

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

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



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January 2014

Christmas tree lighting in Marion



Celebrating Christmas in Marion is no different than the prior years with decorations and lights on the trees lining Main Street. December 7th was the Marion Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade with the arrival of Santa Claus aboard a City of Marion Fire Truck. December 8th was Marion's Annual Holiday Prelude & Community Tree Lighting Celebration. The Courthouse steps were lined with children from Easterling Primary School to render Christmas songs. Hundreds of people crowded the street to witness the awesome Christmas Prelude and Tree Lighting Celebration. Special Thanks to Morris Ward, his crews and all who worked diligently to make this year's event special.

See Christmas parade and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony pictures on the City's Facebook page.

TWO NEW FACES AROUND THE CITY



The Marion Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Cindy Blum Rogers has accepted the position of executive vice president effective 01/02/2014. Cindy brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the chamber. As a lifelong resident of Marion, she has a keen interest in economic development, civic groups and church activities. Cindy earned her undergraduate degree at the College of Charleston and her master's in public administration from the University of South Carolina.

She was previously employed with the SC Department of Employment and Workforce as an area director.

Al Blake has been named Executive Director of the Historic Marion Revitalization Association. The lifelong Marion resident retired from the Marion County School District where he had served as Director of Operations.

"I'm looking forward to working with all our downtown merchants to make Marion an inviting and exciting place to live, work and visit", said Blake. "I want to see more activities centered around downtown in order to better promote the merchants we have here and what they have to offer as well as finding ways to fill our empty storefronts with new businesses." Blake added that he was very pleased with HMRA's successful Holiday Open House December 12th, where many merchants remained open a couple of hours later than usual and offered spectacular deals just in time for Christmas. "The turn-out was better than I expected, but I always wish we had more", said Blake who is already planning for Christmas 2014.

HMRA has a 12-member board of directors charged with preserving the historic essence of Marion through preservation while stimulating and promoting the economic vitality of the Historic Downtown District of Marion. "This is a hard-working board that really has the best interest of Marion at heart", stated Blake. "I can't wait to see what we can accomplish in 2014".

Photo courtesy of Marion Star and Enterprise



City continues caring for neighbors

For the third consecutive year, City of Marion residents, civic clubs and businesses have reached out to those less fortunate and given generously to help others have a wonderful Christmas meal. Police officers and fire-fighters distributed more than 130 food boxes to families. At a cost of \$35 each, the city raised more than \$3,900 for the project.

The Department of Social Services recommends the recipients for the donations. Mayor Bobby L Davis and City Administrator Alan Ammons are truly appreciative of the donations that have been and will be made. Any money that comes in after the distribution will be held until next year's Christmas food drive.

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 Cheryl Askins, 423-5410 for availability.

Computer lab open for all

Need to use a computer to apply for a job or conduct research? The Swamp Fox Computer Lab has 12 computers for public use, free of charge and is in the Swamp Fox Higher Ed Center in the C. D. Joyner Fine Arts building on Elizabeth Street. Hours are 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and after lunch 2:00-5:45 p.m. For more information, call Robbie Johnson at 423-6447.

Veteran's Day Program

The following Veterans names were turned in and they are asked to stop by City Hall and pick up their certificates from the Veteran's Day program on November 8th.

Samuel Augusta Ammons	Charles J. Martin
Henry W. Berry III	Alaria McNeil
Whitney Crumpler	George Muldrow
Nathaniel Davis	Charles L. Mullins
Ronald K. Davis	Wilford Parsons
Thurman Davis	Bobby J. Pearson
Woodie Ann Ellis	Daniel Roberts
George Gurley	Willie L. Smith
Dillon Hemingway	Tyrone Washington
Willet J. Hill	George W. Williams
Sellers Ingram, Jr.	Michael Whitaker
William H. Johnson, Jr.	
Larry G. Lewis	

Be Safe This Winter:

Follow these precautions to prevent home fires:

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths each year. The City of Marion Fire Department personnel offer the following safety tips and precautions to help prevent heating fires from happening this winter:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as a furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Have heat equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year.
- Make sure a fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashers should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container in a safe distance away from your home.
- Remember turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.

For more safety tips, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at www.nfpa.org/education.

MARION SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2014
SCHEDULE: AS THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS FALL ON OR AROUND OUR NORMAL MEETING TIME WE WILL BEGIN MEETINGS AGAIN IN JANUARY 2014.
TIME: 3:00 PM
PLACE: FIREHOUSE MEETING ROOM
WHO: MARION SENIORS 62YRS AND OLDER
GOAL: ADDRESS SENIOR CONCERNS, BUILD A BETTER VISION FOR MARION AND DECIDE WHAT IN OUR EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM WE CAN DO TO CREATE A MORE UNIFIED COMMUNITY

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

Employee of the Month



The City of Marion recognized firefighter Josh Brown as the November 2013 Employee of the Month. Josh has been a full-time employee with the City of Marion Fire Department since January 2007. He is also a certified EMT and has been a member of the Marion Rescue Squad for

many years.

