

NEW FACES



JEFFREY BRINKLEY joined the Mason City Police Department on January 4, 2016 as our new Police Chief. Jeff was employed as a Lieutenant with the Ames Police Department and brings with him 20 years of experience in law enforcement. Congratulations!



BRANDON BROERS started with the City of Mason City on January 4, 2016 as a Refuse Collector. Brandon is a graduate of Mason City High School. Welcome aboard!



ZACHARY LENSING started with the Mason City Police Department on December 28, 2015 as a Police Officer. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Mount Mercy University. Thank you for joining us!



RACHEL VAN HAUEn joined the City of Mason City on November 18, 2015 as a Cashier in the Finance Department. Rachel is a former employee of the City and previously worked with the Youth Task Force and as the Volunteer Service Coordinator. Congratulations!



DREW VERSTEGEN was hired as the City of Mason City's Volunteer Service Coordinator on November 18, 2015. Drew has a Bachelor's Degree in Leisure, Youth and Human Services from the University of Northern Iowa and has been employed with the City's Recreation Department since May 2015. Welcome aboard!

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor: Eric Bookmeyer
(641) 421-3600 (City Hall)
mayor@masoncity.net

At-Large: Bill Schickel
(641) 512-4502
schickelatlarge@masoncity.net

***At-Large: Alex Kuhn**
(641) 425-0078
kuhnatlarge@masoncity.net

First Ward: John Lee
(641) 420-7922
leewardone@masoncity.net

Second Ward: Travis Hickey
(641) 423-4565
hickeywardtwo@masoncity.net

Third Ward: Brett Schoneman
(641) 423-0500
schonemanwardthree@masoncity.net

Fourth Ward: Janet Solberg
(641) 425-0749
solbergwardfour@masoncity.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2016

- 2 Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Commission, 4:15 p.m.
- 3 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 3 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 5 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 6 36th Annual Cerro Gordo Photo Show opens, MacNider Museum
- 9 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 10 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 10 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 11 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 12 Cerro Gordo Photo Show reception, MacNider Museum, 6 p.m.
- 14 457 Cannonball Season Opening, East Park
- 17 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 17 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 17 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20 Kids' Club @ MacNider Museum, 6:30 p.m.
- 26-30 Band Festival weekend
- 30 City offices closed
- 30 Memorial Day ceremony, TBD, Elmwood Cem.
- 31 Lunch 'n' Learn: River City Sculptures on Parade, MacNider Museum, 12 Noon (weather perm.)

JUNE 2016

- 1 Sanitation make-up day for May 30
- 2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 3 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 6 Environmental & Sustainability Advisory Commission, 4:15 p.m.
- 7 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 7 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 9 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 10 Mason City Aquatic Center open for the season
- 10 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 10 Memorial Day decorations must be removed from Cemetery
- 11 Groovin' On Art: Flashback 60's MacNider Arts Festival & Art Market 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 13 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 17 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 20-24 MacNider Art Museum 50th Anniversary Celebration Week
- 21 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 21 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 24 Drawn to Abstraction exhibit opens at MacNider Museum

- 25 Great Race stops in Mason City
- 25 Annual Cannonball Day, East Park

JULY 2016

- 1 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 4 City offices closed
- 5 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 5 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 6 Sanitation make-up day for July 4
- 7 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 8 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 11 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 12 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 12 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 13 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 14 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 15 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 16 36th Annual Cerro Gordo Photo Show closes, MacNider Museum
- 19 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 19 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 19 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 21 Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 22 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 22-23 Up in Smoke BBQ Bash, East Park
- 26 Lunch 'n' Learn: Drawing Basics with Laura Anderson, MacNider Museum, 12 Noon
- 29 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm

AUGUST 2016

- 1 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 4:15 p.m.
- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 2 33rd Annual National Night Out Event, East Park, 5 p.m.
- 2 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 4 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 5 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 8 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 9 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 10 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 11 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 12 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 16 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 16 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 16 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 20 Drawn to Abstraction exhibit closes at MacNider Museum
- 20 Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 9 to 11 a.m.
- 26 Live Music MC Library Commons, 11am - 2pm
- 30 Lunch 'n' Learn: TBA, MacNider Museum, Noon

This calendar is subject to change. For more information, visit www.masoncity.net or contact staff at (641) 421-3600.

RIVER CITY NEWS

TRI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MASON CITY, SPRING 2016



MACNIDER ART MUSEUM CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On January 8, 1966, the Charles H. MacNider Museum opened to the public. Over the next 50 years the museum would collect an outstanding American art collection, teach classes for all ages, and grow and develop as a leader in the arts community in Iowa. This year the museum celebrates 50 years of the successful arts program and looks forward to the future.

Although the Museum's actual anniversary was in January, it was too cold and the chance of storms too great to have the party in winter! In June, the Museum will host a week-long celebration. The main event will be a celebration the week of June 20-24.

