MARION MESSANGER
Spring 2019

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Marion Among Best Small Cities in America page 2
On January 31, I was honored to deliver my fourth State of the City address before a sold-out audience of more than 550 people. The theme of this year’s presentation was IMPACT. It’s no secret that Marion is growing. But what is most important is how Marion is growing. More than ever before, Marion is in the driver’s seat. We are taking a smarter, more deliberate approach; identifying the right opportunities, asking developers for their best and incenting development that benefits our town. The result is not growth for its own sake; but thoughtful, meaningful growth that adds value for residents and impacts their lives in positive ways.

By reaching higher, bettering how we do things and sharpening our focus on serving people and giving them better opportunities, we’re impacting lives in positive ways and fulfilling our goal of giving residents an unequalled quality of life.

What gives me the greatest hope is the manner in which we are thinking more deeply about what it means to be a community. Beyond new buildings and amenities, beyond performance stages, artways and art trails, and beyond balanced budgets and capital projects, our most remarkable and most profound impact is found in our increased efforts to build a caring, compassionate and inclusive community of people who are reaching even higher to take care of one another and make Marion a great place to live not just for some people, but for ALL PEOPLE.

Examples of this are found in the Encore Café which has served more than 5,100 meals to older adults since May; in the task forces established to address issues of homelessness, housing and food insecurity; and in the nearly 30 organizations coming together to form the Marion Youth Coalition. And more and more amazing citizen volunteers are stepping forward each day to say, “I want to help; I want to give back; I want to make an impact.”

Our community is energized for good and we have so many reasons to be proud and optimistic about Marion today and in the future. I believe sincerely in the power of optimism, positive energy and being a force for “good.” That power is in each of us, and when that power pervades an entire community, it becomes unstoppable. Let’s keep reaching higher together!

A video of the entire State of the City presentation and the corresponding Annual Report are available at www.cityofmarion.org.

Urbanization might be the trend for much of the population, but not everyone craves the bright lights and crowded spaces of big cities. For those who appreciate more wiggle room, fewer degrees of separation and shorter commutes, small-city life can be tough to beat.

Marion recently landed in the top 10 percent of Best Small Cities in America according to WalletHub and landed in the number four spot among all communities for lowest housing costs.

To determine the best small cities, WalletHub’s analysts compared more than 1,200 U.S. cities with populations between 25,000 and 100,000 based on 40 key indicators of livability. They range from housing costs to school-system quality to restaurants per capita.

Only four other Iowa communities, Ankeny, Cedar Falls, Urbandale and Bettendorf, ranked in the top 10 percent.

City Seeks Applicants for Boards and Commissions

Do you want to provide input on City policies and help shape both our city and its government? Apply to be one of 100+ volunteers that serve on Marion boards or commissions.

Marion residents interested in being considered for a position may pick up an application at Marion City Hall, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or download an application at www.cityofmarion.org.

There are currently openings on the following boards/commissions:

- Historic Preservation Commission
- Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Oversight Committee
- Tree Board
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

Upon review of applications, Mayor AbouAssaly will recommend appointees to City Council for approval. For more information, call (319) 743-6301.

Learn more about the openings and roles/responsibilities associated with each board at www.cityofmarion.org/boards-commissions.
Be part of Marion’s new Independence Day fireworks celebration; an idea that surfaced through the ImagiNEXT community visioning process.

On Wednesday, July 3, Marion will host an Independence Day fireworks display called Fireworks & Fireflies. This free event will take place on the eve of the holiday at the beautiful Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park.

Enjoy live music by The Bamboozlers before the fireworks show. Family-friendly activities, including patriotic face painting, a balloon artist and life-size games will be located throughout the park. The fun begins at 6 p.m. leading up to the fireworks at dusk.

Attendees will be able to bring their own lawn chairs, blankets, beverages (including alcoholic beverages) and food. Food will also be available for purchase through local food trucks. Attendees are asked to leave sparklers, fireworks, and other flammable items at home. Please, no dogs or other pets.

Event organizers are pleased to welcome Hanna Plumbing & Heating as presenting sponsor of the event. A number of additional sponsorship opportunities are currently available. Learn more at www.cityofmarion.org/fireworks.

