

The Council Corner

Mayor: Jim Trager, Commissioners Bob Davis, Jim Hollenbeck, Jim Buckingham, Gary Lewey

The Council Corner is a pilot newsletter that hopefully we can distribute on a monthly basis or bi-monthly basis. Our senior citizens will probably recall years ago when Marseilles had it's own small town newspaper. At one time, if memory serves correctly, it was called the Marseilles Press. Later another paper was called the Marseilles/Seneca Town and Country. This was an asset to the city as to the published positive things going on in the community, and if you sent them a news release it was printed. We hope the Council Corner will serve to keep residents abreast on what the council is doing. We appreciate any input our residents have on this idea.

On October 23rd the city hosted the first ever IMTA (Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association) Northern Region Roundtable. Treasurer Cheryl Gray and Deputy City Clerk Catherine Strottner are currently working on their Certified Illinois Municipal Treasurer certification. Speakers were City Attorney Rich Burton whom discussed "When being a treasurer gets ugly". Craig Hepner and Jackie Hanlon from Ottawa Savings Bank/Twin Oaks in Marseilles presented Identity Theft/Fraud Program. Another class discussed GO Bonds. State Senator Sue Resin also addressed the class.

The city is also working on making our community more presentable. Recently a total of 8 dilapidated structures were demolished. Bids were also awarded for the demolition of 3 additional properties in the 2013 flood area. An additional 6 properties were demolished by others for a grand total of 17. The city was able to obtain a 40k grant to help with the demolition costs. The two residences on Bluff Street severely damaged by fire are also being addressed. Unfortunately, there isn't any quick fix on any of these properties through the legal system. It has taken four years to finally be able to address the homes destroyed by the flood. One of the residences on Bluff is finally starting being addressed and the owner is hoping to be able to salvage the structure. We are pursuing getting the other structure torn down.

The city was finally able to gain title of the two story dilapidated house across from the American Legion as that will be razed as soon as possible.

The city is currently working on three grants. The first is a grant to repair the sewer system on the east side of town from Cole Street to Sherman Street and Union to Chicago Streets. Residents in that area were surveyed and the result was we were eligible. We are proceeding with the grant, and for those that live in that area if you have been victim of sewer backup and flooding of

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your basement and have pictures if you could get copies to city hall we would appreciate it. Pictures can assist the city in increasing the likelihood of receiving the grant. The

second grant is for improvement and beautification of Main Street. The third grant is for sidewalks on Rutland Street going up to Dollar General. There are many residents that walk to Dollar General and the Medical Clinic and have to walk along the shoulder of the road. We also have at least one resident confined to a wheelchair that also has to use the shoulder.

Cleanup days was a huge success. Over the three-day period a total of 10 of the very large rollback dumpsters were filled. Metal was removed and taken by Olson's Recycling in Seneca to be recycled.

The police department is preparing for it's annual shop with a cop a program so those in need can have a Merry Christmas. If you would like to make a donation to that program checks can be sent to the Marseilles Police Department - 142 Lincoln Street. The Marseilles Legion and VFW each donated \$200.00. Total \$400.00



The Marseilles Parks and Tourism Committee is presenting Holiday Magic in Marseilles on December 2nd from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The group was able to get commitment from Santa Clause that he indeed will be coming to town. There will be a parade from Illinois Valley Celluar up Main to Washington then east on Washington to Aurora and the south on Aurora to Broadway and then back west on Broadway to Main Street where Santa will be at the Local 393 Labor Hall from 6 to 8 pm to visit. If anyone is interested in participating in the parade call Kathy at 815-795-2414. There is no entry fee. Food, beverages, and baked goods will be available for purchase as well as Crafters.

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Did you know that recently the Marseilles Fire Protection District was reviewed and inspected by ISO (Fire Insurance Rating) as is presently classified as a Class 4 from the previous Class 5. The lower the number the better the rating. The new lower number took effect November 1st. You should contact your insurance company regarding the lower rating as it may save you money on insurance premiums. A big Kudos to the fire district and it's trustees for this accomplishment. We are proud of our fire district. The rating is based on the department training, equipment, and other factors as well as the city water system and hydrants.