



November 2022

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Nick AbouAssaly

The City of Marion was recently awarded \$3 million from Destination Iowa for the development of a central plaza in a portion of the City Square.

At the time of our city's founding in 1839 and for subsequent decades, this park undoubtedly

served an important role as a green space and community gathering place.

In recent decades, while this space gained popularity as a venue for concerts, festivals and other large events, its importance as a traditional park diminished as the city grew and added more than 600 acres of other parks and trails for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The reality today is that Marion's most visible and prominent block is underutilized and largely unused for much of the year.

The Destination Iowa award endorses the City's vision for reimagining and refreshing this important place and making it once again a vibrant and active year-round destination in the heart of Marion.

The redesigned space will continue to feature green space and host the concerts and special events we all enjoy in addition to beautiful new amenities such as an ice skating loop, water features, fire tables, seating areas, interactive play sculptures and flower beds.

The Central Plaza will enhance the community's curb appeal and cement Marion's leading role in place-making and quality of life. As we have seen over the past few years, exciting things are possible when we are open to change and believe more in our own potential.

I'm grateful for our community's support as we reach higher and seek greater opportunities that allow us to better serve residents and give them an unequalled quality of life.

In this season of gratitude, we have many reasons to be thankful. I am most thankful for the honor and privilege of being part of Team Marion at this important time in our city's history. I am also grateful for the people who call Marion home and their kind and generous spirit.

Let us be mindful of those among us who will depend on our generosity to enjoy the holidays, and let's all continue to see the best in each other as we work to make Marion a standout community and a welcoming place for all people.

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

Uptown Master Plan Wins Urban Design Award

Congratulations to the City of Marion's Planning and Development Division, Uptown Marion and RDG Planning & Design for being named the Urban Design Award recipient from the American Planning Association Iowa Chapter. The award recognizes the Uptown Master Plan.

Rather than duplicating earlier efforts, the Master Plan Update was informed by and incorporated feedback from studies and planning efforts for the Uptown area from 2009 to 2020. A cohesive document was then developed to guide the near-term and long-term development of the area considering the character of the district, redevelopment opportunities, programming offerings and infrastructure needs.



Learn more about the award-winning plan at www.cityofmarion.org/7thAveStreetscape.



Marion Fire Department Headquarters Recognized for Excellence in Design

The new headquarters for the Marion Fire Department has been named one of the 2022 award recipients of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Central States Excellence in Design program hosted by AIA Nebraska. The AIA Central States include Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. The award was presented on Nov. 4 in Lincoln, NE. The fire station was designed by Cedar Rapids-based OPN Architects. The judges commented, "Few projects challenge our expectations, but this stands out amongst the rest, by reconsidering what a fire station can be. The use of wood on the interior and exterior is unexpected and beautiful and the connection to the site and natural daylight throughout is refreshing."

Come Work with Us

The City of Marion has a wide variety of job opportunities available. If you're looking for a highly collaborative team where you can learn and grow while making a positive impact in the community – look no further. We offer competitive pay and a benefits package that includes health and dental insurance, a retirement plan, tuition reimbursement, vacation, sick and holiday pay, and more.



For a complete list of current openings, visit www.cityofmarion.org/employment.



Marion's Urban Forestry Division continues to make significant progress in restoring our community's tree canopy. At the end of October, nearly 1,500 native trees, all donated by Monarch Research, were planted in Marion.

Around 500 trees were planted by residents and their friends and family members as part of the Marion Native Tree Right-of-Way Enrichment Pilot. Then, with the help of more than 50 Kirkwood Community College students and the Marion Parks and Recreation Department's operations crew, more than 900 trees were installed in Legion Park.

This work would not be possible without the generous support of Clark McLeod and the team at Monarch Research, as well as other local funding partners and the leadership of City Arborist Mike Cimprich and the Urban Forestry team.



2022 Housing Needs Analysis Now Available

Marion's population continues to grow, but what types of housing are necessary to accommodate the growth? Maxfield Research and Consulting, LLC completed the Marion Housing Needs Analysis in September to answer that question.

The study analyzed demographic/economic data and housing market conditions for Marion. The finished report provides calculations of housing demand between 2022-2030. It also explores senior housing and the rental market and offers recommendations to address both the challenges and opportunities outlined in the report.

The 2022 Housing Needs Analysis is an excellent resource for those working in real estate, recruiting, business development and banking, but also pertains to anyone interested in understanding the community's future growth and housing trends.

