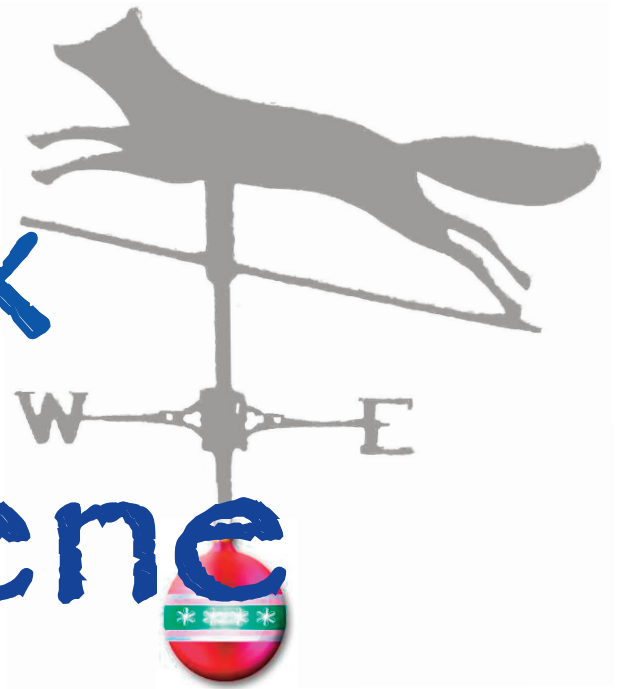


Swamp Fox Scene

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

Among the many things Marion does well is Christmas! From the decorations and lights on the lawns and lamps lining Main Street, to December's first weekend events, there is much to enjoy. From the Saturday parade and annual Sunday Tree Lighting ceremony, from our new Market Place at the Farmers Market in the old Coca Cola Bottling Plant on Bobby Gerald Parkway to Santa's visits via firetrucks and our finale of fireworks, the city comes alive to celebrate family and the season. This year is sure to be no different from the wonderful celebrations that kicked off Christmases past. At right is an *updated* schedule of events and activities known to us at press time. Be sure to enjoy the holidays "Marion Style."



... from your City of Marion Police Department ...

Celebrate Christmas

**Marion's 22nd Annual
Holiday Prelude &
Community Tree Lighting Celebration**

Saturday, December 3rd

- 9 a.m.-Noon: At the old Coca Cola Bottling Plant on Bobby Gerald Parkway, the site of Marion's new Farmers Market, *Farmer's Market & Specialty Vendors, Visits & Photos with Santa, Hay Rides*
- 2 p.m.: Free Christmas Movie in CD Joyner Auditorium
- 4:30 p.m.: Marion Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade on Main Street (Must be registered to participate. Call 843-423-3561 for details.)

Sunday, December 4th

- 4 p.m.: Latta Singers, Christmas Presentation in the Historic Marion Opera House
- 5 p.m.: Christmas Concert, Marion Baptist Church Sanctuary, George Hiatt, Organist
- 5-7 p.m.: Pilot Club Soup & Cornbread supper and bake sale ... Silent auction fundraiser and raffle, all in the Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 p.m.: Arrival of Santa Clause aboard the City of Marion fire truck; at the Courthouse
- 6 p.m.: **Tree Lighting Celebration**
Carol lighting service to light our stately Magnolia tree, featuring more than 10,000 colorful lights ... More than 1,400 luminaries light the Historic Courthouse Square ... Live Nativity Scene & Apple Cider, sponsored by our local banking institutions. Handicapped section available.

**Fireworks immediately following
Tree Lighting Celebration
in Withlacoochee Park!**

... with us in Marion!

Dear Marion Friends,

The City of Marion will once again distribute food boxes to our less fortunate neighbors during the week of Christmas. Last year, our city was very generous in this mission. Recipients of food boxes are recommended by DSS and our firefighters and police officers hand deliver the boxes.

This program allows various neighborhoods to see first hand how our men and women in uniform sincerely care about the people of Marion. The need is real. I've witnessed it time and time again over the past three years. If you are inclined to help, each pre-packed food box costs \$30 and is filled with great items that ensure a wonderful Christmas for any family.

