

River City News



PERFORMING ARTS PAVILION MARCHING FORWARD

Another component of Mason City’s River City Renaissance Project is moving closer to completion. The Performing Arts Pavilion will be incorporated into the Federal Plaza entrance to Southbridge Center and will assist in repurposing Southbridge to sustain it as a community gathering place. It will also provide a quality performance venue and storage area and permanent home for the Mason City Municipal Band.

The unique design features a Prairie School design in keeping with the architecture already present on the Plaza, including the Historic Park Inn Hotel designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The flexible space design features indoor/outdoor back-to-back performance stages and will accommodate a variety of entertainment—from a large municipal band to individual musical acts. The interior companion venue will provide a rain site for performance activities such as the North Iowa Band Festival and Friday Night Live events. In addition, the annual Tuba Christmas celebration will be able to host even more performers and spectators.

“The architects have involved musicians in all aspects of the design, and have also brought in an acoustical engineer to ensure the sound quality will be the best possible. We’re looking forward to performing in the pavilion—both indoors and out” said Russ Kramer, director of the Mason City Municipal Band and member of the Pavilion Committee.

The Performing Arts Pavilion Committee was formed in 1999 by Al Zook, Gil Lettow, Rich Dean, Vance Baird, and others with an interest in building a new performance venue. “Unfortunately, many of the members of our committee have passed away,” said Chamber President Robin Anderson, who has been a committee member since 2001. “I’m sure they’re smiling down on us in eager anticipation of this dream finally coming true.” In addition to Kramer and Anderson, John Klemas, Scott Bell, Bob Fisher, Darrell Fisher, and Dennis Higgins have served on the Performing Arts Pavilion Committee.

The project will be paid for by Iowa Reinvestment Act funding, private contributions, corporate contributions, and grant funding. A generous contribution from The Principal Foundation has secured naming rights for the pavilion.



INTERIOR VIEW OF PAVILION FROM INSIDE MALL



EXTERIOR VIEWS OF PAVILION

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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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.

MASON CITY ENGINEERING PROJECTS FOR 2020

The Mason City Engineering Department has an extensive list of projects to be completed during the 2020 construction season. The following list is the major projects you may encounter as you move about the city.

- New Construction of South Monroe Avenue at 43rd Street SW
- Reconstruction of 12th Street NW – Madison Avenue to Washington Avenue
- Street Rehabilitation Program – Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay
- Special Assessment Paving Program
- Pavement Marking Program – Traffic, Pedestrian and Bicycle Paint Markings
- Street Patching and Curb Repair – Full Depth Street Repairs
- Sidewalk Replacement Program
- Pedestrian Ramp Installation – ADA Compliancy
- Pavement Preservation Program – Crack and Joint Sealing
- Utility Box-Out Pavement Reconstruction

- Traffic Signal Upgrades – Equipment and Signal Head Lighting
- Street Lighting Program – New Installation and Upgrades to LED Fixtures
- Traffic and Street Sign Replacement Program – FHWA Compliancy

Please remember to never enter a construction zone or work site. It's for your safety as well as those performing the work.

Other Projects the Engineering Department will be working on in partnership with the Water Supply Division are:

- Water Tower Maintenance – Eisenhower and South Kentucky Towers
- Rehabilitation of Wells #10 and #12
- Selective Replacement of Water Treatment Membranes and Equipment
- Upgrade of the Water Distribution Model

WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The City of Mason City is actively working on a city wide water meter replacement program. The program is designed to improve efficiencies in data collection and billing statements. The new meters also provide information that can be used to improve customer service through stored data which can be used to resolve water usage questions and concerns. The program is approximately

65% complete and the city is now positioned to replace the remaining 4,500 water meters by September 30, 2020.

To complete the program on schedule, the city contracted with Ferguson Waterworks. Ferguson Waterworks are experienced professionals who have administered meter installation programs for cities across Iowa and surrounding states.

Ferguson Waterworks began working with the program in February; scheduling appointments initiated through a mailed notice to you the customer. There is no cost to the customer for the replacement of the meter. The City of Mason City thanks you in advance for your cooperation in making this a successful program.

MASON CITY JOINS CITIES NATIONWIDE FOR THE 37TH ANNUAL 'AMERICA'S NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME'

Starting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4th, residents throughout Mason City are asked to encourage their neighbors to turn on porch lights to show solidarity. Everyone is welcome to attend the free fun-packed "family affair" at the Mason City Arena, 111 South Washington Avenue. A variety of activities will be held including a kid power pedal tractor pull event, inflatables, and balloon creations. There will be demonstrations and displays presented by local community organizations and youth oriented programs. Free food will be served and there will be a drawing for prizes. Join us on Tuesday, August 4th at 5:00 p.m. "Giving Crime & Drugs a Going Away Party." The event will be held rain or shine. Contact cpab.1997@yahoo.com or call **420-3414** for further information.



MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUCK



CRISIS INTERVENTION SPONSORED GAME



MASON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT MOTORCYCLE



KID POWERED PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS HELD A GOAL SETTING SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2019. THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2019-20 YEAR.

