

River City News



RIVER CITY RENAISSANCE PROJECT

The Mason City Downtown River City Renaissance Project encompasses the historic heart of Mason City. The project includes reinvestment that will provide new lodging and entertainment opportunities that emphasize walkability and downtown character. The project consists of a Multi-Purpose Arena for ice sports, other sporting events and concerts, a downtown hotel, and performing arts pavilion.

The Music Man Complex & Hotel



A 105-room, full-service hotel and conference center will be built in the parking lot south of Southbridge Center. A new Skywalk will connect the hotel and conference center to The Music Man Square and Meredith Willson Museum. With two ballrooms and more than 25,000 square feet of

rentable space, this complex will accommodate large group meeting and convention events with up to 1,000 attendees.

Multi-Purpose Arena

A new Multi-Purpose venue for ice sports, athletic competitions, concerts, and trade shows with a total capacity of up to 3,400. (2,044 fixed seats)

A groundbreaking was recently held for the arena which is currently under construction at Southbridge Mall in the space formerly occupied by the JC Penney store.

Performing Arts Pavilion

A new Plaza entrance on the north end of Southbridge Center that includes an indoor/outdoor Performing Arts Pavilion - which will serve as the new home for the Mason City Municipal Band and free city concerts for all ages and seasons.



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

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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.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE

The beginning of the spring construction season is just around the corner and the Engineering Department is preparing for another very busy year. In addition to the highlighted projects are listed some of the others that the department will be involved with:

- **Street Panel and Curb Replacement**
- **Sidewalk and Pedestrian Ramp Construction**
- **Pavement Traffic Markings**
- **Traffic and Street Marker Upgrades**
- **Traffic Signal Upgrades**
- **Storm Sewer Intake Replacement Project**
- **South Monroe Avenue Water Main Extension**
- **6th Street SW Water Main Repair at the UPRR Crossing**
- **ENGINE 2 Building Reroofing Project**

27TH STREET SW STREET PAVING AND UTILITIES

The 27th Street SW Street Paving and Utilities - RISE Project is a new construction paving project, extending 2,400' west, off South Pierce Avenue. In addition to new street paving, the project includes the new construction of water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer utilities. The water and storm sewer utilities were installed during the latter part of 2018. A sanitary lift station and force main will be constructed and installed during the upcoming construction season as well as the construction of a Portland Cement Concrete street. The project also includes pavement widening for turn lane improvements on 43rd Street SW and Pierce Avenue. The street paving portion of the remaining project is anticipated to be completed in July. The Lift Station/Force Main will be completed toward the end of the year.



The project is being funded through a \$1,126,875.00 Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy Program (RISE) Grant. The remaining project costs are being covered with Road Use Tax, Water, Sewer and Storm Sewer funds.

DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The replacement of the traffic signals at eleven downtown intersections along Delaware and Washington Avenues began in the early spring. The project involves the replacement of outdated and deteriorated equipment as well as the buried infrastructure. The reconstruction and installation of the signals and associated work will be completed through multiple phases to minimize the inconvenience and disruption of traffic flow through the downtown area. The project is expected to extend throughout the majority of the 2019 construction season. The contracted cost of the project is \$1,516,445.40 which is being funded with City resources.



NORTH END STREET LIGHTING

The City began a multi-part improvement project in the north end along and adjacent to North Federal Avenue in 2017. The improvements included parking lot paving and lighting, and sidewalk restoration. The last remaining improvement involves the replacement of the street lighting along Federal Avenue between 13th Street and 17th Street. The street lighting improvement project is expected to be completed by the end of June. When completed, the system will improve the level of street lighting and safety while conserving energy through more efficient lighting fixtures. The project cost is \$230,116.00.



IOWA 122 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The Iowa Department of Transportation's reconstruction of Iowa 122 project is expected to re-start by the end of April. The second of the two year project involves closing 6th Street between Monroe Avenue and Carolina Avenue while it is being reconstructed. Traffic will be reconfigured to two-way on 5th Street which was reconstructed in 2018. In advance of the paving operation, the contractor will install new storm sewer infrastructure and upgrade the existing water and sanitary sewer utilities as needed. The project also includes new sidewalks, street lighting and traffic signals. The project is expected to be completed in 2019.

