A Very Merry Marion
Shop local this holiday season

State of the City set for January 31

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Atkins Appointed to Represent Ward 1

The City of Marion is pleased to announce the appointment of Colette Atkins to the Ward 1 position on the Marion City Council.

The City of Marion is pleased to announce the appointment of Colette Atkins to the Ward 1 position on the Marion City Council. Ms. Atkins has been a resident of Ward 1 in Marion since 2007. She and her husband are former members of the United States Air Force, relocating to Iowa after his honorable discharge. Ms. Atkins chose a career path in higher education and currently serves as Dean of Business and IT Programs at Kirkwood Community College. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Education Policy and Leadership Studies through the University of Iowa.

“I believe that all residents can and should have a voice in their local government,” said Atkins. “I am a consensus builder and problem solver. It will be my honor to serve as a community trustee on the Marion City Council.”

The Ward 1 position was left vacant on Sept. 30 with the resignation of Kim Etzel. Ms. Atkins will fill the remaining 15 months on the term.
Traditional activities including the lighting of the community peace tree, holiday music, horse-drawn carriage rides around City Square Park, hot cocoa and popcorn. Kids – don’t miss this opportunity to climb aboard the caboose as it’s transformed into the Peppermint Express! Bring a new, warm-weather item to place inside and help Keep Your Neighbors Warm. Craft activities, holiday tubas and a holiday book sale round out the fun at the Marion Public Library.

In addition to the activities happening in the Park, Uptown Marion will host the Peppermint Walk, a holiday shopping event. Enjoy Uptown businesses as they are decked out for the holidays complete with a special peppermint treat!

Christmas in the Park and Peppermint Walk is presented by the Marion Chamber of Commerce and the Uptown Marion Main Street District. It remains a free community event thanks to the Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners – Farmers State Bank, Fosters Heating and Air Conditioning, ImOn Communications, MercyCare Community Physicians and Townsquare Media.

Get in the holiday spirit during Marion’s Christmas in the Park and Peppermint Walk festivities! Join us for this annual celebration on Friday, Dec. 7 from 4–8 p.m. in City Square Park. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be escorted by the Marion Police and Fire Departments.

For more information on the Christmas in the Park and Peppermint Walk event, please visit marioncc.org.
CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Arrival of Santa Claus
4 p.m. | Don’t miss the grand arrival of our special guests by fire truck! Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit with children from 4-8 p.m.

Peace Tree
6 p.m. | Officially kick off the festivities with the lighting of the Marion Community Peace Tree.

Holiday Music, Hot Cocoa and Popcorn
4-8 p.m. | Enjoy hot cocoa and fresh popcorn (while supplies last) and listen to classic holiday tunes.

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
4-8 p.m. | Create a special memory with your family by taking a horse-drawn carriage ride around City Square Park.

Keep Your Neighbors Warm
4-8 p.m. | The public is invited to bring donations of new hats, gloves or blankets. Look for the Peppermint Express and help our conductors fill the caboose! Items donated will be distributed to area families in need through the Marion Holiday Giving Project.

Peppermint Walk
Visit participating Uptown Marion merchants, restaurants and businesses during this special holiday open house. All of the stores will be decked with holiday lights, decorations and music making this a great complement to the park activities. Present a receipt from a purchase made during the event at any Uptown Marion business and be registered to win one of two $50 gift certificates to participating Uptown businesses. Fill a Holiday Passport by Dec. 20 for a chance to win $50 Uptown Dollars. For list of participating locations, please visit marioncc.org or uptownmarion.com.

Christmas with Mrs. Claus
Registration is now open to experience a fun morning with Mrs. Claus while helping Keep Your Neighbors Warm. The event will be held Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 at the Granger House in Marion. While Santa is busy helping the elves prepare, Mrs. Claus will make a special visit to Marion to share fun facts from the North Pole while children enjoy cookie decorating, crafts and a tour of the Granger House, learning about holiday traditions in the late-19th century. Sit in the parlor while Mrs. Claus shares a story about giving during the holiday season.

Shop Small
Find gifts in Uptown this holiday season. Check out new shops like the Iowa Magic Shop or SCOUT of marion for one-of-a-kind gifts! Buy tickets to a show at Giving Tree Theater or the Famous Mockingbird! How about a gift card to their favorite Uptown restaurant! When you support Marion businesses by shopping local, you support your neighbors and community!

Uptown Holiday Passport
Between Small Business Saturday (Nov. 24) and Dec. 20, shoppers have the opportunity to fill an Uptown Holiday Passport by visiting participating businesses that have decked the halls for the holidays. Passports will be available at each participating business, as well as at the Uptown/Chamber booth at the Peppermint Walk (Dec. 7). Return your filled Holiday Passport by Dec. 20 to the Uptown/Chamber Office for a chance to win a $50 Uptown Dollars gift certificate.

