

May 2024

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Nick AbouAssaly

In March, I had the pleasure of delivering Marion’s 30th annual State of the City address before a crowd of more than 500 attendees. This was my ninth annual presentation on behalf of our City Council and City team, and I am always proud to share our collective successes. The overarching theme of the speech highlighted the ways in which Team Marion is “Setting the Standard” and achieving the promise of our city’s brand: **THE best place in Iowa to raise**

a family and grow a business.

Over the past decade, we’ve made our brand the guidepost for our city’s evolution, and a central feature of an ambitious vision that has moved the needle significantly by inspiring us to see beyond the routine tasks of managing City operations and providing basic services. Our brand is a daily reminder that there’s a higher and more profound purpose in our work; and that we have the amazing opportunity to achieve beyond our perceived potential by shaping a premiere community where people and businesses want to be.

That aspiration is made achievable through a genuine desire to truly serve all people and a sharp focus on giving all people the best opportunities they want for themselves and their families. Our collective understanding of this is the bedrock of Marion’s recent success story and the driver of its upward trajectory.

Our focus on excellent services and safe neighborhoods, investments in beautiful amenities and dozens of annual community events has resulted in a vibrant place where residents love their Marion address. This is reflected in the results of our latest National Community Survey™, which tell a story of high satisfaction and improved confidence and trust in City government. According to that survey, 95% of Marion’s residents rated their city as a “good” or “excellent” place to live!

Most recently, Marion was honored to receive national recognition as **Community Playmaker’s Community of the Year** for our innovative approach to economic development, community engagement and sharp focus on building inclusive and high-quality environments for all people.

While we’re experiencing progress on all fronts, it is most noticeable in the physical growth our city has experienced. There’s no denying that Marion today looks and feels very different than it did even a decade ago. The city’s population has grown about 20% since 2010 and nearly 60% since 2000.

With a current estimated population of 43,000, Marion is now Iowa’s 13th largest and one of its fastest-growing cities. Growth in residential, commercial and industrial development has added nearly \$2 billion to our city’s total property valuation in the past 10 years alone.

Our new “Marion Way” is informed by a new consensus that growth and development for their own sake are not, and should never be our goal. Where in years past we might have settled for good enough, today, we are asking for the best and expecting the best for our community. The realization that “we get one chance to do it the right way” is becoming affixed in our way of thinking. With each new project, we’re focused on maximizing the benefits and asking how the project will add value, improve curb appeal and contribute positively to our quality of life.

We have become recognized across Iowa for setting the standard in quality of life, community engagement and effective government. And all our accomplishments are made possible with the (not-so-secret) secret sauce of our success - COLLABORATION.

I often say that one hand can’t clap alone. In Marion, through our intentional efforts, all hands are clapping to the same rhythm. We work hard to nurture a collaborative and cohesive environment where all who have something to contribute are seated at the table and given a role to play in achieving our shared goals. No one does teamwork better than TEAM MARION!

The director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Debi Durham, wrote me in a recent email:

“I continually use your community as the perfect example of transformation brought forth by strategic planning, collaboration and the will to implement. Your collective success is inspiring.”

While this space is limited and it would be impossible to share all of the examples of how we set the standard in the past year, there’s no doubt that our city continues to make tremendous progress and has become an indispensable part of the regional equation and a place where people and businesses want to be.

We have so much to celebrate. I couldn’t be more grateful for where we are, how far we’ve come, and the manner in which we’re collectively effecting positive change and impacting lives.

Let’s continue to reach higher, together. It takes all of us and we all have a role to play as part of Team Marion. I can’t wait to see what we’ll do next. The sky is **NOT** the limit.



Watch the recording of the 2024 State of the City event at cityofmarion.org

Topics covered will include:

- Administrative overview
- Investigations Bureau
- Patrol Bureau
- K9 program overview
- Special Response Team (SRT) demonstration
- 911 Communications Center tour
- Use of force presentation
- Crime scene processing
- Tactical vehicle operation
- Range day



Community Police Academy

The Marion Police Department will hold its first Community Police Academy this fall to help community members gain a better understanding of the department’s procedures, guidelines and responsibilities while providing opportunities to interact with our officers and command staff.

The academy will include classroom work, hands-on practical exercises, a ride-along with a patrol officer and a firearms range day. The class will meet on seven consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m., and one Saturday morning from 8 a.m.-noon at the firearms range. The first class will be held Sept. 4, 2024. Ride-alongs will be individually set to accommodate participant schedules.

Participants must be at least 21 years of age, consent to a background check, sign a hold harmless agreement and commit to attend all sessions. Preference will be given to those applicants who reside in Marion or have a business in Marion.

The academy will be limited to 16 participants, but the department anticipates holding two sessions per year going forward. Application information will be shared online later this summer.

Utility Rates

The Marion Water Department prepares and mails the City's utility bill. Most residential users are billed every two months, while most commercial accounts are billed monthly.

The City's utility bill includes fees for:

- › water consumption and well maintenance
- › sewer treatment
- › garbage, recycling and yard waste collection
- › sanitary sewer replacement
- › urban forestry tree maintenance
- › stormwater pipe maintenance

Rates for each utility fund must cover the cost of doing business as they are not subsidized by property taxes.

