



River City News

Multi-Purpose Arena Ready for Action

After approximately nine months of construction, the new Multi-Purpose Arena is ready for action! The vision of the Multi-Purpose Arena Project and design of the new Recreation offices has become a reality thanks to the diligent planning and overall management by Dean Snyder Construction and Henkel Construction companies.

The new indoor arena, located at the west end of Southbridge Mall in downtown Mason City, will be utilized throughout the year to serve all interests including hockey featuring the semi-professional North Iowa Bulls, high school and youth hockey, figure skating, concerts, trade shows, tournaments, and other events.



Puck Drop Coming Soon at the New Arena

Get your tickets for the first North Iowa Bulls hockey game in the new Multi-Purpose Arena on Saturday, December 28. Don't miss this opportunity to cheer on the Bulls at their new home – tickets are going fast for the remainder of the 2019-20 season! For the home schedule, contact the North Iowa Bulls box office at **641-423-4625** or purchase tickets through the online portal at <https://www.northiowabulls.com/tickets>.



New Home for Mason City Recreation Offices

After five years of residing in the west side of the Senior Citizen Center building, Recreation Department administrative offices are moving to the west side of Southbridge Mall, across from the former Younkers Home Store and east of the new Multi-Purpose Arena. The move is scheduled to take place sometime in late November to mid-December when construction is complete with a public open house planned for January.



"Leaving this place we have called home for the last few years is bittersweet, but being a major part of the River City Renaissance Project is a wonderful opportunity. We look forward to serving the community at our new location." said Brian Pauly, City of Mason City Recreation Superintendent.

The new office space will include offices for all of the staff, three large programming rooms, and a spacious lobby where people can register for Recreation programs and rent shelter houses in our parks. In addition, the monthly Parks and Recreation Board meeting will be held in the new space. These meetings are the second Tuesday of each Month at 6:00 p.m. Please follow the Mason City Parks & Recreation and/or City of Mason City Facebook pages for updates on the move.



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



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 IOWA

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.

CITY PROJECT UPDATES

12TH STREET NW RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT



The City is working with a consultant on a design for the reconstruction of 12th Street NW between Madison Avenue and Washington Avenue. The project involves improvements to the existing utilities, total replacement of the existing pavement along with upgrading the storm sewer system, street lighting and the reconstruction of the pedestrian ramps. Construction of the project will begin in

June/July and is expected to be substantially completed by the end of the 2020 construction season. “Normal” traffic and access along 12th Street will be disrupted for the duration of the project; a detour will be put in place prior to closing the street.

SOUTH MONROE AVENUE STREET PAVING AND UTILITIES

The City is working with a consultant on the preparation of plans and specification for the bidding of an extension of South Monroe Avenue in the southwest industrial area of the city. The extension project will provide street network access for a major development currently under construction as well as access and opportunity to an additional sixty (60) acres. The project involves the construction of a 31’ wide Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) pavement with its access located at 43rd Street SW. The roadway will extend approximately 1,750’ south of the intersecting point and include a storm water utility system. City water will also be extended with the project. The City secured a Revitalize Iowa’s Sound Economy Program (RISE) Grant in the amount of \$555,078.00 to assist with the funding of the project.

SAFETY POSTERS FOR PET OWNERS



Pet owners can get a free ‘Please Save Our Pets’ poster available at the Clerk’s office on the first floor of City Hall. The free posters are intended to be placed in the window of your home with a space designating the types and number of pets in the house. In the event of a fire or other disaster, it will help the responders in knowing there are pets in the home.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING NOTIFICATIONS

When Mason City gets 2-3” or more of snow, the Alternate Side Parking Ordinance and Emergency Snow Route will go into effect. There are several ways to know when the Alternate Side Parking Ordinance/Emergency Snow Route are in effect.

