

City of Marine on St. Croix MOSC TIMES

April, May, June 2024



IMPORTANT DATES

April 11	Statewide Tornado Drill; 1:45 & 6:45 pm
April 11	City Council Meeting
April 25	Volunteer Fair
April 30	Planning Commission Meeting
May 4	Heavy Metal Day
May 4	Shred Day – Security State Bank
May 9	City Council Meeting
May 27	Memorial Day – Office Closed
May 27	Memorial Day Program
May 28	Planning Commission Meeting
June 4	Mill Stream Session 2
June 13	City Council Meeting
June 15	Street Dance
June 25	Planning Commission Meeting



Sunrise at William O'Brien State Park, March 13, 2024.

PHOTO: Wendy Ward

IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY AT WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK

William O'Brien State Park has begun construction on a major improvement project focused on upgrading aging amenities and increasing accessibility for visitors. The Day Use Area survey work and demolition is beginning now. Park staff will be removing and replacing two very outdated restroom buildings and the central picnic shelter. The parking lot will move further away from Lake Alice

to improve pedestrian safety and to add green space next to the lake. This will create better stormwater management and more picnicking opportunities near the beach. The beach will be expanded, and accessibility to the water will be improved. We'll also add an accessible canoe and kayak launch on the lake. In the coming months, additional

SEE PARK: Page 7

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COUNCIL ACCEPTS REVISED CELL TOWER LEASE

After rejecting an initial lease proposal from cell tower builder Vinco in December 2023, the Marine City Council approved a revised lease agreement this January. In the interim, Councilmembers Charlie Anderson and Lon Pardun advocated on behalf of the city and community for increased rent, a bond to ensure the structure is properly removed at the end of its

useful life, and a two-year deadline for Vinco to secure a tenant for its monopole and begin construction before the agreement lapses. With the agreement in place, plans for a tower can continue to move forward. However, those eager for better reception will have to remain patient. Anderson speculated that the tower would not likely be constructed before 2025.

HOW IS MARINE HANDLING LEGAL CANNABIS?

In 2023, Minnesota became the 23rd state in the nation to legalize recreational cannabis use for adults. While possession for personal use is now legal, state and local governments are still refining the details of how cannabis businesses will be regulated.

Minnesota's new Office of Cannabis Management is developing the state's regulatory framework and licensing system, with a goal of having dispensaries and other cannabis businesses licensed and ready to open in 2025.

In addition to state regulations, local governments have the authority to adopt reasonable restrictions on hours of operation, location, and the types of cannabis businesses allowed. They'll also be able to review license requests and register cannabis businesses.

Cannabis Businesses on Hold in Marine For Now

Because regulatory details are being sorted out, the state's cannabis law allows moratoriums at the local level until 2025. Marine on St. Croix placed a moratorium



on sales and commercial cultivation until January 1, 2025. During this time, the City isn't accepting cannabis-related applications, site plans, building permits, or zoning requests. Additionally, to prevent "grow barns" from being built, the City Council placed a year-long moratorium on new agricultural or accessory buildings greater than 1,450 square feet. That measure went into effect on March

14, 2024.

City Clerk Lynette Peterson attended a statewide clerks' convention in late March to learn more about state and local cannabis policies. The City may also request help from the Planning Commission or professional planners as it drafts regulations.

The City can't prohibit licenses, but can regulate the number. There will be a public input period once the City has regulations in draft form. In the meantime, send comments to City Clerk Lynette Peterson: mosc@cityofmarine.org.

Smoking and Vaping No Longer Allowed in Public

Whether tobacco or cannabis, smoking and vaping are no longer allowed in Marine's public spaces, except on premises licensed by the state to permit on-site consumption. Further, any form of cannabis use – including edibles and hemp-derived products – is forbidden in public. You can find details and definitions in Chapter 32 of the City Code, which went into effect in August 2023.

Cemetery Committee Will Advise on Future Expansion

The Marine City Council in February established a Cemetery Advisory Committee.

