

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 7, Issue 3

August 2017

CITY OF MARION PUBLIC NOTICE

2017-2018 BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE

Section 1 of the Business and Professional License Ordinance for the City of Marion, South Carolina requires every person engaged in any calling, business, occupation or profession within the limits of the City of Marion to renew the annual Business License fee and obtain a license.

The City of Marion Business License Renewal Applications were mailed on **May 19, 2017**, and second notices were mailed on **July 17, 2017**. All prior year Business Licenses expired on June 30, 2017. To obtain a 2017-2018 Business License, a completed renewal application and/or remittance must be received in the City of Marion Business License Department by July 31, 2017 to avoid a penalty. Penalties for late payment will be assessed at 2% on **August 1, 2017**, and will increase 10% each month thereafter.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A RENEWAL NOTICE DOES NOT RELIEVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LICENSEE FROM OBTAINING A BUSINESS LICENSE. If you have any questions please contact Lakesha Shannon, in the Business License Department at 843-423-5961 or lshannon@marionsc.gov.

Subcontractor Outreach Event

South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office and Horace, the winning contractor will have a meeting for all interested local contractors August 11th at C.D. Joyner Auditorium, 161 Elizabeth St, Marion from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. They will have the opportunity to become familiarized with the scope of work and the bid process for the grant awarded for homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew. **All local general and residential contractors as well as specialty contractors are encouraged to please attend this meeting. Please refer all questions to Ashley Teasdel at 803-373-0325 or ateasdel@scommerce.com.**

Captain Jackie Yates Promoted



The City of Marion is pleased to announce the promotion of Captain Jackie Yates to Assistant Fire Chief. Yates has been a full-time employee with the City of Marion Fire Department since March 2016 and a dedicated volunteer firefighter and member of the

Marion Recuse Squad for many years.

The new Assistant Chief has a wealth of knowledge and experience, and his skills will be a great asset in moving the Marion Fire Department forward. Yates has most recently served as a Senior Engineer and our Fire Prevention Officer. He has a passion for public education and teaching children about fire safety.

Please join us in congratulating Assistant Chief Yates and wishing him the best of luck in his new position.

Keeping Children Safe

The Marion County Sheriff's Office of Victim Assistance presents **"Kids Safety Day"**, Saturday, August 19th from 9:00 am. – 11:00 a.m. at the Academy for Careers & Technology 2697 E. Highway 76 Mullins. Join us along with our community partners for this great event!

Marion County Sheriff's Department, City of Marion Fire Department, American Red Cross, Project Child Safe, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Pee Dee Coalition against Domestic & Sexual Assault, Department of Social Services, Carolinas Hospital-Marion, Clemson Extension, Walgreens, Department of Natural Resources, Arrive Alive Driving Academy, and many more!

*****Food & Beverages available for purchase from Drew's Backyard BBQ*****

Marion Chamber of Commerce
27th Annual Golf Tournament
Dusty Hills Country Club
August 23, 2017
Captain's Choice Format
1pm Shotgun Start

Golf and Chicken bog dinner (includes 1 mulligan)	\$65.00
Golf Only (includes 1 mulligan)	\$50.00
Cocktails and Chicken bog (dinner only)	\$15.00
Hole Sponsor (includes 1 dinner)	\$50.00

Registration form: (Please return by August 16, 2017)

Name: _____

Business: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Handicap or Average Score _____

(To register a team, list names and handicaps on back. Handicaps for pre-made teams must total at least 45. Only one player with 8 or less permitted to qualify for overall prizes)

Golf/ Dinner (\$65) _____ Golf Only (\$50) _____
Dinner (\$15) _____ Hole Sponsor (\$50) _____ Total _____

Complete registration form and mail with your check to:
Marion Chamber of Commerce
27th Annual Golf Tournament
P.O. Box 35
Marion, SC 29571

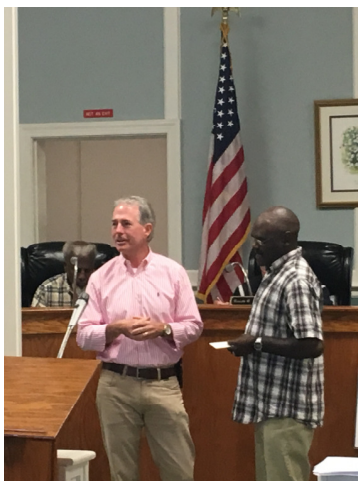
THE CITY NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Who Should I call for city information?

