

Spring 2021

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Nick AbouAssaly

At the end of March, I had the privilege of presenting my sixth State of the City speech as your mayor. Unlike years past, the 2021 presentation was through a virtual broadcast from Marion's newest point of pride, the YMCA and Community Rec Center. While it is always a pleasure for me to present the state of our city, I was especially proud to deliver the recap of 2020, a year marked by many challenges yet defined by a community determined to

persevere and succeed.

We can all be proud of Marion's unified response in the face of a historic natural disaster that occurred in the midst of an unprecedented, global, public health crisis. The combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the derecho storm could have easily overwhelmed us and brought our city to its knees. But defeat is not in Marion's DNA and we were determined to achieve a different outcome as we addressed each and every challenge, in collaboration with our community partners, and always with the wellbeing of people at the forefront.

In the process, we showed the world the strength of Marion and we defined true **"commUNITY."**

If you didn't have an opportunity to join us during the event or watch the full recording, I hope you'll take the time to do so. The video, along with the 2020 Annual Report, can be found at: www.cityofmarion.org/government.

Despite the difficult circumstances of the past year, Marion's strong fundamentals remained unchanged and people from across the region and state continued to have confidence in our city's potential as a place of opportunity and promise. I'm encouraged by the manner in which we're dreaming bigger and becoming more deliberate in seeking and expecting the best for our community and in setting a clear vision that is creating opportunity, attracting significant investment and earning Marion consistent recognition as one of America's best small cities. Across our city we can sense the excitement and positive outlook as we reach higher and achieve more each day. We can see this in:

- › the spectacular new YMCA and community rec center that has attracted more than 4,000 new individual members since opening day.
- › the new headquarters of the Marion Fire Department nearing completion.
- › the high-quality development taking place throughout our city.
- › the new Marion Public Library, which is slated to open next spring.
- › the anticipated transformation of Marion Square Mall into the Broad and Main project.
- › the start of the long-awaited rebuild of 7th Avenue and the Uptown Streetscape Project.

Confidence in the potential of Marion remains strong and will fuel Marion's progress in the years ahead. That progress will be further cemented in the City's efforts to ensure that Marion is a welcoming and inclusive community where all people feel safe and valued.

In 2020, we showed the world, and even more importantly ourselves, just how much Marionites love their town and why Marion is, without a doubt, THE best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business.

The sky is NOT the limit.

Let's continue reaching even higher, together.

Zoning Map Update

The City of Marion is moving ahead with its first major update to the zoning code in over 30 years. The City of Marion is currently in the process of updating the official zoning map to reflect the new zoning districts recently approved by the City Council. The zoning map was last updated in its entirety in 1972 with the adoption of the last zoning regulation update.

Zoning maps are fundamental as they guide how land is used and developed. The updated zoning map will align with the City of Marion's goals and objectives within the Comprehensive Plan. The zoning map divides acres of the community into differed zoning districts (residential, commercial, manufacturing, open space, parks, etc.) Every parcel within the city limits must be zoned. All residents need to be familiar with the zoning of not just their property, but the adjacent properties as the zoning map determines what uses may be permitted on a property and the general setbacks/regulations that must be followed on the property, from the size of a potential addition to the location of a shed.

The City is updating the zoning map by City Council ward to allow both residents and Council to focus on smaller, more manageable areas. The City Council approved the zoning map update to Ward 2 in late 2020 and now is focused on updates to Ward 4, which is generally located north of Boyson Road and west of Indian Creek Road. Ward 4 is predominately residential with new districts that reflect the actual use of the property as well as the size of the individual lots. The update also includes updates to the Tower Terrace Road corridor between Alburnett Road and Winslow Road and creates new commercial zoning designations in areas previously approved for office/commercial development.

Following the adoption of Ward 4 zoning, the City will then begin the updates to the zoning maps within Ward 3 and Ward 1 in the summer of 2021. Visit www.cityofmarion.org/zoningmapupdate to find the latest maps and information regarding the zoning map update. Adoption of the new zoning district is reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission with a recommendation to the City Council for final approval. These meetings are open to the public and the City encourages residents to attend and provide input to the proposed zoning map updates.

Questions may be directed to the Community Development Department at 319-743-6320.

HR UPDATE

Come Work with Us!



"Our team is amazing! Working for the City of Marion provides me the opportunity to learn and grow, make a difference, and have fun all at the same time. Oh, and the benefits are pretty awesome too."

— Greg H., Payroll Accountant

We currently have a wide variety of opportunities available ranging from lifeguards to receptionists; building inspectors to a deputy city manager; and many more are on the horizon. We are looking for all kinds of individuals who share a common vision - to make the City of Marion even better. We are a highly collaborative team where people can learn and grow, while making a positive impact on our community. We offer competitive pay, health and dental insurance, retirement plan, tuition reimbursement, vacation, sick and holiday pay, and more.

For a complete list of opportunities, check out our website at www.cityofmarion.org/employment.



A group of Marion residents is working together to ensure that the community embraces diversity and inclusion, and the group – comprised of business owners, community stakeholders and City employees – is seeking public input and engagement from all Marion residents.

“We are a group of diverse community members and city employees who have come together to cultivate and advance more equitable and inclusive policies, practices and processes in the city,” says Fred Brown, a member of the Marion Community Equity Taskforce and the Marion Civil Rights Commission. The Taskforce aligns with the City’s goal of creating a vibrant community: A welcoming community that is accessible, attractive, and open to all residents and visitors.

The Community Equity Taskforce aims to advance three priorities: policy, practice and perception. At a recent Taskforce meeting, members discussed research about implementing an equity lens in local government and reviewed case studies from several communities across the United States, including Alexandria, Virginia; Fort Collins, Colorado; Dallas, Texas; and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Additionally, the Taskforce recently reviewed a Government Alliance on Race and Equity toolkit. Racial equity tools are designed to integrate explicit consideration of racial equity in decisions, including policies, practices, programs and budgets. It is both a product and a process. The use of a racial equity tool can help to develop strategies and actions that reduce racial inequities and improve success for all groups.

The Marion Community Equity Taskforce is committed to hearing and engaging with all voices in the community, including other groups who share similar goals and have been working within the equity and justice space for years. One such group is the Marion Alliance for Racial Equity (MARE).

“The Marion Alliance for Racial Equity (MARE) amplifies the voices of our community members who have been marginalized by historic and persistent racial injustices,” says Ana Clymer. “With two seated members and two alternates on the Taskforce, we are working hard to ensure Marion makes measurable progress toward changing policies, practices and processes that will have both short- and long-term positive impacts for our neighbors and community members, particularly those of us who identify as Black, Indigenous and people of color. We can all be part of the solution to create a more equitable, welcoming and inclusive community.”

“We invite all members of the Marion community to engage in these discussions on equity and diversity with the Community Equity Taskforce, which will serve to elevate our collective understanding of the issues impacting Marion, the variety of voices in our community and how we can ensure that we are positioned to consider race, equity and diversity in our decision making at the City level,” says Colette Atkins, City Council member representing Ward 1.

