

NEW FACES



Jackie Carpenter joined the City of Mason City on September 20, 2016 as a Part-time Transit Driver. Jackie brings with her 36 years of professional driving experience. Thank you for joining our team!

Bruce Quam joined the City of Mason City August 25, 2016 as an Airport Custodian. Bruce was previously employed with the City in the Fire Department for 23 years. Welcome back!



Caitlin Lawritzen joined the Mason City Public Library on September 6, 2016 as a Part-time Library Clerk. Caitlin was previously employed with AEA 267 and is a graduate from the University of Northern Iowa. Congratulations!

Retirements

Congratulations to Jerry Ginder and David Braun for their recent retirements from the City. Jerry worked in the Water Reclamation Division of the Operation & Maintenance Department as an Operator II and David was a Meter Utility Person for the Water Supply Division of the Engineering Department.

Notes of Interest

*2017 Friends of the Library Geranium Sale pre-orders will be accepted between January and continue through the end of March. Order forms are available at the Public Library. Pre-orders must be paid in full at the time of submission and pick-up dates will be May 5 and 6, 2017.

*Save the Date! MacNider Arts Festival, Saturday, June 10 from 9

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12, 2017. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour at 2:00 a.m. on March 12.



CALENDAR ITEMS

January

- 2 City offices closed (New Year's Day)
- 2 MacNider Museum closed
- 3 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 3 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 4 Sanitation Make-up day for January 2
- 5 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 9 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 10 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 10 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 11 Holiday tree pick-up by Sanitation Division
- 11 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 12 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 17 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 17 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 17 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 19 Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 6:30 pm
- 19 City Council Budget Work Session, 6 pm
- 26 City Council Budger Work Session, 6 pm

February

- 2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 2 City Council Budget Work Session, 6 pm
- 6 Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Commission, 4:15 pm
- 7 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 7 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 8 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 9 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 11 Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2pm
- 13 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 18 Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 9 am
- 18 Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2pm
- 20 City offices closed (President's Day)
- 21 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 21 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 22 Sanitation Make-up day for February 20th
- 25 Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2 pm

March

- 2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 4 Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2 pm
- 6 Environmental and Sustainability AdCommission, 4:15 pm
- 7 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 7 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 8 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 9 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 11 Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2 pm
- 12 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 13 Spring Break Art Camp, MacNider Museum, 8am-noon
- 13 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 14 Spring Break Art Camp, MacNider Museum, 8 am-noon
- 14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 15 Spring Break Art Camp, MacNider Museum, 8 am-noon
- 16 Spring Break Art Camp, MacNider Museum, 8 am-noon
- 17 Spring Break Art Camp, MacNider Museum, 8 am-noon
- 21 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 21 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 23 Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 6:30 pm

April

- 1 Winter decorations must be removed from Cemetery
- 3 Yard waste collection resumes (weather permitting)
- 3 Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Commission, 4:15 pm
- 4 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 4 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 6 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 6 Puppylocks and the Three Bears Puppet Show at MacNider Museum, 6 pm
- 10 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 11 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 11 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 12 Sanitation Make-up day for April 14
- 12 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 13 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 14 City offices closed
- 15 Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 9 am
- 18 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 18 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 18 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm

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



FROM THE MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT and safe

DID YOU KNOW

- More people drown in the United States every year than die in a fire
- Drowning incidents are preventable
- It takes less than 15 minutes to lose consciousness in 32° water
- It takes only 18 inches of water to float most cars
- It takes only 6 inches of water moving faster than you walk to sweep you downstream

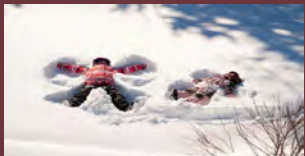
WATER SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU

- Always wear a life jacket when boating. 89% of boating fatalities were not wearing a Personal Flotation Device.
- Refrain from the use of alcohol or drugs when boating. Over 50% of all boating fatalities are alcohol-related.
- Never drive a vehicle across a flooded road or street.
- Avoid fast-moving floodwaters, the power of moving water is enormous.
- Stay away from dams and weirs; they do not look dangerous, but they are nicknamed, "The Drowning Machine" for good reason.
- Never dive into water where the depth is unknown. This causes several hundred cases of paralysis each year!!
- Never turn your back on a child around water. It can take just seconds for them to be in serious trouble.
- Pets should be on a leash around frozen water and owners should refrain from throwing objects onto ice for them to retrieve.



WINTER SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

- Dress infants and children warmly for outdoor activities. Several thin layers will keep them dry and warm.
- Don't forget warm boots, gloves or mittens, and a hat.
- The rule of thumb for older babies and young children is to dress them in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.
- When riding in the car, babies and children should wear thin, snug layers rather than thick, bulky coats or snowsuits.



