Marion Arts Festival celebrates 20th year

Enjoy free, family friendly, come-as-you-are culture! The 20th Annual Marion Arts Festival is Saturday, May 19th, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. in City Square Park. The event will feature 50 nationally sourced visual artists, along with specialty foods, a range of hands-on art experiences and demonstrations, and a new half marathon as a companion to the MAF’s fundraising 5K Run & Fun Walk. MAF named among Top 20 fine art festivals nationwide.

Art Fair SourceBook, “The Definitive Guide to the Best Juried Arts and Craft Fairs in the United States,” has announced the Marion Arts Festival as being among the Top 20 fine art festivals in the nation for 2012.

“Our one-day, fifty-artist event is considered alongside 600 festivals across the country – many exhibiting hundreds of artists, most lasting three or more days and with audiences numbering in the hundreds of thousands,” said Deb Bailey, Marion Arts Festival director. “A Top 20 ranking acknowledges the high quality work of our exhibitors and the deep interest and support of the community. To be recognized among the country’s most accomplished events is encouraging as we work toward our 20th annual festival.”

Marion Arts Festival is ranked #17 among the top tier of fine art events. Other festivals named in the AFSB Top 20 include the Scottsdale Arts Festival, New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and the Plaza Art Fair in Kansas City.

Art Fair SourceBook is an independent resource for artists that enables them to more effectively engage the nation’s top events, and is further dedicated to working with art fair organizers by providing extensive feedback.

AFSB Editor Gregory Lawler congratulates Marion Arts Festival on achieving the elite status. “This show is a winner. The MAF is wildly successful for a one-day event, and has clearly earned the praise.”

It’s about the art!

The 2012 MAF line-up includes 19 returning artists, 12 friends from festival years past and 19 artists never before seen at the event – in total, representing 14 states and hailing from coast to coast. Participants were selected from 342 artist applications, representing 33 states, Canada and the UK.

Art in the Depot

In its 12th year, the MAF’s Art in the Depot program invites all attendees to work side by side with an Iowa artist to create a lasting piece of public art. The 2012 project will feature guest artists from The Ceramics Center (www.theceramicscenter.org), a Cedar Rapids-based ceramics collective offering a range of programming, including classes for all skill levels. Festival attendees will be invited to work toward the creation of tiles for a 17' mural to be installed in the entrance of the newly constructed Vernon Middle School. Pottery wheels will spin, and participants will put their own modeling clay touch on a display of Marion’s vintage uptown.

Buy an Empty Bowl to help feed others!

Each bowl counts! The festival’s Empty Bowls project offers student-made ceramic bowls – created in their art classes, then donated to the festival – for sale at the event, with all proceeds benefiting area food banks. Participating Linn County schools will donate approximately 1,000 bowls, most of which will be priced at $5. Over the project’s fourteen-year history, the MAF “Empty Bowls” sale has raised and donated over $50,000 to local hunger assistance agencies.

New: Emerging Artists!

Support young artists, and find new favorites! To mark its 20th anniversary, the MAF is investing in the future by introducing an emerging artists program to the event. Featuring college artists selected through a jury process, these students will be offering work in five media, and selling alongside the festival’s slate of professional exhibitors.

New: MAF Half Marathon!

Competitive and recreational runners and walkers of all ages are welcome at the Marion Arts Festival Races! New in 2012 is the addition of a half marathon as a companion to the festival’s 5K Run & Fun Walk. Giveaways, cash and purchase prizes! Full registration info available at http://pigmantri.com/maf-half/registration-info.php

More fun!

Interact with hot-glass blowers from Spencer, Iowa’s Curriel-Reynolds School of Visual Arts, who will be demonstrating throughout the day (www.curri-elarts.org/blog).

Presenting sponsor of the 2012 Marion Arts Festival is Farmers State Bank, with major sponsor support from The Gazette and Rockwell Collins.

Full 2012 Marion Arts Festival program information is available at www.marionartsfestival.com
Matt Dunkel, a mechanic in the Public Service department, passed away on March 24, 2012 from injuries received in a motorcycle accident. Matt was a 1990 graduate of Anamosa high school and had been with the City since 2005. He was an excellent mechanic, serving the city well and saving the taxpayers thousands of dollars in repair and maintenance costs.

The city extends its condolences to the families.

Rick Merkel was a longtime employee of the Solid Waste Division in the Public Service department. He had retired from the city in 2011 following a 22 year career. Mr. Merkel passed away on April 10, 2012 due to complications from an extended illness. He was a dedicated employee and strong supporter of Marion.

