

NEW FACES



STEVEN DIAZ started with the City of Mason City on September 8, 2022 in the Operations & Maintenance department as a Swing Worker. Welcome aboard!



STACI SBERAL started with the City of Mason City on September 21, 2022 in the Operations & Maintenance department as a Wastewater Laboratory Technician. Thank you for joining us!



DOYCE GOODRICH started with the City of Mason City on July 21, 2022 in the Development Services department as a Transit Driver. Welcome aboard!



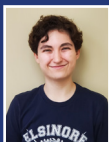
ASA SMITH started with the City of Mason City on October 19, 2022 in the Fire department as a Firefighter. We're glad you have joined us!



LINDA HUNT started with the City of Mason City on October 19, 2022 in the Recreation department as an Administrative Assistant. Welcome to our team!



JON STEVENS started with the City of Mason City on September 7, 2022 in the Development Services department as a Transit Driver. Thanks for joining our team!



ASHLEY LAPOINTE started with the City of Mason City on July 21, 2022 at the Mason City Public Library as a Library Clerk. We're glad you have joined us!



KRISTI TAYLOR started with the City of Mason City on July 25, 2022 in the Finance department as a Water Billing Cashier. Welcome to our team!

2023 CITY HOLIDAYS (OFFICES CLOSED)

Monday, **January 2**, New Year's Day (observed)

Monday, **February 20**, President's Day

Friday, **April 7**, Good Friday

Monday, **May 29**, Memorial Day

Tuesday, **July 4**, Independence Day

Monday, **September 4**, Labor Day

Friday, **November 10**, Veterans Day

Thursday & Friday, **November 23 & 24**

Monday, **December 25**, Christmas Day

SANITATION MAKE-UP DAY

Wednesday, **January 4**

Wednesday, **February 22**

Wednesday, **April 5**

Wednesday, **May 31**

Wednesday, **July 5**

Wednesday, **September 6**

Wednesday, **November 8**

Wednesday, **November 22**

Wednesday, **December 27**

CITY OF MASON CITY MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to provide efficient & effective City services and infrastructure with sound fiscal policies that create an enjoyable quality of life in a safe & viable community."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2023

2 City offices and MacNider Museum closed (New Year's observance)
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
11 Holiday tree pick-up by Sanitation Division (tentative)
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

FEBRUARY 2023

2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 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
13 Airport Commission, 4 pm
14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
20 City offices closed (President's Day)
21 Library Board, 4:15 pm
21 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
22 Sanitation Make-up day for February 20

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

MARCH 2023

2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 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
12 Daylight Saving Time Begins
13 Airport Commission, 4 pm
14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
21 Library Board, 4:15 pm
21 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm

APRIL 2023

1 Winter decorations must be removed from Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery
3 Yard waste collection resumes (weather permitting)
4 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
4 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
5 Sanitation Make-up day for April 7
6 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
7 City offices closed (Good Friday)
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
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
28 Arbor Day

Notes of Interest

*The City's curbside **yard waste collection** season is scheduled to resume on Monday, April 3, 2023, weather permitting.

***Christmas tree collection** will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Trees should be placed at the curbside prior to 7:00 am on that day and if the tree is over 6 feet tall, cut it in half before placing it on the curb. Tree stands, nails or metal fasteners, wire, tinsel, and plastic bags must be removed from the tree. Roping or wreaths that contain wire must be placed in regular garbage.

*The Friends of the Library **Geranium plant sale** will be held Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, 2023. Pre-orders

for geraniums are available from the Friends of the Library beginning January 15 and continuing through March 31. Order forms are available at the Public Library located at 225 2nd Street SE. Pre-ordered plants will be available for pick-up at the Mason City Room on Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, 2023. Flowers can be purchased at the sale if you forget to pre-order.