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

- Mayor Ashley Brady, (843) 992-3773
- Alan Ammons, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Lakesha Shannon, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Fidik, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Kim Elliott, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dewayne Tennie, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Cindy Barr, Community Officer (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith, Captain (843) 423-8616
- Tony Flowers, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Marilyn Rogers, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Jackie Yates, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

The City of Marion is pleased to announce Elma Fling as its June 2107 Employee of the Month.



Each month, the City of Marion awards an employee with the honor of Employee of the Month. The employee is chosen based on his or her performance during the month. While many nominations are submitted for the outstanding work city employees do, only one person whose accomplishments were far above and beyond the parameters of their job is selected. The Mayor and City Council are proud to honor recipients with this award and thank all employees for the exceptional work they do on a daily basis for the City and the citizens of Marion.

Elma Fling was selected as the June 2017 Employee of the Month. Elma has been working in the Street Department since December 2015. He was previously employed with Dusty Hills Country Club and has over twenty years of experience in landscaping and grounds maintenance.

According to his supervisor, Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders, "Elma is very dedicated and dependable; he takes great pride in his work." His duties include beatification projects such as planting trees and preparing flower beds, mowing grass in the summer, and decorating the City for Christmas and other holidays.

The Mayor and Council recognized Elma Fling for his positive attitude and significant contributions to the City of Marion during the July 11th City Council Meeting.

The Library will be hosting a Solar Eclipse Party on August 18, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., for ages 6-12. We will be talking about what an eclipse is, creating pinhole viewers, and decorating eclipse cookies. Space is limited to 20 children. Sign-up in person at the Marion library, or by calling Holly Evans at 843-423-8300.

Diann Smothers, Director Marion County Library System

Happy and Healthy: A Recipe for Success.

Join us for our Healthy Woman Event Thursday, August 10th at 6:00 p.m. The event will be held at Woodhaven -1963 E. Highway 76, Marion. \$10 per person – Dinner catered by Jimmy B's. Seating is limited. Tickets can purchase at carolinashospitalmarion.com/Healthywoman or at the Carolinas Hospital System – Marion Marketing Office, 2829 E. Highway 76, Mullins .

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 Multiforms 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 Ashley Brady or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Coming In August!!!!

Each month there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting, sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. Call Randy Floyd (843) 992-1627 or email floydrandy@hotmail.com for information.

Mark Your Calendar; Annual Sales Tax Holiday

State Sales tax holiday weekend is set for August 4th – 6th. During the annual Sales Tax Holiday, shoppers will benefit from an exemption of the 6% state sales tax and any applicable local taxes on the purchase clothing, shoes, school supplies, computers, printers, bedding, sheet, washcloths, and towels are tax-free. Not all items are included in the sales tax-free weekend. The tax holiday, does not apply to jewelry, cosmetics, eyewear, wallets, watches, furniture, and items for use in a business. Or items placed on layaway or similar deferred payment and delivery plans. For more information, visit www.sctax.org.

August 3rd - Wednesday. 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine. Magnolias Antiques on Main, 400 N Main Street. Come and hear the latest on downtown Marion.

August 8th - Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

August 10th - Thursday. 6:00 p.m. Healthy Woman. Woodhaven-1963 E. Highway 76. For more information contact Carolinas Hospital System Marion, SC.

August 12th - Saturday. 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Free School Supplies give away at Pop Dorsey Park. For more details call Ms. Ellen Baldwin at (843) 731-3702.

August 19th - Saturday. 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Kids Safety Day. The Marion County Sheriff's Office of Victim Assistance presents keeping children safe. Academy for Careers & Technology, 2697 E. Hwy 76.

August 23rd - Wednesday. First day of School for Marion County Students.

August 23rd - Wednesday. 1:00 p.m. Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament. Contact Cindy Rogers for details (843) 423-3561.

Breastfeeding Month

During the month of August breastfeeding is celebrated as the best, most natural and least expensive way to feed your baby. On Thursday, August 10, from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m., a reception honoring breastfeeding and babies will be held at Carolina's Hospital, Marion. Everyone is invited to stop for a visit, snack and brochure. For further information contact Lueta Nolan RN, BSN, IBCLC at (843) 360-0101 or Donna Rogers at (315) 725-1237.

