

Summer 2022

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Nick AbouAssaly

Progress Ahead.

I recently had the honor of presenting Marion's 28th State of the City speech to a crowd of more than 500 people. The speech highlighted our city's momentum and progress that have made Marion the 13th largest city in Iowa and a regional leader in growth and opportunity.

Marion's recent rise didn't happen by pure luck or with us watching from the sidelines. It happened only when we decided to make it happen. It happened only when we recognized that without embracing change there can be no new opportunities, and we moved into the driver's seat to effect the right change and capitalize on the right opportunities that are best for Marion. It happened only when we stopped settling for good enough, adopted a "yes we can" attitude and started living and breathing our "reaching higher" motto.

Our progress is anchored in a high standard of excellence in serving Marion's residents and providing them with the high-quality services on which they rely. Beyond that, we're investing in a greater vision. We're committed to seeking the best opportunities that add value to our city and the lives of the people who call it home.

By dreaming bigger, setting higher expectations, asking for better, driving our own destiny and unifying around a shared vision, we are transforming Marion from a bedroom community to a dynamic and vibrant living room teeming with promise and unlimited potential. And we're just getting started!

Even greater things are possible if we continue to focus on serving people and giving them an unequalled quality of life; if we look for the best in each other; if we each do our best to be a force for "good" in our community; and if we work together in a spirit of collaboration to make Marion a truly standout city. It does take all of us. One hand cannot clap alone, and together we can accomplish amazing things.

My service has always been driven by the desire for Marion to achieve its fullest potential and be a place where excellence and extra effort are the standard; a city welcoming to all and inclusive of all; a city where all people feel valued and have opportunities to add value; and a city that all residents are proud to call "home."

We are well on our way and progress is clearly ahead. Together we are achieving what might have seemed impossible even a few years ago, and in reaching higher to achieve our potential, we might even discover that we can exceed our potential.

The sky is truly NOT the limit.



2022 Community Impact Award Honors Troy and Katie Benham

Troy and Katie Benham of Marion have been announced as recipients of the first Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award. The announcement was made by Mayor Nick AbouAssaly at the Marion State of City address on March 10, 2022.

The Benhams have lived in Marion for nearly 30 years and have spent that time building relationships and taking care of people through their generosity and service. From strangers broken down on the side of the road to employees at their family-owned business, Marion Goodyear, the Benhams continually find ways to pay it forward.

"I can't think of two people who share more enthusiasm for helping the community and making a true difference in people's lives than Troy and Katie," said longtime friend Mike Tomash in the couple's nomination. "They truly want to see those around them grow and succeed."

The Benhams have organized Thanksgiving meals for those in need, led and organized cancer benefits for friends, supported area schools and spearheaded the "Miles for Smiles" vehicle giveaway with the Salvation Army for eight years.

After the derecho, they organized a team of their employees to walk neighborhoods, perform well-being checks and help deliver supplies. Not only are the Benhams willing to help others, but they also take time to mentor and shape the lives of those they touch.

As Tomash noted, "I cannot think of two better people who model the attributes of the Community Impact Award daily – sometimes when people are watching, and other times when no one is watching. They always do the right thing."

The Community Impact Award is presented by the Marion Chamber of Commerce and City of Marion. It honors longtime banker and community philanthropist 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. Throughout his career, he championed the importance of volunteerism and dedication to community. Through his leadership, the Neighbor family has given to countless capital campaigns, community events and charitable organizations. Mr. Neighbor passed away in 2019 at the age of 100, but his legacy lives on in part, through the annual Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award.



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Quality of Life in Marion Receives High Marks in the National Community Survey™

Last winter, the City of Marion contracted with Polco and the National Research Center, Inc. to conduct The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™). Approximately 2,700 households were invited to participate in the random sample survey.

The survey measures the overall livability of communities, taking into consideration the relationship between government entities, the private sector, community-based organizations and the residents of a geographic area.

For Marion, 92 percent of residents rated the community as an excellent or good place to live and 90 percent rated the overall quality of life positively. In the area of governance, overall customer service, value for services paid, confidence in City government and honesty all improved by more than six percentage points since the last time the survey was conducted in 2019.

Marion's ratings were compared to national benchmarks included from over 600 communities representing a wide geographic and population range. The results were also compared to a select subset of the database with similar characteristics to Marion; secondary cities (in a metro but not the primary city), similar in both population and annual household income.

92 percent of residents rated the community as an excellent or good place to live

90 percent rated the overall quality of life positively

9 in 10 respondents would recommend living in Marion

Marion ranked well above the national and peer benchmarks with 92 percent of respondents indicating that Marion is an excellent or good place to raise children. K-12 education also ranked higher than both benchmarks at 89 percent, and 86 percent of residents positively rated the overall feeling of safety in Marion. Nine in 10 respondents would recommend living in Marion to someone who asked.

"These survey results endorse our City's progress and the great quality of life we all enjoy, and they affirm Marion's status as the best place in Iowa to live and raise a family," noted Marion Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly. "There's still work to be done, but with a dedicated team and Marion's collaborative nature we will continue in a positive direction."

In addition to the high marks for quality of life and a strong sense of safety in Marion, nine in 10 residents identified utility infrastructure as a priority for

improvement. While several aspects of Marion's economy showed improvement since 2019, the economy continues to be a focus for residents. Health and wellness services received high ratings and mobility presents areas of opportunity for the City.

