

# The City of Marion, South Carolina

## SWAMP FOX SCENE

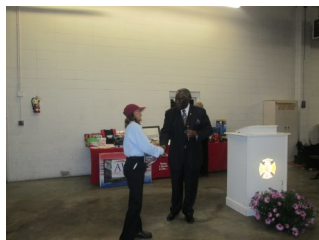


A FREE monthly news magazine for  
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City

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### Employees recognized at City Annual Banquet



The City of Marion Employee Recognition banquet was held on March 18th and several awards were presented including revealing the individual selected as the 2013 Employee of the Year. Mayor Bobby L. Davis stated that this award recognizes one City Employee who has excelled in his or her work in the past year and to him, this announcement is the highlight of the program. A committee is appointed by the Mayor to receive nominations from Department Heads and review the work of each employee nominated. This committee meets to select whom they believe has made the most significant contribution to the city. "Once again a deserving individual was chosen and I wholeheartedly agree with their decision", said the Mayor. The award was presented to **Dal Johnson, better known as "Pee Wee" or "Half Pint"**, who has worked for the City of Marion since 2006, helping the City to maintain Marion's "pretty little town" reputation. He is tasked with collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill. Pee Wee always has a positive attitude towards his responsibilities and a strong work ethic. He was awarded the *Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award in September* for going above and beyond in helping keep Marion beautiful. He is always ready, willing and able to lend a helping hand and the City is happy to have such an exceptional employee.



**Service Awards** were given to the following: **Five Years** – Lt. Bessie Gause (Police Department), Lt. Thomas Graves (Police Department), Bobby Bass (Street Department), William Pee (Street Department), Pam Jones (City Clerk), and Robert Lance Collins (Fire Department). Not pictured: Lt. Thomas Graves (Police Department), Robert Collins (Fire Department).

**Twenty—five Years** – Tony Lambert (Fire Department.) Not pictured.

**Fifteen Years** – Leonard "Winky" Fore (Sanitation)



**Twenty Years** – Christopher Johnson (Fire Department)



**Thirty Years** – Ronnie Sanders (Street Superintendent) and Jackie Ammons (Fire Department). Not pictured is Jackie Ammons.

**Retirees** – Billy Thomson, former Athletic Director was the only retiree in 2013. Mr. Thompson retired on November 2013, after 23 years of dedicated service to the City of Marion, which began in August 1990. Billy began in the maintenance department and worked his way to the position of the Athletic Director. Billy oversaw the City's many youth sports programs for over twenty years. His many responsibilities included supervising registrations, recruiting officials and volunteer coaches, managing season schedules and assisting with field and facility maintenance. Billy was a great employee and asset to the City of Marion Recreation Department. He worked countless hours, often in the evenings and on weekends, to help us provide the best and most enjoyable recreation experience for our young people and their families. In 2007, **Billy was named Employee of the Year** and followed that up by being named **Employee of the Month for January 2012 and May 2013**. The City and citizens of Marion will miss his knowledge, expertise and dedication to our recreation program.



**Public Service Award** for outstanding public service to the City of Marion, was presented by City Administrator and Mayor Bobby L. Davis to **Rev. Larry Williams**. The recipient of this award is selected by an Anonymous Committee. The award honors people who have unselfishly given their time, energy and resources to help better the city. Rev. Williams has not only contributed to the City of Marion but also to the surrounding area. The City of Marion can attest that the thoughtful and kindness Rev. Williams has demonstrated validates his selection to receive this award. Rev. Williams has distributed free food to the community at Grice's Recreation three times (May 2013, September 2013 and February 2014). The most recent giveaway on February 19th included distributing over two thousands bags of food and he grilled hotdogs and hamburgers to feed those who attended. In November 2013 he provided the music for Veteran's Program and gave each veteran a food bag with non-perishable items and a blanket. Rev. Williams along with his band provided the music for City's Employee Banquet that was held on March 19, 2014. The Food Bank is sponsored by the Tabernacle of God Ministries Mobile Food Bank of Dillon. It's such a blessing to have people such as Rev. Larry Williams willing to help our community in this weakened economic period

**Fireman of the Year Award** was presented by Fire Chief Trey Cooper to Bobby Nichols.

**Police Officer of the Year Award** was presented by Lt. Walter Davis on behalf of Chief Jim Gray, to Sgt. Marilyn Rogers. **Chief's Award** was also presented by Lt. Walter Davis to Sherry Ransom (School Crossing Guard).