Uptown Dollars
Struggling to find the perfect gift for that someone special? Consider giving Uptown Dollars! With 30 businesses participating in this certificate program, your someone special is sure to have fun as they shop, eat and explore Uptown Marion. Certificates can be purchased at both Marion Hills Bank and Trust Company locations or at the Uptown/Chamber Office (1225 6th Ave, Ste. 100). View participating businesses here: UptownMarion.com/discover-uptown/gift-certificates.
Brunch with the Boss Kicks Off!

This school year Marion Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) launched a new relationship-building strategy that provides students a unique tool to connect with a business mentor and learn about their own career interests. It’s called “Brunch with the Boss” and is a program of Community Promise.

Students are encouraged to participate in the program by submitting a form outlining what careers they are interested in. Students will then be paired with a business leader from within their industry of interest. Three students each quarter will be selected to meet with a business leader. The first drawing was held October 1, which kicked off the initial meetings. “I did not know much before the meeting, but I feel like I now have a much better understanding of the different careers available in healthcare management. It was nice to hear stories from successful people during this time of my life when I will soon be graduating,” said Linn Mar senior Taylor Streff. Remaining drawings will be held in January, April and July. Sophomores through Seniors from Linn-Mar and Marion Independent High Schools qualify to enter.

“Relationships with business leaders make students stand out from the crowd,” says Emily Russ, Business Engagement Specialist with MEDCO. “We hope this simple program creates opportunities for students and CEOs to have meaningful dialogue that may have big impact on future careers here at home.”

MEDCO will facilitate connecting the businesses with the selected students for a one-hour meeting. Pastries, coffee and juice will be supplied by Fareway Meat and Grocery. Participation interest forms for students are found at medcoiowa.org/brunchstudent and business leaders can find theirs at medcoiowa.org/brunchboss.

Marion Leadership in Action Class to Replace Streetlight Banners

The 2018-19 Marion Leadership In Action (MLIA) class recently announce the kickoff of a $12,000 fundraising campaign to replace the worn streetlight banners that adorn many of the major thoroughfares throughout Marion.

MLIA is looking to complete its fundraising efforts by February. The new banners will be installed in late spring of 2019 and will bring new life to the gateways of the community. The existing banners were purchased with funds raised by the 2014-15 MLIA class.

Individuals wishing to contribute to the fundraising effort or seeking additional information are encouraged to visit marioncc.org or call 319-377-6316.

Civil Rights Commission Announces Grant Program

The Marion Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) is pleased to announce the approval of the Marion Low & Moderate Income Housing Assistance Grant to be awarded in 2019. The Marion City Council has approved up to $10,000 to be used in this grant program.

The intent of the grant will be to assist non-profit, charitable organizations or other entities interested in assisting low- and- moderate income individuals with programs that address housing instability in the community.

“The Marion Civil Rights Commission is thrilled to be able to offer this grant to help make an impact on homelessness in the community,” said Bret Nilles, chair of the commission. “By providing this grant opportunity, our hope is that it will create an incentive for local entities to provide assistance for those impacted by housing instability.”

The official application window will open on Nov. 26, 2018 with a deadline of Jan. 8, 2019. The application can be accessed at www.cityofmarion.org. The target date for awarding the funds is March 2019. The commission will make funding recommendations, based on a defined set of criteria, to provide maximum assistance to as many proposals as possible.
Another busy construction season is coming to a close. With the extremely wet fall, an abundance of projects in the metro area and a low unemployment rate, many of the projects have been waiting for paving contractors to be available. This makes it difficult to know when projects will be completed or how soon roads might be opened.

The Engineering Department makes a concerted effort to keep residents updated via our Project Newsletter, website and other project-specific communication efforts. If you wish to subscribe to the Engineering Department Project Newsletter, please contact Janet Perschek at jperschek@cityofmarion.org.

Here’s a look at some of the bigger infrastructure projects that are underway or anticipated in the coming years.

**Tower Terrace Road from 380 to 13**

Tower Terrace Road will provide another major east-west arterial route across the northern portion of the Cedar Rapids metro area, connecting Interstate 380 to Highway 13. Marion’s portion of the project includes Phases 1 and 2 which are currently a joint project with Cedar Rapids and partially funded through the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO). Property acquisitions are expected to begin soon with construction to follow.

The segment east of Phase 6 is also currently under construction. Segment 6 includes the bridge over Indian Creek, which is not yet funded. Phases 8 and 9 connecting Tower Terrace Road to Highway 13 will be development driven.