"Community feedback comes in many forms, and we appreciate all who took the time to participate in the National Community Survey," said City Manager Ryan Waller. "The results are invaluable as we revisit our strategic plan and begin the fiscal year 2024 budget process. Having access to this data helps ensure we continue to fund projects, programs and initiatives that align with our community's desires."

The five-page survey was administered between December 2021 and February 2022 to a random sampling of 2,700 households. Five hundred forty-three responses were received, achieving a +/- four percent margin of error. The data was then weighted to reflect the demographic characteristics of the community. Toward the end of data collection, a web-based survey was available to all residents and an additional 290 residents participated in this way.



To view the full report of the 2021 National Community Survey results, visit www.cityofmarion.org. In addition, an online dashboard is also available.

CITY DEPARTMENTS

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Engineering Department

319-743-6340
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Finance Department

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lcairy@cityofmarion.org

Human Resources Department

319-743-6518
kfisher@cityofmarion.org

IT Department

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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.
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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
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info@marionpubliclibrary.org

Fire Department

100 Irish Drive
Emergency - 911
Non-Emergency - 319-377-8237
jhansen@cityofmarion.org

Police Department

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



Former Church Saved from Demolition

The Pentecostal Church of Cedar Rapids (formerly Marion Methodist Church) located at the corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue was significantly damaged in the 2020 derecho and has been uninhabited since. Late last month, it was purchased by Conlon Construction of Dubuque. There are currently no plans other than to secure the property from further damage and to allow time for the new buyer to fully assess the building condition and potential future uses of the property.

The property is part of the Uptown Commercial National Register Historic District. The Gothic-style structure constructed in 1896 has arched windows and doorways and a 100-foot-tall bell tower with four spires and circular windows at the apex. It is one of the most prominent structures on the Marion skyline. It served as a Methodist church until 2019 when it was purchased by the First Pentecostal Church of Cedar Rapids. The City welcomes the new buyer and is excited to work with them in preserving this architecturally-significant building and important part of Marion's history. Thank you to Mayor AbouAssaly for his passion and persistence in protecting this historic landmark.



Fireworks and Fireflies returns to Lowe Park on Sunday, July 3 at 6 p.m. This free event will take place on the eve of the holiday at the beautiful Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park. Enjoy food trucks and live music by Birdchild leading up to the fireworks at dusk. Other family-friendly activities include patriotic face painting, a balloon artist and other games throughout the park.

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Marion Arts Festival

30 Years of Fine Art and Flip-Flops!



The Marion Arts Festival returns to City Square Park in 2022! Join friends old and new Saturday, May 21 from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. in Uptown Marion for the 30th annual Marion Arts Festival.

The 30th annual exhibitor lineup will feature 50 fan-favorite artists returning from festivals past. Whether browsing or buying, an estimated

10,000 festival attendees will experience a wide range of one-of-a-kind objects, with the additional opportunity of getting to know the artists behind the art.

Seventh Avenue will close to become part of the festival's footprint, enabling Uptown eateries to offer menus of grab-and-go drinks, snacks and meals for attendees to then enjoy in the park.

This year marks the return of the Marion Arts Festival Half Marathon and 5K runs, hosted by Corridor Running. The routes highlight the best of Marion's scenery and landmarks, with a finish line that preserves all the run's greatest traditions.

Students from 15 schools have worked to create ceramic bowls donated and sold at the Marion Arts Festival, raising funds to benefit local food banks. Area artists also contribute ceramic bowls and wood bowls masterfully crafted by Corridor Woodturners of Cedar Rapids. Approximately 400 area students will become involved by making bowls. Most bowls carry a \$5 price tag. Over the program's 22-year history, the festival has donated more than \$105,000 to area food banks!

The Art in the Depot experience offers every community member the opportunity to work side-by-side with professional artists. The festival will again feature guest artists from The Ceramics Center, a Cedar Rapids-based ceramics collective offering a range of programming, including classes for all skill levels.

Pottery wheels will spin, hands will get dirty and participants will be invited to create a bowl to be donated to the festival's 2023 Empty Bowls sale!

Presenting sponsor of the Marion Arts Festival is Farmers State Bank, with major sponsor support from the City of Marion's Hotel/Motel Grant Program, the Gazette, KCRG-TV9, Alliant Energy and Collins Aerospace.

 Find registration information at www.marionartsfestival.com/maf-runs. Full program information at www.marionartsfestival.com.

Marion Brings Back Bike to Work Week Events

After a two-year hiatus, the cities of Marion and Cedar Rapids are bringing back Bike to Work Week events. The Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) will begin the activities with a 17-mile ride around Marion on Saturday, May 14, beginning at Lowe Park at 9:30 a.m. (Registration required).

Marion will officially kick off Bike to Work Week activities on Tuesday, May 17, with a ride starting at Thomas Park and ending at City Square Park, followed by a mayoral proclamation. On Wednesday night at 6 p.m., participate in the national Ride of Silence to remember those lost in cycling accidents across the nation. On Thursday evening, the City will host a Pedal Marion ride. This ride will take a family-friendly pace using the Marion trail system. A Helmets and Hops social gathering will follow at Uptown businesses. On Friday, May 20, the City will recognize National Bike to Work Day with a 7:30 a.m. ride from Butterfield Park to City Square Park.