- * Call the hotline (641) 424-7188
- * Visit www.masoncity.net. Look for the icon on the bottom left of page and banner (Look for the banner at the top of the page)
- * Follow the City of Mason City on Facebook (CityOfMasonCity) and Twitter @masoncityiowa
- * Local media outlets will also be notified
- * CodeRED calls will be made to subscribed users

It’s not too late to sign up to receive phone calls or text messages notifying residents of when the Alternate Side Parking and Emergency Snow Route are in effect during this winter season. Just visit our website at www.masoncity.net and click on the CodeRED box on the left side of the page. Create an account that you can manage and enter your first and last name, physical street address, phone number and email (optional). You can also select the type of alert types and weather warnings. The Street Department sends out sanders whenever the streets become covered with snow or freezing rain creating ice and slippery situations. When 2 – 3 inches of snow has fallen, the Street Department sends out the remaining snow removal equipment which includes snow plows, road graders, front end loaders, plow pickups and park tractors. The Street and Park Departments will continue to plow and remove snow until all the streets, alleys, parking lots and trails are free of snow. Salt and sand are continued to be spread to help with slippery conditions.

When there is an abundance of snow accumulated along the streets, snow is hauled from the downtown streets and parking lots. During a winter snow event, snow plows may come down your street more than once to fully plow the snow to the curb. Sidewalks are to be cleared by property owners within 48 hours after the end of a storm.

URBAN REVITALIZATION TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM – EASING THE TAX “STING” OF MAKING PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

Most home and business property owners who completed improvements in 2019 can take advantage of Mason City’s Urban Revitalization Tax Abatement program. Single family or two-family homeowners can receive a five year, 100-percent abatement on the increased taxes resulting from building improvements that increase the assessed value of the property by 10 percent or more. For new construction, the abatement is limited to the first \$75,000 of increased value. For improvements to homes that are 50 or more years old or homes the City determines are blighted, there is no limitation on the tax abatement if the improvements raise the value of the property by at least 10 percent. A condominium unit is also eligible for this abatement.

This program applies to improvements to the main house as well as to detached garages. To be eligible, the property must be located in the Z2, Z3 or Z5 zoning districts of which most homes in Mason City are within one of these districts. Other structures including multi-residential, assisted living, multi-family dwellings, and businesses may benefit from the program. The increase in value and abatement schedule is dependent on the type and the location of the structure.

If you have completed or expect to complete property improvements during 2019 and would like to apply for the Urban Revitalization Tax Abatement program, please request an application from the Development Services Department, third floor of City Hall, or download the form from www.masoncity.net. Not all improvement projects will qualify, but many will; there is no cost to apply. The deadline for submitting the application is by 4:30 PM on Friday, January 31, 2020. The City Assessor will notify you if your project qualifies for the tax abatement.

Questions about the program? Please contact the Development Services Department at (641) 421-3626.

CENSUS DAY – APRIL 1, 2020

How does a complete count affect Mason City?

The census provides important information that impacts you and your community.

- It determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. Redistricting counts will be sent to states by March 31, 2021.
- Communities rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools, and emergency services.
- Business and industry use census data to determine where to locate.
- Each year, hundreds of billions of federal dollars are distributed to states and communities for infrastructure, housing and economic development programs based on census data.

Everyone Counts!

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

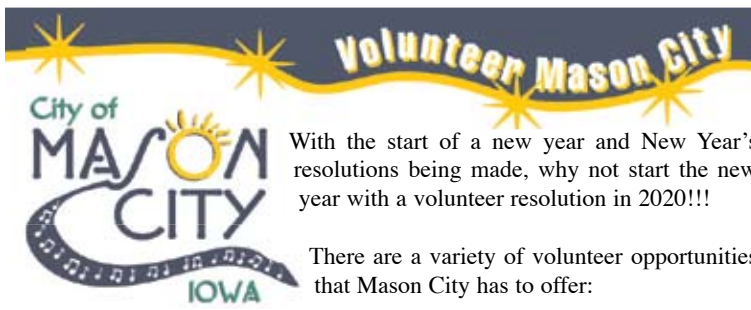
At-Large: Tom Thoma
(920) 412-6629
tthoma@masoncity.net

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



With the start of a new year and New Year's resolutions being made, why not start the new year with a volunteer resolution in 2020!!!

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities that Mason City has to offer:

- The MacNider Art Museum has activities scheduled, visitors who may need help, or mailings that need to go out: volunteers are always needed.
- 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 out at the Cemetery History Walk and there's always gravestone preservation to be done.
- There are always areas to volunteer in our Recreation and Parks Departments from painting, cleaning up trash, trimming trails, minor repairs, to assisting with Recreation activities, coaching, and helping with before and after school programs.
- Beautification will kick off in March this year with our gardeners meeting.
- In April we celebrate Earth Day, we have a need on our Earth Day Committee for some members to join and help organize this year's Earth Day Festival on April 18, 2020.

