

MARSHALLTOWN CITY NEWS

IOWA RIVER’S EDGE TRAIL: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Winding through scenic landscapes and charming towns, the Iowa River’s Edge Trail (IRET) is an ambitious community project aiming to create a paved, multi-use trail stretching approximately 34 miles between Marshalltown and Steamboat Rock, connecting seven communities across Marshall and Hardin Counties.

Spearheaded by local leaders—including TRAILS, Inc., Hardin County IRET Board, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and area municipalities—the project has already paved a 4.8-mile stretch from Steamboat Rock to Eldora, plus segments within Marshalltown.

The trail has received a number of grants over the years including small foundational grants and a \$650,000 regional TAP grant (Transportation Alternatives Program). Most recently, the City of Marshalltown was awarded \$2 million through Iowa’s Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program for the project, securing critical funding for the portion of trail between Marshalltown and Albion. Concurrently, Hardin Council received \$1.185 million to pave the trail from Gifford to Union. The grant awards position the project for significant forward momentum.

Once fully developed, the Iowa River’s Edge Trail isn’t just a recreational pathway—it will serve as a regional transportation asset and economic driver. It connects local communities with nature, wildlife, and rural charm and will draw cyclists, walkers, and tourists who might stay, eat, and shop along the way.

As Marshalltown and its neighbors secure more funding, the trail edges closer to becoming a stunning, functional corridor that celebrates the area’s heritage while building for the future.

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To view City News online visit our website

City Council Highlights

The Marshalltown City Council convenes on the second and fourth Monday's of the month to conduct the city's business. The Council addresses important matters impacting our community. Below are some highlights from recent meetings.



- Council approved a contract with RDG for the completion of a **Comprehensive Plan and Housing Market Analysis and Development Strategy.**
- Council approved a development agreement with **Shops at Marshalltown** to redevelop the Marshalltown Mall. The agreement aims to revitalize the mall area, attracting new retailers and enhancing the shopping experience for residents.
- Council authorized the use of Council-designated Local Option Sales Tax to conduct an **Emergency Medical Services Consolidation Feasibility Study.**
- Council approved a 20-year lease agreement with the **Iowa River OHV Club** for the operation of the Marshalltown OHV Park.
- Council approved a contract with Sports Facilities Companies for the completion of a **Youth and Adult Recreational Sports Plan.**
- Council approved the Fiscal Year 2024 **Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.**

CITY COUNCIL:

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Employee Spotlight: Clayton Ender, Assistant Community Development Director

The City of Marshalltown welcomed Clayton Ender as our new Assistant Community Development Director in December 2024. He also serves as Marshalltown's Zoning Administrator. Clayton brings over a decade of experience in planning and community development to his new role.



In his position, Clayton oversees the Planning & Zoning, Building, and Code & Parking Enforcement divisions. Outside of work, Clayton enjoys exploring architecture, history, and science, as well as traveling with his wife and two daughters. Together, they spend time swimming, visiting parks and playgrounds, and discovering new local restaurants. Clayton also enjoys attending neighborhood events and live music when traveling.

Please join us in welcoming Clayton to the City of Marshalltown team. His expertise and enthusiasm for sustainable, vibrant communities will help shape Marshalltown's future in exciting ways.

Before the early 1900s, Marshalltown relied on volunteer brigades—but change came quickly. On July 2, 1902, the City of Marshalltown officially established a paid fire department, constructing a new station on State



Street for about \$4,700. It came equipped with six horses, a wagon, a chemical engine and hose wagon, and a hook-and-ladder truck. That's when the department transitioned from unpaid volunteers to professional paid staff!

The early fire-fighting heroes relied on horsepower—literally! The department's wagons carried 35 feet of ladders and 1,000 feet of hose, while the hook-and-ladder truck had 150 feet of ladders and 500 feet of hose. Pretty impressive for the pre-motorized era!

