Make plans now to attend the 27th annual Swamp Fox Festival on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016. "My Marion" is this year’s theme which encourages residents and businesses to reflect on and celebrate what the community means to them.

On Saturday, a variety of events will take place in and around City Square Park including a 5k run/walk, a pancake breakfast, the Swamp Fox parade, a history walk and new exhibit at the Marion Heritage Center.

The festival is also proud to again coincide with the Fall Marion Market in City Square Park, coordinated by the Marion Chamber of Commerce. The market features more than 50 market vendors with seasonal produce, artisan items, and food options along with children’s activities and musical entertainment.

Saturday afternoon the fun moves to Lowe Park for more food, live music and various family activities including BINGO, life-size games, and garden events. Music will be provided by Alisabeth Von Presley and dinner will be served by the Linn County Cattlemen, Kettle House Bakery, Allen’s Apple Orchard and more. The grand fireworks finale will take place at 8:30 p.m.

Visit www.cityomarion.org/swampfox for the full line-up of events and make plans now to take part in this community celebration.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

5K & Little Fox Mile
The Swamp Fox Festival 5K run/walk is set for Sept. 24 at 7:30 a.m. lining-up on 5th Avenue between Marion City Hall and Vernon Middle School. Prizes awarded to the first overall male and female finishers. Active or former military service men and women receive a $10 discount. Race shirts are provided for those who pre-register for the 5K. The registration fee is $20 before Sept. 1, $25 before Sept. 19 and $20 (without a shirt) up to the morning of the race.

The Little Fox Mile, a one-mile race especially for kids, returns in 2016. Register by Sept. 19 for $10, which includes a t-shirt and finisher medal. Late registration does not guarantee a shirt.

Find course maps and online registration at www.coridorrunning.com. Registration forms also available at Marion City Hall, Lowe Park or Thomas Park.

Parade
The Swamp Fox Festival
Swamp Fox Schedule of Events

Saturday, Sept. 24

Family Breakfast
Marion Heritage Center, 590 10th St.; 7-9:30 a.m.; Sponsored by Network Computer Solutions
The Marion Noon Lions Club will serve up breakfast under the canopy in front of the Marion Heritage Center. Proceeds will help fund the Lions Clubs efforts to help eliminate blindness worldwide and improve our community. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice and milk. Enjoy this tasty breakfast for only $6, $4 for children 5-10, 4 and under free.

5K Run/Walk
5th Ave. between City Hall and Vernon Middle School; 7:30 a.m.; Sponsored by Farmers State Bank
Start the day off right, running or walking through the fine city of Marion. Corridor Running is the event organizer and provides full details, including registration forms and a course map, at www.corridorrunning.com. Race shirts are provided for those who pre-register for the 5K. Registration fee is $20 before Sept. 1, $25 before Sept. 19 and $25 (without a shirt) up to the morning of the race. Back by popular demand...the Little Fox Mile, a one-mile route specifically for kids. Youth registration is only $10.

Fall Marion Market
City Square Park; 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Coordinated by Marion Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners – Farmers State Bank, Fosters Heating and Air Conditioning, InOn Communications, MercyCare Community Physicians-Marion and Mercy Medical Center, and Townsquare Media
Pumpkins, gourds, and cornstalks, oh my! Don’t miss the Fall Market featuring vendors offering a wide variety of seasonal produce, artisan items, and tasty treats. Take-and-eat food vendors will be on-site. Kids will enjoy Papa Balloon from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. and live music by Craig Erickson from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Swamp Fox Festival Parade
Starts at Marion High School, goes west on 15th Street, turns west on 7th Avenue to 9th Street; 9:30 a.m.; Sponsored by Linn County REC and Marion Hy-Vee
A signature event of the Swamp Fox Festival, this parade is one you won’t want to miss. This year’s theme is “My Marion” which encourages parade participants to celebrate what the community means to them. Floats are encouraged and advance registration is required. Registration forms are available at www.cityofmarion.org/swampfox and due by Sept. 7.

History Walk
Obtain a map at Historic Preservation Commission Booth in City Square Park; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
The Marion Historical Preservation Commission will sponsor a History Walk, a self-guided tour of historic businesses in Uptown Marion. Participants collect wooden nickels along the way and receive a prize.

Uptown Marion - Open4You
Uptown Marion, various retailers; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
When you shop Uptown Marion, you experience a unique destination that’s made for you. Home to locally owned boutiques featuring original art, specialty clothing, personal accessories, antiques, collectibles, and gifts for anyone on your list. Find great deals on a variety of unique merchandise.

Through the Needles’ Eye Embroidery Exhibit
Marion Heritage Center, 590 10th Street; Noon-4 p.m.
$5 admission for adults, $2 for children 6-18 years of age.
Organized by the National Embroiderers’ Guild of America. Sponsored by the Marion Heritage Center & Museum and the Cedar Valley Chapter of the Embroiderers’ Guild of America.
The Marion Heritage Center presents the Embroiderers’ Guild of America 20th National exhibit Through the Needles’ Eye. Featuring more than 70 embroidered works of the highest quality in design and craftsmanship from artists across the United States and Canada with three works by local needle artist Sally Olsen. Exhibit hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. for two months, closing on Saturday, October 8, 2016. A catalog of exhibit art is available in Center’s gift shop and some the art is for sale.

Bags Tournament
Lowe Park; 1 p.m.; Sponsored by Marion Parks & Recreation
Teams of two adults, ages 18 and older, will compete in a double elimination tournament as part of the City’s annual Swamp Fox Festival celebration. Cost of $15 per team of two, register by Sept. 9. Limited number of spots available, so don’t wait to register, sign up today!

Pedal Marion!
Depart from City Square Park; 1 p.m.; Hosted by the Marion Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
If you love to bike, this event is for you! Marion’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee will host an 8-mile bike tour of Marion. We’ll ride bike lanes, bicycle boulevards and trails – ultimately returning to City Square Park at the end of the excursion. Participants should bring their bikes, helmets and sense of adventure.

Rolle Bolle Clinic
Willow Park, 990 2nd St.; 1 p.m.
Marion is home to two regulation-size rolle bolle courts. Similar to bocce ball and horseshoes, teams take turns attempting to roll their bolle closest to a ground-mounted stake to score points. Rolle bolle is fun for all ages and abilities. Equipment and instruction provided by local enthusiast Lynn DeDecker free of charge. Come give it a try!

Tomato Tasting
Lowe Park Greenhouse; 5-6:30 p.m.; Hosted by Linn County Master Gardeners
Try some of the different types of tomatoes that the Master Gardeners have been growing in the greenhouse. If the tomatoes cooperate, there will be as many as 25 varieties to taste.

Activities for Children
Lowe Park; 5-8 p.m.; Sponsored by Heritage Bank
Painted faces are so much fun, especially when you see the talent of Lizzy Dvorsky. Mr. Greenie’s Balloons are equally impressive. Kids of all ages can enjoy big bubbles, fun with corn and life-size games.

