

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT PROJECT NEWS

August 25, 2016

CITY NEWS

NerdWallet Ranks Marion Among Best Small Cities for Families

A recent study ranked Marion 28th of Best Small Cities for Families in the U.S. NerdWallet analyzed 245 cities in the U.S. with populations between 25,000 to 100,000. Income and affordability, prosperity and growth, and family friendliness were taken into account. Five Iowa cities made the list. Marion was second to Ankeny which landed number 11 on the list. [Full article](#)



Signs, Signs, Everywhere a Sign

Did you know that signs - other than official traffic or street signs - are not allowed in the area between the street and the sidewalk or on City property? This time of year For Sale, Garage Sale, advertising, special event and political signs are widely-distributed and can cause distractions and public safety concerns.

Be a good neighbor and if you intend to place a temporary sign at the corner lot, on someone's property, request permission. Be mindful of the areas where such signs are permitted, and then remove them in a timely fashion. Also note, temporary signs should not be fastened to utility poles or street signs. Together we can keep our community well-maintained.

Signage located within the right-of-way or on City property may be removed by City staff without warning. Contact the Engineering or Planning and Development Departments for more information: 319-743-6340 (6320).

Swamp Fox Festival Set for Sept. 24

Don't miss the 27th annual Swamp Fox Festival in Marion. This year's festival will again coincide with the Fall Marion Market coordinated by the Marion Chamber of Commerce. A variety of events will take place in and around City Square Park including the Swamp Fox 5k, a 1-mile kids' fun run, a pancake breakfast, and the always popular Swamp Fox Parade. The market features more than 50 vendors with seasonal produce, artisan items and food options along with children's activities and musical entertainment by Craig Erickson. The fun moves to Lowe



Park on Saturday evening for live music at the amphitheater featuring Alisabeth Von Presley, food, life-size games, and a grand fireworks finale.

This year's theme is "My Marion" which encourages parade participants to celebrate what the community means to them. Parade entries could honor Marion's past, its existing attributes or its bright future.

Registration forms are currently available for those wishing to participate in the 5K run/walk, Little Fox Miler or parade at www.cityofmarion.org/swampfox.

Marion Times and Swamp Fox Festival Committee to host Essay Contest

The 2016 Swamp Fox Festival Committee along with the Marion Times are pleased to announce an essay contest as part of this year's festival. Four winning essays will be chosen from categories ranging from 3rd grade to adult, with winners receiving a cash prize and his or her essay published in the Sept. 15 edition of the Marion Times. Entry deadline is Sept. 7. Contest theme, rules and entry information can be found at www.cityofmarion.org/SwampFoxEssay.

*The complete **Annual Engineering Work Program and Map**, with estimated construction schedules, separated by project type, can be found at www.cityofmarion.org.*

2016 PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

35th Street / 29th Avenue Mini Roundabout Project – Eastern Iowa Excavating, \$255,366
Funding Source: LOST & Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) grant funding.

Project Overview: The construction of a mini roundabout to replace the existing 2-way stop condition. This project includes installing concrete pavement, sidewalks, curbs and street lighting to complete a mini roundabout at the intersection of 35th Street and 29th Avenue.

Progress Updates: The contractor has used 39 of the 45 working days provided; 100% of the contract has been completed. City Council will consider accepting the project at their September 8, 2016 meeting.

Alburnett Road Extension Project - \$1,300,000 (Concept Study – Snyder & Associates, \$248,950.00)

Funding Source: LOST funding; project funding is not intended to provide for the construction of the bridge over Indian Creek.

Project Overview: The funding was proposed to complete several early phases of the project, including the concept study, design and possible right-of-way acquisitions from Boyson Road to 7th Avenue. Council has reaffirmed the need for the realignment due to traffic volumes on Central Avenue and 10th Street. City Council awarded a



contract to Snyder & Associates regarding the concept study on June 23, 2016 in an amount of \$248,950.00.

