

# Swamp Fox Scene



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

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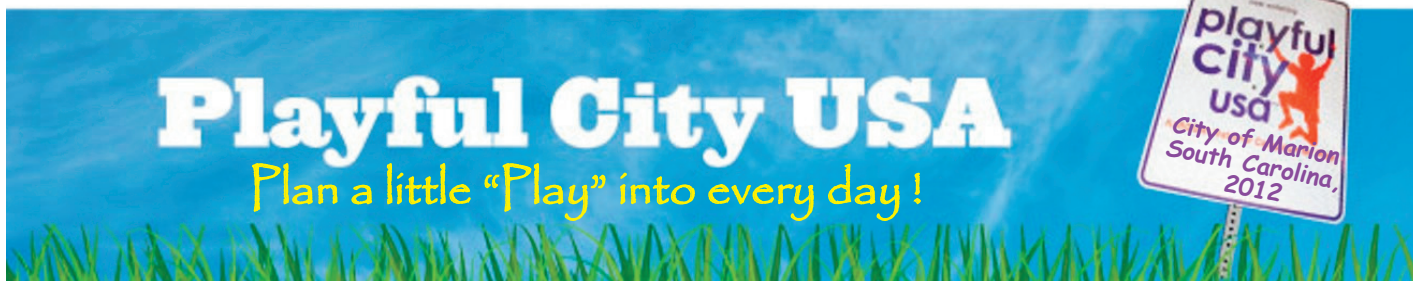


## Come play with us!

Kaboom.org has again recognized the City of Marion for its increased emphasis on outdoor play!

The month of September is RECREATION Month in Marion and we will celebrate Sept. 15 in the A.C. Tollison Center, Withlacoochee Park and beyond with fun events.

For a schedule of planned events, see Page 4!



## Guarding ...

City of Marion street crossing guards help get the new school year off to a good start. Each day our five city crossing guards, with the occasional help of our police officers, help students safely get to and from where they need to be.

Photo by Winky Fore



## City challenges others to join in National Run@Work Day

### RUN@WORK Day is Friday, Sept. 21

As part of the City's Recreation Month celebrations in September, the employees of the City of Marion will partner with the largest grass-roots running organization in the country, the Road Runners Club of America, to promote the 7th annual RUN@WORK Day.

The goal is to encourage adults to get 30-minutes of exercise each day, in accor-

dance with the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, either before work, during lunch, or immediately following work.

Mayor Rodney Berry will lead a morning run, City Treasurer Patricia Brown will lead a 30-minute walk at lunch, and Personnel Director Elizabeth Ficik will lead a 5K run at 4:30 p.m.

More information about meet times, locations and routes will be available. STAY TUNED! Also, information will

be available about the City's Employee Couch to 5K Program to help get everyone excited about training for the upcoming RunFest in February, Ficik said.

"We invite other Marion County employers to plan events with their employees, or join us in this national movement to get people to incorporate exercise into their daily routines," she said. "Let's get moving!"

For information, call Ficik at City Hall at 843-423-8614.

## 'Business Jump Start' applications being taken

Thanks to a \$3,800 grant from the Marion County Healthcare Foundation, Francis Marion University Professor Brianna Zhang, manager of the Kelley Small Business Institute Center for Entrepreneurship, will offer a course teaching students how to go into business for themselves.

Applications for the 30-hour "Business Jump Start" course are being taken at various sites around the county, including the Marion Chamber of Commerce. Call Zhang at 843-661-1112 for details about the course.

The course, conducted in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center on Elizabeth Street, is supported by the City of Marion.

The course, available to the first 25 who apply, is for those unemployed, retired, underemployed or who have started a business within the past three months.

Classes will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, Oct. 16 - Nov 8, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Specific dates are Oct. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, and Nov. 1, 6, 7 and 8. A commitment to attending all classes is necessary, Zhang said. Participants will learn the basics of starting a micro-business and will work to create a usable business plan.