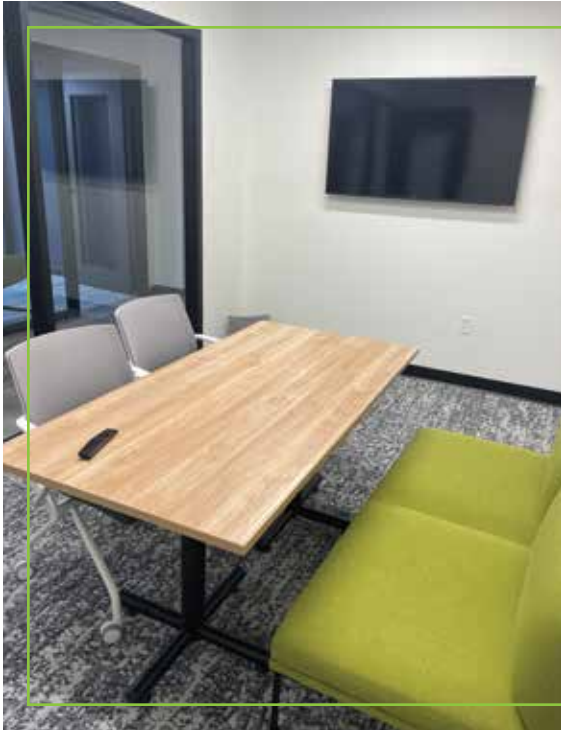


Find a copy of the report at www.cityofmarion.org/HousingAnalysis.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE State of the City

Marion's State of the City event will take place on Thursday, March 9, at the Cedar Rapids Marriott, 1200 Collins Road NE. Mayor Nick AbouAssaly will review the City's accomplishments of the past year and look ahead to 2023 and beyond. The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Linn County and the City of Marion, with support from Marion businesses.



New Coworking Hub to Welcome Entrepreneurs and Location-Independent Workforce

Cowork 1107, Marion's newest coworking business, opened in November. Operated by Marion Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO), the space offers a shared, community-driven workspace for location-independent workers and entrepreneurs. Whether you need desk space for the day or private, executive-level accommodations to host a prospective client, this is the space for you.

Cowork 1107 is located at 1107 7th Avenue, Suite 201, inside the beautiful Broad and Main on 7th. Overlooking City Square Park, Cowork 1107 strives to be the living room of the business community.



Visit www.facebook.com/Cowork1107 for updates and learn more about membership opportunities at www.cowork1107.org.



The Marion Chamber of Commerce and the City of Marion are proud to partner on the Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award. Nominations are currently open and will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2023, at 11:15 p.m.

The Community Impact Award was launched in 2021 in recognition of banker Morris F. Neighbor of Farmers State Bank. Through his leadership, the Neighbor family has given to countless capital campaigns, community events and charitable non-profit groups. In addition, volunteerism and dedication to the community have remained a priority with the family and among bank staff.

Troy and Katie Benham of Marion were awarded the first Community Impact Award earlier this year.

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

The ideal candidate exhibits the following attributes:

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

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



Visit www.marioncc.org/community-impact-award-nominations to access the nomination form.

Nominations Sought for Community Impact Award

Give a Gift from Home

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

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

Uptown Dollars, good at over 30 businesses in Uptown Marion, are also available

for purchase in \$5, \$10 and \$20 increments. Store hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Check marioncc.org for additional holiday hours.

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





Santa Returns to City Square Park for Christmas in the Park

December brings family fun to Marion with the annual Christmas in the Park and Peppermint Walk celebration! Join us on Friday, Dec. 2, from 4-8 p.m. in City Square Park. We'll welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus, escorted by the Marion Fire and Police Departments.

Holiday SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Arrival of Santa Claus | 4 p.m. | Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at City Square Park along 6th Avenue. Visit Santa in his house and deliver your letter to our magic mailbox between 4-8 p.m. Visits with Santa will be limited to walk through only.

Winter Storytime | 4-7 p.m. | Visit the NEW Marion Public Library to warm up and stay for winter storytime happening at the top of each hour from 4-7 p.m. The library will remain open until 8 p.m.

Family Fun Activities | 4-8 p.m. | Enjoy traditional activities, including holiday music, popcorn from El Kahir Shrine and hot cocoa while supplies last. Kids – don't miss this opportunity to climb aboard the caboose as it's transformed into the Peppermint Express! Bring a new, warm-weather item to place inside to help Keep Your Neighbors Warm. Look for festive photo ops throughout the event for the perfect picture!

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

Prima the Alpaca | 5-7 p.m. | Come see Prima fancied up for the holidays and take a selfie.

Adorable Princess Visit | 5:30-7:30 p.m. | Visit the princesses in person and pose for a photo.

Heart of Marion Community Choir | 5:30 p.m. | Join the Heart of Marion Community Choir for a sing-along near the Depot.

Peace Tree Lighting | 6 p.m. | Marion's NEW community Peace Tree will be unveiled in a special tree lighting ceremony. Marvel at the 30-foot LED panel tree and help thank all who contributed to the Winter Lights program.

School of Rock Performance | 6:30 p.m. | Join students from the School of Rock in Marion for a special holiday performance in the park.

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



For more information, please visit the Marion Chamber of Commerce website at www.marioncc.org or visit the Facebook event page.

Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest Winners



During Fire Prevention Week in October, the Marion Fire Department visited several area classrooms and reminded students “Fire Doesn’t Wait, Plan Your Escape.” In addition, area third graders participated in a fire safety poster contest. This annual tradition encourages students to have fun drawing while learning about a fire safety message. Members of the Marion Fire Department select the best poster from each school along with one overall winner. Congratulations to the following 2022 poster contest winners who were recognized as the best in their school. And a special shout out to Jace Amerman of Echo Hill Elementary whose design was named Best in the City.