Marion residents that receive municipal solid waste collection can utilize the yard waste drop-off facility located at 195 35th Street. Yard waste items such as leaves, grass clippings, and brush less than 4” in diameter is accepted at the facility free of charge. Residents are also welcome to compost, wood chips, and mulch free of charge. Please contact the Public Services Department at 377-6367 if special arrangements are needed for large deliveries of compost.
opportunities abound at marion library

The Most Valuable Card in Your Wallet
Did you ever stop to think of all the things you can do with your library card? You can check out a laptop computer to use in the library and connect to the public internet computers, check out movies, use our Interlibrary Loan service to borrow a book from another library, or get email notices. You can access our public internet computers, check out movies, use our Interlibrary Loan service to borrow a book, and check out books for free with your library card. And the best news of all is, the card is FREE. Stop in at the library today and get yours!

Digital Reading Opportunities
If you have an eReader or a mobile device on which you can listen to audio books, than we've got a tremendous reason for you to have a library card: downloadable ebooks and audio books! Why pay for the books you love, when we have them available to download to your mobile devices? Explore our Overdrive digital library 24/7 and check out up to two audio books and up to four ebooks at a time using your library card. If you need help getting them downloaded to your devices, call or stop in and we'll be glad to help you. We also have excellent handouts, which you can pick up at the library or download from our website (marionpubliclibrary.org). In addition, we also have the Information Desk tab, select Find Info). Get to Overdrive via our website (marionpubliclibrary.org) or directly at MLN.lib.overdrive.com.

Adult Summer Reading
Summer reading isn't just for kids! The Marion Library has a great summer reading program, Club Read, for adults, sponsored by the Friends of the Marion Library. Our theme this year is Red, Green, White, and Blue at the Marion Library. We are interpreting “arts” very liberally: music, painting, writing, acting, etc. We’ll begin on Monday, June 4 and registration packets will be available at the Information Desk. Also, you will receive registration form, which you can print out and take home. Each class features a different artist, art style, or art concept aimed specifically at preschoolers. Each class features a different artist, art style, or art concept aimed specifically at preschoolers. Make sure you dress in clothes you can get messy in, because you get to create your own masterpiece in every class! The first two classes are on Tuesdays, May 15 and June 12, at 10:00.

Family Game Night @ Your Library!
Beginning June 4th from 5:00-7:00 we will be hosting Family Game Night here at the library every Monday evening. We will provide a space, a stack of board games to choose from. You provide the people to play and the fun that follows! We may switch it up some weeks to have a huge group game of Candyland throughout the library, or you may be assigned a character in a big game of Clue, we may even get out our Guitar Hero and let you show off your skills. Stay tuned for more updates.

Own the Night! Summer Reading Program for Teens
Teens, are you ready to Own the Night? That’s the theme of this summer’s reading program, that begins on June 4. What does Own the Night mean to you? Ninjas and superheroes? Vampires, werewolves, zombies? Constellations and constellation? Dreams and nightmares? We want to have something for everyone, whether it’s a horror movie marathon, making glow-in-the-dark goop, or creating a star lantern for your bedroom. To get involved planning summer reading program activities, join Teens in Action! Plan events, join the planning team, help in the library, or create your own project. We can help you get started and get you off and reading right away!

Doddlebugs coming to MPL!
Marion Public Library is teaming up with the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art to bring you Doddlebugs! For those of you who haven’t heard of this fantastic program, Doddlebugs is a free art class for preschoolers and their adult companions. Each class features a different artist, art style, or art concept aimed specifically at preschoolers. Make sure you dress in clothes you can get messy in, because you get to create your own masterpiece in every class! The first two classes are on Tuesdays, May 15 and June 12, at 10:00.

Out Loud! Authors Announced
We are only half-way through our Out Loud! Author Series 2012 presentations, so there’s still time to enjoy your own personal brushes with fame. The Metro Library Network has a great series of authors lined up this summer for the 2012 program, a grant-funded initiative made possible by the Giacolotto Foundation. Still ahead are A. David Lewis, comics creator and scholar, on Friday, June 8 at 7 p.m.; Wendy Delso, author of paranormal tales for teens, on Thursday, June 21 at 7 p.m.; James Rollins, best-selling thriller writer who is on tour for his latest book, on Sunday, July 1 at 1 p.m.; and Sean Kean, top-tier science writer, scheduled for Friday, July 13 at 7 p.m.

Financial Strategies Educational Series
see Library, page 7
Employees of the Marion Water Department will be flushing the water system beginning Monday, May 14, and continue through Friday, May 18, 2012. Flushing will start each day at 8:00 A.M. and finish at 2:00 A.M. Marion residents may notice some temporary discoloration of the water following flushing in your area, and should postpone drinking it until it clears. Use of hot water should also be minimized if redness is noticed to prevent build-up within the water heater. The rusty color is due to accumulation of iron sediment in the water mains and is not harmful. The purpose of the flushing is to remove the sediment from the mains, and to exercise and check operation of the City’s fire hydrants. Questions may be directed to the Water Office at 743-6310. Does Marion water meet EPA standards? Yes. Our water meets all of EPA standards. In 2011 we took over 5912 tests to insure compliance with drinking water standards. The few chemical pollutants we found are summarized in the table found within this report.