A similar course was taught in Marion in 2011. Deadline for completed applications is Friday,

# CITY NEWS .....

## City selects Mason as Employee of the Month

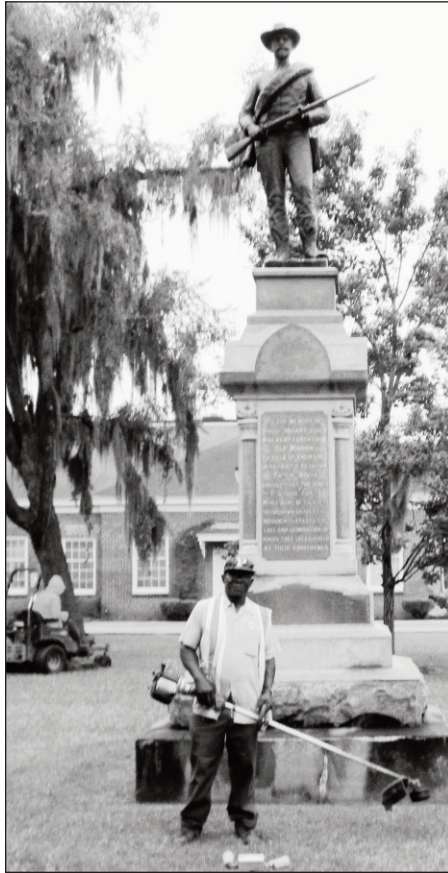
The City of Marion selected Perry Mason as its July 2012 Employee of the Month. Perry worked for the Street Department beginning in January 1991 and retired from the City of Marion in August 2012.

"Perry was always one of our most dependable employees," said Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders. "He never complained, and was always willing to take on anything I asked of him."

Sanders described Perry as a hard worker who took great pride in his work, which varied from mowing grass in the summer to cleaning out storm drains and decorating the City for the Christmas season.

The Mayor and Council recognized Perry Mason for his strong work ethic and significant contributions to the City of Marion at the August Council Meeting.

Thank you, Perry, shown above, for your hard work and years of service with the City of Marion and to its citizens!



## City hires new employee

The City of Marion Sanitation Department has a new full time employee, Keith Reed, shown above, effective July 20.

Keith possesses a valid S.C. Commercial Drivers License (CDL) and has almost 10 years of truck driving experience. He is a lifelong resident of the Centenary community and attended Terrell's Bay High School. The Sanitation Department is responsible for collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill.

"Keith has good attitude and quickly developed a positive rapport with the other employees in the department. He is prompt, hard-working and conscientious about his job duties," said Winky Fore, Sanitation Superintendent.

## City will offer homeowners an opportunity to meet with Rural Development officials about grants, loans

The City of Marion is sponsoring a workshop at which local representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development office will explain how homeowners can apply to the area office in Florence for housing repair assistance.

*That workshop will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 17 in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center in the C.D. Joyner building. Dwayne White, Area Director of Rural Development, and Sam Sinclair, from the Florence office, will be conducting the workshop.*

According to the department's web site, USDA invests heavily in programs that help elderly people live with as much independence and dignity as possible. This includes the Section 504 Loan and Grant Programs, which makes vital home repairs for very-low-income seniors.

The Section 504 Loan and Grant Program helps qualifying applicants repair, improve and modernize a home, make it safe or sanitary, and remove health and safety hazards. Application forms for the grant and loan program are available on-

line or can be picked up in the City of Marion Grant Writer's office in City Hall.

For information about the housing grant and loan program, call White at 843-669-9686, Ext. 140 or visit the department's web sites at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov) and [www.rurdev.usda.gov/SC](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/SC). Anyone planning to attend the workshop should call the city grant writer, Dianne Owens, at 843-423-5961 before Friday, Oct. 12.

Sinclair and White will be available to help homeowners complete their paperwork for the very limited funds.

