

Fall 2023

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FALL INTO MARION

Parade Happening Sept. 9 | Dog Fashion Show Returns Sept. 30



Nick AbouAssaly

A note to school students and education professionals

The excitement of a new school year is upon us! It is a time filled with the promise of discovery, growth and potential.

Our city prides itself on being a place of great opportunity and a place where people experience an amazing quality of

life. An important part of that quality of life is the excellent education offered by the schools in our community. No wonder 28 percent of residents are 18 years old or younger.

Indeed, Marion has become a place where families want to be, in part because of the excellent education available here. I encourage students to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities they have in our schools to learn and expand their knowledge and abilities as they prepare themselves for a productive and fulfilling life. Today's students are the future of our city and nation and our schools are invested in their success.

As I reflect on the role of education and educators in my own life, it is clear to me that any success I've achieved, including my election to office and my service to Marion, is more than my own accomplishment. It is a product of the education and opportunities provided to me as I grew up in the community and an accomplishment shared by the family that shaped me, including my school family.

My training for leading this fast-growing city and helping it become a standout among Iowa cities – especially training to lead during the challenges of the pandemic and the derecho - started in 7th grade. A teacher encouraged me to run for Student Council and helped me to discover my love of service, my ability to lead and my passion to be an agent of positive change.

I continued serving on Student Council through my senior year of high school and with the encouragement of teachers I took many additional opportunities to lead student organizations at the local and state levels. With each opportunity, I acquired additional skills that have helped me to lead in various capacities throughout my life and are invaluable to me today in my role as mayor.

Beyond teaching, my educators were engaged in guiding and encouraging me and opened opportunities that helped me to gain self-confidence, better my abilities and discover my potential. Today, a number of them are mentors, personal friends and valued advisors as well as colleagues on City Council and various City committees.

Educators play an extraordinary role in society. They help prepare students for productive lives. They train tomorrow's leaders, shape the future, open opportunities and develop potential. Their work influences the trajectory of lives and generations of families, and through that, they influence the future of entire communities.

At the end of our lives, the only evidence of our existence is the impact we make. Very few professions are able to have the same impact as educators. Sometimes it's difficult for us to recall the names of people we met recently, but we never forget the names of teachers who had a positive influence on our lives.

Being in education today is not easy. But nothing worthwhile comes easily and without challenges. Whatever those challenges, I encourage our educators to remember their "why," keep their focus on the impact they make, and always remember that they are valued, appreciated and needed.

On behalf of our city, "thank you" to our education professionals for what they do.

Best wishes for a great school year to all students and the school staff who are invested in their success.

Dennis Hartl is the 2023 Recipient of the Paul Draper "Spirit of Marion" Award



The City of Marion is pleased to recognize Dennis Hartl as the 2023 recipient of the Paul Draper "Spirit of Marion" Award.

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

"This week provides us with the opportunity to show appreciation to our dedicated City team and thank them for all they do to provide our residents with an unequalled quality of life," said Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. "It is especially meaningful to honor one of our humble and dedicated public servants in this way."

Dennis Hartl joined the City of Marion in October 2018 as a mechanic and fabricator with the Public Services Department. Hartl demonstrates his commitment to the team daily and is always willing to lend a hand. One example of this is when the horizontal grinder for the City's yard waste operation failed, the cost estimate to have it repaired was over \$110,000. Hartl examined the damage and was able to repair the unit for under \$7,000 thanks to his talent as a fabricator.

"Dennis epitomizes Team Marion's motto to 'Reach Higher,'" said City Manager Ryan Waller. "I admire his resourceful nature, strong work ethic and courage to step outside of his comfort zone to come up with a workable solution."

The award is named for former City Council member Paul Draper. Draper was a great supporter of Marion's progress and a tireless advocate for the community for decades. He served on the Civil Service Commission for 25 years and had a hand in the hiring of generations of police officers and firefighters, in addition to countless other City employees. He served on the Marion City Council from 2012 to 2020 and was on the Marion Chamber of Commerce and Marion Economic Development Corporation boards of directors at different points throughout his career. Draper passed away in Feb. 2020, and his legacy lives on, in part through this award.



City of Marion and Monarch Research Partner on Community-Wide Tree-Planting Program



The City of Marion and Monarch Research are pleased to announce the next community-wide tree-planting program. The primary goal of the initiative is to provide residents with native Iowa trees to plant in the right-of-way along City streets adjacent to their property.

The benefits of trees are well documented. In addition to providing shade, reducing stormwater runoff and improving air quality, street trees have a traffic-calming effect and a positive impact on human health and mental wellbeing.

