

# Swamp Fox Scene

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



**Back to the Books!** The first Florence-Darlington Technical College course in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center started in August. Two math courses are underway for students registered at FDTC. To learn more, call Marie Ferguson at (843) 676-8558. To find out about other offerings at the Center, call Suzan Orrico at (843) 661-1283.

## Youth Day, Sept. 10, celebrates 'Champion'

The fourth annual Youth Empowerment Day will be Saturday, Sept. 10 in the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center Auditorium in Marion.

Marion Karate Mentoring Program's Fred Gause plans, coordinates and oversees the annual event, timed to coordinate with students' return to school. Beginning at 5 p.m. attendees will be treated to **free** martial arts exhibitions and competitions. This year's theme is "Discovering A Champion," Fred said. Martial arts students from up and down the Eastern Seaboard will be participating in events throughout the day in the Johnakin Middle School Gym.

Fred believes the 5 p.m. event is one way to showcase martial arts and serves as a tool that helps young people celebrate their youth and helps to get students excited about returning to school and about learning and getting an edu-

The City of Marion  
and  
Marion Karate Mentoring Program  
Presents  
**A Day of Empowerment**  
"Discovering A Champion"  
Saturday  
September 10, 2011  
5:00 PM  
Free Admission  
CD JOYNER AUDITORIUM  
200 Elizabeth St. Marion, SC

"Train, Live & Be a Champion" is Fred's motto.

cation. The tournament includes katas, weaponry and sparring competitions.

"We want youth to see how important they are," Fred says. "This goes beyond martial arts and gets to the soul of children." For information about the competitions or Day of Empowerment, call Fred at 843-423-3345, e-mail him at fredskarate@yahoo.com or visit [www.championmartialarts.us](http://www.championmartialarts.us).

## Keeping up with what's going on ...

### Saturday mornings in September ...

8 a.m.-noon: Farmers Market at the old Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Bobby Gerald Parkway. Call Chuck for details at 423-9918.

### September 5th

Monday, City offices closed to observe Labor Day Holiday!

### September 10th

Saturday, 5 p.m.: Day of Youth Empowerment, Free Admission! CD Joyner Fine Arts Center.

### September 12th

Monday, 6 p.m.: Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting, Fire Station, Bond Street.

### September 13th

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: City of Marion Council meeting (2nd Tuesday each Month), Council Chambers, City Hall, 107 S. Main Street.

### September 17th

Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon: City of Marion's first PLAY DAY at Withlacoochee Park; Semi-finals for the city's first tennis tournament and 4 p.m. Golf Cart Poker Run. (See Page 2 for Play Day details!)



### September 18th

Sunday, Finals for the city's first tennis tournament in Withlacoochee Park.

### September 19th

Monday, 6:30 p.m.: Fox Watch (Third Monday of the Month) in the group's Headquarters building at the corner of Main Street and Harlee Street.

VISIT THE CITY OF MARION ONLINE AT [WWW.MARIONSC.GOV](http://WWW.MARIONSC.GOV) AND ON FACEBOOK UNDER CITY OF MARION, SOUTH CAROLINA.

## Coming up in October

### Main Street's Scarecrow Time!

Each year, Marion's Historic Revitalization Association sponsors the "SCARECROW" contest. Organizations and businesses are asked to create a scarecrow representing their group or business.

Deadline to have the completed Scarecrow at the HMRA office, 301 N. Main Street, is at 2 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30. Participants are asked to put a name in a plastic-coating somewhere on the scarecrow and are asked to weather-proof their creations as much as possible.

This is a judged event. One gift certificate will be awarded for each category. Categories are Most Creative, Most Original and Most Scary. Winners will be announced at the Nov. 2 Rise and Shine. For more information about the annual competition, such as measurements of scarecrows, call Chuck at 423-9918.

## IN THE CITY

# City Rec plans first PLAY DAY!

During the May City Council meeting, City Council members unanimously proclaimed September as Recreation Month in Marion and the third Saturday in September each year as **Play Day** in the City.

