founders Day
August 25	Planning Commission Meeting
Sept. 7	Labor Day—City Office Closed
Sept. 10	City Council Meeting
Sept. 29	Planning Commission Meeting

## In This Issue

Founders Day Schedule	2
Watershed District Survey	2
Restoration Society	2
Marine Mills Folk School	3
The Old Shed Project	3
Mill Site News	3
Planning Commission	4
Urban Forest Update	4
Library News	5
Compost Site	6
Burn Permits	6
Trails Reminder	6
GreenStep Cities	7
River Wake Rules	7

REMINDER: JULY 3 FIREWORKS AND FALL ART FAIR CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

## Primary Election for State and Federal Offices

AUGUST 11

Primary Election: August 11 5pm on August 11.

General Election: November 3

Local Candidate Filling opens July 28<sup>th</sup>: Mayor – 2 year term; Councilmember – 4 year term; Councilmember – 4 year term.

Affidavit of Candidacy can be obtained at the City Clerk’s office during regular business hours.

Filing fee is \$2 and filing closes at

Both the Primary and General Elections will be held upstairs of the Village Hall. Social Distancing will be observed and masks provided to all voters to those who want or need one. Absentee ballots are also available through Washington County.

## FOUNDERS DAY RETURNS

AUGUST 23

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1839, the first log was cut at the sawmill which would become the town of Marine Mills, now Marine on St. Croix.

Each year residents celebrate the founding of the mill, and of the town, with a dinner party in Burris Park, which is across the

street from the historic mill site. The event is weather-permitting. The celebration is on the Sunday closest to the date of August 24<sup>th</sup>. This year’s event is on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Social distancing will be observed.

SEE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: PAGE 2



# Founders Day: August 23<sup>rd</sup> Schedule of Events

## 4:00 p.m. Arrival & Preparation of the Tables

Meet in Burriss Park, greet your neighbors, and set up your creative table space six feet apart.

## 4:30 p.m. Founder's Day Observance

Reading of the Proclamation, Ceremonial Log-Cutting, Invocation, & First Lady's Toast

## 5:00 p.m. Dinner

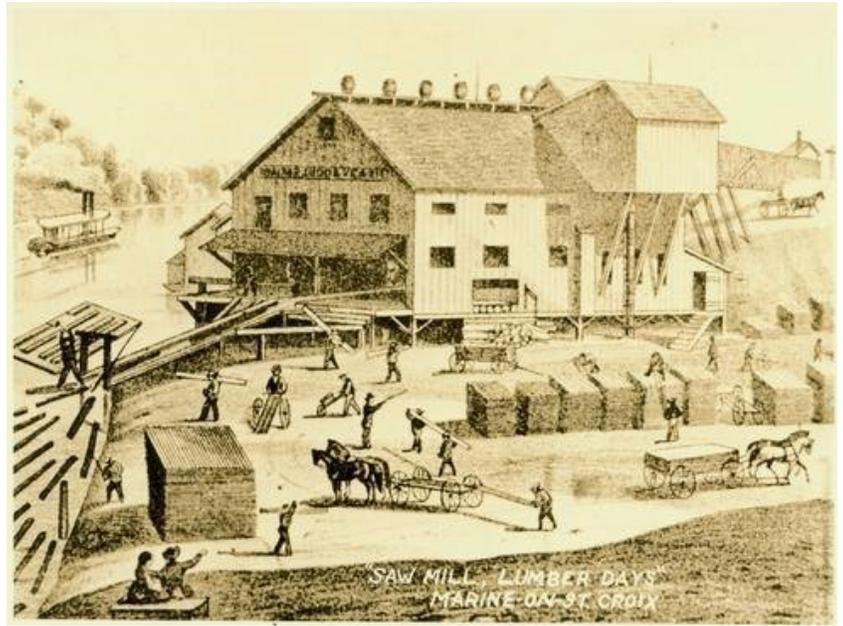
All guests will enjoy their unique self-prepared meals while listening to live music from the Riverside Hitmen. We do request that attendees make a donation to support the Marine Fire Relief Association.

## 6:00 p.m. Dancing & Lawn Games

Having supped, we dance. Lawn games will also commence on the green. Social distancing will be observed.

## 7:00 p.m. Fare Thee Well

Bid each other adieu, and take home all you came with.



### DETAILS TO NOTE

- All guests are encouraged to wear old-time and/or lumber-jack garb. Be original, be comfortable, but be classy.
- All guests must supply their own table big enough for their party, chairs, white tablecloth, a picnic basket of unique menu items, and dinner ware. Other suggested items for your table include unique centerpieces and candles.
- Tables should be lined up six feet apart in Burriss Park.
- Please be sure to pack away everything that you bring so as to leave the park in as good (or better) shape than when we arrived!



