

# Marion, Virginia TOWN CRIER NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2010

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- 2011 Events Schedule
- Employee News
- Christmas events!

The Marion Christmas Market is set for November 19—21 at the

Marion Farmers Market!

Join the German Club of Marion for

great handmade crafts, goodies, and more, plus see the Christmas tree exhibit at the former Parks Belk building on Main Street all weekend long!

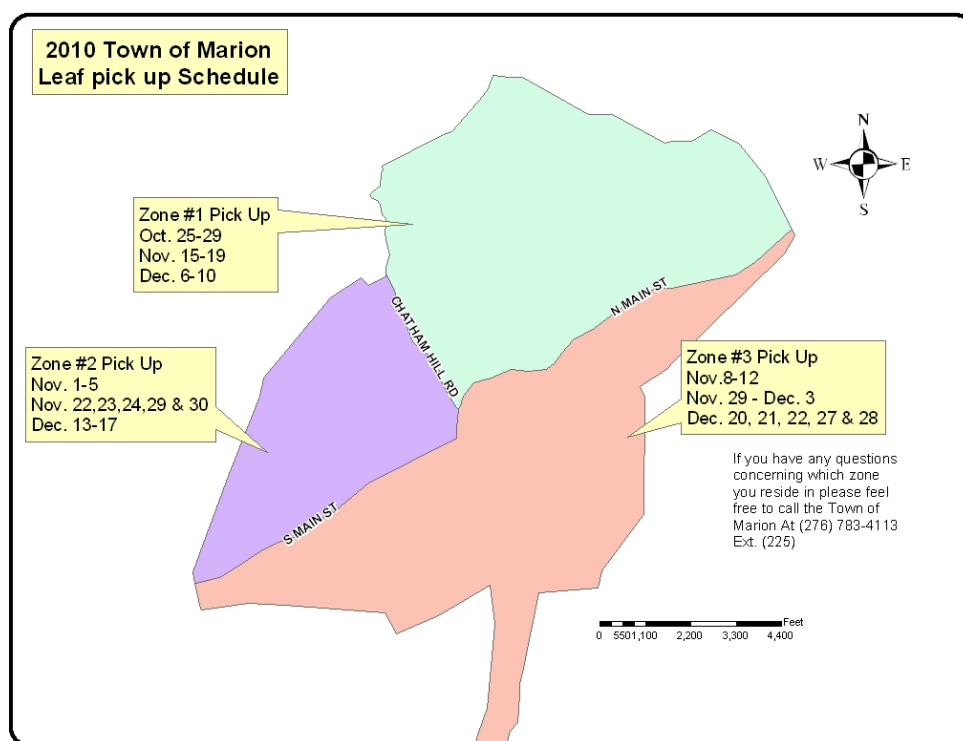


The Marion Rotary Club Kaleidoscope Christmas Parade is Sunday, November 21 at 3:00pm

Call 783-4190 for parade applications!

## It's Leaf Pickup Time !!!

Fall is officially here - and with the season comes leaf removal. The Town of Marion is divided into three zones, and we will pickup leaves in each zone one week at a time on three separate occasions.



Zone 1 area - north of North Main Street and east of Chatham Hill Road. It will be picked up the weeks of October 25-29, November 15-19 and December 6-10.

Zone 2 area - west of Chatham Hill Road and north of South Main Street. It will be picked up on November 1-5, November 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30 (accounting for Thanksgiving) and December 13-17.

Zone 3 area - south of South Main Street, East Main Street and North Main Street. It will be picked up on November 8-12, November 29 – December 3 and December 21, 21, 22, 27 and 28 (accounting for the Christmas Holiday).