The proclamation was an affirmation that our city leaders encourage play outdoors and recognize the value of physical activity to a person's mental, physical and emotional well-being. In July, the City Council and Mayor approved spending money during the coming year to upgrade our city recreation department facilities and to put new playground equipment at Grice's Recreation Center, the park on Withlacoochee Avenue and at Tilghman Park.

Conducting a **PLAY DAY** is another way for the city to show its emphasis on play and recreation as a tool to achieve better overall health. Several events are in the planning stages and will be conducted in Withlacoochee Park from 10 a.m.- noon.

Volunteers are needed to help with the activities. Children of all ages are encouraged to come out for our first **PLAY DAY**. Among the activities planned are a frisbee-toss, hula-hoop contests, rope jumping and more. We are still working out details, so if you have a "playful" idea, please let us know!

The City of Marion Recreation Association is helping to sponsor the morning's activities. Over time, as the city takes on this exciting approach to health through this "playful" project, more events and activities will be planned in more venues in coming years.

Anyone or any group that would like to be a part of the day's activities, can call Frank Page or Cheryl Askins at the City Recreation Department at 423-5410 or Dianne Owens in City Hall at 843-5961.

### Citizens Advisory Committee seeks new members

The City of Marion Citizens Advisory Committee is seeking new members. The group meets the second Monday night of each month in the Fire Station on Bond Street to discuss ways to improve Marion.

From time to time, other boards, commissions and committees need volunteers to be appointed by City Council to represent the City. If you are interested in serving on the Advisory Committee, or in another capacity, call Pam Jones at 423-5961 or e-mail her at [pjones@marionsc.gov](mailto:pjones@marionsc.gov).

## 2ND Annual GREAT AMERICAN GOLF CART POKER RUN

PLAN NOW to JOIN the FUN!

On Saturday, Sept. 17 registration begins at 3:30 p.m., the Marion MarketPlace, the former Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Bobby Gerald Parkway across from the Historic Train Depot.

Enjoy live music, a cash prize for the best 5-card stud poker hand, opportunities to win 50/50 raffles and a prize package for having the Best American Spirited Golf Cart or Bicycle. Registration is \$15 per cart, \$5 per bicycle and \$5 per poker hand.

For information, call Steve at 843-457-7492 or Chuck at 423-9918.

*There'll be enough fun for everyone!*

### Arts Council Marion County offers something special for food and film lovers

Though the terms "gastronome," "epicure" and "gourmet" define the same thing, i.e. a person who enjoys food for pleasure, the more modern word is "foodie." And the Arts Council of Marion County has created a Foodie of Marion County group that visits various locations, all in the name of enjoying good food together.

The next Foodie night is Friday, Sept. 9 when the group will meet at 6 p.m. at Cabana's on U.S. Highway 76. Check the group's Facebook page for updates, or call Brian Nolan, ACMC president, for details at 843-250-4322.

Also, the ACMC has created the Marion Film Club to view movies, motion pictures, flicks or movie shows for critique and enjoyment. Find the group on Facebook for the latest showing. Again, call Brian for more details about the group's meetings.



With all the great weather, yard sales will be popping up all over town. **Remember to purchase your permit (\$3 per day) at City Hall Monday through Thursday.**

**No yard sale permits are issued on Fridays.** Call Pam at 423-5961 if you have questions.

## Pastor seeks support for annual youth event

The 4th annual Marion County Youth Day, coordinated by the Rev. Marvin Hemingway, is taking applications for exhibit and vendor booths. The Youth Day is set for Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at C.D. Joyner on Elizabeth Street.

Booth spaces are \$50 each. Checks should be made payable to Marion County Youth Day.

Admission for the day's events are free and students from all over the county will be participating. Anyone wishing to help with the program or wanting to learn more about the event can call Rev. Hemingway at (843) 423-7117.

## Firefighters offer programs during Fire Prevention week

"Protect your Family from Fire!" is the official theme for Fire Prevention Week, observed this year from Oct. 9-15. The annual campaign is designed to educate families about the importance of fire prevention, smoke alarms, and home escape planning.