Josh works hard for the community and the fire department, and he volunteers countless hours on his days off to transport patients and respond to calls. His participation rate is one of the highest in the department. "Josh takes his position as a firefighter personally", said Chief Trey Cooper. "He takes great pride in his work and is always up to date on the latest training". Chief Cooper added that Josh is one of the department's best pump operators.

Josh and his wife Brittany are both lifelong residents of Marion County. They are expecting their first child in the summer of 2014.

The Mayor and Council recognized Josh Brown for his dedication and contributions to the City of Marion at the December 10th Council Meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

In an effort to improve on response time for emergency calls to 911, the Fire Department along with EMS is asking all residents of the City of Marion, SC to please post the correct house number outside of your residence. This is very important for you and your family members as well as the officers responding to the calls.

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

January 1st
Happy New Year
City Offices Closed; Reopen at 8:00 a.m. January 2nd

January 8th
8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Lunch, 104 W. Dozier Street.

January 14th
6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

January 20th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
City Offices Closed

January 20th
Monday, 10 a.m. -11:45 a.m. The City of Marion Diversity Committee is sponsoring a Martin Luther King, Jr. March. For details contact Irene Dais at 275-0633 or updates, friend Paul DeMarco on Facebook.

January 20th
Monday, 12:00 p.m. There will be a Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Service Project at the old Coca-Cola bottling plant on East Railroad Ave. Please call the Habitat office at 464-3747 to volunteer.

February 5th
8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Marion County Arts and Fashion Complex, 320 N. Main Street.

February 11th
6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.



Don't forget to visit the Marion Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for upcoming events!

Email Al Blake the new director for HMRA at hmra@theswampfox.com to congratulate him and give him words of encouragements or just say "Hi". You can find HMRA on Facebook.

Basketball sign-up is over; Tips for Spectators

The Recreation Department had a great turnout for basketball sign-ups; the coaches and players have practiced all the way to Christmas break and now it's time to play some ball!

Everyone looks forward to seeing the children having a great time while learning the fundamentals of basketball. The public is invited to come and support the community, your child, your neighbor's child and the coaches.

Below are 17 tips to help you be a better spectator.

- ❖ I will not force my child to participate.
- ❖ I will remember that children play to have fun.
- ❖ I will learn the rules of the game and the league policies.
- ❖ I and my guests will be positive role models and encourage sportsmanship.
- ❖ I and my guests will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- ❖ I will not encourage anything that would endanger the athletes.
- ❖ I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts peacefully.
- ❖ I will demand that my child treat others with respect.
- ❖ I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- ❖ I will offer praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- ❖ I will never ridicule or yell at my child or others for a mistake or losing.
- ❖ I will emphasize skill development and practice and de-emphasize games and competition, especially in the younger age groups.
- ❖ I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes.
- ❖ I will respect the officials and coaches and their authority and decisions.
- ❖ I will demand a sports environment free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- ❖ I will refrain from coaching, unless I am one, my child or others during games and practices.
- ❖ I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that could affect the safety of my child or others.

For more information about game times and schedules, call the Watsonia Recreation Center at 423-5410 and check with us on Facebook.

Terrell's Bay High School Historic Ceremony Program



The Performing Arts and Science Academy (PASA) held an appreciation ceremony for Coach Taft M. Watson and other honorees that assisted in making it possible for Terrell's Bay High School to become a Historical Site. PASA

began the process in August 2013 of making the school a historical site and received official confirmation on November 21, 2013 from the South Carolina Archives and History Center in Columbia, SC that Terrell's Bay High School was officially a historical site. Among the honorees that received certificates of appreciation were; prior staff members, Coach Taft M. Watson and Florence G. Foxworth; prior alumni and students, Willie B. Ellison, Regina Dyer, Irish R. King, Valarie Reed, Addie Godbolt, Nancy Pee, and Tony Dunkin.

The Performing Arts and Science Academy (PASA) of Marion, SC is a 501-c-nonprofit organization, who is currently in negotiations with NASA, to bring an innovative Science Engineer, Mathematics, and Aerospace Academy (SEMMA) after school and summer program to Marion, SC.

Sand Hills Chapter of The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends is non-profit self-help organization for parents and grandparents of children who have died. The local chapter holds monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Classroom B at Carolinas Hospital for Marion and surrounding communities in order to raise awareness for families in need of assistance in working through the grieving process.