What is the source of my water? Marion’s primary source of water for its wells is in the Jordan aquifer. The Jordan aquifer is a large water bearing sandstone formation underlying most of Eastern Iowa. Marion’s four Jordan wells are 1600 feet deep and are drilled through the 100 foot thick sandstone layer which transports water from northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota. Our Jordan wells yield as much as 1500 gallons per minute. Due to the fact that many Iowa cities use the Jordan aquifer as a primary water source, it receives a protected status from the State of Iowa. Marion also has two 400’ Silurian aquifer wells one of which serves an emergency only supply. The Silurian aquifer is a regional supply receiving recharge from the Cedar River Basin and is also of good quality, though production yields are typically less than one half of the Jordan aquifer.

In 2011, the Marion Water Department obtained 99.9% of its water from the Jordan aquifer wells and 0.1% from the Silurian aquifer wells. The Jordan aquifer was determined to have low susceptibility to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials prevent easy access of contaminants to the aquifer. The Jordan wells will not be susceptible to most contaminant sources except through pathways to the aquifer such as abandoned or poorly maintained wells. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from the Marion Water Department at 743-6310.

The Marion Water Department also serves an estimated 34,768 citizens (2010 U.S. census) through a distribution system of 174 miles of water mains and 12,900 service connections. The water system also includes 1485 fire hydrants and 2400 valves.

Governing body: The Water Department is governed by a citizen board – The Board of Trustees. This five member board is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council to staggered four year terms. The Board of Trustees meets monthly, the second Tuesday of the month, at 5:15 p.m. in City Hall, with public participation welcome.

Is our water system meeting rules that govern our operations? In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which also must provide protection for public health. The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis for over 80 items to ensure its safety. All tests have been submitted as required. Do I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS? Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). Why are there contaminants in my water? Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining

Introducing: The Marion Water Department, in compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, is providing its customers with its annual water quality report. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. For further information about your drinking water, you may call 743-6310.

The Marion Water Department offers both an 18 gallon and 32 gallon recycling containers for its customers. Each residence is issued one container to remain with the property. Additional containers can be purchased at the Marion Public Services Department located at 195 35th Street in Marion. The cost of an additional 18 gallon container is $11.00 and the 32 gallon container is $20.00. Residents may place additional recycling containers at no extra cost.

Marion’s Water Supply Tested

Marion Public Services Department located at 195 35th Street in Marion. The cost of an additional 18 gallon container is $11.00 and the 32 gallon container is $20.00. Residents may place additional recycling containers at no extra cost.

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or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radiative contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Quality Data Table: The water quality data table lists all the contaminants that were detected during monitoring for the 2011 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Definitions of the terms used in the table and explanations of the abbreviations are given on the bottom of the page. Some chemicals tested for do not have MCL/MCLG standards and are shown as “NA.”

To view more information about the Marion Water Department, please visit our website at www.cityofmarion.org/water.

Test result notes

Note: Test results are from most recent tests taken.

(1) Health Effects of Lead in Drinking Water: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Marion Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Definitions:

MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level, or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDLG – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, or the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

ND – No Detect

ppb – parts per billion

ppm – parts per million

pCi/L – pico Curies per liter

AL – Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

NA – Not Applicable

Please update contact information with city

The Marion Water Department prepares and mails the city’s utility bill. If you have a new phone number or email address please let our department know so we can update our database.

The Water Department is looking into sending the utility bill electronically via email in the near future for those customers who want this option.

The department is currently researching different software products and companies to provide this service to our customers who would prefer to receive their utility bill electronically versus in the mail.

This option may be available starting in 2013. Please call 743-6310 to make any contact information corrections.

Please update contact information with city
Many Opportunities to Enjoy the Parks!

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department is located at Lowe Park, Arts & Environment Center, 4500 Tenth Street. Phone is 377-4846. Office hours are 8AM-5PM, Monday through Friday. The facility is open on Saturdays from 1PM-3PM for viewing the art exhibits. Pavilion reservations may be made in person or phone call and mail processing. Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center reservations are done in person by check. Registration programs may be done by mail or in person.

Marion Senior Dining Program

The Marion Senior Dining Program is held at the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center Monday through Friday from 10AM-2:30 PM. Seniors gather to play cards, bingo and dance. A delicious meal is served daily at 11:30 AM for $3.00. Phone 319-241-4072 by 11:00 A.M. the previous day to make a meal reservation.

