

The City of Marion, South Carolina

Swamp Fox Scene

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



Volume 3, Issue 3

August 2012

FREE! COMMUNITY WIDE SCHOOL SUPPLIES GIVE-AWAY

Pop Dorsey Park on August 11 from noon to 4 p.m.

All students will receive a goodie bag filled with school supplies so they can get a head start on the new school year!

Parents are welcome to come and enjoy the food, but children must be present to receive their bag. There is a one bag per child limit.

Bags will not be handed out to parents or guardians unless accompanied by a child!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

For more information or to make a donation, please call Ellen Baldwin 843-731-3702.

Marion's 3rd annual Golf Cart Poker Run set in downtown

3:00 PM ♦ Saturday ♦ August 25, 2012

Golf Carts ♦ Bicycles
Motorcycles, too!

Dress 'em up in your favorite team colors & decor!
WIN CASH & PRIZES for best team spirit!



BENEFIT for the MARION POLICE DEPARTMENT

JOIN us for a day of FUN, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES...and Good Old Fashion FUN!!
@ Olde Towne Marion Farmers Market on Main Street.

CASH PRIZES FOR BEST & WORST POKER HAND!

Humphrey appears on Swamp Fox Country

Marion High School graduate and Brown University bound student William Humphrey, shown at right with Mayor Rodney Berry, is one of the features of this month's Swamp Fox Country, shown on HomeTown TV8. The show can also be streamed "on demand" through the station's website, at www.hometown8.com.

Many citizens recently helped to send William to his ACTSO competition. He credits Marion teachers with helping him to stay on track during his middle and high school years, leading him to his 4.915 GPA. William is the first African-American male to earn the title of class Valedictorian. His accomplishments have netted him numerous awards, honors and scholarships.



Steve Pool and his Accent Signs and Printing, along with Olde Towne Marion, will be overseeing the 3rd Great American Golf Cart Poker Run in Marion's downtown business and historic district on Saturday, Aug. 25.

The Poker Run around the city is a fun-filled way to end the summer with family and friends.

This year the event will be a fundraiser for the City of Marion Police Department. Golf carts, motorcycles and bicycles are welcomed entries, Steve said. Registration begins at 3 p.m. in the alley behind the site of the Farmers Market on Main Street.

Participants begin their trek around town at 5 p.m. Steve said live entertainment, games such as Corn Hole and Ladderball and other activities are planned. 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.

Prizes will be awarded for the best and worst poker hands. To help sponsor, volunteer, participate or have your questions answered, call Steve at 843-468-8366 or Chuck at 423-9918.

Mark your calendars & come play with us!

For the second year, Kaboom.org has recognized the City of Marion for its increased emphasis on outdoor play!

We will celebrate on Saturday, Sept. 15 in Withlacoochee Park

with fun events such as a Punt, Pass & Kick competition; Karate skills; Tennis; Table Tennis, Volleyball matches and more.

Events begin at 9:30 and end at noon.

For information or to help plan this event, call Dianne at 423-9961.



Playful City USA

Plan a little "Play" into every day!



CITY NEWS

City selects Mason as June Employee of the Month

The City of Marion selected Sanitation Department employee Anthony Mason as its June 2012 Employee of the Month.

Anthony has been employed with the City since September 2005 and is responsible for collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting those items to the landfill.

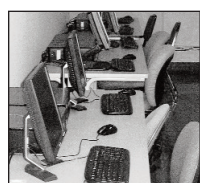
“Anthony is a hard worker,” said Sanitation Superintendent Winky Fore. “He takes pride in his work and is always willing to do whatever it takes to keep his route clean.” The Mayor and Council recognized Anthony Mason for his contributions and dedication to the City of Marion at the July 10 City Council Meeting.



Computer Lab is available; Sign up for computer class

Computers are available for use from 9 a.m.- noon and 2-6 p.m. in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center on Elizabeth Street. Robbie Johnson with the City’s Parks, Recreation and Leisure Department oversees the center.

For information about the computer lab, call 843-423-5410. Stop by the lab and sign up with Robbie for the Introduction to Computers class. Once 10 are registered, a class will be scheduled.



City hires Hucks as full-time firefighter

Part-time firefighter Kelly Hucks accepted a full-time position with the City of Marion Fire Department, effective June 27. Hucks is a native of Horry County.

