



Summer 2023

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Nick AbouAssaly

In March, I had the distinct honor of delivering the annual State of the City before a crowd of more than 500 attendees. This year's presentation highlighted the ways our city is delivering on our promise to be the best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business.

Marion's list of accomplishments over the past decade alone is nothing short of astounding. The city has grown by more than 18% in the past decade to become the 13th-largest city in the state and the third-largest in the region. Our success is rooted in our commitment to serving people and giving them great opportunities.

We are committed to providing excellent services to residents, and we go further to prioritize quality of life and quality of place. Our commitment to higher quality, investing in the things the community desires and giving people amazing opportunities has been a game changer, putting Marion on the map and making it a preferred place where people and businesses want to be!

We're delivering on the promise of a vibrant community with projects like the Uptown Reconstruction and Streetscape Project that began in 2021 and was completed last fall. The significant public investment in infrastructure and quality of place gives the private sector confidence to follow suit, driving progress and enabling the renaissance of our historic city core to a vibrant regional destination for dining, shopping and entertainment, as well as a great place to live and work.

We're delivering on the promise of access and opportunity for all with our new Marion Public Library and providing a prototype for libraries of the future. Our library still offers books and traditional library services, and it also provides access to the latest technology, a library of things, much-needed meeting spaces and a variety of learning opportunities for all people. Our library is where community happens!

We're delivering in a big way on our promise of the best recreational amenities that enhance opportunities for enjoying the outdoors and improving people's physical and mental well-being. In 2022 we expanded our network of more than 35 miles of trails and initiated an update to the Lowe Park Master Plan, improvements at Hanna Park, and the build-out of Prairie Hill Park, and we continued to make progress toward a new aquatic center and the recent adoption of the Indian Creek Master Plan.

And we're kicking the cool factor up a notch with the construction of our new Central Plaza, which was awarded a \$3 million Destination Iowa grant, to refresh the City square and make it an attractive destination and gathering space year-round. We anticipate construction beginning later this spring.

We're also delivering on the promise of honoring and preserving our community's history. The prospect of losing the former Marion Methodist Church building brought to the forefront the importance of historic preservation and how truly vulnerable our older structures are. Through our exhaustive efforts, this community jewel was saved from demolition and will continue to be part of Marion's success story.

More than ever before, we are delivering on our promise of a strong economy and experiencing unprecedented interest in Marion from local, regional and out-of-state investors. With more than 30 active sites currently under construction, the new commercial development is helping to diversify our tax base and providing the services Marion's residents need as well as jobs in the community.

It is impossible to share my entire speech in the limited space available here. So, I encourage you to watch the full recording to learn more about how we are reaching higher and delivering on our promise to Marion's residents. We are shaping a standout community and what makes it most special are the people who live here.

The true face of Marion is seen in the 100 high school band members who showed up in 20-degree weather last fall to put on a parade for a resident celebrating her 100th birthday; and in the volunteers who log thousands of hours annually to care for our historic cemetery, tend to community gardens, serve on boards and commissions, help special needs kids play baseball, or do whatever is needed to make Marion a better place.

The specialness of Marion is seen in the dozens of fun community events each year. From the Dog Fashion Show and Oktoberfest to Eat, Drink, & Be Marion and free concerts in the City Square, Lowe Park and the Artway; and from Fireworks & Fireflies to the Christmas tree lighting that resembles a scene from a Hallmark movie, community shines brightly in Marion!

Indeed, we have much to celebrate. By planning, collaborating and reaching higher together as a community, we have taken our city from a place of limited opportunity to a place of boundless potential. The future is bright and the sky is truly NOT the limit.



Watch the recording of the 2023 State of the City event at www.cityofmarion.org.

Gage Miskimen Appointed to Represent Ward 1 on Marion City Council



The City of Marion is pleased to announce the appointment of Gage Miskimen to fill the Ward 1 vacancy on the Marion City Council.

The 26-year-old former local journalist and current community engagement professional took the oath of office immediately following the appointment on Thursday, April 6.

Miskimen grew up within the Ward 1 boundaries on Marion's south side. He graduated from Marion High School and went on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and cinema from the University of Iowa.

"I care deeply about Marion and Eastern Iowa," said Miskimen. "I'm a young professional from Marion who has returned home to the area to contribute to the city's continued success. I hope that my involvement in local government can help inspire others to get involved as well."

Passionate about community outreach, communications and relationship-building, Miskimen sees his skills and experience as complementary to the Council's current makeup. He hopes to inspire and energize the next generation of community leaders.

The position became vacant on March 31 with the resignation of former Ward 1 representative Colette Atkins. The appointment shall be in place until Dec. 31, 2023. It will appear on the ballot in the next City election in November.

Equity Statement

On March 9, 2023, the Marion City Council adopted an equity statement to keep the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion top of mind.

Staff partnered with DEI consultant Tom Newkirk, the Mayor's Youth Council, the Civil Rights Commission, the Employee Experience Committee and Linn-Mar and Marion Independent school districts to develop the statement. Look for it to be incorporated on the City website, in the Employee Handbook and as part of the Strategic Plan and other guiding documents.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are principles that bind us together to create a community where everyone belongs. The City of Marion is fully dedicated to addressing systems of inequity while building an accessible community where people of all cultures and identities can thrive. The City expects that its employees embrace this vision of inclusion and will strongly encourage its residents and community partners to do the same. By fulfilling this commitment, the City of Marion envisions a community that is inclusive and preserves the dignity of all people.

City Budget Highlights } Total budget: \$180.1M

Budget Highlights

Public safety remains the top strategic plan priority in FY 24 and accounts for nearly \$2.2 million of the \$3.2 million increase in costs in the General Fund. The budget includes the addition of six new fire-fighters – the only positions added. The budget also includes wage increases to support the recruitment and retention of police officers, an E911 radio tower contracted payment and the final installment for the public safety records management software.