Please make checks payable to the City of Marion (food boxes) and send your checks to P.O. Box 1190, Marion, S.C. 29571.

God bless & best regards, Mayor Rodney Berry

Marion gets ready to sponsor its first Table Top Tennis Tournament!

The City of Marion Recreation Department will sponsor its first Table Tennis Tournament beginning at 9 a.m. on Dec. 10 in the A.C. Tollison Gym. There are three classes for play: Singles under 16 years old, Singles 17 and older and Open Doubles.

The tournament is a blind draw, double elimination. Registration fee is \$5 per person. Call Cheryl or Frank at 843-423-5410 for details!

Marion's first Table Tennis Tournament

Co-ed tournament, blind draw in three classes:
Singles 16 & younger, Singles 17 & older,
and Open doubles
... double elimination ...

AC Tollison Gymnasium,
701 Wilcox Street

December 10, 2011; Play begins at 9 a.m.

\$5 per person, per tournament

Sign up at City Hall, see Pam Jones, City Clerk,
or at the Watsonia Recreation Center. Call Frank Page
or Cheryl Askins @843-423-5410.

Deadline to register is 3 p.m., December 9, 2011

Trophies awarded to top winners!

Name: _____ Age: _____
Contact telephone number: _____
PAID FOR: SINGLES: _____ DOUBLES: _____

Coming up

First Weekend in December ...
Holiday events are on page 1.

December 7th

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

December 12th

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

December 13th

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

December 19th

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

December 23rd, 26th & 27th

Merry Christmas! City Hall will be closed for the Christmas Holidays during these days and city employees will be off.

Begin making your plans now for the 2012 Relay for Life Fundraising efforts

According to organizers Shelley White and Sandra Tindall, the following are the dates set up for Team and Committee Meetings for 2012 Marion County Relay for Life.

She asks that everyone mark their calendars and begin their planning for this annual event. There will be mailings before each meeting, but she wants the public to know in advance, as well, so teams and team members can make their plans.

Meetings are in Room A at the Marion County Hospital, at 5:30 p.m. Also, each meeting is the second Thursday of each month (except April). Dates are: Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 8, April 4 (Wednesday).

"Bank Night" will be April 11 at the Anderson Brothers Bank meeting room at 3 p.m. The Relay for Life will be in the Withlacoochee Park on Friday, April 13. Set up begins at 11 a.m. The event begins at 6 p.m. and runs through April 14, 6 a.m. April 13 activities include the Survivor Walk at 7 p.m. Lighting of the luminaries is at 9 p.m.

Chiropractor sponsoring annual Toy Drive

Dr. Vincent Mendes and the Marion Chiropractic Center will be having its annual Christmas Toy Drive on Monday, Dec. 12

All adjustments are given for FREE if you donate a new unwrapped toy to the Marion County Christmas. Toys should be of at least a \$10 value.

New patients can also be seen, but must call ahead to make an appointment prior to that day. For more information, call 423-4263.

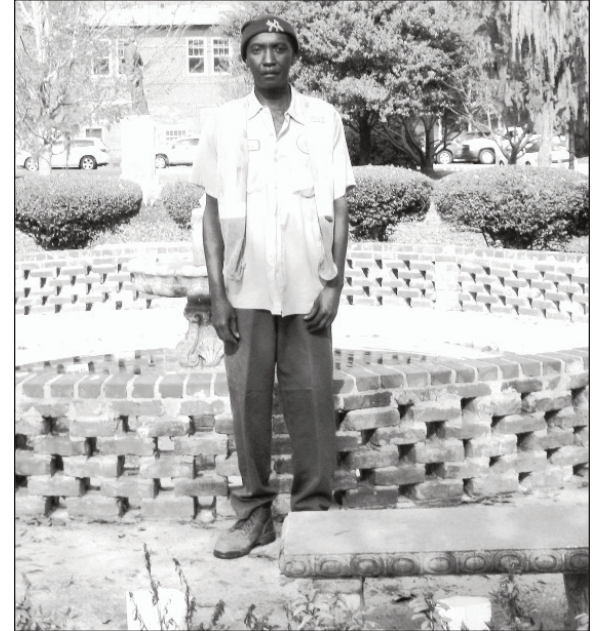
CITY NEWS

City Council recognizes employee

The City of Marion selected William Pee as its October 2011 Employee of the Month. Pee, or "Butch" as he is known to his fellow employees, was hired by the City of Marion Sanitation Department in February 2008. He transferred to his current position in the Street Department in July 2010. His responsibilities range from cleaning storm drains to mowing grass to his present task of installing Christmas lighting and other holiday decorations.

