

# Swamp Fox Scene

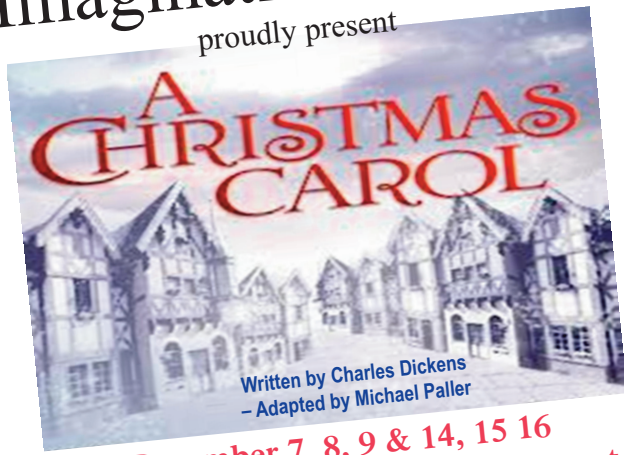


A FREE monthly news magazine for the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City

## CHRISTMAS IN MARION

If there's one thing Marion does well, that's Celebrating Christmas! From the decorations and lights that line Main Street, to the First Saturday parade and First Sunday Tree Lighting ceremony; from Santa's visits to fireworks, the city comes alive with special holiday sights and sounds, all designed to help celebrate the holidays. Below is this year's schedule of events.

### The City of Marion & Imagination Ministries proudly present



**December 7, 8, 9 & 14, 15 16**  
**Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. & Sundays at 2:30 p.m.**  
Doors will open 30 minutes before each show.

C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center Auditorium  
221 Elizabeth Street, Marion, South Carolina  
For seating reservations, call 843-423-5444 or 843-260-4483,  
between 1 and 5 p.m. on the day of the performance.  
The show is FREE, however, donations will be accepted at the door.

### Marion's 23rd Annual Holiday Prelude & Community Tree Lighting: a Celebration of Christmas

**Saturday, December 1st**

**9 a.m.-noon:**

Olde Towne Marion's Farmers Market, produce, crafters & more!  
Santa arrives at 10 a.m. and Hay Rides begin leaving from the Farmer's Market. From 10-11:30 a.m., Britton's Neck Militia Reenactors will offer conversation about Gen. Francis Marion & the Revolutionary War in Marion.

**4:30 p.m.:**

Marion Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Parade on Main Street

**Sunday, December 2nd**

**4 p.m.:**

Latta Singers' Christmas Presentation at the Marion Baptist Church, Dessert Reception to follow in the Opera House

**5-7 p.m.:**

Pilot Club Soup & Cornbread Supper and Bake Sale in the Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Silent auction and raffle, too!

**5:30 p.m.:**

Santa Claus arrives!

**5:45 p.m.:**

Christmas Show at the Courthouse

**6 p.m.:**

Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration

*Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park immediately following Ceremony*

### Dear Friends,

This December the City of Marion will again distribute food boxes during the week before Christmas to help a few of our neighbors. Our citizens have been very generous in this mission in the past. The City works with Marion County DSS to place the food in recommended homes and members of our fire and police departments hand deliver the boxes. This program allows neighborhoods to see that 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. If you are inclined to help, each pre-packed food box costs about \$30 and is filled with great items that help ensure wonderful Christmas meals for the family. Items include grits, rice, milk, a hen, stuffing mix, canned vegetables and more. Please make checks payable to the City of Marion (food boxes) and send them to P.O. Box 1190, Marion, S.C. 29571.

Thanks to your gifts, at least 100 families were able to enjoy all the trimmings and fixings of a Christmas meal this past year. Donations, requested by Dec. 14, are welcome in any amount and will be put with others to make the purchases. For details, call City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

**God bless & best regards, Mayor Rodney Berry**



# CITY NEWS .....

## City names Glenn Bridgers as October's employee of the month

The City of Marion selected Glenn Bridgers as its October 2012 Employee of the Month.