Given the competitiveness of the labor market and the need to attract and retain a strong team driven to deliver on the City's promise to Reach Higher!, the City Council provided for a 4% wage increase for non-bargaining staff. The application of the funds will be dependent on the results of the Compensation Study which is currently underway. The budget also includes increases for bargaining staff as outlined in the respective contracts. Inflation continues to impact expenses, particularly in the areas of general insurance and health insurance.

State Impacts

Although the City's gross valuation increased by 2.08%, the taxable valuation increased by 0.08%. The biggest impact going into FY 24 is the elimination of the multi-residential tax classification. This means a

reduction in the taxable percentage of a multi-residential property from 63.75% to 54.65%. This is also not a reassessment year. All of these factors result in a very modest increase in the City's General (\$8.10) levy revenue of \$12,686. The commercial backfill appropriation continues its phase out with a reduction in revenue from this source of \$101,273.

Property Taxes

Three main components determine the amount of property taxes levied by a city to fund municipal operations/services: (1) valuation, (2) rollback value and (3) levy rate. Accordingly, the Linn County Assessor determines each property's value. The State issues a rollback (discount) order to determine taxable valuation. Cities determine the need for service delivery (expenditures) and the levy rate is calculated based on the given taxable values. The levy rate determined by this calculation for FY 24 is \$15.03390 (up from \$14.20203). The owner of a single-family home valued at \$100,000 will pay \$822 this year compared to \$769 last year. The owner of a multi-residential property valued at \$100,000 will pay \$822 compared to \$905 last year. The City's portion of the overall property tax bill is between 30-35% of the total with the school districts and Linn County making up most of the difference.

Capital Improvement Program

The FY 24 budget includes \$66.4 million in Capital Improvement Projects. Facilities received the largest share of this year's CIP budget (43%) with the new Public Services Facility being the largest project in this category. Transportation projects, such as Alburnett Road Extension, Tower Terrace Road, 7th Avenue Improvements and the Central Plaza received the next largest share of the CIP budget (24%).

The following list highlights projects with over \$2 million in expenditures:

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

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

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

Alburnett Road Extension | This project recently received \$7 million in federal funding and involves the extension of Alburnett Road from Edinburgh Drive, south across Indian Creek, through Willow Park and along 2nd Street to 7th Avenue. This will alleviate traffic congestion along Central Avenue and 10th Street.

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

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

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

Neighborhood Streets Reconstruction | This is an annual program that replaces streets in residential areas. The project addresses older neighborhoods in Marion and aligns with the Strategic Plan goals of sustainable infrastructure and contributes to an improved quality of life in the neighborhoods.

Utility Rate Highlights

Gas/Electric | Included in the budget is a 1% increase applied to gas and electric franchise fees. This increases the franchise fee charged on Alliant, MidAmerican and Linn County REC gas and electric bills to 5%. The increased revenue will be used to fund public safety initiatives.

Sanitary Sewer | The wastewater agreement with the City of Cedar Rapids (still in the works), the water pollution control capital improvements required by EPA at the treatment plant (approved March 2023), and a pending revenue bond for the Public Services Facility Project (expected Summer 2023) are all factors to be analyzed to determine if a rate increase is needed.

Garbage | The City of Marion has contracted with SCS Engineers to perform a Solid Waste Collections Study. The results of this study in combination with a revenue bond for the Public Services Facility will need to be analyzed to determine if a rate increase is needed for FY 24.

Urban Forest | The FY 24 budget proposes an increase in the Urban Forest rate by \$0.50/month. This rate was last increased in July 2020. The increase will offset inflationary costs and help increase the equipment replacement fund.

Stormwater | A stormwater master plan is budgeted to start in FY 24. This plan, in combination with a proposed revenue bond for the Public Services Facility, will be analyzed to determine if a rate increase is needed.

Water | The Marion Water Board is considering a 5% rate increase to pay off debt and fund new water main replacement projects. A typical residential water customer consuming 800 CF of water will see a \$0.73 increase on a two-month bill.



Experience Brulé, a Native American Experience in Sight, Sound and Soul

Don't miss Brulé, a Native American experience in sight, sound and soul on Saturday, June 24, at the Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park. Their electrifying show consists of a five-piece rock ensemble augmented with an array of traditional Native American instrumentation and paired with the stunning steps of one of the top Native American dance troupes. Their national performances carry the same contagious excitement as Trans Siberian Orchestra, Celtic Thunder, and Riverdance—but with the emotional impact of American Indian culture. This family-friendly performance, at 7 p.m., is free to attend. Guests should bring chairs/blankets for seating. Outside food and drink are permitted, and food vendors will be onsite.

Great American Kites presented by Summit Pointe Senior Living Returns May 20



The City of Marion is pleased to welcome Great American Kites to Marion on Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The kites will be flying over the PeeWee Diamonds at Lowe Park, with easy access from 4401 Irish Drive. This come-and-go event features astonishing and colorful giant kite displays. Guests should bring chairs/blankets for seating. Outside food and drink are permitted, and food vendors will be onsite.

Enjoy Fireworks & Fireflies presented by Hanna Plumbing & Heating July 2

Fireworks & Fireflies returns to Lowe Park on Monday, July 3, at 6 p.m. This free event will take place on the eve of the holiday at the beautiful Klopfenstein Amphitheater. Enjoy live music and food trucks leading up to the fireworks at dusk. Special thanks to Hanna Plumbing & Heating, the presenting sponsor since the inaugural event in 2019, and all other sponsors that help make this event possible.

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Experience Art on the Avenue during the 2023 Marion Arts Festival

The Marion Arts Festival returns to Uptown Marion on Saturday, May 20, for a day of Art on the Avenue! This year's festival will take place on 7th Avenue while City Square Park undergoes a major renovation.

