

To The Citizens of Marengo

From Police Chief Joseph Hallman

Re “Marengo Needs Your Help” aka “Gunfire” Flyers

I just received a copy of a very alarming and misleading flyer being circulated within our community. I wanted to take this opportunity to parse out the information being promulgated via this flyer as follows:

- Marengo PD has only received three (3) reports of gunfire since January of 2015. Of these three calls, one was confirmed as target practice. The other two were investigated, but no one was located and the gunfire was temporary.
- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been shooting regularly at several locations just outside of Marengo for deer population sampling of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). This is performed at least weekly if not more.
- The flyer attempts to make a nexus between “Druggies” and shots being fired which makes little sense. We have not experienced any so-called drive-by-shootings in our community that have been reported to MPD.
- The flyer also offered some poor advice as one should never confront an armed subject out in the open nor try to snap pictures if the situation is unsafe to do so. It also suggested not offering your information to dispatch if you are lodging a complaint. By providing your information, the dispatcher will be better able to ascertain the necessary elements of a possible crime in progress. As the flyer states; “It all depends on you, please help”.
- If individuals are exercising their constitutional rights concerning weapons, please be sure to do so in a safe manner. It might even behoove one to contact your surrounding neighbors to let them know so they won’t be alarmed or disturbed.
- Finally, by all means, please notify MPD (via 9-1-1 or 815-568-7231) if an illegal gunfire incident is unfolding. You should also contact the McHenry County Sheriff’s Department if you reside outside of Marengo (via 9-1-1 or 815-338-2144).

MARENGO NEEDS YOUR HELP

GUNFIRE in our community. This gunfire, begins when darkness sets and is being performed by a group of cowardly criminal neighbors, who are attempting to intimidate the law abiding neighbors who reported observed illegal drug activity to the police. Please help catch these criminals and eradicate gunfire and drugs from Marengo....NOW before the weather warms and families increase their outdoor activities. It takes a community effort to prevent you or your children from being accidentally shot by errant gunfire. You can help, your participation is needed. So crack open a window or door and listen, call ----

WHENEVER YOU HEAR GUNFIRE:

DIAL 9-1-1

(Respond to the dispatcher's "911, what is your emergency?" as follows:

"PLEASE CONNECT ME TO THE MCHENRY SHERIFF'S POLICE DEPARTMENT" (Not Marengo, it is too small to handle this alone, we need the County's law enforcement manpower to stop this criminal activity and get frequent occurrences on the records)

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SUPPLY YOUR NAME OR NUMBER simply tell the dispatcher **"I WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS"**

TELL THEM THERE ARE GUN SHOTS BEING FIRED IN MARENGO AND SUPPLY THEM WITH AS DETAILED A LOCATION AS POSSIBLE.

Turn off your lights, look for any running male outside (Especially across open fields and IN dark locations) or hiding in storm drain pipes. Remember they like to shoot and run. If you spot one, or can pinpoint the window in a house or pickup truck where the shots are coming from, Snap a picture with your cell phone and immediately Update 9-1-1 as to his or their whereabouts.

Please don't let DRUGGIES take over our community and homes that we work so hard to earn. SAY "NO! zero tolerance to drugs and gunfire!!!

Protect your real estate investment from these criminal bums. Crack open a window or patio door and listen. It all depends on you, please help. An ounce of prevention is worth.....