Glenn has worked in the Street Department since May 2005. He is a hard worker who takes great pride in his work, which ranges from mowing grass in the summer to his current task of decorating the City for the Christmas season.

Glenn is known for his quiet demeanor and friendly smile. Last month, when the City of Marion was missing one of its key employees, Street Superintendent Supervisor Ronnie Sanders, who was out of work on a medical leave of absence, Glenn did not allow the Department to miss a beat.

Under his leadership the Street team successfully planted winter rye grass, removed the scarecrows and other fall décor downtown, hung Christmas wreaths, strung lights and placed bows, all a part of the department's Christmas season preparations.



"Glenn has always been one of our most dependable employees," said Sanders, adding that he really appreciated the efforts of Glenn and the other members of the department during his absence.

The Mayor and Council recognized Glenn Bridgers for his positive attitude and significant contributions to the City of Marion at the Nov. 13 Council Meeting.

## Award recipient gives to food program

Judge T. Carroll Atkinson, III, 2012 recipient of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award, has named the City of Marion Christmas Food Box Project, as his charity of choice. Through the generosity of Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank, a check was presented to Judge Atkinson to be used for this year's food distribution by the City of Marion Police Department and Fire Department. The presentation was made on November 20. On hand for the presentation were Mayor Rodney Berry; Ralph Atkinson, Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank; Chief Trey Cooper, Marion Fire Department; and Judge Atkinson. Judge Atkinson received the 2012 Community Service Award at the Annual Meeting of the Marion Chamber of Commerce.



## Coming in December

To keep up with what's going on in and around Marion for the holidays, see Page 1 and 4!

**1-2, Saturday & Sunday, Holiday Prelude** ... See Page 1 for details.

**5, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Rise & Shine!** Business networking opportunity ... call Chuck at 423-9918, for details and location.

**7, 8, 9 & 14, 15 & 16, Timeless** story of the Christmas Carol, performed in the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center ... See Page 1 for details.

**8, Saturday, Noon-3 p.m., District 4 Fellowship,** St. John's AME Church Parking Lot, Bobby L. Davis Boulevard.

**8, Saturday, Basketball Tournament** ... See Page 4 for details.

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

**24, 25, 26, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, Christmas Holidays observed.** City offices will be closed.



## GET REGISTERED today

for Florence-Darlington Technical College classes in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center!

The Center is a great opportunity for students to continue their education without having to travel far from home.

Students enrolled in classes in the Center must be properly registered with FDTC first.

**Or call Marie Ferguson at the FDTC-Mullins site, 843-676-8550 for details about FDTC courses.**

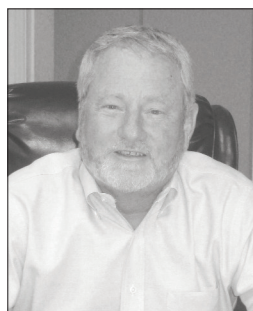
To learn more about other potential offerings, call Francis Marion University's Coordinator of Continuing Education, Suzan Orrico at 843-661-1283.

## Get to know your City Council



**RODNEY BERRY**

Mayor



**RONALD ATKINSON**

Mayor Pro Tem  
District 2



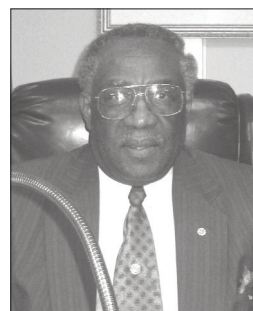
**RALPH ATKINSON**

District 1



**BETSY ATKINSON**

District 3



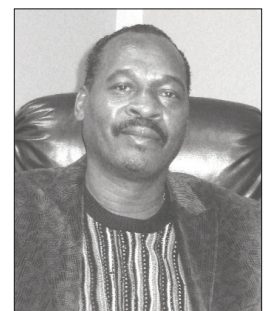
**BOBBY DAVIS**

District 4



**ODESSA GREGG**

District 5



**MICHAEL BAKER**

District 6

Mayor Rodney Berry was elected in April 2009. His term ends in April 2013. He can be reached by calling his office telephone at **843-423-8235**.

