

# Swamp Fox Scene

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



## County officials planning meetings about referendum

The Marion County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission will have informational meetings about the Capital Sales Tax referendum, which is expected to be conducted in November 2012. Marion citizens and representatives of organizations interested in learning about the Capital Sales Tax funds are asked to attend. Meetings will be on **Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 6 p.m.** in the Marion County Administration Building, 1305 North Main Street, Marion, and on **Thursday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m.** in the Mullins City Auditorium, 151 E. Front Street, Mullins.

For information, call Ogleretta D. White at 843-423-8203 ext. 120.



## City is Tree City USA for 19th year

In a presentation at City Hall, Urban Forestry Planner Dena Jacob with the S.C. Forestry Commission, far right, presented the city with its Tree City USA award for the 19th consecutive year. In order to keep its privileged status as a Tree City USA, Marion must have a tree board, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance.

*Celebrate Christmas ...*

**Marion's 22nd Annual HOLIDAY PRELUDE & COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, December 3rd :**

- Open House - Old Towne Marion: 10am-2pm
- Photos with Santa: Downtown 10am-1pm
- Carriage Rides: Downtown 10am-1pm
- Christmas Movie at the C.D. Joyner Auditorium: 2pm
- Marion Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade on Main Street 4:30pm

**Sunday, December 4th :**

- Latta Singers Christmas Presentation at the Marion Opera House - 4 pm
- Christmas Concert at the Marion Baptist Church Sanctuary with George Hiett, Organist : 5pm
- Pilot Club Soup & Cornbread supper and bake sale : 5pm-7pm at the Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. There will also be a silent auction and raffle during the evening.
- The arrival of Santa Claus, aboard the City of Marion Fire Truck: 5:30pm
- Pre-Christmas Tree Lighting Show : Courthouse 5:45pm

**Tree Lighting Celebration - 6pm**

A Carol Lighting Service held at the Courthouse to light a stately magnolia tree on the square, featuring over 10,000 lights. The courthouse steps, the town square fountain and Main Street will be lit with over 1,400 luminaries.

- Hot Apple Cider - Sponsored by local banking institutions
- Handicapped section available
- Hospitality Section

**Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park immediately following Ceremony**

*... in Marion!*

## Firefighters teach children to be safe



In mid-October, during Fire Safety Awareness month, children from the First United Methodist Child Care Center visited the Marion Fire Department and its "smoke house." They learned about not leaving pots on the stove, about not touching a stove, what to do if there is a fire, what the fire alarm sounds like, and how to get out of the house if there is a fire or smoke. For some, it was their first visit to a fire station.

The children were also able to see what firefighters look like in all their gear, so they will know not to be scared of them.



**Coming up ...**  
... keeping up with what's going on!

**Saturday mornings in November ...**  
8 a.m.-noon: Farmers Market & Marion Market Place at the old Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Bobby Gerald Parkway. Call Chuck at 423-9918 for details ... for a few more weeks, there may still be fall vegetables!

**November 2**  
Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.: *Olde Towne Marion, HMRA, Rise & Shine.* LifeCare Hospice, 609 N. Main Street. Call Chuck at 843-423-9918 for details. From 9 a.m.-2 p.m., **LifeCare will have an OPEN HOUSE** ... Finger foods, door prizes, educational topics on senior living and health.

**November 4**  
The first Friday of each month, Arts Council of Marion County has a Foodie Group that meets. For details, call Brian at 843-250-4322.

**November 14**  
Monday, 5:30 p.m.: *Citizens Advisory Committee meeting* (Second Monday each month), Fire Station, Bond St.

**November 15**  
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: *City Council* (Second Tuesday each month), City Hall, 107 S. Main St.

