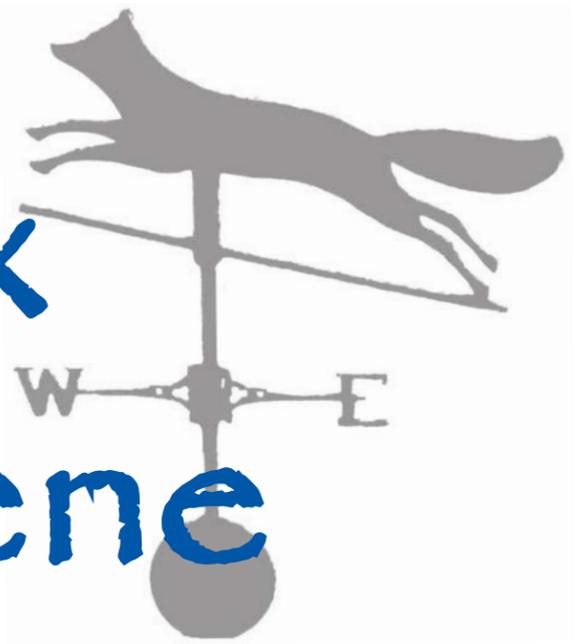


Swamp Fox Scene



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



Officials ask citizens to plan to Trick or Treat on Oct. 30

Marion County officials have decided it is in the public's best interest for all citizens to conduct the Trick-or-Treating aspect of their Halloween celebration from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30.

All municipalities and county residents should plan accordingly, Sheriff Mark Richardson said. In keeping with the decision, Marion Police Chief Willie Smith and Mayor Rodney Berry said Trick-or-Treating in the City of Marion will be on Saturday instead of Sunday.

Firefighters offer programs during Fire Prevention week

"Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" is the official theme for Fire Prevention Week, celebrated this year from Oct. 3-9. This year's campaign is designed to educate people about the importance of smoke alarms.

Citizens are encouraged to take the steps necessary to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection. The City of Marion Fire Department offers free smoke detectors and safety inspections to all who ask for them. Also, during October, members of the Marion Fire Department will be presenting Fire Safety programs to local schools and churches. Anyone interested in having a safety presentation, consisting of a puppet show or experiencing the Fire Safety House, at your school, daycare, church or other organization, call Assistant Chief Ryan Skipper at 423-8602.

Ryan can also help with getting safety inspections conducted in homes and businesses and will make sure anyone wanting a free smoke detector has one installed.



Phillips Street residents celebrate end of summer with food, fun & friends

Recently, residents of the Phillips Street area, from Strawberry to Georgetown, celebrated the end of Summer 2010 with a block party. Ribs, chicken, fish and more were fried, grilled and served to those gathering to take part in the fun.

Photos by Teresa Scholz

Five families on Phillips Street orchestrated, solicited donations, cooked and presented to their families and neighbors a first-ever block party on a sunny Saturday in September. Doris Seabrook-Francis, her husband Junior, Betty Wright, Sonya and Vincent Lester and Martha Howard planned, and footed the bills for, the event.

"The best part," Doris said, "is that nothing went wrong!" Also, Martha said, on Sunday, when we looked out, it was all cleaned! The two agreed the party, inspired by



block parties from their pasts in New York City, brought folks together and introduced them to others they hadn't yet met. IGA, Wal-Mart, Food Lion and Sam's donated items for the families to serve to those who came, and enjoyed, the event.



Friends of the Marion County Library sponsor a Fall Book Sale & Champion Martial Arts presents Halloween Safety Tips
 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 16
 See story on Page 4 for details!
 Records Building, Main Street, Marion

Coming up**October 2nd**

Saturday: *Main Street Marion's Fall Yard Sale*, Baxley Hardware's Parking Lot; 6 a.m., set up to sell; \$5/space; 7 a.m. for buyers. Call Chuck at 843-423-9918 for details.

October 2nd

Saturday: *Movie in Grice's Center*, Time & Movie to be announced

October 6th

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m., *Main Street Marion's Rise & Shine*, HMRA office, 301 N. Main St.

October 8th

Friday, 4:30 p.m., *Marion High School Homecoming Parade* on Main Street; 8 p.m. Home game, Aynor at Fox Field

October 11th

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

October 12th

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

October 13th

Wednesday, Noon: *Main Street Marion's Lunch & Learn*, Opera House, *Mayor's State of the City address*; Call 423-9918 for tickets.

