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# CITY NEWSLETTER    MARCH 2016

## Brush Collection Starts May 2, 2016

Public Works Staff will begin collecting brush throughout the City on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will continue until they have made one pass through the City. This program is designed to assist residents with the removal of limbs and branches that have come down as a result of storm damage or routine pruning. To ensure that your brush is collected please adhere to the following guidelines:

- All brush must be stacked neatly at the curbside no later than 7:00 AM on the first day of collection
- Brush should be stacked parallel to the street
- Brush should not include root balls, leaves or debris
- Whole trees will not be collected

City crews will only be making one trip through the City and cannot return if brush is not out on time. Questions can be directed to 815-568-2669.



## *Hydrant Flushing June 6th - 10th*

Public Works Staff will be performing annual hydrant flushing during the week of June 6<sup>th</sup> through June 10<sup>th</sup>. This is done to minimize discoloration and improve overall water quality. The procedure is performed in warm weather months by opening and closing hydrants in order to force water through the pipes at high velocity. Doing this removes accumulated mineral sediment and results in clear water. The operation can take a few minutes to over an hour depending on the size and location of the mains.

While crews are flushing near your business or residence you may experience very low pressure or in some rare instances a complete loss of service. You may also experience a temporary discoloration in your water during or immediately following flushing operations. This is caused by iron or manganese particles being dislodged from the main. If you experience discoloration run the cold water tap nearest the water meter until the water runs clear.

# City Reaches Agreement For Marengo Township Water Main Extensions

## 300 West, LLC/Arnold Engineering to Pick-Up All Costs

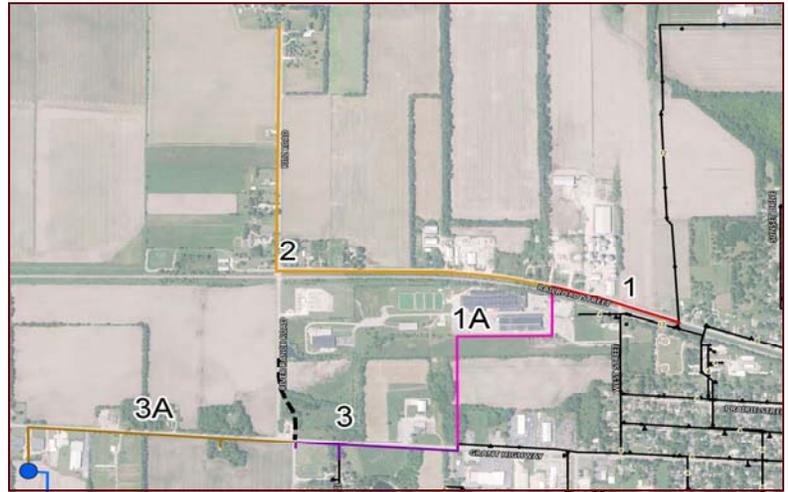
On February 22 the City Council voted 7-1 to enter into an agreement that will allow 300 West, LLC and Arnold Engineering access to Marengo’s municipal water system. The approval, culminating about 18 weeks of negotiations will require the companies, at their cost, to extend 1.82 miles of water main northwest of the city limits. In doing so, the companies will address a portion of the ground water contamination problem that has been identified for about three years in unincorporated Marengo Township. Certified in District Court on February 24 in response to an order issued by the Illinois Attorney General’s Office, the agreement will bring city water to homeowners that have been receiving bottled water for almost three years because their private wells have been fouled by the contamination.

### City Brought in to Help Fix the Problem

Under the Court’s direction since June of 2013, the Attorney General’s Office along with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and 300 West/Arnold have been negotiating resolutions to the contamination problem. Last October, the City was asked by both sides to help get potable water to the affected property owners.

While maintaining its factory operation, at the end of the last decade Arnold Engineering sold all of its property, including its factory buildings to 300 West, LLC. Regardless of the property ownership status, the Attorney General’s Office has held that both parties are responsible for the ground water contamination problem emanating from the Arnold factory site. Getting potable water to the affected property owners has been the most immediate priority of the two issues being addressed to resolve this problem. The other aspect, a plan to eradicate the pollution from the ground water, is scheduled by court order to be approved later this year.