Work has been ongoing for other Marion segments of Tower Terrace Road. Some of which are impacting current travel patterns. Indian Creek Road west of 35th Street will remain closed and eventually become a trail. The trail will be installed as part of a public/private partnership, both dependent on the weather and availability of the paving contractors.

Old Winslow Road will eventually close and the bridge will be removed. This will not happen until the bridge for Tower Terrace is built which could be several years away.

**Progress along the Central Corridor**

Crews are making headway on the third roundabout along the corridor. Located at 6th Avenue and 15th Street, the north/south lanes are expected to open before winter.

The plans have been approved for the next stretch of the Central Corridor which includes the build out of 6th Avenue from 19th to 27th Streets. If property acquisition is completed soon, contractors could be completing work on the 13th to 19th Street segment at the same time work begins on the 19th to 27th Street portion.
Alburnett Road Extension

City staff and engineering consultants are working to finalize the plans for the Alburnett Road Extension project. The first piece of this project, beginning next construction season, will be to install the box culvert north of the Central Avenue bridge. This will also be used for the Indian Creek Trail. The bridge permit has been applied for, however the permit process can take up to a year.

More information on these projects and other City of Marion Engineering projects can be found at www.cityofmarion.org/departments/engineering.
Marion Fire Station No. 3

As Marion continues to grow, so does the need for properly staffed and distributed fire and emergency response forces. The Marion City Council recently voted to purchase land that will not only benefit the Fire Department but the Parks & Recreation and Water Departments as well.

On Nov. 15, 2018, the City of Marion closed on the purchase of 5.68 acres of land from Curt and Barbara Gill. Approximately 3.4 acres of the northern portion of the property will be used for Marion Fire Station No. 3 and the extension of Irish Drive south of Tower Terrace Road. The remaining land, of just over an acre, will be used to expand Gill Park and provide parking. The Marion Water Department may use a portion to expand the water facilities on the site.

OPN Architects was selected as the architectural firm for the planning and construction of Fire Station No. 3. Construction is expected to begin in the first part of 2019, with completion by the beginning of 2020.

Safe Routes to School Trail Receives a Boost

In August, the City of Marion secured a grant from the Wellmark Foundation for $97,686.50 for the construction of the first phase of the Marion Independent Safe Routes to School Trail. To secure the grant, the City received additional funding from Delta Dental ($10,000), the Marion Independent School Board ($10,000) and the Linn County Board of Supervisors ($10,000). The City of Marion contributed $18,843.25 to meet the required matching funds. A 3-legged trail is planned, as part of the Safe Routes to School Plan, to connect the majority of schools in the Marion Independent School District.

With the funding secured in August, the City anticipates being able to complete the first phase, a 10-foot wide multi-use path within City right-of-way from Vernon Middle School to the intersection of 15th Street and 1st Avenue.

In September, a second funding opportunity became available through the Iowa Department of Transportation. If successful, the City will be able to complete all three phases of the Safe Routes to School Trail as one project. The latter awards will be announced in January 2019. Should the City not be awarded, the initial phase of the project will still be pursued.

K9 Kain joins Marion Police Department

In late October, Marion Police Officer Adam Herrig selected the Marion Police Department’s next police K9 from Vohne Liche Kennels in Denver, Indiana. Marion’s newest police K9 is named Kain and is a 1.5 year old, Belgian Malinois. Kain is trained in narcotics detection, tracking and apprehension. Kain is originally from Slovakia and is trained on Czech commands.

Officer Herrig and Kain will participate in a 6-week basic handler course at Vohne Liche Kennels. The intensive course will allow Officer Herrig and Kain to learn to work together in a variety of venues (e.g. school, businesses, residences, vehicles, open areas, etc.) and form a bond as Marion PD’s next successful K9 team. Officer Herrig and Kain are scheduled to graduate from the program and return to Marion in early December 2018.
The latest statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show that if you have a reported fire in your home, you are more likely to die today than you were a few decades ago. This startling statistic is behind this year’s Fire Prevention Week theme: “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware - fire can happen anywhere.” Fire Prevention Week was October 7-13, 2018.

Through three simple calls-to-action, this year’s theme identifies basic but essential ways people can reduce their risk to fire and be prepared in the event of one:

1 Look for places fire can start
2 Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm
3 Learn two ways out of each room

The Marion Fire Department keeps very busy during the month of October educating our youth on fire safety. Firefighters visited roughly 620 kindergarten students, 560 first graders and 621 third graders during Fire Prevention Week alone. In addition to the school-aged children, they hosted several events at the Marion Public Library and educated roughly 175 kids in fire safety. They also visited nine preschools or daycares during the month of October.

All of the third graders in Marion participate in a fire safety poster contest. The goal for students is to have fun drawing the posters while also learning a fire safety message. Congrats to all who participated.

