



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 2015

Greeting From the Mayor

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families the very best this holiday season and the very best in the New Year.

You have made our city widely known as a compassionate and friendly place that fosters goodwill and generosity toward those in need. When we gather together with our families and friends to celebrate the holidays, let us be thankful for our blessings, while we remember those who are less fortunate, particularly those in whom was affected by the flood.

As we look ahead to the New Year, we look forward not only as individuals, but collectively, as members of this wonderful city.

It has been an exciting year for the City of Marion as we've witnessed substantial progress in our City and many of our neighborhoods — and we have another year of progress ahead of us.

You make me proud to be Mayor of Marion and I am sincerely honored to continue to serve you. I look forward to the opportunities that lay ahead of us in 2016.

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.

And remember a City that Prays together stays together. Please join me in Praying for our Great City.

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

MAYOR BOBBY L. DAVIS



Time to Celebrate

One of the many things Marion does well is 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 below.

**Marion's 26th Annual
Holiday Prelude &
Community Tree Lighting Celebration**

**CITY OF MARION
South Carolina**

Thursday, November 12th
HMRA Snowball Drop 6pm
Downtown Marion Merchants' Extended Shopping Hours 6-8pm Downtown Marion

Saturday, December 5th
Community Farmers Market 9am-1pm
Marion Christmas Parade 4:30pm
Sponsored by the Marion Chamber of Commerce

Sunday, December 6th
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 12th
Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes 2-6pm
Sponsored by Marion Chamber of Commerce & the Pilot Club of Marion

Thursday, December 17th:
Downtown Marion Merchants' Extended Shopping Hours
6-8pm Downtown Marion

You don't want to miss these events

*call the Chamber office for information/details 843-423-3561

Christmas Food Baskets



Holiday Food Boxes

For the sixth 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 make it possible to help families enjoyed 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 during the week of December 14. 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.

2015 Historic Marion Christmas

Tour of Homes

Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 2pm-6pm

2015 Featured Homes

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Blackmon	Marion County Museum
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Fuller	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McElveen
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Indergaard	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Jordan
Mrs. Janice Lane	Rosewood Manor House
The Grove—The Inn on Harlee	

Tickets \$20

Available at Marion Chamber of Commerce & Marion Pilot Club Members

Present ticket at any home on tour to receive tour book.

Day of event tickets may only be purchased at Rosewood Manor House and The Grove

For more information call 843-423-3561

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 5th at 4:30 p.m. in downtown Marion.

This is the tenth 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 Wednesday, December 2nd 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 OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Susan Yarborough of 410 Devon Road has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for November 2015. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Ms. Yarborough will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

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.

Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for The Paw Spaw on Monday, October 26th at 10:00 a.m. Located at 100 East Bobby Gerald Parkway, this pet grooming business is owned by Ms. Brooke Zeman. Brooke is the 18 year old daughter of Angie and Teddy Zeman and is one of the youngest business owners in Marion. Marion Chamber of Commerce President Carroll Atkinson along with family and friends welcomed this new business to Marion. You can contact the Paw Spaw at 843-615-0117.



Photo Courtesy Marion Chamber of Commerce

Tiffanie Donnelly city's employee of the Month



The City of Marion is proud to announce Street Sweeper Operator Tiffanie Donnelly as its October 2015 Employee of the Month. Tiffanie has been employed with the City of Marion Sanitation Department since June 2015 and quickly established herself

as a valuable asset to the crew. She is responsible for street cleaning and the maintenance of public streets within the City limits. Tiffanie is also tasked with collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill.

"Tiffanie is one of our most dependable employees. She has a strong work ethic and is always courteous to our residents and the other employees in the department", said Sanitation Superintendent Winky Fore.

The Mayor and Council recognized Tiffanie Donnelly for her dedicated service to the City of Marion and its citizens at the November 10th City Council Meeting.



Whatever is beautiful. Whatever is meaningful. Whatever brings you happiness. May it be yours this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our employees and citizens from the City of Marion, Marion City Council and City Administrator

Alan Ammons.

Happy Holidays!!

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.
Remember
This December,
That love weighs more than gold

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, Saturday through December. For information, call (843) 610-6246. Stop by and get your local grown, baked or hand-made items.