From its most westerly endpoint on the north side of Railroad Street, water main will extend west along Railroad Street to Ritz Road, and then north along Ritz to its terminus. Another branch of the water



Segments 1 and 2 are scheduled to be constructed this year by 300 West/Arnold. Segment 1A is scheduled for 2017, also by 300 West/Arnold. Segments 3 and 3A, along with the new municipal well (depicted by the blue dot, lower left) are the City’s construction responsibility.

Normally annexation would be required of any properties that would receive City utilities. The city is waiving annexation for properties along the north side of Railroad Street and along Ritz Road as long as property owners don’t change the use of their property. Under the agreement, any proposed land use change will require the City to review their intended use and determine whether annexation would be required. It is understood that while the City is providing this water service at the reduced in-city cost for those outside the city, it will not allow the potential of some future large water user to take an unfair advantage of the citizens within the city limits and water service rate payers to get cheaper water.

### City Costs Offset

In addition to 300 West/Arnold paying for the water main extensions and service hook ups, the City will be reimbursed all of its engineering and legal costs related with this issue, and will receive a \$280,000 payment that will offset the cost in delaying the city’s construction of a west side water well and its connecting water main caused by the contamination problem. 300 West/Arnold will also pick up the \$101,550 cost of upsizing to a 12-inch diameter about half of the water main it builds. This pipe would allow for a better “looping” distribution of water throughout the entire northwest side of the city. As a part of this agreement, 300 West will annex all of its 94 acres including the Arnold Engineering factory site into the city. With exception of about 12 acres not owned by 300 West, this annexation will include all of the parcels between West Street and Ritz Road and from the railroad tracks that runs along the south side of Railroad Street south to West Grant Highway. While 300 West has just now filed a petition for the annexation, the water main development agreement recognizes that within the next 180 days the City and 300 West will negotiate an approvable annexation agreement. The annexation agreement for the 300 West acreage will cover a variety of issues ranging from zoning to utility and roadway easements to sanitary sewer access.

CITY’S VALUE OF THE 300 WEST/ARNOLD ENGINEERING WATER MAIN DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT	
<b>CASH PAYMENT</b>	
Offsetting cost increases due to delays in water well and main development	\$280,000
<b>WATER MAIN: IN-KIND SAVINGS</b>	
Diameter upsizing from 8” to 12”	\$101,550
<b>ENGINEERING AND LEGAL EXPENSES: REIMBURSEMENTS</b>	
(An additional \$10,000-\$15,000 to be billed)	\$45,000
<b>Total Payments, In-Kind Savings and Reimbursements</b>	<b>\$426,550</b>

main will head south from Railroad Street through the 300 West property to allow it to join the city’s water main network that ends on north side of Grant Highway, approximately across the street from Wisted’s Grocery.

Given the hardships they have already endured, the City will charge the property owners for the water service at the “in-city” user fee rate. As is the case with all properties on the water system, hooking service leads from the properties to the water main is a cost that is independent from city consideration and responsibility, and would assumedly be paid by 300 West/Arnold. Water service lead ownership is tied to the property, not to the city.

# Work Continues toward a 2016 Solution On Mitigating the Groundwater Contamination Northwest of Marengo

Addressing the ground water contamination problem will not be completed with the installation of, and hook-up to, water mains immediately northwest of the City later this year. 300 West, LLC and Arnold Engineering, the property owner and the factory operator respectively, of the site assumed to be the source of the contamination, are still under court order to clean up the contaminated ground water. Based upon private well samples, test well samples and soil samples, it is known that the presence of the contamination is below the surface of at least 200 acres generally located north of the railroad tracks in the area on both sides of Ritz Road, immediately northwest of the city limits.

While there are no test samples showing that the contamination has reached or is traveling in the direction of the City's proposed well site, the IEPA has indicated they would not permit the development of this well until more is known about the subsurface three-dimensional geography and the concentration of the contamination. The proposed site of the city's well is just south of USH 20 about a half mile west of Ritz Road. Charting the scope and breath of this contamination will help determine the methodology used in its clean-up, and as a result, when the construction city's proposed well can begin. Due to the continuing legal pressure from the Attorney General's Office and the IEPA, it is expected that these determinations will be made later this year.

