

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 8

January 2015



Marion Christmas Parade

The Chamber would like to thank all those who came out Saturday to the Christmas Parade. The rain would not stay away, but the Parade went on!!!!!! Thanks to our Grand Marshall this year. The State Champion Jonathan Middle School Competitive Cheer Team. Great things are happening in Marion.



Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the newly renovated gym behind the Marion County School

District office on Friday, November 21st. The renovated facility will give the Recreation Department an additional facility for youth basketball and more activities. Marion Chamber Vice-President, T. Carroll Atkinson III, Mayor Bobby L. Davis, City officials and other citizens of Marion were on hand to celebrate the opening of the renovated gym.

Photo Courtesy of Marion Chamber of Commerce

Marion Christmas Tree Lighting

Celebrating Christmas in Marion was no different this year than prior years with the decorations and lights bringing the spirit of Christmas to the trees lining Main Street. The Pre-Christmas show began with music from Rev. Larry Williams as we welcomed Santa Claus' arrival aboard a City of Marion Fire Truck. The Courthouse steps were lined with children from Easterling Primary School to render Christmas songs. Hundreds of people crowded the street to witness the awesome Christmas Prelude and Tree Lighting Celebration. Special Thanks to Morris Ward, his crews and all who worked diligently to make this year event special. Fireworks followed immediately at Withlacoochee Park.



See Christmas Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Facebook!!

Happy New Year's

Once again, a new year is upon us and I am amazed how time has flown by. Over the last few months, we have enjoyed several events that help make Marion the wonderful place it is. While we are anticipating the year to come, I'd like to pause and reflect on a several special moments and community celebrations in 2014.

The City of Marion has continued our employee luncheon as well as our Quarterly Town Hall Meeting. On April 3rd the City recognition Marion Rec. State Basketball 10U & 12U Championship, June 10th the City of Marion approved and adopted the City's first City Flag, on November 7, the community came together as we recognized our Veterans for the 2nd year. The Rev. Larry Williams and his band provided music and presented each veteran with a food basket, November 18th we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Taylor's Barber Shop (first black barber shop in Marion). November 21st reopening and ribbon cutting for Marion Elementary School, November 22nd two films were released (12 Dog Days Till Christmas and All She Wishes) and a Premieres Red Carpet Movie. The Marion Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade was as magnificent as usual and hundreds of people crowded the streets to witness the wonderful Christmas Prelude and Tree Lighting Celebration. These events all showcase what makes our community so great; people coming together to help each other, celebrate and appreciate everything we have. As we approach the New Year, remember to take the time to be thankful and grateful for everything you have. I wish you the best for 2015!!

Happy New Year!
Bobby L. Davis

Happy New Year's from the City Administrator Alan Ammons and City Hall Staff!!!

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.....

January 1st
Happy New Year
City Offices Closed; Reopen at 8:00 a.m. January 2nd

January 7th
8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Bridgers Drug Store, 305 N. Main Street.

January 13th
6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

January 19th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
City Offices Closed

January 26th
6:30 p.m. Marion Chamber of Commerce, Annual Meeting. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner, Awards and Auction.



The Arts Council of Marion County
Presents
"GOSPEL AT COLONUS"
Saturday, January 31, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Historic Marion Opera House
100 West Court Street - Marion

Please RSVP by 1/24/15
843 289.5054 or artcounciljj@att.net

Tickets : \$5.00
Tickets available: APMC office, HMRA, and the Marion Emporium

Questions or to share information for the Swamp Fox Scene, please email vnichols@marionsc.gov

Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for City Food and Spirits on Wednesday, November 19th. Located at 1106 East Godbold Street this restaurant is owned by Joseph and Bobbie Jean Abrams, III. Marion Chamber Vice-President, T. Carroll Atkinson III and Mayor Bobby L. Davis along with other friends and family members welcomed this new business to our community.



Additionally the Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for B & S Creations and Consignment on Monday, December 8th. Located at 303 Main Street this business is owned by Barbara Sanders. Her daughter Sharonda Eagle assists Barbara with her business. Marion Chamber Vice-President, T. Carroll Atkinson III and City Administrator Alan Ammons along with other friends and family members welcomed this new business to our community.

Photos Courtesy Marion Chamber of Commerce

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Don and Dean Fowler of 607 Oliver Street have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for December 2014. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Dr. and Mrs. Fowler will receive a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.



Recycle your Christmas Tree!

Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street in the parking lot. Please remove all decorations before leaving the trees. If you have any questions, please call the fire department at (843) 423-8602 or the City of Marion at (843) 423-5961.

Thanks!

Basketball sign-up is over; Tips for Spectators

The Recreation Department had a great turnout for basketball sign-ups; the coaches and players have practiced all the way to Christmas break and now it's time to play some ball!

Everyone looks forward to seeing the children having a great time while learning the fundamentals of basketball. The public is invited to come and support the community, your child, your neighbor's child and the coaches.

Below are 17 tips to help you be a better spectator.