Fifty fine artists and four emerging artists will be featured, along with live music, take-home art projects for the family and a local-vendors food court on the North Plaza. Start the day with the Marion Arts Festival Half Marathon and 5K races, hosted by Corridor Running.

Whether browsing or buying, an estimated 10,000 festival attendees will experience a wide range of one-of-a-kind objects, with the unique opportunity to get to know the artists behind the art.

Students from five area school districts, along with community organizations such as Corridor

Woodturners, will work to create bowls donated and sold at the Marion Arts Festival. The funds raised through the annual Empty Bowls sale will benefit local food banks. Approximately 400 students will make bowls throughout the year and on the festival day. The bowls carry a \$5-\$15 price tag. Over the program's 23-year history, the festival has donated more than \$113,000 to area food banks!

The Uptown Artway live art experience (previously Art in the Depot) offers every community member the opportunity to work side-by-side with professional artists. The festival will again feature

guest artists from The Ceramics Center, a Cedar Rapids-based ceramics collective offering a range of programming, including classes for all skill levels. Pottery wheels will spin, hands will get dirty and participants will be invited to create a bowl to be donated to the festival's 2024 Empty Bowls sale.

The presenting sponsor of the Marion Arts Festival is Farmers State Bank, which has supported the festival since its inception in 1993. Major sponsor support includes the City of Marion's Hotel/Motel Grant Program, Corridor Running, Veridian Credit Union, The Gazette, KCRG-TV9, Alliant Energy and Collins Aerospace.



Celebrate Bike to Work Week May 13-20

Every year the League of American Bicyclists designates May as *National Bike Month* and the third week in May as *National Bike to Work Week*.

The Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will begin the activities with a 15- and 30-mile MPO Bike Ride on Saturday, May 13. The ride begins at Guthridge Park in Hiawatha at 9 a.m. and registration is required.

Marion will officially kick off Bike to Work Week activities on Tuesday, May 16, at 7:30 a.m., with a ride starting at Thomas Park and ending at City Square Park, followed by a mayoral proclamation.

On Wednesday, May 17, at 6 p.m., participate in the Linn County Ride of Silence to remember those lost in cycling accidents across the nation. The ride will start and end at City Square Park in Marion. It will travel on busier streets in Cedar Rapids and Marion with a police escort.

On Thursday, May 18, the City will host a Pedal Marion ride. This ride will begin at 6 p.m. and take a family-friendly pace using the Marion trail system. A Helmets and Hops social gathering will follow at Uptown businesses.

On Friday, May 19, the City will recognize National Bike to Work Day with a 7:30 a.m. ride from Butterfield Park to City Square Park.

"Marion's trail network has seen a long-anticipated boost in the last few years with some much-needed improvements and connections," said Kesha Billings, associate planner and 2023 Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. "We are excited to spread the word about how much we have grown our trail system and the great connections yet to come."



Long-Awaited Trail Connections Have Arrived

Marion trail users can extend their route with the addition of the Indian Creek Trail, the 10th Avenue sidepaths and vital hard-surface trail connections, such as the bridge over Marion Boulevard and the paving of the Grant Wood Trail just east of Lindale Drive.

Starting at Donnelly Park, the Indian Creek Trail takes residents and visitors through the nature-rich Indian Creek corridor. Minor construction items remain on this nearly three-mile trail. Trail users are reminded to be respectful and abide by any construction signage and crews.

The 10th Avenue Sidepath/Sidewalk project serves as not only a bike and pedestrian connection between commercial nodes, but also as a connection to the neighborhoods off of 35th, 44th, and 50th Streets. Users are reminded that motorized vehicles, including mopeds, are not allowed on the sidepaths or trails.

If you have not traveled west of Uptown on the Grant Wood Trail yet... you should! Take a stroll on the Grant Wood Trail and experience the views along the former railroad right-of-way over Marion Boulevard and Indian Creek. Going further west, you might notice that the previous limestone trail has been paved as you approach Lindale Drive, making the entire Grant Wood Trail through Marion a hard-surface, multi-use trail. Cedar Rapids is also doing its part to extend the Grant Wood Trail further east, ultimately connecting to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail in the coming years.

You might also see some construction work south of Highway 100. This is NOT the trail... yet. The City is upgrading the sanitary sewer line, which is anticipated to take the 2023 and 2024 construction seasons to complete. The final segment of the CeMar Trail is anticipated to be completed following the sewer project.



Rebates Available for Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels and Soil Quality Restoration

Marion has a rebate program for residential rain gardens, rain barrels and soil quality restoration. In addition to helping your yard absorb more rainwater, these practices can reduce runoff from residential properties that pick up pollutants such as lawn fertilizer, pet waste and trash.

The one-time rebate per residence is:

- up to \$50 for a rain barrel
- up to \$350 for soil quality restoration
- up to \$400 for rain gardens

City staff are available to advise residents on how to best apply these practices on their properties. Contact the Marion Engineering Department at (319) 743-6340 to find out how to take advantage of these rebates.

Marion joins International Code Council in recognizing Building Safety Month

Throughout the month of May, the City of Marion will participate in the 43rd annual Building Safety Month, a worldwide campaign presented by the International Code Council, its members and partners to promote building safety.

This year's campaign, "It Starts with YOU," raises awareness about the role we all play in ensuring safety in the spaces in which we live, work and learn. The campaign also makes the connection between building codes and our personal safety, as well as the important work done by building safety professionals in our communities.

This year's campaign addresses how building safety impacts everyone on a personal, local and global level.

