

# 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 9

February 2015

### **Closing Date for candidate filing is at noon on February 13**

The City of Marion General Election for Districts 1, 2 and 4 Council seats will be on Tuesday, April 14th. This year, the state's Voter ID law, requiring voters to have an identification card with a photograph of the voter on it, is in effect. Filing for those people interested in being candidates in the upcoming elections filing in January and closes on Thursday, February 13th at noon. March 14th is the deadline for people to be registered to vote in the April election. To get registered to vote or to find out more about having a proper ID at the polling precincts and to see where you will need to vote visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission located at 137 Airport Court off East U.S. Highway 76 or call Teresa Moody at 423-8268. Candidates should remember that political signs may only be displayed on private property. City ordinances prohibit the placement of signs on public property, including right of ways. Signs can be claimed by candidates at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street.

The incumbents are Ralph Atkinson, Ronald Atkinson and Joseph Frazier.



### **City of Marion Diversity's Committee Unity March**

Article by Irene Dais, Chair Diversity Council

The City of Marion's Diversity Committee sponsored the Second Annual Martin Luther King "Unity March and Program on Monday, January 19, 2015. The event was well attended. The march represented a diverse population including average working class people, seniors, youth and many others. Whites and blacks came together to "Unite" our city and county.

The march included the four mayors of the county, Mayor Bobby L. Davis, Mayor Bo McMillan, Mayor Barbara Hopkins and Mayor Lawson Battle, along with Senator Kent Williams, House of Representative Wayne George, Mrs. Delores DaCosta, Regional Director for US Senator Tim Scott, Dr. Kandace Bethea, from Marion County School District, Police Chief from Marion and Nichols, Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha along with a diverse large crowd of people

The march began at First United Methodist Church with an inspired song from Mrs. Delores Dacosta her rendition of "We have come this far by Faith". The march ended at the Door of Hope Christian Church located on Martin Luther King Blvd. The marchers were energetic and non-violent and seemed to enjoy themselves. Councilwoman Odessa Gregg challenged the crowd to not just talk the talk but also walk the walk, if we want to see major changes in Marion and surrounding areas.

Rev. Stan Gibson, Pastor of Marion Baptist Church, challenged all of us to do better to understand each other and to assist each other when we can. Senator Kent Williams also challenged the crowd to reach out and embrace our fellow man and he challenged us to be "real". He singled out Bishop Michael Blue and Rev. Stan Gibson as "the REAL DEAL".

The program was inspiring and memorable as an arts presentation was performed by Justine Roberts School of Dance.

In his closing remarks, Mayor Bobby L. Davis challenged us to reach out and embrace others so that we can see progress in the City and County.

At the conclusion of the program, we all stood joined hands and sang "We Shall Overcome"!! Let's unite for a better Marion County and be blessed!



### **Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award**

Mayor Davis presented the December Beautification Award to several individuals because of their hard work and dedication to the City of Marion in getting prepared for the Christmas Holiday. At the council meeting on January 13th, in appreciation for helping maintain the beauty of the City of Marion, the award was presented to City employees Pam Jones, Patricia Brown, Winky Fore and Ronnie Sanders.



**Marion Historic RunFest!  
February 28, 2015. Save  
the date.**

## 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  
**Dewayne Tennie**, Assistant Police Chief, (843) 423-8616  
**Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602  
**Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616

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 Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

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



**February 3rd**  
8:30 a.m. **Rise and Shine with Swamp Fox Chili Cook-Off and HMRA**, 103 E. Dozier St., Marion.

**February 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd**  
Marion Baptist Church annual presentation of **Judgment House**, 106 S. Main Street. Reservations call 843.423.9083.

**February 10th**  
6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

**February 14th**  
7:00 p.m.– 11:00 p.m. **1st Father/Daughter Annual Valentine Dance** at the Watsonia Recreation Department. \$15 at door, \$10 pre-purchased by February 9th. For more information, call 843.423.5410.