**NOTE: THE TOWN OF MARION WILL PICK UP BRUSH ON THE 4TH WEEK OF THE MONTH THROUGH APRIL 2011**

## The Town of Marion, Virginia

*A Virginia Main Street Community*

[www.marionva.org](http://www.marionva.org)

Post Office Box 1005

Marion, Virginia 24354-1005

(276) 783-4113

**David P. Helms**

*Mayor*

**James Gates**

*Vice Mayor*

**Jim Barker**

**Carol Jane Hale**

**Suzanne Jennings**

**Jim Owens**

**Bill Weaver**

*Town Councilmembers*

**John E.B. Clark, Jr.**

*Town Manager*

*extension 222*

**Susan Clark**

*Town Clerk/Director of Finance*

*extension 229*

**Cecil Hicks**

*Assistant Town Manager/Engineer*

*extension 224*

**Anita Catron & Pam Stickley**

*Water Department*

*extensions 226 and 228*

**Business License and Taxes**

*extension 227 & 229*

**Ken Heath**

*Marion Downtown!*

*Economic & Community Development*

*extension 231*

## The Mayor's Corner

Greetings to all:

I hope that each of you have had a very enjoyable summer with family and friends. I am very pleased that we have had several groups who have elected to come back to Marion to celebrate their class reunions. ***It is always good to have these groups come back home.***

The folks at the Appalachian Spirit Gallery have provided us the opportunity to get together to enjoy good music, excellent art exhibits and delicious refreshments. ***Thanks to you folks for a job well done!!!!***

I was very pleased that the Town was asked to partner with VFW Post 4667 in order to pay tribute to our World War II veterans. Our veterans are a very special group and very deserving of our recognition. This group not only has served us so well in the past, but they continue to give back to our community. Thank you to all our veterans.

A special thanks goes out to all who participated in our 2010 Patriots Day Program. We do appreciate the service of our veterans and each of our emergency service personnel.

Please remember our schools are open and please drive extremely careful to protect our youngsters.

Thanks to each of our employees for their dedicated service. I often receive communications from our out of town visitors and they have many nice comments about our town. Thanks for all you do to make us look good.

We are always appreciative of any suggestions that you may have to improve the services to our citizens and our image to our visitors.

***Have a great fall y'all!!!!***

Sincerely,  
David P. Helms, Mayor



### IN MEMORIUM

It is with much sadness that we report that long time town councilmember Mel Leaman lost his valiant battle with cancer.

Melvin Carroll Leaman, age 56, passed away on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at his home. Mel was born in Washington, DC to the late James Carroll Leaman & Lorraine Jones Leaman. He grew up in the Marlowe Heights area of Maryland where he attended the Ben Franklin School of Accounting. Mel moved to Marion in the mid 1970's and went to work for the Appalachian Power Company. He was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Marion where he sang in the choir and served on the Men's Vestry. He was a former chairman for the Smyth County Democrat Party, an Aide for Delegate John H. Tate in the Virginia House of Delegates and served on the Marion Town Council for the past 16 years. He was the Director of the Smyth County Free Clinic for the past 9 years. Mel served on various boards, civic organizations and coached in the Marion Recreational Department for several years.

Survivors include his loving wife of 34 years, Jane Leaman, Three Children, Kelly Blevins & husband Andy, Michelle Powers & husband Ronnie and Brian Leaman, his brother Jim Leaman & wife Cindy of Richmond, his grandchildren Sarah Jane Blevins, Olivia Porter Blevins, Kendell Marie Powers, Jacob Melvin Ryan Powers "a fighter just like his papaw", Brian Martin Leaman, Jr., and Trevan Cole Leaman. Many Many Friends also survive.

Mel will certainly be missed. Our prayers and thoughts continue to be with the family through this difficult time.

## Town Reports

*A Summary of Activities from Your  
Town Departments*

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### Marion Police Department

The Marion Police Department welcomes Joshua R. Taylor as our newest patrol officer!

Taylor graduated from Chilhowie High School in 2007, where he played baseball, basketball, and football. He graduated from Virginia Highlands Community College in 2009 with a degree in Police Science. Taylor is currently assigned to Southwest Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy in Bristol. He and his wife Whitney reside in Smyth County.

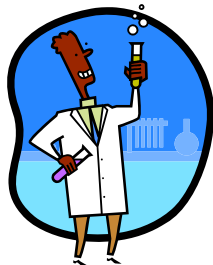
On September 16th, Sgt. Wes Thomas was awarded his second consecutive MADD award for his outstanding work toward reducing drunk drivers for 2009!

**Learn more about our police department - visit their website at  
[www.marionpd.net](http://www.marionpd.net)**

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### Marion Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Town of Marion Wastewater plant has treated 33.930 million gallons of sewer for the month of September 2010. All effluent limitations were met or exceeded. We passed our e-coli limit for the month.



