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LIBRARY



March 2022

MARION MESSENGER



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Nick AbouAssaly

In the coming weeks, our city will celebrate a new point of community pride! The Marion Public Library building is nearing completion in the heart of Uptown and should be open to the public by late spring or early summer. This 52,000-square-foot facility will allow us to better serve

our growing community and impact lives in meaningful ways.

One might think that the need for libraries is diminishing. To the contrary, Marion's library is more essential today than ever before. Prior to the 2020 derecho rendering our former facility unusable, our library was the sixth busiest in the State of Iowa. The reality is that Marion's library is not simply a warehouse for books. It is an active, vibrant community center where people of all ages and socioeconomic levels have access to technology, information, education, services and social interaction.

For example,

- › Our library provides internet hotspots and computers for people who don't have them at home.
- › Our staff members deliver books to home-bound individuals, assist people in learning to use technology and provide help with job applications.
- › Our library hosts the Encore Café congregate meals program for seniors, a summer meals program for kids and a monthly mobile food bank.
- › Residents can participate in workshops on various topics and reserve meeting spaces.

Without a doubt, our library is the beating heart of Marion and a place where commUNITY happens!

I'm grateful for our excellent team of library employees who have done their best to maintain quality services in temporary locations while we await the completion of the new facility. They reach higher every day to contribute to the unequalled quality of life we all enjoy.

On pages 14 and 15 of this publication, you will find a project update and more information about how you can help support this project and turn the page on Our Next Chapter.

Congratulations to the Marion community on yet another amenity that serves our residents and gives them the best opportunities. Let's continue reaching higher, together.

The sky is truly NOT the limit.



Subscribe to In Focus

The City of Marion is pleased to introduce IN FOCUS, a new communication tool and weekly update provided by City Manager Ryan Waller. You can expect high-level updates on various City-related projects, timely reminders and other relevant topics. Sign up to receive it directly in your inbox at www.cityofmarion.org/enotify, or find it posted on the City website or social media channels.



Oath of Office

In January, four members of the Marion City Council took the oath of office. Pictured from left, Steve Jensen began his second term as Ward 2 representative, Grant Harper and Randy Strnad both continued their service as At-Large representatives and Sara Mentzer joined the council as the Ward 4 representative. They joined Mayor Nick AbouAssaly, Colette Atkins and Will Brandt, the Ward 1 and Ward 3 representatives, respectively.

SAVE THE DATE

State of the City

Marion's State of the City, originally scheduled on Jan. 20, will take place on Thursday, March 10, at the Cedar Rapids Marriott, 1200 Collins Road NE. Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly will review the challenges and triumphs of 2021 and highlight the progress anticipated in 2022 and beyond during the 28th annual Marion State of the City luncheon. His presentation is entitled, "Progress Ahead." The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Linn County and the City of Marion, with support from Marion businesses. The luncheon will also include the presentation of the inaugural Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award. Reservations are \$40 per person or \$400 for a table of 10 and may be purchased online via the Linn County League of Women Voters website at www.lwvlinncounty.org/lwvlc-marion-soc.



Lifesaving Award

In January, Mike Martin suffered a heart attack while working out. Alison Graham was the fitness instructor on duty at Anytime Fitness that morning, and because she acted quickly and without hesitation administering chest compressions, she played a critical role in saving his life.

First responders know firsthand that minutes and even seconds matter – and they also know that the outcome could have been much different. Because Alison had been trained in Community CPR and had the courage to put that training into practice, Mike was able to see Alison presented with a Lifesaving Award from the City of Marion.

In Memory

Former Mayor Greg Hapgood



The City of Marion extends condolences to the family and friends of former mayor and community advocate, Gregory Hapgood, Sr. Hapgood passed away on Oct. 31, at the age of 83, following a long illness. He proudly served the Marion community for more than 60 years. He was mayor of Marion from 1969-1972 and served as a trustee of the Marion

Water Board from 1974-2021. Greg deeply enjoyed building the Marion community and helping its residents achieve an outstanding education and unmatched quality of life.

Former Mayor Bill Grundy



Former Mayor Bill Grundy, Jr. passed away on Nov. 29 at the age of 90. He served as mayor of Marion from 1974 to 1987 and was on the Marion City Council years prior. Bill was highly respected in the community and will be remembered for his positive outlook, kind demeanor and leadership qualities. The City of Marion extends its sympathy to the

family and friends of Mr. Grundy and expresses sincere appreciation for his 20+ years of public service and the impact that he had on our community.



Thank you from the Waller Family

Thank you, Marion! On behalf of my wife, Liz, and our children, Hayden and Emma, I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome we have received since moving to Marion. My first day in the office as your new city manager was on Nov. 29, and it was wonderful to have my family make the move just before the holidays. Thank you for the many ways you have made us feel at home in our new community.

With appreciation, Ryan Waller



Community Promise to be Awarded Employer Innovation Grant

Marion Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) is pleased to announce the award of an Employer Innovation Grant from the State of Iowa. The dollars will support a new partnership between Community Promise, the Marion Independent School District, Kirkwood Community College and Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids. Community Promise is a program powered by MEDCO that promotes high-demand careers and develops pathways for students to pursue those careers in the community.

“This opportunity will give students hands-on healthcare experience as they contemplate future careers. If healthcare is their calling, this program provides an immediate opportunity for them to be employed in the local workforce,” said Emily Russ, Workforce and Communications Manager for MEDCO.

Employer Innovation Grant dollars will make it possible for Marion High School students to receive their Certified Nursing Aid (CNA) license during a spring class that will connect students to local healthcare pathways at Mercy Medical Center. Upon completing the CNA training, students will transition to paid work alongside healthcare professionals within Mercy Medical Center. Grant dollars will fund CNA licensure costs, costs of student transportation to Mercy Medical Center, as well as uniforms for students.

