



Merry Christmas from The City of Marion, South Carolina Swamp Fox Scene



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

Volume 5, Issue 7

December 2014

Marion's 25th Annual Holiday Prelude & Community Tree Lighting Celebration



Thursday, November 20th:

- HMRA Snowball Drop • 5:30pm
- Downtown Marion Merchants' Extended Shopping Hours • 6-8pm • Downtown Marion

Saturday, December 6th:

- HMRA Prelude to Christmas with Artisans, Crafters & Food Vendors • 9am-3pm
- Marion Christmas Parade • 4:30pm
sponsored by the Marion Chamber of Commerce

Sunday, December 7th:

- Marion Pilot Club Soup Supper, Bake Sale & Silent Auction 5-7pm • Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
- Annual City Tree Lighting Celebration • 6pm
- Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park • 7pm



Saturday, December 13th:

- Christmas Tour of Homes • 4-8pm
sponsored by Marion Chamber of Commerce & the Pilot Club of Marion

Thursday, December 18th:

- Downtown Marion Merchants' Extended Shopping Hours • 6-8pm • Downtown Marion

You won't want to miss these events!

*Call the Marion Chamber office for information/details. 843-423-3561.

Celebrating Christmas

One thing the City of Marion loves to do is decorate for the holidays and celebrate Christmas! From the awesome lights, luminaries, wreaths and more that line Main Street, to the numerous special events lined up for the first weekend in December, Marion is a special place during the holidays. Don't forget the parade on Saturday afternoon and the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, followed by the fireworks at Withlacoochee Park. For entire details, see the schedule on left.

Greeting From the Mayor

Once again, the holidays are upon us. It's hard to believe but it's true. The year has all but passed us by and it's time to spread that holiday cheer.

First, to all of our city employees who work so faithfully to decorate our town, thank you all for your diligence in helping enhance the holiday experience! We hope you all enjoy the sights. As we celebrate the holiday season, let us not forget the one true reason for the season....JESUS CHRIST.

Secondly, let's reflect on our accomplishments over the past few months. We've had some exciting things happen and hope to continue to grow and succeed as a community. Most recently, we celebrated our veterans. Again, we'd like to thank them for their service and honor their efforts in the fight for our freedoms.

In addition, I ask that you all continue to spend time with family and friends and use this time to reflect and count your blessings. Our lives on earth are but a brief moment in time so make the most of it by continuing to serve one another. Also, please remember those less fortunate, the elderly and those who live alone.

Finally, on behalf of the City of Marion, I would like to wish every single citizen a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. It is truly an honor to serve the City of Marion and I am again thankful for the trust you place in me.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

MAYOR BOBBY L. DAVIS



City of Marion 2nd Annual Veteran's Appreciation



Regional Director from Senator Tim Scott's office.

Marion Mayor Bobby L. Davis, along with Major Edward Holmes (retired) honored our heroes. Music was presented by Master Sgt. Crosby Bowens (retired), Marion County School of Music. The Rev. Larry Williams uplifted the crowd through song and praise. He also donated food packages to all veterans. We saluted the veterans with the National Anthem, led by Christen Graves. Special thanks to the Marion High School JROTC, Major Donnie Short & First Sgt. Iris Stackhouse for their assistance.

Please mark your calendar to attend next year's program! It's promised to be as great, if not better. To all our Veteran's we thank you for all you have done and all that you continue to do.

The City of Marion honored veterans and families during its 2nd Annual Veterans Appreciation Program on Friday, November 8th, 2014 at the Memorial Triangle on South Main. Street Hundreds of veterans, along with families and friends, attend the program. What a spectacular program it was. We were encouraged to remember our fallen heroes. They are the reason we are free.

Guest speakers included U.S. Senator Kent Williams, MSgt. Gloria Evans (retired), Gen. Frank Jones (retired) and Mr. A. D. Jordan,

Get ready to PARADE!

The Marion Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce plans for the upcoming Marion Christmas Parade. We invite you to join us on Saturday, December 6th at 4:30 p.m. in downtown Marion.