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.

2017 City Holiday (offices closed)

New Year's, Monday, January 2
President's Day, Monday, February 20
Good Friday, Friday, April 14
Memorial Day, Monday, May 29
Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4
Labor Day, Monday, September 4
Veteran's Day, Friday, November 10
Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24
Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

Sanitation Make-Up Day

Wednesday, January 4
Wednesday, February 22
Wednesday, April 12
Wednesday, May 31
Wednesday, July 5
Wednesday, September 6
Wednesday, November 8
Wednesday, November 22
Wednesday, December 27

RIVER CITY NEWS

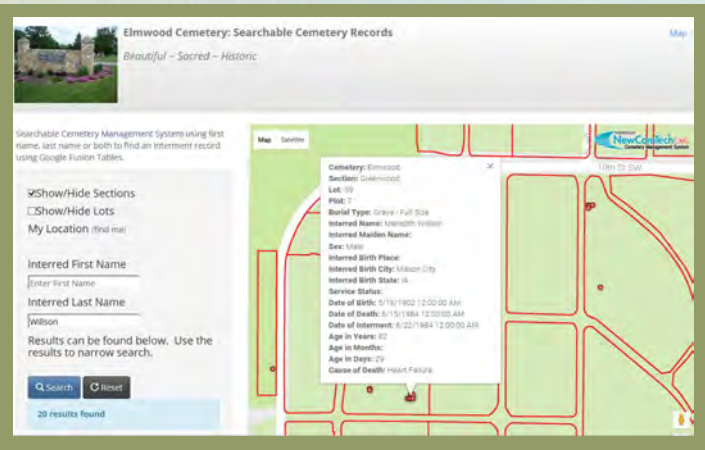
TRI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MASON CITY, JANUARY-APRIL 2017



ELMWOOD CEMETERY SEARCH IS NOW ONLINE

Family members can now find where their relatives are located within the cemetery grounds by going to a web based program obtained by the City's GIS department. Visit masoncity.net and select 'Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery' from 'Departments A-H' on the 'Your Government drop down menu. Enter the first and last name of the person you want to find. The program searches the Cemetery Management System and locates the person on a Google map. If you have this link on your smartphone, you can use it when you're on the cemetery grounds. The program will also show you where you are in relation to the person you want to find

The program will allow genealogy searches by typing in a last name only, the program will show all the people with that name. Even part of a name can be entered if you're not sure of the spelling and the program will identify every name with that chain of letters. As cemetery staff and volunteers continue to quality check the large amount of information dating back to the 1860s, we ask the public for their patience in obtaining accurate data. If family members see missing or inaccurate information, please email corrections to elmwood@masoncity.net.



NEW LULLABY LANE IN ELMWOOD CEMETERY

Members of the Mason City Chamber's Leadership North Iowa (LNI) class took on an ambitious community impact project this year: to construct "Lullaby Lane," a memorial pathway in Lullaby Land at Elmwood Cemetery. Lullaby Land is a designated section in the cemetery where children lost to miscarriages less than 20 weeks are laid to rest. LNI and the Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa's Fetal and Infant Loss Bereavement Committee partnered on this project as an effort to help those grieving the loss of a child. Parents who lose a child to miscarriage have the option of having their child's name and date of loss engraved on a paver in the pathway.

LNI participants solicited donations, completed radio and television interviews to spread the word, and spent numerous hours constructing a plan and selecting a contractor for the project. Once on-site work began in September, class members assisted in the installation of the pavers. A dedication ceremony was held on October 15, National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day. This project was made possible by many generous donors in the community who supported our efforts both monetarily and in-kind.

For those wanting to purchase an engraved paver to be installed in the pathway, please contact the Mercy Foundation at 641-428-7740. The Cemetery continues to be blessed by this caring and generous community. The Cemetery Board, Staff and Families greatly appreciate everyone who helped make this wonderful improvement to the grounds possible. The Lullaby Lane shows respect to the families and honor to the little ones that are placed there. It is so comforting to the families who are grieving.



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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

With the use of a reporting tool, SeeClickFix, residents can report non-emergency quality-of-life issues such as garbage, junk, rubbish & refuse, snow or ice on public sidewalks, overgrown grass or weeds and more through the city's website, Facebook page or a smart phone.

To use the city's website located at www.masoncity.net:

- ▣ Click on SeeClickFix located in the left column on the home page;
- ▣ Click on the "Report tab";
- ▣ Enter an address or drag the red marker to the location of the issue and click "Next";
- ▣ Choose a category from the drop-down menu that matches your concern;
- ▣ Fill out the required fields.

