

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 4, Issue 10

March 2014

City of Marion hires New Recreation Director



We are excited and pleased to announce the appointment of Ann Jackson as the new Recreation Director for the City of Marion. She was previously employed with the Town of Latta Recreation Department as their Recreation Director for 8 years. Ann started on this new venture with the City effective Wednesday, February 5th. We are looking forward to working with her and seeing what her years of experience and vision will bring to the department. Please extend to her a very warm welcome!

Mayor Praise City Workers!!

Winter weather creates a variety of hazards that can significantly impact everyday tasks and work activities. These hazards include slippery roads, surfaces, strong winds and cold weather. Mayor Davis again praised city workers for their work and dedication during this past week. The men and women of the Street, Sanitation, Fire, Police, SCDOT and EMS Departments have been working extremely hard, he said. We worked together as a team to accomplish the necessary tasks. Mayor Davis stated that multiple departments and agencies worked to provide a constant assessment of the city's situation during the recent ice storm, ensuring the safety of the residents of Marion. The City of Marion Street and Sanitation Departments were a huge factor in this, he added, saying they worked through the duration of the storm and afterwards until streets were safe and cleaned. Though there were a vast number of trees and limbs downed, we are making significant progress toward getting them removed, however, please be patient with us. The crews are working diligently to complete the entire cleanup. Again, thank you City of Marion!

City Employees Clean up Debris on W. Court Street



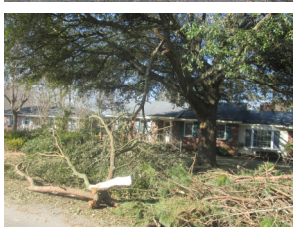
Debris from Ice Storm

The City of Marion maintenance crews work hard to get debris from the recent ice storm removed before the Marion Historic RunFest, held on Saturday, February 22nd. The City of Marion has very dedicated and determined employees. Marion Mayor Bobby L. Davis, City Administrator Alan Ammons and Marion City Council are all very proud of our employees.

City Employees Clean up Debris From Tilghman Park



Storm Damages: W. Baptist, Strawberry, Kimball, Whitehall, N. Withlacoochee, Oakenwald.



Inaugural Black History Month Celebration

The City of Marion, in conjunction with the Performing Arts and Science Academy, held its first inaugural black history program entitled, Break Every Chain, on February 8, 2014 @ 5:00 p.m. at the C.D. Joyner Auditorium. The title represented the breaking away of intolerance and the educating of all youth in the accomplishments of local and national African Americans. The Marion County residents honored for their extraordinary efforts in being pioneers for change that transcended from generations to generations were Coach Taft Watson, Florence G. Foxworth, Elista and Willie Smith, W.L. "Billy" Page, Pastor Henry L. McGill, Luevenia S. Wright, Ben Bethea, Judge Levon Graves, and the honorable Mayor Bobby L. Davis. Former senator, Maggie Glover, was present for this momentous program. The event was very special and outlined an awesome array of events that included creative dance by Justine Roberts Performing Arts Academy youth and St. Paul Baptist Church praise dancers. The Mister and Mistress of Ceremony was Mr. Rick Morrison and Ms. Michelle Brewton. After receiving a warm welcome from Ms. Roberts and her students, Pastor Willie L. Gillard opened with a prayer. Pastor Curtis Campbell presented a commanding interpretation of Martin Luther King's speech, I Have a Dream. The program was filled with a lot of dance, songs, and educating the youth on some of the inventions of African Americans.

Employee of the Month



The City of Marion is proud to announce Sanitation Department employee Richard Flowers as its January 2014 Employee of the Month. Flowers has been employed with the City of Marion since September 2013 and quickly established himself as a leader within the department. He is responsible for collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill.

"Richard 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.

He and his wife, Lois, are lifelong residents of Marion County. They have two children and two grandchildren.

