

Summer 2026

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Nick AbouAssaly

City of Opportunity

It was my great honor to deliver the 32nd annual State of the City Address for Marion before a record-breaking audience in early March.

Having been Mayor for more than a decade, I've seen our City evolve from being content with "good enough" to boldly shaping our own future and driving the growth and progress that benefits Marion's residents and gives them an unmatched quality of life.

That shift has been driven by a shared vision and intentional efforts centered on strengthening our sense of community, investing in our residents' priorities and continuously reaching higher in everything we do.

Today, Marion is a City of amazing opportunity. We've become a destination for families and individuals who want to be part of something positive and growing.

Our population continues to rise, bringing energy and momentum, but also increasing demand for housing. That's why we are actively supporting a wide range of housing developments, from single-family homes to multi-family and mixed-use projects.

At the same time, I recognize the importance of ensuring housing remains attainable, which is why we are investing in revitalizing older neighborhoods and expanding partnerships to create more affordable options.

Economic development is another area where I see tremendous progress. Marion's strong workforce, high quality of life and intentional planning have made us an attractive place for businesses to invest and grow. I'm proud of the new companies, jobs and commercial developments taking shape across our city.

Whether it's revitalization in Uptown or new opportunities along key corridors, we are focused on growth that diversifies our tax base, adds lasting value for our residents and strengthens our city's trajectory.

Just as important to me is how people experience life in Marion. Our investments in parks, trails, the arts and community spaces are about more than infrastructure - they're about creating connection, promoting well-being and building a place where people truly feel they belong. Spaces like our Central Plaza have become gathering points where memories are made and community comes alive.

The City Council and leadership team lead with transparency and fiscal discipline, resulting in an Aa1 bond rating year after year. We engage residents, listen to their input and ensure every dollar is used wisely. This commitment to the Marion taxpayer is reflected in the 2027 fiscal year budget, which includes a reduction in the property tax levy by 35 cents per \$1,000 of property value.

Marion is a city on the rise, powered by the people who believe in it. Thank you for your partnership in making it the best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business. Our potential is tremendous, and together we will continue building a community defined by opportunity, innovation and a shared commitment to excellence.

The sky is NOT the limit!



Find a recording of the presentation and the 2025 Annual Report at www.cityofmarion.org/SOC.



Paul Rehn Named 2026 Community Impact Award Recipient

Paul Rehn has been announced as the 2026 Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award recipient.

The announcement was made by Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly and Chamber President Jill Ackerman during Marion's State of the City address in March.

Paul Rehn and his wife, Ann, moved their young family to Marion in 1969. What began as a new chapter quickly became a lifelong calling. Marion became their home; a community to serve, nurture and strengthen.

Paul Rehn served 12 years on the Marion City Council and was Marion's Mayor from 2008 to 2011. He dedicated 48 years to the Marion Fire Department, serving as a volunteer firefighter, participating in the honor guard, assisting with community education events and supporting firefighter well-being as a member of the peer support team.

He served his country as a member of the United States Air Force from 1962 to 1966. He has been a volunteer with the Hospice of Mercy, a volunteer chaplain with St. Luke's Hospital, a member of American Legion Post 298 and a member of the Marion Order of the Masons.

Rehn's service continues today through his involvement as the chair of Marion's Civil Service Commission, a position he has held for 10 years, guiding the hiring decisions for dozens of City employees during that time. He also serves on the board of directors for Area Ambulance Service.

"Paul is a shining example of a servant leader," said Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. "It is an honor to recognize his nearly six decades of public service and a lifetime commitment to the community he calls home."

The Community Impact Award is presented annually by the Marion Chamber of Commerce and the City of Marion. It honors longtime banker and community philanthropist Morris F. Neighbor. Neighbor began his career at Farmers State Bank in 1945 as a teller and in 1968, he and his wife, Betty, purchased the bank. Throughout his career, he championed the importance of volunteerism and dedication to community. Through his leadership, the Neighbor family has given to countless capital campaigns, community events and charitable organizations. Mr. Neighbor passed away in 2019 at the age of 100. His legacy lives on, in part, through the Morris F. Neighbor Community Impact Award.



Utility Rates



The Marion Water Department prepares and mails the City’s utility bill. Most residential users are billed every two months, while most commercial accounts are billed monthly.

The City’s utility bill includes fees for:

- Water consumption and well maintenance
- Garbage, recycling and yard waste collection
- Sanitary sewer replacement
- Sewer treatment
- Urban forestry tree maintenance
- Stormwater pipe maintenance

Rates for each utility fund must cover the cost of doing business as they are not subsidized by property taxes. Following a thorough rate analysis of each fund, the Finance Department presented the following proposed utility rates to Marion City Council in February. Formal adoption is anticipated in June, with the increase going into effect for bills issued after July 1, 2026.

