



Spring 2026

# MARION MESSENGER

**2** MAYOR'S MESSAGE

**3** COMMUNITY SURVEY

**4** CITY NEWS

**5** BUDGET UPDATE

**6** COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**7-8** EVENT CALENDAR

**9** COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**10** CITY SERVICES

**11** PUBLIC WORKS

**12-13** PUBLIC SAFETY

**14** PARKS & REC

**15** LIBRARY

**16** SPONSORSHIPS

Play by Play  
Activity  
Guide  
-Inside -

## Stepping into Spring

Quality of Life Ranks High in The National Community Survey™ | Page 3



Nick AbouAssaly

## The Aquatics Center Project: Separating Facts from Rumors

Most residents are aware that a water park-style aquatics center concept was presented to the City Council last year. As expected, this

generated a lot of good discussion and questions in the community.

Resident engagement and discourse on important topics is encouraged and necessary. However, some inaccurate assumptions and rumors have, unfortunately, led to a false conclusion among some residents that the City is proceeding with the project as it was presented. Residents should know that the City Council has not authorized the project and there is no current plan to proceed with its construction.

From its inception, this project has been driven by and developed with the full participation of the community. Our municipal swimming pool was built in 1987 and replacing it with a modern aquatics facility has been a stated desire of many residents for more than a decade. The idea came to the forefront in the 2017 ImagiNEXT community visioning process led by the Marion Chamber of Commerce, which engaged thousands of people.

For our professional City staff, pursuing this idea made sense given the dwindling attendance, rising costs of repairing recurring issues in our aging facility and concerns over maintaining a dysfunctional facility that no longer meets the community's expectations. In the ensuing years, the City engaged a professional consultant who specializes in aquatics facilities and engaged residents in a comprehensive process to determine preferences for the type and scale of aquatics facility they desire and would be willing to support.

The resulting plan of a water park-style facility was presented to the City Council last year and a timeline was set for decision-making that would present the matter for voter approval through a bond referendum. At no time did the City Council consider proceeding with constructing the proposed project without voter approval through a bond referendum.

To help voters make a fully informed decision, the City Council directed City staff to obtain reliable cost estimates. The City then solicited resident input on the \$46 million projected total cost and project details through a community-wide survey. Notably, 55 percent of respondents supported the full project at the projected cost. However, the City Council considered the higher-than-expected cost and its impact on the City's debt level as well as Marion's taxpayers and decided not to hold a bond referendum on the project as presented. Instead, the Council directed City staff to research other options and alternatives for Council consideration.

We still need a plan for moving forward. Doing nothing is illogical given the recurring costs of maintaining an aging facility and dwindling attendance year after year because the pool and its amenities no longer meet the expectations of Marion's residents. City Council members and many City employees are also Marion taxpayers and are mindful of the impact of spending decisions. The responsible course of action taken with the proposed aquatics center is just one example.

In true Marion fashion, as we move forward toward a workable plan, we will do our best to provide information through multiple avenues in a clear and transparent manner. And it is incumbent on all to remain engaged and proactively seek out the facts as they form opinions on this and other City initiatives. City staff and Council members are always available to answer questions and provide details.

This challenge is also an opportunity for Marion to continue reaching higher. Success requires us to work collaboratively with the best intentions and give each other the benefit of the doubt. While the end result is unlikely to please every single Marion resident, I'm confident we will achieve a result that works best for the greatest number of people.



## City of Marion Launches Redesigned Website



In January, City staff and website provider, Granicus, celebrated the completion of a year-long redesign process of the City website. Check it out at [www.cityofmarion.org](http://www.cityofmarion.org). The refresh provides a new look/feel, updated community imagery, improved ADA accessibility, a new Service Directory widget and enhanced mobile functionality. Additionally, new text and email notification capabilities are now available through GovDelivery. Residents and others are invited to stay up to date on City services and upcoming events by signing up to receive text alerts or emails from the City of Marion. Sign up at [www.cityofmarion.org/text](http://www.cityofmarion.org/text).

## Apply to Join a Board or Commission

Do you want to provide input on City policies and help shape our city and its government? Apply to be one of 100+ volunteers who serve on Marion boards and commissions. There are openings on the Arts Council, Civil Service Commission, Civil Rights Commission, Construction Code Review Board and Park Board. To be considered, please submit an online application at [www.cityofmarion.org/boards-commissions](http://www.cityofmarion.org/boards-commissions).



## Quality of Life in Marion receives high marks in The National Community Survey™

Every other year, the City of Marion uses The National Community Survey™ to measure service performance, assess community needs and make strategic planning decisions.

The NCS focuses on the livability of communities by categorizing survey questions into ten main facets of livability including economy, mobility, community design, utilities, safety, natural environment, parks and recreation, health and wellness, education, arts and culture, and community connection.

Marion's ratings were compared to national benchmarks from over 400 communities representing a wide geographic and population range. The results were also compared to a select subset of the database with similar characteristics to Marion; secondary cities (in a metro but not the primary city), similar in both population and annual household income.

Quality of life, safety and neighborhood conditions remain standout strengths in Marion, with about nine in 10 residents giving positive marks across all measures. City services, cleanliness and health-related services also performed strongly. The vibrancy of the downtown/commercial area and economic development also scored higher than both national and peer benchmarks. Amenities such as housing options, public spaces, cultural activities and opportunities for social engagement, and education further reinforce Marion's positive reputation.

- 93 percent of residents rated the community as an excellent or good place to live
- 87 percent rated the overall quality of life positively
- 93 percent gave Marion high marks as a place to raise children

"It is always gratifying when we see consistently high marks from residents for the level of service they receive and the opportunities their City provides them," said Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. "Additionally, the areas of opportunity our residents identify are equally powerful. They help us understand where we should direct our attention as we continue shaping the best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business."

The survey also identifies key areas for improvement, particularly in the areas of governance, economic perceptions and mobility. Traffic flow, parking and sidewalk maintenance stood out as notable concerns. Additionally, residents expressed growing concern about growth management, environmental preservation, adult education opportunities and support for vulnerable populations, signaling opportunities for focused attention and future investment.

"We are pleased to partner with communities to measure resident satisfaction," said Lily Vasquez, project manager at Polco. "Nationally, we're seeing declining scores in the areas of governance and economy."

"In Marion's case, and among many of the more than 400 communities we survey, we're

noticing a modest reset and period of stabilization in 2025," Vasquez added. "Many communities are finding their survey results are returning to pre-pandemic levels following a period of post-pandemic optimism reflected in the 2023 results."

