

Fall 2024

MARION MESSENGER

2
MAYOR'S MESSAGE

3
PLAZA UPDATE

4-5
FALL EVENT LISTING

6
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

7
PUBLIC WORKS

8-9
AUTOMATED COLLECTION

10
CITY SERVICES

11-13
PUBLIC SAFETY

14
PARKS & REC

15
LIBRARY

16
SPIRIT OF MARION

Community
Event
Calendar
page 4

Fall Into Marion

Curbside Automated Garbage Collection to Begin in October | pages 8-9



Nick AbouAssaly

Let's talk Property Tax

Marion property owners recently received real estate tax statements from the Linn County Treasurer for the 2023 assessment year. These taxes are due in two installments, the first by Sept. 30, 2024, and the second by March 31, 2025. As we review our statements,

it is important to keep in mind that the tax liability included in the statements is determined by several factors and various authorities.

Real estate taxes are based on the assessed value of each parcel. That value is determined by the Linn County Assessor, who is required by Iowa law to assess every real estate parcel at 100% of its fair market value following the guidelines in the Iowa Real Property Appraisal Manual. As such, the assessor periodically adjusts the valuations of property to reflect what they believe is its fair market value. Increased assessed values in recent years are reflective of the overall increases in real estate market values across our region and state and have been a contributing factor to higher taxes.

Another factor that impacts our real estate tax bill is the rollback, which is the percentage of the assessed value that is actually subject to taxation. The rollback rate is a statewide rate set annually for each property class by the Iowa Department of Revenue. This rate may fluctuate from year to year. For example, the rollback percentage for residential property dropped from 54.6501% for 2022 to 46.3428% for 2023. The taxes owed by Marion property owners in September 2024 and March 2025 are based on this percentage. The rollback percentage helps to lessen the impact of increases in assessed values for most property owners.

Finally, it is important to note that the total bill for each parcel is comprised of taxes levied by various taxing authorities. School districts, Kirkwood Community College and Linn County all levy taxes, which combine with the City of Marion's taxes to constitute the total tax bill.

Real estate taxes are understandably an important topic for all property owners, including City officials. After all, City officials are subject to the same tax rates as all other property owners. The reality is that real estate taxes are the primary source of the City's income. Without this income, we would not be able to serve Marion's residents and give them the high-quality services they expect and deserve. We work within the confines of Iowa law to build annual City budgets from a zero base so that they are truly reflective of the actual funding our departments need in order to run City operations and reach higher for Marion's fast-growing population. The City Council works closely with City staff over a period of months each year to identify needs and establish funding priorities consistent with the City's Strategic Plan before establishing the annual tax levies to secure the needed funds.

While real estate tax revenue pays for a variety of City operations, the majority of such revenue is used to fund public safety, including our Police and Fire Departments. Other services are funded through direct fees and we strive to establish those fees at levels sufficient to cover the actual cost to the City of providing those specific services.

City finances and budgeting are complex. I hope the foregoing is helpful and encourage residents to seek additional information in order to gain a better understanding. One thing is clear; the work of the City and its commitment to excellence are evident all around us in improved infrastructure, improved community curb appeal, improved opportunities for all and outstanding City services.

We can rest assured that our tax dollars are being effectively used to serve Marion's residents and shape one of Iowa's most desirable communities.



Uptown Marion Main Street Program Welcomes New Director



The Marion Chamber of Commerce and Uptown Marion Main Street Program are pleased to introduce Lacey C. Schroeder as the new program director of Uptown Marion.

Ms. Schroeder brings a wealth of experience in business development, project management and community engagement, making her an ideal leader to guide the continued growth and revitalization efforts of the district. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Upper Iowa University and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Art. Her dedication to public service is exemplified by her receipt of the prestigious Congressional National Service Award, which honors individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities. Growing up in rural southeast Iowa, Lacey has always been passionate about community development, a passion she is eager to channel into her new role.

"I am absolutely elated to step into the role of program director for Uptown Marion," said Ms. Schroeder. "This is an incredible opportunity to collaborate with such a vibrant community, and I am eager to contribute to the growth and revitalization efforts that make Marion a truly special place."

As program director, Ms. Schroeder is responsible for overseeing the implementation of strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing the economic vitality and cultural vibrancy of Uptown Marion. Her strong background in project management and business development will be instrumental in driving forward key projects that will benefit both residents and businesses alike.

"Lacey is an excellent addition to Uptown Marion," said Marion Chamber President Jill Ackerman. "She has a unique background having owned two small businesses, which means she possesses an entrepreneurial spirit that will serve her well as she builds relationships with local business owners. We are excited to welcome her to Team Marion."

Ms. Schroeder's first day on the job was Aug. 21. She is filling a role vacated by former program director Brooke Prouty, who now serves as small business specialist with Main Street Iowa.



Central Plaza Project Update

Marion's Central Plaza project grew out of the ImagiNEXT community visioning process. It is a continuation of the North Plaza that was constructed as part of the 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape project in 2021 and 2022. The project includes the eastern section of the park and the vacated portion of 11th Street.