TOP PRIORITIES

- 1) Blight Enforcement & Infill Development:**
 - a) Conduct 40 – 657A Actions within one year
 - b) Increase responsiveness & efficiency in nuisance abatement process
 - c) Investigate Code modifications regarding Infill Development
 - d) Investigate Incentives for Downtown Upper Story Development
- 2) Infrastructure Improvements:**
 - a) Develop 5, 10, and 20 year Capital Improvement Plans with identified Funding Sources
 - b) Develop a Specific Flood Mitigation Plan

HIGH PRIORITIES

- 3) Support and Coordinate Branding and Marketing of Mason City**
- 4) City Staffing:**
 - a) Review to insure properly staffed to implement priorities
 - b) Review employee compensation and benefits package in order to recruit and retain future city workforce
 - c) Continue city workforce development through professional development and training
 - d) Develop succession plan for departments
- 5) Consider options for River Road**
- 6) Riverwalk Upgrade:**
 - a) Removal of trees, underbrush, etc.
 - b) Public Art Work
 - c) Trail Improvements

LONG TERM

Continue to Support North Iowa Vision Plan

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
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 Ready for Spring!!

Is everyone ready to get moving? A great way to do that is by volunteering! Mason City's volunteer team has done an outstanding job "Making Mason City Sparkle". There are a wide range of volunteer opportunities for people to become involved with.

The best ways to make things happen is by everyone working as a *team*. The Volunteer Program is very unique in that the City Departments team up with its citizen volunteers to make projects and events happen that otherwise might not. There's a wide array of volunteer opportunities that can be done by an individual, family, business, or organization. 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 of all sizes and locations around town available to adopt. Funds are available to assist in the purchase of planting. You design the bed, pick the plants and maintain the garden for the season.

Litter Clean up Teams: Our annual city-wide litter cleanup event is held in the spring. The event coincides with Earth Day, celebrated on April 25th this year. There are areas in the community to adopt and 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 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery. This can be a rewarding experience to honor persons buried in our city's cemetery.

OVERSIZED GAMES AVAILABLE FOR CHECK-OUT

Do you have an event or gathering coming up? Why not add some oversized games to the fun! The City has Connect 4, Jenga, checkers and chess sets available to check out through the Recreation Department.

Contact staff at (641) 421-3673 or via email at recreation@masoncity.net to reserve a game at least 1 month in advance of your event. Individuals checking-out the game(s) will need to pick-up and return the games at the Recreation offices located in the Southbridge Mall during regular business hours of 8:00 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday (excluding major holidays) and sign a reservation form and damage claim.

Book your game today – reservations fill up fast so don't miss out!

MASON CITY FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER READY TO OPEN FOR THE SEASON

What better way to spend a hot summer day! The Mason City Family Aquatic Center will open for the 2020 summer season on June 4th at 1:00-5:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm to the public!

Daily swim rates (1-5 pm):	Night Swim rates (6-8 pm):
Infant to 3 years old: \$2	Infant to 3 years: \$2
4 years old and older: \$5	4 years old and older: \$3
Non swimmers: \$3	Non Swimmers: \$3

Pool passes and pool coupons are available. Pool Coupons are \$25 for the book which holds 10 coupons/free passes to the pool.

Season Passes prices:

Individual	\$80
Family of 2	\$120
Family of 3-4	\$145
Family of 5-6	\$165
Family of 7-9	\$185
Family of 10+	\$200

Add a caregiver/grandparent for \$25

Please visit our website at masoncity.net for more information on the Mason City Family Aquatic Center or follow us on Facebook!

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

Volunteering is a great way to keep active, meet new friends and learn a new skill. Volunteerism provides a sense of purpose. Mason City has an awesome **TEAM** of volunteers and there's always room for more hands, ideas and friendships to make.

With a **NEW YEAR** and a **NEW DECADE** what 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!!!

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." -Gandhi

Please contact me: Mary Litterer, Volunteer Service Coordinator at 641-421-3372 or at volunteer@masoncity.net.



RIVER CITY SUNRISE ROTARY FLOWER BED IN CENTRAL PARK



MASON CITY NEWMAN STUDENTS SERVICE DAY SPRUCING UP LIBRARY PARKING LOT

MASON CITY ARENA EVENTS

Check out the events happening at the Mason City Arena located in downtown Mason City. Visit the Arena's Facebook page to keep informed of the activities coming up.



PUBLIC SKATE WITH THE NORTH IOWA BULLS AFTER A GAME



PARKS AND RECREATION NO-SCHOOL DAY CAMP PARTICIPANTS HANGING OUT WITH THE NORTH IOWA BULLS ON THE ICE

UPDATES AT HIGHLAND PARK GOLF COURSE



Let's start thinking about warmer weather, green grass fairways, and hitting that golf ball! There are many new changes this year and we are excited to share with you all the wonderful things happening this 2020 season!

We have partnered with GolfStatus, a golf company that keeps your personal stats, handicap, upcoming golf tournaments, and they GPS with Highland and your favorite golf courses already mapped and marked out. They sent us brand NEW Highland golf flags and did I mention it's a FREE App to use!