This is the ninth year the Chamber will play host to this event and we are looking forward to helping provide the parade for our community. However, we need help to make this event a success. We are seeking participation from the community.

We invite civic groups, churches, and schools to be a part of the parade. We also welcome business logo trucks and cars as entries. There is an entry fee of \$10 per unit. Exceptions are Commercial float renters, elected officials, Chamber members, School bands, queens, and marching units, Fire Departments, Municipal rescue units, or invited guests of the Parade Sponsor.

The entry fee must accompany the application and an application must be on file for each unit in the parade by Thursday, December 4th at noon. Each unit **MUST** have identification of the group, business or organization they represent on their unit.

For an application or if you have questions about this year's parade, call 423-3561 or come by the Chamber office in the Depot at 209 East Bobby Gerald Parkway.

We look forward to working with the community on this fun filled event.

Cindy Rogers
Marion Chamber of Commerce
423-3561

Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Rosewood Manor House on Friday October 31st. Located at 900 N. Main Street, this bed and breakfast and event venue is owned by Dr. Gary W. McKeel and J. Harold Cunningham. Marion Chamber Vice President, T. Carrol Atkinson III and Mayor Bobby L. Davis along with other friends and family members welcomed this new business to our community. For more information or to reserve this venue call 843-433-8214.

Photo Courtesy of Marion Chamber of Commerce

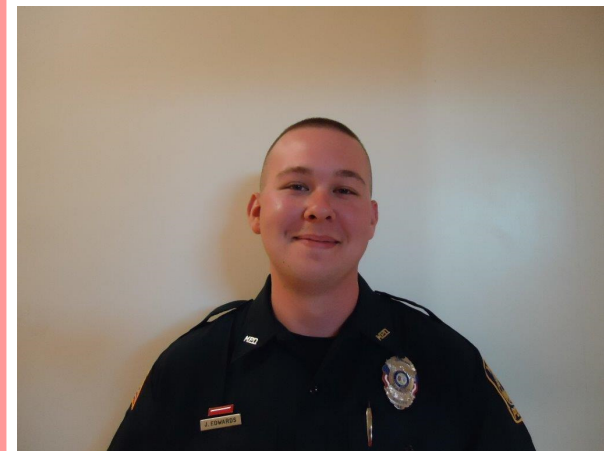


MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Thornell and Denise Williams, 406 Gibson Street, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for November 2014. 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. Williams will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

Employee of the Month



PTL. Jonathan Edwards was selected as the City of Marion's November 2014 Employee of the Month. Jonathan has been employed with the Marion Police Department since March 19, 2014. He graduated from the South Carolina

Criminal Justice Academy on June 20, 2014. Officer Edwards excels the call of duty and goes beyond expectation to bring harmony and unity to the Marion Police Department. The Marion Police is grateful for having such an officer as Jonathan Edwards working for the betterment of the Marion Police Department and the City of Marion.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis and City Council recognized Jonathan Edwards for his service and dedication to the City of Marion at the November 10th Council Meeting.

The Arts Council of Marion County proudly presents a performance by The Hammond School Select Ensemble Choir of Columbia, South Carolina

Come enjoy a concert performance featuring 48 singers who will share their gift of music

Sunday, December 14, 2014
7:00 p.m. – Concert

Reception to follow
Historic Marion Opera House
100 West Court Street, Marion, SC
Ticket - \$10.00

Please RSVP by 12/4/14 to 843.289.5054 or artcounciljj@att.net

Tickets can be purchased at the offices of the Arts Council of Marion County, HMRA, and the Marion Emporium.



Taylor's Barber Shop 100th Anniversary

Mayor Bobby L. Davis presented business owner Mack McClellan with a plaque for Taylor's Barber Shop for its 100th Anniversary. A program was planned for November 18th at the Marion County Museum. Program High-

lights: Barbershop Talk, Barbershop Quartet, and Mayor's Presentation of the City's Resolution. Congratulations Taylor's Barber Shop on your service to Marion for a 100 years.