The group's assignment is to research and recommend the best site for expanding future burial capacity, including options for a columbarium. As part of this process, the committee will review existing information about the site

and gather citizen input. The committee consists of representatives from City Council and Planning Commission, the Forest Advisory Committee, Christ Lutheran Church and citizens at large.

Similar citizen committees are already at work envisioning future possibilities for the elementary school and Mill Site properties.

Updates to Zoning Code Bring Perks, With One Concern

The Marine City Council approved updates to the zoning code in February. Revisions were needed to bring the code into greater compliance with state statutes for variances and the Lower St. Croix Riverway.

As part of that process, professional planners reviewed and reformatted the code, making it more user friendly. Present and past members of the Marine Planning Commission, who had been working on zoning code updates since 2007, celebrated the accomplishment.

Current commissioners do have one

concern about the updated code. Under the new Riverway regulations required by the DNR, if some of Marine's landmark buildings near the river were destroyed – including by fire, flood, or tornado – the code wouldn't allow them to be rebuilt where they stand. Some, like the Marine Landing, are too close to the water. Others, like Village Hall, are too close to the bluff.

There's an option to pursue variances in these cases, but the outcome isn't guaranteed. The Planning Commission plans on pursuing legislative relief at the state level to encode protections for those buildings into law.

Marine Fire & Rescue Upgrades #2 Pumper Truck

Marine Fire & Rescue has upgraded its 1994 Freightliner #2 pumper truck to a 2003 Spartan Gladiator. Fire Chief Glen Mills first spotted the Spartan up for sale by the City of Woodbury on the state's surplus auction site. After further inspection and a test drive, Mills bid \$30,025 for the truck – the winning bid of six.

After the purchase was official, Mills worked with the Marine City Council to declare the 1994 Freightliner "surplus property," property the government no longer needs, allowing the city to advertise for bids. The Marine Council on March 14 accepted a purchase offer of \$10,000 from Michigan-based T-Line EV for the truck.

Marine Fire & Rescue is currently working with a graphics company to make lettering for the sides of the truck. Look for a photo in the next issue of MOSC Times.



Volunteer Fair & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

APRIL 25 • 4-6:30 PM

**VILLAGE HALL
121 JUDD ST.**

**Meet new people. Use your skills.
Help the community.**

Looking for new or renewed ways to participate in Marine area organizations? Join your fellow citizens in the upper hall, enjoy some ice cream, and talk with others who want to serve the community through volunteer participation.



MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The annual Memorial Day Program will be held at Oakland Cemetery on Monday, May 27, at 10:30 a.m.

STREET DANCE: JUNE 15

• 5:30 PM •
DOWNTOWN

Save the Date and Come Back for Mill Stream Session 2

Back in November 2023, a very successful session was held with the Carnelian Marine St Croix Watershed, Washington County Conservation District and our City to talk about ideas, concerns and directions for the Mill Stream, specifically the Burris Park Pond area.

Part Two will occur June 4, 6 p.m. at the Village Hall to share results, give updates on progress, and request additional input based on rendering alignment.

We Need YOU to help guide the future of the Burris Park pond. Join us June 4.

Eagle Scout Rebuilds Warming House Walkway

This winter, Eagle Scout Parker Ziegler removed old stairs and vegetation between the warming house and hockey rink, replacing them with new steps and matting, adding a railing, and landscaping the area with two tons of river rock – all by hand. He did this for the community for his Eagle Scout project. The City of Marine donated the rock and disposed of old material.

Public Works Lead Tommy Boesel, who represented the City as the project beneficiary, said it was a much-needed project that went very well with the bleachers Jake Lammi built for his Eagle Scout project (seen to the left in the photo below).

‘How Many Chickens Can I Have in Marine?’

The number of chickens you can have is linked to the size of your lot:

- Lots under a 1/2 acre can have up to five chickens with a permit (see below);
- For every additional acre of land you can have five more chickens.

