

City of Marine on St. Croix
MOSC TIMES



January, February, March 2026

COUNCIL SETS TAX LEVY

The City Council set the final levy for 2026 at \$1,177,006.13 , a 4.4% increase over 2025. The largest increases are for road projects, tree maintenance, and saving for capital equipment. See the full budget at marineonstcroix.org/budget.

Important Dates

January 8	City Council Meeting
January 12-16	Christmas Tree Pick-Up
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day — City Office Closed
January 27	Planning Commission Meeting
February 12	City Council Meeting
February 16	Presidents Day— City Office Closed
February 24	Planning Commission Meeting
March 12	City Council Meeting
March 31	Planning Commission Meeting

In This Issue

Citizen of the Year	2
Mayor’s Column	2
Zoning Code Updates	2
Fire & Rescue Spotlight	3
Library Events	4
Marine Village School News	4
Folk School Events & Classes	4
Mill Stream Restoration	5
Forest Advisory Committee	5
Stewards of Marine Mills History	5
School Property Site Plan	5
Winter Reminders	6-7

CHARLOTTE WILCOX, MIKE LAMMI NAMED CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

SEE STORY: Page 2

Trash Service Switches to Gene’s Disposal

The City of Marine is switching its residential trash service to Gene's Disposal in 2026.

Gene's started delivering new bins December 16. Waste Management was scheduled to pick up their bins December 29-30.

If you have any service issues or would like to change your bin size, **contact City staff** — not Gene’s.

Gene’s Disposal will collect trash

and recycling on **Tuesdays** for all Marine households. Recycling will be collected every other week.

First day trash of collection: Jan. 6

Trash and recycling: Jan. 13.

You can check recycling dates all year on the interactive calendar at marineonstcroix.org.

RECYCLING GUIDELINES: Page 7

Cell Tower Construction Complete

Cell tower builder Vinco said in early December that they had completed construction of the cell tower and that equipment for the tower’s lead tenant, AT&T, had been installed. Vinco was getting ready to install rock and fencing,

and hook up to electricity. They anticipated having services live by the end of 2025. Before finalizing a lease with Verizon, Vinco was waiting on design and regulatory work, but anticipated construction in early 2026.

— ICE RINK —

The school ice rink will be open as weather permits.
 — Once flooded and frozen, the rink is open any time —

WARMING HOUSE HOURS

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

Saturday - Sunday 12 - 6 p.m.

2025 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR: CHARLOTTE WILCOX, MIKE LAMMI

The Marine City Council in December named two Citizens of the Year: Charlotte Wilcox and Mike Lammi. Council members noted that both nominees have been involved in community efforts for decades, but their time and talents were especially appreciated in 2025.

Charlotte Wilcox



Nominations for Wilcox emphasized her willingness to lend a helping hand, often anticipating others' needs and lifting their spirits along the way.

"Charlotte has dedicated her time and enthusiasm to supporting the Marine Village School, Marine Folk School and our community," residents Dorothy Deetz and Tod Drescher wrote in a nomination letter. "She assists local businesses, helps with clean-up efforts, efficiently completes tasks, acquires resources, and contrib-

utes to various school projects. Her exceptional organizational skills make her an invaluable asset to our Village."

Those sentiments were echoed by Robin Brooksbank, founder and board chair of Marine Mills Folk School, and Carla Hinz, operations manager of Marine Village School.

"Charlotte steps up whenever she sees a need within the village," Brooksbank wrote, "constantly volunteering her skills and enthusiasm at organizations such as Marine Mills Folk School, Marine Village School, Christ Lutheran Church and others, as well as simply helping her neighbors and friends, often before they realize they could use the help! She brings joy and a smile to every situation, leaving not just a shoveled walk or installed shelf but also shares laughter and perhaps a pun or joke, making every situation a positive one."

Wrote Hinz, "Charlotte (Char) is an amazing person, and a great asset to our school. She is here almost every single

day of the school year, helping to support the school in many projects. We love her positive and friendly attitude to everything she does We couldn't do what we do each day if it wasn't for her!"

Mike Lammi



Lammi, who recently served in the volunteer role of board treasurer for Marine Village School, also made significant contributions to the school in 2025.

"Mike worked tirelessly on the financial issues the school faced as a startup," Councilmember Bill Miller wrote. "This behind the scenes work in my opinion saved the school in a very critical point in its path. This role was very demanding and his work and suggestions for the future wellbeing of the school were not popular or easily accepted. I feel his work has set the ground

SEE CITIZENS OF THE YEAR: Page 7

FROM THE MAYOR: That is nothing new(s)

Our connection to Marine started fifteen years prior to us planting our family home in Jackson Meadow. Meaning, it has been four decades of understanding just how special a place this is.