This unique opportunity for students to receive certification training during the day is key to overcoming barriers such as extracurricular activities in the evenings, part-time jobs and other factors.

“This is truly a success story and shows how creative solutions can be reached when you have the right partners at the table. I’m so excited to see our students have this opportunity,” said Tom Kettmann, high school counselor at Marion High School.

Engineering Update

Each year, in conjunction with the annual City budgeting process, the Engineering Department prepares a work program to be presented to City Council for review and approval. Here are a few of the higher-profile projects that are anticipated in 2022 to maintain existing infrastructure and support new development.

7th Avenue Streetscape and Plaza Project | This project involves the complete reconstruction of 7th Avenue and adjacent side streets between 8th and 12th Streets and 6th and 8th Avenues in the historic central business district. It also includes the addition of a plaza on 11th Street that stretches from the Uptown Artway south across 7th Avenue. The first phase of the project (7th Avenue from 10th Street to 12th Street) reopened to traffic in December.

Work will resume in the spring when the weather allows. The contractor will be able to finish the remaining elements of the 11th Street Plaza and crosswalk, install light poles and parking bollards, as well as trees and other plantings, all while the road is open to traffic. The second phase of the project will begin with the reconstruction of 10th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues. Other segments to be reconstructed include 10th Street from 6th to 7th Avenue, 7th Avenue from 8th to 10th Street and 9th Street from 6th to 7th Avenue. The project should be completed by the fall of 2022.

10th Avenue Sidepaths | Work will resume along the 10th Avenue (formerly Business 151) right-of-way from 35th Street to Eagleview Drive. The contractor is installing approximately 2.2 miles of 10-foot-wide multi-use sidepaths on both sides of the roadway, improving connectivity and walkability in this part of Marion. Eighty percent of the project is funded by federal dollars with the City covering a 20 percent match. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2022.

CeMar Trail | Work will also continue this spring on the multi-phase CeMar Trail Project and the installation of a new pedestrian bridge over 7th Avenue. Once completed, the CeMar Trail will serve as a direct bicycle and pedestrian connection from Downtown Cedar Rapids to Uptown Marion. This bridge will also serve as a vital link along the Grant Wood Trail which creates an east/west trail connection through the City of Marion into surrounding jurisdictions. Once the bridge is complete and the project is accepted by the Iowa DOT, the artistic towers by local artist Cara Briggs Farmer will be added.



Other projects anticipated in 2022:

- › Turn lane improvements and traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of S. 31st Street and Highway 100 in a joint project between the City of Marion and Linn County. Work is expected to begin no later than June 6, 2022.
- › A traffic study in 2019 determined that a roundabout should be installed at the intersection of Echo Hill Road and Alburnett Road. The project will be let this spring with work happening over the summer.
- › A new trail will be 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 from 22nd Street to 31st Street. The first phase of the project will occur from 26th Street to 31st Street and will begin after school lets out in the spring. The project is expected to span two construction seasons.
- › Another section of Tower Terrace Road is scheduled to be added as a joint project with the City of Cedar Rapids. Grading and underground utility work are expected to begin no later than April 4, 2022 between C Avenue and Alburnett Road.
- › Work is also 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.
- › Marion and Cedar Rapids will work together to rehabilitate Marion Boulevard/1st Avenue in Cedar Rapids from Collins Road to Armar Drive. Work will begin no later than Aug. 1, 2022.

In addition, the City will invest \$800,000 to rehabilitate and patch several roads that would benefit from a full-depth patch and surface grinding. The Engineering Department is also planning for an annual investment of \$1 million in the asphalt overlay program to improve the condition of local streets.



For more information about Community Promise, visit www.communitypromise.org.



Stay in the know and sign up for regular updates from the Engineering Department at www.cityofmarion.org/enotify.

Central Plaza: From Vision to Reality

Marion's historic district has always served as the city's hub of civic and community life. As part of the 2017 ImagiNEXT community visioning project, residents indicated they would like to see creative updates that enhance the year-round curb appeal and functionality of this special location. A variety of improvements were suggested through this process, and included things like:

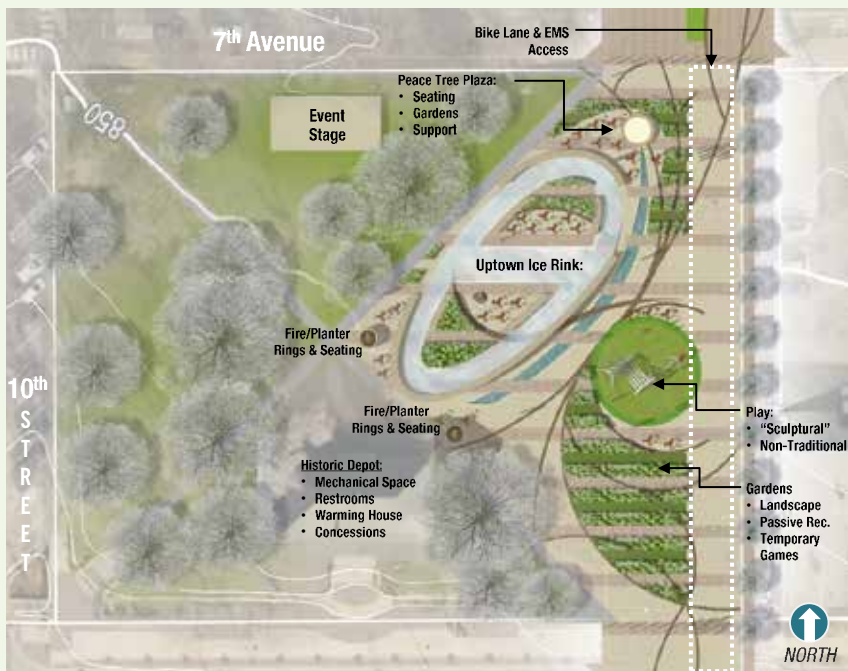
- › Develop a plaza for year-round outdoor gatherings along with activities for all ages
- › Install lighting that enhances public safety and ambiance
- › Create focal points, such as a fountain or water feature with gardens for summertime
- › For wintertime, install an ice rink, enclosed fireplaces and innovative light displays
- › Create a performance space in City Square Park
- › Upgrade the depot, maintaining its history while making it more useful year-round
- › Expand the Uptown Artway to the east and west
- › Add more public seating in the shopping area

