

Swamp Fox Scene

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

'Tis the Season to be Jolly... Celebrating Christmas in Marion

If there's one thing Marion does well, it's Christmas! From the decorations and lights on the trees lining Main Street, to December's first Saturday parade and Sunday's annual Tree Lighting ceremony with holiday sights and sounds, from Santa's visits to fireworks, the city comes alive to celebrate family and the holidays.

This year is sure to be no different from the successes of the past. Below is a schedule of events and activities known to us at press time. There may be more, so check with your family members and friends and make sure you enjoy the holidays "Marion Style" this year.



Returning to Marion this year will be the Parris Island Marine Corps Band. Above, they are shown visiting with members of the audience after their 2009 concert.

...Fah lalalala,
lalalala!



Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year
from your city of Marion employees!

Christmas Prelude, Dec. 4 & 5

Saturday Dec. 4

10 a.m.- 2 p.m., Main Street Marion will have Santa available for pictures downtown and FREE hay rides through the Historic District; Open House in their office with displays of Bonita McLaurin's original paintings ... Come enjoy punch and cookies!

1:30 p.m., "Polar Express" showing begins in CD Joyner.

4:30 p.m., Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Parade, Grand Marshal is Frank Johnson from WBTW TV13.

Sunday Dec. 5

4:30-5:30 p.m., Drop in and listen to organists as they play in the Marion Baptist Church

5-7 p.m., Pilot Club of Marion's annual Soup Supper, bake sale & silent auction, Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

6 p.m., Courthouse Square, 21st annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, refreshments, Santa and fireworks!

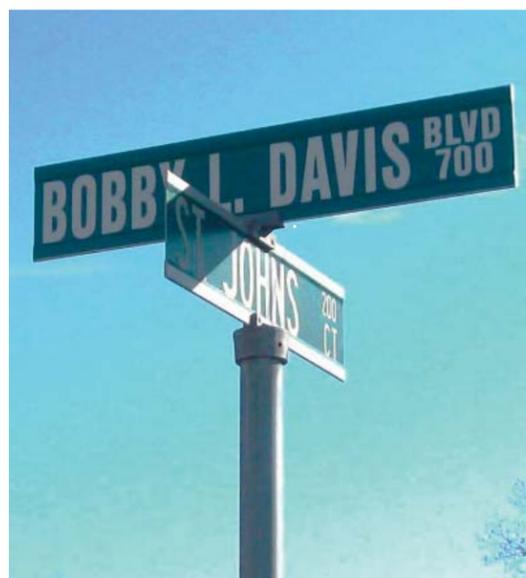
Thursday Dec. 9

5-8 p.m., Marion Auction House on Main Street, Desserts are featured at the Tastes of Christmas, a fundraiser for the American Red Cross Tickets \$5.

Saturday Dec. 11

7 p.m., CD Joyner Fine Arts Center, the Parris Island Marine Band, holiday concert. Get a FREE ticket to assure your seat!

Renaming street honors long-time public servant



Mill Street has been renamed to honor long-time public servant Bobby L. Davis Jr. The street was dedicated to Davis on Saturday, Nov. 13 during a ceremony in front of St. John A.M.E. Church. The street's new name is Bobby L. Davis Boulevard. At right, Davis, surrounded by family and friends, sits beside his wife, Geneva, awaiting his turn to speak during the ceremony. Following the event was a block party for the street's residents. Davis, reelected consecutively to four-year terms since Sept. 15, 1987, represents District 4 and on Jan. 12, 1993 became the first African American to serve as Mayor Pro tem of the Marion City Council, a position he held for 16 years. In March 2009 he became the first African American to serve as the city's Mayor.



Coming up

December

Holiday events are on page 1.

December 1st

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m., *Main Street Marion's Rise & Shine*, Hulon Jewelers, Main St.

December 13th

Monday, 5:30 p.m.: *Citizens Advisory Committee meeting* (Second Monday each month), Fire Station, Bond St.

December 14th

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: *City Council* (Second Tuesday each month), City Hall, 107 S. Main St.

December 20th

Monday, 6:30 p.m.: *Marion's Fox Watch meeting*, 332 N. Main St.

December 24th, 27th & 28th

Merry Christmas! City employees will be off and City Hall will be closed.

Citizens help needed with project

One of the projects of the Marion Lions Club is the purchase and placement of 55 American flags along Main Street's business section on various Patriotic holidays.

The Marion Lions Club appreciates the community's support of this project and is asking for help. Marion Lions Club needs extra manpower to put the flags up at 8 a.m. and to take them down at 6 p.m. on the holidays on which they are flown. If you can help with this project, call David Hollandsworth, president of the Marion Lions Club, at 843-275-9959.

