



May 2025

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Nick AbouAssaly

Shaping a Premier Community

Recently, I had the privilege of delivering my 10th State of the City speech to a sold-out crowd of 630 people from Marion and across the region and state, all of whom were eager to hear about Marion's progress and celebrate its success. The presentation focused on an incredible decade of forward momentum and progress for our community.

For me, the past 10 years have provided a humbling opportunity to serve, build consensus around a big vision, effect positive change and be the megaphone for a community on the rise.

For our city, this past decade is a case study in what a community can accomplish when leaders lead with authenticity and a servant heart; when we put aside divisive politics and personal agendas in service of the greater good; when we understand that we are all on the same team, collaborate and make room at the table for all who can add value; and when we dream bigger and reach higher than we thought was possible.

With this new "Marion way," the seemingly impossible has become possible, the positive energy has become contagious, the momentum has become an unstoppable force and wonderful transformations abound. Today, Marion is shaping a premier community where people and business-es want to be.

In the past decade, our city grew by 16%, adding 2,100 households to become the state's 13th largest city. We added 1,537 single-family homes and 1,014 multifamily units. We completely transformed the city's core from a sleepy, nondescript place to one of Iowa's best downtowns and an active living room for Marion and the region. We worked with investors to redevelop the industrial core and areas at the entrances to the city into beautiful commercial centers. We added 30 miles of new streets and overlaid and reconstructed 22 miles of existing streets.

Our city added an incredible list of new public facilities and amenities, and today we have 620 acres of parkland and 35 miles of trails in our city. I'm proud that our work today exemplifies our reaching higher motto and sets the standard across the state for responsible, responsive and effective government.

Today more than ever before, our City team is energized by an understanding that the measure of our success is the positive impact we have on the lives of people. Reaching higher has become the anchor and lens through which we view our work, and the people we serve are at the heart of everything we do.

Marion has become the statewide example for transparency, accessibility and resident engagement in decision-making. We share information through this quarterly magazine, a weekly email, a robust online presence and weekly City Council office hours. We seek resident input and use the data to inform our work plans and ensure our investments of public dollars are in line with the public's priorities. We go to great lengths to engage residents in the implementation of major projects through community-based steering committees.

Our city's rise to excellence and our focus on quality of life and quality of place are increasingly being recognized. In the past decade, our City has been featured in several national publications, named one of America's most livable small cities and a national Community of the Year, and designated as an Iowa All-Star Community four times. We're also an Iowa Great Place, a Tree City USA and one of Iowa's safest cities. Of course, our success is best reflected in the approval ratings of residents, with 71% expressing trust in their city government and 95% rating Marion as a good or excellent place to live.

We're writing the best chapter in our town's story so far. We have established a solid foundation and put our city on a trajectory that seemed like a distant vision even a decade ago. And I'm confident the best chapters are yet to be written. The future is bright and the sky is truly NOT the limit!



To view the entire State of the City speech, visit www.cityofmarion.org.



Nancy A. Miller 2025 Community Impact Award Recipient

Nancy A. Miller has been announced as the 2025 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 City address in March.

Miller has a long history of advocating for Marion residents and making contributions toward the advancement of the community. She has been an ex-officio member of the Marion Public Library Board of Trustees since 1994. In addition, she is a member of the Marion Public Library Foundation Board of Directors and the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force Club.

In 1994, Miller received an inheritance from her mother. Rather than keeping the gift for herself, Miller considered where it could make the biggest impact. That year, she provided a \$500,000 donation that jump-started the effort to build a new Marion library. She later contributed an additional \$150,000, making her donation the largest received for that facility, which opened in 1996. For the next 24 years, the Nancy A. Miller Marion Public Library served this community.

As a mother and longtime second-grade teacher, Miller's commitment to education and reading inspired her gift and decades of community volunteerism. When the community had outgrown the Nancy A. Miller Public Library – even before the 2020 derecho – Miller put aside her personal connection with the building. She not only supported the City's plan to build a new facility; she became a champion for the new library.

To this day, she is a regular volunteer at the library, an advocate for library users with disabilities and one of its biggest cheerleaders. In the last year alone, the Marion Public Library welcomed nearly 180,000 visitors.

"Nancy helped Marion build not only one library but two," said Bill Carroll in his nomination. "Because, for Nancy, it's always been about how a library serves its community."

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.

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. In keeping with inflation and following a thorough rate analysis of each fund, the Finance Department presented the following proposed utility rates to Marion City Council in April. Formal adoption is anticipated in June, with rates going into effect on July 1, 2025.

SAMPLE BILL FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Two-Month Increase
Garbage	\$52	\$52	\$0
Sanitary Sewer (Capital)	\$6	\$6.30	\$0.30
Sewer* (Operations & Maintenance)	Service Charge: \$10 Usage \$6/100 cubic ft of water used	Service Charge: \$10.30 Usage \$6/100 cubic ft of water used	\$0.30
Stormwater	Service Charge: \$8 Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU): \$4	Service Charge: \$8.30 Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU): \$4.20	\$0.50
Urban Forest	\$7	\$9	\$2
Water*	\$48.33	\$49.06	\$0.73
Water Excise Tax	\$2.90	\$2.94	\$0.04
Total			\$3.87

*Assuming average use of 1,200 cubic feet of water in a two-month billing cycle

Garbage – No rate change is proposed for the garbage fee for FY 26, as there have only been one or two billing cycles since implementing the new automated collection program. The City continues to monitor tonnage and will review the rates after the first year of the program.