Progress Updates: The Cultural Resource Investigation – Phase 1 is complete and the report is being compiled. The topographic survey is almost complete along with the utility locates. Survey crews are still in the area as they continue the boundary survey and search for pins. They are also working on the Indian Creek hydraulic analysis and the Environmental Report.

An open house will be held regarding the concept study once information and data have been collected and preliminary design decisions have been made.

Central Corridor Complete Streets and Capacity Improvements

(Roundabout at 7th Ave & 7th St) - Ricklefs Excavating, LTD, \$2,871,607

Funding Source: Bond Funding and a grant from the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program.

Project Overview: Complete reconstruction of the 7th Street and 7th Avenue intersection which will include a four-legged roundabout. The project will be broken into 7 stages.



Progress Updates: Pavement has been removed from 6th Avenue and 7th Street. The contractor is installing water main and storm sewer within the current stage. The 8th Street entrance to Zio Johnno's and VIP is now open. They continue to work on the parking lots for both Country Kitchen and Zio Johnno's. Some of Stage 7 work may be completed during Stage 5.

Stage 5 Closures:

- 7th Street: between 6th and 7th Avenue
- 6th Avenue: west of 7th Street to east of 8th Street
- Intersection of 6th Avenue and 7th Street
- Intersection of 6th Avenue and 8th Street
- The 7th Street entrance to Country Kitchen (use 7th Avenue entrance)
- The 7th Avenue entrance to Zio Johnno's and VIP (use 8th Street entrance)

The contractor has used approximately 81 of 120 working days provided; 50% of the contract has been completed.

Central Corridor Project (26th Street to 31st Street) – Abode Construction

Funding Source: This is a joint public/private project.

Project Overview: The project includes the partial construction of the Central Corridor Project between 13th and 31st Streets by Abode Construction, including the roundabout near the old Marion Iron site connecting 6th Avenue to 7th Avenue. The roundabout will be constructed as a part of Phase 2 with five separate stages.

Progress Updates: The City held an Open House on August 15th regarding the remaining portions of the project. Thank you to those citizens that were able to attend; if you were unable to attend, the slides from the presentation are on the City's website under the Central Corridor Project – 13th to 31st Street project page.

Stage 2 of Phase II is underway as pavement has been removed from 7th Avenue. The contractor is working on installing sanitary sewer as they continue to grade. There are a few utilities to be moved underground before the utility poles will be removed. Stage 2 is anticipated to be completed by mid-September, weather and utility dependent.



Working days and completion date will be set and controlled by the developer. The contractor has completed 24% of the Phase II contract.

We encourage people to use 8th Avenue to access those businesses within the construction area as it is difficult to make left hand turns during peak hours. At this time, left hand turns are not permitted at the intersection of 7th Avenue and 31st Street.

Fairview Drive Reconstruction - Rathje Construction Co., \$537,400

Funding Source: Miscellaneous Street Repair funding.

Project Overview: The project includes the reconstruction of Fairview Drive from S. 8th Street to S. 11th Street.

Progress Updates: The contractor has been working on grading driveway approaches and has started pouring them back.



The contractor has used approximately 47 of 70 working days provided; 76% of the contract has been completed. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$500 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of this schedule.

ImaginArt in the Alleys Project - Central States Concrete, LLC, \$343,468.15

Funding Sources: ArtPlace America Grant - \$350,000; City bond funds - \$315,000; public/private donations approximately - \$175,000.

Project Overview: Infrastructure improvements to the alleys between 10th & 11th Streets and 7th & 8th Avenues. The project includes the installation of: new paving, lighting, drainage systems, art, and aesthetic enhancements.

Progress Updates: Foundations for the art installations and light poles are being installed. Mediacom is working on moving their lines underground. Work on the irrigation system is planned to start this week.

The contractor has completed 31% of the contract. The project shall be completed no later than October 23, 2016. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$1,500 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of this schedule.



2016 Lowe Park Parking Lot Project - L.L. Pelling Company, Inc., \$671,415.65

Funding Source: LOST funding

Project Overview: This includes the extension of Irish Drive into Lowe Park, along with the construction of two parking lots and adjacent trails.

