MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It’s no secret, as our community grows and quality of life amenities are added - Marion is making history.

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated the opening of our community’s first inclusive playground at the south entrance of Lowe Park. The playground is wheelchair accessible and designed for children and families of all abilities and ages to enjoy. In addition, a first-class restroom facility and pavilion complement the structure.

Earlier this spring, we celebrated the opening of our community’s first skatepark. It’s rare to walk or drive by the park and not see it filled with people of all ages enjoying this new amenity.

We are also honoring our history. In July, I was pleased to join the Marion-East Cedar Rapids Rotary Club for the groundbreaking of their interactive art installation which will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landing on the moon and also the 50th birthday of the rotary club. The project, “Echo Hill Station,” will be located near the inclusive playground at Lowe Park and is expected to be completed in June 2020.

What an awesome way to memorialize the role of Collins Aerospace employees and Marion’s Echo Hill station in the development of space communication.

With the start of a new school year and the change of seasons, be sure to take note of the many new events and activities being planned in our community. From dog fashion shows to live music performances to the 30th annual Swamp Fox Festival, I encourage you to gather with friends and neighbors and get out and enjoy.

City staff and your elected leaders work hard to be accessible and responsive to community needs. Contact us via the City website, by phone or in person at our weekly office hours. Now that market season is winding down, you will find one or two of your City Council members at the Marion Public Library on Saturday mornings between 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Together, let’s keep reaching higher!

Marion Welcomes Consul-General of Japan

In July, City and economic development leaders were proud to host Consul-General Naoki Ito and his team from the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago on their first visit to Marion in furtherance of building business connections and exploring improved trade opportunities for the benefit of both U.S. and Japanese companies.

The next City Election is Tuesday, November 5, 2019

The City Council seats that will be on the ballot are Mayor, Council At-Large, Ward 1 and Ward 3.

Nomination packets are available and should be submitted to Linn County Election Services before Sept. 19, 2019.

Find your polling location by accessing the Linn County Auditor’s Election Lookup tool at www.linncountyelections.org/lookup.

• Need to register to vote?
• Update your registration information?
• Request an absentee ballot?

Oct. 25 is the deadline for many of these items.

Find the resources you need at www.linncounty.org/157/Election-Services or call 319-892-5300.

On the cover: Disappearing Culture appears along the sculpture trail at Lowe Park.

Photo credit: Cast of Thousands Photography
SWAMP FOX FESTIVAL
returns the last weekend in September

Marion’s annual community celebration is 30 & Thriving! Make plans now to attend the 30th annual Swamp Fox Festival in Marion Sept. 27-29, 2019.

On Friday, make your way to the Klopfenstein Amphitheater for the Performing Arts at Lowe Park and enjoy magician comedian Ben Ulin. Adventureland has featured Ulin’s comedy illusion show since 1988, one of the longest-running amusement park magic shows in history. With over 30 years’ experience making audiences cry with laughter, this is one you won’t want to miss!

On Saturday, a variety of events will take place in and around City Square Park including a 10k/5k and kids 1-mile race, a pancake breakfast, the Swamp Fox parade and a steel drum band performance in the Uptown Artway. A grass volleyball tournament is also planned for the Lowe Park Sports Complex.

The festival is 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 vendors with seasonal produce, artisan items and food options along with Papa Balloon, Facepainting by Lindsay and live music by Josh Payne.

Saturday afternoon the fun moves to Lowe Park for more food, live music and various family activities including BINGO, a bounce house, rock climbing wall and obstacle course. The evening entertainment will be provided by Chicago’s Spazmatics. Dinner will be served by Firehouse Concessions, Chubbs BBQ, Zio Johno’s, Allen’s Apple Orchard and more. The grand fireworks finale will take place at 8:30 p.m.

On Sunday, check out a variety of classic cars on display at the Classic Car Show & Shine at Thomas Park hosted by the Cedar Rapids Corvette Club.

Visit www.cityfomarion.org/swampfox for the full line-up of events and make plans now to take part in this community celebration, sponsored in part by iHeartMEDIA.
Schedule of Events

Friday, Sept. 27
Marion School Foundation Golf Classic
Gardner Golf Course, 5101 Golf Course Road | 10 a.m.
Hosted by Marion School Foundation
Join in this 16th annual golf tournament to support the Marion School Foundation and its mission to provide enhanced learning opportunities for students in the Marion Independent School District. Learn more: marion-foundation.org/golf-classic.

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Marion Public Library, 1095 6th Avenue | 4-6 p.m.
Hosted by the Friends of the Marion Public Library
Best sale of gently used books, music and movies! Come today for the greatest deals. Sale is open only to Friends members, but you can get a membership at the door for just $10.

