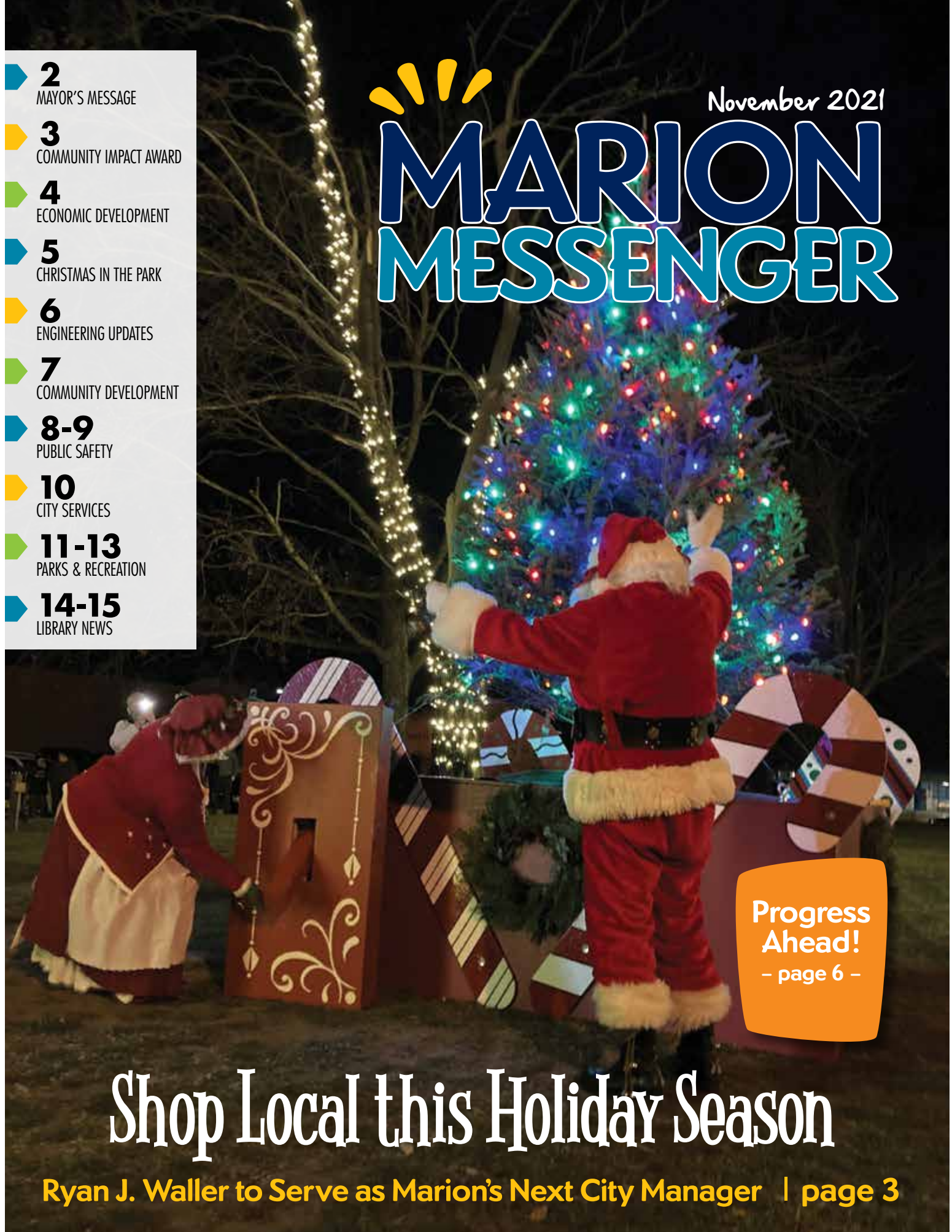


-  **2**
MAYOR'S MESSAGE
-  **3**
COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD
-  **4**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
-  **5**
CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK
-  **6**
ENGINEERING UPDATES
-  **7**
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
-  **8-9**
PUBLIC SAFETY
-  **10**
CITY SERVICES
-  **11-13**
PARKS & RECREATION
-  **14-15**
LIBRARY NEWS



November 2021

MARION MESSENGER



**Progress
Ahead!**
- page 6 -

Shop Local this Holiday Season

Ryan J. Waller to Serve as Marion's Next City Manager | page 3



Nick AbouAssaly

Over the summer months, Marion's City Council was engaged in an important process to select a new leader for our growing City team.

With the help of consultants and department leaders, the Council followed a comprehensive

and methodical search process that resulted in more than 40 candidates and involved our City employees, community stakeholders and members of the public in identifying the best person for the job.

We could not be more pleased to welcome our new city manager, Ryan Waller, and his family to Marion. Mr. Waller's extensive experience, passion for public service and drive for excellence make him the ideal person to help lead our organization and take our great city to the next level.

Mr. Waller joins us at an exciting and pivotal time in Marion's history. It's hard to miss the positive momentum and transformative progress all around our city. Not long ago, Marion was seen as a sleepy bedroom community, rarely at the table or part of the regional equation. Today, with a population of around 42,000, it is the 13th largest city in Iowa and a regional destination.

This progress is the result of years of forward-looking and thoughtful planning by community-minded leaders. Leaders who recognize Marion's potential, set a vision of excellence, ignite energy and enthusiasm, expand the pool of ideas through inclusion and insist on collaboration at all levels.

Marion is blessed with many such leaders, who expect the best, ask for the best and refuse to settle for "good enough." I'm grateful to be on their team and look forward to having Mr. Waller join us as we continue to drive progress that adds value to the lives of all residents and shape a prosperous future for our town.

In this season of gratitude, we have many reasons to be thankful. I am most thankful for the wonderful people who call Marion home and make it the best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow business.

To all who will observe a holiday in the coming weeks, you have my best wishes for joy and good health as you celebrate with your loved ones.

Let's keep reaching even higher, together.

City Election Results

Marion voters headed to the polls on Nov. 2 for the City/School Election.

In January, Steve Jensen will begin his second term as Ward 2 representative, Grant Harper will continue his service as an At-Large representative having been appointed to fill a vacancy in May 2020, and Sara Mentzer will start her term as Ward 4 representative.

The only contested race on the City Council ballot was between incumbent Randy Strnad and challenger Dale Monroe for the other At-Large seat. Preliminary results indicated that Monroe won the race by one vote. After provisional ballots were tallied, Strnad took the lead by one vote. A recount is expected in the coming weeks.

Other Council members not yet up for reelection include Mayor Nick AbouAssaly, Colette Atkins – Ward 1 and Will Brandt – Ward 3.

In addition, voters weighed in on four public measures. Renewal of the one percent local option sales tax passed and a measure to reauthorize gambling in Linn County passed. Voters approved increasing the number of members on the Marion Library Board from nine to 11 and approved a change to the length of the term from six years to four years for members of the Marion Library Board.