BINGO
Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center; 5-8 p.m.
Join the fun and a chance to win some cash during the Swamp Fox Festival at Lowe Park! Games of BINGO will be played for 25¢ per card, same and we will pay back cash prizes to the winner(s) of each game. There will also be a few bonus games in which larger prizes are awarded. The night will conclude with a winner-take-all game of blackout BINGO. We have a limited amount of seating space and cards, so once they are gone, they are gone! Get there early to ensure yourself a seat. Play inside the Oaks Room.

Food Vendors
Lowe Park; 5-8 p.m.
Grab some cash and enjoy dinner or a sweet treat from one of these local favorites: Linn County Cattlemen, Kettle House Bakery, Allen’s Apple Orchard, Christ Community Church, Dairy Queen, Kona Ice and Irie Treats.

Alisabeth Von Presley
Klopfenstein Amphitheater for the Performing Arts, Lowe Park; 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Sponsored by Veridian Credit Union
A rocker raised on a steady mix of Van Halen, Michael Jackson and Madonna, this Iowa girl has left a memorable impact on stages from Los Angeles to New York. Born and raised in Marion, Alisabeth’s musical career began when she won the blue ribbon at 9 years old in a local talent show. More than a decade later, she would be wowing judges in another “talent show” of sorts -- American Idol: Season 12, which saw her advance to the Hollywood Round. A talented artist and performer, she performs in numerous venues throughout the Midwest. Don’t miss this high-energy performance by one of Marion’s own.

Fireworks Display
Lowe Park; 8:30 p.m.; Sponsored by Collins Community Credit Union & City of Marion Hotel/Motel Grant
If last year was any indication, this fireworks display will be top notch. Prime viewing locations at Lowe Park are available for purchase. Please note: no alcohol or tobacco products are permitted on school property.

Sunday, Sept. 25

Swamp Fox Car Cruise-In
Thomas Park, 343 Marion Boulevard; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Hosted by Cedar Rapids Corvette Club. Sponsored by Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance
Join us for an all car cruise-in and scavenger hunt/poker run at Marion’s Thomas Park. Suggested donation of canned goods for the Marion Food Pantry. Then keep your eye out for the parade through town at conclusion of the event.
Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center Celebrates 10 Years

In 1999, George and Alyce Lowe and family made a commitment to donate 180 acres of land to the City of Marion with the vision to preserve the land as a park. The gift was valued at over $1.5 million at the time and would become Marion’s largest park. It has served as a lasting legacy for the Lowe family and has become a crown jewel for the community, where arts, culture and nature collide.

2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Arts & Environment Center. To honor the occasion, the Lowe family and matriarch Alyce will serve as the grand marshals in the Swamp Fox Festival parade.

Extensive planning efforts have resulted in a sports complex on one half of the park with eight ball diamonds and a football/soccer field. The other half of the park is home to the Arts & Environment Center, a LEED Certified facility that features an art gallery, offices and meeting rooms. It is adjacent to the Klopfenstein Amphitheater for the

Parade, sponsored by Linn County REC and Marion Hy-Vee, is a Marion tradition. The parade starts at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24. This year’s theme is “My Marion” which encourages parade participants to celebrate what the community means to them. Parade entries could honor Marion’s past, its existing attributes or its bright future.

Registration forms and full details can be found at www.cityofmarion.org/swampfox or at the Parks and Recreation offices at Lowe or Thomas Parks. Cash prizes will be awarded in a number of categories. The parade is limited to 150 entries and the registration deadline is Sept. 7. Registrations will not be accepted the day of the parade.

Performing Arts, a sculpture trail, playground equipment, community gardens, and a greenhouse. The area between is connected by walking trails, established trees and 40 acres of prairie grass.

“It takes a special kind of family to give this type of gift to the community,” said Mike Carolan, director of Parks and Recreation Department.

“I think we’re delivering on George and Alyce’s vision — and creating a space that is unique to Marion, for all to enjoy.”

Full development of the park will continue over the next 10 years as funding becomes available. This year, a gateway entrance into the park off of Irish Drive is expected to open. Over 220 parking spaces will be added in two lots, and a trail leading from the new parking to the amphitheater will be installed. Plans also include a new playground structure as well as the development of an Edible Orchard.

Future plans include the addition of restrooms and pavilions, as well as expanded greenhouse and garden space.

Continued development of prairie grass and pollinator areas are also part of the long-range plan.

In the 10 years since the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center opened, its popularity and usage has steadily grown. The venue hosts senior activities multiple days each week, in addition to receptions, meetings, graduation parties, coffeehouse nights and other recreation programs.

The Marion Arts Council makes its home at the Arts & Environment Center and offers a wide variety of musical performances, visual art exhibits, and creative workshops for the community.

With the opening of the amphitheater in 2014, a number of new programs have become mainstays with weekly sunrise yoga, movie nights each summer and professional performances taking the stage. The picturesque setting is also a popular wedding venue.

Help celebrate 10 years of the Arts & Environment Center during the 2016 Swamp Fox Festival on September 24.
Police Chief Harry Daugherty Retires after 40 Years of Service to Marion

On June 30, with 40 years of service to the Marion community, Chief Harry Daugherty retired from the Marion Police Department. Daugherty joined the department in November of 1976. He worked up through the ranks and served as patrol officer, sergeant and lieutenant prior to accepting the Chief’s position in July of 1996.

In that time, he saw a number of changes in procedure and technology. “Many things have changed over the years but our philosophy on serving the citizens of Marion has not,” noted Daugherty.

During his tenure as chief, Daugherty presided over the department’s entry into the K9 program, the addition of a School Resource Officer, the formation of a HEAT team, and the creation of Internet Crimes Against Children and human trafficking tasks forces. He was heavily involved in the implementation of the countywide radio system and oversaw the design, construction and move to the new police station.

Under Daugherty’s leadership, Marion has been recognized as one of the safest cities in Iowa for communities with a population over 20,000 for the last 15 years.

“I am very proud of this Police Department and all of its accomplishments,” said Daugherty. “It has been my pleasure and honor to have been part of this organization. My staff, colleagues and this community have contributed to a very rewarding career.”

Daugherty looks forward to devoting more time to his family, travelling and playing golf. Captain Doug Slagle will serve as Interim Police Chief until a replacement is named.
National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

The Marion Police Department partnered with the Marion Fire Department and Marion Parks & Recreation to organize a community-wide event to mark the occasion at Thomas Park on Aug. 2. Attendees enjoyed K9 demonstrations, police and fire equipment on display, games, activities and giveaways.

Hotel/Motel Funding Awarded to 15 Area Projects/Organizations

The City of Marion collects a 7 percent room tax on overnight stays at hotels and motels in the community. Each year, the funds are then redistributed through a grant application process to organizations that work to increase tourism in Marion.

City staff, City Council representatives, and citizens review the applications, determine recommended funding allocations, and make a recommendation to the council for use of the funds.

Last month, Marion City Council awarded over $171,000 to 15 area projects/organizations.

“This year we received a record number of requests,” said Amanda Kaufman, assistant to the city manager. “The 15 projects/organizations that received funding showcase our community and contribute greatly to our quality of life.”