The new website has been rolled out which will make it easier & faster to post tournament results and HPGC's schedule of events. This site is linked with the City's web-page.

We also have taken advantage of a great website called gofindgolf.com. Local courses can post their tournaments and info for all golfers to see. You can search events that are coming up, how far away you want to travel, and all the details regarding the type of tournament.

Coca-Cola Company is our new beverage sponsor and we are excited for the new upcoming drinks and great looking signage the next few weeks.

A new Clover POS system installed in March will help reduce wait time and give everyone an overall better experience.

We hope you are all just as excited as we are at Highland Park Golf Course! Check out the links below:

- Mason City Website "Highland Park Golf Course"**
www.masoncity.net/pview.aspx?id=18112&catid=481
www.masoncity.net/
- Go Find Golf - gofindgolf.com/**
- Golf Status - golfstatus.com/**

NEW FACES



HUNTER SCHMIDT started with the City of Mason City on January 6, 2020 in the Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. Hunter previously volunteered for Long Grove and Eldridge Fire Departments. Thank you for joining our team!



AUSTIN THOMPSON started with the City of Mason City on January 6, 2020 in the Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. Austin brings with him Firefighter experience from his time in the Marines. Welcome aboard!



KAITLYN SHIRK started with the City of Mason City on January 6, 2020 in the Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. Kaitlyn graduated from the NIACC EMT program in 2019. Thank you for joining us!



CALENDAR ITEMS

MAY 2020

- 1 Cerro Gordo Photo Show:40 exhibition opens, MacNider Museum
- 1 Summer Reading Program sign-up, Public Library
- 1 Friends of the Library Annual Geranium Sale, Mason City Room, Library
- 2 Friends of the Library Annual Geranium Sale, Mason City Room, Library
- 5 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 5 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 7 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 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, 7 pm
- 19 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 21 Memorial Day Flag Planting Ceremony, Central Park
- 21 Kids Club: free art class for kids aged 5-12 years; 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Pre-registrations Requested, MacNider Museum
- 21-25 Band Festival weekend
- 25 City offices closed
- 25 Memorial Day ceremony, TBD, Elmwood Cemetery
- 26 Lunch 'n' Learn; 12:00-1:00 p.m. "Wright Inside: How Frank Lloyd Wright Brought Nature Indoors" with guest speaker Scott Borcharding
- 27 Sanitation make-up day for May 30

JUNE 2020

- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 2 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 4 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 6 Richard Leet Drawing Class; 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Preregistration required
- 8 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 9 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 10 Memorial Day decorations must be removed from Cemetery
- 11 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 13 MacNider Summer Art Festival and Art Market; 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Art Market closes at 4:00 p.m.
- 13 Frank Lloyd Wright: Architecture of the Interior Exhibition closes
- 16 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 16 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 16 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 19 Friday Night Live, 6-10 pm, downtown Mason City
- 26 Area Show: 47 Exhibition opens, MacNider Museum
- 27 Annual Cannonball Day, East Park
- 30 Lunch 'n' Learn: 12:00-1:00 p.m.; "Photography & the North Iowa Photo Club" with guest speaker Bruce McKee
- 30 Cerro Gordo County Photo Show:40 Exhibition closes

JULY 2020

- 1 Sanitation make-up day for July 3
- 1 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 3 City offices closed
- 3 July 4th Flag Planting, Central Park
- 7 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 7 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 8 Iowa Watercolor Exhibition opens, MacNider Museum
- 9 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 11 Area Show Reception; 1:00-2:00 p.m., MacNider Museum
- 13 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 16 Kids Club: MacNider At The North Iowa Fair
- 21 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 21 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 24 Friday Night Live, 6-10 pm, downtown Mason City
- 28 Lunch 'n' Learn: 12:00-1:00 p.m. "How to Choose and Cut a Mat for an Artwork on Paper" with Curator Mara Linskey-Deegan

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

AUGUST 2020

- 4 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 4 34th Annual National Night Out Event, Mason City Arena, 5-8 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
- 15 Kids Club: free art class for kids aged 5-12 years; 9:00-11:00 a.m. Pre-registration requested, MacNider Museum
- 18 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 18 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 18 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 21 Friday Night Live, 6-10 pm, downtown Mason City
- 25 Lunch 'n' Learn 12:00-1:00 p.m. Topic to be determined
- 26 Iowa Watercolor Exhibition closes, MacNider Art Museum
- 26 Area Show:47 Exhibition closes, MacNider Art Museum

2020 CITY HOLIDAYS (OFFICES CLOSED)

Friday, April 10, Good Friday.....	Wednesday, April 8
Monday, May 25, Memorial Day.....	Wednesday, May 27
Friday, July 3, Independence Day (observed)	Wednesday, July 1
Monday, September 7, Labor Day	Wednesday, September 9
Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day	Not applicable
Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27	
Thanksgiving Day and following day	Wednesday, November 25
Friday, December 25, Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 23

SANITATION MAKE-UP DAY