

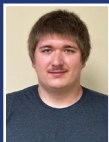
NEW FACES



DOUG ALITZ started with the City of Mason City on October 4, 2023 in the Operations & Maintenance Parks department as a Parks Maintenance Worker. Welcome to our team!



MONTE AMES started with the City of Mason City on July 7, 2023 in the Operations & Maintenance Parks department as a Parks Maintenance Worker. Welcome to our team!



BEN BLUMER started with the City of Mason City on October 4, 2023 in the Police department as a Community Service Officer. Thanks for joining our team!



VICTOR BOEHMER started with the City of Mason City on September 13, 2023 in the Transit department as a Transit Driver. Welcome!



DALE HOSS started with the Mason City Municipal Airport on October 30, 2023 as an Airport Operations Coordinator. Welcome aboard!



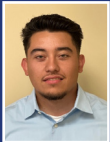
LEAH JOHNSON started with the City of Mason City on July 20, 2023 in the Police department as a Police Officer. Welcome aboard!



BRANDON MCKELVEY started with the City of Mason City on September 1, 2023 in the Transit department as a Transit Driver. Thanks for joining us!



ANDREW MONSON started with the City of Mason City on October 18, 2023 in the Police department as a Police Utility Worker. We're glad you have joined us!



JUAN SILVA OROZCO started with the City of Mason City on July 20, 2023 in the Police department as a Police Officer. We're glad you have joined us!



JON STEVENS started with the City of Mason City on September 1, 2023 in the Transit department as a Transit Driver. Welcome to our team!



ROBERT WALKER started with the City of Mason City on September 1, 2023 in the Transit department as a Transit Driver. We're glad you have joined us!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2024

- 1 City offices closed (New Year's Day)
- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 2 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 8 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 9 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 10 Holiday tree pick-up by Sanitation Division (tentative)
- 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, 5:30 pm
- 16 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm

FEBRUARY 2024

- 6 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 6 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 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
- 19 City offices closed (President's Day)
- 20 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 20 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 20 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 21 Sanitation Make-up day for February 19

MARCH 2024

- 5 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 5 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 11 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 12 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 12 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 14 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 19 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 19 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 19 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 27 Sanitation Make-up day for March 29
- 29 City offices closed (Good Friday)

APRIL 2024

- 1 Winter decorations must be removed from Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery
- 1 Yard waste collection resumes (weather permitting)
- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 2 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 8 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 9 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 11 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 16 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 16 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
- 16 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 26 Arbor Day

This calendar does not include all events and is subject to change. Sign up for Mason City's e-notification option to receive the latest updates, agendas, news releases, event notification, and other timely news. For more information, visit www.masoncity.net or contact staff at (641) 421-3600 or the individual Department responsible for the event.

MASON CITY TRANSIT ROUTES

will not run on the following holidays:

May 27 - Memorial Day

July 4 - Independence Day

September 2 - Labor Day

November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving Day & the following day

December 25 - Christmas Day

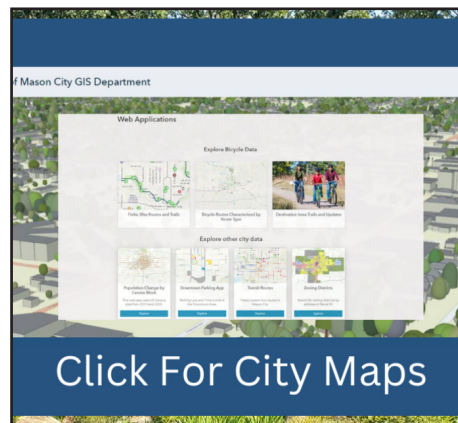
CITY OF MASON CITY MISSION STATEMENT

"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 & viable community."



In 2023...

Mason City made great strides as a regional recreational destination! We broke ground & cut ribbons on several exciting projects this past year & we're just getting started!



Click For City Maps

To follow the progress of the several phases to the project, visit the City's website at www.masoncity.net and click on 'Maps' on the home page or under the 'Residents' tab.

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.



A ribbon cutting was held in October, opening the south portion of the **High Line Trail** 'Linking Our Community'. This off-street trail system runs through the heart of the community from 19th Street SE to just north of 13th Street NE. Formerly an overgrown and unsightly abandoned Union Pacific rail line unused for over 30 years, this beautifully repurposed greenway corridor provides a unique opportunity for pedestrians and bicyclists to access local and regional trail systems.



Plans are underway to break ground for the first phase of the **Bike North Iowa Project**. This particular phase of the project includes numerous mountain bike trail areas nearing completion in the design process. This trail system will create amenities to serve users of all skill levels while creating a quality experience for residents and visitors based on their individual comfort level. This **Bike Park** and pump track will provide access to previously closed off scenic nature areas in Mason City, located just north of the Dog Park on 13th Street NE. Construction of the first phase is expected to begin in the spring of 2024 and finish by fall of 2024.



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

The **Birch Drive** (formerly Scrip Road) **trail conversion** portion of the project was completed and officially opened in August with a public ribbon cutting celebration.

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: Tim Latham

(641) 425-0363

tlatham@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

MASON CITY RESIDENTIAL SANITATION PROGRAM UPDATES

The City has partnered with Absolute Waste Removal, Inc. for the processing and marketing of recyclables collected by the City of Mason City. You may be asking, ‘what does this mean for me and how does this affect me?’ This agreement does not change how your recyclables are collected. The City’s Sanitation staff will continue to collect the items on your normal sanitation service day and use the same recycling container that you were previously provided. City staff will haul the recyclables to a facility to be processed.

Here are the general guidelines for what you can recycle and what shouldn’t be recycled.