- › **Building Safety Starts at Home** highlights how building safety impacts our everyday life at home.
- › **Building Safety Professionals and You** shares a glimpse into the world of building safety professionals by outlining different roles and responsibilities.
- › **Prepare Your Community** focuses on how to protect not just your home, but your community at large, from disaster.
- › **Advocate for Your Community** provides the tips and tools needed to advocate for building safety in your community.
- › **Solving Challenges Together** elevates Building Safety Month to a global scale by addressing some of the issues that we face as a global community including extreme weather events and water scarcity.

Marion's Building Inspection Division helped kick-off the month by participating in Healthy Kids Day and the Marion City Showcase on April 29.



Learn more about Building Safety Month at www.buildingsafetymonth.org.

Marion Fire Department is an All-Hazards Department

We frequently get asked, “Why do firefighters respond to medical emergencies?” The answer is simple. Time is critical, and all Marion firefighters are emergency medical technicians - most are paramedics. In Marion and Marion Township, firefighters co-respond to medical emergencies with Area Ambulance Services to provide care as soon as possible.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls aren't the only types of calls that the Fire Department responds to, however. The Marion Fire Department is an all-hazards department, meaning we respond to all types of emergencies, including EMS, fires, technical rescue and hazardous materials events, both large and small. It isn't only speed that matters with these types of calls; it's the human power on scene, combined with the right tools and training. All of these things enable firefighters to take the best care of our residents.

Last fall, the department changed the way it deploys resources to all call types to maximize its ability to serve the community with fire trucks staffed with three member crews. This new system of deployment ensures that when the department arrives on the scene, they have adequate personnel and equipment to begin mitigating ANY type of event, whether it's a fire, rescue, medical call or hazardous material spill.


This deployment model is supported by science. It is critical for responders to arrive with an adequately-sized workforce to begin completing crucial tasks more quickly, effectively and safely.

Marion to Install Automated Traffic Enforcement Cameras at Two Intersections

Like most other law enforcement agencies in the United States, the Marion Police Department has been experiencing staffing challenges. We have implemented strategies to ensure we can continue to provide the level of service the community expects in an efficient manner. The department has only been fully staffed for five of the past 38 months, with 42% of our shifts over the past year being minimally staffed. When we are minimally staffed, proactive policing, community policing and traffic enforcement are all negatively impacted.

Over the course of several City Council meetings in February, March and April, the use of Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) cameras were discussed and ultimately approved as a tool to supplement the department's traffic enforcement efforts. The decision to utilize ATE cameras was not taken lightly. The Council considered input from the community both for and against the use, and also considered data and statistics presented by Chief Kitsmiller.

The Council approved the use of stationary red-light and speeding cameras at the intersection of Highway 151 and Highway 13, as well as the intersection of Highway 100 and East Post Road.



The Council was provided with statistics, which showed over a one-week period, 23% of vehicles traveling on Highway 13 exceeded the 55-mph speed limit by 10 mph or more. At the same time, **42% of vehicles on Highway 100 exceeded the 55-mph speed limit by 10 mph or more.** Officers manually counted the number of vehicles running the red light at Highway 13 and Highway 151 for 28 hours. They watched **757 light cycles, during which 348 vehicles ran a red light.** Similarly, at Highway 100 and East Post Road, officers watched **108 vehicles run a red light during 797 light cycles** over a 24-hour period.

The Council also approved a mobile-speed camera which will be deployed based on complaints from the community.

ATE cameras have been proven to be beneficial. They will come at no cost to the City and will enable the Police Department to free officers up for other essential duties. Citations will be issued to vehicle owners, and the vendor providing the ATE systems will be paid a portion of the fines collected. The remaining revenue will be reserved for expenses related to public safety and the Civil Rights Commission.

CITY DEPARTMENTS

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Administrative Offices

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aabernathey@cityofmarion.org

Building Inspection

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building@cityofmarion.org

City Clerk

319-743-6327
cityclerk@cityofmarion.org

City Manager

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citymanager@cityofmarion.org

Community Development

319-743-6320
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Engineering Department

319-743-6340
mbarkalow@cityofmarion.org

Finance Department

319-743-6350
lcairy@cityofmarion.org

IT Department

319-743-4735
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Water Department

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

Parks & Recreation

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

100 Irish 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



Jacob Hahn recognized with Main Street Leadership Award

Uptown Marion Main Street nominated Assistant City Engineer Jacob Hahn for the Uptown 2022 Main Street Leadership Award at the Main Street Iowa Development Awards on April 21.

“Uptown Marion has been under construction for the past two years. This project would not have been possible without the leadership, attention to detail and professionalism exhibited by Jacob Hahn as lead engineer on the project. Jacob made it a priority to make sure all partners were involved and well informed, working closely with the Main Street program, building and business owners to make it a success,” said Uptown Director Brooke Prouty.

Uptown Wins Two Main Street Iowa Development Awards



Every year, Main Street Iowa recognizes outstanding projects, activities and people making a difference in Main Street districts across the state. On Friday, April 21, a group of 30 Marion representatives attended the awards ceremony hosted by the Iowa Economic Development Authority at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in Des Moines.

Uptown Marion received two awards and was recognized for the 10th anniversary of the Uptown Main Street Program. The two projects recognized at the state level as excellent examples in housing and placemaking initiatives are:

- Main Street Housing Project – Broad & Main
- Main Street Placemaking Project (Comprehensive) – 7th Avenue Streetscape & North Plaza



Community Promise introduces Students to Careers

Community Promise is a program by Marion Economic Development Corporation that provides career exposure and experience for area students. It introduces students to unconventional careers and helps them learn about career opportunities in Marion.

Brooke Hernandez knew at a young age that college wasn't for her but wasn't sure what that meant for her future. After finding her niche in the welding industry, she made her way back home to Iowa. She is now a proud fabrication specialist of custom horizontal mixers at Marion Process Solutions. Learn more about Brooke's story at www.medcoiowa.org/hernandez.