The Mayor and Council recognized Richard Flowers for his dedicated service to the City of Marion and its citizens at the February 18th Council Meeting.

Warming Shelter provided during Ice Storm

The City of Marion opened up the Fire Station on Bond Street on February 11th, at 12:00 due to the weather forecast for extremely cold temperatures over the several days as a warmers shelter. More than 60 people made use of the fire station one night due to the storm. Residents ventured in and out through the duration of the storm and the firemen provided them with hot meals. They exemplified the meaning of the call of duty. Thanks to each and every one for all the efforts that were put forth during this time to make sure others were provided for and taken care of.

Again thanks Mayor Bobby L. Davis, City Administrator Alan Ammons and Marion City Council Members.

Chamber Book Project

The Marion Chamber of Commerce will be continuing our Book Project this year which is to give all Marion County 3rd grade students a copy of "Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox". The Chamber is proud of this project to expand our student's knowledge and the history of General Francis Marion.

On February 20, 2014 we had the pleasure of having the books delivered to the Chamber office by the author, Kate Salley Palmer, her husband Jim Palmer and their daughter Salley Ouellette. The books will be distributed to Marion County 3rd graders on Thursday, March 6th.



Ice Cream Parlor

Gerald's Ice Cream Parlor & Restaurant invite you to come and dine with them. Located at 501 Tom Gasque Ave, Marion SC.

Thursday, Friday and Sunday - Open 3:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m. Saturday hours are 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. See you there!!!!

Nathaniel Gerald - Owner

JOIN THE MIGHTY MOVEMENT
VICTORY 120

PRAISE IN MOTION FISHERMAN IN ONE ACCORD

SAT, MARCH 22 AT 11AM

"Experience the victory through Preaching, Prayer, and Praise"

PRIZES
iPod shuffle giveaways
First 20 people receive t-shirt
Free Gas card and more!

Christian Hip Hop and Gospel Concert starts at 5pm
For more info call 843.423.7871 512 Henry McGill Jr. Street (formerly Dixon)
www.MtOliveWorship.com Marion, SC 29501

Ice Storm Clean-up



Street Department Superintendent Ronnie Sanders and Sanitation Superintendent Leonard "Winky" Fore hard at work during the ice storm.

It's in our hands! Safety Is Everyone's Concern.



Together, we can make a difference! The City of Marion has a TEXT A Tip line. See a crime happening! Have a Tip! Text it to 430-0938.

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Anson and Alice White of 209 Victor Street, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for February 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. The Whites' will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

Chamber honors local business owners; hears about efforts to change state's education system

By Dianne P. Owens
Correspondent

The Marion Chamber of Commerce conducted its annual meeting on Jan. 27, announcing the winner of the 2013 Small Business Person of the Year award and the Chamber's Small Business of the Year.

Scott Baxley, representing Baxley's Hardware, the 2012 winner of the award, presented the 2013 award to Jimmy and Jamon Jordan of Jordan's Scrap Metal. The Jordan's were recognized for their support of community, outstanding customer service and civic-mindedness.

Ashley Brady, this past year's winner of the Chamber's Community Service Award presented the 2014 recognition to Craig Martin (CPA) for his roles in helping to better the community. The award carries a \$250 cash contribution, given by Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank in the name of the recipient to the charity of his or her choice.

Additionally, Judy Johnson was again recognized for her 18 years of service to the City and Chamber, upon the occasion of her retirement. The Marion Chamber seeks to foster the general development and welfare of the immediate surrounding area and works for business, industry, the professions, agri-business, and other civic interests, doing what no individual can do alone and performing services that benefit, directly or indirectly, all citizens, according to the group's mission statement.

President of the Chamber for 2014 is City Laura White. Cindy B. Rogers is the group's Executive Vice President. Vice President is T. Carroll Atkinson, III and Martin is Treasurer.

