

City of Marine on St. Croix  
**MOSC TIMES**



January, February, March 2023

## COUNCIL SETS TAX LEVY

The City Council has set the final levy for 2023 at \$976,890.98, a 3.98% increase over 2022. Details on page 6. To see a copy of the budget and keep up with other important city information, visit [www.marineonstcroix.org](http://www.marineonstcroix.org).

### Important Dates

<b>January 10</b>	<b>Christmas Tree Pick-Up (Last day to leave curbside)</b>
January 12	City Council Meeting
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day — City Office Closed
January 31	Planning Commission Meeting
February 9	City Council Meeting
February 20	Presidents Day— City Office Closed
February 28	Planning Commission Meeting
March 9	City Council Meeting
March 28	Planning Commission Meeting

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## Marine City Council Says Fond Farewell to Councilmember Gwen Roden

MILLER WILL RETURN TO COUNCIL

Mayor Kevin Nyenhuis and the Marine City Council recognized the service of outgoing council member Gwen Roden at the council's December 8 meeting.

"I would like to recognize long-serving and well-serving councilmember Gwen Roden," said Mayor Nyenhuis, "who served on both planning commission and city council, and has been a heartbeat of our downtown community through her business associations

there. Thank you so much, as you have served us well."

Roden, first elected to the council for a four-year term in 2018, did not run for re-election in 2022.

Incoming councilmember Bill Miller, who returns to the council after a two-year break, will be sworn in at the January 12 city council meeting.

Read a farewell note from Roden on page 2.

## Winter Parking: Don't Get Towed

No parking is allowed on streets or alleys from 2 am - 6 am, November 15 through April 1 or after any snowstorm. **This includes downtown businesses and apartment residents.** See page 7 for further explanation.

## — ICE RINK — School ice rink is OPEN

### WARMING HOUSE HOURS

(Rink is open any time)

Monday - Friday 3:30 - 8 pm

Saturday - Sunday 12 - 6 pm





## THANK YOU, CITY OF MARINE

As my term on Marine City Council comes to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank City Staff, including Fire & Rescue, our City Engineer and City Attorney, as well as the Planning Commission, with whom I worked for ten years, and my fellow council members and mayors. Each one of these amazing, selfless participants have extended great counsel, assistance with projects, direction and encouragement, mixed with lots of patience and humor. Thank you also to the Marine Community for their many helpful words, encouragement and appreciation over the years. Your kindness has brought me to tears many times.

I have been amazed and delighted at how engaged the community is. When I lived in St. Paul, no one I knew (including myself!) had a clue what issues faced our Planning Commission or City Council, much less who our representatives were or the roles they played in creating a livable community. Marine citizens know their representatives, current affairs and not only voice their opinions but put feet and hands, with long volunteer hours, to maintaining a healthy, growing community with an eye to the future. How blessed I have been to be a part of this amazing structure.

Although I'm ending my service as a member of City Staff (of sorts), I fully intend to stay active and attentive. I'll be seeing you and cheering you on current members of Planning Commission, City Council and staff!

Your BFF,  
Gwen Roden

## Jim Maher and Gayle Knutson Named 2022 Citizens of the Year

Gayle Knutson and Jim Maher were named 2022 Marine Citizens of the Year at the December 2022 Marine City Council meeting. The council described a "flurry of letters" nominating the pair with praise such as, "Talk about volunteers who have had such a positive impact on our welfare, knowledge and quality of life!"

Knutson has served for a total of 14 years on the Marine Fire & Rescue team, beginning in 1996. After six years on the squad, her focus shifted to national disaster relief with the National Red Cross, helping others after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Sandy, and the Fargo Flood. Knutson maintained her EMT license throughout, and rejoined Marine Fire & Rescue when the couple moved to Marine from May Township eight years ago. She has been the EMS captain of Fire & Rescue

since February 2022.

Maher has served as president of the Marine Community Library since 2019, stewarding the all-volunteer organization through the challenges of the pandemic. In partnership with the library, Knutson and Maher started River Radio during pandemic-related shut downs, helping to keep residents informed about relevant local and national issues.

