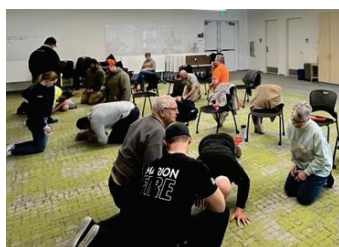


GENERAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Retirement: Administrative On February 21, Assistant Tracey Teel retired after 24 years with the City. Since Sept. 2001, Tracey has offered administrative support to several departments – including Finance, Building, Planning, and Parks and Recreation. 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. Tracey's list of future plans is a long one, but at the top is spending time with her grandchildren (#14 is due in June)! *Congratulations and best wishes on your well-deserved retirement Tracey!*



ISU Shade Tree Short Course: All forestry staff and the horticulturist attended the ISU Shade Tree Short Course in Ames to see various speakers talk about field-related topics providing the CEU's for staff to maintain their certified arborist credentials.



Employee Training: Full-time and part-time parks staff recently attended training hosted by the Marion Fire Department. The sessions covered *CPR, First Aid, and Stop the Bleed*, equipping staff with life-saving skills. With their high level of community interaction, this training provides valuable knowledge that can benefit the community.

PROJECTS

Marion Central Plaza: Marion's Central Plaza in City Square is nearing completion, with an anticipated finish in April and a ribbon-cutting event planned for early May. While progress continues, winter weather and supplier delays have slightly adjusted the timeline. The dasher boards which contain the ice within the ice loop arrived and crews began installation. The ice loop railings also arrived and are also being installed.

Willowood Redevelopment and Aquatic Center: The technical committee, comprised of City staff from various departments, met with the project design team for a kick-off meeting. This meeting provided the design team with expert input from each department confirming the design meets local codes and facilitating communication to address overlapping responsibilities or conflicting priorities. City staff help designers head off potential problems and evaluate designs to come up with cost effective and practical solutions. This was a productive meeting and will meet on a regular basis as the design continues to develop.

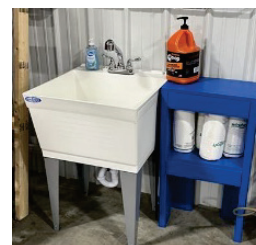
PARKS

Holiday Light Organizer: Grounds staff built a rack to hold the totes of holiday lights and hardware used to hang them. The pictured rack can hold up to 48 totes allowing for growth with the yearly addition of more lighting.

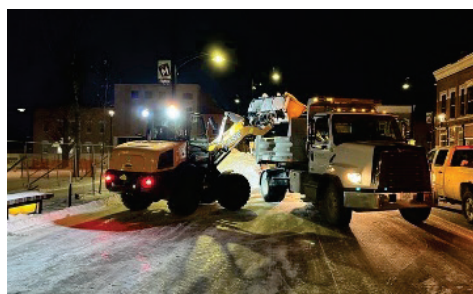


Forestry Building Sink: A utility sink and water heater were installed in the forestry building at Lowe Park. The sink will be utilized for hand washing and cleaning of different items.

Office Painting: Karlene Hummel's office at the Arts & Environment Center received some upgrades and sprucing up before the new recreation superintendent begins in late March. The office was painted, and a blue accent wall was added to match the City branding color scheme.



Snow Removal: Following the mid-February snowfall events staff activated their snow removal routes. The department also assisted Public Works by moving snow out on 7 Avenue, from 12th Street to 10th Street; this helped to open as much parking as possible for the public.



Farmers Market Preparation: Grounds staff removed two rows of parking bumpers on the south side of Willowood Park in preparation for the Farmers Market, which begins in May. The removals will ensure adequate space for vendors to sell their products with their vehicles.

URBAN FORESTRY

CDBG Grant: The Community Development Block Grant bid notice and scope of work to plant public trees in Marion through September 2026 has been opened for proposal and will be reviewed for selection on March 11th.

Work Program: The Parks and Recreation Summer Work Program has been updated for the 2025 department season. This includes activities, projects, and staff development for operations, forestry, and horticulture.

Summer Preparations: Managers are working through the seasonal hiring process for all departments including Urban Forestry for the summer maintenance season.

Forestry Activities: Forestry Staff are focusing on Oak tree pruning in Parks and City rights-of-way while dormant conditions are suitable to prevent disease spread.

Staff assisted with winter snow removal during multiple events during the month of February.

CEMETERY

OAK SHADE CEMETERY	DEC 2024	JAN 2025	FEB 2025
Spaces Sold	2	3	5
Burials	4	2	5

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CODE COMPLIANCE	DEC 2024	JAN 2025	FEB 2025
New Complaints	2	15	32
Resolved Complaints	6	14	25
Active Complaints	15	21	28

COMPLAINT TYPE	DEC 2024	JAN 2025	FEB 2025
Tree – Right of Way	1	1	1
Tree – Private Property	1	0	0
Sidewalk Obstruction	0	1	0
Sidewalk Not Cleared (Snow or Ice)	0	13	31
Tall Grass and Weeds	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	15	32

RECREATION



Puzzlepalooza: This new and exciting program was a partnership with the Library. Teams of up to four people worked together to accomplish a 500-piece puzzle, 2 large pizzas, and a 20-liter soda within 3 hours. The first-place team finished in a speedy 42 minutes. This was held at Lowe Park on February 2 with 18 teams. Plans are already in motion for another Puzzlepalooza.