Oktoberfest Returns September 16



Last year, over 500 people greeted craft brewers from across the state of Iowa at the first Marion Oktoberfest. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16, from noon–3 p.m., with a VIP hour from 11 a.m.-noon. The event, which will take place on 7th Avenue, will feature over 30 breweries sampling their craft, traditional German games, like Hammerschlagen and stein holding, and music. New for 2023, the event will feature a 5K race benefiting Horizons. More information is available at marioncc.org/Oktoberfest. Tickets go on sale in July!



MARION SPRING/SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Safety Matters

1st Wednesday of the month | Through Dec. | Marion Fire Station No. 1

The Marion Fire Department will host a monthly presentation on safety topics for older adults and families. All are welcome to attend. The safety sessions will be held monthly from noon-1 p.m.

Marion Farmers Market

Saturdays | May-Sept. | Taube Park

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

City-Wide Garage Sale

Saturday | May 13 | Throughout Marion

Marion will hold a city-wide garage sale from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Find some great bargains and be sure to make a pit stop for lunch or ice cream while you're out and about. An interactive map is available at www.cityofmarion.org/garagesale.

Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Saturday | May 13 | Thomas Park

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department, Friends of the Marion Parks, and Iowa BIG to celebrate all things birds! Activities include educational displays, speakers, bird hikes, children's activities, and more. For more information, visit www.cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation.

Marion Arts Festival

presented by Farmers State Bank

Saturday | May 20 | City Square Park

One day. Fifty artists. Exceptional art. Enjoy hands-on experiences and one-of-a-kind art from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the 30th Annual Marion Arts Festival. Start the day with the Marion Arts Festival Half Marathon and 5K runs, hosted by Corridor Running.

Great American Kites

sponsored by Summit Pointe Senior Living

Saturday | May 20 | 4401 Irish Drive (Baseball Diamonds at Lowe Park)

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

Poker Challenge

Ongoing | June | Marion Parks

Fifty-two large playing cards have been hidden around Marion's parks and trails. Assemble your best five-card hand (with photo proof) and submit it for a chance to win cool prizes. Learn more at www.cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation.

Marion by Moonlight

hosted by Farmers State Bank

Thursdays | June 1, 8, 15, 22 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Gather your people, a cooler and some lawn chairs and kick back to enjoy live music. The music will play from 6-9 p.m.

June 1: Awed Man Out

June 8: Crazy Delicious

June 15: Lonesome Road

June 22: Robin Banks

Artway Trivia Night

Thursday | June 1 | Uptown Artway

Come test out your useless knowledge! This free trivia night will include some Marion-specific questions and the winning team will get a prize. Keep an eye on the City of Marion website and Facebook page for additional details.

Pop-Up Acts in the Artway

sponsored by Iowa Appliance Center and Affordable Heating and Cooling

Fridays | June 2-Aug. 25 | Uptown Artway

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

BBQ Rendezvous

Saturday | June 3 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

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

Pound in the Park

Wednesdays | June 7-Aug 9. (no class June 28) | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

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

Moonlit Movie Series

sponsored by Hills Bank

Fridays | June 9, July 7, Aug. 4 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department for free outdoor family fun. Bring your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the movie. Movies begin at dusk (about 8:30 p.m.).

June 9: DC League of Superpets

July 7: Puss in Boots: The Last Wish

Aug. 4: Strange World

Sunrise Yoga

Saturdays | June 10-Aug. 26 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Enjoy the 10th year of free outdoor yoga each Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. Participants should bring water and a yoga mat or towel.

Uptown Marion Market

*presented by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Saturday | June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 30 | 7th Avenue between 10th and 12th Streets

This festival-style market, hosted by the Marion Chamber, features vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, and artisan items from 8 a.m.-noon. Pedal to Uptown and join in a community bike ride at a family-friendly pace at the conclusion of each market.

Music Under the Moon

presented by Veridian Credit Union

Saturdays | June 10, July 15, Aug. 12 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Enjoy live music at the beautiful amphitheater. Bring a blanket, cooler and lawn chair. Concerts begin at 7 p.m.

June 10: Uptown Funk: A Bruno Mars Tribute
July 15: Shania Twin: A Shania Twain Tribute Show
Aug. 12: Dueling Duos

Marion Community Band

Tuesdays | June 13 & 27 | NEW location: Thomas Park

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

Movies on the Move

Fridays | June 16, July 21, Aug. 18 | Marion Parks

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department as they bring cinematic adventures into some of our neighborhoods. Bring chairs/blankets for seating.

June 16: Elvis at Butterfield Park
July 21: Top Gun Maverick at Thomas Park
Aug. 18: Dirty Dancing at Taube Park

Picnic on the Prairie

presented by Marion Arts Council

Saturday | June 17, Aug. 19 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Come be inspired by music, art and the beautiful outdoors. Bring your picnic basket, blanket and lawn chair. The concerts run from 7-8:30 p.m.

June 17: Funk Stop
Aug. 19: Pinicon Drift

34th Army Band

Sunday | June 18 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Returning for the first time since 2019, the 34th Army Band is back in 2023! Visit Lowe Park for the perfect evening to celebrate Father's Day. The music starts at 8 p.m., and the event is free to attend.

Brulé

Saturday | June 24 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Join us at 7 p.m. for a Native American experience in sight, sound and soul. Brulé has pushed the boundaries of contemporary Native American rhythms and classic rock in their genre-blending selections. Guests should bring chairs/blankets for seating. Outside food and drink are permitted, but food vendors will be onsite.

Summer ROCK Series

sponsored by Wertz Law Firm

Saturdays | June 24, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 23 | Uptown Artway

Enjoy rock n' roll hits by some of your favorite local musicians in the Uptown Artway this summer. Sit on the patio of a nearby bar or bring your own bag chair. Music begins at 7 p.m.