Of the 131 categories measured and compared to the national and peer communities, Marion was "higher" or "much higher" than the benchmarks for 37 items, "lower" or "much lower" in six categories and similar to the benchmarks in all others.

"Team Marion values resident input and uses it to help shape our community through data-informed decision-making," said City Manager Ryan Waller. "These survey results, along with a decade of trend data, will be used in the coming months to update the City's Strategic Plan and ensure our areas of focus align with the community's needs."

The five-page survey was administered between October and November 2025 to a random sample of 3,000 households. Five hundred twenty-two responses were received, achieving a margin of error of no greater than +/- 5.8 percentage points. The data was then weighted to reflect the demographic characteristics of the community. At the end of the data collection period, a web-based survey was available to all residents and 440 residents opted to participate.



To view the full report of the 2025 National Community Survey results, visit [www.cityofmarion.org](http://www.cityofmarion.org). An interactive online dashboard is also available.



## City Hall Renovation Underway

In January, Garling Construction, Inc. began renovation work at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue. This project is a strategic reorganization of departmental services to improve both public access and employee safety.

Upon completion, the Community Development Department (Planning & Building Divisions) and IT Department will move to the first floor, with the City Manager's Office, Finance and Human Resources departments moving to the second floor.

The renovation project includes updates to the City Council Chambers, where several public meetings are typically held. During this time, meetings of the City Council, Planning & Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment will be temporarily moved to the Linn-Mar Educational Leadership Center, located at 3556 Winslow Road.

If additional meetings are impacted, updated locations will be listed on the meeting agenda. Agendas, minutes and video recordings remain available on the City's meeting portal at [www.cityofmarion.org/meetingportal](http://www.cityofmarion.org/meetingportal).

Project completion is anticipated later this spring.



  
**Thank you,  
Ed Holland!**



In December, Ed Holland celebrated his retirement from the Public Works Department. He joined the City of Marion and worked in the Solid Waste Division as a member of the garbage crew for more than 29 years. We thank him for his dedicated years of service to the Marion community. Ed is pictured with his coworkers on his last day of work.

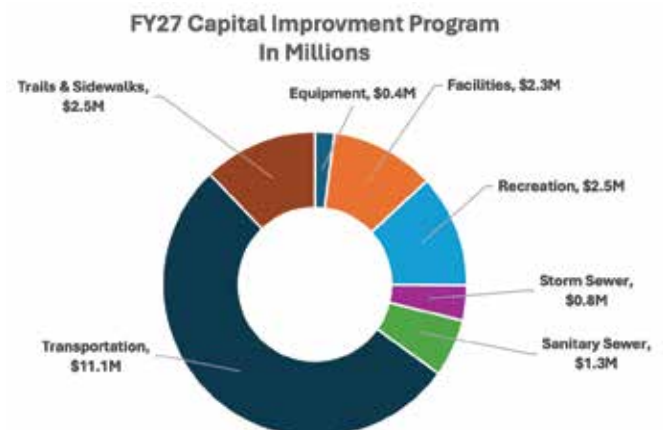
## FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program

The FY 27 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget is focused on preserving and maintaining the City's existing infrastructure. The total FY 27 CIP budget is \$20.9 million, with transportation projects comprising the majority of planned expenditures at approximately 53% of the total. In addition to the annual pavement management program, progress is anticipated on the Alburnett Road extension and the next phase of the Central Corridor 7th Avenue Reconstruction project.

### Key Projects Over \$750,000:

- **Pavement Management Program:** an ongoing annual program that replaces streets in residential areas.
- **Alburnett Road Extension & Bridge:** extends Alburnett Road from Boyson Road, south across Indian Creek, through Willow Park and along 2nd Street to 7th Avenue/Marion Boulevard. The project includes \$7 million in federal funding.
- **Sanitary Trunk Sewer - Projects 4 & 5:** based on a Sanitary Sewer Study, addresses an area southeast of Alburnett Road and west of 10th Street.
- **Lucore Road Elevated Water Tower:** a new one-million-gallon elevated water tower will create a new water pressure zone for current and future developments in the area.
- **CeMar Trail:** includes 1.44 miles of 10-foot-wide concrete trail and the construction of three bridges over Indian Creek, creating largely grade-separated bike and pedestrian travel from Uptown Marion to Downtown Cedar Rapids/Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

- **7th Avenue Reconstruction (12th to 22nd Streets):** the reconstruction of 7th Avenue from 7th to 12th Streets was completed in 2022. This project represents the next phase of the central corridor improvements and has also received federal funding.



# FY 2027 City Budget to Be Adopted by the End of April

The City of Marion's annual budget process begins in July with a series of budget discussions held at City Council meetings followed by the annual budget work session in January. The process concludes with a public hearing and budget adoption by the end of April. This schedule promotes transparency and offers the community valuable opportunities to engage in shaping the budget. By using a zero-based budgeting approach, the City makes sure resources are allocated to its most important priorities.

## Key Highlights of the FY 2027 Budget

The recommended General Fund budget for FY 2027 includes \$38 million in expenses, which is a 19% increase compared to last year (excluding transfers for equipment reserves and risk management). However, most of this change is not new spending – it reflects accounting reallocations recommended through the City's cost allocation review. Costs will be offset by transfers coming in from other funds including Road Use, Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Stormwater and Urban Forest.

## Major Budget Drivers

Several key factors are shaping the FY 2027 budget recommendation:

### Public Safety

- › **Public Safety represents 52% of the General Fund budget (excluding transfers out)**
- › The FY 2027 budget includes three new positions in Police:
  - › Two 911 Communications Operators (dispatchers)
  - › One Management Analyst
- › The budget also includes contractual salary adjustments for the labor unions

### Technology Costs

- › The City continues to see increased costs related to software licensing, cybersecurity and technology lifecycle management (keeping systems current and reliable)

### Cost Allocation Plan (Internal Services & Public Works Shared Services)

- › The City is implementing a new cost allocation methodology to better reflect the true cost of programs and services, adding transparency and efficiency. This means centralization of internal service costs such as Finance, Human Resources and IT as well as shared Public

Works functions such as Fleet Management, Engineering, Facilities and Administration within General Fund. The new methodology uses objective drivers such as employee counts, number of transactions, service tickets, etc. Transfers in from the Road Use Fund, and the utility funds offset their appropriate share of the costs.

- › This initiative helps to ensure that utility funds pay their equitable share of internal services rather than relying disproportionately on the General Fund.

