

NEW FACES



KELSEY HAMMARSTEDT started with the City of Mason City on June 18, 2024 in the Police Department as a Police Officer. Thanks for joining our team!



MERIEL JOHNSON started with the City of Mason City on April 1, 2024 in the Recreation Department as a Recreation Programmer. Thank you for joining us!



NICK KAUFMAN started with the City of Mason City on March 6, 2024 in the Development Services Department as a Transit Supervisor. We're glad you have joined us!



JOHN RECKER started with the City of Mason City on May 3, 2024 in the Development Services Department as a Transit Driver. Welcome to our team!



LUKE THOMPSON started with the City of Mason City on March 18, 2024 in the Operations & Maintenance Department as a Mechanic. Welcome aboard!

The Yard Waste collection season is scheduled to end on **Friday, December 6**, weather pending. Updates of the status of yard waste will be listed on the City's website and Facebook page. For more information, contact the Sanitation Division of the Operation & Maintenance Department at **641-421-3691**.

GET READY TO FALL BACK:

Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sunday, November 3 at 2 am**. Remember to 'fall back' by setting clocks back one hour.

This is also a good time to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2024

2 City offices and MacNider Museum closed
3 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
3 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
4 Sanitation Make-up Day for September 2
5 Historic Preservation Commission
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
28 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Walk

OCTOBER 2024

1 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
1 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
3 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
8 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
8 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
10 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
14 Airport Commission, 4 pm
15 Library Board, 4:15 pm
15 Museum Board, 5:30 pm
15 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
31 Halloween – trick or treat night, 5:30-7:30 pm

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.

NOVEMBER 2024

3 Daylight Saving Time Ends
5 Election Day
5 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
5 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
7 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
7 Puppet Show, MacNider Museum, 10 am, 1 & 6 pm
11 City offices closed in observance of Veterans Day
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 November 28 and 29
28 City offices and MacNider Museum closed
29 City offices closed

DECEMBER 2024

3 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
3 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
5 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
6 Yard Waste Season ends (weather pending)
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
25 City offices closed

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."

As we transition into the fall and winter months, facilities will close for the season and weather may impact programming and activities. Visit the City's website at www.masoncity.net to keep current on the status of closures and postponements.

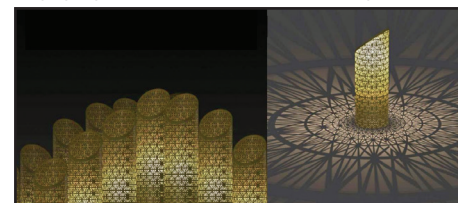


What a year we've had!

A long-held dream of Mason City came to life when ground was broken earlier this year for the **City's Riverwalk along the banks of the Willow Creek on the lower Southbridge Mall Parking lot**.

The Riverwalk is a premier feature in the trail system, linking more than 20 miles and 600 acres of trail and parks, including the High Line Trail and future Bike Park. Located on the banks of Willow Creek between Washington and Pennsylvania Avenues, the Riverwalk will raise awareness of the importance of the city's rivers and integrating Willow Creek into downtown.

Showcasing local and national artwork, visitors will relish the elements of the sculptures and landscape, celebrating Mason City's rich heritage in music, art and nature. A gateway piece, the cylindrical "Harmony In Light" sculpture draws inspiration from prairie style patterns with a contemporary flair. Designed by artists Serge Beaulieu and Yelena Filipchuk of the HYBYCOZO Studios based in California, the lighting and sunlight will splash engaging shadows on the surrounding area.



Internal lighting casting light and shadow on the surroundings draws inspiration from prairie style patterns.



The sculpture and waterfront plaza will create a highly visible and welcoming gateway to River City.

A waterfront plaza wall will feature textured concrete highlighting the vertical language of the sculpture above. The sculpture and plaza will create a highly visible and welcoming gateway to Mason City traveling north on Highway 65.

Prairie grasses, native perennials, willow, and ginkgo tree plantings have been chosen for their aesthetic and ecological contribution to the waterfront environment.

A west entrance on Washington Avenue will feature a series of vertical lights and plantings inviting visitors to contemplate the connection between the surrounding natural environment, music and architecture. An east side pathway under the Highway 65 bridge will open Interstate Park with subtle lighting creating a safer and unique environment and will feature a locally produced "River City" mural. Pavers will have an interpreted prairie motif.

The project is being paid for with state grants and donations, and is part of the city's annual capital improvement budget. Completion of the project is scheduled for the summer of 2025.

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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, & 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



Prairie Rock Trails (PRT), the symbolic trademark of the endless miles of the broader regional trail system in north Iowa, provides exhilarating recreational offerings at every turn. When completed, this outdoor recreational playground will offer trails throughout Mason City, connecting the entire north Iowa region.

Ground was broken on the PRT Riverhawk Trail, one of the legs of a singletrack located on school property. This is the closest trail to several neighborhoods on the east side of Mason City and provides a great opportunity for skills development and programming to the students at the Middle and High School. An improved pedestrian crossing on Illinois Avenue will connect this trail to the scenic trail on the other side of the Winnebago River (Scrip Road).