**November 21**  
Monday, 6:30 p.m.: City wide *Fox Watch meeting*, 332 N. Main St.

**November 24-25**  
Thursday & Friday, City offices closed: *Happy Thanksgiving!*

*The Arts Council of Marion County has a Film Club that meets the last Friday of each month ... Call Brian at 843-250-4322 for details.*

**Get ready!**  
**Marion's annual Christmas Parade is just around the corner!**

*Anyone interested in participating in this year's annual Christmas parade on Main Street, set for Saturday, Dec. 3 at 4:30 p.m., must pick up an application from the Marion Chamber of Commerce office in the Historic Train Depot on Bobby Gerald Parkway. Call Judy at 843-423-3561.*

**FREE FIREWOOD!**  
Call Pam Jones, 423-5961, for details.



# CITY NEWS .....

## Council, Mayor honor Moody

The City of Marion selected Sanitation Department employee Richard Moody as its September 2011 Employee of the Month.

Richard has been employed with the City for two years and is responsible for collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill.

"Richard is one of our most dependable employees. He is a hard worker and has a good attitude toward his job duties," said Winky Fore, Sanitation Superintendent. Richard is also employed part-time with the Marion Presbyterian Church.

He and his wife, Brenda, are lifelong residents of Marion. The Mayor and Council recognized Richard Moody for his contributions and dedication to the City of Marion during the October 11<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.



## Seminar for employers, about new policies regarding illegal aliens, is planned for Nov. 9 in the Marion Opera House

The state legislature has amended the South Carolina "Illegal Aliens and Private Employment" law to require that every employer verify new hires through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system, beginning Jan. 1, 2012.

Employers who fail to comply can lose the right to operate their businesses. The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) is charged with conducting random audits of employers to assure compliance. Jim Knight, Administrator for LLR's Office of Immigrant Worker Compliance, will conduct a seminar for Marion County employers on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Marion Opera House. Knight will address changes in the state immigration law, how to enroll in and use the E-Verify system, how LLR plans to enforce the law beginning Jan. 1, and the impact of illegal immigration on South Carolina communities. Anyone with questions can call Knight at 803-896-4374 or e-mail him at [nightj@llr.sc.gov](mailto:nightj@llr.sc.gov). For information, visit [www.llr.state.sc.us/immigration](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/immigration).

## Marion Market Place & Farmers Market become Saturday meeting place

Do you ever wonder where you can get fresh local produce or where you can purchase local plants and flowers?

Do you have hidden talents and wonder where you can sell the things you create? Do you wonder where there's a ready audience for your musical talents?

Well, wonder no more! The Marion Market-place and Farmers Market is the place for you! Located at the old Coca Cola Bottling Plant inside the fence, across from the Historic Marion Train Depot on Bobby Gerald Parkway, we share space with the Habitat for Humanity Resale store.

Market Place & Farmers Market organizers originally planned to be open each Saturday from June until September, but the fall vegetables and flowers are just starting to become available.

**Plans are to remain open each Saturday, from 8 a.m.-noon, as long as the vegetables are producing and the vendors are wandering in.**

We would like to welcome any arts and crafts, plant and flower vendors and farmers, Debbie Erwin, Market Place director, says. "If you play a musical instrument that does not require electricity, you are welcome to come and share your talent, too! Musicians," she

added, "should let us know in advance so we don't schedule them to overlap with others showcasing their talents."

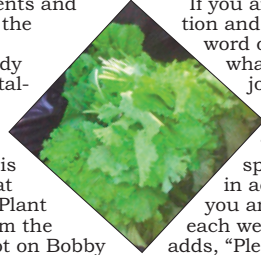
If you are a business or organization and you would like to get the word out to the community about what you have to offer, come join us. To participate, bring

a table and your product on Saturdays at 8 a.m. There is no cost to have a space. "We would like to know

in advance, if at all possible, if you are planning to participate each week," Erwin says. And, she adds, "Please! Only fresh South Carolina produce and flowers, and homemade crafts."

Erwin says, plans are to have evening events at the Market Place, too, from 4-8 p.m., with each month having something different. For instance, she explains, some events will be old city favorites, such as the annual Chili Cook-off and Great American Golf Cart Poker Run. Organizers are working on some new and exciting events, too.