Magician Comedian Ben Ulin
Klopfenstein Amphitheater, Lowe Park, 4500 N. 10th Street | Food at 6 p.m., Show at 6:30 p.m.
Sponsored by City of Marion and State Farm Insurance, Michelle Havener
AdventuReland has featured Ulin’s comedy illusion show since 1988, one of the longest-running amusement park magic shows in history. With over 30 years’ experience making audiences cry with laughter, this is one you won’t want to miss! Pack a cooler and bring a blanket or lawn chairs, concessions will also be available for purchase. Get ready for a night of good, clean fun!

Saturday, Sept. 28
Family Breakfast
Marion Heritage Center, 590 10th Street | 7-9:30 a.m.
Sponsored by Hills Bank
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 Club’s 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.

10K, 5K & Little Fox Mile
5th Avenue, between Marion 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. Looking for a longer distance? Try the Swamp Fox 10K. 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 10K and 5K. Registration fees: 10K - $40 before Sept. 26, $30 (without a shirt) the morning of the race, 5K - $35 before Sept. 26 and $25 (without a shirt) the morning of the race. Military discounts also offered. The Little Fox Mile is a one-mile route specifically for kids. It starts at 8:30 a.m. Youth registration is only $15, register by Sept. 17 to guarantee a shirt.

Fall Marion Market
City Square Park, 7th Avenue and 10th Street | 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sponsored by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners – Farmers State Bank, Fosters Heating and Air Conditioning, ImOn Communications, MercyCare Community Physicians 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.-12:30 p.m., Facepainting by Lindsay from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and live music by Josh Payne from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Swamp Fox Festival Parade
Starts at the corner of 15th Street and 1st Avenue, heads north on 15th Street, west on 6th Avenue ending at 9th Street | 9:30 a.m.
Sponsored by Linn County REC, Marion Hy-Vee and Hy-Vee Drugstore
A signature event of the Swamp Fox Festival, this parade is one you won’t want to miss. This year’s theme is “30 & Thriving.” Floats are encouraged and advance registration is required. Registration forms are available at www.cityofmarion.org/swampfox and due by Sept. 13.

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Marion Public Library | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hosted by the Friends of the Marion Public Library
Best ever sale of gently used books, music and movies. Come today and explore!

Shop Uptown Marion
Uptown Marion, various retailers | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
When you shop Uptown Marion, you experience a unique destination that’s Made for You. Home to a variety of locally owned restaurants and boutiques, Find original art, specialty clothing, personal accessories, antiques, sweet treats and gifts for anyone on your list.
Grass Volleyball Tournament
Lowe Park Sports Complex, Access from 4901 Alburnett Road | Check-in 10:30 a.m. | Play begins at 11 a.m.
Bump, set and spike your way into the Swamp Fox Festival’s first-ever Grass Volleyball Tournament. Open to 4 person teams, Level A or B or 6 person teams. Cost $20 per person - $80 for a team of 4. $120 for a team of 6. Free long-sleeved shirts for all participants and cash prizes awarded to the top finishers. Advance registration required by Friday, Sept. 13.

Explore Uptown Artway
Alleys between 7th and 8th Avenue and 10th and 11th Street | Anytime | Entertainment from noon-2 p.m.
Take a stroll through Uptown Artway, the re-imagined gathering space that runs behind 7th Avenue. What was once an under-utilized alley, now features nine permanent art installations by local and national artists. Visit the Artway between noon-2 p.m. enjoy the sounds of the steel drum band Pandelerium.

Heritage Center Exhibition - The Collins Story on the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing
Marion Heritage Center & Museum, 590 10th Street | Opening after the parade
Free admission sponsored by the McIntyre Foundation
Don’t miss this local tie and commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. The greatest achievement in history, landing men on the moon, took the work of thousands, but it would have been impossible if one man, Arthur Collins, had not dedicated his life to perfecting radio communication. He built the company that invented space communication and has brought us the voice and pictures of every astronaut for 50 years, the Collins Radio Company.

Pedal Marion!
Depart from City Square Park | 1 p.m.-2:30 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.

Eulenspiegel Puppets in Appleseed!
Allen’s Orchard, 5801 10th Street | Performances at 11 a.m. & 3 p.m., plus a make-and-take workshop from 1-2 p.m.
Hosted by Allen’s Orchard
Celebrate the 50th birthday of Allen’s Orchard and a tribute to Johnny Appleseed. The Eulenspiegel Puppets will perform a new story about Johnny Appleseed’s true adventures and his relationships with the Native Americans, the animals and plants around him. The story tells of apple heroes, including Henderson Luelling, who traveled across the U.S. from Iowa, across the Rocky Mountains to Oregon, with a wagon of 300 growing apple trees to start the apple industry in the Northwest! Johnny, Henderson and Jesse Hiatt, the creator of the Delicious Apple, battle the wilds and weather and meet creatures of all kinds in this show. Watch hand puppets, tabletop puppets, and pop-ups and enjoy the whimsical live music of Ron Hills!

