

Fall 2022

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# Destination Marion

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Nick AbouAssaly

### LET'S TALK ABOUT PARKING

Uptown Marion is experiencing an exciting transformation. The positive momentum and energy are hard to miss.

After years of investment in planning, infrastructure, creating a sense of place and promoting its potential, we are now realizing the long-term vision of Uptown as a vibrant urban center and a regional

destination for housing, shopping, dining and entertainment.

This is truly an exciting time. Not unexpectedly, this success story is creating challenges with increased demand for the limited parking areas in and around Uptown.

This issue is not unique to Marion. Limited parking is an ever-present characteristic of any successful and vibrant business district. When an area is the desired location for businesses, and a favorite place for people to live, shop and dine, parking is likely to be at a premium.

While some might see this as a cause for concern, it should cause us greater concern if the parking spaces were to sit empty as that would indicate the area is neither successful nor a desired destination.

We don't dismiss the fact that we need appropriate parking, especially for people with mobility issues. But for most people, the issue may be simply a matter of perspective.

When we visit a shopping mall, we accept the fact we will have to park and walk long distances to the entrance and through the facility to our destination. Similarly, when we visit any big box store, we are willing to walk from the busy parking lot to the door and through the entire store without question.

In both cases, the distances are likely greater than several blocks in Uptown. As depicted below, the core of the Uptown District is comparable in size to a typical box store and the parking areas surrounding it. With this in mind, parking is still plentiful in and around Uptown if we accept that it is unreasonable to expect to park immediately in front of the business we want to visit and are willing to walk a block or two, just as we do without question at the mall or a big box store.

Nevertheless, the City is aware of the growing public perception and concern related to parking in Uptown and willing to do its part in finding workable solutions. To that end, we are planning to conduct a parking study that will provide a realistic assessment of the magnitude of the issue and help us identify potential solutions.

As we move forward, perspective is key. Marion is lucky that our challenges are the result of growth and prosperity rather than stagnation and decline. Many cities across our state would love to have our challenges.

I have no doubt we will successfully address this and all other issues we face with the collaborative spirit, positive "can-do" attitude and capable civic and community leadership that have become characteristic of our city and have made it a standout community across our state.

There's nothing we can't achieve when we reach higher together as a commUNITY.



# Tom Daubs Honored with the Paul Draper Spirit of Marion Award



The City of Marion is pleased to recognize Tom Daubs as the 2022 recipient of the Paul Draper "Spirit of Marion" Award.

The award recognizes a City of Marion employee who best represents dedication to public service, combined with an exceptional work ethic, humility, a sense of humor and a sincere desire to see the City team and its individual members succeed. The award was presented by Mayor Nick AbouAssaly and City Manager Ryan Waller during an employee luncheon held in conjunction with Public Service Recognition Week.

Tom Daubs has served as a Marion police officer for the past 26 years. For the last 10 years, he has been the school resource officer for Linn-Mar Community Schools. He also serves as the Marion Police Department's public information officer.

Daubs is often heard saying he has the best job in the world.

"Tom Daubs is a local celebrity in Marion," said City Manager Ryan Waller. "He is a dedicated public servant, a relationship builder and one of Marion's biggest cheerleaders. Tom lives out our Reach Higher! philosophy daily and we are so blessed to have him on our team."

The award is named for former City Council member Paul Draper. Draper was a great supporter of Marion's progress and a tireless advocate for the community for decades. Draper passed away in Feb. 2020, and his legacy lives on, in part through this award.



## Marion Awarded \$3 Million in Destination Iowa Funding

On Aug. 9, Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Economic Development Authority announced the third round of funding from Destination Iowa to support quality of life and tourism investments in Iowa. The funding was made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

The City of Marion was awarded \$3 million to be used for the development of a Central Plaza and the completion of the final phase of the CeMar Trail, which connects Uptown Marion to Downtown Cedar Rapids. Together these projects will serve as a dynamic, regional asset for attracting residents, tourists and visitors to Marion and bring more than a decade of planning and public investment in Marion's Uptown District to life.

Plaza amenities include a dedicated performance space, ice skating loop, fire tables and seating, interactive play sculptures and green space additions.

The final 1.3 miles of the CeMar Trail will connect Uptown Marion with the Czech/NewBo Main Street Districts providing trail users with a unique biking experience and destination with limited use of city streets. The total project investment is over \$9 million.



"This is as an endorsement of our leading role in creating great places that make Marion and our region desirable destinations for people and businesses," said Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. "The Central Plaza will be another point of pride and a testament to what a community can accomplish when we believe more in our own potential and reach higher together to achieve amazing things."

