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May 2014

Newsletter

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Donald B. Lockhart
815.568.6559

Ward I	Ward II	Ward III	Ward IV
Steven Mortensen 815.735.0766	Matt Keenum 815.404.4585	Gretchen Samuelson 815.509.4206	Dennis Hammortree 815.568.5577
Michael Smith 815.568.1246	Carole Bartman 815.568.7970	Nicole DeBoer 815.568.0911	Todd Hall 815.568.7273
City Clerk Constance Boxleitner 815.568.6937			



Standing: S. Mortensen, M. Keenum, D. Lockhart, G. Samuelson, D. Hammortree
Seated: M. Smith, C. Bartman, C. Boxleitner, N. DeBoer, T. Hall

CITY DEPARTMENTS

Mayor's Office
815.568.7112

Public Works &
Building Department
815.568.2669

Administration
815.568.7112

Utility Billing
815.568.7112

Police Department
815.568.7231

- FEATURED INSIDE:**
- 2014/15 City Budget
 - Citywide Flushing
 - Property Maintenance

FY 2014/15 Budgets Approved

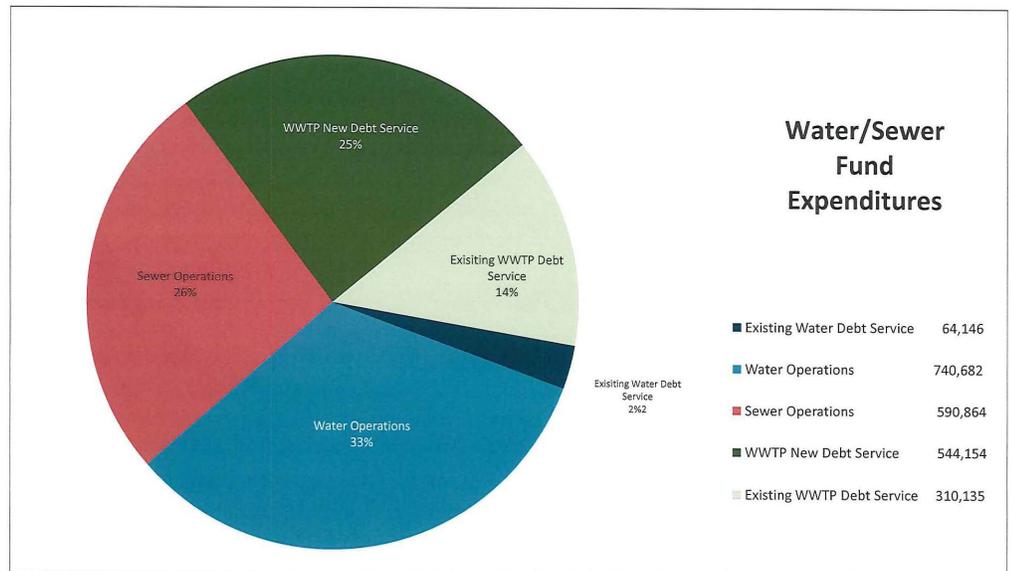
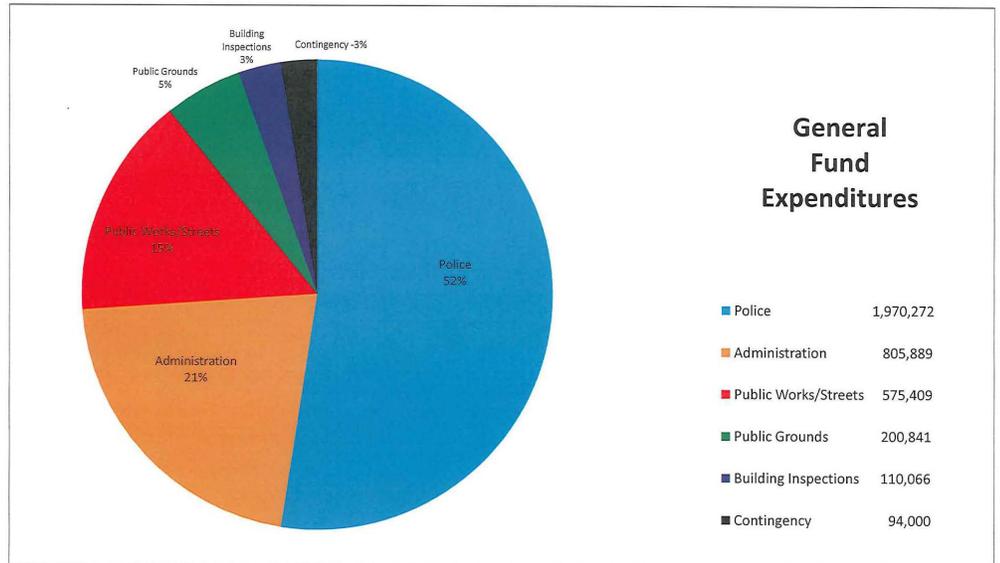
- *General Fund Operating Expenditures Total \$3,756,477*
- *Water/Sewer Fund Operating Revenues and Expenditures Total \$2,249,981*