Marion residents and landowners who commit to the planting, watering and protection of the trees as they become established can register online for up to three free, three-gallon trees provided by Monarch Research. This program specifically targets right-of-way areas, in most cases the area between the curb and the sidewalk.

Program registration opened in mid-August and will remain open through Sept. 10, 2023.

Members of the City's Urban Forestry Division will provide inspection services to verify species, location and the number of trees suitable for the available right-of-way. The Urban Forestry Division then assumes the long-term maintenance of the trees.



Residents and landowners interested in participating can find program details and the available tree species options at www.cityofmarion.org/ROWtrees or www.monarchresearch.org.

The City of Marion, in partnership with RDG Planning and Design and Rinderknecht Associates, continues to finalize plans and the construction timeline for the Central Plaza. The Central Plaza includes the eastern portion of City Square Park and what was formerly 11th Street adjacent to the park.

To continue Marion's endeavor to provide an unparalleled quality of life for both residents and visitors, the Marion Parks and Recreation Foundation has launched a capital campaign for the Central Plaza that will serve as a dynamic, regional asset for attracting residents and visitors to Marion. Plaza amenities play an integral role in creating a regional outdoor recreation experience and community living room in Uptown Marion.

The project will include Iowa's first ice-skating loop, enclosure of the Depot Pavilion, public restrooms, live performance space, engaging water features, an interactive play sculpture, public art and seating, decorative lighting, fire tables and more.

Consider being part of this exciting opportunity in the Heart of it All by participating in the capital campaign or sponsoring a commemorative brick. The bricks will be a permanent feature and prominently displayed around the depot pavilion and firepits in Marion's Central Plaza.



Learn more at www.cityofmarion.org/parksfoundation.

City and School Elections to be Held in November

Various local positions will be on the ballot during the regular city and school election on Nov. 7, 2023. Marion City Council seats on the ballot include Mayor, At Large, Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 3. If interested in running for any of the positions, nomination paperwork must be filed with the Linn County Auditor by Sept. 21. Polling locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Early voting will be available and begins on Oct. 18 and absentee ballots must be requested by Oct. 23. To find your polling location, print nomination paperwork or access the voter registration or absentee ballot request forms, please visit www.cityofmarion.org/elections.



Sharing the Trails

The City has received several compliments on the newly paved trails, but these have also come with concerns about some users not sharing the trails properly. Here are a few quick tips on how to share the trails for all to enjoy:

- [1]** Keep to the right.
- [2]** If you have a pet, keep it on a six-foot leash and pick up after them.
- [3]** If you are passing someone, let them know you intend to pass by saying, "On your left." Be loud enough so they can hear, but avoid startling them.
- [4]** When traveling through the Uptown District you should walk your wheels. *(Signs will be installed in the coming year to reiterate this.)*
- [5]** Horses and motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trails in Marion.

Construction Updates

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

This year, the City invested more than \$5 million in roadway improvements, including improvements to arterial streets such as **Business Highway 151, 29th Avenue, 8th Avenue and Lindale Drive**. In total, 3.9 miles of major rehabilitation work, and 0.5 miles of reconstruction work were completed.



8th Avenue



Lindale Drive



Business 151



Construction continues on the **Indian Creek Trunk Sewer Replacement Project – Segment 7**. This project will upsize the trunk sewer to 60" in diameter from approximately the Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Cedar Rapids to just west of Menards in Marion.

The City contracted with Visu-Sewer to use its specially designed sewer televising cameras, inserted via manholes, to complete the non-invasive **cleaning and televising of approximately 51,000 LF of sanitary sewer**. The City reviews the videos for issues such as collapsed pipes and root balls to determine where repairs are necessary and ensures the sewer is suitable to be lined.



The Engineering Department is currently preparing the 2024 work program. Sign up to receive Engineering Department Project News or other eNewsletters at cityofmarion.org/enotify.



The Marion Police Department is **Hiring**

Apply by Sept. 29, 2023. Skills testing on Oct. 14.
Learn more at www.cityofmarion.org/employment

Get in!

- Lateral transfer incentives
- 12-hour patrol shifts, one weekend off every other week
- Training, special assignments and extra work opportunities
- State of the art technology and equipment
- Comprehensive benefits package
- Competitive promotional consideration



Marion's Owen Block Building Under New Ownership



The Owen Block building, located at the northeast corner of 10th Street and 7th Avenue, is one of the most recognizable buildings in Marion's historic Uptown District. The building was built in 1880 and was most recently home to Maid-Rite Café, which closed in 2017.