NEW SECTION SIGNS AT ELMWOOD-ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY

"Where is this person buried?" Many people come to the cemetery office asking that question. Now, thanks to Ron and Lea Norlinger, it is much easier for family and friends to find them.



Unreadable old sign

The Norlingers have been dedicated volunteers at the cemetery for over 10 years. They said "the cemetery's beauty and all the historical features intrigued us. Our years of volunteering with several tasks helped us feel like this was where we wanted to be and we chose to purchase a columbarium niche."

They noticed the signs identifying the sections of the cemetery were difficult to read. The signs were installed in 1982 and had 36 years of weathering, so this was quite understandable.

One of Ron and Lea's hobbies is making signs for their campground friends, so they took on the enormous task of making 50 new signs for the cemetery sections. The project consisted of selecting and cutting oak boards to the right length, cutting the letters in with a router, painting the letters and edges of the boards and sealing the entire sign. Then the task of painting the old posts and brackets and installing the new signs finished up the job. This project took a tremendous amount of time, over 400 hours, and skill, operating a router, painting, sealing and installing.



Ron & Lea Norlinger with newly installed section signs

One great improvement the Norlingers made over the old signs is putting the name of the section on both sides. Now they are readable not only from the street side, but when walking in the grounds. The cemetery is very thankful for the wonderful improvements the Norlingers have made to the cemetery.

Norlinger's complete comments:

"Our first venture down Federal Avenue, shortly after moving here brought us upon Elmwood St Joseph Cemetery. The cemetery's beauty and all the historical features intrigued us. Our years of volunteering with several tasks helped us feel like this was where we wanted to be and we chose to purchase a columbarium niche. When our hours and dedication to the cemetery increased, we noticed the signage of the sections was in very poor shape and that some sections were not signed. We chose oak boards to replace the signs with letters routered and painted on both sides. The final touch was painting the brackets and posts which was the perfect complement."

We are also looking forward to doing some tree plantings with our young people in Mason City this spring, around 100 trees were planted last fall by Mason City elementary and high school students. Thanks to these students everyone can look forward to a wide variety of trees to enjoy in the near future---great job!



Volunteer Mason City also has some one-time projects and special events along with on-going volunteer opportunities throughout the 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 me, Mary Litterer, Volunteer Service Coordinator at 641-421-3372 or at \[volunteermasoncity.net\]\(http://volunteermasoncity.net\).](mailto:mary.litterer@volunteermasoncity.net)

"You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream."

—C.S. Lewis



ARBOR DAY CELEBRATED IN MASON CITY

Arbor Day is celebrated in Iowa the last Friday in April. It's been over 135 years since J. Sterling Morton founded Arbor Day. His idea of setting aside a special day for tree planting has been embraced by many communities around the world. There are many opportunities to celebrate Arbor Day by perhaps planting a tree or volunteering with the City's scheduled tree plantings, choosing a public park or area to clean up, reading a book about trees, taking a hike and trying to identify the various species of trees in the community, or think of any other creative way to celebrate!

Mason City's Mayor and City Council members show their support and commemorate Arbor Day by planting a tree each year. Two trees were planted in the right-of-way just off of South Pennsylvania Avenue last spring. A Mayor's proclamation designating Arbor Day in Mason City was signed and presented to Street Supervisor/Park Superintendent Bob Berggren at a City Council meeting.



"Arbor Day...which has already transplanted itself...to every state in the American Union and has even been adopted in foreign lands...is not like other holidays. Each of those reposes on the past, while Arbor Day proposed for the future."

-J. Sterling Morton



NEW FACES



ZACHARY AU started with the City of Mason City on September 4, 2019 in the Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. Zachary brings with him Firefighter experience from his time at the Mankato Fire Department. *Thank you for joining our team!*



AMBER AXON started with the City of Mason City on August 13, 2019 in the Police Department as a Police Officer. Amber joins the City from the Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Office where she was employed as a Correctional Officer. *Thank you for joining us!*



BRIAN GARL started with the City of Mason City on July 8, 2019 in the Operations and Maintenance Department as a Swing Worker. Brian graduated from Nora Springs-Rock Falls High school and joins us from Winnebago Industries. *Welcome!*