Significant construction progress has occurred over the past few months with the bulk of the underground work being completed. In the next few months, progress on the above-ground features will begin to take shape. Items of note include the re-roofing of the depot, depot window installation to enclose the building, completion of the ice loop foundation and floor installation. Light pole base and pole installation, sidewalk, brick pavers, landscaping and other site amenity installations will also begin. The project is expected to be substantially completed by December 2024.

The Parks and Recreation Foundation has been working towards its \$1.3 million campaign fundraising goal to support the project and, to date, has raised over \$920,000. The

Foundation will continue its fundraising efforts through the end of the year. Learn more about the opportunities at cityofmarion.org/parks-foundation.

The Parks and Recreation Department is preparing for the operational aspects of the Central Plaza's opening. They will be responsible for maintaining the refrigerated ice loop with a manual drive ice resurfer and facilitating skate rentals and open skating during the winter season. Park visitors can look forward to indoor warming space inside the depot along with upgraded restroom facilities. During the summertime, the department will continue beautifying Uptown by caring for the more than 900 native plants within the garden spaces and over 40 additional hanging pots. New water features and playground space will also elevate the experience in the heart of the community.



Learn more about the project and view a live feed of the construction at cityofmarion.org/CentralPlaza.



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

Request Three Free Right-of-Way Trees by Sept. 13

The City of Marion and Monarch Research are pleased to announce the next community-wide tree-planting program. The 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 planting, watering and protecting the trees as they

become established can register online for up to three free 3- or 5-gallon trees provided by Monarch Research. This program targets right-of-way areas, in most cases the area between the curb and the sidewalk.

Program details, tree species and the registration form are available at cityofmarion.org/plantingforward or monarchresearch.org through Friday, Sept. 13, 2024.

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. Once the trees are established, the Urban Forestry Division then assumes the long-term maintenance of the trees.



MARION FALL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Marion Farmers Market

Saturdays | 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.

Spark in the Park

Saturday | 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.

Pop-Up Acts in the Artway

sponsored by Iowa Appliance Center and Affordable Heating and Cooling

Friday | Sept. 13 | Uptown Artway

Enjoy a night out on the town listening to live music in the heart of Uptown Marion. Brass Transit Authority will perform on Friday, Sept. 13 from 6-8 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 Schools bands. The parade starts at 10 a.m. From 1st Avenue it will travel north on 15th Street and then west on 6th Avenue to 9th Street.

Oktoberfest

presented 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)

Theater in the Park

sponsored by Mercy Medical Park - Marion and ImOn Communications

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 at 5:30 p.m. This year's production will feature *Winnie the Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*. The event is free to attend.

Red Cedar Chamber Music

Thursday | 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

*sponsored by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Saturday | Sept. 28 | 7th Avenue between 10th and 12th Streets

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

Dog Fashion Show

sponsored by Apple Creek Canine Resort

Saturday | Sept. 28 | Uptown Artway

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

Join Marion's Special Events Committee

Would you like to help plan Marion's next big event? The City of Marion is looking for additional members to join its Special Events Committee and provide input and hands-on assistance for events like the annual Fireworks & Fireflies festival, Marion Ice and more. Experience in event planning is great, but feel free to inquire no matter your background. Many different skills, including fundraising and organization, are useful to this group. Interested participants can email events@cityofmarion.org.

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.

Healthiest State Walk**Wednesday | Oct. 2 | Marion City Hall**

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

Chocolate Walk & Shop

*presented by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Friday | Oct. 4 | Uptown Marion

Fall's favorite night returns with this after-hours, adult-only shopping event from 6-9 p.m. Visit your favorite stores, listen to live music, discover what's new just around the corner and savor a sweet treat from participating businesses.

Coffeeshouse Nights**Fridays | Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6 | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center**

These musical performances feature talented local acoustic artists in a relaxed coffeeshouse-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. 4: Roots of Rhythm

Nov. 1: Terry McCauley

Dec. 6: Lucas Blekeberg

Tailgate in the Park*sponsored by Zio Johnno'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, enjoy kids' inflatables and activities, compete in a football skills competition, and enjoy tailgate-inspired foods. The event is free and open to the public. This year, the event will feature a spaghetti-eating contest thanks to Zio Johnno's as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

150th Anniversary of the Marion Fire Department**Saturday | Oct. 12 | 9-11 a.m. | Fire Station No. 1**

Join the Marion Fire Department as it reflects on 150 years of service to the community and looks ahead toward a promising future. The morning will include a fire engine push-in, ribbon-cutting ceremony, info booths, self-guided tours and light refreshments. Breakfast items and coffee available for purchase from Greenwood Kitchens. All are welcome to be part of this exciting milestone.

Falliday Market**Saturday | Oct. 19 | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center**

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.-2 p.m.

Trick-or-Treat at Marion City Hall**Thursday | Oct. 31 | Marion City Hall**

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

Christmas in the Park & Peppermint Walk

*presented by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Friday | Dec. 6 | Uptown Marion

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

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
lspersflage@cityofmarion.org

IT Department

319-743-4735
itdepartment@cityofmarion.org

Water Department

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

Parks & Recreation

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

Public Works

(solid waste, sewer, streets)
202 44th 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 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.