Historic Marion is a great place to visit, shop, dine and live. Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov and on Facebook under City of Marion, South Carolina.

Mark your Calendar Look what's on the way in Marion for December.....



Open each Saturday.....

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Community Farmer's Market is open at 109 Bobby Gerald Parkway, now through December. For information, call (843) 610-6246. Stop by and get your local grown, baked or hand-made items.

Wednesday, December 3rd...8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Hulon Jewelers, 325 N. Main Street.

Saturday, December 6th...10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. **HMRA Prelude to Christmas Events:** Pictures with Santa, Holiday Market Fair with Crafters, Artisans and Food Vendors, Downtown Marion Hayride Tours. Hike-Bike Trial on Bobby Gerald Parkway.

Saturday, December 6th...4:30 p.m. Marion Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 7th....5:30 p.m. The arrival of Santa Claus aboard the City of Marion Fire Truck. Pre-Christmas Tree Lighting Show: Courthouse 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, December 7th....6:00 p.m. Tree Lighting Celebration. Marion Pilot Club Soup Supper, Bake Sale & Silent Auction, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., at Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. **Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park Immediately following Ceremony.**

Tuesday, December 9th....6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

Saturday, December 13th....4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **2014 Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes.** Contact the Marion Chamber or the Pilot Club or Marion for details.

Monday, December 15th....6:00 p.m. The City of Marion's **Quarterly Town Hall Meeting** will be held Monday at Marion Opera House.

Thursday, December 18th.... **Participating Downtown Marion Merchants host Extended Shopping Hours from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.** Take advantage of late night shopping and avoid the December 24th shopping madness of completing your gift list.

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday December 24th, 25th & 26th.... **Christmas Holidays.** City Hall will be closed and will for the Christmas Holidays and reopen on December 29th. Merry Christmas and be safe!!!

NEED HELP?

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

Mayor Bobby L. Davis, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21
Alan Ammons, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
Pam Jones, City Clerk, Ext. 10
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
Elizabeth Sanders, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
Elizabeth Ficik, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
Vickie J. Nichols, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
Ann Jackson, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
Jim Gray, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
Trey Cooper, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
Almeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Questions or to share information for the Swamp Fox Scene, please email vnichols@marionsc.gov

Look What's Coming to Marion!!!

We are proud to announce that The Marion Recreation Department will host the 2015 Dixie Youth Girls State Championship Tournaments the first of July 2015. The age groups include 6U, 10U, 14U and 18U. This will bring over 2,500 people into our area to purchase food, hotels and other travel expenses.

We are in the process of designing a program for the tournament. These programs will allow you to advertise your business to the people coming in for these tournaments. Below is a price list for the sponsorships. If you have a special image/graphic that you would like to use, please mail it in with your payment.

Full Page \$200

1/2 Page \$100

1/3 Page \$25

Please submit checks & logos no later than March 02, 2015.

We would like to thank you in advance for your sponsorship and support to these athletes.

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms 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 more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Food For Friends

For the fifth year, Marion City Council members and Mayor Bobby L. Davis will be seeking donations for funds its Christmas **"Food for Friends"** program.

The program has been wildly successful, thanks to the generous gifts of the city's residents and businesses. During last year's program the people of Marion donated to make it possible to help families enjoy all the trimmings and fixings for a Christmas meal. Each pre-packed box costs \$40. Donations are welcome in any amount and will be put with other donations to help make purchases.

City firefighters and police officers will distribute the boxes throughout the city week of December 15th. Donations can be made at City Hall on Main Street or to the Fire Department on Bond Street. For more information, call the Administrator at 423-5961.

CORRECTION: HMRA snowball drop will be on Sun. Dec. 6th from 5:40 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Main Street, Marion. You don't want to miss this wonderful event. Hope to see you there!!!

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. Merry Christmas!!!
 Vickie J Nichols

Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our employees and citizens from the City of Marion, Marion City Council and City Administrator Alan Ammons.