In keeping with inflation and following a thorough rate analysis of each fund, the Finance Department presented the following proposed utility rates to Marion City Council in early April. Formal adoption is anticipated in June, with the rates going into effect on July 1, 2024.

Overall, utility bills are proposed to increase for a typical residential customer (averaging 1,200 cubic feet of water in a two-month billing cycle) from \$188 every other month to \$210, a 12% increase.

SAMPLE BILL FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Two Month Increase
Garbage	\$40	\$52*	\$12
Sanitary Sewer (Capital)	\$4	\$6	\$2
Sewer (Operations & Maintenance)	Service Charge: \$4 Usage \$6/100 cubic ft of water used	Service Charge: \$10 Usage \$6/100 cubic ft of water used	\$6
Stormwater	Service Charge: \$7 Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU): \$3.34	Service Charge: \$8 Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU): \$4	\$1.66
Urban Forest	\$7	\$7	\$0
Water	Service Charge: \$24 Meter Rate: \$6.80 Tier Rates: \$16.83	Service Charge: \$24 Meter Rate: \$7 Tier Rates: \$17.33	\$0.70
Total			\$22.36

assuming average use of 1,200 cubic feet of water in a two-month billing cycle

* Will not include curbside yard waste when automated collection is implemented. Learn more on page 7.

The City desires to be proactive in anticipating the impact of future projects and wants to incrementally adjust rates to avoid more significant increases in the future. As outlined below, the increases are tied to the implementation of an automated garbage/recycling collection program, the new Public Services Maintenance Facility, new vehicles/equipment, as well as the development of reforestation and stormwater master plans.

GARBAGE | Last updated in the fall of 2022, the garbage rate proposal is reflective of tonnage rate increases from the Solid Waste Agency (\$5/ton for garbage and recycling), large capital investments (new trucks, automated collection carts) and implementation of an automated collection program.

SANITARY SEWER | Marion contracts with the City of Cedar Rapids for wastewater treatment services. The City of Marion's share of the water pollution control capital improvements required by the EPA at the Cedar Rapids treatment plant is the main driver for the rate increases for sewer. Marion's estimated share of the \$250 million project, expected to occur in FY 2027, is \$24.5 million.

STORMWATER | The stormwater rate was last adjusted in 2017. The proposed increase covers increased investment in the storm sewer annual Capital Improvement Program to install drain tile behind the curb in places it doesn't already exist. It will also fund the creation of a Stormwater Master Plan.

WATER | The 3% rate increase will raise approximately \$150,000 in additional revenue to pay off debt for the Marion Water Department and fund new water main replacement projects.

URBAN FOREST | No rate change is proposed for the urban forest fee for FY 25. An Urban Reforestation Plan is currently underway, which will inform future rate increases.

Budget Highlights

At a time when many other cities have been forced to lay off employees or cut programs, the City of Marion has been able to avoid doing the same. This is due to an engaged community and a City team committed to strong fiscal management.

The adopted \$113.9 million operating budget includes:

- › filling two vacant police officer positions left open last year to fund wage increases to help Police Department recruitment,
- › an upgrade to a recently vacated administrative position within the Fire Department,
- › Central Plaza project implementation,
- › staffing for the mobile library (a new initiative that is part of the new library project),
- › and implementation of the Compensation Study recommendations.

The City operates as a business, and in order to be competitive in the job market and successfully attract and retain employees, a 4% wage increase is included in the adopted FY 25 budget. This aligns with the updated compensation and classification structure established through the Compensation Study and market data gathered from comparable communities.

Significant changes during the 2023 legislative session modified the municipal tax process and introduced new limitations and even penalties for high-growth cities. While Marion's taxable valuation grew by 9%, the ratchet-down mechanism instituted by the State reduces Marion's taxable growth down to only 3%.

Due to a combination of the City's revamped budget process and the recent legislation, Marion's Adjusted City General Fund Levy rate has been reduced from \$15.03390 to \$14.80314. This generates some of the revenue required to fund vital services for our community. Other revenue is from fees for service, utility rates, road use tax collections and various other funds.

Three components determine the amount of property taxes levied: 1. Valuation (determined by Linn County every other year), 2. Rollback value (determined by the State) and 3. Levy rate (determined by City, School & County).

Capital Improvement Program

Marion's FY 25 budget includes \$63.7 million in Capital Improvement Projects. Trunk sewer projects account for over 30% of the total, an \$18.7 million investment.

The following list highlights projects included in the program with over \$3 million in expenditures:

- › Indian Creek Trunk Sewer Segment 7
- › Alburnett Road Extension
- › Indian Creek Trunk Sewer Segment 11
- › Central Plaza
- › Tower Terrace Road
- › Sanitary Trunk Sewer - Project 4 & 5
- › Fleet Acquisition - Solid Waste
- › CeMar Trail

Total City Budget: \$177.6 million



Bike to Work Week

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 (CMPO) is hosting the CMPO Bike Ride on Saturday, May 11, at 10 a.m. The 15-mile ride begins and ends at Bever Park in Cedar Rapids. The event is sponsored by AARP and requires pre-registration.

Marion will officially kick off Bike to Work Week activities on Tuesday, May 14, with a Bike to Lunch Challenge. Participants are encouraged to bike with their co-workers to their favorite Marion lunch spot and post photos and tag the City of Marion on social media.

On Wednesday, May 15, 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 the former Marion Public Library lot across from City Square Park in Marion. It will travel on busier streets in Cedar Rapids and Marion with a police escort.