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 at organization's meetings, schools, churches and daycares.

Anyone interested in having a safety presentation, puppet show, experiencing the Fire Safety House, having a safety inspection conducted in your home or business or having free smoke detectors installed can call Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Skipper at 423-8602.

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. The Marion Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Marion help the city to offset printing costs. Call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961 for more information.

## & AROUND TOWN



### Zero Tolerance for NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

## Group seeking community members

Several city residents attended the August monthly meeting of Marion's Fox Watch group.

The meetings are on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. According to one attendee, Denley Caughman, the Monday night meeting was extraordinary!

Nine residents from three of the city's districts displayed much energy in support of the organization, he reported. Signs and T-shirts were distributed, and the need for Fox Watch in the community was affirmed.

Members shared reports from district activities and made plans for a **strategic meeting on Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m.** Any Marion resident interested in keeping Marion a safe place to live will find help and encouragement by participating in Fox Watch.

### SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

*Always lock your car doors and take the keys when you leave your car, even if you'll be gone "Just for a minute."*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anyone interested in having a sign for his or her yard or business can call the Fox Watch tip line at (843) 423-0TIP (0847), and leave a name, telephone number and address so the yard sign can be delivered.

Fox Watch signs are \$20 each.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Fox Watch is a non-profit organization in the City of Marion developed for the purpose of promoting a zero tolerance to crime in our community by inspiring, informing and educating those who live, work, shop or play here.



## New car wash opens on Liberty Street

Mr. Bubbles car wash owners Roosevelt Foxworth and Tony Allen are joined by family members and friends for the ribbon cutting of their West 510 Liberty Street Car Wash. Call 471-9653 to learn about their specials.



## T-Mobile A1 Wireless opens in Marion

T-Mobile A1 Wireless, at East 1966 Highway 76, had a ribbon cutting in August. Jessica Hunt, store manager, and staff can be reached at 423-2355 and can handle T-Mobile transactions, sales, repairs and plans.



## Club presents checks for books

Marion Rotary Club President Joe Long, left, presents a check to Ashley Brady, Marion Chamber of Commerce President, at the August meeting of the Marion Rotary Club. The check supports the 2011-12 Chamber Education Project, the gift of the book "Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox" to each third grade student in Marion County.

"The Marion Chamber feels that this is an investment in the children of our community," Brady said, thanking the Rotary Club members and adding "Without our sponsors this project would not be possible."

The Marion Rotary Club meets each Monday at 1 p.m. For information, contact the Rev. Joe Long at 423-3533.



## Teacher wins digital camera from Arts Council

Just before the start of the 2011-12 school year, the Arts Council of Marion County awarded a Sony Cybershot camera, 4GB memory card, back up battery and carrying case to Christie Elliott, a second grade teacher at Easterling Primary school in Marion.

Elliott won the prize in a drawing conducted by the Arts Council at the Marion County School District's convocation event on Aug. 9 at Creekbridge High School.

The camera was presented to Elliott by Arts Council Executive Director Tom Griggs, right, and ACMC President Brian Nolan, left. For information about the ACMC, its programs or membership, contact Griggs at 423-5407 or Nolan at 843-250-4322.

# Magazine's editor to be speaker at annual Gala

## Tickets on sale now for Sept. 15 fundraiser

Each year in September the United Fund of Marion County kicks off its fundraising campaign with a gala buffet dinner. All monies raised go through UFMC to 20 or more helping agencies in the county. Among those that benefit from the fundraising are the Marion County Council on Aging, American Red Cross and county fire departments.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, the UFMC will have its fifth Gala, with *She Magazine's* editor and publisher, Melia Berry, as this

year's guest speaker. *She Magazine* is a monthly magazine for women in the Pee Dee and is distributed free.