LINN GROVE ELEMENTARY

Aubrey Anderson

FRANCIS MARION INTERMEDIATE-GOLD

Alexa Riley

FRANCIS MARION INTERMEDIATE-RED

Charlotte Johnson

NOVAK ELEMENTARY

Mason Gwin

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Hailey Kettmann

ECHO HILL ELEMENTARY

Jace Amerman - *Best in the City*

INDIAN CREEK ELEMENTARY

Mya Garringer

WILKINS ELEMENTARY

Rowe Bushman

Take advantage of Marion’s Residential Cost-Sharing Rebate Program



Stormwater runoff from residential properties can pick up pollutants such as lawn fertilizer, pet waste and trash, and carry those into storm sewers, creeks and rivers. To improve the quality of stormwater runoff and increase local awareness of the importance of protecting our local streams and lakes, the City of Marion has developed a Residential Cost-Sharing Program to promote methods that capture and infiltrate stormwater in residential areas. Stormwater Best Management Practices – or BMPs – such as rain gardens, rain barrels and soil quality restoration can be used in residential yards to capture stormwater where it falls and allow it to infiltrate into the ground.

Rain gardens are shallow depressions that contain permeable soils and native plants where rainwater is collected from yards and downspouts. Rainwater is then taken up by the roots of the native plants and naturally infiltrates into the earth. The one-time rebate for rain gardens is up to \$400 per residence.

Rain barrels collect rainwater from roofs and downspouts. This water can then be used to water plants, gardens, lawns, or even for flushing toilets. A 1,000-square-foot roof can potentially generate more than 250 gallons from a half-inch of rain! The one-time rebate for a rain barrel is up to \$50 per rain barrel with a limit of one rebate per residence.

Lawn soil improvement, also called soil quality restoration, is a simple but effective way to improve the ability of lawns to absorb rainwater. A process of soil aeration and compost application improves the root systems of lawn grass and allows for better rainwater absorption. The one-time rebate for soil quality restoration is up to \$350 per residence.

For more information, please call the Marion Engineering Department at (319) 743-6340.



Application forms can be downloaded at www.cityofmarion.org/stormwater-management.

CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly

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

At-Large – Randy Strnad

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marionatlarge1@cityofmarion.org

At-Large – Grant Harper

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marionatlarge2@cityofmarion.org

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ward1@cityofmarion.org

Ward Two – Steve Jensen

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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.

progress ahead



Marion Celebrates Ribbon Cutting for 7th Avenue Reconstruction & Streetscape Project

Community leaders, contractors and the business community gathered on Oct. 27 with Marion Chamber ambassadors to celebrate the substantial completion of the 7th Avenue Reconstruction & Streetscape Project.

“We are thrilled to be celebrating the completion of this highly anticipated project,” said Brooke Prouty, director of the Uptown Marion District and business liaison for the project. “We knew that rebuilding infrastructure that was more than 100 years old, during a pandemic and on the heels of a derecho, would come with its challenges. But was it worth it? Absolutely.”

The work, spanning two construction seasons, included the reconstruction of the street and sidewalks and the replacement of underground utilities, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water main on 7th Avenue and adjacent side streets between 8th and 12th Streets and 6th and 8th Avenues in the historic central business district. It also included the addition of a plaza on 11th Street that stretches from the Uptown Artway south across 7th Avenue.

The project improves walkability, accessibility and overall safety in the heart of the community. Angled parking spaces were added on the south side of 7th Avenue and the number of designated accessible parking spaces in Uptown tripled. In addition, the City worked with building and business owners to update fire suppression systems and ADA entrances. New community gathering spaces were added to make the area attractive to potential businesses, visitors and residents.

“I have been so impressed with the collective support shown for this project,” said City Manager Ryan Waller. “The positivity began with the business owners in the construction zone and carried through to the shoppers, the visitors and the community at large. The public investment is already contributing to a renaissance that is happening in the Uptown District.”

The \$6.9 million project was funded by Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) proceeds and bonding through the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Marion-based Rathje Construction Company served as the general contractor for the project.



CITY DEPARTMENTS

City Hall

1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302
cityofmarion.org

Administrative Offices

319-743-6301
aabernathey@cityofmarion.org

Building Inspection

319-743-6330
building@cityofmarion.org

City Clerk

319-743-6327
cityclerk@cityofmarion.org

City Manager

319-743-6301
citymanager@cityofmarion.org

Community Development

319-743-6320
abartlett@cityofmarion.org

Engineering Department

319-743-6340
mbarkalow@cityofmarion.org

Finance Department

319-743-6350
lcairy@cityofmarion.org

IT Department

319-743-4735
thunter@cityofmarion.org

Water Department

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

Parks & Recreation

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

Public Services

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

Marion Public Library

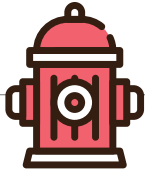
1101 6th Avenue
319-377-3412
info@marionpubliclibrary.org

Fire Department

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

Police Department

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



Adopt a Hydrant

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

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

You can help by keeping the fire hydrants closest to your home or business clear of snow. It is best to have a three-foot clearance on all sides of the hydrant.