A TEAM MARION SC NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

Recently, I took the time and rode down each street in our neighborhood. I was pleased to find things looking better. We still have several abandoned homes that hopefully the city will demolish once the legal requirements are met. I saw only two vehicles that did not look roadworthy. Additionally I kept an eye out for limbs obscuring stop or speed limit signs. Remember while we are familiar with our neighborhood, others are not. Also if you have a street light that is out, take down the pole number and report the outage to Duke or the city of Marion. All of these things seem minor when taken alone. When we look at them collectively, we can see the impact on our neighborhood. All of them can lead to an erosion of pride in where we live. That loss of pride, opens the door to crime. It is amazing how the loss of community pride can influence crime rates. A lot of things go into fighting crime other than a hard working police force. It is our duty as citizens to maintain our homes and neighborhoods. Just as we should be the eyes and ears of law enforcement, we should also be the gatekeepers of our neighborhoods. If we are not proud of our neighborhoods and our homes, no one will respect them. Remember A-Team lives our belief that "WE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS' KEEPERS". For information on A-Team meetings call 843-433-0941.

FUMC-Marion Welcomes New Pastor!

The First United Methodist Church of Marion is pleased to announce and welcome the Reverend Burton L. Ott as the church's new Pastor. The Reverend Ott will be responsible for leading the spiritual life of the church and its ministry. He begins his work in this community on July 1, 2017.

The Reverend Ott has 25 years of successful pastoral experience, serving churches in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. He has served as a student pastor, an associates/youth pastor and as a senior pastor. His most recent pastoral assignment was as Senior Pastor of Bethel and Ebenezer Churches in Simpsonville, South Carolina. He served these two churches for the past four years. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Divinity degree from Chandler School of Theology at Emory University. Rev. Ott says, "One of my greatest joys in ministry is to create and lead Spirit-filled worship. Preaching is a vital part of the whole of worship and I enjoy bringing the scriptures alive in sermon." Reverend Ott and his wife, Karan, are originally from Charleston, SC and have three college-aged children Molly, Coleman and Sally.

The members of FUMC-Marion are excited to welcome Reverend Ott and his family to our church family and look forward to continue serving our community through our church.

Good Morning...Candlelight Gifts!

Submitted by Kathy Stedman for HMRA

"Necessity is the mother of invention" is a tried and true adage. Ask Vickie Alvarez, and she will gladly put her personal spin on it by saying that "necessity is the mother of creativity". As typical newlyweds on a budget, of course, she and Larry had needs and wants; so, Vickie used her creative talents to meet those needs.



She began to handcraft interesting and unique items for her household. For family fun (and memories) her children helped her gather natural elements from the woods for making small grapevine wreaths. She enjoyed doing this, and family and friends started asking her to create items for them as well. As requests for her talents grew, she began displaying her work at local and regional craft shows. Success brought the need for a workspace outside her home, so Larry built her a workshop in Wahee. On May 23rd, 1985, exactly 32 years ago, Candlelight Gifts opened its doors to the public.

Located on Manning Street, in downtown Marion, the store was housed in the original workshop Larry had built, and lovingly moved, from Wahee. Larry and Vickie worked tirelessly, and with much delight and excitement, showcasing Vickie's handcrafted pieces, and expanding their inventory to include purchased items such as lamps, small pieces of furniture, art work, jewelry, home fragrances and body lotions. Soon after, they incorporated bridal registry items, select infant wear, household décor, and seasonal gift items. Sadly, Larry passed away and Vickie lost her husband, her best friend, and her business partner; but she did not lose site of the needs of her faithful friends and loyal customers.

Eventually, Candlelight Gifts moved to a larger venue on Fairlee Street, and Vickie ventured in to establishing a small ladies boutique replete with select clothing items ranging from pants, skirts, and wraps, to dresses, scarves, purses, and shoes. Vickie chooses inventory she knows her customers will enjoy. When it comes to clothing and shoe selections, she goes for comfort, style and that certain small town southern savvy she knows her customers are looking for and wear well. She is careful to avoid "repetition" (too many of the same article in several sizes) as she must consider the outside chance of more than one person showing up at a function in the same outfit (an absolute no-no!!) She also likes to introduce style changes in subtle ways.