On Thursday, May 16, the City will host a Pedal Marion ride at 6 p.m. This ride will begin and end in the former Marion Public Library lot. The 9-mile loop throughout Marion will include a couple of pit stops along the way, followed by a Helmets and Hops social gathering in the Uptown Artway.

On Friday, May 17, residents are encouraged to participate in National Bike to Work Day by sharing and posting their bike-to-work journey.

Participate in some or all of the Bike to Work Week activities hosted by Marion's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.



Central Plaza Groundbreaking Marion Central Plaza

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Thursday, March 28, to mark the next phase of reinvestment in Uptown Marion and the start of the Central Plaza project. The Central Plaza will activate City Square Park year-round by providing flexible space for daily outdoor use and special events throughout the year. The eastern section of the park and the vacated portion of 11th Street will be transformed to include a refrigerated ice-skating loop, enclosure of the Depot Pavilion, year-round public restrooms, live performance space, engaging water features, an interactive play sculpture, public art, seating and more. Perennial plantings, native trees, commemorative bricks and decorative lighting will enhance the space. The project is expected to be substantially completed by December 2024. Stay informed of project progress and learn about opportunities to get involved at cityofmarion.org/CentralPlaza.



Thanks to the 2024 Fireworks & Fireflies Sponsors

Fireworks & Fireflies returns to Lowe Park on Wednesday, July 3, at 6 p.m.

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

PRESENTING SPONSOR



RED SPONSORS



WHITE SPONSORS



BLUE SPONSORS ESCO Group | MidAmerican Energy | Hand In Hand, Inc. | Murdoch Funeral Home
 D&N Fence Co. Inc. | Rathje Construction Co. | MercyCare Marion | School of Rock Cedar Rapids/Marion
 Heartland Bank and Trust Company | Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative | Hy-Vee

CITY DEPARTMENTS



Experience Art on the Avenue during the 2024 Marion Arts Festival

The Marion Arts Festival returns to Uptown Marion on Saturday, May 18, for a day of Art on the Avenue!

This year's festival features 50 fine artists from around the country and three emerging artists from the community. Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., weave your way through the festival while enjoying live music and local food alongside immersive art activities for the family. Start the day with the Marion Arts Festival Half Marathon or 5K, 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 additional opportunity of getting to know the artists behind the art.

Students from the area, along with community organizations such as Corridor Woodturners and The Ceramics Center, work to create bowls donated and sold at the Marion Arts Festival's Empty Bowls sale. Bowls carry a \$5-\$15 price tag at the sale, with all proceeds donated to local

food banks. Over the program's 24-year history, the festival has donated more than \$116,000.

The Create & Explore Spaces (previously Art in the Depot) in the Uptown Artway offer every attendee the opportunity to work side-by-side with local arts organizations. Iowa City Press Co-op will teach attendees how printmaking works with fun print activities. The Ceramics Center will work with participants on the wheel to make bowls for next year's Empty Bowls sale. 237 Collective will showcase large block letters that festival participants can draw on during the day.

The Marion Arts Festival is presented by FSB, presenting sponsor since 1993. Major sponsor support includes the City of Marion's Hotel/Motel grant program, Corridor Running, Veridian Credit Union, The Gazette, KCRG-TV9 and Collins Aerospace. Additional support is provided by the Iowa Arts Council, which exists within the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Marion Civil Rights Commission Implements Outreach Plan

The Marion Civil Rights Commission has adopted a 2024 Outreach Plan to help residents better understand the role of the commission and individual rights, particularly in the areas of employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and education.

One of their new initiatives, in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, is to paint a portion of the walkway in the Uptown Artway in June to celebrate Pride Month and demonstrate support for the LGBTQ+ community in Marion and beyond.

City Hall

1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302
cityofmarion.org

Administrative Offices

City Manager
319-743-6301
citymanager@cityofmarion.org

Deputy City Manager

319-743-4738
kdowns@cityofmarion.org

City Clerk

319-743-6327
cityclerk@cityofmarion.org

Community Development

Building Division
319-743-6330
buildingpermits@cityofmarion.org

Planning Division

319-743-6320
planning@cityofmarion.org

Engineering Department

319-743-6340
mbarkalow@cityofmarion.org

Finance

319-743-6350
lcairy@cityofmarion.org

Human Resources

319-743-6329
lsperfslage@cityofmarion.org

IT Department

319-743-4735
itdepartment@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



Marion 2045: A Plan to Reach New Heights

RDG Planning and Design has been working with staff and meeting with community representatives to lay the groundwork for the Comprehensive Plan.

What is a comprehensive plan? It's the official policy guide for physical improvement and development. The plan considers not only the current needs and issues within the community but also presents a plan for guiding new improvements and developments for the next 15 to 20 years.

Public outreach and participation are key to creating a successful plan for Marion. Share your thoughts by taking the online survey and adding pins to the interactive map. Stay up to date on more



ways to get involved - like our upcoming design workshop on June 12 and 13 - by visiting cityofmarion.org/complan or following the QR code at left.

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 place to place soliciting or taking orders for sales. 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.

If you decide to speak with a solicitor, you should ask to see their identification and City of Marion license. 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.

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, generally the space between the sidewalk and the curb.

A city-wide garage sale is scheduled for May 11 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For a map of participating addresses, please visit cityofmarion.com/garagesale.