Those awarded funding for the 2016-17 fiscal year include:
- Bike Racks for Marion
- Giving Tree Theater: Live Theatrical 2016/17 Production Support
- GO Cedar Rapids: Tourism Promotion
- Granger House Museum
- Greater Cedar Rapids Promotion
- Marion Arts Council: Picnic on the Prairie Fall Concert
- Marion Arts Festival: 2017
- Marion Chamber of Commerce: Tourism & Community Development
- Marion Historical Society, Preserving Marion’s Heritage
- Marion Metro Kiwanis: 7th Annual BBQ Rendezvous
- Marion Parks & Recreation: Family Entertainment Nights at Lowe Park
- Marion Parks & Recreation: Community Movie Night
- Red Cedar Chamber Music: String Chamber Music for Marion
- Swamp Fox Festival: 2016
- Uptown Marion, a Main Street Iowa District: Uptown Marion Marketing & Promotions

Special Census Results Are In

The results of Marion’s Special Census, conducted in blocks of Marion which had experienced high growth and development since 2010, show a gain of 2,860 in population and 1,083 in new housing units. The City’s certified population stood at 28,011 on April 1, 2010.

The Special Census, conducted by the City of Marion, includes the following information:
- **Ward One:** 3,898
- **Ward Two:** 3,806
- **Ward Three:** 3,806
- **Ward Four:** 3,859
- **At-Large:** 4,307

In total, the Special Census counted 15,775 people, 6,788 households, and 3,942 housing units.

The census was conducted by the City of Marion and administered by the Marion Metropolitan Area Planning Commission.

E-mail 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.

All meetings are held at Marion City Hall.

SEE CITY NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 7
Sitting around a fire with family and friends can be a great way to spend an evening. There are different kinds of outdoor fire pits that can be used for evening get-togethers, but there are some important safety measures the Marion Fire Department wants you to follow to help ensure your fire is a safe one.

You need to decide upon the purpose and location of the fire pit you intend to use to understand the safety measures you will need. You can opt for gas fire pits, wood burning pits, or the portable varieties. Once you decide when and where to have the fire pit, you need to follow some of the following safety tips. Be sure to learn about the laws in your area. Within the city limits of Marion open burning is not allowed. However, a recreational fire that is in a fire pit, outdoor fireplace, chimney, or portable fire pit is permitted as long as the following guidelines are met:

Fire Pits - No Spark Arresters
1. The pit or portable pit must be 25 ft. or more away from all combustible structures or combustible materials. This includes buildings, decks, sheds and fences.
2. The fire pit can only be 3 ft. in diameter and the stack of wood is limited to 2 ft. in height.
3. Only clear wood (unprocessed wood) or charcoal can be burned. No grass, leaves or trash may be burned. For citizens of Marion, yard waste can be dropped off at the Compost Facility at 195 35th Street. It is open every weekday from 7 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., Tuesdays until 5:45 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.
4. The fire must be attended at all times and must have a means to extinguish the fire; such as a fire extinguisher, garden hose, dirt, sand, etc.

Outdoor Fireplaces, Chimneys, Portable Fire Pits - With Spark Arresters
1. The burning container must be 15 ft. or more away from any combustible structure or combustible materials.
2. The spark arrester or screening must be in its proper position on the container.
3. All of the requirements listed above apply, with distance being the only difference.

Natural Gas or LP Fire Pits
Fire pits that are supplied by Natural Gas or LP must be kept 10 ft. away from all combustible materials such as the building, decks, sheds, and fences. They also need to be UL listed for outdoor use.

General Safety Tips for Outdoor Fire Pits
• Outdoor fire pit placement should be planned prior to purchase to make sure you have room to stay away from objects that are made of combustible materials. This will dictate where you should have the fire pit. Choose areas that are clean and clutter-free. Avoid areas with overhanging branches of a tree or any other thing that can get easily ignited.
• While using these pits, begin with a small fire. This will help you to understand many things such as the direction of the wind and its affect on the flame.
• Always keep the area around a fire pit clean.
• Make sure you have water and fire extinguishers closeby. Let everybody who uses the outdoor fire pit learn all about these safety measures.
• The kind of firewood you select is also very important. Use hardwoods such as oak as it will produce less smoke.
• Do not allow children or animals near any fire pit. Children may not really understand safety issues; therefore, adults should always supervise.
• Once you have finished the use, make sure the fire is extinguished completely.
• If you dispose of the ash in your garbage, the ash should be cooled with water or allowed to cool for days before putting it in a garbage can. The ash can hold heat for several days after you think the fire is out. House fires have been caused by ash being put into a garbage can that was then put in the garage or near the house.

Fungicide Contamination Update

The Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship continues to investigate the incident involving an unknown substance found in a Marion neighborhood and reported the evening of July 26, 2016. Investigators collected samples from within the area surrounding the Marion swimming pool, which was identified by the Marion Fire Department and Linn County Emergency Management as the area in Marion where the substance residue existed.

The initial results from those samples confirm residues of trifloxystrobin and prothiocazenol (metabolite), active ingredients in the fungicide Stratego YLD. Pyraclostrobin and metconazole, active ingredients in the fungicide Headline AMP, were also detected at lower levels. The concentrations detected in these samples indicate an above field crop application rate. This information has been provided to county and state public health agencies.

During office hours, people may contact the Iowa Department of Public Health with any questions or concerns at 1-800-972-2026 or 515-281-8707.

Questions regarding residues on home gardens and plants can be directed to the Pesticide Bureau at 515-281-8591. The investigation is ongoing.
Progress continues to be made on construction of the new Lebeda Mattress Factory Showroom, located at 2525 7th Ave., across the street from their previous location. Lebeda is expecting their showroom to be fully operational by early October 2016.

The Marion Economic Development Corp. reports that with this relocation, Lebeda will benefit from improved visibility along the Marion Central Corridor.

Radium Level Update
The latest quarterly water test results for April 2016 showed a drop in the radium level from the January test results. No new tests are currently available, as this plant is off-line for the summer and fall months. Additional tests will be taken once this plant is brought back online in 2017. For all of the quarterly test results, please visit the city’s website at www.cityofmarion.org under “Latest News” tab.

The Marion Water Department will continue to test quarterly for radium levels at source/entry point 05 per the DNR regulations when the well is back online. If there is an exceedance in the maximum contaminant level (MCL) the public will be notified and steps will be taken to resolve the issue. For more information, see our FAQ’s fact sheet at the web site above or contact Todd Steigerwaldt, General Manager, by phone or 319-743-6311 or by email at tsteigerwaldt@cityofmarion.org.

Backflow Prevention – Protect Yourself and the Water Supply
When water flows backward through the water supply system, it is called backflow. Although it is hard to imagine, this can, and does, happen. When that water is accidentally mixed with hazardous chemicals or other contaminants, it becomes dangerous. Installing a backflow prevention device by a licensed plumber and having it inspected annually by a state-certified tester can prevent such events from happening.