Earlier this year, the City of Marion filed a petition seeking the title to the vacant Owen Block building. Recently, Jamie and Kelsie Hoth have retained 100 percent ownership of the building and have been working closely with the City's Building Inspection Division to establish a timeline to address appearance and safety-related matters. As such, the petition has formally been dismissed.

"The passage of time has visibly taken a toll on our iconic building, leaving it in need of extensive repair efforts," said property owners Jamie and Kelsie Hoth. "Our goal is to return the Owen Building to the energetic hub it once was."

The new owners are also working with the City's economic development partners to discuss historic design concepts, complementary business options and potential funding sources.

"We'll try to conserve as much of the original building and architectural design elements as possible while paving the way for community members and visitors to enjoy modern amenities, up to three new businesses and centrally located Uptown Marion housing," the Hoths added. "Through this undertaking, we are excited to help Uptown Marion reclaim a piece of its identity while celebrating our past and embracing a vibrant future."

The City is appreciative of the investment made by the Hoths and is optimistic about the building's future.

"The recent investments in Uptown Marion have brought a new energy to the heart of our community," said Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. "This is a positive step forward as we continue to recover from the derecho and envision what's next for Marion. We are grateful to Jamie and Kelsie for their commitment to collaborating with the City and our community partners as they restore this important piece of our history."



Cowork with us! **cowork1107**

Cowork1107.org | Marion, IA

CITY DEPARTMENTS

City Hall

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Marion, IA 52302
cityofmarion.org

Administrative Offices

319-743-6301
aabernathey@cityofmarion.org

Building Inspection

319-743-6330
building@cityofmarion.org

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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

319-743-6350
lcairy@cityofmarion.org

Human Resources

319-743-6329
lsperflage@cityofmarion.org

IT Department

319-743-4735
thunter@cityofmarion.org

Water Department

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

Parks & Recreation

Low 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



Congratulations to Jamie Alshouse on His Retirement

Jamie Alshouse, captain for the Marion Fire Department, has served the City since 1996. He started his career in EMS in 1981, eventually becoming a training captain with the Cedar Rapids Fire Department before returning to his hometown of Marion. He was promoted to captain in 1999.

Many things have changed since that time, including the addition of the third fire station, increases in staffing and changes in the response capabilities of the department. Plus, the city has grown exponentially. “Growing up in Marion, 31st Street was gravel, and I still have a scar on my knee from wiping out on my bicycle riding to the old YMCA,” Alshouse said.

Now that he’s retiring, Alshouse is taking time to reflect on serving his hometown for so many years. “The people of Marion value their Fire Department and its emergency responders,” Alshouse said.

One of the things that has made him proud of his work is having children look up to him and tell him they want to be firefighters one day. Alshouse’s son, Timothy, followed in his father’s footsteps and now works for a Fire Department in Missouri. It was a special day when Timothy joined his dad for a ride-along on his last shift.

As for wisdom to share, Alshouse offered: “Be safe, be positive, take the long way home and enjoy the ride.”

Fire Marshall Wade Markley Retires

after 21 years with the City of Marion



Congratulations to District Chief/Fire Marshal Wade Markley on his recent retirement from the Marion Fire Department

“Fire service is a passion, not just a job,” said Markley. His grandfather, also a firefighter, inspired his career choice. It wasn’t always easy – he remembers leaving holiday gatherings to respond to calls – but he’s proud of his commitment. “Every time I put on my badge, I felt a strong sense of pride,” he said.

A lot has changed for the better over the years, including more safety equipment. Markley has appreciated the professionalism and passion of his coworkers, both within the Fire

Department and the City as a whole. “All the departments truly care about the residents of Marion,” Markley said.

With so many changes in Marion, Markley is a little sad he won’t be a part of the new developments in an official capacity. But after many years of service, he’s looking forward to a long and happy retirement.



CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Marion Civil Rights Commission envisions a welcoming, inclusive community that preserves the personal dignity of all people particularly in the areas of employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and education.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

If you feel you were treated differently based on a protected class, contact the Marion Civil Rights Commission.

1225 6th Ave. | Marion, IA 52302

Phone: (319) 743-6301

Email: civilrights@cityofmarion.org

www.cityofmarion.org/civilrights

AREAS OF COVERAGE

Housing, employment, public accommodation, credit and education.

The Commission does not investigate complaints against any City department.

PROTECTED CLASSES

Age, color, creed, familial status, gender identity, lawful source of income, marital status, mental disability, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.



MARION FALL 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 | Through 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.

Fall Into Marion Parade

sponsored by Farmers State Bank

Saturday | Sept. 9 | Uptown Marion

We're bringing a parade back to Marion! Enjoy the festivities, including appearances by the Marion and Linn-Mar High School bands, beginning at 10 a.m. The route is on 6th Ave between 15th Street and 9th Street.