HR UPDATE

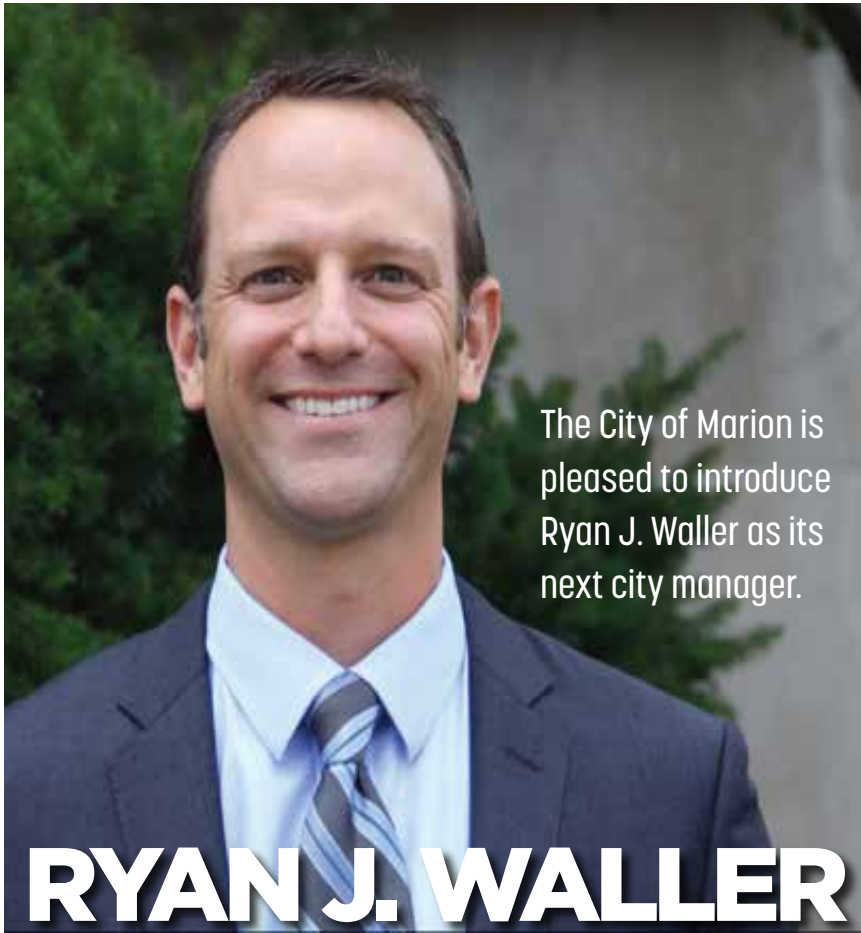
Remembering One of Our Own



The City of Marion extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Kelly Peterson. Kelly passed away unexpectedly last month following a short illness. She had been a part of the Marion Public Library family for the last five years as a member of the patron services team. She is survived by her husband, Allen, and seven beautiful children.

Kelly's helpful nature and thoughtfulness will be greatly missed.

James Teahen, library deputy director, shared: "Kelly was a one-of-a-kind, amazing person. She was a straight-shooter with the biggest heart and would do anything to help anyone. I had the honor of being both a cousin and a co-worker with one of the coolest people around, and for that, I am forever grateful."



The City of Marion is pleased to introduce Ryan J. Waller as its next city manager.

RYAN J. WALLER

to Serve as Marion's Next City Manager

Waller, who has served in local government for 20 years, comes to Marion from the City of Indianola, a full-service community located near Des Moines, where he has been the city manager since January 2016. He will serve as the chief executive officer for the City of Marion, its 250 employees and more than 40,000 residents. He will manage an annual operating budget of \$121.7 million.

"We were fortunate to have a group of highly-qualified candidates interview for the position," said Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. "Mr. Waller stood out as a dynamic and passionate leader who will reach higher every day to help Marion achieve its fullest potential. We couldn't be more pleased to have him join our team."

Waller has extensive experience in city and county administration in communities in both Iowa and

Illinois. Highlights of his career in Indianola include the planning and implementation of the City Square Master Plan, the planning and construction of a \$45 million wastewater treatment plant and improved financial procedures that resulted in a bond rating upgrade and budgeting awards for five consecutive years.

"Marion is an all-star community with a proud history and a reputation for innovation and collaboration. I look forward to working with the team to continue the positive momentum of the community," said Waller. "My family and I are thankful for this tremendous opportunity."

Waller's first day on the job will be Nov. 29. He anticipates spending his first few months in Marion getting to know City employees, partner organizations and members of the community.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE State of the City

Marion's State of the City will take place on Thursday, Jan. 20, at the Cedar Rapids Marriott, 1200 Collins Road NE. Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly will review the City's accomplishments of the past year and look ahead to 2022 and beyond. The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Linn County and the City of Marion, with support from Marion businesses.



Nominations Sought for First Community Impact Award

The Marion Chamber of Commerce and City of Marion are proud to partner on the Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award. Nominations are currently open and will be accepted through Dec. 15, 2021.

The award is named in recognition of banker Morris F. Neighbor. Neighbor began his career at Farmers State Bank in 1945 as a teller, and in 1968, he and his wife, Betty, purchased the bank. Through his leadership, the Neighbor family has given to countless capital campaigns, community events and charitable non-profit groups. In addition, volunteerism and dedication to community have remained a priority for the family and amongst bank staff.

"The Neighbor family name is synonymous with generosity," stated Marion Chamber President Jill Ackerman. "Farmers State Bank is an exceptional corporate citizen because of their leadership and that started with Mr. Morris Neighbor."

Community Impact Award nominees may be an individual, couple or organization whose volunteerism and outstanding service and dedication have made a significant impact on the Marion community.

The ideal candidate exhibits the following attributes:

- ▶ has made a positive difference in the lives of fellow residents
- ▶ continually volunteers in the Marion community
- ▶ demonstrates the spirit of collaboration and is enthusiastic about the community and its citizens
- ▶ models honesty and integrity, exemplary character and leadership, either as an individual or through an organization

The nomination period will open annually at the Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting in October. The recipient of the award will be recognized and announced by Mayor AbouAssaly at the Marion State of the City event in January.

Visit marioncc.org/communityimpact to access the nomination form.



As the 2021 construction season transitions to the “cooler” time of year, sometimes it feels like the city of Marion is one big construction zone.

it is WORTH it.



BY NICK GLEW, MARION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PRESIDENT



Nick Glew

Not only are public road and infrastructure projects visible in all corners of Marion, but private development projects are rising out of the ground at a quick pace. In the development community, we often say, “private investment follows public investment.” In Marion, we’re the perfect case study for that very statement.

We’ve tracked the progress of Marion’s Central Corridor for almost a decade. With 6th Avenue now complete and 7th Avenue construction

underway, our development community is ready to make new investments that will continue to support the growth and vibrancy of our precious community. In the Uptown’s core, Broad & Main on 7th represents the first phase of a \$25 million project to bring new living and business opportunities to the heart of the community. Further east, the Marion Lofts sit on a former industrial site and provide affordable housing options for individuals and families.

