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# CITY NEWSLETTER    MARCH 2017

## Hydrant Flushing *Starts the Week of April 10th*

Public Works Staff will be performing biannual hydrant flushing beginning on April 10th. 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.



## Spring Brush Pickup *To be Held 1st Week of May*



Public Works Staff will begin collecting brush throughout the City on Monday, May 1<sup>st</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 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.

# City Budgets Being Presented this Month

## *FY 2017/18 Budgets Become Effective May 1*

Another tight budget year is forecasted for Fiscal Year 2017-18 that starts on May 1. The General Fund is still hovering around \$3.9 million as it has for the past six years with no appreciable changes in revenue collections. But there are changes being proposed in how the money is spent.

### General Fund Expenditures

Budgeted FY 17-18	\$3.92 million
Budgeted FY 16-17	\$3.93 million
Projected FY 16-17	\$4.06 million*
Actual FY 15-16	\$3.94 million*

\*Higher expenditure reflects receipt and payout of a grant for lighting efficiency improvements totaling \$81,526 in FY 2015-16 and \$114,008 in FY 2016-17.

### General Fund Balance

Operating Reserves	End of Year FY 17-18=\$1,010,941
	<i>94.1 days of operating reserve</i>
Operating Reserves	End of Year FY 16-17= \$962,294
	<i>89.6 days of operating reserve</i>
Operating Reserves	End of Year FY 15-16=\$1,039,024
	<i>96.7 days of operating reserve</i>

### Rising Police Pension Costs Causes a Staffing Reduction

Due to new state rules which determine the pension's actuarial value, this year's budget is showing a transfer of \$150,000 the Police Pension Fund. This increase, which raises the city's annual contribution to the Police Pension from \$263,000 to \$415,000, has effectively caused about a 4 percent cut in the rest of the General Fund.

### Marengo Police Pension Fund

	City Payment	Budgeted Payroll
FY 17-18	\$415,180	\$1,055,575
FY 16-17	\$262,342	\$1,109,840
FY 15-16	\$259,380	\$1,094,043

### Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

	City Payment	Budgeted Payroll
FY 17-18	\$130,659	\$1,166,595
FY 16-17	\$131,498	\$1,171,019
FY 15/16	\$125,275	\$1,121,025

To come up with the additional pension fund dollars, the budget that has been presented this month shows a cut of one officer position from the police force. This cut will be made through an attrition move due to retirements that are now occurring in the department. But only

about half of the \$150,000 needed will come from reducing the PD from 14 sworn members to 13. Other department cuts, as well as cuts from other non-police General Fund areas in the budget, will cover the pension cost increase and establish the balanced budget.

### Public Works Shuffles Duties

In Public Works, due to a restructuring of the how building and property maintenance inspections are administered, a half-time administrative assistant position is being created to replace the retired building/property maintenance inspector. By contracting out all major building inspection projects, simple building permits such as driveway replacements, roofing replacements, fences and the like will be absorbed by the Director of Public Works. In addition the DPW Director will also absorb all property maintenance inspection functions. As was reported to City Council earlier this year, this realignment is being done on a trial basis to determine whether the Director has enough time to undertake these additional duties, since there is some time available for the Director to do this work given that the city has no money to run an on-going street rehabilitation program. As was explained to the City Council earlier this year, this arrangement would probably last about 2-4 years.

### City of Marengo Staffing

Police Department 15.0 employees  
1 Police Chief / 3 Sergeants / 9 Sworn Officers / 1 records Clerk / 1 Administrative Assistant

Public Works Department 10.5 employees  
1 Director / 3 Wastewater / 1 Water / 3 Streets & Grounds / 1 Mechanic / .5 Administrative Assistant/1 Water Billing Clerk

Administration 5.0 employees  
Administrative Functions: Citizen Services, Mayor & City Council Assistance, Planning & Zoning, Economic Development, Budgeting, City Clerk & Public Records Management, Financial Management and Human Resources – Labor Relations

1 City Administrator / 1 Assistant City Administrator / 1 Finance - Human Resources Director / 1 Deputy City Clerk / 1 Administrative Assistant

If it is determined later this summer that this plan will work, a decision would be asked of the City Council as to whether use of the savings created by the reduction in staffing to half-time could be used to help offset the cost of employing another full-time laborer position that would be shared with the Water/Wastewater Treatment utility functions of Public Works. It has long been recognized that another laborer position is needed in Public Works which would, in part, help out in the one-person Water Division.

