



From the Desk of the City Administrator

Election information

You may have noticed campaign signs popping up around the city. The Consolidated Election is Tuesday, April 4. Campaign signs for candidates are not allowed in the boulevard. Please display them in your yard.

Elections will be held at your local polling place. You may also vote early at the Courthouse. Their hours are: Monday–Friday, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. They will also be open on Saturday, April 1, from 9 a.m. until noon for early voting. You can find sample ballots here:
<https://www.facebook.com/WarrenCountyClerkRecorder/>

Spring cleaning

Spring seems to have arrived a bit early this year. If you are inspired to get outside and work in the yard, you can take any yard waste out to the Transfer Station, free of charge. Our regular lawn bag pick-up will resume April 3.

If you do spring cleaning on the inside of your home, you may want to get rid of larger items like old couches or things like empty paint cans. These items may also be dropped off at the Transfer Station (a fee may be charged for large items), six days a week, including from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Waste Management will not pick up oversized items except during clean-up week. This year, we have scheduled clean-up week for June 5-9 on your normal garbage pick-up day.

March events

There is always something going on in

Monmouth! This month, I'm looking forward to the fundraiser for the 1st Street Armoury's Operation Backpack program, which is at the American Legion on March 18. It's a great way to support our students.



The Maple Leaf Community Concert Series continues with the David Osborne Trio on Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. at the Dahl Chapel. He is called the "pianist of the presidents" because he has played for several of our presidents.

Hope it stays warm and enjoy the spring-like weather!

Lowell Crow
City Administrator

March City Council Meetings At City Hall

Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m.
and Monday, March 20, at 7 p.m.

City Receives Grant to Eliminate Zombies

The City of Monmouth has received a \$25,000 grant to demolish abandoned ("zombie") homes in our community.

"I was so pleased we received the grant," said Jan Helms, executive administrative assistant for the City. "These abandoned homes are not only eyesores but also have health and safety hazards."

Vagrants, Vermin and Varmints, Oh, My!
Helms applied for the grant because Monmouth has issues with foreclosures and abandoned homes. Zombie houses attract pests and vermin and may appeal to squatters and vandals.

“We have identified 27 abandoned properties in various stages of disrepair, so we need all the financial assistance we can get,” she said. “The City of Monmouth has been actively pursuing the demolition of unsafe, unsecure structures for several years. We focus on renovation when



possible, but sometimes demolition is our only recourse.”

The funds from this grant will allow the City to demolish several moderate-sized homes during the next year.

The grant is from the Illinois Housing Development Authority’s Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which was created in 2010 with the passage of the Save Our Neighborhoods Act. Funding for the program comes from foreclosure filing fees and is available to municipalities with problem residential properties.

The City is also applying for a grant to help with housing rehab and a free Savings Through Efficient Products (STEP) program to make City-owned buildings more energy efficient.

Trash Talk: The Do’s and Don’ts of Recycling and Yard Waste

What can go into the yard waste bags?

The Sustainability Department would like to remind you that the ONLY items allowed in yard waste bags are grass, weeds and leaves.

Yes: Grass, weeds and leaves.

No: Household trash, litter, pet waste, large sticks or tree limbs, loose soil and rocks/gravel.

It’s just like your stomach.

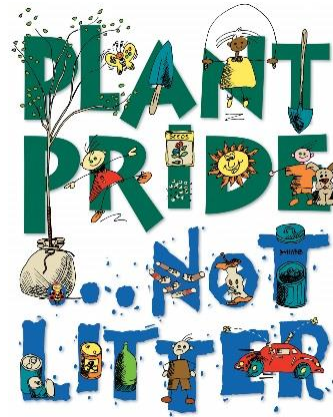
The compost bacteria can only break down certain products. For example, your stomach can only break down human food and digest it. You couldn’t eat metal and expect your stomach to digest it or plastic and not expect problems.

The bacteria at the compost site are the same way. They cannot break down any man-made products that are not recyclable. Last year, there was a lot of litter in the yard waste bags, especially plastic bags.

“Pop bottles and cans, large sticks and plastic bags cannot be digested and turned into humus (compost). The results from these contaminants is a product that looks unnatural and unsalable,” said Chad Braatz, Sustainability Coordinator for the City.

Good news!

The good news is that in 2016, residents picked up 1,575 cubic yards of finished compost. That is more than double from 2015! The product we make is excellent for water retention and a great soil conditioner.



Let’s keep the litter out of our compost and keep our yards looking nice. Thank you for your help in improving our compost!