HISTORIC REHABILITATION OF THE MELSON MAUSOLEUM

The Elmwood-St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery continues to address the repair and maintenance needs of the historic assets within the grounds. The 103 year old Melson mausoleum needs tuck pointing, waterproofing, restoring the original door, removing the bricked up entrance and installing a protective enclosure that will allow access to the interior of the structure. The inside marble covering which has fallen off the ceiling and walls will be cleaned up and replaced. These activities will get the mausoleum back into good condition. This mausoleum is a unique structure with a fascinating story associated with it that must be shared. Plans and specifications are now being developed with rehabilitation work to begin in 2020. Grants, donations and History Walk funds will be needed to save this important part of Mason City's past.



HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

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

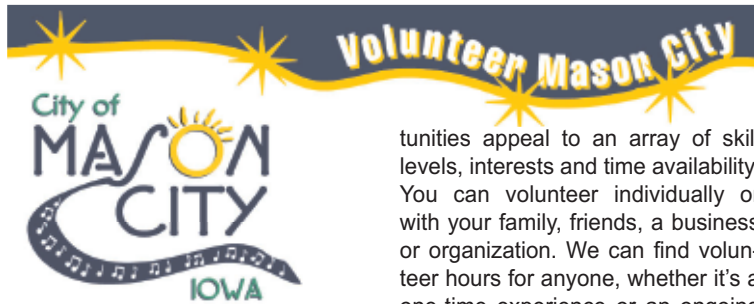
At-Large: Tom Thoma
(920) 412-6629
tthoma@masoncity.net

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



Spring is just around the corner. After this very snowy winter everyone's ready to get out of the house! It's a great time to explore the many volunteer opportunities that Mason City has to offer and have a lot of fun, make new friends, maybe learn a new hobby and the added bonus of Making Mason City Sparkle!! Mason City has a wide array of opportunities, come join in. The growth of the City's Volunteer Service Program exists because of our dedicated volunteers and all of us within the City organization sincerely appreciate their support and hard work!

The City's Volunteer Program is a unique partnership between volunteers and the various departments of the City. Projects vary and oppor-

tunities appeal to an array of skill levels, interests and time availability. You can volunteer individually or with your family, friends, a business or organization. We can find volunteer hours for anyone, whether it's a one-time experience or an ongoing project, we are always looking for volunteers to help. There are endless opportunities for all age groups and we can help match your time availability and interest to a project that is just right for you. It's a great time to try something new.

Some programs to consider volunteering for include:

Beautification – design, plant and maintain a community flower garden, many different sizes and locations are available to adopt

Litter Clean-up Teams – annual community-wide litter clean-up event held in the spring to help tidy up our community after the winter months

Adopt-A-Street Program – help remove litter from assigned streets

Adopt-a-Parking Lot Program – remove litter from assigned parking lots

Adopt-A-Section Program – care for and maintenance of assigned sections within the City's cemetery

Park Watch – help patrol our parks and encourage positive usage of our parks and curbing vandalism and graffiti

In early 2019, the Mason City Earth Day Committee will be gearing up for another Earth Day event. Our Earth Day entails a few weeks of cleanup along with a festival sponsored by the Earth Day Committee. The festival will fall on Saturday, April 20th this year. We hope to get a record number of clean-up teams signed up and encourage everyone to attend our festival, which will have games, crafts, and activities for kids and families! Contact me for information about the event or to volunteer for an area to adopt.

I challenge each Mason City citizen who has a few hours of time to contact me to discuss how they might volunteer and in turn discover a meaningful way to give back to the community, meet some new friends

along the way and enjoy a sense of purpose that volunteerism provides.

"Remember the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more." -H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

For more information, contact Mary Litterer, Volunteer Service Coordinator at (641) 421-3372 or at volunteer@masoncity.net.



This past October, Janell Drumheller and her students from the Mason City Alternative School exceeded their 900th tree planted in the community!



in the **All Seasons Bldg.**

A variety of activities will be held including a kid power pedal tractor pull event, bounce houses and balloon creations by Today's Your Day as well as displays and demonstrations presented by local community organizations and youth oriented programs. Free food will be served and there will be 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, *"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 along with the Mason City Police Department.

The event will be held rain or shine. Contact cpab.1997@yahoo.com or call 420-3414 for further information.

