

NEW FACES



Dillon Anderson started with the City of Mason City on December 21, 2020 in the Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. We're glad you have joined the City!



Kirby Becker started with the City of Mason City on February 18, 2021 in the Police Department as a Support Services Clerk. Welcome!



Courtney Perrin started with the City of Mason City on November 18, 2020 in the Police Department as a Police Officer. Thanks for joining our team!



Brandon Peterson started with the City of Mason City on November 9, 2020 in the Operations & Maintenance Department as a Swing Worker. Thank you for joining us!



Kiera Quinn Jordan started with the City of Mason City on February 18, 2021 in the Finance Department as a Water Billing Cashier. Thank you for joining us!



Tim Tickal started with the City of Mason City on November 24, 2020 at the Mason City Public Library as a Custodian. Welcome aboard!

NEW @ THE MASON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY:

The *Friends of the Library Geranium Sale* will be held in the Mason City Room on **Friday, April 30 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM** and on **Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 9:00 AM to Noon.**

People can pick up their pre-ordered flowers at these times and they can purchase flowers at this time. Call the library at 421-3668 with questions.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2021

1 Friends of the Library Annual Geranium Sale, Mason City Room, Library
4 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
4 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
6 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
10 Airport Commission, 4 pm
11 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
11 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
13 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
18 Library Board, 4:15 pm
18 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
18 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
20 Kids Club: Online Tutorial Video 'Spring into Color'

27-31 Band Festival weekend
31 City offices closed
31 Memorial Day ceremony, TBD, Elmwood Cemetery

JUNE 2021

1 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
1 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
2 Sanitation make-up day for May 31
3 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
8 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
8 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
14 Airport Commission, 4 pm
10 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
12 MacNider Arts Festival
15 Library Board, 4:15 pm
15 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
15 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm

JULY 2021

1 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
5 City offices closed
6 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
6 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
7 Sanitation make-up day for July 5
8 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
12 Airport Commission, 4 pm
13 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
13 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
20 Library Board, 4:15 pm
20 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
20 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm

AUGUST 2021

3 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
3 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
5 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
9 Airport Commission, 4 pm
10 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
10 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 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

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



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! Stay up to date of upcoming events scheduled for the Mason City Arena by liking their Facebook page!

- The Mason City Public Library has a new website. It is located at the same address www.mcpl.org Check it out!
- Special items are available for checkout: WiFi Hotspots, Virtual Reality Headsets and STEAM Kits
- Current newspapers and archived information are offered online through a service called "Newsbank" which includes archives of the Globe Gazette up through 1999.



RIVER CITY NEWS

TRI-ANNUAL
NEWSLETTER
OF THE CITY OF
MASON CITY,
SPRING 2021



DID YOU MISS US?

We missed everyone last summer, but we didn't take the time just to relax! Slip reduction flooring was added in the bathrooms while giving a fresh coat of paint on the walls and new benches were installed throughout the locker rooms. Also, the lighting was updated to LED to become

more energy efficient to decrease our carbon foot print. We didn't just stop there... we are working with two different companies to install a new 2 to 5 year old playground and all of our water slides are being refurbished! We hope to see everyone with our new hours from 12 to 6 pm. The hours are being changed so we can introduce new opportunities for our patrons at the Aquatic Center. Three sessions of swim lessons will be offered with three classes in the morning and three classes in the evening. Lap swim will be held from 11 am to 12 pm in the large pool while offering family swim times in the recreational pool. Youth must be with a guardian or grandparent to enter for family swim. In addition, family friendly events will be offered throughout the summer after we close for public swim.

We will see you soon and follow us on our social media sites at Mason City Parks & Recreation Department or Mason City Family Aquatic Center for opening dates and all of our other special events happening at the Mason City Family Aquatic Center this year!

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NEW CHANGES @ ELMWOOD-ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY

At Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery, we strive to create a beautiful setting to celebrate life

and history. Over the past several years, we have fielded calls and requests to add a dedicated, pet-only section of the cemetery. We are currently offering a flat rate package for our pet cemetery section, including a dedicated plot, burial of a pet urn, and custom granite headstone.