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 cityofmarion.org under the Documents & Reports section of the Water Department page. Printed copies will also be provided upon request. For further information about your drinking water, please call the Marion Water Department at (319) 743-6310.

New Silurian Well Drilled

The Marion Water Department hired Shawver Well Company Inc. to drill another Silurian well last winter. The well is 496 feet deep and can produce over 600 gallons per minute. It is located on City property south of Fernow Road and east of Highway 13 and the Rookwood Estates Additions. This well will eventually be put into production as the City's water consumption needs increase.

Yard Waste and Recycling Reminders

Curbside yard waste collection has resumed. Grass clippings must be placed in paper bio-degradable bags, all other yard waste may be placed in 33-gallon cans, clearly marked with a "Y" facing the street.

The City's Yard Waste Drop-Off Facility, located at 195 35th Street, is open to Marion residents weekdays from 7 a.m.-3:15 p.m., Tuesday evenings 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, also at 195 35th Street, is open Tuesdays from noon-5:45 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.



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- Convenient 24/7 access

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Go to: www.cityofmarion.org/billingoptions

2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City of MARION IOWA Garbage & Recycling Collection

Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up Schedule
May 27	Memorial Day	Monday	One day late all week
June 19	Juneteenth	Wednesday	Regular collection schedule
July 4	Independence Day	Thursday	One day late starting Thursday
Sept. 4	Labor Day	Monday	One day late all week
Oct. 10	Indigenous Peoples' Day	Monday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Monday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	Collection on Friday
Nov. 29	Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	Collection on Saturday
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Tuesday	Regular collection schedule
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Wednesday	One day late starting Wednesday
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve	Tuesday	Regular collection schedule

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

Automated Curbside Collection is Coming Soon!

For years, residents have asked for a modernized solid waste collection system, and in September 2024 the new program for automated garbage/recycling/yard waste collection will be implemented in Marion.

With automated collection, an operator activates a mechanical arm on the side of the collection vehicle to lift and empty heavy-duty standardized collection carts. The process is more efficient and safer for employees.

The carts have wheels and a hinged lid, and are sturdier than household receptacles. They will be purchased by the City and issued to each residence.

In preparation, the City is encouraging all households to begin thinking about preferred cart sizes and whether they wish to subscribe to the curbside yard waste service.

Every household currently served by the City of Marion will be automatically enrolled in the standard service, which includes two large 64/68 gallon carts, one for garbage and one for recycling. Residents can request the alternate option of smaller 46/48 gallon carts for garbage and/or recycling for the same rate. They can also add a large 64/68 gallon cart for curbside yard waste service for an additional fee.

A postcard mailer will be distributed to every household in Marion in May 2024 that provides additional information and instructions for how to sign up. Responses will be due by June 15.

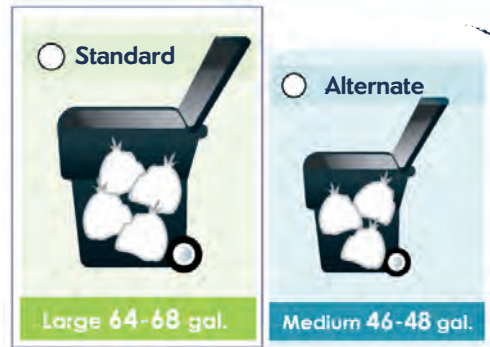
The curbside garbage/recycling service will cost \$26 per month and if opting into curbside yard waste collection, the cost will be an additional \$6 per month.

The cost increase from \$20 today covers the additional volume and associated tipping fees, new carts for every household, new trucks equipped with the mechanical arm and the cost of the service being provided. The rates were last increased in 2022.

Additionally, as part of the 2023 Automated Collections Study, it was estimated that roughly 30% of households consistently use the City's curbside yard waste service. In order to run efficient routes, reduce unnecessary wear/tear on equipment and sufficiently cover the cost of providing the service, curbside yard waste collection is now an opt-in program. All customers will continue to have access to the Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off facilities at 195 35th Street.

To help residents visualize cart size and determine the right size for their household, sample carts are on display at Marion City Hall, Marion Public Library and Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center. Additional outreach is planned for the summer farmers markets at Taube Park and Uptown Marion.

Garbage



Recycling



\$26
monthly

Yard Waste



\$6
monthly



Find a full list of frequently asked questions and learn more about the process at cityofmarion.org/automatedcollection.

Contact a member of our team at automatedcollection@cityofmarion.org or call (319) 200-1272.



Development Update

The development landscape of Marion continues on a positive trajectory, thanks to strong community partnerships with organizations like MEDCO, the Marion Chamber of Commerce and Uptown Marion – A Main Street Iowa District. Here’s a look at several projects that are currently under construction.

Ohnward Bank and Trust Expansion



The existing 4,500-square-foot Marion branch is doubling in size to 9,000 square feet. The additional space will provide for 13 offices, a larger employee break room, restrooms and a larger executive conference room. The existing building will also undergo remodeling and improvements consistent with the new expansion space.

Marion Independent School District – Parkview Elementary



On the heels of the new Longfellow Elementary and the remodeling of Francis Marion Intermediate, Marion Independent is looking forward to opening the doors of its newest school, Parkview Elementary, at the beginning of the 2024 school year. The school is located where the football field once stood near Thomas Park. Parkview will replace Starry Elementary.