Oak Shade Cemetery

Spaces at Oak Shade Cemetery sell for $485 each plus $100 each for perpetual care. If there is not an immediate need for space(s), then be purchased on contract with 20% down and pay-ment in full within 12 months at no interest charged.

Marion Farmers Market – NEW LOCATION

The Marion Farmers Market for the 2012 season is located at Taube Park, 2200 31st Street. The market opens for the season on Saturday, May 5th, and continues through the season on Saturday, May 26th.

Lowe Park facilities rental

The Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center has become a very popular setting for retirement parties, baby/bridal showers, birthday parties, graduations, wedding receptions, dinners, weddings, anniversary parties and family reunions and celebrations.

A number of businesses have also used the building for all day seminars. We have limited AV equipment available and also internet service (not wireless). Our beautiful non- smoking facility has rooms that can be rented for evenings, weekends and every weekday except Monday. Rental times are 9AM-3PM, 4PM-10PM or all day. The facility closes at 10PM. Most weddings and receptions rent the entire facility. Reservations may be made one year in advance (date has to have passed this year to reserve for next year).

Sunburst

10 small square tables x 4 chairs
Weekdays after 2PM - $35.00/hour
Weekends 9-3 or 10-4 (6 hrs) - $80.00
Weekends (all day) - $105.00
Does not include use of kitchen – room remains as set

Hickory

10 round tables x 6 chairs
Weekdays after 2PM - $80/3 hours
Weekends 9-3 or 4-10 (6 hrs) - $130.00
Weekends (all day) - $205.00
Includes use of refrigerator, microwave, stove + sink – room remains as set

Red Oak or White Oak

8 round tables x 16 chairs = 48
8 round tables x 8 chairs = 64
Weekends 9-3 or 4-10 (6 hrs) - $130.00
Weekends (all day) - $205.00
Red Oak includes use of refrigerator, microwave + sink

Red Oak & White Oak

15 round tables x 6 chairs = 90
15 round tables x 8 chairs = 120
Weekends 9-3 or 4-10 1/2 hrs - $180.00
Weekends (all day) - $280.00
Includes use of refrigerator, microwave + sink

Willowood

150 capacity

Depot Pavilion

(City Park)*

150 capacity

Park/Pavilion Capacity and Fees

Thomas Park

Green, 75 capacity

English, 150 capacity

Hanna Park

75 capacity

or call the Marion Parks Department at 377-4846 for further information.

Individual memberships for Friends of the Marion Parks are $10; family memberships are $15. Donations and memorials are also greatly appreciated.

Friends of Marion Parks

Organized in 2002, the Friends of the Marion Parks are a volunteer group that supports the parks in many important ways. Projects have included purchasing needed equipment, holding a Parks staff recognition picnic and providing a corps of volunteers.

To date our volunteers have helped plant flower beds, watered and weeded flowers, and assisted with events at the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center, saving the City of Marion over $12,000. If you have ideas for fun projects or are interested in volunteering, please contact Sueanne Huffman at 377-8329 or call the Marion Parks Department at 377-4846 for further information.

Pets

Pet owners are reminded, by city ordinance, dogs are to be on a leash in all parks and walking trails. Owners are also responsible for cleaning up after their pets. Dogs are not allowed at any park pavilion, playground equipment or ball diamonds and are not allowed at any of the large functions or special events held at City Park which include Marion Arts Festival, musical concerts, Swamp Fox Festival and Christmas in the Park.

Parks and Recreation Department

Park Pavilions Reservation

Taube Park

50 capacity

$25.00/6 hours

$40.00 all day

Depot Pavilion (City Park)*

(adjacent to pool)

30 capacity

$60.00/6 hours

$90.00 all day

Additional charges for large groups (over 200 people)

You may contact our office at 377-4846 to inquire about date and time availability.

Reservations may be done by phone at that time. The reservation will be “penciled” in and paperwork sent out which is to be returned within 7 days. Beer is permitted in parks (cans only – no kegs) with permit (no fee). There is no hard liquor allowed. Please bring your own trash bags and place trash in containers provided.

Pets are not allowed in pavilions or around playground equipment, ball diamonds, farmers market or at large events (band concerts, swamp fox festival, etc.).
Financial planning classes offered at Library

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The Marion Library is happy to collaborate with Principal Financial Group on a weekly series of classes in financial planning. The Tuesday sessions begin at 5:30 and are free and open to everyone. Still ahead this month are “Coping with Volatile Markets” on May 22, and “Protecting Your Dreams Against Disability” on May 29. Classes are scheduled on Tuesdays throughout the month; visit our website calendar (https://www.marionpubliclibrary.org/#/calendar) for specific June and July topics. Come to any or all! All sessions will be taught by Landis Thomp-
son, a professional at the Principal Group, and all are free and open to anyone interested in a more secure financial future.