Seed Saving Workshop
Lowe Park | 4500 N. 10th Street | 4:30 p.m.
Hosted by Linn County Master Gardeners
Participants will receive instructions on collecting and storing seeds and then have the opportunity to roam the demonstration gardens to collect seeds from plants. Master Gardeners will be available to assist and answer questions about the various plants. Containers will be provided.

Activities for Children
Lowe Park | 5-8 p.m.
Sponsored by Heritage Bank & Network Computer Solutions
Bigger and better for 30 years of the Swamp Fox Festival. Kids will enjoy painted faces, balloon creations and big bubbles plus life-size games, a rock climbing wall, bounce house and obstacle course.

BINGO
Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center | 5-7 p.m.
Hosted by Marion Parks & Recreation
Join the fun and a chance to win some cash during the Swamp Fox Festival! Games of BINGO will be played for $0.25 per card, per game 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 payouts are awarded. The night will conclude with a winner-take-all game of blackout BINGO. We have a limited amount of seating and cards, so once they are gone, they are gone! Come early to ensure yourself a seat. BINGO will be played inside the Oaks Room.

Tomato, Apple & Pepper Tasting
Lowe Park Greenhouse | 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Hosted by Linn County Master Gardeners
Try some of the different types of tomatoes, apples and peppers that the Master Gardeners have been growing this season. The apple tasting is a precursor to the production of the orchard located just to the west of the greenhouse at Lowe Park. Tasters can vote for their favorite varieties.

The Spazmatics
Klopfenstein Amphitheater, Lowe Park | 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Sponsored by Veridian Credit Union
Coming to us all the way from Chicago... meet The Spazmatics. All the awesome sounds, styles, and way cool dance steps from the 1980’s decade we’d love to forget. Complete with skinny ties, slicked-back hair and horn-rimmed glasses, The Spazmatics recapture all the best of the worst. Outstanding musicianship combined with creative flair and style makes for an evening of pure energy and entertainment. So tonight we’re gonna party like it’s 1999; only it’s not!

Fireworks Display
Lowe Park | 8:30 p.m.
Sponsored by TownePlace Suites and Marion’s Hotel/Motel Grant Program
You marveled at the fireworks display on July 3, get ready for more of the same. Prime viewing locations at Lowe Park or Oak Ridge School. Please note: no alcohol or tobacco products are permitted on school property.

Sunday, Sept. 29
Classic Car Show & Shine
Thomas Park, 343 Marion Boulevard | 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Hosted by Cedar Rapids Corvette Club
Sponsored by Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance Agency
Join us for an all car cruise-in at Marion’s Thomas Park. Suggested donation to benefit Eastern Iowa Honor Flights. If it rains, the show will be cancelled.

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Marion Public Library | 1095 6th Avenue | 2-4 p.m.
Hosted by the Friends of the Marion Public Library
Best ever sale of gently used books, music, and movies! Come today to get the deals everyone else has missed. Nab a bag of books for just $3.

Please remember, pets are not allowed at large events held in City Square Park or Lowe Park. Thank you!

Event details subject to change, for the latest updates at www.cityofmarion.org/swampfox
Healthy Hometown

Marion is rebooting its commitment to health and wellbeing.

As a certified Blue Zones Project community, well-being matters in Marion. Initiatives and activities such as the Safe Routes to School Plan, Sunrise Yoga at Lowe Park and the Uptown Community Garden have been successful thanks to the leadership of the Be Well Marion committee and dedicated community partners.

In 2019, this committee identified Healthy Hometown℠ powered by Wellmark as a statewide initiative that could take the work already being done around the built environment and well-being and provide a framework for moving forward.

An overarching plan for community well-being has been developed and is centered around the three pillars of Healthy Hometown: Eat Well, Move More and Feel Better. Tactics include community gardens, access to fresh options at food pantries and community outreach opportunities; expanding safe routes to school, sidewalk connections and greenspace enhancements; and enhancing public art, volunteerism, worksite wellness and zoning initiatives.

Organizers welcome any new volunteers with a passion around these identified areas. To get involved in Be Well Marion contact Sara Mentzer or Amanda Kaufman at BeWellMarion@cityofmarion.org.

Marion Youth Coalition Celebrates One Year Establishes Marion Youth Center with Boys and Girls Club

To find positive solutions for issues facing our youth, more than 20 area agencies/organizations have come together to create the Marion Youth Coalition. Participants include school district representatives and city leaders as well as members of law enforcement and non-profit organizations. Subcommittees have worked for the past year to make an impact, in the following areas:

Accountability/Community Initiatives  This committee has created PBIS posters and reward cards that can be given to students for displaying positive behavior in the community. Uptown businesses have learned about the school districts’ Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports system — and have been supportive of expanding the program to bring awareness to the community. In addition, a video has been produced which included information about the Marion Youth Coalition and was shared at the annual State of the City event.