Marion Gets Online Marketplace for Local Shopping

Online shopping, especially from mega marketplace websites, has become so convenient that local customers are often buying online when they could get the same or similar items in our own community. Marion businesses are coming together to capture some of the online sales that are going elsewhere by making it convenient to shop local, online.

The Marion Chamber has partnered with Member Marketplace Inc., to introduce Shop Where I Live, a one-stop-shop for the Marion community to find, shop and buy from local businesses. Even discover some you didn’t know were located right here in Marion.

Shop Where I Live promotes both product and service-based businesses, with secure e-commerce functionality for shoppers to purchase products from multiple businesses at once. Shoppers can also send messages directly to businesses to learn more about individual products before purchasing. As an added convenience, there are options for in-store pickup, shipping and even local delivery.

To visit the Marion Shop Where I Live website go to http://marion.shopwhereilive.com.

Uptown Marion Market Applications Now Open

Applications are currently open for vendors interested in participating in the 2019 Uptown Marion Markets.

The markets celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of area vendors and provide a fun, festival-like atmosphere where the community can enjoy locally sourced goods, entertainment and community programming. Items for sale by a vendor MUST be grown, baked or crafted by the vendor in his/her garden, farm, home or plant. No resale or consignment of other products is allowed.

Market dates are June 8, July 13, Aug. 10 from 8 a.m.-noon and Sept. 28 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Full details and application information available at www.marioncc.org/vendor-information.

Provide Input on Future Events and Activities

The City of Marion wants to create new events and entertainment for you and your family to enjoy. We’re excited to provide opportunities for community members to get together and experience the many beautiful public spaces in our city. As we start this new initiative, we’d love to hear your feedback. What types of events would you like to attend? What is most important to you when you are deciding whether to participate in an event? Visit www.cityofmarion.org/about-us/public-survey to share your input. You may also e-mail events@cityofmarion.org to get the link to the survey. We look forward to hearing your suggestions, and we hope to see you out and about!
Health Service Provider Class Offers Big Opportunity

Students at Marion High School now have the unique opportunity to seek certification towards a career in the healthcare field. This class is unique in that all sessions are held at their school. Upon successful completion of this class, students receive a Health Service Provider certificate (HSP). Students spend three semesters learning in the classroom and during the last semester are placed in a work experience to round out the certification. Each session focuses on learning new skills such as medical terminology, patient bathing and bed linen changing.

Kirkwood Community College was interested in piloting this course at an area high school and the Marion Independent School District was all ears. “Students that may not have pursued any level of college beyond high school can now do it during school hours and receive dual enrollment credits,” said Chad Zrudsky, associate high school principal. Zrudsky also added that this class appeals to students interested in getting their feet wet in healthcare and earning college credit at the same time. A certified college-level instructor teaches the class while a multi-occupational career teacher can award high school level credit.

Much of what students learn throughout this class also prepares them to take the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) exam. Zrudsky said that during the last school year five of the nine students in the class elected to take the CNA exam and all of them passed. Of those nine students, one of them is working at a nursing home and attending Kirkwood Community College. College was not part of the plan for this student prior to taking the HSP class in high school, but now this individual is working in a high-demand career with a bright future.

During the spring semester, Marion High School will introduce its first-ever welding course that will also be dual enrollment.

“No we know these careers are in high demand and we want to give students the necessary tools to equip them to be career ready. We are excited about the success we’ve experienced so far,” said Zrudsky.

New Marion YMCA One Step Closer To Becoming Reality

On Thursday, Feb. 7, the Marion City Council approved an extra $800,000 contribution to their existing $6.5 million capital campaign pledge for a new YMCA community recreation center. This additional commitment has allowed the project to officially move forward this winter.

A community recreation center was one of the top ideas suggested during the Imagine8 community visioning process, and the existing Marion YMCA facility is aging and, in many ways, functionally obsolete. Rather than build two separate facilities, a partnership is the most cost-effective option for Marion residents.

The nearly 75,000 square-foot facility will not only offer YMCA programs to Marion residents and surrounding areas, but will also provide space for Marion Parks and Recreation’s indoor programs. This joint partnership will enhance and increase program offerings for all residents.

The facility itself will include three full-size high school basketball courts, three multipurpose rooms for exercise, an indoor walking track, two racquetball courts, 7,000 square-feet of fitness space and two pools, one for recreation and one six-lane lap pool.