At a Glance:

Saturday, May 14 | CMPO Ride, Lowe Park, free lunch provided, registration required

Tuesday, May 17 | BTWW ride and mayoral proclamation, Thomas Park to City Square

Wednesday, May 18 | Linn County Ride of Silence, beginning and ending at City Square Park

Thursday, May 19 | Pedal Marion Ride, Helmets and Hops, after-party to follow

Friday, May 20 | Bike to Work Day Ride, Butterfield to City Square Park



Marion Arts & Craft Beer Fest

The Marion Arts & Craft Beer Fest will return this year, combining art, music and beer for a one-of-a-kind event in the Uptown Artway on May 21, from 1-4 p.m. The event will complement the Marion Arts Festival, which returns to City Square Park this year.

It will feature local music, artist demonstrations and beer sampling in honor of American Craft Beer Week. Explore the Uptown District's retailers, bars and restaurants. This event is free and open to the public. Plan to grab lunch or stay for dinner in Uptown!



Great American Kites Return to Marion on May 21

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to welcome Great American Kites to Marion on Saturday, May 21. The kites will be flying over the PeeWee Diamonds at Lowe Park, with easy access from 4401 Irish Drive, between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Great American Kites specializes in producing the most astonishing and colorful outdoor giant kite displays, with over 15 years of providing giant kite flying experiences and unique aerial displays.

The come-and-go event features displays that provide lasting memories for attendees of all ages. Kites will be available to purchase and fly alongside the giant kites during the event.

In addition to the colorful kite displays, the event includes a live onsite broadcast by Z102.9 and free face painting and balloon twisting for kids. Guests should bring lawn chairs or blankets for open lawn seating. Outside food and drink are permitted. Select food and snack vendors will be onsite during the event.



Final Phases of 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape Project Underway

Last year contractors made significant progress on the 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape project in the heart of Uptown Marion, as they replaced the street, sidewalks and underground infrastructure that was over 100 years old.

Pedestrians will notice additional parking north of the park, a narrower roadway to naturally slow traffic and create a safer pedestrian crossing, curbsless streets to allow for closures during large festivals and farmers markets, and better ADA accessibility to businesses and parking.



Work has resumed this spring with the addition of streetlights, benches and plantings as well as the completion of the North Plaza area. This

area features fire tables, plantings and enhanced community gathering space for daily use. Contractors are working in areas #1 and #2 highlighted above. The rest of the project will follow in consecutive order to allow for minimal disruptions and traffic closures. The 7th Avenue and 10th Street intersection will remain open in two directions throughout the remainder of construction. The project is expected to be completed later this fall. Please continue to support the businesses in this area.

The final design of the Central Plaza is underway. The project team started with the conceptual design from the Uptown Master Plan Update and are progressing into the design development phase. The Central Plaza will incorporate the eastern triangle of City Square Park and the vacated portion of 11th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. The northern triangle has been identified to accommodate a stage, temporary or permanent, allowing for a wide range of events to occur.

A technical committee, steering committee and an events and programming small group have formed to help guide the process and provide recommendations to City Council regarding amenities and design decisions. The technical committee has been digging into the details of the proposed amenities to understand the technical components and feasibility of each one, including appropriate sizing, potential mechanical components, maintenance, the lifespan of each element and the flexibility desired for the overall plaza. The events and programming small group has been focusing on the amenities needed to serve current and future events, from the stage size to proposed lighting, sound and outlet locations. These factors will play a role in the recommendations made to the steering committee, which will review each item prior to providing a recommendation to City Council for consideration and final decisions.

Tentatively, construction documents will be finalized in mid-fall 2022 to allow for bidding to occur over the winter. Construction is anticipated in 2023.

7th Avenue Construction Progress



Crews are currently replacing underground infrastructure, the street and sidewalks in the 700 block of 10th Street.



The view of the reconstructed portion of 7th Avenue, looking east from 10th Street, which was substantially completed in December. City Square Park is on the right and Broad & Main on 7th is under construction in the upper righthand corner.



A birdseye view of the North Plaza taking shape. This area includes a portion of 11th Street. It will become an extension of the Uptown Artway and provide additional opportunities for entertainment and gathering.

trails



As the pedestrian bridge over Marion Boulevard (shown above) nears completion and the 10th Avenue side paths wrap up in the coming months, additional trail projects will be ramping up. These new projects include the **Indian Creek Trail** which starts at the Boyson Trail just north of 8th Avenue and follows Indian Creek up to Tower Terrace Road. This paved trail will be over two miles long and 10-feet-wide, winding through Marion parks and open space.

Another important connection that will be made this year is the hard surfacing of the last segment of limestone trail that makes up the **Grant Wood Trail** (aka Lindale Trail) between Indian Creek and Lindale Drive. The Parks and Recreation Department has this item in their work plan for completion prior to June 30. Once this section is completed, the Grant Wood Trail will be fully paved from the eastern to western City limits in Marion.