Marion Independent School District – High School Auditorium



Marion Independent is supporting the arts with its investments in a new

auditorium. The auditorium will be attached to the high school and includes a stage and seating for approximately 750 people. It is expected to be completed during the spring semester of the 2024-25 school year.

Iowa Kids Pediatric Dentistry



An extensive remodel project is well underway, changing the former McDonalds into a pediatric dental clinic. This project transforms this prominent lot on a well-traveled thoroughfare in Marion. The facility should be operational by late summer/early fall 2024.

Sleep Inn Hotel



The 59-room hotel located on the corner of Highway 151 and Highway 13 is under new ownership and is undergoing a major renovation. The hotel is scheduled to reopen under the Sleep Inn brand in the spring of 2024.

Linn-Mar Community School District – Administrative Building



Linn-Mar is adding a 27,800-square-foot administrative building to house its information technology, student services, human resources, business services, teaching and learning, nutrition services, communications and volunteer services functions. The building will provide additional meeting space and an updated boardroom. Venture Academics and COMPASS will have room to expand in the existing

administrative building after the new building is completed. It is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2024.

Holiday Inn Express



Holiday Inn Express is a mid-priced hotel chain within the InterContinental Hotels Group family of brands. They focus on offering limited services at a reasonable price, targeting family and business travelers. This four-story, 93-unit complex will be an anchor tenant in the Eastown Crossing development at the northeast corner of Highways 151 and 13. The project is planned for completion in late 2024/early 2025.

Mercy Medical Center – Emergency Department



Progress continues on Mercy Medical Center’s new Marion Emergency Department at 999 35th Street. If you drive by the site, you’ll notice that the structure is quickly taking shape, with the exterior framing completed. Crews are now building and framing interior walls and doors. It is expected to open in mid-to-late November.

UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s Hospital Emergency Room



Construction on this facility began in the spring of 2023 and is expected to be completed later this summer. The new Marion ER will feature full-service emergency care – services like those offered at St. Luke’s Main Cedar Rapids ER.



MARION COMMUNITY EVENTS

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 11 | 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. A map and sign-up link will be posted at cityofmarion.org/garagesale.

Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Saturday | May 11 | 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 from noon-3 p.m. For more information, visit cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation.

Marion Arts Festival 5K & Half Marathon

hosted by Corridor Running

Saturday | May 18 | Uptown Marion

Start the day with the Marion Arts Festival Half Marathon and 5K races, hosted by Corridor Running. The races begin at 7:30 a.m. Register now at corridorrunning.com/marion-arts-festival.



Marion Arts Festival

sponsored by Farmers State Bank

Saturday | May 18 | Uptown Marion

One day. Fifty artists. Exceptional art. Enjoy hands-on experiences and one-of-a-kind art from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Additional details can be found at marionartsfestival.com.

Great American Kites

sponsored by Summit Pointe Senior Living Community

Saturday | May 18 | PeeWee Diamonds at Lowe Park

For the fourth year, the Marion Parks and Recreation Department will host Great American Kites at Lowe Park from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Great American Kites specializes in producing the most astonishing and colorful outdoor giant kite displays. Guests should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Outside food and drink are permitted.

BBQ Rendezvous

Saturday | June 1 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

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

Marion by Moonlight

hosted by Farmers State Bank

Thursdays | June 6, 13, 20, 27 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

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

- June 6: Airwaves
- June 13: Crazy Delicious
- June 20: Throwback Jack
- June 27: Retro Rockits

Pop-Up Acts in the Artway

sponsored by Iowa Appliance Center and Affordable Heating and Cooling

Fridays | June-August | Uptown Artway

Enjoy a night out on the town listening to live music in the heart of Uptown Marion. Music begins at 6 p.m. Visit cityofmarion.org or facebook.com/CityofMarionIowa for specific artists and dates. There will be no performer on July 5.

Moonlit Movie Series

sponsored by Hills Bank

Fridays | June 7, July 19, Aug. 2 | 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. Activities begin at 7 p.m., and movies begin at 8 p.m.

- June 7: Wonka
- July 19: Minions: Rise of Gru
- Aug. 2: Super Mario Bros

Sunrise Yoga

Saturdays | June 8-Aug. 31 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

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

Uptown Marion Market

*sponsored by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Saturdays | June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 28 | 7th Ave. between 10th St. and 12th St.

This festival-style market, hosted by the Marion Chamber, features vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods and artisan items from 8 a.m.-noon.

Music Under the Moon*sponsored by Veridian Credit Union***Saturdays | June 8, July 13, Aug. 10 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Enjoy live music at the beautiful Lowe Park amphitheater. Bring a blanket, cooler and lawn chair. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

June 8: The Beat Goes On starring Lisa McClowry as Cher

July 13: Head East, Legendary Classic Rock

Aug. 10: Boy Band Night with Kenny Braasch

Marion Community Band**Tuesdays | June 11 & 25 | Thomas Park**

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a nice summer evening listening to our great community band! Wear something red, white or blue to get into the spirit. Music starts at 7 p.m.

Picnic on the Prairie*presented by Marion Arts Council***Saturday | June 15, Aug. 17 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Come be inspired by music, art and the beautiful outdoors. Bring your picnic basket, blanket and lawn chair. The concerts begin at 7 p.m.

