

Swamp Fox Scene



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

Charge those batteries! Get ready for Marion's 1st Great American Golf Cart Poker Run

The City of Marion, Main Street Marion, Tio's and Accent Signs and Printing have joined forces to present the 1st Great American Golf Cart Poker Run in Marion's downtown business and historic district.

The Poker Run around the city will be a terrific fun-filled way to end the summer with a bang and serve as a fundraiser for civic groups. Oh, and bicycles are welcomed as entries, too, event organizer Steve Pool said. The 1st Great American Golf Cart Poker Run is designed to be a community-wide event, bringing attention to

downtown Marion. The event is designed as a way to have fun on a Saturday, to help promote businesses and civic groups, to raise money for

area organizations, to show our American pride as we decorate our rides in red, white and blue, and as a way to have a good time without traveling out of town. Visitors are welcome!

The event will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 28 in the parking lot behind Tio's restaurant, where participants will register their golf carts or bicycles and purchase playing cards. There is a \$15 entry fee per golf cart and \$5 fee per bicycle. Five-Card Stud is the game. Poker hands cost \$5 each. Participants purchase as many hands as they wish to play and travel from spot to spot along a pre-determined route, picking and choosing their playing cards.

The player with the overall best hand will win a cash prize and the most creatively decorated ride will win a prize, too.

Each stop along the Poker Run route will feature other fun events and special opportunities. For details, call Steve at 843-457-7492.



Volunteers paint city's pool house

Marion Baptist Church youth and adult volunteers recently updated the look of the City of Marion's Grice's Pool House on Gurley Street. The volunteers spent a morning scraping the old paint and adding a fresh coat of paint to update the building.

And it's back to school!

High-quality classroom instruction, screening and research-based interventions are the focus of Marion School District 1's "Response to Intervention (RTI) Initiative." The overall goal of RTI is to identify students who are not meeting standards and provide them with research-based interventions, while monitoring their progress.

RTI holds the promise of helping all students be successful and is just one approach the District is starting this school year. For information, call Kandace R. Bethea, director of curriculum and instruction, at (843) 423-1811.

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION
AUG. 11, 5-6 P.M.,
MARION HIGH SCHOOL



OPEN HOUSE
& REGISTRATION

Pay fees, get schedules,
and meet teachers!

AUG. 12

EASTERLING PRIMARY:

605 E. NORTHSIDE AVE.
843-423-8335
NOON - 6 P.M.

MARION INTERMEDIATE:

2320 NORTH HIGHWAY 41-A
843-423-8345
NOON - 6 P.M.

JOHNAKIN MIDDLE:

601 GURLEY STREET
843-423-8360
1 - 7 P.M.

MARION HIGH SCHOOL:

1205 SOUTH MAIN ST.
843-423-2571
1 - 7 P.M.

Cooling centers open in Marion

The City of Marion has cooling centers open in two recreation facilities to help residents beat the heat this summer.

The Eloise Grice and Watsonia Recreation Centers are available for those who might not otherwise have a cool place to go during the day. Individuals can enter during business hours for cold water, restrooms and air conditioning. The centers also offer activities for seniors and children and residents are welcome to bring a book or project from home.

July and August are often the hottest months of the year. Temperatures this summer have frequently been in the mid-to upper 90's, climbing above 100 degrees on a number of days. Add to that already high temperature the relative humidity and you get the heat index. The more humid it is, the hotter it is.

IF YOU GO:

Eloise Grice Recreation Center, Gurley Street, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 423-8623

Eloise Grice Swimming Pool, Gurley Street, 9 a.m to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 2p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, weather permitting, 423-9391

Watsonia Recreation Center, Watsonia Street, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 423-5410

Calling for Artists to participate in Marion's Second Annual Fall Festival of the Arts
Fine Arts Show and Sale, Oct. 15 & 16 ... Applications due Oct. 1

For information, call Linda Wiegert at 430-2182; e-mail her at charlinware@yahoo.com; or visit her at Charlin's Shed, 126 Manning Street, Marion

Coming up

August 9th

Monday, 5:30 p.m.: Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Second Monday of the Month), Fire Station, Bond Street.

August 10th

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: City Council (Second Tuesday of the Month), Council Chambers, City Hall, 107 S. Main Street.