All industrial and commercial businesses as well as all residential irrigation systems are required to have a backflow device. Business owners and residents may receive notice that they need to either have a backflow device installed or have their existing device tested during a required annual inspection. If you receive a notice in the mail, please respond promptly by following the notice’s instructions.

2016 Water Department Construction Projects
The Marion Water Department has multiple capital improvement projects underway for 2016. The half million gallon elevated water tower at 31st Street and 5th Avenue has been repainted and some minor structural repairs were made. The estimated project cost is over $400,000. In conjunction with the 7th Street and 7th Avenue roundabout project, water main that is over 100 years old will be replaced at a cost of $236,000. We are also replacing some old water main along 35th Street, south of 3rd Avenue, and relaying water line services along 3rd Avenue between 31st Street and 35th Street for $30,000. The future roundabout on 7th Avenue and 26th Street will require water main upgrades costing $208,000. The Marion Water Department distribution crew is relaying water main along 10th Avenue between 25th and 27th Streets and has been replacing numerous old fire hydrants and broken valves around town.

The Marion Water Department will begin the process to drill another municipal drinking well into the Silurian Aquifer at 450 Echo Hill Road this fall. Construction of this well is expected to begin this winter. This new well will add additional source water to the system and should reduce the radium concentration at this plant location. The anticipated construction cost to drill this Silurian well is $175,000 with future improvements required to blend the two sources of water together upon knowing the water quality and quantity from this new well. This will be a two-year capital improvement project for the department.

If you would like any further information about any of these projects, please contact Todd Steigerwaldt, General Manager at 319-743-6311.

City News Briefs, From Page 5
The total population now stands at 38,023, and the new certified housing count is 18,296. These new numbers are projected to bring Marion an additional $2,631,200 in revenues before the next regular Census count in 2020.

Two revenue streams, road use tax and local option sales tax (LOST), will be affected by the revised population numbers over the next four years.
Water Department News

Water Meter Upgrade Program
You may receive notice that your water meter is due for an upgrade. The Marion Water Department is continually replacing old water meters. When we replace the old meters we are also installing new radio equipment that sends out a signal to our hand held reader telling us your water usage amount. Our goal is to update our older meters with new meters and radio read units so that we will have a more uniform and accurate meter reading system. There is no charge for this upgrade.

To accomplish the meter upgrade we will need to:
• Obtain access to the water meter, which is located inside the house and/or business.
• Shut your water off at the meter valve during the procedure. (Homeowner is responsible to have functioning shut off valves adjacent to the water meter.)
• Remove the old meter and install new meter and radio read unit.

We are currently over 65 percent completed. With over 12,900 water accounts in Marion the meter upgrade process will take some time to complete. We are currently installing the new radio read system in all new homes. Customer notification will be made by mail or by hanging a notification door card when we are upgrading meters in your neighborhood. You may be contacted by the Water Department Customer Service Staff to make an appointment. All Water Department staff and contracted employees carry identification cards.

Please call the Water Department at (319) 743-6310 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. if you have any questions or concerns. You can also e-mail our office at tsteigerald@cityofmarion.org.

One Delayed Utility Payment Request
If a customer cannot pay the total utility bill by the due date they can make one request per billing cycle for a time extension to make the payment. This request can be made in person or by phone. If the customer fails to make full payment by the agreed settlement date, then the account will become delinquent and service will be disconnected.

Water Conservation Tips
• Check all faucets for drips. If a drip fills an 8-ounce glass every 15 minutes, it will lose about 180 gallons per month. That's equivalent to 2,160 gallons a year, enough for more than 30 showers or baths. Drips can usually be fixed by replacing inexpensive washers or valve seats.
• Install flow restrictors or other conservation devices on all faucets. With these in the shower alone, you can cut your water use from about 5 to 10 gallons per minute to as low as 1.4 to 3 gallons per minute.
• Wrap exposed indoor and outdoor pipes to prevent breakage in freezing weather.
• Check kitchen cupboards beneath the sink once a week for wet spots or bowed cabinetry.
• Keep drinking water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the tap until the water gets cold enough to drink.
• Only run full loads in your dishwasher.
• Check grout and tiles in shower area. Are any loose? Is grout missing, allowing water to flow beneath the tiles?
• Check toilets for leaks. Drop a teaspoon of food coloring into the tank. If the color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes, have the "flapper" valve replaced.
• Replace older toilets with new ultra-low flush models or put water displacement devices inside every toilet tank. Make them from plastic water bottles weighted down with pebbles. Do not put bricks in your tank; they can dissolve and clog siphon jets.
• To learn more, visit the Water Department pages at www.cityofmarion.org.

Road Construction Update

The Engineering Department's work program covers everything from sidewalk replacement and subdivision development to asphalt overlays and road reconstruction.

With favorable conditions, contractors have completed a number of projects so far this season:
• 35th Street & 29th Avenue Mini Roundabout
• Alburnett Road Widening
• Asphalt Overlay Project included 11 roads:
  - 5th Street from 29th Avenue to 300' north
  - South 14th Street from A Avenue to G Avenue
  - 5th Avenue from 13th Street to 31st Street
  - A Avenue from 15th Street to 22nd Street
  - 12th Avenue from Maplecrest to Northview Drive
  - 15th Avenue from Maplecrest to Northview Drive
  - 8th Avenue from 25th Street to 30th Street
  - 4th Avenue from 27th Street to 31st Street
  - 26th Street from 3rd Avenue to 5th Avenue
  - 50th Street from 8th Avenue to 10th Avenue
  - Southview Drive – Twixt Town Road to Ridge Drive
• Lindale Trail Crossing at Lindale Drive
• Sanitary Sewer Manhole
• 2015 Storm Sewer Project – installed drain tile along various streets
• Central Corridor Project – Roundabout at 7th Avenue and 7th Street
  The project includes the reconstruction of the 7th Avenue and 7th Street intersection to include a roundabout and connection to all entering street legs. The contractor is currently on Stage 5 of the seven stages. The proposed completion, weather permitting, is Fall/Winter of 2016.

Projects currently underway include:
• Central Corridor Project – 26th Street to 31st Street
  The project includes the construction of a roundabout which connects 6th Avenue to 7th Avenue near the former site of Marion Iron. The completed project will include a divided 4-lane road, round-
Frequently Asked Questions About Roundabouts

Q: I learned the rule as “yield to the right.” Is that correct?
A: At 4-way intersections in Iowa, after stopping at a stop sign at the same time as another driver, drivers have been taught to yield to the vehicle on the right.

At roundabouts in the USA, traffic circulates counter-clockwise, so it will be coming towards you from your left. Yield at the entry to circulating traffic. This requires you to yield to traffic on your left. Enter the roundabout when a safe gap exists.

Q: What can we do about people who do not yield?
A: First, practice defensive driving like you would at any other intersection. Second, be sure to follow all the yield rules yourself. By setting a good example other drivers will learn by watching you.

If there is a driver in the circulating roadway that stops for you to enter, refuse to take them up on their offer. If we all provide the right example by following the yield-at-entry rule, the other drivers will eventually learn.

Q: What is the appropriate speed to drive through a roundabout?
A: Single lane roundabouts are designed for speeds less than 15 to 20 mph due to their turning radii and traffic conditions may require even slower speeds than these.