The 2018 poster contest winners are listed at the right.

Marion Youth Coalition Promotes Positive Behaviors

For the last six months, a working group has come together ranging from school district representatives and city leaders to members of law enforcement and non-profit organizations. Representatives have shared ideas and developed working committees around Accountability/Community Initiatives, Student Programming/Activities, Parent/Community Education and a Marion Youth Center.

All Marion schools utilize the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model to encourage positive behavior in school. Students are accustomed to earning PBIS tickets that are redeemed at their respective schools for small incentives.

Accountability/Community Initiatives committee members plan to introduce this as a community-wide initiative, encouraging students to carry positive behaviors out into the community. The expectations are rooted in respect, responsibility, integrity and safety. Members of the business community will be contacted directly in the coming weeks.

The Student Programming/Activities subcommittee is working on a calendar of events specifically for middle and high school students in the Marion area. It will feature free and low-cost programs and activities. We hope to have this calendar available to view online, as well as posted in schools and at the Marion Public Library.

The Parent/Community Engagement Committee has been busy planning an event for both parents and other community members to learn about a variety of topics; including how to talk to students about trauma, social media, and the latest trends and signs of substance use. This is an event that we hope to host this spring and will provide more information as we have it.

The largest initiative to come forward is that of a Marion Youth Center; a safe place where students in grades 5-9 can gather with an opportunity to utilize and grow in their social and academic skills and personal well-being. The vision is to provide an enriched learning activity and resources; to help youth grow as responsible and respectful community members; and to promote active citizenship and lifelong curiosity. Look for more information to come as space options, potential grants and other funding sources are explored.
Energy Efficiency in Your Home

Are you tired of the high energy bills and want to save money and energy in your own home?

Saving energy reduces our nation’s demand for natural resources and the result is reduced utility bills and money in your pocket. If you are serious about saving energy, then maybe a professional energy audit is the way to go. A professional home energy audit determines how much energy your home uses and evaluates steps you can take to make your home more energy efficient.

There are many things you can do to improve your home’s energy efficiency without doing a professional audit. Weatherizing your home helps you save money by saving energy. Home weatherization could include sealing air leaks and adding insulation.

If on a windy day you can feel the air coming in, consider purchasing a smoke pen to identify air leaks. Use it next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches and other places where air may leak. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak. Once you have identified the air leaks, then proceed to fix them with caulking, weather-stripping, or the like.

After sealing any leaks, then you should be thinking about insulation. Insulation is essential for reducing heat flow through a home’s building envelope (the parts of the home that separate the interior from the outside elements, including the walls, roof, and foundation). How much insulation you ask? You should consult the ENERGY STAR recommended insulation levels for retrofitting existing wood-framed buildings to determine how much insulation you should consider adding to your home.

New Log-In Procedure for the Online Self-Service Portal

Marion Water Department’s Self Service Portal allows you to conveniently make online payments toward your City utility bill at any time, as well as view your account information and bills.

In August, some new features became available:

- You must create your own unique user name and password. (The former way of logging in with your account number and last name is no longer available)
- If you have multiple accounts with Marion Water Department, you can add each of them to your profile. You no longer need a separate sign-in for each account.
- You have the ability to change your user profile information at any time using the User Profile option on the portal.
- You will continue to have the ability to view your bills and account details, make payments, enroll in recurring payments and sign up for e-bills.
- This does NOT affect any services you’re already signed up for. All recurring credit card payments and e-Billing will continue without interruption.

If you haven’t already created your new user name and password, simply follow these steps to log on:

- Go to www.cityofmarion.org/departments/water/billing-options and click on “Pay my bill online”
- Click on CREATE USER PROFILE.
- Enter your full account number and last name and click on CONFIRM ACCOUNT.
- At the Activate Your Account screen,
  - Create your own username and password.
  - The password must be between 8 and 25 characters and must contain an uppercase letter and a symbol.
  - Enter your email address.
  - Enter your email address a second time next to Confirm Email.
  - Click REGISTER.

An email from noreply@cityofmarion.org will be sent to the email address you entered. Click on the link in that email to finish creating your new online sign-in profile.

If you encounter any issues with the new sign-in procedure, please call the Marion Water Department office at 319-743-6310 for assistance.

Help a Firefighter: Adopt a Hydrant

The Marion Water and Fire Departments are encouraging residents and community businesses to adopt their neighborhood fire hydrants.

The number of house fires typically increase during the winter. Significant snow accumulation and drifts can hide fire hydrants, making them impossible to find quickly. In the event of a fire, firefighters often have to locate and shovel out fire hydrants before being able to connect to them, losing precious time.