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, including hamerschlagen. Additionally, the Horizons 5K powered by FSB will be held at 9:30 a.m. (Ticketed event.)

Theater in the Park

sponsored by Farmers State Bank

Saturday | Sept. 16 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Come see a free showing of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, produced by Giving Tree Theater starting at 5:30 p.m. This will be the first-ever play held at Lowe Park. (Additional showings with tickets for purchase will be held at Giving Tree Theater.)

Great Autumn Art Show & Sale by Creative Artists

Friday & Saturday | Sept. 22 and 23 | Lowe Park

Enjoy free admission and several artists showing paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor and other mediums including fused glass, photography, jewelry and more. There will be door prize drawings throughout the event and demonstrations. Friday from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Summer ROCK Series

sponsored by Wertz Law Firm

Saturday | Sept. 23 | Uptown Artway

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

Classic Car Show & Shine

Sunday | Sept. 24 | Thomas Park

Join us for an all-car cruise-in from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Suggested donation to benefit Eastern Iowa Honor Flights. If it rains, the show will be canceled.

Red Cedar Chamber Music

Tuesday | Sept. 26 | Uptown Artway

Red Cedar Chamber Music will present a free concert in the Uptown Artway of their program *Retracted Retirement* at noon.

Fall Marion Market

Saturday | Sept. 30 | 7th Avenue

Pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks and more! This festival-style market features vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods and artisan items from 8 a.m.-noon.

Marion Makers Market

Saturday | Sept. 30 | Marion Public Library

From 9 a.m.-2 p.m., visit the first Marion Makers Market hosted by the Friends of the Marion Public Library. All proceeds will benefit the MPL's new bookmobile. For more information and how you can participate, visit mpliowafriends.org.

Dog Fashion Show

sponsored by Apple Creek Canine Resort

Saturday | Sept. 30 | Uptown Marion

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

Tailgate in the Park

Saturday | Sept. 30 | Lowe Park

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

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.

Coffeehouse Nights

Fridays | Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1 | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center
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.

Oct. 6 - Terry McCauley
Nov. 3 - Barbara Francisco
Dec. 1 - Cedar County Cobras

Chocolate Walk & Shop

*presented by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Friday | Oct. 6 | Uptown Marion
Fall's favorite night returns with this after-hours, adult-focused shopping event from 6-9 p.m. Visit your favorite stores, listen to live music and savor a sweet treat from participating businesses.

Falliday Market

Saturday | Oct. 14 | Lowe Park
Enjoy the most wonderful time of the year at this seasonal and holiday-inspired market. From crafts and home décor to yummy treats and seasonal greenery, plus produce and holiday items, this market will be sure to have great finds just in time for the holiday season! Peruse vendor booths from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Trick-or-Treat at Marion City Hall

Tuesday | Oct. 31 | Marion City Hall
Area princesses, superheroes, ghosts and goblins are invited to include a stop at Marion City Hall in their Halloween plans. The City of Marion will host a trick-or-treat event at City Hall (1225 6th Avenue) from 3-5 p.m.

Small Business Saturday

Saturday | Nov. 25 | Uptown Marion
The Uptown Marion District invites you to kick off the holiday shopping season with Small Business Saturday. Uptown Marion Main Street and Marion Chamber of Commerce will host a shopping event between 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Christmas in the Park & Peppermint Walk

*presented by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Friday | Dec. 1 | Uptown Marion
Visit Santa & Mrs. Claus, enjoy traditional holiday activities and visit shops filled with one-of-a-kind, unique goods.



Presented by SHEETS FORREST DRAPER INSURANCE

Oktoberfest Returns, Partners with Horizons 5K

Oktoberfest, presented by Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance, returns for the second year and announces a partnership with the Horizons 5K. Both events will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023.

Oktoberfest will feature 30 breweries from Iowa and surrounding areas sampling a wide variety of styles. Each brewery will have representatives on hand to visit with and educate fans on their beers. Attendees will also enjoy live music by Lyle Beaver and The Brass Notes and traditional German games of hammerschlagen and stein holding.

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

General admission tickets are \$40 and include access to breweries beginning at noon. An exclusive VIP ticket is available for \$60 and includes early access to brewers at 11 a.m. Tickets are now on sale at marionoktoberfest2023.eventbrite.com. Must be 21 years of age to participate; tickets and IDs will be scanned at the entrance to the event.