A ceremonial groundbreaking will take place early this spring, once site work is completed. A grand opening is anticipated in the spring of 2020.

“We’re almost there! Visit www.NewMarionYMCA.org for more information, including a fly-through video of the proposed facility.
Military Tribute Banners to Adorn Streetlights

The City of Marion, Marion Chamber of Commerce and Uptown Marion Main Street District will again invite residents and local businesses to honor a veteran or active duty service member with a military tribute banner on city streetlights.

The banners will go up around Memorial Day and remain up through Veterans Day. In addition to covering the cost of the banner, a portion of the sponsorship will be donated to local veteran affairs programs.

To be notified when 2019 banner sponsorship opportunities become available, visit http://tinyurl.com/marionmilitarybanners. Requests will be filled on a first come, first served basis or until availability runs out.

Grant Wood Trail Ribbon Cutting

On Dec. 12, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place to mark the completion of the Grant Wood Trail from 31st Street to Highway 13 by the City of Marion. Linn County Conservation was also recognized for continuation of the trail from Highway 13 to Waldo’s Rock Park and extending to Oxley Road.

Linn County will continue the Grant Wood Trail to the eastern County limits and the City of Marion will continue to plan, design, and fund the remaining portions to the western City limits. Further west, the City of Cedar Rapids has funds to continue the Grant Wood Trail and connect it with the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

School Zone Safety

It is state law to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. This includes stopping as required for crossing guards and for flashing beacons. Speed limits are clearly marked in school zones, but what exactly do the words “When Children Are Present” mean?

Drivers should reduce their speed in these zones – year-round – in the following situations:

• When children are in the school zone crosswalk.
• When children are waiting at the curb to cross the roadway on the crosswalk.
• When children are walking on the sidewalk or shoulder of the road in a school zone.
CITY SERVICES

Building Permit Q&A

Do I need a permit to put up a shed in my backyard?

Most likely, the answer is YES! A building permit is required when a detached structure (garage, tool sheds, storage sheds and playhouses) is over 120 square feet or more than one story. Regardless of the size, the structure must still be built according to current codes and zoning guidelines. Even with a pre-built shed, if the total footprint is over 120 square feet, you will need to get a building permit.

One major factor to consider is where you want to place the shed on your property. There are planning and zoning guidelines that need to be considered. Do you have any easements on your property? These structures may not be placed in any utility or drainage easements. How close to the property line or other structures would the shed be placed?

A shed will need fire protection if within 5 feet of the property line or 3 feet from your home or detached garage.

A more detailed outline of these requirements can be found at www.cityofmarion.org under Building Services > Building Permit Information > Detached Buildings, or by giving the Building Department a call at 319-743-6330. For questions about easements or setbacks on your property, check in with the Planning and Development Department at 319-743-6320.

Hogan-Hansen Releases Audit Report for FY 2018

Hogan-Hansen, A Professional Corporation, recently released an audit report on the City of Marion, Iowa.

The City’s revenue totaled $49,965,941 for the year ended June 30, 2018, a 2.4 percent increase from the prior year. The revenue included $24,405,808 in property tax and tax increment financing; $4,889,335 in local option sales tax; $5,240,546 in other City tax and special assessments; $9,976,412 from charges for service; $918,334 from operating grants and contributions; $3,067,608 from capital grants and contributions; $1,271,346 from unrestricted investment earnings; $88,967 from other general revenue; and a $107,586 gain on disposal of capital assets.

Expenses for City operations for the year ended June 30, 2018 totaled $42,488,592, a 0.75 percent increase from the prior year. Expenses included $13,764,133 for public safety, $9,631,959 for public works and $4,748,520 for culture and recreation. Also, expenses for business-type activities totaled $8,629,740.

It is the opinion of the auditing firm that the City of Marion’s financial statements as of June 30, 2018 fairly present the financial position and cash flows of the City and were conducted in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

A copy of the audit report is available for review in the office of the Auditor of State, the City Clerk’s office and at www.cityofmarion.org.