In the next year, this group hopes to continue communication and news releases about the PBIS program, re-educate the business community about the program and provide greater incentives for redeemed PBIS reward cards.

Student Programming/Activities  This group has worked to develop a centralized calendar or listing of free or low cost programming/activities information for youth and they’ve helped spread the word about the work of the Marion Youth Coalition. The goals for the upcoming year include increasing community partner involvement and coordinating an even more comprehensive calendar which can be shared with families at our schools.

Marion Youth Center  It’s a very exciting time for the youth of Marion as we can now provide the Marion Youth Center! Thanks to the Marion Independent School District’s provision of the space, the center will be held in the former Marion Home School Assistance Program building located at 440 S. 15th Street. Linn-Mar, St. Joseph and Marion Independent will be able to refer students to participate at the center. As many as 50 fifth and sixth grade students are expected to start in September.

Many Marion Youth Coalition community partners are committed to providing enrichment activities to these students. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Cedar Rapids has been integral in securing grant funding and will serve as the fiscal agent. Many items have been received from the former H.D. Youth Center - including pool tables, TVs, computers, tables, chairs, a foosball table and a ping pong table.

In the next year, this committee will continue to explore options for a more permanent location, identify and secure funding, and work to create year-round programming which will start in the summer of 2020.

Parent/Community Education  This sub-committee coordinated the open house/kickoff event for the Marion Youth Center which took place in early September. The event included a ribbon cutting and meal, family activities and community resource information. In the year ahead, this group will help facilitate parent trainings, community volunteer opportunities, collaborate with other committees and increase fundraising opportunities.

Interested in learning more about the Marion Youth Coalition or have an interest in supporting the Marion Youth Center? Please contact Michelle Wilson at mwilson@marion-isd.org.
Healthy Hometown

In 2019, the City of Marion added a part-time event coordinator to expand on the programming currently being offered at its public venues such as the Klopfenstein Amphitheater and Uptown Artway. Groups or performers interested in being considered for future events are encouraged to submit a press kit and/or links to audio/video clips to events@cityofmarion.org.

Tiny Fair

Uptown Artway was the place to be this summer for family-friendly summer fun! Hills Bank sponsored its first Tiny Fair series showcasing magic tricks, music and animals. The final event, geared toward preschool/elementary-aged children, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 21 and feature “Animals Up Close.” This event is free to attend and open to the public.

Chocolate Walk

Friday, October 4 | 8-10:30 p.m. Uptown Marion

Fall’s favorite night, the Chocolate Walk returns! Enjoy strolling Uptown Marion at this after-hours, adult-only shopping event. Visit your favorite stores, discover what’s new just around the corner and savor a sweet treat from participating businesses.

ImagiNEXT Future Four Update

Over the past year Future Four committees have been hard at work taking community ideas and turning them into actionable plans for Marion. Here’s a look at what’s been happening behind the scenes and in front of your eyes.

1. The Heart of It All | Adding Amenities to Marion’s Historic District

Grant applications have been submitted to Iowa Great Places and the National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Program for design assistance for a Marion Plaza project.

A welcome kiosk has been installed at Prospect Meadows to help drive traffic to Marion’s business district.

2. Just Keep Swimming | Aquatic Opportunities

The Marion Parks Department will issue an RFQ in late 2019 for an aquatic study of current assets and future demand. This is an eight-month study timeline. The community will be invited to provide feedback during the process.

3. Creekside Pride | Educational and Recreational Opportunities along Indian Creek

The first organized canoe float down Indian Creek took place in July. City staff and Council Members were invited to experience the potential for recreation. Future floats will include assistance from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to relocate rocks and create a better float path.

Preliminary design plans are being created for additional trails along the west side of Indian Creek north of 29th Ave.

Annual spring clean-up days continue to keep trash and debris clear of the creek.

4. It’s The Little Things | Small Ideas with Big Impact

The inaugural Fireworks and Fireflies event took place on July 3. Well over 5,000 people were in attendance for a free concert and fireworks show at Lowe Park.

Keep up to date on community events directly to your phone! Now you can subscribe to get text updates. Visit marioncc.org/event-notifications.

The committee is also working with City of Marion staff to establish food truck policies.

Community Events

In 2019, the City of Marion added a part-time event coordinator to expand on the programming currently being offered at its public venues such as the Klopfenstein Amphitheater and Uptown Artway. Groups or performers interested in being considered for future events are encouraged to submit a press kit and/or links to audio/video clips to events@cityofmarion.org.
Zoning Map Updates Proposed; Community Open Houses Planned

The City of Marion is hosting a series of public open houses to present proposed updates to the community zoning map. The proposed zoning map updates reflect the existing land uses in addition to the long-term goals and objectives of the Marion Comprehensive Plan. Residents, developers and members of the business community are invited to attend one or all open house meetings.