Nearly 10 years ago, the City of Marion partnered with Marion Economic Development (MEDCO) to invest in a new industrial park called the Marion Enterprise Center. Fast forward to today and more than \$50 million has been invested in private companies as a result of the public investment in critical infrastructure.

Just through August, Marion has already recorded \$45 million in new construction starts. Plus, the MEDCO team is engaged in other

projects that represent potentially an additional \$135 million of new investments in the community.

When you drive around Marion and see road-closed signs and backhoes, try to think about the new job opportunities, housing options and amenities soon to come online. It takes partnerships. It takes patience. But hold on...the private investment is on its way. Cheers to all of us working together in the best city in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business. Our community is worth it!

Small Business Saturday

Kick-off the holiday shopping season with Small Business Saturday! Uptown Marion Main Street and Marion Chamber of Commerce will host a shopping event on Saturday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Receive a free #ShopSmall gift, while supplies last, and be entered to win a \$100 Uptown Dollars gift certificate. Start your day by stopping at the Marion Welcome Center, 1070 7th Avenue, to grab a list of participating stores throughout Marion.



Be sure to include a stroll through the Uptown Artway on your to-do list for Small Business Saturday. City staff will be serving the cliché fall foods your heart desires, like cider, hot cocoa and pumpkin treats.



PURSUE YOUR CAREER WITH A PURSUIT GRANT!

PURSUE A CAREER HERE!

The work you’ve done to equip yourself through a job shadow, internship or part time job is paying off! Now we’d like to help you with funds to pursue skills for long term success!

WHAT IS A PURSUIT GRANT?

Pursuit Grants financially support student efforts to become trained and skilled assets to the local workforce. Grants of up to \$4,000 can be used to cover college tuition, certifications, or vocational training costs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Qualifying applicants must be a currently enrolled high school student or a graduate of either the Marion Independent or Linn-Mar Community School District. Students who reside in either district shall also qualify. Young adults within 36 months following high school graduation with plans to reside in Marion also qualify. Must have a business relationship.

Read more details: www.medcoiowa.org/pursuitgrant



Santa Returns to City Square Park for Christmas in the Park

Santa and Mrs. Claus will return to City Square Park in Marion for Christmas in the Park and Peppermint Walk on Friday, Dec. 3. This year, building on an idea first introduced last year, the Clauses will begin their journey to the park with a short Santa Wave parade through select parking lots in the community before arriving at City Square Park. They will be escorted by Marion's Police and Fire Departments.

holiday



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Santa Wave Parade | 4-4:45 p.m. | Santa will be on board his big red sleigh courtesy of the Marion Fire Department and will visit select locations in Marion. Locations TBA

Arrival of Santa Claus | 5 p.m. | Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at City Square Park.

Peace Tree Lighting | 5:15 p.m. | Santa and Mrs. Claus will officially kick off the holidays with the lighting of the Marion Peace Tree in City Square Park.

Visit Santa's House | 5:30-8 p.m. | See Santa in his house and deliver your letter to our magic mailbox. Visits with Santa will be limited to a walk-through only. Our elves will help guide you in and out of the house and show you where to place your letter.

Family Fun Activities | 4-8 p.m. | Enjoy traditional event activities including holiday music and hot cocoa. Kids—don't miss this opportunity to climb aboard the caboose as it's transformed into the Peppermint Express! Bring a new, warm-weather item to place inside and help Keep Your Neighbors Warm. Stop by the Marion Public Library – Uptown Branch location for a take-and-make snowman ornament craft.

Peppermint Walk | 4-8 p.m. | Visit participating Uptown Marion merchants, restaurants and businesses during this special holiday open house. Stores will be decked with holiday lights, decorations and music, making this a great complement to the activities happening in the park. Present a receipt from a purchase made at any Uptown Marion business during the event and be registered to win a \$50 Uptown Dollars certificate valid at participating Uptown businesses. Receipts can be presented at the Marion Chamber & Uptown Marion office, 1070 7th Avenue.

Christmas in the Park and Peppermint Walk are presented by the Marion Chamber of Commerce and Uptown Marion Main Street. They remain free community events thanks to the Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners – Farmers State Bank, ImOn Communications, MercyCare Community Physicians, Summit Pointe Senior Living and Z102.9 with support from the Marion Hotel/Motel Grant program.

3 Ways to Shop Local this Holiday Season

1 Support Local | Help our small businesses thrive by shopping local for your holiday needs. From gifts, outfits, decor and even catering, Uptown has what you need to make the holidays special this year. These businesses offer unique gift items and you won't be waiting on shipping!

2 Shop Where I Live | Shop Where I Live is an online platform for shopping local created by a Marion resident and supported by the Marion Chamber of Commerce and Uptown Marion. Explore purchase options from the safety and comfort of your own home, all while shopping local! Visit: Marion.ShopWhereILive.com

3 Shop Early | Get your shopping done early. The holiday shopping season can be chaotic and crowded. Avoid the crowds by planning out your purchases early and getting to the stores before December.



For more information on the Christmas in the Park and Peppermint Walk event, please visit the Marion Chamber of Commerce website at www.marioncc.org.



7th Avenue Reconstruction & Streetscape Project

Work continues in Uptown Marion and the street is expected to reopen to traffic around Thanksgiving. The roadway and sidewalks are the top priority, and some streetscape amenity work may carry into 2022. The second phase of the project will resume next construction season.

10th Avenue Sidepaths

The contractor has made significant progress on the addition of 10-foot sidepaths on both the north and south sides of 10th Avenue/Business Highway 151. The grading and concrete work are expected to conclude by Thanksgiving and will resume in the spring. The project is expected to be completed next summer.

Bridge and Trail over Marion Boulevard

The contractor is waiting for steel to arrive so that the gateway bridge over Marion Boulevard, a critical connection to the CeMar Trail, can be placed. This will require a three-week closure of Marion Boulevard. Without any further supply-chain delays, the project is expected to be completed by the summer of 2022. The artistic towers by local artist Cara Briggs Farmer will be added after the project has been accepted by the Iowa DOT.

Looking ahead to next year:

- › Turn lane improvements and traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of S. 31st Street and Highway 100. Work is expected to begin in the late spring of 2022.
- › A roundabout will be installed at the intersection of Echo Hill Road and Alburnett Road. Construction is expected to begin in 2022.
- › A new trail is being added along Indian Creek. The 2.2 mile, 10-foot wide, hard-surfaced trail will start north of the bridge in Donnelly Park and follow the creek northeast to Tower Terrace Road. Work is expected to begin in the spring or summer of 2022.
- › 3rd Avenue will be reconstructed near Francis Marion Intermediate School. The project is expected to span two construction seasons.
- › Another section of Tower Terrace Road is scheduled to be added. Dirt is expected to start moving in the spring of 2022 between Meadowknolls Road and Alburnett Road.
- › Work is expected to begin on Segment 7 of the Indian Creek Trunk Sewer Replacement project. This multi-jurisdictional project will provide additional capacity to accommodate present needs and future growth.