## Watershed District Invites Resident Input on 10-Year Plan

Your local watershed district is updating its 10-year Watershed Management Plan and is seeking input from stakeholders like you! Please help the District set its goals

and priorities for the next decade. Take the five minute survey, located on the front page of the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District website [www.cmscwd.org](http://www.cmscwd.org).

## Marine Restoration Society Thanks for Your Support!

Though we missed the opportunity to gather this June for the Progressive Dinner, the Society is grateful to all those who donated in lieu of the dinner.

We hope for a fantastic event next year!





Marine Mills Folk School Update

## Staying Connected, Keeping Spirits Up

We miss everyone!

Marine Mills Folk School classes remain temporarily suspended due to Covid-19. The folk school hosts socially distant Saturday morning walks and has helped with other community events as we all work to stay connected and keep our spirits up during this difficult period. If you would like to sign up for our weekly newsletter or learn more, visit [www.marinemillsfolkschool.org](http://www.marinemillsfolkschool.org), visit our Facebook page or email [info@marinemillsfolkschool.org](mailto:info@marinemillsfolkschool.org).

## New Grant Encourages Historic Preservation

The Old Shed Project is a historic preservation, grant award program designed by Wendy Ward. This program aims to incentivize and assist Marine on St Croix residents with the rehabilitation of the many unique outbuildings in historic Marine on St. Croix.

Marine is fortunate to have many original, mid 19<sup>h</sup> century, logging era homes and buildings in very good shape. The maintenance of these homes and distinct neighborhoods reflects the importance residents put on their community and historic preservation...it is a community steeped in history and sense of place.

Homeowners of old homes typically prioritize ongoing maintenance such as roofs, painting, structural issues, HVAC, electrical, additions, or insulation improvements. These are necessary and often big-ticket projects.

What gets put on the backburner are the outbuildings associated with these homes: old privies, blacksmithing shops, garden or tool sheds, chicken coops, garages, barns, animal shelters, and other small, tucked away, vernacular buildings. These simple outbuildings were once vital parts of homesteads, places to do specific, critical life chores.

The Old Shed Project wants to give Marine homeowners the incentive, the knowledge and the ability to start the rehabilitation of an in-need outbuilding.

The Old Shed Project also aims to make it easier for homeowners to undertake historic preservation work on their property.

**Grant application deadline: July 15.** For more information go to [www.theoldshedproject.org](http://www.theoldshedproject.org), or email [info@theoldshedproject.org](mailto:info@theoldshedproject.org)



## MARINE MILL

Marine Mill Site Update

### Visits to Mill Site Up 70%

The Historic Marine Mill Site has been hopping! In just the month of May, the River Trail had 2,338 visitors, compared to 1,433 last year. From January through May this year, 4,727 people visited the Mill Site, up 70% over 2019.

The City has installed signs urging visitors to practice safe coronavirus protocols while enjoying the site, and the Mill Site Committee concurs. Committee members are doing maintenance jobs this summer either individually or with help from a co-quarantine partner. Summer Mill Site projects have included removal of a tree that fell

across the River Trail, treatment of the historic American elm tree by the Village Hall to prevent Dutch elm disease, management of invasive species, placement of plaques honoring Jack Warren and Chuck Arnason for their key role in preserving the Marine Mill Site for the public, and the installation of two new pine benches, built by Mike Tibbetts, at the river overlook.

Our committee always welcomes new members! For more information, contact: Jim Schoeller (433-3440) or Anne Reich 9433-1341).

## Planning Commission Update

# Work Continues on Short-Term Rentals and Wireless Communications

### Short-Term Rental Ordinance

The Short-Term Rental Committee and Planning Commission are nearing completion on a draft ordinance to regulate short-term home rentals in Marine on St. Croix. When the draft is complete, it will be released for public review and comment.

Once a date is set for the public hearing — likely to occur in mid to late July — it will be posted on the city's website, bulletin board, and the public notice section of the Country Messenger.

### Wireless Communications Ordinance

The Planning Commission is in the early stages of the process of revising regulations on wireless communication infrastructure in Marine.

Commissioners are researching public safety communications needs in the Marine area and how nearby communities are addressing cell service options. They plan to gather input from residents, including concerns, as work continues to determine the best approach for cell service for Marine.

## Urban Forest Update

### Do You Have Ash Trees in Your Yard?

While you may not have noticed emerald ash borers (EAB) in your yard, chances are these tree killers are lurking nearby. They were documented in Scandia as early as 2015.