Who do I call for more information?

For answers to your questions about the following, call ...

Citizen concerns; Storm Drainage Issues; Trees; Building Permits; Street & Sanitation issues; Inspections:

Alan Ammons, 423-5961
Administrator, Building Official

Building & Sign Permits; Zoning Information; Historical Commission:

Pam Jones, 423-5961
Planning & Zoning Office

Business Licenses; Yard Sale Permits; City Council Agenda, Minutes; General Information:

City Clerk, 423-5961

Supplier & Contractor Bid Opportunities; Employment:

Elizabeth Ficik, 423-8614
Purchasing Director, Personnel

Recreation Programs; Sign-Up Information; Facility Rentals:

Cheryl Askins, 423-5410
Watsonia Rec Center

Traffic Tickets; Police Fines; Bond Hearings; Municipal Court Info:

Heather Evans, 423-8616
Municipal Court Clerk

CITY NEWS

City Council recognizes Johson, Walters returns as police officer



The City of Marion selected Sanitation Department employee Dal "Pee Wee" Johnson as its October 2010 Employee of the Month.

Pee Wee, shown at right with Mayor Rodney Berry at the Nov. 9 Council meeting, has a positive attitude towards his responsibilities and a strong work ethic.

He is tasked with collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill. The Mayor and Council recognized Pee Wee for his contributions in helping the city to maintain Marion's "pretty little town" reputation.

Officer assigned to traffic unit

Police Officer Eric Walters has been re-hired by the City, effective Oct. 25,

2010. Corporal Walters is assigned to the Traffic Unit. A graduate of Lake View High School, he lives in the Lake View community, with his wife, April, and their four children. Eric says he is happy to be back with the City of Marion and looks forward to making a positive difference in the community.



Originally hired by the City of Marion Street Department in January 2003, Eric's positive attitude, hard work and dedication to the City quickly earned him the respect of his peers, supervisor and city officials.

For the past seven years, he has also served the community as a volunteer firefighter. His interest in, and commitment to, emergency services led him to apply for an opening at the Marion Police Department in 2006. City officials wholeheartedly supported him and his desire to have a career in law enforcement. He successfully completed the Criminal Justice Academy and transferred to Marion Police Department, where he was the recipient Chief's award in 2007.

In his second year on the police force, Eric was recognized as a local hero when he rescued a Marion woman from her burning home in 2008. Eric, who left the City of Marion in 2009, worked as a police officer for the Town of Nichols before he returned to Marion in October.

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.

JUST A REMINDER ...

... DID YOU KNOW THAT A TIRE, OR TIRES, PLACED CURBSIDE IN THE CITY OF MARION IS CONSIDERED LITTER BY CITY ORDINANCE? FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH DHEC REGULATIONS, CITY EMPLOYEES NO LONGER PICK UP TIRES AT CURBSIDE.

THE FINE FOR LITTERING IS \$1,092.50. HOMEOWNERS ARE TO DISPOSE OF UNWANTED TIRES IN THE MARION COUNTY LANDFILL ON RED BLUFF COURT OR ON SEN. GASQUE ROAD.

CALL THE LANDFILL AT (843) 464-1157 FOR HOURS OF OPERATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS REMINDER, CALL THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, MARION CITY HALL (843) 423-5961.

Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov

& on Facebook under

City of Marion, South Carolina, for the latest in news and things to do.

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.

Want to lend a helping hand?

Anderson Brothers' Bank is participating in Toys for Tots and has drop off boxes for toys in the Marion branch offices and Progress Energy is accepting toy donations at the Dollar General store to be distributed for Christmas, according to Mindy Taylor at Progress Energy.

Many other churches and groups are conducting food and or toy drives to help others during the holidays. The City of Marion Fire Department is gladly accepting donations of toys or money and will distribute them appropriately during the holiday season. Point of Contact is Ryan Skipper, assistant chief, Marion City Fire Dept, 107 E. Bond Street, 843-423-8602.

Judy Johnson at the Marion Chamber of Commerce is compiling a list of ways to help during the holidays. If you

want to help or know of a helping program, contact her at 423-3561.

Additionally, the City of Marion is conducting a **\$30 to buy Food for Friends campaign**. The money will purchase food items to provide holiday dinners to families in need in the City of Marion. Donations are due by Dec. 20 to either the Fire Department or City Hall and will be distributed on Dec. 21 and 22 by the city's firefighters and police officers. DSS will help city officials identify the needy families.