Dan Schneider to Retire from City of Marion after 43 Years



Dan Schneider knows Marion like the back of his hand - he's had a front-row seat to the community's growth during his 43-years with the City.

Schneider initially set out to be a physical education teacher and girls' athletics coach. After being assigned to teaching junior high science and math for three years, he opted to shift gears.

Schneider was hired by the City of Marion full-time in June 1979. He worked briefly in the Public Services Department and then found his calling as an engineering technician in the Engineering Department.

As an engineering tech, Schneider was responsible for field inspections, testing concrete and monitoring the work that happens on a construction site. He thinks of his role as being the intermediary who takes road construction projects from engineering plans to reality by working with the contractors.

He was the one who was on-site the last time 7th Avenue and 11th Street were reconstructed. He opted not to watch it happen for a second time, more than 40 years later, as part of the crew for the 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape project.

His favorite projects have been bridge installations due to the technical nature of the work.

He said that having an even-keel temperament has been one of the secrets to his success. "I look back on all of my years with the City, and I think I was mad maybe five times. Sure, we ran into challenges on job sites, but I always tried to problem solve by making the solution the contractor's idea."

As one might expect, the biggest change in the field has been technology. "Even in the last five years nearly all of the instruments that we use in the field have incorporated some computerized elements," Schneider added.

"Dan has been an invaluable member of the Engineering Department," said City Engineer Mike Barkalow. "He has helped train all of us in some way or another. It's hard to lose someone who has this much institutional knowledge and love for the community. He will be missed."

Schneider's last day in the office is in mid-December. After that, he plans to travel, make some property improvements and spend more time with his family, including two daughters and two grandchildren. And as he has up to this point, he will always find time for basketball and golf.

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

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
cityclerk@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

319-743-6518
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

100 Irish 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



C Avenue/Alburnett Road Growth Area Study

The City of Marion and the City of Cedar Rapids have joined together to hire MSA Professional Services, Inc. (MSA) and Confluence to complete a Growth Area Study on the far northwestern side of the City of Marion in the vicinity of C Avenue and Alburnett Road.

This project is a multi-disciplinary assessment of the area to identify potential opportunities for residential and public space development, with recommendations for sustainable future land use. The goals of the study are to preserve community character, identify and protect natural features, anticipate future growth and traffic patterns, assess housing needs and commercial opportunities, boost inter-community networks and identify strategies for the development of parks, public open space and bicycle and pedestrian connections.

The study commenced in October with a data collection phase, reviewing each community's GIS data as well as a variety of related communi-

ty plans: the Marion Comprehensive Plan, Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization's Long-Range Transportation Plan, City of Cedar Rapids Stormwater Master Plan and Step into Nature Land Use Plan.

The next phase consists of evaluating topographic data, existing road networks, bicycle routes, trails, planned improvements and utilities such as sanitary sewer, stormwater and potable water. The team is also working closely with a project steering committee and focus group, conducting local stakeholder interviews and leading a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of the project area.

The final draft plan will include a Land Use Study Report as well as a Planning Study Report and is anticipated to be complete and ready for City review in early 2022. The final adopted plan will be integral to the successful growth of both communities and serve as a guide to future planning and development.



Give a Gift from Home

The Marion Welcome Center has opened inside the Marion Chamber and Uptown Marion Main Street Office at 1070 7th Avenue.

The retail store offers fun Marion merchandise great for gift giving or sharing your Marion pride. The selection includes greeting cards, postcards, kitchen items, 2022 calendars, apparel, Christmas items and more!

Uptown Dollars, good at over 30 businesses in Uptown Marion, are also available for purchase in \$5, \$10 and \$20 increments. Store hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Check marioncc.org for additional holiday hours.

The Welcome Center is part of a tourism initiative by the Marion Chamber and made possible by a grant from the Linn County Economic and Community Development fund and Marion's Hotel/Motel Grant program.



Energy Efficiency in your Home

Are you tired of high energy bills and want to save money? Saving energy reduces our nation's demand for natural resources, and the result is reduced utility bills and money in your pocket. If you're serious about saving energy, then a professional energy audit is the way to go. A professional home energy audit determines how much energy your home uses and evaluates steps you can take to make your home more energy-efficient.

But there are also many things you can do to improve your home's energy efficiency without doing a professional audit. Weatherizing your home, including sealing air leaks and adding insulation, is a great first step.

Possibly the most convenient way to identify air leaks is to purchase a smoke pen. Use it next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches and other places where air may leak. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak. Once you have identified the air leaks, then proceed to fix them with caulking or weather-stripping.

After sealing any leaks, you should think about insulation. Insulation is essential for reducing heat flow through a home's building envelope (the parts of the home that separate the interior from the outside elements, including the walls, roof and foundation). To determine how much insulation is needed, you should consult the ENERGY STAR recommended insulation levels for retrofitting existing wood-framed buildings.

Marion Police Department Accountability and Transparency Measures

BY MIKE KITSMILLER, CHIEF OF POLICE

The Marion Police Department has taken several steps to improve our service model and to ensure all individuals feel welcome and safe in the community.

We partnered with Foundation 2 and brought a full-time crisis counselor on board as a mental health law enforcement liaison. The counselor works collaboratively with officers to intervene on mental-health-related calls, de-escalate situations that may have historically resulted in arrest and assess and refer individuals for immediate behavioral health treatment.

The benefits of this arrangement include:

- › A reduction in officer time spent responding to mental-health-related calls
- › Diverting individuals with mental health concerns from jail to behavioral health treatment
- › On-site consultation for officers regarding community interactions related to mental health
- › Reduction in the officer's use of force by utilizing alternative de-escalation techniques
- › An increase in overall awareness around the importance of differentiating response for individuals with mental health issues
- › Connecting individuals with community resources and mental health care to decrease law enforcement interactions

We modified, changed or added operational policies to ensure accountability for our officers. Changes included banning chokeholds, banning warning shots and a requirement for officers to intervene if they feel force being used by another officer is excessive. We now require authorization from the chief or deputy chief for the deployment of chemical munitions and require de-escalation techniques be attempted before force is used if practical and safe. Some of the things we addressed in our policy updates were things we were already doing (or not doing), but it was important to put it in writing, so the community knows how we operate.

We've always had a robust use-of-force policy and review process. All use of force incidents are documented and then reviewed by a lieutenant, a sergeant, and a defensive tactics instructor to ensure the actions were necessary and within policy. Those found to be outside of the policy are subjected to a professional standards investigation. Our statistics show that between 2015 and 2020 we used force on 130 people while responding to 158,484 calls for service and 8,108 arrests. Twenty-three of the 130 people, or 18 percent, we used force against were Black. During that same period, we had only five excessive force complaints logged against officers, all of which were investigated and determined to be unfounded or unsubstantiated.