In partnership with the Marine Community Library, Knutson is also involved in curating and organizing Marine Documentary Night, now in its 8<sup>th</sup> season, through the Marine Film Society.

A nomination letter added, "They have supported our schools and are ready and able volunteers for village issues that arise from time to time. "Moreover, their friendliness and enthusiasm represent the best of Marine's civic life."

## MARINE VILLAGE SCHOOL NOW OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT OF ALL GRADES, K-5



The time is now! Parents are encouraged to submit an initial enrollment application for Marine Village School to help ensure their student

has a seat in our amazing village school. On March 15th, we will hold a lottery for any grade that has more than 25 students applying for enrollment. We will

start with the fifth grade and work down. When a student is selected, we will check to see if they have any siblings applying for other grades; siblings are automatically enrolled at that point.

For example, when a student is selected for the fifth grade, if they have a sibling applying for Kindergarten, that sibling will be automatically enrolled in Kindergarten.

Once a class has been filled, we will continue the lottery and add students to a wait list.

Don't want to risk being put on a wait

list? Register for THIS YEAR and finish the year strong at MVS! Join students as they dive into rigorous academics, STEAM Lab, Piano Lab, Spanish, snow shoe and ice skate as a part of PE, Ecology in the School Forest and perform Aladdin Jr. in both Spanish and English!

Current students need only register for next year.

Please see our website for more details: [www.MarineVillageSchool.org](http://www.MarineVillageSchool.org) or contact Dr. Kim Kokx for a personal tour, [kimk@marinevillageschool.org](mailto:kimk@marinevillageschool.org)

# CITY COUNCIL RECAP

## Levy Will Increase 3.98%

Marine will see a 3.98% increase in the city’s 2023 levy, after cutting nearly \$15,000 from the original budget proposal.

Council members cut proposed spending levels at the Dec. 1 Truth in Taxation meeting.

The largest of these was trimming the Holidays & Events fund from \$20,000 to \$8,000 by opting out of fireworks over the 4th of July holiday. Of that \$12,000 cut, \$2,100 was moved to the urban forest budget to help pay for emerald ash borer treatment. The other \$9,900 was removed completely, reducing the levy.

The council also cut \$10,000 from the stormwater capital fund, moving \$5,000 to operational costs for raingarden maintenance and road sweeping. The other \$5,000 was removed from the budget completely, further reducing the levy.

The council held on to its proposal for a \$9,600 increase to pay Fire & Rescue members an hourly wage per call. This number was calculated using existing call-response averages: 4 members per call at a rate of \$15 per hour, estimating 80 calls per year with each call averaging 2 hours.

## No Fireworks in 2023

With costs for fireworks displays expected to double since the last time the City of Marine put on a 4th of July display, the Marine City Council has opted to cut the event from its holiday event roster.

At the Dec. 1 Truth in Taxation meeting, Councilman Charlie Anderson reported that if the City were to keep the fireworks on July 3rd, it would cost roughly \$16,000, twice as much as the City paid in 2019. And if the City were to move the fireworks to July 4th, the cost would be \$20,000.

Councilwoman Gwen Roden added that the pyrotechnic company could not guarantee a July 4th show due to lack of staff and continued supply chain issues. Others cited the crowd of thousands as a potential public safety issue, and added that the clean up required after the event fell to volunteers and City staff.

Roden and other councilmembers pointed to the potential for other community-wide events such as a community picnic, games or live music. The council ultimately cut \$12,000 from the Holidays & Events budget, but earmarked \$3,000 of the remaining \$8,000 for alternative 4th of July celebrations.

## Cell Tower: Reviews In Process

The City of Marine is moving steadily forward with plans for a future cell tower, though there is little to announce yet.

Council members and the City attorney have reviewed a draft lease. The City is also having nearby easements surveyed, which the City engineer will use to compare the staked easements and ensure there is adequate space for the necessary equipment to reach the cell tower location. The City attorney is further reviewing the easement descriptions to make sure the City has access for this purpose.