After presenting all of the awards, the fun began with the drawing for door prizes donated by various businesses. Everyone was waiting patiently for the grand prizes a 42 inch flat screen TV donated by AWS of Marion and a chain saw donated by Barry's Outdoors of Mullins. Mr. Roosevelt Campbell was the lucky ticket holder of the night. Mr. Campbell received the first grand prize which was the 42 inch flat screen TV. PFC. Bobby Davis won the 2nd grand prize drawing for the Chain Saw.

Mayor Davis thanks all who donated generously to honor the city's employees and guest, Rev. Larry Williams and his band for providing the music and Garden Alley for the delicious meal. What a wonderful and blessed night of fellowship. Congratulations to all the city employees for your hard work and dedication to the City of Marion.

**Mark your Calendar  
Look what's on the  
way in Marion.....**



**April 2nd - Wednesday**

8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Benny's Sandwich Shoppe 615-B N. Main Street.

**April 5th - Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Opening Day of spring sports at Green Street Park.

**April 5th - Saturday**

**April Fest**

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Farmers Market Opening Day.

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Local Crafters Market.

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Spring Frogmore Fest.

**April 8th - Tuesday**

6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

**April 10th - Thursday**

6:00 p.m. **Survivor Night of Elegance.** Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Seating is limited, so call 843-536-0962 to reserve your seat. Each survivor can bring a guest.

**April 10th-12th - Thursday, Friday and Saturday**

**Living History Days at the Museum**

April 10th, 3rd Graders visit; April 11th, 8th Graders visit; and April 12th there will be outside displays and the Museum will be open to the public for tours and demonstrations.

**April 12th - Saturday**

12:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. **Relay for Life Event.**

12:00 p.m. - Opening ceremonies

12:15 p.m. - Survivor lap

**April 12th-17th**

8:00 a.m. **Marion County Great American Cleanup.** On Saturday they have partnering with Adopt-A- Highway. For details call (843) 423-8234.

**April 16th - Wednesday**

11:00 a.m. Denim Day Extravagant, call 423-6568 Laura Mooneyham or 423-7117 Rev. Marvin Hemingway.

**April 18th - Friday**

City & Marion County Offices closed for Good Friday.

**April 21st - Monday**

6:00 p.m. The City of Marion Quarterly Town Hall Meeting will be held at the Marion Opera House.

**April 24th - Thursday**

The Arts Council of Marion County is proud to offer a FREE CONCERT Featuring "Carolina Crossroads Bluegrass Band"

6:00 p.m. - Light refreshments & snacks

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. - Performance

Marion Opera House, 100 West Court Street, Marion SC, for more details, contact (843) 289-5054.

**April 28th - Monday**

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Shred Day Baxley Hardware's parking lot.

**April 28th - Monday**

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Business After Hours at Marion Opera House.

## Relay For Life Events

### Survivor Night of Elegance

Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. This is a RSVP event so survivors are asked to register for this event.

Saturday, April 12, 2014 12:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. Withlacoochee Park. Opening ceremonies at 12:00 p.m. Survivor lap will be around 12:15 p.m. Luminaire Ceremony will begin between 8:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

There will be lots of local talent, games, activities for all ages for the entire 12 hours. It is not too late to register a team or to register as a survivor. Go to [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org) find the Marion County, SC event and register.

You can go online and register or call 843-536-0962.

Questions or to share information for the Swamp Fox Scene, please email [ynichols@marionsc.gov](mailto:ynichols@marionsc.gov)

## Employee of the Month



Cheryl Askins was selected as the February 2014 Employee of the Month. Cheryl has been employed with the City of Marion Recreation Department since January 2010. As the administrative assistant at Watsonia Recreation Center, Cheryl is responsible for overseeing registration of all sports programs. She also coordinates Senior Bingo and the youth cheerleading program, and this spring

Cheryl will be supervising the t-ball league at Tilgman Park. Additionally, she assists Recreation Director Ann Jackson and Athletic Director Frank Page with a number of administrative duties.