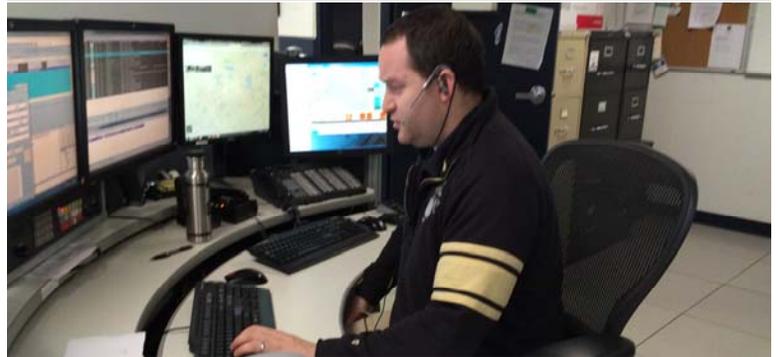
## The Two Requirements Necessary For Fixing the Groundwater Contamination

- ◇ Provide Municipal Water to Marengo Township Properties Along Railroad Street and Ritz Road
- ◇ Eradicate Groundwater Contamination in the Ritz/Railroad Area

There are two different types of contaminants: chlorinated solvents which do not migrate very far but do sink down into the ground; and 1,4 dioxane which seems to float near the top of the water table that go in the direction of the subsurface water flow. The 1,4 dioxane is a stabilizing agent that has separated from the chlorinated solvents in the chemical compound that was previously used as a cleaning agent, assumedly by Arnold Engineering. From a process that was apparently discontinued in 2002, this cleaning agent leached into the ground water. Since 2013 it has been determined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency that these chemicals have become present in the ground water to a level that they are now considered to be a health risk to those in the nearby area. It is not known at this time the how far the 1,4 dioxane has traveled nor how diluted it has become as it moves away from the Arnold Engineering factory site. Testing results, expected to be known within a few weeks, should give more definition about the depths, the ranges and the concentration of pollution in the two contamination plumes. Previous testing results have shown that the 1,4 dioxane is present north of the railroad tracks but south of the Kishwaukee River, apparently flowing straight west from Ritz Road.

Until the extent of the contamination is known, proposals to clean-up the problem will not be reviewed by the IEPA. 300 West /Arnold are being required to make the ground water contamination remediation proposals. Methodologies for the clean-up vary. The IEPA/AG's Office could require, through court order, the companies to "pump" the contaminated ground water out, and send it to the city's sewage treatment plant to be cleaned before it is returned to the environment. Otherwise they could be required to treat the ground water through a series of chemical injections into the ground that would act as a retardant that would deter the polluting chemicals from migrating, and another series of chemical injections into the ground that would biodegrade the polluting chemicals.

## Dispatching Changing Again



The City of Marengo finds itself in a situation whereby it is required to relocate our call receiving center for the Police Department. Pursuant to IL SB 099-0006, McHenry County has been mandated by the State of Illinois to reduce the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP)'s or dispatch communication centers from six to three. Reducing the number of dispatch centers is expected to create cost savings for law enforcement agencies across the State. In fact, it is expected that many law enforcement departments in McHenry County will save money. Unfortunately, Marengo actually will see a slight one time capital equipment increase when this reduction occurs later this year. The City already achieved a \$317,000 annual cost savings starting in FY 2011/12 when it began to contract Police Department dispatching services with Lake in the Hills.

With Lake in the Hills decommissioning their dispatch services as part of the consolidation effort, Marengo is choosing to establish its dispatching services with the cheapest of the three alternatives remaining - the City of McHenry. The other alternatives are the McHenry County Sheriff's Department and Southeast Emergency Communications (SEECOM). As a result, 911 calls will be channeled to City of McHenry as opposed to Lake in the Hills. Local residents should see no change in response times or service for emergency service call requests.

At the time the City moved its dispatch function to Lake in the Hills it was determined to be the most cost effective option for the City. At the same time The Marengo Fire Protection District and Marengo Rescue Squad District choose to move its dispatch function to the City of McHenry. With the new consolidation, our communities Public Safety agencies will have its emergency call dispatching coming from the same source.

# Budget Season Starts

## *Marengo's General Fund Again Shows Little Growth*

The City Council has begun the review the Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget. At its initial presentation, the City's General Fund is showing an increase over this current year's projected income of just \$54,844 to \$3,932,843. This 1.02 percent increase still reflects a General Fund that was similar to levels experienced five years ago in the FY 2011-12 budget when revenues totaled \$3,857,277. Final approval of the city's budgets is planned for April, ahead of the May 1 Fiscal Year. Property tax increases in this budget will increase to the maximum allowed by state law – about \$12,000 city-wide. This amount translates to about a 40-cent-per-month cost increase for a home valued at \$150,000.