We strengthened our body camera policy and upgraded our system to synchronize our body and car cameras. This ensures that if an officer either mistakenly or intentionally does not activate their body camera, it will start recording when emergency

lights are activated on any squad car in the vicinity. Officers who fail to activate their body cameras are subject to disciplinary action and our patrol sergeants are mandated to randomly review body and car camera footage recorded by officers on their shift to help ensure compliance with our policies. We also added additional sergeants on each patrol shift to ensure we have front-line supervisors on the scene when difficult decisions must be made.

We recognized the importance of being transparent with the community regarding what we do and how we do it, so we started breaking down arrest and ticket demographics by race, and we report those numbers to the City Council each month. We post these statistics on our website monthly, as well, to increase transparency and make the information readily available to residents.

Concerns have been raised nationwide about racial profiling regarding traffic stops and citations. We share those concerns and have tried to be responsive and open with our statistical data. From 2015 to 2020, we wrote 19,554 tickets, with about 10 percent of those being written to people who identified as Black. Over half of those individuals provided a home address somewhere other than Marion. Based on the data we can analyze, we do not believe race is being used as a factor when an officer decides to conduct a traffic stop. However, we cannot accurately and definitively determine, using data analysis, if race plays a role in any follow-up actions such as consent to searches.

Because we lack the capability to drill down into our data due to deficiencies within our records management system, we asked the City Council for over \$1 million so we could purchase a new system, which will allow us the capability to collect critical data and make it available to the community. The new system will also allow us to be proactive in our patrol activities, drive decisions regarding resource allocations and help identify situations where bias or implicit bias played a role so we can take corrective action. We have selected a vendor and meetings are taking place. Implementation of the new system will start in early 2022.

We've also increased our implicit bias and de-escalation training. We sent officers to "train the trainer" sessions, so we are not reliant on other agencies or organizations to provide us with this valuable information, and we can spread it out over the year rather than providing it as a one-and-done class.

It is our hope that what we have already done – and what we will do in the future – will give assurances to the community that we treat everyone the same regardless of race, religion, national origin or sexual orientation. We encourage anyone who feels they have not been treated fairly to contact Chief Kitsmiller directly at 319-200-7715.



Detailed information can be found at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs in energy efficiency and renewable energy, visit DOE's website at www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver.

Fire Safety During Winter Storms



We live in the Midwest, so we know the winter drill. Four to six months of wearing your winter hat, mittens and heavy coat, seeing your breath when you step outside and freezing temperatures. Old Man Winter will drop in for several unexpected visits. Beyond the inconvenience and discomfort, a winter storm or other severe weather conditions can cause real problems.

It's important to think about fire safety during the winter months. Did you know that there are more home fires in winter than in any other season? Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

This winter season, be fire smart! Know what to do before, during and after a storm. Here are a few tips from the Marion Fire Department to help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- **Test all smoke alarms.** Do this at least once a month. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home and test these alarms as well.
- **Plan two ways out** of the home in case of an emergency. Clear the driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your **house number can be seen** from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have **flashlights** on hand. Also, have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- **Stay aware** of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- **Check on neighbors.** Check on others who may need help.
- **Generators** should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- **Stay away** from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- **Be ready** if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- **Turn portable heaters off** when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

Protecting your family and home is vital. Make sure you're prepared to face the winter.

Keep Your Furnace Intake Pipes Clear

As winter approaches, the Building Inspection Division is reminding homeowners to be safety-minded and remember to clear drifted snow away from furnace intake pipes.

Keeping snow and ice away from a furnace's fresh-air intake pipes, which typically are two white plastic pipes that come out of the side of a house, is important to ensure proper operation and guard against the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Snow can also build up on flat or low-pitched roofs, so residents living in a mobile home or similar house should work to clear snow off their roofs, which is typically where the fresh-air intake pipes for furnaces are located on those types of residences.

CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly

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

At-Large - Randy Strnad

1820 Agate Circle | (319) 377- 3276
marionatlarge1@cityofmarion.org

At-Large - Grant Harper

2522 Vaughn Dr. | (319) 389-3385
marionatlarge2@cityofmarion.org

Ward One - Colette Atkins

1070 Creekbend Ct. | (319) 213-8075
ward1@cityofmarion.org

Ward Two - Steve Jensen

3830 Monarch Ave. | (319) 360-7009
ward2@cityofmarion.org

Ward Three - Will Brandt

2745 4th Ave. | (319) 389-9918
ward3@cityofmarion.org

Ward Four - Rene Gadelha

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.

Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest Winners



Pictured are the winners from Linn Grove Elementary and Captain Shawn Fluharty.

During Fire Prevention Week in October, the Marion Fire Department visited several area classrooms and reminded students to "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." In addition, area third graders participated in a fire safety poster contest. This annual tradition encourages students to have fun drawing while learning about a fire safety message. Members of the Marion Fire Department select the best poster from each school along with one overall winner. Congratulations to the following 2021 poster contest winners:

LINN GROVE ELEMENTARY

Paisley Witter -
*Best in the School &
Best in the City*
Dexter Ferin
Peyton Barske
Grace Anderson

WILKINS ELEMENTARY

Britton Bryan -
Best in the School
Tad Howard
Clive Matteson
Mabel Soenen

FRANCIS MARION INTERMEDIATE

Sofi Velasquez - *Best in the School*
Lauren Martin
Lorelai Sinks
Maizie Miller
Jack Kloser
Ella Houlsworth

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Brinley Coleman -
Best in the School



ONLINE MEETING PORTAL INCREASES TRANSPARENCY

A year ago, the City of Marion introduced a new meeting portal with the goal to increase transparency and ensure the important decisions made by City Council and other boards and commissions are easily accessible to the public. Agendas, meeting packets, minutes and videos for a majority of Marion boards and commissions have now transitioned to the meeting portal.

Within the portal, found at www.city-of-marion.org/meetingportal, the public has the opportunity to be notified when agendas are posted, apply to serve on Marion boards and commissions, access archived information and submit public records requests. The meeting portal is linked to Marion's website which makes the information accessible 24/7.



Weigh-in on Marion's Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

The City of Marion is seeking input from residents on the proposed use of more than \$6 million that has been allocated to Marion under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The survey is now available at <https://polco.us/sff2mu> and will be open through Wednesday, Nov. 24.

"The funds are intended to help the community respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery," said Amal Elthahir, assistant to the city manager. "Community input will help inform the City's budget process and effective distribution of these funds."



Come Work with Us

The City of Marion has a wide variety of job opportunities available. We are a highly collaborative team where people can learn and grow, while making a positive impact in the community. We offer competitive pay and an aggressive benefits package that includes health and dental insurance, retirement plan, tuition reimbursement, vacation, sick and holiday pay, and more. For a complete list of current openings, visit www.cityofmarion.org/employment.