August 16th

Monday, First day of School

August 28th

Saturday, 5-8 p.m.: 1st Great American Golf Cart Poker Run

Summer Art Classes

To register for art classes, call Rosanne at the Marion County Museum, 423-8299; Scrapbooking, for children 3rd grade and up on August 3 and 5; 1-3 p.m.; \$50
Introduction to Drawing: Aug. 17 & 19; 1-4 p.m., \$45, Joanne Hickey.
Introduction to Watercolor: Aug. 24 & 26, 1-4 p.m., \$45, Joanne Hickey.

Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov and on Facebook under City of Marion, South Carolina.

Sales Tax Holiday coming up!

The 2010 state sales tax holiday weekend is set for Friday, Aug. 6 through Sunday, Aug. 8. During this time, the 6 percent state sales and use tax, and any applicable local sales and use tax, will not be imposed on clothing, clothing accessories, footwear, school supplies and calculators, computers, printers and printer supplies, computer software and bath wash clothes, blankets, bed spreads, bed linens, sheet sets, comforter sets, bath towels, shower curtains, bath rugs and mats, pillows, and pillow cases.

The sales tax holiday, however, does not apply to jewelry, cosmetics, eyewear, wallets, watches, furniture, rental of clothing or footwear, items for use in a business, or items placed on layaway or similar deferred payment and delivery plans.

For information about the sales tax holiday, visit www.sctax.org.

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

The staff consists of City of Marion employees Cheryl Askins, Elizabeth Ficik, Pam Jones and Dianne Owens. Call Pam Jones if you are interested in sponsoring an issue.

The newspaper is distributed by city employee Dennis Brown and may be found in City Hall, in the Marion Chamber of Commerce's office in the Historic Train Depot, in the Main Street Marion office on Main Street and in other spots around town.

Call Mayor Rodney Berry or the City Administrator at 843-423-5961 with questions, concerns and comments.

CITY NEWS

Marion merchant wins state award

In June, Main Street Marion nominated Kelli Noland of Bridgers Drug Store for the South Carolina Master Merchant award. Noland took home her award, the only one given by the program this year, from the recent annual meeting of the Municipal Association of South Carolina, under which Main Street South Carolina operates.

The award recognizes excellence in the retail field and is awarded to a merchant who has been a "mover and shaker" in downtown revitalization and who exemplifies creativity and success in merchandising, inventory, display and value-added retailing and services, said the story about Noland's award,

published in Uptown, MASC's monthly magazine. Bridgers has been in continuous operation for 75 years. Its employees and owners support community events sponsored by MSM, formerly the Historic Marion Revitalization Association. Noland is the group's chairman. Because of her leadership, MSM has had a successful year, seeing the addition of a monthly newsletter, Lunch-n-Learn meetings, and more.



Kelli Noland



City gets two new officers

The City of Marion recently welcomed two new officers to the Police Department.

Michael Hartson completed his certification at the Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia on May 22.

Hartson is from Marion and a 2002 graduate of Marion High School. He and his wife Kacy currently live in Marion with their three children.

Michael is assigned to Bravo Shift, working under Lt. Frankie Brown.

Tyrone Reed graduated the Academy on June 11. Tyrone is originally from Mullins and a graduate of Mullins High School, Class of 2006.

He is assigned to Delta shift, working under Lt. Simon Brown.

Smith gets Service Award

Longtime Marion Dispatcher Eva Smith received an Outstanding Service Award from the Marion Police Department

earlier this year.

The award recognized Smith for 24 years of service and commended her for work beyond the call of duty and unselfish devotion to the Marion Police Department.

Eva is shown with her award.



Johnson is City of Marion's Employee of Month

The City of Marion selected Shop Mechanic Randy Johnson as its June 2010 Employee of the Month.

Randy is a new addition to the City staff, having started at the Shop in November 2009. His work ethic and the quality of his work quickly earned him the respect of his fellow employees and the City's senior staff.

Randy works efficiently and effectively, and is always looking for ways to save the City money on parts and repairs.

The Mayor and Council recognized Johnson for his positive impact and significant contributions to the City of Marion at the July 13th Council Meeting. Randy is shown in Council Chambers.



Chamber services benefit members, residents

The Marion Chamber of Commerce fosters development and welfare in the immediate surrounding area. As an organization, the chamber works for business, industry, professionals, agri-business and all other civic interests, doing what no individual can do alone and performing services that benefit, directly or indirectly, all citizens.