Multi-lane roundabouts have similar design speeds due to their geometry, but their speeds will vary more depending on traffic conditions. Drivers should proceed slowly enough to allow entry drivers the ability to take advantage of gaps in the traffic stream to enter the roundabout smoothly and efficiently. Drivers should drive slowly enough to be able to stop at any time for pedestrians or other traffic.

No matter the size of the roundabout, drivers should obey the posted speed limits.

Q: I know the rule is “do not stop inside the roundabout.” What should I do when someone else stops inside the roundabout?
A: Be patient. Wait for them and make sure they go first. You should not change lanes within an intersection and roundabouts are no exception. With more experience, all drivers gain enough confidence so they will not stop inside the roundabout. Don’t let a driver who stops in the circulatory roadway convince you to enter in front of them. Practice the yield-at-entry rule at all times.

Q: What do I do if an emergency vehicle is approaching the roundabout?
A: In the case of emergency vehicles, drivers should clear the intersection before they pull over to the right and stop. This means that drivers should not stop in the circulatory roadway to let an emergency vehicle enter. Rather, they should stop before entering the roundabout prior to the yield line, or they should pull through the roundabout and stop after they have cleared the intersection.

Q: How do trucks use a roundabout?
A: Truck aprons are added to roundabout designs to accommodate large truck turning movements. Sometimes truck aprons are located on the outside of the circulatory roadway to accommodate truck over-tracking for wide right turns, but mostly can be seen on the inside of the circulatory roadway to accommodate over-tracking for left turns. Trucks should use the truck aprons whenever they are provided.

In multilane roundabouts, trucks will need to use more than their lane to accommodate wide turns. Drivers and bicyclists should never drive alongside large trucks due to this over-tracking into adjoining lanes. Trucks should take both lanes when entering a roundabout to ensure that drivers will not try to drive alongside.

Q: How do pedestrians use a roundabout?
A: Never walk across the circulating lane(s) in a roundabout to the center island. Pedestrian crosswalks are clearly marked and this should be the only area used to cross the street near a roundabout. Raised splitter islands are used in roundabout design to provide a pedestrian safety zone. This allows pedestrians to cross in two stages; one direction of traffic to the splitter island and then the other direction of traffic to the other side. While pedestrians have the right-of-way, always make eye contact with drivers to make sure they see you.

Q: How do cyclists use a roundabout?
A: Bicyclists have a legal right to ride in the street with traffic when traveling through single-lane and multi-lane roundabouts - just like other intersections. However, in general, bicyclists riding through intersections with multiple lanes of traffic increase their exposure to vehicles compared to single-lane environments. The same is true when considering single-lane and multilane roundabouts. Riding through a single-lane roundabout presents less exposure to vehicles compared to riding through a multilane roundabout.

Remember...whenever taking to the roadway take the time to…Be Seen, Be Aware, and Be Smart.

If you decide to act as a car:
• Yield to traffic in the roundabout.
• Travel with traffic in a counterclockwise direction, not against the flow of traffic.
• Ride defensively - motorists may not see you.
• Signal your exit and follow the rules of the road for autos. If acting as a pedestrian:
• Exit the bike lane onto the sidewalk system.
• Use the crosswalks and follow the rules for crossing as a pedestrian.
• Walk your bike at the crosswalk - drivers will not have a chance to react to a fast moving bike entering the crosswalk.

Q: How do cyclists use a roundabout?
A: Bicyclists have a legal right to ride in the street with traffic when traveling through single-lane and multi-lane roundabouts - just like other intersections. However, in general, bicyclists riding through intersections with multiple lanes of traffic increase their exposure to vehicles compared to single-lane environments. The same is true when considering single-lane and multilane roundabouts. Riding through a single-lane roundabout presents less exposure to vehicles compared to riding through a multilane roundabout.

Remember...whenever taking to the roadway take the time to…Be Seen, Be Aware, and Be Smart.

If you decide to act as a car:
• Yield to traffic in the roundabout.
• Travel with traffic in a counterclockwise direction, not against the flow of traffic.
• Ride defensively - motorists may not see you.
• Signal your exit and follow the rules of the road for autos. If acting as a pedestrian:
• Exit the bike lane onto the sidewalk system.
• Use the crosswalks and follow the rules for crossing as a pedestrian.
• Walk your bike at the crosswalk - drivers will not have a chance to react to a fast moving bike entering the crosswalk.

Q: How do cyclists use a roundabout?
A: Bicyclists have a legal right to ride in the street with traffic when traveling through single-lane and multi-lane roundabouts - just like other intersections. However, in general, bicyclists riding through intersections with multiple lanes of traffic increase their exposure to vehicles compared to single-lane environments. The same is true when considering single-lane and multilane roundabouts. Riding through a single-lane roundabout presents less exposure to vehicles compared to riding through a multilane roundabout.
Stormwater Residential Cost-Sharing Program

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

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

Rain barrels collect rain water from roofs and downspouts. This water can then be used to water plants, gardens, lawns, or even for flushing toilets. The one-time rebate for rain barrel would be up to $50 per rain barrel with a limit of one rebate per residence.

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

Application forms for these rebates are now available at bit.ly/stormwaterBMP.

NerdWallet Ranks Marion 28th Best Small City for Families

A recent study ranked Marion 28th of Best Small Cities for Families in the U.S. NerdWallet analyzed 245 cities in the U.S. with populations between 25,000 to 100,000. Income and affordability, prosperity and growth, and family friendliness were taken into account. Five Iowa cities made the list. Marion was second to Ankeny which landed number 11 on the list. This announcement came shortly after the Cedar Rapids metro area was ranked first by SmartAsset (for the second year in a row) as the best place in the U.S. to raise children.

Possible Charter Amendment

The Nov. 8 ballot will include a question for residents to consider a possible charter amendment regarding council member ward elections. Please visit the City website at www.cityofmarion.org for additional information which will be forthcoming.

Signs, Signs, Everywhere a Sign

Did you know that signs - other than official traffic or street signs - are not allowed in the area between the street and the sidewalk or on City property? This time of year For Sale, Garage Sale, advertising, special event and political signs are widely-distributed and can cause distractions and public safety concerns.

Be a good neighbor and if you intend to place a temporary sign at the corner lot, on someone’s property, request permission. Be mindful of the areas where such signs are permitted, and then remove them in a timely fashion. Also note, temporary signs should not be fastened to utility poles or street signs. Together we can keep our community well-maintained.

Signage located within the right-of-way or on City property may be removed by City staff without warning. Contact the Engineering or Planning and Development Departments for more information: 319-743-6340 (6320).

CONSTRUCTION, FROM PAGE 8

about, street lights, multi-use pathways, hardscaping and landscaping. The project timeline will be set and controlled by the developer with City inspection; however, the projected completion is anticipated to be late Fall/Winter 2016, weather dependent.

Fairview Drive Reconstruction Project

The project includes the reconstruction of Fairview Drive from S. 8th Street to S. 11th Street. This will add a connection loop from Fairview Drive to Orchard Road via Hanna Park. The contractor has started the paving process.