Indian Creek Trail Alignment



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
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Fire Pit Safety Reminders

Whether you already have a fire pit or are planning to add one, invest some time reviewing fire pit safety. This is especially important if you're new to using a fire pit. It only takes a second for a cozy fire to burst into a blazing inferno. To ensure you get the most enjoyment from your fire pit and keep your family and friends safe, the Marion Fire Department suggests following these important safety measures:

Location, location, location | Outdoor fire pit placement should be planned prior to your purchase. Make sure you have room to stay away from objects that are made of combustible materials. Find a clean, clutter-free, level surface in an open area. Avoid areas with overhanging branches or anything that can easily catch fire. That means fire pits should never be beneath canopies, below covered patios or under trees.

Pick your fuel | You can opt for gas fire pits, wood-burning pits or portable varieties. If you're going for a nostalgic feel and enjoy the kindling and the crackling, a wood-burning pit is the way to go. Want fire on demand? Gas or propane pits offer a quick lighting option. Many store-bought fire pits allow you to switch between wood and gas.

Start small | While using a pit, begin with a small fire. This will help you to understand many things, such as the direction of the wind and the effect on the flame.

Have an emergency plan | Make sure you have a fire extinguisher, garden hose or bucket of sand close to douse the fire in case it gets out of hand. If you can't put it out quickly, call 9-1-1. Make sure everybody who uses the outdoor fire pit knows about these safety measures. Always keep the area around a fire pit clean.

Buy and use a screen | Fire pit screens are one of the best ways to keep your fire in the pit. You'll protect your guests from errant embers and sparks that could ignite dry material like clothing. Choose a screen of heat-resistant metal like cast iron or steel.

Use the right wood | The kind of firewood you select is also very important. Use hardwoods such as oak, which will produce less smoke. Construction materials like plywood can release toxic fumes, while soft woods can spark and pop excessively. Only use wood that's short enough to fit entirely in your pit, so it doesn't stick out.

Don't use fuel accelerants | Using fuel accelerants like lighter fluid is extremely unsafe. Not only can they release toxic fumes, but they can start an explosion or cause your fire to grow too quickly.

Check the weather | Windy days are dangerous for fires as it can unexpectedly spread.

Be smart | Do not allow children or animals near any fire pit. Children may not understand safety issues; therefore, adults should always supervise when the fire is burning. Don't wear flowy clothing that could flutter into the flame. Don't drink excessively when burning a fire. Never leave a fire pit burning overnight.

Make sure the fire is **extinguished completely.**

The type of pit you have determines the safety measures you will need to take. Be careful and learn about the laws. Within the city limits of Marion, open burning is not allowed. However, a recreational fire that is in a fire pit, outdoor fireplace, chimenea or a portable fire pit is permitted as long as the following guidelines are met:

Fire Pits with No Spark Arrester

- › The pit or portable pit must be 25 feet or more away from all combustible structures

or combustible materials such as buildings, decks, sheds and fences.

- › The fire pit can only be three feet in diameter and the stack of wood is limited to two feet in height.
- › Only clear wood (unprocessed wood) or charcoal can be burned. **No grass, leaves or trash may be burned.** For residents of Marion, yard waste can be dropped off at the compost facility at 195 35th Street. Call 319-377-6367 for details and hours.
- › The fire must be attended at all times and there must be a means to extinguish the fire, such as a fire extinguisher, garden hose, dirt, sand, etc.

Outdoor Fireplaces, Chimeneas, Portable Fire Pits with Spark Arresters

- › The burning container must be 15 feet or more away from any combustible structure or combustible materials.
- › The spark arrester or screening must be in its proper position on the container.
- › All of the requirements above apply, except the distance is different (15 feet versus 25 feet).

Fire Pits that are supplied by Natural Gas or LP

- › Gas fire pits must be kept 10 feet away from all combustible materials such as buildings, decks, sheds and fences.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to the Marion Fire Department at 319-377-8237.

Thank You from Fire Chief Deb Krebill

Dear friends,

It's been an honor and a privilege to have served this community for over 30 years. As I retire as your fire chief, it feels bittersweet. I'm beginning a new chapter in my life after a storybook career, which gave me the gift of finding my passion and purpose in life. The gratitude and love I have for my fellow firefighters that I had the privilege of working with are beyond measure. All the good that our department has accomplished is due to every person on the department. I couldn't have asked for a better team to have spent my career with, and I'm so very proud to have served with them.

I am sincerely grateful to all of you for your support and will have you forever in my heart. -Chief Debra L. Krebill



Budget Update

The Marion City Council unanimously approved a \$119.9 million City budget for fiscal year 2023 – a plan which adds no additional staff, aligns resources to the City's strategic plan and continues investments in capital improvement projects.

State Impacts

Marion saw another healthy increase in gross valuation. However, much of this valuation growth is offset by legislation at the State level. Changes in residential and multi-residential rollback and the phase-out of commercial backfill have diminished Marion's property tax revenue growth by approximately \$1.1 million but won't negatively impact property taxes.

Strategic Plan Investments

The proposed budget does include some non-recurring investments that align with Strategic Plan initiatives. Proposed investments include maximizing the use of technology to streamline processes and contractual services to enhance service delivery, new equipment to support street-scape maintenance as well as the purchase of a screen and inflatables to support event initiatives.

Capital Improvement Plan

The fiscal year 2022-2023 budget includes \$37.7 million in Capital Improvement Projects. Transportation projects, such as neighborhood streets improvements, Tower Terrace Road, 7th Avenue Improvements and overlay projects received the majority share of this year's CIP budget (32% of expenditures), followed by facilities improvements (20%).