As part of the recently completed Code update, all City zoning districts will have new names; however, the permitted uses and development standards for many districts, particularly the residential districts, will not substantially change. Because the zoning districts are being renamed, every property in Marion must be “rezoned” into the new districts. The recent Code update intends to clarify the development standards, simplify the development process and increase transparency. It will simplify zoning categories and better align zoning districts with surrounding areas.

In addition to sharing information about the scope and process of the project, city staff welcomes initial comments on what will be an extensive public input process. Community Development staff are available to assist property owners or answer any questions. Call the Community Development Department at 319-743-6320 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The proposed zoning map and additional information regarding the zoning map update process can be viewed at www.cityofmarion.org/zoningmapupdate.

Open House Dates

OPEN HOUSE #1:
Monday, Oct. 7 | 5-7 p.m.
Marion Library | Meeting Room A

OPEN HOUSE #2:
Monday, Oct. 21 | 5-7 p.m.
Marion Library | Meeting Room A

OPEN HOUSE #3:
Thursday, Oct. 24 | 5-6:30 p.m.
Hills Bank | 3202 7th Ave, Marion

OPEN HOUSE #4:
Tuesday, Oct. 29 | 5-7 p.m.
Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center | Oaks Room

MEDCO:
Progress Ahead

Site of multi-tenant commercial building at 26th Street and 7th Avenue to be anchored by First Federal Credit Union.

Site of multi-tenant commercial building located to the west of the TownePlace Suites by Marriott.

Site of a multi-tenant commercial building located adjacent to the TownePlace Suites by Marriott. Tenant announcements soon!

Freund Vector expands existing lab space to add 2,000 square feet.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Did you Know?
Low water pressure can be caused by your water softener. Here are some suggestions to help:
• If you have a water softener, put it on bypass and see if your pressure improves. If so, consult a water softener servicer for a checkup.
• If you don’t have a water softener or you’ve tried bypassing and see no improvement, call the Water Department office at 319-743-6310 to schedule a time for a staff member to come out to inspect.

Billing Questions?
Your Marion utility account history and past bills are available 24-7 online. Access your account through the City of Marion website www.cityofmarion.org. Select the Water Department page, then Billing Options. It’s also a quick and convenient way to make payments any time, any day.

Water Main Relay Projects
This summer the Marion Water Department’s distribution crew relayed 1,160 linear feet of 6-inch water main along 24th Street between 10th and 12th Avenues and along 10th Avenue between 24th and 25th Streets.

Rathje Construction was awarded the 2019 10th Avenue and 22nd Street Water Main Relay Project. Construction will occur this fall with a completion deadline of Oct. 25, 2019. They will install 2,900 linear feet of 6-inch water main on 22nd Street between 8th and 10th Avenues and on 10th Avenue between 17th and 24th Streets. The estimated cost of this project is $329,570.

Bulk Item Special Collections
For large items to be disposed of, the Public Services Department offers bulk item collections each Monday. Collections must be scheduled and paid for the week prior. Effective in July 2019, the cost for bulk item collections is $40 for every 15 minutes of service. This fee does not include the cost to dispose of specific items as these are the costs the City incurs at the Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency.

• Appliances | $10 per unit
• Cardboard | $20 per stop. (Marion’s Recycling Drop-Off Center offers a free alternative.)
• Televisions | $15 per unit
• Tires | $10 per tire
• Electronics | $10 per unit
• Items that are not collected include toxic/hazardous materials, propane tanks, auto parts and construction or demolition debris. Call 319-377-6367 to schedule. Credit card payments are also accepted over the phone.

2019 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Sept. 2 – Monday</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Nov. 28 – Thursday</td>
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<td>Day After Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Nov. 29 – Friday</td>
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<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Dec. 25 – Wednesday</td>
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<td>New Year’s Day</td>
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<td>Christmas Day</td>
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<td>New Year’s Day</td>
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Eco Industrial Park Phase I/Public Services Maintenance Facility
In spring of 2019, construction of a new 135,000 square foot Public Service Maintenance Facility began. This project includes the replacement of the Public Services Maintenance Facility and the integration of alternative energy resources, consistent Marion’s goal of becoming a leader in sustainability.

The concept for this project originated from the conditions associated with current facilities, which were determined to be structurally inadequate and limited in space. As the community continues to grow, the need to provide adequate facilities for city services was identified as well as the opportunity to incorporate renewable energy components that will allow for operational savings.

This project includes the construction of one of the largest geothermal facilities in Iowa and will incorporate renewable energy systems that will serve to power operations for the facility.

The facility will also incorporate alternative fueling facilities for fleet operations and when completed, will provide significant transportation fuel and energy savings for Marion residents.