On April 14th the City Council approved the municipal funding plans for the fiscal year that started this month. In this Fiscal Year Marengo's staffing level remains the same at 32 full-time employees, plus part-time janitors (2) and crossing guards (6), and our police dog Shadow. The General Fund Budget and the Water/Sewer Fund budgets are balanced, with the GF showing a beginning of year cash balance equal to 74.5 days of operating expenses, with the closing year reserve balance increasing to 76.0 days; and Water/Sewer showing an increase to 110.4 days of operating cash reserve at the Fiscal Year's end.. It was noted that the Water/Sewer Fund cash reserve was reduced during the past year by seven (7) days due to the need to make unplanned expenditures totaling \$122,000 to contractors that helped unthaw frozen water mains during this past year's severe winter.

This year's capital expenditures include a \$160,000 plow truck with a wing plow that will better serve the more rural areas of the city, a new *but used* jet/vac truck for the clearing of plugged storm and sanitary sewer lines estimated at \$100,000 which will be financed over five years, \$30,000 in radio transmission equipment for the Police Department, and \$40,000 for the replacement of the municipal sign board that was blown down in a storm last fall. The new sign will have electronic display and hopefully be placed near the USH 20/STH 23 intersection. Also out of the Water/Sewer capital construction account is a \$51,000 expenditure for sanitary sewer development planning that will cover the newly annexed west and south sides of the community. This planning is necessary so that when development proposals come, the city can respond as to how the developer will be required to build and pay for the appropriate sanitary sewer installation.

Another \$125,000 has been earmarked for street construction this year featuring a chip sealing paving of Willow Road and Sunset Drive, and crack sealing and major pot hole patching throughout the city. This past year's harsh winter has caused a change in this year's approach in the street repair programming. Mill and overlay will be done this year only on potholes and street failures.

While the operating expenditures show little change in the Water Sewer Fund, there is an obvious exception in the fund's overall expenditures total. The majority of the expenditures for the construction of the sewage



treatment plant upgrade will be experienced this Fiscal Year. Some \$11.6 million will be spent by next spring when the \$12.0 million project is schedule to be finished. This cost is being offset by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's 20-year, 1.93% interest rate loan to the City with loan payments starting in June 2015.

It has been noted that public safety employee pension funding is a big problem throughout the state. It is no different here. With information not yet available from the Public Pension Division of the Illinois Department of Insurance, this year's Police Pension budget shows a property tax levy of \$240,168

plus an additional \$20,000 transferred from the General Fund to hopefully meet this year's actuarial funding obligation. This amount does not include any additional funding necessary to make catch up payments to bring the Pension Fund up to the 90 percent level of funding liability by 2040. Marengo's is at about 50%. As of now, like most cities throughout the state which are significantly underfunded, funding the City's Police Pension at what the State determines is appropriate, is fiscally unachievable for Marengo, given current state tax law and state pension payment requirements.

Prescription Drugs Drop Box Service Available

The Marengo Police Department is pleased to announce to our citizens that the City is installing a permanent container in the lobby of the Police Department for the collection of unused prescription drugs. Currently we place temporary containers in our lobby two times per year for the collection of these drugs which in turn are shipped to the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for disposal. Having a permanent container in place will allow for drop off at anytime; our citizens will be able to utilize this service at their convenience 24/7, 365.

The reasons for this service is two-fold. There are concerns over the flushing of medications which

accumulate in our water ways and the organisms inhabiting these water ways. Also many heroin users get their start from the left over narcotics in the family's medicine cabinets. Eliminating these point sources will assist the environment as well as remove

an opportunity for drug experimentation that can lead to more dire consequences.

