

City of Marine on St. Croix MOSC TIMES



January, February, March 2024

COUNCIL SETS TAX LEVY

The City Council set the final levy for 2024 at \$1,032,778.83, a 5.2% increase over 2023. The largest increases are for road maintenance and inflationary adjustments for staff, including firefighters. See the full budget at marineonstcroix.org/budget.

Important Dates

January 9	Christmas Tree Pick-Up (Last day to leave curbside)
January 11	City Council Meeting
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day — City Office Closed
January 30	Planning Commission Meeting
February 8	City Council Meeting
February 19	Presidents Day— City Office Closed
February 27	Planning Commission Meeting
March 5	Presidential Primary
March 7	City Council Meeting
March 26	Planning Commission Meeting

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After 100 Years of Service Civic Club Disbands

After over 100 years of service to Marine on Saint Croix, the Civic Club of Marine is disbanding. Many of us in Marine are not aware of the major contributions the Civic Club has made to Marine since it was founded in 1922 by a group of women who wanted a way to serve the community they loved.

For the first 50 years the Civic Club focused on projects like clothing for children, raising funds for medical care, providing emergency shelter, helping raise

funds for the fire station, starting the first library, and sponsoring the Marine Village Girl Scout troop. In later years they expanded their work to assisting at community events such as the 4th of July fireworks, Halloween parties at the Marine Village School, and providing refreshments for the Memorial Day service.

The Civic Club invested in continuing education for their members and would invite speakers to

SEE CIVIC CLUB: Page 7

Cell Tower Lease Under Negotiation

The Marine City Council on November 9 rejected a land lease agreement with Vinco. Councilmembers Lon Pardun and Charlie Anderson reported that they'd negotiated on rental payments, escalations, and tower removal, but had not reached an agreement on construction timeframes.

"It basically would give the company the right to do it at some point in the future," Anderson said at the Nov. 9 City Council meeting. "There's no commencement date for rent payments. There's a lack of landlord reme-

SEE CELL TOWER: Page 7

— ICE RINK —

The school ice rink will be flooded as weather permits.

— Once flooded and frozen, rink is open any time —

WARMING HOUSE HOURS

Monday - Friday 3:30 - 8 pm

Saturday - Sunday 12 - 6 pm

Civic Club Leaders Honored with Pride of Marine Lifetime Achievement Award

The Marine City Council on December 14 awarded the Pride of Marine Lifetime Achievement Award to Civic Club leaders Peg Arnason, June Eagleton, Kay Hempel, and Isabel Steele.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes members of the community who have demonstrated notable volunteer service and civic leadership over the course of decades.

The award is given at the discretion of the Council, not necessarily annually, but 2023 proved to be an appropriate year to honor the Civic Club.

“The Marine Civic Club, which is a hundred-year-old organization, is disbanding this year,” said Councilman Bill Miller. “There’s been a very robust group of people associated with that.”

Miller first proposed recognizing all Civic Club members with the award. After further discussion, Council narrowed the list to four recent leaders.

“The Civic Club as an entity had three or four different chapters of what they did over that span of 100 years,” said Mayor Kevin Nyenhuis (for details, see the related story on page 1)

“This leadership,” Nyenhuis continued, “which I’ll call out as June Eagleton, Peg Arnason, Isabel Steele, and Kay Hempel — there was other great talent involved but those four in particular have really led the charge — held it together to make it to the hundred-year anniversary.”

Miller accepted the mayor’s suggestion and Council approved the award unanimously.

Mary Skamser Named 2023 Citizen of the Year Posthumously



The Marine City Council has named Mary Margaret Skamser 2023 Citizen of the Year.

Mary had served as a head election judge, volunteered at the

school, and served on Marine Fire & Rescue. She also served as a judge and helped organize the annual Marine Art Fair, a major fundraiser for Marine Fire & Rescue.

“That’s a very significant amount of volunteer work for a citizen of ours who has since passed away,” said Councilman Bill Miller, as he moved to award Skamser with the honor.

The nomination was approved unanimously. The Citizen of the Year Award honors those who have made outstanding contributions to the Marine community through volunteer service and civic leadership.

New Committees Explore Possibilities for Mill Site and School Properties

Mill Site Property Advisory Committee

In August, the Marine City Council formed a Mill Site Property Advisory Committee to study whether there’s interest in the City acquiring the Mill Site in full or in part, and what for what purposes. The property is currently owned by the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) and maintained by a group of volunteers from Marine using MNHS funds.