October 15-16th

Friday night, Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.: *Marion's Fall Festival of Arts*, Fine Arts Show and Sale, 126 Manning St., Charlin's Shed

October 16th

Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.: *Marion County Youth Day*, CD Joyner Auditorium, Elizabeth St.; Call 843-423-7117 for information.

October 16th

Saturday, 10-11 a.m.: *Halloween Safety Tips*, on the green beside the County Courthouse; *Free Candy!*

October 16th

Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon: *Book Sale!* Friends of the Marion County Library, Records Building, 101 N. Main St., (Corner of Main & Godbold)

October 18th

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

October 19th

Tuesday, 6 p.m., *Fox Watch's BBQ fundraiser*, Tollison Recreation Center, Ticket Price is \$10.

October 22nd

Friday, *Marion High School home game*, Waccamaw at Fox Field

October 28th

Thursday, 10 a.m.: *Fall Walk for Marion Children along Main Street!* Call 423-1308 for details. Rain Day: Friday, Oct. 29

October 30th

Saturday, 6-8 p.m.: *Halloween's Trick or Treating observed* throughout Marion County

October 31st

Sunday, *Happy Halloween!*

Throughout October

Yoga classes ... Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., Wellness Center, Human Resources Building, Marion County Medical Center. First class free. Call 431-2630 for details.

CITY NEWS**City Council recognizes Brown, Fore**

The City of Marion selected Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Brown (on right, photo right, with Mayor Rodney Berry) as its August 2010 Employee of the Month.

Dennis has been employed with the City since August 2001 and attended the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy in 2003, when he was awarded Class 3SLE Certification and a certificate for successful completion of a course of training for Limited Duty Law Enforcement.

As the Code Enforcement Officer, Dennis enforces the City's Municipal Code of Laws by issuing citations and summons as needed. He assists the Police Department in preserving public order, issues citations for illegal parking (fire lanes and handicapped) and enforces animal leash laws and commercial vehicle parking regulations. Dennis also makes sure building permits are issued for construction, checks contractors for business licenses and handles litter complaints.

Tasked with enforcing illegal sign laws, nuisance and abatement, he also oversees the removal of abandoned vehicles. Mayor and Council recognized Dennis for his significant contributions to the City during the Sept. 14 Council meeting. Mayor Berry also acknowledged and commended the efforts of Sanitation Superintendent Leonard "Winky" Fore (on right in the bottom photo at right), during the September meeting.

A 12-year employee of the City of



Marion, Fore oversees street sweeping and the collection of yard debris and large household items from citizens.

He also oversees the transportation of these items to the landfill by city sanitation employees. Winky serves as a liaison between the City of Marion and our household waste contractor, American Waste Systems, working closely to ensure quality waste collection for the residents of Marion.

Mayor Berry thanked Fore for his hard work and praised his dedication to the City of Marion.

**FOX WATCH SAFETY TIPS OF THE MONTH**

With the daylight hours growing shorter, there are precautions to be taken; and with school back in session, it's time to again be cautious of children waiting by the roadside to catch their school buses.

▶ Keep the shrubs around your house groomed to prevent hiding places for those who might try to hide.

▶ Try to exercise with a companion during early morning or late evening hours.

▶ When leaving offices after dark, have someone to accompany you to your vehicle.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Oct. 19, beginning at 6 p.m., we will have our Fox Watch BBQ fundraiser at the Tollison Recreation Center. Tickets are on sale for \$10 each.

This is the annual fundraiser to promote a Zero Tolerance for Crime in Marion through a safety program for school age children. For tickets, call 423-0847.

FOX WATCH ITEMS

At the beginning of September, we moved many of our Fox Watch yard-

signs around the City of Marion.

If you are interested in having a sign for your yard or business, please call us at (843) 423-0847. Leave your name, telephone number and address so your sign can be delivered. Fox Watch yard signs are \$20 each.

Zero Tolerance for NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

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.

Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov and on Facebook under City of Marion, South Carolina for the latest in news and events.

FROM THE MAYOR TO YOU

Hi Neighbors!

Welcome to another edition of the "Swamp Fox Scene." Many of you have voiced positive comments about this publication. It was simply developed as a tool to keep the citizens of Marion informed. Other media tools we have created include our show on Channel 8, "Swamp Fox Country." On that show, we cover a variety of topics during the 30-minute broadcast.