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# City Budgets Being Presented this Month

## Property Tax Increase Minimal

As directed by the City Council last December, city property taxes have increased by the maximum allowed under state statute which is projected to add just \$11,834 in the tax taking. This 0.79% increase will cause a homeowner that has a house valued at \$150,000 to pay an additional \$5.00. Also per prior direction, \$10,000 of this increase will go to the Cemetery Fund. The Cemetery did not receive property tax funding in this current fiscal year, nor in FY 2015-16. The last time the Cemetery Board received property taxes from the City was in FY 14-15; it totaled \$27,341.

### Total Property Tax Collections

Budgeted FY 17-18	\$1,509,864
Projected FY 16-17	\$1,498,030
Actual FY 15-16	\$1,448,159

## Police Pension Contribution FY 2008-09 to FY 2017-18

FY 08/09 Property Tax Contr.	\$117,200
FY 09/10 Property Tax Contr.	\$123,271
FY 10/11 Property Tax Contr.	\$134,936
FY 11/12 Property Tax Contr.	\$159,920
FY 12/13 Property Tax Contr.	\$192,417
FY 13/14 Property Tax Contr.	\$212,341
FY 13/14 GF Contr.	\$27,813
FY 14/15 Property Tax Contr.	\$241,201
FY 14/15 GF Contr.	\$24,717
FY 15/16 Property Tax Contr.	\$259,380
FY 16/17 Property Tax Contr.	\$262,342
FY 17/18 Property Tax Contr.	\$265,000
FY 17/18 GF Budget Contr.	\$150,000

## Water/Wastewater Operating Budget Shows Little Change

Based upon a City Council decision made last year, no increase in operation fees are shown in the initial proposal of FY 2017-18, the \$1.7 million budget for the city's utilities. The balanced budget shows little change, aside from a reassignment maintenance and capital improvement expenditures from operating funds to the Water/Wastewater Capital Improvement Fund. This \$80,000 cost shift to the Water/sewer Capital Improvement Fund actually creates a very modest \$10,000 surplus in the Water/Sewer operation fund. It is that \$10,000 that could be used in combination with the money from the General Fund that could be used to offset the cost of another laborer position.



## Municipal Election April 4 7 Seats Including Mayor & Clerk To Be Selected

The biannual municipal election will be held on Tuesday April 4. While voting for all precincts is currently on-going at City Hall from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Sunday through Saturday, voting on the day of the election will be held at the following locations:

Marengo Precinct 1:  
Marengo Park District Building  
Indian Oaks Park- 825 Indian Trail

Marengo Precinct 2:  
City Hall – 132 East Prairie Street  
City Council Chambers

Marengo Precinct 3  
Marengo Township Hall  
4010 North Illinois State Route 23

Riley Precinct 1  
Riley Township Hall  
9312 Riley Road

Six contests will be decided in this election. Three candidates are running for Mayor – John Arient, Donald Lockhart (incumbent), and John Koziol. There are contests in two Aldermanic Races, In Ward 1 Raymond Knake is opposing Nicole DeBoer (incumbent), and in Ward 4 James Regelin is up against Dennis Hammortree (incumbent). Incumbents Michael Miller (for a two year term) in ward 1, Steven Mortensen in Ward 2, and Matt Keenum in Ward 3 are all running unopposed. Constance Boxleitner is also running unopposed for her City Clerk position.



The Funding for the Capital Improvements Fund, which stands at \$312,000 going into FY 2017-18, comes mostly from the \$284,000 that was received from 300 West, LLC, as a part of their agreement to gain access to the city's water system. This buy-in to the water system, confirmed by District Court order, allows 300 West to build and pay for an extension of municipal water service into rural Marengo Township.

The Water/Sewer operations fund was stressed in this current fiscal year due to an emergency \$40,000 repair to 25-year old pump at Well #7 on Prospect Street. In the upcoming year the \$80,000 shift into the Capital Improvements Fund will cover costs for minor main replacements, three hydrant replacements and a \$30,000 pump overhaul to the pump at Well #6. Without this new money in the Water/Sewer Capital Improvements budget, the Water/Sewer operating budget would be very hard to balance.

More information about the Water/Sanitary Sewage Treatment Budgets will come out on March 27 and April 10 when this budget, and other smaller budgets are reviewed.

## Police Department Gives Security Advice

# Keep Your Vehicle and its Contents Safe

The warmer weather is approaching; the grass will soon start to turn green, the trees will start to bud and the sounds of birds will be heard throughout the neighborhood. The warmer weather also brings with it some unpleasantness, burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles. These types of crimes seem to always go up as the weather gets warmer, but there are several things that can be done in order to help prevent you from becoming a victim of one of these crimes.