If your lot is under 5 acres, you need a permit to have chickens. The permit process allows the City to ensure that the coop, run, and planned number of

chickens are appropriate for the lot and meet setbacks. If the coop exceeds 120 square feet a building permit will be required.

Prohibited on Lots Under 5 Ac.

- Roosters
- Commercial breeding

See City Code Chapter 5.02 for complete details.



Public Works Department Picks Up New Truck

Public Works staff Rob Powell, left, and Tommy Boesel with the City’s new three-quarter ton pickup truck. The extended cab will help keep frequently-used tools out of the elements, extending their useful life.



Above: The walkway after Ziegler rebuilt it.



Right: Before.

Marine Community Library — Spring 2024 —

Transfer of Jordan Bequest Assets Ensures Long-Term Legacy

A sizable bequest left for the benefit of the Marine Library by Elizabeth W. Jordan after her death in 2000 has been moved from Washington County to the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

Assets held in the fund were directed for the benefit of the Marine Library, but were gifted when the city’s library was part of the Washington County Library System. Since the founding of the Marine Community Library 12 years ago (following closure of the county branch library), the County Board

continued to manage the fund and make annual disbursements to the Marine Library Association. However, the fund was not actively managed and was declining in value.

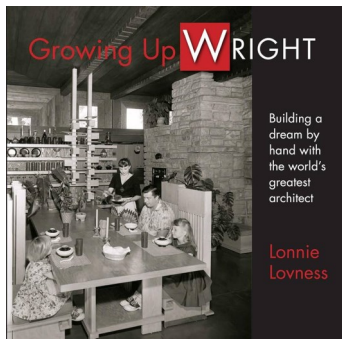
The County Board in February approved the transfer of Jordan Bequest assets to an endowment fund established with the St. Croix Valley Foundation. Assets will be actively managed and continue to benefit the Marine Library, assuring the long-term legacy of Ms. Jordan.

Adult Programs

Author Event: Lonnie Lovness

April 18 at 7:00 p.m. –
Marine Village Hall

Local resident Lonnie Lovness will speak about her book, *Growing Up Wright: Building a dream by hand with the world’s greatest architect*, an account of her parents’ story of building two Frank Lloyd Wright houses in the river valley by hand.



River Radio

River Radio will air every other Saturday live at 9 o’clock am and shortly after as a podcast. The show offers insights on your community and your world. Check out the library of River Radio podcasts, now with more than 50 episodes in the library.



Upcoming Shows: April 6 • April 20 • May 4 • May 18

LIBRARY HOURS:

Mondays	10 am – 1 pm	Thursdays	10 am – 1 pm
Tuesdays	3 pm – 6 pm	Fridays	3 pm – 6 pm
Wednesdays	3 pm – 6 pm	Saturdays	10 am – 1 pm

Children’s Programs

Playing With Music: Mark Sorvari

April 20 at 10:30 a.m. — Marine Village Hall — Free!

Mark Sorvari engages children in a variety of musical activities to expose them to a rich, nurturing music environment. Children learn to sing in tune and to keep a beat in their lower and upper body. They learn to imitate, explore, improvise, and create music.

Summer Reading Kick Off

Saturday June 8 at 10 a.m.—noon
Marine Gazebo

Our Summer Reading Incentive Program kicks off with a free program for youth of all ages and their families: Yo-Yo Master Dazzling Dave in the Village Hall. The program is provided by the Washington County Library. Don’t miss this fun event with entertainment, activities, prizes and more. Free!



Science and Art Camp

— for elementary-age children —

Each day a different science and art professional will lead campers in activities. Two sessions of up to 18 children each. Session 1: (FULL for 2024) June 10 to 14 for children entering grades 1 through 3 in fall of 2024. Session 2: (AVAILABLE!) June 17 to 21 for children entering grades 4 through 6 in fall of 2024. Time: 9:00 A.M. to noon each day • Location: Marine Village School, 550 Pine St, Marine on St Croix • Cost: \$65. Scholarships are available. • Registration is required – visit MarineCommunityLibrary.org/events.