Causes of Low Water Pressure

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



Frozen Pipes

What to do if there is no water

- 1 **Check your water meter** – If water is leaking or spraying from the meter in your basement or the base plate is cracked, your water meter may be frozen. Call the Marion Water Department at (319) 743-6310 as soon as possible. There is a charge to replace your meter.
- 2 **Feel for frozen pipes** – Pipes located along exterior walls are the most susceptible to freezing. To thaw pipes, contact a licensed plumber or use hot towels or a hair dryer. Never use an open flame or heat tape to thaw pipes, as this could cause a fire.
- 3 **Check with your neighbors** – If you and your neighbors do not have water service, there may be a water main break. Check your front door for a notice from the Water Department or call (319) 743-6310.



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

2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City of Marion Garbage & Recycling Collection

Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up 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.

“Next to creating a life, the finest thing a man or woman can do is save one.”

— Abraham Lincoln

Marion Police Officers Save Lives

Police officers are often the first people on the scene during medical emergencies and frequently use their training to save lives. Every officer receives annual medical training and is certified to perform CPR. In addition, every squad car is equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine. Over the past 14 months, Marion officers were credited with saving the lives of five individuals using either CPR or an AED.

On Aug. 26, 2021, **Officer Reagan Kurfman** was dispatched to an apartment where a man was unconscious and unresponsive. Officer Kurfman quickly assessed the man's condition and began performing CPR. Officer Kurfman continued administering CPR until other police and fire units arrived.

Investigator Nicole Hotz was working as a bomb technician during an Iowa football game on Sept. 18, 2021, when a man suffered what was later described as a massive heart attack. When he collapsed, Investigator Hotz ran to the man, determined he had no pulse and began performing CPR. She continued compressions until other police and medical personnel arrived. Ultimately a defibrillator was used to bring the man's heart back into rhythm, but doctors credited Hotz's initial response and CPR with saving the man's life.

Officer Brian Davis and **Sergeant Mitch Walser** were working at a high school football game on Oct. 22, 2021, when a man suffered a heart attack inside the concession stand. Officer Davis and Sergeant Walser, along with an off-duty medical professional, performed CPR and utilized an AED machine on the man, which saved his life.

On Jan. 17, 2022, **Officers Spenser Hartman, Korey Ryan, Adam Paulsen** and **Michael Pope** responded to a local fitness center after a man collapsed. CPR was in progress when the officers arrived, and they immediately took over chest compressions and readied an AED machine. Fire Department personnel arrived on the scene and utilized the AED to shock the man's heart back into rhythm. The gym employee who began CPR, the officers and Fire Department personnel were credited with saving the man's life.

On Sept. 26, 2022, **Officers Brian Davis** and **Investigator Adam Paulsen** responded to a local apartment complex on a report of an unresponsive female down in the parking lot. The officers found no pulse when they located the victim and immediately began CPR. They maintained compressions until Fire Department personnel arrived and took over. The woman survived due to the quick actions of the officers and Fire Department personnel.

Officers involved in saving a life receive an accommodation from the department and are publicly recognized during a City Council meeting.

MARION MESSENGER

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

Amber Bisinger, Editor

Marion City Hall | abisinger@cityofmarion.org



Marion Police Department Invites Residents & Businesses to Update

Security Camera Registry

The Marion Police Department has re-launched its surveillance camera registry, which allows local businesses and residents to register the location of their exterior video surveillance cameras. The program is a partnership between the Marion Police Department and the community to combat criminal activity.

Residents and businesses are invited to register their private cameras with the Marion Police Department at www.cityofmarion.org/CameraRegistration. Those who registered a camera with Marion PD before August should re-register to help ensure the most accurate data.

Knowledge of camera locations in Marion will save investigators valuable time and could assist in solving crimes or missing person cases. If an incident occurs near a registered address, investigators will refer to the database and associated map, contact the surveillance camera owners, and ask that they check their cameras for relevant video footage.



Christmas Lighting Safety

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, 150 home fires start with holiday lights and other decorative lighting each year.

When you're ready to put up your lights, think about these tips for keeping your property safe:

- › Make sure you're using lights that have been safety tested and are appropriate for the way they'll be used.
- › Check all of your lights, especially older ones, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections and toss any damaged sets. Practice good extension cord safety. Never run cords under rugs or coil them tightly around themselves, which can cause them to overheat. Use only lights and cords approved by OSHA-certified laboratories, like Underwriters Laboratory (UL). The U.S. Fire Administration recommends linking no more than three strands of lights. However, if you're using energy-saving LEDs, the U.S. Department of Energy says it's safe to connect 25 strands end to end.
- › Plug outdoor lights and decorations into "GFCI" grounding outlets. Portable GFCI units can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.
- › Always look up before decorating outdoors. Never raise ladders or extend objects into or near power lines.
- › Always turn off lights when you are not home.
- › Use extension cords that are rated to carry the electrical loads connected to them.
- › To reduce the risk of fire, don't overload a circuit.
- › Use caution to avoid driving nails, staples or tacks through wiring insulation.