As the 7th Avenue Streetscape Project begins its second phase of construction in the spring and the Central Plaza transitions from conceptual drawings to more sophisticated planning documents, many of the suggested improvements will become reality.

"Marion Square Park is an iconic and beloved piece of Marion that we want to see preserved but also enjoyed and activated by the community," said Brooke Prouty, Uptown Main Street Director.

The goal is to maintain the character and charm of the park while enhancing its features for all ages to enjoy.

"As it currently sits, the park is only activated during a handful of community events throughout the year," added Prouty. "This project aims to make this public space a fun place for residents to enjoy 365 days a year."



The latest phase of the Central Plaza project kicked off in mid-January with RDG Planning + Design and the project's technical committee. In this phase, the Central Plaza design will proceed from conceptual designs (as shown within the Uptown Master Plan) to schematic design, design development and construction documents. Steering committee input and public input will be key throughout the process, which is anticipated to wrap up in the fall of 2022. Construction is projected to begin in 2023. Learn more at www.cityofmarion.org/7thAveStreetscape.

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(solid waste, sewer, streets)
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public-services@cityofmarion.org

Marion Public Library

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firechiefkrebill@cityofmarion.org

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Terbovic Introduced as IT Assistant Director

Nicholas Terbovic, the Information Technology Department's former network engineer, has been promoted to assistant director.

"I am honored to accept this position with the City of Marion. In my short time here, I have met so many wonderful people with such great energy," said Terbovic. "I feel blessed to be a part of our City's future and to serve its amazing residents."

Terbovic will continue serving as the network engineer and cyber-security expert while taking on his new responsibilities, including additional leadership that he will provide to the IT Department and its support of all City departments' technology needs. This new role will help take the City's technology roadmap and strategic plan initiatives into the future.



Join Marion's New Events Committee

Would you like to help plan Marion's next big event? Marion is looking to create a volunteer events committee that will provide input and hands-on assistance for events like the annual Fireworks & Fireflies event, Uptown Artway concerts and more. Plus, committee members will help decide what new and different events should be brought to the area. Experience in event planning is great, but feel free to apply no matter your background. Many different skills, including fundraising and organization, will be useful to the group.



Interested participants can email events@cityofmarion.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Generous support from community businesses makes many of Marion's events possible. The annual Fireworks & Fireflies event and the Music under the Moon and Moonlit Movies series would not be possible without our valued sponsors.



Check out the exciting sponsorship opportunities for 2022 by visiting cityofmarion.org/sponsorship. Questions can be directed to events@cityofmarion.org.

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 a 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.

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

May 4th, 2022: Save the date!

MEDCO'S 36TH Annual Luncheon
BATTER UP!

Learn More: www.medcoiowa.org/annualmeeting

Presenting Sponsor:  Alliant Energy  MEDCO



MARION SPRING/SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENTS

As we've learned over the past two years, plans change! Be sure to visit www.cityofmarion.org and the City of Marion's Facebook page for the latest updates and event details. Plus, that's where you'll find additional fun events as they're added throughout the year.

Coffeehouse Nights

Fridays | March 4, April 1 | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center

Enjoy listening to local artists in a relaxed atmosphere with coffee and tea available for purchase. Concerts begin at 7 p.m.

B-I-N-G-O Nights

Fridays | March 11, April 8, May 13 | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center

Join us at Lowe Park for nights of fun, socializing and a chance to win some cash! Games of BINGO will be played for \$0.25 per card, per game. Doors open at 6 p.m.

City Showcase

Saturday | Date TBD

From 10 a.m.-1 p.m., City staff will be on hand to visit with residents and share information about upcoming projects. City vehicles will be on display and a number of community partners will have a presence. Attendees are also encouraged to visit Uptown Marion restaurants and merchants while in the area.

City-Wide Garage Sale

Date TBD | Throughout Marion

Marion will hold its first-ever city-wide garage sale this spring. Find some great bargains and be sure to make a pit stop for lunch or ice cream while you're out and about.

Marion Farmers Market

Saturdays | May 7-Sept. 10 | Taube Park

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



Great American Kites

Saturday | May 21 | 4401 Irish Drive (Baseball Diamonds at Lowe Park)

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department is excited to host Great American Kites at Lowe Park from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for the second year in a row. Great American Kites specializes in producing the most astonishing and colorful outdoor giant kite displays. Guests should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Outside food and drink are permitted.

Marion Arts Festival

Saturday | May 21 | City Square Park

One day. Fifty artists. Exceptional art. Enjoy hands-on experiences and one-of-a-kind art from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the 30th Annual Marion Arts Festival.

Arts & Crafts Festival

Saturday | May 21 | Uptown Marion

The Marion Arts & Crafts Fest will combine art, music and beer for a unique event. Explore the Uptown District's retailers, bars and restaurants from 1-4 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Plan to grab lunch or stay for dinner in Uptown!

Moonlit Movie Series

Fridays | May 27, July 8, Aug. 5 | 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. Movies begin at dusk (about 8:30 p.m.).