Through 2025 I met many new residents who just started their Marine journey and also celebrated the lives of those who have already written many chapters of their lives here. The constant I see is the true love of the community, history, and access to the wonders of nature this little hamlet has to offer.

Love for Marine is nothing new — the year ahead is. It gives us all a chance to build into the story.

Take a note from the Mahoney family who made something out of the smallest thing and hosted The Straightest Stick Contest in October. New and newsworthy for being about as "Marine" as you can get. Organic in nature and on a pretzel stick budget. What's your 2026 breakout idea to build community?

The dedicated city staff, committees, Planning Commissioners, and my fellow Council members look forward to helping you participate.

See you 'round the village,
Mayor Kevin Nyenhuis



PHOTO: Monette McGrath
Entries in the Straightest Stick Contest, held in October.

Planning Commission Proposes Updates to Zoning Code

Public Hearing Jan. 27, 7 p.m.

The Marine on St. Croix Planning Commission will hold a public hearing January 27, 2026, to hear citizen comments on proposed revisions to the zoning code. As of late December, the City's planner was finalizing draft language to post in early January. While many of the changes are minor "housekeeping" corrections, the updates also include new measures regulating solar energy systems and shipping containers.

Solar

Under the proposed draft language, rooftop and building-integrated solar would be permitted with standards west of Highway 95 (in the Single Family Rural, Single Family Urban, and Limited Industry districts). East of 95, in the river districts, rooftop and building-integrated would be allowed as a conditional use.

Accessory use ground-mounted solar would be permitted with standards in the Single Family Rural, Single Family Urban, and Limited Industry districts. Ground-mounted solar would also be allowed in the St. Croix Rural Residential and St. Croix Urban Residential districts, with stricter standards as

SEE ZONING CODE CHANGES: Page 7



Can First Responders Reach You in an Emergency?

In an emergency, every second counts. Police, fire, and EMS rely on clear access and visible address numbers to reach you as quickly as possible. Marine Fire & Rescue Chief Glen Mills recommends doing two things now to minimize delays should a fire or medical emergency occur.

1. Take an afternoon – or a full day if needed – to make sure your address numbers are clearly posted near the end of your driveway. Placing them on your mailbox or on a sturdy post near the street helps first responders know they have the right home. Numbers should be easy to see from the road, day or night.
 2. Check the trees and vegetation along your driveway. Overgrown branches can make it difficult or unsafe for emergency vehicles to enter, especially larger fire engines and ambulances. Trimming trees and shrubs back on both sides of the driveway ensures there is enough clearance for emergency vehicles to pass through quickly and safely.
- These steps might seem small, but can make a big difference. Clear addresses and accessible driveways help first responders get to you when it matters most.

FIRE & RESCUE SPOTLIGHT: ARIK HOWIE



Tell me a bit about yourself?

I am a husband and the father of two amazing children. I have been working for UnitedHealth Group (UHG) on their Unified Communications team since 2007.

What motivated you to join Marine Fire and Rescue?

I have been interested in the fire service and emergency medicine for almost as long as I have been at my current job. A few years after we settled in Marine in 2019, I saw an announcement for an information session at the fire hall in the city newsletter. I went there and signed up that same evening.

How do you fit volunteering into your life schedule?

The first three Monday evenings dedicated to training and other scheduled events have been rela-

tively easy to fit into my schedule. Shifting the mindset to drop everything and get rolling when the sirens go off has definitely required a bigger adjustment.

What have you learned on the department that helped in your everyday life?

After completing all of the required formal training, I left with greater confidence and a solid understanding of how to help others when they need it most.

What advice would you give someone who is interested?

If you approach things with the right attitude, it can change your life for the better. Everyone in the department is generous about sharing their experiences, and I truly feel like I'm part of the squad.

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 2026 —

2025 Must Reads

Bill Simpson has created his annual reading list for 2025. Read it at marinecommunitylibrary.org/bills-2025-picks

Tune In to River Radio

January 17, 9 a.m. River Radio focuses on providing information about your community and your world. In each episode, conversation is conducted with notable figures from Minnesota and nationwide as well as local leaders.

Documentary Nights

January 15, 7 p.m.

February 19, 7p.m.

Film titles to be announced.

Family Fun Night, PJ Storytime & Talent Show

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.

Note: At the Jan. 23 event, there will also be a Talent Show!