## Want to speak before council? Here's how to get on the agenda ...

*Public comments during City of Marion Council meetings call for preparation. (This article is adapted from one by Andrew Golden that appeared in the Marion Star & Mullins Enterprise and is available online on at [www.SCNow.com](http://www.SCNow.com), dated April 4, 2012. We thought it might be helpful for our citizens.)*

To speak at a City of Marion Council meeting, your name and topic have to be put on the agenda.

Citizens have the right to speak to their respective council members at their meetings and most councils have some kind of ordinance or policy that deals with public comments.

Marion County, the City of Marion and the City of Mullins each have time limits. For instance, Marion County Council allots 30 minutes at the end of its meetings and gives each person five minutes.

The City of Marion also allots 30 minutes, but allows speakers seven minutes. The Town of Mullins sets aside 25 minutes and gives five minutes to each speaker.

To speak in front of council, citizens must contact the appropriate council clerk before the regularly scheduled meetings. There is a deadline for getting your information on the agenda, so call to see when that deadline is. A topic must be provided at that time.

Marion's ordinance states that a person or group, no larger than two individuals, may appear before council only twice on the same topic, unless special permission is granted by council.

When speaking in front of council the presiding officer has the right to stop any person who is being disorderly or is slandering council or a city employee.

The ordinances state that the council vests in its mayor, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual who does not adhere to the rules. Most of the councils have the same general statements about allowing citizens to speak to council, such as a speaker must stay on topic.

The presiding officer can stop a speaker if he or she does not remain on the topic they have chosen to speak about.

Council is not required to take action on any matters brought before them during public comments, but rather receives such comments as information.

*For more information about speaking before the City of Marion Council, telephone City Clerk Pam Jones at 843-423-5961 Ext. 10, or e-mail her at [pjones@marionsc.gov](mailto:pjones@marionsc.gov).*

# Coming up in September ...

Keep up with what's going on in and around Marion!

**EACH Saturday** the Marion Farmers Market & Marion Market Place is open at 229 North Main Street from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Plants, vegetables, treasures & more!

**EACH month** there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting. Contact Brian Nolan for information ...e-mail Nolan at [briannolanemail@gmail.com](mailto:briannolanemail@gmail.com). Both are sponsored by the *Arts Council of Marion County*. Call the Council at 843-423-6636 for details about other events.

**3, Monday, City offices closed to observe Labor Day.**

**5, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Rise & Shine returns!** Blessing of the Pots! Refreshments served. Call Chuck for details, 843-423-9918

**8, Saturday, Sanctioned Martial Arts Tournament** set in the High School. Marion Karate and the City of Marion will present the "Discovering a Champion" martial arts competition and show. After a day's worth of tournaments, at 5 p.m. the tournament contestants will present a show on the stage in the CD Joyner Fine Arts Center. For information, call Fred Gause, 843-423-3345 or email him at [fredskarate@yahoo.com](mailto:fredskarate@yahoo.com).

**8, Saturday, 9 a.m.-until, Sidewalk Sale** for Main Street businesses, 9 a.m.-until. For details, call 843-432-9918.

**10, Monday, 10 a.m., LaLeche League** of the Pee Dee, in the Sunday School House of the Church of the Advent, 103



East Mullins Street, Marion. Call 843-360-0101 for details.

**10, Monday, 5:30 p.m.,** The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be in the Bond Street Fire Department's community room. All are welcome.

**11, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.,** City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

**13, Monday, noon-1 p.m.,** An Alzheimer's Support Group will meet in the Marion County Medical Center. Call 843-423-1888 for details. These meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and respite grants may be available for participant needing sitters so they can attend.

**15, Saturday, 9 a.m.,** Play Day events. Details on Page 4.

**20, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.,** United Fund Gala

**21, Friday, Run @ Work Day,** call Elizabeth at 843-423-8614 for details.

**22, Saturday, 10 a.m., Golden Leaf Festival,** Mullins' Smith Haven Park, Parade is on Main Street, with crafts, food vendors and more. A day filled with family fun!