Wednesday, December 2nd... 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Hulon Jewelers, 325 N. Main Street

Saturday, December 5th... 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. **HMRA Prelude to Christmas Events:** Holiday Market Fair with Crafters, Artisans and Food Vendors.

Saturday, December 5th... 4:30 p.m. Marion Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 6th..... 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 6th..... 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 8th..... 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

Saturday, December 12th..... 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **2015 Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes.** Contact the Marion Chamber or the Pilot Club or Marion for details.

Tuesday, December 15th..... 6:00 p.m. Relay for Life will be having their **UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER** Party at Carolinas Hospital System Classrooms. For details contact Debbie Erwin (843) 260-4483.

Monday, December 21st..... 6:00 p.m. The City of Marion's **Quarterly Town Hall Meeting** will be held Monday at Marion Opera House.

Thursday, December 17th..... **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 & 28th..... **Christmas Holidays.** City Hall will be closed for the Christmas Holidays and reopen on December 29th. Merry Christmas and be safe!!!



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUED

SUPPORT TO THE ARTS COUNCIL

OF MARION COUNTY. WISHING YOU A

JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND A NEW

YEAR FILLED WITH PEACE AND HAPPINESS!



Dear Downtown Marion *Business Owner, Supporter, Shopper, Friend:*

HMRA is coordinating **Win the Window Contest** to culminate Dec. 18th for one lucky Marion Shopper. The contest begins November 12th and shoppers can enter by shopping at participating Downtown Marion businesses displaying the Win the Window poster in their establishment. A participant letter is attached explaining how the contest operates.

You may ask, **"I'm not a Downtown Marion business; why am I getting this letter"?** I'm glad you asked. Of course Christmas is the season of giving and what better way to give than shopping and supporting our local merchants. As an individual or non-retail business, you could shop at any of our local Downtown Marion businesses and donate your purchased item(s) to the **Window of Gifts** to be placed on display. You or your business will receive publicity for the donated good(s) and make someone this Christmas season a very happy person.

HMRA hopes you'll read the attachment and sample items donated in another SC city to see how you can be a part of this contest. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

For those I've managed to make contact with over the past few weeks, I look forward to hearing from you as well so that I can get you your entry forms, receive your donated gift(s) and begin the process of decorating our **WINDOW on Main Street!** If you like, you can email me your donated item(s) description and its value so that I can generate a list of prizes to give this contest the promotion it deserves. Thanks so much!

I'd love to wrap this up with all donations on Nov. 10th, if at all possible, but we'll never refuse your gift and will gladly publicize your participation!

Al Blake, Executive Director

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

Ainsley 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

Dewayne Tennie, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616

Chris Smith, Captain, (843) 423-8616

Cindy Barr, Captain, (843) 423-8616

Tony Flowers, Investigator, (843) 423-8616

Trey Cooper, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602

Chris McKenzie, Assistant Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602

Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616

Almeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

CITY RENTALS AVAIL- ABLE

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 Aerobics at Wat- sonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

Happy Holidays!!!
Marion Recreation Department

Marion Intermediate School: Mrs. Stacey Drose class.



Some of the questions the students asking during visiting at the school were (1) Student (Loren Turner) - **Mayor Davis what do you to keep our town safe?** Mayor Davis – When we speak of safety and keeping our City safe there are a number of parts that must come together to us safe. I depend on the Fire Department, Police Department, and The Neighborhood Watch Groups and of course the help of our Citizens. In terms of crime I have to depend mostly on our Police Department. (2) Student (Chris Woodberry) – **Mayor Davis do you really have a key to the City of Marion?** There is no real key to unlock our City however; there are symbolic keys we give to visiting officials and out of town guests welcoming and showing our appreciation to them. (3) Student (Charlton McNeil) – **Mayor Davis how was your life up? Was your dream to become mayor?** Growing up I never dreamed of being a mayor. When I was growing up my dream was to jump out of airplanes. I wanted to be a paratrooper. I kept my dream alive by joining the 101st Airborne Division and jumped out of planes. So I am encouraging all of you never give up on your dreams. Each and every one of you can become anything you want be. (1) Student (Nevaeh Wilson) **Chief Tennie do you catch criminals?** No I don't, I did in my earlier career. I have other officers that catch the criminals and report back to me. My job as chief is to supervise 27 officers to make sure they are doing their job the right way in order to get the bad people to keep the community and the City of Marion safe for you all. Just like Ms. Sweeney is the principal she doesn't teach but she makes sure that Ms. Drose is teaching you all everything you all need to learn. (2) Student (Dewayne Tennie, Jr) – **Chief Tennie do you like being the chief of police?** I love being the Chief of Police. I really enjoy coming to work and serving the citizens of Marion. I don't look at it as a job it's a passion of mine. (3) Student (Justin Tuberville) – **Chief Tennie do you really eat donuts and drink coffee every morning?** No! I may look like do, but I really don't. LOL!!

