

A FREE monthly news magazine for the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City

Swamp Fox Scene



Firefighters get certified:

To properly install safety seats for children

Each year, approximately 1,800 children under the age of 14 lose their lives as the result of a motor vehicle crash. Another 280,000 children are injured. Child safety seats, when properly installed, save lives.

However, a study released by the National Safe Kids Campaign reports that at least 85 percent of the 17,500 seats inspected were installed incorrectly.

“The most common mistakes are the safety belt not holding the seat tightly and harness straps not being used properly”, said Assistant Fire Chief Chris McKenzie. Fire personnel from the City of Marion recently completed a week-long class to get certified on properly installing car seats.

The Fire Department has three certified and licensed Child Passenger Safety Technicians on staff. They are able to provide the most up-to-date information about

car safety seats, to perform a free check of your child’s car seat and, if necessary, are trained to properly install your child’s safety seat.

All technicians are certified through the South Carolina Department of Social Services and the National Child Passenger Safety Board (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) after completing an intensive, 40-hour course.

“Each vehicle, seat belt and car seat presents a unique and sometimes challenging situation,” said McKenzie. “Having your seat(s) checked by a trained technician will lower the chance of your child or children being unnecessarily injured in a crash.”

City residents can call the Fire Department at 423-8602 to schedule a safety seat inspection. Please allow 30 minutes for the installation and the safety check process.



Finishing strong! Lt. Bessie Gause with the Marion Police Department finishes her mile and a half run with a leap. The officers were taking part in their recent quarterly fitness training on the city’s Hike/Bike Trail.

Photo by Winky Fore

City-county plans Fall clean-up day for Nov. 17

A Fall Clean-up is being organized by the Marion County Beautification Commission.

The Commission will also have a float in the Veteran’s parade on Nov. 10 in Marion as their kick-off to this event.

The City and County will have a **debris, tire and appliance pick up** on Saturday, Nov. 17 for all citizens.

SORRY! This pick up does NOT apply to businesses.

If you want to organize a group or have questions, call Ogleretta White at 423-8203.

Marion County’s Fall Clean-up!

Saturday, November 17, 2012

Each community is participating in this clean up. Organize your church, civic or youth group!

Tires and appliances can be left curbside for removal on Saturday, Nov. 17 only!

Bagged trash will be picked up by city and county sanitation crews.

This pick up does NOT apply to area businesses.

Anyone needing safety vests, gloves or trash bags can contact the following:

- Elizabeth Ficik, City of Marion, 423-5961
- Tarus Gilchrist, City of Mullins, 464-9563
- Chief Mark Lewis, Town of Nichols, 526-2193
- Barbara Hopkins, Town of Sellers, 758-3873
- Ogleretta White, Marion County, 423-8203.



Save the dates! Save the dates! Save the dates! Save the dates!

Marion’s 23rd Annual Holiday Prelude & Community Tree Lighting Celebration

Saturday, December 1st

9 a.m.-noon: Olde Towne Marion’s Farmers Market, produce, crafters & more

10 a.m.-noon: Santa at the Farmer’s Market, with Hay Rides leaving from the Farmer’s Market

10-11:30 a.m.: Britton’s Neck Militia Reenactors
Conversation regarding Gen. Francis Marion & the Revolutionary War in Marion

4:30 p.m.: Marion Chamber of Commerce’s Christmas Parade on Main Street

Sunday, December 2nd

4 p.m.: Latta Singers’ Christmas Presentation at the Marion Baptist Church, Dessert Reception to follow in the Opera House

5-7 p.m.: Pilot Club Soup & Cornbread Supper and Bake Sale in the Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Silent auction and raffle during the evening.

5:30 p.m.: Santa Claus arrives aboard the City of Marion Fire Truck

5:45 p.m.: Christmas Show at the Courthouse

6 p.m.: Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration

Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park immediately following Ceremony

CITY NEWS

City hires Altman

The City of Marion Street Department hired a new full time employee, Joseph "Brad" Altman, in September.

Brad has previous experience in maintenance and groundskeeping with Marion County and has worked in the construction industry with Blanton Supply and Allread Construction.