Empowering Tomorrow's Caregivers through Community Promise



Allie Katuin and Emma Friedman, two students from Linn-Mar High School, are charting their paths in healthcare through unique opportunities provided by local partnerships. Allie, a senior, found her passion for healthcare after moving to Marion during her freshman year. Inspired by her grandmothers, both nurses, she eagerly joined the Bio-medical Strand of Venture Academics, a program that integrates real-world projects with academic learning. Through this, Allie secured a role at Mercy Medical Center, thanks to a partnership between Mercy Medical Center and Marion Economic Development Corp's (MEDCO) Community

Promise initiative. This partnership has given her the chance to gain hands-on experience and learn about various roles in healthcare beyond doctor and nurse roles. The experience, she says, is more than just job shadowing — it's about being part of a team that values growth and community.

Emma Friedman's journey into healthcare began with her participation in a similar partnership between MEDCO, Mercy Medical Center and Kirkwood Community College. Emma's decision to join the Pre-Health Academy was influenced by a friend's positive experience in the field. She now works as a patient care technician at Mercy, where she assists with patient care, manages schedules and gains invaluable insights into the healthcare profession. Emma, who aspires to become a NICU nurse, has found support from her coworkers and supervisors, like her boss Paul, who has been instrumental in shaping her career aspirations. This fall, she will continue her journey at the University of Iowa School of Nursing while working part-time at Mercy.

Both Allie and Emma highlight the importance of seizing opportunities and overcoming fears in their journeys towards becoming healthcare professionals. Their experiences at Mercy Medical Center have not only provided them with practical skills but have also clarified their career goals, setting them on a promising path in the world of healthcare.



Community Promise powered by MEDCO connects students with real careers. Learn more at medcoiowa.org.



Presented by
SHEETS FORREST DRAPER INSURANCE

Oktoberfest Returns

Oktoberfest, presented by Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance, returns for the third year in Uptown Marion on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024.

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 marionoktoberfest2024.eventbrite.com. Must be 21 years of age to participate, tickets and IDs will be scanned at the entrance to the event.



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 Public Works Facility Completed Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Planned

The Marion Public Services and Engineering Departments recently joined forces to become Marion Public Works. The new name reflects the focus on creating and maintaining our City's infrastructure in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

In 2019, construction began on a home for the department, north of Highway 100 and west of 44th Street, to replace the existing facility that no longer meets the City's operational needs. When the August 2020 derecho hit the community, the pre-engineered steel frame and foundation systems were damaged and later demolished. Since then, the City has worked with Shive Hattery and Conlon Construction to move the project to where we are today.

The 144,000-square-foot structure provides for the current and future operational needs of the Public Works Department. It includes expanded equipment storage, fleet maintenance and fabrication facilities. The facility was designed with a 3,000-square-foot FEMA-certified safe room and a front office constructed out of precast wall and ceiling concrete components. The equipment storage facility is designed with precast concrete wall systems and a reinforced pre-engineered steel structure to withstand severe weather events. The facility also incorporates sustainable energy elements that include a geothermal system that will provide long-term energy savings for the facility's heating and cooling needs.

Other features include:

- › 61 Parking Bays for Vehicle and Equipment Storage
- › 6 Equipment Wash Bays
- › 8 Vehicle Service Bays
- › 6 Vehicle Lifts
- › Overhead Gantry Crane Systems
- › Dedicated Fabrication Facilities
- › 1 Megawatt Facility Backup Generation System
- › Training Facilities
- › Administrative Offices

The \$28-million project is financed through the City of Marion's special revenue and Road Use, Solid Waste and Sanitary Sewer enterprise funds.

Staff are in the process of moving from 195 35th Street to the new location at 202 44th Street. The Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off Facilities will remain on 35th Street for the foreseeable future. A ribbon-cutting celebration is planned for later this fall.

Next Phase in Implementing Automated Curbside Collection Begins This Month

The standardized carts have been ordered, the specialized trucks are in production and the City's garbage/recycling routes have been re-drawn to gain efficiencies. The next phase in implementing Marion's automated curbside collection program begins next week.

Container Pros will begin delivering the heavy-duty wheeled carts to residents on Sept. 11 and will continue through Oct. 9, 2024. A packet of information will be included with each recycling cart that offers reminders for what materials are accepted as part of Marion's curbside collection program. Please do your part and recycle only the items that are included in Marion's program and ensure the items are EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!

There will be some overlap between the time the new carts are delivered and when City staff will be equipped to start collecting them at the curb. The City expects to begin automated collection the week of Oct. 14. Please continue using your existing bins and following the rules currently in place until then.

To keep up to date with the latest information and announcements, visit cityofmarion.org/automatedcollection. Contact a member of our team at automatedcollection@cityofmarion.org or call (319) 377-6367 or (319) 200-1272.

Implementation of this program is a significant change for both residents and the City. We ask for patience over the next few months as everyone adjusts to the new system.



The following frequently asked questions are provided to help keep you informed.

What is the schedule for implementation?

Carts will be delivered over four weeks in September 2024, and automated curbside collection is expected to begin the week of Oct. 14, 2024.

I live in a condo or apartment building that has a private service, does this apply to me?

No. This change only applies to residents who already receive curbside collection service from the City of Marion.

How many carts will be issued to each residence?