The Staff at the Treatment Plant have been working on the UV system and have been making some progress. The e-coli results have been steadily improving since the end of the month and we have met our limits for the month of September.

## Marion Downtown Christmas Market and Parade

Mark your calendars for November 19—21 and join us in downtown Marion for our official kickoff to the holiday season! The German Club is again partnering with us to host the 2nd annual Marion Christmas Market at the Marion Farmers Market Pavilion!

### Festival Hours

Friday 3pm—9pm  
Saturday 10am—9pm  
Sunday Noon—5pm

Don't miss the fantastic Christmas tree displays at the former Parks Belk building (next to the Lincoln Theatre) all weekend!

Marion Rotary Christmas Parade is Sunday,  
November 21 at 3pm!

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We 

Follow us @marionvirginia

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### NEW BUSINESS PERMITS OCT 2010

G2K-Games, Inc  
1129 N Main Street

Happy's Restaurant  
Howard McCoy  
437 N Main Street

MVP Sweepstakes  
Wayne Porter  
223 E Main Street

Mane Hair Technology  
Mary Teaster  
107 S Iron Street

Patton & Associates  
Franklin James Patton, Jr  
225 Park Blvd

*Interested in starting a small business?  
Call us at 783-4190 and let us help!  
Assistance with business planning, site  
location, marketing, even financing op-  
tion - all right here for you!*

## Engineering News

### Prater Lane Widening Project –

W-L Construction will start work on Old Prater Lane on the week of October 25<sup>th</sup>. They will work through the winter with a widening and utility project to improve the circulation for the residents of that street. There will be no more through traffic allowed on this street and there will be a cul-de-sac installed at the bottom of the street.

### East Chilhowie Street Bridge

A Notice to Proceed was issued to Ken Construction for November 1, 2010 with a 60 day completion period for the construction. The construction will include re-alignment of a major member of the bridge which was damaged by an automobile over a year ago.

### Smyth County Hospital –

The new Smyth County Hospital will incorporate a new intersection signal system to improve the traffic flow to and from the new hospital on North Main Street. The new signal system will be installed prior to the opening of the hospital in 2012.

### Signal System Upgrade

The Town of Marion will be upgrading all of the signal systems in the town starting in December. Most of the intersections will have all new signal heads with LED displays. The intersection that will be rebuilt will be the Hardees Intersection, the Wendy's Intersection and the Park Blvd. North Main Street Intersection. These intersections will completely be redesigned and rebuilt.

### Bridge Replacement Project

The Town of Marion will be involved with VDOT in replacing two bridges in town. The bridges are Chatham Hill Road Bridge near the Hardees Intersection and the Baughman Avenue Bridge near Country Club Road. These bridges will be completely reconstructed from the ground up.

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## Town Employee News

*Congratulations to Mandy Sage and to Paula Holmes! Mandy is the new assistant at the Purchasing Department, and Paula is now administrative assistant for the Recreation Department!*

# The Town of Marion

A Virginia Main Street Community  
Post Office Box 1005  
Marion, VA 24354-1005

Presort Standard  
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Marion, VA  
24354  
Permit #10

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*2011 Calendar of Events for Marion, VA*

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**Fridays in June & July** 12 til 1 “Lunchtime on the Lawn” at the Courthouse

**July 4th** -- Independence Day Fireworks Celebration at MSHS Stadium at dusk

**July 15 - 17** "Hungry Mother Festival" at the Park, and "Downtown Days Festival" on Main Street (Free shuttle all weekend!) **25th annual Chili Championship!!!!**

**September 11** Smyth County Patriot’s Day Commemoration (*time and location tba*)

**October 29** Marion Downtown “Halloween Madness”(*time and location tba*)

**November 18 –20** “Shop at Home” Christmas Market in Marion -*sponsored by the German Club of Marion and Marion Downtown! (Vendor applications available NOW!)*

**November 20** Marion Kaleidoscope Christmas Parade -*sponsored by the Marion Rotary Club and Marion Downtown!*

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

MARION ARTWALK - SECOND FRIDAYS OF EACH MONTH FROM 5PM - 7PM DOWNTOWN

MARION FARMERS MARKET - EVERY SATURDAY 8AM - NOON MAY 9TH - OCTOBER

"SONG OF THE MOUNTAINS" - FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7PM AT THE LINCOLN

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