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



RIVER CITY NEWS

TRI-ANNUAL
NEWSLETTER
OF THE CITY OF
MASON CITY,
WINTER 2022

DESTINATION IOWA PROGRAM GRANT AWARD

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) through the Destination Iowa Program awarded a \$4.5M grant to Mason City and Cerro Gordo County which is designed to bolster the quality of life and attract visitors and new residents. This grant will help secure North Iowa's reputation as a destination for outdoor recreation. Plans include a world-class bike park to be located in the northern portion of the community that will feature various elements allowing riders and families of any skill levels to enjoy. The nearest comparable facility of this type is the Railyard Pike Park in northern Arkansas which currently draws more than 1,000 bicyclists a week from across the country, including many from Iowa.

In addition to the bike park, this project will enable us to enhance and link our current trails along the length of the Winnebago River and help pay for a downtown Riverwalk. Mason City is already has an international reputation for our arts and music - this will jump start our plans to make North Iowa a haven for outdoor recreation as well.

DATA BIKE PROVIDES VISUAL EXPERIENCES OF TRAILS

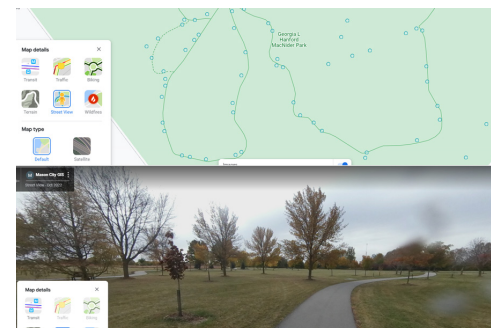


You may have seen this interesting-looking bike around the area lately – aka 'Data Bike'. Two lucky staff members have had the privilege of riding approximately 152 miles of area trails while the Data Bike recorded information about trails and pavement conditions. An app senses the roughness of the trail and data is generated scoring the condition of trails with the bike-based data-collection vehicle using an electric-assist bicycle, an iPhone, and an iPhone app designed to detect pavement conditions. In addition to collecting this data, the bike will be used for other purposes to benefit the users of the trail system as well as the entities that maintain the trails by collecting Google Street View images for all the trails using a Samsung Gear 360, as well as collecting geocoded imagery of trail conditions using a GoPro camera.

The public can check out the uploaded information on Google Maps by zooming into Mason City, ensuring 'street view' is selected. The photos will be available by clicking on the round blue dots. The data uploaded directly to Google Street View includes a 360° view of the dot selected on the trail. Over 3,000 photos of our trails were uploaded to Google! This will be a great benefit for bicyclists of all skill levels.

The data will be used to plan and prioritize existing trail maintenance and the addition of new trails moving forward.

The Iowa Data Bike is a proof-of-concept initiative by the Des Moines Area MPO in partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.



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

GET CONNECTED ... Stay Connected!

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



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)
cityinformation@masoncity.net

CITY COUNCIL CONDUCTS STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The City Council recently conducted its annual strategic planning process. Goals for the next two calendar years include:

- Commence Construction of River City Renaissance Hotel and Main Street Xperience;
Make the RCR a Permanent State of Mind & Tagline Through Organizational Partnering, Structuring and Financing
- Get Highway 122 West Funded through State and Federal Resources and Coordinate on Initial Planning & Design Work
- Design & Implement Destination Iowa Improvements, with Completion of Initiative No Later Than December 31, 2026
- Help All Neighborhoods Throughout Mason City to Flourish Through Dedication of City Resources Toward Infrastructure and Housing, Including Creation of an Internal Task Force on Nuisance, Abatement & Blight Remediation
- Expand Housing Options and Implement Housing Study Findings
- See to Full Utilization of the Multi-Purpose Arena in the Summer Months



This year, in addition to setting goals, the Council agreed upon a Vision, Mission, and Long-Term Objective Statement to guide current and future policies, and each of the departments developed their own departmental goals for the upcoming two calendar years. Additional details on the strategic plan can be found at: www.masoncity.net/strategicplan

URBAN REVITALIZATION TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM

EASING THE TAX “STING” OF MAKING PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

Most home and business property owners who complete improvements to their homes or buildings in 2022 can take advantage of Mason City’s Urban Revitalization Tax Abatement program. Owners of a single family or two-family home can receive a 5-year, 100% abatement on the increase in taxes resulting from building improvements that increase the assessed value of the property by 10 % or more; some limitations apply. To be eligible, the property must be located in the Z2, Z3 or Z5 zoning districts.