### Asset Replacement

- › The General Fund budget includes a \$2 million transfer to the Equipment Reserve Fund. Planned and scheduled replacement of equipment helps maintain service reliability and avoid more costly failures.

### Debt Management

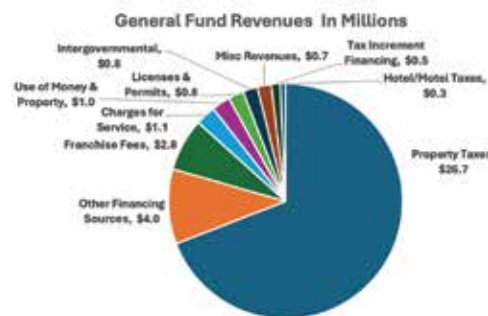
- › The City is not planning any new General Obligation (G.O.) bond issuances in Spring 2026 to support the FY 27 Capital Improvement Program.

### Continued Operational Discipline

- › Since 2021, the City has taken multiple steps to manage costs while protecting core services, including:
  - › Consolidating two departments,
  - › Eliminating positions through organizational changes,
  - › Selling the airport,
  - › Reviewing fees for service, and
  - › Introducing a high-deductible health plan.

## Where the Funding Comes From

The General Fund budget for FY 2027 is supported by \$39 million in revenue. Approximately 69% of this comes from property taxes with 7% coming from franchise fees on electric, gas and cable utilities.



## Property Taxes

It's important to remember that the City of Marion is only one of several taxing entities that contribute to your total property tax bill. In FY 26, the City's portion accounted for approximately 37% of the total bill for residents in the Linn-Mar and Marion School Districts, and approximately 41% for residents in the Cedar Rapids School District. Even so, we recognize residents experience the full impact of the total tax bill - and we remain focused on being thoughtful and deliberate with the City's portion of that overall tax burden.

Through careful planning and ongoing cost-containment efforts, the City's proposed property tax rate for FY27 would decrease from \$14.89684 to \$14.54508 per \$1,000 of taxable value - representing a reduction of approximately \$0.35.

*What could this mean for residential property owners?*

- › If your assessed value increased by about 9% from 2024 to 2025, you could expect to pay about the same in City of Marion property taxes.
- › If your assessed value increased by less than 9%, you could expect a decrease in City of Marion property taxes.
- › If your assessed value increased more than 9%, you could expect an increase in City of Marion property taxes.

*What could this mean for commercial/industrial property owners?*

- › Due to the complexity of the property tax formula, the impact to commercial/industrial property owners is not consistent by percentage across different valuation increases.

While no single action fully addresses the broader property tax burden, this proposed reduction reflects an intentional effort to lessen the City's impact where possible. For additional details and the budget calendar, visit [www.cityofmarion.org/government/finance/budget](http://www.cityofmarion.org/government/finance/budget). These meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome to attend.

Dialog will continue between now and April 30, the deadline for filing the FY 2027 budget with the State.

## MARION MESSENGER

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

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**Lowe Park**, 4500 10th Street  
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**Marion Public Library**

1101 6th Avenue  
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**Fire Department**

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Emergency - 911  
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tfagan@cityofmarion.org

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## Uptown Marion Market is Set for Summer

Uptown Marion Market, presented by Marion Platinum Community Partners, will be held June 13, July 11, Aug. 8 and Sept. 26 from 8 a.m.-noon. Get to know local growers and artisans while enjoying fun, family-friendly activities.

**NEW in 2026!** The June 13 market will feature a Non-Profit Fair (must apply online). And applications are also open for the Aug. 8 Youth Entrepreneur Fair.

Interested in becoming a vendor? The market is a great opportunity for local farmers and vendors to get to know their customers. It's also a place for entrepreneurs to test the waters on new products and retail.

Applications are now open. Visit [marioncc.org/vendor-information](http://marioncc.org/vendor-information) for details or call (319) 743-4723 with questions.

Uptown Marion Market will be held on 7th Avenue and City Square Park in Uptown Marion and will feature vendors, music and family-friendly programming.



Watch for details or visit [marioncc.org](http://marioncc.org) and [facebook.com/MarionIACChamber](https://facebook.com/MarionIACChamber) for the latest.





## MARION SPRING/SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Coffeehouse Nights

**Fridays | March 6, April 3 | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center**

These musical performances feature talented local acoustic artists in a relaxed coffeehouse-type atmosphere. Admission is free and doors open at 6:30 p.m. with music starting at 7 p.m. Coffee will be available for purchase.

### B-I-N-G-O Nights

**Fridays | March 13, April 10 | Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center**

Join us for Bingo! Doors are at 5:30 p.m., with games beginning at 6 p.m. Bingo will be played for \$0.25 per card, per game.

### Wee Parade

*hosted by Uptown Snug*

**Saturday | March 14 | Uptown Artway**

Join us for a parade - in miniature! Float registration is at 1:30 p.m., and the parade starts at 2 p.m.

### Enchanted Blooms: An Uptown Marion Fundraiser

**Friday | March 27 | Various Stops**

Step into an evening of flowers and community in Uptown Marion. Ticket holders visit local shops to collect blooms and create their own bouquet, plus receive a market tote, raffle ticket and event booklet with promotions. Explore unique shops, connect with others and support Uptown Marion. This is a ticketed event.

### Healthy Kids Day + City Showcase

**Saturday | April 18 | Marion YCMA**

From 9 a.m.-noon, City staff will be on hand to visit with residents and share information about upcoming projects. City vehicles will be on display, and several community partners will have a presence. Plus, participate in fun

activities and enter for a chance to win door prizes as part of the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day.

### Marion Farmers Market

**Saturdays | May-Sept. | Willowood Park**

Visit your neighborhood farmers market each Saturday throughout the summer. Find produce, baked goods, meats, wine and more between 8-11 a.m. each week.

### Marion Police 5K4K9 Fun Run/Walk

**Saturday | May 9 | Linn-Mar High School**

Join us for a meaningful community event dedicated to raising funds for the Marion Police Department's Crisis K9 Team. This specially trained K9 will provide critical emotional support and comfort to individuals and officers during times of crisis. Race begins at 9 a.m. Register at [www.cityofmarion.org/5K4K9](http://www.cityofmarion.org/5K4K9).

### Migratory Bird Day Celebration

**Saturday | May 9 | Thomas Park**

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Marion Parks to celebrate all things birds! Activities include educational displays, speakers, bird hikes, children's activities and more! For more information, visit [cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation](http://cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation).