Join the Magic Tree House Book Club for Crafts and Fun!

Have you heard about the Magic Tree House Book Club? Each month on the third Tuesday at 6:30, we’re reading the books in order and getting crafty with the themes. So far we’ve painted dinosaur eggs, built castles, and decorated a life-size sarcophagus (the fancy box a mummy was buried in). This summer we’ll be reading “Night of the Ninjas” (June 19), “Afternoon on the Amazon” (July 17), and “Sunset of the Sabertooth” (August 21). Don’t worry if you haven’t read the earlier books, just dive in and follow the adventures of Jack and Annie with the Magic Tree House Book Club!

Reading Assistance Dogs at the Library

We are excited to continue to partner with Corridor Therapy Dogs who provide dogs each month for our young readers. Children who may not be confident readers are encouraged to come in and read to a dog! Dogs are non-judgmental listeners who don’t laugh at children when they make mistakes or stumble over words; they lie beside their young partners enjoy the stories the children read to them. Our reading program is open to any child, but the dogs focus on children who may need an extra boost of confidence. Bring your young reader to the library on Thursday, May 31 between 6 and 7:30 p.m. Summer dates for reading dogs are Tuesdays on June 12, July 10, and August 14.

Food for Thought

Our Food for Thought Discussion Group meets on the fourth Tuesday each month January through October at noon. This month’s meeting is on May 22, when the topic is Celebrate Dickens! Check our website calendar (https://www.marionpubliclibrary.org/#/calendar) for topics for the summer months. Food for Thought is open to all readers. Bring your lunch and enjoy a noon hour talking about books!

Battle of Midway

June 4 marks the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, the turning point in World War II in the Pacific. Join us here at the library on May 29 at 7 p.m. for a presentation on the Battle of Midway by biographer and naval historian Stephen D. Rogers. There will be plenty of time for questions. There is no charge.

Water Meter Upgrade Program

You may receive notice that your wa-
ter meter is due for an upgrade. The Marion Water Department is currently replacing old water meters. When we replace old meters we are also installing new radio equipment that sends out a signal to a meter reading system. Our goal is to update our older meters with new meters and radio read units so that we have a more uniform and accurate meter reading system. There is no charge for this upgrade. To accomplish the meter upgrade we will need to:

- Obtain access to the meter, which is located inside the house.
- Shut your water off at the meter valve during the procedure. (Homeowner is responsible to have functioning shut off valves adjacent to the water meter.)
- Remove the old meter and install new meter and radio read unit.

With over 12,800 water customers in Marion the meter upgrade process will take some time to complete. We are currently installing the new radio read system in all new homes. Custom er notification will be made by mail or by hanging a notification door card when we are upgrading meters in your neighborhood. You may be contacted by the Water Department Customer Service Staff to make an appointment. All Water Department staff and contracted employees carry identification cards. Max Christensen is a private contractor hired by the department to assist us with the meter upgrade program. He will make appointments with homeowners to change out their water meters after normal working hours and on weekends if necessary. Please call the Water Department at (319) 743-6310 between 8am and 5pm if you have any questions or concerns. You can also email our office at tbsgerald@cityofmarion.org.

Credit Card and E-checks Now Accepted for Water Bill Payment

Payments by credit card and E-checks can be made through Official Payments. Just call 1-800-272-9829 to pay by telephone or visit www.cityofmarion.org/#/water-billing-option or www.officialpayments.com to pay your utility bill over the Internet. (For telephone and online payments, enter your Jurisdiction Code 2511 when prompted.) (Minimum convenience fee of $3.95 will be charged.) If your service will be soon be disconnected, please call the Water Department 743-6310 with the payment confirmation number provided at the time of payment by Official. Payments so arrangements can be made for continuing water service.
4-year-old Boys and Girls
Increase your child’s coordination and motor skills while sparkling his/her interest in sports! Activities introduced during this program include T-Ball, Soccer and Football. This program is set up to focus on each sport in a creative way that your child is sure to love. Program held at Lowe Park. Limit 20 participants.
Register By: July 6, 2012 Program Dates: Tuesdays, August 2-28, 2012 6:30-5:10 p.m.
Fee: $30 includes team shirt

Happy Feet Soccer
3-year-old Boys and Girls
Same as Kick Start Soccer
(above) except this 2-week program meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in July. Limit 20 participants.
Register By: June 15, 2012 Program Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays, July 17-26 10:10-30:00 a.m.
Fee: $30 includes team shirt