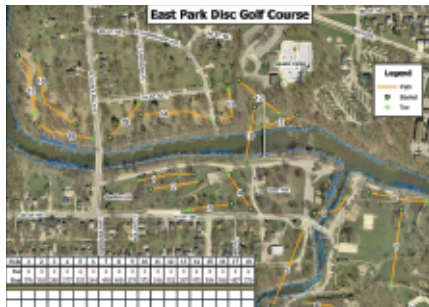
MASON CITY TO JOIN CITIES NATIONWIDE FOR THE 36TH ANNUAL 'AMERICA'S NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME'

Tuesday, August 6, 2019, marks the 36th Anniversary for the **Annual National Night Out** crime and drug prevention event. Starting at 5:00 p.m. residents are encouraged to show solidarity by turning on porch lights and heading to the **North Iowa Events Center** for the free fun-packed *"family affair"*.



CALLING ALL AVID DISC GOLFERS

Disc golfers can enjoy the 18-hole course in Mason City for hours of sheer fun no matter your age or skill level! This course is set in beautiful East Park coexisting with the park's facilities and activity areas. The original 9-hole course has been redesigned and expanded to 18 holes with the challenging back 9 located adjacent to East Park in a neighborhood where houses were pur-



chased and removed after the 2008 flood. Natural obstacles challenge golfers throughout the course including trees, shrubs changes in terrain and several types of water. Golfers must throw disc over the duck pond, Willow Creek and even the Winnebago River.

Playing the game improves health and is one of the greatest lifetime fitness sports available by promoting physical and mental abilities as well as increasing concentration skills by negotiating obstacles. The disc golf course is free to play as often as you like – no tee times or greens fees necessary and is one the cheapest sports out there.

Rules of play as well as the scorecard can be found on the City's website at www.masoncity.net under the Your Government tab. Select 'Parks Department' for a downloadable brochure and scorecard.

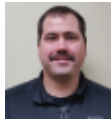
YTF OFFERS YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

MC Youth Task Force is working to train adults who interact with youth in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA). Training is intended to help adults recognize mental health symptoms that do not go away and provide *"First Aid"*. According to the Iowa Department of Education: 1 in 5 young people (13-18) have or will have a serious mental illness.

Youth Mental Health First Aid training workshops are being held in our area to provide information and increase awareness of symptoms in youth. If interested in learning more about the free workshop training, please contact the Mason City Youth Task Force office at: 641-421-2708.



NEW FACES



Tyson Anderson started with the City of Mason City on November 19, 2018 as a Police Officer for the Mason City Police Department. Tyson previously worked for the City, also as a Police Officer. We're happy you have joined our team again!



Shane Bleeker started with the City of Mason City on September 5, 2018 as a Firefighter for the Mason City Fire Department. Shane brings with him experience as a Firefighter and EMT. Welcome!



Wyatt Brown started with the City of Mason City on September 5, 2018 as a Firefighter for the Mason City Fire Department. Wyatt previously worked for the City, also as a Firefighter and Paramedic. We're happy you have joined our team again!



Erik Bullinger started with the City of Mason City on August 20, 2018 as Fire Chief for the Mason City Fire Department. Erik was a member of the Burlington Fire Department for the past 14 years. He brings experience as a Fire Captain and Battalion Chief. Welcome aboard!



Meryem "Candy" Celik started with the City of Mason City on August 16, 2018 as a Crossing Guard for the Mason City Police Department. Meryem "Candy" is also employed by Meals on Wheels and has her own graphic web design business. Welcome aboard!



Danielle Crom started with the City of Mason City on January 21, 2019 as the Administrative Assistant for the Mason City Police Department. Danielle comes to us with administrative experience from her time as an office manager. Welcome aboard!



James Crooks started with the City of Mason City on October 25, 2018 as a Part-time Transit Driver. James brings with him several years of driving experience. Thank you for joining our team!



Tiffany Hammond started with the City of Mason City on July 31, 2018 as a Human Resource Assistant in the Human Resource Department. Tiffany brings with her prior Human Resource and benefit experience. Welcome aboard!



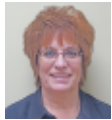
Logan Hoiland started with the City of Mason City on September 5, 2018 as a Firefighter for the Mason City Fire Department. Logan brings with him prior experience as a Firefighter. Thank you for joining us!