The $10.8 million facility will be financed with revenue bonds. When fully commissioned, the cost savings realized through energy improvements will serve to offset the debt service on the facility.

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. 13, 2019. 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.
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

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. 6. More than 550 attendees enjoyed K9 demonstrations, police and fire equipment on display, games, activities and giveaways. Special thanks to Marion Hy-Vee for providing food and refreshments.

CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

At-Large – Randy Strnad
1820 Agate Circle | (319) 377-3276 | marionatlarge1@cityofmarion.org

At-Large – Paul Draper
4670 Fairways Ct. | (319) 377-8393 | marionatlarge2@cityofmarion.org

Ward One – Colette Atkins
1070 Creekbend Ct. | (319) 213-8075 | ward1@cityofmarion.org

Ward Two – Steve Jensen
3830 Monarch Ave. | (319) 360-7009 | ward2@cityofmarion.org

Ward Three – Will Brandt
2745 4th Ave. | (319) 389-9918 | ward3@cityofmarion.org

Ward Four – Rene Gadelha
3476 Barnsley Circle | (319) 538-7888 | ward4@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.
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF Planning Ahead

Fire safety education isn’t just for school children. Teenagers, adults and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for everyone to take time during Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 6-12, to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out.

This year’s campaign, “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!” works to educate everyone about the small but essential actions YOU can take to keep yourself and those around you safe.

The best way to survive a home fire is to escape it, and that means having a home fire safety plan. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire. The Marion Fire Department wants you to PLAN AHEAD by following the National Fire Protection Agency’s (NFPA) guide on how to create a home fire safety plan for your family to protect them against the unthinkable.

1. MAKE a home escape plan.
2. DRAW a map of your home including all doors and windows.
3. DISCUSS the plan with everyone in your family.
4. KNOW at least two ways out of every room.
5. MAKE sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
6. HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree or neighbor’s mailbox) that is a safe distance from your home.
7. TEACH children how to get out on their own, in case you can’t help them.
8. ASSIGN someone in the family to assist infants, seniors or anyone else that would require help getting out.
9. PRACTICE your home fire drill during the night AND during the day.
10. PRACTICE using a different way out.
11. CLOSE doors behind you when you leave.

Having a fire in your home is a scary thought. But if you have an escape plan for your family to get out safely, you’ll be better prepared if the unimaginable occurs. Your ability to get out depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and planning. The key to your family’s safety is planning and practicing a home fire escape plan. Take these small, but meaningful actions to keep yourself and those around you safe from fire.

For more information, go to www.firepreventionweek.org or contact the Marion Fire Department at 319-377-8237.
New! CHARTER TRIPS WITH MARION
OPEN TO ALL AGES | Hop aboard a luxury motor-coach and leave the driving and parking to us while you travel in comfort to a variety of Midwest destinations. All fees include bus fare and your ticket into the event.
DEADLINE: Tickets available until sold out
NOTES: All fees include bus fare and admission or tickets to event. Detailed itinerary will be sent about a week before each trip. There is no refund for canceled seats. All trips are aboard a luxury motor-coach equipped with a restroom. Guests are welcome to bring food and drink on the bus.

GAYS MILLS ORCHARDS
Seniors 55+ | Depart/return to Lowe Park
DATE: Thursday, Oct. 3
TIME(S): 9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
FEE: $55 per person

THE NFL EXPERIENCE
Spend an afternoon at one of the midwest’s best stadiums to watch a couple of NFL giants battle on the gridiron. Possible destinations include Soldier Field (Chicago), Arrowhead Stadium (Kansas City), or US Bank Stadium (Minneapolis).
Details to be finalized soon. Visit www.cityofmarion.org for more information.

PUTT-PUTT INDOOR GOLF
CHILDREN AGES 3–6
FEE: $25
DAYS/DATES: Tuesdays, Nov. 5-26
TIME(S): 3-4 YEAR OLDS: 5:30–6 p.m. 5-6 YEAR OLDS: 6:15–6:45 p.m.
LOCATION: Lowe Park
REGISTER DEADLINE: Oct. 27, 2019

YOUTH 5 ON 5 BASKETBALL
CHILDREN GRADES 2ND–6TH (FALL 2018/19)
FEE: $39*, includes team shirt
DAYS/DATES: PRACTICES: Begin the week of Nov. 11
GAMES: Saturday mornings beginning Dec. 7
TIME(S): Practice times vary during the week. Game times will vary on Saturday mornings.
LOCATION: Echo Hill, Bowman Woods, and Excelsior Elementary Schools
REGISTER DEADLINE: Oct. 8, 2019

HALLOWEEN BOO CAMP
CHILDREN GRADES K–5TH
FEE: $25, includes a kid-friendly dinner
DAYS/DATES: Friday, Oct. 25
TIME(S): 5–9 p.m.
LOCATION: Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center
REGISTER DEADLINE: Oct. 22, 2019