Guest speaker at the event was Pamela Lackey, co-chair of the state's TransformSC and AT&T South Carolina President. Lackey discussed with the group the need to transform the system of education the state operates under. TransformSC is an initiative of New Carolina (South Carolinas Council on Competitiveness).

The initiative is not about changing the funding sources for the state's education system, Lackey said, that's up to legislators. This movement is to create a new system of learning in the state. To date, only 36 schools in the state are using the group's approaches to education. The group advocates new learning models that include such items as personalized instruction rather than a "one size fits all" approach, the teacher as facilitator and not as lecturer, and a technology enabled learning experience.

Additionally, students need to master math and reading skills, learn how to locate information, expand critical thinking and problem solving skills and then communicate what they know to others. The initiative develops partnerships between parents, families, educators and others to change how children learn and apply their knowledge and is looking for more people to become involved in the program.

To learn more about the initiative and its partnerships, visit www.newcarolina.org or contact Moryah Jackson, director of education initiatives, at mjackson@newcarolina.org. To learn more about the Chamber, visit the chamber online at www.marionscchamber.com and on Facebook.

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



March 5th

8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Bounce and Play, 1404 N. Main Street.

March 8th

Relay for Life. Saturday, Purple Glove Dance Competition at the Pee Dee Vipers basketball game at half-time.

March 9th

Daylight Saving Time Begins/Spring Forward. Also remember to change smoke alarm batteries.

March 11th

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

March 20th

Spring begins

March 25th

5:30 p.m. Taste of Marion County at the Academy for Careers and Technology (former MCTEC), 2697 E. Highway 76, Mullins.

Marion Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award



Craig Martin, 2013 recipient of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award, has named Wildlife Action as his charity of choice.

Through the generosity of Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank, a check was presented to Craig Martin to be used for scholarships to assist a needy child to attend Wildlife Action Camp this summer. The presentation was made on February 18, 2014. On hand for the presentation were: Ralph Atkinson, Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank, Frank Oliver, Wildlife Action, and Craig Martin. Mr. Martin received the 2013 Community Service Award at the Annual Meeting of the Marion Chamber of Commerce.

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.

Relay for Life

We are gearing up for the 2014 Relay for Life. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Saturday, March 8, 2014 Purple Glove Dance Competition at the Pee Dee Vipers basketball game.

Thank you,
Debbie Erwin
Event Chair, 843-260-4483



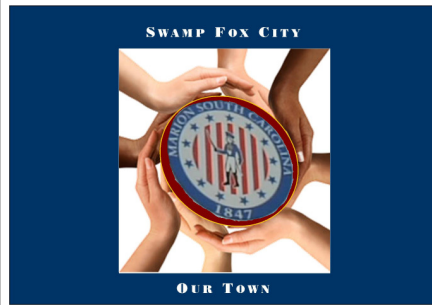
NEED HELP?

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
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Alemeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Choose your Flag

The City of Marion presented several flags on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at the council meeting. You, the residents of the City of Marion has the opportunity to cast your vote for your City flag.



Yes or No

Flag # 1



Option #1

Yes or No

Flag # 2



Option #2

Yes or No

Flag # 3



Option #3

Yes or No

Flag # 4



Option #4

Yes or No

Flag # 5

Email vnichols@marionsc.gov with your choice.

Third Food Giveaway in The City of Marion

The City of Marion and surrounding areas received blessings after blessings from the generosity and kindness of Pastor Larry Williams. On Wednesday, February 19th, Pastor Williams once again distributed free food to the community at Grice's Recreation Center from 11:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Not only did he give away non-perishable items, he grilled hot-dogs and hamburgers and fed those who attended. The giveaway on September 13, 2013 was a huge success where he distributed over 700 comforter size bags to the community. It's such a blessing to have people such as Pastor Williams willing to help our community in this slow economic period. The Food Bank is sponsored by the Tabernacle of God Ministries Mobile Food Bank.



March 9



Don't forget to set all of your clocks one hour ahead! **March 9**