Each residential dwelling will be issued a minimum of two carts – one for garbage and one for recycling. Those opting-in to the curbside yard waste collection service will be issued a third cart.

What are the cart weight restrictions?

The carts have the following weight restrictions:

- 48 gallon-150 lbs.
- 64 gallon-200 lbs.

Given the increased capacity, residents may see a reduced need to purchase tags for extra garbage.

How will I get my carts?

Carts will begin to be delivered to every household in September 2024. The process is expected to take four weeks. They should not be used until the week of Oct. 14.

Will my collection day or time change?

It may. If your collection day changes, you will be notified via mail. Collection times are expected to change. Crews will be stopping at more houses each day, and we expect collection to take all day. Please continue to have all carts at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day.

Can I exchange my cart if I need a larger or smaller size?

Residents will have 90 days from the time curbside service begins in October to exchange the cart distributed to them for a more suitable size for no additional charge. After 90 days, a fee will apply.

Can I get more than one garbage cart?

Yes. If your household consistently produces more than one 64-gallon cart of garbage per week, you can add a second for \$7.50 per month.

Can I get more than one recycling cart?

Yes. If your household produces more than one 64-gallon cart of recyclables per week, you can add a second for \$5.50 per month.

What if I generate more garbage per week than I can put in one garbage cart?

The extra bag tag program will continue. You can use one extra bag per week (with a \$2.50 bag tag affixed), and it must be placed on top of the garbage cart. Households consistently using more than a single cart may want to consider purchasing an extra cart.

If I place an extra bag on the side of the cart will crews pick it up?

No, the extra bag must have a pre-paid sticker affixed, and the bag must be placed on top of the cart for collection. This will keep the route on time.

What should I do with my old garbage/recycling/yard waste containers?

Residents are encouraged to repurpose or donate their old containers whenever possible. Possible uses include storage for yard and garden equipment, compost, rainwater collection, storage for pet supplies, sports equipment or firewood. We'll share options for disposing of old bins once the new carts arrive and are placed in service.

Is there a limit to the number of yard waste carts I can have?

If you opt in to the service, the initial cart comes with a fee of \$6 per month. There is no limit to the number of additional yard waste carts; however, each comes with a monthly \$10 fee to cover the collection costs and processing fees for yard waste.

I missed the June 15 deadline to add extra carts or choose the alternate size. What are my options?

Since the deadline has passed to make cart selections, you will automatically receive two standard 64-gallon carts, one for garbage and one for recycling. You will have 90 days from the time automated curbside collection begins (in October) to request the alternate size or extra carts for no additional fee.

Can we still use yard waste bags?

No. When automated collection begins on or about Oct. 14, the City will no longer accept yard waste in paper bags at the curb, unless it's in the City-issued yard waste cart for automated curbside collection. The mechanical arm on the truck is not able to handle anything other than the specialized carts. Yard waste in paper bags should be taken to the Yard Waste Drop-off Facility, which is open six days a week for free drop off. In addition, we will continue to offer

pre-scheduled brush collection for a fee of \$40 for every 15 minutes at the curb.

Are table scraps, dog hair, dryer lint, baked goods or fruit/vegetable peelings allowed in the yard waste cart?

Items that originated in a garden are allowed in the yard waste cart. Other waste, like table scraps, dog hair, dryer lint, etc., should be disposed of in the garbage cart.

What are the cart delivery fees?

Residents will not be charged a cart delivery fee as part of the initial program rollout or within the first 90 days. After that, City staff will swap carts for a \$75 fee. Alternatively, residents will be allowed to drop off/pick up carts at the Public Works Facility for a \$50 fee.

Where should I store the carts?

Store your garbage and recycling carts in your garage, beside your home or in another secured location. Some neighborhood covenants may have more specific rules. City ordinance requires that your cart must be removed from the street on the same day as collection.

What if my cart breaks?

The program policies continue to be developed, but if your issued cart is damaged from normal use, the City of Marion intends to repair or replace the cart.

How far apart do the carts need to be at the curb?

It is important to keep 3 feet of clearance around the cart and have the front of the cart facing the street (wheels and handle of the cart toward the house).

Do I put the carts in the same place at the curb that I currently do?

In most cases, yes. If your collection location changes, you will be notified. It is important to keep 3 feet of clearance around the cart.

When I move, do I take my carts with me?

No. Residents should leave the City-issued cart, in clean condition, with the home. If you are moving to a different address in the City limits, there will be a cart there when you arrive. If you purchase an additional cart from the City, please contact the Public Works Department so they can move the cart you purchased to the new address.

Do I need to use a garbage bag inside the cart?

Liners are not required in the cart, but throwing loose garbage into the carts is highly discouraged. Loose trash becomes litter. All garbage placed in the cart should be in tied bags.

What if I am physically unable to wheel a cart to the curb?

If there is a physical or medical reason, special accommodations can be made by calling the Public Works Department at (319) 377-6367. This requires staff approval in alignment with the regulations established in the City code.

Are the carts going to have a unique identifier on them so that we (and you) know which ones are ours?

They will. The carts will have RFID technology that enables us to know which address the cart is assigned to. The weight of the carts should significantly reduce tipping/blowing on windy days. Residents should not otherwise permanently mark or label the carts.