### Marion Arts Festival 5K & Half Marathon

*hosted by Corridor Running*

**Saturday | May 16 | Uptown Marion**

Start the day with the Marion Arts Festival Half Marathon and 5K races, hosted by Corridor Running. The races begin at 7:30 a.m. Register now at [corridorrunning.com/marion-arts-festival](http://corridorrunning.com/marion-arts-festival).

### Marion Arts Festival

*presented by Farmers State Bank*  
**Saturday | May 16 | Uptown Marion**

One day. Fifty artists. Exceptional art. Enjoy hands-on experiences and one-of-a-kind art from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Additional details can be found at [marionartsfestival.com](http://marionartsfestival.com).

### Great American Kites

**Saturday | May 16 | PeeWee Diamonds at Lowe Park**

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department will host Great American Kites at Lowe Park from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Great American Kites specializes in producing the most astonishing and colorful outdoor giant kite displays. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Outside food and drink are permitted.

### Marion by Moonlight

*hosted by Farmers State Bank*  
**Thursdays | June 4, 11, 18, 25 | Central Plaza at City Square Park**

Gather your people, a cooler and some lawn chairs and kick back to enjoy live music compliments of Farmers State Bank. Music goes from 6-9 p.m.  
June 4: Crazy Delicious  
June 11: 90s Kid  
June 18: Schmidt Brothers  
June 25: Lonesome Road

### Pop-Up Acts in the Artway

*sponsored by Iowa Appliance Center and Affordable Heating and Cooling*  
**Most Fridays | June-August | Uptown Artway**

Sit on the patio of a nearby establishment and hear local musicians perform on the Uptown Artway stage. Music begins at 6 p.m. Visit [cityofmarion.org](http://cityofmarion.org) or [facebook.com/CityofMarionIowa](https://facebook.com/CityofMarionIowa) for specific artists and dates.

### Marion Community Band

**Tuesdays | June 10 & July 1 | Central Plaza at City Square Park**

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a nice summer evening listening to our great community band! Wear something red, white or blue to get into the spirit. Music starts at 7 p.m.

### Sunrise Yoga

**Saturdays | June 6-Aug. 29 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Enjoy free outdoor yoga each Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. Participants should bring water and a yoga mat or towel.

**BBQ Rendezvous**

**Saturday | June 6 | Uptown Marion**

Join the Marion Metro Kiwanis for a day of food, music and fun in and around City Square Park in Uptown Marion while helping raise funds to support the Kiwanis Miracle League at Prospect Meadows. The fun begins at 11 a.m.

**Moonlit Movie Series**

**Fridays | June 12, July 10, Aug. 7 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department for free outdoor family fun. Bring your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the movie. Activities begin at 7 p.m., and movies begin at dusk (about 8:30 p.m.).

June 12: Zootopia 2

July 10: How To Train Your Dragon (2025)

Aug. 7: Super Mario Galaxy Movie

**Uptown Marion Market**

*presented by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners\**

**Saturdays | June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 26 | 7th Avenue and City Square Park**

This festival-style market, hosted by the Marion Chamber, features vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, and artisan items from 8 a.m.-noon.

**Music Under the Moon**

**Saturdays | June 20, July 18, Aug. 15 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Enjoy live music at the beautiful Lowe Park amphitheater. Bring a blanket, cooler and lawn chair. Concerts begin at 7 p.m.

**Movies on the Move**

**Fridays | June 26, July 24, Aug. 21 | Marion Parks**

Join the Marion Parks and Recreation Department as it brings cinematic adventures right to your neighborhood. Bring your chairs/blankets for seating. Specific movies and locations will be posted on cityofmarion.org.

**Fireworks & Fireflies**

**Friday | July 3 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Bring your lawn chair, blanket and cooler and enjoy live music before the fireworks show. The event starts at 6 p.m. and fireworks begin at dusk.

**Eat. Drink. & Be Marion: Pub Crawl Fundraiser**

**Thursday | July 9 | Various stops in Uptown Marion | Must be 21+**

Step into a carnival-inspired Pub Crawl through Uptown Marion! Walk between participating establishments while enjoying live entertainment, exclusive deals, extended shopping hours and

playful carnival fun along the way. Have a great time while supporting the ongoing revitalization and beautification of Uptown Marion. This is a ticketed event.

**Uptown Getdown**

*presented by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners\**

**Thursdays | Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 | City Square Park**

For over 25 years, Uptown Getdown has been the best way to wind down the dog days of summer! Grab your chairs and coolers and meet your neighbors for a street party in Uptown. The festivities get underway at 6 p.m.

**Marion Sprint Triathlon**

**Saturday | Aug. 8 | Marion YMCA**

Swim, bike and run for fun! Challenge yourself or your whole family in this sprint triathlon right here in Marion. Register by June 30. More information available at cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation.

**Fall Into Marion Parade**

*sponsored by Farmers State Bank*

**Saturday | Sept. 12 | Uptown Marion**

Enjoy the parade festivities, including appearances by the Marion and Linn-Mar High Schools bands, beginning at 10 a.m. The route is on 6th Ave between 15th Street and 9th Street.

**Spark in the Park**

**Sunday | Sept. 13 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park**

Celebrate culture and ignite wellness with international food, music, wellness sessions, sports, a fashion show and more. This free event goes from Noon-5 p.m.

**Oktoberfest**

**Saturday | Sept. 19 | Uptown Marion | Must be 21+**

Back by popular demand, Oktoberfest will be held from Noon-3 p.m. with VIP a hour from 11 a.m.-Noon. The event will feature dozens of breweries sampling their craft along 7th Avenue and traditional German games, like Hammerschlagen and stein holding. (Ticketed event)

**Dog Fashion Show**

**Saturday | Sept. 26 | Central Plaza at City Square Park**

Have a furry friend? Enter them in the Dog Fashion Show, set to take place in the Central Plaza at 10 a.m. as part of the Fall Marion Market.

Event details accurate at time of publication. Consult the website of the event host for any updates.

\* Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners include Farmers State Bank, ImOn Communications, MercyCare Community Physicians, Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance, Summit Pointe Senior Living and Z102.9 with support from the Marion Hotel/Motel Grant Program.