The project grew out of many visioning efforts and public master planning processes and continues to be shaped by community input. The development of design and construction documents is expected to be complete later this year with construction projected to begin in 2023.



## Kim Downs Introduced as New Deputy City Manager

The City of Marion is pleased to introduce Kim Downs as its new deputy city manager.

Downs comes to the City of Marion with more than 22 years of local government experience. She has been a leader and collaborator in the region, having served as city manager for the City of Hiawatha since 2013.

"Kim is a highly-collaborative and well-respected leader in the region," said City Manager Ryan Waller. "We are thrilled to have her join Team Marion and help take our organization and this community to the next level."



## CITY DEPARTMENTS

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Thomas Park, 343 Marion Blvd.  
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(solid waste, sewer, streets)  
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319-377-3412  
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**Fire Department**

100 Irish Drive  
Emergency - 911  
Non-Emergency - 319-377-8237

**Police Department**

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



# Indian Creek Master Plan Adopted

As one of Marion's most significant natural features, Indian Creek offers both challenges and opportunities. Creekside Pride was an initiative that surfaced through the 2018 community visioning process known as ImagiNEXT.

Since then, a committee of volunteers has been working to help move the initiative forward. Most recently, they secured \$40,000 in funding from the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization to fund a master planning study for the Indian, Dry and Watazee Creek corridors.

ISG was hired to complete the study and the committee recently shared its findings with Marion City Council. The Indian Creek Master Plan builds upon previous community feedback and planning initiatives to create a clear path forward for the Indian Creek corridor.

## Key themes include

- › recreational amenities
- › connection to nature and existing public spaces
- › educational opportunities
- › habitat • water quality
- › flood resiliency and other improvements

Nine site locations were identified with various elements incorporated at each.

City staff will be working with the Marion Parks and Recreation Department to evaluate which of the nine locations to design and construct first. Marion City Council will then need to prioritize funding in next year's budget for the design and construction of the selected location. Staff will be researching potential funding options for local, regional and state grant opportunities throughout next year. City crews may be able to preliminarily install some basic creek access points with smaller gravel parking lots to allow people better access to the creek to recreate and enjoy from the existing trail systems.



Find the plan and related information at  
[www.cityofmarion.org/indiancreekmasterplan](http://www.cityofmarion.org/indiancreekmasterplan).

## 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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The Engineering Department oversees many of the City's capital projects and manages an annual construction program. Here are a few of the highlights from the current construction season.



# progress ahead



This year the City invested more than \$1 million in its asphalt overlay program and made surface improvements on a combination of five arterial, collector and neighborhood streets in addition to the Lowe Park parking lot.



Construction continues on the roundabout at the intersection of Echo Hill and Alburnett Roads. In mid-August, crews transitioned to the second phase of the project. The north leg of the intersection is now closed to traffic, with project completion anticipated this fall.



Intersection improvements are underway at S. 31st Street and Highway 100. The project consists of turn lane improvements and the installation of traffic signals at this location. A culvert is also being installed as part of the project.



Construction continues on the 3rd Avenue Reconstruction project. The first phase of the project, 26th Street to 31st Street, is progressing with completion anticipated for early fall. The second phase of the project, 22nd Street to 31st Street, will begin next year after school lets out.



Grading and underground utility work are underway on a new stretch of Tower Terrace Road east of C Avenue to Alburnett Road.



## Survey Work Happening on 7th Avenue between 12th and 22nd Streets; Construction Anticipated in 2025

The City of Marion is partnering with Anderson Bogert Engineers to develop engineering plans for the future reconstruction of a 10-block stretch of 7th Avenue in Marion.

Once the current reconstruction project is completed in Uptown Marion, the focus will shift east on 7th Avenue to reconstruct the area from 12th Street to 22nd Street.

Field crews will be performing survey and historical/archaeological investigations through summer and early fall. Utility locate flags and paint will be visible along the roadway; this step helps ease the process of utility coordination during the design phase.

The design portion of the project is funded by local option sales tax dollars.

Construction is expected to begin in 2025.





## Marion Pantry celebrates 40 years Serving the Community

This year marks the 40th year the Churches of Marion Food Pantry has been serving the Marion area. This has been possible thanks to the support of eight area churches that have representatives on the pantry board including Marion Christian Church, Faith Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Marion Methodist, Ascension Lutheran, St. Joseph Catholic Church and Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.

First Presbyterian houses the pantry and it is staffed entirely by volunteers. Because of this, virtually all donations go toward purchasing food and hygiene items for neighbors in need. Pantry organizers appreciate the many community churches that participate by providing donations or volunteers in addition to many businesses, local organizations and individuals that support this outreach effort.