This groundbreaking signifies the celebration of the construction overview of all singletrack mountain biking trails planned to be constructed in our community. Considered the soul of mountain biking, these narrower trails are used in all four seasons primarily for biking, hiking, and snowshoeing. Once completed, the entire PRT system will be connected to existing and future trails, the bike park,

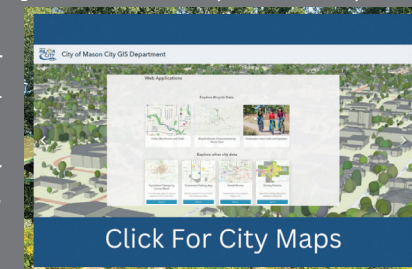
downtown Riverwalk and other amenities.

One of the trail segments recently opened near the bike park location by the kayak launch just south 12th Street. "The Rapids" is a singletrack that abuts the river, multipurpose paved trail and bouldering area, providing elevation changes for the thrill seeker.

Whether racing, riding, or relaxing, the PRT will cater to all types of bicycle and recreational enthusiasts, boosting our reputation as the outdoor recreation destination in the Midwest.

This project is made possible by a Destination Iowa state grant and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funding awarded to the City of Mason City and Cerro Gordo County.

Follow the progress of the PRT projects, visit the City's website at www.masoncity.net and click on 'Maps' on the home page or under the 'Residents' tab (Destination Iowa Trails and Updates).



Click For City Maps

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

MCW - BIG AIRPORT AMENITIES, SAME SMALL AIRPORT CHARM!



Ribbon was cut on July 24, beginning the next chapter of the Mason City Municipal Airport (MCW).

The new 23,000 square foot, modern terminal building replaces the former facility which was built in 1966. This facility features a substantially larger gate hold space for passengers, a larger security checkpoint and additional functional spaces for the airline, bus line, TSA, and airport administration, along with expanded aircraft parking apron and parking lot. One of the added highlights is a passenger boarding bridge so passengers will be protected from the weather as they board their aircraft.

MCW airport will continue to offer excellent service through streamlined security, FREE parking, free terminal Wi-Fi and daily airline service to Chicago on United Express, operated by SkyWest Airlines.

Total estimated cost for the project is \$18 million, a majority of which is funded by federal grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).



MCW's new passenger boarding bridge

Farmer's Market

Buy Fresh. Buy Local



Visit the Mason City Farmer's Market Saturdays through **October 5th** from 9 am-noon in Central Park in downtown Mason City. Special events and musical entertainment each week along with local vendors selling yummy treats and must-have goods!



Saturdays June-October 9 a.m.-noon Central Park

www.northiowafarmersmarket.com

ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION NAMES MASON CITY A TREE CITY USA® GROWTH AWARD RECIPIENT

In honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management, Mason City was named a recipient of the distinguished 'Growth Award' by the Arbor Day Foundation. This is the 9th year for this honored designation along with being a Tree City USA for 20 years.

The Growth Award is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize higher levels of tree care by participating Tree City USA communities. It highlights innovative programs and projects as well as increased commitment of resources for urban forestry and a higher level of tree care. It also provides an opportunity to share new ideas and successes across the country.

Community Compliance REMINDERS

We're nearing that time of year again where thoughts turn to preparations for cooler temperatures and winter weather.

- After any snow fall, each property owner is responsible for removing it from the entire width and length of their public sidewalk within 48 hours (per City Code). Keep in mind that this would include windy days where snow blows in even if it hasn't snowed more that day.
- If we get an icy mixture, you are also responsible for fully removing the ice, or if that's not possible, then covering it with salt or sand for traction and to help melt it down to make it easier to remove later.
- A couple of other points to consider: the snow and ice that you are removing cannot be put out into the city street for any reason. Also, if you haven't done what is needed for the removal of snow and ice from the walkways, you may be held responsible for any injuries or damage that may occur.
- Finally, be aware that if you haven't removed snow or tended to ice accumulations within that 48-hour timeframe, you may find a notice on your door from our Code Enforcement officials stating that you have 24 hours to complete that duty, or the city will remove it for you. Then you would be provided with a bill for the cost to cover the work of removal (which includes an hourly fee for the time it takes to clear the snow and ice, and a per-foot fee for sand or salt, along with a \$50 administration fee). If this bill is not paid, it can be certified against your property taxes.

We hope this reminder helps you understand the process and what is expected when these storm systems roll through, as well as what can happen if you do not take care of your sidewalks in a timely manner. Enjoy our beautiful autumn season before winter heads our way.

AS A REMINDER

With the increase in ***Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)*** infecting trees or storm damage to trees in the community, a reminder that property owners are responsible for the removal of dead or diseased trees on your property. The City will take responsibility for trees in the right-of-way, between the sidewalk and street. If you have concerns about a tree in the right-of-way, contact the Street Division at 641-421-3675.

Friendly reminder from our sanitation staff:

REMEMBER

33/50

33 GALLON LIMIT BAG
50 POUND MAX WEIGHT

GARBAGE BAGS

HUNGRY?

