

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 11

April 2016

City honors employees and others at annual banquet

The City of Marion Employee Recognition banquet was held on March 15th and several awards were presented including revealing the 2015 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 is the highest honor 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 he wholeheartedly agreed with their decision. **CAPTAIN CHRIS SMITH.** Chris has been employed with the Marion Police Department since July 2000 and began his career in law enforcement as a patrol officer, answering calls and working traffic. These duties enable him to learn the Marion community and the citizens. His knowledge and years of experience continue to assist the department in his current position as captain of Investigations. When assigned a case, Smith works it until he gets results for the victim. He's always eager to help the younger officers, as well as shift supervisors, which is evident when they call at 3:00 in the morning.

Captain Smith is a lifelong resident of Marion County and has one daughter, McKayla. He enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping and playing his guitar.

Retirees – Chief James “Jim” Gray, Jr. After working with the SC Department of Corrections, and loss prevention manager, Jim Gray joined the Marion Police Department in 1991. He worked his way up, through the ranks, serving as a patrolman, shift supervisor, school resource officer and investigator. He was promoted to Captain in April 2004 and then to Chief of Police in May 2011. Thank you, Chief Gray, for your years of service to the City of Marion and your dedication to “Protect and Serve.”

Public Service Award for outstanding public service to the City of Marion, was presented by Mayor Bobby L. Davis. 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. Mayor Davis stated as in years past, a Committee made up of City employees, chose a most deserving person to receive this year's Public Service Award. It was a very daunting task for the committee as there are so many folks dedicated to the betterment of our City. This individual can be seen all over town, working hard to bring visitors to our beautiful little City and also coming up with creative ways to support our local merchants and residents. This person is involved with many City committees and doesn't mind the hard work it takes to be successful. Her love for the City of Marion and its rich history is evident in everything she does. She is a true cheerleader for the City of Marion and all it has to offer. Her motto is **Be Marion Strong.** We are proud to present the Public Service Award to **Shelley White Sarvis.**



Fireman of the Year Award was presented by Fire Chief Trey Cooper to **Chase Funderburk.**



Police Officer of the Year Award was presented by Chief Dewayne Tennie to **Derrick Smith.**

Chief's Award was also presented by Chief Dewayne Tennie to **Dennis Brown.**



Continue on page two.

For others photos visit the city's Facebook page.

Don't forget to Vote!
Board of Education, Districts 2, 6, & 7
Tuesday April 12th

Marion's registered voters go to the polls.
Questions?
Call the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission at 423-8268.

Continue from front page:

Service Awards were given to the following:
Five Years – Cheryl Askins (Recreation Department), and William Sanders, Jr. (Volunteer Fireman).

Ten Years – Heather Evans (Municipal Clerk), Glenn Bridges (Street Department) Anthony Mason (Sanitation Department) and Larry Singletary (Sanitation Department).

Fifteen Years – Cindy Barr (Police Department), Almeta Mullins (Police Department), and Robert “Chris” Smith (Police Department).

Twenty - Five Years – Clifford Williams (Street Department).

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 gas and charcoal grill, donated by AWS of Marion and a Trimmer donated by Barry’s Outdoors of Mullins. Mr. Ronnie Sanders was the lucky ticket holder of the night. Mr. Sanders received the first door prize which was the grill. Lt. Bessie Gause won the Trimmer.

Mayor Davis thanked all who donated generously to honor the city’s employees and guests. 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. And a special thanks to Jimmy B’s.

Quarterly Town Hall Meeting

The City of Marion’s Quarterly Town Hall Meeting will be held Monday, **April 18th**, 2016 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.

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



B. and Tracie Merritt of 315 West Bond Street have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for March 2016. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community’s unique character. The Merritt’s will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

Coming in April!!!!!!

April 4th - 8th - The City of Marion’s annual **clean-up**. For information contact Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

April 12th - 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting. Council Chambers.

April 12th - 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Board of Education, District 2, 6, & 7. Remember to go out and cast your **VOTE!!! IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

April 14th-16th - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Living History Days.** Marion County Museum, Exhibits and displays featuring various historical periods. For information call the Museum at 423-8299.

April 14th-16th - 10:00 a.m. **Fourth Ten Thousand Villages Festival.** Marion Presbyterian Church.