WATER DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Help a Firefighter: Adopt a Hydrant

The Marion Water and Fire Departments are encouraging residents and community businesses to adopt their neighborhood fire hydrants.

The number of house fires typically increase during the winter. Significant snow accumulation and drifts can hide fire hydrants, making them impossible to find quickly. In the event of a fire, firefighters often have to locate and shovel out fire hydrants before being able to connect to them, losing precious time.

Residents and business owners are asked to keep fire hydrants closest to homes and businesses clear of snow. It is best to have a 3-foot clearance on all sides of the hydrant.

Always use caution when shoveling snow and be aware of vehicle traffic.

Causes of Low Water Pressure

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 the 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 one is not immediately available. Nine out of 10 times, one of these situations is the cause of low water pressure.



Sign up for eBill

Pay Your Bill Online & View Account History

- Safe and Secure
- Save postage and paper
- Fast and easy
- Convenient 24/7 access

Sign up now!

Go to: www.cityofmarion.org/billingoptions

Curbside Yard Waste Collection

Curbside yard waste will be collected from Marion residents until the last full week of November unless an accumulating snowfall occurs before that date. Residents must place their yard waste in a 32 gallon can marked with a "Y" or a biodegradable bag. Grass clippings must be placed in a biodegradable bag.

Sticks, limbs and brush, larger than 1 inch in diameter and no greater than 4 inches in diameter, must be bundled at the curb. Bundles should not measure more than 3 feet in length or width.

Yard Waste Drop-off Facility

Marion residents who receive municipal solid waste collection can utilize the Yard Waste Drop-off Facility located at 195 35th Street. Yard waste items such as leaves, grass clippings and brush less than 4 inches in diameter are accepted at the facility free of charge.

The facility is open year-round and its hours are as follows: Monday – Friday 7 a.m.-3:15 p.m.; Tuesday 7 a.m.-5:45 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Please contact the Marion Public Services Department at 319-377-6367 for additional information.

2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City of Marion Garbage & Recycling Collection

Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up 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.)



Outdoor Aquatic Center Feasibility Study Update

The City of Marion partnered with Waters Edge Aquatic Design to conduct an Outdoor Aquatic Center Feasibility Study. The study evaluated the condition of the existing Marion Swimming Pool and collected the community's preferences, needs and priorities for outdoor swimming. The final report was presented to Marion City Council in August and includes a conceptual design and recommended site to be located in the south part of Marion, off of 35th Street.

The plan calls for an outdoor aquatic center that includes a lazy river with three different slides, a leisure pool, a wave pool, a 25-yard lap pool with a ninja warrior obstacle course, and a diving well that features a one-meter board and three-meter platform. The project is estimated to be between \$22 and \$26 million with construction anticipated in 2026.

The existing Willowood Pool was deemed an unfit location for a new pool due to the amount of space within the park, future encroachment on neighbors and the increase of activity and traffic in the area. As part of the plan to sunset the existing pool, the Parks and Recreation Department would work with the neighborhood to develop a Willowood Master Park Plan.

Prairie Hill Park Becoming a Reality

Prairie Hill Park will be located at the corner of 29th Avenue and 50th Street, utilizing an existing water station on site. The planning for this park was part of a 2020 Neighborhood Park Master Plan. The park will feature a 28-stall parking lot, a playground with structures for multiple ages, a pavilion, basketball court, baseball field and an inner-loop trail. The park will be under development over the next year. The playground will be installed in early summer 2022 and will be a community build project. Look for more information to be released in the spring regarding the volunteer effort.



Upcoming Programs

BINGO Nights Return to Lowe Park

BINGO Nights are back! Join us the second Friday of the month from December-May for fun, socializing and a chance to win some cash. Doors open at 6 p.m. with games beginning at 6:30 p.m. Seats and cards are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Safety protocols determined by building policy.

Indoor Pound in the Park at Lowe Park

Mark your calendars and join us for free fitness classes at Lowe Park from 6-7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from January-April.

Drop-in Pickleball at YMCA

Pickleball is all the rage! The Marion YMCA is making it available to non-members Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m.-noon. Just pay the \$3 drop-in fee and complete the participation waiver at the front desk.

Three Weeks of Christmas December 6-24

The Parks and Recreation Department is helping you create some fun new traditions with these holiday events. Each event will run separately over the three weeks leading up to Christmas. Random drawings for prizes will take place after the events. Look for more information and rules as the dates get closer.

- Light the Night Tour
- Festival of Wreaths
- Light the Night BINGO
- Not So Pretty 2021
- Great Candy Cane Hunt
- Best in "Snow"

Brent Neighbor Hired as Deputy Director



Brent Neighbor

The City of Marion is pleased to introduce Brent Neighbor as the new deputy director for the Parks and Recreation Department. Neighbor brings many years of experience in sports turf management, project management and municipal park operations to the Marion

team. He looks forward to helping employees grow and is excited to build upon the great work of the department.

During his professional career, Neighbor has served as the athletic fields and grounds manager for the University of New Mexico, project manager for Mountain West GolfScapes and most recently parks superintendent for the City of Cedar Rapids.



Soccer Mini-Pitch Opens at Hanna Park

Soccer enthusiasts, Chamber ambassadors, City leaders and project partners gathered last month to celebrate the completion of the Hanna Park soccer mini-pitch. Mini-pitches are smaller soccer pitches that sometimes are hard-surfaced and surrounded by a rebound wall, similar to hockey, and allow for a constant state of faster gameplay.

Facility Rentals

Pavilions and indoor facility rentals for 2023 can be made online beginning early January 2022. Access the online reservation site at www.cityofmarion.org/facilityreservations. Please watch our website for information on 2022 ball diamond, green space and pool rentals.

Pet Reminders

Dogs and their owners are welcome in many of our parks - as long as the pets are on a leash at all times (including on walking trails and in Oak Shade Cemetery) and owners clean up after their animals.

Employment Opportunities

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department is a great place to work as a part-time or seasonal employee! Stop by our office to apply for one of the following positions:

- Seasonal Pool Employees – applications due Feb. 18, 2022
- Pool Manager
- Lifeguard
- Pool Cashiers
- Water Safety Instructor (WSI)
- Pool Concessions
- Lowe Concessions and Seasonal Parks Maintenance - applications due by March 18, 2022



Visit www.cityofmarion.org/employment for additional information and opportunities.

Updated Snow Removal Ordinance

It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow and ice accumulations from sidewalks promptly. If a property owner does not remove snow or ice accumulations within 36 hours after the accumulation, the City may do so and assess the costs against the property owner for collection in the same manner as a property tax. Concerns with residential snow and ice removal are handled on a complaint basis by contacting the Marion Parks and Recreation Department at 319-447-3580.