June 24: The Janey's
July 22: Daddy O, Dan Johnson, Skeeter Lewis & Eric Douglas
Aug. 26: Craig Erickson
Sept. 23: All Star Evening

Freedom Bike Ride

Sunday | June 25 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

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

Fireworks & Fireflies

presented by Hanna Plumbing & Heating

Monday | July 3 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Bring your lawn chair, blanket and cooler and enjoy live music by Kick and the fireworks show. The event starts at 6 p.m. and fireworks begin at dusk.

Marion Big Band

Thursdays | July 6, 13, 20 & 27 | NEW location: Thomas Park

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

**Eat. Drink. & Be Marion: Pub Crawl Fundraiser**

Thursday | July 13 | Various stops in Uptown Marion | Must be 21+

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

Uptown Getdown

*presented by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Thursdays | Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24 | 7th Avenue between 10th and 12th Streets

For 25 years, Uptown Getdown has been the best way to wind down the dog days of summer! Grab your chairs and coolers and meet your neighbors for a street party in Uptown. The festivities get underway at 6 p.m. each Thursday.

Aug. 3: Bob Dorr & Friends Featuring Jeff Petersen
Aug. 10: Detour Band
Aug. 17: Trophy Dads
Aug. 24: Boot Jack Band

Parade

Saturday | Sept. 9 | Uptown Marion

We're bringing a fall parade back to Marion! Keep an eye on cityofmarion.org for additional details and timing as the date approaches.

Intercultural Festival

Sunday | Sept. 10 | Lowe Park

Share stories and food from different cultures from noon-5 p.m. at Lowe Park. This free event will also feature cricket, Zumba and music.

Oktoberfest

presented by Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance

Saturday | Sept. 16 | Uptown Marion

Back by popular demand, Oktoberfest will be held from noon-3 p.m. with VIP a hour from 11 a.m.-noon. The event will feature over 30 breweries sampling their craft along 7th Avenue and traditional German games, like Hammerschlagen and stein holding and polka music in City Square Park. (Ticketed event)

Dog Fashion Show

Saturday | Sept. 30 | Uptown Artway

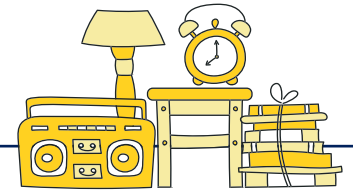
Have a furry friend? Enter them in the Dog Fashion Show, set to take place on the Uptown Artway stage at 10 a.m.

Healthiest State Walk

Wednesday | Oct. 4 | Marion City Hall

Join friends and community members for the Healthiest State Walk beginning at Marion City Hall at noon on Oct. 4.

*Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners include Farmers State Bank, ImOn Communications, MercyCare Community Physicians, Summit Pointe Senior Living and Z102.9 with support from the Marion Hotel/Motel Grant Program.



Garage Sales

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

A city-wide garage sale is scheduled for May 13 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For a map of participating addresses, visit www.cityofmarion.com/garagesale.

Spring Can Mean Door-to-Door Solicitation

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

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

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

All peddler, solicitor and transient merchant licenses have time restrictions of 8 a.m.-9 p.m., seven days a week. If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk at (319) 743-6301.

Yard Waste and Recycling Reminders

Curbside yard waste collection resumed last month. Grass clippings must be placed in paper bio-degradable bags, all other yard waste may be placed in 32-gallon cans, clearly marked with a "Y" facing the street.

The Yard Waste Drop Off Facility, located at 195 35th Street, is open year-round weekdays from 7 a.m.-3:15 p.m., Tuesday evenings open until 5:45 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Compost and wood chips are available.

The Marion Recycling Drop Off Center, located at 195 35th Street, is open Tuesdays from noon-5:45 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Tall Grass/Weed Ordinance

Please keep your yards mowed. It's a violation of the City Code to have any plants, grass or weeds growing uncultivated and out of control with a height of eight inches or more. Five days is allowed following a mailed notice to eliminate the violations. Otherwise, the city will mow it and assess the cost against the property for collection in the same manner as property tax. An administrative fee of \$25 will also be added. Call (319) 447-3580 to report properties in violation.

2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up Schedule
May 29	Memorial Day	Monday	One day late all week
June 19	Juneteenth	Monday	Regular collection schedule
July 4	Independence Day	Tuesday	One day late starting Tuesday
Sept. 4	Labor Day	Monday	One day late all week
Oct. 9	Columbus Day	Monday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 10	Veterans Day (Observed)	Friday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	Collection on Friday
Nov. 24	Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	Collection on Saturday
Dec. 25	Christmas Eve (Observed)	Monday	One day late all week
Dec. 26	Christmas Day (Observed)	Tuesday	One day late all week

Bold indicates City of Marion holidays, Yard Waste Facility and City offices are closed.

Water Department News

Marion Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report

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

Summer Water Conservation Tips

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

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

MARION MESSENGER

The Marion Messenger is published quarterly to keep Marion, Iowa, residents 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

5% Water Rate Increase Anticipated in July

The Marion Water Board will consider a water rate increase at the May 9 board meeting at 4 p.m. The rate increase will raise approximately \$150,000 in additional revenue to pay off debt and fund new water main replacement projects. A typical residential water customer consuming 800 CF of water will see a \$0.73 increase on a two-month bill. For more information regarding this proposed increase, contact tsteigerwaldt@cityofmarion.org.

Watering Lawns = Higher City Utility Bill



Everyone enjoys a beautiful green lawn, but that green lawn may come at a hefty price. If you don't have a separate irrigation meter at your home and you water your lawn frequently, you could see a dramatic increase in your City utility bill.

Most homes only have one meter, and when you use water outside, you are being charged for both the water and sanitary sewer volume rates.

You might consider purchasing an irrigation meter, which will remove the sanitary sewer charge for water used in the lawn.