During this celebration week, special guest Tim Jenison will be at the Museum for a variety of special activities. Jenison, an inventor of such notable computer applications such as Video Toaster and owner of the software company NewTek, became fascinated with the 17th century painter Johannes Vermeer. He set out to prove that Vermeer used simple technology, most specifically a basic camera obscura and mirrors, to create his master paintings. The journey of Jenison's findings were documented in the 2014 film *Tim's Vermeer*. Jenison, an Iowa native, will be part of the Museum's celebratory festivities the week of June 20th, culminating with a gala at Music Man Square on June 24th. Jenison's visit is sponsored in part by the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and will include many educational opportunities.

ANNIVERSARY WEEK SCHEDULE

JUNE 21 - Lunch 'n' Learn 12:00-1:00 p.m. Demonstration of Camera Obscura by Tim Jenison and Discussion of research project that led to the film *Tim's Vermeer*. - TechBrew at Lake Time Brewery from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Charles H. MacNider Art Museum

JUNE 22 - Workshops in the Salsbury Room from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for Art Educators; 6:00-7:30 p.m. for Members. No fee. Advance registration required, space is limited.

JUNE 23 - Entrepreneur Exchange @ Charles H. MacNider Art Museum 6:30-8:00 p.m. New Tek Founder/CEO Tim Jenison. Sponsored by the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center.

JUNE 24 - Gala Reception for opening of 'Drawn to Abstraction' exhibit. The Gala is sponsored by Margaret MacNider. The Drawn to Abstraction exhibit is sponsored by First Citizens Charitable Foundation and Mason City Clinic.

Cocktails and unveiling of exhibition 'Drawn to Abstraction' at MacNider Art Museum 5:00-6:15 p.m.
Dinner at Music Man Square 6:30-7:30 p.m. Screening of *Tim's Vermeer* 7:30-9:00 p.m. Q&A with Tim Jenison 9:45 p.m.
Tickets for the Gala are \$50 each, available at MacNider Art Museum. Contact the Museum at 421-3666 for more information.



The original view of the Museum



The Museum as it looks today



Young museum visitors



Master Puppeteer Bil Baird, October 1979



Exhibit space at the Museum



The museum's first Board members



Former Director Dick Leet holding 'Twilight' by Karl Mattern, October 1966

CITY OF MASON CITY MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to provide efficient and effective City services and infrastructure with sound fiscal policies that create an enjoyable quality of life in a safe and viable community."

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RIVER CITY NEWS

Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Please contact:

City Administrator's office

10 1st Street NW
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 421-2701 (phone)
(641) 424-7189 (fax)
cityinformation@masoncity.net

ARE YOU DOING SOME SPRING CLEANING? Need to get rid of some items that are no longer needed? Contact the Sanitation Division to schedule a pick-up of large items. The pick-ups are conducted year round by appointment and are normally scheduled on your regular collection day. For more information, contact the Sanitation Division at 421-3691 or visit www.masoncity.net and click on 'Garbage and Recycling' under the 'Residents' tab for pick-up details.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Yard waste collection season resumed on Monday, April 4, weather pending. In the event weather conditions are not cooperative, the yard waste collection will be delayed. For more detailed information about yard waste collection and specifications in Mason City, visit www.masoncity.net and click on 'Yard Waste' under the Residents tab.
- The Annual Friends of the Library Geranium Sale will be held Friday and Saturday-April 29 and 30, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Mason City Room of the Library.
- Starting May 1 - Silk flower bouquets and quality permanent vases are available through the Elmwood Cemetery office during the Memorial Day season to assist families.
- Starting May 20 - Non-regulation decorations may be placed on graves at Elmwood Cemetery for the Memorial Day season through June 10.
- Elmwood Cemetery office will be open special hours during the Memorial Day weekend to assist families.
- June 10 - Non-regulation decorations must be removed from gravesites at Elmwood Cemetery.
- During the months of May and June, discounts on lots and niches will be available at Elmwood Cemetery. Contact the Cemetery office at 421-3687.

INDIANHEAD SOUTH DESIGNATED CERTIFIED SITE

Mason City's Indianhead South industrial site has achieved certification through the Iowa Economic Development Authority certified site program.

A certified site is a contiguous parcel of land uninterrupted by easements, roads or other crossings for which a group of interested parties has worked preemptively to address all major land control, permitting, zoning and infrastructure issues prior to consideration of the site by a prospective business or developer. In many cases, certification also means that other local criteria such as incentives, variance schedules and other data have been prepared and authorized by applicable bodies of government ahead of time.

Indianhead South is a 145 acre site located at the intersection of 43rd Street SW and South Pierce Avenue. All major utilities are available at the site which is currently zoned Restricted Industrial. Some of the targeted industries for recruitment include advanced manufacturing, warehouse and distribution and food processing.