For more information contact Barbara Stacy at (843) 392-0556 or email @tcf.sandhills.sc@aol.com

Coats for Kids

Many, many thanks for those who helped make the *Coats for Kids* drive a success! We sent 38 coats to Easterling, 65 to Johnakin and were able to donate another 100+!! Thank you for your financial donations, your donation of coats, gift bags and for helping spread the word via facebook, e-mail, word of mouth and any other way y'all could come up with! The spirit of giving is alive and well in the City of Marion! Thank you all!! Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and joyous holiday season!

Pam Jones
City Clerk

Happy New Year

Once again, a new year is upon us and I am amazed at how quickly time has flown by. Over the last few months, we have enjoyed several events that help make Marion the wonderful place it is. While we are anticipating the year to come, I'd like to pause and reflect on a couple of special moments and community celebrations in 2013.

On October 11th the City of Marion had its first employee luncheon at Pop Dorsey Park and on November 8th the community came together as we recognized our Veterans. The Marion Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade was magnificent as usual and hundreds of people crowded the streets to witness the wonderful Christmas Prelude and Tree Lighting Celebration.

These events all showcase what makes our community so great; people coming together to help each other, celebrate and appreciate everything we have. I wish you the best for 2014.

Happy New Year!
Bobby L. Davis



Recycle your Christmas Tree!

Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street in the parking lot. Please remove all decorations before leaving the trees.

Thanks!

Marion City Council wishes to thank everyone for their support and involvement in the governing process this year.

Happy New Year
Marion City Council

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
Russ Smith, 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
Alemeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Same day, new time for Bingo at Watsonia

The time to play Bingo in Watsonia Recreation Center has changed to 8:15 – 9:15 a.m. Bingo is played on the first and third Thursday of each month and there are plenty of seats for newcomers to join the fun. We have refreshments for you to enjoy while you play. So come on over and bring some friends! We look forward to seeing you here. Bingo is free of charge and open to the public and prizes are awarded to winners.



Basketball to begin

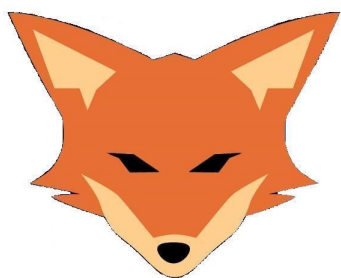
The Recreation Department's regular basketball season starts the beginning of January after students return to school from their Christmas breaks. Home games will be played in the A.C. Tollison Gym. Call 423-5410 for details about games or visit us on Facebook.

Join us for aerobics

The Marion Recreation Department offers Senior Aerobics every Monday and Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Watsonia Recreation Center. The class is offered by Marion County Council on Aging. There is no sign up necessary for this class and it's FREE, however, donations are appreciated. Everyone is invited to come by and check out a class before joining us. Anyone with questions about the class can call 423-4391.



City employees training for third HISTORIC MARION RUNFEST



Couch-to-5K



All citizens are encouraged to move 'From Couch to 5K' with the city employees

City of Marion officials are again encouraging participation in the third annual Historic Marion Runfest set for February and are promoting better health of its employees. The City of Marion Wellness Program is encouraging employees to train to participate in the 5K Run-Walk. Because preparing for any run can be daunting, Personnel Director Elizabeth Ficik is again promoting a way to move employees from the couch to walking and from walking to running, through the program, "From Couch to 5K." Each session will take about 20 to 30 minutes, three times a week. Citizens are encouraged to join the employees on the walking trails at Withlacoochee Park and Grice Recreation Center. Training will be four days a week, Monday through Thursday, at 4:30 p.m. Anyone interested in participating with the employees should contact Elizabeth Ficik at City Hall, eficik@marionsc.gov or 423-8614.

Employees Quarterly Fellowship Luncheon



As the city employees prepared for the holidays, they enjoyed one another for a quarterly

luncheon. They feasted on Mr. Winky Fore's delicious barbeque with all the trimmings. The pig was donated by Mayor Davis. The employees thanked the Mayor and staff for a job well done and stated how appreciated they felt and how much they enjoyed the luncheon. The event was held on December 18th at the Marion Fire Department and the attendance was great. Everyone had a wonderful time. Several Marion City Council Members, Mayor Barbara Hopkins of Sellers, and SC DOT officials attended. Mayor Davis stated that "God forbid if a disaster should happen, and we need our neighbors, we should know one another."

Hats off to our Chefs: Winky Fore, Ronnie Sanders and Chief Jim Gray.

Happy New Year's from the City Administrator and City Hall Staff!!!