Quentin Hutchinson started with the City of Mason City on August 13, 2018 as a Police Officer for the Mason City Police Department. Quentin brings with him prior experience as a Police Officer while in the Military. Thank you for joining us!



Nick Largent started with the City of Mason City on February 4, 2019 as the Golf Clubhouse Manager/Recreation Special Events for the Recreation Department. Nick has numerous years of experience in the Golf field. Welcome!



Mary Litterer started with the City of Mason City on February 26, 2019 as the Volunteer Service Coordinator for the Administration Department. Mary brings with her 20+ years of experience directing and coordinating volunteers. Thank you for joining us!



Emmanuel Randle started with the City of Mason City on September 5, 2018 as a Firefighter for the Mason City Fire Department. Emmanuel brings with him experience as a Firefighter and EMT. Thanks for joining us!



Derek Smit started with the City of Mason City on September 5, 2018 as a Firefighter for the Mason City Fire Department. Derek brings with him prior experience as a volunteer Firefighter and EMT. Welcome aboard!



Brandon Smith started with the City of Mason City on October 4, 2018 as a Refuse Collector with the Operations and Maintenance Department. Brandon brings with him experience as small Equipment Operator. Welcome!



Christopher Ward joined the City of Mason City Fire Department on December 5, 2018 as a Firefighter. Chris has a vast amount of experience from working as a Firefighter/EMT in Wisconsin and Clear Lake. Welcome aboard!



Terry Wolters started with the City of Mason City on August 3, 2018 as a part-time Transit Driver. Terry brings great driving experience and is excited to be joining us. Welcome aboard!

NOTES OF INTEREST

Save the Date!

MacNider Arts Festival, Saturday, June 8 from 9 am- 5 pm!

More information will be available on the MacNider Art Museum website page at www.macnider.org

2019 City Holidays (offices closed)

Memorial Day, Monday, May 27
Independence Day, Thursday, July 4
Labor Day, Monday, September 2
Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11
Thanksgiving Holiday,
 Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29
Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

Sanitation Make-Up Day

Wednesday, May 29
 Wednesday, July 3
 Wednesday, September 4
 Wednesday, November 13
 Wednesday, November 27
 Service not affected

CALENDAR ITEMS

MAY 2019

7 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
 7 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
 2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 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
 8 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
 21 Library Board, 4:15 pm
 21 Museum Board, 7 pm
 21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
 16 Kids' Club Watercolor Techniques @ MacNider Museum, 6:30 pm
 23-27 Band Festival weekend
 27 City offices closed
 27 Memorial Day ceremony, Elmwood Cemetery, 9:30 am
 28 Lunch 'n' Learn: Topic TBA, MacNider Museum, 12 Noon
 29 Sanitation make-up day for May 30

25 Lunch 'n' Learn: Topic TBA, MacNider Museum, 12 Noon
 29 Annual Cannonball Day, East Park
 29 39th Annual Cerro Gordo Photo Show closes, MacNider Museum
 29 Paul Crimi: Solo Exhibition closes, MacNider Museum

JULY 2019

3 Sanitation make-up day for July 4
 4 City offices closed
 8 Airport Commission, 4 pm
 9 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
 9 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
 10 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
 11 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
 16 Library Board, 4:15 pm
 16 Museum Board, 7 pm
 16 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
 18 Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 6:30 pm
 30 Lunch 'n' Learn: Topic Sculpture Walk, MacNider Museum, 12 Noon

JUNE 2019

6 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
 4 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
 4 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
 13 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
 8 MacNider Art Festival Art Splash! & Art Market, 9 am-5 pm
 10 Memorial Day decorations must be removed from Cemetery
 10 Airport Commission, 4 pm
 11 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
 11 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
 12 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
 18 Library Board, 4:15 pm
 18 Museum Board, 7 pm
 18 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
 24-28 Art Camp, MacNider Art Museum, 8 am-12 Noon

AUGUST 2019

6 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
 6 36th Annual National Night Out Event, North Iowa Events Center, 5 pm
 6 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
 1 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
 13 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
 13 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
 14 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
 8 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
 12 Airport Commission, 4 pm
 20 Library Board, 4:15 pm
 20 Museum Board, 7 pm
 20 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.