Residents and business owners are asked to keep fire hydrants closest to homes and businesses clear of snow. It is best to have a 3-foot clearance on all sides of the hydrant.

Always use caution when shoveling snow and be aware of vehicle traffic.

All this and more detailed information can be found at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs in energy efficiency and renewable energy, visit the DOE’s website at www.energy.gov/energysaver.
Marion’s Response to Emerald Ash Borer

Earlier this year, the highly destructive insect known as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Marion. EAB larvae feed on the inner trunk tissues of ash trees, ultimately disrupting the tree’s ability to transport water and nutrients causing decline and eventual death.

The City developed an EAB Response Plan in preparation for the pest’s arrival. The plan calls for removing low value trees or utilizing insecticide treatments on trees determined to be of high value by the Marion Tree Board and Urban Forestry staff. All non-significant public ash trees throughout the community will be scheduled for removal. Priority work will start with public trees in the immediate areas of EAB confirmation and additional work will extend to dead, declining or poor conditioned trees.

Currently, ash trees make up approximately 15 percent of Marion’s public tree canopy, however, the private population is estimated to be double that number. Home owners are responsible for ash trees on their private property and are encouraged to contact a certified professional tree service immediately to assist with a treatment or removal plan.

A tree replacement rate of 100 percent is the City’s long term goal and will require time and persistence as the threat of EAB spreads across the area. The response plan includes detailed records of removals, and with funding from the Urban Forest Utility and a large percentage of the removals to be completed in-house, the replacement cost should have little impact on the general fund.

Residents may contact the City Arborist with the Marion Parks and Recreation Department at (319) 447-3580 for additional information.

Historic Oak Shade Cemetery

Oak Shade Cemetery is among the oldest in Iowa. Marion, the county seat even before Iowa became a state, with its greater population, has dozens of grave markers engraved during the 1840s when the earliest settlers arrived this far west. Names like Oxley, Granger, Toogood, Bardwell and Lutz are etched upon many monuments of the nearly 8,000 former citizens buried here. Perhaps some are relatives of your own.

A complete list of these burials is available at the city website, www.cityofmarion.org/OakShade. Maps located at the entrances to the cemetery can guide you to the area of those graves and, if you need help in locating specific grave spaces, a call to the Parks and Recreation Department (319-447-3580) can put you in touch with a Friend of Oak Shade. If it is help with genealogy that you need – another helpful website you may want to visit is www.FindaGrave.com. In addition to family information contained at FindaGrave, you will find photographs of 95 percent of the Oak Shade graves that are listed there.

Finally, if you have an interest in history, in cemeteries or are just looking for a place to make a contribution to a rewarding project, consider attending our regular monthly meeting at 3 p.m. on the first Friday of every month. Meetings are held at the lower level Thomas Park Safe Room.

Snow and Ice Removal

Per City of Marion Ordinance 141.03 “Removal of Snow, Ice and Accumulations” property owners are required maintain their sidewalks and that snow and ice shall be cleared within 12 hours after the snow or ice has been deposited on the sidewalk.

The entire sidewalk along the property must be cleared, including any corners leading into the street. If the snow/ice is not removed by the date and time stated above, the City will clear the sidewalk. The resulting charges will be 85 cents per square foot, plus a $25 administrative fee.

If you have any questions, please contact the Parks Department at (319) 447-3580.

Butterfield Park Skate Park

The skate park at Butterfield Park is under construction, but the rainy weather earlier this fall did slow the process. Spohn Ranch plans on having the project completed prior to the snow flying. Watch for construction updates at www.cityofmarion.org. The skate park will officially open in the spring of 2019.

Lowe Park Development

The City of Marion is building an inclusive playground for children and families of all abilities and ages to use and enjoy. The first pieces of the playground have been installed and construction on the playground area and restrooms will continue over the winter months. The new amenities are scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2019. Remember this is a construction zone, and while it may be tempting to give the playground equipment a try, there is quite a bit of ground work and surfacing to be completed in the spring when the temperatures begin to warm up.
UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Please note the Dec. 14, 2018 registration deadline for the following programs:

**LITTLE STARS BASKETBALL**

**CHILDREN AGE 4**

Players meet for 5 classes to work on very basic ball handling, shooting, and passing skills. Parents participate with their child or children for this program as a way of introducing the drill and the game to their kids. Preregistration and payment are required by calling 319-447-3590.

**FEE:** $39.00*, includes camp shirt

**DAYS/DATES:** Saturdays, Feb. 2–Mar. 2

**TIME(S):** Times vary

**LOCATION:** Echo Hill Elementary School

**SHOOTING STARS BASKETBALL**

**CHILDREN GRADES K-1ST**

This instructional program works on the basic skills of dribbling, passing, and shooting. Players spend the first 2 meetings working on skills and practicing with their team and coach(es), then scrimmage the remaining 3 meetings. There are no additional practices. VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!