January 23, 2026 @ 5:30 - 7 p.m.

February 20, 2026 @ 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Location: Marine Village Hall, 121 Judd Street, Marine on St. Croix
Pizza: \$5 per family suggested donation. No need to RSVP

Happy New Year from all of us at the Marine Mills Folk School!

As we open our hearts and minds to the new year, we also reflect in gratitude for all the blessings and challenges that 2025 brought our way. We are most thankful for YOU – our amazing community and supporters who make this folk school possible and a joy to be a part of. Thank you!!

Speaking of JOY, we are still beaming after hosting our first Holiday Sing-along on Friday night, December 12th. Thanks to all who joined us for a bluegrass musical celebration of the holidays! It was a great success, and we look forward to making this new event an annual tradition.

And another event tradition is just around the corner! MMFS Family Day returns on Saturday, March 7th from 9am-12pm. Round up your family, neighbors, and friends...and come to the folk school for a great Saturday morning of traditional crafts, fun activities, and entertainment for all ages. More details to come!

At the Marine Mills Folk School, our vision is to make a better world by building community, encouraging curiosity, and celebrating the gift of beauty in all we create. We hope that you will join with us on this journey, for we cannot do it without you!

Registration is open now for weekend classes in January and February. Here are a few highlights:

Beginner Printmaking – January 3

Pet Portrait College – January 3

Calligraphy – January 17, 24, 31

Spoon Carving – January 31

Winter Landscapes in

Watercolor – February 14, 21, 28

Winter Soups – February 21

Medicinal Mushrooms – Feb. 28

Denim Upcycling – February 28

For the complete class schedule and registration, please visit our website at www.marinemillsfolkschool.org.

Hope to see you soon at the folk school!

Curtains Up on Community School Revival

Eight years after Marine Elementary School was closed by the Stillwater district, the halls were once again alive, this time with sold-out crowds for Marine Village School's production of *Elf Jr. The Musical*.

Now in its fourth year, the K-5 charter school has become a model of small-town determination. After the Stillwater Area School Board voted to close Marine Elementary in 2016, the building officially shuttered in 2017. But residents refused to let their neighborhood school disappear. In 2019, the city's Economic Development Authority (EDA) purchased the vacant building, paving the way for the community-supported launch of Marine Village School in 2022. Since opening, the school has become one of the region's most visible examples of rural school revival.

Both performances of *Elf Jr.* on November 21 and 22 sold out, filling the once-empty building with the buzz of excited young performers.

"The overwhelming demand shows

how deeply this community values student creativity, the arts, and our special school," said Executive Director Dr. Curtis Windham.

Windham said the productions reflect the hands-on, community-supported learning that defines the school's rebirth. "Students develop confidence, responsibility, and teamwork, and the community shows up for them every time."

EDA Vice President Dan Willenbring said the school's success confirms the city's investment was the right one. "Buying this building wasn't just a real-estate decision; it was a commitment to the long-term vitality of our town," said Willenbring. Mayor Kevin Nyenhuis agreed, calling Marine Village School "a cornerstone of our community."

A group of local donors has now pledged up to \$100,000 in matching funds, support that Windham said will ensure the school can continue delivering the exceptional education families expect.

Mill Stream Ecological Restoration: Project Background and Current Status

The Millstream is a historic and ecologically significant waterway. Originally a free-flowing stream, it has been reshaped by human activity. The installation of low-head dams, culverts, and creation of the pond in Burriss Park fundamentally altered the stream's natural form. These changes fragmented aquatic habitat, adversely impacting the ecological integrity of the stream.

The CMSC Watershed District and the City are currently involved in a multi-year effort to evaluate restoration opportunities that recognize both the ecological importance and cultural value of the reach between Hwy 95 and the Brookside.

The Watershed District has completed ecological and hydraulic assessments as well as a detailed site survey. Marine's Millstream Amenities Committee (MAC), created in Q2 2025, has identified

opportunities to enhance long-term amenity and recreational attributes on this less intensively developed portion of Burriss Park. The committee's work identified concepts that include preservation of cultural resources and historical uses, walking trails, benches, crossings (bridges), direct access to the water, interpretive signage, and public art.

The process has included multiple rounds of public input meetings, and this level of citizen engagement will continue. Construction may occur in 2028, contingent upon grant funding.

If you would like to learn more about the in-stream ecological restoration work, please contact mike.isensee@cmscwd.org. If you would like to get involved with the MAC please contact john.goodfellow@cityofmarine.org.