City leaders have had informal discussions with MNHS about the possibility of the City acquiring the property. The research committee — made up of two City Council members, two Planning Commission members and two citizens — is tasked with researching the history of the property, studying its current use by and benefits to the community, gathering

information from stakeholders, and evaluating the best and most effective uses for the property in the future.

Marine Multi-Generational Education District Advisory Committee

The acquisition of the Marine school property at 550 Pine St. in 2019 was a major investment by the City and its tax payers, and a reflection of the City’s priority of supporting access to educational offerings for all ages.

In recognition of this investment, the City Council created the Marine Multi-Generational Education District Advisory Committee to develop a master plan for the current and future use of the district.

The committee is comprised of stakeholders from City Council, Planning Commission, citizenry, and representa-

tives of the Marine Village School, Marine Mills Folk School, and the immediate neighborhood.

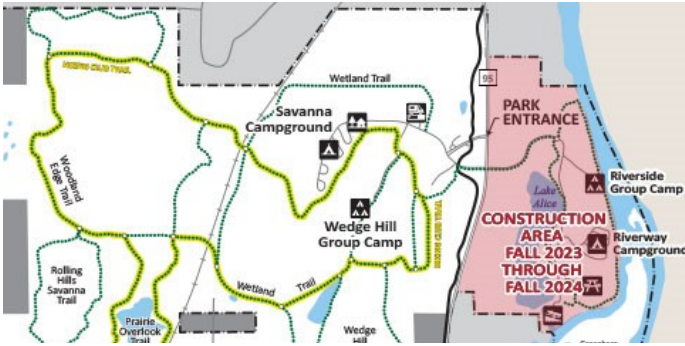
The committee’s primary focus is on the Marine Education Site at 550 Pine St., consisting of approximately 8 acres. The committee’s task is to find common ground between what’s possible at the site and the interests and expectations of citizens and stakeholders, then create a master site plan.

Marine on St. Croix citizens have long demonstrated a commitment to education, including the founding of the village’s original school in 1853. Citizens both value and support multi-generational learning in many ways, including strong support for local organizations involved in history, civic advancement, K-12 education, adult education and more.

JOIN MARINE FIRE & RESCUE

The Marine Fire Department is looking for help! Fire Fighter or Emergency Medical Responder

Interested? Email Chief Mills: firechief@marineonstcroix.org



Construction Work at William O'Brien State Park Begins February 2024

Construction to upgrade facilities at William O'Brien State Park is scheduled to begin this winter. The project will replace aging amenities and bring facilities up to date with state and federal accessibility best practices.

While 90% of the park will remain open during construction, the lower portion of the park near Lake Alice and the St. Croix River will close in February 2024 and remain closed through late 2024/early 2025.

The area that will be closed for construction includes:

- Mondale Day Use Area, including the St. Croix River public water access, Lake Alice swimming beach, parking lot and picnic shelters
- Riverway campground
- Riverside group camp
- Riverside Trail

For the latest updates about this project throughout 2024, please visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/william-obrien-accessibility-improvements.html.

COUNCIL ACTS TO ALLOW TICKETED EVENTS IN HOMES

The Council amended the City Code in October to allow up to four ticketed events at residents' homes each year. Prior to this change such events were not allowed by code, although three had been permitted through the special event permitting process. This was an unforeseen use of the special event permit that raised concerns from neighbors about commercial activity in residential districts, among other concerns, which prompted Council to clarify the policy in City Code.

SEAT OPEN ON PLANNING COMMISSION

The Marine Planning Commission currently has one vacant seat, to be filled by a volunteer commissioner. The Planning Commission helps to uphold the long-term vision of the City of Marine regarding land use and development. For information and to apply, see marineonstcroix.org.

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR UPDATED ZONING CODE

Marine residents can now review a draft of the updated, more user-friendly zoning code. Thanks to the work of volunteers on the Marine Planning Commission, the help of professional planners at HKGi, and a cooperative partnership with staff at

the DNR, this code fully aligns with Wild & Scenic Riverway protections and current state laws governing the variance process.

A public hearing for the new code has been set for January 30. Visit marineonstcroix.org to see the draft zoning code.