In the intervening years since 2011-12, General Fund revenues have been as low as 3,634,075 (FY2013-14). Back in 2011-12 and a few years before major expenditure cuts were implemented - particu-

larly related to personnel. Since then, the city added just one full-time Public Works position and collapsed two part-time administrative support positions in the Police Department into one full-time job. These actions brought the city's full time staffing to 32. The FY 2016-17 budget proposes to keep staffing at this same level for the third straight year.

The proposed budget plans to continue to employ six part-time positions (each less than 20 hours per week) – four crossing guards and two janitors. The Police Department is proposed to maintain staffing of 16 people – 14 of which are sworn officers including the Chief and three Sergeants. The Public Works Department is proposed to remain at nine full-timers. All of the others functions of the city's government – financial planning and management (including utility billing), personnel management, community and economic development, planning and zoning administration, building and property maintenance code enforcement, policy development and implementation, general administration, and citizen inquiries and requests – will continue to be handled by the same seven other full-time staffers. It should be noted that of the 16 full-time employees that are not in the Police Department, 7.2 full-time equivalent positions are funded by user fees generated in the city's other large budget – the Water and Sanitary Sewage Treatment Fund.

Over the past five years operating expenditures have gradually gone up to a point now that those original operational cost savings have been all but exhausted. This year the city is trying to implement a strategy to “hold the line”, thereby eliminating all capital improvement expenditures other than the most basic of maintenance needs. The city's other main source of capital improvement funding, the Illinois Motor Fuel tax revenue is also declining slightly. With most of the MFT funds having been committed for Prospect Street improvement debt service, and for road salt purchase, money for neighborhood street repaving and other capital improvement projects like sidewalk installation and storm water management projects are essentially non-existent.

### **Water/Sanitary Sewage Treatment Fund**

The Water/Sewer budget is expected to be reviewed at the end of this month. While the amount to be proposed is still being calculated, a rate increase will be a part of this budget's proposal. A significant portion of the proposed rate increase, around 50 cents per thousand gallons used, is the last of a programmed multi-year phase-in due to the debt service incurred by the sewage treatment plant up-grade and expansion. In both FY 2013/14 and FY 2014/15, a \$1.00 per-thousand-gallons-used rate increase was instituted for the sewage treatment plant construction and debt service. The rest of the Water/Sewer rate increase will be used to offset operational costs. The recently completed Willow, Sunset and West Van Buren water main replacement project, and anticipated expenditures for water main and well construction have been or will be drawn from a fund created by 2014 bond issue for these specific purposes. At that time this bond issue refinanced old debt at a lower cost and extended the new debt out 20 years that so that the bond repayments would create no additional burden to the water/sewer bill.

Without the cost of the new debt service for the state-mandated Treatment Plant improvements, survey data has shown that the cost of Marengo's water/sewer bill would be slightly less than average of communities in our region.

## **Please Welcome Our New Public Works Director**



Howard Moser was born in Chicago and grew up in Norridge where he graduated from Ridgewood High School. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Army where he served as a heavy equipment operator in the 536<sup>th</sup> Engineer battalion. During his service he spent time in South Carolina and Missouri before being deployed to Ft. Kobbe, Panama where he participated in the construction of roads through undeveloped parts of the country.

Howard began his Public Works career as a seasonal employee with the City of Des Plaines Street Department while attending the University of Illinois at Chicago. He was hired full time in 1996 as a maintenance operator by the City of Des Plaines where he worked his way up to Superintendent of General Services prior to taking the Director of Public Works position for the Village of Schiller Park. During his twenty years of public service he has experienced floods, blizzards and micro bursts in addition to all aspects of routine maintenance of municipal infrastructure. Howard has continued his development by becoming a certified arborist and also completing the three year course at the Illinois Public Service Institute in 2014. His first day with the City of Marengo was January 4, 2016.

Saturday, March 19th

# Easter Events

## Easter Egg Hunt

Hundreds of candy and prize filled eggs!  
Bring your basket to collect eggs.

**10:00 am Sharp!**  
**Indian Oaks Park**  
**Free, All ages**

## Easter EGGstravaganza

Crafts & Photos with the Easter Bunny  
**10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Recreation Center, 825 Indian Oaks Trail**  
**Free, All ages**

## Easter Basket Delivery

Sign up today and bring your personalized basket to the Recreation Center between March 17-18 during normal business hours. All baskets will be delivered on Saturday, March 19 between the hours of 1:30-3:30 pm.