Visit the Market Place & Farmers Market on Saturdays and join the group set up on Facebook. For information, or to get answers to your questions, call Erwin at 843-260-4483. She says to send a text message or to send her a message through Facebook.







### Ribbon cuttings

## Businesses open doors to customers

TLC Your Way Home Care Services, Inc. at 1007 Godbold Street, shown at left, had a ribbon cutting on Oct. 18. TLC offers a variety of services, including personal care, meal preparation, light housekeeping, transportation, Alzheimer's care, and more. Natalia Feely, owner, and her staff can be reached at 245-5542.



Audery Bahan, owner of Audery's Embroidery, Monogramming & Gifts, is shown above, at the Marion Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at her 304 N. Main Street location. Audery's offers a variety of gift ideas and custom monogramming. Call her at 423-3908. At left, The Marion Chamber of Commerce board members and friends welcomed Badcock Home Furniture & More to the Marion Business Community recently. Located at 2236F East Highway 76, the business is owned by Keith Poston.



## Chamber, sponsors donate books to county's 3rd graders

The Marion Chamber of Commerce has presented books to all third graders of Marion County. Districts 1, 2 and 7 were included in the project.

The book, "Francis Marion and the Legend of The Swamp Fox," is by Kate Salley Palmer, who lives in the Clemson area of the state.

Ashley Brady, 2012 Chamber President, said the group feels the project has two impacts; It impresses the importance of reading and gives the young people a sense of how important our county was in the history of our nation.

Without the help of our member sponsors this project would not have been possible, he said.

"We appreciate their commitment to the Chamber and to the students in

Marion County." Principals and a representative of 3rd graders and parents from each of the school districts were at the presentation.

The book plate inside each book reads:

*The Marion Chamber of Commerce along with businesses and individuals listed below present this book to you for your personal library. We hope our gift reminds you of General Francis Marion's legacy, his role in the history of our country and local community, and Marion County's importance in our nation's history.*

**Book Project Sponsors:** American Waste Systems, Inc.; Anderson Brothers Bank; Charlie and Frances Bethea; Mary G. Eaddy; First Charter Company, Inc.;

First Citizens Bank; Marian Cusac Green; Ritta C. Henney; Industrial Solutions & Supply, Inc.; Jordan Scrap Metal Co., Inc.; Robert E. Lee, Attorney at Law; Life Care Hospice of S.C.; Marion Chinese Restaurant; Marion County DSS; Marion County Healthcare Foundation; Marion County Schools; Marion Rotary Club; Duncan and Suzanne McIntyre; Joe and Rhonda McIntyre; One on One Learning; Pee Dee Academy; Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank; Timothy H. Pogue; Professional Pharmacy; Progress Energy; Lina Rice; Ken and Phyllis Robinson; Sunbelt Roofing Service, Inc.; Wesley Consulting, Inc.; White's Mini Storage and Supply; Senator Kent Williams; and Zeman Heating, A/C and Electric.

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is produced in City Hall and is the City of Marion's **free** monthly news magazine for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina.

It is printed by Herald Multi-forms of Dillon, S.C. Staff consists of City of Marion employees: Cheryl Askins, Elizabeth Fick, Pam Jones, Winky Fore, and Dianne Owens. Call Pam if you are interested in sponsoring an issue.

The newspaper is distributed by city employee Dennis Brown and may be found in City Hall, in the Marion Chamber of Commerce's office in the Historic Train Depot, in the Historic Marion Revitalization Association office on Main Street and in other spots around town. Call if you'd like to be a distribution point for the monthly.

The Marion Chamber of Commerce and Historic Marion Revitalization Association help pay printing costs. Call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961 for more information.

Catch up with us online at [www.marionsc.gov](http://www.marionsc.gov) or on Facebook at [City of Marion, South Carolina](https://www.facebook.com/CityofMarion)

## Rotary keeps members up to date about community

Each week speakers visit the Marion Rotary Club, keeping members up to date about community issues, events and activities. Recently Dr. Dan Strickland, the new County Superintendent of Education, spoke. Strickland came to Marion from Columbus County, N.C. Born in Marion County, he enjoys close ties to the community and told Rotary members that his primary focus is consolidating administrative services for the county's three school districts. The Marion County School Board will eventually take over management of the districts on July 1, 2012. His goals for the district include improving literacy, expecting excellence, improving technology, and promoting collaboration.