City of Marine and Jackson Meadow Hollow Restoration

A little-known Marine community treasure exists in Jackson Meadow (JM). If you haven't taken advantage of the public trails at JM, you are missing out! More than five miles of trails are carefully mown by MoSC during the summer months and Nordic trails are meticulously groomed by the Jackson Meadow Neighborhood Association (JMNA) during the snow season.

For the last 20+ years, the JMNA has taken an active role caring for the permanently protected, public land surrounding JM. Residents have regular project days to conduct prairie burns, cut down trees, tackle buckthorn,

remove debris along with other activities. In partnership with the City, they have also applied for DNR grants to restore native prairie species in the North Meadow and more recently to tackle ecological restoration work in the The Hollow.

Located in the southwest corner of JM, The Hollow is a 53-acre city park donated to MoSC by the developer of JM consisting of trails winding through rolling woodlands and prairie. With the encroachment of invasive species such as buckthorn and prickly ash, The Hollow has become overgrown and difficult for volunteers to manage.

SEE HOLLOW: Page 7

Marine Community Library

— Winter 2024 —

Village Folks: Watch for lines of children making their way down the hill to visit the Marine Community Library. Our children's section is enjoying a surge of circulation in our growing partnership with the Marine Village School. This fall all the children and teachers at the school signed up for their new library cards and are now coming down on a regular basis to spark their love of books by sharing in our resources. Every other Friday we also have library volunteer readers sharing their love of books with the primary grades up in the classrooms.

Family Fun Night and Pajama Storytime

Two events on the same evening - attend one or both on January 19. February and March dates are yet to be determined.

Family Fun Night is a great opportunity to meet other families in the community. Activities include board games, *Minute to Win It*, book charades, crafts and more. Bring your favorite game to play with others. We'll hold BINGO at the January 19th event. We'll have pizza from *Scandia Pizza* and recommend that families RSVP so we can order enough pizza for all. This is a free event, but we suggest a donation of \$5 per family for pizza.

Date and Time: Friday, January 19 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Marine Village Hall, 121 Judd Street

Pizza: \$5 per family suggested donation

RSVP: Visit MarineCommunityLibrary.org/events

For **Pajama Storytime**, put on your PJs, bring your favorite blanket and stuffed animal friend, and join us for stories at the Marine Community Library!

Date and Time: Friday, January 19 from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Marine Community Library, 121 Judd Street, All ages welcome. No RSVP needed.

Summer 2024 Art and Science Camp

The dates are set for our 2024 Summer Camp:

The week of June 10 will be for students finishing grades K - 2.

The week of June 17 will be for students finishing grades 3 - 5.

More details to come, but please note that registration will begin in February.

River Radio

January 13

January 27

February 10

February 24

March 9

March 23

April 6

April 20

May 4

May 18

Documentary Nights

February 1

March 7



Updated Library Hours

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

Monday 10 am – 1 pm

Tuesday 3 – 6 pm

Wednesday 3 – 6 pm

Thursday 10 am – 1 pm

Friday 3 – 6 pm

Saturday 10 am – 1 pm



From the Mayor: Marine Strong

There is no formality in how the council reports on the state of the city, but it is worth noting that the state of the city is strong! From road improvements to land restoration, an active school property to a vibrant downtown, urban forest improvements and a healthy squad of first responders, the pages of the newsletter filled-up with highlights throughout 2023.

As I reflect on what it takes for the city to function, I wanted to shine one light on a group of unsung heroes that have tirelessly worked throughout this year to

push a big stone up a hill. The MoSC Planning Commission has put in extra effort and lent their expertise to drive close to the finish line an updated city code. No small feat — and one that benefits us all for years to come.

In addition, we mark the end of the Marine Civic Club after 100 years — ending their most recent charge as stewards of the Stonehouse Museum. Do not despair, a new group of citizens is setting a vision on how to honor the past going into the future. A true testament of how volunteers drive the engine of engagement in

our village.

On behalf of the City Council, we want to thank the city staff for their ongoing dedication and hard work.

Please know that whether Marine has been your home for generations, or you are as new here as the trees in our village green, it is a privilege to serve you.

Cheers to the new year in Marine,
Kevin Nyenhuis
Mayor

More Creativity, Connections and Community in 2024!



Classes and activities at Marine Mills Folk School (MMFS) resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 with Knit Night, a weekly community event. Led with pa-

tience, enthusiasm and skill by Marine resident Liz Towers, the group is a welcoming community of knitters of all skill levels and experience. Those younger than 18 are welcome with an adult.