June 15: Funk Stop

Aug. 17: Bearcat Pickers

Iowa National Guard's 34th Army Band**Sunday | June 16 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Celebrate the Freedom Festival and Father's Day all in one. Bring lawn chairs, a cooler and the entire family for an evening of dancing and memories. The music starts at 6:30 p.m., and the event is free to attend. Prior to the concert, a flag retirement ceremony will be held. Visit freedomfestival.com for details.

Movies on the Move*sponsored by ImOn Communications***Fridays | June 21, July 26, Aug. 16 | Select Marion Parks**

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department as it brings cinematic adventures right to your neighborhood. Bring your chairs/blankets for seating. Movies begin around 8:30 p.m. or dusk.

June 21 at Hanna Park: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3

July 26 at Ascension Park: Barbie

Aug. 16 at Prairie Hill Park: ET

Summer Rock Series*presented by Uptown Snug***Saturdays | June 22, July 20, Aug. 10 | Uptown Artway**

Enjoy rock n' roll hits by some of your favorite local musicians in the Uptown Artway this summer. Keep an eye out for additional information and band dates.

Fireworks & Fireflies*sponsored by Hanna Plumbing & Heating***Wednesday | July 3 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

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

Eat. Drink. & Be Marion: Pub Crawl Fundraiser**Thursday | July 11 | Various stops in Uptown Marion | Must be 21+**

Enjoy a night out for a good cause! The 10th year of the Pub Crawl features live entertainment, exclusive deals and extended shopping hours as you walk to each participating establishment between 5:30-9:30 p.m. Have fun while supporting the ongoing revitalization and beautification efforts of Uptown Marion - A Main Street Iowa District. (Ticketed event)

Uptown Getdown*sponsored by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners****Thursdays | Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22 | 7th Ave. between 10th St. and 12th St.**

For over 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. 1: Big John Hammer & the Rusty Nails

Aug. 8: Well Strung

Aug. 15: Wylde Nept

Aug. 22: Past Masters

Spark in the Park**Sunday | Sept. 8 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Celebrate culture and ignite wellness with international food, music, wellness sessions, sports, a fashion show and more. This free event goes from noon-5 p.m.

Fall Into Marion Parade*sponsored by Farmers State Bank***Saturday | Sept. 14 | Uptown Marion**

Enjoy the festive atmosphere that comes with a parade, including appearances by the Marion and Linn-Mar High School bands. The parade starts at 10 a.m. and will travel north on 15th St. and then west on 6th Ave. to 9th St.

Oktoberfest*sponsored by Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance***Saturday | Sept. 21 | Uptown Marion**

Back by popular demand, Oktoberfest will be held from noon-3 p.m. with a VIP hour from 11 a.m.-noon. The event will feature over 30 breweries sampling their craft in Uptown Marion and traditional German games, like Hammerschlagen and stein holding. (Ticketed event)

Amphitheater Acts**Saturday | Sept. 21 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Enjoy a live play outdoors on the amphitheater stage thanks to the talented cast and crew of Giving Tree Theater. Find more information at cityofmarion.org as the date nears.

Dog Fashion Show**Saturday | Sept. 28 | 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.

Classic Car Show & Shine**Sunday | Sept. 29 | Thomas Park**

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

Tailgate in the Park*sponsored by Zio Johno's***Saturday | Oct. 5 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Come root for the Hawkeyes on the BIG screen at this family-friendly tailgate atmosphere at Lowe Park (time TBD). Play classic tailgate games and enjoy kids' inflatables and activities. The event is free and open to all. This year, the event will feature a spaghetti-eating contest thanks to Zio Johno's as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

*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.

Event details accurate at time of publication. Consult the website of the event host for any updates.



Rob Schlitter Retires after 24 Years with Marion Fire

Rob Schlitter joined the Marion Fire Department in September of 1999 as a firefighter/paramedic. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2009 and then to captain in 2013.

He was heavily involved in the department's technical rescue programs and as an officer, he spent most of his time with the department's training division.

Schlitter is thankful for a career in a community the size of Marion as it allowed him to wear multiple hats throughout the day. "In our department, I was never limited to one specific job, which allowed me to get to know so many people in other departments across the City."

Many things have changed over the last 24 years, but according to Schlitter, the use of technology – both in responding to calls and in report writing – is what has changed the most.

He is proud of his time with the Marion Fire Department and most

proud of his family and the sacrifices they made because of his job. "I think of the times that my wife has woken up to my pager going off, or the times that my kids had to fend for themselves because I was responding to a call," said Schlitter. "And despite this, I've been married for 25 years and my kids have grown into amazing adults."

In retirement, Schlitter is looking forward to taking a little time off, moving his kids to and from college and traveling.



CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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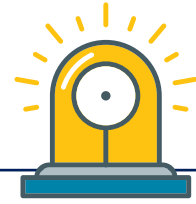
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Send the same email to all members at:
council@cityofmarion.org

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.



New Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Announced

Earlier this year, Chief Fagan announced plans to transition Marion's paid-on-call/volunteer firefighter program into a Community Emergency Response Team or CERT.

Designed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, CERTs are intended to build more resilient communities to the impacts of disasters. CERTs provide a group of volunteers who are integrated into the community response structure. Be it a flood, tornado, ice storm or other large-scale event, CERT volunteers use education and training to help community members prepare for and respond to disasters. With CERT, everyone brings a skillset.

