

# Swamp Fox Scene



A FREE monthly newspaper  
for the citizens and visitors  
of the Swamp Fox City

## Boys & Girls Club sets up programs in Grice's Center

The City of Marion Recreation Department and the Marion County Boys & Girls Club have entered into an agreement for the Boys & Girls Club to use the Grice Recreation Center on Gurley Street.

Cost for children, ages 6-18, to join the Club is \$5 per year per child. For information about the programs, call Latoria Lewis, director, at 423-8623. Lewis is in the Center Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m.-noon and from 1-6:30 p.m.

According to Decar Brown, director of operations for the Boys and Girls Club in Florence, who is helping to oversee the new program in the county, a project of Marion County RALI, the programs offered to children will include character and leadership development.

Volunteers are needed to help with programs, Lewis said, adding that she needs folks willing to help with arts and crafts, to help in the games room and to assist with outdoor recreation for program participants. Brown told the Mayor and City Council members at their February meeting that club activities will be offered during the school year, but there isn't a plan in place now for summer programs.



## Spring ahead:

Daylight Savings Time ends on March 13  
Don't forget to check your smoke detectors

Spring can't be too far away if the Bradford Pears and Daffodils, southern harbingers of Spring, are blooming! Official dawning of Spring is March 21. In the meantime, don't forget to check the batteries in those smoke detectors when Daylight Savings Time comes around on March 13 at 2 a.m., just in time to make everyone a little discombobulated for St. Patrick's Day on March 17th! The Daffodils, at left, are courtesy of the December 2009 planting of bulbs by the Daphne Garden Club at the City's welcome sign on North Main Street.

## Council selects Jones as city's new clerk

Marion City Council voted to promote Administrative Assistant Pam Jones to the City Clerk position during its most recent council meeting.

Jones replaces Lakesha Shannon, who voluntarily resigned last October to accept the position of City Clerk with the Town of Kiawah Island. Jones officially became city clerk in February and said she is eager to accept a larger role in the operation of her hometown.

The Marion native is the daughter of retired Fire Chief and former City Administrator Bill Jones and Rosine Phipps Jones. City Administrator Alan Ammons said Jones has been an outstanding administrative assistant for the past three years. "The quality of her work is exceptional, and she gets along well with everyone," Ammons said.

"Pam is dedicated to the City of Marion, especially our citizens and our rich history." Jones has been employed with the City of Marion since 2008 and was previously employed with the United States Postal Service for 18 years.



## Historic RUNFEST T-shirts for sale in City Hall

Historic Marion RUNFEST T-shirts are for sale in City Hall. Cost is \$10 each. T-shirts originally went to those participating in the weekend's 5K, 10K and 10-mile runs. Now there are a limited number of shirts available for purchase.

To get yours, see Pam Jones, City Clerk, in City Hall.



## Baseball set to start; Recreation needs more coaches

This year's opening day for baseball will be in April. Registration was a success and we're looking forward to another great year.

The City's Recreation Department also needs more coaches to help with the increase in the number of players.

Anyone interested in coaching or volunteering, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

## Marion County 4-H Gerber Daisy Sale!

Orders taken until April 1; Pick up flowers Saturday, April 16  
\$25 per flat of 15 plants; Checks payable to Marion County 4-H  
Call Sharon Grice at 423-8285, Ext. 113 for information



# CITY NEWS .....

## City to have council elections in April; Candidates signs should be on private property

The City of Marion General Election for Council seats in Districts 1, 2 and 4 and a Special Election to fill the open seat of District 5 will be on April 12.

Running unopposed and seeking reelection are Ralph Atkinson, District 1 and Bobby Davis, District 4. Loretta G. McGill is running against incumbent Ronald Atkinson for the District 2 seat.

Odessa M. Gregg and Jerry Mitchell are running to fill the unexpired term of council seat for District 5. Former council member Poiette Bromell resigned her position earlier this year.

Precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. To see where to vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission at 137 Airport Court off East U.S.

Highway 76 or call Teresa Moody or Tammy Barr 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.

## City receives 'healthy' audit

Charles Jones told the Mayor and City Council members at the February council meeting that the city's audit for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2010 painted a "healthy financial picture."

Jones complimented the city's staff and elected officials for the good audit, saying that in these economic times it is one of the best that the accounting company has seen. Jones and Brenda Jackson, with Kenneth Cobb & Company, certified public accountants, attended the meeting and gave the report.

The annual audit reviews each of the city's major funds and its governmental and business activities. Jones said the audit revealed no material deficiencies.

## Ray is the Employee of the Month

The City of Marion selected Police Sgt. Derric Ray as the February 2011 Employee of the Month.

Ray was hired by the Marion Police Department in December 2007 and graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in April 2008. He was the recipient of the Chief's Award for 2009 and is assigned to Echo Shift.