Long before 1902, multiple volunteer fire companies organized the town's early fire response: Rescue Hook and Ladder Company (founded in 1868), Washington Independent Hose Company (1874), later renamed

Hope Hose Company (1875), and Alert Hose Company (1877), replaced by Anson Hose Company No. 4 in 1881—later disbanded in favor of the paid department. Fast-forward to modern times—Chief David Rierson led the department for 9½ years, officially ending his tenure in early 2024. He played a pivotal role in designing the new joint police-fire station and helped the city pass the bond issue to fund the building. Today the department is led by Chief Christopher Cross, who was appointed to the position of Fire Chief in 2025.

Previously, police and fire services operated out of separate, aging buildings from the 1930s and 1950s. Now, both departments under one roof boast a modern, efficient layout with drive-through bays for fire apparatus. The joint facility opened in August 2019.

Today, fire crews work 24 hours a day to ensure continual coverage. All members are thoroughly trained—certified in NIMS, Incident Command, Firefighter II, Haz-Mat Operations, and EMT or higher. The department still operates from 909 South 2nd Street in Marshalltown, offering firefighting, fire suppression, extrication, public education services, open-burning permits, code enforcement, and safety recommendations (like using dual-sensor smoke detectors). These services reflect a long-standing commitment to community safety.

Whether you're intrigued by the department's humble beginnings with horse-drawn wagons or its modern-era advancements, the story of Marshalltown's Fire Department is one of steady evolution and steadfast dedication to public service.

City Election Reminder

The City of Marshalltown will hold its next municipal election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, with several important seats on the ballot: Mayor, two At-Large City Council positions, and Council seats for the 1st and 3rd Wards.

Interested in running for office? Visit www.marshalltown-ia.gov/758/City-Elections

Whether you're running for office or planning to vote, your participation helps shape the future of Marshalltown.

The City is Hiring

The City is seeking a Civil Engineer, Police Officer, Transit Operator, and various seasonal positions. Visit <https://www.marshalltown-ia.gov/jobs.aspx> to apply.

City Offices Closed

City offices will be closed on September 1 in observance of Labor Day.

Leash Your Pets!

In Marshalltown, it is against the law to allow your dog to run at large. Leash laws are enforced to ensure the safety of both pets and the community. So keep Fido safe by using a leash. Your pet will thank you!



Back to School Means Back to Safety in School Zones

As students head back to class, we all share the responsibility of making sure they get to and from school safely. School zones can be busy in the mornings and afternoons, with more children walking, biking, and being dropped off or picked up. A few extra moments of attention from drivers can make all the difference.



Slow Down

Observe posted school zone speed limits. They are in place to protect children, who can be unpredictable when crossing streets or leaving school grounds. Even a small reduction in speed can greatly reduce the severity of an accident—or prevent one altogether.

Stay Alert

Avoid distractions when driving. Watch for children at crosswalks, between parked cars, and on bikes or scooters. Remember that kids might not always look both ways before stepping into the street.

Obey Crossing Guards

Crossing guards are there to help students cross safely. Always stop when directed, and never try to drive through a crosswalk while it is occupied.

Watch for Buses

If a school bus is flashing red lights and has its stop arm extended, all traffic must stop—regardless of direction—unless separated by a physical barrier. Passing a stopped school bus is not only dangerous but also illegal.

Be Courteous in Pick-Up and Drop-Off Areas

Follow your school's procedures for loading and unloading students. Avoid double parking or blocking crosswalks, and be patient—everyone is working to keep children safe.

For Parents and Students

If your child walks or bikes to school, review safe routes together. Remind them to cross at designated crosswalks, follow signals, and make eye contact with drivers before crossing.

By working together and staying vigilant, we can help make this school year a safe and successful one for all Marshalltown students.

How the City Operates

Local voters elect the Mayor and council members for four-year terms. The council consists of four ward representatives and three at-large members. The City Administrator is the primary administrative lead, overseeing city departments, including City Clerk, Finance, Fire, Human Resources, Parks & Recreation, Police, Public Works, and Housing & Community Development. Each city department is managed by a director who reports to the City Administrator, ensuring smooth functioning across all operations.

Marshalltown supports civic engagement through a range of Boards and Commissions, such as the Plan and Zoning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, that allow residents to participate in governance and decision-making.

The city employs approximately 170 staff, delivering a full spectrum of municipal services—from public safety and transit to community development and utilities.