The Marion Pantry has served over 1,200 people in the last few months, which is double the number it served in January of this year. In addition, the Uptown Community Garden has provided more than 600 pounds of fresh produce to pantry visitors each year for the last several years. The pantry is open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. and operates from the Mission House of First Presbyterian Church.



## City Launches Business Innovation & Support Grant for Small Businesses

The City of Marion launched a Business Innovation & Support Grant specifically for small businesses in the community that have navigated the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant is designed to provide financial relief on a matching basis for innovation, expansion and growth to Marion businesses. The funding comes from Marion's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding. Approximately \$450,000 is designated through the Marion program for local small business support.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy," said Uptown Marion Main Street Director Brooke Prouty. "The events of 2020 and the continual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have either delayed plans for businesses or created daily operational hurdles. We are pleased to partner with the City and support local businesses in this way."

The Business Innovation & Support Grant is designed for small businesses with one to 10 employees. The grant provides funding ranging from \$5,500 to \$15,500. Each award comes with up to five hours of mandatory business counseling by a pre-approved business coach (\$500 will be reserved from each cash award for the counseling/coaching fee).

"Our small business entrepreneurs were significantly impacted by the pandemic," said City Manager Ryan Waller. "This program aims to not only help them recuperate some of their losses but also encourages them to use this as a catalyst to take their business to the next level."

Businesses must be located in Marion, Iowa, and priority will be given to small businesses in the retail, food service, arts and entertainment, hospitality and service, fitness, personal service, and transportation sectors.



**Applications will be accepted until the funds have been exhausted. Learn more at [www.cityofmarion.org/businessinnovationgrant](http://www.cityofmarion.org/businessinnovationgrant).**





## MARION FALL COMMUNITY EVENTS

As we've learned over the past two years, plans change! Be sure to visit [www.cityofmarion.org](http://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 | Through Sept. 10 | Taube Park**

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

### Pop-Up Acts in the Artway

**Most Fridays | Through Sept. | Uptown Artway**

**Sept. 9 | The Drive-Ins  
Sept. 16 | Joseph Valenti**

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 5 p.m. in September. Visit the City of Marion's website and Facebook page for specific artists and dates.



### Trivia Night in the Artway

**Friday | Sept. 10 | Uptown Artway**

Join us for a trivia night, including some Marion-specific questions! The winning team will get a prize. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. and is free to attend.

### Oktoberfest

*Sponsored by Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance*

**Saturday | Sept. 17 | Uptown Marion**  
(Ticketed event, must be 21+)

A new signature event is coming to Marion in September. Oktoberfest will be held Saturday, Sept. 17 from noon-3 p.m. with a VIP hour from 11 a.m.-noon. The event will feature over 25 breweries sampling their craft along 7th Avenue, and traditional German games, like Hammerschlagen and stein holding, plus music in City Square Park.

### Movies on the Move featuring Back to the Future

**Tuesday | Sept. 20 | Hanna Park**

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 chairs/blankets for seating.

### 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. The event starts at 6 p.m. and is free to attend. Bring chairs/blankets for seating. Food vendors will be onsite but outside food and drink are also permitted.

### Fall Marion Market

**Saturday | Sept. 24 | 7th Avenue and City Square Park**

This festival-style market features vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods and artisan items from 8 a.m.-noon. The September market will also feature a pancake breakfast in the Depot.

### Dog Fashion Show

*sponsored by Apple Creek Canine Resort*

**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.

### Tailgate in the Park

**Saturday | Sept. 24 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Come root on the Hawkeyes on the BIG screen at this family-friendly tailgate atmosphere at Lowe Park. Play classic tailgate games, enjoy kids' inflatables and activities, compete in a football skills competition and enjoy tailgate-inspired foods. This event is free and open to the public. Bring chairs/blankets for open lawn seating. Outside food and drink are permitted, but food will be available for purchase. (Time will be announced as the date approaches.)

### Classic Car Show & Shine

**Sunday | Sept. 25 | Thomas Park**

Join us for an all-car cruise-in at Thomas Park from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Suggested donation to benefit Eastern Iowa Honor Flights. If it rains, the show will be canceled.



Presented by  
SHEETS FORREST DRAPER INSURANCE

## Inaugural Oktoberfest set for September 17 in Uptown Marion

The Marion Chamber is proud to announce a new event coming to the metro area. Oktoberfest, presented by Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance, will be held Saturday, Sept. 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oktoberfest will feature 25 breweries from Iowa and surrounding areas sampling a wide variety of styles. Each brewery will have representatives on hand to visit with and educate fans on their beers. Attendees will also enjoy live music and traditional German games. The event will take place in Uptown Marion on 7th Avenue and in City Square Park.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Winter Lights program, which helps fund Marion's community beautification during the holiday season. Oktoberfest will also benefit the Iowa Brewer's Guild which works to showcase and improve the quality of beer brewed in Iowa and supports the promotion of the local brewing community.