We have seen a steady increase in our take back initiatives since we got involved in this program over the last couple of years. Beginning in 2011, we received 7 pounds of materials followed by 79 pounds in 2012 and 141 pounds last year. It is suspected, the reason for the increase is due to community awareness. As time goes on and individuals utilize this service on a regular basis there could be a leveling off, but that remains to be seen.

We believe that this program provides a worthwhile service to our community for the aforementioned reasons and we encourage everyone to take advantage of it. There is no sense to leave old medications in the cabinet until next time since they may not be effective. For further information regarding this program please contact the Police Department at 815-568-7231.



CITY OF MARENGO
WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT
132 E. PRAIRIE ST., MARENGO, ILLINOIS 60152

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
SEE REVERSE FOR PAYMENT OPTIONS

THIS IS NOT A WATER BILL

Below is important information for City residents, please read!

Water/Main Hydrant Flushing

STARTS May 19, 2014 **ENDS** May 30, 2014

Flushing will occur between 10PM and 5AM

Slowly run your water for about 20 minutes in the morning to reduce discoloration.

Don't forget to schedule.....

Your *water meter transponder replacement!*

Call HBK Water Meter Services at 847-202-4389

The process typically takes about 15-30 minutes.

If you have any questions, please contact *City Hall* at 815-568-7112.

Preserving the Independence of McHenry County Seniors

Senior Care Volunteer Network (formerly Faith in Action) is a not-for-profit program that serves all seniors, age 60 and over, who live in McHenry County or Sun City Huntley. Our mission is to help seniors maintain their independence, dignity and quality of life by remaining in their own homes or the home of a loved one for as long as possible.

Volunteers help us achieve our mission by providing services such as transportation to life-sustaining as well as life-enriching destinations, friendly visits, minor home repairs, yard work and short-term respite care *all at absolutely no charge to the senior or their family members.*

In our last fiscal year, volunteers drove more than 218,000 miles, and dedicated more than 22,000 volunteer hours to assist nearly 1,000 McHenry County seniors. Our services save seniors and their families over \$486,000.

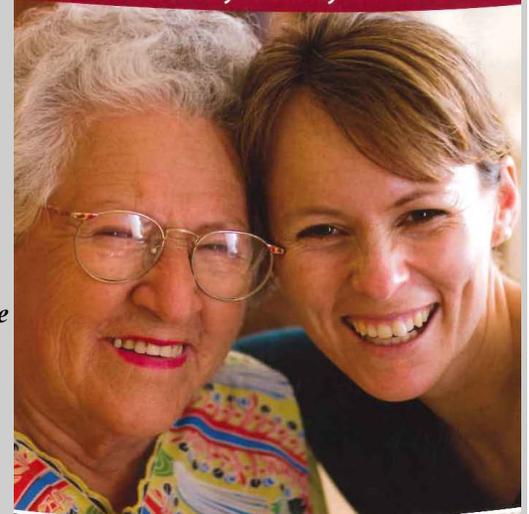
Please consider volunteering just an hour of your time once a week or once a month to help your senior neighbor in Marengo. Training is quick and easy. Mileage reimbursement is also available.

The need for volunteers in Marengo is growing as more requests for our services, especially rides for dialysis patients, are coming from your area. Please volunteer today and help make a difference!

Contact us at 815-455-3120 or visit www.scvnmchenrycounty.org for more information.

Preserving the Independence

of McHenry County Seniors



SENIOR CARE
Volunteer Network

Formerly Faith in Action

Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Helps Maintain Property Values

An ongoing property maintenance program protects the exterior of structures from weather damage and deterioration as well as the interior health of a structure. The property maintenance code encompasses more than how the structures are maintained; it also addresses sanitation, swimming pools, motor vehicles, weeds, driveways, chimneys, window screens, premises identification, disposal of garbage, besides all the mechanical, electrical and plumbing components of structures and properties located in the City.

Property value can be affected greatly depending on how a property has been maintained. Some of the many areas to look for compliance:

EXTERIOR

- Peeling, flaking or chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted.
- Rotten wood on stairs, doors and window frames should be replaced and painted or protected by a surface covering.
- Handrails that are loose should be repaired or replaced.
- Roofing that is curling or damaged should be replaced to prevent further damage from occurring.
- Addresses should be obvious on the dwelling and a minimum of four inches in height and contrast to their background so they are easily seen from the road.
- Windows and doors should be free from cracks and holes and should be operable.
- Trash / garbage should be placed in approved containers and placed at the proper location for pick up by the disposal company no earlier than the day prior to the scheduled pick up day. Trash cans should be stored properly and there should be as many cans as needed to eliminate any accumulation of garbage.
- Dumpsters shall be emptied as needed to prevent an accumulation of garbage.
- All structures and exterior property shall be kept free from rodent harborage and infestation.
- Premises shall be kept free from weeds or grass in excess of eight inches in height.
- Inoperable, unlicensed vehicles shall not be parked, stored or kept on any premises.
- Swimming pools shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition with the proper safety barriers in place.

