

## Meet Mason City's New City Administrator



City Administrator Aaron Burnett

Aaron Burnett is the new City Administrator for the City of Mason City. He replaces former City Administrator Brent Trout who resigned in 2017 to become the City Manager for the City of Topeka, Kansas. During the interim, Finance Director Kevin Jacobson served as the Interim City Administrator.

Aaron began his service with the City of Mason City in June and has been in city management since 2010 working previously for both Keokuk, Iowa and Humboldt, Iowa. As the first administrator for the City of Keokuk, he established a strong culture of professional city management within the city and received the Iowa City Manager of the Year award for 2017. Additionally,

Aaron has been recognized by the International City/County Management Association with the designation of Credentialed Manager.

Prior to his work in local government, he was a legislative assistant to both Congressman Latham and Congressman Nussle. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa and has a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Welcome to Aaron Burnett as the new City Administrator for the City of Mason City!

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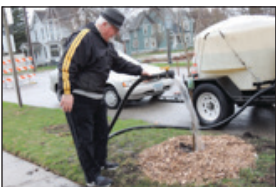
## Mason City Celebrates Arbor Day



Councilmember Jaszewski, Councilmember Adams, Councilmember Masson, Mayor Schickel and Councilmember Symonds planted a tree in observance of Arbor Day in Mason City

Arbor Day is celebrated in Iowa the last Friday in April every year. The Mayor and City Council members commemorated Arbor Day by planting two trees in the right-of-way just off of South Pennsylvania Avenue. Mayor Schickel designated Arbor Day in Mason City by signing a proclamation at a Council meeting.

**Did you know that volunteers have planted over 1,112 trees in Mason City in the last 8 years?**



Mayor Schickel and the City Council members plant a tree to commemorate Arbor Day in Mason City



## 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

### Get Connected - stay connected!

Follow the City department on social media. Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter for the latest information about road closures, events and other news.

## Mason City to Host Operation ReLeaf Tree Distribution Event

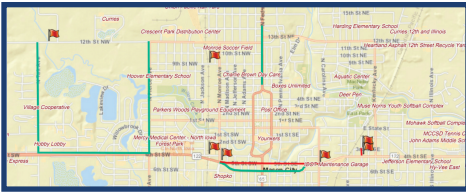
The City of Mason City will be the regional site for the Operation ReLeaf event this fall. This program, offered by Alliant Energy, gives residential utility customers the opportunity to purchase landscape trees at discount prices. Operation ReLeaf participants must be Alliant Energy residential customers in Iowa and willing to pick up their tree(s) on Saturday, October 6. The location for the pickup of trees will be at Norris Park at 2nd Street SW and South Adams Avenue between 9:30-11 am on October 6.

High-quality three- to eight-foot landscaping trees are offered for only \$25 each at this event. The trees, which retail for \$65 to \$125, are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Advance reservation is required. Order forms will be required to be filled out in order to reserve a tree and there is a limit of two trees per household. Forms are available on the City's website at [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net) or at City Hall at 10 First Street NW.

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success! There are many volunteer opportunities to assist with this event. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 421-3372 or email at [volunteer@masoncity.net](mailto:volunteer@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, more than 62,265 new trees have been planted throughout the state of Iowa during 189 Operation ReLeaf events.

For information about the program, contact Grant Administrator Beth Enright at (641) 424-7154 or email at [benright@masoncity.net](mailto:benright@masoncity.net).



## Construction Map on City's Website

The GIS Department has created a road construction map that appears on the home page of the City's website on the left side titled 'Road Closures'. Staff updates the map regularly to show the areas in the community that have long-term detours due to road construction or closures. Look for the flag icon at [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net) and click to find out the latest construction and closures in the community. Thank you for your patience during the construction season.

## Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Historic District Recognized

The City was notified that the Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in June 2018. The National Register is the official list of our country's historic buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. It was established as part of the National Historical Preservation Act of 1966 and is overseen by the National Park Service. Listing historic properties in the National Register encourages their preservation, marks them as important touchstones of our shared heritage, and expands the National Register database, a valuable research tool accessible to the public.

The nomination process starts with the State Historic Preservation Office, which documents and evaluates properties according to uniform standards. The criteria is used to identify important historic properties worthy of preservation and consideration in making planning and development decisions.

The Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Historic District joins the Rock Crest-Rock Glen Historic District, the Mason City Downtown Historic District, and numerous other buildings in Mason City listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is administered by the National Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior, and managed at the state level by each respective state.

## Mason City Receives the Tree City USA Designation and Growth Award



*Pictured: Deputy Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Bruce Trautman, Park Superintendent Bob Berggren, Volunteer Program Coordinator Drew Versteegen, and State Forester Jeff Goerndt.*

In honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management, Mason City received the 'Tree City USA' designation and the Growth Award this past spring.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters and has been greening up communities across the country since 1976. This nationwide movement provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. Mason City achieved the four core standards of sound urban forestry management to become a Tree City USA by maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day. Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained, and they help improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitats, among many other benefits.

Mason City has been a Tree City USA for 14 years and a Growth Award recipient for 3 years. The Growth Award is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize higher levels of tree care by participating Tree City USA communities. The Growth Award highlights innovative programs and projects as well as increased commitment of resources for urban forestry. It also provides an opportunity to share new ideas and successes across the country. The City's Growth Award Application focused on Literature Distribution, a Tree Maintenance Budget and Municipal Funding.

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## Ray Quayle Honored with the Service Above Self Award

The Mason City Noon Rotary Club annually recognizes a government employee to receive the 'Service Above Self' Award. The award is presented to a government employee for their actions both on and off the job. This year's recipient is Housing Inspector & Zoning Administrator Ray Quayle.

Ray received the award for the total overhaul of the Mason City Police Department's SOG team robot. Ray outfitted the robot with new electronics to make it functional for use in seeking out contraband, explosives, and similar dangerous situations where sending in an officer would be especially risky. He also was recognized for the work he does to help the landlords and tenants of this community. Ray was nominated by Development Services Director Steven Van Steenhuyse.

Congratulations!



*Ray Quayle with the SOG Team Robot*

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MAYOR AND 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  
[adamsatlarge@masoncity.net](mailto:adamsatlarge@masoncity.net)

### At-Large:

**Tom Thoma**  
(920) 412-6629  
[tthoma@masoncity.net](mailto:tthoma@masoncity.net)

### First Ward:

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

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



Unfortunately our summer programs are coming to an end, but that just means more opportunities with the fall and winter seasons on their way.

We encourage anyone to help with our cleanup programs including our Adoption Programs. Opportunities are available for persons interested in adopting a location to clean or doing a cleanup of any kind before the cold and snow arrive.

The Parks Department and Volunteer Department are teaming up again this fall to plant more trees with two tree plantings scheduled for early October.

The City Volunteer Department also offers one-time projects and has special events throughout the year. If you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities, contact Drew Verstegen at 641-421-3372 or email [volunteer@masoncity.net](mailto:volunteer@masoncity.net).



**HEALTHY-Mason City** was presented with a 2018 Healthy Hometown Community Award during the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative awards ceremony held earlier this year. The award recognizes Mason City for its accomplishments in health improvement initiatives within the community.

"We are pleased to present Mason City with an inaugural Healthy Hometown Community Award," said Jami Haberl, Iowa Healthiest State Initiative executive director. "The City has earned the title of 2018 Healthy Mason City and will also receive \$5,000 to continue the important work of improving the physical, social and emotional well-being of the community."

**HEALTHY-Mason City** continues to work to improve our community by intentionally creating a healthy city where the healthiest choices are also the easiest ones to make. A city built for active living where city government can support the health and vitality of its citizens through policy, built environment, and nudging us to Eat Well, Move More, and Feel Better.

Angela Determan, Community Program Manager said, "We knew when we began work in May of 2012 that a culture shift would be required to improve well-being and that would require time, hard work and many partners. We thank all the entities that continue to strive towards the same goal of improving well-being in our workplaces, our schools, and community."

Mercy North Iowa has been a leader in both the work of **HEALTHY-Mason City** since its inception and the financial support. They recently recommitted their support with a three year pledge of \$25,000 per year.

## HOME FOR SALE AT 430 1ST STREET NE

As part of a pilot affordable home program, the City purchased and rehabilitated the house at 430 1st Street NE. The property is offered for sale for a base asking price of only \$59,100. The City invested \$40,000 to renovate the home; the property has been appraised at \$69,100.