2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



| Date           | Holiday                       | Day              | Pick-Up Schedule                      |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Jan. 1</b>  | <b>New Year's Day</b>         | <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>One day late starting Friday</b>   |
| Jan. 19        | Martin Luther King Jr. Day    | Monday           | Regular collection schedule           |
| Feb. 16        | Presidents Day                | Monday           | Regular collection schedule           |
| <b>April 3</b> | <b>Good Friday</b>            | <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Regular collection schedule</b>    |
| <b>May 25</b>  | <b>Memorial Day</b>           | <b>Monday</b>    | <b>One day late all week</b>          |
| June 19        | Juneteenth                    | Friday           | Regular collection schedule           |
| <b>July 4</b>  | <b>Independence Day</b>       | <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>One day late starting Friday</b>   |
| <b>Sept. 7</b> | <b>Labor Day</b>              | <b>Monday</b>    | <b>One day late all week</b>          |
| Oct. 12        | Columbus Day                  | Monday           | Regular collection schedule           |
| <b>Nov. 11</b> | <b>Veterans Day</b>           | <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Regular collection schedule</b>    |
| <b>Nov. 26</b> | <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>       | <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Collection on Friday</b>           |
| <b>Nov. 27</b> | <b>Day after Thanksgiving</b> | <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Collection on Saturday</b>         |
| <b>Dec. 24</b> | <b>Christmas Eve</b>          | <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Regular collection schedule</b>    |
| <b>Dec. 25</b> | <b>Christmas Day</b>          | <b>Friday</b>    | <b>One day late starting Saturday</b> |
| <b>Dec. 31</b> | <b>New Year's Eve</b>         | <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Regular collection schedule</b>    |
| <b>Jan. 1</b>  | <b>New Year's Day</b>         | <b>Friday</b>    | <b>One day late starting Saturday</b> |

Bold indicates City of Marion holidays, Yard Waste Facility and City offices are closed.

# Do I Need a Permit for Home Improvement Projects?



If you're planning a home improvement project, such as installing a shed or replacing windows, you may wonder whether a building permit is required. In most cases, the answer is yes. Permits ensure that construction meets safety standards, zoning regulations and building codes. They help protect homeowners, neighboring properties and the community while confirming that work is done correctly and safely.



## Sheds and Detached Structures

A building permit is required for most detached structures, including garages, tool sheds, storage sheds and playhouses that are over 200 square feet or more than one story. Even smaller structures must still comply with applicable building codes and zoning requirements. Pre-built sheds are not exempt if the total footprint exceeds 200 square feet, a permit is required.

Location matters. Planning and zoning regulations govern where detached structures may be placed. Buildings cannot be located within utility or drainage easements, and required setbacks from property lines and other structures must be maintained. For example:

- › Fire protection rules apply if a shed is within five feet of a property line
- › Fire protection rules also apply if a shed is within three feet of a home or detached garage

## Window Replacement Projects

Window replacement may also require a permit. Replacing only the window sashes, the movable portion, usually does not require a permit. Replacing the entire window, including the frame, or modifying the window opening does require a permit.

Permits exist primarily for safety. Building codes require tempered glass in certain locations, such as:

- › Windows within 24 inches of doors
- › Windows near the floor
- › Windows in tubs or showers

Tempered glass is designed to break safely, reducing the risk of serious injury. Egress, or safe entry and exit, is another important consideration. Bedroom windows must meet minimum size requirements to allow occupants to escape during an emergency and provide access for firefighters. Many older homes do not meet current egress standards, so homeowners should verify compliance before ordering new windows. If the window opening is altered, inspections ensure that framing changes are structurally sound and that proper flashing and waterproofing are installed to prevent water intrusion.



**For detailed requirements, homeowners can visit [www.cityofmarion.org](http://www.cityofmarion.org).**

**Questions may also be directed to the Building Division at (319) 743-6330. For questions related to easements or setbacks, contact the Planning and Development Division at (319) 743-6320.**



## City of Marion offers Drop-Off Boxes for Residential Battery Recycling

The City of Marion is partnering with the Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency to provide residents with an option for recycling their household batteries free of charge.

If not disposed of properly, many batteries can spark fires or explosions. Some batteries contain hazardous chemicals that can be harmful. If landfilled, these batteries can contaminate land and waterways.

Working with the Solid Waste Agency, drop-off boxes have been placed at two City facilities to encourage proper disposal:

- › Marion Public Library, 1101 6th Avenue, Marion
- › Marion Recycling Center, 195 35th Street, Marion

Access the drop-off boxes during each facility's normal hours of operation. All types of batteries are accepted including alkaline, lithium and lithium-ion, coin batteries and more.



## New Elevated Water Tower Coming to 6401 Lucore Road

The Marion Water Department has hired Gerard Tank & Steel to construct a new one-million-gallon elevated water tower at 6401 Lucore Road. The anticipated completion date is Oct. 1, 2027. This tower will increase pressure on the north and east sides of Marion and provide additional water storage for our growing population. Drilled piers and the concrete foundation were completed last fall. Work will commence on the concrete pedestal and tank this spring.



## Leash Law: What Residents Should Know

The City of Marion's leash law regulations are in place to ensure animals are safely controlled when outside their owner's property. The leash law helps prevent dog bites, fights between animals and makes others feel safe as they walk by. Even well-behaved pets can act unpredictably if they are startled. Having them on a leash will help control and protect them.

The Marion City Code states that any animal off the owner's premises must be on a leash, cord, chain or similar restraint no longer than six feet, and under the direct control of the person holding it.

Penalties for violation of the leash law are as follows:

- › First offense: \$75
- › Second offense within one calendar year: \$150
- › Third and subsequent offenses within one calendar year: \$300

Police service dogs of the Marion Police Department and other law enforcement agencies operating in the city are fully exempt from these provisions.

By being a responsible pet owner and following the leash law, residents help maintain a safe and enjoyable community for everyone.

## Final Segment of CeMar Trail Under Construction

The last section of the CeMar Trail, which ultimately connects Cedar Rapids and Marion is slated for completion later this year. The project was bid in June, with a contract awarded to Peterson Contractors (PCI). PCI mobilized on the site in November and has been working on minor tree removals, temporary creek crossings, grading and storm sewer as weather permits. Pre-manufactured bridges are currently being fabricated off-site, with delivery expected this spring. The intent is to complete the project over the spring and summer months with an opening in the fall of 2026, weather permitting.

## Causes of Low Water Pressure in the House

If you are experiencing a sudden change in low pressure in your house, it could be one of two things. First, if you have a water softener unit, put the unit on "Bypass" mode by pushing a button or turning the lever to "Bypass" mode. If pressure is restored, the issue lies within the water softener. If you have a whole house water filter, remove and replace the filter or simply remove the filter if a new filter is not immediately available. Nine times out of 10, one these situations is the cause of low water pressure.