**February 18th**  
**Ash Wednesday** -Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

**February 19th**  
7:00 p.m. **Art of a Story** at O'Hara's, 123 E. Wine St., Mullins; \$20.00 which will include a bountiful buffet w/beverages. Call 289-5054 for tickets.

**February 27th**  
**12:30 p.m. Francis Marion Memorial Day Wreath-laying**, General Francis Marion statue on Main Street. Inclement weather would move this into the C.D. Joyner Arts Center on Elizabeth Street.

**February 28th**  
9:00 a.m. **General Francis Marion Day Celebrations**. The 5th Annual Historic Marion Runfest Marion Opera House, 100 W. Court St, Marion.  
The 6th Annual **Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off**, contact Steve Pool at 843.468.8366 or visit [www.swampfoxchilicookoff.com](http://www.swampfoxchilicookoff.com) for details. HMRA will host a **Cornhole Tournament** in conjunction with the celebrations. Call 843.423..9918 or <http://www.theswampfox.com> for details.

### Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Connie's Flower Shop on Tuesday, December 16th. Located at 314 North Main Street, this flower and gift shop is owned by Mrs. Connie Garris. Marion Chamber of Commerce Treasurer, Craig Martin and Mayor Bobby L. Davis along

with other friends and family members welcomed this new business to Main Street.

*Photos Courtesy Marion Chamber of Commerce*

### MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Mrs. Rita Blake of 1116 Strawberry Street has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for January 2015. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mrs. Blake will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.



### Employee of the Month

The City of Marion is proud to announce Sanitation Department employee Vondell Roberts as its December 2014 Employee of the Month. Roberts has been employed with the City of Marion since November 2013. 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 January 13th Council Meeting.

### SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING (AGES 62 & UP)

The Marion Senior Council will meet on the **4th Thursday** of every month at **3:00 pm** in the meeting room of the Marion Fire Station on Bond Street.

**Goal:** Address Senior concerns, build a better vision for Marion and decide what, in our experience and wisdom, we can do to create a more unified community.

### LIONS DONATION TO MARION LIBRARY



The Marion Lions Club recently donated 32 books to the Marion Public Library. Lions Charlotte and David Hollandsworth donated the books from their personal collection. Lion Sherry Yip, owner of the Marion Chinese Restaurant also gave a donation of \$1,000.00 to the library. Those pictured are (left to right) Lion Carver Johnson, Lion Walter Mulligan, Lion Sherry Yip, Lion President Ling Liang, Lion Secretary Charlotte Hollandsworth and the new librarian William DeWitt.



Lion Sherry Yip, owner of the Marion Chinese Restaurant gives a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Marion Library. Pictured, William DeWitt and Sherry Yip.

### Birthday Calendar

The "Lions Club Community and Birthday Calendar is now available. If you did not get yours and paid for it, please contact Charlotte Hollandsworth at 843-275-9959 or, if you would like to have one, they are \$8 each. We wish to thank all of you for helping us in this much needed and worthwhile fundraiser to help provide eye examinations and hearing aids for the less fortunate in Marion County and other projects like donating to the Marion Church of God Food Bank, Marion County Library, Habitat for Humanity and scholarships."

### City of Marion Fire Department check smoke detectors

City of Marion Fire Department visits the neighborhood to install and check smoke alarms and batteries of the residents. The Fire Department would like to inform the citizens that they do not have any smoke detectors available, but if they purchase them they would be more than happy to assist them with the installation.

The Fire Department is looking for alternative funding for smoke detectors.

### 5th Annual General Francis Marion Day

Several Marion County businesses and individuals come together each year to organize events in remembrance of General Francis Marion. He and the people of this area played a unique role in the American Revolution.

The last weekend in February is set aside to offer other activities that bring families and friends together in our historic city. The annual Historic Marion RunFest brings runners from all over and the 6th Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook off showcases our culinary talents. This year's activities will be February 28, 2015. Please join us for this year's festivities.

Please register online at [www.rmssports.com/run.html](http://www.rmssports.com/run.html) or pickup your application at City Hall. Please call Pam Jones 423-5961 for more details.