Your donations matter! Thanks for giving to others in our community.

Several schools are conducting food drives and coat drives and there are many ways to give a helping hand this holiday season.

Thanks for helping those around you have a great Christmas!

Large oak on Bond Street one of 21 removed in city; Replanting to begin

The City of Marion was 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, to remove trees that were diseased or damaged and that were a liability for the city.

Of that amount about \$16,000 has been used to remove hazardous trees and about \$4,500 will be used to replant trees in the city, though not necessarily in the same locations as the trees that were removed.

The city's plan for replanting has been approved by the State Forestry Commission. To be planted are three

Crabapples (Prairiefire), three Kousa Dogwoods, one Muskogee Crapemyrtle, two Black Gums, two American

Hophornbeams, one Eastern Redbud, Bald Cypress, two Swamp Chestnut Oaks, one Overcup Oak, two Carolina Silverbells and two Nuttall Oaks.

The trees were selected for their colors during the spring and fall, for being indigenous to

this area, and for being disease resistant. They will be planted on some city streets and in city parks. Anyone with questions about the work should call Alan Ammons at 423-5961.



Photo by Winky Fore

Get to know your City Council



RODNEY BERRY
Mayor

Mayor Rodney Berry was elected to his first four-year term in April 2009. He can be reached by calling his office telephone at **843-423-8235**.



RALPH ATKINSON
Mayor Pro Tem
District 1

Council member Ralph Atkinson was reelected in April 2007. His term ends in April 2011. He can be reached by telephone at **843-250-0446**.



RONALD ATKINSON
District 2

Council member Ronald Atkinson was reelected in April 2007. His term ends in April 2011. He can be reached by telephone at **843-230-0072**.



BETSY ATKINSON
District 3

Council member Betsy Atkinson was elected in April 2009. Her term ends in April 2013. She can be reached at **843-430-1137**.



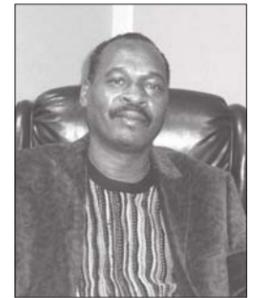
BOBBY DAVIS
District 4

Council member Bobby Davis was reelected in April 2007. His term ends in April 2011. He can be reached by telephone at **843-423-4655**.



POIETTE BROMELL
District 5

Council member Poiette Bromell was reelected in April 2009. Her term ends in 2013. She can be reached at **843-275-0265**.



MICHAEL BAKER
District 6

Council member Michael Baker was reelected in April 2009. His term ends in 2013. He can be reached by telephone at **843-222-9405**.



Zero Tolerance for NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

FOX WATCH NEWS

The Fox Watch BBQ was a great success! The group thanks the members of Fox Watch, its volunteers, the band and the city workers for all their hard work. The \$250 grand prize was won by Sandy Levy and fox sculptures were won by Lakesha Shannon and John Loughlin.

A "BIG thank you" goes to the citizens who make the effort to reinvest in the health and safety of the City of Marion, Fox Watch Coordinator, Teresa Scholz, says.

Now, the group is looking for Marion citizens interested in starting a watch group in their neighborhood, on their streets or blocks.

Contact Fox Watch at (843) 423-0847 and leave your name, address and telephone number.

Fox Watch meetings are the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fox Watch building on the corner of Harlee and Main Streets.

All are welcome to participate. The group will be presenting discussions on topics of interest for the community in the near future, Scholz says. "Look for notices here or in the community events section of the local newspapers."

Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming and Fox Watch wants everyone to have safe, happy and healthy holidays! Go to Facebook.com and look for Marion Fox Watch, where we will present tips on "things to remember" during this exciting season.

SPORTS & RECREATION

All Star players represent City well in post-season action!

At right, Andi Querubin heads downfield and below, Kensley Moore battles for position and the ball. The two were playing in the All Star tournament game against Dillon in Sumter.

The 10 & Under team lost to Dillon to be eliminated from the tournament and the 12 & Under Soccer team was defeated by Cheraw in overtime. The 15 & Under team, after losing to Conway, was named the tournament runner up.

Making the 10 & Under team, coached by Joel Williams, Rusty Britt and Mike Tiesing, were Callie Bryant, Collin Jaycob Jackson, Peyton Britt, Anna Grace Johnson, Sally Brown, Andria Querubin, James Buie III, Austin Tiesing, Alex Cooke, Zachary Scott Dock



Willamson, Ashley Jennifer Garner, Kyle Zeman, Holly Grice, Frank Drew, Brandon Ingram and Kensley Moore.