The following list highlights projects with over \$1 million in expenditures:

Public Services Fleet Replacement |

Replacement of garbage trucks, street sweepers, snowplows and other operating vehicles for the Streets, Sewer and Solid Waste divisions. The project aligns with the sustainable infrastructure goal in the Strategic Plan and is key to adding capacity for future growth.

Indian Creek Trunk Sewer Segment 7 | This is a joint project with the City of Cedar Rapids and involves the replacement and widening of the main sewer line. The project aligns with the Strategic Plan's sustainable infrastructure goal and is key to adding capacity for future growth.

7th Avenue Streetscape | This project is part of the Uptown Master Plan and involves the reconstruction of the infrastructure both above and below 7th Avenue as well as the addition of streetscape amenities.

Tower Terrace Road | This project extends Tower Terrace Road west from Alburnett Road to C Avenue. It is another joint project with our regional partners and is a high priority in the 2040 Plan. The completion of this corridor is expected to drive infill development in Marion.

Public Services Maintenance Facility | New Public Services Maintenance Facility to include administrative offices and operations for the Streets, Sewer and Solid Waste divisions. The project aligns with the Strategic Plan's sustainable infrastructure goal and is key to adding capacity for future growth.

Neighborhood Streets Reconstruction |

This is an annual program that replaces streets in residential areas. The project addresses older neighborhoods in Marion and aligns with the strategic plan goals of sustainable infrastructure and contributes to an improved quality of life in the neighborhoods.

Indian Creek Trail | This project includes the construction of a trail that follows Indian Creek, from Boyson Trail to Tower Terrace Road. The project serves the overall quality of life goal and is part of the Trails Master Plan. Funding is provided through a Federal Surface Transportation Grant and includes a local share.

Sanitary Trunk Sewer | This is a program to address problems in existing sewer lines and add capacity for future growth.

Echo Hill/Alburnett Road Roundabout | This project upgrades a four-way stop intersection to a roundabout to address traffic flow issues.

Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Overlay | This is another annual program instituted to improve existing road conditions.

Uptown Plaza | Part of the Uptown Master Plan, this project is a key milestone to meeting the vibrant community goal in the Strategic Plan. It includes the construction of a community gathering space with amenities and event space in Uptown Marion.

Property Taxes

Three main components determine the amount of property taxes levied by a city in order to fund municipal operations/services: (1) valuation, (2) rollback value and (3) levy rate. Accordingly, the Linn County Assessor determines each property's value. The State issues a rollback (discount) order to determine taxable valuation. Cities determine the need for service delivery (expenditures) and the levy rate is calculated based on the given taxable values. The levy rate determined by this calculation for FY22-23 is \$14.20203 (up from \$14.19976). A homeowner this year will pay \$769 per \$100,000 valuation compared to \$801 last year. The city's portion of the overall property tax bill is between 30-35%, with the school districts and Linn County making up the majority of the difference.



Utility Rate Highlights

The city is analyzing utility rates and developing a long-term strategy to determine rate increases.

Sanitary Sewer | In January 2022 the City of Marion received notice from the City of Cedar Rapids regarding fee increases for wastewater treatment services that will directly impact future sanitary sewer rates to Marion residents. Since 1979 the City of Marion has contracted with the City of Cedar Rapids for wastewater treatment through a joint intergovernmental services agreement. In response to the recent notification of significant fee increases, the City of Marion has retained HR Green to examine the current agreement for wastewater treatment and provide recommendations to City staff regarding current and future treatment options. The proposed sanitary sewer rate increases continue to be evaluated by City staff. It is anticipated that formal recommendation for sanitary sewer rate increases will be considered by the Marion City Council in May 2022.

Garbage | The City received a letter dated Jan. 7, 2022, from the Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency regarding rate increases and program changes for FY 23.

Urban Forest | No rate increase is expected. However, there will likely be a change to how the fee is charged to multi-family dwellings. As proposed, instead of charging the fee by meter, the fee will be charged by dwelling unit to ensure that every household is covering the fee. The resolution will go before City Council in June and any changes to the process would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Stormwater | The City continues to invest in clean water and sound environmental practices. In the last year, an environmental specialist was added to the Engineering Department. As such, continued investments will likely be necessary to support these efforts.



Spring Means Door-to-Door Solicitation

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

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

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

All peddlers, solicitors and transient merchants' license time restrictions are 8 a.m.-9 p.m., seven days a week. If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk at 319-743-6301.



With warm weather upon us, residents are reminded of garage sale regulations in the City. Garage sales are limited to a term of three days, or 72 hours, and no more than two sales can be held each year (January-December). Any signage for the garage sale cannot be placed in the right-of-way (space between sidewalk and curb).

Thanks to all who decided to participate in Marion's first city-wide garage sale! Over 200 households signed up to hold sales between 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 14. A map and details about what will be offered at each sale can be found at cityofmarion.org/recreation/garagesale. Additionally, lists of addresses will be available (for those who'd like a hard copy) at Marion City Hall, The Marion Welcome Center and local coffee shops and breakfast spots, including Morning Story, Trading Grounds, Bistro 3 Nineteen, Mr. Beans and Uptown Coffee Co.

Building Safety Month



The world will celebrate Building Safety Month in May 2022. Building codes save lives by incorporating the latest technology and providing the safest, most resilient structures for our families and communities. The International Codes, developed by the Code Council and adopted by our community, are the most widely used and adopted set of building safety codes in the world.