**FEE:** $39.00*, includes team shirt

**DAYS/DATES:** Saturdays, Feb. 2–Mar. 2

**TIME(S):** Times vary

**LOCATION:** Echo Hill and Bowman Woods Elementary Schools

*All basketball fees are impacted by a gym rental fee to use school gymnasiums and are included in the registration fee.

**INDOOR BLASTBALL CAMP**

**CHILDREN AGE 3**

Blastball helps prepare players for organized baseball/softball in a fun, non-competitive environment. Children will be introduced to the fundamentals of throwing, hitting, and fielding while fostering the values of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Limited number of spots available. VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!

**FEE:** $33.00, includes child’s team shirt

**DAYS/DATES:** Saturdays, Feb. 2–Mar. 2

**TIME(S):** Times vary

**LOCATION:** Bowman Woods Elementary

Please visit www.cityofmarion.org for a full listing of upcoming programs and events.

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**Baseball & Softball Diamond Reservations**

Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 8, baseball/softball diamond reservations will be taken at the Parks & Recreation Office at Lowe Park for 2019 field rentals. Fees must be paid at the time reservations are made. Marion Parks & Recreation has first priority of all fields and facilities and predetermines the time slots that are available for rental. Rentals are $15 for each 90 minute time slot.

**REMINd New Cancelation Notification**

A great feature for this new cancellation notification program you can sign up for all cancelations or pick the activity/sport your child is participating in at that time. You can go in to make changes at any time. On your iPhone or Android device open your browser and go to the link: rmd.at/k8gg468, follow the instructions. If you do not have a smartphone, get text notifications by texting @k8gg468 to 81010.

**Park & Rec Guide Coming Soon**

The 2019 Guide to All Things Parks and Recreation will be available in early January. This handy guide contains our programs, events, park information, pool and swimming lesson information and more. If you are a past participant and on our mailing list, you will receive in early January. You can call our department at 319-447-3590 to request placement on our mailing list.

If you are not on our mailing list, you will be able to pick up your copy at Lowe Park, Thomas Park, City Hall or the Marion Public Library in the middle of January.

**Create a Winter Arrangement Workshop**

**Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018 - 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Lowe Park Greenhouse**

Hosted by the Linn County Master Gardeners - Create a winter arrangement suitable for indoors or out, using fresh greens, dried materials, glittering trims and bows. Materials, including the container, will be provided. Class size is limited to 20. Materials fee: $20. Preregistration and payment are required by calling the Linn County Extension Office at (319) 377-9839 or visiting the office at 383 Collins Road N.E., Suite 201, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402.

**Coffeehouse Nights**

Don’t miss these upcoming Coffeehouse Nights at the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center hosted by the Marion Arts Council. The musical performances feature talented local acoustic artists in a relaxed coffeehouse type atmosphere. Admission is free and coffee, cocoa and pastries are available for purchase. Performances run from 7-8:30 p.m. and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 7 l Society of Broken Souls 
Friday, Feb. 1 l TBD

**The Gallery at Lowe**

The front portion of the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center features an inviting gallery for Marion Arts Council exhibits. Approximately every eight weeks a new exhibit is displayed in the gallery, featuring works by local and regional Iowa artists. This is a great opportunity for the residents of Marion and visitors to enjoy a variety of quality works of art. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month 1-3 p.m.

Now through January, enjoy the oil paintings of Leslie Montgomery Fox. From Feb. 2 to Mar. 2 enjoy the Mount Mercy University and Kirkwood Community College student exhibits.

**School Exhibits**

Nov. Starry Elementary
Dec. Linn Grove Elementary
Jan. Vernon Middle School
Feb. Indian Creek Elementary
Private Snow Plow Licensing Requirements
City ordinance requires that all private snow removal contractors need to obtain a snow removal permit for any work to within the city right of way. The cost for the permit is $25. Permit applications will be accepted now through Dec. 14, 2018. Applications may be obtained at the Public Services Department located at 195 35th Street between 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call the Public Services Department at 319-377-6367 with any questions.

Garbage Fee Exemption for Vacated Premises
You may be eligible for exemption from garbage fees if your residential dwelling is vacant for an extended period of time. The guidelines are:
- Must be a residential dwelling.
- Residential dwelling must first be vacant and unused for more than 180 days.
- Exemption begins after the 180 days. (Billing will continue during the first 180 days of vacancy. If vacancy continues after the 180 days, the exemption may then begin. No credit will be issued for any part of the first 180 days.)
- Application for exemption must be submitted to and approved by the Marion Public Services Board.