Sanitary Sewer – Marion contracts with the City of Cedar Rapids for wastewater treatment services. Water pollution control capital improvements of the Cedar Rapids treatment plant are expected in the coming years with an estimated cost of \$250 million. The City of Marion's estimated share of \$24.5 million is expected to occur in FY 2029. Marion is working to gradually increase the sanitary sewer rate in anticipation of these improvements.

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

Urban Forest – The proposed urban forest fee increase supports the implementation of the Urban Reforestation Plan.

Water – The 3% rate increase is necessary to keep up with inflation and fund future water system improvements.

City and Community Leaders Celebrate Central Plaza Ribbon Cutting



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 7, to mark the substantial completion of the Central Plaza at City Square Park. The upgrades activate the park year-round by providing flexible space for daily outdoor use and special events.

"With this project, we're enhancing the cool factor of Marion and making Uptown a destination and living room for the region," said Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly. "It's one more way in which we are delivering on our promise to create opportunity and be the best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business."

The Central Plaza features a refrigerated ice-skating loop, enclosure of the Depot Pavilion, upgraded public restrooms, live performance space, engaging water features, an interactive play sculpture, public art, seating and more. Perennial plantings, native trees and decorative lighting enhance the space.

The \$8.5 million project received broad public and private support, including a \$3 million Destination Iowa grant. The Marion Park Foundation secured \$1.3 million in funding and the remainder is covered by local option sales tax funds and general obligation bonds.

Work began in March 2024. The art sculpture is currently in production and will be installed in June and the grand opening of the ice-skating loop is slated for early December.

With construction anticipated on the Broad and Main on 6th building, the southeast portion of the park and the former 11th Street right-of-way will remain closed for staging and site access. The commemorative brick pavers will not be installed in the plaza until Broad and Main on 6th is completed.



Visit www.facebook.com/CityofMarionIA for photos of the celebration.



Welcome Center Unveils Remodel with Local Student Collaboration

The Marion Welcome Center, located at the front of the Marion Chamber of Commerce and Uptown Marion offices at 1070 7th Avenue, has recently undergone a significant remodel to better serve both residents and visitors. This transformation was made possible through a collaborative effort with students from Linn-Mar High School's Venture Academics program. In January, these students assessed the space and provided recommendations on layout, design and merchandise selection, resulting in a more inviting and functional environment.

The revamped Welcome Center now offers a diverse array of Marion and Iowa-themed merchandise, including apparel, accessories and unique tchotchkes. Additionally, visitors can find locally made pantry items such as beef sticks, jams, jellies and salsas—ideal for travelers seeking a taste of Iowa or residents

looking for distinctive gifts that showcase community pride.

"We had such a fun experience working with the Venture students," said Chamber President Jill Ackerman. "They put great thought into their presentation, and we are so happy with the implementation. The new design, coupled with new product lines, have elevated the shopping experience- we look forward to welcoming everyone to the new and improved space!"

Beyond retail offerings, the Welcome Center serves as a hub for community information, providing maps, guides and resources to help both newcomers and long-time residents experience Marion.

The Marion Welcome Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

CONTACT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly

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

At-Large - Randy Strnad

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2745 4th Ave. | (319) 389-9918
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Ward Four - Sara Mentzer

2305 Timber Creek Dr.
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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.



Fireworks & Fireflies returns to Lowe Park on Thursday, July 3, at 6 p.m.

Fireworks & Fireflies presented by Conlon Construction 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 The Ice Breakers and food trucks leading up to the fireworks at dusk. Special thanks to presenting sponsor Conlon Construction and all other sponsors that help make this event possible.

PRESENTING
SPONSOR

CONLON

RED SPONSORS



WHITE SPONSORS



BLUE SPONSORS

Boyson Heights | Branded Apparel | D&N Fence Co. Inc. | ESCO Group
Hand In Hand Early Care & Education Center | Heartland Bank and Trust Company | Hy-Vee | Life Time Fence Co. Inc.
Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative | Mercy Medical Park in Marion | MidAmerican Energy
Murdoch Funeral Homes & Cremation Service | PDCM Insurance | Rathje Construction Co.
Reliant Fire Apparatus, Inc. | REM Iowa Host Home

www.cityofmarion.org/fireworks



**Marion Arts Festival
Art on the Avenue
Saturday, May 17 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
7th Avenue between 10th & 12th Streets
in Uptown Marion**

Experience Art on the Avenue during the 2025 Marion Arts Festival

The Marion Arts Festival returns on Saturday, May 17, for a day of Art on the Avenue! This year's festival features 50 fine artists from around the country and four emerging artists from the community. Weave your way through the festival while enjoying live music and local food alongside 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 Corridor Woodturners and The Ceramics Center, work to create bowls that are 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 25-year history, the festival has donated more than \$118,000. Bring some cash and buy a bowl for a good cause.