CANDY CANE HUNT
CHILDREN AGES 3+
FEE: $12
DAYS/DATES: Saturday, Dec. 7
TIME(S): 9:10–30 a.m.
LOCATION: Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center
REGISTER DEADLINE: Nov. 22, 2019

SANTA’S LITTLE WORKSHOP
CHILDREN GRADES K–5TH
FEE: $25
DAYS/DATES: Saturday, Dec. 7
TIME(S): 12:30–5 p.m.
LOCATION: Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center
REGISTER DEADLINE: Nov. 22, 2019

B-I-N-G-O NIGHTS AT LOWE PARK
FEE: $25, includes per card, per game
DAYS/DATES: Friday, Nov. 15
TIME(S): 6:30–8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center
REGISTER DEADLINE: No registration required, but seats and cards are limited and are first-come, first-serve.

Fall Into Fitness is ideal for anyone looking to try a new fitness program. All ages and abilities are welcome. Participants will be asked to sign a waiver prior to participating. Find weather-related updates or cancellation information at www.cityofmarion.org or the Marion Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department and Be Well Marion in September for a series of outdoor fitness classes at the Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park. Each week, for four weeks, a different class will be offered free of charge. Classes will take place every Tuesday evening from 6–7 p.m. during the month of September. Organizers are pleased to be teaming up with area fitness instructors to offer this popular series. The remaining dates are as follows:
Sept. 10 | Pop Pilates with Lynette Cavin
Sept. 17 | BodyAttack with Karsin Lederle
Sept. 24 | Dance Club Cardio with Alicia Anderson
Pet Policy for City Parks and Trails

Pets on leashes are welcome in City parks, as well as walking trails and Oak Shade Cemetery. It is the responsibility of pet owners to clean up after their pets.

Due to public safety and health guidelines, pets are not allowed in pavilions or within 100 feet of food vendors, playgrounds, ball fields or swimming pools. Pets, other than service animals, should stay home during large events and community festivals.

Located just across Hwy 100 is a great regional resource where dogs can run free and socialize with their canine friends. Check out the K9 Acres Off-Leash Area at Squaw Creek Park. Learn more at k9cola.org.

Volunteerism in Oak Shade Cemetery

Volunteers have helped maintain our cemetery for a long time. According to early accounts, organized efforts were made as early as 1875...probably before.

Before the establishment of the concept of perpetual care in 1925, lot holders were responsible for weed control and grass cutting in addition to the care of grave markers and decorations. To see that this was done, organizations such as the Women’s Cemetery Association offered to do the work for a contribution. In 1898, honorary membership was offered to gentlemen in recognition of their donations. Eighteen were named that year including “one gentleman, with many friends laid to rest in our cemetery, who sent us five dollars, the largest sum contributed by any one person.” All-told, $165.35 was collected that year, $13.12 of which was paid to F.J. Young for the 10 ½ days of work he put in prior to Decoration Day!

In 1913, a Cemetery League was organized within the Marion Federation of Women’s Clubs to “keep sacred this hallowed spot.” Over the next few years, fees ranging from 12 ½ cents per square foot to $2 per year were charged. Numerous attempts to create an endowment fund were made, ultimately proposing a one-time deposit of $50.

With the opening of the Eighth Addition to Oak Shade in 1925, the price of a burial lot reached $200 and included perpetual care of the grounds and roadways.

Butterfield Skatepark Etiquette

The City of Marion was proud to add a skatepark at Butterfield Park earlier this year. It has been an extremely popular addition for all ages. Respecting one another and the surrounding area are important in any park setting, however there are some unwritten rules that skatepark users should also abide by:

1. Wait your turn — Ever heard of “snaking”? Snaking is stealing someone’s turn or dropping in on someone’s run. This is the most common reason for collisions. Wait for your turn and let others finish their runs.

2. Be aware of your surroundings — watch other riders. Know where it is okay to sit or stand and wait. Make sure that you’re not in someone’s way when they take their turn.

3. Do not do the same trick in the same moment as another skater, right in front of them. This is also known as “one-upping.” It’s just rude. Instead, you might offer to help rather than show them up.

4. If a board gets away from you, be sure to yell “BOARD” - no one wants to be surprised by a board.

5. A skate park is not a daycare. If you have a young child who likes to use the park, be sure a guardian is accompanying the child.

6. Most importantly, have fun and be respectful towards each other. Bikes are not technically for skate parks. However, if you do take a bike; please follow these guidelines:
   • No metal pegs
   • No muddy tires
   • Look before you leap to avoid collisions

Coffeehouse Nights Return in October

Between October and April, the Marion Arts Council is pleased to present Coffeehouse Nights at the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center. These 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.