## Pay your Water Bill in One of Three Easy Ways

1. **Online** at [www.cityofmarion.org/billingoptions](http://www.cityofmarion.org/billingoptions)
2. **By phone** at 1-888-459-8550
3. **In person** at 3050 5th Avenue



# Marion's Snow Removal Policy

The Public Works Department is responsible for providing snow and ice control for City streets.

Each year the Marion City Council approves the Snow and Ice Control Program that outlines the policies and procedures for City snow removal operations for the Public Works Department. This includes the level of service and expectations for winter maintenance operations.

## Parking Restrictions

During significant weather events, parking restrictions on City streets can be implemented in an effort to minimize hazards associated with snow removal operations.

Parking restrictions associated with winter weather events will be displayed on the City's website and local media sources.

The Police Department shall be responsible for the enforcement of the parking provisions, including ticketing and/or towing of illegally parked vehicles.

## Winter Storm Parking

When the National Weather Service predicts snow accumulations of at least three inches or an ice storm event or either of those conditions occur, winter storm parking shall automatically take effect.

On-street parking is prohibited on any City street when Winter Storm Parking is in effect. Winter Storm Parking shall remain in effect through the duration of the snow storm or winter weather event and for 48 hours after the snow stops.



To view the Snow and Ice Policy, visit [www.cityofmarion.org](http://www.cityofmarion.org).

# Automated Curbside Collection Reminders

To help ensure timely and efficient curbside service for garbage and recycling, please follow these guidelines:

- › Have your City-issued carts at the curb by 7 a.m. on collection day. Carts set out after 7 a.m. will not be collected.
- › Keep a minimum of 3 feet between carts and other obstacles.
- › Lids on all carts must be closed - overfilled carts will not be collected.
- › Place the carts right at the curb, the truck's mechanical arm can only extend 10 feet.
- › If you have an extra bag, place it on top of your garbage cart, with an extra bag sticker visible from the street.
- › Any extra cardboard or bags next to a container will be left behind. Continue to cut up boxes and larger pieces of cardboard. Boxes that are shoved into the cart get stuck and then block the other recyclables from being emptied.
- › Be sure the front of the cart faces the street and the wheels face the sidewalk/home.
- › Carts must be placed on a flat surface, not on a snow bank. If necessary, place in the driveway or in the street next to the curb. Any carts placed on a snow bank will not be collected.

Violations are recorded electronically on each truck. If your garbage or recycling isn't collected due to a violation mentioned above, once the issue is corrected, staff will return for a \$25 fee. Please call the Public Works Department at (319) 377-6367 to inquire within 24 hours.



# Engineering Update

## City Planning for Next Phase of 7th Avenue Reconstruction from 12th to 22nd Streets

The City of Marion is planning for the next phase of 7th Avenue reconstruction for 10 City blocks on the eastern edge of Uptown Marion. The project includes full reconstruction of the roadway and the replacement of underground sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water infrastructure. The roadway will be converted from two lanes in each direction to one lane in each direction with a dedicated center turn lane. Additionally, streetscape improvements will occur between 12th and 15th Streets to enhance the walkability of the district. Work is expected to begin in 2027 and span two construction seasons.

## Stormwater Management and You

Did you know that the streets in Marion have a function beyond travel and parking? The streets in Marion are also an important part of stormwater management - they provide extra capacity for a stormwater conveyance system during heavy rains. Consequently, any trash, debris or pollutants that get into the streets can be a violation of the Marion Municipal Code Chapter 274 Article I - Illicit Discharges to Storm Sewer. For these violations, per Marion Code, the responsible party - typically the property owner - will receive an illicit discharge violation and possibly a municipal infraction.

### What can you do?

- › Make sure your garbage is contained in your solid waste container or dumpster so that it does not spill over or blow around.
- › If you are a company that hauls garbage, be sure the trash is properly loaded and covered with a tarp.
- › Maintain your vehicles so that any leaks are properly repaired.
- › If you do your own vehicle maintenance (oil changes, etc.), make sure to properly contain and dispose of fluids.
- › If any fluids do spill into the street or your driveway, clean this up with an oil dry product and properly dispose of the waste. Do not use water (hose or pressure washer) to wash the fluids into the street or storm sewer.

# Marion Police Department Announces 2025 Employees of the Year



Each year, the Marion Police Department takes a moment to recognize two individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety, support and well-being of our residents. We are proud to introduce your 2025 Officer of the Year and Civilian Employee of the Year.

## Officer of the Year: Sergeant Tom Peterson

For Sgt. Tom Peterson, serving Marion is personal. Raised right here in our community, Sgt. Peterson has made it his mission to protect the neighborhoods he calls home.

This past year, Sgt. Peterson earned a reputation as a “workhorse,” leading complex investigations from major fraud cases to high-stakes criminal matters. His professionalism and empathy have made a lasting impact on the department and our residents.

Outside work, Tom is a devoted family man, church leader and Cub Scout leader. He exemplifies the best of Marion - someone who reaches higher for his family, his faith and his city.

## Civilian Employee of the Year: Aleah Pohlmann

While our officers are the face of public safety, our 911 Communications Center is its heart. This year, the department recognizes Aleah Pohlmann for her indispensable role as lead dispatcher and communications training officer.

Aleah is often the “steady voice” on the other end of the radio during a resident’s most difficult moments. Her peers describe her as the “glue” that keeps operations running smoothly. Beyond her mastery of the complex technology used in modern dispatch, Aleah has been instrumental in restructuring the training program for new hires, ensuring that the next generation of dispatchers is ready to serve Marion with the same excellence she provides.

Beyond her department role, Aleah leads community initiatives like the MISD Holiday Giving Project, coordinating gifts for local families. Her work ethic and heart for service perfectly illustrate what it means to reach higher for the betterment of the agency and the community alike.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have professionals like Tom and Aleah in our ranks,” said Chief Jeremy Sprague. “They don’t just do their jobs; they commit every moment they are here to making Marion a better, safer place to live.”



## Scam Alert

Con artists swindle more than 7 million Americans out of nearly \$3 billion each year. Here are some

helpful tips to help identify whether you are being scammed.

### Real companies or agencies will never:

- › Ask you to buy gold, cryptocurrency, gift cards or wire money
- › Claim your account or identity is under investigation
- › Instruct you to move money to “secure your assets”
- › Ask you to download software
- › Use threats, pressure or demand immediate payment

### Protect yourself:

- › Don’t click suspicious links or call unknown numbers
- › Disconnect from the internet if needed
- › Contact a trusted friend, family member or bank/credit union

Report suspicious activity to the local authorities, the Iowa Attorney General’s Office or the Federal Trade Commission. Visit [iowafraudfighters.gov](http://iowafraudfighters.gov) for more information on scams.