This year, parts of the festival will be back in the park. The Create & Explore Spaces in City Square Park will 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 showcase large block letters that festival participants can draw on during the day. Darrin Crow will perform shadow puppet shows and teach audience members how to make a puppet.

Marion Arts Festival is presented by Farmers State Bank, our 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, KCRG-TV9 and Collins Aerospace.

City Hall

1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302
cityofmarion.org

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City Manager
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citymanager@cityofmarion.org

Deputy City Manager
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kdowns@cityofmarion.org

City Clerk
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cityclerk@cityofmarion.org

Community Development

Building Division
319-743-6330
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Planning Division
319-743-6320
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Engineering

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mbarkalow@cityofmarion.org

Finance

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lcairy@cityofmarion.org

Human Resources

319-743-6329
lsperflslage@cityofmarion.org

IT Department

319-743-4735
itdepartment@cityofmarion.org

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

(solid waste, sewer, streets)
202 44th Street
319-377-6367
public-works@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

Spring Can Mean Door-to-Door Solicitation

Spring is here, and warmer weather brings solicitors to our community. A solicitor is any person who goes from place to place 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.

All peddler, solicitor and transient merchant licenses have time restrictions of 8 a.m.-9 p.m., seven days a week. 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). There will not be a city-wide garage sale this year.

Marion Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report

The Marion Water Department, in compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, is providing customers with its annual water quality report. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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.

Temporary Signage

Temporary signs promoting garage sales, homes for sale and the like may not be placed between the sidewalk and curb per City Code 340-8.3G(1). If there is no sidewalk, the distance is typically 15 feet from the back of the curb. Please be mindful of the placement of signs on corner lots so that they do not obstruct driver and pedestrian visibility of potential oncoming traffic. Questions regarding the placement of signs can be directed to the Marion Planning Division at planning@cityofmarion.org.

New Utility Billing & Payment Portal

The Water Department's new billing and online payment portal went live in January.

- › Online payments are now accepted for such things as deposits, bulk water bills and other miscellaneous bills.
- › Current users will see a new look and will want to bookmark the new URL.
- › Customers on autopay by recurring credit card must re-enroll if you were enrolled through the former payment portal.
- › A new automated phone payment service (IVR) will take utility payments over the phone at 1-888-459-8550.
- › Access the system at www.cityofmarion.org/billingoptions.

3% Water Rate Increase Anticipated in July

The Marion Water Board will consider a water rate increase at their meeting on June 10 at 4 p.m. The rate increase will raise approximately \$162,000 in additional revenue to pay off debt, cover increasing energy costs and fund new water main replacement projects. The average customer using 1,200 cubic feet of water will see a \$0.73 increase for water consumption in a two-month bill. For more information regarding this proposed increase, please contact tsteigerwaldt@cityofmarion.org.

2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Garbage & Recycling Collection

Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up Schedule
May 26	Memorial Day	Monday	One day late all week
June 19	Juneteenth	Thursday	Regular collection schedule
July 4	Independence Day	Friday	One day late starting Friday
Sept. 1	Labor Day	Monday	One day late all week
Oct. 13	Columbus Day	Monday	Regular collection schedule
Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Tuesday	Regular collection schedule

Date	Holiday	Day	Pick-Up Schedule
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	Collection on Friday
Nov. 28	Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	Collection on Saturday
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Wednesday	Regular collection schedule
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Thursday	One day late starting Thursday
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve	Wednesday	Regular collection schedule
Jan. 1	New Year's Day	Thursday	One day late starting Thursday

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



Engineering Division Update

Road construction season is here. Below are a few updates on the higher-profile projects in the Engineering Division's work plan.

5th Avenue Reconstruction

This project is in its second of two construction seasons and includes the reconstruction of 5th Avenue from 1st Street to 7th Street. It includes necessary upgrades to the water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure. This project also includes water main and sewer improvements along 1st Street from 3rd Avenue to 6th Avenue.

1st Avenue Reconstruction

This project kicks off this year and spans two construction seasons. It includes the removal and replacement of 1st Avenue from the intersection of 15th 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 in late 2025/early 2026 with construction happening in 2026.

Pavement Patching

This project is expected to begin no later than July 7 and includes the rehabilitation of several roads throughout the city. Full-depth patching, surface grinding and other associated improvements will be made to the following roadways:

- › 6th Avenue from 8th Street to 15th Street
- › Boyson Road from the west city limits to Central Avenue
- › 35th Street from Monarch Avenue to 29th Avenue
- › 29th Avenue from 35th Street to Highland Drive



Asphalt Resurfacing Program

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

- › Twixt Town Road from Cedar Rapids to Marion
- › Hillview Drive from 5th Street to 22nd Street
- › Valleyview Drive from 15th Street to 22nd Street
- › 25th Avenue from Indian Creek Road to 27th Street
- › Meadowview Drive from East Post Road to South 15th Street
- › South 15th Street from Grand Avenue to Daleview Drive
- › 8th Avenue from 6th Street to 10th Street
- › Winslow Road from the timber bridge and extending to the newer paving to the north and south

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 project will require the closure of Indian Creek Trail from Central Avenue to 10th Street for a portion of the 2025 construction season.