Pound in the Park

Wednesdays | June 1-Aug. 17 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Designed for all fitness levels, POUND® provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin' out! Don't forget to bring a yoga mat and water to this free event. Starts at 6 p.m.



Marion by Moonlight

Thursdays | June 2, 9, 16, 23 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

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

Sunrise Yoga

Saturdays | June-August | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

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

BBQ Rendezvous

Saturday | June 4 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Visit Lowe Park for this day of music and fun supporting the Kiwanis Miracle League at Prospect Meadows. The fun begins at 11 a.m.

Movies on the Move

TBD

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department as the popular "Moonlit Movie" series hits the road this summer! These smaller but equally entertaining events break down geographic barriers and bring cinematic adventures to our neighborhood parks.

Pop-Up Acts in the Artway

Most Fridays | June-August | Uptown Artway

Enjoy a night out on the town listening to live music. Sit on the patio of a nearby bar and hear local musicians perform on the Uptown Artway stage. The music begins at 6 p.m. Check out the City of Marion's website and Facebook page for specific artists and dates.

Uptown Marion Market

Saturdays | June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 24 | Uptown Marion

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 11, July 16, Aug. 13 | 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.

Eat. Drink. & Be Marion: Pub Crawl Fundraiser

Thursday | July 14 | Various stops in Uptown Marion | Must be 21+

Enjoy a night out on the town for a good cause! Enjoy live entertainment, exclusive deals and extended shopping hours as you walk to each participating establishment between 5:30-9:30 p.m. Support the ongoing revitalization and beautification efforts of Uptown Marion - A Main Street Iowa District. (Ticketed event)

Picnic on the Prairie

presented by Marion Arts Council
Saturday | June 18, Aug. 20 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Come be inspired by music, art and the beautiful outdoors. Bring your picnic basket, blanket and lawn chair. The concerts begin at 7 p.m.

Poker Challenge

Ongoing | June 13 - Aug. 12 | Marion Parks

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.

Fireworks & Fireflies

Sunday | July 3 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Bring your lawn chair, blanket and cooler and enjoy live music and the fireworks show on the eve of Independence Day. Fireworks begin at dusk.

Marion Big Band Concerts

Thursdays | July 7, 14, 21, 28 | City Square Park

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy classic 30's & 40's Big Band hits! These concerts start at 7 p.m.

Uptown Getdown

Thursdays | Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25 | City Square 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 - back in City Square Park. The festivities get underway at 6 p.m. each Thursday.



Doggy-Doo Duty

Spring is quickly approaching, a time when kids will be out of school and roaming every inch of their neighborhoods. Pet owners should start thinking about all of the little “doggy doo treasures” that were hidden by a blanket of white and will reappear when the snow melts.

Please take time to pick up after your pets while taking a walk as well as in your own yard. Pet messes are unsightly, unsanitary and create nasty little hazards for children and adults alike. It’s also the law. According to Chapter 55.12 of the Marion City Code, pet owners owners may be fined \$75 for first the offense, \$150 for the second offense and \$300 for the third and subsequent offenses (in one calendar year) for failing to clean up.

Please do your part to help everyone enjoy the green space of our community without worrying about what they might step in. It’s your doggy-doo duty.

Military Tribute Banners

For the fifth year, the City of Marion, Marion Chamber of Commerce and Uptown Marion Main Street District are providing residents with the opportunity to honor those who are serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces through sponsorship of streetlight banners in the community.

For a \$150 sponsorship, a double-sided, customized banner will be created and displayed from Memorial Day to Veterans Day in 2022 and again in 2023. The fee includes design/production, installation/care, as well as a contribution to local veteran affairs programs. The banners will be placed on as many as 50 decorative streetlight poles. They will go up along with 50 banners that were sponsored in 2021.

Requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Due to the popularity of the program and the timing of this publication, all banners may be committed for 2022. Learn more at www.cityofmarion.org. To request to be among the first notified in future years, please visit tinyurl.com/marionmilitarybanners.



John Hughes Promoted to Public Services Deputy Director

The City of Marion is pleased to announce that John Hughes has been promoted to deputy director of the Public Services Department. He first joined the City 16 years ago as an equipment operator. Over the years,

he gradually assumed more responsibility and will now help manage the day-to-day operations for the department with an emphasis on staff development, safety programming, service delivery and budget oversight.

“I’m excited to continue to serve the residents of Marion in this capacity,” said Hughes.



Iron Removal Plant Project Update

The Marion Water Department hired WRH, Inc. from Amana in 2021 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 per minute of water from both the Jordan and Silurian Aquifers to meet the community’s future drinking water needs. Construction is half completed and is expected to be completed at the end of June 2022.

Spring Hydrant Flushing

Each spring, the Marion Water Department flushes the water system to remove sediment from the mains and to exercise and check the operation of the City’s fire hydrants. Flushing typically begins sometime in April (weather permitting). During this time, Marion residents may notice some temporary discoloration of the water and should postpone laundry until it clears and minimize the use of hot water to prevent build-up within the water heater. The rusty color in the water is due to the accumulation of iron sediment in the water mains and is not harmful. Questions may be directed to the Water Department office at (319) 743-6310.

Causes of Low Water Pressure

If you are experiencing a sudden change in low pressure in your home, 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 filter is not immediately available. Nine out of 10 times, one of these situations is the cause of low water pressure.



SANITARY SEWER RATE INCREASES

In March 2022, the City of Marion will be increasing sanitary sewer fees from \$4.39 to \$4.60 per flow unit due to increasing costs associated with wastewater treatment services. For a single-family home that utilizes 600 cubic feet of water per month, the increase will equate to an additional \$1.26 per month. Additional increases are anticipated in July 2022 and are currently being evaluated by City staff as part of the budget process for the next fiscal year.