Marion community members are welcome at all meetings, which are held at City Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. Community Equity Taskforce information can be found at www.cityofmarion.org.



Events are Beginning to Return to Marion

Although specific protocols vary based on the venue, date and organizer, a few basic rules apply to all events. Please be sure to check online event listings for up-to-date information about event reservation requirements and any possible changes as the date approaches.

Here’s what event organizers are doing to help keep you safe:

- 1 | Staff working at events will wear a mask per the Linn County mask mandate.
- 2 | Staff will also take their temperature prior to reporting for work and will stay home if they are feeling ill.
- 3 | Hand sanitizer stations will be provided at the entrance of the event and/or clearly identifiable event space.
- 4 | High-touch surfaces will be regularly disinfected.

Here is what is expected of event attendees:

- 1 | Attendees over the age of two are required to wear a mask when six feet of distance cannot be maintained between members of separate households.
The Linn County mask mandate is currently in effect and, at this time, includes those who have received vaccines.
- 2 | Please be respectful of others’ space, especially when visiting the restroom, visiting a booth (if applicable), and selecting a place to sit.
- 3 | Attendees should stay home if they’re feeling ill. They should also stay home if they have tested positive or had contact with someone who has tested positive. Detailed information can be found on the CDC website cdc.gov.



Market and Music Return

The Marion Chamber of Commerce and Platinum Community Partners are proud to present Uptown Marion Market and Uptown Getdown this summer!

Uptown Marion Market

Marion will welcome local and regional vendors the second Saturday, June through August (June 12, July 10, and Aug. 14) from 8 a.m. to noon. Vendors will offer fresh produce, baked goods, honey, Iowa-native wines and a wide selection of artisan items. The market location will temporarily move in 2021 while construction takes place surrounding the park. Visit us at the corner of 8th Avenue and 12th Street in Uptown Marion. Live music, community demonstrations and children's entertainment will also be welcomed back to the market.

Save the date for the Fall Market on Sept. 25, 2021!

Uptown Getdown

Live music returns in 2021! We've moved to Lowe Park to allow for additional space. Join us Thursdays in August from 6 to 9 p.m. This year's entertainment schedule is sure to please!

Aug. 5 | Casting Call (Pop/Rock)
 Aug. 12 | Katie and the Honky Tonks (Honky Tonk)
 Aug. 19 | Birdchild (Pop/Rock)
 Aug. 26 | Boot Jack Band (Country)

Thank you to our Platinum Community Partners: Farmers State Bank, ImOn Communications, MercyCare Community Physicians, Summit Pointe Senior Living and Z102.9 for making these events possible.

Events are designed with guidance from the City of Marion, Linn County Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control, and may include various public health protocols. Please see our website for more information.



Ongoing information can also be found at facebook.com/MarionIChamber



Marion Arts Festival to Offer Online Access to Art and Family Fun

This year, the Marion Arts Festival will be a month-long, virtual gathering rather than a one-day event, showcasing an Iowa-centric slate of artists while reimagining the day's hands-on activities.

"While our community is heading in the right direction for recovery from the pandemic, we don't feel we are quite ready for an event that attracts thousands of people," said Deb Bailey, director of the festival. "The safety of our artists, volunteers and attendees must remain the priority."

Initially scheduled for Saturday, May 15, the event will be active online from April 24 through May 23.

"We're making the best use of our resources," said Bailey. "Ultimately, our goals remain the same – to support artists, use creativity to benefit the community, contribute to the vitality of Uptown Marion and demonstrate that the visual arts are entertaining and accessible."

Except for the Marion Arts Festival races, the festival's traditional offerings and experiences are moving to social media, with opportunities for people to engage in new ways. Art lovers will still enjoy browsing and buying from an Iowa-centric slate of high-caliber and participate in festival activities.

Hands-on offerings include two contactless take-and-make projects for families: kits created by the Iowa Ceramics Center (www.iowaceramicscenter.org) to craft bowls for the 2022 Empty Bowls sale, which benefits area food banks and a Mother's Day card through a virtual make-along with Cedar Rapids artist Dori Patrick (www.doripatrick.com).

"The community can't come to us, so we're meeting people where they are," said Bailey. The Marion Arts Festival Half Marathon and 5K races coordinated by Corridor Running will return next year.

"Although we're not able to be together, this year's virtual gathering marks our 29th annual event," Bailey said.

The 30th annual Marion Arts Festival is Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Marion Arts & Crafts Fest



The Marion Arts & Crafts Fest will combine art, music, and beer for a one-of-a-kind event for all comfort levels (inside and outside) on Saturday, May 15, from 1-4 p.m.

While the 29th Annual Marion Arts Festival will feature juried artists in a virtual platform this year, this complementary event in Uptown Marion will feature local bands, artist demonstrations and beer sampling in honor of American Craft Beer Week.

Explore the Uptown District's retailers, bars and restaurants. This event is free and open to the public. Plan to grab lunch or stay for dinner in Uptown!

Events are designed with guidance from the City of Marion, Linn County Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control, and may include current public health protocols. These will be clearly communicated leading up to the event. Please respect each business's posted health protocols. Visit facebook.com/MarionIChamber for the latest event info.



Find the festival's latest updates at www.marionartsfestival.com and [www.facebook.com/marionartsfestival](https://facebook.com/marionartsfestival).



Marion City Council Approves the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

The Marion City Council unanimously approved a \$112.6 million City budget for 2022 – a plan which decreases the property tax rate, aligns resources to the City’s new three-year strategic plan, funds derecho recovery efforts, continues investment in capital improvement projects and makes necessary investments in utility services.

PROPERTY TAX RATE DECREASE | The 2022 property tax rate will decrease by 1.5 cents to \$14.20 per \$1,000 in taxable property value. This is the third straight year of property tax reductions or a flat rate. The total City of Marion property taxes paid by a residential property owner will be \$801 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

STRATEGIC PLAN | In 2021, the City adopted a new three-year strategic plan (2021-2023). Highlights of the investments for 2022 include:

- › Public safety mental health liaisons
- › Upgrades to the public safety information management system
- › Five new full-time staff to address efficient and effective government and sustainable infrastructure efforts
- › Part-time staff to increase recreational programming with the new YMCA in Marion

DERECHO RESPONSE | The August derecho was the most devastating storm in the City’s history. It’s estimated that the derecho cleanup efforts managed by the City will total \$43 million, and the City’s portion will be \$6.5 million (FEMA and the State are expected to cover 85 percent of costs). The \$6.5 million equates to \$438 per Marion household. The 2022 budget sets aside funding to pay nearly half of the City’s storm-related expenses with the remaining portion to be paid with temporary financing.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS | The new Marion Public Library is expected to open in the spring of 2022. The facility will be twice the size of the previous library, which was damaged during the derecho. Additionally, the 2022 budget plans for the completion of 6th Avenue, the start of the 7th Avenue Streetscape project, \$3.7 million for the CeMar Trail and \$2.2 million in neighborhood street improvements.