Sample Bi-monthly Bill for Residential Customer

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Two-Month Increase
Garbage	\$52.00	\$52.00	\$0.00
Sanitary Sewer (Capital)	\$6.30	\$6.60	\$0.30
Sewer* (Operations & Maintenance)	\$82.30	\$83.30	\$1.00
Stormwater	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$0.50
Urban Forest	\$9.00	\$13.00	\$4.00
Water*	\$49.06	\$49.81	\$0.75
Water Excise Tax	\$2.94	\$2.99	\$0.05
Total	\$214.10	\$220.70	\$6.60

*Assumes 1,200 cubic ft of water usage in two months

GARBAGE – No rate change is proposed for the garbage fee for FY 27. Actual tonnage since implementation of the new automated collection program has been below the projected numbers.

SANITARY SEWER – Marion contracts with the City of Cedar Rapids for wastewater treatment services. A new agreement with Cedar Rapids accounts for required improvements to the Cedar Rapids treatment plant and changes how the City is billed.

STORMWATER – The proposed stormwater increase ensures upkeep of the storm sewer while Marion awaits the completion of the Stormwater Master Plan.

URBAN FOREST – The proposed urban forest fee supports the implementation of the Urban Reforestation Plan and includes the addition of contracted services for tree maintenance and tree planting.

WATER – The 3 percent usage rate increase is necessary to keep up with inflation and fund future water system improvements.

Trail Etiquette & E-Bike Guidelines in Marion

Marion’s trail system is one of our community’s greatest assets. With over 30 miles of trails and growing use, especially from e-bikes and electric scooters, the City has updated its ordinance to improve safety, reduce confusion and keep the trails welcoming for everyone.

Speed Limits

- Sidewalks: Max 10 mph
- Shared-use trails: Max 20 mph
- Roadways: Follow all traffic laws

Allowed Devices

- E-bikes under 750 watts are allowed on trails and sidewalks
- Devices over 750 watts are considered motor vehicles and are not allowed
- Gas-powered vehicles are prohibited on trails and sidewalks

Trail Etiquette

- Stay right, pass left
- Announce when passing (“On your left”)
- Pedestrians always have the right of way
- Slow down in busy or low-visibility areas

State Law Basics

- E-bikes follow bicycle laws
- Helmets recommended (especially for youth)
- Class 3 e-bikes: 16+

These updates help address faster-moving devices while continuing to support safe, responsible use of Marion’s trail system.

If you see unsafe behavior or have concerns, call the Marion Police Department’s non-emergency line at 319-377-1511. For immediate safety issues, call 911.

Marion’s trails are for everyone. Let’s keep them safe and enjoyable for all.

Marion Announces Plans for Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary



The City of Marion is proud to announce a months-long celebration of America's 250th anniversary, bringing together local organizations, businesses and residents to commemorate this historic milestone.

Marion's celebration will span from Memorial Day through Veterans Day, coinciding with the display of the community's military tribute banners. This timeframe provides meaningful opportunities to honor veterans and active-duty service members while enhancing existing community events.

In Uptown Marion, firework-inspired flower displays are planned, the stars and stripes will be projected on sidewalks at nighttime, patriotic bunting will be displayed on the Depot Pavilion and building and business owners are encouraged to create patriotic window displays and storefront decorations.

Residents are also encouraged to take part by decorating their porches and entryways with patriotic flair.

In addition, Marion will display flags on major thoroughfares throughout town and also plans to invite community members to help plant 250 trees, as a symbol of growth and resilience.

Several Marion events will feature special enhancements in honor of America's 250th anniversary with a lighted display at Fireworks & Fireflies and the Fall Into Marion Parade and Dog Fashion Show both having a patriotic theme this year.

For updates and ways to get involved, residents are encouraged to visit the City of Marion website at www.cityofmarion.org and other official communication channels.



Fireworks & Fireflies Returns July 3

Fireworks & Fireflies returns to Lowe Park on July 3, at 6 p.m. This free event will take place on the eve of the holiday at the beautiful Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park. Enjoy live music by Well Lit, along with food trucks and activities, leading up to the fireworks at dusk. Special thanks to the sponsors that make this event possible.

RED SPONSORS



WHITE SPONSORS



BLUE SPONSORS REM Iowa Host Home | Heartland Bank | Napolis | Skogman Realty | School of Rock | Transamerica D&N Fence Co. Inc. | OPN Architects | Corridor Energy Cooperative | Will Brandt REALTOR® | Rathje Construction Modern | Hy-Vee | ESCO Group | Neon Dragon | Collins Community Credit Union | Sonnet Montessori & Child Care



Marion Arts Festival

presented by FSB

Saturday, May 16 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

7th Avenue between 10th & 12th Street in Uptown Marion

The Marion Arts Festival returns on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in Uptown Marion. This year's festival features 50 fine artists from around the country and two local Emerging Artists.

Weave your way through the festival while enjoying live music, local food and immersive art activities for the family. Start the day with the Marion Arts Festival Half Marathon or 5K, hosted by Corridor Running.