Encore Café to Return to Lowe Park

Encore Café will soon return in Marion and we need your help to make our seniors smile! The popular older adult dining program is expected to return to Lowe Park two days a week after the first of the year. Volunteers are needed for a couple of hours each day to help diners carry trays, refill drinks and enjoy some company, as well as assist with set-up, teardown and cleaning. Hy-Vee catered lunch is included. Call Becky at Heritage Area Agency on Aging for questions and more details at 319-398-2585.

Upcoming Registration Deadlines

Youth 5v5 Basketball (Session II)	Grades 1-6	Deadline: Dec. 19, 2021
Kindergarten Basketball (Session II)	AK/K	Deadline: Jan. 14, 2022
Indoor Blastball (Session II)	Ages 3-4	Deadline: Jan. 14, 2022
Little Stars Basketball (Session II)	Ages 4-5	Deadline: Jan. 14, 2022
Lil' Pigskins Football	Ages 5-6	Deadline: Jan. 14, 2022
Little Kickers Kickball	Ages 3-4	Deadline: Jan. 14, 2022
Adult Trivia Night (February)	Adults 18+	Deadline: Feb. 4, 2022
Little Spikers Volleyball	Ages 5-8	Deadline: Feb. 18, 2022
Spring Break ½ Day Camps	Grades K-5	Deadline: Feb. 18, 2022
EGGstraordinary Egg Hunt	Ages 3+	Deadline: Feb. 25, 2022
Adult Indoor Wiffleball League	Adults 18+	Deadline: Feb. 25, 2022



For more information about these programs and to register, please visit www.cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation.



Monarch Research Project-Planting Forward Helps Marion Replace Tree Canopy

The City of Marion has partnered with Monarch Research Project (MRP) to offer City employees, board and commission members and targeted neighborhoods up to three free native trees as part of its Planting Forward program.

The trees were offered at no cost, thanks to donations secured by Monarch Research Project - Planting Forward. Participants could request up to three trees to plant in their private yard or donate them to someone in Marion who sustained derecho tree damage.

Since last fall, MRP has distributed close to 30,000 trees in derecho-impacted areas like Linn County.

“We personally lost about 50 trees in the storm,” said Rita Packingham, Marion’s purchasing coordinator. “There was never a question about replanting the trees on our property, but to do so without the help of an organization like Monarch Research Project would have been cost-prohibitive.”

MRP created the Planting Forward program with dual goals of replanting derecho-impacted yards across Linn County with high-quality native tree species while educating residents on proper tree care and the value native trees add to the environment, pollinators and people.

“We estimate that Marion lost about 40 percent of its public tree canopy,” said City Arborist Mike Cimprich. “It is so important for both the City and private property owners to replant a diverse mixture of native trees to support our ecosystem. The partnership with Monarch Research Project - Planting Forward has been invaluable.”

Future tree distribution programs will be offered to support Marion’s reforestation efforts.

Oak Shade Cemetery Volunteers Restore Grave



An old adage in an early Marion Sentinel story about Oak Shade Cemetery said, “A person is not completely dead until they are forgotten!” It’s a thought-provoking idea which, in a way, describes one of the functions of a cemetery – to remind us of the departed.

On Oct. 2, 1859, Ruth A. Martin, daughter of J.T. & L.T. Martin, died at the age of one year, two months and nine days. Her family placed a marker containing this information on her grave in Town Lot 6, Lot 39, Space 9. Sometime over the subsequent 162 years, that marker was broken, tipped over and lay face up for long enough to become overgrown with grass and lost beneath the sod. And the memory of Ruth faded.

Last month, her life changed! On nearly the anniversary of her burial, Oak Shade volunteers at work preserving the cemetery discovered the marker, restored it and reset it to its proper position.

The second photo was ultimately uploaded to the FindaGrave.com website. Ninety-seven percent of all Oak Shade graves with markers or monuments are pictured there.



CEMETERY CLEAN-UP The Marion Parks and Recreation Department manages the historic Oak Shade Cemetery located at 789 2nd Avenue in Marion. With the help of a corps of Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery volunteers, cemetery clean-up occurs twice each year. Holiday decorations may be placed after Thanksgiving and remain in place until March 1. Any questions regarding the cemetery may be directed to 319-447-3580.



Library Card Application

GET A LIBRARY CARD!

Your library card is the key to all the resources and services available through the Marion Public Library. In addition to borrowing materials, your library card grants you access to using a computer, downloading digital books, music and movies, and searching the variety of online databases available at your fingertips.

<p>UPTOWN LIBRARY 1064 7th Ave Marion, IA 52302</p> <p>MON - THU 9:00 - 1:00, 2:00 - 7:00 FRI 9:00 - 1:00, 2:00 - 5:00 SAT 10:00 - 1:00, 2:00 - 5:00 SUN 12:00 - 4:00</p>	<p>MPL TECH STATION 5650 Kacena Ave Marion, IA 52302</p> <p>MON - WED 10:00 - 6:00 THU - FRI 10:00 - 4:00 SAT 10:00 - 2:00 SUN CLOSED</p>
--	--

MARION ANNEX
4151 3rd Ave STE 103 | Marion, IA 52302

MON - THU 9:00 - 6:00
FRI 9:00 - 5:00
SAT 10:00 - 5:00
SUN 12:00 - 4:00

*curbside holds pick-up only

WE OFFER

- Books, movies, music, video games
- Digital services (eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming)
 - WiFi
 - WiFi Hotspots
 - Free public computers
- Online services (Ancestry, ConsumerReports)
 - Interlibrary Loan
 - And so much more!

Visit marionpubliclibrary.org for more information or stop in with your photo ID and proof of current address and we will get you signed up on the spot.



Library Card Application

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Phone Number _(_____)_____

4-Digit PIN _____

Birthdate (00/00/0000) _____

If under 18 years of age, name parent(s) or guardian(s)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email for pick-up and overdue notifications

Applicant must present identification with verification of current address. Please remember you are responsible for all materials borrowed on your card; therefore, report loss of card immediately.

Contact the library for any change in name/address/telephone number/e-mail address or to cancel your card.

Applicant or parent/guardian (if applicant is under age 14) must sign and agrees to accept responsibility for items checked out on this card. Library card holders, regardless of age, have access to all library materials, services and the internet.

Individuals who apply for, receive, and use a library card issued by the Marion Public Library agree to follow the policies, rules, and regulations that have been established for the use of library materials, equipment, and facilities.

Signature

Please bring this form into our Uptown Library or MPL Tech Station to get your free library card.

Follow us on social media!



Around the Library

Marion Annex Available for Curbside Holds

Our Marion Annex location, located at 4151 3rd Avenue, Suite 103, is still available for curbside holds pickup. When you arrive, please pull into one of our three available spaces and call 319-743-1981. A staff member will come out to hand you your holds. The Marion Annex location can be selected for curbside holds pickup through our website or Metro Library Network App available on both Android and Apple devices.

Join our Virtual Book Club!

The Marion Public Library has partnered with PBC Guru to create a virtual book club for patrons and the community. The Marion Public Library will connect through a private forum where all participants can discuss the current book and network with each other.