The final 10 minutes of each show spotlights our police department, airing pictures and descriptions of lawbreakers who have outstanding warrants. This segment has been wildly successful because our citizens call with tips on these subjects. Some of the violators have turned themselves in when they learned they have been on TV.

Another added tool in our efforts to keep citizens informed is our Facebook page on the Internet. If you have a Face-

book page, I strongly encourage you to become a friend of the city. It is a very interactive site, with almost 2,000 people keeping up with what we're doing.

Dianne Owens does a great job in keeping it updated and activity on the site confirms it is regularly visited by not only our citizens but many others who have ties to Marion. Our web site, "www.marionsc.gov" is also a worthy destination that enjoys much popularity.

The last link (for now) in our media arsenal will be a second sign, similar to the one near the School District office on North Main Street at Bobby Gerald Parkway and the Hike-Bike Trail. Our new sign will be on Liberty Street, in front of Gore's Tire Service. We're trying to make it easy for everyone to be in the "know."



In closing, I'd like to acknowledge the trend of our citizens stepping up in all kinds of situations. Although we all should expect our local leaders to play a role in improving the quality of life for our citizens, the real strides in raising the bar in a community occur when the citizens recognize that they play the major role in these efforts.

In this past year there have been numerous events, put on by groups or individuals, that have been wildly successful and have greatly improved our quality of life. Community pride and spirit are contagious! Catch it!

Be part of a positive experience. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE and GETTING ANYTHING ACCOMPLISHED STARTS WITH

.....?!? Winners answer this with a two-letter word.

Make it a great day!

Your Mayor, Rodney Berry

THE BLUE LINE

News from and about the City Police Department

Marion Officer trains, receives certification to re-create scenes of vehicle accidents

Marion Police Lt. Franklin Brown Jr. recently completed a series of traffic collision courses and received his Traffic Safety Officer (TSO) certification.

Brown said accident investigation is a highly technical, exacting field and competent investigators need a thorough understanding of three disciplines: mathematics, physics and engineering. Lt. Brown's certification gives the City of Marion Police Department the ability to have a MPD officer investigate fatal accidents within the City limits.

Lt. Brown completed his first course, At Scene Collision Investigation, in March 2008. This training focused on determining speed loss and speed gain through evidence left on the roadway

(skid marks, gouges, acceleration marks), scene measurement and photography, and documenting evidence.

In July 2010, Lt. Brown attended a Technical Collision Investigation course where he studied speed loss and lost, positive and negative acceleration, and finding exact speeds of airborne vehicles (flips, vaults, and falls).

The curriculum also included the determination of angles of approach and departure of vehicles involved in collisions in order to find the speeds at impact and speed to final rest and beginning time and distance to show exact placement of vehicles at various times, pre- and post-collision. Lt. Brown completed the final phase of this training in August 2010.

The Collision Reconstruction training focused on advanced collision scene investigation, linear perimeter measurement (measuring damages to vehicles involved in a collision to be able to draw scale diagrams), advanced conservation

of linear momentum, principles of work energy theorems (using kinetic energy spend during a collision to determine speeds pre- and post-collision) and vector sum analysis. Lt. Franklin Brown attended the Traffic Safety Officer Conference and Award Ceremony hosted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHSTA) in Columbia. He received his TSO certification and award on Aug. 16. In addition to his TSO training and certification, Lt. Brown was one of five officers from the state of South Carolina invited to participate and assist in researching brake systems of commercial motor vehicles.

This research will take place at various locations throughout the state in the upcoming months.