After the reviews are complete, the City may be able to pursue lease negotiations with Vinco as soon as mid-January.

## County Offers Mailbox Solution

Residents on county roads can now work with Washington County to get a mailbox that’s less likely to be damaged by the force of snow and ice pushed by snowplows.

Those with driveways on county roads can purchase a swing-away type box from Washington County and have it installed for \$75. For details, visit [www.co.washington.mn.us/2178/Swing-Away-Type-Mailbox](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/2178/Swing-Away-Type-Mailbox)

# Ash Tree Removal Begins in Planned Response to Insect Threat

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, four trees were removed from the north end of the Village Commons green space (north of the gazebo and near the retention pond and Anna's Bistro). These included two ash trees that were in decline and scheduled for removal in 2023, as well as a long-dead Scots pine, and a clump of boxelder in poor condition.

There have been multiple planning conversations over the past few years regarding the state of our urban forest by our [Forest Advisory Committee](#) (FAC) and council. We continue to raise awareness in the community as to the impact of the imminent [Emerald Ash Borer](#) (EAB) infestation.

Additionally, the publicly owned green spaces in Marine are continually evaluated for tree health, age, aesthetics, diversity, and public safety. EAB is already in our community and, if left unaddressed, will kill every single ash tree in town over the next few years.

The two ash were part of the first phase of removal of the 12 trees initially included in a DNR grant which the City was successfully awarded due to our proactive planning. Since there was some funding for tree removal available in the remaining 2022 city budget, this was an opportunity to get a start on the work without tapping into the DNR grant – thereby creating more flexibil-

ity for the project. The DNR grant includes funding for ash removal and replacement planting. The grant does not cover EAB treatment. Proactive, phased removal and replacement is preferable to the reactive mode that would be required due to predicted near-term mass die-offs. This approach will mitigate the aesthetic impact of the loss of ash in Marine’s central green spaces.

The FAC, partnering with residents, have identified and planned treatment of some ashes to ward off EAB on a case-by-case basis. We are partnering with Rainbow Tree Service to start treatment in 2023. The DNR grant will also

fund removal of some right-of-way (ROW) ash. These are defined as large ash trees within publicly owned roadways that may present a future fall threat due to EAB. Anyone interested in sponsoring, or “adopting,” treatment of a ROW ash should reach out to the FAC and/or council liaisons.

To be clear – protecting ash trees with an insecticide is a means of managing the planned phased transition; it is not a long-term strategy. The trees are protected for two growing seasons, and then must be re-treated.

Relatedly, the two end-of-life

# Marine Community Library

## — Winter 2022 —



Dennis Reynolds' unique background has allowed him to weave fine art, urban design, architecture and landscape architecture into holistic placemaking with integrated public art.

### Adult Programs

**Jan. 19 - 7:00 p.m.** - Art in the truly common, public realm is playing an increasingly important role in society. Urban designer and artist Dennis Reynolds will talk about how public art and placemaking enhance our quality of life.

**Feb. 16 - 7:00 p.m.** - Marine residents Gayle Knutson and Jim Maher talk about biking across Europe.

**Mar. 11 - 7:00 p.m.** - Marine Community Library fundraising event featuring the music of John Gorka.

### Documentary Nights

Two more documentary programs will be held in the first quarter of 2023. Watch for more details.



#### River Radio

Season 4 resumes on January 21st, with new programs scheduled through May.

Visit [marinecommunitylibrary.org](http://marinecommunitylibrary.org) for all the details.  
121 Judd St., Marine on St. Croix

### Children's Programs

**Family Fun Night at the Village Hall** — This is a great opportunity to meet other families in the community. Families can bring their favorite games to play and games like BINGO, Minute to Win It, book charades, and crafts will also be available. We'll have pizza from Scandia Pizza and strongly suggest that families RSVP so we can order enough. This is a free event but we suggest a donation of \$5/family for pizza. Families are welcome to bring in their own beverages, but there is always water available.

**Dates:** Friday nights - Jan. 20, Feb. 17, and March 10  
**Time:** 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

**Thursday Storytime** — Our popular storytimes are held every Thursday at 10:30 am in the Library. No need to register; open to all ages.