Currently, the City of Marion contracts with the City of Cedar Rapids for wastewater treatment services. Charges for wastewater treatment services have continued to increase and will directly impact future sanitary sewer rates charged to Marion residents.



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Disaster Preparedness

Disasters don't plan ahead, but you can!

The 2020 derecho taught us many valuable lessons. It showed us the generosity of Iowans, reminded us of what's important and gave us a lesson about being prepared for an emergency. It also serves as a reminder that disasters can strike at any time.

Are you prepared for a disaster? Most of us are not. Being prepared requires taking steps to stay safe before, during and after disasters. A key way to cope with a disaster and help with safety, security and comfort is to have a plan. Regardless of the type of disaster, use the tips below from the Department of Homeland Security to be prepared.

General preparedness

- › Family members can become separated during an emergency. Create a plan for how to reach one another. Establish an out-of-area contact (such as a relative or friend) who can coordinate family members' locations and information should you become separated. Make sure children learn the phone numbers and addresses and your family's emergency plans.
- › Quiz children every six months so they remember what to do, where to go and who to call in an emergency.
- › Decide how to take care of pets.
- › Post emergency phone numbers by the phone.

Build an Emergency Supply Kit

A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. In a disaster, local officials and first responders cannot reach everyone immediately. Help may not arrive for hours or days. It is estimated that after a major disaster, it may take up to three days for relief workers to reach some areas. Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. You need to be prepared to survive on your own after an emergency. This may include providing your own shelter, first aid, food, water and sanitation. Be prepared ahead of time by having enough food, water and other supplies to last at least 72 hours. Stock your emergency supply kit with the items listed below. Most items are inexpensive and easy to find, and any one of them could save your life. Consider what special needs your family might have, such as supplies for babies, pets or seniors and add any essential items to the list.

A basic disaster supply kit includes the following recommended items:

- › Water - one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation
- › Food - at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- › Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- › Flashlight
- › First aid kit
- › Extra batteries
- › Whistle to signal for help
- › Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- › Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- › Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- › Manual can opener for food
- › Local maps
- › Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supply kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

Additional emergency supplies to consider based on your individual needs:

- › Prescription medications
- › Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- › Glasses, contacts and contact lens solution
- › Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream
- › Pet food and extra water for your pet
- › Cash or traveler's checks
- › Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- › Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- › Complete change of clothing appropriate for the climate and sturdy shoes
- › Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper to disinfect water
- › Fire extinguisher
- › Matches in a waterproof container
- › Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- › Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- › Paper and pencil
- › Cards, books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Maintaining your kit so it's ready when needed is just as important as putting your supplies together:

- › Keep canned food in a cool, dry place
- › Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers
- › Replace expired items as needed
- › Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change

Be sure to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them. Many times, large-scale disasters impact the availability of supplies and bad weather conditions prevent safe travel.

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and vehicles.

Preparing for a disaster might seem like an impossible task, but being prepared can reduce your fear, anxiety and losses that accompany disasters. For more information about different types of disaster preparedness, go to www.ready.gov.

Deck Safety

May is Deck Safety Month

Within the United States, millions of homes are equipped with exterior decks and balconies made from treated wood products. Decks are the preferred location for a variety of enjoyable outdoor activities. However, many accidents also occur on decks that can result in severe injuries and sometimes even fatalities.

In the City of Marion, permits are required for constructing any deck over 30 inches off the grade or over 200 square feet in size that are not built over any basement or that are supporting a roof or unusual loads.

One of the most common areas of failure is the connection between the deck and the house, which typically causes a sudden and total collapse of the deck. Another common problem area is the guardrail system. The building code requirement for a residential deck guardrail is 200 pounds of force applied 36 inches above the deck's surface in any direction. If the deck rail at your home is loose or wobbly, it probably won't meet the 200-pound requirement and should be looked at by a qualified builder.

Determining whether a deck is safe involves many factors. Some things that should be examined in an inspection include:

- › **Connections:** All structural connections should be inspected for proper size and spacing of fasteners. Nails alone should not be used to attach a deck to a house because they are simply not strong enough. Use fastener schedules found in the International Residential Building Code for bolts and lag screws. Critical connections include deck-to-house, girder-to-column and post-to-deck.
- › **Condition of fasteners:** Corrosion of metal fasteners is another possible problem. Some preservative chemicals are highly corrosive to steel and aluminum. Aluminum flashing, which traditionally was commonly used, should not come in contact with the new preservative chemicals. Steel fasteners should be hot-dipped galvanized or stainless steel.
- › **Handrails:** Steps should have a graspable handrail.
- › **Picket spacing:** The picket spacing should be no wider than four inches to keep children from falling through.
- › **Guardrails:** A guardrail is required if the deck is higher than 30 inches above the ground. Guardrails should be at least 36 inches high above the deck surface and should be able to safely resist 200 pounds of force applied 36 inches above the surface. It is not useful to simply wiggle a deck guardrail to determine if it's safe. The entire guardrail system must be evaluated to determine if each connection is adequate. Notched guardrail posts are not safe and can break at the notch with little warning. Surprisingly, notched posts are very common and are found on many decks, but they are very weak when horizontal loads are applied to the top of the rail.



For more information on deck safety requirements, stop in and speak with the building inspectors of the Marion Building Division or check out the open deck handout at www.cityofmarion.org.