2019 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Pick Up Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>May 27, 2019 – Monday One day late all week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>July 4, 2019 – Thursday One day late Thursday-Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Sept. 2, 2019 – Monday One day late all week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Nov. 28 – Thursday Pickup on Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day After Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Nov. 29 – Friday Pickup on Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Dec. 25 – Wednesday One day late Wednesday-Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>Jan. 1 – Wednesday One day late Wednesday-Friday</td>
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2019 Water Department Construction Projects

The Marion Water Department has multiple capital improvement projects planned for 2019. Water main relay project locations are listed below:

**LOCATION AND ESTIMATED COST**

- **10th Avenue from 17th – 24th Street**
  - $175,000 – Contractor
- **22nd Street from 8th – 10th Avenue**
  - $125,000 – Contractor
- **14th Street from 17th – Brockman Avenue**
  - $100,000 - Contractor
- **24th Street from 10th – 12th Avenue**
  - $100,000 – Marion Water Department Staff

Other capital improvement projects include maintenance of Well #6 at Gill Park and begin design work on an iron removal system at Site #5 for Well #8. In addition, the Water Department intends to complete the water meter change out to radio read units within the entire city and water valve exercising and valve replacements. To learn more, contact Todd Steigerwaldt, general manager at 319-743-6311.

Water Rate Increase Anticipated in Summer 2019

The Marion Water Department’s Board of Trustees will be considering a future water rate increase at their upcoming public meetings. The water rate increase is needed in part to pay down the department’s $1.9 million SRF loan from 2010 for Well #7 and to fund the capital improvement projects referenced above.

**Pay Your Bill Online**

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

**Sign up for eBill**

Go to: www.cityofmarion.org/departments/water/billing-options

**MARION MESSENGER**

The Marion Messenger is published quarterly for the residents of Marion, Iowa, to keep them informed of city policies, new developments and community events. If you have comments or suggestions concerning this or future issues, please contact:

Amber Bisinger, Editor
Marion City Hall  |  abisinger@cityofmarion.org

**Hydrant Flushing**

Planned for March/April

It may not feel like it, but warmer weather is around the corner. Each spring, the Marion Water Department flushes the water system to remove sediment from the mains and check the operation of the City’s fire hydrants. Flushing typically begins sometime during March or April. During this time, Marion residents may notice some temporary discoloration of the water and should postpone laundry until it clears. Also minimize the use of hot water to prevent buildup within the water heater. The rusty color in the water is due to the accumulation of iron sediment in the water mains and is not harmful. Questions may be directed to the Water Department at 319-743-6310.
Winter’s end brings hope for brighter days and warmer temperatures.

It is a sign to bust open your windows — and get out your cleaning supplies. Springtime is in the air. A good, deep spring clean-up will help to keep your home clean and organized. It will help to carry the fresh-start feeling brought on by a new year well into the summer. The Marion Fire Department wants everyone to be as safe as possible while cleaning. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when spring cleaning.

1. Keep exits clear of clutter including hallways, stairs, and the front door.
2. Keep a 3-foot clearance around gas appliances such as your furnace, water heater, stove, etc. Keep it clear of anything that can catch on fire if it malfunctions.
3. Keep a 3-foot clearance around the electrical fuse box. Keep it clear so you can get to the panel if you need to shut the power off in an emergency.
4. Get rid of items that are no longer needed. Storing unneeded items just creates extra fuel load that helps a fire spread quickly.
5. Store all flammable gases and liquids outside the house and garage. The best place for items like gasoline or LP gas cylinders is in a shed located a safe distance from the house.
6. Old paint and cleaners can be taken to the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency located at 1954 County Home Road. Disposal of these items is free if you live in Linn County. Call 377-5290 for details and questions.
7. Do not store anything that can burn on or near the stove. The stove can accidentally get turned on and start a fire.
8. Clean out your bathroom ventilation fans. Over time the fans get clogged up with dust which can cause the fan to seize up and overheat.
9. Fix all exposed or damaged electrical wires, broken outlets or switches. Use a qualified electrician.
10. Test all smoke alarms by pressing the test button.
11. Replace smoke alarm batteries once a year.
12. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
13. Some smoke alarms have batteries that last 10 years. If the smoke alarm is over 10 years old, replace it with a new alarm and a new battery.
14. Consider setting an alert on your cell phone to remind you to test your smoke alarms monthly and to change the batteries annually.
MPD Announces Two Promotions

**PHIL FORT** was recently promoted to police lieutenant for the Marion Police Department. Lt. Fort began his career with the Marion Police Department in 1996. He was the very first K9 handler for Marion and was partnered with K9 Yuri for 12 years. Lt. Fort was recently selected to attend the prestigious Southern Police Institute Command School at the University of Louisville. Upon completion of this leadership school, one of the most respected programs in the United States, Fort will be assigned as the patrol commander for the overnight shift.