Scan this QR code or visit cghhealth.com/food for information on food banks, pantries, community kitchens, meal services, and more throughout north Iowa!



With summer coming to an end, people are still looking for volunteer opportunities. There are a variety of reasons why we get out and volunteer:

- They have a desire to give back to the community and make a difference.
- To get structure, a routine or a place to go, it can be a social outing.
- Some people are touched by an organization's mission, it can be personal, or through a loved one.
- To learn a new skill and create a balance in one's life.
- For the opportunity of creating a relationship, may be a one-on-one bond between volunteers with the same passion.

- These are still opportunities available:
- MacNider Art Museum classes and events are always looking for volunteers to assist with activities
 - Beautification cleaning up flower beds this fall
 - Adopt-a-Street Program, removing litter from assigned streets
 - Adopt-a-Lot, removing litter from an assigned lot
 - Adopt-a-Section in the City's Cemetery, or help at the Cemetery History Walk and there's always Gravestone Restoration to be done.

There are always areas to volunteer in our Recreation Department assisting with recreational activities and our Parks Department with painting, cleaning up trash, minor repairs.

DR. GERMINGTON Saves the Day!

The Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company will present three showings of "Dr. Germington Saves the Day!" on **Thursday, November 7, 2024, in the Salisbury Room at the MacNider Art Museum at 10 am, 1 pm, and 6 pm.** All shows will be FREE and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-served. Doors will open 15 minutes before each show. This free show is made possible by a grant from the Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation.

WASH YOUR HANDS! Good habits start young! Dr. Germington is here to encourage children to wash their hands, brush their teeth, and be more mindful of the viruses and bacteria around us. As the doctor goes through her day at the hospital and in her home, children will learn about the many ways that microorganisms can thrive or be thwarted!

HALLOWEEN – TRICK OR TREAT IN MASON CITY

Thursday, October 31 has been designated as trick-or-treat night in Mason City between the hours of 5:30-7:30 pm. To help ensure a safe and fun event for everyone, here are a few safety tips to follow.

- ✓ Choose a Halloween costume and accessories that are fire resistant and fit properly to avoid tripping or safety hazards
- ✓ Make sure costumes or bags have reflective tape or provide glow sticks or flashlights for after dark trick-or-treating
- ✓ Young children should be accompanied by a responsible adult; if older children are going alone, plan and review a route approved by you and agree on a specific time children should return home
- ✓ Remind children never to enter a stranger's home or car and do not eat any treats until they return home
- ✓ Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends
- ✓ Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street
- ✓ Drivers - lower your speed and watch for children walking on streets or darting through cars and traffic

Stay focused and work with each other to make this a safe and magical holiday!

In April we celebrated Earth Day, we have some impressive numbers: 29 teams of volunteers collected 75 bags of trash-2400 lbs. and volunteered 339 hours over a 4-week period! GREAT JOB MASON CITY!

Volunteer Mason City also has some one-time projects, special events along with on-going volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

***Did you know? The Mason City Volunteer Beautification Program has been in existence since 1970? A group of City Volunteers has made this project come alive for the past 54 years and have done a spectacular job for all of us to enjoy year after year!*

If you feel you would like to join one of these volunteer groups or learn more about the opportunities Mason City has, **Please contact Mary Litterer, Volunteer Service Coordinator at 641-421-3372 or at volunteermasoncity.net.**



Volunteers with the iJAG Program with Mason City Community Schools helped plant trees on a beautiful morning in May, made possible by a partnership with Alliant Energy and Trees Forever

Dr. Germington Saves the Day features an artistically constructed set and an engaging story relevant to modern life. Puppets and props are unique and handmade by artists Stephanie Vallez and Monica Leo. Live music by Vallez and guitarist Christopher Eck fill the show with whimsical silliness and scientific facts about health and safety.

Groups of 10 or more (schools, home school groups, daycare, etc.) should register in advance for the 10 am & 1 pm shows by calling 641-421-3666 or emailing jmbohl@masoncity.net.

Schools are eligible for a bus subsidy while funds last.



ELMWOOD-ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY PRESENTS

Annual History Walk:

Life After Service Graves And Unexpected Endings

SEPT. 28, 2024

Updates and details of this event will be available on the Cemetery's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/masoncitycemetery](https://www.facebook.com/masoncitycemetery).

LOOKING TO ESCAPE THE COLD THIS WINTER?

The Mason City Municipal Airport (MCW) is North Iowa's Gateway to the World! No matter if you are travelling for business or pleasure, Fly MCW! Our new modern airport terminal building is ready to serve you! **VISIT FLYMCW.COM** to get started!

The 2024 Mason City Public Library Summer Reading theme is "Read, Renew, Repeat". In the spirit of renewal, the Youth Services Department set up a mini recycling center to help kids learn about recycling in a 'hands on' environment. Staff from the Sanitation Department inspected and approved the recycling center and they emptied the recycling bins too!



MACNIDER ART MUSEUM HOLIDAY EVENTS!

OFF THE CLOCK:
Friday, December 13th | 5-7PM

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE:
Sat., December 14th | 1-4pm