The Marion volunteer program isn't ending. It's evolving into something broader to make Marion more resilient and better prepared.

The Marion Fire Department will be providing more information in the coming months about opportunities to apply for the new Marion CERT program. The goal is to have the team up and running by the end of the summer.

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 Pool Opens May 27

The Marion Pool will open for the season on Memorial Day, May 27. The swimming season will run through Sunday, Aug. 18.

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 27: The pool will close at 5 p.m.
May 28, 29, 30: Lap swim only (no open swim)
From June 3-7 and June 10-14, the pool will close at 4 p.m. for evening swimming lessons.

Daily Admission:

Ages 3 & Under	\$3.50/person
Ages 4 and up	\$4.50/person
Lap Swim (all ages)	\$4.50/person

Season Pool Passes:

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

Family Seasonal Pool Membership

Includes two adults and immediate children that who 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 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.	\$250
Saturday & Sunday	5:15-6:45 p.m.	\$250
Saturday & Sunday	7-8:30 p.m.	\$250 <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: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.	Open daily: 11 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.

Think Bright Colors for Swimwear

The brighter the swimwear, the better. Bright colors are noticeable 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 Sharks Swim Team

The Marion Sharks summer swim team, for youth ages 6-17 years of age, is a great program to introduce swimmers to the sport without the initial club commitments. This is a recreational summer swim team where participants compete with other metro swim teams. There is a \$90 registration fee, \$15 of which helps cover the league costs. Practices are Monday-Wednesday-Friday (no practice Tuesday-Thursday) from 6:45-8 a.m. The start date is to be determined. Learn more at cityofmarion.org/swimlessons.

Fertilizer and Lawn Tips



Example of a phosphorus-free fertilizer

While most of the fertilizer pollution in our streams comes from agriculture operations, improperly applying fertilizer to your lawn will also negatively impact water quality. Follow these tips when doing spring maintenance on your lawn to help protect our local waterways:

- › Get a soil test. This will help you identify how much fertilizer your lawn needs so you don't waste fertilizer by overapplying. Excess fertilizer doesn't stay in the lawn, it gets carried away by rainwater and eventually ends up in streams and lakes where it can hurt water quality.
- › Use phosphorus-free fertilizers (fertilizers where the middle number is zero). Most soils in Iowa naturally have plenty of phosphorus. In addition to being a pollutant, excess phosphorus is one of the nutrients that causes unsightly blooms of algae (green goo) in stormwater ponds in the summer and fall.
- › Minimize insecticide use. Most insecticides don't just kill pests, they also hurt beneficial insects like pollinators. If you need to use a pesticide, make sure to follow the instructions on the label.

Want to get more out of your lawn?

Try Soil Quality Restoration (SQR), which is the process of aerating and applying compost to a lawn. This helps build topsoil and improves a lawn's ability to absorb rainwater.

Want to convert part of your lawn to something that doesn't need to be fertilized or irrigated and also benefits local wildlife? Consider replacing some turf with native plants; these plants are adapted to Iowa weather and are a valuable food source for pollinators.

The City of Marion has stormwater rebates that cover 50% of the project cost up to \$1,000 for SQR and Native Plants. Visit cityofmarion.org or contact the Engineering Department at (319) 743-6340 to learn how to qualify.

Engineering Department Update

Road construction season is upon us. Here are a few of the higher-profile projects that are in the Engineering Department's work plan.

Central Plaza - As 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. Construction is underway and is expected to be substantially completed by December 2024.

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. Property acquisition and utility relocations are underway, with construction anticipated to occur in 2025.

Tower Terrace Road - This project extends Tower Terrace Road west from Alburnett Road to C Avenue. It is a joint project with the City of Cedar Rapids and is a high priority in the 2040 Plan. The completion of this corridor is expected in drive infill development in Marion. Construction is underway with the goal of opening this section to traffic by the end of 2024.

Indian Creek Trunk Sewer Segment 11 - This is a joint project with the City of Cedar Rapids and involves the replacement and upsizing 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. The Segment 11 project begins in Willow Park and follows Dry Creek to the western corporate limits of Marion.

Pavement Management Program - This is an annual program that includes reconstruction, rehabilitation and preservation projects. These projects address pavement management needs as they occur and support the goal of sustainable infrastructure. Projects scheduled for this summer include:

- › Phase 1 of the 5th Avenue Reconstruction Project from 1st Street to 3rd Street
- › Westbound 10th Avenue/Business 151 from 35th Street (near Hy-Vee) to Highway 13 (near Walmart)
- › Tower Terrace Road from Alburnett Road to 10th Street
- › Replacement of the colored crosswalk to the east of 6th Avenue and 9th Street

Asphalt Resurfacing Program - This annual program to mill and replace the existing asphalt surface on several of our roadways is expected to begin in late May. Targeted streets include:

- › 3rd Avenue from 11th Street to 12th Street
- › 21st Avenue from 24th Street to Golfview Court
- › 23rd Avenue from 24th Street to 26th Street
- › 26th Avenue from 24th Street to 27th Street
- › 11th Street from 1st Avenue to 5th Avenue
- › 31st Street from 10th Avenue to McGowan Boulevard

Highway 100 and East Post Road Traffic Signal and Turn Lanes - This project replaces the existing traffic signal infrastructure and includes additional safety improvements, such as additional turn lanes and advanced queue detection. This project will begin in the summer with expected completion by the fall of 2024.



