

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

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



Volume 5, Issue 4

September 2014

Plan to play on PLAY DAY 2014

The City of Marion's annual Play Day will be in Withlacoochee Park on **Saturday, Sept. 20**, beginning at 9 a.m. and on the Courthouse Square at noon. Join the crowds for a fun day of outdoor activities. As part of our Playful City USA status gained through Kaboom.org we annually offer this opportunity to enjoy free outdoor play. Our intent is to have children swinging on the swings, sliding on the slides and enjoying play in all our parks.

Additionally, the Recreation Department is offering its annual Punt, Pass & Kick competition that day and Historic Marion Revitalization Association will have its annual Cornhole Tournament. This tournament will be on E. Dozier and E. Court Streets, complete with a food and beverage concession area, HMRA Executive Director Al Blake said.

The tournament starts at noon and music will be provided by The Shutter Dogs of Charleston, featuring Marion native Will Grice. Engage in some friendly competition and join the fun. For two years Kaboom.org 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! Run the track! Stage a foot race! Toss and chase a frisbee! Play some tennis! Play Day 2014 is a rain or shine event. Call the Recreation Department for details, 843-423-5410.



Rec department plans Opening Day for football

Opening Day activities for fall sports sponsored by the City's Recreation Department will be on Saturday, Sept. 6 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Watsonia Park. Admission is \$2 per person, with free admission for those four years old and younger. Come show your support for our youth!

Additionally, register now for Marion's Punt, Pass & Kick competition, set for 9 a.m., Sept. 20 in Withlacoochee Park. This is open to all boys and girls ages 6-15.

Boys and girls compete separately. There is no charge to participate! **All participants must show proof of age and have a birth certificate in order to compete.**

Participants may register online at www.nflppk.com or by getting a form at the Watsonia Recreation Center. Call Ann or Cheryl 843-423-5410 for details! Competition will be held rain or shine.



City's Summer Camp fun ends on high note

The City of Marion free Summer Camp, that started on June 9 and ran through August 15, has come to a close. Above, a few of the more than 100 participants are shown getting ready to enjoy a day at Wild Water and Wheels in Surfside Beach on one of the group's many field trips. The weekday camp ran from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. and offered such activities as swimming and water fun, arts and crafts, sports, field trips, canoeing, fishing, camping, games, music and more. Children from six years old to 18 participated. Additional photos from the August activities are on Page 4. City employees and community members worked together to offer and run the summer camp based in Grice's Recreation Center.

Evans becomes part-time judge, too



Marion Municipal Clerk of Court Heather Evans recently attended classes at the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy and received her certification as a Municipal Judge. Evans has been employed with the City of Marion Police Department since July 2005 and was promoted to Clerk of Court in 2006. In addition to her position as the clerk, she now also serves as a bond court judge.

“Heather is the face of the Court, being the first person most people see or speak to at the Court,” Marion Municipal Judge Pat Speth said. “She is courteous and fair to all coming before the Court, including the defendants, victims, their families, attorneys and law enforcement officers.”

McKenzie is City of Marion’s Employee of the Month

The City of Marion is pleased to announce Chris McKenzie as its July 2014 Employee of the Month.

Chris McKenzie has been a full-time employee with the City of Marion Fire Department since January 2012 and a dedicated volunteer firefighter and member of the Marion Rescue Squad for many years.

As the Assistant Fire Chief, he brings a lot of knowledge and experience with him to profession. McKenzie also works part time for the Marion Police Department and is

assigned to the Traffic Unit.

Chris McKenzie has more than 20 years experience in emergency services and is a certified law enforcement officer, firefighter and paramedic.

“McKenzie has a strong work ethic and excellent leadership skills,” said Chief Trey Cooper, adding that the Assistant Chief has experience and knowledge to share with other members of the Marion Fire Department.

“Chris is highly respected by his peers and appreciated by the community. He is committed to improving the safety



of our residents and visitors of the City of Marion.”

The Mayor and Council recognized Chris McKenzie for his dedication and contributions to the City of Marion at the August Council Meeting.

Arts Council membership drive underway: Join today!

Membership Invitations have been mailed to previous Arts Council members, but we’d love to have new members. Join us in our efforts to support the arts in Marion County. We are in full swing!

We invite you to become a member of an exciting organization that brings innovative programs and entertaining events into Marion County. If you’re already a member, you are thanked!



For those who are not yet members, you are invited to join us. Let’s Cultivate, Promote, and Preserve the ARTS!

Feel free to call Executive Director Janine Jordan at 843-289-5054, or to send her an e-mail at

artcounciljj@att.net. Check us out on Facebook, too! See you Tuesday, Sept. 23 at the Annual meeting and Art Etc. ... Auction (details are in the calendar, Page 3.)