If interested in the certified site, please contact the North Iowa Corridor EDC at (641) 423-0315.

GOALS

The City Council outlined their vision for the community with the development of goals and priorities at a recent work session. The list below represents the compilation of the goals and priorities of the Council for 2016.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS 2016

- Increase population by the State of Iowa average
- Provide for a safe and healthy community
- Commitment of Excellence in Government Services
- Premier Economic Development Location in Midwest

The list of the goals and priorities is also available at www.masoncity.net. Click on the Mayor and City Council tab under 'Your Government'.

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2016

- Execute River City Renaissance Reinvestment District
- Implement Trails Plan
- Execute North End Infrastructure Improvements
- Locate an Industry in the Certified Shovel Ready Site
- Implement Quiet Zone
- Implement Fleet Management
- Implement Financial Transparency
- Enable the Redevelopment of South Port
- Initiate 2025 Visioning Process

NOW HIRING - SEASONAL POSITIONS

The City of Mason City currently accepting applications for the following seasonal positions:

- Adult Sports Official (slow-pitch softball)
- Camp Staff (Spanish, bowling, golf, cheer, nature)
- Concessions Staff (soccer & Norris Complex)
- Child Care Staff (Fun 'N' Sun)
- Tennis Instructor (Spring and/or Summer)
- Youth Sports Coach (soccer, t-ball, baseball, softball)
- Youth Sports Official (soccer, t-ball, baseball, softball)
- Youth Sports Supervisor (soccer, t-ball, baseball, softball)
- Lifeguard (15 years or older)
- Concessions Staff (14 years or older)

The Mason City Police Department is working to grow our social media presence to make sure you can connect with us and so we can share information with you. If you are a social media user, you can find us here:



Mason City
Police Department



@MasonCityPD

Like or Follow us to get up-to-date information on press releases, current events, and other events that may affect you!

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAILS

Three separate pedestrian trails project are either under construction or soon will be. The projects will extend continuously throughout the spring and summer months. Two of the projects include trails extending between 6th Street SW and 15th Street SW and between Ray Rorick Park and Fredrick Hanford Park. These two projects will be joined at a point along 15th Street SW. A third project includes major trail segments along Taft Avenue, 9th Street SW, Illinois Avenue, and Hwy 122 between Mason City Schools and the existing NIACC Trail. Upon completion of the projects, nearly 22,200 feet or 4.2 miles of trails will have been added to the network. The addition of the trails will provide connections for existing trail segments and creating new major trail extensions as well. The new trails are a major part of the initial phase of the bicycle and pedestrian master plan.

Applications and job descriptions are available at City Hall (2nd Floor), Human Resources Department, 10 1st Street NW, or online at www.masoncity.net.

FIRE CHIEF BOB PLATTS IS RETIRING

After serving the City for over 33 years, Fire Chief Bob Platts will be retiring. In a career full of firsts, Chief Platts has seen a lot of changes at the Department, both before and after he became Chief. Bob was the first hazards officer at the Department and hazardous materials instructor in north central Iowa. Along with former Chief Jim Myklestad, they saw the creation of the area's Haz-Mat team. Chief Platts was also the youngest Chief ever to serve the Department when he was appointed in November of 2002. During his over 14 years as the Chief, he has led the Department in acquiring ambulance services to better serve the citizens of Mason City and north central Iowa. In addition, he has seen the hiring of female firefighters and the lowering of the age of eligibility to 18. Only two other Fire Chiefs have served the City and the Department longer than Chief Platts in its 107 year history. On June 30, 2016, Fire Chief Bob Platts will report for his last day of duty.



Fire Chief Bob Platts



The snow is melting and spring season is coming upon us. After a long cold winter, there's nothing like being in the great outdoors! Spring season also means many more volunteer opportunities for anyone who is interested. There are opportunities for all ages whether you're by yourself or with a family or group, we have plenty of opportunities ahead!

One of the programs is **Park Watch**. This is a great program that helps make sure our parks are being used the appropriate way. This program partners volunteers and the Police Department to work together to maintain positive behavior in our parks.

Help keep the parks clean and safe in Mason City! A program that is great for families, businesses, or different groups is our **Adopt A Street, Adopt A Lot, or Adopt A Section programs**. After the winter months, different areas in Mason City are full of trash or other kinds of litter. Grab some friends, co-workers, or family members and come help brighten up Mason City!

You might notice around May all the beautiful flower beds and gardens being planted around streets, parks and downtown locations. These flowers come from our **Beautification Program** which consists of approximately 80 flower beds. Volunteers plant and maintain their flower bed through the summer and into the fall.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with all of our spring and summer programs! If you would like to be a part of any of these programs, please call **Volunteer Coordinator Drew Versteegen** at 421-3372 or email dversteegen@masoncity.net.