The Story of Well 10

You may have noticed an odd piece of machinery on Jackson Avenue late last year (just behind Kunes Country Auto). That was the drilling rig for Monmouth’s latest deep well—Well 10.

Monmouth’s water has been coming from deep wells since the first one was drilled near the old fire station in 1925. Well 10 will be the sixth well that the City will have in current operation when it’s hooked up to the water plant on Harlem this summer.

Well 10 was drilled to a depth just over 2,500 feet, hitting the Cambrian Ordovician Aquifer System. Drilling down through that much bedrock took 8-10 weeks of continuous drilling.

So why did Monmouth need another well? Back in 2014, the City, in partnership with Woodard & Curran (the company that provides Monmouth's Public Works services), performed a hydraulic modeling study to see how water flows through the City and where the current and future needs are.

There was both a current and a future need for more water on the north side of Monmouth. It was determined that drilling a new well was more cost-effective than bringing new water mains up from the wells on the south side of town. Also, a new well would give our water system more reliability and some much needed redundancy.



The well bore hole was drilled in decreasing diameters, starting at two feet wide, then down to 18 inches and finally 12 inches wide. The 24" and 18" wide shafts are cased in ductile iron piping to keep the bore hole open. The first 250 feet of the 12" section of the hole is cased in stainless steel.



The Shops of Monmouth

We have added two new categories to the Shops of Monmouth site! You can now read about "Arts and Culture" and "Music" events happening in town. Visit <http://shopsofmonmouth.com/>

This site will give you a glimpse of all there is to do here in Monmouth and help you get the most out of your Maple City experience.

The pump itself is a vertical turbine pump. The motor sits in a well house on the surface with a drive shaft that goes down 500 feet to the actual pump. The top of the pump is threaded and is connected directly to a stainless steel column pipe that takes the water to the surface.

When the drilling was completed, the well was flow tested. A test pump was installed, and the well was set to pump 1,500 gallons per minute (GPM) for 24 hours—this was to verify the well yield capacity and static water level in the aquifer. Water samples were also collected and analyzed per the EPA permitting requirements.

All of the pump test information and water analysis has been submitted to the Illinois EPA as part of the permitting process. Data on this well—flow, geology, water quality, and such—will be shared with numerous state and federal agencies to keep water supply information as current as possible.

When the permitting process is complete, the well will be sanitized and the raw water tested. Upon receiving satisfactory results of those tests, to be certain of the quality and safety of the new well, it will be hooked up to a water main to take the water to the water plant on Harlem, where it will be treated into fully potable water.

When online, the pump will operate at 1,000 GPM on demand. The three active north-side wells are computer-controlled through the City's

SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system which is programmed based on our water system design and delivery demand.

—*Paul Schuytema*, Director of Community and Economic Development

Going Green

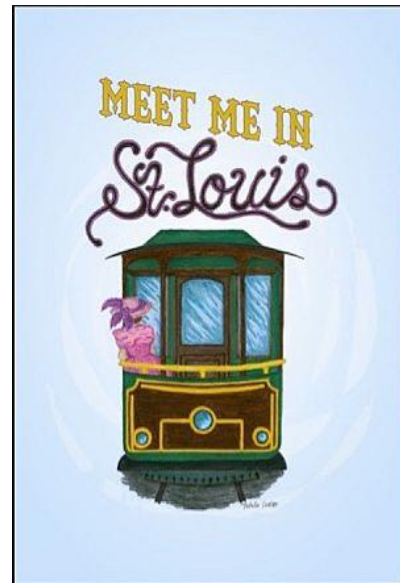
Cornelius has added 734 solar panels to their Monmouth warehouse, where they manufacture beverage dispense solutions for restaurants, convenience stores and hospitality chains.

The panels were installed by Precision Energy Services, which is based in West Burlington, Iowa, and specializes in renewable solar energy projects and emission control.

“These panels are expected to produce enough energy to fully power the factory. On sunny days, they will receive enough credit to compensate for cloudy days,” said Wade Woodward, Director of Zoning and Building Inspector for the City of Monmouth.



According to the Cornelius website, the company aims to “manage our own facilities, products, and processes, with programs to reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions providing environmental and cost-saving benefits.”



Meet Me in St. Louis

April 6-9

Wells Theater, Monmouth College

Monmouth College Department of Theatre and the Buchanan Center for the Arts present *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Experience the nostalgia! This delightful musical chronicles a year in the lives of the Smith family prior to the opening of the 1904 World's Fair. Tickets are available at the BCA or online at monm.edu/box-office.

MONMOUTH
ILLINOIS

City of Monmouth

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