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



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CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly

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

At-Large - Randy Strnad

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

At-Large - Grant Harper

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

Ward One - Gage Miskimen

2551 Pleasantview Dr. | (850) 361-7181
ward1@cityofmarion.org

Ward Two - Steve Jensen

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

Ward Three - Will Brandt

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

Ward Four - Sara Mentzer

2305 Timber Creek Dr. | (319) 538-8296
ward4@cityofmarion.org

Send the same email to all members at:
council@cityofmarion.org

Marion's City Council meets in work session (no action taken, just discussion) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. Regular session meetings are held the Thursday following the Tuesday work session at 5:30 p.m. Meeting information can be found at www.cityofmarion.org.

Find Your VOICE

sponsored by **FSB** **HILLS BANK**

Kids

IN-LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Paper Bag Puppets | Thursday, June 8 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Youth Programming Room

Paper Airplane Challenge | Thursday, June 15 | 1-2 p.m. | Youth Programming Room

Journal Decorating | Thursday, June 22 | 1-2 p.m. | Youth Programming Room

Toddler Dance Party | Thursday, June 29 | 10:30-11 a.m. | Youth Programming Room

Slime Time | Thursday, July 6 | 1-2 p.m. | Youth Programming Room

Activity Time | Thursday, July 13 | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Youth Programming Room

Craft Day | Thursday, July 20 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Youth Programming Room

Mad Libs - Kids Writing Program | Thursday, July 27 | 1-2 p.m. | Youth Programming Room

PARK PLAYDATES

Tuesday, June 6 | 10-11 a.m. | Lowe Park Playground

Tuesday, June 13 | 10-11 a.m. | Lininger Park

Tuesday, June 20 | 10-11 a.m. | Gill Park

Tuesday, June 27 | 10-11 a.m. | Taube Park

Tuesday, July 11 | 10-11 a.m. | Willow Park

Tuesday, July 18 | 10-11 a.m. | Prairie Hill Park

Tuesday, July 25 | 10-11 a.m. | Taube Park

Teens

TWEEN & TEEN MOVIE DAYS

Join us in the Community Room from 3-5 p.m. on the following dates for Tween & Teen Movie Days:

Friday, June 9 | Friday, July 7

A complete list of movie titles and ratings can be found at marionpubliclibrary.org/events.

Summer Reading 2023!

Beginning June 1, Marion Public Library will host a range of free activities for children, teens and adults to “find their voice” for what they are passionate about through reading, creating, learning and more. Check out a list of the library’s summer programs (a complete list can be found on our Events Calendar).

TWEEN & TEEN CRAFT DAYS

Sunglasses Decorating | Tuesday, June 6 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Guitar Pick Jewelry Making | Tuesday, June 13 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Sunprint Art | Tuesday, June 20 | 1-3 p.m. | Boardroom & Outdoor Reading Terrace

Library Card Holder & Flower Pens | Tuesday, June 27 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Perler Bead Creations | Tuesday, July 11 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Totally Art Day | Tuesday, July 18 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Paint Your Own Bookend | Tuesday, July 25 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

TWEEN & TEEN FOOD PROGRAM

Oreo Taste Test Challenge | Friday, June 23 | 3-5 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Candy Sushi | Friday, July 21 | 3-5 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

TWEEN & TEEN GAME DAYS

Board Game Day | Thursday, June 8 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Dice Games | Thursday, June 15 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Minute to Win It Games | Thursday, June 22 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Board Game Day | Thursday, June 29 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Trivia: Library Staff Showdown | Thursday, July 6 | 1-2 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Retro Game Day | Thursday, July 13 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Board Game Jam | Thursday, July 20 | 1-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Stranger Things Escape Room* | Friday, July 28 | 1-2 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

* = Registration required

All

MOVIE DAYS

Join us in the Community Room from 1-3:30 p.m. on the following dates for All-Ages Movie Days:

Wednesday, June 7 | Wednesday, June 14

Wednesday, July 5 | Wednesday, July 12

Wednesday, July 19

A complete list of movie titles and ratings can be found at marionpubliclibrary.org/events.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

Pride Button Making | Monday, June 5 and Friday, June 23 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | Creative Commons

Zoo to You w/ Blank Park Zoo | Wednesday, June 21 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 12:15-1:15 p.m. | Community Room

Mad Mixtures w/ Grout Museum | Wednesday, June 28 | 1-2 p.m. | Community Room

Insect Zoo w/ Iowa State University | Wednesday, July 26 | 2-4 p.m. | Community Room

Visit marionpubliclibrary.org/summerreading for more information regarding summer programming and reading components.

**Scan Me
For Events**



Our MakerSpace Is Open!



It's time to get those creative juices flowing - our MakerSpace is open! In addition to registering for classes, patrons can sign up for open times in the MakerSpace to create whatever their heart desires. Visit marionpubliclibrary.org/events to find open hours and sign up for a slot or to find a class that interests you.

Picking Up & Returning Materials

Having a new library means new places to return your library materials! Marion Public Library has three book drops available for patrons to use:

- One on the 6th Avenue side of the building (exterior drop)
- One in the parking lot entrance of the library, between the two sets of doors (interior drop)
- One in the drive-up lane (exterior drop)

In addition to having multiple ways to return materials to the library, there are two ways to pick up materials on hold. Patrons can request to pick up holds either inside the library or via the library's pickup window in the drive-up lane. Patrons wanting to use the pickup window should choose the "Marion Drive-Up" option when placing materials on hold.



Oak Shade Celebrities

Because Marion was the original seat of the Linn County government, a great number of its early settlers and leaders are buried in Oak Shade Cemetery. One such individual was Richard Thomas, the man for whom Thomas Park is named.