LUCAS HARTGROVE started with the City of Mason City on October 21, 2019 in the Recreation Department as a Multipurpose Arena Supervisor. Lucas moved here from Kentucky and brings with him prior experience of ice facility management from the City of Owensboro. *We're glad you have joined the City!*



LEVI JORDAN started with the City of Mason City on October 2, 2019 in the Operations & Maintenance Department as a Utility Worker. Levi is a graduate from Forest City High School and previously worked for Waste Management. *Welcome aboard!*



STEVEN KOPP started with the City of Mason City on July 30, 2019 in the Engineering Department as a Meter Utility Person. Steven is a graduate from Newman Catholic High School and previously worked for Linex. *We're glad you have joined the City!*



ALEX ROSSMILLER started with the City of Mason City on June 24, 2019 in the Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. Alex is a graduate from Pleasant Valley High School and joins us from F&B Communications. *Welcome aboard!*



HELEN SCARROW started with the City of Mason City on August 14, 2019 in the Police Department as a Crossing Guard. Helen is a graduate from Hamilton Business College and previously worked for Charlie Brown Daycare. *Welcome!*



SCOTT WALLICK started with the City of Mason City on June 24, 2019 in the Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. Scott has several years of experience from working as a Firefighter for the Hopkins Fire Department. *Thank you for joining our team!*



McKENNA WHITEHILL started with the City of Mason City on August 12, 2019 in the Police Department as a Police Officer. McKenna received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Buena Vista University. *Welcome aboard!*

2020 City Holidays (offices closed)

Wednesday, January 1, New Year's Day

Monday, February 17, President's Day

Friday, April 10, Good Friday

Monday, May 25, Memorial Day

Friday, July 3, Independence Day (observed)

Monday, September 7, Labor Day

Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day

Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27

Thanksgiving Day and following day

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

Sanitation Make-Up Day

Not applicable

Wednesday, February 19

Wednesday, April 8

Wednesday, May 27

Wednesday, July 1

Wednesday, September 9

Not applicable

Wednesday, November 25

Wednesday, December 23

NOTES OF INTEREST

* The Friends of the Library Geranium plant sale will be held Friday and Saturday, May 1 & 2, 2020. Pre-order Stillwater geraniums from the Friends of the Library beginning January and continuing through March, 2020. Order forms are available at the Public Library located at 225 2nd Street SE and pre-ordered plants will be available for pick-up at the Mason City Room on May 1 and 2.

* 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 recreation programming opportunities!

CALENDAR ITEMS

JANUARY 2020

- 1.....City offices closed (New Year's Day)
- 1.....MacNider Museum closed
- 2.....Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 7.....Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 7.....City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 8.....Holiday tree pick-up by Sanitation Division (tentative)
- 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
- 16.....City Council Budget Work Session, 6 pm
- 16.....Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 6:30 pm
- 21.....Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 21.....Museum Board, 7 pm
- 21.....City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 23.....City Council Budget Work Session, 6 pm

FEBRUARY 2020

- 1.....Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2 pm
- 4.....Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 4.....City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 6.....Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 6.....City Council Budget Work Session, 6 pm
- 8.....Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2 pm
- 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
- 15.....Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2 pm
- 17.....City offices closed (President's Day)
- 18.....Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 18.....Museum Board, 7 pm
- 18.....City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 19.....Sanitation Make-up day for February 20
- 22.....Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2 pm
- 29.....Film Series at MacNider Museum, Film TBA, 2 pm

MARCH 2020

- 3.....Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 3.....City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 5.....Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 8.....Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 9.....Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 10.....Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 10.....Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 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, 7 pm
- 17.....City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm

APRIL 2020

- 1.....Winter decorations must be removed from Cemetery
- 2.....Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 6.....Yard waste collection resumes (weather permitting)
- 7.....Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 7.....City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 8.....Sanitation Make-up day for April 10
- 8.....North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 9.....Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 10.....City offices closed
- 13.....Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 14.....Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 14.....Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 16.....Little Red Riding Hood Puppet Show at MacNider Museum, 6 pm
- 18.....Earth Day Celebration, Lime Creek Nature Center, 10 am-12 pm
- 21.....Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 21.....Museum Board, 7 pm
- 21.....City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 24.....Arbor Day

This calendar is subject to change.

For more information, visit
www.masoncity.net
 or contact staff at
 (641) 421-3600