

City of Marine on St. Croix MOSC TIMES



January, February, March 2025

COUNCIL SETS TAX LEVY

The City Council set the final levy for 2025 at \$1,126,971.24, a 7.66% increase over 2024. The largest increases are for road maintenance and saving for capital equipment. See the full budget at marineonstcroix.org/budget.

Important Dates

January 9	City Council Meeting
January 13-17	Christmas Tree Pick-Up
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day — City Office Closed
January 28	Planning Commission Meeting
February 13	City Council Meeting
February 17	Presidents Day— City Office Closed
February 25	Planning Commission Meeting
March 13	City Council Meeting
March 25	Planning Commission Meeting

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City Council Passes Cannabis Regulations

The Marine City Council on December 12 approved regulations governing cannabis retail, commercial cultivation, and events. The regulations accommodate cannabis's legal status at the state level while limiting potential negative impacts on neighbors, children, and safety of the public.

Under the regulations, up to one cannabis retailer will be able to establish a storefront in Marine. This type of establishment would

be similar to a smoke shop, in which customers would purchase merchandise but imbibe elsewhere. Establishments selling lower-potency hemp edibles and drinks would not count toward the retail license maximum. For example, a properly registered restaurant or bar could serve hemp THC drinks without impacting the availability of a license

SEE CANNABIS: Page 7

City Leaders Mark Councilman Pardun's Exit with Well Wishes and Many Thanks

Marine residents, council members and planning commissioners at the December 12 city council meeting lauded the impacts of outgoing Councilman Lon Pardun over the course of his 12 years on the Marine City Council.

Planning Commission Chair Scott Spisak noted that Pardun led improvement efforts to essential in-

frastructure including roads, wastewater and the Village Hall. He also helped lead the City of Marine's efforts to purchase the elementary school property after the Stillwater school district announced it would be closing the school.

SEE COUNCIL: Page 7

— ICE RINK —

The school ice rink will be open as weather permits.

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

WARMING HOUSE HOURS

Monday - Friday 3:30 - 8 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday 12 - 6 p.m.

GWEN RODEN NAMED 2024 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



The Marine City Council on December 12 named Gwen Roden the city's 2024 Citizen of the Year. The annual recognition honors a resident who has contributed to the community in ways that meaningfully enhanced quality of life for Marine on St. Croix residents.

In nominating Roden, Councilman Charlie Anderson noted her years of service on the planning commission and, later, city council.

In addition, Roden has organized the Enchanting Forest for seven years, all but the first year of the celebration. The Christmas-season event brings the community together to decorate trees, and creates a winter-wonderland scene that draws passersby into Marine.

Anderson also noted that Roden welcomes residents with love and respect in the Marine General Store, where she is manager.

Roden will be presented with a plaque and invited to speak at the city's Memorial Day service. Citizen of the Year also receives an entry in the Fourth of July parade.

Village Hall will Get a Makeover

At the December City Council meeting, the City Council approved a bid from J White Builds in the amount of \$244,153.10 for the Village Hall Remodel project.

The project will include a new ADA bathroom, new kitchenette and janitor closet, current bathroom remodel, enlarged office for the assistant clerk with small conference space and waiting/reception area for residents and the remodeling of the Council chambers to create an additional office and meeting area.

There will also be much needed upgrades to the mechanical and electrical systems. The project will be paid for through previously budgeted reserve funds and a generous donation from the Restoration Society.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin early 2025 and during that time the City offices will be relocated to the upstairs of the Village Hall. Plan details can be found on the City website.

Mill Stream Initial Plan Input Meeting Set January 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Mill Stream is an iconic and integral part of Marine on St. Croix and an important ecological feature of the St. Croix River.

Join us for the third interactive evening to discuss and gather input on the initial plans for the restoration of the Mill Stream segment that flows through Burris Park.

On Tuesday, January 21st at the Marine City Hall, the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District, Washington Conservation District, and City of Marine on St. Croix will host a **community workshop to share the draft plans to restore the ecology of Mill Stream.**

If you have questions or comments, please contact Mike Isensee at mike.isensee@cmscwg.org or (651) 275-7451

Marine Multi-Generational Education District Advisory Committee will Seek Public Input

Tasked with developing a master plan for the elementary school property, the Marine Multi-Generational Education District Advisory Committee is planning a robust community engagement campaign starting this spring.

