

Marion: Civic pride in serving its residents

With the addition of a traffic signal and more restaurants, Marion — one of the oldest communities in the Metrocom — keeps coming of age.

Founded in 1877, Marion -- just a short drive east down Farm Road 78 from the heart of the Metrocom – is coming on strong and rebuilding a year after it faced adversity.

Today, Marion is a city of some 1,100 people setting atop .66 square miles. It is a general law city, operating under the mayor/council form of government. Glenn Hild is the mayor and Laurie Huebinger is the city secretary.

Primarily an agricultural community, Marion does have a number of businesses, including the widely known Schulz Nursery, one of, if not the, largest nurseries in the Metrocom area. The city is served by Hild Brothers Grocery, Helping Hand Hardware, La Ciza Restaurant, three saloons and beauty and barber shops, Tolle Manufacturing Company and Marion State Bank, chartered in 1906 and still locally owned and operated.

In 2008, Marion saw the rebuilding and reopening of Penshorn's Meat Market, which was partially destroyed in an arsonist fire. The meat market also has plans to expand its building this year.

New businesses are coming into Marion. Earlier this year, McBee's Bar-B-Que opened their newest restaurant in the old Huebinger building built in 1910. Schulz Nursery will open a Subway sandwich shop on the nursery grounds.

Because of the increase in the number of people coming through the city, the Texas Department of Transportation plans to install the city's first traffic signal at FM 78 and FM 465 by late spring or early summer.

Children attend the Marion School District, which has a high school, middle school and elementary school. The city has the Marion Community Library, open during regular school hours and sometime later.

The Marion Volunteer Fire Department also has a first-responder emergency medical service unit, but full-service EMS is provided by the Schertz Area Facility for Emergency Services, which is just minutes away in the neighboring city of Schertz and is a highly-trained, efficient service with four mobile intensive care units available on a 24-hour basis.

Blessed with a low crime rate, there are three paid members of the police department, including its chief. There are also several unpaid reserve officers. All are fully certified by the state of Texas as peace officers and the community is patrolled on a regular basis. Other support, if needed, is provided by the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Department and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The city has its own state-approved water department, which has been upgraded and enlarged, and its own wastewater treatment plant, which regularly grades out as one of the best in the state at its size.

The city continually strives to ensure a safe and ample water supply and has installed new water lines on several streets. The city is a member of the Regional Water Resources Development Group and is making strides toward ensuring the city has an adequate water supply even while facing water-pumping cutbacks from the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Solid waste collection is by contract with USA Waste, natural gas is supplied by Entex and the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative furnishes the city with electrical power.