Enjoy the following upcoming performances:
October 5  |  November 2  |  December 7
A Week at the Marion Public Library

Get back into a fall routine with our regularly scheduled programming. Please visit www.marionpubliclibrary.org for more information about clubs, groups and monthly programs.

| Monday Morning Meet-Up (Adult) | Toddler Time (Children) | Preschool Story Time (Children) | Music & Movement (Children) | Monday
| Encore Café (Adult) | Preschool Story Time (Children) | Toddler Time (Children) | Thursday Morning Drop-In (Adult) | Encore Café (Adult) |
| Pajama Story-time (Children) | Pathfinder Club (Middle School) | Pathfinder Club (High School) | Baby Time (Children) | Thursday |
| | | | Teen Programming (topic varies each week) | Friday |

MEDCO: Taking the Next Right Step with a Community Promise Pursuit Grant

We’re creating a competitive advantage for students who have connections to a career here at home. Students that have found themselves in a job shadow, internship or part-time job they genuinely enjoy, may now be eligible to enter a long-term relationship with a business.

Pursuit Grants were created to financially boost student efforts to become trained and skilled assets of the local workforce. Grants of up to $4,000 can be used to cover college tuition, certifications or vocational training costs.

Qualifying students must be currently enrolled or a graduate of either the Marion Independent or Linn-Mar Community School District. Students who reside in either district shall also qualify.

Learn more at www.medcoiowa.org/communitypromise
Why do we need a new building? Can’t we just build on top of the current building or renovate?

This is a question we’ve been getting asked a lot recently, and I would love to provide a few facts that speak to this issue:

• The current library building was designed with a 25 percent rather than a 100 percent expansion in mind.
• This current building wasn’t built to sustain a second floor, as the walls aren’t structurally sound enough.
• Adding a second floor to this building was briefly considered, but the decision was made to move away from this option, due to it being cost-prohibitive at the time. It was decided that a new building would provide more value and incur less cost than a renovation, due to both the structural limitations of this current facility and the logistical/financial implications of a required relocation throughout the building process.
• We need a space that meets the evolving needs of this growing community. This current building wasn’t built to sustain the technology of the 21st century.
• A lot of people might not know that much of our current infrastructure is buried in concrete. To update this building for the technology we would need to tear up all of this concrete.

In summary, the best statement on this comes from Architect Joseph Huberty of Engberg Anderson: “The biggest challenge with the renovation concept is that it uses a large piece of the limited resource to overcome existing conditions in order to set the building up for the actual improvement and expansion. This diminished financial resource then cannot go as far in providing for expansion, improved quality of library service, added flexibility or defining a destination that will have economic impact.”

We look forward to a new building which adequately addresses the needs of this community for a flexible and expandable library. If you have your own “Ask Hollie” question, please 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. Or, just ask for me next time you’re here!
Festivals and Events

**September**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Fall into Fitness</strong>&lt;br&gt;6 p.m.</td>
<td>Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>The Fez</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Fridays in the Artway</strong>&lt;br&gt;featuring Joe Sorensen&lt;br&gt;5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Uptown Artway</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Marion Farmers’ Market</strong>&lt;br&gt;8-11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Taube Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>Marion Farmers’ Market</strong>&lt;br&gt;8-11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Taube Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>Fridays in the Artway</strong>&lt;br&gt;featuring The Deleters&lt;br&gt;5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Uptown Artway</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><strong>Magician Comedian Ben Ulin</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td><strong>Swamp Fox Festival and Fall Marion Market</strong>&lt;br&gt;All day</td>
<td>Uptown Marion and Lowe Park</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td><strong>Classic Car Show &amp; Shine</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.</td>
<td>Thomas Park</td>
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**October**

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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Coffeehouse Night</strong>&lt;br&gt;featuring High Crest&lt;br&gt;7-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lowe Park Arts &amp; Environment Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>24/25</td>
<td><strong>Christmas Holiday</strong>&lt;br&gt;City Offices Closed</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Election Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Polls open 7 a.m.–8 p.m.</td>
<td>Lowe Park Arts &amp; Environment Center</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Veterans Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;City Offices Closed</td>
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**November**

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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Coffeehouse Night</strong>&lt;br&gt;featuring The Better Haves&lt;br&gt;7-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lowe Park Arts &amp; Environment Center</td>
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<td>28/29</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Holiday</strong>&lt;br&gt;City Offices Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td><strong>Small Business Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;10 a.m.–2 p.m.</td>
<td>Lowe Park Arts &amp; Environment Center</td>
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**December**

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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Christmas in the Park &amp; Peppermint Walk</strong>&lt;br&gt;4-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Uptown Marion</td>
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<td>24/25</td>
<td><strong>Christmas Holiday</strong>&lt;br&gt;City Offices Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Coffeehouse Night</strong>&lt;br&gt;featuring Banjoy&lt;br&gt;7-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lowe Park Arts &amp; Environment Center</td>
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