Owners of multi-family structures (three or more rental dwelling units in a building) and commercial structures can also take advantage of this program. The project must result in 10 % increase in value for senior housing projects, or 15% for traditional multi-family projects. Improvements to commercial properties must raise the assessed value by at least 15%. Qualified projects can choose from two tax abatement schedules: a 3-year, 100% abatement on the increased taxes, or a 10-year, declining scale abatement (80% of the increased taxes in year one, 70% in year two, and so on). This program applies to multi-family projects in the Z2, Z3, and Z5 zoning districts, and to businesses in the commercial corridors on North and South Federal avenues, portions of the commercial areas on IA 122 – 4th Street SW, and other older commercial neighborhoods.

Contact the Development Services Department at (641) 421-3626 if you have questions or to request an application. Download the form from www.masoncity.net. Deadline for submitting the application is by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS: AN ECONOMICAL WAY TO EXPAND HOUSING CHOICES

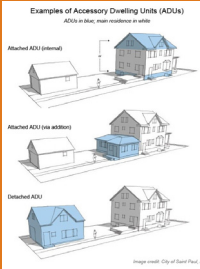
Did you know that in Mason City, you can create a small, additional dwelling on a single family lot for your aging relatives to live, or to provide a private space for an adult child, or just to have a small source of rental income?

According to the American Planning Association, “Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are small, self-contained living units that have their own kitchen, one or more bedrooms, and a bathroom. They can be located within the walls of an existing or newly constructed single-family home, an addition to an existing home,

freestanding cottages on the same lot as the principal dwelling or a conversion or addition to a detached garage (loft space or addition to main floor).

In Mason City, owners of property containing a single family home zoned Z1 Agriculture, Z2 Sub-Urban, and Z3 General Urban can construct an ADU. It must be at least 400 square feet and no more than 800 square feet in gross floor area. A mobile home or RV moved onto the lot cannot be used as an ADU.

If you want to know more, as well as the zoning requirements and process for creating an ADU, please contact the **Development Services Department at (641) 421-3626**.



FLOODPLAIN MAPS UPDATED

The City of Mason City has been notified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that they have adopted new flood hazard determinations for Cerro Gordo County, including Mason City. The new Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Maps will become effective on December 15, 2022. The City must use the updated maps to enforce our local floodplain management

ordinance. Prior to the effective date, the City will also be updating our floodplain management ordinance to incorporate the new maps by reference.

There are significant changes on the new maps. Large areas of the Eastbrooke neighborhood and many properties along S. Carolina Terrace are going to be mapped into the floodplain. There are also multiple properties that have been removed from the floodplain by a Letter of Map Amendment that are being mapped back into the floodplain. For those affected by the new maps, flood insurance may be required. In addition, new development

will be subject to the floodplain management ordinance.

The updated Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Maps are available on the City’s web site, www.masoncity.net.



Volunteer Mason City

LET’S JUMP INTO SPRING!!

With 2022 challenges over, we are all looking forward to a new 2023. Everyone’s ready to get moving and a great way to do that is by volunteering! Mason City’s volunteer team has done an outstanding job “Making Mason City Sparkle.” The best ways to make things happen is by everyone working as a **TEAM**. The City’s volunteer program is very unique in that the city departments team up with citizen volunteers to make projects and events happen that otherwise might not. There’s a wide array of volunteer opportunities for people to get involved as an individual or with family, business, or organizations. Some are one time projects and others are ongoing - there are volunteer opportunities for all age groups. We have projects that can be done when you can fit them into your schedule or at specific times and days that are just right for you.

SOME PROGRAMS TO CHECK OUT ARE:

Beautification: design, plant, and maintain a community flower bed, there are all sizes and locations around town that are available to adopt. There are funds available to assist in the purchase of planting. You design, pick the plants and maintain the garden for the season.