Tower Terrace Road Project – Phase V

This project includes the extension of Tower Terrance Road east from the 10th Street intersection to the new realignment of Winslow Road, west of Indian Creek. The construction will extend the typical cross section of the divided street with grass median, decorative lights, and trees. The project timeline will be controlled by the developer with City inspection; however, the projected completion is anticipated to be late Fall/Winter 2016, weather dependent.

Winslow Road Reconstruction Project

This project, using LOST funding includes the reconstruction of Winslow Road from approximately Para Drive south to Berry’s Run Bridge. The project which is currently underway will extend into the 2017 construction season with downtime during the winter months.

Additional detail can be found on the Engineering pages at www.cityofmarion.org. Or sign up to receive the Engineering Department’s weekly status report by emailing Nicole Burlage at nburlage@cityofmarion.org.
Upcoming Recreation Programs

Fall Into Fitness, All Ages
• Fee: FREE
• Dates: Tuesdays in Sept.
• Time: 6-7 p.m.
• Location: Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park
• Registration Deadline: No registration required, just show up and be ready to go at 6 p.m.

Little Sports Camp, Children Ages 3–4
• Fee: $33.00, includes program shirt
• Days/Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays, Sept. 20–29
• Time(s): 10-10:30 a.m. OR 5:30-6 p.m. (Choose One)
• Location: Butterfield Park
• Registration Deadline: Sept. 2, 2016

NEW! Lil' Chippers Golf, Children Ages 6–10
• Fee: $25.00 per child
• Days/Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays, Sept. 20–29
• Time: 6:15-6:45 p.m.
• Location: Butterfield Park
• Registration Deadline: Sept. 2, 2016

Fall Bags Tournament, Adults Ages 18+
• Fee: $25.00
• Days/Dates: Wednesdays, Oct. 19–Nov. 9
• Time(s): 10-10:30 a.m. OR 5:30-6 p.m. (Choose One)
• Location: Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center
• Registration Deadline: Oct. 7, 2016

Halloween Boo Camp, Children Grades K–5th
• Fee: $36.00, includes child’s team shirt
• Dates: Saturday mornings, Dec. 3 – Jan. 21
• Time(s): Practices: weekly; Games: Saturday mornings
• Location: Echo Hill, Bowman Woods, Excelsior Schools
• Registration Deadline: Nov. 18, 2016

2016 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>HOLIDAY</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>PICK-UP SCHEDULE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Regular collection schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Regular collection schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 25</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>One day late all week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>One day late all week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Regular collection schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Regular collection schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Columbus Day</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Collection on Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Collection on Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Day after Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Building Inspection and Rental Housing Rate Changes

Some fees for building permits and rental inspections and services may be changing with your next building project or rental housing inspection. Visit the Building Inspection pages at www.cityofmarion.org to review the revised fee schedules and read inspection notices carefully. Contact the Building Inspection Department at 319-743-6330 with any questions.
Coffeehouse Nights
Marion Arts Council is gearing up for its Coffeehouse Nights series held at the Arts & Environment Center at Lowe Park. These musical performances feature talented local acoustic artists in a relaxed coffeehouse type atmosphere. Admission is free. Coffee, cocoa and pastries from Wit’s End Coffeehouse are available for purchase. The dates for the 2016-2017 Coffeehouse Nights have been set as October 7, November 4, December 2, February 3, March 3 and April 7. Please visit www.cityofmarion.org/arts council for updates.

Gallery Art Exhibits
Stop by the gallery at Lowe Park and enjoy the following exhibits:
Janice Bell and Diane Dunn – September/October
Mary Weaver and Linda Black-Smith – November/December/January
Area Colleges – February 2017

Marion Farmers’ Market
The Marion Farmers’ Market offers a variety of locally grown produce, fresh baked goods, flowers, homemade crafts and much more. The market is held every Saturday morning at Taube Park from 8 to 11:30 a.m. The market will run through September 24. Please contact the Marion Parks and Recreation Office at 447-3590 with any questions.

Facility Rentals
Rentals for all our facilities can be made 364 days in advance, during regular office hours. If the office is closed for the weekend, you will need to wait until the following Monday to make your reservation. If it is closed for a holiday, you will need to wait until the next regularly scheduled business day, call 447-3580 or 447-3590 to check availability.

Park Pavilions
Park pavilions are available for reservations from May 1-October 31. All pavilions feature: electricity, picnic tables, grills, and water available in bathrooms (except Taube Park). Trash must be placed in the containers provided on site. There are other small pavilions in our park system that do not require a reservation (first come, first serve). Pavilion renters must abide by all park rules. Find rates and rental information listed under Facility Rentals at www.cityofmarion.org.

Friends of Oak Shade Celebrate Anniversary
August marks the beginning of the fourth year for Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery. Have you noticed the difference? Thanks to the contributions of volunteers, in both a physical as well as a financial sense, we have been able to control vegetation and begin cleaning, straightening and repairing headstones—some as much as 175 years old.

On the right is an example of what can be accomplished by one volunteer in less than two hours.
Care and cleaning of cemetery markers is not the responsibility of the city. The purchase of cemetery space allows for the right to bury human remains—not the ground itself. “Perpetual care,” essentially amounts to ground-keeping, e.g., mowing. Lot owners and their descendants are expected to maintain headstones and monuments. Here is where volunteers come in. Many early Marion families are long gone; others are simply not able to do the work. If you fall into the latter group and would like one of your “Friends” to lend a hand—you can get on our “things to do list” by calling Pat Klopfenstein at 377-5502. “Friends” is supported by tax deductible contributions from individuals and the sponsorship of Murdoch Funeral Homes, Novak-Brannon Monuments, Roland Wilbert Vault Company and Stewart-Baxter Memorial Services. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact Jay Kacena at 377-7709.

Sign up for Parks & Recreation Cancellation Notices via Text Message

Marion Parks & Recreation is pleased to offer program participants with the option to sign up for text notifications in the event a program or activity is cancelled or impacted by weather.

To sign up:
1. Begin a new text message, To: 40404
2. In the body of the message type: Follow @MarionIAParkRec
3. Send

Please note:
1. You have to actually type the word “Follow” and be sure to leave a space and then type @MarionIAParkRec.
2. You should receive a confirmation text stating that you’ll receive @MarionIAParkRec tweets.
3. You do not need a Twitter account to use this service, but that is where the messages will originate.
4. Standard text message and data rates may apply.
Upcoming Library Events

Job Fair Prep Series
The library is offering a two-part series that will help you prepare for our Career Fair in conjunction with IowaWORKS on September 29.

- September 6 (1 p.m.) & 13 (6:30 p.m.) - "Make a Great Impression with Your Resume" (repeated on September 13).

Learn how to impress an employer with a targeted resume. Workshop will include resume-building tools and critique of existing resumes.

- September 20 (1 p.m.) & 27 (6:30 p.m.) - "Make a Great Impression at a Job Fair" (repeated on September 27).