Lil’ Pigskins
4-year-old Boys and Girls
Children learn the basics of football without the contact. Coaches combine fun and fundamentals through skill-building exercises. Kids also learn the importance of sportsmanship. Program held at Lowe or Butterfield Parks. Limit 20 participants.
Register By: June 15, 2012 Program Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays, July 17-26 10:45-11:15 a.m.
Fee: $30 includes team shirt

Little Tykes Football
4-year-old Boys and Girls
Learn the fundamentals of football – punt, throw, run and other cool stuff that all football players know. Program held at Butterfield Park. Limit 20 participants.
Register By: June 15, 2012 Program Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays, July 17-26 4:30-5:10 p.m.
Fee: $30 includes team shirt

2nd/3rd Flag Football
Boys and Girls in 2nd or 3rd grades
This is an instructional league. Coaches schedule practices in late August during the week. Games are on Saturdays at Lowe Park.
Register By: August 10, 2012 Program Dates: Saturdays, Sept. 8-Oct. 20 Fee: $37 includes team shirt

4th/5th Flag Football
Boys and Girls in 4th or 5th grades
This is an instructional league. Coaches schedule practices in late August during the week. Games are on Saturdays at Lowe Park.
Register By: August 10, 2012 Game Dates: Saturdays, Sept. 8-Oct. 20 Fee: $37 includes team shirt

Parks and Recreation Department

Little Sports Camps starting soon

Marion Municipal Swimming Pool 2012 Season

2012 Pool Season: May 26 – August 19
Phone: 377-1654
Willoowood Park
1855 35th Street, Marion

Hours:
Monday-Friday 12:30-8 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: 12:30-7 p.m.
Special Hours Due to Session 1 Swim Lessons:
June 4-8 & June 11-15
12:30-4:15 p.m.
Pool does not reopen after lessons

Admission:
Cash or checks only
Ages 3 & under $2.50
($2.33 + 17¢ tax)
Ages 4 & older $3.50
($3.27 + 33¢ tax)
Seniors (age 60+) $2.50
($2.33 + 17¢ tax)

Season Pass Purchases
Individual Pass $90.00
($84.11 + $5.89 tax)
Family Pass $170.00
($158.88 + $11.12 tax)

Purchase season passes at the pool, over the phone or through www.cityofmarion.org. Click on the “Building Permits”. You can also download. You can also visit the Marion Department of Building and Zoning, 1855 35th Street, Marion to view the following items.
You should contact your insurance agent prior to purchasing a pool. You should review the following items:
What fences or barriers are required?
Will I have the proper clearances from electrical power, cable, and phone lines? Pools are to be placed a minimum of 5 feet away from underground electrical lines. Overhead lines (electrical, cable, and phone) have required clearances too. What electrical power requirements will be needed? Pool pumps, heaters, and other accessories have electrical guidelines that need to be followed. GFCI protection is required. Electrical bonding is a necessity. All electrical work should be performed by qualified individuals. What other protective devices will be required for a safe installation? Pool alarms may be required.
What are the zoning rules when locating a pool?

Marion Parks and Recreation

Building Dept.

Want to add a pool to your property?

If our spring weather is any indicator, our summer could be a warm one. Swimming pools are a great way to get relief from the hot summer weather. A safe installation and diligent supervision are a necessity. Soft side pools have become quite economical and are easy to install.
A building permit and electrical permit are required for any pool that has the potential to hold water over 24 inches deep regardless of type. There are many guidelines pertaining to the installation of a pool for a safe installation.
What should you consider before purchasing a pool?
During the month of May, the world will celebrate Building Safety Month. The theme is "An International Celebration of Safe and Sensible Structures". The celebration was first observed in 1980. The goal of the event is to raise public awareness of critical safety issues such as soundness of buildings, reliability of fire prevention systems, and energy efficiency. These issues affect every person regardless of age or occupation.

The City of Marion has adopted model codes published by the International Code Council to ensure the safety of the structures we live, work, and play. Marion building officials review plans and work with architects, engineers, builders, and others in the construction industry to ensure safe construction of buildings. Inspections are conducted to verify the various trade installations. Everyone can participate in the celebration by performing a few things, such as:

- Checking doors and windows for missing caulk or flashings.
- Developing a family disaster plan.
- Install a fire extinguisher and learn why eating healthy helps our bodies grow. CALL EXTENSION WITH ANY QUESTIONS Register By: July 1, 2012 Program Dates: July 9-13, 2012 Location: Thomas Park, Green Shelter Fee: $35 – Make payment to Linn County Extension 3279 7th Ave., Suite 140, Marion, IA 52302

We will make healthy snacks and learn why eating healthy helps our bodies grow. CALL EXTENSION WITH ANY QUESTIONS Register By: July 1, 2012 Program Dates: July 9-13, 2012 Location: Thomas Park, Green Shelter Fee: $35 – Make payment to Linn County Extension 3279 7th Ave., Suite 140, Marion, IA 52302

Let us all work together to address the critical issues of safety and energy efficiency and make Marion a safe and sound place to work and live.