Subscribe to the Engineering Division's weekly newsletter to receive project updates throughout the construction season at cityofmarion.org/enotify.



Garbage, Recycling & Yard Waste Reminders

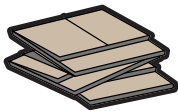
- › Carts must be placed on a flat surface. If necessary, place in the driveway or in the street next to the curb.
- › Please keep a minimum of 3 feet of space on all sides of the carts.
- › Lids must be closed as overfilled carts will not be collected.
- › If you have an extra bag, it must be on top of your garbage cart, with an extra bag sticker visible from the street. If you consistently pay for a \$2.50 sticker and put out an extra bag each week, it may be more economical to request a second cart for a monthly fee. Please call (319) 377-6367 to inquire.
- › 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. Any extra cardboard or bags next to a container will be left behind.
- › Routes and pickups are recorded electronically using the AngelTrax camera system which is installed on each truck. Call (319) 377-6367 within 24 hours if you have a question about your collection.
- › Crews are running routes from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, they may not be at your home at the same time each week. Please wait until 3:30 p.m. before calling (319) 377-6367 to report a missed stop.
- › Cameras have been added at the Yard Waste and Recycling Center Drop-off facilities on 35th Street. The dumping of garbage, tires or other bulky items is strictly prohibited and may result in a \$750 fine.

RECYCLE Marion

Here's what goes in.



Aluminum & steel cans



Clean cardboard
(no food residue)



Plastic bottles & jugs



Newspaper, magazines,
catalogs, junk mail, paper,
& food boxes

Recyclables should be EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!

No sorting required. Please note, just because there's a recycling symbol doesn't mean the item is recyclable in Linn County.

Here's what doesn't.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| No glass | No shredded paper |
| No trash or yard waste | No wrapping or tissue paper |
| No plastic bags | No packaging materials |
| No Styrofoam | No hazardous materials (oil, pesticides, paints, cleaners or batteries) or residue |
| No aluminum foil or aluminum pans | No food remnants or used/dirty items |
| No shipping or padded envelopes | No rigid plastic (kitty litter buckets, plastic hangers, etc.) |

Recyclables should be EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!



Questions?

Call 319-377-6367

Visit www.cityofmarion.org/automatedcollection

City of
Marion
IOWA

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



MARION SPRING/SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Marion Farmers Market

Saturdays | May-Sept. |
NEW location: 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.

Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Saturday | May 10 | 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! Join in the celebration between noon-3 p.m. For more information, visit www.cityofmarion.org/birdfriendly.

Marion Arts Festival 5K & Half Marathon

hosted by Corridor Running

Saturday | May 17 | 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.

Marion Arts Festival

presented by Farmers State Bank

Saturday | May 17 | 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.

Great American Kites

sponsored by Summit Pointe Senior Living Community

Saturday | May 17 | PeeWee Diamonds at Lowe Park

For the fifth year, 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. Guests should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Outside food and drink are permitted.

Marion by Moonlight

hosted by Farmers State Bank

Thursdays | June 5, 12, 19, 26 |
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 5: Large Midgets

June 12: Birdchild

June 19: 8 Seconds

June 26: Crazy Delicious

Pop-Up Acts in the Artway

sponsored by Iowa Appliance Center and Affordable Heating and Cooling

Fridays | June-August | Uptown Artway

Enjoy a night on the town listening to live music. Sit on the patio of a nearby bar and hear local musicians perform on the Uptown Artway stage. Music begins at 6 p.m. Visit cityofmarion.org or facebook.com/CityofMarionIowa for specific artists and dates.

Sunrise Yoga

hosted by Be Well Marion

Saturdays | June-August |
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 7 | 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.

Poker Challenge

Ongoing | June 9-Aug. 10 |
Marion Parks

Fifty-two large playing cards have been hidden around Marion's parks and trails. Assemble your best five-card hand (with photo proof) and submit it for a chance to win cool prizes.

Marion Community Band

June 10 & July 1 | Thomas 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.

Downdogs in Uptown

hosted by Vella Yoga, Health & Wellness and Be Well Marion

Wednesdays | June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, Aug. 6 | Central Plaza at City Square Park

Come move, breathe and connect with your community under the summer sky. Join us for a new, free community yoga series on select Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in Uptown Marion. Bring your own mat and water. Find any weather updates posted on the Sunrise Yoga, Be Well Marion and Vella Yoga Facebook pages.

Uptown Marion Market

*sponsored by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Saturdays | June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 27 | 7th Avenue between 10th and 12th Streets

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

sponsored by Veridian Credit Union

Saturdays | June 14, July 12, Aug. 9 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Enjoy live music at the beautiful Lowe Park amphitheater. Bring a blanket, cooler and lawn chair. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

June 14: The Hype

July 12: The Johnny Rogers Show

Aug. 9: Are You Ready For It? A Taylor Experience

Moonlit Movie Series

Fridays | June 20, July 18, Aug. 15 | 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 20: Inside Out 2

July 18: Mufasa: The Lion King

Aug. 15: Kung Fu Panda 4

Picnic on the Prairie

presented by Marion Arts Council

Saturday | June 21, Aug. 16 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Come be inspired by music, art and the beautiful outdoors. Bring your picnic basket, blanket and lawn chair. The concerts begin at 7 p.m.