He replaces long-time Street Department employee Perry Mason who retired from the City of Marion in August 2012.

Street Department Superintendent Ronnie Sanders said he is looking forward to working with Brad. "His employment helps to bring us to full staff as we begin preparing to decorate the City for the Christmas season", Sanders said.



City chooses Ellis as Employee of the Month

The City of Marion is pleased to announce Patrolman Andy Ellis of the Marion Police Department is the most recent Employee of the Month.

Ellis was hired by the City in January and graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in May. Before joining the Marion Police Department, Ellis worked in sales and service with Frito-Lay.

Although he is one of MPD's newest officers, Ellis has quickly established himself as an asset to the department. He is currently assigned to Charlie Shift under the direction of Lt. Bessie Gause.

"No matter the assignment," said Police Chief Jim Gray, "Ellis can be counted on to work hard and achieve results in a caring, compassionate way, with a minimum amount of direct supervision required."

Patrolman Ellis was honored to receive the Employee of the Month award and looks forward to continuing his service to our community and the citizens of Marion.



Palmer delivers copies of "Legend of the Swamp Fox" to City's Chamber of Commerce

For the second year, Marion Chamber of Commerce members have supported putting a book about Gen. Francis Marion, by illustrator and political cartoonist Kate Salley Palmer, into the hands of all the county's third graders, helping them to begin their home library.

This year, the author's husband, Jim Palmer delivered the 400 books himself, as a "thank you" for what the Chamber is doing for the young students. Palmer said he was appreciative of the Chamber's work in providing the books for the students in Marion County and that he hoped other entities would adopt a similar approach to helping teach the state's history.

The books are distributed as the students begin studying the Revolutionary War period of South Carolina history and just before the City's celebration of Gen. Francis Marion in February. City businesses and individuals helping with the project were Anderson Brothers Bank, Baxley Hardware, Charlie and Frances Bethea, Jimmy and Anne Burroughs, Marian Cusac, Mary G. Eaddy, Lacy and Pauline Edwards, Hardee's Construction Co., Ritta C. Hennecy, Bill and Judy Johnson, Marion County Healthcare Foundation, Dennis Mickey, Duncan and Suzanne McIntyre, Joe and Rhonda McIntyre, Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank, Precise Care Transport, Deborah A. Pogue, Professional Pharmacy, Progress Energy, Lina Rice, The Waller Law Firm, Roy and Mary Gail White, Whittington Dental Associates and Sen. Kent Williams. *Below, Chamber and Marion County School officials are shown with Jim Palmer.*



Marion firefighters selected to take "Smoke House" on the road

City of Marion Firefighters took the "Smoke House" to the State Museum in Columbia in October, as part of Fire Prevention and Safety activities. The Museum houses the state's Fireman's Association display. Additionally during October the firefighters spoke to, and entertained with their puppet show, more than 1,400 children in various schools and day cares in the county.

For sale: Our favorite Marion 'Swamp Fox'

Call Dianne Owens at 423-5961, Ext. 21, or stop by her office in City Hall to ask about purchasing your very own Steel Swamp Fox.

Proceeds from the sale of the commissioned work of art, hand done by Pete Rambo of Winnsboro, go to the Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days! conducted the last weekend in each February. Cost is \$35 each.



Just a reminder: Chamber checks are a great way to keep your money in Marion!

With the holidays just ahead, the Marion Chamber of Commerce is reminding everyone that its Gift Certificate Program promotes "Shop Marion and Marion County First!"

The Chamber has Chamber Checks on sale in \$10 to \$50 denominations in \$5 increments. These are redeemable at any participating Chamber member location.

There is a wide variety of merchants, from restaurants to retail, participating in the program and this gift is certain to be perfect for anyone.

For information on becoming a Chamber member, a Chamber Check merchant or to purchase a Chamber Check, call Judy Johnson at 423-3561 or visit her in the chamber office at 209 East Bobby Gerald Parkway, The Historic Train Depot.

For a complete list of the businesses that honor Chamber Checks, contact Judy at the Chamber.

Coming in November

Keep up with what's going on in and around Marion!

EACH Saturday: Marion Farmers Market & Market Place, 229 North Main Street beginning at 9 a.m. Vegetables, treasures, more! Season ends Dec. 1.

