

2026 STATE OF THE CITY

Common Council Members, Citizens, and Friends: It is an honor to come to you as Mayor in 2026 and provide you with an update on the State of The City. While we reflect on 2025, Marinette continues to grow and strengthen daily, with many exciting new economic projects ahead in 2026.

Marinette continues to see momentum through new businesses and key improvement projects that are driving positive change throughout our community. We are always looking for ways to strengthen and enhance our city for residents, employees, and visitors alike. I am sincerely grateful for the support of the Common Council and, the dedicated City Staff who keep our operations running efficiently. Their teamwork and commitment help foster innovation and forward progress.

The city has continued to maintain a balanced budget throughout 2025 and plans to carry this fiscal responsibility into 2026. Due to strong financial management, we have successfully retained our A1 credit rating from Moody's. Additionally, the city borrowed \$10.15 million this year to support critical investments in road construction, as well as the future development of the Police Department and City Hall.

The City Clerk's Office continued to process license renewals and submit all required state reports. The office is now preparing for a particularly busy year ahead, with four elections scheduled.

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

In 2025 The City continued to grow our infrastructure and housing. We continued working with our partners within our various TID's to continue and promote development throughout the city. We have made significant progress in utilizing vacant lots for new housing solutions, successfully constructing additional tiny homes in the past year with our Vacant Residential Lot Development Program.

Midwest Expansion began development of an area off University Drive in 2024. The luxury apartment complex, known as *The Reserve*, consists of 108 units across eight buildings and was completed in 2025. The apartments are now open and welcoming new residents.

Tycore continues to play a key role in the City's growth through the redevelopment of the former Bay Area Hospital site know as *Shipyards Estates*. Construction on the project is underway and progressing steadily. Once complete, the development will include 174 apartment units and 22 new homes, with the project expected to reach full scale in 2026.

We continue to work with **T. Spell Development** with a possible project to repurpose the existing City Hall and Police Department building.

The City worked closely with the owners of the **KK Integrated Logistics** Warehouse, which is now complete and fully operational.

We are also encouraged by continued growth at **Pine Tree Mall**, with expanded retail offerings and interest from two major retailers. These developments strengthen our local economy and generate new revenue for the City.

Development efforts also include identifying the right space for City government operations. The City plans to repurpose the former Army National Guard Armory into a new City Hall and Police Department. We continue to work closely with **Boldt Construction** on the design of this facility, with construction planned for completion by 2027.

The Main Street reconstruction project was completed in November 2025 and included new utilities, inclusive lighting, improved sidewalks, and reconstructed roadways. The City plans to continue revitalizing this area with additional enhancements in the spring. Alongside this project, improvements to the major traffic corridor on Ludington Street further enhancing accessibility for residents and visitors.

The newly completed plaza space was already put to use during the 2025 Christmas in Marinette event, featuring hot cocoa and the debut of a new holiday tradition with a grand Christmas tree in the plaza. We look forward to building on this tradition and enjoying the plaza as a vibrant community gathering space for many years to come.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND GRANTS

Grant applications allow the City to leverage local dollars alongside successful grant awards to fund much needed infrastructure improvements. This proactive approach helps attract workers and families to the area while strengthening our community for the future. Marinette is focused on leadership and innovation rather than following the path of other cities.

Our city has been making great strides on infrastructure projects and it is a top priority for City Hall. The following is a list of street reconstruction:

2025 Completed Street Reconstruction:

- Cleveland Ave: Pierce Ave. – Marinette Ave (TID 10 funded)
- Parnell St: Pierce Ave. – Shore Dr. (PFAS Grant funding partial)
- Main St: Hall Ave. – Wells St. (TEA Grant)
- Alley Sanitary Sewer Projects

Streets Chip Sealed in 2025:

- Van Cleve Ave: Hall Ave. – Riverside Ave.
- Houston St: Hall Ave. – Parkridge Ave.
- Houston St: Taylor St. – Watson Ct.
- Elizabeth Ave: 6th St. – 9th St.