Speaking of the Towers family, we'd like to recognize Michael Towers for his service as our volunteer bookkeeper in 2023! Michael donated countless hours of his time and expertise in helping us get our bookkeeping up to speed. Thank you, Michael!

In 2024, we're emphasizing more creativity, more connections and more community!

So, what does more creativity look like? For one, we're welcoming nine new instructors to the folk school in January and February. These talented artisan-instructors will teach Build a Wooden Longbow, Songwriting, Birding and Clogging, to name just a few new classes (see the complete list on our website, marinemillsfolkschool.org).

Of course, we're offering many of our most popular classes as well: Needle-Felting, Barn/Hex Signs, Stained Glass, Soap Making, Knitting, and Woodcarving in our woodshop, located behind the school.

Did you know that we co-share the school building at 550 Pine Street with Marine Village School (MVS)? We love the opportunities the proximity is inspiring and are making new connections with MVS and their students.

Last December, we launched the SPARK program at MVS. MMFS volunteers, led by MMFS Program Director Kirsten Skoglund and Liz Towers, introduced knitting to every student! The program is designed to introduce young learners to a variety of folk arts to see what "sparks" their interest. Upcoming SPARK days at



MVS include spindle spinning, photography, Hmong embroidery and foraging.

Community continues to be at the heart of everything we do at Marine Mills Folk School. Please join us for a class or drop in during any community event to see our mission in action: helping everyone discover the joy of creating together from a folk school tradition!

MMFS Community Events

- Dare to Repair Fix-it Clinic (first Saturday of the month)
- Open Carving and Bluegrass Jam Session (second Saturday of the month)
- Beginner's Bridge (third Saturday and fourth Tuesday of the month)
- Knit Night every Tuesday.

No RSVP is necessary, just be sure to check the schedule online at MarineMillsFolkSchool.org first.

Upcoming Classes & Events

- Hmong Embroidery: Jan. 13
- Make Your Own Soap: Jan. 20
- Stained Glass Suncatchers (ages 12+): Jan. 20
- Beeswax Basics (ages 16+): Jan. 20
- The Joy of Birding (ages 10+): Jan. 27
- Shrink Pots – Carving Small Boxes: Jan. 27-28
- Needle-Felt a Chickadee: Feb. 3
- Build a Wooden Longbow: Feb. 16-18

For a complete list of upcoming classes and community events, visit 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!

See Updates From the Sheriff's Office

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has started sending monthly newsletters specific to Marine, sharing details of local incidents and timely reminders. These are posted on the City's site under the Services tab.

Council Plans for Red Bridge Maintenance

The Marine City Council approved \$9,000 in spending to monitor and inspect the Red Bridge. The City's engineering firm, Bolton & Menk, will install monitoring targets to detect movement, informing plans for future maintenance.

WINTER TRAIL GUIDE

Just add snow ...

Trail Use: General Guidelines

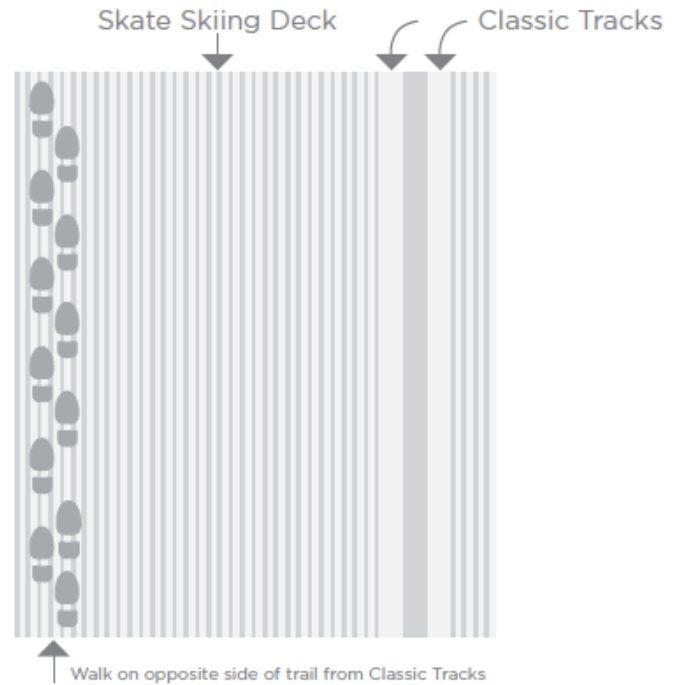
- No motorized traffic. Motorized wheelchairs are OK.
- Keep right so others can pass.
- If you are on the trail with a dog, keep your pet on a leash and do not leave poo on the trail.
- Obey traffic signs and rules.
- Pick up garbage and litter.
- Respect adjoining landowners' rights and privacy
- Stay 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 28, 2024

12 & 25K Classic & Skate Races. 6K Wood Ski Race & Kids Races. Race times, distances and registration at marineobrien.com.