**CORY BERNING** was recently promoted to police sergeant with the Marion Police Department. Sgt. Berning began his career with the Marion Police Department in 1996. He has served as a patrol officer, evidence officer, arson investigator and detective. Police Chief Joseph McHale noted, "His calm and straightforward leadership style, coupled with his vast experience in progressing criminal investigations, will be an asset to the Marion Police Department for a very long time."
Marion Weekly Farmers’ Market

The Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting lease applications for the 2019 Marion Farmers’ Market. The market is located at Taube Park on Saturdays, May 4 through Sept. 28 from 8-11:30 a.m. each week. Please call the office at 319-447-3590 for availability, rental rates and any other questions.

Help Wanted!

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department is currently hiring seasonal employees. Are you or someone you know interested in being a lifeguard or swim lesson instructor at the Marion Municipal Swimming Pool this summer? Lifeguards must be at least 15 years of age and lifeguard certified prior to May 27.

The department is also accepting applications for parks maintenance staff. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Applications are due by March 1 at Thomas Park. Applications are available at www.cityofmarion.org/employment.

Keep Sidewalks Clear of Snow and Ice

Per City ordinance, property owners are required to maintain their sidewalks and clear snow and ice within 12 hours of the snow or ice being 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. Questions may be directed to the Parks and Recreation Department at 319-447-3580.

Graduation Parties (May–June Reservations)

To accommodate more families and rentals for graduation parties during May and June at Lowe Park, we limit rentals for graduation parties to one time period per renter. The hours available to rent are 9 a.m.–3 p.m. or 4:30–10:30 p.m. All rental facilities may be reserved up to 364 days in advance. Alcohol is not permitted at any high school graduation party rental. For questions regarding availability, please contact the Parks and Recreation Office at Lowe Park at 319-447-3590.

Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery

While a pleasant place for a walk or to visit family graves, Oak Shade Cemetery can be dangerous as a short cut. This is especially true after the 8:30 p.m. closing time. Recently, three drivers have left the cemetery roadway and entered an area containing heavy grave markers. Fortunately, only one monument received some minor damage but the grounds required significant repair. Last year, someone drove a vehicle beyond the end of 7th Street and only came to a stop after hitting two gravestones and smashing two concrete flower urns. Three stones, all buried a foot in the ground, were also moved from their places.

In short, the cemetery is not meant to be used as a shortcut.

During 2018, Friends of Oak Shade repaired, restored and cleaned over 125 grave markers. If you would like to volunteer, a number of opportunities are available. The monthly meeting of the Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery takes place in the Safe Room at Thomas Park on the first Friday of each month beginning at 3 p.m.

Upcoming 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.

Sarah Cram Driscoll & Nicole Upchurch
Friday, Mar. 1

Come share an intimate experience with these talented singer/songwriters as they perform sweet harmonies and blend modern folk, old country and Americana influences.

The Bones People
Friday, Apr. 5

Come be enthralled by Debra Marquart, Peter Manesis and Anthony Stevens as they fuse elements of rock, jazz and rhythm & blues with poetry and storytelling.
KIDS IN THE KITCHEN COOKING CLUB
Children ages 3–5
Come ready to bake, cook, and have a great time with other kids. Children will create delicious snacks, treats, or meals to eat and/or take home with them. Parents are encouraged to participate with their child. Bring your appetite! Limit 15 participants.

DATES/TIME:
- Wednesday, Feb. 20: 10-11 a.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 20: 6-7 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 12: 10-11 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 12: 6-7 p.m.

LOCATION: Lowe

REGISTRATION FEE: $10 per class
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 1 week prior to class
NOTES: A new recipe will be offered each month.

CREATIVE KIDS CRAFT CLUB
Children ages 3–5
Come join and socialize with other kids as we create different seasonal, holiday, and general arts and crafts projects each date. Parents are encouraged to participate with their child. Some classes will have multiple crafts depending on the complexity of the project. This program is supported by the Marion Arts Council. Limit 15 participants.