In addition, the Horizons 5K powered by FSB will be held at 9:30 a.m. and benefit Horizons programs, including Meals on Wheels, NTS (Neighborhood Transportation Service) and Financial Wellness Center. Race participants can receive a complimentary beer with a race bib (must be 21 years of age and have purchased an Oktoberfest ticket to attend). More information is available at horizonsfamily.org.

2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up Schedule
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.

*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.



Disasters don't plan ahead, but you can!

Disaster Preparedness

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

September is National Preparedness Month, which serves as a reminder for us to prepare throughout the year for a wide range of emergencies. Are you prepared for a disaster? Most of us are not. Being prepared starts with taking steps to stay safe before, during and after disasters. A key way to cope with a disaster and help with safety, security and comfort is to have a plan. Regardless of the type of disaster, use the tips below from the Department of Homeland Security to be prepared.

General Preparedness Tips:

- › Sign up for local alerts and warnings and/or download apps.
- › Family members can become separated during an emergency. Create a plan for how to reach one another.
 - › Establish an out-of-area contact (such as a relative or friend) who can coordinate family members' locations and information should you become separated.
 - › Make sure children learn the phone numbers, addresses and your family's emergency plans.
- › Quiz children often so they remember what to do, where to go and who to call in an emergency.
- › Decide how to take care of pets.
- › Post emergency phone numbers by the phone.
- › Assemble a basic disaster emergency supply kit.
- › Practice emergency plans for local hazards.
- › Participate in a preparedness training or class.
- › Collect and safeguard critical documents.

Build an Emergency Supply Kit

A disaster supply kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. In a disaster, local officials and first responders cannot reach everyone immediately. Help may not arrive for hours or days. It's estimated that after a major disaster, it may take **up to three days** for relief workers to reach some areas.

Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. You need to be prepared to survive on your own after an emergency. This may include providing for your own shelter, first aid, food, water and sanitation.

Be prepared ahead of time by having food, water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. Stock your emergency supply kit with the items listed below. Most items are inexpensive and easy to find, and any one of them could save your life. Consider what special needs your family might have, such as supplies for babies, pets or seniors and add any essential items to the list.

A **Basic Disaster Supply Kit** includes the following recommended items:

- › Water – one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation

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

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

Additional Emergency Supplies to consider based on your individual needs:

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

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

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



For more information about different types of disaster preparedness, visit www.ready.gov.



Automated Traffic Enforcement Cameras Installed in Marion

30-Day Warning Period Underway

Two automated traffic enforcement (ATE) cameras have been installed in the City of Marion to enhance public safety. The stationary cameras are located at two high-traffic intersections, one is located at Highway 100 and E. Post Road and the other is installed at Highway 13 and Highway 151. The cameras detect both speeding and red-light violations.

A 30-day warning period is underway and will expire on Sept. 17. During this warning period, vehicle owners will receive a written warning of a violation instead of a citation. In alignment with neighboring communities, warnings or tickets will be issued for 11 mph over the posted speed limit.

In addition to the stationary units, the City now has a mobile ATE camera to enforce speed violations. The mobile unit will be set up based on speeding complaints from residents or other known public safety risks such as construction zones. A photograph of the mobile unit is on the Police Department's website. When the unit is deployed, its location will be publicized at least 12 hours in advance via the Police Department's social media accounts.

Citations are issued to the registered owner of the vehicle, and they are responsible for either paying the fine or contesting it.



To view the ATE ordinance and policy, a list of frequently asked questions and the process for contesting a violation, visit www.cityofmarion.org/automatedtrafficeenforcement.



Marion to Continue to Fund Interoperable Communications System with Cedar Rapids and Linn County

The Marion Public Safety Communications Center, or MCOMM, is located within the Marion Police Station and falls under the direction of the chief of police. MCOMM is staffed by one supervisor and nine communications operators who answer both emergency and non-emergency calls requesting a public safety response (police, fire, ambulance). On average, MCOMM answers between 60,000-65,000 emergency and non-emergency phone calls, which results in approximately 25,000-30,000 combined calls for service per year. The annual budget for MCOMM is approximately \$950,000, and the center is a 24/7 operation.

MCOMM is one of three Public Safety Access Points (PSAPs) in Linn County. The others are operated by Linn County and Cedar Rapids. Beginning in 2010, officials from Marion, Linn County and Cedar Rapids worked together to build an interoperable communications system that would allow the agencies to fully communicate with each other via radio. The system was funded by all three entities, and, at the time, Marion was responsible for 25 percent (\$2.6 million) of the total cost, which was based on call volume and the number of radios.