2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up Schedule
April 14	Good Friday	Friday	Regular collection schedule
May 30	Memorial Day	Monday	One day late all week
July 4	Independence Day	Monday	One day late all week
Sept. 5	Labor Day	Monday	One day late all week
Oct. 10	Columbus Day	Monday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Friday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	Collection on Friday
Nov. 25	Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	Collection on Saturday
Dec. 23	Christmas Eve (Observed)	Friday	Regular collection schedule
Dec. 26	Christmas Day (Observed)	Monday	Regular collection schedule
Dec. 30	New Year's Eve (Observed)	Friday	Regular collection schedule
Jan. 2	New Year's Day (Observed)	Monday	Regular collection schedule

Bold indicates City of Marion holidays, most City facilities are closed including the Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off facilities.



Lifesaving awards

In January, Chief Kitsmiller recognized the following members of the Marion Police Department with lifesaving commendations:

- › Investigator Nikki Hotz for administering CPR to a heart attack victim in August while working as part of the bomb squad at a University of Iowa football game.
- › Officers Brian Davis and Mitch Walsler for administering CPR to a heart attack victim at a Linn-Mar football game on Oct. 22.
- › Officer Reagan Kurfman for administering CPR to an unresponsive male during a call for service on Aug. 26.



Marion's Commitment to Pollinators and Habitat

In 2016, the City of Marion committed to a public-private partnership between the City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County and The Monarch Research Project to reestablish 1,000 acres of diverse pollinator habitat on sites where low-value turf or vegetation currently existed. This endeavor has helped to offset the excessive habitat loss across the state of Iowa, which in turn contributes to the decreasing populations of pollinators that are crucial to the agricultural economies, food supply and the landscapes surrounding our homes and communities.

Marion installed the first 27 acres in 2017 and has scheduled to complete the fifth-year installation of 20.79 acres in 2022. In total there will be 114.5 acres converted within the Marion community over the five-year initiative. Some locations where these pollinator-friendly plots can be viewed are Lowe Park, Indian Creek Watershed, Echo Hill Waterway, Waldo's Rock Park and medians along Tower Terrace Road.

Native prairie plants, forbs and grasses contribute significant benefits to pollinators and humans alike. While providing habitat and many colorful blooms throughout the growing season, there are also water-filtering and carbon-storing qualities improving infiltration and stormwater retention, reducing erosion and building rich native soils.

Prairies require minimal maintenance once established and will continue to grow in value as they mature and provide an unmatched ecosystem above and below the ground.

If you have questions about Marion's native prairie habitat, please contact the Marion Parks and Recreation Department at (319) 447-3580.

In the Know

Playground Supervision

Improper supervision accounts for 45 percent of playground-related injuries, so it's important to actively supervise your child on the playground. You must ensure your child is playing on an age-appropriate structure. Preschool-aged children will require more supervision than older children. Dress children appropriately not only for the weather conditions but also for safety. Try to avoid necklaces, purses/backpacks, scarves and clothing with drawstrings that could create an entanglement hazard. A good tip for drawstrings is to tuck them in the neckline of the sweatshirt. Bike helmets need to be removed while on the playground because the play structures are designed for the average head size. A helmet could result in a head entrapment hazard.

Hanna Park Mini-Pitch

The new mini-pitch amenity is located at Hanna Park along the fitness trail. It's essentially a scaled-down, hard-surface soccer field enclosed with fencing. It's designed to be a fast-paced game with the ball always in play. Teams usually consist of three-to-five players on each team. It helps develop or advance skills, such as physical abilities, communication, teamwork and reflexes. The ADA-compliant facility is a great addition for kids and adults of all ages in the community to come together. The field is open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. It is operational during normal park hours with the option to keep field lights on till 10:15 p.m. with the activation of a panel button located on the sidewalk entrance.

Rental Spaces

Check out our rental spaces for your next family gathering, team practice, birthday party, group meeting or special occasion.

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of indoor and outdoor rental spaces for public use, including the Arts and Environment Center and the Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park, the Safe Room at Thomas Park, six different park pavilions, ball diamonds, green space and the Marion Municipal Swimming Pool.

Visit the facility calendar for complete reservation instructions and to check availability www.cityofmarion.org/facilities. We are accepting reservations for most facilities through Dec. 31, 2023. For questions about pavilions and the Safe Room call Thomas Park (319) 447-3580, or to learn more about the Lowe Park facilities and swimming pool contact (319) 447-3590. Staff is happy to assist with the reservation process Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seasonal Employment

Now is the time to apply to become a seasonal employee of the Parks and Recreation Department. We are hiring pool employees, recreation assistants, concession stand attendants and grounds maintenance workers. Find the specifics and a full list of open positions at www.cityofmarion.org/employment.

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 - Sara Mentzer

2305 Timber Creek Dr. | (319) 538-8296
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.

THINK SPRING

SPRING GARDENING CHECKLIST

It's never too early to start thinking about how you want your yard and flowerbeds to look in the coming year – plus, it's a nice distraction from the winter weather! Planning ahead and completing a good spring cleaning will help you have a showcase garden in the year to come. Horticulturist Mary Weber offers this checklist to help you pace yourself as you tackle some springtime chores.

LATE WINTER (FEB-MARCH):

- › Browse plant catalogs, make lists, sketch designs and place any orders for seeds, spring annuals, perennials and summer bulbs that excite you.
- › On a warmer day, get outside and assess trees and shrubs. Do any winter pruning as needed. A general rule of thumb:
 - › If it blooms in the spring, wait to prune until it is done blooming.
 - › If it blooms in the summer/fall or doesn't bloom at all, prune in the winter. Oak trees should only be pruned during the winter when they are dormant to avoid oak wilt.
- › Start spring cutbacks before bulbs start popping – trim down any perennials or ornamental grasses that you left standing through the winter to within 2-3 inches of the ground.