General admission tickets are \$40 and include access to breweries beginning at noon, a commemorative tasting glass, complimentary samples and participation in games at the Celebration Tent.

An exclusive VIP ticket, sponsored by Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust, is available for \$50. It will allow 11 a.m. access to brewers including limited run offerings and swag items and a premium Oktoberfest tasting glass.

Tickets are available at [marionoktoberfest2022.eventbrite.com](http://marionoktoberfest2022.eventbrite.com). Must be 21 years of age to participate, tickets and IDs will be scanned at the entrance to the event.

## The Great Autumn Art Show & Sale

by Creative Artists  
Friday & Saturday | Sept. 30-Oct. 1 |  
Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center

Eighteen booths of local fine artists and artisans' work with artist demonstrations on Saturday. Register for a Leslie Fox oil painting to be given away at the end of the show. The event is scheduled from 5-9 p.m. on Sept. 30 and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on Oct. 1 and is free to attend.

## Healthiest State Walk

Wednesday | Oct. 5 | Uptown Marion

Physical activity is one of the most important things all Iowans can do to improve their health - and walking is a great way to get moving while connecting with their neighbors. Marion will be participating in the 12th Annual Healthiest State Walk on Oct. 5, joining thousands of other Iowans statewide. The 30-minute walk will begin at noon at Marion City Hall. All are invited to participate.

## Chocolate Walk

Friday | Oct. 7 | Uptown Marion

Fall's favorite night returns with this after-hours, adult-only shopping event from 7:30-10 p.m. Visit your favorite stores, listen to live music, discover what's new just around the corner and savor a sweet treat from participating businesses.

## Falliday Market

Saturday | Oct. 15 | Lowe Park

Enjoy the most wonderful time of the year at this brand new seasonal and holiday-inspired market. From crafts and home décor to yummy treats and

seasonal greenery, plus produce and holiday items, this market will be sure to have great finds just in time for the holiday season! Peruse vendors both inside and outside the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Trick or Treat at Marion City Hall

Monday | Oct. 31  
Marion City Hall

Area princesses, superheroes, ghosts and goblins are invited to include a stop at Marion City Hall in their Halloween plans. The City of Marion will host a trick-or-treat event at City Hall (1225 6th Avenue) from 3-5 p.m. Children can dress up in their Halloween costumes and collect candy and other treats from staff on both floors at Marion City Hall. They can even explore the fire engine and visit with firefighters onsite.

## Small Business Saturday

Saturday | Nov. 26 | Uptown Marion | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Uptown Marion District invites you to kick off the holiday shopping season with Small Business Saturday. Uptown Marion Main Street and Marion Chamber of Commerce will host a shopping event on Saturday, Nov. 26, between 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Enjoy holiday music as you shop and dine in Uptown.

## Christmas in the Park & Peppermint Walk

Friday | Dec. 2 | Uptown Marion

Visit Santa & Mrs. Claus, enjoy traditional holiday activities and visit shops filled with one-of-a-kind, unique goods from 4-8 p.m.

### CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Send the same email to all members at: [council@cityofmarion.org](mailto: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](http://www.cityofmarion.org).





## 100th Anniversary of Fire Prevention Week

# Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape™

The Marion Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week™, Oct. 9-15, 2022. This year's campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your Escape™," works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

To protect your home and family from the dangers of a fire, it's important to understand just how fast a fire can spread. Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or less) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. In just minutes, a fire can turn life-threatening. In less than five minutes, your entire home could become engulfed by the flames – a scary reality. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on the early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

Everyone needs to plan and practice a home fire escape. Everyone needs to be prepared in advance, so they know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Given that every home is different, every home fire escape plan will be different. Have a plan for everyone in the home. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure you have a plan for someone to help them.

**PLAN AHEAD** by following the NFPA's step-by-step guide on how to create a home fire safety plan for your family to protect them against the unthinkable.

- 1 | **MAKE** a home escape plan.
- 2 | **DRAW** a map of your home, including all doors and windows.
- 3 | **DISCUSS** the plan with everyone in your family.
- 4 | **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room.
- 5 | **MAKE** sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- 6 | **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree or neighbor's mailbox) that is a safe distance from your home.
- 7 | **TEACH** children how to get out on their own, in case you can't help them.
- 8 | **ASSIGN** someone in the family to assist infants, seniors, or anyone else who would require help getting out.
- 9 | **PRACTICE** your home fire drill during the day AND at night.
- 10 | **PRACTICE** using a different way out.
- 11 | **CLOSE** doors behind you when you leave.