Utility Rate Increases

Three of the City’s utility funds are budgeted for rate increases in FY 2022: Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste (Garbage and Recycling) and Water. The rate increases are needed to address rising costs in service delivery.

Marion does not have its own wastewater treatment facility and the cost for treatment services increased by 19 percent or \$670,000 in 2021. In response, a 7 percent increase is budgeted for the variable portion of the sewer rate (currently set at \$4.10 per 100 cubic feet of water). The monthly \$2 flat rate remains unchanged. By adjusting the variable rate, the increase will more directly impact high water volume users. This change is estimated to increase costs on the average residential sewer bill by \$2 per month.

Similarly, the recycling market has changed over the past couple of years, leading to increased costs in the United States and international markets. Consequently, an annual recycling incentive of \$67,000 offered by the Solid Waste Agency will no longer be available in 2022. This revenue reduction coupled with the annual increases in tonnage of garbage collected and associated disposal costs are what led to the \$1.25 monthly increase recommended by the Public Services Board. In 2022, a solid waste diversion study will evaluate current solid waste practices to determine the future provision of services for Marion residents.

The Water Department is planning to increase rates by 5.4 percent for the typical residential customer and, on average, 9.5 percent for commercial and industrial customers. The rate increase is in response to rising energy costs, capital project loan payments and the construction of a \$2.9 million iron removal plant that will increase the future water supply for the growing community. The estimated impact on the average residential water user is approximately \$1.16 per month.

The total monthly increase for these rate adjustments is estimated to be \$4.59 a month or 5.6 percent for the average residential utility bill. Visit www.cityofmarion.org to learn more about the budget and City services.

FORWARD MOTION

Marion Chamber of Commerce is on the Move!



In April, the Marion Chamber of Commerce announced plans to relocate its offices in a move that will further the organization’s mission and create a visible presence in the historic Main Street District. The new space is located at 1070 7th Avenue in the historic Lillis & Wilson building.

It will allow the Chamber to move forward with tourism initiatives outlined in its strategic plan. With the opening of Prospect Meadows two years ago, the Marion Chamber has added tourism functions to its program of work. The new location will open with a concierge center to welcome the thousands of visitors now at Marion’s doorstep, as well as provide information for residents. Collaborating with the City of Marion, MEDCO and other area economic development partners will remain a high priority. The Marion Chamber is looking to be fully in the new location by June.



POOL Safety

With summer just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about swimming pool safety. Because of the alarming number of children who drown in the United States every year, this should be a concern of all homeowners with or without a pool.

Prior to installing a pool at home, it is important to know the local requirements. In Marion, homeowners are required to obtain a permit through the Building Division. The City of Marion has adopted the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, and it has provisions in it for pool safety, including the following items:

- › All outdoor swimming pools 24 inches or more in depth (including in-ground, above-ground, or on-ground pools) shall be surrounded by a barrier measuring 48" in height.
- › Make sure all pedestrian gates in the barrier fence for your pool are self-closing and self-latching. Other gates should be padlocked.
- › Remove all chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over the pool isolation fence.
- › Reaching and throwing aids like poles should be kept on both sides of the pool. These items should remain stationary and not be misplaced through play activities.
- › All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007 or the successor standard ANSI/APSP-16 2011. Check to see that these covers are not broken or in disrepair and that they are anchored firmly over the drain openings. The pool shall be closed immediately when broken, missing or non-compliant suction outlet drain covers are first noticed.
- › Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it is not a substitute for the barrier fences, door alarms and safety covers required by the code.
- › Install either an automatic or manually operated safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. The covers shall comply with ASTM F1345. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.
- › Barriers should have limited openings and shall not be climbable.



For more information on the safety requirements, feel free to call and speak with the building inspectors at the Marion Building Division or check out the Swimming Pool handout at www.cityofmarion.org. For more information and tips on swimming pool and spa safety go to www.poolsafely.gov.

Created by MEDCO

Future Focused Forums

Future Focused On:

May 25: Community
June: Development

July: Industry
August: Derecho Recovery Celebration

Join us as we take time to reflect, listen, and learn from each other through stories of resiliency. The Future Focused Forums series will encourage us to embrace change, reposition our focus, and lead through adversity.

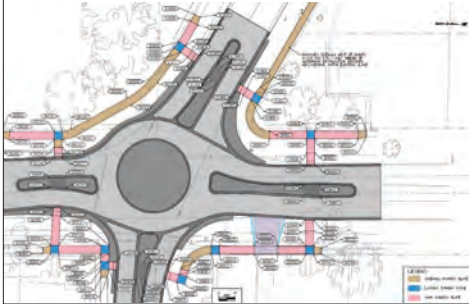
● Forums held virtually on a monthly basis on Tuesday mornings from 8:30-9:30 am.

● Learn more about registering: www.medcoiowa.org/futurefocused

Here are a few of the higher-profile projects that are in the Engineering Department's work plan. These projects are associated with maintaining existing infrastructure and supporting new development.

ENGINEERING Update

Mini-Roundabout 10th Avenue/10th Street



Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-June to install a mini-roundabout at the intersection of 10th Street and Central Avenue/10th Street. Thirty-five working days have been assigned to the project. Working days are the anticipated number of days it is expected to take to complete a construction project, with favorable weather conditions and a five-day work-week. The goal is to have the project

completed between the school sessions. The intersection will be completely closed during this project and detours will be posted.

7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape Project



The first phase of construction will include the 7th Avenue streetscape between 10th Street and 12th Street, 12th Street between 6th Avenue and 7th Avenue, and a portion of the North Plaza. The tentative construction schedule is to complete these streetscape improvements in 2021, with the North Plaza improvements occurring in 2022. Visit

www.cityofmarion.org/7thAveStreetscape for the construction schedule, business access information and to sign up for project updates.

7th Avenue and 35th Street Intersection



The project includes the installation of new traffic signals along with the extension of left-turn lanes from 7th Avenue onto 35th Street, the addition of a right-turn lane on to northbound 35th Street, installation of a raised median on 35th Street, and the extension of Linden Drive to 7th Avenue. These additions will improve the traffic movement and flow

at this intersection. Traffic will no longer be able to turn left from 10th Avenue onto 35th Street. The project is scheduled to take approximately three months and should be completed by mid to late summer.

Connect with Us

The Marion Engineering Department continues to provide a weekly Construction Activity and Status Report by email to assist individuals who wish to stay informed regarding active and proposed City projects.



Sign up at www.cityofmarion.org/about-us/enotify

Trail Projects

Despite the derecho, Marion saw some significant gains in trail development last year. The former railroad bridge over Marion Boulevard was removed, the former railroad bridge over Indian Creek began its transformation to a pedestrian bridge, and the trail through Thomas and Legion Parks was paved. While construction of the paved trail and the Indian Creek bridge continues, the City is also looking forward to the beginning of two more trail projects this year.

