

SWAMP FOX SCENE

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



Volume 7, Issue 7

December 2017

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, the Saturday parade and a visit from Santa, our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, along with numerous of other special events, is lined up for the first weekend in December. Marion is a special place during the holidays. Bring your family and friends and don't forget the fireworks at Withlacoochee Park on Sunday night. For more details, see the schedule below.

City of Marion 28th Annual
Holiday Prelude &
Community Tree Lighting Celebration

Saturday, December 2nd
HMRA Prelude to Christmas 9am-1pm
Marion Christmas Parade 4:30pm
Sponsored by the Marion Chamber of Commerce

Sunday, December 3rd
Annual City Tree Lighting Celebration 6pm
Marion County Courthouse
Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park 7pm

Saturday, December 9th
Pilot Club of Marion Bazaar 10am
Marion County Museum
Luncheon 12pm
Sponsored by Marion County Museum
Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes 3-6pm
Sponsored by Marion Chamber of Commerce & the Pilot Club of Marion

**Thursday, December 14th
& Tuesday, December 19th:**
Downtown Marion Merchants'
Extended Shopping Hours
6-8pm Downtown Marion

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

Dear City of Marion,

It is hard to believe that it's already time to say Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! To our city employees who work so faithfully to decorate, I thank you for all your diligence to the city in hopes it will enhance the holiday experience! Our employees take so much pride in their efforts and we hope all of you enjoy it. There is but one reason we celebrate the season, and that is Jesus. So as we celebrate and enjoy the holiday season, please don't lose sight of Him.

During these past months as Mayor, we have had some accomplishments, and changes that have taken place. Let's reflect on our accomplishments over the past few months. We've had some exciting things happen and we hope to continue to grow and succeed.

As we celebrate the holiday season, I hope we will continue to spend this time with family and friends to reflect on life and to count our blessings. The greatest gift we could exchange this season is to serve one another. I ask that you remember your neighbors during this time of year. Especially the elderly, the less fortunate and those who live alone.

On behalf of the City of Marion, I would like to wish every citizen a safe, healthy and happy Christmas. It is truly an honor to serve the City of Marion, and I am thankful for the trust you have placed in me.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!

Mayor Ashley Brady

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, The gladness of Christmas give you hope, The Warmth of Christmas grant you love.

Merry Christmas
Marion City Council

WE'RE STAYING OPEN!

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING!

DECEMBER 14 & 19
OPEN UNTIL 8 PM

SHOP LOCAL, BE MARION STRONG

MAIN STREET COMMONS
Holiday Market
December 2, 2017
9A-1P
229 North Main Street
Marion, South Carolina 29571

Homemade/handmade crafts, Wreaths,
Food, Candles, Soaps, Santa and his
Elves, Christmas décor, and much more!
843-423-9918

2017
Historic Marion Christmas
*Tour of Homes,
Bazaar & Luncheon*
Saturday, December 9, 2017
3pm-6pm

2 Bed & Breakfasts & 6 Private Homes
Saturday, December 9, 3pm-6pm
Home Tour Tickets ~ \$20
Luncheon ~ \$10 (12 - 2pm)
Bazaar ~ 10am - 2pm

Contact Marion Chamber of Commerce
for more information
843-423-3561

NEED HELP?

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

- Mayor Ashley Brady, (843) 992-3773
- Alan Ammons, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Lakesha Shannon, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Gray, Personnel / Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Kimberly Elliott, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dewayne Tennie, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith, Captain (843) 423-8616
- Tony Flowers, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Marilyn Rogers, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Jackie Yates, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Mr. & Mrs. Van Edwards of 408 S. Main Street has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for November 2017. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. The Edwards's will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

Marion County School District

In an effort to grow our local pride, the Marion County School District will be sponsoring a "We Are Marion County!" spirit day on the last Friday of every month. On that day we are asking our entire staff to wear their "We Are Marion County" t-shirts. We would like to spread the spirit and ask for all the community businesses to join in on and show your pride.

Marion County t-shirts are available for order at Hi-Tec Signs, Inc. (843-464-9053). These t-shirts are a royal blue and sport the "We Are Marion County" call of unity. Williamson Printing (843-423-5672) also offers a long sleeved, button down shirt with the district logo on the front and "We Are Marion County" embroidered across the upper back between the shoulders.

For more information, contact Ms. Deborah D. Wimberly at (843) 423-1811, or email dwimberly@marion.k12.sc.us

Merry Christmas to all our citizens. May the joys of the season fill your heart with goodwill and cheer.
Mr. Winky Fore – Public Works Superintendent

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

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

The City of Marion did not let the inclement weather stop them from having an amazing Veterans Day Program. Veterans from all branches of service, along with family and friends, attended the program on November 8th at the City of Marion Fire Department. The veterans were welcomed by Mayor Ashley Brady and saluted with the National Anthem, led by Ms. Priscilla Rogers of the Marion Police Department. The veterans were honored for their service, their sacrifices, and for fighting in the various wars to protect our freedom.