Progress Updates: The contractor is working on fine grading the subbase. Last week they graded the future playground site.

Three extra working days were added to the project per a change order. The contractor has used approximately 26.5 of the 53 working days provided; 35% of the contract has been completed. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$300 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of these schedules.



2016 Miscellaneous Sidewalk Assessment Project – Borst Bros. Construction, Inc. \$128,445

Funding Source: Annual program using Capital Improvement Project funds

Project Overview: This annual program provides for the construction of sidewalks in areas where no sidewalk currently exists. Below are the locations that will receive sidewalk as a part of this program per the State process for assessment along with their approximate starting dates:

- 27th Street (West Side) From 10th to 12th Avenue [approx. 8.29.16 – 9.16.16]
- Grand Avenue (South Side) South 15th Street to 420' west [approx. 8.8.16 – 8.26.16]
- Barrington Parkway (North Side) west of 10th Street [approx. 8.22.16 – 9.2.16]
- East Post Road (West Side) Oakbrook Drive to 1040 Grand Avenue [approx. 8.8.16 – 8.26.16]



Progress Updates: The contractor is finishing up Grand Avenue and East Post Road. They have started the removals of driveways along 27th Street. There is a utility pole currently in the way on 27th Street that needs to be removed before the sidewalk can be completed.

The contractor has used approximately 10 of the 40 working days provided; 71% of the contract has been completed. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$300 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of the schedule.

2016 Sanitary Sewer Slip Lining Project – Visu-Sewer, Inc., \$137,303

Funding Source: The 2016 Sanitary Sewer Repair Program has a budget of \$240,000. This is being broken down into two separate projects due to the differences in the types of projects and the contractors that would bid these types of projects.

Project Overview: This project, using Sanitary Sewer funding, will include the cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) sewer lining of approximately 6,123 LF of 8-inch diameter pipe. Locations are as follows:

- 5th Street, north of 29th Avenue
- 26th Street, south of 17th Avenue
- 17th Avenue, from 26th Street to 27th Street
- 18th Avenue, 27th Street to 31st Street
- 26th Street, from 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue
- 4th Avenue, from 26th Street to 31st Street
- 27th Street, from 10th Avenue to 11th Avenue
- 27th Street, from 12th Avenue to 14th Avenue
- 28th Street, from 10th Avenue to 12th Avenue
- 30th Street, from 11th Avenue to 12th Avenue
- 12th Avenue, from 30th Street to 31st Street



Progress Updates: The contractor has completed 100% of the contract; work was required to be completed no later than Sept. 25, 2016. City Council will consider accepting the project at an upcoming meeting.

2016 Sidewalk Inspection Program

Project Overview: Every two years the Engineering Interns walk the sidewalks, marking those that do not meet City of Marion standards with pink paint. This year they have walked the northern portion of Marion, approximately McGowan Blvd and north. This is done to help ensure that our city sidewalks are user friendly and safe for citizens.

Progress Updates: A second round of letters were mailed out on August 16th to those property owners that had not repaired their sidewalk violation. Approximately 63% of the violations have been repaired.



Tower Terrace Road Project – Phase V – Mooney-Engle Land Company, \$1,517,642

Funding Source: This is a joint public/private project.

Project Overview: The project includes the extension of Tower Terrace Road east from the 10th Street intersection to the new location of Winslow Road, west of Indian Creek. The construction will extend the typical cross section of the divided street with grass median, decorative lights, and trees. The project will also include the completion of the signalization of the 10th Street and Tower Terrace Road intersection.



Progress Updates: They will start installing drain tile where they have already completed proof rolls.

Construction activities are anticipated to have limited impact to traffic.