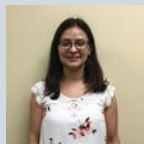
Here's how it works: The buyer must qualify for bank financing and have a family income no higher than 120% of the area median income (\$81,350 for a family of four). The buyer finances a loan for \$59,100 (less any down-payment or other source of owner equity). At closing, the buyer assumes two mortgages: the first with the loan provider for the base asking price, and one for \$40,000 with the City. If the owner does not sell for at least seven years, the loan is forgiven. If they do sell before seven years have passed, the owner must pay back the unforgiven balance of the loan (i.e., if the home is sold after five years, the seller must pay the final two years of the loan prior to closing).

The house has three bedrooms upstairs, with a possible fourth on the first floor. There are 1½ baths. The home is now completely rehabilitated and has a new electrical service, new furnace/boiler and new water heater. Most of the windows are new. Brand new kitchen cabinets and new appliances make this an excellent starter home. There is a large, two-stall detached garage in the rear yard.

If you are interested in viewing the home, or if you have questions about the affordable home program contact Tricia Sandahl, Planning and Zoning Manager, at (641) 421-3626.



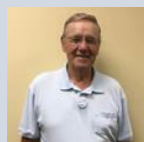
## New Faces



**Jamie Endriss** started on June 20, 2018 as a Cashier in the Finance Department. Jamie comes to us with bookkeeping and secretary experience from her time as a manager at Hobby Lobby. Welcome aboard!



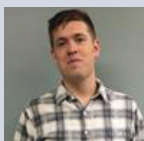
**Esther Jones** joined the City of Mason City Fire Department as a Firefighter on May 21, 2018. Esther was most recently employed with CARE Ambulance LLC in Iowa City. She was also part of the Mason City Fire Department's Explorer Program the last several years. Thank you for joining us Esther!



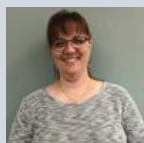
**Lawrence McLaughlin** started on June 20, 2018 as a Part-time Transit Driver. Larry brings great driving experience and is excited to be joining us. Welcome!



**Jen Mericle** joined the City of Mason City's Finance Department as a Data Processing Clerk on May 16, 2018. Jen has a background in insurance and banking and is a graduate from Forest City High School. Welcome aboard!



**Jordan Rush** started on June 18, 2018 as a Firefighter for the Mason City Fire Department. Jordan has a vast amount of experience as an EMT before joining us full-time. Welcome aboard!



**Belinda Schulz** started on June 18, 2018 as an Administrative Assistant for the Mason City Airport. Belinda brings with her 20+ years of experience as a Secretary. Thank you for joining us!



**Rachael Sprecker** started with the MacNider Art Museum as the Office Manager on April 9, 2018. Rachael is a graduate from Miami University in Oxford, OH and recently moved to the Mason City area from southern Iowa. Welcome Rachael!

Please go the Mason City Public Library Website: [www.mcpl.org](http://www.mcpl.org) and the Mason City Public Library facebook page to find out about upcoming Fall activities and books at the library.



## 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.*

## Calendar of Events

### September 2018

- 3 City offices closed
- 4 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 4 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 5 Sanitation Make-Up Day for September 3
- 6 Historic Preservation Commission
- 10 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 11 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 11 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 12 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 13 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 18 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 18 Museum Board, 5:30 p.m.
- 18 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 21 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) Lunch by Central Park, 11 am-1:30 pm
- 24 City Council Listening Post, Time and Location TBD

### October 2018

- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 2 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 4 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 6 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery History Walk
- 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.
- 16 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 16 Museum Board, 5:30 p.m.
- 16 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19 Artoberfest, MacNider Museum, 6 - 9 p.m.

### November 2018

- 2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 4 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 6 Election Day
- 6 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 6 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 12 City offices closed
- 13 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 14 Sanitation Make-Up Day for November 12
- 14 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 20 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 20 Museum Board, 5:30 p.m.
- 20 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 21 Sanitation Make-Up Day for November 22 & 23

### December 2018

- 22 City offices closed
- 23 City offices closed
- 4 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 4 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 6 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 MacNider: Off the Clock Holiday Edition, 5-7 p.m.
- 8 MacNider Museum Holiday Open House/Kids' Club, 1-4 p.m.
- 10 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 11 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 12 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 13 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 18 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 18 Museum Board, 5:30 p.m.
- 18 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25 City offices and MacNider Museum Closed
- 26 Sanitation Make-up Day for Dec. 25

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