CeMar Gateway Pedestrian Bridge over Marion Boulevard



This project will include the construction of a 16-foot-wide pedestrian bridge over Marion Boulevard where the former railroad bridge was. The new bridge

will utilize the existing abutments at the outer limits of the bridge so the height will be the same as the former railroad bridge with no center supporting column needed. The elimination of a center supporting column will allow for more design options for a future reconstruction of the Marion Boulevard and 2nd Street intersection. This bridge will not only serve as a pedestrian gateway from Cedar Rapids from the west and from the south, but also as a gateway for vehicular traffic on Marion Boulevard. Once the bridge is completed, artistic columns will be constructed and placed by local artist Cara Briggs Farmer of Synergy Metal Works in Marion. This project was let in February with PCI being the low bidder at \$1,619,306. This project will receive 80 percent Federal funding for construction and will begin no later than Aug. 9.

10th Avenue (Business 151) Sidepaths

This project will be bid in June with an anticipated late start date of August. The 10-foot sidepaths will be installed along 10th Avenue between 35th Street and Eagleview drive (essentially from HyVee to Wal-Mart). The sidepaths will be on both sides of the roadway at the outer edges of the right-of-way. This connection not only creates a vital transportation need for pedestrians and cyclists, but also provides neighborhood loop connections. This project has been awarded \$2,830,000 in Federal funds, which is anticipated to be 80 percent of the funding needed to construct the sidepaths.

Garage Sales

With warm weather upon us, residents are reminded of garage sale regulations in the City. Garage sales are limited to a term of three days or 72 hours, and no more than two sales can be held each year (January-December). Any signage for the garage sale cannot be placed in the right-of-way (space between sidewalk and curb). While the City does not determine a city-wide garage sale day, residents are encouraged to hold their own or coordinate with neighbors, as long as guidelines are followed.

Fireworks Usage in Marion

As Independence Day approaches, please be aware of Marion's rules surrounding the purchase and use of consumer-grade fireworks.

Fireworks may be purchased and used only by persons 18 years of age or older.

The use of consumer fireworks is allowed within Marion city limits on July 4 from noon-11 p.m. and on Dec. 31 from 6 p.m.-12:30 a.m. on Jan. 1.

Fireworks may be ignited on the user's property or on the property of someone who has given permission to discharge fireworks on their property. Fireworks may NOT be used in public parks.

To report fireworks usage outside of these parameters, call the Marion Police Department's non-emergency line at 319-377-1511.

Any other dates and times are authorized by permit only.

CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly

1225 6th Ave. | (319) 743-6305
marionmayor@cityofmarion.org

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3476 Barnsley Circle | (319) 538-7888
ward4@cityofmarion.org

Send the same email to all members at: council@cityofmarion.org

Marion's City Council meets in work session (no action taken, just discussion) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. Regular session meetings are held the Thursday following the Tuesday work session at 5:30 p.m. Meeting information can be found at www.cityofmarion.org.



Spring Means Door-to-Door Solicitation

Spring is here, and warmer weather brings solicitors to our community.

A solicitor is any person who goes from house to house, place to place or street to street soliciting or taking orders for sales. Per Chapter 122 of the Marion Code of Ordinances, all solicitors, peddlers and transient merchants are required to obtain a license through the City of Marion before the first day of any sale, offer for sale or solicitation.

Solicitors may find unique ways to gain access to your home, such as offering a free grocery drawing or coupons for free service, giving solicitors the ability to call upon you for the purpose of an in-home presentation or demonstration. As a resident living in Marion, you have the ability to turn the solicitor away.

If you decide to continue a conversation with a solicitor, you should ask the individual to see their identification and City of Marion license if it is not in plain sight. The City of Marion license is evidence of compliance with all requirements of the Code and will indicate the length of time the license is valid. If the individual is unable to display their license, you should call the Police Department at 319-377-1511 while they are at your house or in your neighborhood.

All peddlers, solicitors and transient merchants license time restrictions are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk at 319-743-6327.

2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up Schedule
May 31	Memorial Day	Monday	One day late all week
July 5	Independence Day Observed	Monday	One day late all week
Sept. 6	Labor Day	Monday	One day late all week
Oct. 11	Columbus Day	Monday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Thursday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	Collection on Friday
Nov. 26	Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	Collection on Saturday
Dec. 23	Christmas Eve Observed	Thursday	Regular collection schedule
Dec. 24	Christmas Day Observed	Friday	Regular collection schedule
Dec. 30	New Year's Eve Observed	Thursday	Regular collection schedule
Dec. 31	New Year's Day Observed	Friday	Regular collection schedule

(Bold indicates City of Marion holidays. Offices will be closed in addition to the Recycling and Compost Facilities.)

WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS



Marion Water Department has Moved!

The Marion Water Department has moved from City Hall to 3050 5th Avenue, underneath the elevated water tower at 31st Street and 5th Avenue. There is a drive-up drop box for the utility payments on the west side of the renovated building (encircled on photo at the left). Due to the pandemic, the Water Department lobby is closed to the public until further notice.

Payments can be made over the phone and online. Staff can accommodate special appointments. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Water Rate Increase Anticipated July 1, 2021

The Marion Water Board will consider a water rate increase at their virtual board meeting on May 11 at 4 p.m. The rate increase is due to the multiple capital improvement projects listed below. An approximate rate increase of \$1.16 per month is anticipated.

Water System Upgrades

The Marion Water Department has hired WRH, Inc. from Amana to construct a \$2.87 million Iron Removal Treatment Plant at 2351 31st Street. This new facility will be capable of treating 1,500 gallons of water per minute from both the Jordan and Silurian Aquifers to meet the community's future drinking water needs. Construction will begin in June 2021 with a June 2022 completion date.

The Marion Water Department is also investing over \$1.2 million in new water main infrastructure in the next fiscal year. Projects include the following locations:

- › Tower Terrace Road west of Alburnett Road to C Avenue
- › 3rd Avenue from 22nd Street to 31st Street
- › 10th Street and Central Avenue
- › 14th Street from 8th Avenue to 10th Avenue
- › 2nd Street and 10th Avenue
- › 7th Avenue from 8th Street to 12th Street
- › 10th Street from 6th Avenue to 8th Avenue

Marion Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report

The Marion Water Department, in compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, is providing customers with its annual water quality report. This report explains where Marion's water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The report is available at www.cityofmarion.org under the Documents & Reports section of the Water Department page. Printed copies will also be provided to customers requesting a copy. For further information about your drinking water, please call the Marion Water Department at 319-743-6310.



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- Fast and easy
- Convenient 24/7 access

Sign up now!

Go to: www.cityofmarion.org/billingoptions



Everyone enjoys a beautiful green lawn, but that green lawn may come with a hefty price tag. If you don't have a separate irrigation meter at your home and you water your lawn frequently, you could see a dramatic increase in your City Utility Bill depending on how often and how much water you use.