EACH month there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting. Both are sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. Call the Arts Council Executive Director Tom Griggs at 423-5407. Contact Acting President Randy Floyd at 992-1627 or by e-mail at floydrandy@hotmail.com for details about the Foodies and Film Club.

3, Saturday, Boys & Girls Club Golf Tournament Fundraiser. Dusty Hills Country Club; Call Freddie Barkley at DHCC, 843-423-2721; Marti Schoonover, 843-423-7187; or Decar Brown, 843-662-1142 for details.

3, Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Christmas Pet Pictures, Lucky Dog Grooming Salon, 118 Harilee Street. Millers Studio of Photography from Dillon will offer packages. No appointment needed. Call for details 843-275-3644.

3, Saturday, 4-8 p.m., Spaghetti Dinner, Bake Sale: Fundraiser in the Marion Opera House for upcoming production of "A Christmas Carol."

Tickets are \$8 per adult and \$5 for

children under 12. Dine in or take out available. Tickets can be purchased by calling 260-4483 or 423-5444. If no answer, please leave a message! For more details, call Debbie Erwin at 260-4483.

7, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Rise & Shine! Local business networking opportunity ... Call Chuck at Olde Towne Marion, HMRA, 423-9918 for details.

9, Friday, Book Signing for Mullins native Jon Buchan in the Mullins Tobacco Museum. Call Rosanne at 423-8299 or Reggie at 464-8194 for details.

10, Saturday, 11 a.m., Veterans Day Parade and Celebration, Main Street, Marion. Program follows at Marion High School. For information, call the Marion County Veterans Affairs Office at 423-8255 or 423-8256.

12, Monday, Veterans Day Holiday, City, County and State offices closed.

13, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

17, Saturday, County-wide Fall Clean-up Day! See story on Page 1 for details.

22, 23, Thursday & Friday, Thanksgiving. City and county offices will be closed.



Call 843-360-0101 for details about the November and December LaLeche League of the Pee Dee meetings.

They are typically the second Monday of each month in the Sunday School House of the Church of the Advent, 103 East Mullins Street, Marion.

Call Pam Jones at 423-5961 for information about the next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Typically it is on the second Monday of each month in the Bond Street Fire Department's community room. All are welcome.

Call 423-1888 for details about the monthly Alzheimer's Support Group meetings in the Marion County Medical Center. These meetings are typically the second Wednesday of each month at noon.

COMING IN DECEMBER:

Holiday Prelude, Dec. 1-2. See Page 1 for details.

Imagination Ministries, a part of Revelation Ministries, will be producing "A Christmas Carol." The free production will run Dec. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16 in the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center. For more information, call Debbie Erwin at 260-4483.

Christmas Eve & Christmas holidays ... Dec. 24-25.

City to take donations for holiday food boxes

For the third year, Marion City Council members and Mayor Rodney Berry will be seeking donations to fund its Christmas "Food for Friends" program.

The program has been wildly successful, Berry said, thanks to the generous gifts of the city's residents and businesses. Berry said that during last year's program the people of Marion donated about \$2,500 that helped families enjoy all the trimmings and fixings for a Christmas meal. Each pre-packed box costs \$30. Donations are welcome in any amount and will be put with other donations to help make purchases, Berry said.

City firefighters and police officers will distribute the boxes throughout the city around Dec. 20 and 21. Donations are due to City Hall on Main Street or to the Fire Department on Bond Street by close of business on Dec. 14. For more information, call the Administrator at 423-5961.

October was Operation Hope month

Marion Mayor Rodney Berry recently signed a proclamation marking October as Operation Hope month in the city in conjunction with members of the Marion-Dillon Council of the Knights of Columbus.

The group is dedicated to charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism and works to raise money for programs that assist citizens with intellectual disabilities.

During October, members of the Knights of Columbus collected donations to help those living in our area.

Anyone interested in giving to the group can still do so through their free Tootsie Rolls fundraising, found at local retailers or by mailing a check to Columbus HOPE Foundation, Inc., 214 Basswood Avenue, Summerville, S.C. 29483-4450. Please denote this donation is for Council No. 8790.