If you have questions on electrical safety, feel free to contact the Marion Building Division at (319)743-6330.

Protect Yourself Against Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



The Marion Fire and Building Departments want you to be aware of the hidden dangers of toxic gases in your home and encourage you to use a carbon monoxide (CO) detector that can warn you of these dangers.

Carbon monoxide poisoning deaths are the highest in January, followed closely by December. Cold weather increases the use of gas-powered furnaces as well as the use of risky alternative heat and power sources such as portable generators, charcoal briquettes or propane stoves during power outages.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is colorless, odorless and tasteless, so there is no warning of a leak. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, confusion and feeling very tired. Unfortunately, some of these symptoms also present with common illnesses like the flu.

CO can be caused by any gas-fired appliance such as a furnace, water heater, gas stove or gas fireplace. Having routine maintenance of appliances is the best prevention from having either a gas leak or a CO leak.

Below are some additional suggestions to prevent a CO leak:

- [1] Do not use flameless chemical heaters indoors.
- [2] When you buy gas appliances, make sure they carry the seal of a testing organization like the Underwriters Laboratory.
- [3] Make sure gas appliances are vented properly. Vent pipes should always have a vertical rise to them.
- [4] Make sure all vents are kept clean and free of obstructions.
- [5] Never use a gas oven or stove for supplemental heating.
- [6] Never burn charcoal inside. Charcoal produces carbon monoxide when heated.
- [7] Never use a portable camp stove inside of a building, as it produces CO.
- [8] Never use a generator inside of a home or within 20 feet of any building opening.

Use these safety tips to prevent CO poisoning:

- [1] Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil or coal-burning appliance inspected and serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- [2] Install battery-operated CO detectors on every level of your home.
- [3] Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside the home, basement or garage or outside the home near a window.
- [4] Don't burn anything in an unvented stove or fireplace.
- [5] Don't let a vehicle idle inside a garage attached to a house, even if the garage door is left open.
- [6] Don't heat a house with a gas oven.



Be Aware of Ransomware

Cyber security and fraud scams are so common today that they can be difficult to distinguish from legitimate business or personal communications. Emails, phone calls, text messages and even social media posts can be avenues for scams. While the methods differ, the goal is the same: to cause damage in one way or another.

Old-school malware sought to cause damage to your computer simply for the glory of the hacker who wrote the virus. Today, the intent of malware and ransomware is almost always to try to steal something from you.

To prevent attacks, become educated and pay attention to trusted sources. Although they can happen at any time, there are calendar-driven frauds around seasonal activities, such as tax time and holiday shopping. Additionally, there's news-driven fraud, which takes advantage of natural disasters.

Victims of fraud unknowingly click on a link in an email or open an attachment. Ultimately, software is downloaded to their computer without consent or knowledge. Clicking on a text message or social media post can also be dangerous. Remember, your smartphone is a computer too!

This is where the opportunity for prevention happens. Always question the legitimacy of communication to you that you did not initiate. Remember, there is almost never a reason for an urgent response. Stop, think, ask someone or simply ignore and delete it. If you want to verify the legitimacy, check with the company or individual that's claiming to want action from you.

Pro tip #1 | Take advantage of the additional security offered to you. Many companies now offer consumer protection options, such as multi-factor authentication. An example of this type of innovation from PayPal is called passkeys. Passkeys offer customers a secure login method

using technology that is resistant to phishing and designed so that there is no shared passkey data between platforms.

Pro tip #2 | Malicious actors also count on us using simple passwords and the same password for all our business portals. Mix them up and consider using a free password vault program.

Pro tip #3 | The best advice for scams or attacks is to remember they all have one thing in common: they require our reaction to succeed. It doesn't matter what type of scam; the easiest method for a bad actor is to use social engineering to get our reaction. Our impulsive response is what they are counting on.

If you get into a situation where your information has been compromised, it's time to start damage control. There are resources out there for you. If your information was the result of a data breach that was reported to you, then you will likely be notified and given information about how to file a claim.

- › If you're a victim of identity theft, the Consumer Protection Division has useful information, including the contact information for all three credit bureaus. Phone: (515) 281-5926 or toll-free 1-888-777-4590.
- › For tax-specific fraud instances, visit www.irs.gov/individuals/how-irs-id-theft-victim-assistance-works.
- › For Social Security fraud instances, visit www.ssa.gov/scam.
- › To learn about the common scams and frauds, visit www.usa.gov/common-scams-frauds.
- › To learn about safe-computing practices, visit the Marion Public Library's digital catalog. Log in with your library card to access hundreds of different educational videos on how you can protect yourself from cyber threats. Visit marionpubliclibrary.org/online-resources and look for LinkedIn Learning.