Forest Advisory Committee Looks Forward to Eventful 2026

The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) is looking forward to a busy year.



We will be selecting trees for planting in our two gravel beds this spring, focusing on native and climate-adaptive trees likely to thrive in Marine. Buckthorn control projects will continue in the hillside between Highway 95 and the Stone House Museum and other areas, with a focus on allowing native cover species to replace invasive species.

We will also be caring for the trees that have been planted over the last couple of years in our downtown parks and adjacent areas, to ensure a healthy future for Marine's urban forest.

April 24 is Arbor Day, created in 1872 to encourage people to plant trees. If you would like to help organize Marine's annual event, typically celebrated with the Marine Village School, contact Kitsi Vadheim at klvadheim@hotmail.com or the city of Marine. Activities may continue throughout the month of May, which is Arbor Month.

New members are always welcome, as are tree enthusiasts for our activities throughout the year.

*What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants cool shade and tender rain,
And seed and bud of days to be,
And years that fade and flush again;
He plants the glory of the plain;
He plants the forest's heritage;
The harvest of a coming age;
The joy that unborn eyes shall see—
These things he plants who plants a tree.*

—Henry Cuyler Bunner (1855–96), in *The Heart of the Tree*

Site Plan in the Works for School Property

After researching possibilities and gathering community input about the elementary school property at 550 Pine St., the Marine Multi-Generational Education District Advisory Committee will work with the city's planner to create a master site plan in 2026.

The committee published an online survey in fall 2025, to which 90 people responded. A majority of respondents, 60 percent, thought it was very important for the City of Marine to retain ownership of the site. Ninety percent were in support of adding or expanding indoor or outdoor uses that complement current activities. If new uses are proposed, parking and traffic were top concerns for impacts to consider.

Warm Winter Wishes from the Stewards

While decorating the SOMMH tree in Marine's own Enchanting Forest on a chilly, snowy December day, the village was alive with activity. Beyond the decorating, singing and baking, notable were the children sledding down a slope offering an easy climb and a swift ride—apparently a "lower village" ritual. As an "upper village" dweller with a different landscape, the children also slip and slide their way through Winter as do the Meadow inhabitants. Memories abound in our little town. How do you treasure your memories? Are they tucked away in photo albums, or storage containers, or the boxes in the attic left behind by passed rela-

tives? A recent article in a well known newspaper to our west encouraged people to find and share unexpected treasures often hidden in plain sight, and find they did! Our town being a generation older has treasures to be uncovered. A landscape photo may give clues to the way things used to be; sketches and letters tell their own story; objects saved and passed along surely have something to tell. Let the Stewards help sleuth the stories. Reach out to us on our website www.marinemillshistory.org. Our volunteer organization is eager to find historic nuggets no matter where they hide.

WINTER TRAIL GUIDE

The more we work together ...

Trail Use: General Guidelines

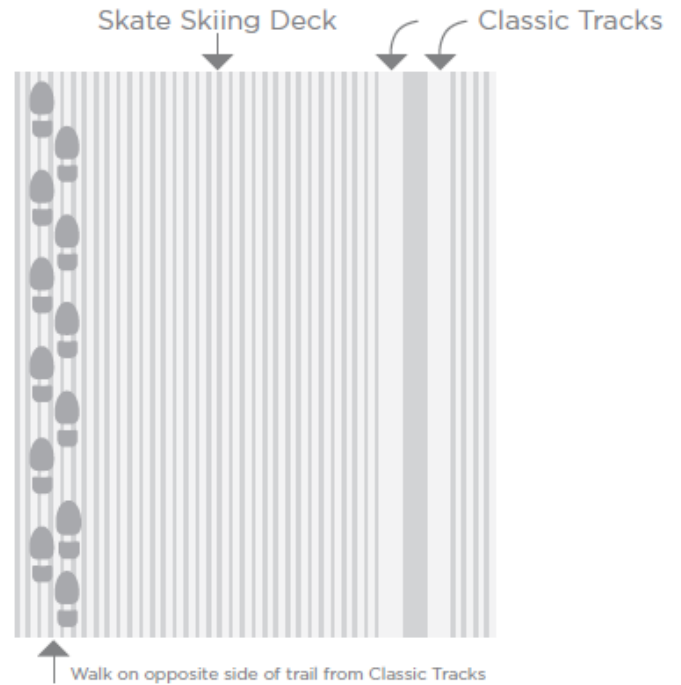
- No motorized traffic. Motorized wheelchairs are OK.
- Keep right so others can pass.
- If you are on the trail with a dog, keep your pet on a leash and do not leave dog waste on the trail.
- Obey traffic signs and rules.
- Pick up garbage and litter.
- Respect adjoining landowners' rights and privacy
- 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 below).
- 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 JANUARY 25, 2026

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



Be a Cool Neighbor This Winter



Set trash bins in your driveway for collection. Note: A garbage truck's extendable arm can reach 6-12 feet to empty a bin placed in your driveway.