**26, Wednesday, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.,** Walker International Circus in the Green Street Park. Call the Recreation Department for details, 843-423-5410.

**COMING IN OCTOBER:** Housing rehap seminar; New business course. To get something in the calendar, call Pam at 843-423-5961, Ext. 10.

## March of Dimes plans golf tournament

A golf tournament fundraiser for the March of Dimes is set at Pineland Country Club on Sept. 12.

The Captain's Choice format will have a 1 p.m. Shotgun Start. Paid registrations should be made by Sept. 7.

To play is \$65; to sponsor a hole is \$100; and to sponsor an event is \$300. All monies are tax-deductible! For information, call Kim Hunsucker at (843) 275-0110.

## Support Marion's UNITED FUND!

Allyson Floyd will be guest speaker at the annual United Fund of Marion County fundraising Gala on Sept. 20. Get your tickets today!

The table fee and silent auction at the event raise money for the organization that in turn gives to help other organizations that assist citizens. All monies stay in Marion County. To make reservations, call Judy at 843-423-3411.

## ROAD TRIP! Marion group plans to travel to view film

The Marion Film Club is planning a trip to the Nickelodeon Theater in Columbia on Sept. 8 to see a screening of "Beasts of the Southern Wild."

Everyone is invited to car pool and caravan for the event, said organizer Brian Nolan with the Arts Council of Marion County. Meet in the parking lot of The Marion Emporium for a 2 p.m. departure.

## Rehearsals begin for "Scrooge"

Final auditions for a local production of "Scrooge" are Saturday, Sept. 1 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the CD Joyner Fine Arts Center on Elizabeth Street. Rehearsals for the December stage production will begin in September. For information about ways to participate in this opportunity, contact Matthew Croshaw at [m.croshaw@revelationministries.us](mailto:m.croshaw@revelationministries.us) or call him at 843-423-5444.

## DSS needs help getting the word out about procedure, application changes

Changes have been made in the way clients and customers receive services through the state's Department of Social Services offices.

Applicants seeking the state's assistance with food and stipends no longer get a "case worker" assigned to them. Effective July 2, interactions are now done online

or by telephone, Cora David, the DSS Director in Marion County explained recently.

Folks needing assistance can come to any county DSS office to get an application, but they don't actually apply in those offices.

To apply, people mail applications to the state office in Columbia, telephone a toll free number and arrange for a

telephone interview or go online to complete an application. The changes mean fewer people are sitting in waiting rooms around the state and applicants are taking more personal responsibility in seeking assistance, David said.

Services formally provided by the state are being privatized and farmed out to con-

tractors and all changes are to be seamless to the client or customer and are designed to increase efficiencies.

Call 843-423-4623, Ext. 120, for details about DSS in Marion and the changes. David and others made their remarks and explanations of changes at an Aug. 15 Community Awareness meeting in the Beeson building.

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multi-forms 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 information about the newspaper, call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

## NEED HELP WITH CITY SERVICES?

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

<u>Mayor</u>	Rodney Berry, 843-423-8235
<u>City Administrator, Building Official</u>	Alan Ammons, Ext. 19
<u>City Clerk</u>	Pam Jones, Ext. 10
<u>City Treasurer</u>	Patricia Brown, Ext. 18
<u>Municipal Court Clerk</u>	Heather Evans, 843-423-8616
<u>Personnel, Purchasing Director</u>	Elizabeth Fick, 843-423-8614
<u>Planning &amp; Zoning Admin Assistant</u>	Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11
<u>Recreation Admin Assistant</u>	Cheryl Askins, 843-423-5410

## Questions about your water or sewer bill?

Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at (843) 765-4539

or visit them in City Hall on Main Street.

# SPORTS & RECREATION .....

## Play Day 2012: You're invited to come play with us!

Choose at least one event below, if not more, to enjoy with friends on Sept. 15 in Marion ... For info, call 423-5410.

