

# 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 12

June 2015



### Summer Time Fun!

The City of Marion will host a **FREE** Community Summer Camp beginning June 8, 2015 for children who reside in the City of Marion. The Camp will be both academic and fun oriented, with numerous activities for the kids. We are pleased to announce the Camp Director will be Ms. Betty Bryant, a retired educator.

**THE CAMP WILL OPERATE JUNE 8, 2015 THROUGH AUGUST 14, 2015  
CAMP HOURS ARE MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

Parents are encouraged to pick up an application form, fill out, and return as quickly as possible to any of the following:

Pam Jones, City Clerk- City Hall (843) 423-5961

Vickie Nichols, City Publicist-City Hall (843) 423-5961

Ainsley Sanders, Administrative Assistant- City Hall (843) 423-5961

Cheryl Askins, Administrative Assistant- Watsonia Recreation Center (843) 423-5410

Robbie Johnson, Administrative Assistant-Grice Recreation Center (843) 423-6447

We are looking forward to an exciting summer! Hope to see your kids there!!!



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Community Farmer's Market is open at 109 Bobby Gerald Parkway, now through December. For information, call (843) 610-6246. Stop by and get your local grown, baked or hand-made items.

#### June 3rd

8:30 a.m. **Rise and Shine** hosted by the City of Marion at Marion Opera House, 100 W. Court Street.

#### June 8th

8:00 a.m. - **Summer Camp Begins.** Grice's Recreation.

#### June 9th

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

#### June 15th

6:00 p.m. **Quarterly Town Hall Meeting.** Marion Opera House, 100 W. Court Street.



### Graduates Of 2015

Graduation is only a concept. In real life every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that you'll make a difference. Success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds. "The Biggest Adventure You Can Take is to Live the Life of Your Dreams." ~ Oprah Winfrey.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis, Marion City Council,  
City Administrator Alan Ammons.

### CITY OF MARION PUBLIC NOTICE

#### 2015-2016 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 are being mailed on May 22, 2015. Current Business Licenses expire on June 30, 2015. To obtain a 2015-2016 Business License, a completed renewal application and/or remittance must be received in the City of Marion Business License Department by July 31, 2015 to avoid a penalty. Penalties for late payment will be assessed on August 1, 2015, and will increase 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 Pam Jones in the Business License Department at 843-423-5961.

### Yard Sale Permits



With all the great weather, yard sales will be popping up all over town. Remember to purchase your permit (**\$5 per day at City Hall Monday thru 12:00 noon Thursday**). **YARD SALE PERMITS WILL NOT BE ISSUED AFTER 12:00 ON THURSDAY. "ABSOLUTELY" no Yard sale permits are issued on Fridays.**



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS & COME PLAY WITH US!

We will celebrate on Saturday, September 19, 2015 in Withlacoochee Park with fun events to our Annual Play Day. You don't want to miss the fun and excitement. So mark your calendar, call a friend and come out and play with us!

# CITY NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Baxter and FranBeth Beeson of 1505 Whitehall Drive have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for May 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. The Beeson's will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

### 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
- Cindy Barr**, Captain (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Chris McKenzie**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

### Marion Chamber of Commerce 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

The Marion Chamber of Commerce will host the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Chamber Golf Tournament on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at Dusty Hills Country Club. The format will be Captain's Choice, with a shotgun start at 1:00pm.

We cordially invite you to participate in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament. This is one of the Chamber's most important fund raisers for the year. Money earned from the Golf Tournament goes to help provide programs and activities of the Chamber. Tournament Corporate sponsors, Hole sponsors, Cart sponsors are all welcomed for this year's tournament. To register or sign up for sponsorships for the tournament, contact the Marion Chamber of Commerce, 209 E. Bobby Gerald Parkway or call the office at 423-3561.

#### Quarterly Town Hall Meeting

The City of Marion's Quarterly Town Hall Meeting will be held Monday, June 15th 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.

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.