Most homes only have one meter, so when you use water outside, you are being charged for both the water and sanitary sewer volume rates. The sanitary sewer rate is going up again this year to cover increased costs at the Cedar Rapids wastewater treatment plant. The more you water outside, the higher your bill will be because you are paying for both water and sanitary sewer.

You may consider purchasing an irrigation meter so you will only be charged for the water consumption that is used outside without the sanitary sewer charge. However, the irrigation meter (1" size) currently has a basic monthly charge of \$14.50 every month (whether you use water outside or not).

It is important to evaluate the pros and cons of having an irrigation meter. If you frequently water your lawn, it may be cheaper to purchase and install a second meter for outside water use. If you only occasionally water the lawn and outside plants, then the year-round cost of a second meter may not be economical for you.

Causes of Low Water Pressure in the House

If you are experiencing a sudden change in low pressure in your house, it could be one of two things. First, if you have a water softener unit, put the unit on BYPASS mode by pushing a button or turning the lever to BYPASS mode. If pressure is restored, the issue lies within the water softener. If you have a whole house water filter, remove and replace the filter or simply remove the filter if a new filter is not immediately available. One of these situations is the cause of low water pressure nine out of 10 times.

CITY DEPARTMENTS

City Hall

1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302
cityofmarion.org

Administrative Offices

319-743-6301
aabernathey@cityofmarion.org

Building Inspection

319-743-6330
building@cityofmarion.org

City Clerk

319-743-6327
rbolender@cityofmarion.org

City Manager

319-743-6301
citymanager@cityofmarion.org

Community Development

319-743-6320
abartlett@cityofmarion.org

Engineering Department

319-743-6340
mbarkalow@cityofmarion.org

Finance Department

319-743-6350
lcairy@cityofmarion.org

Human Resources Department

319-743-6350
kfisher@cityofmarion.org

IT Department

319-743-4735
thunter@cityofmarion.org

Water Department

3050 5th Avenue | 319-743-6310
tsteigerwaldt@cityofmarion.org

Parks & Recreation

Lowe Park, 4500 10th Street
319-447-3590
khummel@cityofmarion.org
Thomas Park, 343 Marion Blvd.
319-447-3580
sstaashelm@cityofmarion.org

Public Services

(solid waste, sewer, streets)
195 35th Street
319-377-6367
public-services@cityofmarion.org

Marion Public Library

1064 7th Avenue
319-377-3412
info@marionpubliclibrary.org

Fire Department

3933 Katz Drive
Emergency – 911
Non-Emergency – 319-377-8237
firechiefkrebill@cityofmarion.org

Police Department

6315 Highway 151
Emergency – 911
Non-Emergency – 319-377-1511
Records – 319-200-7714
Administration – 319-200-7727
administration@marionpolice.com



Spring is the time of year when many things change—including the weather. Temperatures can swing back and forth between balmy and frigid. Sunny days may be followed by a week of stormy weather. Sometimes extreme weather changes can occur even within the same day. Because Iowa's spring weather is so unpredictable, the Marion Fire Department wants to remind you about severe weather and how to protect yourself during it.

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues two types of advisories – a watch or a warning. A watch means that conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop. A watch does not mean that a severe weather event is currently happening. It means that it could and to be aware of the weather in your area.

A warning means that severe weather is happening right now, and you need to act. Warnings are only issued if a trained spotter, radar or other technology indicates that the warnings are warranted. If a warning is issued, you need to take action to protect yourself.

The Cedar Rapids/Marion metro area is fortunate to have an extensive outdoor warning (siren) system in place. For severe weather, the purpose of this system is to warn people who are outside to seek shelter and obtain further information from local media sources like TV and radio. The sirens will sound if:

- › A tornado warning is issued by the NWS.
- › A tornado or funnel cloud is spotted by a trained weather spotter.
- › A severe thunderstorm warning is issued from the NWS.
- › A trained weather spotter reports 70 mph winds or golf-ball-sized hail or bigger.

The sirens are not activated for all thunderstorms. People should not solely rely on the siren system as their only warning for severe weather. There are instances when thunderstorms can still be dangerous but do not meet the criteria to activate the sirens. Linn County does not use the sirens to sound an all-clear. If you hear the sirens sounding for a 2nd time, severe weather is still occurring or another line of storms is approaching.

The outdoor sirens are not intended to be heard inside buildings. There are several options for weather warnings inside buildings, such as a weather radio that is activated when a watch or warning has been issued or a local TV station app for your smartphone that will alert you when there is severe weather.

The sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:45 a.m. A message is broadcast before the sirens activate to tell everyone that it is just a test. The monthly test will not be conducted if a watch or warning has been issued for the area.

If a severe thunderstorm or a tornado warning is issued, you should seek shelter. The best place is a room on the lowest level of your home with no windows and as far away from the exterior walls as possible. Getting under a heavy bench or sturdy table can provide extra protection. Use your arms to protect your head or wear a helmet such as a bike helmet.

The best protection for severe weather is to be prepared. Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention to any watches or warnings issued for your area.

Long-time Marion Firefighter **Bret Himes Retires**



Bret Himes

Bret Himes – Marion firefighter since 1988 – retired at the end of February. In his 33 years with the department, he’s watched the City grow exponentially. “I remember when there were only three firefighters on duty to cover the entire City and township,” he said.

Working for a growing city meant responding to an increasing number of calls and helping with specialized duties, like fire inspection work and public education. Although a lot has changed during his career, he’s glad the fire department’s values have always remained the same. “What’s in the citizen’s best interest has always been their bottom line,” he said.

Himes, who served in the Air Force before becoming a firefighter, is looking forward to traveling, including a trip to see the new USS Iowa submarine later this year. He’s also looking forward to continuing his hobbies of fishing and collecting old toy trains, plus spending lots of time with family.

He’ll miss spending time with his coworkers at the fire station. But he’s thankful to have had the opportunity to serve the residents of Marion. “Thanks to all I have met and worked with over the years,” he said.

Mental Health Crisis Counselor Aids the Marion Police Department



Brooke Bige

Between 2015 and 2020, the Police Department responded to 8,261 mental-health-related calls, which accounted for 5 percent of the call volume during that time frame. The department recognized the level of service they could provide to those individuals was insufficient and, in February 2020, began seeking out alternative solutions. The department formally partnered with Foundation 2 last fall, and in January, Brooke Bige came on board as our contract mental health crisis counselor.

The overall goals of the partnership are to provide increased access to mental health and other treatment services for individuals with mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, divert those in need to treatment rather than incarceration or hospitals and free up sworn personnel for other duties. The annual cost of the contract position is \$65,000, which was paid out of the department’s budget with the hope of securing grant funding to offset costs in the future.

