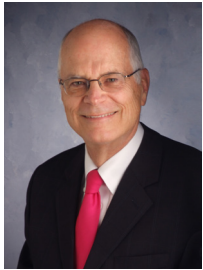


Meet your new Mayor and City Council Members

There are some new faces as well as familiar ones sitting at the City Council table the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The citizens elected a new Mayor and three Council members in the November 2017 election. A thank you to former Mayor Eric Bookmeyer, Council Member Travis Hickey and Council Member Janet Solberg for their years of service to the community.



Mayor, Bill Schickel

Bill Schickel was elected to his fourth non-consecutive term as mayor in January. He also served three terms in the Iowa House of Representatives. "This is a very exciting time for Mason City and it's an honor to be back serving as your mayor," he said. "The recent landslide approval of the River City Renaissance project shows what can happen when we all work together. With our great City Council, professional staff and engaged community members, there is no doubt in my mind Mason City's very best days are ahead." Bill is also the General Manager of KCMR Radio. He and his wife, Candi, a Mason City attorney, are the parents of three adult daughters. He can be contacted at 641-512-4502 or bschickel@masoncity.net.



At-Large Council Member, Tom Thoma

Tom Thoma is a lifelong resident of Mason City and a proud graduate of Mason City High School, NIACC and Drake University. He is retired after 44 years with the Globe Gazette.

He now does some freelance work and is on the board of Wright On The Park and Visit Mason City. He volunteers at the Surf Ballroom and for various community activities, and enjoys golf, biking, tooling around in his convertible and occasional trips. Tom was elected as an At-Large Council Member representing the entire community



Second Ward Council Member, Will Symonds

Will Symonds: "I moved to Mason City to be closer to work. Those 20 minute commutes were a killer! I've always liked North Iowa and the people in it. I'm excited to see what we can make Mason City into as a people.

I grew up in the area, living in Rockwell and then going off to college and then back to the area. I'm married to my wife, Rachel and we live in Ward 2 with our dog Jinx. Rachel is finishing up her masters in teaching and hopes to teach Science in an area high school. I work at First Citizens Bank in the IT Department. When I'm not working I like to run (looking forward to the various trails coming to Mason City!), volunteer with my church, and playing games with friends".



Fourth Ward Council Member, John W. Jaszewski

John W. Jaszewski was born and raised in Winona, Minnesota. After graduating from high school, he joined the US Navy and spent ten years in the service. After discharge, he finished a bachelor degree in 1981 in Mass Communications. Following graduation, John moved to Mason City and began his television career at KIMT in 1981. He then joined Northern Trails Area Education Agency as a video and TV producer and spent 17 years there. John also worked as a part time video producer creating hundreds of promotional and training ideology for businesses around North Iowa. Since retiring in 2009, he has spent many hours volunteering. He is beginning his fourth non-consecutive term as a City Council Member.

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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

2018 Council Priorities Set

The Mayor and City Council members reviewed the goals and priorities for the community. The main focus is to ensure that they provide sound infrastructure and the desired resources and amenities to provide a comfortable, safe and enjoyable quality of life for the residents and visitors of Mason City.

The 2018 One to Two Year Priorities include:

- River City Renaissance - "On time and on budget"
- Hire New City Administrator

- Examine feasibility for Solar Power on city buildings
- Implement Water Trail
- Implement High Line Trail
- Support Workforce Development Efforts
- Explore Feasibility of River Walk
- Expand Downtown Loan Program to other areas of the city
- Remove barriers and incentivize living in downtown area
- Support infill housing development
- Support Vision North Iowa Corridor
- Improve Communication with Citizens

The 2018 Three to Five Year Priorities include:

- Explore Feasibility of Fiber Optic
- Corridor Lighting for Entrance into 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.

Operation ReLeaf Returns to Cerro Gordo County

This fall, Mason City will be hosting an 'Operation ReLeaf' event offering residential utility customers the opportunity to purchase landscape trees at discount prices. Alliant Energy's Operation ReLeaf is a program to help Alliant Energy customers save energy in their homes using trees to provide shade during the summer and create wind breaks during the winter.

High-quality three- to eight-foot landscaping trees are available for only \$25 (limit of 2 trees per household) and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Available tree species for purchase will be provided in August when the order forms become available. Information including the distribution date, times and order details will be made available sometime in August on the City's website at www.masoncity.net.

Volunteers will be recruited to assist in the selection and loading of tree(s), along with handing out wood chip mulch. If you, your family, or group is interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Volunteer Program Coordinator Drew Verstegen at 421-3372 or dverstegen@masoncity.net.

This partnership initiative is funded by Alliant Energy and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, in partnership with the conservation boards of host counties. Since 2001, there have been 214 Operation ReLeaf events with over 73,000 new trees planted throughout the state of Iowa.