June 21: Funk Daddies

Aug. 16: Wonderful Smiths

Summer Rock Series

presented by Uptown Snug

Saturdays | June 21, July 26, Aug. 2, Aug. 23 | Uptown Artway

Enjoy rock n' roll hits by some of your favorite local musicians in the Uptown Artway this summer.

June 21: Street Rad

July 26: DJ Commando

Aug. 2: O'Connell Brothers

Aug. 23: Funk Stop

Movies on the Move

Fridays | June 27, July 25, Aug. 22 | 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 27: The Fall Guy at Lininger Park

July 25: Twisters at Thomas Park

Aug. 22: Wicked at Hanna Park

Fireworks & Fireflies

sponsored by Conlon Construction

Thursday | July 3 | Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park

Bring your lawn chair, blanket and cooler and enjoy live music by The Ice Breakers 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 10 | Various stops in Uptown Marion | Must be 21+

Enjoy a night out for a good cause! The Pub Crawl features live entertainment, exclusive deals and extended shopping hours as you walk to each participating establishment. Have fun while supporting the ongoing revitalization and beautification efforts of Uptown Marion - A Main Street Iowa District. (Ticketed event)

Marion Big Band "Swingin' at Sunset" Concerts

Thursdays | July 10, 17, 24 | Central Plaza at City Square Park

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy classic 30s and 40s Big Band hits! The concerts start at 7 p.m. each week.

Uptown Getdown

*sponsored by Marion Chamber Platinum Community Partners**

Thursdays | Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 7th Avenue between 10th and 12th Streets

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 7: Wylde Nept

Aug 14: New Trick

Aug 21: Funk Daddies

Aug 28: All Natural

Marion Sprint Triathlon

Saturday | Aug. 9 | Linn-Mar Aquatic Center

Swim, bike and run for fun! Challenge yourself or your whole family in this sprint triathlon right here in Marion. Register by July 1. More information available at cityofmarion.org/parks-recreation.

Spark in the Park

Sunday | Sept. 7 | 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.

Fall Into Marion Parade

sponsored by Farmers State Bank

Saturday | Sept. 13 | Uptown Marion

Enjoy the festive atmosphere that comes with a parade, including appearances by the Marion and Linn-Mar High Schools bands. The parade starts at 10 a.m. and will travel north on 15th St. and then west on 6th Ave. to 9th St.

Oktoberfest

Saturday | Sept. 20 | Uptown Marion

Back by popular demand, Oktoberfest will be held from noon-3 p.m. with a VIP hour from 11 a.m.-noon. The event will feature over 30 breweries sampling their craft in Uptown Marion and traditional German games, like Hammerschlagen and stein holding. (Ticketed event)

Marion PD Adds Automated License Plate Recognition

In September 2024, the Marion Police Department's squad car cameras were updated to include an Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) feature. ALPR technology has been around since the late 1970s and was first used in Europe. Over the past decade, the technology has improved dramatically and is being used by more police agencies across the country, including Iowa.

ALPR technology uses computer-controlled cameras to automatically capture and read license plates. The data is run instantaneously through a national database that houses license plate information on stolen cars, wanted people and missing/endangered people. Officers receive a "hit" notification within seconds of their camera capturing the image.

Marion's policy, like other agencies, requires officers to conduct a follow-up investigation before making a stop after an ALPR hit. This may include manually running the plate again, visually verifying the person driving the vehicle fits the description of the wanted or missing party or observing other violations which, on their own, would warrant a stop. Based

upon state code, images captured by the ALPR cameras are only stored for 30 days unless they are connected to a crime or active investigation.

During the first two weeks of operation, Marion officers were able to recover one stolen vehicle and arrest three fugitives all based on ALPR hits. ALPR data from surrounding communities has assisted Marion in locating a missing person suffering from dementia, tracking a homicide subject and creating a timeline for a fraudulent practices case.

ALPR technology is being used as a force multiplier, and the department is considering adding the technology to the stationary automated traffic enforcement cameras, as well as installing stand-alone cameras at various strategic locations in the city. ALPRs are a proven technology and effective tool for law enforcement in identifying safety threats and people associated with criminal activity, providing leads on investigative matters and enhancing their ability to assist law enforcement partners locally, regionally and nationally.



Walk Your Wheels

Marion's shared-use paths are intended for use by people, pets and bicyclists. The Walk Your Wheels initiative is part of the City's focus on enhancing accessibility through transit, sidewalk and other mobility-focused programs. To ensure safety in the vibrant Uptown Marion District, this program aims to avoid bike and pedestrian conflict points.

The ordinance pertaining to riding on sidewalks in the business district reads as follows:

Except for persons with a disability that have specially equipped bicycles or children under the age of 13 and accompanying an adult, no person shall ride a bicycle or stand-up scooter on a sidewalk or shared-use path within the right-of-way of 6th Avenue, 7th Avenue and 8th Avenue from 10th Street to 13th Street.

