

## MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of July 2025 to the same month in 2024. The chart also includes the previous month's totals, year-to-date police activity totals and last year's monthly average.

CATEGORY	JULY 2025	June 2025	July 2024	2024 YR TOTALS	2024 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	1,829	2,383	1,788	23,545	1,962.1
Criminal investigations	13	13	16	150	12.5
Domestics	6	16	8	88	7.3
Felony Arrests	3	7	3	48	4.0
Misdemeanor arrests	7	18	4	81	6.8
Non-criminal arrests	3	16	7	112	9.3
DUI arrests	1	1	0	2	0.2
Criminal summons served	0	2	2	51	4.3
Traffic citations	45	20	26	212	17.7
Other citations	13	45	16	285	23.8
Traffic warnings	4	4	1	55	4.6
Parking tickets	0	1	0	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	8	9	9	69	5.8
Security checks/alerts	61	66	52	720	60.0
Calls for service	229	215	240	2,578	214.8



MPD 270.965.3500  
Police Chief  
Bobby West

On Facebook  
Marion Police  
Department  
Marion-KY

## Marion Police Department logging more patrol miles so far in 2025

Marion Police Department logged significant increases in patrol miles and traffic citations during the first half of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, monthly reports provided by Police Chief Bobby West.

Officers drove 10,305 miles from January through June, a 13% increase over the 9,095 miles logged during the first six months of 2024. Traffic citations rose sharply, up 57% from 79 to 124, while misdemeanor arrests jumped from 46 to 62.

Security checks and alarm responses

also increased notably, from 336 to 400. Calls for service remained steady, ticking up from 1,244 to 1,264.

Other areas saw declines. Criminal investigations dropped from 84 to 74, and criminal summons fell by nearly half, from 34 to 18. Non-criminal arrests decreased from 75 to 58.

DUI arrests rose from 1 to 5 in the year-to-date comparison through June, while felony arrests remained flat. Traffic warnings declined from 55 to 40, and reported traffic accidents stayed virtually the same – 35 in 2024 and 36 in 2025.

## Big Fest

Fredonia celebrated big last weekend with its 60th annual Fredonia Festival, complete with a parade, petting zoo, giveaways, ball games and countless activities for the entire family. Pictured here is young Charlie Tabor enjoying a chance to make friends with a couple of burrows.



PHOTO BY JAYCEE CHAMPION

## Incredible horse-breaking show is coming to Fredonia's Riding Club

Spring, summer, fall, winter... What season is it? You don't have to be a genius to know it's summertime. I wrote last month about the expected July heat, which is usually "hotter than a firecracker." As it turns out, my forecast was right on target.

Once again this year, the annual Hurricane Camp and Campmeeting was held in June. But think back, do you remember the "traditional" date for Hurricane Campmeeting was in August? (I think it moved from August to June around 2000.) Can you think of a reason for campmeeting being in August? Maybe because it was too hot to work.

When our agrarian culture was in full swing – before Food Giant, Kroger or Walmart – people grew what they ate. One reason for the August date may have been the "rhythm of life." In rural areas, there's a natural break during the intense heat of August. By then, the crops have been laid by, hay is in the barn, and garden goodies have been canned to feed the family through winter and spring. Campmeeting was a welcome respite from hot work on the farm, a time of joy and celebration as well as religious fervor.

There are other "seasons," too: hunting, fishing, vacation, shopping, Christmas, sports. Mention "football season," and many think of sitting on cold bleachers bunn-

dled up like an Eskimo. But football players and coaches aren't thinking about cold weather during August football camp.

Do you ever experience a busy season? One of mine in equestrian ministry is when Paul Daily makes his annual trip through Kentucky during his Kentucky-Illinois-Indiana circuit. This year it was last week. Through our Happy Trails Ministry, I often co-sponsor these Paul Daily Horse Whisperer events. For example, we co-hosted one with Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church on July 31 at the MSU Expo in Murray. The next evening, Aug. 1, we co-hosted with New Salem Baptist Church at Gordon Park, about 10 miles south of Nortonville.

Some of you may remember seeing Paul Daily at the Marion fairgrounds in 2012 and 2014. He sets up his 40-foot round pen in the center of an arena to work with a horse. Each host provides him with an unbroken two- or three-year-old horse that is halter broke but never ridden. (It's amazing how many times I've been asked, "Does he use the same horse at every event?") Using principles of faith and trust, Paul works with the



Chris CLARKE  
Press Columnist  
Happy Trails

young horse for about an hour, step by step, based on mutual respect and understanding, to prepare it to carry a saddle and rider for the first time.