Engineering Department Updates

The Mason City Engineer Department is preparing for a very busy construction season which includes several large-scale city projects as well as shared projects with the Iowa DOT.

12th Street NW Bridge Replacement over Willow Creek

The 12th Street NW Bridge over Willow Creek was constructed in 1950; it is a steel beam bridge 22' in width and 71' in length. The bridge is being replaced with a single span concrete beam structure widened to accommodate two lanes of traffic and eight-foot paved shoulders on either side. The bridge design also includes a 10' pedestrian trail separated by a barrier wall in anticipation of a future trail along 12th Street NW. The project construction is expected to span a period of approximately four months. During that time, 12th Street NW will be closed to traffic north and south of Taft Avenue on 12th Street. A detour will be posted for drivers.

27th Street SW

The expansion of an existing industry and new development prompted an application for a RISE Grant to assist with the costs of a new street and storm sewer system to serve the area. The city was awarded \$1,126,875 to put toward street paving and storm sewer infrastructure. The area that will be serviced by the project is located along South Pierce Avenue south of 19 Street SW and impacts over sixty acres of developable property. The project includes approximately 2,400' of new street pavement, storm sewer structures, water main extension, and a force main sanitary sewer system. The project also involves pavement widening for turn and acceleration lanes on Pierce Avenue and 43rd Street SW. The project is scheduled for completion in November of 2018.

Downtown Traffic Signal Replacement Project

Following the replacement and upgrading of the street lighting in the downtown area, comes the beginning of the replacement of the traffic signal system. Like the street lighting, the existing traffic signal infrastructure and operating components have reached their life expectancy and it is time to replace the entire system, including bases, poles and mast arms, signal heads, control cabinets, buried conduit, electrical and fiber. Construction of the new system will begin on Delaware Avenue in 2018 and end on Washington Avenue in 2019.

Capt. Mike McKelvey Appointed to Serve on State Medical Cannabidiol Board

Governor Kim Reynolds appointed Captain Mike McKelvey of the Mason City Police Department as one of the eight members to serve on the State Medical Cannabidiol Board that will oversee the state's expanded medical cannabis law. The businesses that grow marijuana and produce medical cannabidiol and the five businesses that will sell the product, will be subject to rules and regulations established by this new state board.

Captain McKelvey is the only law enforcement representative serving on this board. Other members include individuals from the medical field.

Track Your Transit Bus in Real Time

Never miss the bus again! Mason City Public Transit now offers Real-Time GPS Tracking on all of their buses. There is no longer a need to wait in the cold or wonder when the bus will arrive. You now have the ability to watch your bus approach your stop with up to the second GPS Tracking.

All you need is a smartphone, tablet or PC with internet access. You can find the link on the left side of the City's Homepage at www.masoncity.net ('Track Your Transit Bus') or directly at transit.unitegps.com/mct. Mason City Public Transit encourages you to stop up on 3rd Floor of City Hall for assistance in setting it up on your phone!

For more information, contact Mason City Public Transit at 641-421-3616.

2018 City Holidays (Office Closed)

Memorial Day,
Mon., May 28

Independence Day,
Wed., July 4

Labor Day,
Mon., Sept. 3

Veteran's Day,
Mon., Nov. 12

Thanksgiving Holiday,
Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 22&23

Christmas,
Tues., Dec. 25

Sanitation Make-Up Day

Wed., May 30

No Effect on Service

Wed., Sept. 5

Wed., Nov. 14

Wed., Nov. 21

Wed., Dec. 26

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor: Bill Schickel
(641) 421-3600 (City Hall)
(641) 512-4502
mayor@masoncity.net

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

At-Large: Tom Thoma
(920) 412-6629
tthoma@masoncity.net

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

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

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

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

**Council Member Adams serves as the Mayor Pro Tem*



The snow is melting and summer is upon us. After a long cold winter, there's nothing like being in the great outdoors. Summer time also means many more volunteer opportunities. There are opportunities for all ages whether you're by yourself or with a family or group, we have plenty of opportunities this summer.

One of our programs is Park Watch. Park Watch 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 a clean and safe place in Mason City.

Some of the programs that are great for families, businesses, or groups is our Adopt A Street, Adopt A Lot, and 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. This program consists of around 80 flower beds around Mason City that we get volunteers to plant and maintain. This program plants the flowers in May and maintains 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 Program Coordinator Drew Versteegen at 421-3372 or email at dversteegen@masoncity.net.

Notes of Interest

*Mason City Public Library Story Times are held weekly on Wednesday at 10 am in the Story Time Room. Check out the library's website at www.mcpl.org for upcoming programming for kids and teens. The Summer Reading Programs run from Monday, June 11 through Saturday, July 7 at the library. Join in the fun including story times, craft days and special performances.

