



# RIVER CITY NEWS

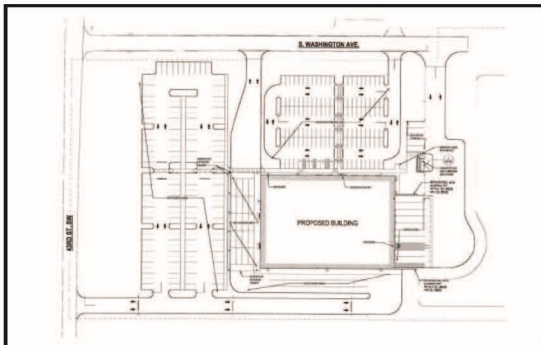
TRI-ANNUAL  
NEWSLETTER  
OF THE CITY OF  
MASON CITY,  
SPRING 2024

## MASON CITY EXPANDING WITH *Development Opportunities*

The City of Mason City worked with several new developments and expansions over the last few months including a new 50,000 square foot distribution facility in the industrial park, an expansion of Stellar Manufacturing into an adjacent warehouse facility, and the expansion at Curries Manufacturing. These three projects combined will add over 100 new jobs to our community! Additionally, several new commercial developments are in progress or recently completed including Chik-fil-A, Ulta Beauty, Ross, Five Below, and Old Navy. Developments like these are an indicator of our strong local economy, and the city is diligently working to seize future development opportunities.

One example of this work to prepare the community for new development is the \$1 million Community Project Funding grant Mason City recently received for expansion of water infrastructure in the industrial park. The expansion of water and wastewater utilities in the industrial park is critical to the continued development of this area and the recruitment of new industry. Many prospective businesses interested in the industrial park require abundant water utilities as part of their processes. Several studies were completed to layout the plan for this expansion and construction will be completed over the next few years. Due to these planning and development efforts, the city has already succeeded in the announcement of the New Energy Blue project and is working to recruit several other projects in this area.

The strength of Mason City's commercial and industrial sectors employs a vibrant workforce and provides funding to support everything from our school district to public safety. Local Option Sales and Service Taxes and Property Taxes collected through these businesses allow for the community to continue to develop important quality of life amenities like the city park and trail system. With a strong presence in manufacturing and renewable fuels and expanding commercial sector, Mason City is well positioned to grow into the future!



Plans of new 50,000 square foot distribution facility in Industrial Park



Stellar Industries purchases warehouse facility for expansion to enhance its manufacturing capabilities in the region

## 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 & 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)

[cityinformation@masoncity.net](mailto:cityinformation@masoncity.net)

### GET CONNECTED *Stay Connected!*

Get connected — stay connected! Follow the City departments on social media. Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter and Instagram for the latest information about road closures, events, and other news. Text 'Hi' to (641) 450-1627 to get started with TextMyGov anytime - day or night.



Curries Manufacturing facility expansion in Mason City



# MASON CITY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (MCW) NORTH IOWA'S GATEWAY TO THE WORLD!

SkyWest Airlines will continue its high quality United Express service in Mason City for three years starting April 1, 2024. Passengers can book flights from Mason City while enjoying reliable, safe and comfortable air travel on 50 passenger jet aircraft and access United Airlines global network with limitless destinations.

The construction of the new Commercial Passenger Terminal is nearing completion. The new facility will replace the existing 60-year old terminal

and will provide modern amenities including a Passenger Boarding Bridge, providing a physical connection between the building and the aircraft. Passengers can also take advantage of convenient daily airline service with easy access, FREE parking and Wi-Fi, and streamlined security.

Whether you are flying for business or pleasure, your getaway plans start with MCW!



*Farmer's Market*  
*Buy Fresh. Buy Local*

Visit the Mason City Farmer's Market  
Saturdays from June-October from  
9 am-12 noon in Central Park.  
Enjoy special events and local  
vendors selling unique treats  
and must-have goods



Saturdays  
June-October  
9 a.m.-noon  
Central Park

## MC FIRE DEPT. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Please be advised that the Mason City Fire Department is currently closed to the public due to ongoing construction. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

During this time, ambulance payments can be mailed or dropped off at City Hall (10 1st St NW- Mason City). For those preferring to make payments by phone, please call 1-641-421-3615.