**Saturday Fun at the Library** — Join us for a fun afternoon focused on card and bookmaking art. Best for ages 5 to 11.

**Date:** Saturday February 18, 2023

**Time:** 1:00-3:00

**Location:** Marine Town Hall (upstairs)  
Registration online (highly encouraged)

### Kids Collection

The Marine Community Library has a wide assortment of books and materials for kids of all ages, from board books for babies to fiction and nonfiction for teens. We continually add new releases and other materials to our collection, and we also have childhood classics like Dr. Seuss and Berenstain Bears.

### Regular Library Hours

Visit the library to explore our ever-evolving book collection.

**Monday** 10 am – 1 pm

**Tuesday** 4 – 7 pm

**Wednesday** 3 – 6 pm

**Thursday** 10 am – 1 pm

**Friday** 4 – 7 pm

**Saturday** 9 am – 12 pm



# KEEP WARM WITH MARINE MILLS FOLK SCHOOL



The winter months are long and cold, and there's only so much cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, or shoveling a person can do before they want to come inside and be warm. Come and be warm with us!

Marine Mills Folk School is entering its fifth year and has a full and varied roster of classes. In 2023, we're welcoming back popular artisan-instructors such as Janet Ames (Nalbinding) and Liz Schreiber (Crop Art), and introducing some new folks. Subscribe to our weekly emails to be the first to hear about them: [marinemillsfolkschool.org](http://marinemillsfolkschool.org).

In addition to our artisan-led courses held most Saturdays, we also host free community events each week (see the full schedule below). Everyone is welcome to drop into these free events, check out our classrooms, and get to know our staff and volunteers.

## Volunteers

We're excited to announce that local resident and realtor Tia Turner has joined our team as Volunteer Coordinator! If you're interested in helping the folk school, she would love to hear from you.



We're always looking for class-day hosts (volunteers are partnered with a staff member), event help, class photography, data entry, and other support. Email [info@marinemillsfolkschool.org](mailto:info@marinemillsfolkschool.org) and we'll be in touch!

## Woodworking Studio

Last fall, we announced plans to open a Woodworking Studio in Spring 2023. Having a dedicated woodworking studio will benefit our entire school community by opening up classroom space for fiber arts, visual arts, crafts and our many other courses.

Thanks to a generous, anonymous gift, and with additional donations gathered last November, we've raised nearly 75% of the funds we need! If you'd like to donate to the Woodworking Studio, visit [marinemillsfolkschool.org/support](http://marinemillsfolkschool.org/support). Thank you!



## FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Knit Night:** Every Tuesday from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Hosted by Liz Towers.

**Dare to Repair:** First Saturday of the month from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Hosted by Molly Sanford and Dana Vannen Anderson.

**Open Carving:** Second Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Hosted by Brian Keogh.

**Bluegrass Jam Session:** Second Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Hosted by Randy Gildersleeve.

## UPCOMING CLASSES

Jan 7: Herbal Remedies: Make a Soothing Salve

Jan 7: Intro to Traditional Indian Hand Block Printing

Jan 14: Intro to Plant-Based Dyes

Jan 14: Your First Mittens

Jan 21: Beginning Crop Art

Jan 21: Make Your Own Soap

Jan 28: Welding a Steel Rose

Jan 28: Beginning Chair Caning

Feb 4: Chunky Knit Pouf Pillow

Feb 4: Basic Digital Photography for Adults

Feb 11: Stained Glass Suncatchers

Feb 11: Let's Make Chinese Dumplings

Feb 18: Challenge Yourself Series: Understanding Brioche

Feb 18 & 19: Laminated Doughs: Puff Pastry & Croissants

Feb 26: Papercutting with Torben (Online)

March 4: Drum Making

March 4: Dorset and Death Head Buttons

And dozens more!

**For the complete list of upcoming classes, visit: [marinemillsfolkschool.org](http://marinemillsfolkschool.org).**

Classes and events take place at 550 Pine Street unless otherwise noted. Thank you to Christ Lutheran Church for allowing us the occasional use of their kitchen space!