You may upload an image if available. If it is a sensitive issue, select "Keep it anonymous". An e-mail address is required for submission but it is never shown. Your issue now shows at the top of the page. There is no cost to download the app.

To use an iPhone, Android, Windows or Blackberry mobile phone, download the SeeClickFix app from the app store and follow the prompts.

SeeClickFix not only allows residents to report issues, in their neighborhood and elsewhere in the community, but also view, comment on and vote to fix problems submitted by their neighbors. Citizens can also create "watch areas" to receive notifications about all issues reported in their community, enabling them to follow all service requests, not just the ones they report.

For questions or help with using SeeClickFix, contact Kyle Peterson in the Development Services Department at 641-421-3380 or e-mail, kpeterson@masoncity.net. There is no cost to download the app.



Through the generosity of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) in helping their communities, the Mason City Fire Department is the proud recipient of a new 6x6 Ranger with fire fighting and patient transport capabilities. This new \$22,000 offroad ATV will take the Fire Department almost anywhere it needs to go in its 750 square mile service territory. It's first large public appearance will be driving in the 2017 Band Festival parade.

Fire Chief Al G. Dyer, Jr.

October saw the arrival of the Mason City Fire Department's 10th Fire Chief, Al Dyer. Chief Dyer comes to us from Lincoln Park, a suburb of Detroit, where he served for 22 years, leaving as the Fire Chief/FireMarshal. His 24 year service as an EMT/Paramedic in a large metropolitan area will be a valuable asset to this very busy aspect of the Mason City Fire Department. Chief Dyer is an Executive Fire Officer with a Master's Degree emphasizing homeland security and emergency management. Along with other trainings, he is looking forward to working at the Mason City Fire Department and taking it into the future. Chief Dyer's wife, Emily, and two teenage sons (Pierce and Aidan) will join Chief Dyer in Iowa sometime late spring or early summer. "Being here in Mason City without my family is giving me a chance to spend lots of time learning about all of the many services and abilities of this great Department," reports Chief Dyer.

SEASONAL REMINDERS

***Alternate Side Parking** – With the winter season comes snow. The Alternate Side Parking Ordinance will be placed in the event of measurable snowfall to assist the City crews in snow removal from City streets. When the Ordinance is in effect, citizens are to park on the even numbered side of the street on even numbered days and the odd numbered side of the street on odd numbered days. To learn the status, visit the City's website at www.masoncity.net and look for the icon on the left side of the page. Citizens can also call the Alternate Side Parking line at (641) 424-7188 or like us on Facebook at [CityofMasonCity](https://www.facebook.com/CityofMasonCity) for status updates.

***Free sand available** – Sand is available for Mason City residents to use for ice control on sidewalks during the winter. The pile is located across the street from the Water Treatment Plant on the east side of Elm Drive in the vacant lot.

***Holiday tree pick-up** – Place the tree on the curb prior to 7 am on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. If the tree is over 6 feet tall, please cut it in half and remove everything from the tree before placing it on the curb. Roping or wreaths that contain wire can be placed in regular garbage or taken to a disposal site at 14th Street NE and Elm Drive by Wednesday, January 11. Flocked trees cannot be picked up - residents may take them to a disposal site at 14th Street NE and Elm Drive by Wednesday, January 11.

***Year round large item collection** – It's time to start thinking about spring cleaning. City sanitation customers can schedule an appointment to have large items collected on their regular sanitation collection day. Once an appointment is made with Sanitation, items should be placed at the curb with the correct number of stickers by 7 am on the scheduled appointment day. This pickup is for Mason City Sanitation customers only - no businesses are included. Visit the City's website at www.masoncity.net or call the Sanitation Division at (641) 421-3691 for a list of the large items, the number of stickers necessary for each item and a list of items not allowed for pick up.

***Snow removal** – Citizens are reminded to make sure all snow and ice is cleared from sidewalks within 48 hours after a snowfall. Do not move snow or ice into the street when clearing driveways and sidewalks. To report a property that has not removed snow from the sidewalk after 48 hours of a snowfall, contact the Neighborhood Services Division at (641) 421-3380.

***Tree trimming on city property** – Contact the Street Department at (641) 421-3675 for trees or shrubs that need attention that are in the City right-of-way, parking, or public place in the City. Make sure to have the address and/or specific location of the tree or shrub when contacting staff.