I'm concerned about my carts getting mixed up with my neighbors and I'd like to identify them in some way.

The carts themselves will have a number stamped on the front. If you must identify yours in another way, use a paint pen to put your address on the inside of each lid. Please remember, the carts are considered City property and the intent is for them to be able to be cleaned/reissued to different addresses as appropriate.

Why is yard waste not included in the overall rate?

As part of the 2023 Automated Collection Study, it was estimated that roughly only 30% of households consistently use the City's curbside yard waste service. To manage overhead expenses, run efficient routes, reduce unnecessary wear/tear on City equipment and sufficiently cover the cost of providing the service, curbside yard waste collection will be an opt-in program for those who want the service. Anyone receiving garbage/ recycling collection services will continue to have access to the Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off facilities at no cost.

Will glass be recycled at the curb with the new program?

No. Residents should NOT put glass in their recycling bin as it can contaminate an entire load. It can be placed in the garbage or taken to the Recycling Drop-Off Facility at 195 35th Street in Marion or the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency on County Home Road.

Why won't you pick up glass at the curb?

Glass is recycled differently from your usual curbside recycling and becomes very dangerous when co-mingled with other recyclable material. As the project team looked into this as an option, there were a few modifications to equipment that would have been required, resulting in additional costs to the program. Furthermore, through conversations with comparable communities, the team learned that some are exploring eliminating this curbside service. Glass recycling will continue to be offered free of charge at the City's Recycling Drop-Off Facility on 35th Street or at the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency on County Home Road.

Will the hours of the Recycling Drop-Off Facility change?

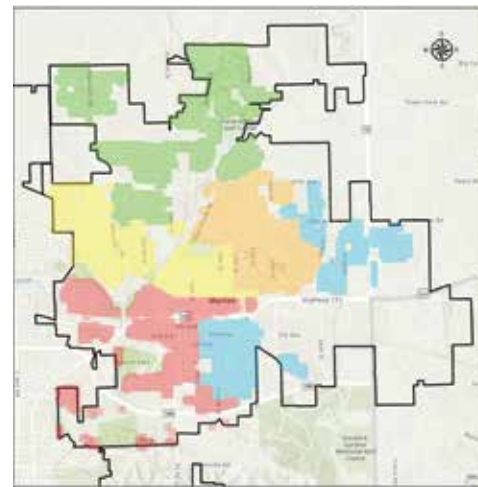
Not at this time. The Recycling Drop-Off Facility at 195 35th Street will continue to be open for Marion residents from noon-5:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. on Saturdays. With residents having access to the larger curbside carts, we hope to gain a better understanding of usage patterns after the automated collection program is in place.

What about leaves? Do you plan to add curbside leaf collection as part of this program?

You are welcome to rake or mulch/mow over your leaves and place them in your yard waste cart. Additional yard waste carts can also be purchased (no limit) for \$10 per month per cart. At this time Marion does not have plans to implement a loose-leaf vacuum collection program, but will likely consider that at some point in the future.

Where can I learn more?

Find FAQs and learn more about the process at www.cityofmarion.org/automatedcollection. Contact us at automatedcollection@cityofmarion.org or call (319) 377-6367 or (319) 200-1272 with specific questions.



New Solid Waste Pick-Up Days

Legend

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday

Routes Changes Anticipated

With the change in how garbage, recycling and yard waste are collected, all routes under the City's purview have been evaluated.

When evaluating the routes, the City's GIS specialist worked to minimize disruptions while balancing the number of stops per route. Some amount of growth was factored into each route.

Upon completion, approximately 1,800 households or 14.5% of all households serviced by the City will now have a new collection day. Automated collection, using the new carts on the new collection day, is expected to begin the week of Oct. 14, 2024.

The map above provides a graphical look at the neighborhoods that may have a new collection day. To confirm, visit cityofmarion.org/automatedcollection and enter your address when prompted.

While these routes have been tested and we are confident in the process used to evaluate the routes, we ask for your patience as these changes take effect.

Let's Talk about Yard Waste

One of the biggest changes to the curbside collection program has to do with how yard waste is being collected. The City will no longer collect paper bags at the curb. Any yard waste must be placed inside a City-issued yard waste cart. To receive curbside yard waste collection, you must opt-in to this program and pay an annual subscription fee of \$72 spread over 12 months (\$6 per month). Otherwise, yard waste will need to be brought to the Yard Waste Drop-Off Facility located at 195 35th Street, Marion. For those producing only occasional yard waste, the Public Works Department will continue to offer pre-scheduled brush collection for a fee of \$40 for every 15 minutes at the curb.

Yard Waste Drop-Off Facility Hours

195 35th Street

Monday-Friday	7 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
Tuesday	7 a.m.-5:45 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Utility Fees

As determined through the budget process, a number of fee increases were applied to City utility bills on July 1, 2024. Fee changes are applied according to the billing date and not service dates.

The fees associated with curbside yard waste collection and any extra garbage, recycling or yard waste carts will be applied on Dec. 1.



Install Your Water Heater Properly and Safely

Most people wouldn't classify a water heater as a time bomb, but that's exactly what you could have if it's installed incorrectly.