Planned 2026 Street Reconstruction:

- University Dr: Shore Dr. – Bay Shore Dr.
- Madison Ave: Hall Ave. – Lewis St.
- Dunlap Ave: Madison Ave. – End. (Joe’s Cheese House)
- Eggener St: Bridge St. – Wells St.
- Wells St: Ludington St. – End (Nestegg Marine)
 - This Project will include rerouting a major interceptor sewer from under Nestegg storage buildings.
- Elizabeth Ave: 4th St. – Hosmer St.
- Main St. Walkway between two private buildings.
- Menominee River Multi-use Trail

Planned Alleyway Sanitary Sewer Projects:

- Armstrong St./Oakes St. – Dagget St. to Mary St.
- Hosmer St./Russell St. – Waldo St. to Ogden St.
- Main St./Merryman St. – Church St. to Cook St.
- Thomas St./Carney Ave. – Wells St. to Colfax St.

CITY OPERATIONS:

In 2025, the **Marinette Police Department** hosted the FBI LEEDA Trilogy Leadership Program, making the department eligible for the Agency Trilogy Award recognizing command staff who completed the full leadership series. The department secured more than \$85,000 in grants and donations to support traffic enforcement, equipment, and education, while continuing strong community outreach efforts focused on youth safety and public engagement. Officers hosted and participated in events such as the K9 Run/Walk, Cops and Bobbers, Cornhole Tournament, and Walmart’s Blue Christmas. They continue to expand civilian education on active threat response. Lastly, the Marinette Police Department welcomed a new Public Service Officer.

The **Marinette Fire Department** continues to lead the state in MDA fundraising, ranking first in total dollars raised and number of contributions, first in dollars raised per member in the 5th District, and third statewide overall. The newly purchased fire engine was officially pushed into service in March of 2025. The department was able to also, secure more than \$85,000 in grants and donations. The department also welcomed a new firefighter bringing the department to full staffing, while two personnel continue advanced training as members of Wisconsin Task Force 1.

The **Water Department** successfully replaced and upgraded pump controls and variable speed drivers, helping ensure the continued delivery of clean, safe drinking water to our community. The Wastewater Utility installed two new center-flow fine screens. With support from PFAS grant funding, the Wastewater Treatment Plant was awarded four alleyway sanitary sewer replacement projects.

The **Marinette Recreation Department** continues to strengthen its successful partnership with the Marinette School District. Through this collaboration, the **Marinette After-School Program** has continued to grow, with the addition of a new Before-School Program. Both programs quickly reached capacity, reflecting strong community demand. Additionally, due to the popularity of the #myREC Summer Day Camp Program, 30 additional spots were added each week. Youth sports participation also saw significant growth in 2025, increasing by 39 percent.

Community use of REC facilities remained strong, with more than 21,000 walkers utilizing the indoor walking path. The brand-new constructed **Robert Cisco Splash Pad** was officially opened in June of 2025, contributing to nearly a 50 percent increase in pool attendance compared to the previous year. The Recreation Department also continued to host a wide variety of successful events, including hockey tournaments, pickleball competitions, athletic events, Kids' Day, craft shows, and many more.

This year the City hosted numerous well-attended events, including the Logging & Heritage Festival, National Walleye Tournament, APBA Boat Races, Blues, Brews & BBQs, live music, and the annual Christmas in Marinette celebration. A big shout out to our event organizers and volunteers for making these events come to life.

The City continues to actively work with **Mead & Hunt** on the pedestrian and bicycle path project funded through a TAP grant, with the project expected to continue through 2026.

We have partnered with the DNR through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant to develop land from the former CN Railway. Construction is planned to begin this spring.

We are actively working with developers to finalize plans for this summer, with a vision to enhance recreation and revitalize this area, creating new opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy Marinette's outdoor spaces.

I am proud of the progress we have made and optimistic about Marinette's continued growth and success. It is an honor to serve as your mayor, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue working on behalf of our community. Together, we will keep building a strong future for Marinette and making it an even better place to live, work, and play.

Thank you,

Mayor Steve Genisot