- ❖ I will not force my child to participate.
- ❖ I will remember that children play to have fun.
- ❖ I will learn the rules of the game and the league policies.
- ❖ I and my guests will be positive role models and encourage sportsmanship.
- ❖ I and my guests will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- ❖ I will not encourage anything that would endanger the athletes.
- ❖ I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts peacefully.
- ❖ I will demand that my child treat others with respect.
- ❖ I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- ❖ I will offer praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- ❖ I will never ridicule or yell at my child or others for a mistake or losing.
- ❖ I will emphasize skill development and practice and de-emphasize games and competition, especially in the younger age groups.
- ❖ I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes.
- ❖ I will respect the officials and coaches and their authority and decisions.
- ❖ I will demand a sports environment free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- ❖ I will refrain from coaching, unless I am one, my child or others during games and practices.
- ❖ I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that could affect the safety of my child or others.

For more information about game times and schedules, call the Watsonia Recreation Center at 423-5410 and check with us on Facebook.

Marion City Council wishes to thank everyone for their support and involvement in the governing process this year.

Happy New Year
Marion City Council



City continues caring for neighbors

For the fifth consecutive year, City of Marion residents, civic clubs and businesses have reached out to those less fortunate and given generously to help others have a wonderful Christmas meal. Police officers and firefighters distributed more than 100 food boxes to families. At a cost of \$40 each, the city raised more than \$4,900 for the project.

The Department of Social Services recommends the recipients for the donations. Mayor Bobby L Davis and City Administrator Alan Ammons are truly appreciative of the donations that have been and will be made. Any money that comes in after the distribution will be held until next year's Christmas food drive.

Be Safe This Winter:

Follow these precautions to prevent home fires:

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths each year. The City of Marion Fire Department personnel offer the following safety tips and precautions to help prevent heating fires from happening this winter:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as a furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Have heat equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year.
- Make sure a fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container in a safe distance away from your home.
- Remember turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.

For more safety tips, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at www.nfpa.org/education.

Employee of the Month



The City of Marion recognized firefighter Chris Johnson as the November 2014 Employee of the Month. Chris has been a full-time employee with the City of Marion Fire Department since February 1993. He now serves the department and the City as a Senior Engineer. Chris has also been a member of the Marion Rescue Squad for many years.

Chris Johnson quick reaction and responses, save the life of a 6 month old child in Jimmy B's Restaurant, Marion SC.

The Mayor and Council recognized Chris Johnson for his dedication and contributions to the City of Marion at the December 9th Council Meeting.

Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.

Happy New Year's from Chief Trey Cooper and the Marion Fire Department!!!

January 19th, The City of Marion Diversity Council is sponsoring a Martin Luther King March for Unity. Details will be announced later. Please contact all your organization, civic clubs, churches and fraternity.

Don't forget to visit the City of Marion Facebook page for upcoming events!

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.

Sincerely,
Ann Jackson
Recreation Director



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.

City Rentals

We are starting a **NEW YEAR**, which means the NEW rental calendar is accepting reservations for Grice's and Watsonia Recreation facilities. These facilities hold up to 150 people are equipped with warming kitchens, heating/air and restrooms. Also, Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter located on **Green Street** for those looking for an outside event. Make sure that you get your event booked as soon as possible. So to reserved your date for that special occasion give us a call at Marion Recreation (843) 423-5410.

Marion Recreation Soccer Team plays for State Championship!

City of Marion Recreation soccer complete a successful 2014 with three teams advancing to the SCAP State Soccer Tournament in Bluffton, SC. Marion's 10U, 12U and 15U coed teams represented the Eastern District Division II for 2014. 10U team coached by Rick Johnson, Ted Rodgers and Marty Shelly finished fourth in the state, 12U squad coached by Heather and Stan Gibson finished third and the 15U (Team Julia) squad coached by Jason Jordan and Rusty Britt finished fourth after facing Jasper County and state champion Walhalla.



Congratulations on a job well done!!

Announcements

As of December 1st Registration Prices will change per City Council

- New City Price* : \$ 21.00 per child
- New County Price* : \$35.00 per child

Also This Basketball Season we will start charging admission to the gyms

- Adult : \$2.00
- 12u : \$1.00
- 4u : FREE

or


You can buy a SEASON PASS for \$25.00
You will receive 4 passes for this price

Thanks
MRD

Coats for Kids

Many thanks for those who helped make the *Coats for Kids* drive a success! We sent coats to numerous students at Easterling and Marion Intermediate School. Thank you for your financial donations and your donation of coats and for helping spread the word in order to make this coat drive a success. The spirit of giving is alive and well in the City of Marion! Thank you all!! Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and joyous holiday season!

Pam Jones
City Clerk

 Please find below American Waste Systems' (AWS) schedule for the upcoming holiday. We kindly request for all residents to please pull their cart to the curb the night before your service date shown below.

NEW YEARS
Thursday route (01/01/15) will be picked up on Friday (01/02/15).
Friday route (01/02/15) will be picked up on Saturday (01/03/15).

If you have any questions, please contact AWS at (843) 765-3390.
Have a happy, safe, and enjoyable Holiday!

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

Ann Jackson and the Marion Recreation Department!

Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday. "Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day. Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."

Happy New Year's from Chief Jim Gray and the Marion Police Department!