Think about a house that has been hit by a tornado – that's what a house with an improperly installed water heater could look like if there is a problem with the pressure relief valve. A relief valve lets the pressure off the tank in the event there is a problem with the heater and it doesn't shut off. As pressure builds, the relief valve should go off and release that pressure. If this safety mechanism doesn't work, the results could be catastrophic. While this is rare, it can happen.

To save money, some homeowners might install their own water heaters or hire someone who might charge less than a plumbing contractor. The City of Marion requires a plumbing permit be pulled, either by a licensed plumbing contractor or by the homeowner doing the work themselves in an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling. If the water heater is being installed in a condo or rental property, the work must be done by a licensed plumbing contractor. Inspections are required for any installation of a water heater. If the device is installed improperly, an inspector can spot problems before they become a major issue.

Most reputable plumbing companies will get the proper permit. The permit fees cover inspections by a City building inspector. Skipping the permit to save money puts the occupants of the home at risk. If you have a water heater installed, you should ask for a copy of the plumbing permit, and always request a final inspection once the water heater installation is complete.

For more information, contact the City of Marion's Building Division at (319) 743-6330.

Causes of Low Water Pressure in the House

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

Water Department New Storage Building

The Marion Water Department has hired a contractor to construct a 5,000-square-foot storage building at their existing plant facility located at 101 8th Avenue in Marion. It will have five overhead doors and additional storage room for pipes and fittings. This project will be completed later this year.



2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City of Marion Garbage & Recycling Collection

Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up Schedule
Sept. 2	Labor Day	Monday	One day late all week
Oct. 14	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.



Sign up for eBill

Pay Your Bill Online & View Account History

- Safe and Secure
- Save postage and paper
- Fast and easy
- Convenient 24/7 access

Sign up now!

Go to: www.cityofmarion.org/billingoptions



A Peek Inside Marion's Squad Cars

Great Scott! Is that a Flux Capacitor? Not exactly, but have you ever glanced into a squad car and wondered about all the equipment packed around the driver? It may look like a lot, but all of it is designed to help keep the public, and our officers, safe.

Let's start with the Mobile Data Computers (MDCs). Officers use MDCs to communicate with dispatch, receive GPS locations and directions and access other critical information related to a call. Officers can look at the map screen and identify where other squad cars are located, access blueprints of some buildings in the city, type reports or run queries on vehicles and people.

The MDCs are removable laptops that plug into a docking station in the squad car and communicate via 5G internet back to the police station. Each squad car is also equipped with a mobile printer and scanner so officers can provide copies of tickets, accident reports or other documents to people without having to return to the station.

As always, squad cars are equipped with two-way radios allowing officers to talk to dispatchers or each other. To enhance interoperability with other agencies, the Marion Police Department built its radio system in conjunction with Linn County and Cedar Rapids, which allows direct communication with their personnel on the encrypted system. During

emergencies, we have access to mutual aid channels, which enables us to talk to other agencies across the state. Officers frequently monitor radio traffic from neighboring agencies for awareness and officer safety purposes.

We also have control modules to control our lights and sirens. Officers can turn on all of their emergency lights at once but can also opt to turn on only the rear lights during those times they are directing traffic or need to limit the glare coming from the squad car. Squads also have airhorns and PA systems, all of which are designed to get the attention of other drivers or pedestrians.

Speed enforcement radar detectors are on our dashboards and pointing out the back windows, which enable us to identify speeding vehicles moving in the same or opposite direction of our squad cars. After receiving a tone, officers can lock the device onto the speeding vehicle to verify the speed before initiating a traffic stop. The detectors are calibrated at the beginning of each shift using a tuning fork to ensure accuracy.

The squad cars are also equipped with cameras which, when activated, focus out the front windshield and into the back seat of the car when we detain, arrest or transport someone to jail. They can be manually activated, or they will automatically start recording when the light bar is turned on, the squad is traveling in excess

of 80 mph or if the officer's body camera is activated. Like body cameras, these have proven invaluable for investigative purposes and to prove or refute allegations made against officers.

In August 2024, new cameras were installed in our squad cars that have built-in License Plate Reader (LPR) technology. This will provide a real-time alert to plates of interest. For example, if we get a report of a stolen vehicle, that plate information will be entered into the system while an officer is on patrol, and if the camera detects a match to the plate, the officer will be alerted within seconds. As the LPR cameras are reading plates, they are being compared to plates of interest from not only Marion but also any other agency utilizing the same brand of LPR (or who entered the information into the National Crime Information Center) across the country. Data will be retained for 30 days unless it is connected to a crime or investigation. We have neighboring agencies that have LPR cameras, and we were able to successfully identify the date, time and direction vehicles we were looking for passed by their cameras, which ultimately helped solve the cases.

If you would like a closer look at anything in our squad cars, please don't hesitate to contact the Marion Police Department at (319) 377-1511.



Congratulations to Lieutenant Merta on his Retirement

After 35 years, Lieutenant Mark Merta has retired. He started his career in Las Vegas in 1989 before boomeranging back to Iowa and joining the Marion Police Department in 1993. During his tenure, he served in several roles, including as a field training officer, special response team member and watch commander. He was also the agency's project manager with the Iowa DOT TraCS (Traffic & Criminal Software) and the Tyler Technologies Records Management and Mobile software project, implemented in 2023.