BINGO Night: It was another successful BINGO Night on February 14. Due to a snowstorm coming to town, it was a smaller crowd with roughly 60 people attending. The new electronic bingo system donated by Friends of the Parks has continued to provide a benefit to the event and added fun and new twists to the game. Friends of the Parks have also continued to sell popcorn during the event. There are two more BINGO Nights remaining this spring, March 14 and April 4, before a break during the summer months.

Little Spikers Volleyball: Little Spikers Volleyball started on February 17 with two meetings per week and ended February 26. Participants really enjoyed this session of volleyball where they used real volleyballs and learned new skills, including: bumping, spiking, setting, passing, and teamwork. This program takes place at the Marion YMCA with three different sessions, 5:00pm (5-6 yr olds), 5:45pm (7-8 yr olds), and 6:15pm (7-8 yr olds) for a total of 40 participants.



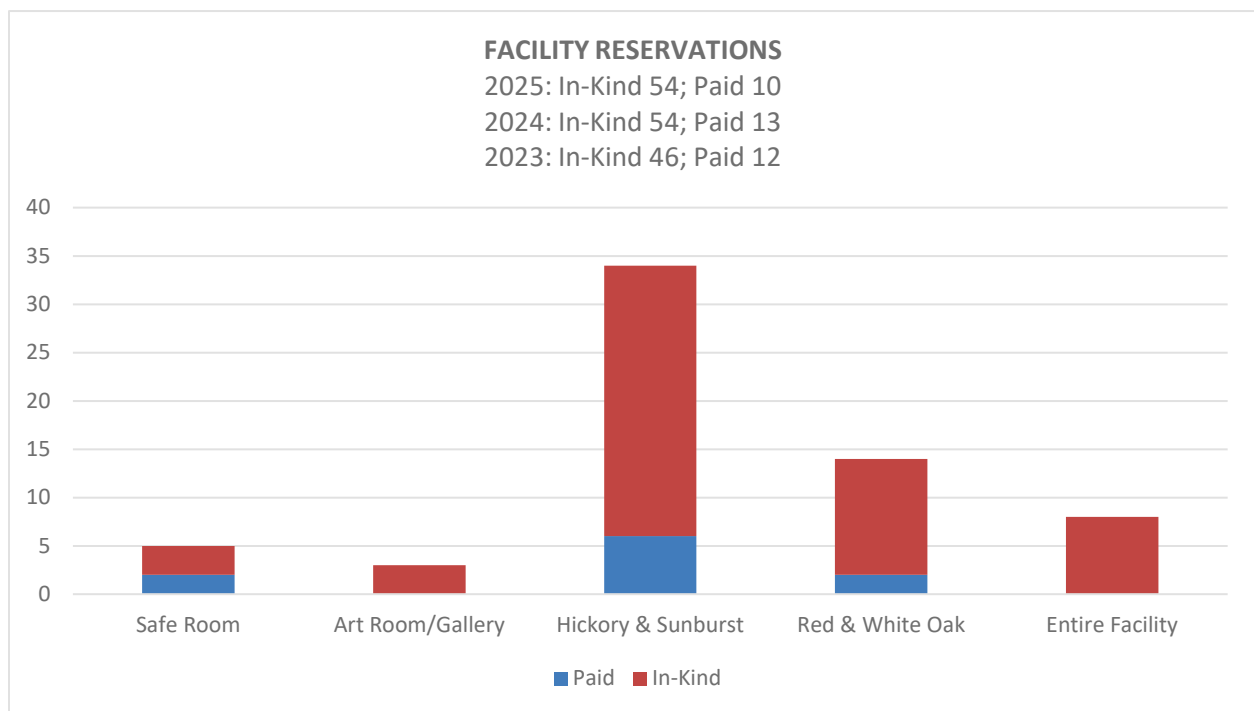
ARTS COUNCIL

Art Gallery: A new display began in The Gallery for February and will continue through March 12, featuring artists Rick Filosa, Robert Watkins, and Shane McCallister. Francis Marion Intermediate School provided artwork for the School Exhibit wall. The Artists Reception was held on February 20. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m.

Coffeehouse Nights: Cedar County Cobras performed at the Arts & Environment Center on February 7. It was a full house with 56 people attending. The March 7 Coffeehouse Night will feature Irish Jam.



Picnic on the Prairie: Artists scheduled for the summer concerts will be Funk Daddies on June 21 and Wonderful Smiths on August 16.



ACTIVITIES USAGE
(Pavilion data not reflected)

2025 - 64

2024 - 67

2023 - 58

