

# 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 6, Issue 8

January 2017

### Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all residents of the City of Marion! It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor these past three years. I am very honored, and extremely excited, to be seated in this center seat, especially with such a hard-working, dedicated council whose sole purpose is to help move the City of Marion forward with prosperity in our spirit of teamwork and cooperation. Our future is bright with many additions to our community. I have witnessed through my tenure as mayor that teamwork, determination, and communication are the recipe for success.

Another vital part of our community is our dedicated employees, our public safety personnel, and especially our generous volunteers who continue to serve selflessly and tirelessly on our boards and committees. But more importantly to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whom has blessed our great City. Please continue to pray with me for our great city, state and nation as we continually move forward. You are the backbone of our community, and you all deserve our acknowledgment and our thanks. Thank you. To the victims of Hurricane Matthew, keep the faith, you are in our prayers.

Thanks and prayers to our law enforcement, fire, and rescue squad personnel, and the county emergency management team, who continually put their lives on the line to protect us. We support you and we are grateful for your service. Thank you

There is truly no greater honor for a hometown boy to be mayor of the community he knows and loves so well.

Have a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

**Mayor Bobby L. Davis**



**January 1st**  
**Happy New Year**

**January 2nd** - City Offices Closed in observance of New Year Day; reopen 8:00 a.m. January 3rd.

**January 4th** - 8:30 a.m. **Rise and Shine. TBA**

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

**January 16th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
City Offices Closed

**January 16th - Martin Luther King March**

**January 23rd** - 6:30 p.m. **Marion Chamber of Commerce**, Annual Meeting, Woodhaven. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner, Awards and Auction.

A fresh new year is once again upon us. It's the time to be thankful for the blessings of the past year and to take stock of all our achievements. At the same time, New Year 2017 is a brand new year to start afresh, to start strong, and yet another chance to do everything we want to do this year. Thank you everyone for your support and involvement in the governing process this year.

Happy New Year  
Marion City Council

### Filing opens January 12th for City of Marion

The City of Marion seat for Mayor and in Districts 3, 5 and 6 will be held on Tuesday, April 11th. Filing for candidates begins Thursday, Jan. 12th at noon and closes on Friday, Feb. 10th at noon. **There is no filing fee.** The last day to register to vote in the April election is March 11th. To find out more about having a proper ID to vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission at 2523 E Hwy 76 or call Teresa Moody at 423-8268.

Additionally, political signs may only be displayed on private property. City ordinances prohibit the placement of signs on public property, including the right of way.

Signs picked up for being improperly posted may be collected at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street and can be claimed by candidates.

### 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. Santa Claus' arrival aboard a City of Marion Fire Truck welcomed everyone. The Pre-Christmas show began with performing from Justine Roberts Dance Academy. The Courthouse steps were lined with children from Marion Intermediate School to render Christmas songs. Performed also were students from Entertainment Technology, Ms. Mary Williams, The Swamp Fox Quartet, Marion County District Choir, and the reading of the Christmas Story by Dr. Kandace Bethea. Thousands of people crowded the street to witness this year 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.



### **Marion Christmas Parade**

The Marion Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all those who came out on Saturday December 3rd to the City of Marion Annual Christmas Pa-

rade. We had a beautiful day for the parade. A big thank you to our Grand Marshall, our own City of Marion Public Works Department. Thank you for what you do for the City of Marion.



## 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 Ficik**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Ann Jackson**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dewayne Tennie**, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith**, Captain, (843) 423-8616
- Cindy Barr**, Captain, (843) 423-8616
- Tony Flowers**, Investigator, (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Chris McKenzie**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 464-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616



### 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!

### Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month

Sharon Brown of 1010 Edgewood Dr. has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for December 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. Ms. Brown will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.



*There are greater things to be achieved in every New Year, and each and every one must prepare themselves to be great, not by words of the mouth, but by a lot of sacrifices. – Michael Bassej Johnson.*

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

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.

### City has annual Arbor Day planting



The Azalea Garden Club and others in the community gathered on December 2nd on The Marion Hike-Bike Trail for the annual Arbor Day Celebration. The planting of two Muskogee

Crepe Myrtles was in memory of former presidents of the Azalea Garden Club.



### Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award

Mayor Davis presented the December Beautification Award to Ms. Anne Burroughs at the council meeting on December 13th, in appreciation for helping maintain the beauty of the

City of Marion.

### City continues caring for neighbors



For the seventh 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 125 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.

### Yates is city's employee of the Month



It is with great pleasure that the City of Marion announces Fire Education Officer Captain Jackie Yates as its November Employee of the Month. 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 Rescue Squad for many years. As a Senior Engineer, he brings a lot of knowledge and experience with him to profession. Yates has a passion for public education and teaching children about fire safety. He is known for his high standard of performance and friendly smile.

“Jackie Yates is a great employee and asset to the City of Marion Fire Department,” said Chief Trey Cooper, adding that the longtime firefighter is as always courteous and helpful to others. “Captain Yates is highly respected by his peers and appreciated by the community because of the way he treats others.”

The Mayor and Council recognized Captain Jackie Yates for his dedication and contributions to the City of Marion at the December 22nd Council Meeting.

### Marion County School District

In an effort to grow our local pride, the Marion County School District will be sponsoring a “We Are Marion County!” spirit day on the last Friday of every month. On that day we are asking our entire staff to wear their “We Are Marion County” t-shirts. We would like to spread the spirit and ask for all the community businesses to join in on and show your pride.

Marion County t-shirts are available for order at Hi-Tec Signs, Inc. (843-464-9053). These t-shirts are a royal blue and sport the “We Are Marion County” call of unity. Williamson Printing (843-423-5672) also offers a long sleeved, button down shirt with the district logo on the front and “We Are Marion County” embroidered across the upper back between the shoulders.

For more information, contact Ms. Deborah D. Wimberly at (843) 423-1811, or email [dwimberly@marion.k12.sc.us](mailto:dwimberly@marion.k12.sc.us)

### Need more information on Dementia or Alzheimer's disease

TLC Your Way Home Care Services is hosting a caregiver support group meeting. The support group meetings will be held at Carolinas Hospital, classroom A, 2829 E. Highway 76, Mullins SC, every 2nd Saturday, beginning at 11:00 AM. The support group offers education, resources and, most importantly, support for those individuals caring for a loved one with dementia. Please RSVP or call (843) 423-1888 the Wednesday before that Saturday.

Hosted by TLC Your Way Home Care Services.... Natalia Feely

## Good Morning...Hulon Jewelers!

Submitted by Kathy Stedman for HMRA

Everyone knows that the way to a man's heart is a good meal. What men need to know is that the way to a woman's heart is a fine piece of jewelry! That being said, Hulon Jewelers at 325 N. Main Street is the place to go for jewelry ranging from earrings to watches, bracelets to rings, and everything in between. Jackie Hulon initially worked with Benny Holbrook at Holbrook's Jewelers on Witcover Street in Marion from 1968 – 1975. At that time, Holbrook's was like a small department store, so when he purchased the business in 1975, he decided to specialize in fine jewelry. He then moved his business, in 1980, to its present location at 325 N. Main Street at the previous site of Ernie's Grill.

Jason Hulon joined his father in the family owned and operated business and has most enjoyed the challenge of designing custom jewelry, among the many other aspects of the business. Jason explained that being a jeweler involves several layers of specialized training and a thorough understanding of gemstones and metallurgy. It also helps to have a good eye for quality stones, an artistic mind for creating unique settings, steady hands, and an open mind and patience in dealing with the consumer. As Jason so aptly stated, “It gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to create that one piece of jewelry that captures the essence of what my customer is looking for.”

Understanding the difference in expectations of jewelry between men and women has given much needed insight to Jason. Whereas men see jewelry as serving a mostly functional purpose, women are prone to be highly sentimental and emotional about their jewelry. Women are also more fashion oriented and will own several watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces or pairs of earrings for obvious reasons. He states that women love the lore or the history behind each piece of jewelry, especially a family piece, and go to great lengths to give all the details about it. Which is why Jason finds this business so exciting.

So, if you need a battery for your watch, or a ring resized, cleaned or remounted, or if you need china for your bridal registry, come by Hulon Jewelers Monday- Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. or Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12: 00 p.m., or call 843 423-3404. And, if you are wanting to “design’ a little history of your own, Hulon's can make that happen too!



### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity March

The City of Marion Diversity Committee is sponsoring a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity March on Monday, January 19, 2017, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more information contact Ms. Eileen Powell Co-chair 843-423-9745 or 843-618-5436 or Dr. Wilena Rembert 917-763-7133.

### JEBB MAC BAND

Save the date for Jebb Mac Band at the Main Street Common Market. Business as Unusual. February 25, 2017. For more information visit [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org).



.....**GOING ON IN MARION**.....

**City Rentals**

We are starting a **NEW YEAR**, which means the NEW rental calendar is accepting reservations for Grice's, Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium 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 (843) 423-5410.

The City of Marion is a great place to work! We employ approximately 80 full-time associates who are our most valuable assets. Our goal is to recruit and retain the best qualified applicants and to maintain a productive and competitive workforce in the delivery of services to the citizens of Marion.

**Current Employment Opportunities**

- City Hall: City Clerk**
- Fire Department: NFPA Firefighter II**
- Police Department: Class I Law Enforcement Officer**
- Recreation Department: Assistant Athletic Director**
- Recreation Department: Building & Grounds Maintenance**

It is our policy to fill all vacant positions with the best qualified candidates based on skills, knowledge, abilities and suitability to the City's needs. The City of Marion is a drug free work environment and is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, religion, national origin, race, disability or political affiliation.

Qualified candidates may pick up applications at City Hall. If you are in need of special accommodation for any portion of the application or hiring process, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Elizabeth Ficik.

**Congratulations!!!!**

Marion Recreation would like to congratulate our 9-10 Football All-stars for finishing 1st Runner Up in the State Championship. These young men left everything they had on the field. It wasn't until 55 seconds left in the game before Laurens took the lead for the final time. These young men and Coaches have shown great sportsmanship throughout the season. We are very proud you all. Marion's football future looks bright. Again job well done to you all!

**Thank You Anderson Brothers Bank**



The City of Marion would like to thank Anderson Brothers Bank for their generous \$2,000 donation to the Police Substation located on

Jones Avenue. The Marion Police Department opened the substation earlier this year to combat crime in the area. The Mayor, Marion City Council, City Administrator Alan Ammons and the Police Department appreciate Anderson Brothers Bank's continuous efforts to support and give back to our community.

**CHILI COOK-OFF**

The Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook-Off Olde Town Marion CornHole Tournament is on the way. For more information visit [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org).

**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.

**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.

**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.

**A TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

“We Are Our Neighbors’ Keepers“

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

I had my first article of 2017 ready to turn in, when my family experienced a life altering event. This event turned out to be an illustration of the original topic of my article. I had written about New Year's resolutions and how we should all be more engaged as citizens; we should attend city council and town hall meetings in addition to our neighborhood watch meetings. I know I have often talked about the positive results of getting to know our neighbors and first responders. Once we know each other, our neighborhoods prove to be safer. I now believe that more than ever. On the Monday, before Christmas, my Mother had a stroke at her home in Britton's Neck. As fate would have it, Joey Price, EMS Director, heard the call. He had become acquainted with my Mother at the recovery meeting hosted by our Mayor and had been A Team's guest speaker at our December meeting. He took it upon himself to respond to that 911 call along with the ambulance. When my stubborn Mother balked at going to the hospital, he firmly insisted. Once he had her on the way, he was able to call me without bothering either of my parents for my phone number. I was able to get from Florence to the hospital as the ambulance arrived. That makes him, this grateful daughter's hero. But he has to share that accolade with my Shero aka Mama. Because of her own quick thinking and Joey's compassion and experience, she suffered only minor effects from the stroke and is on the road to a full recovery. My family will now have many more years to experience our unique Mother, Grandmother and Wife. Her granddaughters and great granddaughter have time to benefit from her humor, wisdom and example of perseverance. Not to mention the awesome chocolate cake, banana nut bread and giblet gravy. This experience shows the benefits of getting to know each other and the people that work so hard to keep us all safe. Happy New Year from A Team, the group that really believes 'WE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS' KEEPERS."

**It's Tip off Time!!**

Marion Recreation Department will kick off its 2017 Basketball season in January after the holiday season. All are invited to come out to the games to enjoy and support these young local athletes and coaches. We will be looking to seeing your face in the place.