"Butch is one of our most dependable employees," said Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders. "He never complains, and is always willing to learn new things and take on new tasks."

The Mayor and Council recognized William Pee for his significant contributions and dedication to the City of Marion at the Nov. 8 Council Meeting. Butch is shown at right on a break from helping to decorate the city's Courthouse Square.



Marion's 1st Lt. Brown reminisces

This month the City of Marion recognizes a retired law enforcement officer who served as the Marion Police Department's first 1st Lieutenant and our first African American investigator, Ret. Lt. Ernest Brown. Brown was hired in 1977 and was a dedicated member of the Marion Police Department for 24 years.

"I enjoyed my job with the Marion Police Department," said Brown. "I enjoyed working out the puzzle with Buddy Feagin ... we always got our man."

Brown retired from employment with the City of Marion in February 2001. The retired First Lt. and his wife, Katie Mae, are lifelong residents of Marion. They have four children and are the proud grandparents of 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Brown and his wife, who is also retired, run a flower shop together out of their Marion home. He is enjoying his retirement by spending time with his family, volunteering with his church, New Beginning Temple of Praise; and working in the community. Thank you, Lt. Brown, for your exceptional dedication and outstanding service to the City of Marion.



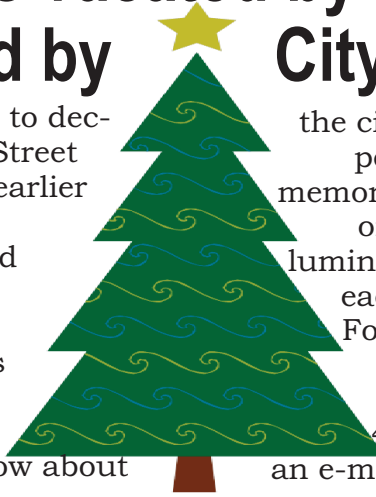
Welcome the new city employees!

In recent months, the following employees have joined the various crews in their departments. Counter clockwise from left, Roosevelt Campbell is now working the front desk at the Marion Police Department. Eric Jones has joined the Street Department and John Richardson is a new City of Marion firefighter. Join us in welcoming our new employees.



Main Street lots vacated by summer fire to be decorated by City for Christmas

City officials are planning to decorate the lots fronting Main Street that were devastated by fire earlier this year. Historic Marion Revitalization Association and others are supporting this endeavor. Because plans are being made as we go to press to publish this issue of the Swamp Fox Scene, we wanted to let the citizens know about



the city's decorating plans and the possible opportunities to make memorials or honorariums for loved ones. Lighted Christmas trees, luminaries and a nativity scene are each parts of the current plans. For more information about the coming holiday project, call Dianne in City Hall at 423-5961, Ext. 21 or send her an e-mail at dowens@marionsc.gov.

Rotary members learn about new county health foundation

On Nov. 7, the Marion Rotary Club welcomed Gene Tucker, former CEO of the Marion Regional Hospital and now Director of the Marion County Healthcare Foundation.

The Foundation was established in 2010 from the proceeds of the sale of the Marion County Medical Center. Tucker and the Board of Directors at Marion County Healthcare (the former Board of the Marion County Medical Center) manage the interest earned from investment of these proceeds. Through inspired philanthropy, grants, and innovative community programs they will work to improve the quality of life in Marion County.

The Foundation was pleased to announce its new offices at 230 South Main Street in Mullins. The Board has already approved plans to spend some \$250,000.00 this year to enhance the services of the "Helping Hands" free health clinic in Marion County.