Special thanks to Col. (Retired) Joel B. Williams Jr., US Army, our guest speaker for the wonderful words.

Mayor Ashley Brady, along with Council Member Tassie Lewis and City Administrator Alan Ammons presented the veterans and their families with a lapel pendant and a flag.

"Honor to the soldier everywhere who bravely bears his country's cause.

Honor, also to the citizen who cares for his brothers in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause."
Abraham Lincoln

There are not words big enough. There is not a hug strong enough. There is not a smile wide enough. All we can offer is THANK YOU. You are our HEROES! You are in our thoughts and our prayers for all you have done.

Looking forward to next year's event.

Photos are on the City Facebook page. www.marionsc.gov

Marion County Library Program

December 1st - 30th is Winter Reading! This program does not require registration. Children and their families need only keep track of everything they read during the month. Every time the list reaches ten, turn the list into your local Marion County Library! The child will instantly be entered into the grand prize drawing!

December 1st will also be our Gingerbread House Party at 3:30 p.m. Each child will be able to decorate their own edible gingerbread house!

Finally, in Mullins on Friday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m., we will be having a Teddy Bear Sleep Over. Children can bring in their favorite stuffed toys, watch a movie together, and then tuck their bear in for the night. The next morning, December 16th at 10:00 a.m., the children can come back for their bears, eat breakfast together, and see what fun their animals have been up to!

Adults will have the opportunity to earn raffle slips for a "Start the New Year Right" themed gift basket. It's easy to enter: Read a book and then fill out a raffle slip with your name, phone number, and the title of the book you read. The winner of the basket will be contacted by phone.

For more information stop by the library or call us at (843) 423-8300. Follow us on Facebook for updates! Marioncountylibrary.org

From all of us at Marion Recreation to all of you, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Look forward to seeing you all in 2018! **Kimberly Elliott - Marion Recreation Director**



Each month there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting, sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. Call Randy Floyd (843) 992-1627 or email floydrandy@hotmail.com for information.

Saturday, December 2nd...9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. HMRA Main Street Commons, 229 North Main Street. Holiday Market: Homemade/handmade crafts, Wreaths, Gifts, Food, Candles, Soaps, Santa and his Elves, Christmas décor and More.

Saturday, December 2nd...9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Marion Chamber of Commerce: Prelude to Christmas

Saturday, December 2nd...4:30 p.m. Marion Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 3rd.....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 3rd.....6:00 p.m. Tree Lighting Celebration. **Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park Immediately following Ceremony.**

Wednesday, December 6th...8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Hulon Jewelers, 325 N. Main Street

Saturday, December 9th.....10:00 a.m. Pilot Club of Marion Bazar
Marion County Museum
Historic Tour of Homes Luncheon. Lunch will be served from 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. Cost -\$10, Drink and dessert included. For more information contact Marion County Museum, Director Ms. Rosanne Black at (843) 423-8299 or email marioncountymuseum@att.net

Saturday, December 9th.....3:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. 2017 Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes. Contact the Marion Chamber or the Pilot Club or Marion for details.

Tuesday, December 12th.....6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

Thursday, December 14th..... Holiday Open House until 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Historic Downtown Marion. Great Holiday Discounts, Christmas Treats and much more

Friday, Monday & Tuesday, December 22nd, 25th & 26th..... Christmas Holidays. City Hall will be closed for the Christmas Holidays and reopen on December 27th. Merry Christmas and be safe!!!

Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Twice as Nice Thrift Store on Tuesday, November 14th at 10:00 a.m. Located at 401 North Main Street, this thrift store is run by the Marion-Dillon County Disabilities and Special Needs Board. They offer an array of gently used clothing, accessories and much more. Marion Chamber of Commerce President Darrell Jameson and Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed this new business to Main Street Marion. Director Michael Keith along with his staff, clients and other well-wishers were in attendance. The hours of business are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Photo Courtesy Marion Chamber of Commerce

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 Ashley Brady or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Good Morning... Magnolias Antiques

Submitted by Stephanie Indergaard

If you haven’t visited Magnolias Antiques yet, you are in for a treat! As one of the newest partners with HMRA, Linda Treadway is the owner of the shop.