He is actively involved throughout the community, serving as a member of the OMAR Shriners and the Clinton Lodge, as well as a volunteer firefighter and member of the Marion Rescue Squad.

He lives in Marion with his wife Leslie and their three children.

“Engineer Hucks has been a dedicated volunteer and part-time employee over the past several years,” said Assistant Chief Chris McKenzie. “Hucks is a hard worker and eager to learn. He is passionate about fire service and has quickly established himself as an asset to our department.”



State sales tax holiday coming up!

The 2012 state sales tax holiday weekend is set for Aug. 3-5.

Clothing, shoes, school supplies, computers, bedding, and towels are tax-free. During this time, the 6 percent state sales and use tax, and any applicable local sales and use tax, will not be imposed on certain items. Not all items are included in the sales tax-free weekend.

Computers, printers and printer supplies, computer software and bath washcloths, blankets, bed spreads, bed linens, sheet sets, comforter sets, bath towels, shower curtains, bath rugs and mats, pillows, and pillowcases are.

The tax holiday, however, does not apply to jewelry, cosmetics, eyewear, wallets, watches, furniture, items for use in a business, or items placed on layaway or similar deferred payment and delivery plans. For more information, visit www.sctax.org.

Floyd to be guest speaker at annual United Fund fundraising Gala on Sept. 20

Allyson Floyd, News Anchor and Assistant News Director at WPDE TV15, will be the guest speaker next month at the United Fund of Marion County’s annual Gala.



Tables for the Thursday, Sept. 20 event, with seating for eight, are \$300 each or \$50 per person, paid in advance. The table fee and silent auction for the event raise money for the county organization that in turn helps other organizations help citizens. The event is in the Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall and Shuler’s Barbecue will serve dinner.

Allyson anchors the news at 6 p.m., 7 p.m., and 11 p.m. week nights. She has

worked in television news in the Florence-Myrtle Beach area since 1991. She started her career at WPDE as a reporter and is a graduate of Lake City High School and Clemson University with a major in English and minor in Communications. According to her bio on the WPDE website, Allyson enjoys spending time with her husband, Todd, son Reagan, and daughter Lexie. She likes gardening and attending community events while representing WPDE. Involved with several charitable organizations, she has won numerous awards for her reporting and anchoring.

To reserve your table or make a contribution, call Judy Stanton at 843-423-3411.

Association recognizes City’s higher ed center

The City of Marion was one of 25 cities recognized by the Municipal Association at its annual meeting in June and in its July *Uptown* publication. The Achievement Award was presented for the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center.

According to the City’s entry in the annual contest, rather than partnering with just one higher education institution, the City officials collaborated with three, giving local residents access to multiple learning opportunities from different institutions.

Residents can access courses and classes from Francis Marion University, Coastal Carolina University and Florence Darlington

Technical College. The City was recognized for bringing a week-long back-to-work focused program to the Center.

That program included SCWorks to help residents with resume development, interview coaching and work skills training. In addition, the Center has a lab with 14 computers and frequently used as a rental space for private events.

For more about the other winners and which towns were recognized for their efforts in improving their communities’ quality of life, visit the Municipal Association’s Web site, www.masc.sc. Search for Achievement Awards.

Coming up in August ...

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

EACH Saturday the Marion Farmers Market & Marion Market Place is open at 229 North Main Street from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Plants, vegetables, handmade treasures & more!

EACH month there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting. Contact Brian Nolan for information ... e-mail Nolan at briannolanemail@gmail.com. Both are sponsored by the *Arts Council of Marion County*. Call the Council at 843-423-6636 for details about other events.

11, Saturday, noon- 4 p.m.: Free School Supplies give away at Pop Dorsey Park. Call Ellen Baldwin at 843-731-3702 for information.

13, Monday, 10 a.m.: The LaLeche League of the Pee Dee, nursing mothers and mothers-to-be, babies and toddlers; Sunday School House of the Church of the Advent, 103 East Mullins Street, Marion. Free; no reservation required. Call 843-360-0101 for information.

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

18, Saturday, From 1-6 p.m.: City of Marion District 6 will have its Summer Block Party at Pop Dorsey Park. Call Doris at 423-3090 for details and to see how you can help! Donations of food and such will be greatly appreciated. Don't forget to bring a chair!