**All Ages**  
**1:30 - 3:30 pm**  
**\$5 Per Basket Delivered**  
**Recreation Center**  
**All Marengo Residents Eligible**



# MARENGO PARK DISTRICT

Board of Commissioners

Jeff Lindstrom, President   Barbara Weidner, Vice President   Allison Weskerna, Treasurer  
Terri Paulauski, Commissioner

825 Indian Oaks Trail, Marengo IL 60152 • (815) 568-5126 • [www.marengoparkdistrict.org](http://www.marengoparkdistrict.org)

# Regalia, Reminders and other References

## E-Pay

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve service to our residents, we are offering the following electronic payment options at [www.cityofmarengo.com](http://www.cityofmarengo.com):

- Water/Sewer Payments
  - Vehicle Sticker Payments
  - Parking/Bond Ordinance violations
- Payments can be made by Mastercard, American Express, Discover or E-Check. The convenience fee charged for using credit services is not charged or collected by the City of Marengo.

## Email Updates

Want to stay connected with City happenings? Have Marengo City Council agendas, news releases, calendar's of monthly meetings and general updates delivered right to your inbox. To register, go to [www.cityofmarengo.com](http://www.cityofmarengo.com) and enter your email address in the "subscribe to email updates" box or stop by City Hall.

## Overnight Street Parking

Parking is not allowed on any residential street between the hours of 12:01 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. Central Business District parking is not allowed between the hours of 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. Violators are subject to a \$25 ordinance violation fine.

## 2015/16 Vehicle Stickers

The 2015-16 Vehicle Stickers are still on sale. The cost is \$40 per vehicle or \$10 per vehicle for those aged 65 years and older.

Fees have doubled since August 1, 2015. Residents not displaying a current vehicle City sticker are subject to an ordinance violation fine of \$150. The 2016 - 17 Vehicle

Sticker Application Forms will be mailed the first week of June 2016. Once you receive this application, you can purchase your 2016-17 vehicle sticker.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Donald B. Lockhart  
815.568.6559

Ward I	Ward II	Ward III	Ward IV
Nicole DeBoer 815.568.0911	Michael Smith 815.568.1246	Todd Hall 815.568.7273	Dennis Hammortree 815.568.5577
James Regelin 815.823.3007	Steve Mortensen 815.735.0766	Matt Keenum 815.404.4585	Brett Martin 815.568.1223

City Clerk Constance Boxleitner  
815.568.6937



Standing: D. Hammortree, S. Mortensen, C. Boxleitner, N. DeBoer, M. Keenum  
Seated: J. Regelin, B. Martin, D. Lockhart, M. Smith, T. Hall

## Approved Resolutions and Ordinances November and December 2015, January 2016

### November

- 15-11-1 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 29, McHenry County Storm Water Management Ordinance
- 15-11-A Resolution Determining Amount of Funds to be Levied for 2015 Tax Year

### December

- 15-12-1 An Ordinance Amending Meeting Dates and Times for City Council Meetings 2016
- 15-12-2 An Ordinance Abating Tax Levied for the Year 2015 to Pay Principal and Interest on GO Bonds
- 15-12-3 An Ordinance Authorizing the Abatement of 2015 City of Marengo Taxes
- 15-12-4 An Ordinance Abating a Property Tax for Certain Real Property— K & E Development LLC
- 15-12-5 An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of an Annexation Agreement—3PH Real Estate
- 15-12-6 An Ordinance Annexing to the City of Marengo 8.25 Acres Located on the Northside of US Rte 20
- 15-12-7 An Ordinance Zoning 8.25 Acres Located on the Northside of US Rte 20 Special Use Permit for the Operation of Battery Storage Facility and Related Operations
- 15-12-8 Tax Levy Ordinance FY 2015/16
- 15-12-9 An Ordinance Levying Taxes for Special Service Area #2

### January

- 16-1-1 An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Surplus Property
- 16-1-2 An Ordinance Amending Certain Conditions to the Special Use Permit for Self-Storage Facility

The *March 2016 Marengo Newsletter* has been produced by the following staff members: *Article contributors:* Gary Boden, Joe Hallman, Howard Moser and Marengo Park District. *Desktop publisher:* Megan Lopez