PHOTO: Courtesy Marine Mills Folk School

Book building at Marine Mills Folk School's first Family Day, March 9, 2024.

EXPLORING THE IDEA OF 'ALL AGES'

The mission of Marine Mills Folk School (MMFS) is to "invite all people to discover the joys of creating from a folk school tradition." Since our inception in 2018, "all people" has traditionally been students ages 18 or older.

In 2024, we're exploring ways to work with younger and older students, and to gear our hands-on traditional crafts classes to their unique learning styles.

MMFS was awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Arts Education grant to develop a program to offer daytime weekday classes for older adults in northern Washington County. That program kicked off in late February with a focus group at Christ Lutheran Church (CLC).

More than 20 people participated in a hands-on art activity followed by lunch and a feedback session. We're thankful for the shared ideas and opportunity to work with CLC! We look forward to sharing more details about the program on our website soon.

In the last City newsletter, we mentioned the Spark program, an initiative in partnership with Marine Village School (MVS). The Spark program introduces young learners to a variety of folk arts to see what "sparks" their interest. So far we've taught knitting and crochet to every student at MVS. Clogging, composting and sewing are on the docket for the final months of the 2024 school

year. We're excited to grow this partnership!

In early March, we held the first Family Day at the Folk School. More than 165 people of all ages spent their Saturday morning at MMFS creating with yarn, sticks, rocks, seeds and paper, getting their stuffed animals repaired at the sewing station, dyeing fabric, and dancing to Bluegrass music. We can't wait to host this event again!

No matter what your age, you are welcome at Marine Mills Folk School. Join us for a class or drop in for any community event to see our mission in action!

MMFS Community Events

- Dare to Repair Fix-it Clinic (first Saturday of the month at MMFS)
- Open Carving and Bluegrass Jam Session (second Saturday of the month)
- Community Bridge Group (third Saturday and fourth Tuesday of the month)
- Knit Night (every Tuesday)

No RSVP is necessary for community events, but check the schedule at MarineMillsFolkSchool.org before coming.

Upcoming Classes & Events

Find a list of upcoming classes and community events at marinemillsfolkschool.org.



PINING TO SPRUCE UP THE MILL SITE?

Join the Mill Site Committee!

The Marine Mill Site has a few noteworthy activities upcoming in 2024:

- We'll have a spring clean up day in late April or early May as weather permits.
- Stay tuned for updated signage! You may have noticed new sign frames on the mill site. Over the last couple years, Minnesota Historical Society has been updating signage across all locations to ensure more inclusive representation of the site and historical events as well as offer a consistent look and feel.
- We'll be restoring turf and planting pollinators in the area to the south of the mill stream bluff line. This area behind the wooden fence has long needed revitalizing so we're looking forward to the outcome of this project.

Interested in volunteering? Volunteers are needed for spring and fall clean up days as well as one off projects such as planting native plugs. Stop by to see us at the MOSC Spring Volunteer Fair.

MARINE
RESTORATION
SOCIETY

PROGRESSIVE
DINNER

JUNE 1

Watch your mailbox for an invitation in April. The planning committee thanks you for adhering to our timeline since this is an elaborate event to set up. We can't wait to get together!

SPRING CLEANING? WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 4

Heavy Metal Day

9 am—noon, Saturday, May 4

Collection will be behind Security State Bank at the Wayside Park. You can find the list of items that will be collected, along with their prices, posted on the bulletin board in front of the Village Hall and on the City's website.

Shred Day

9 am—noon, Saturday, May 4

Security State Bank will be sponsoring a "Shred It" day. There will be a truck available for paper shredding in front of the Bank.

PLANNING A BONFIRE OR PRAIRIE BURN?