Additionally, please note that our battery drop box will not be available, but you can still recycle your household batteries at these alternative locations: Brothers Ace Hardware, Overhead Door Company of Mason City, and the Landfill of North Iowa. Kindly contact them directly for drop-off locations.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this period of construction.



## SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND IT'S TIME FOR SOME SPRING CLEANING!

**\*Yard waste collection season** has begun and residents are responsible for properly maintaining leaves and branches on your property. Please do not blow leaves into the street as they often end up in the stormwater drain, causing the potential for water back-up into homes and flooding of the streets. Set out your yard waste and all sanitation items on your specified collection day by 7 am.

**\*Need to get rid of large items?** We've got you covered! No need to wait for a specific week - the City picks up large items year round! Simply call the Sanitation Division to schedule a large item pick-up. Sanitation stickers are required to be attached to all large items and staff is available to assist you with the number of stickers for each of the items or review the list at [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net) and click on the 'Sanitation' tab under the Departments header. Schedule your pick-up by calling Sanitation at 641-421-3691.

**33/50 – 33 gallon limit bag and 50 pound maximum weight.**  
Don't overstuff your garbage bags and keep your refuse at a 33 gallon limit that weighs no more than 50 pounds. *Let's all help keep Mason City beautiful!*

***Do you have a green thumb? Do you want to try your hand at planting but don't have the space? We have space just for you!***

All locations have water access.

***The gardening season begins in the spring and plots must be cleared by October 15th.***

Plots are rentable  
per season and  
come in sizes of

**20' x 20' for \$40  
and 20' x 40' for \$60.**

**THERE ARE THREE  
COMMUNITY  
GARDEN SITES  
IN MASON CITY:**



New applications will be accepted starting Monday, **April 17, 2024** and may be dropped off at the Mason City Parks and Recreation office (in the mall), 100 S. Federal Ave. Suite 201, Monday - Friday 8 am - 4 pm. Cash, check, credit or debit card payments accepted.

**Willow Creek: 1st St. SW & South Madison Ave.  
Madison School: on S. Madison & 27th St SW  
Garden Acres: the 900 block of S. Kentucky Ave.**





### Summer: Volunteer Mason City

Volunteer Mason City is a department within the City of Mason City, the city's volunteer program that promotes and coordinates volunteer opportunities within city departments seeking to enhance the community by volunteers donating their time and skills to various municipal projects. By choosing to volunteer, you have the opportunity to get involved and participate in the development and enhancement of the city staff, families, neighbors and friends, schools, businesses, and organizations through service.

**Benefits of Volunteering** - there's a strong relationship between volunteering and health:

- \*Improves one's health
- \*Gets you up and going
- \*Keeps you moving
- \*Make new friends—great social outlet!

**\*Volunteering adds a new level of purpose to your life - we have seen it over and over!**

**Summer Finally Here!!** With Earth Day Cleanup complete, everyone's ready to get moving and a great way to do that is by volunteering! Mason City's volunteer team has done an outstanding job "Making Mason City Sparkle" this Spring! We have a wide range of volunteer opportunities for people to become involved with. The best ways to make things happen is by everyone working for a common goal as a **team**. The City's volunteer program is very unique in that the city departments team up with its citizen volunteers to make projects and events happen that otherwise might not. Some are one-time projects and others are ongoing - there are volunteer opportunities for all age groups. We have projects that can be done when you can fit them into your schedule, or at a specific date and time that's just right for you.

Check out some programs that are underway:

**Beautification:** design-plant-and maintain a community flower bed, there are all sizes and locations around town and are available to adopt. Funds are available to assist in the purchase of planting. You design, pick the plants and maintain the garden for the season. You may also team with an experienced gardener and get a great learning experience for someone who has been there and done that!!

**Litter Clean up Teams:** Annual City-wide litter cleanup event was held this spring: Earth Day is an ongoing project with individuals and groups picking up trash throughout the summer. *Earth Day is every day to keep Mason City Sparkling.*

**Adopt-a-Lot / Adopt-a-Street** or **Adopt-a-Section:** Adopt-a -Parking Lot / Street - help remove litter from assigned areas. Adopt-a-Section is caring for a section in the city's cemetery which can be a rewarding experience to honor persons buried at Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery.