Whether browsing or buying, an estimated 10,000 festival attendees will experience a wide range of one-of-a-kind objects, with the additional opportunity of getting to know the artists behind the art.

Students from the area, along with community organizations such as the

Ceramics Center, work to create bowls donated and sold at the Marion Arts Festival's Empty Bowls Sale. Bowls carry a \$5-\$15 price tag at the sale with all proceeds donated to local food banks. Over the program's multi-decade history, the festival has donated more than \$125,000. Bring some cash and buy a bowl for a good cause!

The Create & Explore Spaces in City Square Park offer everyone the opportunity to work with local arts organizations. The Ceramics Center will work with participants on the wheel and at their play clay table for all ages, 237 Collective will do a live large scale paint activity and Iowa City Press Co-op will do a free print making activity. Darrin Crow will perform shadow puppet shows and teach attendees how to make a puppet inside the Depot.

The Marion Arts Festival is presented by Farmers State Bank, the festival's presenting sponsor since 1993. Major sponsor support includes the City of Marion's Hotel/Motel Grant Program, Corridor Running, Veridian Credit Union, Hills Bank, The Gazette and KCRG-TV9.



4 Things to Know About the FY27 City Budget

On April 23, Marion City Council approved the FY27 operating budget — the culmination of a 10-month zero-based budgeting process.

Here are 4 things to know about the proposed FY27 operating budget:

- 1 The tax levy is decreasing. The City's property tax rate is decreasing from \$14.89 to \$14.54 per \$1,000 of taxable value for FY27. This is a reduction of \$0.35.
- 2 The City makes up ~37% of your property taxes. The remaining 63% goes to the school district you live in, Linn County and other agencies.
- 3 The budget includes three new full-time positions to support public safety. We'll add two 911 communications operators and one management analyst in the Police Department in FY27. Other budget drivers include technology costs, new cost allocation methodology, asset replacement, debt management and continued operational discipline.
- 4 The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is focused on preserving and maintaining the City's existing infrastructure. Key projects in FY27 include:

- › Pavement Management Program
- › Alburnett Road Extension & Bridge
- › Sanitary Trunk Sewer Projects 4 & 5
- › Lucore Road Elevated Water Tower CeMar Trail
- › 7th Avenue Reconstruction (12th to 22nd Streets)

The \$105.6 million budget (excluding transfers) includes \$38 million in general fund expenditures to provide a range of services.

- › 52% goes to public safety
- › 19% goes toward culture and recreation
- › 14% goes to general government operations
- › 9% goes to public works
- › 5% goes to community and economic development
- › 1% goes to health and social services (transit)



Learn more about the budget at: www.cityofmarion.org/government/finance/budget

City Hall

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Deputy City Manager

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City Clerk

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Community Development**Building Division**

319-743-6330
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Planning Division

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planning@cityofmarion.org

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Human Resources

319-743-6318
swilber@cityofmarion.org

IT Department

319-743-4735
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Water Department

3050 5th Avenue | 319-743-6310
tsteigerwaldt@cityofmarion.org

Parks & Recreation

Lowe Park, 4500 10th Street
319-447-3590
sstaashelm@cityofmarion.org

Thomas Park, 343 Marion Blvd.

319-447-3580
bneighbor@cityofmarion.org

Public Works

202 44th Street

Solid Waste, Streets, Sewer & Traffic Divisions

319-377-6367
public-works@cityofmarion.org

Engineering Division

319-743-6340
mbarkalow@cityofmarion.org

Marion Public Library

1101 6th Avenue
319-377-3412
info@marionpubliclibrary.org

Fire Department

100 Irish Drive
Emergency - 911
Non-Emergency - 319-377-8237
tfagan@cityofmarion.org

Police Department

6315 Highway 151
Emergency - 911
Non-Emergency - 319-377-1511
Records - 319-200-7714
Administration - 319-200-7727
administration@marionpolice.com

Door-to-Door Solicitation

Spring is here and warmer weather brings solicitors to our community. A solicitor is any person who goes from house to house, place to place or street to street, soliciting or taking orders for sales. All solicitors, peddlers and transient merchants are required to obtain a license through the City of Marion prior to the first day of any sale, offer for sale or solicitation.

If you decide to speak with a solicitor, you should ask to see their identification and City of Marion license. Their City of Marion license is evidence of compliance with all requirements of the Code and will indicate the length of time the license is valid. If the individual is unable to display their license, you should call the Police Department at (319) 377-1511 while they are at your house or in your neighborhood.

The time restriction for all peddlers, solicitors and transient merchants is 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday. No operation shall occur on Sundays or a federal holiday. If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk at (319) 743-6301.

Garage Sales

With warm weather upon us, residents are reminded of garage sale regulations in the City. Garage sales are limited to a term of three days, or 72 hours, and no more than two sales can be held each year (January-December). Any signage for the garage sale cannot be placed in the right-of-way (space between sidewalk and curb).