## 5K4K9 Returns in May



The Marion Police Department is thrilled to announce that its beloved 5K4K9 Fun Run/Walk is officially returning this May. After a hiatus, we are bringing this community-favorite event back with a brand-new mission that hits close to home.

In 2026, the Marion Police Department is partnering with Crisis Canines of the Midlands, a nonprofit that trains K9 teams for first responder agencies. Funds raised will bring a certified Crisis K9 to the team.

A Crisis K9 provides comfort and support during high-stress situations, including:

- › Building positive relationships with residents at community events
- › Assisting individuals and families during trauma or domestic emergencies
- › Supporting MPD officers after difficult calls

Since 1998, the community has supported MPD’s K9 Unit with veterinary care, equipment and training. This tradition continues as we expand to meet the city’s evolving needs.

“Having seen these dogs in action firsthand, I can attest to the incredible impact they have on both first responders and the public alike,” said Chief of Police Jeremy Sprague. “In the wake of trauma or high-stress situations, a Crisis K9 provides a level of support, comfort and calm that is simply invaluable. It will be a powerful tool for healing and resilience.”

Whether you are a competitive runner or just want to take a morning stroll for a great cause, the Marion Police Department can’t wait to see the community at the starting line!



## Winter Storm Safety Tips

Winter weather often leads to increased home fires, especially with heating devices. In fact, half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.

To stay safe this winter:

- › **Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Check all alarms monthly to ensure they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms to detect dangerous fumes.
- › **Plan Emergency Exits:** Identify two escape routes from your home in case of fire or other emergencies.
- › **Clear Pathways:** Shovel driveways and walkways to allow easy access for emergency responders.
- › **Display House Numbers:** Make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street for quick identification.
- › **Prepare for Power Outages:** Keep flashlights, batteries and battery-powered lighting ready. Never use candles, as they pose a fire risk.
- › **Stay Informed:** Listen to weather updates via TV, radio or online bulletins. Check on neighbors who may need assistance.
- › **Use Generators Safely:** Operate generators outdoors, away from windows and doors. Never run them inside garages or enclosed spaces.
- › **Avoid Downed Wires:** Report fallen wires immediately to authorities.
- › **Ensure Heating Safety:** Use extra clothing and blankets if the heat fails. Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from combustibles and turn them off when unattended or sleeping.

## Spring Storm Preparedness

As winter recedes and spring arrives, so does the season of thunderstorms, heavy rain and tornadoes. These severe weather events can cause flooding, fallen trees and property damage. Proper preparation is key:

- › **Create a Family Emergency Plan:** Designate a safe room and establish a communication plan with family members and out-of-town contacts.
- › **Build an Emergency Kit:** Stock essentials like water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, first aid supplies, medications, important documents and a battery-powered radio.
- › **Stay Informed:** Regularly monitor weather forecasts and sign up for community alerts.
- › **Protect Your Property:** Trim trees, secure outdoor items and ensure your roof and gutters are in good condition. Check drainage and sump pumps to prevent flooding.
- › **Flood Safety Tips:** Know if your property is in a flood-prone area. Elevate electrical systems and store important documents in waterproof containers. Avoid walking or driving through floodwater.

## Community/Personal Preparedness

Check on neighbors, especially seniors or those with limited mobility. Review your emergency plan and supplies to ensure you're ready for whatever weather challenges come your way.

Spring and winter bring unique weather risks, but with proactive planning, you can minimize dangers and respond effectively. Stay informed, prepare your home and supplies, and look out for one another.

### CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

**At-Large - Kelvin Unemin**  
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**At-Large - Steve Jensen**  
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**Ward One - Gage Miskimen**  
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**Ward Two - Grant Harper**  
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ward2@cityofmarion.org

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

**Ward Four - Sara Mentzer**  
2305 Timber Creek Dr. | (319) 538-8296  
ward4@cityofmarion.org

Send the same email to all members at:  
council@cityofmarion.org

Marion's City Council meets in work session (no action taken, just discussion) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. Regular session meetings are held the Thursday following the Tuesday work session at 5:30 p.m. Meeting information can be found at [www.cityofmarion.org](http://www.cityofmarion.org).



## Thank You!

Uptown Marion is alive as we celebrate the inaugural season of the Central Plaza in City Square Park! We extend our gratitude to the project's donors and sponsors, especially those who made significant investments in the Heart of It All.

### **BENEFACTOR \$100,000+**

Destination Iowa

FSB - The Neighbor Family Depot

Iowa Great Places

McGrath Family of Dealerships  
Ice Loop and Water Feature

Linn County Board of Supervisors

### **ACHIEVER \$25,000-\$99,999**

Alliant Energy Foundation  
Caboose Relocation, Benches,  
Table & Planting Beds

Hy-Vee Inc.

Depot Meeting Room

GreenState Credit Union  
Skate Shack

ITC Midwest  
Festoon Lighting

Clark & Mary McLeod  
Achiever

TrueNorth Companies  
Table

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust  
Stage, Planting Bed & Ice  
Resurfacers

Heritage Bank  
Achiever

Corda Credit Union  
Playground

Linn County Rural Electric  
Cooperative  
Planting Bed

## Marion YMCA & City of Marion Partnership

Since opening its doors in 2021, the Marion YMCA has become a vital recreation hub for our community. Made possible through a unique partnership between the City of Marion and the Cedar Rapids Metro YMCA, this facility continues to provide exceptional benefits to Marion residents, benefits that are one-of-a-kind among YMCAs nationwide. Residents are encouraged to explore the membership opportunities available through the YMCA by visiting the facility located at 3740 Irish Drive.

Several exclusive perks are available for Marion residents:

- 1 Membership Discount** – Marion residents receive a 10 percent discount on YMCA membership, guaranteed for 10 years from the facility's opening.
- 2 Track Pass Access** – Residents may purchase a walking track pass, with fees set by the YMCA.
- 3 Monthly Community Day** – The last Sunday of each month is designated as Community Day, providing facility access to all Marion residents without a membership requirement. For dates, fees and details, please visit [www.crmetroymca.org](http://www.crmetroymca.org).
- 4 Pickleball Pass** – A special pickleball punch card is available for those interested in playing during established times.
- 5 Financial Assistance** – Financial assistance is available to help ensure all Marion residents have the opportunity to participate in YMCA programs and services.