- › The book club will read one book every two to three months, so you'll have plenty of time for each book.
- › There are no membership or subscription fees. Joining the book club is completely free!
- › Marion residents and members of our contracting community will have access to download an eBook of each reading selection for free!
- › Non-Marion residents can join the book club at no cost, but are responsible for obtaining a copy of the selected books via their preferred vendor or method.
- › Don't have a card? Sign up for a free Library card online.

Join now at pbc.guru/marionlibrary

Guess That Space!

We are counting down until the holiday season with a new game called Guess That Space! Each week, we will be showcasing a certain "space" in the new library and it's up to you to figure out what it is! So, each week you comment the correct "space," your name will be entered to win a grand prize, a Fire HD 10 Tablet courtesy of MPL. The winner will be drawn on Dec. 23, 2021. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to participate.

The Next Chapter Podcast

We are excited to announce that we have started a podcast at the library called: The Next Chapter. This bi-weekly show will cover new releases, building updates, programming and events, as well as the occasional special guest.

Marion Arts Council Offerings

The Marion Arts Council promotes the importance of the arts and develops programs that maximize public awareness of art, artists and culture.

Enjoy these upcoming exhibits and receptions at The Gallery at Lowe Park, open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-4 p.m.:

- › Now-Feb. 4, 2022: Rylee Holub
- › Feb. 5-March 4, 2022: Mount Mercy University and Kirkwood Community College

Between October and April, Coffeehouse Nights are held at the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center. These musical performances feature talented local acoustic artists in a relaxed coffeehouse-type atmosphere. Admission is free and doors open at 6:30 p.m. Social distancing will be observed, and attendees are asked to wear masks. Coffee will be available for purchase.

- › Friday, Dec. 3 7 p.m. Amber Hansen
- › Friday, Feb. 4 7 p.m. TBA
- › Friday, March 4 7 p.m. TBA
- › Friday, April 1 7 p.m. Deep Dish Divas



Upcoming Programs

Kids

TODDLER TIME | WEDNESDAYS | 9:30-10 A.M.

Come join us for Toddler Time on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center (4500 N. 10th Street). Toddler Time is geared toward children 18 months to 3 years old. Toddler Time will include songs, rhymes and stories. Toddler Time will meet indoors, but on sunny days, we may sneak outside to wiggle, giggle and run in the sun.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME | WEDNESDAYS | 10:30-11 A.M.

Are you ready to “Fall” in love with Storytime again? We’re having Preschool Storytime at the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m. We’ll enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and activities perfect for kids ages 3-6! And, if the weather is nice, we might even sneak outside to run, play and enjoy the beauty of Lowe Park!

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT | THURSDAYS | 9:30-10 A.M.

Children and caregivers are invited to Lowe Park to enjoy songs, stories and movement that will build early childhood skills! Geared toward ages 2-6, but all ages and abilities welcome!

BABY TIME | THURSDAYS | 10:30-11 A.M.

Babies and caregivers are invited to Lowe Park to participate in lap bounces, rhymes, stories and music in this interactive program geared toward children aged 0-18 months. All abilities are welcome!

DOODLEBUGS | LAST WEDNESDAY OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER | 10:30-11 A.M.

Join us virtually every month as we learn about art and creative history with our friend Ms. Erin from the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. Each month, we’ll tell you the theme and the everyday craft supplies you’ll need to create at home as we listen to a fun story with some art history sprinkled in for good measure! Most activities and stories are geared for ages 3-6. Find the Zoom link and supply list on our event calendar!

Adults

GERI-FIT AND TAI CHI | MONDAYS | 9:30 A.M.

In partnership with Heritage Area Agency on Aging, our Geri-Fit and Tai Chi series is an evidence-based fitness program geared toward older adults. Geri-Fit and Tai Chi will alternate weeks. Participants should wear tennis shoes and comfortable clothes for physical activity (and bring two cans of food or 1-3 lb. free weights for Geri-Fit). Enjoy fitness with a supportive community!

General

100 BOOKS BEFORE GRADUATION BEANSTACK CHALLENGE | SEPT. 1 - MAY 31

Looking ahead to the future? Get an early start on your senior year goals by joining our 100 Books Before Graduation challenge. Log all the books you’re reading for class, for fun, and everything in-between as you earn virtual badges and bragging rights before you walk towards that diploma! For ages 13 to adult.

1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN BEANSTACK CHALLENGE | YEAR-ROUND

We want to help parents prepare their children for one of life’s big milestones: kindergarten. So, start building your child’s reading library by joining our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge and earn virtual badges and fun learning activities on their way to attaining their 1,000 Books certificate!

Teahen Introduced as New Deputy Director



James Teahen

We are very excited to announce that James Teahen, the library’s former IT manager, has been promoted to deputy director for the Marion Public Library.

“I am beyond excited to be in this position at the Marion Public Library. There is so

much to look forward to in the coming years,” said Teahen. “And I am lucky to have an outstanding team by my side.”

James also serves as the building project manager for the new Marion Public Library, slated to open in the spring of 2022.



Construction Update at New Library

Milestones from September

- › Roofing is mostly complete
- › 2nd floor drywall is close to being finished
- › Exterior glazing is mostly done

October Updates

- › 2nd floor cabinetry install beginning
- › Ceiling HVAC and electrical trim out
- › Installed ceiling tile
- › Ceramic in 2nd floor restrooms installed
- › 2nd floor fireplace installed
- › Completion of site paving
- › Installation of brick sidewalks and permeable pavers
- › Topsoil and landscaping



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



Marion's newest fire station has received an Excellence in Design Honor Award from the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Awarded annually, the AIA Iowa Excellence in Design awards recognize excellence in architecture projects designed by members of AIA Iowa. Awards reflect a project's design excellence, response to solving architectural challenges and importance in the community. The event was held virtually as part of the organization's annual conference on Sept. 23, 2021.

"For several years, we've explored different ways to connect people with nature in the built environment," said Tom Treharne, acting city manager and community development director for the City of Marion. "This is the first project to wholeheartedly embrace the concept."

Located in a rapidly growing area of Marion, the recently completed fire station reduces response time, establishes a strong and transparent civic presence, and uses biophilic design principles to support firefighters' physical and mental wellness.

"The Marion Fire Department is committed to fire prevention, protection and preservation," said Marion Fire Chief Deb Krebill. "This station



was designed with the health and well-being of our firefighters in mind."

Strategic sequencing of spaces, including a decontamination clean room between the bays and the office and living areas mitigate exposure to fire and ash carcinogens. On the opposite side of the bays, the hose-drying tower also serves as a training area to simulate rescues. The station is also home to a storm shelter, as well as the city's disaster emergency operations center.

Although faced with much adversity through COVID-19 and the derecho in



Iowa, the Marion Fire Station Headquarters opened in June of 2021.

The fire station was designed by Cedar Rapids-based OPN Architects. This is OPN's second AIA Iowa Excellence in Design Honor Award.