April 19th - 6:00 p.m. Relay for Life Team Rally at Carolinas Hospital Systems in Marion.

April 19th - 7:00 p.m. **“Foodie Club”** of the Arts Council of Marion County. **“Fiasco’s Italian Food & Wine”**, 147 W. Evans Street, Florence, SC. Bring your appetite!!

April 20th - 11:00 a.m. **Denim Day Event;** For information, contact Alicia Morrison at 423-6568 or Rev. Marvin Hemingway at 430-8131.

April 21st - 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. **Shred Day,** Behind Baxley Hardware’s parking lot.

April 25th - 29th - Marion County annual **Great American clean-up.** For information contact Christie Davis at 843-423-3904 or email cdavis@marionsc.org

April 28th - 7:00 p.m. **The Arts Council of Marion County** presents performance by **“The Florence Men’s Choral Society”** at Marion Presbyterian Church, 208 S. Main St., Marion SC. Admission Free - Donations Welcomed.

April 30th - 11:00 a.m.- 11:00 p.m. **American Cancer Society**

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
- Ainsley Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Fick**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writer & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Ann Jackson**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dewayne Tennie**, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Cindy Barr**, Training Officer (843) 423-8602
- Chris Smith**, Captain (843) 423-8602
- Tony Flowers**, Investigator (843) 423-8602
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Chris McKenzie**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Alemeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

City will have annual clean-up

The City of Marion’s annual clean-up is set for April 4th -8th. The city sanitation workers will pick up all junk, tires, small appliances that are placed by city residents on the street curb.

This is a once-a-year opportunity to discard such unwanted items. For information about the city-wide clean-up, call the City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

Ten Thousand Villages Festival

The Marion Presbyterian Church will be hosting its fourth Ten Thousand Villages Festival at its Education Building from April 14th-16th, beginning each day at 10:00 a.m. The various works of art and crafts created by artisans from numerous Third World countries will be showcased and sold at a reasonable and fair price. The event is a mission project of the church and the money from the sales is returned to eh men and women who make the items. The public is invited to come!

CDJ Aerobics

Aerobics classes are offered Monday thru Friday evening, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at CD Joyn-er. Taught by Ms. Lillie Ann Sanders, the classes are \$30 per month. For information or details, call Recreation Department at 423-5410.



Robert City's Employee of the Month

The City of Marion is proud to announce Sanitation Department employee Vondell Roberts as its February 2016 Employee of the Month. Roberts has been employed with the City of Marion since November 2013 and quickly earned the respect of both his supervisor and his peers. He is responsible for collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill.

Vondell is one of our most dependable employees. He has a strong work ethic and is always courteous to our residents and the other employees in the department", said Sanitation Superintendent Winky Fore.

The Mayor and Council recognized Vondell Roberts for his dedicated service to the City of Marion and its citizens at the March 8th City Council Meeting.

Marion Chamber book project



The Marion Chamber of Commerce continued its Book Project this year which is to give all Marion County 3rd grade students a copy of "Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox". The Chamber is proud of this project as it expands our student's

knowledge of the history of General Francis Marion.



On February 25, 2016 we had the pleasure of having the books delivered to the Chamber office by the author, Kate Salley Palmer and her husband Jim Palmer. This year the Chamber received a mini-grant in the amount of \$3500 from the Marion County Healthcare Foundation to assist with the purchase

of over 450 books. The Chamber would like to express our thanks to the Healthcare Foundation as well as the other sponsors of our Book Project. An insert will be placed in each book denoting the sponsors of this project. The books were distributed to the Marion County 3rd graders on March 2nd and to Pee Dee Academy 3rd graders on March 12th.



The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's 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.

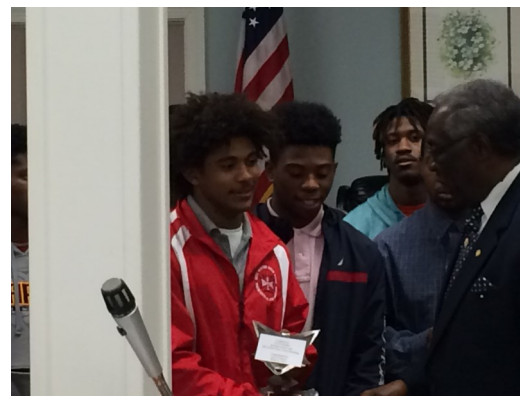
A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Marion High Swamp Fox Varsity Wrestling Team!!!