This partnership reflects the community's shared commitment to health, wellness and access for all. For more information, visit [www.crmetroymca.org](http://www.crmetroymca.org) or [www.cityofmarion.org](http://www.cityofmarion.org).

## Ice Loop Celebrates an Exciting Opening Season



The inaugural season of the Ice Loop comes to a close this month. Many thanks to our residents, visitors, partners and employees for making it an incredibly exciting season in Uptown Marion.

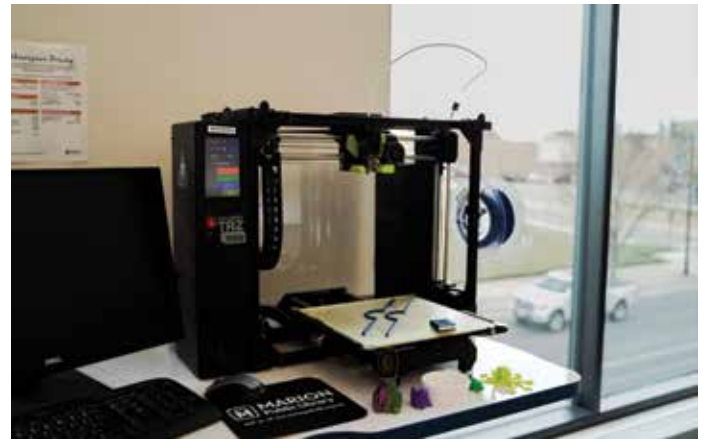
The Ice Loop welcomed nearly 5,000 skaters this season when skate rentals were offered, ranging from children to adults. More than 2,000 cups of hot chocolate were enjoyed by skaters and spectators between ice resurfacing shifts and laps around the loop.

The Ice Loop proved to be more than just a place to skate. It served as a gathering space for families, friends and visitors, creating energy in Uptown during the winter months and supporting surrounding businesses throughout the season.

The first season was also one of learning, adapting and embracing everything an Iowa winter brings our way, from sunny days to snow-covered evenings and the occasional deep freeze. With each week on the ice, we learned more about how the loop is utilized, how weather impacts operations and how the community continues to show up to enjoy this unique winter amenity. Your patience, feedback and enthusiasm played a huge role in shaping the experience and helping us adjust along the way.

## Oak Shade Cemetery Spring Cleanup Reminder

Family members of those buried at Oak Shade Cemetery are reminded to remove grave decorations by March 15, 2026. Any remaining on March 22 will be collected for disposal. New gravesite decorations and floral arrangements may be replaced after April 1. Contact the Marion Parks and Recreation Department at (319) 447-3580 if special arrangements need to be made.



## MakerSpace: Turning Curiosity Into Creativity

Discover a vibrant community gathering spot designed for curious minds and creative spirits. The Marion Public Library's MakerSpace is a collaborative learning environment where people of all skill levels come together to share knowledge, explore new technology and bring their projects to life. Whether you're a first-time crafter or a seasoned pro, you'll find the tools, guidance and inspiration you need.

With expanded availability, visit [marionpubliclibrary.org/makerspace](http://marionpubliclibrary.org/makerspace) to learn more about offerings or reserve a project time.

### Explore Our New Events Calendar



In December, the library implemented a new events calendar and meeting room software. Browse upcoming programs, download events, reserve meeting rooms and more by visiting [marionpubliclibrary.org/events](http://marionpubliclibrary.org/events). Need

help navigating the new system? Give us a call at 319-377-3412 – we're happy to help.

### Take Online Resources On the Go

If you have plans to travel over the summer, add Mango Languages to your prep for vacation. Mango offers easy lessons to learn a variety of languages, guaranteed to make your travel easier.

While you're using Mango, did you know Press Reader has a variety of current magazines and newspapers from around the world? Practice your language reading skills, or just stay up to date on evolving world issues. Visit [marionpubliclibrary.org/online-resources](http://marionpubliclibrary.org/online-resources) to get started.

### Participate in Our Year-Long Reading Challenge

It's a new year, which means a new Beanstack challenge is starting! Beanstack is the library's free reading tracker and challenge platform. It allows you to keep logs of your reading through tracking days, books and activities, as well as write book reviews and earn fun digital badges.

Our year-long challenge — Read it Your Way — runs until the end of the calendar year. Log in or register to start tracking your reading at [marionpubliclibrary.org/beanstack](http://marionpubliclibrary.org/beanstack).

### Save the Date: Grown-Up Book Fair

Back by popular demand, our Grown-Up Book Fair returns Saturday, May 2! Mark your calendars for an afternoon of great reads, throwback fun and nostalgia. Visit [marionpubliclibrary.org/bookfair](http://marionpubliclibrary.org/bookfair) for more information.

### Meet Eddie!



We're pleased to announce that Eddie Higgins has been selected as our new patron services manager. Eddie joined the library in 2023 as a part-time Patron Services staff member and was most recently one of the library's Patron Services leads.

"Our Patron Services team is wonderful! Friendly, knowledgeable and always ready to go the extra mile for our patrons, so I am beyond thrilled to be selected as the new patron services manager," Higgins said. "If you haven't visited us yet, make it a 2026 resolution to come and see everything the library has to offer - staff can set you up with a free library card in just a few minutes!"



## Upcoming Seasonal Hours

**April 5** (Easter): CLOSED

**April 6** (Spring Staff Development Day): CLOSED

**May 25** (Memorial Day): CLOSED



1225 6th Avenue  
Marion, IA 52302  
[www.cityofmarion.org](http://www.cityofmarion.org)



# Sponsorship Opportunities



## Fireworks & Fireflies

Generous support from businesses makes many of Marion's events possible. The annual fireworks event would not be possible without our valued sponsors.

Marion will be hosting its annual fireworks display, Fireworks & Fireflies on July 3, 2026, at the beautiful Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park.

In addition to the fireworks show, attendees of this free event enjoy live music, food trucks, children's activities and more. Well over 7,500 people attended the event last year and we expect it to continue to grow in popularity.

As logistical needs grow, so do our expenses. We would love to be able to have an even bigger fireworks display, but we can only do so with additional sponsorship support. Is your business or organization able to contribute to this signature Marion celebration? Reach out to [events@cityofmarion.org](mailto:events@cityofmarion.org) or visit [www.cityofmarion.org/sponsorships](http://www.cityofmarion.org/sponsorships) to learn more.