The system is overseen by the Radio Governance Board, which is made up of the police chiefs in Marion and Cedar Rapids as well as the Linn County sheriff. Since inception, the bulk of the maintenance, equipment and enhancements for the radio system were paid for using funds from the 911 phone line surcharge. Last year, the Governance Board was made aware there would be insufficient 911 funds to cover the cost of maintaining the nine radio towers in the county, which necessitated payments by the participating agencies. Marion's cost for the maintenance agreement this year is \$119,000, or 12 percent of the total annual cost based on actual air-time usage. Per the agreement, the payments will increase each year for the next nine years.

The system allows direct communication between personnel from each agency and also redundancy for those answering the 911 calls. If any of the three PSAPs goes down for an equipment failure or maintenance, 911 calls from that jurisdiction can be routed to the other two PSAPs so they are answered promptly. Similarly, if one PSAP is overwhelmed with 911 call volume, the calls will automatically roll over to one of the other two PSAPs.

On the day of the derecho in 2020, MCOMM answered over 1,800 calls for service in a matter of hours, which is about 90 percent more than average. Some of those calls were roll-ins from Cedar Rapids or the County, and some of Marion's calls were answered by the other two PSAPs.

Other improvements to the system since inception include the ability to answer 911 calls via text message and VOIP (voice over internet protocol).



All storm drains in Marion drain to Indian Creek or one of its tributaries.

Stormwater Pop Quiz

When water enters a storm drain, what happens to it?

- A)** It goes to the wastewater treatment plant
- B)** It is purified, all trash is removed and then it is transported to a stream
- C)** It is transported directly to the nearest stream with no water treatment in between
- D)** It all infiltrates into the ground

If you answered C, you got it right! Unlike the water you use inside your home that goes down a drain and to the Cedar Rapids wastewater treatment plant, everything that enters a storm drain is carried via a network of pipes and ditches to the nearest stream without any treatment. That means all trash, yard waste and chemicals that enter storm drains in Marion are transported directly to the nearest stream, be that Indian Creek, Dry Creek, Wanatee Creek, Berrys Run or Willowood Creek.

Pollutants entering a stream from the storm sewer system ruin aquatic habitats, sicken animals that live in or drink from our streams and could potentially hurt people using these waterways for recreation. This is why anything other than rainwater entering a storm sewer is considered an illicit discharge and can result in a municipal infraction. Exceptions include snow, groundwater seeps, sump pumps, clean irrigation runoff and water used for firefighting.

Do your part to keep our streams clean, and make sure that the only thing going in our storm sewers is rainwater. If you see something other than rainwater going down the storm drain or have questions about stormwater, contact the Engineering Department at (319) 743-6340.

Did the City of Marion Inspect your last Building Project?

Was your last building project inspected? The permit process is in place to protect residents while maintaining an attractive and safe community overall. Homeowners, occupants and tenants need to understand the potential problems and negative ramifications that can occur if required permits are not pulled.

Who should pull these permits? Many times, a builder will say it would be easier for us if you, as the homeowner, pull all the permits. As a homeowner, it's important to realize that by doing so, you are taking responsibility for their work. If there are corrections to be done once an inspection has been performed, the permit holder is responsible for doing the corrections. The best practice is to pull permits only if you're doing the work yourself.

Typically, all projects will require a construction permit and one more of the following permits: building, plumbing, electric and mechanical heating-a/c. Tradespeople must be licensed and registered with the State of Iowa to obtain permits and work in Marion. If the builder gives you a bid on your project, ask them if that includes the permit cost.

Inspections must be performed before a final occupancy can be issued by City inspectors. Inspectors start by reviewing your plans for code compliance. Once they are sure that they will meet code, the permit will be issued. Before all of the work is covered up (for example, before drywall covers electrical and plumbing), inspections are required. Once all the initial rough-in inspections have been completed and the work is completely done, one final inspection will be performed. When this has been completed

and everything is done to the satisfaction of the inspector, a final certificate will be issued.

Here are a few things to remember when working on your next project:

- It's expected that when you pull a permit, the project will be inspected by a Building Division official.
- Permits are typically pulled by the person doing the work (general contractor or builder, heating company, plumbing contractor or electrical contractor), but can be pulled by the homeowner if they are doing the work.
- Most contractors and sub-contractors want to pull their own permits. They do not want someone else's name on their work.
- If you as the homeowner pull the permits, you are responsible for the quality of the work and any shortcomings or problems that might occur. You can be held more responsible if anyone in that trade gets hurt or injured on the job. You are also responsible for calling the Building Division for inspections.
- If you pull permits for a builder or general contractor, they have the opportunity to have someone not licensed and less qualified do the work.