The committee's goal is write a long-term plan for the nearly nine-acre property before upcoming updates to the Marine on St. Croix Comprehensive Plan.

The plan must consider the following:

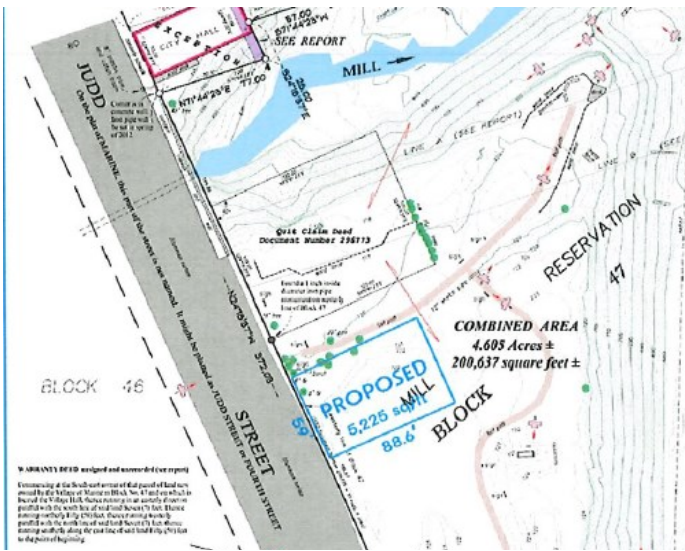
- Interests and expectations of citizens regarding the site
- City's needs
- Marine Village School
- Marine Mills Folk School
- Planning commission
- City council

The city's website has a dedicated page with the work to date for review:

marineonstcroix.org/mmedac.

Current committee members are Councilman Bill Miller, planning commissioners Tim Casey and Lisa White, Robin Brooksbank representing Marine Mills Folk School, Dan Willenbring and Mike Lammi representing Marine Village School, Juliette Welp representing residents near the school, and at-large committee members Jake White and Kirsten "Kitsi" Vadheim.





City Pursuing Purchase of Parcel on Mill Site

The City of Marine is working to purchase a small piece of land at the historic Marine Mill Site, currently owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. Research into the potential purchase was led by a citizen committee that, since September 2023, has been exploring and evaluating the best future use of the tenth-acre parcel.

The committee identified three best potential uses:

- interpretive center for the river or local heritage
- multi-use building that could potentially house the

library, folk school, or other groups

- public restrooms

The land transfer would not impact the Mill Site’s designation as a state historic site, nor its place on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed purchase price is \$1. The Marine City Council on December 12 reached a consensus to reengage the Minnesota Historical Society to acquire the Mill Site Property. The Mill Site Property Advisory Committee will continue to engage the residents to determine the future use of the property.

WITH FIX, CITY EXTENDS LIFE OF DRAIN FIELD

Residents on the city-managed septic system will benefit for years to come thanks to proactive management of the drain field. Recently, public works staff noticed deterioration in the field’s main dispersion structures, which were made of concrete. With the help of engineers and sewer professionals who tested the soil and analyzed findings, public works and council members determined the drain field soil was filtering well after decades of diligent maintenance. The City replaced the concrete structures with fiberglass expected to last many decades in the future. For residents on the system, this represents significant savings on infrastructure – a repair of approximately \$195,000 versus a multimillion-dollar new drain field.

FIRE & RESCUE SPOTLIGHT: ANDY LAPOS



munity. Our department includes professionals from various fields such as banking, aviation, business, authors, and more. Many members are long-time residents, making it a great mix of people to ask for a wide range of recommendations and insights about the community.

How long have you lived in Marine?

My wife Megan and I have been residents of Marine for over 20 years, raising our three children here. It is an ideal location, offering the perfect balance of rural living and close enough to have reliable internet and phone service.

What’s your day job?

I am a software developer at Infor, a New York-based company that focuses on creating industry specific, cloud-based business software solutions.

What brought you to Marine Fire & Rescue?