Sign up now for newsletter and other summer activities

Come to Summer Discovery Camp and practice healthy living habits. We will be learning about being safe and healthy through activities, playing games, and will practice using pedometers. Everyone can participate in the celebration by performing a few things, such as:

- Checking doors and windows for missing caulk or flashings.
- Developing a family disaster plan.
- Install a fire extinguisher and learn why eating healthy helps our bodies grow. CALL EXTENSION WITH ANY QUESTIONS Register By: July 1, 2012 Program Dates: July 9-13, 2012 Location: Thomas Park, Green Shelter Fee: $35 – Make payment to Linn County Extension 3279 7th Ave., Suite 140, Marion, IA 52302

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Marion Arts Council
The Marion Arts Council promotes the importance of the arts and develops programs that maximize public awareness of art, artists, and culture. Activities include visual art exhibits at the art Gallery in the Lowe Park Center, artistic workshops for children and adults and musical performances. Gallery exhibits are changed every six to eight weeks and offer an opportunity to see artwork by local and Iowa wide artists. Details of specific events can be found on our website, www.marionarts council.com, or on our Facebook page. If you “like” the Marion Arts Council on Facebook (with the blue Arts Council logo) you will be “invited” to events. You can also email us at marionarts@cityofmarion.org and we will add you to our email list for monthly event updates.

Kiwanis Help with Playground Project

Thanks to some help from the Marion Metro Kiwanis, a new playground will be coming to Lininger Park at 390 Alburnett Road (corner of Alburnett Road and Geode Street in Marion). The Kiwanis raised money to match an allocation from Local Option Sales tax to help come up with the final funds needed to make the project a reality. The new playground structure will be installed beginning the week of May 14th with completion and opening in June.

The total Budget for the Project included contributions from the Marion Metro Kiwanis as well as LOST funds. Contributions included: Marion Metro Kiwanis $15,000; LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) $15,000; City of Marion Equipment Reserve Playground Funds $35,000.
Proposed Stormwater Utility rate changes

Since 2008 Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Clive, Indianola, Johnston, Norwalk, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights (all ERU based) have formed a SWJU just in the Greater Des Moines area. (Business Record – Des Moines)

The City of Marion is proposing a rate structure change regarding the City’s existing Storm Water Utility. The City is proposing adoption of an Equivalent Rate Unit (ERU) System to better distribute fees to storm water run-off reduction efforts. The current monthly rate is a flat fee of $3.50 and includes all residential and non-residential properties. Proposed rates will better reflect storm water runoff creation and be structured in the form of a fee of $4.80 per residential unit and a fee representing # of ERUs (2791SF of impervious area) x $1.55, plus a $3.25 (service fee) on non-residential properties. The proposed program also includes a credit system for storm water run-off reduction efforts.

City staff has approved the second reading of the Storm Water Utility Ordinance and Utility Credit Policy at their Regular Meeting on March 22, 2012. They also tabled the third reading until June 21, 2012 to provide for additional public educational opportunities.

Staff has begun additional public education mailings, sessions, and articles to provide the public another opportunity to become better informed on the Storm Water Utility Ordinance and Credit Program.

Stormwater utility fees currently appear on the monthly City of Marion utility bill and pay for the ongoing operation and main- tenance of the City’s existing storm collection infrastructure. Under the new rate structure, stormwater utility revenues will also be used to address existing drainage problems and storm system deficiencies. For example, stormwater utility fees will be used to expand the City drain tile program, construct new regional detention basins, install of storm drainage infrastructure in neighborhoods where it has not been installed, and/or upsize undersized pipes.

Currently, some City stormwater management expenditures are paid for out of the City’s general fund (i.e. property taxes) and not the stormwater operating revenues. As a result, the City currently pays for 100% of its stormwater management program. Under the new rate structure, 80% of stormwater management expenditures will be funded from the stormwater utility, leaving 20% to be underwritten by the General Fund.

The proposed rate has been adjusted by 25% to $7.69 per unit to address the City’s existing storm water utility issues.

Proposed Credit Policy has been approved by the Marion City Council and Credit Program during August 2012 (Infrastructure Committee, Public Input, Committee Approval)

Funding Levels – July thru August 2012 (Infrastructure Committee, Public Input, Committee Approval)

Funding Alternatives – September thru October 2012 (Infrastructure Committee, Public Input, Committee Approval)

Overview of Storm Water Service analysis – May thru June 2012 (Infrastructure Committee, Public Input, Committee Approval)

Additional information is available on the City’s Web Site for the public to review. Additional information is also available at www.cityofmarion.org.