33RD ANNUAL 'AMERICA'S NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME'

Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 5 pm, marks the 33rd Anniversary for the Annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event. Residents are encouraged to show solidarity by turning on porch lights and heading to East Park for the free fun-packed "family affair".

A variety of activities will be held including a kid power pedal tractor pull event, bounce houses and balloon creations as well as displays and demonstrations by local community organizations and youth programs. Free food will be served along with a drawing for prizes. This is a night for America to stand together to promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity. Join us in spending the evening outside "Giving Crime & Drugs a Going Away Party".

This event is sponsored in conjunction with the National Association of Town Watch, and locally by the Mason City Community Policing Advisory Board and the Mason City Police Department.

Rain date will be Wednesday, August 3rd at 5 pm.



LIVE MUSIC @ THE LIBRARY

Live Music at the Library 2016 will be offered again this year each Friday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Library Commons, The summer series will run June 3-September 2, 2016.

Thanks to the generous sponsors for making this possible: Cargill, Inc., Clear Lake Bank & Trust, First Citizens' National Bank, Bob Johnson's Auction Service, TQ Technologies, North Central Mechanical Services Overhead Door of Mason City, Friends of the Library, Mason City Public Library Foundation, Senator Amanda Ragan, State Representative Sharon Steckman, North Iowa Advisors, Blazek Electric, O'Brien Moving and Storage, Henkel Construction and Wells Fargo Bank.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Youth and adults can participate in the Summer Reading Program at the Mason City Public Library in June and July. Registration for the youth programs begins online May 1 at www.mcpl.org. Summer programs include special performances, story times, craft days, prizes for reading and many great books to read!

BIKE RODEO SATURDAY MAY 14TH



Third grade students at Mason City Community and Newman Catholic Schools will receive bicycle classroom education on May 13th. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Mason City Bicycle Rodeo on May 14th from 9-11 am at the parking lot west of the Police Department. A bicycle rodeo is a hands-on educational approach teaching students how to properly and safely ride bicycles.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own bicycle and helmet. Stations will allow participants to recognize stop and yield signs, practice hand signals, and learn to be aware of cars, bikes and pedestrians. The River City Kiwanis will give out helmets, while supplies last.

For more information, contact Blue Zones Project-Mason City at 424-7181 or Cerro Gordo Public Health at 421-9312. Co-sponsors include: Blue Zones Project- Mason City, Cerro Gordo County Public Health, Mason City Police Department, River City Kiwanis, North Iowa SPIN, Bennett's Bike & Fitness and Wayne's Ski & Cycle.

MASON CITY VOLUNTEER CENTER

What exactly is the Mason City Volunteer Center?

The Mason City Volunteer Center (MCVC) is a collaborative effort between Blue Zones Project®- Mason City, the City of Mason City Youth Task Force and City's Volunteer Department.

The MCVC, created in the spring of 2015, is a result of an identified need for a volunteer center in the community.

Our goal is to inspire more youth, families, seniors, businesses, to volunteer and to improve the volunteer opportunities and placement in our community. The MCVC encourages the development of volunteer opportunities to allow individuals to share their talents to further the mission of organizations, lessening gaps that non-profits struggle to fill.

The MCVC is different than the City's Volunteer Department which "promotes and coordinates volunteer opportunities within City departments". The MCVC promotes opportunities from the Volunteer Department AND opportunities at nonprofit organizations throughout the Mason City community, such as Crisis Intervention, RSVP, Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank, and many more. Current volunteer opportunities are posted on the MCVC website. Individuals are encouraged to fill out a volunteer application of their interests, skills, and availability, and the MCVC team will work to match volunteers with current needs in our community.

Visit www.masoncityvolunteercenter.com for more information.



HIGHLAND PARK GOLF COURSE GETS NEW WEBSITE

North Iowa golfers now have a direct link to the City of Mason City's public golf course thanks to a new website, www.highlandparkgolfcourse.com.

The site is the newly-launched homepage for the City's municipal golf course located at 944 17th Street NE.

The new website is designed to provide information to golfers on rates, upcoming tournaments, showcasing our facilities and online specials. Check us out online or come out to see us this spring. You can also find us on Facebook at Highland Park Golf Course.

INTRODUCING THE ACTIVE LIVING AND TRANSPORTATION (A.L.T.) COMMISSION

City Council approved the creation of the Active Living and Transportation (A.L.T.) Commission. Blue Zones Project Community Policy workgroup worked to develop City Code to address work that will improve livability and well-being in Mason City. The five member commission will provide recommendations for land-use, waterways, and transportation systems that best support active living while promoting the aesthetic inspiration of our rural American Culture.

The Commission will also work with City staff to educate, advocate and enforce the outcomes of the Active Living and Transportation work. Through their work, they will assess and prioritize short and long term vision and goals and develop and make recommendations to the City Council for capital improvement projects.