The Tot Trot will begin at 10:30. This is a fun race for the 6 and under kids! Each participant will receive a participation medal!

**After the awards ceremonies head down to Bobby Gerald Parkway for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off!**

You will get to taste some of the best chili ever! Wanna try your hand at cooking? Get in on the action and call Steve Pool at 843-468-8366 and get your name *in the pot!* **As designated host of the Chili Cook-Off, HMRA will also be holding A CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT!** Please call Al Blake at 423-9918 for details.

### Marion City Council honored Johnakin Cheerleaders

Marion City Council honored the Johnakin Middle School Cheerleaders at the December 11, 2014 council meeting for winning the state title in the Middle School and Junior Varsity Competitive Cheer Competition last month.



### The City of Marion Weight Loss Challenge

The City of Marion has begun a weight loss challenge for its employees. This competition is an individually sponsored program. Participation is completely voluntary. The purpose is to provide a fun and friendly competition that will:

- Promote healthier eating,
- Encourage physical activity, and
- Create a healthy, engaged, and supportive work environment.

The 15 week program will begin on February 2nd and end in May.

"Winners" will be determined by percentage of total weight loss. Good luck to all our participants.

### Art of a Story

The Arts Council of Marion County is proud to present an open mic story telling event "Art of a Story" February 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at O'Hara's located 123 E. Wine St., Mullins. Tickets are \$20 which include a bountiful buffet w/beverages. Reservations can be made by calling 289-5054 or emailing [artcouncilij@att.net](mailto:artcouncilij@att.net). Everyone has a story to tell, come share yours.

**RECREATIONAL CORNER**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Yoga classes set**

Yoga classes are offered each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the fire department sub-station on Senator Gasque Road. Taught by Judy Johnson and Frances Bethea, the classes are \$5 each or \$30 per month. For information or details, call the Recreation Department at 423-5410.

**Marion Recreational Promotional Items**

Marion Recreational Department is in the process of making over 600 bags for the softball girls that will participate in the 2015 Dixie Youth Girls Softball State Championship Tournaments. We have already purchased the drawstring bags for the girls. We are now looking for promotional items to put in the bags for these girls (this will help get your business name out there). These girls/families will be coming from all over the state and will be looking for local venues to shopping, dining and sleeping. The tournaments will last about 2 weeks starting the first of July. Ages will range 6U, 10U, 14U & 18U. If you have any of the following items or items that you would like to donate to the girls we would greatly appreciate it. Listing below is a list of the items that have been requested:

- Stress relief balls
- Pens/Pencils
- Bubbles
- Note Pads
- Cups
- Coupons (Food or Shopping)

That's just to name a few items, but anything with your business name that we could put in these bags would be greatly appreciated. Any items you have to donate you could drop them off at the office or give us a call and we will be glad to go pick them up.

Thanks for your help in supporting these young athletes.

Marion Recreation is proud to announce our

*PHOTOS* *LIGHT REFRESHMENTS*

**1st Annual Father/Daughter Dance**

**Saturday, February 14th**  
**7:00 - 11:00 pm**

**Elementary Gym**

**\$10 pre bought tickets**  
**by 2/9/15**  
**\$15 at Door**

*P & D Karaoke will be here & they will also DJ the dance !!*

**Tickets may be purchased at the Watsonia Recreation Center !**

**Look What's Coming to Marion!!!**

We are proud to announce that The Marion Recreation Department will host the 2015 Dixie Youth Girls State Championship Tournaments the first of July 2015. The age groups include 6U, 10U, 14U and 18U. This will bring over 2,500 people into our area to purchase food, hotels and other travel expenses.

We are in the process of designing a program for the tournament. These programs will allow you to advertise your business to the people coming in for these tournaments. Below is a price list for the sponsorships. If you have a special image/graphic that you would like to use, please mail it in with your payment.

- Full Page \$200**
- 1/2 Page \$100**
- 1/3 Page \$25**

Please submit checks & logos no later than March 02, 2015.

We would like to thank you in advance for your sponsorship and support to these athletes.

Ann Jackson ~ Marion Recreation Director