The beetle injects its larvae under ash tree bark, where it multiplies undetected for 1 to 2 years, damaging the nutrient-carrying capacity of the tree. A small infestation has little effect but as more and more larvae invade the tree you will see woodpecker-like holes on the trunk or large branches, bark cracks, and a noticeable thinning of the leaf canopy.

Once a tree has lost half of its canopy, it is probably too late to be saved. It has only 3-5 years of life remaining.

Without treatment an EAB infestation is 100% fatal. But before it is infected and in the early stages, you *can* save the tree by injecting it with a systemic insecticide. Ash trees are wind pollinated so this insecticide has little impact on bees. Learn more about EAB pesti-

cide options here:

[www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/Multistate EAB Insecticide Fact Sheet.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/Multistate_EAB_Insecticide_Fact_Sheet.pdf).

If you choose to treat your ash tree, you will need to do so every two to three years for the rest of the tree's life. (More frequent for larger trees and heavier pest pressure.) The cost of treatment by a qualified applicator is generally <\$12/tree diameter inch. A *less effective* soil-applied treatment can be applied annually at a cost of <\$5/tree diameter inch.

You could also decide to treat your tree for a few years while planting a replacement tree nearby, with the intent of removing the ash once the new tree reaches a certain height. Or you could remove the ash tree now, opening up a sunny spot for a new tree to grow.

### Village Center Ash Tree Survey

There are 12 large ash trees in the Marine village center. Currently only one tree is being treated – the



Montfort Ash located across the street from the post office. This glorious tree has a trunk 34" in diameter.

The Forest Advisory Committee is surveying the community to see whether people would prefer that the village spend money to treat these highly visible trees, or whether some or all of the ash trees should be removed and replaced.

**Please fill out the Ash Tree Community Survey at:** <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScC7jWP48leSM-OfqiD81BFalfyegAW7UPrgtaputlCV91OA/viewform>.

(You can also find it on the Marine website.) The committee will use this survey to make a recommendation to the City Council on future action and budget needs.

# Marine Community Library

## — Summer 2020 —

### Library Open for Curbside Pick-Up

The Marine Community Library is open for curbside book pick-up! The library will offer contactless Saturday curbside pickup and home delivery for patrons who request library materials by telephone or email. The library board approved a plan to safeguard volunteers and patrons. More details can be seen on the library’s website: [marinecommunitylibrary.org](http://marinecommunitylibrary.org). The library has many contemporary titles – check it out! (Get it – check it out – ha ha!)

### River Radio

The Marine Community Library was pleased to offer River Radio this past spring as a way for our community to connect during the pandemic shelter-at-home time period. The hosts, Jim Maher and Gayle Knutson, interviewed local and regional thought leaders including Pastor Joel Martin, Scandia Mayor Christine Maefsky, Marine Mayor Glen Mills, MPR financial correspondent Chris Farrell, Infectious Disease Center Director Dr. Michael Osterholm and Professor, Federal Reserve Bank Advisor V.V. Chari and many others. You can still listen to the recordings through the library’s website if there are any you missed. River Radio is planned to resume in the fall in a yet-to-be determined frequency.



#### Read books this summer and win amazing prizes!

Preschool through High School can participate by filling out forms online. Weekly drawings in two age groups for gift card prizes, which will be sent in the mail.

Donors are local and do not involve group experiences

GO TO [MARINECOMMUNITYLIBRARY.ORG](http://MARINECOMMUNITYLIBRARY.ORG)

FOR THE FORMS & MORE INFORMATION

[MarineCommunityLibrary.org](http://MarineCommunityLibrary.org) 121 Judd Street, Marine on St. Croix



### Summer Youth Reading Program

Though school and summer camps have been disrupted, your children can be encouraged to read by the library’s summer reading incentive program, which runs until August 29<sup>th</sup>. Please go to the website for details. [Marinecommunitylibrary.org](http://Marinecommunitylibrary.org)

# COMPOST SITE

City of Marine on St. Croix residents are encouraged to bring compostable yard waste to the city owned and operated compost site 3/4 mile north of the Hwy 95 and County Rd 4 intersection.

**HOURS**  
weather permitting

**Wednesdays**  
noon to 7pm

**Saturdays**  
9am to 4pm

- **OK to bring:** leaves, grass, twigs and sticks under four inches.
- **No large branches.**
- **No garbage bags.** Please take paper and plastic bags home with you.
- **No trash.** Please keep all glass, metals and plastics out of the compost.

## Burn Permits Planning a Bonfire?

**Get a permit before burning any brush pile larger than 3x3.**

The cost is \$5.00 for a brush pile permit, and \$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.