First observed in 1980, Building Safety Month raises awareness of critical safety issues from structural to fire prevention, plumbing and mechanical systems and energy efficiency. Each week of Building Safety Month spotlights a specific area of building safety, including Planning for a Safe and Sustainable Tomorrow, May 1-8; Exploring Careers in Building Safety, May 9-15; Understanding Disaster Mitigation, May 16-22; and Creating a Safe and Abundant Water Supply, May 23-31.

The City of Marion's Building Division is a member of the Code Council and a supporter of Building Safety Month. Marion has adopted the 2021 International Codes and is actively working with builders, commercial developers, and schools to promote building safety and protection from disasters and high wind events.

Among the hardworking members of the International Code Council who created Building Safety Month are code officials, plan reviewers, fire inspectors, architects, builders, engineers, design professionals, contractors and others in the construction industry, including employees of the City of Marion Building Division who work to ensure the safety of the buildings where we live, work and play. These professionals provide the first line of defense against building disasters, working vigilantly to ensure the safety of our communities.

Educational materials are available for schools and the community at large, including brochures about flood cleanup, mold prevention, pool and spa safety, green building and preparing for natural disasters. Contact the City of Marion Building Division for more information at 319-743-6330.

2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up 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.

WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Marion Water Department offices are no longer located at City Hall. They are now located at 3050 5th Avenue, Marion, underneath the elevated water tower at 31st Street and 5th Avenue. Find the drive-up drop box for utility payments on the west side of the renovated building. In addition, payments can be made over the phone and online. Office hours are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Water Rate Increase for Multi-Family Units Anticipated July 1, 2022

The Marion Water Board will consider a water rate increase at its May 10 board meeting at 4 p.m. The rate increase for multi-family units will attempt to equalize the cost of water consumed between apartment units and single-family dwellings. The anticipated flat increase for each apartment unit is \$4 per month. For more information regarding this proposed increase, contact tsteigerwaldt@cityofmarion.org.

Marion Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report

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

Summer Water Conservation Tips

With drier summer months approaching, please consider these water conservation tips:

- › Make sure your irrigation system isn't leaking.
- › Use drip irrigation for watering planter areas, shrubs and trees. This applies water slowly and directly to the plant root, reducing evaporation and water loss due to overspray.
- › Water during the cool part of the day.
- › Do not water on windy days.
- › Use native plantings that need less water.
- › Consider hardscaping instead of vegetative plantings.

Water System Upgrades

The Marion Water Department has hired WRH, Inc. from Amana to construct a \$2.87 million Iron Removal Treatment Plant at 2351 31st Street. This new facility will be capable of treating 1500 gallons per minute of water from both the Jordan and Silurian Aquifers to meet the community's future drinking water needs. Construction began in June 2021 and the project is expected to be completed in June 2022.

The Marion Water Department is also investing over \$1.1 million in new water main infrastructure in the next fiscal year. Projects include the following locations:

- › Tower Terrace Road west of Alburnett Road to C Avenue
- › 3rd Avenue from 22nd Street to 31st Street
- › 8th Street from 14th Avenue to 16th Avenue
- › 2nd Street and 10th Avenue
- › 7th Avenue from 8th Street to 12th Street
- › 10th Street from 6th Avenue to 8th Avenue



Watering Lawns = Higher City Utility Bill

Everyone enjoys a beautiful green lawn, but that green lawn may come at a hefty price. If you do not have a separate irrigation meter at your home and you water your lawn frequently, you could see a dramatic increase in your City utility bill depending on how often and how much water you use.

Most homes only have one meter, so when you use water outside you are being charged for both the water and sanitary sewer volume rates. Sanitary sewer rates are expected to increase in the coming months. All of Marion's wastewater goes to the Cedar Rapids wastewater treatment plant, and Cedar Rapids is raising the sewer charges to Marion.

You might consider purchasing an irrigation meter so you will only be charged for the water consumption that is used outside without the sanitary sewer charge. However, the irrigation meter (1 inch size, costs \$397.19) currently has a monthly charge of \$17.60 (even if it is unused during the winter months).

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



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

In the Know**Tall Grass/
Weed Ordinance**

Please keep your yards mowed. It's a violation of the City Code to have any plants, grass or weeds growing uncultivated and out of control with a height of eight inches or more. Five days is allowed following a mailed notice to eliminate the violations. Otherwise, the City will mow it and assess cost against the property for collection in the same manner as property tax. An administrative fee of \$25 will also be added.

Pets

Dogs and their owners are welcome in many of our parks - as long as the pets are on a leash at all times and owners clean up after their animals. We can't sidestep the issue of pet waste. Out of courtesy to others using the parks, pet owners must take responsibility and help to keep our parks clean. Please bring a bag with you when you enjoy the parks with your four-legged friends.

Park & Trail Rules

- › Marion is committed to smoke-free, nicotine-free and tobacco-free parks and trails. This includes ball fields, recreation activities and special events.
- › All parks close at 10 p.m. as established by City ordinance.
- › All pets MUST be kept on a leash in all park areas, including walking trails and at Oak Shade Cemetery.
- › Pets are not allowed in pavilions or within 100 feet of food vendors, playground equipment, ball fields or the swimming pool.
- › Pet owners are required to clean up after their pets.
- › Pets are not allowed at large community functions held at City Square or Lowe Parks.
- › Horses and motorized vehicles are not allowed on any city trails.
- › Stay alert, walk/ride to the right side of the path and announce, "Passing on your left," when passing another user on the trail.