Brooke has had an immediate impact since she started in January. She’s had 40 face-to-face interactions with individuals in crisis and was able to stabilize more than half of those so they could remain in the community. Approximately one-quarter of the individuals were hospitalized either voluntarily or non-voluntarily, and only one was transported to jail. In addition to responding to the calls for service, Brooke has spent hours following up with both the individuals who were in crisis and their families to ensure the treatment they are receiving is effective or to direct them to additional services. She’s been a welcome addition to the department.

MARION MESSENGER

The Marion Messenger is published quarterly for the residents of Marion, Iowa, to keep them informed of City policies, new developments and community events. If you have comments or suggestions concerning this or future issues, please contact:

Amber Bisinger, Editor
Marion City Hall
abisinger@cityofmarion.org



UPCOMING Events



Marion Farmers Market

Saturdays now-September | 8-11 a.m.

| Taube Park

Visit your neighborhood farmers market each Saturday through the summer. Find produce, baked goods, meats, wine and more each week. Potential vendors should contact the Marion Parks and Recreation office at 319-447-3590 for availability, rental rates and any other questions.

Great American Kites

May 15 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Lowe Park Baseball Diamonds

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department is excited to host Great American Kites at Lowe Park this summer. Great American Kites specializes in producing the most astonishing and colorful outdoor giant kite displays, with over 15 years of providing giant kite flying experiences, unique aerial displays and once-in-a-lifetime experiences all through the wonder of kites. Displays will engrave incredible memories for all ages. This event is free to the public, but advanced reservations must be made. A limited number of spots will be available, no walk-ins. Watch for more information about the reservation process! Sponsored in part by the Marion Hotel-Motel Grant Program.

Moonlit Movies

presented by GreenState Credit Union

May 28 / July 9 / Aug. 6 | 7 p.m.) |

Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Make memories this summer with the Marion Parks and Recreation Department by enjoying free, family-friendly Moonlit Movies. Movies will be announced in mid-May. These events are free to the public, but advanced reservations must be made. A limited number of spots will be available, no walk-ins. Watch for more information about the reservation process! These events are organized by the Marion Parks and Recreation Department and sponsored by the Marion Hotel-Motel Grant program and GreenState Credit Union.

Sunrise Yoga

Saturdays June-August | 7:30 a.m. |

Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

It's year number eight for our free community yoga on Saturday mornings at the Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park. Beginning June 6, bring a mat and a water bottle and join us at 7:30 a.m. All abilities are welcome to participate and our instructors give instructions for different levels. Participants are asked to follow social distancing protocols and stay six feet apart if not with a family member. The stage area will be reserved for the instructor. Please follow the Facebook page, Sunrise Yoga - Lowe Park, for updates and weather notifications.



Music Under the Moon

June 12 / July 17 / Aug. 14 | 7 p.m. |

Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Quickly becoming a summertime favorite, the Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park has become a popular spot to take in great live music! Performers include Ted Vigil's tribute to John Denver (June 12), Boy Band Review (July 17), and Arch Allies (Aug. 14). These events are free to the public, but advanced reservations must be made. A limited number of spots will be available, no walk-ins. Watch for more information about the reservation process! These events are organized by the Marion Parks and Recreation Department and sponsored by the Marion Hotel-Motel Grant program.

Picnic on the Prairie

presented by Marion Arts Council

June 19 | 7-8:30 p.m. |

Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Come be inspired by music, art and the beautiful outdoors. Bring your picnic basket, blanket and lawn chair and enjoy the music of Big Blue Sky.



Marion Parks Poker Challenge

Challenge returns starting June 21

After a very successful first year, the hunt is set to take place again this summer. You got to know when to hold 'em and know where to find 'em! This spin on the traditional scavenger hunt will have you scouring our City in pursuit of the best poker hand. Fifty-two large playing cards have been hidden around Marion's parks, trails and beyond. Each card has the official City of Marion insignia on it to identify it as an official playing card. Assemble your best five-card hand (with photo proof) and submit it for a chance at some cool prizes. Be prepared to look high, low, over, under, behind, on top... essentially everywhere. Stay tuned for more information and updated rules.

B-I-N-G-O Nights Suspended

B-I-N-G-O Nights at Lowe Park have been suspended since the start of the pandemic and will continue to be suspended until further notice. We continue to monitor COVID-19 activity and health recommendations from local and area health professionals and agencies.

Marion Pool to Open in 2021

NEW HOURS

Monday-Friday

Lap Swim 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Swim 1-5:30 p.m.
Family Swim 5:30-7 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday

Lap Swim 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Swim 1-5 p.m.

ADMISSION RATE

\$2.75 – Ages 3 and under
\$3.75 – Ages 4 and over
Family Swim* \$12

*Family consists of two adults and children. Adults can be parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, guardians. The 25-meter lap lane will be open for lap swimming.



PATRON PROTOCOLS

- › Masks are required when entering, exiting, in locker rooms and anytime unable to achieve six feet of distance from others. If out of the water and moving around the facility, face coverings should be worn.
- › Masks should not be worn in the water. Patrons are asked to leave masks with their belongings, not on the side of the pool.
- › Patrons are encouraged to maintain six feet of distance from others on deck and in the water.

SEASONAL POOL PASSES

Individual Pass - \$100/each
Family Pass - \$190/family
Family Seasonal Pool Membership

Includes two adults and children that all reside at the same address. This can include children of divorced parents who have joint custody, step-children or foster children. A babysitter/nanny may be added to your family pass for an additional \$75. A babysitter is defined as a responsible person who will bring your children to the pool and supervise them at all times in your absence.



Please visit www.cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation to purchase your pool membership passes online.

Upcoming Program Registration Deadlines

- Learn To Play Pickleball | Ages 18+ | **May 21**
Little Pigskins Football Camp | Ages 5-6 Years | **June 11**
Happy Feet Soccer Camp | Ages 3-4 Years | **June 11**
Youth Lacrosse Camp (Session II) | Ages 7-14 Years | **June 11**
Lil' Sprouts | Ages 3-5 Years | **June 11**
Adult Team Trivia Night | Ages 18+ | **June 11**
Youth Pickleball Camp | Ages 7-14 Years | **July 2**
Track & Agility Camp | Ages 5-8 Years | **July 2**
Youth Tennis Lessons (Session II) | Ages 5-16 Years | **July 2**
Adult Wiffleball Tournament (#2) | Ages 18+ | **July 2**
Fall 3v3 Soccer | Ages K-4th Grade | **July 23**
PeeWee Flag Football | Ages K-1st Grade | **July 23**
Youth Flag Football | Ages 2nd-6th Grade | **July 23**
Lil' Tykes Basketball | Ages 3-8 Years | **August 13**

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Nothing hurts a program more than missed deadlines. Please register early to ensure we have adequate numbers to hold our programs and have time to communicate with participants. We cannot guarantee there will be any openings after the deadline has passed. Once a program is full, participants may choose to be placed on a waiting list.



To register, visit www.cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation and click on the "Register Online" button.