Unfortunately, malicious actors are very stealthy and often operate out of another country. It's very time-consuming and difficult for the FBI and local agencies at the state, county and municipal levels to investigate and retrieve the losses. You can submit complaints to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Family Care | If you have elderly parents or grandparents who are handling their own finances and personal business, talk to them about these things. Offer to assist them with items that become more difficult for them to navigate. When visiting with them, make it a part of your discussion. Let them know that there are a lot of bad actors out there and that the world is more complex today. Even if they do not use the internet, phone scammers are finding success with seniors and their credit cards to defraud them. For additional information, visit the National Council on Aging at www.ncoa.org.



Daughters of the American Revolution Host Service Day

Every year on the anniversary of their organization's founding - October 11 - members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) celebrate the occasion with a volunteer initiative aimed at giving back to their community. This year, seven members of the Marion Linn Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) devoted a combined 16.5 hours to clean 12 grave markers at Oak Shade Cemetery. The first of the monuments they wanted to scrub was that of Marion DAR Chapter founder Adelisa Daniels, who died in 1947.

According to Oak Shade friend and DAR member Judy Bushlack, Oak Shade is the resting place for eleven of the original 18 charter members, as well as many subsequent members who have died since 1928 when the chapter began. From the founding of the NSDAR, the objectives of the organization have been and remain historical, educational and patriotic. The care of cemeteries is a great way to preserve a community's history. Educationally, DAR promotes literacy, offers scholarships to students and supports schools and teachers. DAR is highly patriotic, which includes honoring veterans and promoting citizenship.

Helping Friends of Oak Shade with the beautification and preservation of the cemetery has served as a fun and rewarding project for other service organizations, church groups and families. If you're interested in helping, contact Jay Kacena at (319) 210-1305 to get on the schedule for 2023.

Parks & Recreation Programs



Snapology

Snapology is committed to developing the next generation of scientists, mathematicians, engineers, inventors and leaders through engaging STEAM-based activity and play. Each activity or camp is designed to reinforce the core competencies and curricula being taught at each grade level. These camps offer participants an environment where they create and interact with the materials and technology, enabling them to explore solutions and dynamic thinking through hands-on, playful learning. Registration and class descriptions are available at www.snapology.com/location/hiawatha.

Pound in the Park

Pound in the Park provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin' out! Instead of listening to music, you become the music in this exhilarating full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning, and strength training with yoga and pilates-inspired movements. The program meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from October to April indoors at the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center. Classes will not be held the week of Thanksgiving or Christmas. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be canceled.

Practice Ball Diamond Reservation Sign Up

Reservations for outdoor practice spaces will open on Wednesday, Jan. 11. Reservation information can be found at www.cityofmarion.org/facilities. Fields will be available for use beginning April 10, 2023.

2024 Facility Reservations to Open

Are you planning a graduation party, wedding, anniversary or birthday? The online calendar for the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center and other park facilities will open for 2024 reservations on Jan. 1, 2023. Visit www.cityofmarion.org/facilities.

Oak Shade Cemetery Fees to Increase

The cost for burial spaces at Oak Shade Cemetery will increase effective Jan. 1, 2023. Note: Sundays or holidays are subject to additional fees.

Regular Space	\$800
Infant Space (Addition 10 only)	\$400
Burial Traditional	\$800
Burial Cremains	\$400
Disinterment	Two times burial fee
Monument Placement Marking Fee	\$100

Help Wanted at Lowe Park Ball Diamonds

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department is looking to partner with a concessionaire to provide and manage concession operations at the Lowe Park Ball Diamonds. The season runs from April 16 through July 26, 2023, and the concessionaire shall be open and available for all regularly scheduled or rescheduled league or tournament games. Learn more by reviewing the Request for Proposals at www.cityofmarion.org/publicnotice. Responses are due by 3 p.m. on Dec. 9, 2022.

Have you been receiving our emails?

Please take a moment to review your RecDesk account and verify that your email address has been entered correctly. Unfortunately, we have accounts where the email address is incorrect. Correspondence with program information, schedules and invoices is sent via email. With the wrong email address, we might have trouble getting you valuable information.

RecAssist Program Available to Residents with Financial Need

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department has updated its financial assistance program. The program is available to Marion residents with financial needs. To qualify for a reduced program fee, the individual or family must meet the annual income supplied by the federal poverty guidelines.

Eligible family members include:

- › Adults and their immediate, biological children under the age of 21.
- › Children in guardianship or foster care placement with the applicant (proof required).