Our Chamber focuses our endeavors each year on Chamber Development, Public and Govern-

mental Affairs, Economic Development and Community Betterment. Our board members and volunteers assist us in completing and implementing each year's plan. We also have our ongoing programs of Coffee Chats, Business After Hours, recognizing students in District 1 with the Citizenship Awareness Recognition Award, Industry Appreciation Luncheon, Economic Outlook Luncheon, Small Business Appreciation

Breakfast where we recognize the Small Business Person of the Year, and the City of Marion Christmas Parade.

Highlights for 2010 include celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Memorial Day; conducting a Spring Tour of Homes and Gardens; promoting tourism in Marion; upgrading and updating Chamber publications and working with the City of Marion and Main Street in an initiative to make Marion a business-friendly place.

THE BLUE LINE News from and about the City Police Department

FLASHPOINT News from and about the City Fire Department

Heed the warning!

Hefty fine awaits those who break handicapped parking rules

Don't do it! It's not worth it!

Wanna' park in that clearly marked handicapped parking space that appears to be closer to the door of a business or office?

Think you really don't want to walk a little farther? Think again!

Do you have \$2,105 or 30 days to spare? That is the fine for parking in a marked handicapped parking space without the proper credentials. Misuse of handicapped parking spaces by able drivers is a scurrilous practice.

The state is instituting new rules to crack down on it and the Marion Chief of Police is warning citizens and those who visit Marion that the rules will be enforced. The S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles has begun issuing new placards and license plates for the disabled.

The biggest change will be in the hanging placards dis-

abled drivers and passengers place on their rearview mirrors. New placards will have photos and a certificate verifying the eligibility of the holder. Existing ones, which don't have the photo, are good until they expire or until Dec. 31, 2012, whichever comes first. All residents currently holding a South Carolina handicap placard may continue to use their current issue until it expires or until December 31, 2012, whichever comes first.

Once the placard is expired, residents will have to re-certify their disability with the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles before receiving one of the new South Carolina issued, photo-bearing handicap parking placards.

Charge for this will be a mere \$1. The changes are an effort to prevent the illegal use of handicapped placards by able-bodied residents.

Group set to have Fall Fest

A common theme Main Street Marion members hear when they are at local gatherings is that many City of Marion residents believe there is a need for more casual, fun, affordable community gatherings.

And because there is the need for something easy to attend that includes children of all ages, the group is planning a special event for Sept.

24. Much like the organization's earlier Frogmore Fest in April, the Design Committee of MSM is planning the city's first Fall Fest.

Set to begin at 5:30 p.m. at Rosewood Manor on Main Street, the event will feature live music and "Ka-Bobs on the Bar B." Community and business sponsorships are available. For information, call Chuck at 843-423-9918.



Progress continues on new substation

First the land was cleared, then the concrete slab was poured and electrical and plumbing conduits laid. In recent weeks, the frame work for the new City of Marion Fire Department substation was put in place. Construction should be completed before the end of the year on the building on Sen. Gasque Road.

City reminder ...

Make sure you close your trash can lid!

City of Marion Sanitation Superintendent Winky Fore reminds citizens to always remember to keep the lid closed on their roll out carts for residential garbage collection.

This keeps the rain and animals out and refuse and odors in!

S.C. Forestry Grant to help city take down, prune problem trees

The City of Marion has been awarded a \$20,400 grant, part of a grant awarded to the S.C. Forestry Commission through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Of that amount, \$16,000 will be used for pruning and removing hazardous trees and \$4,400 for replanting trees in the city.

In the coming weeks signs will appear on the trees selected to be removed or pruned. Streets having trees that will be removed include Godbold, Presbyterian, Jones, Arch and Manning. Anyone with questions about the work should call Alan Ammons at 423-5961.

Stay safe! Fire Department offers grilling safety tips

Fire in the grill, under the dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons!

The Marion Fire Department offers the following safety tips for propane and charcoal grills.

First: Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors. The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

Keep children and pets away from the grill area.

Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup.

Never leave your grill unattended.

Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal by using newspaper

as a fuel. If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.

When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container.

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using your propane grill for the first time each year.

A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles.

If you determine your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame: Turn off the gas tank and grill.

If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire de-

partment. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.

Do not attempt to move the grill.

Only use equipment bearing the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up your grill and how to maintain it.

Never store propane gas tanks in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the tank and leave it outside.

If you have a grill fire, immediately move a safe distance from the fire and call 911.