Access the Utility Billing Customer Service Portal

The Marion Water Department is proud to offer a customer service portal to make managing your utility account easy and convenient! Access the system at www.cityofmarion.org/billingoptions or scan the QR code.

Using our portal, you can:

- › Make a one-time payment
- › Sign up for recurring credit card payment
- › View and download your most recent bill
- › Enroll for e-billing and GO PAPERLESS!
- › View your transactions and consumption history
- › Make utility payments over the phone at 1-888-459-8550



3% Water Rate Increase Anticipated

The Marion Water Board will consider a water rate increase at its June 9 board meeting at 4 p.m. The rate increase will raise approximately \$134,000 in additional revenue to pay off debt, increasing energy costs and fund new water main replacement projects. A residential water customer consuming 400 cubic feet (CF) of water will see a \$0.22 increase on a two-month bill. Customers using 1,200 CF will see a \$0.75 increase for water consumption in a two-month bill. For more information regarding this proposed increase, call the general manager for the Water Department at (319) 743-6311.

Marion Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report

The Marion Water Department, in compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, is pleased to share 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. The report is available at www.cityofmarion.org/government/water/documents-reports. Printed copies will also be provided to customers requesting a copy. For further information about your drinking water, please call the Marion Water Department at (319) 743-6310.

Music Under the Moon

presented by Veridian Credit Union
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.
 June 20: That Arena Rock Show
 July 18: Beyond the Blonde; Pop Tribute
 Aug. 15: Vegas McGraw; Tim McGraw Tribute

Movies on the Move

sponsored by ImOn Communications
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.
 June 26: Superman at Hanna Park
 July 24: Freakier Friday at Thomas Park
 Aug. 21: Jurassic World Rebirth at Lowe Park Playground on Irish Drive

Freedom Festival Drone Show

sponsored by Marion's Hotel/Motel Grant Program
Friday | June 26 | Marion Airport, 1690 Marion Airport Rd
 Experience the sky like never before at the Freedom Festival Drone Show! This event combines technology, artistry and patriotism to create a dazzling display of illuminated drones choreographed to music at dusk. It's a modern twist on a traditional fireworks show, perfect for all ages. Prior to the Drone Show, come out for live music, food trucks and kids activities starting at 5:30 p.m.

Fireworks & Fireflies

Friday | July 3 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park
 Bring your lawn chair, blanket and cooler and enjoy live music by Well Lit before the fireworks show. The event starts at 6 p.m. and fireworks begin at dusk. Also enjoy the AirFX Kid Zone and live music by School of Rock on the west side of the park near Irish Drive.

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.
 Aug. 6: Last Call
 Aug. 13: Matt Panek & The Electric Trio
 Aug. 20: Outlaw Band
 Aug. 27: Mill Creek Band

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.

Marion Sustainability Fair

Saturday | Aug. 29 | Lowe Park
 Come to the first-ever Marion Sustainability Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29 to get practical, everyday tools to live more sustainably. The event will feature environmentally friendly organizations and businesses, yard games and food trucks.

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

sponsored by Club Pilates
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. This is a ticketed event.

Dog Fashion Show

sponsored by Apple Creek Canine Resort
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, SFD 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
May 25	Memorial Day	Monday	One day late all week
June 19	Juneteenth	Friday	Regular collection schedule
July 4	Independence Day	Saturday	One day late starting Friday
Sept. 7	Labor Day	Monday	One day late all week
Oct. 12	Columbus Day	Monday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Wednesday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	Collection on Friday
Nov. 27	Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	Collection on Saturday
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Thursday	Regular collection schedule
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Friday	One day late starting Saturday
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve	Thursday	Regular collection schedule
Jan. 1	New Year's Day	Friday	One day late starting Saturday

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



Engineering Update

Ist Avenue Reconstruction

The second and final phase of this project will begin soon. It includes the removal and replacement of 1st Avenue from the intersection of 19th Street to 22nd Street, as well as the removal and replacement of 22nd Street from 1st Avenue to 3rd Avenue. The project includes necessary upgrades to water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure.

Alburnett Road Extension

This project received \$7 million in federal funding and involves the extension of Alburnett Road from Boyson Road, south across Indian Creek, through Willow Park and along 2nd Street to 7th Avenue. This will alleviate traffic congestion along Central Avenue and 10th Street. Design work, property acquisition, utility relocations and environmental clearances are currently underway. The tentative timeline includes letting the project this summer, with construction to begin during the winter of 2026-2027.