25, Saturday, registration begins at 3 p.m., Golf Cart race begins at 5 p.m. Free live entertainment ... Call Steve at 843-468-8366 or Chuck at 423-9918 for more info.

31, Wednesday, 1 p.m.: Marion Chamber of Commerce annual Golf Tournament. Call Judy Johnson at 843-423-3561 for details.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

Labor Day Holiday, Olde Towne Marion's Rise & Shine, Martial Arts Expo, PLAY DAY, United Fund Annual Gala and more! Stay tuned for details!



Get your golf teams ready!

The Marion Chamber of Commerce will play host to its 21st annual Chamber Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Aug. 31 at Dusty Hills Country Club.

Format will be Captain's Choice. Shotgun start is at 1 p.m.

Money raised through the tournament helps offset the cost of the various Chamber programs and activities provided to the City and its businesses. Teams and tournament corporate sponsors, hole sponsors and cart sponsors are welcome!

To register or sign up for sponsorships, visit Judy in the Chamber of Commerce office at 209 E. Bobby Gerald Parkway or call her at 423-3561.



Baker's District 6 to have summer get together

Marion's City District 6, represented on Council by Michael Baker, will have its Summer Get Together at Pop Dorsey Park on Saturday Aug. 18, from 1-6 p.m.

Call Doris at 423-3090 for details and to see how you can help!

Donations of food and such will be greatly appreciated. Don't forget to bring a chair or two for more comfortable sitting!

This is a good way to get to know your neighbors better, make a new friend or two, visit with old friends and end the summer with family and friends.

Calling players, coaches for upcoming rec season

The Marion Recreation Department will be accepting youth sign-ups for cheerleading, football and soccer until Aug. 17. Parents and guardians may register their children at the Watsonia Recreation Center, 100 Recreation Drive, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Registration for those living inside the city limits is \$16 and \$30 for those living outside the city limits. Please bring proof of residency and a copy of the child's birth certificate at the time of registration. There will be no registration without the birth certificate.

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.

Chamber continues giving books to students

The members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce are again this year planning to present to each incoming third grader in the Marion County School System and at Pee Dee Academy the book "Francis Marion and the Legend of The Swamp Fox" by Kate Salley Palmer for their personal library.

The project has a two-fold impact: reminding students of the importance of history and giving the county's young people a chance to see how important Marion County was in the history of our nation. Last year the Chamber's members placed more than 400 books into the hands of third graders. The books will be presented in the first half of the 2012-13 school year and each has a personalized name plate.

For more information, call Judy at 423-3561.

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.

NEED HELP WITH CITY SERVICES?

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

- 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 Fick, 843-423-8614
- Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11
- Recreation Admin Assistant Cheryl Askins, 843-423-5410

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.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Congratulations to our 2012 All-Star Teams



From left, then below and clockwise, are the 2012 Marion Recreation Department All-Star Teams: Belles; Angels; Dixie Youth Boys; Dixie Youth Minors; Dixie Youth Majors; and Ponytails, who made to the state playoffs.



Thanks to all who helped to make this a successful season!

Looking for outdoor fun? Visit the city's playgrounds

The following playgrounds are open to the public and provide free fun for the kids.

Grice's Recreation Center, 603 Gurley Street. This location has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and a walking track to the side.

Tilghman Park, 409 Montgomery Street. This is the city's location for T-ball and coach-pitched baseball. It also has slides, hobby horses, swings, and a merry-go-round.

Withlacoochee Park, N. Withlacoochee Avenue. This location has also been updated with new equipment for the children. This site holds Marion's new Tennis Courts and a walking track.

Twice each month Bingo! is offered to players in the Watsonia Rec Center

Bingo is offered at the Watsonia Recreation Center on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 8:15-9:15 a.m. There is room for more to join in the fun.

There are refreshments for all and prizes for those who win. If you have any questions about this program please call 423-5410.

Looking for a place to hold your event?

It's that time of the year for cookouts, family get togethers, birthday parties, etc. The Recreation Department might have the perfect place for your events.

From Watsonia and Grice's Recreation Centers to our outdoor Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter, check with us to see if your date is available.

Call Cheryl at 423-5410 for more information about rentals.

Want to play in a table tennis tournament?
Call Chuck at 423-9918.



Want to play in a tennis tournament?
Call Frank at 423-5410.



Want to play in a volleyball tournament?
Get a group together and plan to play on Sept. 15.