The Mason City Operations & Maintenance Department strives to provide the best possible services to the residents of Mason City.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MAYOR AND 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: Position Vacant

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

*Council Member Hickey serves as the Mayor Pro Tem

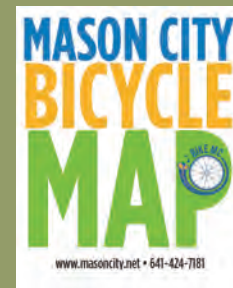
Wherever You Go



MOVING NATURALLY IN THE NEW YEAR

Our bodies require movement no matter the weather. With that said, life in North Iowa often brings cold winters with snow that can discourage us from getting out and moving. Here are some hints on how to keep you and your family moving naturally during the colder months:

1. Utilize the trail system. We are fortunate to have a City that has committed to community health and well-being, visible through our growing trail system. Bundle up and meet a friend or bring your dog out for a walk. The trails are also a fantastic option for safely walking or biking to your destination of choice. Grab a copy of the Mason City Bike Map at City Hall or other select locations around the City.
2. Continue to bike. What better way to warm yourself up than with your own energy?! Riding at a moderate pace burns about 235 calories per half hour, so you're sure to work up a sweat. Just be sure to wear that helmet!



3. Park further away in parking lots. This is a key hint for year-round natural movement. Parking further away when doing your shopping easily increases the amount of steps during your trip, and will likely mean that you don't need to worry about too many other cars parking around you.
4. Choose the stairs (when possible). Did you know that you burn 10 calories per minute going up stairs and 4 calories going down them? Choosing the stairs is a quick and easy decision that will add up to a positive impact on your health and well-being. Plus: no awkward moments in the elevator.

DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

The Mason City Volunteer Center (MCVC), an outcome of Blue Zones Project®- Mason City work, works with over 35 local non-profit organizations to inspire more youth, families, seniors and businesses to volunteer and to improve the volunteer opportunities and placement in our community. We know that each person has an individual set of strengths and talents that can be used to lead a truly meaningful life. Sometimes life challenges us to explore what our purpose is from a change in employment, such as retirement, or a need to fill a desire to give back to your community. Volunteering is a great way to fill those needs and connect with others who share similar interests to your own. Additionally, dedicated volunteers are the backbone of many of our nonprofit organizations that support many under-served populations; therefore one hour of volunteer time is valued at \$22.25 in the state of Iowa – meaning that YOU could make a huge impact on your community. Aside from the emotional benefits of volunteering, there are significant health benefits associated with giving your time. Studies have noted lower rates of cancer and heart diseases as well as reduced healthcare costs among people who volunteer regularly. It seems that volunteers gain as much as they give. We would love to work with you to find your new purpose, and possibly connect you to the over one hundred volunteer opportunities that are just waiting to be filled here in Mason City.

For a full list of opportunities and to submit a volunteer application, visit www.masoncityvolunteercenter.com or call our office at 641-424-7181.

PLANNING A WINTER GETAWAY OR SPRING BREAK TRIP?

Great news for local citizens wanting to fly to or to connect flights in Minneapolis! Air Choice One is offering a new opportunity for expanded travel destinations with flights from the Mason City Municipal Airport to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International in addition to the flights to Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. There are 12 weekly nonstop flights to Minneapolis-St. Paul and 12 weekly nonstop flights to Chicago O'Hare. There are also 10 weekly flights to St. Louis with one stop, either in Fort Dodge or Burlington. Parking at the Mason City Municipal Airport is free - just one more reason to fly MCW! For more information or to book flights, contact Air Choice One at www.AirChoiceOne.com or call (866) 435-9847.



After a busy season of beautifying Mason City with flower beds, cleanup teams, and tree plantings, winter is upon us. With the change of seasons brings a change of opportunities. As the cold weather comes in, we have fewer outdoor opportunities and more inside volunteer opportunities that we would love to find new volunteers for! We can find volunteer hours for anyone, whether it's a one-time experience, or an ongoing project, we are always looking for good help from our wonderful volunteers.

In the early portion of 2017, the Mason City Earth Day Committee will be preparing for another Earth Day event. Our Earth Day event will be the same format as usual with a few weeks of cleanup, along with an enjoyable festival put on by the Earth Day Committee. While the location of the event has not yet been decided, the festival will fall on Earth Day this year, which is Saturday, April 22nd. We hope we can get many cleanup teams signed up, as well as a great attendance to our festival, which will have free lunch along with games, crafts, and activities for kids and families! For more information about Earth Day 2017, please view and like our Facebook Page,

Mason City Earth Day.

For volunteer information, call Drew Verstegen at 641-421-3372 or email dverstegen@masoncity.net.



Blue Zones Project needs your help to continue improving well-being in Mason City. We know that life can get busy, but making the healthy choice, the easy choice for your family and friends will help you to live longer, better. Interested in becoming more involved? Explore www.bluezonesproject.com or contact our office at 641-424-7181.