We’ll review a checklist for preparing for a job fair, help you prepare a 30-second elevator speech, and share dress-for-success advice.


Reach Higher at Marion’s Career Expo
Date: Thursday, September 29
Time: 5-8 p.m.

This career expo, offered in conjunction with IowaWORKS and the City of Marion, will include businesses that are currently recruiting, apprenticeship opportunities, information on funding to pay for short term training certificates, and free workshops geared toward building your job skills.


Chicken Certification Classes
Wed., Oct. 12 – 6:30-8 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 10 – 6:30-8 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 13 – 6:30-8 p.m.

Now is a great time to learn the basics required to raise hens safely and successfully in urban and suburban areas. Participants will leave with a thorough list of all the things to prepare before getting chicks or pullets. Topics discussed will include everything from designing a coop and run, what to feed chicks and hens, predator protection, and breed selection. This FREE class is offered in partnership with the John and Kelli Lane, Marion’s own Sustainable Couple, and participants will receive a certificate of completion enabling them to get a permit to keep chickens legally in Marion, Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities. No registration is necessary.

Grant Wood: Prairie Rebel
Date: Tuesday, October 11
Time: 7 p.m.

To celebrate Grant Wood’s 125th birthday this year, The Friends of the Marion Public Library are pleased to present “Grant Wood: Prairie Rebel” featuring Tom Milligan from the Humanities Iowa Speakers Bureau, as Grant Wood. In this 45-minute, one-man show, Grant Wood chats with the audience as if talking to an old friend across the backyard fence, or at his home at 5 Turner Alley in Cedar Rapids. He tells us about his life and how he changed the art world forever with his work. He shares the story of how he took the moments, the memories, and the people of Iowa, and showed the whole world how special they were. There will be time for questions following the program. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Genealogy Junkies: Now Two Options
Evenings – Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Mornings – 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m.

Our Genealogy Junkies Groups provide an opportunity for anyone interested in genealogy to get together with peers to learn and to share research tips and tricks. The group meets weekly. Bring a laptop or tablet computer, or check out one of the library’s laptops from the Information Desk. Work on your own projects or use our Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest, or historical newspaper online services. Everyone is welcome!

Message From the Library Director

What a pleasure it has been to begin to get to know the Marion community! Since starting as the library director in late April, I have had many opportunities to visit with people who live, work, and play in the Marion area. As a newcomer to the community, I am struck by the great parks, the wide variety of recreational events, and the friendliness of residents. As a new member of the library staff, I am continuously impressed by the passion for service and the deep skills of library personnel; it is a joy to serve as part of this group.

I know many Marion residents are eager to hear more about progress on the library building project. There have been some significant changes since the original plans were shared with the community, and we are now in a position to recraft the project to more effectively meet the needs of our patrons. The integral parts of the project remain the same—including the mixed-use concept, the commitment to good stewardship of resources in designing and building the new physical spaces, the desire to be fully integrated into the Uptown landscape, and the intentional solicitation of community input at varying stages of planning—but other aspects may change based on new and different opportunities. I look forward to sharing specifics as the project moves along and gathering community feedback about new ideas.

Meeting Marion residents is a highlight of my position, and I welcome you to reach out with questions, comments, concerns, or compliments about the library (or just to say hello!). I can be reached via email at ecarman@cityofmarion.org, telephone at 319-743-1984, or in person at the library (I work at the Information Desk every Wednesday morning, or just ask for me at either service desk; if I’m available we can sit down and talk). I hope to hear from you soon!

--Elsworth Carman, Library Director
More Events from the Library

Movie Monday: Classics, Coffee & Donuts
Date: 3rd Mondays
Time: 10 a.m.
Do you love the old classic movies? Join us every 3rd Monday morning of each month, we’ll show a classic film and provide coffee and donuts.

Sept. 19 - A Fish Called Wanda (#21 on AFI’s 100 Funniest Movies)
Oct. 17 - Vertigo (#1 on AFI’s Top Mysteries)
Nov. 21 - Bridge on the River Kwai (#14 on AFI’s 100 Years 100 Cheers)

Scrabble Club
Date: Thursdays
Time: 2-4 p.m.
Our enthusiastic Scrabble players meet year round, rain or shine. They love to get new competitors. All ages and skill levels welcome!

Coloring Programs – Now TWO Options!
Red or White: What’s Your Color? (1st Thursdays from 6:30-8 p.m. at Ramsey’s)
Red, White, or Blue: What’s Your Color? (3rd Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the American Legion)

The library’s popular adult coloring programs start up again this fall. If you thought coloring was just for kids, think again! Join us for some creative fun! Crayons, markers, colored pencils and coloring sheets will be provided; bring your own supplies as well if you’d like. Food and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) are available to purchase.

Taste the Difference: Wine Comparisons
Tues., Sept. 20; 7-8:30 p.m.
Join our “wine goddess” Jeri Travis from Okoboji Wines for this fascinating evening comparing wines. We’ll set up the taste tests, you just come ready to explore! Do California Pinot Noirs taste different from Oregon Pinot Noirs? How do the sweetness levels in Washington State Rieslings compare to those in German Rieslings? We have some fun comparisons ready for you; come learn with us! You MUST be 21 or older to attend this program and pre-registration is REQUIRED. Get signed up today (https://marionpubliclibrary.org/wine)!

Save the Date: Celebrate Writing @ MPL
Date: Saturday, Oct. 15
Get our popular writers’ mini-conference on your calendar! We’ll be announcing our authors and the schedule for sessions and workshops as soon as they are finalized.

Holiday Craft Market
Sat., Nov. 19; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Come shop at our holiday market featuring local vendors offering baked goods, wines, and an array of artisan items. This event is presented by Friends of the Marion Public Library.

All Ages
Book a Trip - Read Your Way Across the USA
Have you Booked Your Trip yet? This year-round reading program couldn’t be easier: we have logs with maps available for everyone, and all you have to do is read books. When you’ve read a book from all 50 states, come to the Children’s Desk or Information Desk for a special prize! Learn more and get suggestions at our webpage: https://marionpubliclibrary.org/bookatrip.

Kids
Family Times
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 12 – Lego Night. All Ages. 30 min - 1 hr. It’s time to break out your creativity and imagination as we play with everyone’s favorite building toy: LEGOs! The library has a great collection of Legos for you and your family to build with and we’ll display your master creation in our display case for the month of September! If you’d like to donate your Legos to the library, please contact Olivia at ostoner@cityofmarion.org.

Sept. 19 – Pool Noodle Boat Races. All Ages. 30 min – 1 hr. Who doesn’t love playing and having fun in the water? We’ll be making pool noodle boats and racing them tonight and then you can take them home for bath time!

Sept. 26 – Movie Night: “Ratchet & Clank” (1hr 34min, PG). All Ages (parents required for anyone under age 9). We’ll make the popcorn; feel free to bring a snack or beverage! When the galaxy comes under the threat of a nefarious space captain, a mechanic and his newfound robot ally join an elite squad of combatants to save the universe.

Baby Time: every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.
Toddler Time: every Tuesday and Friday at 10:00 a.m.
Preschool Story Time: every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:45 a.m.