If the alarm sounds, **GET OUT and STAY OUT!** Never go back into a burning house.

If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way outside.

### Call 911

Having a fire in your home is a scary thought. But if you have an escape plan, you'll be better prepared if the unimaginable occurs. Your ability to get out depends on warnings from smoke alarms and advance planning. The key to your family's safety is planning and practicing a home fire escape plan.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org) and [sparky.org](http://sparky.org).



## Tom Fagan Introduced as New Fire Chief

The City of Marion is pleased to introduce Tom Fagan as its new fire chief.

Fagan comes to the City of Marion with more than 22 years of experience. He currently serves as interim fire chief and division chief of administration for the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department in Lawrence, Kansas (pop. 97,000). Prior to that, he worked his way through the ranks at the Lee's Summit Fire Department in Lee's Summit, Missouri (pop. 103,000).

"We look forward to having Tom on Team Marion," said Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. "I have no doubt his credentials and breadth of experience will take our already exceptional department to a new level of excellence."

In addition to his experience as a chief officer, Fagan serves as a fire service accreditation assessor. He is a credentialed Chief Fire Officer (CFO) through the Center for Public Safety Excellence, a Certified Public Manager (CPM) through the University of Kansas, and a Nationally Registered Paramedic.

Marion City Council is expected to formally approve the employment contract at its next meeting which would then result in Fagan's first day on the job being Sept. 30, 2022.



## Ordinance Passes to Allow Off-Road Utility Vehicles in Marion

Utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) are now allowed on Marion city streets. UTV operators are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the equipment rules and restrictions outlined in the ordinance prior to operating a UTV in Marion.

Operators must be 18 or older and possess a valid driver's license. UTVs are only allowed to be in operation between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. at a maximum speed of 35 mph. They will be permitted on any city roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less, but may not be operated on Business 151/10th Avenue east of 35th Street or East Post Road south of Oak Brook Drive.

The full list of regulations can be found in Chapter 75 of the Marion City Code.

Fines for violating certain sections of Chapter 75 begin at \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense in the same calendar year and \$855 for the third and subsequent offenses occurring within the same calendar year.

The ordinance is scheduled to be reviewed in six months.

## A New Look for the Marion Police Department



For several years Marion police cars could be distinguished from others in the metro area due to their blue color, but that is all changing. Supply chain issues, coupled with computer chip shortages, have resulted in a shortage of new squad cars available for purchase. The average wait time for a squad car delivery exceeds six months, and special ordering one in a base blue color adds three to four months to the delivery date.

Because of this, the Marion Police Department is transitioning to black squad cars with a refreshed design. Last year we purchased two Ford Explorer Interceptors (in black) to replace a high-mileage car and a vehicle that was totaled in a wreck. One of the two is a Hybrid, and the department will determine if the fuel savings offset the \$2,800 increased purchase price over a traditional gas engine Explorer.

The department also purchased a new K9 vehicle to replace an old one that was being phased out. The Chevrolet Tahoe was purchased using money generously donated by the estate of Gary and Judy Stevens. This is the first full-sized SUV purchased by the department. It costs approximately \$3,000 more than an Explorer but provides more room for the K9, kennel and equipment. The department will monitor fuel use, repairs and trade-in value to determine if the additional purchase of full-sized SUVs is practical.

Marion PD currently has a fleet of 17 patrol cars with an average mileage of 63,249. Most patrol vehicles are rotated out of service when they reach over 120,000 miles. Those vehicles are often provided to other departments within the city as a cost-savings measure. Mileage and hours of operation are both considered when a patrol car is de-commissioned.

Officers routinely leave their cars running while they are out on calls during their shift, and people often ask why. The reason: the computer systems in the vehicle, as well as the dashboard and interior cameras, all shut down when the vehicle is turned off. Turning that equipment back on, logging in to computers, logging onto various software modules using two-factor authentication, and re-entering the vehicles in our Computer Assisted Dispatch system can take anywhere from seven to 12 minutes, making it more efficient to leave them running for short amounts of time.





# Be Mindful of Placement of Downspouts & Sump Pump Discharge

The City of Marion often receives calls from residents about drainage, particularly related to sump pump discharges and roof gutter downspouts.

While Marion does not have a rule, policy or code that specifically addresses the location or placement of downspouts, homeowners are encouraged to locate their downspouts at a respectful distance from property lines so rainwater discharge and drainage will not impact adjacent properties. This is typically five to 10 feet from the property line.