LITTER CLEAN UP TEAMS: The annual city-wide litter cleanup event is held in the spring which coincides with Earth Day. The Earth Day Committee will be gearing up for another successful Earth Day which entails weeks of cleanup and an appreciation event sponsored by the Earth Day Committee.

The appreciation will be held in April 2023, dates to be announced. We hope to have a huge turn out with a record number of teams participating. Teams are encouraged to sign up and attend the thank you event which will include games, crafts, and activities for kids and families. Contact me for more information about the event or to volunteer to adopt an area. There are also volunteer openings on our Earth Day Committee - please give it a try! It’s a great way to give back to Mother Nature!

ADOPT-A-LOT / ADOPT-A-STREET OR ADOPT-A-SECTION:

Adopt-a-Parking Lot / Street - help remove litter from assigned areas. Adopt-a-Section is caring for a section in the city’s cemetery which can be a rewarding experience to honor persons buried in our city’s cemetery.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION: The Friends of the 457 is a volunteer group dedicated to the preservation of the 1912 Minneapolis & St. Louis steam locomotive #457. Volunteer tour guides provide visitors with the history of the train and the preservation project that has brought over 30,000 visitors into the City’s East Park. Volunteers also donate time to the Sales Depot, Cannonball Day, and other events organized to increase the awareness of and to raise funds for the continuation of the preservation project.

Mason City has an outstanding **TEAM** of volunteers and there’s always room for more hands, ideas, and friendships to make.

Volunteering is a great way to keep active, meet new friends and learn a new skill, and it gives many a sense of purpose.

A NEW YEAR is a great way to challenge yourself, to step out of the box and try something new. It can be a one-time project or an ongoing experience. So this year come out and take the challenge to explore new things and make Mason City Sparkle!!!

Believe you can and you’re **Halfway There!!**

“VOLUNTEER”

For more information, contact:
Mary Litterer, Volunteer Service Coordinator
421-3372 or volunteer@masoncity.net

CHARLES H. MACNIDER ART MUSEUM SALSBUARY ROOM RENTALS

The beautiful Salsbury Room is a popular spot for graduations, holiday parties, weddings, business conferences, bridal showers, family reunions, and much more. Minimal décor is needed when holding an event in our Salsbury Room – the large windows give you beautiful views all year round! You can also use the Museum as a backdrop and hold your event on our front lawn. Please visit <https://macniderart.org/facility-rental/> for more information or contact Lindsay at 641-421-3666 or lthompson@masoncity.net.

Tis the Season... FOR SNOW!

Winter is upon us and there are a few reminders to make sure you are prepared for the season.

- * Sidewalks need to be cleared by property owners within 48 hours after the end of the snowfall. If the snow is not clear after 48 hours, the snow will be removed and a fee assessed to the property owner.
- * Do not move snow into the street or alley.
- * The Alternate Side Parking Ordinance (ASP) and Emergency Snow Route will go into effect when Mason City receives a measurable amount of snow, usually over 2". If the forecast calls for accumulations of over 2", assume ASP will go into effect. When ASP is in effect, 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. The time to move your vehicle from one side of the street to the other side is between 4-7 pm the night before. Violators are subject to a parking ticket.

STAY ALERT

Ways to know when the ASP and Emergency Snow Route are in effect:

- * Sign up for Alert Iowa at masoncity.net/alertiowa
- * Call the City’s 24 hour hotline (641) 424-7188
- * Visit www.masoncity.net and look for the alert banner at the top of the page
- * Text **MCPARKING** to **91896** to receive a text with notifications from TextMyGov
- * Follow the **City of Mason City** on Facebook and Twitter
- * Tune in to our local media partners on radio and television

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.
-Booker T. Washington

ONE ON ONE MENTORING PROGRAM

CONTACT A MENTORING COORDINATOR TODAY!

641-421-2708 NORTHLOWAMENTORING.ORG
FACEBOOK: MASON CITY YOUTH TASK FORCE