Special Monthly Programs include:
Learning Safari – Presented by the African American Museum for preschool-age children every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:45 a.m.
Doodlegugs – Presented by the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art for preschool-age children on the last Tuesday of the month at 10:45 a.m.
Babble & Brew – An open playtime and socialization for children ages 0-5 and their grown-ups.
Monthly Lego Club – Every 2nd Thursday of the month from 3–5 p.m.

Teen NaNoWriMo
Date: Tuesdays in November
Time: 4-5:30 p.m.
November is National Writing Month. NaNoWriMo, where people are challenged to write 50,000 words in one month. We will have a room set aside for teens to come in and have a quiet place to write each week. How much can you write this November?
Upcoming HS Renovations:
The renovation of LMHS is entering the final semester. Projects completed (as of Aug. 1):
- **North Addition**: North building entrance, orchestra room, 9th – 10th grades office, The Pride Rock Commons, 11 general classrooms, additional fine arts utility rooms, and restrooms.
- **South Addition**: South building entrance, 11th – 12th grades office, athletic office, south commons, College and Career Center, the ROAR Store, and updates to the Little Theatre (new HVAC, lights, ceiling) and the HS.

Remaining areas of the building to be completed during the fall include:
- Four new classrooms, 13 renovated classrooms, one new set of restrooms, two renovated sets of restrooms, renovated upper commons/library, presentation center/lecture hall (new), and renovated district copy center.

Educator of the Year:
Sandy Schneekloth, a 5th Grade Teacher at Bowman Woods Elementary, has been selected as the 2016 Educator of the Year by the Professional Educators of Iowa. She has been a teacher in the Linn-Mar Community School District for the past 28 years. Mrs. Schneekloth was nominated by her colleagues and chosen by a committee of current teachers from across the state.

Youth Educating Others:
These two young ladies are great examples of student and community achievement!
Congratulations to Madison Szumita, 5th Grader at Linn Grove Elementary, for being featured in the Marion Times. Madison and her family are working together to educate themselves and others on Phenylketonuria. PKU is a rare, inherited, genetic disorder that causes the carrier to not be able to metabolize a chemical found in high-protein foods. Congratulations to 2010 Linn-Mar Graduate Katelyn (Katie) Parker for pursuing her dreams of traveling abroad for study. Katie will be traveling to Singapore in July to study hotel management through her program at Kirkwood Community College. Katie was also featured in the Marion Times to help raise awareness that people with cerebral palsy can follow their dreams and succeed.

Female Athlete of the Year: Congratulations to Amanda Ollinger for being named The Gazette’s Female Athlete of the Year for her accomplishments in High School basketball and volleyball. Amanda will continue her basketball career at the University of Iowa while pursuing a major in Engineering.

Longfellow Elementary Under Construction
The new Longfellow Elementary School will serve the Marion Independent School District at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year with construction spanning from summer 2016 to summer 2017. The facility will house kindergarten through second grade classrooms, associated administrative offices, a media center, serving kitchen and gymnasium. Energy efficiency will be attained through a new ground-source geothermal heating and cooling system in addition to using efficient light fixtures and an aluminum curtain wall glazing system. Marion Longfellow Elementary will open at the new address of 2900 8th Avenue in just over a year.

Well Done 2016 Graduates!!
The 2016 Marion High School graduating class contributed over 15,300 community service hours with 66 students receiving the Silver Cord of Service Distinction. High school student volunteers from 9th grade contributed 1,650 hours, 10th grade students contributed 8,414.50 hours, and 11th grade students contributed 9,520.50 hours.

Marion Home School Assistance Program Shines
The Marion Home School Assistance Program is the largest of its kind in the state, with over 1,040 students in the 2016-2017 school year. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the program, which serves homeschoolers from approximately 500 families across 30 school districts. Last year over 70 students graduated from the program, which has seen consistent growth of about 10 percent from one school year to the next.

Longfellow Elementary Under Construction
The new Longfellow Elementary School will serve the Marion Independent School District at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year with construction spanning from summer 2016 to summer 2017. The facility will house kindergarten through second grade classrooms, associated administrative offices, a media center, serving kitchen and gymnasium. Energy efficiency will be attained through a new ground-source geothermal heating and cooling system in addition to using efficient light fixtures and an aluminum curtain wall glazing system. Marion Longfellow Elementary will open at the new address of 2900 8th Avenue in just over a year.

Superintendent Reflects on First Year
With his first year as Marion Independent superintendent coming to a close, Chris Dyer pointed out several accomplishments within the district:
- The 88 percent student participation rate for students in the High School in extra and co-curricular work.
- A clear focus on a five-year plan for facility improvement and capital investment.
- Efforts to build team concepts and planning with the leadership of the City of Marion, Linn-Mar Community School District, and Kirkwood Community College.
- A successful budget and management annual cycle that culminated in under budget expenditures with programmed services and expenditures accomplished.
- The teacher led professional development for SY 15-16 and plan for SY 16-17.
- The investment in High School and Middle School technology that will allow tech integration for each student regularly in SY 16-17; the creation of Elementary School tech testing pilots to explore the best technology applications for SY 17-18.
- Facility improvements to all buildings, grounds and athletic complexes.
- New uniform school-based communication platforms and websites for SY 16-17.
- Our graduates and career and technical education program combine to ensure the MISD graduate is ready for college or career work.

Upcoming Dates:
**No School**: Sept. 5 & 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, Nov. 23-25;
**Board Meetings**: Regular Board Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m., and Work Sessions are held on the second Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m.
**Homecoming**: Oct. 7
For more information about Marion Independent:
Visit www.marion-isd.org
Local Youth Shine at Entrepreneur Camp

Hills Bank, the Marion Chamber of Commerce, and MEDCO co-sponsored the first Entrepreneur Camp for Middle School students in Marion City Hall this summer. This camp is created by the Jacobson Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship out of the University of Iowa John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. Over the course of one week, these students grew an idea into a viable product and along the way learned about product testing, pricing, and marketing. MEDCO’s Nick Glew and Nanci Young, along with Hills Bank’s Patty Webster were judges on the final day during the Shark Tank-like product pitch. The top three entrepreneurs won cash prizes for their efforts. If you missed out this year, information on the 2017 camp will be announced in March.

Sweet Night of Shopping

The Chocolate Walk is back! Shoppers are invited to an adult evening strolling Uptown Marion and savoring chocolate treats on Friday, October 7 from 8:00 – 10:30 p.m. Over 30 participating businesses offering extended hours. Grab a friend and enjoy fall at your favorite spot and discover new stores. Enter for a chance to win one of two $100 gift certificates to participating Uptown Marion businesses by presenting a receipt at the welcome booth located at 7th Avenue and 11th Street. Live entertainment will be featured throughout the district.

Fall into Fabulous Finds

Saturday, September 10
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Participating Uptown Marion Businesses
Enjoy a fun day in Uptown Marion during this Progressive Shopping Event. Start at any participating business and let each mystery coupon box lead you on a fabulous shopping event. Visit www.UptownMarion.com for more information.