Make no mistake, this is not a "show." It's an amazing demonstration between a horse with little human interaction and a master horseman. Paul understands the nature of these four-legged creatures God created. He uses that nature to break down barriers, allowing him to communicate effectively. At each step, Paul draws a spiritual parallel. When the preparation ends, the horse is saddled and ridden. You never know what will happen when the rider climbs aboard. Last week, a two-year-old stallion in Murray was ridden without drama, while a gentle-seeming two-year-old mare at Gordon Park got "excited" as a train went by just as the ride began.

Good news: The Fredonia Valley Riding Club will host Paul Daily on Sunday, Aug. 17, at 5 p.m., as he heads back toward Louisiana. The riding club is at 201 Dalton Road, just off KY 91 in the Crider area between Fredonia and Princeton. What does Paul want from these young horses? Trust, obedience and surrender. What does God want from you? Trust, obedience and surrender. A wonderful object lesson for any season.



Pictured are some of the Crittenden County Public Library Summer Reading Program award winners (from left) Brooklyn Gideon, who placed first in Comic Script Design for younger kids and third in Super T-Shirt Capes, being recognized by Children and Youth Librarian Tabby Tinsley; and Paisley Witherspoon, who was first in Super T-Shirt Capes.

## Board of Ed considers '25 tax rate

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Board of Education is weighing its options for setting 2025 property tax rates to help fund its Fiscal Year 2026.

The school board can consider several scenarios, including taking the state-calculated compensating rate, keeping the current rate or opting for the full 4 percent revenue increase.

The compensating rate, designed to generate the same amount of revenue as the previous year, adjusted for growth, would be 49.50 cents per \$100 of assessed real estate value and 51.20 cents for personal property. That option would bring in about \$2.66 million in revenue for the district.

By comparison, keeping the current tax rate of 51.40 cents on real estate and 51.90 cents on personal property ad-

justed slightly for exonerations would raise approximately \$2.76 million, or \$212,409 more than the district collected last year. The district brought in \$2.54 million in its FY25, which is supported by 2024 property taxes.

The board was expected to outline its plans at Tuesday night's meeting which was held after the newspaper's print deadline. Based on previous discussions, it appeared that the board of education was leaning toward keeping the current rate, plus exonerations.

When a taxing district adopts the "current rate plus exonerations," it begins with last year's property tax rate, then makes a slight upward adjustment to offset revenue lost from exonerations (tax bills that were removed after being is-

sued due to property damage, assessment errors, exemptions or similar reasons). The effective rate with exonerations will be fractionally higher than last year's rate.

All options under consideration are within the district's statutory limits and some would not require a public hearing or face potential recall under state law.

Property valuation data supplied by the district shows substantial growth in the local tax base. Real estate assessments increased from \$432.8 million in 2024 to nearly \$453.8 million in 2025, a \$16.98 million gain from revaluation alone, not including new construction. Personal property values also rose, with assessments increasing by nearly \$1.9 million over the past year.

## Brightening up Marion's night

I've been out in the evenings lately, and I can't help but notice how different our streets look under the new LED lights. The upgrade is nearly complete, and I think it's safe to say they look great. More importantly, nothing looks better than safety and cost savings.

When Marion City Council began discussing this change earlier this year, it was a little tricky to explain how it would work. We do have a five-year conversion fee built into our monthly payment to Kentucky Utilities, but the energy efficiency of the LEDs immediately lowered our bill. Right now, we're saving about \$400 per month. Once the conversion is paid off, we'll see monthly savings of around \$1,600 – over \$19,000 per year. That's a big deal for our city budget, and we've traded that old orange glow for brighter, clearer light.

Another project that has been gaining momentum is our HomeTown Hero banner program. These banners, which honor local veterans and service members, are now a regular feature during military holidays. We can add new ones at any time, but to have them in place for Veterans Day, applications need to be in by Oct. 1. The large 18x45 banners cost \$72, and families can get forms from City Hall or the tourism office. All that's needed is a photo and information about your service member.

I'm also aware that our streets and drainage systems have been on every-



D'Anna BROWNING  
From the  
MAYOR'S DESK  
Marion, Kentucky

one's mind. Like many communities across Kentucky, Marion has dealt with heavy rains that have washed out culverts and caused flooding in several areas. We're actively pursuing FEMA funding and other grants to address long-standing problem spots, including areas near the park and the old health department building. These issues aren't unique to us, but they do require persistence to fix.

On the paving front, our list is ready, and I hope to see work begin in the coming weeks. State funding only stretches so far, but we're committed to making progress where we can. Potholes will always be a reality, but we'll continue addressing them as they come up.

Marion is moving forward one light, one banner, and one street at a time – and I'm grateful to see the progress we're making together.

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