*The Friends of the Library geranium sale will be held on Friday, May 4 from 9 am - 4 pm and Saturday, May 5 from 9 am - Noon in the Mason City Room of the Public Library.

*There will be Live Music in the Library Commons every Friday from 11 am-1 pm beginning June 1 and ending on August 30. Stop by to hear some great musical performances.

Restoration of Meredith Wilson's Family Monument

Meredith Willson's mother, Rosalie, had a backyard flower garden with several bird baths and scores of bird houses. It is believed that when she passed away in 1931, Meredith installed a bird bath and sundial made of stoneware on the ends of their family monument to honor his mother. Over the years, the cold Iowa winters took their toll on the items, cracking them beyond repair.

The Questers organization has generously taken on the project of restoring the monument at the Elmwood-St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery. The Iowa Questers' motto is "Preserving the Past for the Future through Restoration, Acquisition and Education." The Iowa and Mason City Chapters of Questers have joined together to fund granite replicas of the bird bath and sundial. The granite replacements will not be exact replicas, but will be able to withstand the weather conditions much longer than stoneware. In addition to this, the groups will also purchase a bench to be placed on a concrete paver sitting area at the family burial site.

The restoration project will include a paved walkway, sitting area and a sign with information about the Willson family members in the family lot and elsewhere within the cemetery. The Music Man Foundation has provided the funds to cover these costs.

The Cemetery Board of Trustees is thankful for the support of these organizations in the honoring of Meredith Willson and his family. The project will be completed this spring with a dedication event being planned in June.



"NEW" Payment will be received at a new location in 2018! - Payment will be accepted at City Hall at either the main floor utility payment desk or HEALTHY-Mason City office. Applications must be completed and signed, garden rules received, and payment received prior to plot assignment. Applications are available at City Hall.

Checks are payable to: **City of Mason City - Mason City Community Gardens**
10 1st Street NW, Mason City, IA 50401.
(\$40 for 20' x 20' plot and \$60 for 20' x 40' plot*)
*ADDITIONAL FEES MAY APPLY see application for more information

WHEN CAN I START?: New in 2018, you may begin gardening when you choose - however, a reminder that mother nature has caused many a gardener to have to replant and incur added costs to their gardening season. A good rule of thumb is after May 15th.



Monument with bird bath and sundial sometime after Meredith passed away.

Monument now without bird bath or sundial and tree roots encroaching onto lot.



Beginning in 2018, Mason City will continue their journey to improve well-being as "HEALTHY - Mason City" transitioning to the Healthy HometownSM Powered by Wellmark initiative.

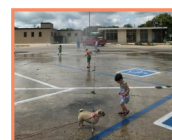
In May of 2012, Mason City was named one of the initial Blue Zones Project demonstration communities in Iowa receiving assistance from experts to develop and implement a blueprint for making permanent environmental, social and policy changes that transition people into healthier behaviors that can lead to longer, happier lives. They successfully achieved Blue Zones Community Certification in May 2014.

"While we have made great strides, we know there is still much work to do," said Angela Determan, Community Program Manager. "Through Healthy Hometown, we know we can successfully continue our journey of making our community a healthier and happier place to live, work and play."



The Active Living and Transportation Commission will be working on several goals in 2018. Future plans include: "pop up splash pad" for kids, support of the Winnebago River clean-up efforts,

promotion of four transportation safety videos, working with HEALTHY-Mason City and other partners on bike education, bike rodeos, Ride of Silence (May 16th), and a Moonlight Bike Ride. In May, during Bike Month, the Commission will launch a bike share program with locations at City Hall, East Park east entrance, and MacNider Campgrounds.



Splash Pad Event



Bike Share



Mayor Schickel River Clean-Up

New Faces



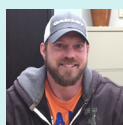
Gendel Benjamin joined the Mason City Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic on January 29, 2018. Ben joins the City from Interventional Pain Medicine and has also worked as an Adjunct Instructor at NIACC and the University of Iowa. Welcome aboard!



Danielle deNeui joined the City of Mason City as the GIS Analyst on September 25, 2017. Danielle is originally from Waverly and joins us from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Welcome back to Iowa and to the City's team!



Todd Eldridge joined the City of Mason City's Operations and Maintenance Department on September 20, 2017 as a Swing Worker. Todd is a graduate from NIACC and joins us with 14 years' experience from Quick Supply Company. Thank you for joining our team!



Corey Freie joined the City of Mason City as a Refuse Collector on January 17, 2018. Cory has been a truck driver with eleven years of experience and is also a graduate from Garner Hayfield High School. We're glad you have joined the City!



Blake Hovenga joined the City of Mason City's Water Supply plant on December 28, 2017. Blake comes from Aplington, IA where he was the Public Works Director, and also has a background as an electrician. Blake is also a graduate from UNI. Welcome!