To help educate and promote a safe environment for pedestrians, new signage is being installed to give riders the option to move to the street or walk their wheels in the established zone. Together we can help keep Uptown Marion a thriving district and safe place for all ages and abilities.

Marion Sets Goal to Save More Lives from Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden cardiac arrest is THE most critical emergency in any community. When someone's heart stops beating, the chances of survival dramatically decrease with time as oxygenated support to vital organs is not being circulated. Approximately 1,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients are assessed by emergency medical services in the United States every day, and approximately 90% of those patients do not survive.

Bystander CPR has proven to triple the change of survival. Unfortunately, it only happens about 40% of the time.



Together, we can change that for Marion! The Marion Fire Department and its CERT partners have committed to a five-year goal, by the end of 2030, to train the equivalent of Marion's projected 2030 population (46,400) in Hands-Only CPR.

You don't have to be certified to provide CPR. Good Samaritan laws protect individuals who attempt to save a life. Look for additional information to be shared in the coming months.

MFD Staff Reach Higher through Professional Credentialing

In recent years, several members of the Marion Fire Department have achieved designations through the Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC), an entity of the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE).

Last fall, Deputy Fire Chiefs Jason Hansen and Ryan Steffen achieved the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) credential. This designation is described as the pinnacle of achievement in fire service and represents competency in the industry and a commitment to continuous professional improvement. Hansen and Steffen joined Fire Chief Tom Fagan on the list of 29 CFOs in Iowa.

The department also has six Fire Officer (FO) designees including

- › Firefighter Zach Brunscheen
- › Captain Zach Bruce
- › Captain Nick Thompson
- › Captain Jeff Madland
- › Battalion Chief Curtis Sutcliffe
- › Captain Ian Cruse

The FO designation recognizes individuals who demonstrate excellence in career experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competence. These individuals joined the 706 FOs worldwide, including 18 in Iowa.

Most recently, Management Analyst Jamie Doyle was awarded the professional designation of Fire and Emergency Services Analyst (FESA). Established in 2024, FESA recognizes individuals who demonstrate excellence in several areas including experience, education, professional development and professional contributions, to name a few. There are 21 FESAs worldwide and Doyle is the first to be designated in the state of Iowa.

"I applaud our teammates for pursuing these credentials," said Marion Fire Chief Tom Fagan. "It signifies their commitment to excellence in emergency services for the residents and businesses of Marion."



The Marion Pool will open for the season on Memorial Day, May 26. The swimming season will run through Labor Day.

Regular Hours:

Monday-Friday

Lap Swim 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Swim 1-5:30 p.m.
Family Swim 5:30-7 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday

Lap Swim 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Swim 1-5 p.m.

Special Hours/Exceptions:

May 26: The pool will close at 5 p.m.

May 27, 28, 29: Lap swim only (no open swim)

From June 2-6 and June 9-13, 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:

Individual Pass \$115/each
Family Pass \$200/family
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.	\$250
Saturday & Sunday	5:15-6:45 p.m.	\$250
Saturday & Sunday	7-8:30 p.m.	\$250 (This later time is available only when the 5:15 p.m. time is booked)

Splash Pads

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

Thomas Park

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

Gill Park

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

Tracey Teel Retires after 24 Years with the City of Marion



Tracey Teel joined the City of Marion in September 2001. In her 24 years with the City, she offered administrative support to several departments. She began in a part-time role with the Finance Department. From 2004 to 2019, Tracey was an administrative assistant and certified permit technician for the Community Development Department. In 2019 she became an administrative assistant for the Marion Parks and Recreation Department.

In every position, she put customer service at the forefront and was always willing to take the extra step to help someone with a question or issue. "I have always felt that customer service is the most important skill a person can have," said Teel. "I was once told that it's not what you say or what you do that matters, but how you make a person feel. I took that to heart."

While she always served in an administrative role, her job was very different in each department. What she enjoyed most was the connection she felt to the community.

Teel's list of future plans is a long one, but at the top is spending time with her grandchildren.

Upgrades Coming to Ascension Park



The playground at Ascension Park is scheduled for replacement in early June. The new playground features a structure for 2- to 5-year-olds and a structure for 5- to 12-year-olds, as well as artificial turf for easier maintenance and improved accessibility. In addition, walkways will be added to improve access from the shared parking lot with the church.

Tall Grass/Weed Ordinance

Please keep your yards mowed. It is a violation of the City Code to have any plants, grass or weeds growing uncultivated and out of control with a height of eight inches or more. Five days is allowed following a mailed notice to eliminate the violations. Otherwise, the City will mow and assess the owners \$35 per hour fee plus a \$25 administrative fee. Call (319) 447-3580 to report properties in violation.

Bird Friendly Iowa Designation



BIRD
FRIENDLY
IOWA

The City of Marion is proud to be recognized for the fifth year as a Bird Friendly Iowa city, with a designation of Sustained Flight status (3+ years of successful participation in the program). Bird Friendly Iowa is a statewide conservation and outreach program that recognizes Iowa communities for protecting, restoring and enhancing bird habitats, reducing threats to birds and educating and engaging people in birding and conservation.