Council member Ronald Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-230-0072**.

Council member Ralph Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-250-0446**.

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

Council member Bobby Davis was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-423-4655**.

Council member Odessa Gregg was elected in April 2011. Her term ends in 2013. She can be reached at **843-275-0265**.

Council member Michael Baker was reelected in April 2009. His term ends in 2013. He can be reached by telephone at **843-597-3617**.

# GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR .....

First and foremost, Merry Christmas! City employees in nearly every department have been intensely working to deliver you the prettiest little decorated town in South Carolina in hopes that it will add to your holiday spirit!

Our employees take so much pride in their efforts and hope all of you enjoy it. There is but one reason we celebrate the season. And, out of all places, Facebook emphasized that message to me recently.

Those of you on Facebook are inundated by all kinds of messages. Many of them are positive, and then others, not so much. A couple of days ago one friend posted a message that simply



read, "Follow Me," God. I found myself glued to this post. My mind began to ponder the statement.

Initially, I thought about the broad sense of following God, but my mind quickly shifted to the literal meaning and I envisioned myself walking right behind Him. Think about it. If you follow right behind Him, not drifting, there is nothing you will face alone. That's a large dose of comfort.

I make this statement because everyone of us is going through something. Many times I've looked at a person who appears to have everything only to learn that they are going through intense turmoil. We all smile at each other at church, in the grocery store, at work and in public places, but in truth, we all have our struggles. We all need that leader that we can follow and from whom we can find comfort. There is only one who can make such a delivery, and we're soon to celebrate His birth.

So please be mindful during this season to stay on the path right behind Him. Every person around you deserves kindness. You do not know the troubles they face, but be assured they're present. God has not made a single extra person. Ever thought of that? All are of His individual making for a purpose to be respected for reverence of God's creation.



I urge you this Christmas to reach out to friends and strangers with extra kindness as commanded by God. Chances are you will make a difference in someone's life this season who really needs it.

I assure you that God will put these folks in your path and you'll recognize it when He does. I suggest to you that the more you respond to these opportunities, the better your Christmas will be ... that's the Spirit!

Best regards and Merry Christmas friends!

Mayor Rodney Berry

## City offers citizens opportunities for fun, fitness and fellowship!

### Recreational Bingo has new start time

Don't forget that the Marion Recreation Department offers Bingo the first and third Thursday of each month from at 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.!

This program is FREE of charge to our senior citizens. Refreshments are offered and prizes are given to the winners! There is plenty of room for new players to join the fun! If you have questions, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

### City's new Ping Pong Club meets twice a week

Marion Recreation Department now has a Ping Pong Club that meets twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.

Everyone is invited to stop by and

check out the club and to work on refreshing your table tennis skills. Anyone with questions about the club can call Chuck Weigert at 423-9918.

### City offers aerobics, yoga & senior flexibility classes

An aerobics class targeted for senior citizens is conducted in the Watsonia Recreation Center on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The class is FREE of charge, but donations are appreciated. If you are interested in this class, just stop by on one of the above days to talk to Anna Boatwright about joining the class.

Additionally, another aerobics class is offered in a classroom in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center on Elizabeth Street on Mondays through Fridays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

This class is \$30 for each month.

Anyone interested in joining this class should visit the class and talk to Lillie Ann Sanders, teacher.

Each Tuesday and Thursday in the new Fire Department Substation on Sen. Gasque Road, Frances Bethea and Judy Johnson instruct Yoga for anyone interested. The classes are also from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The cost of this class is \$5 per class or \$30 for the month. No experience is necessary to join in.

### Rec Department scheduling facilities' rental for 2013

The City of Marion Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure is accepting applications for renting its facilities in 2013. Anyone interested in the use of Grice's or Watsonia Recreation Centers, or the Pop Dorsey Picnic site, should call 423-5410 to check the facility's availability.

### 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.

### NEED HELP?

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

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 Ficik, 843-423-8614

Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11

Recreation Admin Assistant Cheryl Askins, 843-423-5410

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.