Applications are available online at cityofmarion.org or from the Marion Water Department or Public Services Department. For more information, please call Marion Public Services at 319-377-6367.
Story Time Schedule

When the weather outside may be frightful, head to the Marion Public Library for something absolutely delightful. If cabin fever is starting to set in, join in one of the regularly scheduled children’s story times or come for a special event.

**Toddler Time**  |  **Tuesdays & Fridays**  |  **10 a.m.**
18 months to 3 years – Each session is 20 minutes long and includes stories, music and activities.

**Preschool Story Time**  |  **Tuesdays & Wednesdays**  |  **10:45 a.m.**
3 years to 5 years – Each session is 30 minutes long and includes stories, music and activities.

**Baby Time**  |  **Thursdays**  |  **10:30 a.m.**
Birth to 18 months – Each session is 15 minutes of books, music, bounces and rhymes followed by 15 minutes of play.

**Family Time**  |  **Mondays**  |  **6:30 p.m.**
All ages welcome – Start your week off right by coming to Family Time! Each week will feature a different activity appropriate for all ages. We’ll have crafts, movies, games and seasonal fun to get the whole family geared up for the week.

Upcoming Children’s Programs

**Pied Piper Concert**  |  **Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019**  |  **10:30-11 a.m.**
Join Orchestra Iowa’s talented chamber ensembles as they introduce preschool-age children to the instruments of the orchestra. Focused on fun and learning, Pied Piper Concerts offer the opportunity to enjoy an up-close and personal chamber concert for FREE. This concert will run for half an hour. Advance registration is encouraged, but same day attendance is possible. Contact the Orchestra Iowa School at 319-366-8206.

**Ukulele Jam Session**  |  **Third Sunday of each month**  |  **3-4 p.m.**
Open to beginners, as well as more experienced players. We do ask that you have a bit of experience, as this program will be more of a jam session than a lesson. There are instruments to use but we encourage those who have their own ukulele to bring it along. All ages are welcome but children under 10 will need to have an adult present.

MESSAGE FROM THE Marion Public Library Director

Coming into my role as Marion Public Library’s 12th director, I’ve been impressed daily by the warmth of our staff and the vibrancy of the programs we’re able to offer to all of those in our community. I’m pleased to highlight a few of our recent accomplishments for you.

On Sept. 1, we became the first ‘No Hit Zone’ in Linn County. Our Children’s Services Coordinator, Olivia Stoner, was contacted by Katie Burrell, who serves as a board member for the Iowa Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (IASAC) about Marion Public Library serving as the pilot site for the No Hit Zone initiative. They partnered together to implement this groundbreaking program, which creates a culture of safety and health.

We have also recently been selected as one of 100 libraries nationwide to take part in the Great Stories Club, a reading and discussion program for underserved teens. This competitive grant is offered by the American Library Association (ALA) with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Marion Public Library staff will be working with teens at our local Four Oaks location to read and discuss stories which explore empathy and heroism.

Finally, one of our own, Dawn Cline, was honored by the Iowa Library Association with the inaugural Distinguished Career award on Oct. 4. Examples of some of Dawn’s accomplishments include: partnering with the Friends of the Library to provide books to home-bound patrons, getting library cards added to school supply lists and developing Encore Café through partnership with City leaders, the Heritage Agency on Aging and the Marion Parks and Recreation Department. We are proud that Dawn has been recognized for her invaluable contributions.

None of the above could have been accomplished without community support and partnerships. Recognizing this, I continue to be driven by my passion for service and connection to make an impact on library services here in Marion.
Looking for a reason to stop by the friendliest library in the world? Here are a few:

**ENCORE CAFE**  |  Mondays & Fridays  |  Noon-1 p.m.
This new and innovative cafe’ features a menu with dishes ranging from turkey and mashed potatoes to pasta and tacos. You are bound to find something to satisfy your taste buds! Programming will be included following lunch (e.g., chronic disease self-management workshops, Tai Chi, stepping on, water aerobics, nutrition counseling, games, socialization and much more). Encore Cafe’ is your one-stop shop for nutrition, health education, and socialization time with friends!
- Suggested fee for lunch is $5 for those age 60+ and $8 for those up to age 59. Please register at least one day in advance for lunches you want to attend: call the library or visit marionpubliclibrary.org/Encore. You can see menus here, too.
- In addition to the library’s Cafe’ on Mondays and Fridays, lunch is served at Lowe Park on Wednesdays and Thursdays, along with a full salad bar; Lowe Park also provides programming. Special thanks to the Heritage Agency on Aging and Hy-Vee.