The Gala offers a table for eight for \$300 and individual tickets for the evening are \$50 each. The evening's events include a buffet meal prepared by Shuler's Barbecue and special annual community recognitions to individuals making a difference in the community and a silent auction. Each year the Dr. Pat Worrell award is given for outreach in the community and the Volunteer of the Year award is presented.

For information and to purchase tickets, call Judy at (843) 423-3411 before Sept. 8.

# SPORTS & RECREATION .....

## Fall rec seasons begins

The Recreation Department thanks all who have signed up for and volunteered to help with the fall sports schedules. There's more work to do, so, if you're interested, don't hesitate to let Billy, Frank or Cheryl know you want to volunteer!

Football games will be at the Watsonia Recreation Center and soccer games will be at the Green Street Park.

For information, call 423-5410. Parents are encouraged to attend the parent's meeting each team conducts before the season begins. If parents have questions, contact the coach before or after practices and discuss issues in private.

## Senior aerobics starting again in Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics will begin again in the Watsonia Recreation Center, 100 Watsonia Street, on Sept. 22. Classes will be on Mondays and Fridays, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. If you haven't participated before, please register at the Council of Aging. For information, call 423-4391.

## Join us for a game of B-I-N-G-O!

Don't forget that Watsonia Recreation Center has Senior B-I-N-G-O every first and third Thursday of the month. Bingo is free and participants can bring friends and family members to join in the fun. There's a seat waiting for you and a friend!

## Looking for the right place to hold your next event?

Need a place to have your party? We have the perfect location for you, whether an outdoor or indoor event ... from our picnic shelter to our recreation and fine arts centers. Anyone interested in these locations for their events should call 423-5410.

## Owner information helps 'lost' pets be returned home sooner

You drive the neighborhood, you post a notice, but you still haven't found your lost pet. Likely it has been 'found' by a neighbor, and is safe, not far from home.

However, if the pet's name and owner information is not on a tag on the collar, there may not be enough information to get the owner and pet reunited. For instance, though a pet has an ID chip implanted in an ear or a veterinarian's rabies number on a tag on the collar, if a pet is found on a Friday evening and the vet is unavailable, it may be Monday morning, before a pet and owner can be reunited.

Forty percent of households have pets, so it is inevitable that some will be "lost." Young, large dogs can run five miles or more in a short time and small dogs may run half a mile. Most pets are recovered within two miles of their home. With proper information, many can be returned home sooner.

## Recreation's Cheer Camp is summer success

Marion's Recreation Department conducted its first Cheer Camp in early August.

It was a success, with 10 young ladies attending. The girls worked hard from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. They learned chants, cheers, stunts, jumps and dances. The cheerleaders ended the week with a performance for their parents and received a T-shirt, ribbon and certificate.

Coaches Kelly Morehouse and Cheryl Askins would

like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their donations: Pete Lee & PDS Graphics; Marion Piggly Wiggly; Food Lion; Wal-Mart Supercenter; Nature's Own Bread; Members of the West Marion Baptist Church; Joyce Edwards, Madison Todd and Jordan Bryant. Lunch was provided all week, thanks to the contributions of these local businesses and community members.



Shown are the 2011 Summer Cheer Camp participants. Top row, from left, are Sarah Turner, Emily Romesburg, Rachael Levy and Madison Cook. Bottom row, from left are, Bre'Shonda Legette, Terraina Rogers, Virginia White, Brooke Porter, Catherine Mendes and Emma Mendes.

## City hosting first tennis tournament

The City of Marion Recreation Department is sponsoring its first **Swamp Fox Open Tennis Tournament** with finals on Saturday Sept. 17 at the Withlacoochee Park tennis courts. If you haven't registered, call Cheryl at 423-5410 for tournament details.

Registration forms and rules are available online at <http://marionsc.gov/government/events.aspx>.

The tournament is part of the city's PLAY DAY 2011 activities in Withlacoochee Park. More information will be forthcoming about playing times and matches.



## Chamber announces Yard of the Month

Mr. and Mrs. Jason E. Jordan, 917 Waycross Street, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for August 2011. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Jordan will receive a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