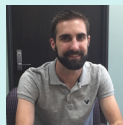
Avery Hubbard joined the Mason City Police Department on August 24, 2017 as a Police Officer. Avery received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology and Sociology from the University of Northern Iowa and worked as a Student Patrol Coordinator while attending UNI. Thank you for joining us!



Bryn Ivonavitch joined the Mason City Public Library on July 31, 2017 as a Part-time Library Clerk. Bryn is a graduate from Mason City High School and NIACC. We're glad you have joined us!



Colin Koch joined the the City of Mason City on November 27, 2017 as a Utility Worker in the Operations & Maintenance Department. Colin is a graduate from Mason City High School and joins us from Eaton Corporation in Belmond. Welcome!



Tom Kopp joined the the City of Mason City as a Wastewater Operator on July 24, 2017. Tom is a graduate from Newman Catholic High School and previously worked for Central Lock Security.



Nathan Lindsay joined the City of Mason City as the Assistant Greenskeeper at Highland Park Golf Course on October 30, 2017. Nathan received his Bachelor's degree in Turf Grass Management and Horticulture from ISU and has 12 years' experience in golf course grounds maintenance. Welcome aboard!



Morgan Lovik joined the Mason City Public Library on August 7, 2017 as a Part-time Library Clerk. Morgan is a graduate from Central Springs High School and previously worked for the YMCA. Welcome aboard!



Jacob Ouverson joined the Mason City Police Department as a Police Officer on December 19, 2017. Jacob is a graduate from Clear Lake High School and is currently attending NIACC to complete his degree in Criminal Justice. Welcome aboard Jacob!



Mark Tiedemann joined the Mason City Police Department on August 24, 2017 as a Police Officer. Mark received his Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from North Iowa Area Community College. Mark joins the City from the Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Office where he was employed as a Correctional Officer. Welcome aboard!

Calendar of Events

May 2018

- 1 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 1 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 1 Online registration for Library Summer Reading Programs (mcpl.org)
- 3 Historic Preservation Comm., 4:30 pm
- 3 Cerro Gordo Photo Show reception, 6 pm, MacNider Museum
- 4 Friends of the Library Geranium Sale, 9 am-4 pm, Library
- 5 Friends of the Library Geranium Sale, 9 am-noon, Library
- 8 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 8 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 9 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 14 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 15 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 15 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 15 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 17 Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 9 am, 'Landscapes'
- 24-28 Band Festival weekend
- 28 City offices closed
- 28 Memorial Day ceremony, TBD, Elmwood Cemetery
- 29 Lunch 'n' Learn: 'Jim Dine', MacNider Museum, 12 Noon
- 30 Sanitation make-up day for May 28

June 2018

- 5 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 5 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 7 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 8 Area Show: 46 begins, MacNider Museum
- 9 MacNider Arts Festival & Art Market, 9 am-5 pm
- 10 Memorial Day decorations must be removed from Cemetery
- 11 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 12 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 12 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 13 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 14 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 16 Area Show reception, 1 pm, MacNider Museum

- 17 MacNider Art Museum's Saturday 9 am Architectural Walking Tours begin
- 19 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 19 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 19 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 23 Annual Cannonball Day, East Park
- 25 Summer Art Camp 'Blast Off!' begins, 8 am, MacNider Museum
- 26 Lunch 'n' Learn: 'Chris White', MacNider Museum, 12 Noon

July 2018

- 4 City offices closed
- 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 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 12 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 17 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 17 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 17 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 27-28 Up in Smoke BBQ Bash, East Park

August 2018

- 1 Area Show: 46 closes, MacNider Museum
- 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, 8 am
- 13 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 15 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 21 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 21 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 21 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.

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

Save the Date! MacNider Arts Festival: Jurassic Art!

On Saturday, June 9 from 9 am- 5 pm there will be arts activities for children, lively musical entertainment, great outdoor food, and long-time festival traditions during the annual Arts Festival. All events will be held on the lawns of the Museum and the adjacent Mason City Public Library at 303 2nd Street SE in Mason City and are open to the public. The Outdoor Art Market will be open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. with many fine artists and crafts persons. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet amazingly talented artists, buy local & support art!

The day will begin with the Mayor and City Council's Pancake Breakfast at 9 a.m. This free breakfast is one of the most popular parts of the festival! Starting at 11 a.m. the Museum will sell food for festival goers to purchase. Proceeds of the food sales benefit the festival and Museum programming. Children's activities will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are free or a small fee. A variety of crafts will be available for different age groups, with volunteers on hand to assist.

More than 200 area citizens are recruited to volunteer during Festival. If you are interested in volunteering during this event, contact the Museum at 641-421-3666.