I joined the department on the recommendation of fellow firefighter Mike Aspengren, as a great way to connect with the com-

What’s the most challenging part of being a first responder?

The most challenging aspect is the required training to comply with Fire, EMS, and OSHA standards. This involves approximately 200 hours of training within the first year of service to prepare for various scenarios. Fortunately, once certified, the ongoing training is less demanding and covers topics relevant to everyday life.

What’s most rewarding?

The most rewarding aspect is the sense of making a difference. Helping and preserving lives and property when people are at their most vulnerable is truly fulfilling.

Taking a look at joining Marine Fire & Rescue?

Email Fire Chief Glen Mills at firechief@cityofmarine.org

Or come to a meeting – Fire is 1st Monday of each month 7 pm; Rescue is second Monday of the month at 7pm.

Marine Community Library

— Winter 2025 —

Family Fun Night and PJ Storytime

Family Fun Night: Join us for fun, games and pizza from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

We'll meet at the Marine Village Hall. Family Fun Night is a great opportunity to meet other families in the community. Activities include BINGO, board games, Minute to Win It, book charades, crafts and more. Bring your favorite game to play with others.

We'll have pizza from Scandia Pizza. This is a free event, but we suggest a donation of \$5 per family for pizza.

As part of Family Fun Night, **Pajama Storytime** will begin at 6:30 p.m. in

the Marine Community Library on first floor. All ages are welcome to put on your PJs, bring your favorite blanket and stuffed animal friend, and join us for stories! Come just for PJ Storytime if you like.

Date and Time: Friday, January 10th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Marine Village Hall, 121 Judd Street, Marine on St. Croix

Pizza: \$5 per family suggested donation

No need to RSVP.

Documentary Nights

January 16, 7 p.m.

February 15, 7p.m.



Library Hours

Monday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tuesday 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednes. 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Thurs. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Adult Programming

2024 Must Reads: Bill Simpson has created his annual reading list for 2024, available on the library's web page.

On Display: Stop in the library to see artwork of community member's beloved pets this winter.

Hello from Marine Village School!

We are so busy up on the hill! Our kindergarten through fifth-grade classes have been spending each Friday at William O'Brien State Park conducting science experiments, learning through nature, and enjoying every season we experience here in Minnesota. Classes continue to take a weekly walk to the library and are thankful for ALL the Marine community does to invest in their education. MVS and the Marine Mills Folk School have continued their joint efforts to bring unique artistic experiences to MVS students ... in addition to having art and music several times a week, the MMFS brings professional artists to work with our students. In November, we were clogging! December brings gift wrap-making classes to complement the precious gifts students make for their families.

Academically, we are celebrating our

amazing students! Our Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment scores came in ranking MVS significantly higher in reading, math, and science than not only area schools but the state average as well. We are so proud of our program that emphasizes strong literacy skills ... it is working!

Need a magical getaway? Come join us for the *Wizard of Oz* on January 10-11 here on the MVS stage! THREE different casts are rehearsing hard to make you laugh and sing along! Tickets go on sale December 16 online at our website marinevillageschool.org

Want to see what a day in the life of an MVS student is like!? Come take a personal tour to learn about enrollment, volunteer opportunities, and how to further support Marine Village School. It truly takes a village!

— Dr. Kim Kokx

Stewards Turn Attention to Artifacts and Web Presence

Winter greetings from The Stewards of Marine Mills History. After an extended fall season and many visitors to the cabin especially, the Stonehouse Museum and Old Settlers Cabin are buttoned up for the winter, but our work continues.

Attention to our collection and development of our website top the list. We hope to see more of you than ever in the spring and will eagerly welcome fellow history lovers to become official supporters of our organization. In the meantime, visit our tree in the Enchanted Forest for a dose of history and feel free to use the beauty of the museums as a backdrop for family memories.

See you in the spring!

Tap into Classes and Community at Marine Mills Folk School



Marine Mills Folk School started off the new year with a packed schedule of folk arts classes led by amazing local and regional artisan-instructors! We

lease space at the City-owned school building and offer classes on most week-ends, sharing space with the Marine Village School who uses the building during school hours M-F. The 1950/60s school building has almost no storage areas, requiring collaboration and creative space use, but the staffs of the charter school and folk school communicate constantly – it all works! We also host cooking classes at Christ Lutheran Church, thanks to their generosity and support.