Cheryl has a strong work ethic and a positive attitude towards her job responsibilities. The Mayor and Council recognized Cheryl for her service and dedication to the City of Marion at the March City Council Meeting.

### Francis Marion Memorial Service



State legislators have deemed that on the anniversary of his death, South Carolina's famed "Swamp Fox," Gen. Francis Marion, should be remembered and honored. A wreath-laying was conducted on Feb. 27 at the foot of Marion's statue on Main Street, honoring the Revolutionary War hero. Shown in the photo are Bettise Davidson, Regent of the Blue Savannah-Swamp Fox Chapter of the S.C. DAR, and members of the Hugh Giles'

Regiment Britton's Neck militia reenactors, Denley Caughman and Earl Spivey.



## Show Your Pride

As a Community Pride Grant recipient, one obligation is to stage a Great American Clean-up event between March and May. Citizens in all areas of the county will take part in a county-wide clean-up from April 12-17, as a fulfillment to retain eligibility to receive this type of grant. On Saturday April 12, the county has partnered with Adopt-a-Highway on their clean-up regiment. Join us for the Marion

Countywide Great American Clean-up!

### Quarterly Town Hall Meeting

The City of Marion's Quarterly Town Hall Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Marion Opera House.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this question and answer session and various leaders will be on hand to address residents' concerns, issues and/or questions regarding the City of Marion.

Mayor Davis is asking that all committees, groups and organizations appoint a spokesperson to ask questions on their behalf.

Please join us as we move Marion forward!  
The Swamp Fox City Needs Your Support!

### Di'ontrey Gibbons and Kevin Grant

During the March 11, 2014 City Council meeting, Di'ontrey Gibbons and Kevin Grant were recognized with a City of Marion engraved Foxhead. Di'ontrey won the Champion for the Lower State Class A/2A in Wrestling and Kevin won the Champion for the State Class A/2A in Wrestling and Most Outstanding Wrestler. Congratulations on your accomplishments the City of Marion and the Residents are proud of you!!



## MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Henry and Polly Gerald of 508 Henry McGill Street, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for March 2014. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our commu-

nity's unique character. The Gerald's will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multifarms 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 more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

## BUY LOCAL—SHOP MARION

The Historic Marion Revitalization Association began its own version of "shop local". Marion's "MOM's Buy Local" is one way to show the locally owned businesses that they have our collective support.

Instead of shopping in Horry or Florence Counties, or some other area, when at all possible, SHOP MARION! Instead of ordering online, BUY LOCAL! Instead of supporting chains, SHOP MARION business owners! MOM's (Merchants of Marion) Buy Local program is designed to keep our locally owned and operated businesses near our back doors. HMRA encourages you to look for ways to support our local merchants.

A national movement advertising the same idea, the 3/50 project, asks shoppers to think about which three local shops they would miss if they were to go out of business. (That's the 3.) Then shoppers are to decide to spend \$50 each month in those businesses. (That's the 50.) According to statistics on the 3/50 website, for every \$100 spent in locally owned and operated stores, \$68 returns to the community. Spending with a national chain only returns \$43 per \$100 spent. The idea of picking three stores and spending \$50 a month in them, and encouraging your friends to do the same makes a positive impact on the local economy. HMRA's "MOM's Buy Local" program is sure to inspire all of us to spend more locally and less elsewhere.

## SECOND REQUEST, PLEASE CONTACT CITY HALL

The following Veterans names were turned in and they are asked to stop by City Hall and pick up their certificates from the Veteran's Day program on November 8<sup>th</sup>:

Samuel Augusta Ammons  
Henry W. Berry III  
Whitney Crumpler  
Nathaniel Davis  
Ronald K. Davis  
Thurman Davis  
Woodie Ann Ellis  
George Gurley  
Dillon Hemingway  
Willet J. Hill  
Sellers Ingram, Jr.  
William H. Johnson, Jr.  
Larry G. Lewis  
Charles J. Martin  
Alaria McNeil  
George Muldrow  
Charles L. Mullins  
Wilford Parsons  
Bobby J. Pearson  
Daniel Roberts  
Willie L. Smith  
Lynn Steinbar  
Tyrone Washington  
George W. Williams  
Michael Whitaker

## HMRA APRILFEST

April 5 (**Saturday**)

Marion Market Place on Main

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fresh farm produce, crafters and artisans selling their wares

Live Entertainment, Lots of Fun!