### IT'S IN OUR HANDS! SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN.

Together, we can make a difference ... The City of Marion has a TEXT A TIP line ... See a crime happening? Have a TIP?

Text it to 430-0938.

TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 \* TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 \* TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938

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# SPORTS & RECREATION .....



At right, the new Watsonia Recreation Center field scoreboard is in place. The sign was purchased in part with a S.C. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department's Parks and Recreation Development (PARD) grant.

A big thanks to all who helped install the new sign: Russ Smith, Rusty Cotton, Mike Richardson, "Boo" Lewis, Jimmy Collins, Alan Ammons and Jerry Bennett

## Go soccer teams!

The City of Marion sent three teams to district playoffs in Sumter in November. The Small Fry team of 10 and under players were out of action after losing to Cheraw.

The Mite team, 12 and under, are district runners up. The team lost in the championship round to North Myrtle Beach.

The Midget team, 15 and under, were semi-finalist, losing to Conway.

**Terrific pictures are posted on Facebook! Check them out!**

Soccer All Star Players are as follows:  
**Small Fry:** Darrien Bethea, Reagan Njoku, Kimbrie'l Barnes, Kadra Sanders, Jeffery Collins II, James Singletary, Chadwick Campbell, Zykia Shelton, Payton Hufford, Logan Upton and Collin Hufford, Amanda Wallace, Phillip



Johnson, Tamia White, Richard Kaiser, Gabriella Johnson, Austin Larrimore, and Mason Turbeville.

**Midgets:** Aaron Fulmer, Hannah Martin, Caleb Fulmer, Joshua Shelley, Garrett Lane, Caleb Cook, Hunter Lane, Pedro Cardenas, Madison Reynolds, Tritt Copley, Jamarus Mckelvy, Cameron Copley, Nicholas Brown, Miguel Renteria, Wesley Edwards and Jonathan Person.

**Mite:** Peyton Britt, Holly Grice, Sally Brown, Brandon Ingram, Fischer Boyles, Taylor Pike, Alex Cooke, Jeffery Piner, Frank Drew, Andria Querubin, Julia Fulmer, Sarah Ray, Garrett Fravor, Grayson Rogers, Ashley Garner, Davis Skipper, Anna Johnson and Lauren Wallace.

## The 2012 Marion 3-on-3 Basketball, 3-Point Shoot-Out & Slam Dunk Competition December 7, 8 & 9 in the A.C. Tollison Gymnasium

### *That's RIGHT!*

BRING IT! Register now at the Watsonia Recreation Center as a team to compete in the upcoming 3-on-3 Basketball tournament. You can also register as an individual to compete in the 3-Point Shoot-out and Slam Dunk competitions.

Cost to register a team is \$15. Individual registrations are \$5 each. For information and details, call the Rec Department at 423-5410.

**Get yourself and your teams registered today!** Competitions are co-ed and are divided into two age groups, 8-14 years old and 15 and older.

**Proceeds from the tournament and competitions will benefit the Marion County Boys and Girls Club.**

## Basketball teams gearing up for season

Basketball practice is now underway for the season. All home games will be played in the A.C. Tollison Gym. Don't forget to come out and support the kids and coaches. Check Facebook to keep up with the game schedules and information dealing with the recreation department. If you have any questions, call us at 423-5410.

## All Star Cheer program begins another season

Our All Star Cheer program has started again and the girls are already practicing and getting ready for their upcoming competitions. As a fundraiser, the cheerleaders-in-training will be selling Secret Santa Cupcake boxes to be delivered on Dec. 21. There are four flavors for sale: Gingerbread, Egg Nog, Red Velvet and Hot Cocoa. Boxes are \$12 for pick up and \$15 delivered.

Anyone interested in purchasing cupcakes can contact any of the cheer girls, Kelly Morehouse, or stop by the Elementary Gym (behind the Marion School District office) to a practice and place an order. For more information, call Cheryl at 423-5410.



## Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Leonard, 420 McEachern Heights, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for November 2012.

The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and who add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.