Contact: 6340, or dwhitlow@cityofmarion.org.
As the spring weather continues to warm, many residents head outdoors to enjoy leisure activities.

Hopefully, utilizing Marion’s various trails is among these activities, with more and more trails being established each year. In the last year, in cooperation with local developers, the City of Marion installed roadside trails along Boyson Road (between Alburnett Road and the western City Limits), along S. 31st Street (between 1st Avenue and Grand Avenue), and along Tower Terrace Road (between 3rd Street and 10th Street).

A green space trail project for this year includes the extension of the trail through Thomas Park, south to 35th Street (between 1st Avenue and Grand Avenue), and along Tower Terrace Road (between 3rd Street and 10th Street). Future extensions of this trail will continue south as part of the CeMar Highway 100 trail through Thomas Park, south to 35th Street (between 1st Avenue and Grand Avenue), and along Tower Terrace Road (between 3rd Street and 10th Street).

Future extensions of this trail will continue south as part of the CeMar Highway 100.

Top Ten Things to Remember When Using Trails:

1) Leave nothing on the trail but good memories. Litter is not appealing to any user.
2) Respect private property and the privacy of people living along the trail.
3) Stay on the designated trails.
4) Keep to the right.
5) Pass on the left.
6) When passing someone, let them know you are approaching and will be passing on the left. “On your left!” is a common saying used to make your passing intentions known.
7) If you need to stop for a rest or to enjoy the view, step off the trail to clear the path for other users.
8) Remember that pedestrians and cyclists going uphill are working hard and should be given the right of way over those coming down hill.
9) When traveling with a group, stay in single file to avoid accidents when encountering other trail users.
10) If you are on a trail and happen to approach a horse and rider, quietly make your presence known, and yield while the horse passes you, or wait for the rider to acknowledge your presence and pass with caution.

These trail extensions are anticipated to be complete by July 1st. The extension of Tower Terrace Road from 10th Street to Alburnett will also include a roadside trail that is anticipated to be constructed yet this year. Future sections of Tower Terrace Road will also include roadside trails and will be constructed as funding becomes available.

If you would like to learn more about Marion’s trails or be involved with future trail planning, please contact Kesha Billings via e-mail at kbillings@cityofmarion.org or by phone at (319)743-6320.

SEE TRAIL MAP ON BACK PAGE

Marion City Departments Directory

Administrative Offices
1225 6th Avenue – Suite 110
743-6300
tracim@cityofmarion.org

City Clerk/Finance
1225 6th Avenue – Suite 170
743-6350
wnelson@cityofmarion.org

City Manager
1225 6th Avenue – Suite 110
743-6303
citymanager@cityofmarion.org

Water Department
1225 6th Avenue – Suite 150
743-6310
Emergency – 743-6310
tsteigerwald@cityofmarion.org
mmoore@cityofmarion.org

Engineering Department
1225 6th Avenue – Suite 200
743-6340
dwhitlow@cityofmarion.org

Building Department
1225 6th Avenue – Suite 220
743-6330
tbellach@cityofmarion.org

Planning & Development
1225 6th Avenue – Suite 210
743-6320
cbender@cityofmarion.org

Public Library
1095 6th Avenue
377-3412
mplinfo@cityofmarion.org

Parks & Recreation Dept.
(Loew Park)
4500 10th Street
377-4846
ppearson@cityofmarion.org

Fire Department
3933 Katz Drive
377-8237, Alarm (Emergency) 911
tjackson@cityofmarion.org

Police Department
3911 Katz Drive
377-1511, Emergency 911
Records – 377-7889
Administration – 377-4006
admin@marionpolice.com

Public Services Dept.
195 35th Street
377-6367
Solid Waste Collection / Sewer / Street Maintenance
rmiller@cityofmarion.org

Public Works Department

2012 Solid Waste Collection Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Pickup Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 28</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>One day late all week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 4</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>Wed. thru Friday one day late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept. 9</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>One day late all week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Nov. 11</td>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td>Regular collection schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Nov. 22</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Collection on Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Nov. 23</td>
<td>Day after Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Collection on Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Dec. 25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>One day late Tuesday thru Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Jan. 1</td>
<td>New Years Day</td>
<td>One day late Tuesday thru Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marion Messenger • 11
Trails of Marion

Legend
- Marion City Limit
- Bike Lane, Existing
- Creek/Greenspace, Existing
- Creek/Greenspace, Proposed
- RR ROW, Existing
- RR ROW, Proposed
- Roadside, Existing

and don’t forget...

MAF MARION ARTS FESTIVAL
SATURDAY • MAY 19 • 2012