



# CITY NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2017

### EDITION

### *City Hall Newsletter Partners with Marengo-Union Times*

Starting with the October edition, the City of Marengo will be partnering with the Marengo - Union Times to publish the quarterly newsletter. In an effort to reduce costs, and reach a broader audience, the City's newsletter will now be published as a special portion of the Marengo - Union Times. The City will still be publishing the newsletter on a quarterly basis and residents will still be able to access a digital copy on the City's website at <http://www.cityofmarengo.com/quarterly-newsletter/> and the City's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Marengo-346910648797467/>.

Each quarter the City was printing and mailing roughly 4,000 copies of the newsletter. The Marengo - Union Times reaches over 6,000 addresses and will allow the City to save on printing and shipping costs. Each edition of the Marengo - Union Times featuring the City Newsletter will have a notice on the cover page to indicate the edition contains the City Newsletter. Residents are always welcome to visit <http://www.cityofmarengo.com/> or the City's Facebook page at the link above for current information about the City of Marengo.



## Letter from Mayor Koziol



The summer months are passed and fall is upon us. The summer heat is leaving us, being replaced by cooler temperatures, the kids are back in school, Settlers' Days is fast approaching followed by Halloween and Thanksgiving. I hope everyone enjoys this time of year as much as I do.

The heavy rains we experienced this summer caused drainage and flooding issues that have not left our minds. We will be looking into the drainage issues as well as seeking ways we can mitigate future flooding events. It won't be an easy task but I am confident we can figure out a solution, or at the very least a method to reduce the affects. We have some meetings coming up that will help us get a better understanding of why we had those issues this summer.

On August 22nd we held an open house public information meeting to present the status on the Tollway project. It was great to see so many elected officials, business owners and residents come together to express their support and ask questions. I am very happy to say that everything is progressing nicely and more importantly, on time and on budget.

I anticipate we will be busy over the next year or so. Several developers and entrepreneurs have approached us about bringing business into the City. We have even had a long time business in the unincorporated area ask about annexing into the City. It seems that a week won't go by without someone reaching out to us. That is really good news. It not only will bring some needed income into the City but it will help bring services and amenities that the greater Marengo area can benefit from.



**October 5- 8, 2017**  
[www.settlersdays.com](http://www.settlersdays.com)

# City Hosts Open House for Tollway Project



Above: Bridge Construction to be done by the end of the year with ramps planned for 2019/2020.

On Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> the City of Marengo held an open house public information meeting to update the community on the proposed interchange project at I-90 and Route 23. During the open house the City's engineers from HR Green presented design concepts, reviewed the proposed roundabouts, solicited feedback and showed a simulation of what the completed interchange will look like.

During the three hour forum nearly 70 people attended to share their thoughts and learn more about the interchange project. The public information meeting was the latest step as the City moves forward in collaboration with the Tollway Authority, the Illinois Department of Transportation and McHenry County on this project. During the last month city engineers and staff have also met with representatives from Riley Township, the Marengo Fire Protection District and Marengo Rescue Squad to review the proposed project design and gather their feedback.

One of the highlights of the public information meeting was a computer simulation of what the interchange at I-90 and Route 23 will look like once it is completed. You can view the video at <http://www.cityofmarengo.com/2017/08/23/video-of-interchange-design-at-i-90-and-route-23/>.

At this time the Tollway Authority is rebuilding and widening the bridge on Route 23 to accommodate for the development of the interchange ramps. Construction on the bridge itself is scheduled to be finished by the end of this year. Over the next twelve months the design engineering of the ramps should be finalized and approved by the city's partners in this project. Shortly thereafter the Tollway will bid the project and it is expected that construction will commence midway through 2019, with construction on the ramps being completed in 2020.

This project is of regional significance as it will be the first and most likely only point of Tollway access in McHenry County. The development of the interchange provides greater access for many businesses, industries and citizens throughout the region. The primary goal of this project from both Marengo and McHenry County's standpoint is to spur economic development in the area. The City's goal is to create industrial development in an effort to provide more job opportunities for our community.

# News You Can Use from Public Works

## FALL BRUSH COLLECTION MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Public Works Staff will begin collecting brush throughout the City on Monday, November 6 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
- No branches under 3 ft. in length
- Whole trees will not be collected

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

## FAT FREE SEWERS

Fat, oils and grease are not just bad for arteries and waistlines; they are bad for sewers, too. Grease gets into the sewer system through household drains and poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses. This can clog the sewer pipes causing overflows that may result in health hazards, damage to home interiors and threats to the environment.

Grease is a byproduct of cooking that comes from fats, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, dairy products, baked goods and sauces. When washed down the sink grease sticks to the pipes and over time can create a blockage. **NOTE:** Home garbage

disposals do not keep grease out of the sewer system and grease dissolving detergents only push the problem further down the line.