In conclusion, when you hire a licensed general contractor to do all the work on a construction project or a plumber, electrician or mechanical heat-a/c person, they should pull their own required permits. If you are not sure if a permit is required, contact the Building Division at (319) 743-6330.



Water Tower Improvements Completed

Crews have repainted the exterior of the elevated water tower at Blairs Ferry Road and Lindale Drive. In addition, a contractor hired by the Marion Water Department recently completed recoating the interior and exterior of a one-million-gallon ground storage tank at the Water Department's Shop. The cost to perform this work was \$338,100.

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

Marion Conducting Curbside Collection Study

Providing sustainable infrastructure and services is one of six focus areas included in the City of Marion's Strategic Plan. To support this, the City of Marion and SCS Engineers are working together to conduct a study of the City's curbside collection program for garbage, recycling and yard waste.

The consultant has evaluated cost and operational data to develop alternative collection scenarios that include an automated collection system with trucks equipped with a mechanical arm to pick up standardized carts and empty material into the truck.

A formal recommendation is expected to go before Marion City Council in late September. With Council approval, full implementation could take 12-18 months.



Learn more about the study and find a list of FAQs at www.cityofmarion.org/automatedcollectionstudy.

Water System Upgrades

The Marion Water Department is investing over \$1.7 million in new water main infrastructure, plant rehabs and a new Silurian well in the current fiscal year. Projects include the following locations:

- › Water main in Tower Terrace Road west of Alburnett Road to Barnsley Circle
- › Relay 3rd Avenue - 22nd Street to 31st Street
- › Relay 2nd Street and 10th Avenue
- › Relay 22nd Avenue - 24th Street to 26th Street
- › Relay 27th Street - 14th Avenue to McGowan Boulevard
- › Recoating the ground storage tank at Main Shop
- › Recoating the elevated water tower at Lindale Drive
- › Well #11 Silurian Aquifer
- › Well 4 and 5 pump rehab



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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.

National Night Out Celebrated on August 1



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. This year, National Night Out took place on Aug. 1. The Marion Police Department partnered with the Marion Fire and Parks and Recreation Departments to organize a community-wide event featuring K9 demonstrations, police and fire equipment on display, games, giveaways and more.

Each year, millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all 50 states in the U.S.

New Cricket Club Field Open at Lowe Park



Marion's park system continues to expand with the addition of new amenities. In May, the City of Marion and a local cricket club, the Marion Badgers, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the inaugural game on the new field.

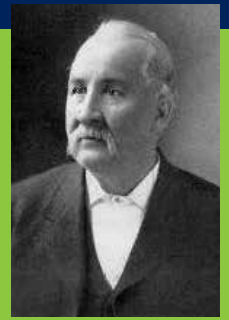
Outdoor cricket is played on an oval grass field with a flat strip in the center called the pitch. In Marion, the field is nestled between the Pee-Wee Ball Diamonds at Lowe Park. The cricket field is possible through a partnership between the City of Marion and a group of local enthusiasts wanting to bring cricket closer to home.

"The City is always looking for ways to support underserved populations through its quality of life initiatives," said Parks and Recreation Director Seth Staashelm. "In addition to having strong local interest in the sport, the field is expected to become a regional attraction."

As part of the Cricket Corridor League, more than 150 participants are expected to play cricket locally. The club will practice on select weekdays and play games on Saturdays throughout the summer months.



William Smyth



William G. Thompson

Oak Shade Celebrities

Because Marion was the original county seat of Linn County, many of its early settlers and leaders are buried in Oak Shade Cemetery. Two such individuals rose to the rank of Congressman. The first was William Smyth, who, at the age of 20, moved to Iowa and studied law at the University of Iowa. After two years, Smyth was admitted to the Iowa Bar and served as the prosecuting attorney for Linn County from 1848 to 1853, when he was appointed as a district judge. In 1857, he returned to private practice and was named chairman of the commission to codify the laws of Iowa. He served as colonel of the 31st Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment for two years during the Civil War, and in 1868, Smyth was elected to represent the second congressional district of Iowa in the United States House of Representatives. He died while running for reelection in 1870, at the age of 46, as a result of dysentery he contracted during his service in the war.

From 1854 to 1856, William Thompson was the prosecuting attorney of Linn County and then served four years as a member of the Iowa State Senate. During the Civil War, he served as a Major in the 20th Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Afterward, he served as chief justice of the Territory of Idaho until his resignation in 1879. That same year he was elected as a republican to the 46th Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Iowa 2nd District Congressman Rush Clark. He was re-elected to the 47th Congress and served until 1883. Declining to be a candidate for renomination, he became a member of the Iowa State House from 1885 to 1887 and finally as judge of the 18th judicial district of Iowa from 1894 to 1906.