This year Marion is also applying for, and is expected to achieve, High Flyer status! This status is the highest level within Bird Friendly Iowa and indicates that a community has met additional criteria, demonstrating a significantly higher level of commitment to bird conservation. Marion would be the third city in Iowa to achieve this honor.



New Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center Hours

The Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center, 4500 N. 10th Street, extended its facility hours to provide visitors with more opportunities to experience the art gallery, interactive exhibits and natural surroundings of the center. As of April 28, the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center is open to walk-in traffic Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. It will be closed on Sundays but will continue to be available for rentals.



Thank You from the Friends of Oak Shade

Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery volunteers would like to extend their appreciation to family lot owners for their extraordinary spring cleanup! Whether it was reminders in the In Focus newsletter, a chance to retire old decorations or just plain pride, the removal of Christmas wreaths, broken toys and other items reduced our work by 75%. Now is the time to replace your favorites or start a new tradition. The fall cleanup day is scheduled for Oct. 15.



Envisioning The Future of Outdoor Aquatics in Marion

In 2021, the City of Marion began working with Waters Edge Aquatic Design to evaluate the condition of the existing Marion Swimming Pool and collect the community's preferences, needs and priorities for outdoor swimming. The study recommended the development of a modern, family-friendly aquatic park designed to serve all ages and abilities, that would accommodate the city's growth and attract visitors from surrounding areas. Last fall, a parcel of land near 31st Street and Munier Road, was selected as the future home of the aquatic park and associated amenities. This location was chosen based on accessibility, proximity to households and the placement of existing aquatic facilities. A referendum is scheduled for Nov. 4, 2025, which will allow residents to vote on funding for the construction of the new aquatic center and the redevelopment of Willowood Park.

Q: What is the proposed new Aquatic Park and Willowood Park Development project?

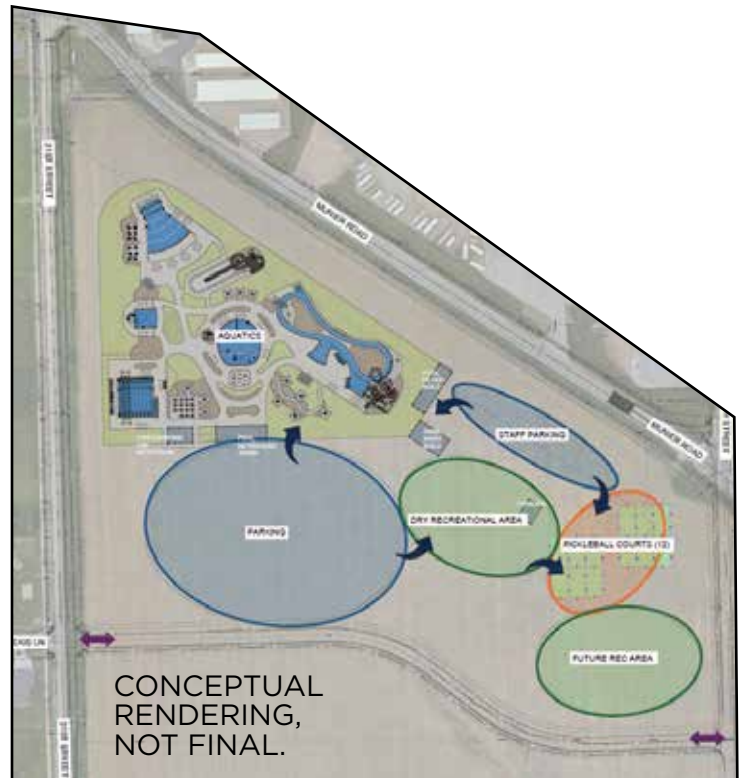
A: The project entails constructing a modern outdoor aquatic center to replace the aging Marion Swimming Pool, which is nearing the end of its useful life after almost 40 years of service. Additionally, Willowood Park, currently home to the Marion Swimming Pool, will be redeveloped into a neighborhood park, which will offer new recreation amenities.

Q: Why is the City investing in an aquatic park and park upgrades?

A: The current pool is outdated and requires costly maintenance. A new facility will better serve the growing community, improve safety and provide expanded recreational opportunities. The Willowood Park improvements will enhance accessibility, usability and overall park aesthetics. More can be learned from our 2021 Aquatic Feasibility Study at www.cityofmarion.org/aquaticstudy.

Q: Where will the new Aquatic Park be located?

A: The City of Marion has entered into a purchase agreement to acquire a 24-acre site at the southeast corner of 31st Street and Munier Road for the proposed aquatic park. The preliminary site layout includes an expanded street network, the aquatic center, parking, dry recreational amenities and pickleball courts.



Q: What is the purpose of the November 2025 bond referendum?

A: The referendum will ask voters to approve funding for building the new Aquatic Park and associated infrastructure, along with redeveloping Willowood Park. Approval of the bond is necessary to finance the construction and development of these community projects.

Q: What will happen if the bond referendum passes?

A: If the referendum passes, construction of the new Aquatic Park is anticipated to begin in 2026 or 2027. The Marion Swimming Pool is expected to operate until the new Aquatic Park opens. Once the new facility is operational, the existing pool will close and be removed. Subsequently, Willowood Park will be redeveloped to offer new outdoor recreational amenities.