Information about the City’s recycling program along with garbage, large item collection and yard waste is available on the City’s website at www.masoncity.net.



New Airport Commercial Terminal Building

Construction on the new Commercial Terminal at the Mason City Municipal Airport is progressing quickly. The new 23,000 square foot facility will replace the current 1960s terminal and will include amenities such as family restrooms, powered seating, and a passenger boarding bridge to make loading the aircraft easier and safer. The Terminal is expected to open in Summer 2024



The new airport terminal building is on the left, the existing terminal building is on the right



A look at the future lobby of the new Mason City Municipal Airport terminal building





Receive Severe Weather and Other Important Safety Notifications

Citizens and businesses are encouraged to register with the Alert Iowa system, the State of Iowa’s official emergency notification system.

This system is used to notify residents of severe weather and other safety notifications.

Subscribers can receive notifications by phone, text message, and/or email.

3 WAYS TO REGISTER

1. Visit alert.iowa.gov (select Cerro Gordo County)
2. Download the Smart911 app
3. Text CERROGORDOIA to 67283

WINTER REMINDERS TO STAY PREPARED

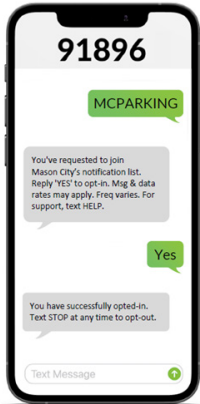
With winter upon us, there are a few reminders to ensure you are prepared for the season of snow and cold.

*The City’s Alternate Side Parking Ordinance (ASP) will be put in effect when the forecast calls for 2” or more of snow. While ASP is in effect, vehicles need to be parked on the odd numbered side of the street on odd numbered days and the even numbered side of the street on even numbered days. The ‘grace period’ time to move your vehicle from one side to the other is between 4-7 pm the evening before.

Keep in the know about when the ASP is in effect. The City provides several ways to notify residents of the status.

- *Call the 24-hour ASP phone line at 641-424-7188
- *Visit the City’s website at www.masoncity.net (when in effect, a banner will appear at the top of the page)
- *Follow us on social media – Facebook, Instagram and X (Twitter)
- *Sign up for the Alert Iowa notification system
- *Subscribe to TextMyGov ASP notifications (to opt-in, text MCPARKING to 91896)

**It is the responsibility of property owners to ensure sidewalks are cleared of snow/ice within 48 hours after the end of a snowfall. Per City Code, if the snow/ice is not cleared at that time, the City will remove the snow for a fee to be assessed to the property owner. Be a good neighbor!*



In 2023, we honored the contributions of our volunteers with an awards luncheon at the Mac Nider Art Museum. Volunteers receiving awards included:

- ***Shining Star Award** - Nick Foley and Nathan Meyer for their service to the Recreation Department
- ***Shining Star Team Award** - YIELD Students for the projects they have done for 20 years
- ***GEM Award (Going the Extra Mile)** - Mike Svejda for his many years of service on the Civil Service Commission
- ***Rookie of the year Award** - Bria and Cade Hanig for their service to the 457 Cannonball Park

With the conclusion of 2023, we’re looking forward to 2024. 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”. Last year, our volunteers gave over 13,000 hours of

their time, **valued at \$31.80 an hour**. Volunteers have benefitted our community over \$400,000 in labor cost. Iowa ranks #4 in the nation for volunteer service as 41.5% of Iowans get out and volunteer.

The City offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities for individuals, families businesses or organizations to become involved and one of the best ways to make things happen is by everyone working as a **team**. The City’s Volunteer Program is unique in that the City departments team up with its citizen volunteers to make projects and events happen that otherwise might not. Some are one-time projects and others are ongoing. We have projects that can be done when you can fit them into your schedule, or at specific times and days that’s just right for you.

Some programs to check out are:

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

Litter Clean up Teams: Annual city-wide litter cleanup event held in the spring coinciding with Earth Day: The Earth Day Committee will be gearing up for another successful event, entailing a few weeks of cleanup along with a festival.

The Festival will be held on a Saturday in April, date 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 festival, featuring 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-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 at Elmwood-St. Joseph.

Park: Help encourage positive usage of our parks while curbing vandalism and graffiti.

Recreation Department: get involved with all the activities they have to offer!

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 that volunteerism provides. Volunteering is good for you physically, mentally and good for your **HEART!**

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

“Volunteering is one of the most selfless acts that we can become involved in.”
Please contact me: Mary Litterer, Volunteer Service Coordinator at 641-421-3372 or at volunteer@masoncity.net

We can all help prevent suicide. The 988 Lifeline provides 24 hours a day/7 days a week, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

People can call or text **988** or chat **988lifeline.org** for themselves or if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

988 serves as a universal entry point so that no matter where you live in the United States, you can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help.

988 offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing mental health-related distress. That could be:

Thoughts of suicide, Mental health or substance use crises or Emotional distress



MASON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS AN APP!

Download the **FREE** myLibro app in the Apple Store and the Google Store. After installing the myLibro app, search the library catalog and electronic databases. You can place items on hold, check the status of your library account and download ebooks, audiobooks, music and magazines. Upcoming library programs are listed on the app too!

Get started today - visit the app store and look for this icon.



Notes of INTEREST

-The City’s curbside **yard waste collection** season is scheduled to resume on Monday, April 1, 2023, weather permitting.

- **Christmas tree** collection is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 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 on 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 3 and 4, 2024. Pre-orders for geraniums are available from the Friends of the Library beginning in January and continuing through March. 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 3 and 4, 2024. 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 on upcoming events scheduled for the **Mason City Arena** by liking their Facebook page!