Marion's policy for sump pump discharge is addressed in Municipal Code Chapter 156.13:

“Upon determination that a nuisance exists, the City Engineer is authorized to require a property owner to connect a sump water discharge hose or other device for stormwater runoff to a dedicated City drain tile or storm sewer system, or surface drainage way or slope, provided such drain tile or storm sewer is located immediately adjacent to or located within 25 feet thereof, in the public right-of-way or a drainage easement, of the property causing the nuisance.”

## 2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### City of Marion IOWA Garbage & Recycling Collection

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

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

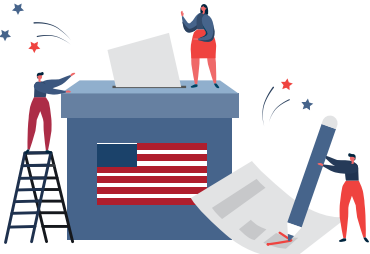


## Water System Upgrades

The new Iron Removal Treatment Plant at 2351 31st Street is nearly completed. This facility will be capable of treating 1,500 gallons of water per minute from both the Jordan and Silurian aquifers to meet the community's future drinking water needs. Construction has been delayed due to supply chain issues, but it is expected to be operational by this fall.

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

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



## General Election to be held in November

Various federal, state and local positions will be on the ballot during the general election on Nov. 8, 2022. Polling locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. Early voting will be available and begins on Oct. 19 and absentee ballots must be requested by Oct. 24. To find your polling location or access the voter registration or absentee ballot request forms, please visit [www.cityofmarion.org/elections](http://www.cityofmarion.org/elections).



## 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](http://www.cityofmarion.org/billingoptions)

## Utility Rate Increases Sanitary Sewer

City Council approved Ordinance 22-11 on June 23, 2022, increasing sanitary sewer fees from \$4.60 to \$6. The rate increase is prompted by increased treatment charges being billed to Marion by Cedar Rapids and also to meet the City's loan covenant (a 2021 audit finding). The increase would add approximately \$15 to the average residential bi-monthly sewer bill. Additional increases are anticipated to finance the construction of a new Public Services Maintenance Facility. Currently, the City of Marion contracts with the City of Cedar Rapids for wastewater treatment services. Increased charges for wastewater treatment services will directly impact future sanitary sewer rates for Marion residents.

## Garbage Collection

The City of Marion disposes of waste under a 28E agreement with Cedar Rapids – Linn County Solid Waste Agency. Landfill tonnage tipping fees increased five percent for Fiscal Year 2023. As a result of increasing costs, garbage collection rates are anticipated to increase in October from \$18.75 to \$20 per month. Garbage tag rates will remain unchanged. The Marion City Council will hear the final consideration of this increase at its Sept. 8 meeting. Additional increases are anticipated to finance the construction of a new Public Services Maintenance facility.

## Solid Waste Collections System Study Underway

The City of Marion's Strategic Plan includes an objective to explore sustainable practices of waste collection and removal. In July, City Council approved an agreement with SCS Engineers for a Solid Waste Collections System Study. SCS Engineers are responsible for evaluating the current methods for solid waste management and providing a cost analysis of alternative models of service, including the implementation of automated refuse collection systems. The vendor will make formal recommendations for revised programming and assist with implementing the selected solid waste collections and management system.

## Roundabout Reminders

School is back in session which calls for a refresher on how to safely navigate a roundabout, whether on foot, on a bike, or in a car. This graphic provides an overhead look at the roundabout that is under construction at the intersection of Alburnett and Echo Hill roads.

### General Safety Tips for Any Roundabout User:

- › Slow down! Don't enter a roundabout at a speed of more than 20-25 miles per hour.
- › Pick your route and stick with it. This allows all users in the roundabout to know where you are heading.
- › Remember to yield. Watch out for other vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- › Yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
- › Make sure to signal. Use your right turn signal when leaving the roundabout.

## To Walk or Bike through a Roundabout:

- 1 Bicyclists: Get off of your bike and begin walking it through the crosswalk
- 2 At the designated crosswalk, look both ways for oncoming traffic
- 3 Cross the road when traffic stops or a gap is present to safely cross
- 4 Look both ways for oncoming traffic
- 5 Cross the road when traffic stops, or a gap is present to safely cross
- 6 Bicyclists: When there is room, get back on your bike and continue riding







## Progress Continues on the New Marion Public Library; Opening Date to be Determined

Progress continues on the new Marion Public Library facility in the 1100 block of 6th Avenue. In June, a temporary occupancy permit was issued. Since then, most library employees have moved into the building and staff are being trained on the new technology and equipment in the space. The library's collection of books and materials, over 10,000 of which are new, has been delivered and put on the shelves.

Like many projects in recent years, the library has also been impacted by the availability of materials, delivery delays and labor shortages.