In an effort to keep the cemetery grounds clean and safe, we have adjusted the decoration guidelines. Each plot with a burial can include one permanent vase, one eternal (permanent) light, and one American flag. Recent burials can have decorations a the gravesite for up to 30 days after burial, and additional decorations are allowed for both Memorial Day and Winter/Christmas seasons.

For more information, please contact us at 641-421-3687 or send an email to Elmwood@masoncity.net.

GET CONNECTED ... Stay Connected!



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



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."

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

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NEWSLETTER, all public meetings are being held virtually to abide by social distancing guidelines. For details, visit the City of Mason City's website at www.masoncity.net and click on the 'City Meetings' icon on the home page or call 641-421-3600. City Council meetings are aired live on the Education-Government Channel (Mediacom Cable Channel 117-2) and on the City's Live Stream page under the 'Government' heading, select 'Streaming Council Meetings'. Archives of previous meetings are also located on this page.

Some programs, events and City facility operating hours may be impacted by COVID-19 precautions. Please check with the individual departments for up-to-date information.



'MASON CITY ARENA' NAMED

the Recipient of the 2020 Best Development Award in the Renovated Civic category by 1000 Friends of Iowa

1000 Friends of Iowa presented the Mason City Arena project with the 2020 Best Development Award in the Renovated Civic category at its virtual awards ceremony in January. The Arena was selected for converting a vacant shopping mall space into an ice skating arena to fit the recreational needs of the community with many positive trickle-down effects.

The Best Development Award Program recognizes projects in up to 12 different categories as a way for 1000 Friends of Iowa to express the fact that smart land use and sustainable communities are more than constructed buildings. All of the award recipients help advance sustainability across our state by considering site design, outdoor and indoor environmental impact, community and public use, and long-term benefits.

"The recognition of the Mason City Arena by 1000 Friends of Iowa is truly special because the award embodies the focus of the River City Renaissance," said City Administrator Aaron Burnett. "This development effort is pushing new density into Mason City's downtown and creating an attractive walkable area with numerous entertainment and dining options close to newly renovated and newly constructed downtown housing options. The Mason City Arena is transformative for the heart of our community and is bringing new life to once vacant and abandoned buildings. The community's progressive steps towards sustainable development will continue to drive momentum for many years to come."

This year's recipients were chosen because they implemented the efficient use of resources to develop sustainable communities and provide a high quality of life.



KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE *Make Sure They are Licensed*

Pet owners in Mason City should ensure any dog and/or cat over the age of 6 months is licensed with the City Clerk's office. Licensing provides pets with needed identification and residents with the peace of mind that an animal is properly vaccinated and has an owner. Animals without tags are considered stray and are at risk of being stolen or unidentifiable in the instance of an accident. Keeping your pet's license current and attached to their collar provides them with a greater chance of a safe return home in the instance they become lost.

Proof of the rabies vaccination and proof of the spay/neuter of your pet must be presented prior to obtaining a license. City licenses may be renewed for 1, 2 or 3 years dependent on the expiration of the rabies vaccinations. License fees shall be \$50 per year for each animal that has not been altered and \$10 per year for each neutered or spayed pet.

Contact the City Clerk's office at 641-421-3600 for additional details about pet licenses.



MONROE AVENUE REHABILITATION PROJECT

Monroe Avenue will be undergoing major improvements this year. The project limits begin at 5th Street SW and extend to 12th Street NW. The contractors will first begin working on the underground utilities which include water, sanitary and storm sewer. After the underground work is complete, the street will receive a new Hot Mix Asphalt surface. In addition to the street surface will be the reconstruction of the pedestrian ramps at the intersection crossings.



The Monroe Avenue project is being funded through numerous sources including a Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) in the amount of one-million dollars. The remaining funding will be by the city through Road Use Tax, Water and Sewer funds.

The bids for the project were received on March 16th, and construction is planned to begin in late April. The street project will extend throughout the entire summer, but will be phased to help reduce traffic disruptions. The public is advised to avoid traveling near the construction area when possible to ensure not only the safety of themselves but to those working on the project.

ANYONE, ANYWHERE, CAN BE THE ONE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF SOMEONE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGE – IF THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO AND WHAT TO SAY.