Asphalt Resurfacing Program

This annual program to mill and replace the existing asphalt surface on several roadways is expected to begin in May. Targeted streets include:

- › 35th Street - 3rd Avenue to Grant Wood Trail
- › 35th Street - 10th Avenue to Willowood Avenue
- › 8th Avenue - 22nd Street to 25th Street
- › E Robins Road - Christ Community Church entrance to Alburnett Road
- › Alpine Road - Linnview Drive to End
- › W 14th Avenue - Elm Street to End
- › 6th Street - Central Avenue to End
- › 13th Avenue - 6th Street to 10th Street
- › 12th Avenue - 10th Street to 12th Street
- › 12th Street - 10th Avenue to 14th Avenue
- › Country Club Drive - 16th Street to 24th Street
- › 16th Street - Country Club Drive to Brockman Avenue
- › Maplecrest Drive - Country Club Drive to 15th Avenue
- › S 12th Street - A Avenue to F Avenue
- › F Avenue - S 12th Street to S 14th Street

Pavement Patching (Major and Minor)

This project is expected to begin in the summer and includes the rehabilitation of several roads throughout the City. Full-depth patching, surface grinding (on select streets) and other associated improvements will be made to the following roadways:

- › 10th Street: Indian Creek Road to 500 feet north of Tower Terrace Road
- › 29th Avenue: 10th Street to Indian Creek Road
- › 35th Street: Industrial Avenue to 3rd Avenue
- › Hamm Drive
- › 24th Avenue: 35th Street to Stratford Drive
- › Jasper Drive

Sanitary Trunk Sewer Project 4 & 5

The City of Marion elected to use some of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for sanitary sewer work, which includes reconstruction and upsizing of a sanitary sewer along Indian Creek from Central Avenue to 10th Street, and along Central Avenue from Indian Creek to Boyson Road. Work also includes water main replacement along Central Avenue from Indian Creek to Boyson Road, and north along Larick Drive to Isham Drive. This work is currently underway.

CEMAR Trail Phase 5

The final segment of the CEMAR Trail project is currently under construction. This project includes the installation of three trail bridges and trail paving from the Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Cedar Rapids to the Grand Avenue Trail Spur, near Menards in Marion. When this phase is completed this fall, the entire CEMAR Trail project will be completed, establishing a trail connection between Downtown Cedar Rapids and Uptown Marion.

Lucore Road Pedestrian Bridge

This project will install a trail bridge on the east side of Lucore Road over Indian Creek and complete the trail connection to Indian Creek Road. The tentative timeline includes letting the project in the summer of 2026 with a possible start of construction in the fall/winter of 2026. It is anticipated for this project to be fully completed in the spring of 2027.

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:

Amber Bisinger, Editor

Marion City Hall | abisinger@cityofmarion.org



Automated Collection Changes to Gain Efficiencies

After months of testing, the City of Marion transitioned to a new process for curbside garbage and recycling collection in early April.

The change came after a year of analysis following its move to automated curbside collection in the fall of 2024. With residents having access to larger receptacles, compaction rates in the split-body trucks were lower than anticipated, resulting in additional trips to the landfill and delays in service.

To gain efficiencies, the City moved away from collecting both garbage and recycling in a single stop, and now uses single hopper trucks, one collecting garbage and one collecting recycling.

This change does not impact rates or collection days for residents. It may result in services being provided at different times throughout the day. Residents are reminded to have their carts at the curb by 7 a.m. on collection day.

Learn more at www.cityofmarion.org/automatedcollection.



Rebates Available for Residential Stormwater Practices

Did you know that the City of Marion offers rebates for residents that install practices that improve water quality and decrease runoff? Practices covered by rebates include:

- › Reimbursement for half of the project cost up to \$1,000 for native plants, soil quality restoration, rain gardens and pervious pavers.
- › Up to \$50 rain barrels and trees, up to three times per household.



Learn more and find the application at www.cityofmarion.org/stormwater.



Stormwater Open House Happening May 11

City officials are inviting the community to a public open house to learn about updates to Marion's stormwater master plan project. The open house will be on Monday, May 11, from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Marion Public Works Facility, 202 44th Street.

Representatives from the City and its engineering consultant will be on hand to answer questions. There is no formal presentation planned, residents can come and go as they please.

The City is developing a stormwater masterplan to mitigate future flooding risk in Marion. It is important that current stormwater and drainage infrastructure be adequately maintained and/or improved to accommodate the growing population and mitigate future problems, such as flooding, streambank erosion, damage to property and poor water quality.

The stormwater master plan is being done in three phases.

Phase 1: Phase 1 is complete and included evaluating the current state of the system.

Phase 2: Currently, in Phase 2, the City and project team will review modeling results and begin planning for potential improvements.

Phase 3: During Phase 3, a complete evaluation and plan will be finalized. Once the stormwater master plan is complete, the City will use it as a tool to guide infrastructure investments in Marion.



To learn more about the project and stay up to date on any related happenings, visit www.cityofmarion.org/stormwatermasterplan.

Road Construction Reminders

It's construction season, which means City crews could be in a neighborhood near you repairing small street patches and crack sealing as part of their preventative maintenance program. Please use caution when you encounter road work and give crews room to work.

Sign up for Text Alerts

Stay up to date on City services and upcoming events by signing up to receive text alerts or emails from the City of Marion. Never miss out on important information that matters to you like garbage delays, winter storm parking alerts, upcoming events and more. Indicate your preferences at www.cityofmarion.org/text.