In addition to various punch list items that need to be addressed, three major outstanding issues are preventing the library from opening to the public. These include the installation of railings on the exterior of the building, shrouds that cover the fronts of the sinks in the restrooms and completion of the children's interactive play area. The railings and the shrouds are considered lifesaving installations and will prevent the issuance of a full occupancy permit.

For these reasons, the Library Board of Trustees has not yet set a specific opening date. The board and library leaders remain hopeful the facility will open sometime after Labor Day weekend.

The Uptown Library branch at 1064 7th Avenue continues to serve the community seven days a week in partnership with the Metro Library Network.



**MARION**  
Public Library

## Library Card Application



**MARION**  
Public Library

## GET A LIBRARY CARD!

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

### UPTOWN LIBRARY

1064 7th Avenue | Marion, IA

**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.**

## WE OFFER

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

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

## Looking for a quick getaway?

The Marion Public Library is pleased to join other libraries across the state to offer the Iowa Library Adventure Pass, which offers free passes to special attractions. Your library card is your ticket to great fun with Adventure Pass. Passes allow entrance for two adults and two children. Additional tickets can be purchased at the venue.

### Participating Attractions:

- Des Moines Children's Museum
- Grout Museum Buildings
- Science Center of Iowa

**For the Marion Public Library: Marion residents, 18 years of age and older, with a valid library card that is non-expired and in good standing may reserve passes. Go to our website to reserve your tickets today!**



## Library Card Application

### PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

4-Digit PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate (00/00/0000) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email for pick-up and overdue notifications  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Follow us on social media!



## Upcoming Author Talks:

**Sept. 20 | Simon Winchester, *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *The Professor and the Madman*, *The Perfectionists*, *The Map That Changed the World* and *Krakatoa***

Join us for a conversation with prolific British-American writer, journalist and consummate adventurer Simon Winchester.

This author talk will cover many aspects of his work across a myriad of fields, such as history, technology and geology, as well as the author's personal expeditions, including his path to becoming the acclaimed best-selling author he is today. A master storyteller, Winchester's narrative is like a journey through time. His keen intellect and ability to precisely and expertly weave everyday life into historical examination leaves his readers feeling awestruck at the world surrounding them. You're invited to submit questions at registration and during the chat. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Sept. 27: Hernan Diaz, *Trust and In the Distance***

Join us for a discussion with Pulitzer Prize finalist and PEN/Faulkner Award winner Hernan Diaz, author of *In the Distance and Trust*.

*Trust* opens to readers as a novel within a novel, entitled *Bonds*, set during the roar of the 1920s around the Wall Street tycoon Benjamin Rask and his wife, Helen. Together, they have risen to the top of the world of seemingly endless wealth as a decade of excess and speculation draws to an end. But at what cost have they acquired their immense fortune? This is exactly the mystery at the center of *Bonds*, a successful 1937 novel that all of New York seems to have read. Yet there are other versions of this tale of privilege and deceit.

Hernan Diaz's *Trust* elegantly puts competing narratives into conversation with one another — and in tension with the perspective of one woman bent on disentangling fact from fiction. The result is a novel that spans over a century and becomes more exhilarating with each new revelation. Revel in the mystery and join us for questions and chat with Hernan Diaz!

Register for the author talks below and check out other online author talks at: [libraryc.org/marionpubliclibrary](http://libraryc.org/marionpubliclibrary).

## Storytime Continues at Lininger Park

Bring your littles to Lininger Park on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. for books, songs and activities geared towards ages 2-6 every Wednesday in September (weather permitting).

## Teen Program in the Park

**Sept. 14 |** Teens, grab your friends and head to City Square Park after school from 1-3 p.m. for a washer necklace program. Our staff will be in the Depot and we would love to have you join us for some crafting fun!

## Another Round Book Group

Looking to join a casual, fun group that lets you read whatever you want? Another Round Book Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6-7 p.m. The September meeting will be held on Sept. 20. This adult book group, built on the idea that cocktails, mocktails and books go together, was created for a fun and lively atmosphere for book discussions. Participants must be 18 or over. Please email Jackie Tracey for more information: [jtracey@marionpubliclibrary.org](mailto:jtracey@marionpubliclibrary.org).



## Bicycle-Friendly Street Markings Remind Drivers to Share the Road



Perhaps you've noticed the bicycle-friendly street markings on residential streets in Marion. But do you know what the symbols mean?

**BICYCLE BOULEVARD** designations are found on lower-volume, lower-speed neighborhood streets. The streets provide good access to destinations such as schools, parks and trails. The pavement markings serve as a reminder that the travel lane is shared.