.....RECREATIONAL CORNER.....

Small Fry Football (8-10) All Stars

Damone Bell II
 Malachi Cusack
 Jamari Crowner
 Devin Dennison
 Clifford Epps
 Ar'moni Godbolt
 Kaden Hughes
 Damonte' Jackson
 Coleman Kimbrell
 Anthony Lester II
 Zyt'Quieus Moody
 Rodney Phillips Jr

Draquain Pearson
 Dreliek Pearson
 Dramere Pearson
 Jhmaorious Rogers
 A'Mauri Rollins
 Quay'Sheed Scott
 Michael Henry
 Jaylen Davis
 Rodrick McRae Jr.
 John Gamble III
 Gabriel Cusack
 Dayton Davis



Mites Football (11-12) All Stars

Tuwan Anderson
 Dwight Allen
 Darius Britt
 Levern Bell
 Ky'Heim Bethea
 James Buie III
 Tay'Shawn Bethea
 Jy'Heim Davis
 Russell Dowley II
 Devin Davis
 Amir Fling
 Qua'Like Crawford

Perry Green III
 Gregory Hopkins
 Tyrone Hickson
 Za'kwan Lester
 Dearius Lewis
 David Moore Jr.
 Jaquante McCollough
 Tanaeri Sanders
 Kelly Vallejos
 McArthur Washington Jr.
 Gary Wright
 Ryne Robertson



All Star playoffs Update

Our Small Fry Football Team (10-U) competed in Florence on Saturday, November 8th against Mullins defeating Mullins 24-0 and will move on to the next round on Saturday, November 15th against Aynor at 1:00 a.m. in Florence.

Our Mites Football Team (12-U) competed in Florence on Saturday, November 8th against Lake City defeating Lake City 42-6 and will move on to the next round on Saturday November 22nd. Opponent has yet to be determined at this time. More information about all these teams will be available online at Facebook.com or in the next issue of Swamp Fox Scene.

Congratulations to our All Stars!

Announcements

As of December 1st Registration Prices will change per City Council

*New City Price: \$ 21.00 per child
 New County Price : \$35.00 per child*

Also This Basketball Season we will start charging admission to the gyms

*Adult : \$2.00
 12u : \$1.00
 4u : FREE*

or

You can buy a SEASON PASS for \$25.00
 You will receive 4 passes for this price

Thanks
 MRD

SOCCER ALL STARS 2014

10-U Soccer All Stars

Tucker Bass
 Jonathan Bethea
 Kendal Elliott
 Chadwick Campbell
 Collins Hufford
 Kaleigh Herrington
 Avon Stoutamire
 Anna Page
 Conner Shelley
 Vishubhotla Salsivani

Carson Trussell
 Lacey Johnson III
 Leah Johnson
 Jessica Johnson
 Jenna Gibson
 Halie Lebiez
 Jena Graham
 Jackson Hulon



Midgets All Stars

Sally Brown
 Fischer Boyles
 Grayson Basily
 Peyton Britt
 Areli Chacon
 Alex Cooke
 Julia Fulmer
 Garrett Fravor
 Nolan Gibson
 Ashlely Garner

Brandon Ingram
 Anna Johnson
 Osvaldo Mendoza
 Jeffery Piner
 Taylor Pike
 Sarah Ray
 Michael Tiesing
 Grayson Rogers



Marion's All Stars

12-U All Stars

Kimbrie'L Barnes
 Jeffery Collins II
 Evan Graham
 Megan Elliott
 Marvesha Gause
 Macy Gibson
 Jason Garner
 Payton Hufford
 Gabriella Johnson

Lacy Johnson
 Richard Kaiser Jr
 Austin Larrimore
 Brianna Mendoza
 Anna shelley
 Tamie White



CITY RENTALS AVAILABLE

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

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month. Bingo is FREE of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.



Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly Merry Christmas .

Marion Recreation Department!!!