DATES/TIME:
- Thursday, March 14: 10-11 a.m.
- Thursday, March 14: 6-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 17: 10-11 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 17: 6-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 8: 10-11 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 8: 6-7 p.m.

REGISTRATION FEE: $10 per class
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 1 week prior to class
NOTES: A new seasonal or holiday craft will be offered each month.

TINY GOAL KICKERS SOCCER
Children ages 4–6
An instructional league designed to develop and introduce basic soccer skills, rules, and other concepts. Players are randomly assigned to teams in this non-competitive, 7-week CO-ED league. The first 2 nights are treated as group practices and the remaining 5 nights will be games played in a 3v3 or 4v4 format on a small, scaled down soccer field.

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!

DAYS DATES TIMES LOCATION
- Thursdays: 4/4-5/16: 5:30-6:15 p.m. Butterfield
- Thursdays: 4/4-5/16: 6:30-7:15 p.m.

REGISTRATION FEE: $33 per child, includes team shirt (+$10 after deadline)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2019
NOTES: This is an introductory skills league, likely no games played.

KICK STAR SOCCER
Children age 3
This 4-week program introduces players to the basics of organized soccer in a fun, non-competitive environment. A variety of soccer skills are introduced using drills, games, and activities. These fundamentals include: kicking, dribbling, passing, tapping, throw-ins, running, and agility. VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!

REGISTRATION FEE: $33 per child, includes team shirt (+$10 after deadline)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2019
NOTES: This is an introductory skills league, likely no games played.
MARION GIRLS SOFTBALL-PEG PIERCE
Girls Grades 3rd–9th (Fall 2019/20)
Recreational softball league with an emphasis on developing skills and learning basic fundamentals of softball. Teams are divided into divisions based on their grade (2nd/3rd, 4th/5th, 6th-8th). Games played at Peg Pierce Softball Complex. VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED! Visit www.mariongirlssoftball.org to learn more.

MARION BOYS BASEBALL
Children ages 8–18* (BY APRIL 1, 2019)
Boys age 5-8* (BY JUNE 1, 2019)
This program is an instructional league which focuses on the development of baseball skills such as hitting, throwing, fielding and learning the rules of baseball. Players have the option of hitting off the tee or having a coach pitch to them. Teams will practice 1-2 times a week. VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED! *8-year-olds may choose between the PeeWee League (coach-pitch) and the Marion Boys Baseball’s Pony League (player pitch).
REGISTRATION FEE: $33 per child, includes team shirt (+$10 after deadline)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 12, 2019
NOTES: Practices begin the week of May 20. Games begin the week of June 10 (Mondays AND Wednesdays).
Games and practice times/days/locations will vary by team.

GLRILLS PEWEEE BASEBALL
Girls grades K-2 (FALL 2019/20)
Players are introduced to the basic rules and skills of softball. Players will work on understanding the fundamentals and developing skills such as hitting, throwing and fielding. Teams will practice 1-2 times a week. VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!
REGISTRATION FEE: $33 per child, includes team shirt (+$10 after deadline)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 12, 2019
NOTES: Practices begin the week of May 20.
Games begin the week of June 10 (Tuesdays AND Thursdays).
Games and practice times/days/locations will vary by team.

LITTLE SLUGGERS BLASTBALL
Children ages 3 & 4
Blastball is a fast-paced game that teaches the very basic skills involved with t-ball. Players work on throwing, hitting, fielding, teamwork and sportsmanship. This program does NOT have practices. VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!
REGISTRATION FEE: $33 per child, includes team shirt (+$10 after deadline)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 12, 2019
NOTES: Teams are co-ed (boys & girls).
PM classes rotate weekly with games at 5:30-6:15 p.m. or 6:30-7:15 p.m.

MLB PITCH, HIT, & RUN COMPETITION
Monday, May 6 | 5-7 p.m.
Children ages 7-14
Major League Baseball’s Pitch Hit & Run (PHR) is a FREE, 1-day event for boys and girls ages 7-14, PHR is the official skills competition of Major League Baseball. Participants compete in either the Baseball Division or Softball Division and have the opportunity to advance through four levels of competition including Locals, Sectionals, Team Championships and the National Finals at the MLB All-Star Game.
LOCATION: Lowe Park
REGISTRATION FEE: FREE, but must register by the deadline
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 12, 2019
NOTES: Qualifiers will advance to Sectional competition date and location are TBD.