**MONDAY MORNINGS AT THE LIBRARY**

**CARD SHARKS**  |  Second Monday of the month  |  10:30-11:30 a.m.
Canasta, Rummy, 10s, Bridge, Hearts, War … anything is fair game at our monthly card club! Come for some friendly competition and socializing. Refreshments provided.

**MOVIE MONDAYS**  |  Our movies are the 3rd Monday of the month  |  10 a.m. - noon
Open to all ages. On Dec. 17, join us for a special showing of A Christmas Story.

**CRAFT CONNECTION**  |  Fourth Monday of the month  |  10:30-11:30 a.m.
Chat, craft, and connect – stop by our new monthly craft morning! Bring a project to work on or try the craft of the month.

**REGULAR MONTHLY PROGRAMS**

**NOVELS@NOON**  |  First Wednesday of the month  |  noon-1 p.m.
Get the inside scoop on popular titles from Adult Services Coordinator Madeline Jarvis! Feel free to bring book recommendations to share.

**HACAP MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**  |  First Wednesday of the month  |  4-5 p.m.
HACAP will distribute items via their mobile food pantry in the Katz parking lot across the street if the weather’s nice, in Meeting Room B if it’s inclement. Income eligibility guidelines apply.

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**Sentimental Singalong: The Holiday Season**
**Monday, Dec. 3  |  10-11 a.m.**
This new program will include familiar melodies that have been sung by generations of Americans. Each video follows a specific theme such as love, patriotism and travel.

**Ding-A-Ling Concert**
**Monday, Dec. 10  |  1:15-2 p.m.**
Enjoy a selection of holiday favorites from the Ding-A-Lings, Garnett Place’s bell choir. All are welcome to this festive celebration, sponsored by the Friends of the Marion Library.

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**TEEN PROGRAMS**

Looking for teen-specific activities? Then, you’ll want to check out the following programs:

**Teen Game Days**
**Every Tuesday and Thursday  |  3-5 p.m.**
Gear up for some friendly competition! We’ve got Fortnite and Mario Kart for Nintendo Switch and Minecraft for Xbox, plus awesome board games like Exploding Kittens, Splendor and more. Want to play Dungeons and Dragons (5th edition)? We have materials for you to run your own game.

**Youth Advocating Kindness (YAK)**
**Every Friday  |  3:30-4:30 p.m.**
Come to listen, snack or share what’s on your mind in this no pressure, judgment-free zone. Open to all middle and high schoolers.

**High School Hangout**
**1st Wednesday of every month  |  3:30-5 p.m.**
Calling all 9th-12th graders! Come hang out at the library in a space reserved just for you. Food? Likely. Fun? Definitely. Please note that this program is for high schoolers only.

**Cooking Club for Teens**
**3rd Wednesday of every month  |  3:30-5 p.m.**
Do you like experimenting with food? Are you hungry for ideas to improve your meals? Do you just like to eat? Register for our Teen Cooking Club! Open to middle and high schoolers only. Visit: marionpubliclibrary.org/calendar/cooking-club-teens to register.

**STEAM Mondays**
**4th Monday of every month  |  3:30-5 p.m.**
Once per month, we’ll have a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Art or Math-related activity just for teens. This is a drop-in program: come when you can and leave when you want!

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**Holiday Hours at the Library:**
**Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25: Library closed for Christmas Holiday.**
**Monday, Dec. 31: Library closed at 2 p.m. for New Year’s Eve. Tuesday, Jan. 1: Library closed for New Year’s Day.**
Community Calendar

December
- 7 Christmas in the Park & Peppermint Walk | 4-8 p.m., Uptown Marion
- 7 Coffeehouse Night | 7-8:30 p.m. | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center
- 24/25 Christmas Holiday | City Offices Closed
- 31 New Year’s Eve | City Offices Closed

January
- 1 New Year’s Day | City Offices Closed
- 31 State of the City Luncheon | 11:30 a.m. | Cedar Rapids Marriott

February
- 1 Coffeehouse Night | 7-8:30 p.m. | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center

Take Advantage of these Winter Amenities

Thomas Park Ice Rink | Dust off the skates, it’s almost time for ice skating! As soon as the weather allows, the Parks and Recreation staff will get the ice rink flooded for your use. Watch for details on our website for the opening date. Lights will be on daily from dusk to 10 p.m.

Cross Country Skiing | Once the snow flies and settles into a desirable depth, a groomed cross country trial will be developed at Lowe Park. Staff will create the trail along our existing walking trails as well as a few other sweeps around the park.

Trails Maintained Year-Round | Winter, spring, summer and fall…. did you know that Marion Parks and Recreation maintains the city’s trail system year-round? Pet owners, please be courteous and pick up after your pets while enjoying Marion’s parks and trails.