Applicants will need to submit a completed application and the most recent documentation that lists annual or monthly income and all household members. This can be in the form of one of the following:

- › Tax Return
- › Annual Section 8 Housing Renewal Letter
- › DHS Notice of Decision Letter
- › General Assistance Claim Authorization Letter
- › Printout from Iowa Workforce Development showing zero income for unemployed individuals

Qualifying families/individuals receive a 50% fee reduction on:

Swim passes
Recreational programs
Swim lessons

Non-eligible programs include:

Pavilion/facility rentals
Team entry fees
Daily admission to the pool
Garden plots
Trips
Programs/classes with contract instructors

Program Rules:

- › Financial assistance is only available to Marion residents.
- › Only individuals listed on the documentation can be enrolled in RecAssist if eligible.
- › To continue to receive assistance, applicants must submit a completed application with verifying documentation each calendar year. Participation ends on Dec. 31 of each year.
- › Incomplete applications and verification will result in denial.
- › Only adult(s) approved for Financial Assistance can register for programs.
- › All fees associated with programs and/or activities must be paid at the time of registration or within 24 hours when invoiced by RecDesk. All programs and/or activities and pool passes will need to be processed by staff.
- › No third-party payments for RecAssist participants. Third parties will be charged full price for eligible programs.
- › Marion Parks and Recreation reserves the right to refuse assistance to any applicant.

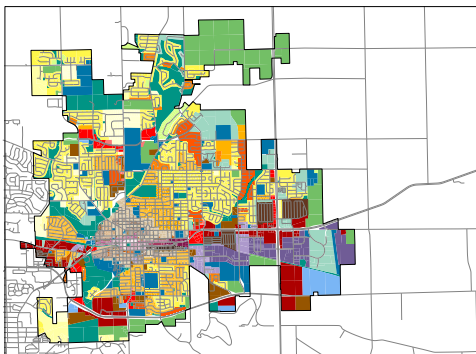


Trails Update

West, east and north connections were made to the Marion trail system 2022. In July, a ribbon cutting was held for the pedestrian bridge over Marion Boulevard to mark the completion of the federally funded portion of the project. The artistic columns by Synergy Metal Works will be installed at a later date to allow for full federal closeout of the project.

In September, we celebrated the completion of the 10th Avenue Sidepaths project and another significant improvement to the bicycle and pedestrian accommodations in Marion. The sidepaths stretch from 35th Street to Eagleview Drive.

Last but not least, the Indian Creek Trail made great strides with the last bridge being placed in October. This trail is expected to be open for users before winter.



Update Completed

The City of Marion completed its update of the citywide zoning map in October. The zoning map was last overhauled in 1972. All City zoning districts have new names; however, the permitted uses and development standards for many districts, particularly the residential ones, did not substantially change. Residential properties within the original town and some properties built out prior to 1972 now have reduced setbacks and lot widths. These changes reduce the number of non-conforming lots and structures that were created by the 1972 update.

We Are Open!



Library Hours

Monday - Thursday:
9 a.m.-8 p.m.

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

Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

More than 770 days since our groundbreaking, the new Marion Public Library (located at 1101 6th Avenue) is finally open to the public! The MPL staff would like to sincerely thank our patrons, supporters and greater community for their patience and understanding over the last two years as our new facility has taken shape.

As previously mentioned, some items and services are yet to be completed. Construction will continue for the remaining punch list items within the coming months. A grand opening and ribbon cutting will occur after all projects have been completed; the date for this is yet to be determined.

Library maps are available for all patrons at information desks throughout the building.



Library Employees Honored with 2022 Citation of Merit by Iowa Library Association

Marion Public Library employees were honored with a Citation of Merit Award by the Iowa Library Association on Thursday, Oct. 13. The award recognizes groups or individuals who made contributions to, or advanced the principles of, quality library service.

The team was recognized for their dedication and commitment to providing exceptional library service through both a pandemic and the derecho of 2020. Even when the library building was damaged beyond repair, the team put the community first and stepped up to help in any way needed. They helped direct traffic, answered

phone calls, configured technology stations and staffed information tables throughout the community.

Once the community recovered from the initial devastation of the storm, staff continued to deliver library services from five different locations scattered throughout the community.

As Library Director Bill Carroll stated in the nomination, "Staff have persevered and provided exemplary customer service to the community. They should be recognized for their innovative and out-of-the-box thinking. If you ask any of them, they will simply tell you they were 'doing their job.'"

Upcoming PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Kids

**DECEMBER STORYTIMES |
WEDNESDAYS | 10 A.M.**

Join us for storytime in the Children's Programming Space on Wednesdays in December! Children of all ages and abilities are welcome, which features engaging stories and songs.

Teens

**TEEN PROGRAMMING |
WEEKDAYS | AFTER SCHOOL**

School is in full swing, and so is teen programming! Head to the library every day after school (and on early out days) for a variety of fun activities from our programming team.

Adults

AUTHOR TALK WITH GERALDINE BROOKS | DEC. 6 | 6-8 P.M.

Join us for an exciting virtual chat with the highly acclaimed and award-winning novelist Geraldine Brooks in conversation about her most recent New York Times bestselling novel *Horse*. Brooks braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession and injustice across American history based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington. *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

**A STORY OF MURDER AND INDIGENOUS JUSTICE IN EARLY AMERICA:
AUTHOR TALK WITH NICOLE EUSTACE | DEC. 14 | 11 A.M.-NOON**

You're invited to explore early American history during an online afternoon conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Nicole Eustace as she discusses her 2022 award-winning book *Covered with Night: A Story of Murder and Indigenous Justice in Early America*. Eustace reconstructs the crime and its aftermath, bringing us into the overlapping worlds of white colonists and Indigenous peoples in this formative period.