*Marine Mills Folk School: Discover the joy of creating together through traditional arts and crafts.*

# WINTER TRAIL GUIDE

Enjoy Marine’s public trails — and make sure your neighbors can too

### Trail Use: General Guidelines

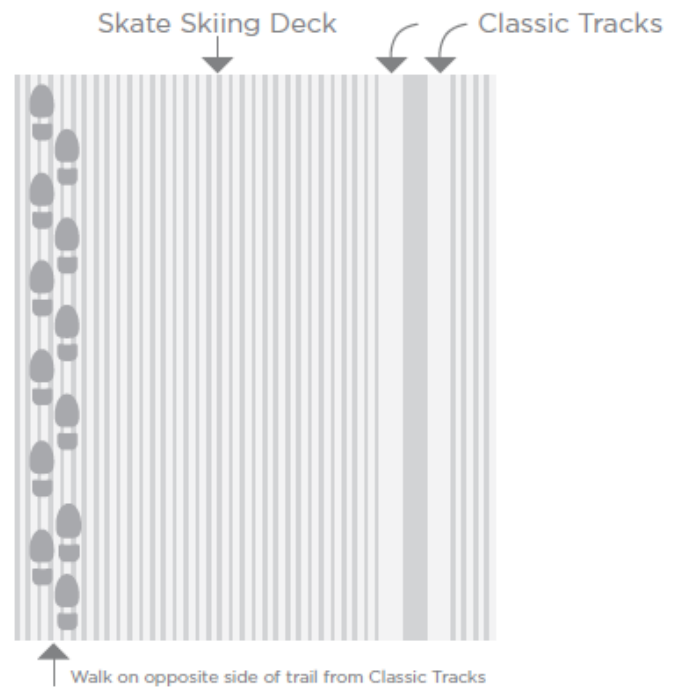
- No motorized traffic. Motorized wheelchairs are OK.
- Keep right so others can pass.
- If you are on the trail with a dog, keep your pet on a leash and do not leave poo on the trail.
- Obey traffic signs and rules.
- Pick up garbage and litter.
- Respect adjoining landowners’ rights and privacy
- Stay on designated trails; do not take shortcuts.
- Do not disturb the plants or animals.

### Jackson Meadow Ski Trail Etiquette

Did you know that people are allowed to walk on the Jackson Meadow ski trails? It’s true, they are public trails.

However, during winter months volunteers groom many of these trails into cross-country ski lanes.

- The city encourages hikers in Jackson Meadow to stay on the multi-use trail (see map on page 5).
- On the multi-use trail, walk on the opposite side of the classic skiing tracks (see graphic, right).
- If you are sinking more than an inch into the ski trail, please find an ungroomed trail to hike until the snow is firm. This is most likely to occur after new snow or fresh grooming.
- Whether hiking or skiing, if temperatures are warm and the trails are soft, please stay off groomed trails altogether. When the snow refreezes boot or ski tracks freeze and make grooming difficult.



## MARINE O’BRIEN SKI RACE SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

12 & 25K Classic & Skate Races. 6K Wood Ski Race & Kids Races. Race times, distances and registration at [marineobrien.com](http://marineobrien.com).



Find a map of the public Jackson Meadow ski trails at [marineonstcroix.org/maps](http://marineonstcroix.org/maps)



# PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS WEBINAR

– March 2, 6-7:30pm –



## Bring on the butterflies!

Your yard can help to support monarch butterflies, rusty patched bumblebees, pollinators, and wildlife, AND look beautiful!

During this workshop we'll talk about what to plant, how to get started, where to buy native plants in Minnesota and western Wisconsin, and where to find additional support for pollinator projects

Learn about about native gardens, bee lawns, flowering trees and shrubs, and prairies.

Whether you have a small urban lot or a large farm in the country, you can help to create pockets of habitat and connected

corridors for pollinators and other wildlife in our community.

Presented by:

- Angie Hong - East Metro Water Education Program / Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

- Cody Sipe - Prairie Restoration, Inc.