The Club meets each Monday at 1 p.m. Rotary goals include polio eradica-

tion, providing clean drinking water and literacy programs for young people.

Membership is by invitation only, but anyone interested in attending a meeting can call President Joe Long at 430-4333.

The Club also welcomed Tiffany Bartel and Angelica Palmer, Interact members, as guests. Each is a senior with plans to attend the University of South Carolina upon graduation. The Interact Program, a junior affiliate for Rotary International, is implemented at Marion High School by Brandi Cook.

Crystal Hummer, executive director of the County's March of Dimes, visited the group in late September, giving a brief history of the organization. The county's annual "March For Babies" was on Oct. 29.

**Any Marion resident interested in receiving the City Council agenda by E-MAIL** is asked to make a request by sending an e-mail to City Clerk Pam Jones at [pjones@marionsc.gov](mailto:pjones@marionsc.gov). For information, call her at 423-5961.



# SPORTS & RECREATION .....

## Fall sports season closing, basketball sign-ups underway

Marion Recreation Department will have two football and three soccer teams participating in the S.C. Athletic Programs All Stars.

Playing in Florence, beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 15, in a single elimination tournament, will be one 8-10-year-old and one 11-12-year-old team. Soccer All Stars, from the 8-10, 11-12, and 13-15 year-old teams, will play in Sumter on Saturday, Nov. 19. This is also a single elimination tournament.

**Sign-ups for Recreation Basketball teams** will run through Nov. 17 and are taken in the Watsonia Recreation Center, 101 Watsonia Street, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Be sure to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate when signing up. *If there is no birth certificate, there will be no sign up!* City residents must also bring proof of residency. Cost is \$16 for city residents, \$30 for anyone living outside the city limits.

Teams are offered for the following ages: PEE WEE (6-7 YRS OLD, boys & girls); SMALL FRY (8-10 YRS OLD, boys & girls); MITE (11-12 YRS OLD, boys & girls); MIDGET (13-14 YRS OLD, boys); JUNIORS (15-17 YRS OLD, boys).

## Join senior aerobics; meets Mondays, Thursdays in Watsonia

Senior aerobics is offered in the Watsonia Recreation Center every Monday and Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The class has returning and new members, so feel free to join us. There is always room for anyone interested in participating! Donations are appreciated, but the class is free for Marion citizens. For details, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

## City continues improving recreation sites

The City of Marion continues making improving to its various recreation sites. This past month, new fencing was put in place around Withlacoochee Park's track and playground areas. Look for more improvements to come at other sites!



## BINGO! Join the twice-a-month fun in Watsonia

Don't forget! Add it to your monthly calendar! FREE Senior Bingo is the first & third Thursday of each month in the Watsonia Recreation Center from 8:15-9:15.

We offer refreshments and prizes for winners. Come join the fun! If you have any questions, call 423-5410.

## Computer lab is free for Marion area citizens

The Swamp Fox Higher Education Center in the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center has a free, public computer lab open from 10 a.m. until noon and from 2-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Use is for those seeking to improve their computer skills and for those looking for a job. If a minor wants to use the computer lab, they will need to get a consent form from the computer lab signed by the parents. Call Robbie at 423-6447 for details.



## A message from the Humane Society of Marion County:

**Don't let them be born just to suffer and die!**  
**Please neuter and spay your pets.**

**To make tax deductible donations to this group and to help in its efforts, send checks to HSMC, PO Box 932, Marion, SC 29571.**

To volunteer, or for information about the health and care of animals in Marion County, call Jenn Nall at the Marion County Animal Shelter, 843-423-8370.



## Marion Chamber announces Yard of the Month

Faye White, 912 Cherokee Avenue, has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for October 2011. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mrs. White will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