Our folk arts events are a combination of tuition-based classes and free regularly-scheduled ‘community’ events. Here a

partial list, find the complete schedule at marinemillsfolkschool.org:

Beeswax Basics: From Bees to Candles with Cathy Mackiewicz on January 25

Herbal Remedies: Make Fire Cider on January 25

Community Bridge Club on January 28

Watercolor Batiks on February 1

Leather Market Tote with Duluth Artist Candace LaCosse on February 1

Basket Making – Potato Basket on February 8

Community Knit Night – most Tuesdays
Bringing Folk Arts to Local Kids

We expanded our ‘Spark’ program at the Marine Village School, with every grade having hands-on time with an artist each month (depending upon the school curriculum). It’s going great, ask the kids in

your life for a demonstration of ‘American Clogging’ set to a Taylor Swift song!

There’s More

For seniors, we’re continuing our ‘Create, Connect, Age Well’ program with mid-week classes, thanks in part to 2024 and 2025 Arts Education grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board. And don’t forget, our Family Day returns on February 15.

We hope to see you soon!

Marine Mills Folk School: Discover the joy of creating together through traditional arts and crafts, just up the hill! us the occasional use of their kitchen space!



Learning to make egg rolls.



A ‘Spark’ crochet class for kids.



The ‘Build a Wooden Paddle’ class.

County Opens Forest-Lake-Based North Environmental Center

Marine residents can now bring electronics, hazardous waste, and yard waste to a drop-off site much closer than Woodbury. County representatives cut the ribbon at North Environmental Center on December 18.

6065 Headwaters Pkwy.
Forest Lake, MN 55025
651-275-7475

Monday	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Now accepting hazardous materials, electronics, recyclables, and food scraps. To find drop-off procedures and more, visit WashCoRecycles.com/EnviroCenter.

Become a County Tree Steward

Join the Washington Conservation District and UMN to learn more about trees and how to help care for our collective urban forest!

The Minnesota Tree Steward program is designed for people who love trees, enjoy being outdoors, and want to volunteer with their community. Through a partnership with the Washington Conservation District (WCD) and University of Minnesota, you’ll learn how to care for young and newly planted trees in public spaces of Washington County. After completing the training and short assessment, you’ll also

become a certified Tree Steward Volunteer who can participate in activities under the guidance of WCD or host site Forestry staff.

After training, volunteers are encouraged to complete 25 hours of volunteer work and/or participate in 3 tree related volunteer events each year. Questions? : Jessica Sahu Teli jSahu.Teli@mnwcd.org

Workshop dates (Pick one):

- April 5th : 9am - 2pm : Scandia Community Center
- April 12th : 9am - 2pm: Nordic Center in Lake Elmo Park Reserve

WINTER TRAIL GUIDE

Just add snow ...

Trail Use: General Guidelines

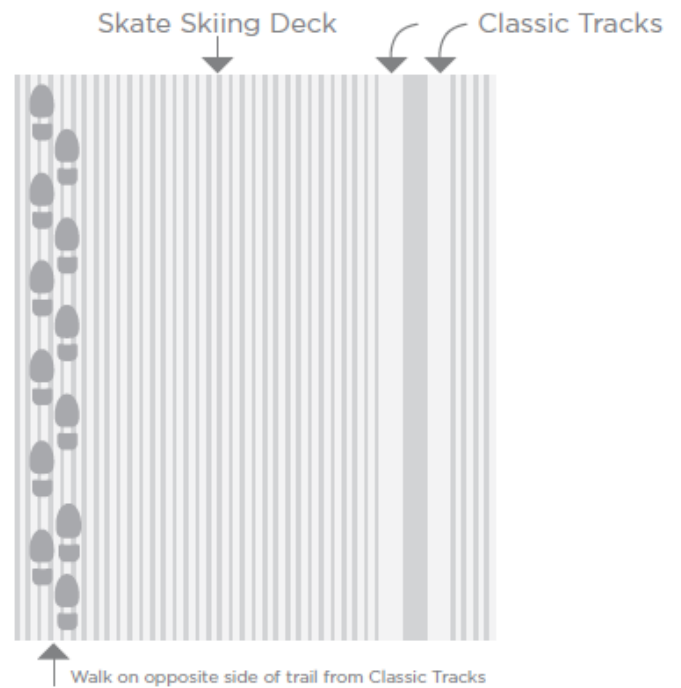
- No motorized traffic. Motorized wheelchairs are OK.
- Keep right so others can pass.
- If you are on the trail with a dog, keep your pet on a leash and do not leave dog waste on the trail.
- Obey traffic signs and rules.
- Pick up garbage and litter.
- Respect adjoining landowners' rights and privacy
- 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 19, 2025