EARLY SPRING (APRIL):

- › As snow melts and temperatures warm up, start to clean up flower beds. Rake dead leaves/debris from beds and remove any protective winter mulch from perennials.
- › Divide perennials and grasses before spring growth begins to show. Any clumps that have grown too large for their space or whose middles have begun to die out are perfect candidates. Use a sharp shovel or soil knife to make the process easier.
- › Use perennial divisions to fill in empty spots in your flower gardens – or give them to friends!
- › Add a fresh layer of mulch – mulch has many benefits, including moisture retention, soil temperature reduction and reducing weeds. It also makes beds look tidy and finished! Apply mulch in an even layer (typically 2 inches if you have mulched in the past, 3-4 inches if going on bare soil) and avoid piling it too heavily directly around trees and plants to avoid disease.

MID-SPRING (MAY):

- › Assess any hardscaping for maintenance. Frost heaves may cause paths or edging to shift over time, and hardscapes in general have the occasional broken stone or paver. Reset or replace any problem areas. This is also a good time to add any new hardscaping as well.
- › Take pictures or make notes of any spaces to add more spring bulbs in the fall for next season.
- › Plant perennials, shrubs and trees once the ground isn't frozen and when the weather is still cool (early May) to allow them to establish roots before the summer heat.
- › This is also a good time to plant cold-hardy annuals such as pansies, violas, and snapdragons. Use these to add a pop of color both in flower beds and in planters.
- › The last frost date for Iowa is typically in early- to mid-May, so wait to plant tender perennials and summer annuals until after that time. This is also a good time to plant summer blooming bulbs like allium, dahlias and gladiolus.

If you follow these tips, you will be set for a season full of color and a garden full of healthy, happy plants!

Happy Planting!



Friends of Oak Shade

During August of 2013, a few Friends of Oak Shade volunteers discovered hundreds of grave markers buried in overgrown vegetation or literally buried underground after being broken and lying flat on their backs for years, if not decades. After offering the Parks and Recreation Department some help, they discovered how rewarding it is to work on cemetery restoration and preservation.

The original few Friends who gathered together on Saturdays to work in the cemetery have grown in number to 50-60 each year. At the end of 2021, the hours contributed by these volunteers has totaled over 7,200. Together, Friends of the cemetery now average about 100 hours each month.

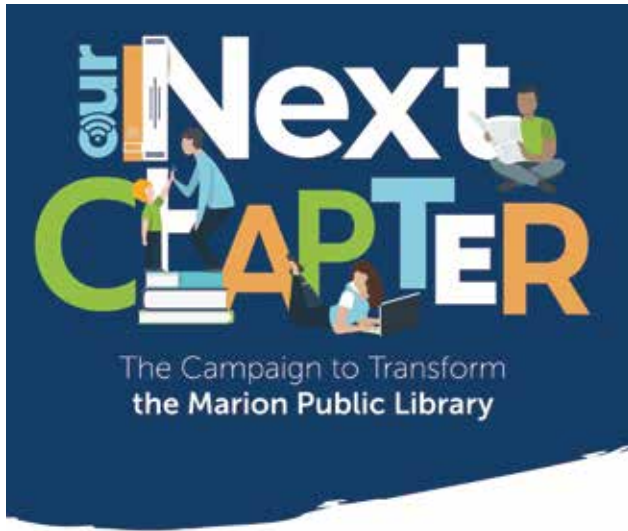
In the absence of a concerted effort to recruit more volunteers, how do all these people get involved? A lot of people like to walk in the cemetery for exercise or meditation. Others driving through to visit a grave see a pair of us digging or scrubbing or raking or planting and stop to ask what we're doing. Through that brief interaction, a surprising number of community members have joined the cause. Learn more about the Friends of Oak Shade by calling Darcie with the Parks and Recreation Department at (319) 447-3580.

Financial Assistance Program

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department recognizes that there are Marion residents who are financially unable to participate in programs offered by the department but still desire the opportunity to experience the benefits of leisure activities. We've established a Financial Assistance Program to make recreation and swimming programs available to Marion residents.

Marion residents who are experiencing financial hardship are eligible to apply for assistance. If you feel you need assistance but do not meet the income guidelines, you may attach a letter to your assistance application stating your circumstances. These special circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Financial assistance forms are available online or at either of the Thomas Park or Lowe Park offices. You will need to return the completed assistance form, which requires proof of income as well as any additional assistance, to one of our offices. If approved, you will be required to pay a 25 percent co-payment of the recreation program cost and a 50 percent co-payment for a swimming pool pass and pool programs. Visit www.cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation for additional information.



Our Next Chapter Capital Campaign Update

Great things are happening in our community, and we are excited to begin Our Next Chapter with you at the Marion Public Library. It will be a destination, hub and community center in the heart of the Uptown District. It will continue to be a place where all have access to free technology, information, programs and a robust collection of books and materials.

The library is designed to integrate the latest in technology with traditional library features to provide flexible information services capable of responding to diverse needs. It will feature an outdoor reading terrace, community room, adult, teen and children's areas, a media section and plenty of spaces for reading, meetings and programs.

The demonstration kitchen will be used for serving meals to seniors and students as well as culinary arts programming and education. The children's library will include a STEAM interactive zone that will promote group learning and problem-solving. The artisan's studio is designed for classes and creating as well as a recording studio containing audio and video capabilities. The meeting rooms will be available to the public for training, conferences and social events.

Our fundraising efforts continue in support of the new library. To date, over \$2.8 million has been raised toward the \$3 million private fundraising goal. With gifts ranging from \$5 to the \$500,000 matching gift from the Hall-Perrine Foundation, the campaign has been the beneficiary of an outpouring of support from area businesses, foundations and individuals.