"Ray is an outstanding officer who has distinguished himself each and every day through exemplary service and devotion to duty," Marion Police Captain and Interim Chief Jim Gray said.

Ray and his wife, Tabitha, live in Marion with their two children. The Mayor and Council acknowledged Sgt. Derric Ray for his hard work and dedication to the City of Marion at the Feb. 8 Council Meeting.



## City officials remind golf cart drivers to obey the rules of driving on roads

All residents are reminded to obey state and local laws concerning the operation of golf carts: have a valid South Carolina driver's license, have a permit from the state's Department of Motor Vehicles (\$5), have proof of insurance; and to only operate during daylight hours.

Parents who allow children to violate the laws shown below can be charged accordingly.

According to SC Section 56-2-100: A person operating a low speed vehicle must be at least 16 years old and have a valid driver's license.

Section 56-3-115 further provides that the owner of a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart, if he or she has a valid driver's license, may obtain a permit from the department of motor vehicles upon the payment of a fee of \$5 and proof of financial responsibility which permits his agent, employees, or him to: (1) Operate the golf cart on a secondary highway or street within two miles of his residence or place of business during daylight hours only; and (2) Cross a primary highway or street while traveling along a secondary highway or street within two miles of his residence or place of business during daylight hours only.

## New restaurants serving fine fare

**Magnolias on Main**, owned and operated by Dolgan Dervish, offering a lunch buffet, opened on Feb. 27 in the old Monroe Building on the corner of Main and Harlee Streets. Lunch is served Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.- 2p.m. Dinner is served on Fridays, 5-8 p.m. and Sunday Brunch is offered 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Additionally, Bobby Thomas is the new owner and operator of **The Mediterranean Restaurant** at 104 West Dozier Street, next door to Martin's Service Center. The Mediterranean is open for lunch, Monday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., offering sandwiches, luncheon specials and more!



## Who Do I call?

For answers to your questions about living and working in Marion, call ...

**City Administrator, Building Official**  
Citizen concerns; Street, Sanitation, Storm Drainage Issues; Trees; Building Permits & Inspections  
**Alan Ammons 423-5961**

**City Clerk**  
Business Licenses; Yard Sale Permits; City Council Agenda & Meetings; General City of Marion Information  
**Pam Jones 423-5961**

**Recreation Admin Assistant**  
Recreation Programs; Sign-Up Information; Recreation Facility Rentals  
**Cheryl Askins 423-5410**

**Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant**  
Building & Sign Permits; Zoning Information; Historical Commission  
**Vickie Nichols 423-5961**

**Personnel, Purchasing Director**  
Job Openings and Employment Applications; Supplier and Contractor Bid Opportunities  
**Elizabeth Fick 423-8614**

**Municipal Court Clerk**  
Traffic Tickets & Police Fines; Bond Hearings & Municipal Court Information  
**Heather Evans 423-8616**

## CCU bands to perform in Marion's CD Joyner

On April 10 at 7 p.m. the Coastal Carolina University Symphonic Band and the Coastal Winds (two distinct groups) will perform their spring concert, "Moons, Stars & Planets," in the CD Joyner Fine Arts Center Auditorium on Elizabeth Street. The concert is free. Seating will be first come, first served.



## Coker College has new Marion campus

Coker College President Robert Wyatt has announced that the college is establishing a campus in Marion. Beginning March 14, the first day of classes of the fourth term of this academic year, adults can pursue Coker College's fully accredited, baccalaureate degrees in business, social work and sociology-criminology in the Marion County Adult Education building at 410 East Liberty Street.

"While Coker has provided educational opportunities at night for motivated adults in the Pee Dee since 1983, we are particularly pleased about our new Marion campus," Wyatt said.

"During quickly changing and stressful economic times, it's critically important that Marion County residents can access the kinds of high-caliber educational programs that underpin the region's long-term economic development," he said, adding that according to a 2010 report from the Lumina Foundation for Education, higher education is essential to any region's economic suc-

cess. For Associate Dean Barbara Jackowski, who directs all of Coker College's Adult Learners Programs for Higher Achievement, one of the primary benefits of Coker's programs is the seriousness with which the College takes the responsibility of accommodating the needs of busy, working adults.

"... We've developed a deep appreciation not only for the skills and talents of adult learners, but also of their remarkable drive to achieve," Jackowski said.

"As a result, we are committed to offering programs that are flexible enough to accommodate the complexities that come with trying to earn a degree and support a family at the same time."

*Coker College will host a grand opening celebration at the Marion campus on April 11, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.*

For information about the programs offered in Marion, contact Christina James at [cjames@coker.edu](mailto:cjames@coker.edu), (843) 857-4213, or visit [www.coker.edu](http://www.coker.edu).