*"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."*

**Step up to the Challenge and Volunteer!!**

**Please contact me: Mary Litterer, Volunteer Service Coordinator at 641-421-3372 or at [volunteer@masoncity.net](mailto:volunteer@masoncity.net)**

**457 Cannonball Gardens:** A great experience for all ages with a variety of projects to participate in. Some of the opportunities are Tour Guide, Sales Depot Clerk, Train Maintenance, Grounds Keeper, and Committee Member.



**Volunteering** is a great way to keep active, meet new friends learn a new skill, and gives many a sense of purpose that volunteerism provides. What a great way to challenge yourself to step out of the box and try something new, it can be a one-time project or an ongoing experience. So, this Summer come out and take the challenge to explore new things and make Mason City Sparkle!!!

## Looking to reserve space

for an upcoming event or need somewhere to entertain guests? We've got you covered for graduations, baby showers, anniversary parties, weddings or any occasion to make your day extra special.

The front lawn of the **MacNider Art Museum** provides a beautiful outdoor backdrop and also has a backup location indoor in the Salsbury Room just in case Mother Nature does not cooperate the day of your event. Guests can wander the museum and experience the arts in numerous galleries and forms as an added bonus to your special occasion. Visit <https://macniderart.org/facility-rental/> or contact Lindsay Thompson at 641-421-3666 for rental information.

For outdoor events, there are **Park Shelter houses** to rent at several of our scenic locations throughout the community. Stop by the Recreation Office located in the Mall at 100 S. Federal Avenue, Suite 201 between 8 am-4 pm, Monday-Friday, or visit the City's website at [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net) and click on the Recreation tab under 'Departments' to fill out an online form, or simply call the office at 641-421-3673. Payment methods include credit/debit cards, or in person, cash or check.

The **Mason City Public Library** has several different types of meeting rooms available for use. Reservations must be made and rental information obtained through the business office during regular library hours by calling staff at 641-421-3669.

# SAVE the Date!

## MacNider Arts Festival is June 8, 2024!

This year's "Super MacNider Art Party" video game theme of the MacNider Arts Festival will encourage children to use their imaginations while creating fun crafts on Saturday, June 10 from 9 am – 5 pm. Arts activities for children, an Art Market of talented artists, and musical entertainment will all be part of the fun.

**More than 200 area citizens are being recruited to volunteer during the Festival. If you are interested in volunteering during part of this event, contact the Museum at 641-421-3666 or email Jackie at [jmbohl@masoncity.net](mailto:jmbohl@masoncity.net).**

All events are on the lawns of the Museum and the adjacent Mason City Public Library at 303 2nd Street SE in Mason City



*MacNider Art Market*



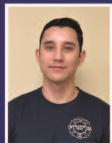
# NEW FACES



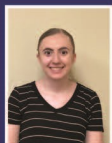
**KATRINA CORNICK** started with the City of Mason City on December 11, 2023 in the Fire department as a Firefighter. Welcome to our team!



**RACHEL GLAZA** started with the City of Mason City on December 18, 2024 in the Operations & Maintenance department as a Laboratory Technician. Thank you for joining us!



**JOHN LAURIN** started with the City of Mason City on December 27, 2023 in the Fire department as a Firefighter. We are glad you have joined us!



**EMILY CAROLAN** started with the City of Mason City on December 27, 2023 in the Fire department as a Firefighter. Welcome aboard!



**MATT CLARK** started with the City of Mason City on January 4, 2024 in the Police department as a Police Officer. Welcome to our team!



**WILFREDO ALMANDERAZ** started with the City of Mason City on January 4, 2024 in the Police department as a Police Officer. Thanks for joining our team!



**MATT SMITH** started with the City of Mason City on January 22, 2024 in the Development Services department as a Code Enforcement Officer. Welcome!

\*The City **yard waste collection** resumed on Monday, April 1. Please make sure to have all sanitation items out on the curb by 7 am to ensure collection.

\*The **Friends of the Library Geranium Sale** is scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 9:00 AM to Noon in the Mason City Room of the Public Library located at 225 2nd Street SE.