It will be a place for all generations to experience, enjoy and feel welcome. **To learn more about how you can be part of the *Our Next Chapter* campaign, visit marionpubliclibrary.org.**



Recruiting Volunteers

Looking to become a new volunteer at our library? We are seeking qualified applicants to help us with various tasks, including getting ready to open our new building. Hours are flexible. We are seeking the following positions:

- › Adopt a Shelf Volunteer
- › Bookstore Volunteer
- › Cleaning and Sanitizing Volunteer
- › Clerical Assistant Volunteer
- › Communication Aide Volunteer
- › ASL Communication Aide Volunteer
- › ESL Donations Assessment Volunteer
- › Holds Processing Volunteer
- › Library Greeting Volunteer
- › Makerspace and Art Studio Volunteer
- › Program and Outreach Volunteer
- › Shelving Volunteer
- › Vegetation Care Volunteer

To learn more or complete the volunteer application form, visit marionpubliclibrary.org/contact-us.

Looking for job opportunities at the library? Visit www.cityofmarion.org/employment.

New Hours at the Uptown Library

Our Uptown Library, located at 1064 7th Ave in the Uptown Marion District, is now open:

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday: Noon-4 p.m.

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.

Looking for a great book?

Check out the New & Noteworthy section at www.marionpubliclibrary.org.

- › Need recommendations for adults, teens or children? Visit our website and see the top four books you need to read.
- › 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 one to two business days.

Programs

Friends of the Marion Public Library Book Sale

1st and 3rd weekend of each month | Come on out to support the Friends of the Marion Public Library at the Saturday book sale! Find us right inside the lobby of the former library on 6th Avenue.

Another Round Book Group

3rd Tuesday of each month | The Marion Public Library is pleased to host Another Round Book Group, which meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6-7 p.m.

The March meeting will be held in the lobby of the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center at 4500 N. 10th Street. Masks are required for indoor library programs.

Each month, we pick a theme and everyone chooses and reads a book that fits that theme. There is no required book to read—everyone is encouraged to pick a book—fiction or nonfiction—that fits that month's theme. The discussion will be informal, with a chance for everyone to talk about what they've read, what they thought about it and how the book fits into that month's theme.

This is an adult book group built on the idea that cocktails, mocktails and books go together and create a fun and lively atmosphere for book discussions. Participants are welcome to bring beer or wine to sip at Lowe Park. Coffee and tea will be provided. Participants must be 18 or over. Please email Jackie Tracey at the Marion Public Library with interest and questions: jtracey@marionpubliclibrary.org.

Marion Annex

Our Marion Annex location (4151 3rd Avenue, Suite 103) is still available for curbside holds pickup. When you arrive, please pull into one of our three spaces available 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 Android and iPhone.

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.

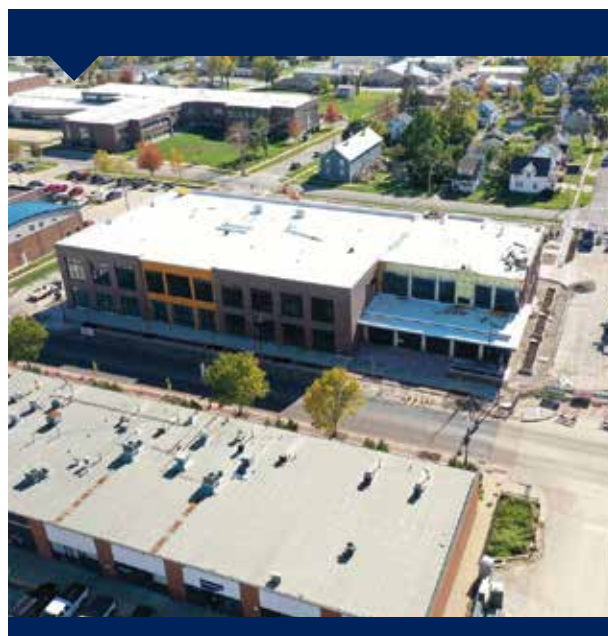
Meet our New Programming Manager



Kylee Pusteoska

We are very excited to announce that Kylee Pusteoska has been hired as the new programming manager for the Marion Public Library.

"I am so honored to join the staff at the Marion Public Library as programming manager during such an exciting time. A new year, a new library building and a new way for the residents of Marion and surrounding communities to get excited about reading, learning, exploring and connecting," said Pusteoska.



Construction Update at New Library

Milestones from February

- › 2nd Floor lighting and flooring are complete
- › Furniture on both floors is currently being installed
- › 2nd Floor receiving second coat of paint
- › 1st Floor painting has started
- › Exterior doors have been installed
- › East elevator is operational



Fire Chief Deb Krebill to Retire

After 31 years with the Marion Fire Department, Chief Deb Krebill has pretty much done it all. She's served as a paramedic, pump operator, fire investigator and more. She's also spent time educating the public about fire safety and prevention. Making life safer for Marion families has been a focus for her throughout her career.

But she didn't always plan to be a firefighter. She graduated from college with a criminal justice degree and was in school to be a paramedic



when Maureen Boots, the first career female firefighter for the City of Marion, approached her about the opportunity to work for the department. "I thought I would give it a try because I knew I loved

physical labor from growing up on a farm. The rest is history," Krebill said.

She worked her way up through the ranks from district chief to deputy chief and eventually to fire chief in 2014. During those years, Marion changed a lot - and so did the ways firefighters work. When she started in 1991, pretty much everything was manual. "Now, everything is computerized and managed via software," she said.

When she retires, she plans on returning to her roots by helping out at the family farm. She'll also spend time volunteering and traveling. But she plans to keep Marion as her home. The people she's worked with and the community members she's met—including some she helped on the hardest days of their lives—are very special to her. "Marion has become part of me, and I'll forever be in the City's debt for the wonderful life it's given me," she said.