LITTLE SPORTS CAMP
Children ages 3–5
Increase your child’s coordination and motor skills while sparking their interest in sports in a comfortable social atmosphere! Activities introduced during this program may include t-ball, soccer, football, kickball, basketball, or golf. Limited number of spots available. Please look at our website or brochure for dates and times.
REGISTRATION FEE: $33 per child, includes camp shirt (+$10 after deadline)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 12, 2019
NOTES: Camp may meet 1 time at Thomas Park for a basketball unit.

EGGSTRAORDINARY EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 13
Children ages 3–8
This event is always a hit with the kids and parents! Join other fellow egg hunters for a night your child won’t soon forget. Children will first create their own Easter craft(s), then they’re off in search of the mysterious glowing eggs. Who knows, there may even be an Easter Bunny sight- ing. The egg hunt will be outside, weather permitting. Please dress accordingly. Limited number of spots available.
REGISTRATION FEE: $12 per child
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 15, 2019
NOTES: Participants should dress appropriately to hunt outside.
B-I-N-G-O NIGHTS AT LOWE PARK

Open to All Ages
Join us at the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center for nights of fun, socializing, and a chance to win some cash! Games of BINGO will be played for $0.25 per card, per game. Cash prizes are paid to the winner of each game. There will also be a few bonus games with increased payouts. The night will conclude with a winner-take-all game of blackout. Participants are welcome to bring food and drinks to enjoy while they play. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Seats and cards are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis.

DAYS/DATES: Friday, March 8, Friday, April 12, Friday, May 3
TIME(S): 6:30–8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center

New! POUND® IN THE PARK

Open to All Ages
POUND® is one of the hottest and most effective exercise classes out there. Best of all, it is being offered for FREE! What do you have to lose? With plenty of class options, you won’t have a reason to not come give it a try!

Designed for all fitness levels, POUND provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin’ out! The workout is easily modifiable and the alternative vibe and welcoming philosophy appeal to men and women of all ages and abilities.

For a fun twist, join us for the special POUND in the Park After Dark dates with disco and DJ style lights. You’ll really feel like a rockstar during your workout.

POUND In the Park (indoor)
Wed. March 20, April 17, May 15 6-7 p.m.

POUND After Dark (indoor)
Fri. March 22 6-7 p.m.

POUND In the Park (outdoor)
Thur. June 6, 13, 20, July 11, 18, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22 6-7 p.m.

POUND After Dark (outdoor)
Fri. June 28, July 26, Aug. 30 8-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center
REGISTRATION FEE: FREE (free-will offering for instructors is appreciated)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: No registration required
NOTES: Ripstix are provided for the classes. Participants should bring water and a towel.
In the event of inclement weather, the outdoor class will be canceled.

New! NAME THAT TUNE MUSIC TRIVIA

Saturday, April 27 | 6-9p.m.
Adults ages 18+
Looking for more trivia? Well, look no further than this new trivia night that will test your knowledge of all things music. Assemble your best team of friends, family, or coworkers to compete in rounds of music trivia. From album covers to lyrics, to records, awards, and more. This is sure to test your trivial knowledge of all genres of music. Participants are welcome to bring food and drinks to share with their team. Prizes awarded to the winning teams. Minimum 6 teams; Maximum 12 teams.
REGISTRATION FEE: $60 per team (max: 6 people per team)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 29, 2019
NOTES: Doors for the event will open at 5:30 p.m.
Message from Hollie

I’m so honored to have reached my six-month milestone as director here at Marion Public Library. What a great opportunity to reflect on the last half-year and dream about what’s in store next.

This is an especially exciting time for us as we envision ways to make the best use of our current library space and continue our work with the City Manager on the new building project. I couldn’t be more proud of the work of the library staff (which now includes our new Deputy Director, Kelly Dybvig) or more committed to keeping the needs of this growing community front-of-mind as we go forward.

We did complete an updated needs assessment in January, leading us to take a closer look at larger library trends, our current population’s needs, programming and the amount of space we need to serve you. We remain dedicated to serving everyone and serving in ways that may surprise—we’re stepping even more into the realm of social services, as we see those needs arise.