Mason City Youth Task Force offers **FREE** Mental Health First Aid workshops/trainings sessions:

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) for ADULTS who interact with youth (*virtual and in-person workshops observing social distancing*). This 6-hour training gives adults the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to children and adolescents (ages 6-18) who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

BE THE ONE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

For information:

Call 641-421-2708

(please leave message) OR

Email mcytf@masoncity.net



MASON CITY ENGINEERING PROJECTS FOR 2021

Several other projects have been planned and are set to move forward this construction season. The following are just a few city-wide projects that you may encounter as you travel about.

2021 STREET REHABILITATION PROGRAM

- The project involves upgrades and replacement of water and sewer fixtures, pedestrian ramps at street crossings and a new Hot Mix Asphalt surface.

STREET PANEL AND CURB REPLACEMENT

- The project involves the replacement of small pavement patches and the replacement of damaged or missing street curbing.

PAVEMENT TRAFFIC MARKINGS

- The project involves the application of marking paint to restore existing traffic and pedestrian related symbols and line work.



NOW Is The Time!!! to get involved. Warm weather, sunshine, and longer days are upon us, which means volunteer projects are blooming! If you've been thinking about getting involved, giving back, and becoming a more vital piece of your community wait no longer!!

Our flexible programs let you choose the right fit for your skill set and schedule! There are more opportunities popping up weekly, read on to see some of the ways you can make a difference in Mason City.

- Adopt a flower garden to plant and maintain throughout the spring, summer and fall through our **Beautification Program**. Flower gardens grace our **City Parks**, attractions, and right-of-ways. Plots vary in shape, size and location. Master gardeners are welcome to take on a new challenge and we offer smaller gardens for those just getting their green thumb started. If you're looking to help out but not commit to a full season of maintenance, sign up to become an assistant gardener! Help add color and character to our community!



Volunteer gardeners add vibrant color to the flower beds at East Park

- Adopt a street or public parking lot to help keep litter-free through our **Adopt-A-Street** and **Adopt-A-Lot** programs. Get your business, organization, family and friends to team up and complete cleanups during the spring, summer and fall. Litter pickups are scheduled at a time that works best for your group, a minimum of 3 cleanups per active season is recommended. All necessary materials are provided to complete a safe and successful cleanup. There is no group too small to get involved! Be on the lookout for opportunities to adopt a walking trail, river bank or public park.

- Help us patrol City Park's and become a Park Watch Ambassador through the **Park Watch Program**. Thanks to Park Watch and the dedicated volunteer ambassadors, costs of vandalism have had a steady decline since the program started. To apply you must have a valid driver's license and be 18 years or older. For more information on this opportunity please contact in information listed below.

Anyone is welcome to join our email list and keep up to date with projects and opportunities as they become available. Sign up @ www.masoncity.net under the "Volunteer Services" and "Opportunities" tab. Projects may change with Covid guidelines.

For more information, contact:

Mary Litterer, Volunteer Service Coordinator
421-3372 or volunteer@masoncity.net



YIELD Students *Impact* Mason City

The Mason City Chamber of Commerce's *YIELD (Youth Investing Energy in Leadership Development)* group is at work on another community impact project – the restoration of Mason City's beloved Prairie Playground. The students are passionate about restoring a place they grew up playing and want it to be available for future generations to enjoy.

YIELD group members met with city staff to address concerns and evaluate the status of the repairs and replacements to the equipment. They solicited donations to cover project expenses and thanks to generous contributions by more than 40 businesses and community members, new equipment including an accessible swing and a sand digger will

be installed. Several repairs and replacements will also be made including the sound wall chimes, new mallets for the xylophone, fiber cables to replace chains, new end cap for a broken slide, and windows for the tunnels. In addition to the repairs, the current wood mulch will be replaced with engineered wood mulch – an ADA approved fall surface – making play safer for children. The entire structure will also receive a facelift with a fresh coat of stain.

While plans are in place, there is still a lot of heavy lifting to be done. The old adage "many hands make light work" is certainly the case with this large-scale project. Students are soliciting volunteers to assist with renovations in early May. Individuals or businesses interested in helping with the project by spreading mulch or staining the wooden structure can contact Allyson at the Chamber (akrull@masoncityia.com). Volunteers will be contacted with details and dates to participate.