The Anatomy of a 911 Call in Marion

When someone in our community calls 911, a whole chain of activity begins behind the scenes. From the moment you call, trained professionals work quickly to get you the help you need. Here's a simple look at what happens from that first ring to the moment our crew is ready for the next call.

Every Second Matters

We continuously track response times to serve you better:

- › Alarm Handling: How quickly we answer and process your call
- › Turnout Time: How fast crews begin responding
- › Travel Time: How long it takes to reach you
- › Total Response Time: Time from your 911 call to when help arrives

We Answer (Alarm Handling)

A trained dispatcher answers your call, asks key questions and stays on the line to understand your emergency and exact location.

Crews Are Alerted (Turnout)

Your information is entered into our dispatch system, which helps determine the right response. Emergency crews are immediately alerted and begin responding.

- › If a unit is available, it is dispatched right away.
- › If all units are busy, the call may be held briefly or, depending on the severity, assistance may be requested from a neighboring agency.

Crews Respond (Travel)

Responders notify dispatch that they are enroute and head to your location as quickly and safely as possible.

Help Arrives (Total Response)

The first crew on scene begins assessing the situation, ensuring safety and providing medical care.

Transport if Needed

If hospital care is needed, you will be transported by ambulance for further treatment.

Back In Service

After the emergency is handled, the crew gathers their equipment, returns to the station and prepares for the next call.

Make it Better

At every call, no matter the situation, our goal is simple: to be present, provide support and work toward the best possible outcome for residents and visitors.



Rhonda Kaczinski Retires After 30 Years

Rhonda Kaczinski joined the City of Marion in April 1996, beginning her career as a 911 communications operator and trainer, a role she held for 21 years. In 2017, she was selected to fill the newly created position of lead communications operator. The following year, she became the first civilian 911 communications center manager, serving in that capacity for the last eight years.

Last month, she celebrated her retirement on the 30th anniversary of the day she was hired.

"Public safety is a 24/7/365 career where sacrifices are made," said Kaczinski. "I am very proud that my career has been in service to the people of this community, yet after 30 years, it is time for family to come first."

Reflecting on her career, Kaczinski noted that she witnessed dramatic advancements in 911 technology. She was also proud of her efforts to advocate for additional training opportunities to enhance the skills of the City's communications operators.

"There are many people in the department and community who had an impact during my career," Kaczinski added. "Thank you!"

Best wishes in retirement, Rhonda! Thank you for your dedicated service.



Hooked on History

Did you know Marion has a Historic Preservation Commission that was established by City Council in 1999? A goal of the program is to increase public awareness of Marion's heritage. To kick-off our first history lesson, we will start where it all began:

Marion's beginnings are more like Washington D.C. than what we usually think of town beginnings. The county was determined in 1837 by the Wisconsin Legislature (Iowa began as part of Wisconsin Territory) with a population of 250 people. County officials, elected in 1839 near Bertram, selected the site of the county seat and named it Marion in September 1839. The site was surveyed and the first sale of lots occurred on Dec. 6, 1839. The sale results were to pay for the erection of necessary public buildings such as a Court House. Marion was incorporated on Aug. 10, 1865, which meant that taxes and fees could be levied for the City to conduct its own business, all previously done by the county. Following a vote in 1919, it was decided that the county seat would move to Cedar Rapids. The courthouse on May's Island was completed in 1925, finalizing this transaction.

PHOTO: Engraving of the Linn County Courthouse in Marion copied from the Andreas Atlas.

City of Marion and International Code Council Celebrate Building Safety Month



Throughout the month of May, Marion's Building Division will participate in the 46th annual Building Safety Month, a worldwide campaign presented by the International Code Council (ICC), its members and partners to promote building safety. This year's campaign, "Built to Last," highlights how modern building codes, safety professionals and resilient construction practices protect homes and communities around the world.

"Building Safety Month is a valuable chance to spotlight our efforts," said Building Division Manager Gary Hansen. "The City of Marion commits to safety every day through proactive inspections, code enforcement, public education and partnerships with first responders and builders to ensure safe, resilient homes and businesses year round."



Learn more about Building Safety Month at www.buildingsafetymonth.org or join the conversation on social media using #BuildingSafety365.

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

In most cases, yes. The City of Marion requires a building permit for detached structures including garages, tool sheds, storage sheds and playhouses that are more than 200 square feet or taller than one story. Regardless of size, all structures must meet current building codes and local zoning requirements. Pre-built sheds with a footprint over 200 square feet also require permits because the City must review anchoring and installation.

Location on the lot is important: sheds may not be placed within utility or drainage easements, and local setback rules apply. Structures located within 5 feet of a property line or within 3 feet of a house or detached garage will require fire protection measures.

For full details, visit the City of Marion website at www.cityofmarion.org and click on Building Permits or contact the Building Division at (319) 743-6330. For questions about zoning, easements or setbacks, contact the Planning Division at (319) 743-6320.

CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly

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marionmayor@cityofmarion.org

At-Large - Kelvin Unemin

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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.