THE NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB | 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH | 6-7:30 P.M.

New name, same great program: Another Round Book Club is now The Next Chapter! Join us at the library for a lively and fun atmosphere with good books and good company.

ADULT BOARD GAME NIGHT | 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH | 6:30-9:30 P.M.

Looking for some friendly competition? Spend a Tuesday night with MPL! Join us for adult game night at the library to try out some new board games or challenge someone to an old favorite. We encourage individuals and groups of friends to join us.

General

UKULELE CLUB | COMING JANUARY 2023!

Ukulele Club is coming back in 2023 and we want you to join us! This club will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. Stay tuned to our events calendar for more information.

Find the full calendar of programs and events at marionpubliclibrary.org/events



Ashley Osborn

Meet Ashley!

We are very excited to announce that Ashley Osborn has joined the Marion Public Library as our new marketing and special events manager.

"I am beyond excited and grateful to be part of such an important chapter for the Marion Public Library," Osborn said. "Lots of change and opportunity are on the horizon—especially with the opening of our new facility— and I'm eager to jump in and work alongside an incredible team in the city I call home."



Holiday Hours

Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving Eve):
9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving): Closed

Nov. 25 (Day After Thanksgiving): Closed

Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve): Closed

Dec. 25 (Christmas Day): Closed

Dec. 31 (New Years Eve): 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Jan. 1 (New Years Day): Closed



New COLLECTIONS

Have you heard? MPL has three new collections to check out! Our vinyl, games and puzzles, and cake pans are perfect for family gatherings and feasts during the upcoming holiday season. You can find our vinyl collection and games and puzzles on the main level, and our cake pans are next to our Adult Collection on the second level.



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



2022-2023 Upcoming Events Listing

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.

Coffeehouse Nights

Fridays | Dec. 2, Feb. 3, March 3, April 7 | Lowe Park

These musical performances feature talented local acoustic artists in a relaxed coffeehouse-type atmosphere. Admission is free and doors open at 6:30 p.m. with music starting at 7 p.m. Coffee will be available for purchase.

Bingo Nights

Fridays | Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb 10, March 10, April 14, May 19 | Lowe Park

Join us for bingo! Doors are at 6 p.m., with bingo beginning at 6:30 p.m. Games of bingo will be played for \$0.25 per card, per game.

Holiday Lights Bingo

Dec. 12-30 | Throughout Marion

Join the fun and participate in the Light the Night Holiday Lights Bingo! A great family-friendly activity to enjoy during the holiday season! Each bingo will equate to an entry into a drawing for prizes (max 5 bingos/entries per person on a single card). Bingo sheets will be available by Dec. 12.

Light the Night Holiday Lights Tour

Dec. 12-30 | Throughout Marion

Tis the season...for Christmas lights! We are in search of holiday light displays in Marion and need your help. Simply submit your home or a property you feel deserves recognition to the Marion Parks and Recreation Department, and we will compile a comprehensive list for everyone to drive around and enjoy. A great family-friendly activity to enjoy during the holiday season!

Great Candy Cane Hunt

Beginning Dec. 12 | Marion Parks

Candy canes have been a long-standing, traditional symbol for Christmastime. Get active and have a little fun searching for oversized candy canes hidden throughout Marion parks. Each candy cane contains an official "Great Candy Cane Hunt" tag along with a small prize from the Marion Parks and Recreation Department. Participants can keep the candy cane and enjoy the prize on behalf of the department. Post your finds on the "Great Candy Cane Hunt" Facebook event page. The hunt continues until all candy canes have been found.

Family Formal Dance

Saturday | Jan. 28 | Lowe Park

Get ready to dance the night away with the one(s) you love most at this new, family-

friendly event. Whether it be mother-son, daddy-daughter, grandpa/grandma-grandchildren, aunt/uncle-niece/nephew, or any other combination of family members, get ready to get "dolled up" and have some fun from 5-7 p.m. A limited number of spots are available. \$20 per person (includes light snacks, refreshments and a photo op).

Marion Ice

Saturday | Feb. 11 | Uptown Marion

We're working on creating a brand-new, fun winter event! This will be a chance to embrace the weather and enjoy some games and hot chocolate. Keep an eye out for additional details on the City of Marion's Facebook page and at www.cityofmarion.org.

Red Cedar Chamber Music

Wednesday | Feb. 22 | Lowe Park

Red Cedar Chamber Music is a Cultural Leadership Partner in the State of Iowa. Each season, the group brings nearly 100 enlightening and entertaining performances to audiences in Eastern Iowa and beyond. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

Trivia Night

Saturday | Feb. 25 | Lowe Park

Bring your thinking caps and useless trivial knowledge to compete against other teams of adults in fun and challenging rounds of trivia.