Q: What happens if the bond referendum does not pass?

A: If the bond referendum fails, the City will need to re-evaluate the community's aquatic needs and explore alternative solutions. Without approved funding, plans for a new Aquatic Park will be delayed, and the City will begin working on a decommissioning and closure plan for the existing Marion Swimming Pool, which is nearing the end of its usable life. Future options may include a scaled-back plan of improvements, alternative funding sources or reconsidering a new facility at a later date based on community input and available resources.

Q: How can residents stay informed about the project's progress?

A: Residents can stay informed by visiting www.cityofmarion.org, attending public meetings and subscribing to City newsletters and updates. Regular updates will be provided to keep the community engaged and informed throughout the project's development.



2025 Summer Library Program

Level Up At Your Library during this year's Summer Library Program

This summer, the Marion Public Library will host a range of free activities for children, teens and adults to encourage and support a love of reading. This year's theme – Level Up At Your Library – invites patrons of all ages to use the library for knowledge, creativity and fun.

Visit marionpubliclibrary.org/SLP for the latest and up-to-date program information, reading challenges and other activities to keep you busy all summer long.

KIDS

Craft Days

Join us at 1 p.m. in the Youth Programming Room for Craft Days:

- Tuesday, June 17
- Tuesday, July 1
- Tuesday, July 15
- Tuesday, July 29

Game Days

Join us at 1 p.m. in the Youth Programming Room for Game Days:

- Tuesday, June 10
- Tuesday, June 24
- Tuesday, July 8
- Tuesday, July 22

TEENS

Craft Days

Join us at 1 p.m. in the Teen Programming Room for the following Craft Days:

- Tuesday, June 10: Perler Bead Creations
- Tuesday, June 17: Throwback: Summer Camp Arts & Crafts
- Tuesday, June 24: Make Your Own Suncatcher
- Tuesday, July 1: Bracelet/Necklace making
- Tuesday, July 8: Guitar Pick Jewelry
- Tuesday, July 15: Seashell Painting
- Tuesday, July 22: Mixed Bag: Crafts
- Tuesday, July 29: Video Game Themed Reverse Stencil Painting

Game Days

Join us at 1 p.m. in the Teen Programming Room for the following Game Days:

- Thursday, June 12: Retro Game Day
- Thursday, June 19: BINGO
- Thursday, July 3: Big Board Games
- Thursday, July 10: Teen vs. Staff Trivia
- Thursday, July 24: Minute to Win It
- Thursday, July 31: Legend of Zelda Escape Room*

Food Programs

Join us at 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room for the following food programs:

- Friday, June 27: Candy Sushi
- Friday, July 11: Make Your Own Bubble/Boba Drinks*

ALL AGES

All-Ages Programming

Summer Library Program Kick Off |

Monday, June 2 | 4-7 p.m. | Marion Public Library

Pride Button Making | Friday, June 6 and Monday, June 16 | Noon-2 p.m. (6/6) and 10 a.m.-noon (6/16) | Creative Commons

Grout Museum | Wednesday, June 18 and Wednesday, July 23 | 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. (both dates) | Community Room*

Mr. Magic Jonathan May | Thursday, June 26 | 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. | Community Room

Marion History Walking Tour | Monday, July 14 | 6 p.m. | Start at Marion Public Library – 6th Avenue Entrance *

Barnyard Discoveries | Saturday, July 19 | 10 a.m. | Marion Public Library

End-of-Summer Ice Cream Social |

Friday, Aug. 1 | 3 - 4:30 p.m. | Community Room

Movie Days

Join us at 1 p.m. in the Youth Programming Room on the following dates for All-Ages Movie Days:

- Wednesday, June 11
- Wednesday, June 25
- Wednesday, July 2
- Wednesday, July 9
- Wednesday, July 16
- Wednesday, July 30

A complete list of movie titles and ratings can be found at marionpubliclibrary.org/events.

*Online registration is required for programs marked with asterisks



Visit the Bookmobile This Summer!

The weather is warming up, which means the bookmobile will be rolling up, into new stops during the summer months. Scan the QR code or visit marionpubliclibrary.org/bookmobile for a list of stops and details. All members of the community are welcomed and encouraged to use the bookmobile and its services.





1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302
www.cityofmarion.org



Marion YMCA: A Community Center Built by 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 deliver exceptional benefits to Marion residents—benefits that are truly 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% discount on YMCA membership, guaranteed for 10 years from the facility's opening.
- 2] **Track Pass Access** Residents can purchase a walking track pass, with fees set by the YMCA.
- 3] **Monthly Community Day** One Sunday each month is designated as a Community Day, providing facility access to all Marion residents without the membership requirement. The first event is expected this May. For dates, fees and details, please visit www.crmetroymca.org.
- 4] **Pickleball Pass** A special pickleball punch card is available for those interested in playing during the established times.
- 5] **Program Fee Discounts** Marion residents pay the member rate for YMCA programs, regardless of membership status—meaning no additional non-member fees for youth sports, swim lessons and more.
- 6] **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 our community's commitment to health, wellness and access. For more information, visit www.crmetroymca.org or the www.cityofmarion.org.