Chamber announces Yard of the Month

Larry and Marylan Martin have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for August 2014. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community who work so diligently and who add so much to our community’s unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Martin will receive a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.



Town Hall meeting conducted

A Marion Town Hall meeting was conducted on Aug. 25 with Mayor Bobby Davis welcoming guests and emceeding events.

Expected to speak were Dr. Dan Strickland, superintendent Marion County Schools; Al Blake, executive director, HMRA; Rose Massey, executive director, Marion School of Music; and Isaac Nixon, U.S. Postal Service. Additionally, the city’s new Assistant Police Chief, Dewayne Tinney, was introduced.

Coming in October ... Church to be host to 10,000 villages festival

The Marion Presbyterian Church will be hosting another Ten Thousand Villages Festival in its Educational Building from Oct. 16-18, beginning each day at 10:00.

The various works of art and crafts created by artisans from numerous Third World countries will be showcased and sold at a fair and reasonable price.

The event is a mission project of the church and the money from the sales is returned to the men and women who make the items. Thank you for planning to attend the festival!

START YOUR PLANNING NOW!

Historic Marion Revitalization Association Christmas Ornaments will go on sale in October. Don’t miss your chance to get one of these special ornaments, with its circa 1982 downtown Marion streetscape.

Additionally, HMRA will be offering more information in September about the upcoming Main Street decorations. STAY TUNED! HMRA has been in charge of the October decorations for many years.

The scarecrow-themed decorated lampposts have been a big hit and the group’s Board is hoping for complete city-wide participation in this year’s Scarecrow Competition. Look for details on how you can be involved! Call Al Blake at 843-423-9918 for details and to volunteer.

Mayor Davis thanks those who made summer camp possible for children

I sincerely thank Mr. Gene Tucker and the Marion County Healthcare Foundation Board for approving a grant to make the trip to Wild Water and Wheels in Surfside possible for our children who participated in this year's summer camp. We also thank Mrs. Missy Foster, manager of Wal-Mart, for the grant we received to assist our children.

Thanks goes to Rev. Larry Williams and his ministry for providing snacks during our Back- to-School picnic for our children, as well. We thank the DSS and the South Carolina Urban League for providing Marion High School Students to assist us during the summer camp and we offer a special thanks to the South Carolina Urban League for paying those high school students to assist us.

Last, but certainly not the least of all of these wonderful people, I want to thank all of the volunteers who gave time from their busy schedules to help our children. I am extremely grateful for your sacrifices and I feel that I can speak the same for the parents and the children.

Bobby L. Davis
Mayor, City of Marion

EACH Saturday: *The Community Farmer's Market* is open at 109 Bobby Gerald Parkway from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., May through December. For information, call 843-610-6246. Stop by and get your locally grown, baked or hand-made items! There's something special each weekend, don't miss it!

September 1, Monday: *Labor Day Holiday.* City offices closed.

September 3, Wednesday: 8:30 a.m., HMRA's *Rise & Shine!* Business networking opportunity, hosted by Amber Jordan of Simply Southern Custom Art and Boutique at 610 North Main Street. Bring a friend!

September 9, Tuesday: 6:30 p.m., *City Council Meeting,* Council Chambers.

September 15, Monday: 6:30 p.m., *The Marion High School* Booster Club meets every third Monday at the high school.

September 16, Tuesday: 6:30 p.m., *United Fund of Marion County annual Gala* at Woodhaven Restaurant. Call Judy Stanton at 843-423-3411 for tickets.

September 20, Saturday: *Play Day!* See page 1 for details! HMRA sponsoring Cornhole Tournament with music, food and more, noon; Punt, Pass & Kick competition, 9 a.m.

September 23, Tuesday: 6 p.m., *Arts Council Marion County Annual Meeting and Art Auction* in the Opera House. The "2014 Art Etc. ... Auction" is a fundraiser for the Arts Council of Marion County. Enjoy an evening fine food and fine art from local and regional artists. After the 6 p.m. ACMC business meeting, the Silent Auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. At 6:45 p.m., the Live Auction begins, with auctions concluding at 8:30 p.m. For information, contact Janine Jordan at artcounciljj@att.net or 843.289.5054.

September 25, Thursday: 3 p.m., *Marion's Senior Council* (ages 62 & older), meets the fourth Thursday of each month in the community room of the Marion Fire Station on Bond Street.

Computer lab closed for update; Reopening soon

The City of Marion Computer Lab in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center (C. D. Joyner Fine Arts Building on Elizabeth Street) is temporarily closed. For information, call the Recreation Department or the computer lab at 843-423-6447. The computers are being fitted with new software and the lab will reopen later this month. We apologize for the inconvenience.