During the March 8, 2016 City Council meeting, the Marion High Swamp Fox Varsity Wrestling Team were recognized for winning its first Wrestling State Championship in dramatic form against Liberty High School. Marion was

making its first appearance in the wrestling state championships, Liberty was competing in its fourth consecutive state championship. Marion came into the state championship with a record of 33-2. Marion was trailing throughout the match, they were down 30 - 36 with two matches remaining. Jesse Brown won a dramatic match on points to close the deficit to 33-36. In the final match Dilan Gillard pinned his opponent in the first round to secure the state championship for the Swamp Foxes.



Michael Steinbar and Ta'Jon Jordan was recognized with a City of Marion engraved Foxhead. Ta'Jon was the Wrestler of the Year in the A-AA and Michael Steinbar for Wrestling Coach of

the Year in the A-AA. The team was recognized with the City of Marion's medals and a Proclamation. To the entire wrestling team Congratulations on your accomplishment, the City of Marion and our Residents are proud of you!!



A-Team Marion SC Neighborhood Watch "WE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS KEEPERS"

Happy Spring from "A-Team." Spring is the time when we take advantage of the longer days to spend more time outside working and playing. During your spring cleanup, we have some tips: 1) Trim all shrubs below window level and away from the house. 2) Walk around the house at night and observe areas that may need additional lighting. 3) Never leave the doors of your home unlocked even when you are just in the yard. 4) Remember to leave your car doors locked and windows up. 5) When driving through the neighborhood beware of children playing and riding bikes. If you have concerns about the security of your home, The Marion Police Department will come out and do a safety audit if requested. Take the opportunity to visit your neighbors while we are all spending more time outdoors. There truly is no better weapon against crime than community spirit and pride. A-Team meets the 1st Monday of each month @ 6:30 PM in the meeting room of the firehouse on East Bond St. For more information call Dolly @ 843-433-0941.

"Preparing our Children to be healthy and ready to succeed in school"

The Marion County First Steps is planning to implement the 1000 Books before Kindergarten Program. This program provides literacy experiences for birth to 4 year old programs in public and private centers. This literacy initiative focuses on encouraging parents to read to their children. Books will be placed at physician offices, barbershops, salons, automotive repair shops, car dealerships, etc. Parents are also encouraged to visit the library to get books to read. Marion County First Steps is dedicated to helping children through literacy. If you are interested in volunteering or partnering with us, please do not hesitate to contact Beryl Collington, Marion County First Steps Literacy Coordinator, at 843.629.0202.

.....RECREATIONAL CORNER

Successful 2016 Opening Day!!!

Opening Day 2016 was a huge success; over 376 kids participated on April 19th with approximately 1,500 spectators enjoying the festivities. Ann Jackson, Marion Recreation Department said she would like to thank “Ricky Bryant for coming out to offer the benediction before the ceremonies started, and Ms. Mary Williams for



signing our National Anthem”. Mayor Bobby L. Davis was also in attendance and threw

out the ceremonial first pitch to start the season. There are 31 regular season teams participating in t-ball, softball and baseball this season in Marion. Everyone was excited to see special guests Elsa



from the movie Frozen and Michelangelo from Ninja Turtle. Special thanks to all the many sponsors for your support and everything you do, parents, family, friends volunteers, coaches, communities and to God Almighty for good weather.



City rentals available

Need a place to have your class reunion, family reunion, church social, or to have a party? We have the perfect location for you, whether an outdoor or indoor event from our picnic shelter or our recreation and fine arts center. Anyone interested in these locations for their events should call Cheryl Askins, 423-5410 for availability.

Ping Pong Club

Don't forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.

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Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

City's Playgrounds

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

Withlacoochee Park

Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion's Tennis Courts.

Grice's Recreation Center

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

Tilghman Park

409 Montgomery Street - This is the City's location for T-ball and coach-pitched baseball. It also has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is FREE of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

Check us out online!

The City of Marion Recreation Department is on Facebook and online. For information and updates on games scheduling, cancellation and pictures. Visit the www.marionsc.gov web site. Find us under “Residents” and then click on “Recreation”. To Find us on Facebook, visit **Marion Recreation Department!**

LET THE GAMES BEGIN