Mayor Bobby L. Davis and Chief Dewayne Tennie thank the students for allowing them to come and sit and talk with them as they chat about the form of government. Mayor Davis asked the students to feel free to stop by City Hall and take a tour of City Hall and the Council Chambers at any time.

Special thanks was given to Mayor Davis and Chief Tennie from Principal Sweeney, Ms. Drose and Ms. Rozier.

Happy Holidays from A Team/Marion SC Neighborhood Watch

Contributed By: Dolly Boyer

As we approach the holidays I thought I would share some home safety tips for the season: Be sure to lock all doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes. When leaving home for an extended period, have someone watching your home and collecting mail, newspapers and parcels. Set indoor and outdoor lights on automatic timers. Leave a radio or television on so the house appears occupied. Large displays of gifts should not be visible through doors and windows. Do not signal criminals that you have purchased or received big ticket items by placing boxes on the street for pick up. Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. Remember people prey on our generous spirits during the holidays, so be cautious when donating to charities. It is often best to stick with recognized charities.

Please, join us for our monthly meetings on the 1st Monday of each month. We meet in the firehouse on E Bond St at 6:30 PM. We are "Our Neighbors Keepers" especially at this time of year. This is a great time to reach out and get to know your neighbors. Remember our best weapon against crime is community spirit and pride in The Swamp Fox City. Happy Holidays!

Preparing for the Holidays

The Christmas holidays are approaching. We as a community want to do everything possible to make sure we stay safe. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you prepare for the holidays:

- ✿ Make sure your home and car(s) are secure
- ✿ Trim your hedge bushes
- ✿ Make sure you have proper lighting
- ✿ Be aware of suspicious activities
- ✿ Be on the lookout for unfamiliar vehicle(s)
- ✿ Observe your neighbor(s) property especially if you know they aren't home

If you see anything or anyone you think maybe suspect, don't hesitate to call 911 so an officer can be dispatched and respond in a timely manner.

Have a wonderful and Safe Holiday,
Marion Police Department

The City of Marion honored veterans and families during its 3rd Annual Veterans Appreciation.

Incumbent weather didn't stop veterans, along with families and friends from attending the Veterans Day program on November 6th. This year was a special year. We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Anniversary. We were encouraged to remember our fallen heroes. They are the reason we are free.

Guest speakers included U.S. Senator Kent Williams, House Representative Wayne George and Major Edward Holmes. There were several World War II Veterans and numerous other Veterans present.

Marion Mayor Bobby L. Davis honored our heroes. Marion County School of Music and Rev. Larry Williams uplifted the crowd through song and praise. Rev. Williams also donated food packages to all veterans. He also presented the City of Marion a flag as to always know that they are protected by the Blood that read "When I see the Blood, I will Pass over you." **Exodus 12:13**

We saluted the veteran's with the National Anthem, led by Christen Graves. Special thanks to the Marion High School JROTC, and First Sgt. Iris Stackhouse for their assistance.

Even though Veteran's Day is over still say thank you to all of the veterans in our community. Let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers for all they have done for us in keeping us safe.

Shop Local and Win!

Win the Window!

November 12 thru December 15



PLEDGE TO SHOP LOCAL
PLEDGE TO SHOP DOWNTOWN

Small Business Saturday
Saturday - November 28 - 10a-2p

• Enter to **WIN the Window** full of prizes!
(Located at 318 N. Main Street)

• Receive 1 entry ticket for every \$5.00
You spend at Participating Retailers

• Find prize and participating retailer info at
www.theswampfox.com