REMEMBER:

Historic Marion is a great place to visit, shop, dine and live. Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov and on Facebook under **City of Marion, South Carolina.**



ARTS AFTER HOURS

\$50 PER WEEK
ABC VOUCHER PENDING
WE WILL HELP YOU IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Public School Bus Delivery may be requested by all parents

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014
2:00 PM UNTIL 6:00 PM

AT THE GRICE RECREATION CENTER
Students arrive from school and are offered:

- TUTORING
- HELP WITH HOMEWORK

• Ballet/Dance	• Karate
Starting Date t.b.a.	Starting Date t.b.a.
• Study Club	• Basket Ball
• Piano/Drum Lessons	• Soccer
• Arts and Crafts	• Volley Ball
• Debate Club	• Tennis
• Movies & Popcorn	• Chess Club
	• Board Games

FOR INFORMATION CALL
HURRY
REGISTER NOW 843-618-1472
Limited Spaces available - First Come - First Served

Questions about your water or sewer bill?

Call the Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority at **843-765-4539** or visit them in City Hall on Main Street.

NEED HELP?

Call the Marion City Hall at 843-423-5961, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays.

You may contact the following at ...

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 Writer & Publicist, Ext. 22
Ann Jackson, 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
Almeta Mullins, Secretary, Police Department, 843-423-8616

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 Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

... RECREATIONAL CORNER ...

Coaches, officials needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the city's recreation programs as a coach or official. All coaches must be certified. *Call us for details! 843-423-5410.*

RECREATION OFFERINGS A-Z

Aerobics available in CDJ

Aerobics classes are offered Monday thru Friday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in a classroom in the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center. Taught by Lillie Ann Sanders, the classes are \$30 per month.

Senior Aerobics class meets

Each Monday and Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m., in the Watsonia Recreation Center, Anna Boatwright leads a free Senior Aerobics class. Donations, however, are welcomed and appreciated. Come and join us!

Enjoy bingo with friends

Senior Bingo is offered to Marion citizens on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Bingo is *free* and we welcome newcomers!

There are prizes for the winners and refreshments for everyone to enjoy while playing. We have a two-card limit. Check us out and bring some friends!

Don't forget!

For game cancellations, event times & photos, visit the Marion Recreation Department on Facebook, or call **the Recreation Department @ 843-423-5410!**

City has Ping Pong Club

The Marion Recreation Department has a Ping Pong Club that meets each Monday and Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. in the Watsonia Recreation Center. Call Cheryl at 423-5410 for more information.

City pool is still open

The newly renovated City Pool is open on Saturdays only during September. The pool will be open on Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor Day fun in the sun. Call the Recreation Department at 423-5410 for information or the pool office at 423-9391. Admission is \$1.

Rentals available

Need a place to have your class reunion, family reunion or church social? We have the perfect location for you. From our indoor venues to our outdoor ones, we offer affordable accommodations. Call 843-423-5410 for availability and to book your next event in a city building or park.

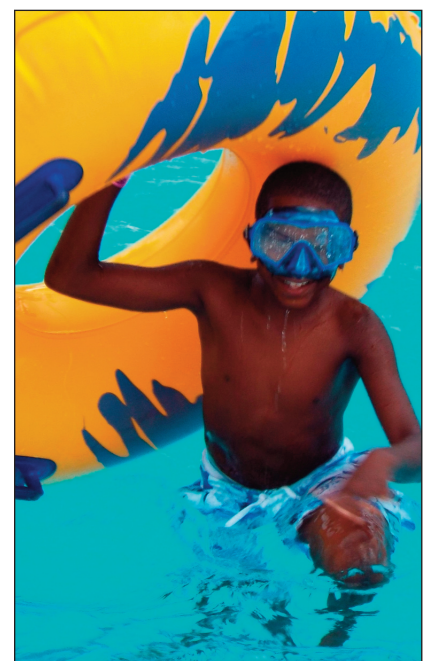
City offers Yoga classes

Yoga classes are offered each Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Sub-station on Sen. Gasque Road. Taught by Judy Johnson and Frances Bethea, the classes are \$5 each or \$30 per month. For information, call the Recreation Department.

Scenes from Summer Camp fun 2014



Above and below left, reading fun at the Bruce & Lee Foundation Library in Florence. Below right, back to school treats.



Above, fun at Wild Water & Wheels. Thanks again to all who made the city's summer camp possible. Below, children show off their summer camp T-shirts. All children received certificates, T-shirts and back-to school bags stuffed with school supplies. All volunteers received certificates and T-shirts.