The permit holder must check with the Department of Natural Resources for current restrictions at [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating\\_restrictions.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html)

They must also notify the Washington County Sheriff's Office when they are going to burn. **Burning Hours are 6pm-8am per DNR requirements.**



# Canine Etiquette

Ch. 5 of City Code

Annual dog licenses are required primarily to ensure they have proper vaccinations and to help with identification of owners should a loose dog be picked up by a citizen or animal control. Licenses are \$2.00, but a failure to license a dog will result in accrued fees for each day a dog remains unlicensed. Dogs must be tagged. Addition-



ally, dogs must be leashed when not on the owner's property and any excrement must be cleaned up immediately when the dog is off the owner's premises. Dogs found to be running at large create a public safety issue and can be impounded. If a citizen locates a loose dog, please contact Animal Control Officer Brit Harmon at (715) 220-1332.

# Trail Etiquette & Reminders

Chapter 29 of the City Code outlines the use of trails within the City of Marine.

**Please pay attention to temporary signs stating the type of travel or vehicle not allowed.**

For example, bicycles or horses may be temporarily prohibited due to conditions.

**Please remember to clean up after your dogs** as required by Chapter 5, Subd. 6 of the City Code.

### Keep Your Distance

In keeping with public health recommendations to prevent spread of COVID-19, city officials

are advising residents to practice social distancing on the trails.

**Please limit group size, and walk 6 feet apart.**



GreenStep Cities Update

# GreenStep Cities Ready for Action

The Marine GreenStep Cities Committee will be ready to start work on projects in July, after the city-committee workshop identifies priority projects. Watch the city website for volunteer opportunities.

## Take the Washington County Bicycle-Pedestrian Survey

Washington County is creating a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and wants your input on barriers to safe biking and walking, where trail and sidewalk conditions are poor, and where you would like to walk and bike in the future. Your feedback will help the county fine-tune future routes and improve infrastructure. Visit the plan webpage -

[www.co.washington.mn.us/bikepedplan](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/bikepedplan) - to take the survey and to use the mapping function at the bottom of the page to add your comments to specific locations.

## Salt Pollution and Home Water Softeners

Minnesota has a growing water pollution problem from sodium chloride (salt). It threatens our freshwater lakes and streams, as well as aquatic life. In communities like Marine where many have water softeners and private septic systems, chloride drains from the septic system out into the groundwa-



ter. Once salt is in the water, it cannot be removed without extremely expensive desalinization equipment, and it never goes away.

If you have or are considering getting a water softener, take a look at these suggestions from the MN Pollution Control Agency (see [www.pca.state.mn.us/skinny-water-softeners](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/skinny-water-softeners)):

- Have your water tested for hardness and determine if you really need a water softener.
- Soften only the water that needs to be softened – not water to outside spigots or cold water taps. That saves money and salt.
- Install a high-efficiency softener that uses less salt, or switch from sodium chloride to potassium chloride. That switch could have positive health effects as you may be ingesting 300 mg of salt a day in your drinking water. (Learn more at the

MN Department of Health [www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/softening.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/softening.html).

# R I V E R R U L E S

~~~~~ Slowing down to enjoy river time ~~~~~

Summer is here, and with it comes an opportunity to get out and enjoy time on the River. This is a good time to review two boating regulations in place for our stretch of the St Croix:

**Slow Speed** means minimal wake while not on plane.

**Slow/No Wake** means minimum speed for steerage without creating a wake.

The Lower St. Croix from Taylors Falls/St Croix Falls to the Arcola sandbars is always a slow speed

zone, except when slow/no wake is in effect.

The Slow/No Wake requirement is always in effect within 100 feet of shore and other river users, and river wide when the river is in flood (683ft at Stillwater).

In other words, **there is never a time when a boater in this section of the river should be going fast enough to create a large wake.**

Let's all slow down and enjoy river time!

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## City of Marine on St. Croix

121 Judd Street P.O. Box 250  
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047

**We're on the web**

[www.marineonstcroix.org](http://www.marineonstcroix.org)

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## 2020 CITY COUNCIL, PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF OFFICE HOURS MONDAY - THURSDAY 8:00AM-4:30PM FRIDAY 8:00AM - 12:00PM

### 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  
Suzanne Dammann, Assistant Clerk  
Jason Crotty, Public Works 651-675-6493  
Tom Boesel, Public Works  
Maintenance Shop 651-433-5492

### Planning Commission

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

*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  
receiving the newsletter  
electronically, email Assistant City Clerk  
Suzanne Dammann: [asstclerk@cityofmarine.org](mailto:asstclerk@cityofmarine.org)  
The newsletter is also available online:  
[www.marineonstcroix.org](http://www.marineonstcroix.org)