Clear snow and ice from sidewalks and don't move it into streets or alleys. The City will charge for snow removal resulting from violation of this ordinance.

Park off street. From 2 a.m. - 6 a.m., don't park on streets or alleys, 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. During these times, the City has authority to tow your vehicle at your expense.

Citizen of the Year: 2025

FROM PAGE 2

rules, financial philosophy and systems to give the school a strong path to success.”

“Mike has been in the trenches working diligently to help save the school,” Mayor Kevin Nyenhuis said at the December council meeting. “At a time when things looked dire, Mike stepped up.”

The school's current treasurer, Gerry Glomb, wrote in a nomination letter, “I say this without exaggeration: the school would not exist today without the extraordinary, almost superhuman efforts of Mike Lammi.”

Stewards of the School – and Beyond

The Marine City Council noted that Wilcox and Lammi had devoted their attention to the school in very different ways.

“This is such a demonstration of the value that our citizens place on the school,” said Councilmember John Goodfellow. “Without Mike it wouldn't exist. I was on the inside to see that and I know that's true. And without the passion and the cheerleading and all the work behind the scenes that Charlotte provides that school, it would not be the experience it is for those kids.”

Councilmember Miller remarked that Wilcox and Lammi have been stewards of Marine's resources and community spirit for decades.

“Both of these people have been engaged in this community for 25, 30 years, a lifetime,” said Councilmember Bill Miller. “It's not just one or two actions. Mike Lammi has served on Council and multiple other committees, with his wife Sharon heading up major fundraising efforts, and currently driving critical fundraising efforts for MVS. Charlotte has been engaged as a pillar of this community for her entire life.”

Thank You, Commissioners Jennifer Henry and Claudia Carr

The City of Marine on St. Croix extends its sincere thanks to Planning Commissioners Jennifer Henry and Claudia Carr as they conclude their service on the Planning Commission. Henry served from March 2019 through Decem-

ber 2025; Carr from January through December 2025.

During their time on the commission, Henry and Carr shared their time, expertise, and perspectives to help shape our community's future.

Zoning Code Changes: Tweaks for 2026

FROM PAGE 2

requested by the DNR.

Principal use community-scale solar is proposed as a conditional use in Single Family Rural and Limited Industry districts.

Other updates to the zoning code would:

- Prohibit shipping containers, while allowing other forms of temporary storage for up to 45 days or the duration of an open building permit. The new regulations also request that residents notify City staff of the start date when using temporary storage.
- Adjust the references in use tables to refer to the general section

rather than a specific subsection, which change more frequently.

- Update “day care, group family” in the accessory use table (p.29) to read permitted with standards. The standards already exist but the use is listed as permitted.
- Added day care facilities as a use where single-unit dwellings are allowed.
- Change building permit notification in the Village Center to “LP” (permit issued by local authority) in accordance with previous versions of code and practices.
- Change “regarding” to “regrading” in section 608.1 Land Alteration.

Recycling: Guidelines from New Hauler

Recycle All of These Items Together in Your Cart



Cardboard & Delivery Pizza Boxes
must be flattened and small enough to fit in the cart



Newspaper with inserts



Milk Cartons & Juice Boxes
rinse clean, replace caps



Glass Bottles & Jars
rinse clean, remove caps and lids



Most Plastic Food & Beverage Containers
empty, rinse, put caps or lids back on when you can #1, #2 & #5 accepted



Steel & Aluminum Cans, Aerosol Cans, Foil & Trays, Cardboard Food Tubes with metal ends
rinse clean, labels are OK



Boxboard
pop and beer boxes, too! Please remove plastic liners or bags, flatten



Magazines, Mail, Phonebooks, Office Paper





NO PLASTIC BAGS
DO NOT BAG YOUR RECYCLING



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

2026 CITY COUNCIL, PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF

City Council

Mayor Kevin Nyenhuis 651-247-7399
John Goodfellow 651-433-1494
Bill Miller 651-433-5354
Wendy Ward 651-301-0633
Dan Willenbring 612-599-1219

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, Administrator
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
Lisa White • Tim Casey • Julie Warren

*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

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