Subscribe to the Engineering Department's weekly newsletter at cityofmarion.org/enotify.



Read, Renew, Repeat during this year's Summer Library Program!

Beginning June 3, Marion Public Library will host a range of free activities for children, teens and adults to encourage and support a love of reading. This year's theme – Read, Renew, Repeat – invites patrons of all ages to read as a form of learning, enjoyment and self-improvement.

Check out a list of the library's summer programs and visit marionpubliclibrary.org/SLP for the most up-to-date details, reading challenges and other activities to keep you busy all summer long!

Kids

In-Library Programs

Activity Time

- Every Tuesday in June and July, 1 p.m., Youth Programming Room

Kid's Crafts

- Thursday, June 6, 10 a.m., Youth Programming Room
- Thursday, June 20, 10 a.m., Youth Programming Room
- Thursday, July 18, 10 a.m., Youth Programming Room

Park Playdates

- Thursday, June 13, 10-11 a.m., Lininger Park
- Thursday, June 27, 10-11 a.m., Prairie Hill Park
- Thursday, July 11, 10-11 a.m., Gill Park
- Thursday, July 25, 10-11 a.m., Hanna Park

Kids Virtual Author Talks

- Kate DiCamillo: Wednesday, July 10, 1 p.m.
- Max Brallier: Tuesday, July 16, 1 p.m.
- Dan Santat: Wednesday, July 31, 1 p.m.

Teens

Tween and Teen Craft Days

- Make Your Own Scrunchie!
 - Tuesday, June 4, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Perler Bead Creations
 - Tuesday, June 11, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Paper Crafts
 - Tuesday, June 18, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Journals and Flower Pens
 - Tuesday, June 25, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Sharpie Tile Art
 - Tuesday, July 2, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Craft Wars
 - Tuesday, July 9, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room

- Shrinky Dinks
 - Tuesday, July 16, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Henna Tattoos and Tattoo Pens
 - Tuesday, July 30, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room

Tween and Teen Game Days

- Board Game Palooza
 - Thursday, June 6, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Popcorn Olympics
 - Thursday, June 13, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Karaoke
 - Thursday, June 20, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Life Size Board Games
 - Thursday, June 27, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- BINGO
 - Thursday, July 11, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Retro Game Day
 - Thursday, July 18, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room
- Pokémon Escape Room*
 - Thursday, July 25, 1-3 p.m., Teen Programming Room

Tween and Teen Food Days

- Candy Sushi
 - Friday, June 21, 3-4:30 p.m., Community Room
- Tween and Teen Kitchen Safety with the Marion Fire Department*
 - Friday, July 19, 3 p.m., Community Room

Teen Virtual Author Talks

- Elizabeth Acevedo LSC (Library Speakers Consortium) Presentation
 - Tuesday, June 23, 1 p.m., Teen Programming Room



Everyone

Movie Days

Join us in the Youth Programming Room at 1 p.m. on the following dates for movies appropriate for all ages:

- Wednesday, June 5
- Wednesday, June 26
- Wednesday, July 3
- Wednesday, July 17
- Wednesday, July 24
- Wednesday, July 31

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

Additional Programming

- Pride Button Making
 - Friday, June 14, 9-11 a.m., Creative Commons
 - Monday, June 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Creative Commons
- Tiny Art Workshop
 - Monday, June 10, 4-6 p.m., MakerSpace
- Iowa Raptor Project
 - Wednesday, June 19, 2 p.m., Community Room
- Mr. Magic Johnathan May
 - Wednesday, July 10, 2 p.m., Community Room
- End-of-Summer Reading Program Ice Cream Social
 - Tuesday, August 6, 3:30 p.m., Community Room

* = Registration required



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John McIntosh Recognized with Community Impact Award

Longtime resident, public servant and community volunteer, John McIntosh has been announced as the 2024 Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award recipient. The announcement was made at the Marion State of City address in March.

John McIntosh graduated from Marion High School in 1964 and then proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. Upon returning home, McIntosh began a 35-year career with the Marion Water Department, retiring in 2001.

McIntosh has lived a life rooted in service. He was a Marion reserve police officer, a volunteer firefighter, and even served as the assistant pool manager at one time. In 2023, he was recognized for 50 years with the Marion Fire Department. McIntosh is a member of the American Legion and has served on the Marion Water Board of Trustees and on the Marion Park Board since 2011.

In addition to his community involvement, McIntosh is an active member of Marion Christian Church, where his talents and consistent presence continue to shine. Following the 2020 derecho, he spent months working to repair significant damage at the church and haul debris. In January of this year, McIntosh participated in his fifth mission trip to Guatemala to help build homes for those without. His dedication to that project is reflected in his fundraising efforts, which also generated funds for the Marion Food Pantry and other local non-profit organizations.

“John spends hours helping friends and neighbors in the community,” said Patrick Knight in his nomination. “Because of his humility, many of those hours of service are unknown, he just does it in an unassuming way.”

The Community Impact Award is presented by the Marion Chamber of Commerce and the City of Marion. It honors longtime banker and community philanthropist Morris F. Neighbor. Mr. Neighbor passed away in 2019 at the age of 100, but his legacy lives on, in part through the annual Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award.