She opened Magnolias Antiques (previously Magnolia’s Restaurant) 8 months ago. Walking through the store, you’ll find antique furniture, vintage furnishings, as well as more modern, up to date pieces. Linda grew up around Marion and recalls her days working in Tomlinson’s Department Store and visiting the Dariette. After working at the hospital for 12 years, she decided she wanted a change. She started selling antiques in markets, but realized Marion had a need for businesses on Main Street. It was at that time she made the jump from market seller to shop owner. Her main goal for Marion

to help build a thriving downtown like the one she remembers from growing up. She would love to see Marion become a destination spot for shopping in unique little shops all over town. She serves as a director on Historic Marion Revitalization Association and truly enjoys collaborating with other business owners to help promote and restore Marion. Stop by this holiday season to see what she has in store, and she’ll point you in the right direction to visit downtown’s other businesses as well!

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

Thank you to the citizens of Marion for allowing us to serve you. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. **Dewayne Tennie—Chief of Police, along with Marion Police Department.**

Safety Checkpoints

The City of Marion Police Department will be conducting DUI Sobriety and Traffic Safety checkpoints within the city limits of Marion throughout the month of December. All checkpoints will be conducted at various locations within the city limits of Marion.

.....GOING ON IN MARION

Annual Christmas Food Box

We are pleased to announce the City of Marion's 8th Annual Christmas Food Box Project! During this joyous holiday season, we want to help provide a little Christmas cheer from one neighbor to another. The program has been wildly successful, thanks to the generous gifts of the city's residents and businesses. The pre-packaged food boxes cost approximately \$40 and are filled with items for an enjoyable Christmas meal for a family. Donations are welcome in any amount and will be combined with other donations to help make purchases.

Donations are requested by December 13th and any amount is welcome! If you would like to contribute to this effort, please make your check payable to the City of Marion (food boxes), P. O. Box 1190, Marion, SC 29571.

If you have any questions, please call City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

On behalf of the food box recipients, we humbly thank you for your generosity.

Warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season!!!

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis guest speaker



Councilwoman Tassie Lewis was the special guest at a Thanksgiving luncheon hosted by Rev. Marvin Hemingway and the Marion County JRT Program on November 20, 2018.

Councilwoman Lewis gave greetings on behalf of the City of Marion and joined the students for a delicious meal which included turkey, dressing, and all the fixings!

Save the date for January 6, 2018. The Marion Recreation Department will be having their 2018 basketball jamboree. Schedules and times will be announced as we get closer to the event.

At this time of year we are Grateful for Family, Friendship and Love. Thank you for being a part of our Life. Merry Christmas!!

City of Marion Administrator Alan Ammons and Staff

A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
"WE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS' KEEPERS"

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

As the holidays approach, I want to pass along a few tips: 1) Do not post travel plans on social media. 2) Do not place boxes from large ticket items on the street for pick up ahead of time. 3) Watch out for children playing with new bikes, skateboards, balls, etc. 4) Be careful when out shopping. Shop during daylight hours when possible. Keep your wallet secure and your car locked. 5) Be alert to strangers in your neighborhood. They may be looking for a place to do their "shopping."

The holidays are meant to be shared with family and loved ones, but an extra kindness shown to one in need, will greatly bless your holiday.

As we enjoy a special meal, remember the hungry.
As we enjoy good health, remember the sick.
As we spend time with family and friends, remember the friendless.
As we enjoy our freedom, remember the enslaved.
As we enjoy our good fortune, remember the less fortunate and may we be moved to the service of others.

Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed at Watsonia 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.

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. 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.

The Fox 84 Initiative College Tour-Claflin University



On October 20th, 2017 The Fox84 Initiative for Boys sponsored a trip to Claflin University for the students of Marion High School. The college tour was a successful event and had a positive effect on its participants. It is our goal to inspire individuals to pursue the next level of life. Inspiration awakens us to new possibilities by allowing us to transcend our ordinary experiences and limitations. Inspiration propels a person from apathy to possibility, and transforms the way we perceive our own capabilities. We extend our thanks to Mrs. Gore, MHS Principal; Mr. Smith, MHS Guidance Counselor; Mr. Reid, Transportation Coordinator; and EJ Favor, Ambassador and Tour Guide at Claflin University. The Fox 84 Initiative for Boys serves Marion, South Carolina with mentoring services designed to help young men succeed.

For more information please contact:

Christopher Shelvin, President and CEO
The Fox84 Initiative for Boys
E-mail: cshelvin@thefox84initiative.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thefox84initiative>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fox84initiative>
Website: <http://www.thefox84initiative.com/>

City's Playgrounds

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

Withlacoochee Park

Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion's Tennis Courts.

Grice's Recreation Center

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

Tilghman Park

409 Montgomery Street - It also has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

Cities and busy streets are preparing to celebrate the birth of the King. But take time to thank God for his love for us. May you have a peaceful Christmas!! **Chief Trey Cooper and the Marion Fire Department!**