Merta served in the Air Force before becoming a police officer. His years spent serving others is what he's the most proud of. "I've had the privilege and opportunity to have a career that was dedicated to service, whether for our country or community," he said.

Merta remembers when officers would "turn on the radio and be off and running," and he's seen huge changes in technology during his career. He recognizes the value that technological advances have provided. "It makes things more efficient and safer for the community and officers," he said.

The best part of the job, according to Merta, has been to work with a team of dedicated people who care about each other and for a community that supports its police department. And the best part of his retirement will likely be going on adventures. "My future plans involve spending more time with family and being able to travel to locations only previously talked about," he said.

CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly

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

At-Large - Randy Strnad

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

At-Large - Steve Jensen

3830 Monarch Ave. | (319) 360-7009
marionatlarge2@cityofmarion.org

Ward One - Gage Miskimen

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

Ward Two - Grant Harper

2522 Vaughn Dr. | (319) 389-3385
ward2@cityofmarion.org

Ward Three - Will Brandt

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

Ward Four - Sara Mentzer

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

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

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

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
- Open applications
- Monthly testing

The Marion Police
Department is

Hiring

Learn more at www.cityofmarion.org/employment
Contact a member of the Recruitment Team at (319) 377-1511

New Public Safety Training Facility



The Marion Fire Department is pleased to announce the upcoming construction of a new Public Safety Training Facility designed to enhance the training capabilities of local emergency services professionals.

The new training facility will feature two primary training structures:

› Four-Story Training Tower

- › This structure will be used for mid-rise and elevated rescues, victim searches and forcible entry, as well as horizontal and vertical ventilation training.

› Two-Story Class A Burn Structure

- › This facility will simulate real-life fire scenarios, providing realistic training experiences for firefighters and emergency responders.

The training facility will serve the Marion Fire Department and various regional police, fire and emergency services agencies, allowing them to train on crucial skills, such as ground fire operations, elevated rescues, victim searches and fire ventilation. Notably, construction of the facility will occur on City-owned property near the new Public Works Maintenance Facility.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$2.8 million. A significant portion of funding comes from a generous \$900,000 bequest from former volunteer firefighter Don DeVault and his wife, Ruth. This bequest, originally invested in 2014, has grown to \$1.3 million. The City of Marion will contribute an additional \$1.5 million to complete the project.

Don DeVault dedicated 50 years as a volunteer firefighter with the Marion Fire Department. In tribute to his and Ruth's commitment to community safety, their financial gift will support the development of this essential training resource for generations to come.

City of Marion's Meeting Portal

Are you interested in following the City's board/commission discussions and decisions? Since 2020, the City of Marion has displayed public records on an easy-to-use meeting portal. The portal, found at cityofmarion.org/meetingportal, increases transparency and ensures important decisions made by the City Council and other boards and commissions are easily accessible. Within the portal, the public has the opportunity to be notified when agendas or minutes are posted, apply to serve on Marion's boards and commissions, access archived information and submit public records requests. The meeting portal is linked to the City of Marion's website, providing access to information 24/7.



Important Mowing Reminders

Please be sure to keep the grass clippings out of the street and off of sidewalks or sweep or blow the clippings back into your yard when you're finished. Wet grass clippings are slippery and create a slip/crash hazard for pedestrians and bikers. If clippings are left in the street, they will eventually wash into the storm sewer, which leads directly to our creeks.

Grass clippings also degrade water quality by carrying harmful lawn chemicals directly to our waterways, promoting algae blooms and reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen available for fish. Grass clippings can also cause localized flooding by clogging storm sewer pipes. The next time you're mowing, please do one extra pass to put the grass back where it belongs.

Marion Code Chapter 278 Streets and Sidewalks - specifically Section 278-3 *Placing debris on streets* and Section 278.17 *Responsibility for maintenance of sidewalks* - has details for these rules.

Learn more by contacting the Engineering Department at (319) 743-6340.





Hanna Park Update

This past season, the Parks and Recreation Department made several significant upgrades to our facilities to enhance the overall experience for our visitors. The old restroom has been replaced with a new facility featuring two single-stall unisex restrooms, each with modern amenities. The pavilion was relocated closer to the parking lot and upgraded to a 30x44-foot steel structure, complete with eight picnic tables, a built-in serving counter, lighting, electrical outlets, a grill and a gathering area.

Additionally, the playground was revamped. The old equipment has been replaced by a new playground specifically designed for children ages 2-5, complementing the existing structure for ages 5-12. The walking trail has also been renovated to provide direct connections to the new playground, pavilion and restroom, ensuring easy access to all amenities.

Prairie Grass Planting in Parks

Parks staff planted native prairie seed at Hanna, Taube and Prairie Hill parks this spring. It normally takes approximately three growing seasons for prairie to fully establish, and until then, the areas will be mowed often enough to keep vegetative competition to about 6-8 inches. This will help prevent shading emerging native seedlings and weed seeds from developing and spreading.

Planting and growing prairie plants in underutilized park spaces enhances both the environment and community's well-being. Prairie plants are resilient and require minimal maintenance once established, making them cost-effective and sustainable options for landscaping.