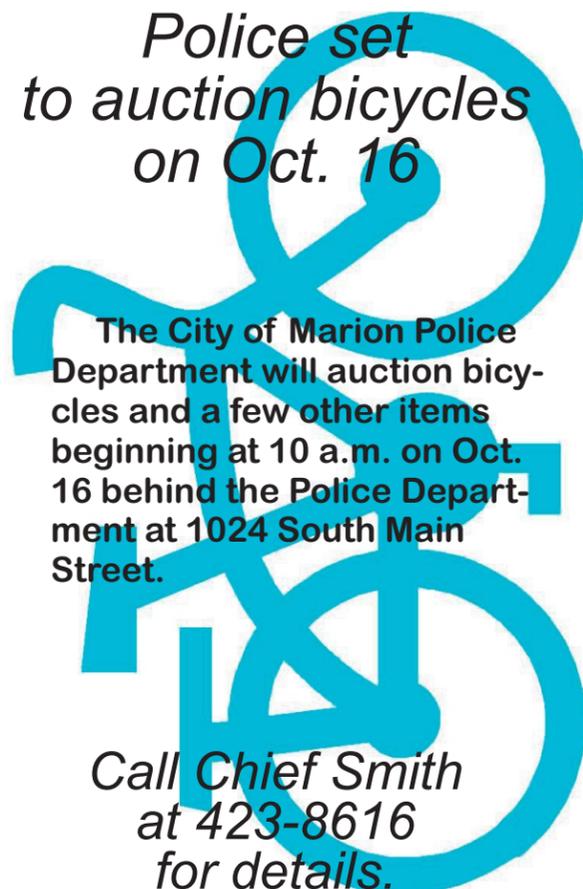


Police Lt. Franklin Brown Jr.

Police set to auction bicycles on Oct. 16

The City of Marion Police Department will auction bicycles and a few other items beginning at 10 a.m. on Oct. 16 behind the Police Department at 1024 South Main Street.

Call Chief Smith at 423-8616 for details.



Do you see an eyesore in your neighborhood?

If you have an abandoned house in your area, contact the Building Official's Office at City Hall.

We will inspect the property to determine if it can be repaired or needs to be demolished. The City will then work with property owners to make decisions that are acceptable to all parties.

If it is determined that the property needs to be demolished, the City will take care of the demo with a nominal charge to the homeowner for debris removal.

Let's keep our City beautiful! Anyone with questions can call City Hall at 423-5961.

Call:
 Alan Ammons
 or
 Pam Jones
 at 423-5961
 to have a building or home looked at for possible demolition.

For sale: 'Steel Swamp Fox'

Call Pam Jones (843-423-5961) about purchasing your very own Steel Swamp Fox... Proceeds go to the Gen. Francis Marion Center to be located in Marion. Cost is still \$25 each.



SPORTS & RECREATION

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.

Let the games begin!

Soccer and football teams and their cheerleaders are finishing up their practices and have taken to the fields for play. Support your local athletes!



Join in the fun! Aerobics for all is at CD Joyner

Residents of all ages are encouraged to come join in the fun of getting fit! An aerobics class runs Monday thru Friday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and only costs \$30 a month to join.

Bring a friend and sign up today!

Senior aerobics starts in the Watsonia Center

The Marion County Council on Aging is offering an exercise class for seniors, ages 60 and above, in Marion's Watsonia Recreation Center, 100 Watsonia Street. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. and in Mullins at the Miles Senior Center on Tuesdays and Fridays at 2 p.m.

The hour-long classes will include stretching, low-impact aerobics, working with weights and exercise bands, and chair exercises. There is no charge for the class, but donations to the Council are appreciated. **For information, call the Marion County Council on Aging at 423-4391.**

Ready for B-I-N-G-O with friends?

We've been having great turn outs of folks to play Bingo. Senior Bingo is played in the Watsonia Recreation Center the first and third Thursdays of each month from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Bingo is free. Get your group of friends together, there's room for more at the table!

Looking for the right place to hold your next event?

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 423-5410 for rental rates and other information.



'Tis the season for cheering, football & soccer!

Above and below right, soccer teams prepare for their opponents during recent practices. Fall recreation sports action started near the end of September. Below left, Billy Thompson, athletic director at Recreation Department, assists Joshua Pee with his pre-practice game weigh-in. Bottom, cheerleaders practice their moves, too!



Recreation Department Staff Photos



From Halloween safety tips to fine arts and a book sale ...

Saturday, Oct. 16 is filled with things to do in Marion!

October is a busy month in Marion! A particularly busy day in October will be the 16th. All these events are the result of citizens volunteering their time, money and efforts to provide services, raise money, or to offer a unique experience.

Friends of the Marion County Library is sponsoring a Fall Book Sale. That event, in the Old Records Building at the corner of Godbold and Main Streets, will be accompanied by Champion Martial Arts' Fred Gause as he gives Halloween Safety Tips to parents and children. For a safety check, bring a

costume. Free candy will be given out during the Tailgating event on the green between the Old Records Building and the County Courthouse on Main Street.

Anyone wanting to donate candy for the event can drop it off with Fred at the Martial Arts Studio or Fred's Barber Shop, both are on Main Street.

Book sale starts at 9:30 a.m. and the Tailgating-Safety Tips begins at 10 a.m.

And don't forget Marion's Fall Festival of Arts, Fine Arts Show and Sale, at 126 Manning St., Charlin's Shed.

Check out the calendar on Page 2 for other October events.