Downtown Marion Merchants Specials – Come check them out!

Don't forget our local diners as well!

## HMRA FROGMORE FEST FUNDRAISER

April 5 (**Saturday**)

103 East Dozier and Court Streets

5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

\$15 per ticket

Musical entertainment

Alternate menu selection for non-fish eaters.

## Don't miss Marion's Annual FoxTrot Festival! May 16-17

The Arts Council of Marion County is proud to offer a **FREE CONCERT** featuring "Carolina Crossroads Bluegrass Band" Thursday, April 24, 2014 6:00 p.m. - Light refreshments & snacks will be served.

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. - Performance

Marion Opera House

100 West Court Street

Marion, South Carolina

Contact 843 289-5054 for additional information

## SOFTBALL CAMP

COME TUNE UP YOUR SOFTBALL SKILLS WITH THE PLAYERS OF THE AFTERSHOCK 18U TRAVEL SOFTBALL TEAM!

WHERE: MARION PARKS AND REC  
(behind Marion High School)

APRIL 12, 2014, 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Ages 8-14

REGISTRATION FEE \$35.00 per PLAYER

## LUNCH PROVIDED

PITCHERS – CATCHERS – INFIELDBERS  
OUTFIELDERS – HITTING – BASE RUNNING  
(PLEASE BRING APPROPRIATE GEAR)

Mail Form and Payment to Aftershock, 1048 Sunset Drive, Latta, SC 29565 before April 5, 2014.



# NEED HELP?

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

- 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 Writing & 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
- Alemeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

## Marion 10U and 12U Win State Championship



The City of Marion 10U girls traveled to Cheraw SC to play in the State Championship. They defeated Walhalla and Mullins to win the South Carolina Athletics Program State Championship. The girls were coached by Head Coach Lakeisha Pee and Assistants Kimberly Elliott and Chris Cribb.



The City of Marion 12U girl's basketball team traveled to Barnwell SC to play in the State Championship. They defeated Clemson and Dillon to win the South Carolina Athletics Program State Championship. The girls were coached by Head Coach Tiffany McCummings and Assistants Leroy McFadden and Tonya Riggins.

Congratulations for bringing home the State Championship! We are proud of you!!

Mayor Bobby L. Davis, City Administrator Alan Ammons, Marion City Council and Marion Residents.

## Last Chance to Choose your Flag

You, the residents of the City of Marion have the opportunity to cast your vote for your City flag. Deadline is April 21st. Email [vnichols@marionsc.gov](mailto:vnichols@marionsc.gov) with your choice.



Flag #1

Option #1



Flag #2

Option #2



Flag #3



Flag #4

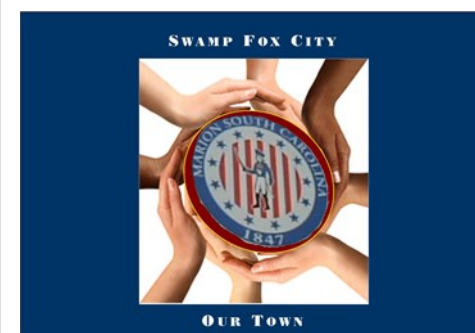
Option #4



Flag #5



Flag #6



Flag #7

OUR TOWN

## Opening Day Ceremonies



Marion Recreation Department is planning to have Opening Day Ceremonies for spring sports on Saturday, April 5th at Green Street Park. Everyone please come out and show your support for the players and coaches. For more information, call Ann Jackson (843) 423-5410 or find them on Marion Recreation Department Face Book.

Shred Day on Monday, April 28th from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Baxley Hardware's Parking Lot.