MARION
Public Library
**GRAND
OPENING**

Saturday, August 26

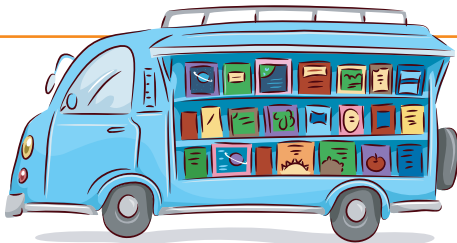
PRESENTED BY



THANK YOU

for celebrating our Grand Opening with us!

We had a BLAST with our community during our Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, Aug. 26! Whether you attended a program, completed our scavenger hunt, or just stopped by to check out some materials, we want to thank you for spending part of your day at MPL. Additionally, we'd like to thank our presenting sponsor, Linn Area Credit Union, our community partners, our volunteers and all other individuals who made this event possible.



Calling All Artists, Creatives and Makers!

Donate your work! The Friends of the Marion Public Library are seeking donations for their first annual Marion Makers Market. This event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. All proceeds from this event will benefit the MPL's new bookmobile. This event is an opportunity to showcase your talents and creativity to our Marion community.

For more information on this event and how you can participate, visit mpliowafriends.org.

September is Library Card Signup Month!

Did you know that September is Library Card Signup Month? This month is a national effort by libraries to make sure everyone has access to their local libraries and the services they provide to our community.

If you have children, make sure they have one to kick off the school year right. Virtual homework help, educational apps and technology workshops are just a few of the many features that benefit students. A library card is one of the most cost-effective back-to-school supplies available.

The library is for more than students, too! Do you have a library card? A library card gives you access to books, movies, games, puzzles, cake pans, room reservations, DIY classes and much more. There is nothing more empowering than having your own library card.



Ready to sign up?

Visit marionpubliclibrary.org or use the QR code to get a card, access online resources, place materials on hold and explore the world of libraries.

'Tis the Season to Be Cozy!



Fall is around the corner, and it's time to practice the Danish art of "hygge." Pronounced "hoo-ga," it's the practice of creating a cozy, comfortable atmosphere that brings contentment and joy. Luckily for you, the Marion Public Library is full of hygge!

Looking to be cozy with family and friends? Our Marketplace has all the cookbooks, games and puzzles you could need. If you need a solo activity, we've got books on crafting, cozy mysteries and Playaways to listen to while relaxing at home. And don't forget - we always have movies and music galore! Look no further than the Marion Public Library to find your own special hygge - come in and explore.

Join Us for Author Talks!

If you're looking for something new to read or just want to learn more about different genres of books, consider attending an author talk! MPL hosts in-person author talks throughout the year, as well as virtual talks as part of our partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium. Check out our list of fall talks!

In-Person Talks at MPL

- Oct. TBD: Megan Bannister
- Oct. 11: Mindy Mejia
- Oct. 18: Linda McCann
- Oct. 23: Hazel Beck
- Nov. 8: Clara McKenna

Virtual Talks from the Library Speakers Consortium

- Sept. 7: Lidia Bastianich
- Sept. 20: Adam Alter
- Sept. 27: Amor Towles
- Oct. 10: Rick Steves
- Oct. 26: John Irving
- Nov. 1: John Stamos
- Nov. 9: Tiffany "The Budgetnista"
- Nov. 16: Joy Harjo
- Nov. 30: Naomi Alderman

A full list of times and locations can be found at marionpubliclibrary.org/events. Virtual talks from the Library Speakers Consortium require pre-registration to receive a virtual link.



Caboose to be Relocated to a New Pocket Park

On June 8, crews moved the caboose from City Square Park so that it can be refurbished and later reintroduced to the City's park system.

Plans call for it to be the focal point of a new pocket park located near 31st Street and the Grant Wood Trail that celebrates Marion's railroad history. The trail follows the former railroad right-of-way and connects several Marion parks, including Waldo's Rock Park, City Square Park and Thomas Park.

About the Caboose

In 1992 the caboose was placed in the southeast corner of City Square Park in Marion. It is a former CRANDIC Northeastern caboose painted in the

Milwaukee Railroad colors. The CRANDIC line never connected to or used the Milwaukee rail lines through Marion. While the caboose is not local to Marion, it does represent Marion's historic ties to the railroad and the importance that it played in the early growth and development of the community.

Plans for City Square Park

Last fall, the City received a \$3 million Destination Iowa grant from the State's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the Central Plaza project. The concept activates the park year-round by providing flexible space for daily outdoor use and special events throughout the year.