## Keep Up With What's Going on!

### March 8th

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: City Council (Second Tuesday of the Month), Council Chambers, City Hall, 107 S. Main Street.

### March 8th

Tuesday: Episcopal Church of the Advent in Marion's Pancake Supper. Tickets available at 423-5402.

### March 11th

Friday, Noon: Friends Friday luncheon at the Museum. Call Rosanne for details, 423-8299.

### March 14th

Monday, 5:30 p.m.: Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Second Monday of the Month), Fire Station, Bond Street.

### March 21st

Monday, 6:30 p.m.: Marion's Fox Watch meeting, 332 N. Main Street.

## Put yourself to work using what you know!

The Swamp Fox Higher Education Center on Elizabeth Street has an entrepreneurship training course underway. The course is being conducted through a partnership between Francis Marion University and YESCarolina.

The free program will run through April 1 and seeks to help individuals become self-employed or to become better employees when working.

For information about this and upcoming training through Francis Marion University at the Center, call Suzan Orrico, FMU's coordinator of continuing education programs, at 843-661-1283.

YESCarolina is a 501(C)3 non-profit dedicated to teaching youth the principles of entrepreneurship and free enterprise. For information about this group and their programs, call Brianna Zhang at 843-661-1292.

### Questions about your Water or Sewer Bill?

Call (843) 765-4539



### Free Admission

A love offering will collected during the concert  
Dessert reception to follow

For more info call Richard @ 843-450-6220

[WWW.THREEDAYSREDEMPTION.COM](http://WWW.THREEDAYSREDEMPTION.COM)

Visit the City of Marion online at [www.marionsc.gov](http://www.marionsc.gov)

& on Facebook under City of Marion, South Carolina.



The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's free monthly news magazine for the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. The staff consists of City of Marion employees Cheryl Askins, Elizabeth Ficik, Pam Jones and Dianne Owens. Call Pam Jones if you are interested in sponsoring an issue.

The newspaper is distributed by city employee Dennis Brown and may be found in City Hall, in the Marion Chamber of Commerce's office in the Historic Train Depot, in the Main Street Marion office on Main Street and in other spots around town. The Marion Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Marion help the city to offset printing costs. Call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961 for more information.



## Historic Marion RUNFEST makes its debut

More than 200 runners took to the roads of Marion in the first Historic Marion RUNFEST, part of the Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days the last weekend in February.

# SPORTS & RECREATION .....

## Players make All-star basketball teams

The All-Star basketball teams have been chosen. Congratulations to all! Making the teams are:

### **SMALL FRY GIRLS**

Anna Johnson, Ny'Azah Kenny, Lacey Johnson, Martecia Godbolt, Holly Grice, Jewel Grazenski, Sally Brown, Jakina Wright, Chelsie Davis and Tyeasha Crawford.

### **SMALL FRY BOYS**

D'Vonte Allen, Jyrese Fore, Divine Wilson, Quashayn Bethea, Shemar Grant, Calvin Mullins Jr., Cameron Smith, Kalik Faulk, Ty'Quan Covington, Tariq Nowlin, Montrell Sanders and Taj Hall.

### **MITE GIRLS**

Arrion Swiney, Imanni Vereen, Serenity Hunt, Dymond Hickson, Kearra Crowner, Khahdejah Davis, Alexis Williams, Lonesha Bethea, Lanisha Evans and Logan Turner.

### **MITE BOYS**

Ronnie King, Artavis Evans, Darius Hunt, Hykeme Barr, Marcus Bryant, Micah Crawford, Brent Herlong, Ortavis Ortiz, Dahmir Wallace and D'Ante Allen.

### **MIDGET BOYS**

Nicari Legette, Jamerious Summerson, Kevin Grant Jr., Donqwavias Davis, Tre Mitchell, Damian Johnson, Marcus Grice, Deangelo Gilbert, Fredrick Davis and Fredrick Gurley.

### **JR BOYS**

Tevin Woodberry, Gurtis Clark, Donovan Foxworth, Ryan Wilkerson, Derrick Randall Jr., Key'Onta Foxworth, Javon Williams, Joshua Davis, Lue Clemmons III, William Trey Bennett.



## City team is Eastern Recreation District Champions

The Small Fry Girls All-Star basketball team captured the Eastern District Championship in Mullins on Feb. 26. They are shown with their coaches and family members as they prepared to caravan to Lancaster for the State Tournament on March 5. The team is coached by Rick Johnson and Tamera Foxworth.



## Check us out online!

The City of Marion Recreation Department is on Facebook and online.

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, search Marion Recreation Department!



## Tennis returns to city courts

The Withlacoochee Park Tennis Courts opened for play and practice after a ribbon-cutting on Feb. 17.