### Swearing In Ceremony



The swearing in ceremony was held for the City of Marion's new police chief Dewyane Tennie on May 12, 2015. He was sworn in by Judge Patricia Speth. He is

joined by his daughters Kenya, Karyana, son D.J. and mother Blanche Tennie.

Also Marion city council members Joe Frazier, Ralph Atkinson and Ronald Atkinson were sworn in by city attorney Kristina Catoe.



### Grass, weeds and overgrown vegetation Ordinances

According to the City's CODE OF ORDINANCES : **Section 6-1009.1 through Section 6-1009.6**, grass, weeds, or other overgrown vegetation higher than one foot on average is declared to be a nuisance. The ordinance also states that any property owner or occupant of the property that allows the property to serve as a breeding place for trash and litter or as a fire hazard is to be declared a nuisance. Any individual who fails to resolve the issue within 10 days of notice of non-compliance will be guilty of a misdemeanor. The City may remove weeds, overgrown vegetation either by the use of a city crew or designated contractor and the cost will become a lien upon the property and collected in the same manner as municipal taxes. The cost of such action by the city is as follows: \$100 per lot, 1/2 acre or less; \$175 per lot, 1/2 acre to 2 acres; \$250 per lot, 2 acres to 5 acres; \$250 per lot, 5 acres and over, plus \$100 per hour; or any contractor costs incurred by the city to correct the nuisance lot in addition to the cost of mailings. If an owner or occupant of a property believes they are unable to pay to have the grass, weeds, or overgrown vegetation removed, he or she may ask the City of Marion for assistance.

A voucher program, administered by a seven-member committee, is available for reviewing requests for assistance by low-income persons.

For information about the voucher program, contact City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

### Dennis Brown city's employee of the Month



The City of Marion selected Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Brown as its April 2015 Employee of the Month. Dennis has been employed with the City of Marion since August 2001 and attended the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in 2003, when he was awarded Class 3SLE Certification and a certificate of training for Limited Duty Law Enforcement.

As the Code Enforcement Officer, Dennis enforces the City's Municipal Code of Laws by issuing citations and summons as needed. He assists the Marion Police Department in preserving public order, issues citations for illegal parking (fire lanes and handicapped) and enforces animal leash laws and commercial vehicle parking regulations. Dennis also makes sure building permits are issued for construction, checks contractors for business licenses and handles litter complaints.

Tasked with enforcing illegal sign laws, nuisance and abatement, he also oversees the removal of abandoned vehicles

Dennis was recognized for his significant contributions to the City during the May 12th Council Meeting.

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### Membership Campaign

The Month of May: HMRA 2015-16 Membership Campaign in Progress. Be on the lookout for correspondence in your mail or visit [www.theswampfox.com](http://www.theswampfox.com).

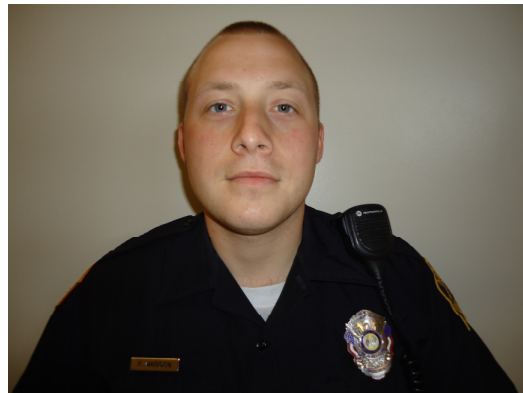
Questions or to share information for the Swamp Fox Scene, please email [vnichols@marionsc.gov](mailto:vnichols@marionsc.gov)

### New Officers at Marion Police Department

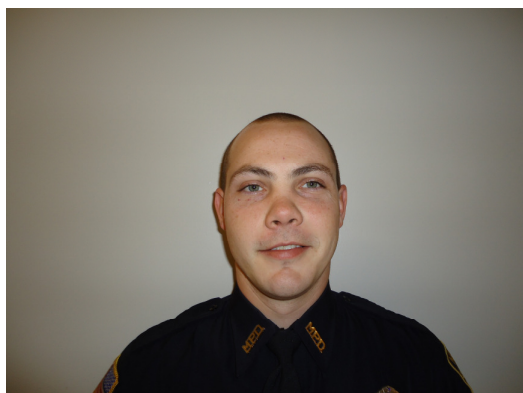
The City of Marion gained three new officers at the Marion Police Department. Patrolman Thomas Moore was hired in July 2014 and began certification classes at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in August. He graduated from the Academy on October 31, 2014.