As a sole proprietor, Vickie wears many hats and attends to business after regular store hours, what with poring over numerous merchandise catalogues, doing the books, ordering inventory, displaying her merchandise, window dressing her boutique for curb appeal, and accommodating customers who might need a "little extra time and attention".

Located now at 235 N. Main Street, Candlelight Gifts (843 423-3791) is open Tuesday-Friday 9:30-5, and Saturday 9:30-1. Personal attention, exquisite gift wrapping, and even lay-away are some of the services offered. After 32 years, Vickie continues to infuse her business with personal grace and charm. She does not believe in "pressure sales" tactics. She believes in making her customers feel welcome, at home, and appreciated. Her longevity in business speaks to that beautifully.



.....Look what going on in Marion.....

Marion Recreation Hosted 2017 Dixie Softball State Tournament

July 14th– 19th, the Marion Recreation Department hosted the 2017 Dixie Youth Softball State Tournament. Opening day brought in a total of 600 spectators. Present at the Tournament were State Director, Phil Parnell, Assistant State Director, Ruthie Osteen, District One Director, Naomi Carmichael and National Director, Ralph Henson.

Represented at the tournament were a total of 19 Teams consisting of 285 players and coaches from around the state. The Angels included Marion, Chester, Hartsville, Iva, Latta, Monks Corner, Mullins, and Newberry. The Ponytails were made up of Marion, Abbeville, Bamberg, Colleton, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Hanna Pamlico and Prosperity. Our final 3 teams for the Debs consisted of Dillon, Kershaw and Sumter.

Monks Corner came out of the loser’s bracket to defeat an unbeaten Latta and take the title in the Angels. Pamlico also, came from the loser’s bracket to take the title from an unbeaten Abbeville. Dillon won the Debs title defeating Sumter and Kershaw County. The host Marion teams played well but were eliminated early in the tournament.

We are thankful for the community support and sponsorships to allow us to host this event.

Visit the City of Marion Facebook page for photos online at www.marionsc.gov under City of Marion, South Carolina.

Looking for the right place to hold your next event?

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 423-5410 for availability.

CDJ Aerobics

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

Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the Unity N Diversity Fitness Studio on Monday, June 19th at 10:00 a.m. They are located at 2524 E. Highway 76, Suite D and are open from 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. This fitness studio is owned by Donette Bethea and they will be offering individual fitness classes as well as workout stations you can do at your own pace. Make your plans to visit and workout. Marion Chamber Vice-President Deborah Martin and City Administrator Alan Ammons welcomed Ms. Bethea and her new business to Marion as well as family and friends that attended the ribbon cutting. You can call 843-615-8292 to find out more about the Unity N Diversity Fitness Studio.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

In an effort to improve on response time for emergency calls to 911, Police and Fire Department along with EMS is asking all residents of the City of Marion, SC to please post the correct house number outside of your residence. This is very important for you and your family members as well as the officers responding to the calls.

Fall Sign Ups

The Marion Recreation Department is currently taking Football, Soccer and Cheerleading signups for the fall season. Football and Cheerleading are open to ages 4-12, Soccer ages 4-15. Please make sure you have a copy of the child's birth certificate at the time of registration; NO birth certificates are kept on file. Registration fee is \$21 for inside and outside residents. Signups are accepted Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Deadline to register is August 7th. For details on any of the programs, please contact Ms. Kim Elliott, Recreation Director at (843) 423-5410 or kelliott@marionsc.gov.

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 location has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

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.

Mosquito Population Prevention

- Tipping and tossing water-filled containers left around homes and businesses once a week can significantly reduce mosquito populations.
- Tip and toss water from garbage cans, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any containers where sprinklers or rain water has collected.
- Discard: old tires, broken appliances and other items that aren’t being used. Empty & Clean: birdbaths and pet’s water bowls at least twice a week.
- Protect: If you are going to be outside when mosquitoes are active cover up! Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing.

Mark your calendars & come play with us!

We will celebrate on Saturday, September 16, 2017 in Withlacoochee Park with fun events such as a Punt, Pass & Kick competition and more. Event is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. You don’t want to miss the fun and excitement. So mark your calendar, call a friend and come out and play with us! For more information contact Marion Recreation Department at 843 -423-5410. The City of Marion is Playful City USA!!