Find a map of the public Jackson Meadow ski trails at marineonstcroix.org/maps



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

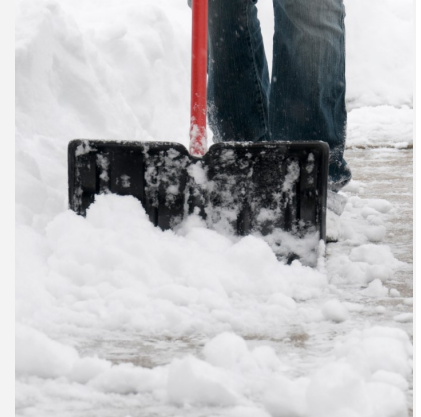
Do not park on streets or alleys from 2 am - 6 am, November 15 through April 1, or until the roads are cleared after a snowstorm on any date. This allows public works to plow the streets. The city has

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.



Civic Club: After a Century, Club to Disband

FROM PAGE 1

share their thoughts on political or intellectual matters. Civic Club members also organized and advocated for causes they believed in at the city, state and federal levels. The Civic club always had an interest in the history of Marine and steadily became more deeply involved with local and state historians like James Taylor Dunn and helped support the writing of his books about the history of Marine on Saint Croix.

In 1963 the Civic Club took on a direct role in the preservation of Marine history when the Marine Township Hall was refurbished and opened as the Stone House Museum. For the past 60 years they have been hosting visitors to the museum and curating the collection.

On April 8, 2023, Peg Arnason and Kay Hemphill called a meeting inviting the community to the Marine Council Chambers, asking for com-

munity advice on how to continue the works of the Civic Club whose members were aging. Out of that meeting a new group of citizens was founded.

The work the Civic Club did at the Stone House Museum will be carried on by a newly formed organization: Stewards of Marine Mills History.

Marine on Saint Croix owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the current and past members of the Civic Club.

Please express your appreciation to active and past members Peg Arnason, Kay Hempel, Isabel Steele, June Eagleton, Shirley Mills, Saima Savela, Judy Kavanagh, Marilyn Cummings, Janet Johanson, Lynne LeTart, Kevin Nyenhuis, Mary Smith, Lisa White, Mary Fernstrum, Linda Tibbetts, Lorelee DiLorenzo, Gayle Knutson and Larry Gilbert for over a century of work done and for continuous dedication of Civic Club members.

Cell Tower: Lease Remains Under Negotiation

FROM PAGE 1

dies ... as well as termination of rights."

Based on those issues,

Pardun and Anderson recommended against accepting the agreement in its current form, and the council followed through on

that recommendation unanimously. The lease remains under negotiation and the Council hopes to have a new proposal in January.

Hollow: Restoration Project Underway, Volunteers Needed

FROM PAGE 3

Grant work conducted by Minnesota Native Landscapes this winter will remove invasive woody species and set the stage for prescribed burns and further restoration activities conducted by volunteers starting in spring 2024 allowing for the re-introduction of suppressed native species and greater biodiversity.

The Hollow Restoration project is funded by a DNR Conservation Partners Legacy

(CPL) grant, the City, and Jackson Meadow Neighborhood Association, with significant in-kind match by volunteers. The total project costs are \$198,030 with the grant funding completed on June 30, 2025.

Volunteers are needed to support The Hollow Restoration activities. If you are interested in participating in this transformational project, please contact Councilperson Wendy Ward at wendy.ward@cityofmarine.org.

MARINE RESTORATION SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JAN. 16, 7 PM
121 JUDD ST.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

2024 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 for links.

City Staff

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

Planning Commission

Chair: Scott Spisak Gerry Mroska
Anna Hagstrom Kristina Smitten
Jennifer Henry Tim Casey

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

See 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

The newsletter is also available online:
www.marineonstcroix.org

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

Phone: 651-433-3636 Email: mosc@cityofmarine.org