

A Very Merry Marion

Prepare for and experience this holiday season in Marion



Special Hours

Shop local this holiday season. Uptown Marion merchants will be open extended hours from Nov. 25-Dec. 22. Visit your favorite businesses in Uptown Marion. A district map, list of stores and shopping hours can be found online at www.uptownmarion.com.

Uptown Holiday Passport

Between Small Business Saturday and Dec. 21, shoppers have the opportunity to fill an Uptown Holiday Passport by visiting participating businesses that have decked the halls for the holidays. Passports are available at each participating business. Return your filled Holiday Passport by Dec. 21 to the Uptown Marion/Chamber office for a chance to win a \$50 Uptown Dollars gift certificate.

Deck the Halls

Looking for that perfect tree? Visit Hoffman Tree Farm north of Marion on C Avenue. Fields will be open for cutting Thanksgiving weekend only. (Fields may open again depending on availability). Then visit Ali's Weeds, Be Inspired or Culver's Greenhouse for the perfect ornaments, décor and floral arrangements.

Give Back

In the spirit of the season, consider donating your time or resources to local organizations that work to serve those in need. Learn about the mission of Marion Cares or the Churches of Marion Food Pantry.

Take a tag off a tree and purchase a gift to make the holidays brighter for neighbors served through the Marion Holiday Giving Project. Make hat, glove, scarf or blanket donations to help keep your neighbors warm during Christmas in the Park. United Way of East Central Iowa has also compiled a holiday volunteer guide, available at www.uweci.com.

Memorable Reunions

The holidays are a time for homecomings. Reunite with family and friends in Marion. Take a stroll through Uptown Artway, the re-imagined gathering space that runs behind 7th Avenue. What was once an under-utilized alley, now features nine permanent art installations by local and national artists.

Then make your way to one of the Marion staples—like Zoey's or Tomaso's. Sip on a latte from Wit's End or a glass of wine at Ramsey's Wine Bistro. Check out some of the new establishments in Uptown like Brick Alley Pub, Urban Pie or The Famous Mockingbird. Marion welcomes you home this holiday season!

Special Desserts

Have you been tasked with bringing dessert to the family dinner? Reach out to Take the Cake Cupcakery or Kettel House Bakery for truly delightful pastries, pies or cupcakes.

Gift Giving

When you shop Uptown Marion, you experience a unique destination that's Made for You. Home to locally owned boutiques featuring original art, specialty clothing, personal accessories, antiques, collectibles and gifts for anyone on your list.

Philips Diamond Shop specializes in customized jewelry. The latest in women's fashion awaits at Lillians, DiModa and JOY. Discover original handcrafted works of art at Synergy Metalworks or Artisan Sanctuary. Treat the grill-master in your life to something special from The Grill Works. And find all things wine making, beer brewing, or cheese making at BIY Homebrew Supply.

Uptown Dollars

Let that special someone select exactly what they want when you give them Uptown Dollars, gift certificates redeemable at one of 30 Uptown Marion merchants. Purchase in any increment from the Marion Chamber of Commerce or Hills Bank.

Stocking Stuffers

Don't forget the stocking stuffers! What better than some hand-poured truffles from THE chocolate SHOP, individually packaged bags of popcorn from the Iowa Popcorn Company or a nostalgic trinket from Treasure Chest Collectibles.

Special Events

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Weekends - Friday, Nov. 24 through Dec. 17
Giving Tree Theater

Tickets: Adults \$15 - \$26

Don't miss this one-of-a-kind live theater experience and the hilarious portrayal of this Christmas classic. You won't believe the mayhem - and the fun - when the Herdmans collide with the Christmas story head on!

Small Business Saturday

Saturday, Nov. 25, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Uptown Marion District

Kick-off the holiday shopping season by shopping local on Small Business Saturday. Enjoy holiday music as you shop and dine Uptown Marion. Receive a free #ShopSmall gift and enter to win a \$100 Uptown Dollar gift certificate!

Indian Creek Encore/Orchestra Concert

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 6:30 p.m.

Indian Creek Elementary School

Wilkins 1st Grade Music Program

Thursday, Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m.

Wilkins Elementary School

Christmas in the Park

Friday, Dec. 1, 4-8 p.m.

City Square Park

This annual event is fun for the whole family! Enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides, hot cocoa, popcorn, holiday music, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and the lighting of the Peace Tree. Find complete details at www.marioncc.org.

Peppermint Walk Shopping Event

Friday, Dec. 1, 4-8 p.m.

Uptown Marion District

Holiday open house featuring participating Uptown Marion merchants, restaurants and businesses. Find the list of participating locations at www.uptownmarion.com.

Big Band Concert

Friday, Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m.

Marion Heritage Center & Museum

Stop by the Heritage Center during Christmas in the Park & Peppermint Walk to warm up and enjoy the Marion Big Band.

Linn-Mar High School Holiday Concert I

Monday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.

Linn-Mar High School Auditorium

Echo Hill Singers and 5th Grade Orchestra Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m.

Echo Hill Elementary School Gym

Indian Creek 2nd Grade Music Program

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.

Indian Creek Elementary School



Linn-Mar High School Holiday Concert II

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.

Linn-Mar High School Auditorium

Linn-Mar High School Holiday Concert III

Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:45 p.m.

Linn-Mar High School Auditorium

Excelsior Orchestra Concert

Friday, Dec. 8

Excelsior Middle School

Christmas with Mrs. Claus

Saturday, Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m. - noon

The Granger House Victorian Museum

Register to attend a morning with Mrs. Claus as she shares fun facts from the North Pole while the children enjoy cookie decorating, crafts, and a tour of the Granger House. Bring a new cold weather item for each child attending; items will be donated to Keep Your Neighbors Warm as part of the Marion Holiday Giving Project.

Linn Grove Kids Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Linn Grove Elementary School

Marion High School Winter Concert

Monday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

Marion High School Red Gym

Linn-Mar High School Holiday Concert IV

Monday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

Linn-Mar High School Auditorium

Novak 3rd Grade Art Show & Music Program

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m.

Novak Elementary School Gym

St. Joseph School Advent Concert

Thursday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Wilkins 4th and 5th Grade Chorus Concert

Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Wilkins Elementary School

Westfield 4th and 5th Grade Chorus Holiday Concert

Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Westfield Elementary School Gym

Bowman Woods 2nd Grade Music Concert

Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Bowman Woods Elementary School

Linn Grove 1st Grade Fine Arts Night

Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Linn Grove Elementary School

Vernon Middle School Holiday Concert - 6th-8th Grade Band

Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

Vernon Middle School Gym

Linn-Mar High School Get in the Spirit Concert

Saturday, Dec. 16, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Linn-Mar High School Auditorium

Vernon Middle School Holiday Concert - 5th Grade Band

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m.

Vernon Middle School Gym

Vernon Middle School Winter Vocal Concert - 6th-8th Grades

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Vernon Middle School Gym

Novak Notes Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Novak Elementary School Gym

Linn Grove Super Singers & Grace Notes Choir Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Linn Grove Elementary School

Bowman Woods Early Bird Music Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Bowman Woods Elementary School

Keep it Local

While this list identifies a number of holiday-centric events and activities happening in Marion, there are many other concerts, exhibits and workshops planned for you to enjoy or entertain your guests.

Perhaps a stop is in order at The Famous Mockingbird, the Artisan Sanctuary or the gallery at the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center.

Visit www.uptownmarion.com for a detailed event listing for events happening throughout the district.