Marion Mayor Rodney Berry, left, and David Brody, Co-Chair of Operation Hope are shown above.

For information about the group and its work, e-mail Brody at dbrody9503@aol.com.



City offering 'Trees for the Trail' plan

Beginning this fall, the City of Marion is offering its "Trees for the Trail" program to add trees to the west end of the City's Hike-Bike Trail. This is a "You buy the tree, we will plant it and care for it," program, said Mayor Rodney Berry. Berry explained that he was inspired by those running, walking and bicycling on the trail, when they asked about planting trees in memory of or in honor of loved ones.

This program will benefit generations for years to come, Berry said. "Remembering those you love with a living tree is an act of love for them, your families, the community, and our environment," he added.

Anyone planning to purchase a tree should talk to City Administrator Alan Ammons. Each year the city participates with the Azalea Garden Club in its Arbor Day celebration. In South Carolina, Arbor Day is celebrated on the first Friday in December. Trees will be planted in early December.

Cathedral Bible College is relocating to Marion's old hospital building

The old Marion Memorial Hospital on Main Street will become the new home to Cathedral Bible College of Myrtle Beach. School President Wayne Miller announced the purchase of the building, made possible through a \$664,000 grant from the Marion County Healthcare Foundation.

The new inland location puts the school closer to those living in the area who are graduates of the school, Miller was quoted in the Star & Enterprise as saying. The student body has more than 200 students from 26 countries who will relocate to the new school.

The school offers degrees in theology, with students studying history, missions, Christian education, Christian counseling and Christian administration.

"Beginning in January we'll be offering classes day and night. Many of the students will be living on the campus and there will be evening chapels offered for the community to visit," Miller said in the newspaper article.

Miller said most of the building will be in use and the entire complex will be in use by fall 2013. Miller said he expects to have 79 dormitory rooms and 75-100 students living on the Marion campus. The school will maintain a night school program at its Myrtle Beach facility, he said. For more information about the college, visit www.cathedralministries.org.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Find it on Facebook!

The City of Marion Parks, Recreation and Leisure Department is making every effort to keep its Facebook page current. From schedules and scores to Chinese Proverbs and more, check it out!

Basketball sign ups underway at Watsonia

Registration is underway for youth basketball and will close on Nov. 16. Parents and guardians may register children from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fees are \$16 for city residents with proof of residency and \$30 for out of city residents.

Registration requires a copy of the child's birth certificate. Cut-off for age groups is Sept. 1. The following age groups are being offered:

- PEE WEE, 6-7 yrs. old, boys & girls;
- SMALL FRY, 8-10 yrs. old, boys & girls;
- MITE, 11-12 yrs. old, boys & girls;
- MIDGET, 13-14 yrs. old, boys only; and
- JUNIORS, 15-17 yrs. old, boys only.

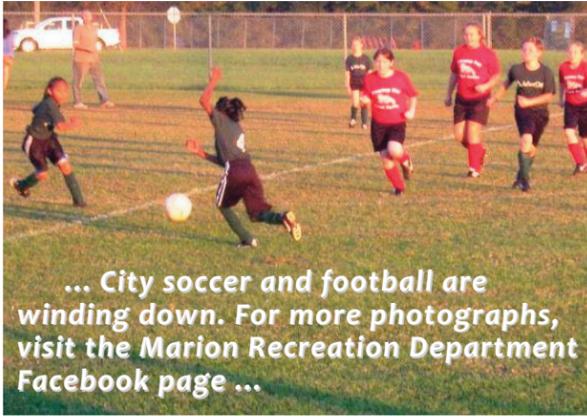
Please note: NO sign-ups will be taken after Nov. 16. Anyone interested in coaching or officiating in the Marion Youth League should contact the Recreation Department at 423-5410. All coaches must be certified.

Bingo has new times

Senior Bingo is offered to our residents on the first and third Thursday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. We have plenty of slots available for newcomers to join the fun! Prizes are available for winners and refreshments are offered to everyone! We look forward to seeing you in the Watsonia Recreation Center. Call 423-5410 for details.