Waldo’s Rock Park Parking Lot - \$150,000

Funding Source: REAP grant awarded to the Marion Parks & Recreation Department

Project Overview: In June 2015 Waldo Morris donated 7.4 acres of land near Partners Avenue and 62nd Street to the City to be used as a city park. The park will feature a glacial erratic boulder formation, which will serve as the center of the park. The park will include a trail loop and a fishing pier. An access road and parking lot will be constructed off of Partners Avenue. The project also includes a trail head connection to the Grant Wood Trail, pavilion, and trees and prairie grasses.



Progress Updates: Grading and asphalt surfacing of the parking lot and roadway entrance along with the trail loop around the pond have been completed. They have also started constructing the pavilion. Within the next few weeks, pond restoration and deepening will begin.

The project is expected to be completed and opened to the public in 2017.

Winslow Road Realignment Project - Mooney-Engle Land Company, \$1,070,411

Funding Source: Joint public/private project

Project Overview: This includes the relocation of Winslow Road from south of Settlers Drive to Tower Terrace Road. The new alignment will go through Bridge Creek Fourth Addition. The realignment will have a typical cross section of a collector street with trail on one side and sidewalk on the other.

Progress Updates: The new realignment of Winslow Road will remain closed west of the current Winslow Road/Winslow Road (new alignment) intersection until the connection is made with Tower Terrace Road. Sidewalk ramps still need to be poured for the portion of the street that has been paved.

Working days and completion date will be set and controlled by the developer. Paving of the realigned Winslow Road has been completed just past the existing Winslow Road.

2016 Winslow Road Reconstruction Project – Rathje Construction - \$994,589.75

Funding Source: LOST funding

Project Overview: The project will include the reconstruction of Winslow Road from approximately Para Drive south to Berry's Run Bridge. The project includes the reconstruction of the existing pavement, driveways, storm sewer, sub drain, water main and other associated work. The project will begin in 2016 and will be completed in 2017. During the 2016 construction season, work is expected to last for approximately 3-5 months. The project has been split into four stages; complete street closure will occur within each stage of the project and the detour plans can be found on the City's website. Detour signs will also be posted.

The following is an approximate timeline of the four project stages:



Stage A: north side of bridge over Berry's Run to south of the intersection with Hunters Ridge Road [**Scheduled not provided at this time**]

Stage B: south of the intersection with Hunters Ridge Road to north of the southern intersection of Hunters Creek Way [**Scheduled not provided at this time**]

Stage C: north of the southern intersection of Hunters Creek Way to halfway between Bellboy Drive and Valentine Drive [**Scheduled not provided at this time**]

Stage D: halfway between Bellboy Drive and Valentine Drive to Para Drive [**July 25 – September**]



Progress Updates: The contractor has removed the pavement within Stage D and paving is ready to begin.

The contractor has used approximately 18 of the 135 working days provided; 3% of the contract has been completed. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$750 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of the schedule.

2016 GENERAL PROJECTS UPDATES

2016 35th Street Water Main Relay Project – Phase 1 - Rathje Construction Co., \$69,850

Funding Source: Funded and administrated by the Marion Water Department.

Project Overview: This includes 630 linear feet of new 12-inch water main to be installed from the intersection of 3rd Avenue and 35th Street to 160 35th Street, replacing the existing 8-inch water main.

Progress Updates: The contractor is planning on starting work mid-October.

A change order was submitted for additional work, the new completed by date is now November 23, 2016. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$300 per day will be assessed for each day in excess of the specified completion date.

Armar Drive Extension Project - \$400,000

Project Overview: The project will extend Armar Drive from the existing south end (in Cedar Rapids) to Highway 100. The intersection at Highway 100 has already been constructed and signalized with ARRA Funds.

Progress Updates: The City received an owner's appraisal of the property on August 11, 2016.



Boyson Road and 10th Street Traffic Study - \$60,000

Funding Source: LOST funding

Project Overview: This study will evaluate the need for improvements at the Boyson Road and 10th Street intersection. It is expected that the intersection of Indian Creek Road and 10th Street will also need to be included due to its proximity to the study area.