SPLASH!**at the Marion Pool****MARION POOL OPENS MAY 31**

The Marion Pool will open for the season on Memorial Day, May 31. The swimming season will run through Sunday, Aug. 21, and then weekends only through Labor Day, Sept. 5.

REGULAR HOURS**Monday-Friday**

Open Swim 1-5:30 p.m.

Family Swim 5:30-7 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday

Open Swim 1-5 p.m.

SPECIAL HOURS DURING SESSION 1 SWIM LESSONS

Please note, the pool will operate limited hours the first two full weeks in June due to evening swimming lessons. From June 6-10 and June 13-17, the pool will close at 4 p.m.

LAP SWIM HOURS

Daily 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

DAILY ADMISSION

3 and under \$2.75

4 and up \$3.75

Lap Swim \$3.75

SEASON POOL PASSES

Individual Pass \$100/each

Family Pass \$190/family

Family Pass + Sitter \$265

FAMILY SEASONAL POOL MEMBERSHIP

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

PRIVATE POOL RENTALS

The Marion Municipal Pool is available to rent for birthday parties, group outings, church groups, family reunions to meet your needs.

Monday-Friday | 7:15-8:45 p.m. | \$225

Saturday & Sunday | 5:15-6:45 p.m. | \$225

Saturday & Sunday | 7:15-8:45 p.m. | \$225 (This later time is available only when the 5:15p.m. is booked)

SPLASH PADS

Marion is home to three splash pads, which are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Thomas Park Splash Pad

323 Marion Blvd

Open daily: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Gill Park Splash Pad

3450 Hawthorne St

Open daily: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Willowood Park/Marion Pool Splash Pad

1855 35th St

Open during regular pool hours

Cemetery Rewards!

It's not uncommon to hear volunteers of any endeavor speak of the rewards they get from work performed without compensation. It's a claim often heard from members of the Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery. There were plenty of examples expressed by cemetery volunteers who responded to the 140 mph derecho of 2020. These before and after pictures of the family monument at the grave of H.F. "Bud" Howe should help to prove the point.

Following the storm, over 50 volunteers spent some 700 hours documenting and clearing the fallen limbs of the more than 150 trees that were damaged or destroyed. Just standing up to Mother Nature at her worst by cleaning up the mess was a reward for that hard work. Following that, two of our friends - Dick McDonald and Dennis Amdahl - restored the Howe monument to like-new condition and landscaped the area around it. As a result, the Howe family made a donation to our organization for the work of our volunteers. We're certain that PRIDE in service and a job well done was a great reward for Dick and Dennis.





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.

Marion Farmers Market

Saturdays | May-September
Taube Park

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

B-I-N-G-O Night

Fridays | May 13 | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center

Join us for 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-Wide Garage Sale

Saturday | May 14 | Throughout Marion

Marion will hold its first-ever City-wide garage sale from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Find some great bargains at 200+ sales and be sure to make a pit stop for lunch or ice cream while you're out and about. A map and details about what's available at each sale can be found at www.cityofmarion.org/recreation/garagesale.

Marion Arts Festival

Saturday | May 21 | City Square Park

One day. 50 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 & Craft Beer Fest

Saturday | May 21 | Uptown Marion

The Marion Arts & Craft Beer 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. Plan to grab lunch or stay for dinner in Uptown!

Great American Kites

presented by Summit Pointe Senior Living

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

See the most astonishing and colorful outdoor giant kite displays at Lowe Park from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Outside food and drink are permitted.

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.).

May 27 | Sing 2

July 8 | Cruella

Aug. 5 | Encanto

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 and a yoga mat or towel.

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.

Movies on the Move

Tuesdays | May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20 | Marion Parks

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation department as the popular Moonlit Movie series hits the road this summer! These smaller but equally as entertaining events break down geographic barriers by bringing the cinematic adventures right to your neighborhoods. Bring your chairs/blankets for seating.

May 17 | Butterfield Park

June 21 | Thomas Park

July 19 | Peg Pierce Complex

Aug. 16 | Taube Park

Sept. 20 | Hanna Park

Marion by Moonlight

Thursdays | June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
NEW location—Lowe Park

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

June 2 | Jake McVay

June 9 | PastMasters

June 16 | Retro Rockits

June 23 | Mixtape

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. Music begins at 6 p.m. Visit the City of Marion's website and Facebook page for specific artists and dates.

BBQ Rendezvous

Saturday | June 4 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

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

Uptown Marion Market

Saturdays | June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 24 | 7th Avenue and City Square Park

This festival-style market, hosted by the Marion Chamber, features vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, and artisan items from 8 a.m.-noon. Power of Produce returns for the kiddos along with live music, community information, balloon art and face painting activities in City Square Park.

Music Under the Moon

presented by Veridian Credit Union

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.

June 11 | 52nd Street – The Music of Billy Joes & Captain Fantastic – The Music of Elton John

July 16 | Bluffet featuring The Son of a Sailor Band

Aug. 13 | Run Forrest Run – The Ultimate 90s Party Band

Marion Community Band

June 14 & 28 | City Square Park

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a nice summer evening listening to our great community band! Music starts at 7 p.m.