INTERIOR

- The interior of a structure and equipment therein shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary.
- All interior doors shall fit their opening properly so they are capable of opening and closing as designed.

- Cracked or loose plaster, decayed wood and other defective surface conditions shall be corrected.

Property maintenance is all about keeping things clean, sanitary, safe, and in good working order.



While this house is not in Marengo, it is an example for the need of property maintenance inspection.

City Readies for Issuing \$3.0 Million in New Bonds For Water System Improvements

Last month the City Council gave the go ahead to market \$3.0 million dollars in bonds for water system improvements. The opportunity to do this bond financing came up in the past couple of months when our financial advisor indicated that a series 2003 water/ (primarily) sewer bond issue that expires in 2019 could be refinanced with savings of about \$22,000 in each of the next five years. Recognizing that bond rates are low, a proposal was put together to make the long-overdue water system improvements, *without any additional debt service cost to the Marengo rate payer.*

Based upon a study commissioned and accepted by the City Council in 2013, we need to replace a well that is mechanically challenged and underperforming. The new well is to be located on the west side of town so that there is redundancy in our water output – right now all of our water comes from the same well field on the northeast side of town. This second source of water will better improve the distribution of the water thereby reducing the iron build-up in the system.

Also needed is the replacement of old *transite* water main on the northwest side

of the city that is poor in condition and could become a health risk. (This *transite* material was developed to replace the use of ductile iron that was needed for the War effort 75 years ago.)

Of the total projected debt service paid out by the City, (including the borrowing for new commitment to the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade) only about \$60,000, or about four percent (4%) of all of the City's annual debt service, offsets water system improvement cost – indicative of the very low commitment to improving the water system.

The new debt is to be structured in combination with refinancing of the existing water/sewer debt in such a way that payments through 2019 would remain the same as they are now, and that thereafter the annual borrowing payments cost would be reduced. Not counting the new loan payments needed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement, annual water/sewer debt payments through 2019 would remain as now at about \$540,000; then fall to about \$400,000 per year through 2023. After 2023 the annual payments would fall to about \$285,000.

Citywide Water Main Flushing Program

Scheduled from May 19th to May 30th

The two week Spring Water Main Flushing program will begin the week of May 19, 2014. We will be conducting our flushing initiatives during the overnight hours to minimize disturbances during normal business and household hours.

Marengo water mains will be comprehensively flushed by a technique known as unidirectional flushing. The procedure is performed in warm-weather months and involves the systematic opening and closing of hydrants, so as to force the water through the pipes at a high velocity, thereby removing accumulated mineral sediment until the water is clear. The operation can take from a few minutes to over an hour, depending on size and location of the mains.

Unidirectional flushing differs from conventional flushing in that it involves the closing of adjacent valves and the use of a single hydrant flush so as to isolate individual sections of the main. Conventional flushing also removes accumulated sediment from pipes, but it involves the flushing of multiple hydrants at one time and does not include "valving" off. Conventional flushing is used in areas of the city where fewer minerals build up in the mains.

When flushing crews are working close to your residence or business, you may experience periods of low pressure or even a complete stoppage of service. We will be attempting to notify customers in advance if flushing is expected to result in a complete water outage. Such outages are rare.



Flushing operations may also lead to discolored water, which can be drawn into homes and businesses if the water is being used during or immediately following the flushing. Such events should affect customers for a few hours. The discoloration is caused by iron (red color) or manganese (black color) particles being dislodged from the water main which can stain porcelain or laundry. If discoloration occurs, open the cold tap nearest the water meter— usually a basement sink— to full flow until the water

runs clear. In some situations this may take 5 to 10 minutes. It is also advised that you make sure your water is clear before doing laundry. Should in laundry discoloration occur, please contact the city for a rust removal solution (815-568-7112 or 815-568-2669).

Overnight hours for the two weeks of flushing will be Monday-Friday from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact City Hall at 815-568-7112 or Public Works at 815-568-2669.