The Bad News: A sewer pipe clogged with grease can result in the following:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or business
- An increase in operational costs for the Sewer Department
- A costly and unpleasant cleanup that is the property owners responsibility

The Good News: YOU CAN HELP prevent sewer overflows by:

- Never pouring grease into sink drains or toilets
- Scraping grease and food scraps into the trash can
- Using strainers in the sink to keep scraps out of the drain

## Leaf Vac Schedule Starting the Week of October 9th

### North of Railroad Tracks

Week of: Oct. 9  
Oct. 23  
Nov. 6  
Nov. 20

### South of Railroad Tracks

Week of: Oct. 16  
Oct. 30  
Nov. 13  
Nov. 27

All leaves must be left on the City right-of-way prior to the scheduled pick up day to ensure leaf removal.

**Do NOT rake leaves into the street.**



# Inside the Marengo Police Department

By: *Chief Rich Solarz*

**TRICK OR TREATING** will take place on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M.

For young children, Halloween is one of the best nights of the year. But trick-or-treating can be dangerous if kids and parents aren't careful. Take a look at some vital trick-or-treating tips before you head out this year, by employing the following practices everyone can have an enjoyable and safe time during Halloween.

- \* A parent or responsible adult should accompany children when making the rounds.
- \* Be sure masks have holes which provide a large field of vision.
- \* Use a flashlight after dark.
- \* Travel in groups.
- \* Make sure costumes have reflective markings.
- \* Be sure costumes are flame resistant. Never walk near lit candles or luminaries.
- \* Make sure costumes don't present any tripping hazards.
- \* Stay within familiar neighborhoods.
- \* Avoid crossing in between parked vehicles, look both ways before crossing the street.
- \* Use crosswalks whenever possible.
- \* Approach only houses that are lighted.
- \* Never enter a stranger's home for treats.
- \* Be cautious around animals, even your own pets that may not recognize you in a costume.
- \* Be sure children have access to or are in possession of a working / charged cell phone.
- \* Plan your route and make sure others are aware of your route.
- \* Adults should inspect treats before consumption.
- \* Swords, knives and other costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible.

The days are getting shorter and the air is chilly, I know the time is near for monsters, ghost and goblins to appear. I've learned throughout the years that there is no magic spell to make them go away, but I have found that a piece of candy can always make their day. I hope everyone has a spooktacular Halloween, as for me I really need a coffin break!



## Marengo Police Welcomes Officer Hernandez

The City of Marengo has hired their first ever Hispanic Officer Tania Hernandez. Tania is 23 years old, born and raised in the City of Dekalb. She graduated Kishwaukee Community College in 2015 with a degree in criminal justice. She has been awarded for public speaking, and competed in speech and debate in college. Tania will be the first police officer in her family. She enjoys being creative in her spare time, such as drawing or painting. She also loves cheeseburgers, so if there is anywhere good in town, please let her know. She is very excited to work for the Marengo Police Department and hopes to provide great public service for the City of Marengo. Please help us welcome Officer Tania Hernandez.

*Pictured to right:* Chief Solarz and Officer Hernandez at our September 11, 2017 City Council meeting after Tania took her oath.



## Approved Resolutions and Ordinances March, April and May 2017

### March

- 17-3-1 Ordinance Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Surplus Property
- 17-3-2 Notice of Adoption of an Ordinance Amending the City of Marengo Comprehensive Plan to Incorporate Additional Land Uses in the Southwestern Sub-Area
- 17-3-A Resolution Declaring Certain Owned Personal Property (K-9 Shadow) Surplus
- 17-3-B Resolution Accepting Public Improvements at the Brookside Meadows Subdivision

### April

- 17-4-1 Ordinance Providing for a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2016-17

### May

- 17-5-1 Ordinance Amending Section 11.03 (4) of the Marengo Zoning Code Creating Special Use Permit in a B-2 Zoning District for a Federal Firearm License Type 07 Manufacturing as Required by Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms (ATF) for Marengo Guns.
- 17-5-2 Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit for Two Drive-Through Facilities in a Future Commercial Strip Center @ 20009-20015 E. Grant Highway
- 17-5-3 Ordinance Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Surplus Property
- 17-5-4 Ordinance Restricting Parking Along FAP Route 324 (Route 23) at Coral/Pleasant Grove Road within the City of Marengo
- 17-5-A Funding Resolution Pursuant to an Agreement with State of Illinois for the Improvement of Illinois Route 23 @ Coral/Pleasant Grove Road

Please visit our website at [www.cityofmarengo.com](http://www.cityofmarengo.com) for more information.