The 12 & Under team, coached by Imdad and Henna Sabri and Joey Skipper, included Shynae Michelle Abrams, Aurelio Alegria Mendoza Jr., Khyle Burns, Jason Person, Hailey Cooper, Samantha Querubin, Aaron Fulmer, Joshua Harrison Shelley, Annie Kate Gibson, Brooks Skipper, Anna Marie Grice, Maranda Lynn Wallace, Zackary Alan Grice, Tristan Loggie, Jamarius Diamante Mckelvy.

The 15 & Under team, coached by Kelvin Copley and Imdad Sabri and Kadir, was Nicholas Paul Brown, Hannah Marie Martin, Tritt Copley, Jonathan Person, Wesley Edwards, Austin Querubin, Geoffrey Fravor, Madison Reynolds, Caleb Fulmer, Brandon William Shelley, Jonathan David Fulmer, Caleb Stone, Kevin Latrone Grant Jr., Chaz Young, Garrett Lane and Hunter Lane.

Congratulations to all of the athletes who made it to the All Stars! Thanks to all the coaches for volunteering their time to the City's Recreation Department!

Members of the All Star Cheerleading team, coached by Latoria Martin, were Kiyana Garner, Kaylee Herlong, Ayannia Riley, Kyla Scott, Hailey Springs, and Ny'asia Washington.

The All Star Small Fry Football team, coached by McArthur Washington, included Wayne Stroud and Leory Tart,



were JaQuan Abrams, Dellieon Moody, D'Vonte Allen, Tyler Pearson, Grayson Basily, Trever Rogers, Michael Blue II, Javarious Scott, Ja'Saih Chesser, Cameron Smith, Robbie Dozier, Jermain Spears, Kailik Faulk, Tavarus Steele, Shemar Grant, Patrick Stroud, Austin Hayes, McArthur Washington Jr., Robert Herlong, Da'Shon Wilson, Damonte' Lee and Marquis McGill.

Making the All Star Mite Football team, coached by Emerson Hunt, Jackie Elliott and Chad Herlong, were D'Ante Allen, Craig Legette, Cameron Copley, Cornelius Lightfoot, Justin Elliott, Jimmy McBride, Jeremiah Ellison, Jordan McKnight, Artavis Evans, Joshua Pee, Justin Evans, Tyler Rogers, Jaquan Felton, Kashawn Rowell, Zachary Hayes, James Stanley Jr., Brent Herlong, Erick Williams Jr., Jacob Herlong, Marquise Williams, Darius Hunt and Ronnie King.

Construction nears completion on new courts

If you've been wondering about the progress on the new tennis courts at the city's Withlacoochee Park: "Yes! The rain delayed us and caused us some difficulties we didn't plan on."

"Yes! We have pavement and are back on track to finish our courts this year!"

The City of Marion worked for a year to put a financing package in place that would help us construct new tennis courts for our high school teams and resident players.

In addition to the city, several sources funded the project, including Marion High School's Athletic Booster Club, local businesses, and grants from the S.C. Parks, Recreational and

Tourism Department and the U.S. Tennis Association. First constructed in the late 1960s, and updated throughout the

years, the tennis courts were in need of an overhaul in order for our players to have a safe playing experience.



The new Withlacoochee Park Tennis Courts are moving from concept to reality. Four new courts, with striping for QuickStart Programs for our younger players will be a part of the new facility.

Coming Up

Stay tuned for movies! The Recreation Department will be showing movies in Grice's and Watsonia Recreation Centers.

For information about those and the following activities, call Cheryl at 423-5410 or stop by to see her in the Watsonia Recreation Center.

Check us out online!

The City of Marion Recreation Department now has a Facebook Page and is on the Internet, on the www.Mari-

[onsc.gov](http://www.marionsc.gov) web site. Find us under "Residents" and then click on "Recreation." To find us on Facebook, search Marion Recreation Department! There are game times, photos and much more.

Join in the fun! Aerobics, bingo and more!

The **FREE Senior Flexibility** class meets Monday and Thursday 9:30-10:30 a.m. (Donations may be made to the Council on Aging. For information, call the Marion County Council on Aging at 423-4391.)

Also, residents of all ages are encouraged to come join in the fun of getting fit at the **Aerobics** class that runs Monday thru Friday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 a month.

FREE Senior Bingo is played in the Watsonia Recreation Center the first and third Thursdays of each month from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Need a place to have your party? We are taking rental applications for 2011 events. Looking for an outside venue? We have Pop Dorsey picnic shelter. Inside? We have options! Call 423-5410 for rates and availability.