Aerobics for seniors, yoga for all, meet twice a week

Senior aerobics and flexibility is offered at Watsonia Recreation Department on Mondays and Thursdays each



week from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The class is free, but donations are appreciated.

If you would like to check out the class or get more information, talk to Anna Boatwright, instructor.

Additionally, Frances Bethea and Judy Johnson teach yoga in the training room of the Fire Department Substation on Sen. Gasque Road. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per class or \$30 for the month. No experience is necessary!

City's new Ping Pong Club meets twice a week

The City of Marion Recreation Department now has a Ping Pong Club that meets twice a week at the Watsonia Recreation Center.

Meetings are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 – 8 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by and check out the club and to join us in refreshing your skills or learning something new. Anyone with questions can Call Chuck Weigert at 423-9918.

City rentals available

Looking for a place to have your family gathering or a special event? We have Pop Dorsey Park, an outside location with a picnic shelter near Green Street Park; Grice's & Watsonia Recreation Centers; and C.D. Joyner.

If you would like to check the availability and prices on these locations call Cheryl at 423-5410.

The 2012 Marion 3-on-3 Basketball, 3-Point Shoot-Out & Slam Dunk Competition December 7, 8 & 9 in the A.C. Tollison Gymnasium

That's RIGHT!

Register now at the Watsonia Recreation Center as a team to compete in the upcoming 3-on-3 Basketball tournament, or as an individual to compete in the 3-Point Shoot-out and Slam Dunk competitions.

Cost to register a team is \$15 and individual registrations are \$5 each. For more information and details, call the Recreation Department at 423-5410. **Deadline to register is Nov. 30!** Competitions are co-ed and are divided into two age groups, 8-14 years old and 15 and older.

Proceeds from the tournament and competitions will benefit the Marion County Boys and Girls Club.

City names 2012 Small Fry All Star Football Team

The following coaches and players have been named to the City's 2012 Small Fry All Star Football Team. Head Coach is Dan Barker, assisted by Leroy Tart and Lance Gurley.

Players are Danny Barker, Austin Hayes, Jyheim Davis, Evan Graham, Ryan Aiken, Jalik Wilson, Jermaine Spears, Russell Dowley, Christian James, Amir Fling, Jacque Sainvil, and Ky'heim Bethea.

Also, Tanaeri Sanders, McArthur Washington, D'Vonte Allen, David Moore, Qua'liek Crawford, James Roland, Amari Rollins, Tay'Shawn Bethea, James Buie, Greg Hopkins, Deonte Anderson, and Draquan Person.

Congratulations to Sherry Wilson,
winner of the
Cheerleader Fundraiser quilt!
And special thanks to Joyce Edwards
who created the quilt.
Thanks to all for the support!
The girls will be Donating \$150
to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.



Get your group ready to PARADE!

The Marion Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce plans for the upcoming Marion Christmas Parade. They are inviting you to join them on **Saturday, Dec. 1 at 4:30 p.m. on Marion's Main Street.** They need your help to make this event a success! They are seeking participation from civic groups, churches, and schools, as well as business logo trucks and cars. There is an entry fee of \$10 per unit, with some exceptions. Application and fee must be on file for each unit by Thursday, Nov. 29 at noon. **To get an application or have your questions answered, call Judy at 423-3561 or visit her in the Chamber office in the Depot at 209 E. Bobby Gerald Parkway.**

Questions about your water or sewer bill?

Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at **(843) 765-4539**

or visit them in City Hall on Main Street.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you...

Mayor Rodney Berry, 843-423-8235

City Administrator, Building Official

Alan Ammons, Ext. 19

City Clerk Pam Jones, Ext. 10

City Treasurer Patricia Brown, Ext. 18

Municipal Court Clerk

Heather Evans, 843-423-8616

Personnel, Purchasing Director

Elizabeth Ficik, 843-423-8614

Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant

Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11

Recreation Admin Assistant

Cheryl Askins, 843-423-5410

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina.

Printed by Herald Multi-forms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper. The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For information about the newspaper, call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS! SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN.

Together, we can make a difference ...
The City of Marion has a **TEXT A TIP** line ...
See a crime happening? Have a TIP?
Text it to 430-0938.

CT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938