For example, we are a critical piece of a cross-functional team addressing homelessness issues in Marion. We are many other things, too, as we evolve to meet your needs: a place to be, a place to bring the kids on a rainy day, a place to create art and a place to meet. Just to name a few.

Please don’t hesitate to ask for me next time you’re here—I love meeting new faces and greeting familiar ones. I’d also love to invite you to stop by one of our monthly open-house forums. The fourth Monday of each month, a member of our leadership team will be here to meet, collaborate and listen from 4:45-5:15 p.m. Bring your questions and ideas!

Warmly,
Hollie

Touching Base

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.

Doodlebugs Preschool Art Program | Last Thursday of the month | 10:45 a.m.
Birth to 18 months – Each session is 15 minutes of books, music, bounces and rhymes followed by 15 minutes of play.

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.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

We want to help you get the children in your life ready for kindergarten. Research proves that children begin their preparation for reading years before any formal education. The best way to get your child ready is to spend time reading with them! We are so passionate about fostering a love for reading, appreciation for the library and some quality bonding time.

We even have parties complete with celebratory snacks for our tiny graduates of this program. Stop by the Children’s Desk and we’ll get you set up or answer your questions. The link to register can also be found on our website.

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MONDAY MORNINGS MEET-UPS
Please note that beginning March 4, all Monday Morning Meet-Ups will begin at 9:30 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.

TIMELESS TRIVIA  First Monday of the month
Stretch your memory and have some fun. Through film clips, historic photos and commentary, there will be a new theme every month.

CARD SHARKS  Second Monday of the month
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  Third Monday of the month
We’ll show a classic film and our program sponsor, Humana, will provide the coffee and donuts.

PUZZLE CLUB  Fourth Monday of the month
We’ll have puzzles for your mental exercise needs.

QUESTIONS ABOUT TAXES?
We can help. Check our website for tax form information. Because the IRS and the Iowa Department of Revenue encourage electronic filing and no longer send us forms, we don’t have forms on hand here. We’re happy to help you find and print the forms you need for $0.10/page.

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 school students.

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 https://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!

GREAT STORIES CLUB GRANT
Marion Public Library has 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. Staff from the Marion Public Library are working monthly with teens at Four Oaks to read and discuss stories that explore empathy and heroism.
Save the date
for these Uptown Marion events!

**UPTOWN MARION REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE**
**March 14 | 4:30 – 8 p.m.**
Whether you are a business owner, real estate professional or entrepreneur, join us for a look at the opportunities in Uptown Marion. The showcase will begin with a short program followed by a tour of properties.

**LADIES DAY OUT**
**April 27 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
Enjoy in-store specials throughout the day! Prizes will be handed out to the first 50 and 100 attendees.

**MARION ARTS FESTIVAL HALF MARATHON, 5K RUN & FUN WALK**
**May 18 | 7:30 a.m.**
This competitive Half Marathon and 5K is a favorite for serious amateurs and recreational runners alike!

**MARION ARTS FESTIVAL**
**May 18 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
This one-day event showcases 50 high caliber artists from across the country. Specialty food vendors are also featured. Admission is free to the public.

**MARION BY MOONLIGHT**
**June 6, 13, 20, 27 | 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**
Gather your people, a cooler and some lawn chairs and kick back in City Square Park to enjoy live music compliments of Farmers State Bank. Food vendors open at 6 p.m.

**UPTOWN MARION MARKET**
**June 8, July 13, August 10 | 8 a.m. – noon**
Uptown Marion Market offers fresh produce, baked goods, flowers, plants, meat, wines and an array of artisan items. Food vendors, live entertainment, children’s activities and healthy living programming will also be featured. Admission is free to the public.

**EAT, DRINK & BE MARION PUB CRAWL**
**July 11 | 5:30 – 9 p.m.**
A fun evening out in Uptown Marion to support the Main Street District’s annual fundraiser.

**UPTOWN GETDOWN**
**August 1, 8, 15, 22 | 6 – 9 p.m.**
Grab your chairs and coolers and meet your neighbors for music in the park!

Uptown Marion Market and Uptown Getdown are sponsored by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners: Farmers State Bank, Fosters Heating & Air Conditioning, ImOn Communications, MercyCare Community Physicians and Townsquare Media.