Burglary to motor vehicles is a crime of opportunity. They mainly take place late in the evening or early in the morning. The typical burglar doesn't like to work hard if they don't have to, they seek easy targets. One, being unlocked motor vehicles and two, being vehicles with the windows partially down or the sun roof open. The typical items that burglars like to take from vehicles are:

- Loose change
- Cigarette's
- Mobile phones
- Tools
- Compact Disk
- Purses, Wallets
- Laptops
- GPS Devices
- Radar Detectors
- Brief Cases

There are several things you can do to prevent yourself from becoming a victim to one of these types of crimes.

- Lock your vehicle
- Park in the garage if you have one
- Make sure your windows are closed
- Close your sun roof
- Install an alarm system
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle
- Leave your outside lights on at night

Burglars like dark areas, so as not to be seen. By keeping your outside lights on or having a motion sensor on your lights can help prevent would be criminals from breaking into your vehicle. If you use a GPS device that needs a suction cup that mounts on the window, make sure you wipe down the area on the window when you remove your device. Burglars look for the marks left on the window to determine if you may have one of these devices. Even if they don't see the device itself, they know there is a possibility it could be in your vehicle. Most burglars like to go window shopping, in that they look into the vehicle before they attempt to open the door. Never leave valuables in your vehicle,



never hide expensive possessions under the driver's seat (this is the first place burglars look for stored items) and never attempt to cover valuable items with a blanket or clothing, this just peaks the interest of what might be hidden underneath. Never ever leave your spare set of keys in the car. In the past, we have had several vehicles stolen after the burglar found keys inside the vehicle. Once in a while we get what is called a smash and grab. A smash and grab is when the burglar finds the vehicle doors locked, sees something of value in the vehicle and breaks the window in order to get to what they want; so again if there is nothing for them to see, they won't wait there time breaking the window and will look for an easier target.

No one likes to be a victim of a crime, but if you should become one, notify the police as soon as possible. If the crime is not in progress call the non-emergency number, if the crime is in progress call 911. Don't go out and confront the burglar, this could put you in a position of danger. Most burglary to motor

vehicles are reported when people wake up and are heading to work, if you hear or see anything suspicious in the late evening or early morning hours, please give us a call and we will come and check it out. Don't touch your vehicle as potential evidence can be lost. After the police process the vehicle, go through it and provide the police with a list of everything that was taken from the vehicle.

On a lighter note, Marengo is in the top twenty-five safest cities to live in America for a population of its size.

## Interchange Construction Begins



With the Start-Up of IL Rte 23 bridge construction in February, work on 190/Rte 23 Interchange has commenced. This bridge is being expanded to 5 traffic lanes and is being expected to be completed this fall.

## Special Recognition Given to 3 Officers Life Saving Medals Awarded



From Left to Right: Officer Kjellgran, Officer Bockelmann and Office Rzotkiewicz. All three officers received a life saving medal at the February 27, 2017 City Council meeting. On behalf of the City of Marengo and the Marengo Police Department, we commend you on a job well done. Thank you!



DPW Director Howard Moser (left) and Mayor Don Lockhart (right) posed in front of the presentation display for the award winning design of the City's WWTP expansion and upgrade. This project was 1 of 13 recognized by the IL Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies last month in Lisle, IL.

## *To Improve Water Quality Homeowners Asked To Check Water Heaters and Water Softeners*

Over the past year the Public Works Department has responded to 20 resident complaints about the water quality here in Marengo. The most common complaint has been the discoloration of the water ranging from yellow to green. We have responded to these complaints by visiting the residence and speaking with the homeowner, taking a sample of both the hot and cold tap water and offering recommendations.

In 95% of these instances we have found that the discoloration only exists in the hot water. This is caused by sediment that collects in the hot water heater and can be alleviated by flushing the water from the hot water heater. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for flushing your specific brand of water heater. The water will be hot so BE CAREFUL. If you do not have the instructions they can probably be found on line. We recommend attaching a garden hose to the spigot

## *Special Achievement Award Received* **HR Green and City of Marengo Acknowledged for WWTP Design**

Last month an award was given to the City of Marengo, and Marengo's contracted city engineers – H.R. Green, by the Illinois Chapter of the Illinois Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). HRG was recognized by its engineering company peers for its "Special Achievement" in the design of the City's new Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and expansion.

At the end of the last decade, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency mandated that the City of Marengo increase its capacity of its sewage treatment plant. At the time the plant was operating at close to 80% of its .9 million gallons per day capacity. Back in 2011 the City received a recommended design from a firm that had been doing its engineering for the Treatment Plant's improvements since the late 1990's. As is well known, this work was mandated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The City awarded a construction contract, after going to bid a second time with an IEPA approved scaled down design plan that fit the previously recommended and approved construction budget limits.