Mr. Thomas was born in Maryland in 1781, served in the War of 1812, and witnessed the burning of the White House by British troops on Aug. 24, 1814. In 1838, he migrated to the Iowa Territory, and in 1840, he and a partner constructed a dam on Indian Creek and built a sawmill on the west side. Later, they built a grist mill on the east side. Millstones from that mill can be seen in the entry columns to Thomas Park today.

In 1865, Richard married Julia Jones, a woman 50 years younger than himself and, at the age of 85, became the father of a daughter, Mary.

Richard Thomas, known to everyone as "Uncle Dickey," lived to the age of 112. He is buried in the Thomas family lot along with his wife, two grandchildren, his father-in-law Dr. Bell English and daughter Mary, who lived to the age of 92.

Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery is dedicated to preserving our historic cemetery and the memory of those who are interred there.



Family Seasonal Pool Membership

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

Private Pool Rentals

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

Monday-Friday	7:15-8:45 p.m.	\$225
Saturday & Sunday	5:15-6:45 p.m.	\$225
Saturday & Sunday	7-8:30 p.m.	\$225 <i>(This later time is available only when the 5:15 p.m. time is booked)</i>

Splash Pads

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

Thomas Park	Gill Park	Willowood Park
343 Marion Boulevard	3450 Hawthorne Street	1835 35th Street
Open daily: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.	Open daily: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.	Open during regular pool hours

Water Safety Reminders

Swim Goggles vs Swim Masks

Masks have a covering for the nose – goggles do not. Masks are NOT allowed at Marion Pool.

- The nose covering in masks can be dangerous in an emergency. If a swimmer is in distress, they may only be able to get their nose out of the water, not their mouth. With goggles, a swimmer has a chance to have access to air, which they won't have in a mask.
- Masks can fill with water due to an improper seal. If a swimmer freaks out and breathes in, they may aspirate water.
- Masks are made with glass or a shattering material which is one thing we want to avoid around the pool. If the mask shatters, it means draining all three pools in order to get all the matter out (which is costly). The matter can float within the water, allowing swimmers to ingest or step on, resulting in serious injury.



ALLOWED



NOT ALLOWED

Don't hold your breath for long periods of time

Shallow water blackout is essentially an underwater "faint" due to lack of oxygen to the brain. Without immediate rescue, the swimmer will begin the drowning process. Never play breath-holding games.

Supervision vs Lifeguards

Lifeguards do not take the place of supervision.

When spending time at the pool, it's important to designate who will be supervising your swimmers. You can't read or look at your phone and be an effective water watcher.

Be specific about who is responsible for certain kids/swimmers and when the transfer of that responsibility occurs. Consider multiple supervisors based on interests, skill levels and number of kids. Pay attention and be engaged.

Listen to the lifeguards - They are there for your safety. Lifeguards are there as a backup to parental supervision, not in place of it. Lifeguards should not be interrupted or distracted when watching the water.

Have a buddy system, even with adult supervision.

Think bright colors for your swimwear. The bright color is going to pop and stick out underwater and will contrast with the pool bottom or against the water coloring. Avoid white or light pastel colors as they disappear quickly underwater.

Marion Pool Opens May 29

The Marion Pool will open for the season on Memorial Day, May 29. The swimming season will run through Sunday, Aug. 20.

Regular Hours:

Monday-Friday

Lap Swim	11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Swim	1-5:30 p.m.
Family Swim	5:30-7 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday

Lap Swim	11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Swim	1-5 p.m.

Special Hours/Exceptions:

- May 29: The pool will close at 5 p.m.
- May 30: Lap swim only (no open swim)
- May 31: Lap swim only (no open swim)
- June 5-9: The pool will close at 4 p.m. to accommodate swimming lessons
- June 12-16: The pool will close at 4 p.m. to accommodate swimming lessons

Regular Pool Admission:

Ages 3 & Under	\$3/person
Ages 4 and up	\$4/person
Lap Swim (all ages)	\$4/person

Season Pool Passes:

Individual Pass	\$115/each
Family Pass	\$200/family
Family Pass + Sitter	\$275



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Phil Pfister Honored as 2023 Community Impact Award Recipient

Phil Pfister has been announced as the 2023 Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award recipient. The announcement was made by Mayor Nick AbouAssaly during Marion’s State of City address in March.

Pfister has lived in Marion for about 40 years and has made long-term contributions to Marion as well as Linn County. Retired from Rockwell Collins, he devotes his time to the community as a Master Gardener volunteer through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Linn County.

Pfister consistently makes a positive difference in the lives of residents in Marion through his work in managing the greenhouse at Lowe Park, planning and executing the annual Master Gardener plant sale and sharing his knowledge at the farmers markets and other events in the community.

One of his most impactful projects was the establishment of the Uptown Community Garden. Originally started as part of Blue Zones Project®, Pfister called on his engineering, planning and carpentry skills to bring the vision to life. The garden, which is located behind Marion City Hall, offers accessible beds and boasts a new greenhouse which he worked to replace after the derecho. He continues to spend countless hours planting and sowing the garden, which has provided thousands of pounds of fresh produce to the Marion Food Pantry.

“Phil’s enthusiasm to share his expertise with audiences of all ages makes him an excellent nominee for this award,” said Sara Mentzer in her nomination. “His leadership and collaboration in building Marion’s garden spaces are having a tremendous impact on the community.”

The Community Impact Award is presented annually by the Marion Chamber of Commerce and the City of Marion. It honors longtime banker and community philanthropist Morris F. Neighbor. Neighbor began his career at Farmers State Bank in 1945 as a teller and in 1968, he and his wife, Betty, purchased the bank. Throughout his career, he championed the importance of volunteerism and dedication to community. Through his leadership, the Neighbor family has given to countless capital campaigns, community events and charitable organizations. Mr. Neighbor passed away in 2019 at the age of 100, but his legacy lives on, in part through the Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award.