\*Watch the **Recreation Department** and Highland Park Golf Course Facebook Pages for opening dates of the MacNider Campground, Aquatic Center, and Highland Park Golf Course in the spring and for upcoming recreation programming opportunities! Also, exciting summer events at the Mason City Arena will be announced soon!

We've updated our residential recycling program – check out [masoncity.net/recycle](http://masoncity.net/recycle) for items recyclable and items not recyclable. Questions? Contact staff about recycling at 641-421-3691.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY 2024

- 2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 7 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 7 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 9 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 9 am
- 12 Mother's Day
- 13 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 16 MacNider Museum Kids' Club Puppet Party at 6-7 pm
- 21 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 21 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 23-28 North Iowa Band Festival weekend
- 27 City offices closed, Memorial Day
- 27 Memorial Day ceremony, TBD, Elmwood Cemetery
- 29 Sanitation make-up day for May 27

## JUNE 2024

- 1 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 4 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 4 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 5 Iowa Watercolor Traveling Show opens, MacNider Museum
- 6 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 7 Friday Night Live: Summer Series, downtown
- 8 MacNider Art Festival: Super MacNider Art Party!, 9am-5pm; Art Market closes at 4 pm
- 8 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 8 MacNider Arts Festival
- 10 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 11 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 11 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 13 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 9 am
- 15 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 16 Father's Day
- 18 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 18 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 18 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 19 Area Show: 49 closes, MacNider Museum
- 22 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 28 Friday Night Live: Summer Series, downtown
- 29 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon

## JULY 2024

- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 2 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 3 Sanitation make-up day for July 4
- 4 City offices closed
- 5 Portraits of Dementia opens, MacNider Museum
- 6 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 8 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 9 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 11 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 9 am
- 13 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 16 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 16 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 16 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 18 MacNider Kids' Club at the Fair
- 20 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 24 Iowa Watercolor Traveling Show closes, MacNider Museum
- 27 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon

## AUGUST 2024

- 1 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 2 Friday Night Live: Summer Series, downtown
- 3 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 6 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 6 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 6 National Night Out, TBD
- 8 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 9 Cerro Gordo Photo Show 44 opens, MacNider Museum
- 10 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 12 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 13 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 14 Portraits of Dementia closes, MacNider Museum
- 17 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 20 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 20 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 20 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 24 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon
- 30 Art the Vote opens, MacNider Museum
- 31 Farmers Market in Central Park, 9 am-noon

This calendar does not include all events and is subject to change. Sign up for Mason City's e-notification option to receive the latest updates, agendas, news releases, event notification, and other timely news. For more information, visit [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net) or contact staff at (641) 421-3600 or the individual Department responsible for the event.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT CITY RETIREES

**David Orr, Fire Department**  
**Steve Bull, Fire Department**  
**Penny Bennett, Recreation Department**  
**Nancy Alexander, Engineering Department**  
**Rich Jensen, Police Department**  
**Ken Rasmussen, Water Supply Division**  
**Pat Moretz, O&M, Parks Department**  
**Joel Enabnit, Police Department**



Thank you for your years of service to the City!

# HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Mayor: Bill Schickel**  
 (641) 421-3600 (City Hall)  
 (641) 512-4502  
[bschickel@masoncity.net](mailto:bschickel@masoncity.net)

**At-Large: Paul Adams**  
 (641) 525-0378  
[padams@masoncity.net](mailto:padams@masoncity.net)

**At-Large: Tim Latham**  
 (641) 425-0363  
[tlatham@masoncity.net](mailto:tlatham@masoncity.net)

**First Ward: John Lee**  
 (641) 420-7922  
[jlee@masoncity.net](mailto:jlee@masoncity.net)

**Second Ward: Will Symonds**  
 (641) 512-0511  
[wsymonds@masoncity.net](mailto:wsymonds@masoncity.net)

**Third Ward: Joshua Masson**  
 (641) 420-4754  
[jmasson@masoncity.net](mailto:jmasson@masoncity.net)

**Fourth Ward: John Jaszewski**  
 (641) 420-4055  
[jjaszewski@masoncity.net](mailto:jjaszewski@masoncity.net)