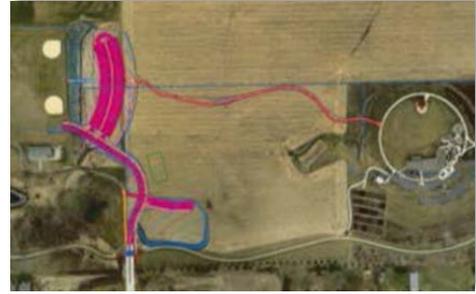
Traffic volumes, accident rates, congestion levels, and visibility will be studied prior to the selection of a traffic device to solve any related issues. Separate funding will be needed to complete any recommended changes.

2016 Lowe Park Lighting Project – Trey Electric Corporation, \$79,173

Funding Source: LOST funding

Project Overview: This project includes the installation of 6 street lights, 5 dual parking lights, 18 trail bollards, footings, electrical systems, and miscellaneous related work and appurtenances in accordance with the contract documents.

Progress Updates: Work cannot start on this project until the 2016 Lowe Park Parking Lot Project is complete; however, work shall begin no later than April 30, 2017 and be completed within 25 working days. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$100 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of these schedules.



SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT

Staff provides inspection for the development of all subdivisions and commercial sites within the city limits. This work begins with construction plan review and includes field quality control for storm and sanitary sewers, drain tile, Portland cement concrete maturity, grade, air content, slump (water content) and pavement thickness. The City has adopted the latest version of SUDAS (Statewide Design Standards) and utilizes these standards for all subdivision construction.

Subdivision Residential

Authors 4th Addition - Rathje Construction, E & F Paving

Location: East side 35th Street

Installation of sanitary sewer has begun.

Bedford Heights – Pirc Tobin Construction

Location: West of Alburnett Road / south of Echo Hill Road

Punch list items remain.

Bowman Meadows 4th Addition – Rathje, E & F

Location: South of Boson Road, west of Alburnett Road

Water main is being installed.

Bowman Woods Unit 37 - Rathje Construction, E & F Paving

Location: south of East Robins Road, west of Alburnett Road

Work is on hold. They plan on paving next year.

Bridge Creek 4th Addition - Ricklefs Excavating, City Wide

Location: Winslow Road south of Rolling Glen Drive Storm

See Winslow Road Realignment.

Echo Ridge Estates 1st Addition - Pirc Tobin

Location: west side of Alburnett Road, north of Echo Hill Road

Crossings are completed. Water main and sanitary work in south basin is next.

Edgebrooke Estates North 1st Addition – Rathje Construction, E & F

Location: extension of Edgebrooke Drive to Vaughn Drive and White Oak Drive to Edgebrooke Drive.

Streets have been paved. Still need to pave the intersections.

Gemstone Estates 3rd Addition – Rathje Construction, E & F Paving

Location: extension of Gemstone Drive and connection to Tower Terrace Road via Lennon Lane.

Streets have been paved. Still need to pave the intersections.



Prairie Hill 17th Addition –

Location: extensions of 50th Street and Prairie Hill Drive, and 28th Avenue.

A preconstruction meeting has not been held yet.

Prairie Ridge Estates 7th Addition – Ricklefs, City Wide

Location: East of Hwy 13 and north of E. Kacena Ave, extension of Crestwood Lane.

Installation of sanitary sewer has begun.

Commercial Sites

APC Emmeret Site Plan (4155 3rd Ave)

A temporary occupancy certificate has been issued.

Arbor Trails Senior Housing (1362 Blairs Ferry Rd)

Building is under construction.

Arctic Insulation Specialists (Partners Ave)

Site plan reviewed and approved. Site work has not started.

Blairs Ferry Senior Housing (830 Blairs Ferry Rd)

Building is under construction.

Capital Commercial (1204 7th Ave)

The current building permit has expired. It is unknown at this time when reconstruction will begin.

Croell Redi-Mix (600 49th St)

Site under construction.

Electric Specialty Manufacturing (6451 Partners Ave)

A temporary occupancy certificate has been issued.

El Plast Site Plan (Partners Ave)

Site stabilization and punch list items remain.