City officials are busily planning several events on SATURDAY Sept. 15 as part of the PLAY DAY 2012 celebration ... The focus is on outdoor free play, and the intent is to have children in all our parks playing on our new equipment. But the day is also a call to get outdoors and enjoy fun in any manner and a call to participate in some friendly competitions.

Various groups are conducting tournaments and activities for our community. See which activity best suits you and your family! If you have a question, call Frank Page at 843-423-5410.

For the second year, Kaboom.org has recognized the City for its increased emphasis on outdoor play and named Marion a Playful City USA! So, with that in mind: **Let's Play Marion!**

### Table Tennis Tournament! 9 a.m., A.C. Tollison Gym

2nd annual Table Tennis Tournament

Registrations must be made by

**Wednesday, September 12, 5 p.m. in the Watsonia Recreation Center.**

\$5 per person to register to play.

Open, co-ed singles and doubles ...

This is a blind draw,

double elimination tournament.

Call Cheryl at 843-423-5410 to register.

Call Chuck for tournament details at 423-9918.

### Play Day Activities Withlacoochee Park 9:30 a.m. until noon

*Champion Martial Arts and Fred's Karate will sponsor fun and games with a martial arts exhibition, games, exercises, and more from 9:30 a.m. until noon.*

**Free Play on the new playground equipment!**

**Run the track!  
Stage your own foot race!**

**Toss and chase a frisbee!**

*Iris Stackhouse and members of the Marion High School girls Tennis Team will be on the courts to assist with Introductory Tennis for anyone, any age, any shape, any size or skill level! Come join the fun!*

### NFL Punt, Pass & Kick Competition

Marion's Withlacoochee Park will be the site of an NFL Punt, Pass & Kick competition at noon.

The competition is open to all boys and girls ages 6 -15. Boys and girls compete separately. Age classifications are based on the child's age as of Dec. 31st. There is no charge to participate!

**All participants must show proof of age at each level of competition.**

Failure to provide a birth certificate will result in participants being ineligible to compete. Participants can register and compete in only one Local Competition and must register online or submit the signed parental entry form/release of liability, **found online at [www.nflppk.com](http://www.nflppk.com)**, to the

Marion Recreation Department. Call Cheryl or Frank at 843-423-5410 for details!

Competition will be held rain or shine.

### City of Marion FD vs City of Marion PD

1st ever Challenge Volleyball tournament!

**In the pit at Withlacoochee Park ... Best two of three tournament!**

2012 Braggin' Rights at stake!

**10 a.m. sharp!**

*Come cheer for your favorite team(s)!*

### 2013 Rentals underway

The Recreation Department is accepting rental applications for the 2013 year. Anyone interested in renting the Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter or a Recreation Center should call 843-423-5410 or stop by the Watsonia Center at 100 Recreation Drive to check on availabilities.

### Aerobics conducted daily in CDJ

Aerobics are offered in a CD Joyner Fine Arts Building class room, Monday – Friday, taught by Lille Ann Sanders. The class, 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m., is \$30 each month. There are plenty of slots for newcomers to join the group. Something different is offered nightly, kick boxing, aerobics, cardio workouts, etc. If you have any questions, call 423-5410.

### Yoga meets Tuesdays, Thursdays

Frances Bethea and Judy Johnson are teaching yoga for the City of Marion Recreation Department. Classes are in the training room in the Fire Department Substation on Senator Gasque Road, across from Richardson Funeral Home and are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per class or \$30 for the month. Come and join the group ... No experience is necessary!

### City has Senior Bingo twice a month

Bingo for our Senior Citizens is offered on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Watsonia Rec Center from 8:15 a.m.– 9:15 a.m. We have plenty of room for people to join the fun. We offer prizes and refreshments!



### Marion Chamber recognizes August Yard of the Month

Mr. and Mrs. Don Moses of 415 W. Godbold Streets have been honored as having the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for August 2012. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and who add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Moses will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.