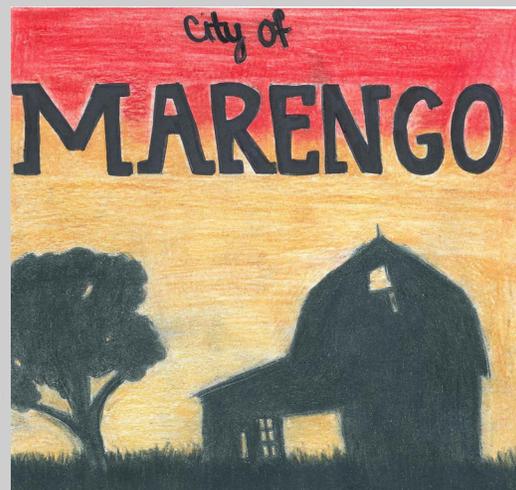
Please welcome Michael Bihlmaier Jr. to the Streets Department. Michael is a Marengo resident that comes to us with 15 years of construction experience.

Vehicle Sticker Design Winner Announced

Danielle Fleshood is the \$100 winner

The City of Marengo is pleased to announce the FY14/15 vehicle sticker design contest winner as Danielle Fleshood. Danielle is a freshman at the Marengo Community High School. She did an outstanding job designing this year's sticker. Danielle was presented with a certificate and \$100 check from the City of Marengo at the April 28th's Council meeting.

Current vehicle stickers expire on July 31, 2014. Please stop by City Hall after June 1st to purchase this new sticker. \$20 for residents and \$5 for senior citizens. We are open Monday through Friday from 8:00AM-4:30 PM.



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:

- 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.

Garage Sales

A \$5.00 garage sale permit application can be printed at www.cityofmarengo.com or picked up at City Hall. The ordinance allows an address to hold two garage sales yearly for up to six consecutive days with the ability to split the six days into two consecutive weeks. Only three signs are allowed to advertise the sale. They are to be displayed during the dates of the sale and are to be removed 24 hours after the sale. Signs must have their own support and are to be posted in the ground. Attachment of signs to telephone poles, trees, traffic signals or any city, state or federal signage is not allowed.

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 and enter your email address in the "subscribe to email updates" box or stop by City Hall.



2014-15 Vehicle Stickers

The 2014-15 Vehicle Stickers will be available for purchase beginning in June. The cost is \$20 per vehicle or \$5 per vehicle for those aged 65 or over. Fees are doubled if purchased after July 31, 2014. Residents not displaying a current vehicle sticker are subject to an ordinance violation fine of \$150.

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.

Travel Trailers & Recreational Vehicles

Parking of travel trailers, utility trailers or other recreational vehicles shall only be permitted behind the front property line between the dates of April 15 and October 15. After October 15 and prior to April 15, the parking of travel trailers, utility trailers and/or other recreational vehicles shall only be permitted behind the building setback line.

Water Meter Transponder Replacement

Please contact HBK at 847-202-4389 to have your water meter transponder replaced. Appointments take anywhere from 15-30 minutes. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall for more information. All residents are encouraged to call today.

Approved Resolutions and Ordinances February, March and April 2014

February

- 14-2-1 Ordinance Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Surplus Property, Owned by the City of Marengo
- 14-2-2 Ordinance Amending Section 33.07-B, Number of Liquor Licenses Issued

March

- 14-3-1 Ordinance Amending Chapter 33, Liquor Control and Liquor Licensing Section 33.07 by creating a BYOB permit
- 14-3-2 Ordinance Authorizing the Addition of a Fifteen Minute Restricted Parking Area to the City of Marengo Central Business District
- 14-3-3 Ordinance Amending Chapter 25, Water and Wastewater Department of the Marengo Municipal Code Regarding Water and Sewer Rates

April

- 14-4-1 Ordinance Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Surplus Property, Owned by the City of Marengo
- 14-4-2 Ordinance Granting a Front Yard Setback Variation and a Rear Yard Setback Variation from the Marengo Zoning Ordinance for the Property Commonly known as 1020 E. Grant Hwy within the B-2 General Business District.
- 14-4-3 Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of Waterworks and Sewerage Revenue Bonds of the City.
- 14-4-4 Ordinance Providing for a Supplemental Appropriation for the FY 2013/14.

The *May 2014 Marengo Newsletter* has been produced by the following staff members: *Article contributors:* Gary Boden, Joe Hallman, Megan Lopez, Jayson Shull, Marianne Wayne and McHenry County Senior Care Volunteer Network. *Desktop publisher:* Megan Lopez