You must obtain a permit before burning any pile larger than 3x3, the size of a typical campfire.

Spring burning restrictions are currently in flux, so check the DNR burning permit page (dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html) or call the city office for the latest.

When spring burning restrictions are in effect, no burn permits will be issued without a variance from the DNR. However, 3x3 recreational fires are still permitted.

Once restrictions are lifted, you must obtain a permit from the city office before burning any pile larger than 3x3—campfire size.

How to Get a Permit

To obtain a permit, contact the City office during regular business hours Monday through Thursday.

The cost per permit is \$5.00 for piles or \$15.00 for a prescribed burn permit. Each permit is good for up to 3 consecutive days. Burning must take place between 6pm — 8am.

Before burning, check the DNR's website for current restrictions:

You must also notify the Washington County Sheriff's Office when you are going to burn.



COMPOST SITE

The city is planning to open the compost site in mid April.

Keep an eye out for postings, should the date change due to circumstances such as weather.

- **OK to bring:** leaves, grass, and twigs under four inches.
- **No sticks or brush.**
- **No garbage bags.** Please take paper and plastic bags home with you.
- **No trash.** Please keep all glass, metals and plastics out of the compost.
- The compost site closes during inclement weather.

HOURS

Wednesdays

Noon to 7pm

Saturdays

9am to 4pm



COMPOST ATTENDANT NEEDED

The City is hiring a compost attendant.

Wednesday noon-7pm

Saturdays 9am -4pm

Interested parties can contact the City office during regular office hours.

TREE CARE TIME

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATERING, ESPECIALLY DURING DROUGHT

All trees, even mature ones need water. Significant changes in climate patterns are affecting entire ecosystems. In urban areas, trees are more prone to drought damage and death than natural stands of trees because of extensive paving, loss of layered canopies which retain coolness, and disturbed soils from large scale development. In Marine much of our natural landscape has been retained allowing trees to better cope with severe weather patterns. BUT, our trees are still going to struggle through these drier times, especially young trees.

The solution? Give the trees a hand and water your trees! Similar to other living systems, lack of water and nutrients will start to shut down, weaken response modes, and a tree can become a target for diseases and insects that can kill them. We have worked hard here in Ma-

rine to protect our ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer so lets continue that care with watering those and other trees—especially young or newly planted trees.

Recommended Watering Techniques

To keep your Minnesota trees healthy and strong, here are 3 recommended watering methods to use during drought conditions.

- Garden hose: low flow for a couple hours every 10 days
- Soaker hose: set it for a couple of hours every 10 days
- Sprinkler: target the wand spray to get beyond the root zone, leave for 1-2 hours every 10 days



PARK: Parts of William O'Brien Closed Through Summer for Renovations

FROM PAGE 1

work will include Riverside Trail upgrades, accessible campsites and shower building improvements in Riverway Campground, Amphitheater improvements, Park Office improvements, and more.

Construction requires the lower portion

of the park near Lake Alice and the St. Croix River to close to visitors, and it will remain closed through early 2025. Areas that are now closed:

- Mondale Day Use Area
- St. Croix River public water access
- Lake Alice swimming beach
- Riverway campground

- Riverside group camp
- Riverside trail

The majority of the park will remain open to visitors during construction. Ongoing updates will be available on the park website.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR DOG LICENSE

Stop by City Hall or mail this form with your dog's rabies certificate (not the rabies tag) and \$10 to renew. The City Code on pets is available on our website: www.marineonstcroix.org. See chapter 5.

City of Marine on St. Croix—APPLICATION FOR DOG LICENSE (\$10)

Name of Owner: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Dog: _____

Male ___ Female ___ Color: _____ Breed: _____

Date of last rabies vaccination: _____ (enclose a copy of certificate from veterinarian)

Name of Vet Clinic: _____

Note: Dogs under 6 months of age are not required to be licensed.



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 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
Tim Casey	Lisa White

*Meetings are last Tuesday of each month
7 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

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