Moore also serves in the US Army National Guard. He and his wife (Kensey) live in Marion County with their two children, Parker and Kinlee.



Patrolman Forrest Warren joined the Marion Police Department in November 2014. He attended the SC Criminal Justice Academy March 6, 2015. The former Marine is a resident of Marion County and graduate of Creek Bridge High School.



Officer Chad Page joined the Marion Police Department in November 2014. He attended the SC Criminal Justice Academy and was awarded his law enforcement certification in February 2015. This spring,

Page volunteered to coach an 8U baseball team with the Marion Recreation Department. He is a resident of Marion County and was previously employed with the Mullins Fire Department.

Police Chief Dewayne Tennie said he is looking forward to working with the new officers. "Their employment helps us put more patrolmen on the street to maintain safety and respond to calls in a timely manner."

### The Magical Power of Sidewalk Chalk

The 2nd Annual Chalk Walk organized by the Arts Council of Marion County brought many a smile to our participants. Those who attended enjoyed beautiful weather, beverages, snacks, bubbles, face painting and had the opportunity to share positive, uplifting fun messages chalked on the sidewalks of the Hike & Bike Trail. With the event bringing out over 100 local children & family members there was no shortage of smiles, laughter, and joy to our community by creating a virtual playground of inspiration and optimism.

Check out the Arts Council of Marion County on Face book for a calendar of our upcoming events.



### 23rd Annual Marion Foxtrot Festival



Foxtrot kicked off on Thursday night with two fun events. Children were entertained with a magic show performed by Renzi Norris at CD Joyner and adults enjoyed a "Sip and Shag" event held at the Opera House. The theme centered around Beach music. Carl Brunson performed a variety of music and the crowd enjoyed themselves by dancing and eating "shrimp and grits." This year parade Grand Marshal was in Memory of SSG James David Bullard. The City came alive as everyone enjoying the petting zoo, bull ride, amusement rides, bounce house, pig race and other fun events. Stage entertainment by several hometown talent along with others from Kingstree, Myrtle beach, and other surrounding counties. Carl Brunson closed the festival with a variety of music.

Marion county citizens were dazzled by a beautiful eleven minute firework show.

### 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 Mary Dunbar, the classes are \$5 each or \$30 per month. For information or details, call the Recreation Department at 423-5410.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.marionsc.gov) web site. Find us under "Residents" and then click on "Recreation". To Find us on Facebook, visit **Marion Recreation Department!**

### Summer Basketball

We will be taking applications for our summer basketball league ages 5-18 years old until June 5th. Anyone interested in coaching or playing please sign up at Marion Recreation office.

### Dixie Youth Girls Tournaments

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 sponsor-ships. 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 June 05, 2015.

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

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.

### Baseball District Tournament

We are proud to announce that The Marion Recreation Department will host the Majors 11 and 12 years old boys Baseball District Tournament which begins on June 26th. All games will be played at Green Street Sports Complex.

### Adult Basketball League

We will be taking applications for an adult basketball league 18 and older until June 5th. Anyone interested in coaching or playing please sign up at Marion Recreation office.

### Swimming Lessons

We are proud to announce that The Marion Recreation Department will be offering swimming lesson at the newly renovated swimming pool at Grice's Recreation Department. Anyone interested may sign up at Marion Recreation Department Old Elementary Gym) 221 Elizabeth Street. Application will be taken until June 5th. For more information or details, please contact the Marion Recreation Department at 9843) 423-5410.