Cemetery Recovery

Following the infamous 2020 derecho, Friends of Oak Shade were first called upon to document the extent of damage suffered by the hundreds of trees covering our 22-acre cemetery.

At least 152 trees were destroyed or seriously damaged – completely uprooted or shredded into tons of broken limbs and branches, piled on and around thousands of treasured family memorial headstones. By the end of September, eight volunteers had devoted 40 hours to climbing through the disaster to photograph the trees. Since then, over 40 volunteers have devoted another 700 hours to sawing, collecting and moving debris to the road edges to be hauled away for disposal. Only the largest tree trunks remain for removal by the Urban Forestry Division and large equipment contractors.

And under the tree debris, perhaps 250 headstones will need some degree of attention, from a simple fix like nudging a headstone back into place or re-standing. Severely "broken" stones are remarkably few – perhaps a dozen – and only one was smashed beyond repair.

If your family marker needs repair, you should consult your homeowner's insurance for possible coverage for commercial restoration. If not, Friends of Oak Shade can likely help. Contact Darcie with the Marion Parks and Recreation Department at 319-447-8580 for additional information.

Estimates show loss of or damage to about **41 percent** of the City's street tree canopy.

Trees Matter



On Aug. 10, in a matter of minutes, Marion's tree canopy changed drastically. Estimates show loss of or damage to about 41 percent of the City's street tree canopy. While the replanting effort is already underway, it will take decades for the canopy to recover. The City's Urban Forestry Division has compiled the following list of Frequently Asked Questions to keep residents informed of recovery and reforestation plans.

When will the replant begin?

The replanting has already begun! The City has already partnered on several programs to emphasize public plantings in 2021, but private residents can help support this effort too. Planting on private property is just as important as in public spaces. Many residents took the initiative to plant last fall, and Urban Forestry staff planted nearly 200 trees in 2020 despite the pandemic, severe weather and storm response.

What if a private resident wants to plant their own right-of-way (ROW) replacement tree(s)?

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department has a ROW Tree Permit available for residents to use to formally request to plant a tree in the ROW, as well as schedule ROW tree maintenance like trimming, removal or stump grinding by a private contractor. This permit is FREE and initiates quick communication with the City Arborist and a site visit. Requirements for approval to plant include appropriate location selection and site spacing, approved tree species selection and scheduling underground utility locates before digging. Requirements for trimming or removal include providing a certificate of insurance from the contractor. Contracting, cost and installation of the tree(s) are the responsibility of the permit holder.

Will the stumps left in the right-of-way (ROW) be removed? When?

YES! Storm damage, hazard removal and debris collection have left thousands of stumps behind in the ROW, which still require removal. This process is going to require years to address fully but work is underway. Both Urban Forestry staff and hired contractors will complete the work. Grinding will be the primary form of removal and no activity will take place after snowfall accumulation inhibits visibility and access each year.

Will the void where a right-of-way (ROW) stump was removed be backfilled, leveled off to grade and seeded for grass?

YES! As part of the stump removal process each location will have all roots and wood material visible at ground level, or at the surface,

be ground out to the maximum depth the equipment allows, typically 12 to 15 inches. The chips and debris from this process will be removed and the void will be backfilled with soil and a layer of seed will be raked into the leveled grade. Humps, bulges and heaving from the tree which occur underground will not be removed as part of this process.

What if a private resident wants to have their own right-of-way (ROW) stump(s) removed?

Private residents may request a ROW Tree Permit to have a stump removed affront their property. This permit is FREE and initiates quick communication with the City Arborist and a site visit. Requirements for approval include providing a certificate of insurance from the contractor and scheduling underground utility locates before digging. Contracting, cost and scheduling are the responsibility of the permit holder.

My sidewalk was damaged due to right-of-way (ROW) tree failure, who is responsible for repair?

Per State code, sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the adjacent private property owner and shall remain so even if damage was a result of storm activity or public tree failure. Please check with your insurance coverage provider as many plans include coverage for this circumstance.

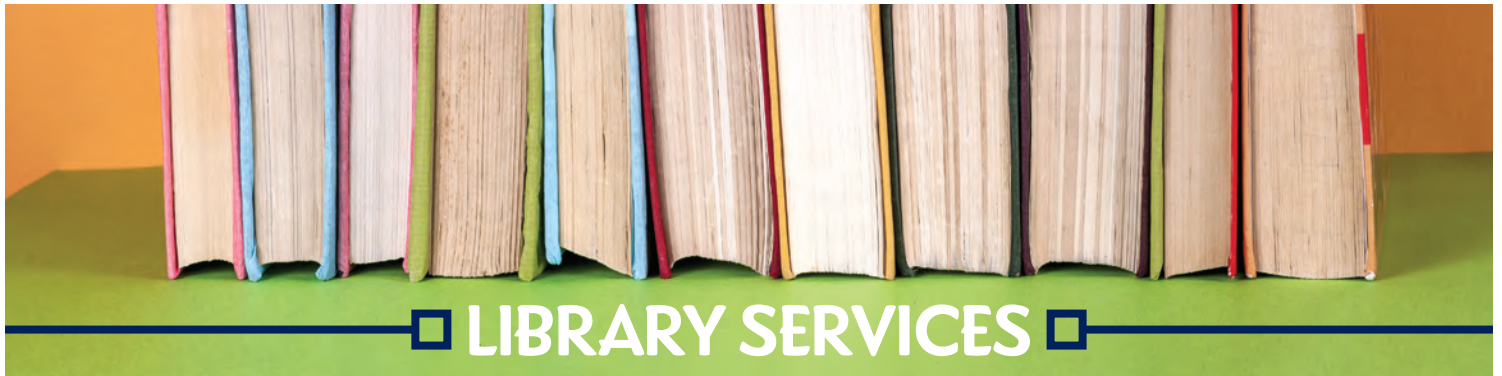
I have a private tree which needs assessment, can the Marion City Arborist do a site visit and give me some advice?

With the high demand for attention necessary to help our public tree population rebound and to move clean-up and replanting initiatives forward, the City Arborist is busier than ever. Please seek the services of a private professional for private tree matters. It is highly recommended to obtain multiple quotes for service and to contract with a Certified Arborist. HOWEVER, if the private tree is high risk or safety is of concern, the City Arborist will make time to assess the tree and execute follow-up in a reasonable timeline. This only includes matters where damage or injury to a person or property is an immediate likelihood.

How do I locate a private Certified Arborist and contact them for services?

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is the guiding organization for Certified Arborists worldwide. From the International Society of Arboriculture's website you will see a "Find an Arborist" link where you can search by zip code to locate individuals in your area who carry this certification credential and provide services.





Virtual Services

DIAL A STORY | Enjoy this magical service, available from any phone, 24/7. Call the number 319-727-8100 to hear classic stories, new pep talks, mystery sounds and more. Stories are updated monthly. Thank you to Farmers State Bank for making this program possible.