**SHARROWS** (above) are found on streets with higher traffic volumes and speed limits up to 30 mph. They do not designate any part of the roadway as exclusive to motorists or bicyclists. They remind travelers to share the road.

### When you drive:

- › Keep an eye out for bicyclists who may be traveling in the same lane. They have a right to be there.
- › Travel a safe distance behind bicyclists until it is safe to pass. A recommended clearance is at least 3 feet.
- › You are allowed to drive on or over the markings. You are not restricted to driving to the left of the symbols.

### When you bike:

- › You may but are not required to ride on or over the lane markings. Always ride where you feel most comfortable and safe.
- › Always travel in the same direction as traffic.

## Another Successful Year of Sunrise Yoga at Lowe Park

This year marked our ninth year of free community yoga at the Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park, and we were joined by nearly 1,000 yogis! The program is offered Saturday mornings from June through August. It is an ideal program for all abilities and all ages and is hosted by Be Well Marion and Marion Parks and Recreation, with the help of certified volunteer instructors.

## Monarch Butterfly Release

On Saturday, July 30, in partnership with the Monarch Research Project, more than 100 Monarch butterflies were released at Lowe Park. The release was held at the conclusion of Sunrise Yoga. More than 90+ yoga class attendees were able to participate and enjoy the sight. The Monarch Research Project is a non-profit organization headquartered in Marion that seeks to add native pollinator habitat and reestablish the monarch population in Linn County.

## Coffeehouse Nights Return in October

Between October and April, the Marion Arts Council is pleased to present Coffeehouse Nights at the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center. These musical performances feature talented local acoustic artists in a relaxed coffeehouse-type atmosphere. Admission is free and light refreshments are available for purchase. Performances run from 7-8:30 p.m. and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy the following upcoming performances:

Oct. 7 | Nov. 4 | Dec. 2

## Upcoming Exhibits and Receptions

The Marion Arts Council is also hosting two art exhibits in the coming months. Now through Oct. 28, 2022, enjoy the photography of Christopher Sherman. An artist reception is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 15 in the gallery at the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center.

From Oct. 29 through Feb. 4, enjoy the multi-media art of Jacob and Rebecca Lesan. An artist reception for this exhibit will occur on Nov. 10, 2022, at the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center.



## Oak Shade Cemetery

### Don't Forget the Johnsons

The photograph above includes the grave markers of four of the eleven children born to Adolph and Hulda Johnson. Until last month - no one knows for how long - these headstones lay partially buried in Lot 86 of Oak Shade's Pioneer section. Then, thanks to the efforts of Friends of the Oak Shade Cemetery volunteers, the markers were raised, cleaned and reset in new concrete bases, hopefully for many years to come.

Adolph and Hulda Johnson were married in Sweden in 1884 and came to America on January 1, 1889. For two years they lived on the farm of Hulda's father, John Polander, near Bertram before moving to Marion. Adolph, like nearly half the population of Marion at that time, went to work for the railroad.

Between 1891 and 1903, the Johnsons lost and buried four children in Oak Shade: Gustaf, age 1; Herbert, 4; Ellen, 5 and Lillian, 2-1/2. According to obituaries and accounts published at the time and at FindaGrave.com, the deaths were attributed to diphtheria, spinal meningitis, croup and "brain fever." Herbert and Lillian died just three weeks apart following a bout of whooping cough.

Adolf Johnson died at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids on Sept. 16, 1915, as a result of an accident at his job. Hulda lived on to age 91 - dying in 1953 at the home of a son, Alfred, in Minneapolis, MN.

Researching the genealogy of those interred in our historic cemetery is one of the rewards our volunteers enjoy.



For more information about Oak Shade Cemetery, visit [www.cityofmarion.org/oakshade](http://www.cityofmarion.org/oakshade)



1225 6th Avenue  
Marion, IA 52302  
[www.cityofmarion.org](http://www.cityofmarion.org)



## Outdoor Aquatic Center Concepts Shared

The City of Marion partnered with Waters Edge Aquatic Design to conduct an Outdoor Aquatic Center Feasibility Study last year. Three design options were shared with Marion City Council in April and they narrowed the preferred options to two.

One calls for the full build-out of the proposed aquatic center, which includes a lazy river with three different slides, a leisure pool, a wave pool, a 25-yard lap pool with a ninja warrior obstacle course and a diving well that features a one-meter board and three-meter platform. The

second option includes all of the same features, with the exception of the wave pool. That plan calls for adding the wave pool at a future time.

The preferred location for the aquatic center has been identified just over a mile south of the current location, near the intersection of 35th Street and Munier Road, near Highway 100. The City is in early conversations with the property owner. This fall, staff will work to develop a financing plan.

Construction is anticipated in 2026.