The Marion Pool will open for the season on Saturday, May 23. The swimming season will run through Labor Day.

Regular Hours:

Monday-Friday	Saturday-Sunday
Lap Swim 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Lap Swim 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Swim 1-7 p.m.	Open Swim 1-5 p.m.

Special Hours/Exceptions:

Saturday, May 23 open from 1-5 p.m.
 Sunday, May 24 open from 1-5 p.m.
 Monday, May 25 open from 1-7 p.m.
 From June 1-5 and June 8-12, the pool will close at 4 p.m. for evening swimming lessons.

Daily Admission:

Ages 3 & Under	\$3.50/person	Ages 4 and up	\$4.50/person
Lap Swim (all ages)	\$4.50/person		

Season Pool Passes:

Family Pass	\$200/family	Individual Pass	\$115/each
Family Pass + Sitter	\$275		

Private Pool Rentals

The Marion Pool is available to rent for birthday parties, group outings, church groups or family reunions to meet your needs.

Monday-Friday	7:15-8:45 p.m.	\$350
Saturday & Sunday	5:15-6:45 p.m.	\$350
Saturday & Sunday	7-8:30 p.m.	\$350

(This later time is available only when the 5:15 p.m. time is booked)

Splash Pads

Marion is home to four splash pads, which are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Thomas Park

343 Marion Boulevard
 Open daily: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Willowood Park

1835 35th Street
 Open daily: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Gill Park

255 Irish Drive
 Open daily: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Central Plaza Water Feature

1001 7th Avenue
 Open daily: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Bringing Recreation to Indian Creek

This summer marks an exciting step forward in activating one of Marion's natural assets, the Indian Creek corridor.

Construction is set to begin on Site 1, located near Wallace Road, which will serve as the community's first formal access point to Indian Creek. This project is designed to open the creek for recreation, giving residents a new way to experience the outdoors in Marion.

The site will feature a kayak and canoe access point, allowing users to safely enter and explore the creek. In addition to paddling opportunities, the space is intended to support environmental education and provide a hands-on connection to the creek's ecosystem.

The Indian Creek Master Plan lays out a long-term vision to create a series of connected destinations along the creek, each offering unique opportunities for recreation and access. Looking ahead to next year, the City is planning for two additional sites:

- A 2.5-acre pond designed for fishing, nature exploration and passive recreation
- A second creek access point with additional trails, helping connect neighborhoods between Central Avenue and 8th Avenue

Together, these improvements will expand access to nature and build a more connected park and trail system throughout Marion.

As work begins this summer, residents can expect to see progress at Site 1 and continued planning efforts for future phases.

Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery Volunteer Opportunities

Did your 2026 New Year's Resolutions include getting more involved in the community or tackling projects that bring tangible results? The Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery are always on the lookout for new volunteers.

This group was organized to work on the maintenance, repairs, improvements and promotion of Marion's cemetery. During the warmer months, the Friends of Oak Shade gather at the cemetery on the first Saturday of the month to clean, repair and reposition headstones and monuments.

We also help with the spring and fall cemetery clean ups to remove old decorations. We've planted trees to replace the many lost in the derecho, and we assist in decorating Veterans' gravesites with flags for Memorial Day. Inside volunteer opportunities include researching the history and stories of Oak Shade's residents, documenting volunteer hours and projects and helping to spread the word about our efforts and recruiting more members.

If you are interested in volunteering, join us at one of our monthly meetings or workdays. Meetings are held at 3 p.m. on the first Friday of each month in the Safe Room at Thomas Park, or contact Jay Kacena at 319-210-1305 for additional information.



Plant a Seed, Read during Summer Library Program!

Spend your summer at the Marion Public Library!

Visit marionpubliclibrary.org/summer for the latest and most up-to-date program information, reading challenges and other activities.

KIDS

IN-LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Expressive Art for Kids | Tuesday, June 2 and Tuesday, June 7 | 10:30 a.m. | Youth Programming Room

Babble & Brew | Tuesday, June 16 and Tuesday, July 14 | 10:30 a.m. | Youth Programming Room

Elementary Activity Time | Tuesday, June 9, Tuesday, June 23, Tuesday, July 7, and Tuesday, July 21 | 1 p.m. Youth Programming Room

Summer Arts & Crafts for Kids** | Friday, June 26 and Thursday, July 23 | 1 p.m. | Youth Programming Room

Let's Get Moving! | Monday, June 29 and Monday, July 20 | 10:30 a.m. | Youth Programming Room

Doodlebugs Art Program | Tuesday, June 30 and Tuesday, July 28 | 10:30 a.m. | Youth Programming Room

PARK PLAYDATES

Join the library, bookmobile and Marion Parks and Recreation at 10 a.m. for Park Playdates:

Thursday, June 11 | Lowe Park (Irish Dr.)