They have also secured a grant through BlueCross for the clinic to use diagnostic medical tools which were formerly not available. The Foundation will also expand its program to help offset the deductibles owed by the clinic's patients on prescriptions.

Within the next year, the Foundation will begin to formalize their application projects for other groups interested in applying for grants for "charitable, educational and scientific purposes" in Marion County. Should the public have any general questions, Tucker welcomes call at 464-0533.

The Marion Rotary Club meets every Monday in the Marion Chinese Restaurant at 1 p.m. The primary goals of Rotary include polio eradication, clean drinking water and literacy programs for our young people. Membership is by invitation only, but anyone interested in attending a meeting, can telephone Rotary President Joe Long at 430-4333.

The Marion Rotary Club continued its literacy project in our county this past year by providing a free dictionary to all third grade students at Marion Intermediate School, Pee Dee Academy, and Britton's Neck Elementary.

Shown at left are Marion Rotary Club President Joe Long presenting a check of support to Decar Brown, director of operations for the Boys & Girls Club in Florence, and Latoria Lewis, director of the Marion site of the Boys & Girls Club. For information about the local Boys & Girls Club, call Latoria at 423-8623.



Ribbon Cuttings

New restaurant, insurance business open doors

The Marion Chamber of Commerce welcomed City Food and Spirits to the Marion Business Community on Nov. 10. Located at 1106 East Godbold Street, the business is owned by Jimmy James.

Marion Chamber President, Ashley Brady, Mayor Rodney Berry, and Chamber board members and friends, shown below, welcomed Jimmy and his staff to Marion. City Food & Spirits is open for lunch Monday - Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for dinner Monday - Friday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. On Saturdays, they are open from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m.



Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce welcomed the Howard Blakeney Allstate Agency to the Marion County Business Community on Nov. 17. Located at 3040 Highway 76, East, Suite A, the business is owned by long-time Marion resident Howard D. Blakeney.

Marion Chamber President-Elect Alan Zeman, Mullins Chamber President-Elect Rick Fowler, Senator Kent Williams, Mayor Rodney Berry, and Chamber board members and friends, shown below, welcomed Howard and his staff.



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

Visit the City & the Farmers Market Facebook...

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.

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

It is printed by Herald Multi-forms in Dillon, S.C. City of Marion employees Cheryl Askins, Elizabeth Ficik, Winky Fore, Pam Jones and Dianne Owens comprise the paper's staff. Call Pam 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 Historic Marion Revitalization Association office on Main Street and in other spots around town. Call us if you'd like to be a distribution point. The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

Call Mayor Rodney Berry or the City Administrator at 843-423-5961 for more information.

Visit the Marion Chamber's new Facebook page and discover their latest news and things to do!

SPORTS & RECREATION

All Star soccer players heading to state finals in Sumter

Marion has been well represented several years in a row in the district playoffs. This year, two city All Star teams will return to play in the state play-offs in set for mid-December in Sumter, the 10 and Under team and the 12-15 team. Photo of the 10 and Under team shortly after their district playoff win is provided by Head Coach Rusty Britt.

Congratulations and thanks to all the teams, members, coaches and parents for all they do to make our soccer program a successful one!



Coming Up

Check us out online!

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

Come and exercise

The Marion Recreation Department offers Senior Aerobics every Monday and Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Watsonia Recreation Center.

There is no sign up necessary for this class and it's FREE, however donations are appreciated. Anyone who wants to come by to check out the class before they join is invited to do so.

Anyone with questions about this class should call 423-5410.

Basketball set to begin

Marion Recreation basketball team practices began on Nov. 30. The regular basketball season will start at the beginning of January after the students return to school from their Christmas breaks.

Home games will be played in the A.C. Tollison Gym.

If you have any questions about basketball game schedules, please call 423-5410.



Recreation sites getting overhauls

It's time for some changes at various City of Marion Recreation Department sites. The city is updating the concession stands and dug outs at Watsonia, see left. We are adding all new playground equipment in our parks, see right. Keep a look out for the new improvements!



Marion Chamber announces Yard of the Month

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Godbolt, 317 Huggins Street, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce yard of the Month for November 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. Godbolt will receive a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.