Register at [tinyurl.com/pollinators2023](https://tinyurl.com/pollinators2023).

For questions, contact [angie.hong@mnwcd.org](mailto:angie.hong@mnwcd.org).

More info about native plants and pollinators at [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org) or [www.mnwcd.org/planting-for-clean-water](http://www.mnwcd.org/planting-for-clean-water)

## WINTER REMINDERS

### Shovel the Sidewalk

Clear snow and ice from public sidewalks within 12 hours of snowfall, and don't put snow or ice onto streets or alleys. The City will charge for snow removal resulting from violation of this ordinance. See City Code: Chapter 8, Subdivision 4.

### Park Off Street

Do not park on streets or alleys from 2 am - 6 am, November 15 through April 1, or until the roads are cleared after a snowstorm on any date. This allows public works to plow the streets. The city has

authority to tow your vehicle at your expense during these times, per Chapter 24, Subdivision 1 of the city code.

### Set Trash Bins in the Driveway

Place trash and recycling receptacles in your driveway, not the street.

When snow plow drivers are clearing roadways, any obstacle in the road poses a potential hazard to drivers and passersby. Snow plow drivers must plow around the obstacle, leaving snow in the roadway. Also of concern, the obstacle may be damaged by the plow or snow that is being plowed.



## Ash Trees: Transition Plan Includes Insecticide Treatment and Tree Removal

FROM PAGE 3

spruce from the south parcel of the Village Commons will be removed by Environmental Design in 2023, as they were planted in memoriam 40+ years ago and are in bad shape. An additional declining ash in proximity (Y-shaped trunk still holding its leaves) will also be removed in 2023. The remaining ash will be treated and re-evaluated in 2025 and 2027.

The FAC will expand its tree gravel bed program in 2023.

Sixty-four tamarack are being grown in the existing bed and will be used to offset loss of black ash in Marine's seep swamps. A second bed will be planted with larger stock. These trees (16) will grow over the summer and be out-planted in the fall of 2023. The gravel beds will continue to produce trees each year for fall planting and will be used to mitigate the removal of ash trees in 2025 and 2027. This will also increase the diversity of species in Marine.

Our approach as a city to this

issue has been deliberate in method and communication. We are committed to following this phased and incremental planning process to keep our green spaces healthy and beautiful for generations.

To that end, we will be celebrating our fifth year next spring as an [Arbor Day Tree City USA](http://ArborDayTreeCityUSA.com) community. We have 450 [white pine](#) and 100 [tamarack](#) saplings coming. Some will be planted by the FAC or end up in the tree gravel bed, and many will be given away to residents. The

FAC will also be soliciting volunteers to beautify the Village Commons in 2023, to include planting trees, native grasses, and wildflowers. There will also be opportunities to help assess Oakland cemetery's treescape, mitigate buckthorn and improve the canopy floor in Burriss Park, the School Forest, trails, and other areas.

If you are interested in joining the FAC in this effort, either as a member or as a casual volunteer, please contact council members [Wendy Ward](#) or [Charlie Anderson](#).

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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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## 2022 CITY COUNCIL, PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF

### City Council

Mayor Kevin Nyenhuis 651-247-7399  
Charlie Anderson 651-592-9449  
Bill Miller 651-433-5354  
Lon Pardun 651-433-2130  
Wendy Ward 651-301-0633

*Council meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall and via Zoom. See [marineonstcroix.org](http://marineonstcroix.org) for links.*

### City Staff

Lynette Peterson, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Suzanne Dammann, Assistant Clerk  
Tom Boesel, Public Works 651-755-2197  
Rob Powell, Public Works  
Maintenance Shop 651-433-5492

### Planning Commission

Chairman Scott Spisak  
Gerry Mrosla Kristina Smitten  
Anna Hagstrom Jennifer Henry  
Ed Sanderson Tim Casey

*Meetings are last Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall and via Zoom. See [marineonstcroix.org](http://marineonstcroix.org) for links.*

### Get the newsletter via email:



If you're 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)

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