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.

The Ron Burgundy's

Sunday | June 26 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Enjoy yacht rock and other hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s at this free concert. The fun starts at 6 p.m.

Freedom Bike Ride

Sunday | June 26 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

From training wheels to triathlon competitors, all are welcome at the annual Red, Ride and Blues Freedom Bike Ride! For more information and registration details, visit www.freedomfestival.com.

Fireworks & Fireflies

presented by Hanna Plumbing & Heating

Sunday | July 3 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Bring your lawn chair, blanket and cooler and enjoy live music by Bird-child at 6 p.m. followed by the fireworks show at dusk.

Marion Big Band

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.

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 on-going revitalization and beautification efforts of Uptown Marion – A Main Street Iowa District. (Ticketed event)

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. The festivities get underway at 6 p.m. each Thursday. The line-up includes:

Aug. 4 | Flatland Ridge

Aug. 11 | Trophy Dads

Aug. 18 | Schmidt Brothers

Aug. 25 | The Ice Breakers

Oktoberfest

Saturday | Sept. 17 | Uptown Marion

A new signature event is coming to Marion in September. Oktoberfest will be held from noon-3 p.m. with VIP hour from 11 a.m.-Noon. The event will feature over 30 breweries sampling their craft along 7th Avenue and traditional German games, like Hammerschlagen and stein holding, and music in City Square Park. Watch for more information on ticket sales this summer!

Dueling Pianos

Friday | Sept. 23 Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Join us for a night of outdoor family fun as dueling pianists from Midwest Dueling Pianos take you on an interactive whirlwind tour of music across all different decades and genres. From sing-a-longs, to dancing, to jokes, you're sure to have a great night of laughs and memories.

Dog Fashion Show

Saturday | Sept. 24 | Uptown Marion

Have a furry friend? Enter them in the Dog Fashion Show, set to take place on the Uptown Artway stage at 10 a.m.

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.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Dial A Story

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

Looking for a great book?

- › Check out the New & Noteworthy section on our home page 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-two business days.

Pizza and Games in the Park

May 13, 18, 27 | 3-5 p.m. | Hey Teens! Join us Fridays during May for Pizza and Games in City Square Park from 3-5 p.m.! There will be lots of fun outdoor games to play... and pizza.

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 May meeting will be held

in the lobby of Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center.

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 non-fiction—that fits that month's theme. 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, and 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 is still available for curbside holds pickup located at 4151 3rd Ave, Suite 103. 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.

Mask Mandate Dropped

On March 1, the Marion Public Library lifted its mask mandate. While this requirement is no longer in place, anyone with symptoms, a positive test or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. If you are at high risk for severe illness, please talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and/or take other precautions.

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 online for a free Library card online. Join now at pbc.guru/marionlibrary

The Next Chapter Podcast

Have you listened to our new podcast, The Next Chapter? This show covers new releases, building updates, programming and events as well as the occasional special guest. So, sit back, relax and enjoy a different type of chapter with The Next Chapter podcast.

Hiring and Recruiting Volunteers

We continue to hire for part-time patron services support staff. Please visit www.cityofmarion.org/employment to apply.

We are hiring two VISTA summer associates. This seasonal position offers an educational award and living expense wage. If interested, please apply through our website at www.marionpubliclibrary.org. For questions, please contact Programming Manager Kylee Pusteoska at kpusteoska@marionpubliclibrary.org.

Looking to become a new volunteer at our library? We are seeking qualified applicants to help us with various things, including getting us ready to open our new building and to become a more permanent member of our new and growing volunteer base. 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



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



Marion Police Department Forges New Partnership with Cedar Valley Humane Society

The Marion Police Department has formalized a new partnership with the Cedar Valley Humane Society to provide animal control services within Marion city limits. The partnership, which went into effect on April 1, improves the services available to residents and frees up officers to do other things.

“Having police officers play a role in animal control is not efficient or sustainable for a city of 42,000 people,” said Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller. “As a growing community, we sometimes need to seek new solutions to problems, and I think we’ve found an effective solution in our new partnership with the Cedar Valley Humane Society.”

Going forward, anytime residents encounter a stray domesticated animal, they can take them to the Cedar Valley Humane Society location at 7411 Mt. Vernon Road, Cedar Rapids. Business hours are noon-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon-4 p.m. on Saturday.

For animal control needs outside of the Cedar Valley Humane Society’s normal hours, residents should contact the Marion Police Department’s non-emergency number 319-377-1511 and a dispatcher will contact the on-call designee to meet the resident at the Mt. Vernon Road facility. Representatives from



Cedar Valley Humane Society are available for field calls to retrieve animals that are contained in either a fenced yard or cage.

The organization has veterinarian services available, so they can accept sick or injured domesticated stray animals from residents should the need arise. No services will be available for wild animals. As of April 1, 2022, stray animals are no longer accepted at the Marion Police Department.

The annual contract for this service is \$52,000. Prior to the new agreement, pet owners whose animals were picked up as strays, were subject to a \$75 fine plus boarding costs when they picked their pet up. Under the new agreement, owners retrieving their pets will pay an \$80 fee for the first day and \$20 a day thereafter to cover boarding costs.