The project started in August 2013 with work that included excavation for a clarifier that was to be located just northeast of some of the existing buildings at the Treatment Plant site. The designer of this intended facility assured the City that the building the clarifier

on a known and capped landfill was doable. Work stopped shortly thereafter when the contractor started digging up garbage from the capped land fill. Because the contractor would have been liable for the unbudgeted removal and disposal of the landfill material, work was immediately halted and a cost estimate to properly dispose of the landfill waste was determined. The cost would have extended the construction budget far beyond the \$12 million limit.

It was at this time that HRG was brought in to come up with a new treatment plant design that would fit the relatively small existing site (relocating the treatment plant to a new site would have been way too costly), meet the treatment capacity levels expected by the IEPA, and to keep the cost within the \$12 million budget and double the treatment capacity. (Prior unaffordable designs by the previous firm more than tripled the treatment capacity.) HRG's solution was to bring in a newer sequencing batch reactor (SBR) technology to blend with the use of some of the sewage treatment components of the existing plant. This process is designed to handle future wastewater treatment needs through construction on a less costly incremental basis.

**Congratulations to H.R. Green!**



and running it to a floor drain or slop sink if available. If neither options exist than run the hose outside. Continue flushing until the water runs clear.

Another cause of discoloration in domestic water can be your water softener or more specifically the type of salt used in your water softener. Many residents use rust remover salt which will scour the inside of your pipes and temporarily cause discoloration due to the rust being released into the water. We recommend using a 1/3 ratio (one bag of rust remover to every three bags of regular salt).

If you experience discoloration or any other issue with the quality of your domestic water please contact the Public Works Department immediately at 815-568-2669.

# 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, calendars 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.

## 2016/17 Vehicle Stickers

The 2016-17 Vehicle Stickers are on sale. The cost is \$40 per vehicle or \$10 per vehicle for those aged 65 years and older. Fees have doubled after August 1, 2016. Residents not displaying a current City vehi-

cle sticker are subject to an ordinance violation fine of \$150.

## Garage Sales

A \$5.00 garage sale permit is required.

The ordinance allows for 6 days throughout the calendar year. You are allowed three signs for advertisement. Signs must have their own support, they can not be placed on trees, poles or traffic signals.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Donald B. Lockhart  
815.568.6559

**Ward I**  
Nicole DeBoer  
815.568.0911

**Ward II**  
Michael Smith  
815.568.1246

**Ward III**  
Todd Hall  
815.568.7273

**Ward IV**  
Dennis Hammortree  
815.568.5577

Mike Miller  
815.568.6925

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: M. Miller, B. Martin, D. Lockhart, M. Smith, T. Hall

## Approved Resolutions and Ordinances December 2016, January and February 2017

### December

- 16-12-1 Ordinance Establishing Marengo City Council Regular Meeting Dates 2017
- 16-12-2 Ordinance Abating the Tax Levied 2016 for Principal and Interest on \$2,740,000
- 16-12-3 Ordinance Authorizing the Abatement of 2016 City of Marengo Taxes on Certain Property
- 16-12-4 Ordinance Amending Section 33.07-B, # of Licenses Issued
- 16-12-5 FY 16/17 Tax Levy Ordinance
- 16-12-6 Ordinance Levying Taxes for Special Service Area #2 for 2016
- 16-12-7 Ordinance Amending Section 6.24 of Chapter 6 of the Marengo Municipal Code Regarding Tree Service

### January

- 17-1-1 Ordinance Adopting the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act

### February

- 17-2-1 Ordinance Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Surplus Property
- 17-2-2 An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of an Annexation Agreement between the City of Marengo and Marengo Lakes, LLC with Respect to 335 Acres Located Approximately 3,000 feet South of Pleasant Grove Road and West of Illinois State Route 23
- 17-2-3 An Ordinance Annexing into the City of Marengo, 335 Acres Located Approximately 3,000 feet South of Pleasant Grove Road and West of Illinois State Route 23
- 17-2-4 An Ordinance Rezoning 175 Acres Located South of Pleasant Grove Road and West of Illinois State Route 23 from AT Agricultural Transition to M-Manufacturing with a Special Use Permit for Earth Materials Extraction and Processing Facility and Related Operations
- 17-2-5 An Ordinance Rezoning 335 Acres Located South of Pleasant Grove Road and West of Illinois State Route 23 from AT Agricultural Transition to M-Manufacturing with a Special Use Permit for Earth Materials Extraction and Processing Facility and Related Operations

The **March 2017 Marengo Newsletter** has been produced by the following staff members: *Article contributors:* Gary Boden, Howard Moser and Chief Solarz. *Desktop publisher:* Megan Lopez