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



3 Reasons to Set Trash Bins in your Driveway Instead of the Street



Although it makes sense to set trash and recycling receptacles in the street for easy pickup and clear entry into your driveway, in winter, bins in the street quickly become hazards.

Here are three reasons to keep your bins in your driveway on trash collection day:

1. **Danger to Others:** When plows are clearing roadways, anything in their way could be pushed into other drivers or pedestrians.
2. **Problems Plowing:** If plow drivers see something in the road, they often try to plow around the obstacle, leaving snow in the road.
3. **Bin Damage:** It's also possible that your bins could be damaged by the plow or the pushed snow.

BE A COOL WINTER NEIGHBOR

Shovel the Sidewalk

Clear snow and ice from public sidewalks within 12 hours of snowfall, and don't move any into 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.

Cannabis: Council Passes Regulations

FROM PAGE 1

for a smoke-shop type cannabis store.

Outdoor cultivation is allowed with an interim use permit in the Single Family Rural and St. Croix - Rural Residential districts. Indoor cultivation is allowed with an interim use permit in the Light Industrial District. All cultivators will be required to ensure that odors and noise are not detectable at the property line, that lighting is shielded, and security measures are in place.

Manufacture, transport, and delivery are permitted in the Light Industrial District.

Temporary cannabis events are regulated in alignment with other special events, including a cap of four per year for residential properties. No consumption would be allowed at these events, and cannabis events would not be allowed at all within 250 feet of a school or child care center.

Cannabis consumption – smoking, vaping, eating, drinking – has been prohibited in Marine's public spaces since August 2023. This includes consumption in parks and on sidewalks or streets. Like tobacco, smoking and vaping are allowed on privately-owned outdoor premises, such as a patio area a restaurant has designated as a smoking area.

FIRE & RESCUE

WINTER FIRE AWARENESS

- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors (and CO detectors while you're at it). If the batteries are more than five years old, it's best practice to replace them.
- Taking down Christmas lights? Check strings of lights for bare wires. If you see any, toss that string and get a new one for next winter.

Forgot your dog waste bag?

It happens. In Gazebo Park, the City has a dog waste bag station for your convenience. Picking up after your pooch on sidewalks, trails and in parks is considerate. It's also required by City Code.

Enchanting Forest Ornament Removal Deadline

Enchanting Forest decorations need to be removed before the second weekend of January. Please leave the lights on the trees. Any decorations not removed will not be returned.



COUNCIL: Pardun's Impacts Recognized

FROM PAGE 1

These efforts were accomplished in addition to Pardun's work and family obligations, as

positions on Marine's city council are volunteer. Mayor Kevin Nyenhuis presented Pardun with a framed artwork featuring the

Village Hall.

Incoming Councilmember John Goodfellow will be sworn in at the January 9 city council meeting.

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

2025 CITY COUNCIL, PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF

City Council

Mayor Kevin Nyenhuis 651-247-7399
Charlie Anderson 651-592-9449
John Goodfellow 651-433-1494
Bill Miller 651-433-5354
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, Assistant Clerk
Tom Boesel, Public Works 651-755-2197
Rob Powell, Public Works
Maintenance Shop 651-433-5492

Planning Commission

Chair: Anna Hagstrom Vice: Kristina Smitten
Jennifer Henry Tim Casey
Julie Warren Claudia Carr

*Meetings are last Tuesday of each month
7:00 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 Lindgren: 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

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