Hills Bank (3204 7th Ave)

Site under construction.

Hotchkiss Commercial Property (1286 Blairs Ferry Rd)

Building construction continues on Building C; Buildings A & B have been given temporary occupancy.

Integrity Homes Commercial Condos (591 62nd St)

Site work nearly completed.

Former Irwin's Building (1180 7th Ave)

Plans have been approved.

KTRO Storage Units (4150 3rd Ave)

Construction is complete and the final occupancy certificate has been issued.

Lebeda Mattress Factory (2525 7th Ave)

Site is under construction, the exterior brick and interior framing has been completed.

Legacy Site Plan (6509 Partners Ave)

Temporary occupancy certificate has been issued.

Linn COOP Expansion (3rd Ave)

Building Department has issued a temporary occupancy certificate.

Linn Mar High School Remodel (10th St)

Site under construction.

MISD-Longfellow Elem (2900 8th Ave)

Site is in the beginning stages of construction.

Marion Public Services Site (3rd Ave)

No additional review was done. Prelim plans have been reviewed in the past.

Moose Properties (44th St)

Construction has started on the proposed "middle" building.

Parks/Schmidt Stonefield (901 Tower Terrace Rd)

Plans have been approved and foundation work has begun.

Platinum Multi-Family (Prairie Hill Drive)

Construction of the site continues.

Platinum Multi-use (29th Ave / Prairie Hill Dr)

Site plan reviewed and comments sent back to Consultant.

Platinum Warehouse (102 35th Street)

Building construction has started.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

As the chairman of the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) it is the City Engineer’s responsibility to coordinate citizen requests regarding traffic concerns and possible changes in signage or traffic regulations. The TAC is comprised of the City Engineer, City Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Planning Director, and the Public Services Director. The committee meets when necessary and able to evaluate the requests and make a recommendation to City Council whether the request warrants mitigation. Requests are only accepted in written form (letter or email) and directed to the Mayor and City Council. The City Council then decides if the request is only for information or requires evaluation and referral to the TAC. If review is necessary Council will, by motion, receive and file the item and refer it to TAC.

The TAC evaluates the requests based on several criteria including the following:

- Traffic counts, speed, vehicle type, and overall volumes provided by staff and traffic data collectors,
- Vehicle and pedestrian accident rates provided by the Police Department,
- Site visibility and stopping distances based on engineering standards,
- Emergency vehicle, snow removal, and garbage pickup accessibility,
- General public use verses individual owner needs,
- Input by the requestor and the public.

TAC then uses the criteria to discuss, evaluate, and provide a recommendation to City Council at a regular Council Meeting. The requestor is notified of the date that the report recommendation will be presented and provided a time to address City Council regarding the request. Once Council has acted on the request notice is sent to the requestor and appropriate action is taken by staff.

- **At this time TAC has not received any requests to review.**

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

- **On September 8, 2016 City Council will consider:**
 - **accepting the 35th Street and 29th Avenue Mini-Roundabout (CS-TSF-4775(629)--85-57).**
 - **accepting the 2016 Sanitary Sewer Sliplining Project.**

- approving the installation of stop signs on Adare Pass, Lennon Lane, Citrine Court, Vaughn Drive, and White Oak Drive.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

- **On August 18, 2016 City Council:**
 - received and filed correspondence and related staff report regarding sidewalk fees associated with the 2016 Sidewalk Assessment Project (Kenneth Campbell, 2676 11th Avenue).
 - received and filed correspondence and related staff report regarding sidewalk repair waiver associated with the 2016 Sidewalk Inspection Program. (Emmanuel Tejada Liranzo, 130 33rd Avenue).

These are not comprehensive lists of items that City Council will consider taking action on or has taken action on; for a comprehensive list please refer to the upcoming City Council agenda, which can be found at www.cityofmarion.org.

We continue to build an email list, so please forward addresses to me of those wishing to receive this information. Feel free to forward to anyone with interest.

If you have additional questions regarding ongoing projects please address them to my email and I will add them to future reports.

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