BEANSTACK CHALLENGE | Are you looking for a great read-aloud picture book for your preschooler? Have you heard about the Bridge to Reading Picture Book Award? Join our newest Beanstack challenge and read the 10 nominated stories to your child so they can vote for their favorite! You can sign in to Beanstack online or through its free app to enjoy the best stories of the year and some wonderful activities for your child!
marionpubliclibrary.beanstack.com/reader365

LOOKING FOR A GREAT BOOK?

- › We love crafting specialized recommendations for you. Just fill out the Materials Recommendation Form on our website and we will email you personalized suggestions within 1-2 business days.
- › Check out our YouTube playlist of book talks to pick your new favorite at <http://bit.ly/MPLReadMeNext>.
- › Chat live with a library staff member for reading requests, reference inquiries and more on the library's website. Click on the icon in the bottom right corner of the home page to get the conversation started.

Upcoming Programs

DOODLEBUGS | Introduce your preschooler to legendary artist Grant Wood the fun (and messy) way! Each Zoom class starts with a story and ends with imagination and creation. Visit www.crma.org for a list of materials you will need if you would like to create along with us! Zoom information is available on the library website.

PERMANENT STORYWALK | Visit our new permanent StoryWalk® at Gill Park, a collaboration between Marion Public Library and the Marion Parks and Recreation Department. It was unveiled with a celebration on May 1.

ALL AGES STORYTIME | Join Ms. Jackie and Ms. Lara this summer for All Ages Storytimes! They will be at Taube Park (2200 31st Street in Marion) every Monday at 10 a.m. with their favorite stories, songs and activities to enjoy with children of all ages! Don't forget to bring warm weather gear like water, a blanket to sit on and some bug spray and sunscreen! *In the event of inclement weather, check the Library's Facebook page for cancellations!

AAPI COMMUNITY STORYTIME | On May 13 at 10 a.m. at Gill Park, we welcome you to an outdoor Storytime that celebrates our Asian American Pacific Islander community!

TEEN PRIDE CELEBRATION | Help us celebrate our 3rd annual Pride event! This event, planned by and for teens, will feature Discord games and discussions, a virtual movie watch-along and more. Registration for Discord required on Eventbrite.

TEEN MESSY TWISTER | Twister just got messier. Each participant will have their own Twister mat loaded with sensitive skin shaving cream. Will you be the last one standing? Come dressed for a mess outside and register starting June 1 on Eventbrite. The program will be held outdoors at Lowe Park. This event is open to middle and high school students.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT OUTDOOR EDITION |

Beginning June 10, join us on Thursdays at 10 a.m. at Lowe Park for Music & Movement Outdoor Edition and get excited for singing, dancing, laughing and great stories!

Browsing has Returned at the Uptown Library

We are so excited to announce that we have re-opened for browsing at our 7th Avenue Uptown Library. No appointment is necessary to browse. Only four patrons are allowed in the building at one time with a 30-minute maximum browsing time. Masks are required for ages 2+. We hope to see you soon!

Material Returns

A 24-hour drop box is available outside the Uptown Library location on 7th Avenue. You may also return your Marion Library materials to any of the other Metro libraries or any of the Hy-Vee grocery stores in the Metro area.

Marion Derecho Oral History Project

The Marion Derecho Oral History Project conducted by the Marion Public Library will document the stories of individuals in Marion during the Aug. 10, 2020, derecho that struck the state of Iowa.

We hope to preserve a diversity of voices and experiences by recording their stories, collecting photographs and conducting interviews. Any interested community members may complete an initial survey to share their experiences and have the potential to be interviewed for the project. Visit tinyurl.com/MPLDerecho to apply!



1225 6th Avenue
 Marion, IA 52302
www.cityofmarion.org



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Community Calendar

Marion Arts Festival

April 24 - May 23 | Virtual

Art lovers can browse and buy from an lowa-centric slate of high-caliber artists and participate in take-and-make projects. Find the latest updates at www.marionartsfestival.com.

Marion Farmers Market

**Saturdays | May 1 - Sept. 25
 Taube Park**

Visit your neighborhood farmers market each Saturday through the summer. Find produce, baked goods, meats, wine and more between 8-11 a.m. each week.

Great American Kites

**Saturday | May 15
 Baseball Diamonds Lowe Park**

A brand-new event for Marion! Enjoy impressive overhead displays and a come-and-go atmosphere from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.*

Marion Arts & Crafts Fest

**Saturday | May 15
 Uptown Marion District**

A one-of-a-kind event for all comfort levels featuring local bands, artist demonstrations and beer sampling. Explore Uptown District's retailers, bars and restaurants from 1-4 p.m.

Moonlit Movie Series

presented by GreenState Credit Union

**Fridays | May 28, July 9, Aug. 6
 Klopfenstein Amphitheater at
 Lowe Park**

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department for free outdoor family fun. Bring your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the movie.*

Marion by Moonlight

**Thursdays | June 3, 10, 17, 24
 NEW! location: Klopfenstein
 Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Gather your people, a cooler and some lawn chairs and kick back to enjoy live music compliments of Farmers State Bank. Music goes from 6-9 p.m.

Sunrise Yoga

**Saturdays | June 5 - Aug. 28
 Klopfenstein Amphitheater at
 Lowe Park**

Enjoy free outdoor yoga each Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. Participants should bring a yoga mat or towel and water.

Uptown Marion Market

**Saturdays | June 12, July 10, Aug. 14,
 Sept. 25 | NEW! location: Corner of
 8th Ave & 12th St**

This festival-style market features vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods and artisan items from 8 a.m.-noon.

Music Under the Moon

**Saturdays | June 12, July 17, Aug. 14
 Klopfenstein Amphitheater at
 Lowe Park**

Enjoy live music at the beautiful Lowe Park amphitheater. Bring a blanket, cooler and lawn chair. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. *

Picnic on the Prairie

presented by Marion Arts Council

**Saturday | June 19 | Klopfenstein
 Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Come be inspired by music, art, and the beautiful outdoors. Bring your picnic basket, blanket and lawn chair. Concert featuring Big Blue Sky begins at 7 p.m.

Poker Challenge

**Ongoing | Starts June 21
 Marion Parks & Trails**

Fifty-two large playing cards have been hidden around Marion's parks and trails. Assemble your best five-card hand (with photo proof) and submit it for a chance to win cool prizes.

Uptown Getdown

**Thursdays | Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26
 NEW! location: Lowe Park**

The best way to wind down the dog days of summer! Grab your chairs and coolers and meet your neighbors for music in the park. The festivities get underway at 6 p.m. each Thursday.

*Reservation required

Events are designed with guidance from the City of Marion, Linn County Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control. The Linn County mask mandate is currently in effect and, at this time, includes those who have received vaccines. Please visit www.cityofmarion.org/COVID-19response for more information.

Sidenote: The City of Marion is in the process of planning a fireworks event for later this year. The date has not yet been finalized. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for additional details.