Don't forget: City of Marion firefighters will come and install free smoke detectors in your home if necessary. Visit the department on Bond street for details.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Marion fielded All-Star baseball teams for after season action

After baseball ended its regular season action, players were selected to move on into the All Star season. Congratulations to all who made it into the City of Marion Recreation Department All Stars.

“We are proud of all of the teams and coaches,” city officials said. Also, we thank the parents for supporting the coaches and the kids in after-season all star games and look forward to seeing everyone, plus some, next year.

Those making teams include the following:

Dixie Minors (9-10 yr. old) (AAA)

Coaches: Chess Stepp, Joey Skipper and Michael Lane.

Players: Quan Abrams, Russell Morgan, Grayson Basily, T.J. Nowlin, Peyton Britt, Jason Person, Chad Hood, Brooks Skipper, Justin King, Jesse

Lane, Jake Lane and Cornelius Lightfoot.

Dixie Majors (11-12 yr old)

Coaches: Jackie Elliott, Chad Herlong and Micheal Hayes.

Players: Lawson Capps, Garrett Jenkins, Cameron Copley, Ronnie King, Rashaun Davis, Delonte’ Rogers, Wesley Edwards, Trent Rogers, Justin Elliott, Matthew Hayes, Brent Herlong and Darius Hunt.

Dixie Boys (13-14 yr old)

Coaches: Mark Grice, Daniel Wheeler and Kevin Watson.

Players: Jordan Bell, Christopher Moore, Marcus Bethea, Blake Rogers, Bryan Brown, Patrick Simmons, Brandon Erwin, McCoy Watson, Marcus Grice, Cormega Wright, Malik Lightfoot, Elijah Williams and Demetric McEachern.

Congratulations!

Marion’s Post 5 Junior Legion team wins state championship

Marion Post 5 Junior Legion baseball team won two games over Beaufort to win the state championship in July. The team was facing elimination in the state tournament, but won back-to-back games to earn their title.

Coached by Don Cribb, Brian Brown and Jarrott Hooks, the team’s roster includes the following players: Daniel Huggins (P-INF), Josh Rogers (C-INF), Brian Davis (P-INF-OF), Keenan Johnson (INF), Jonathan Elliott (P-INF), Quincy Davis (OF), Kwinton Smith (P-OF), Chris Washington (P-OF), Devante Gilbert (OF), Justin Elvis (C-INF), Jamie Callahan (P-INF), Dylan Godbold (P-INF), Ross White (P-1B), T.J. Jackson (INF), and C.J. Hopkins (P-OF).

Congratulations on representing the Marion area well!

Summer fun continues

From playing basketball with friends from the neighborhood to keeping cool in the city pool, there are fun ways to stay busy during the next two weeks before school starts. After Aug. 16, the first day of school, the city pool will only be open on weekends. It will remain open on weekends into September, city officials said.



Coming Up

Recreation Department accepting registrations for cheerleading, soccer and football until Aug. 19

The City of Marion Recreation Department is taking youth sign-ups for participation in its cheerleading, soccer and football programs. Registration will end Aug. 19.

Anyone wishing to register can do so at the Watsonia Recreation Department, 100 Watsonia

Street, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – noon and 1-5 p.m. Registration fee is \$16 for City of Marion residents and \$30 for out-of-city participants. If you would like more information, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

Registration requires a copy of the child’s birth certificate at registration, even if the child has played sports with the City of Marion before. *If there is no birth certificate, there will be no registration.*

Ages for cheerleading and football are 8-12 years old and ages for soccer are 5-14 years old. The age cut off date for all sports is Nov. 30, 2010: Meaning, however old a child is on this date is the child’s playing age.



City recreation offerings need coaches, volunteers

Anyone interested in coaching or officiating in the Marion youth leagues should contact the Marion Recreation Department at 423-5410.

All coaches must be certified. The city provides the certification classes. Anyone interested in participating should call Cheryl at 423-5410.

Looking for the right rental?

Need a place to have your party? We have the perfect locations for you. Looking to have an outside event? We have Pop Dorsey picnic shelter. Looking for a cool place inside to gather? We have Grice’s Recreation and Watsonia Recreation Centers.

Anyone interested in these locations for their events should call Cheryl at 423-5410 for rental rates and other information.

And last but not least ...

Check with Cheryl to see when aerobics and senior fitness classes begin again. Also, let her know what type of additional programs you’re interested in.