Thursday, June 18 | Gill Park

Thursday, June 25 | Taube Park

Thursday, July 2 | Prairie Hill Park

Thursday, July 9 | Hanna Park

TEENS

Bead Art Workshop** | Tuesday, June 9 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Game Day: Big Board Games | Thursday, June 11 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Movie Day | Thursday, June 18 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Craft Day: Shrinky Dinks | Tuesday, June 16 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

MakerSpace Activity: Gnome Gardens** | Tuesday, June 16 | 5:30 p.m. | MakerSpace

Kitchen Safety with the Marion Fire Department** | Thursday, June 25 | 1 p.m. | Community Room B

Candy Sushi | Saturday, June 27 | Noon | Community Room

Craft Day: Pressed Flower Bookmarks | Tuesday, June 30 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Game Day: Retro Games | Thursday, July 2 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Comic Book Workshop** | Tuesday, July 7 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Movie Day | Thursday, July 9 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Craft Day: Perler Beads | Tuesday, July 14 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

Game Day: Throwback Games | Thursday, July 16 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

MakerSpace Activity: Laser Cutter Keychains and Patches** | Tuesday, July 21 | 5:30 p.m. | MakerSpace

Super Smash Brothers Tournament** | Thursday, July 23 | 1 p.m. | Community Room

Craft Day: Bracelet, Necklace, and Keychain Making | Tuesday, July 28 | 1 p.m. | Teen Programming Room

ADULTS

Beach Read Book Club | Monday, June 8, Monday, June 29, Monday, July 13, and Monday, July 27 | 6 p.m. | Community Room B

Art Class: Painting Watercolor Pastels** | Monday, June 15 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Community Room B

Summer Writing Circle | Tuesday, June 16, Tuesday, June 30, Tuesday, July 7, and Tuesday, July 21 | 6 p.m. | Boardroom

Art Class: Print Making** | Saturday, June 20 | 11 a.m. | Community Room

Culinary Class: Easy Appetizers for Summer** | Sunday, June 21 | 1:30 p.m. | Community Room B

Wine Glass Painting** | Sunday, June 21 | 3 p.m. | Boardroom

Art Class: Paint Your Pet Portrait** | Monday, June 22 | 5:30 p.m. | Community Room B

Uptown Marion Walking Tour** | Monday, June 29 | 6 p.m. | Start at Library's 6th Avenue Entrance

It's Corn! MakerSpace Craft** | Saturday, July 11 | 1 p.m. | MakerSpace

ALL AGES

Barnyard Discoveries | Sunday, June 7 | 1 p.m. | Marion Public Library

Meet The Reptiles | Wednesday, June 10 | 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. | Community Room

Trinkets & Treasures | Saturday, June 13 | 11 a.m. | Community Room

Absolute Science: Fantastic Foam | Wednesday, June 17 | 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. | Community Room

Movie Day | Wednesday, June 24 | 1 p.m. | Community Room

Swords and Roses Presents: Dead Men Do Tell Tales | Wednesday, July 1 | 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. | Community Room

Author Kelly Crull: There's a Dinosaur Loose in the Library!** | Wednesday, July 8 | 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. | Community Room

Art Class: Paint Your Family** | Sunday, July 12 | 2 p.m. | Community Room

Pollinator Protectors** | Wednesday, July 15 | 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. | Community Room

Art Class: Cyanotype** | Sunday, July 19 | 1:30 p.m. | City Hall Parking Lot

Movie Day | Wednesday, July 22 | 1 p.m. | Community Room

Will Stuck's M.E.S.S. Show | Wednesday, July 29 | 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. | Community Room

End-of-Summer Ice Cream Social | Friday, July 31 | 2:30 p.m. | Community Room

**Online registration is required for programs marked with asterisks

Thank you to this year's Summer Library Program sponsors: Hills Bank, Katz Summer Library Program Fund, Marion Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Marion Public Library.



The Big Marion Read – Coming Fall 2026

We're turning the page on something exciting. . . introducing The Big Marion Read!

The Big Marion Read is a community-wide reading experience that invites residents to connect in a new way. Featuring different books for various age groups – all tied to a common theme – this initiative offers opportunities to engage through events, discussions and shared experiences.

Stay informed and explore how to participate at marionpubliclibrary.org/bigread.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Building a love for books starts at home. Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, children in Marion receive a personalized book in the mail every month until their fifth birthday. From "The Little Engine That Could" to graduation favorites, these books help bridge the literacy gap and prepare kids for school success.

Pick up a registration card at the Marion Public Library or sign up online at marionpubliclibrary.org/imaginationlibrary.



MARION
Public Library



Park This Way



Did you know there are more than 650 public parking spaces within Uptown Marion? To improve visibility and help residents and visitors become more aware of City-owned lots, new parking signs are being installed. Look for these signs when you make your way to Uptown for shopping, dining and the many community events hosted in the district.

Enhanced visibility for the free public parking in Marion is one of the priorities of the Uptown Parking Implementation Task Force. Other short-term priorities include establishing a Partners-in-Parking program and developing a communications plan.