Exciting Art Opportunities with Marion Parks and Recreation and Mr. Brandt!

Marion Parks and Recreation is partnering with Mr. Brandt to bring a variety of art classes throughout the year.

Stay Updated:

- › Follow Marion Parks and Recreation on social media.
- › Check out Mr. Brandt's Art Experience on Facebook.

Who Can Join?

- › All ages are welcome.
- › No prior experience is necessary.

Special Offers:

- › Painting birthday parties.
- › Private painting class opportunities.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our classes this year!



Oak Shade Cemetery Hosts Preservation Workshop

Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery were proud to be the only Iowa cemetery to be selected as a 2024 preservation workshop site by Atlas Preservation of Southington, Connecticut.

More than 60 people from three states attended demonstrations and training sessions from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on July 25. The sessions were conducted by nationally known cemetery preservationist Jonathan Appell. Subjects covered included cemetery history, safety, repair and restoration.



September is Library Card Signup Month!

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

If you have children, make sure they have a library card to start 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 stop in to see us to get a card, access online resources, place materials on hold and explore the world of libraries.

'Tis the Season to Check Out Cookbooks

Whether you're new to cooking or a seasoned pro, we've got the latest cookbooks for you! Visit our cookbook section on the first floor, and while you're there, check out a cake pan and get creative. Enjoy cocktails and mocktails? We've got a wide selection of books on crafting the perfect beverage, too.



Dive Into Two New Digital Resources!

Voracious graphic novel readers — we've got your answer with Comics Plus! Manga, graphic novels for all ages and picture books for kids are available, with new titles added continuously. Ready to explore? Marion residents can download the Comics Plus App for iOS and Android, log in, and get reading.

Additionally, Fiero Code teaches computer coding in an engaging, effective, and fun way for ages eight to adult. This resource has something for everyone, covering languages and tools like HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, and more. And the best part? It's free to use — all you need is a library card.

Visit the Friends of the Marion Public Library Book Sale

Join the Friends of the Marion Public Library for their fall book sale — great books at great prices! Friends' members shop early on Friday and get the first selection of books. Not a member yet? No problem — you can join at the sale. The sale will be held in the library's Community Room on:

Friday, Nov. 15 from 4-5 p.m.
(Friends members only)

Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
(Including a morning bake sale)

Sunday, Nov. 17 from 2-4 p.m.
(Grab a bag of books for \$5!)

Pricing for the sale is: Hardcover \$3, Softcover \$2, Collectibles are individually priced.

Become a Friends Member!

Have you considered becoming a member of the Friends of the Marion Public Library? Annual members shop early for a year at book sales and receive a punch card for five FREE books to use at the sale or the bookstore. Membership funds, book sale funds and bookstore funds are used to support the library.

The Friends have sponsored programs, special reading opportunities, technology needs and more, with their most recent fundraising effort going toward the bookmobile that will soon be visiting neighborhoods and providing more library access for Marion residents. Visit mpliowafriends.org to sign up for a membership today.



Join Us for Programs & Events

Back-to-school activities are ramping up, so don't forget to make visiting the library part of your after-school routine! From cooking classes and MakerSpace appointments to author talks and all kinds of clubs, we've got a variety of events for all ages to enjoy. Visit marionpubliclibrary.org/events for a full list of upcoming programs.

Take a Spin on a Library Trike!

The weather is still nice, which means it's a great time to check out a bike from the Marion Public Library! Our Book-A-Bike program gives patrons the opportunity to check out one of two tricycles for use within Marion city limits. Borrowers must be 18 years of age or older to check out and ride the bikes, and must have a library card in good standing. For more information and a full list of guidelines, visit marionpubliclibrary.org/bikes.





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



Mary Weber Honored with the Paul Draper “Spirit of Marion” Award

The City of Marion is pleased to recognize Mary Weber as the 2024 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 on Tuesday by Mayor Nick AbouAssaly and City Manager Ryan Waller during an employee luncheon held in conjunction with Public Service Recognition Week.

“We are blessed to have a City team that is committed to serving our residents and providing them with an unequalled quality of life,” said Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. “It is especially meaningful to honor one of our outstanding public servants with the ‘Spirit of Marion’ Award.”

Mary Weber is the horticulturist with the Marion Parks and Recreation Department. She joined the City of Marion in July 2020 and has been breathing new life into community gathering spaces ever since. Weber is the creative mind behind the color combinations and themes in the planters each year and is a mentor to seasonal staff as they plant, water, weed, spray and care for all City flowerbeds and planters. Last year, Weber oversaw the installation of over 3,000 annual plants by staff and community volunteers.

“Mary’s work and attention to detail are what make good

communities great,” said City Manager Ryan Waller. “The planters and hanging baskets in the Uptown District have become an impressive point of pride for the community.”

In her time with the City, Weber initiated the Adopt-A-Flowerbed program to assist with weeding, planting and mulching. She played a large part in achieving Bird Friendly Community status in 2021 and is integral in planning Marion’s Migratory Bird and Arbor Day Celebration, which happens annually. Most recently, she was honored with the 2023 Main Street Iowa Leadership Award during the Main Street Iowa Awards for her beautification efforts in Uptown.

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.