

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 10

March 2016



District Basketball Tournaments

The City of Marion Recreation will be hosting the District Division 10U Girls and 12U Girls Basketball tournament on March 5th. The games will be played at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym, 221 Elizabeth Street and AC Tollison Gym, 701 Wilcox Ave. The first games will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the Championship games will start at 7:00 p.m. For complete details or more information on game, times and schedules, contact the Marion Recreation Director Ann Jackson, (843) 423-5410.

Also March 26th & 27th Marion Recreation will host AAU Basketball Tournaments. For details or more information, contact the Marion Recreation Director Ann Jackson, (843) 423-5410.

VOTE!! Election Set for April 12th

The Board of Education for seats in Districts 2, 6 and 7 will be on Tuesday, **April 12th**. The state's new Voter ID law, requires that each voter has an identification card with a photograph of the voter on it. The last day to register to vote in the April election is **March 12th**. To find out more about having a proper ID at vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission at 137 Airport Court off East U.S. Highway 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.

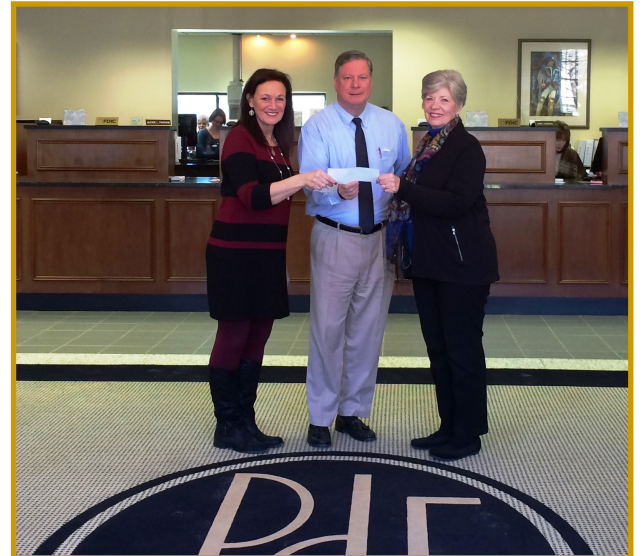
Taste of Marion County

The Arts Council of Marion County invites you to attend the **TASTE OF MARION COUNTY "A Date With A Plate"** Tuesday, March 22nd, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Academy for Career & Technology (ACT), 2697 E. Highway 76, Mullins, SC. Ticket prices: \$15.00 - Adults, \$10.00 - Children Ages 7-12, and Free - Children 6 and under. Tickets are available at: ACMC Office, Marion Emporium 405 N. Marion Street, and HMRA Office - 103 E. Dozier Street.

Come sample some good food from our local restaurants and caterers of Marion County. Featuring Entertainment, Raffle and Prizes!!

For additional information contact: 843-289-5054 or email artcounciljj@att.net.

Chamber Community Service Award



Janice Lane, the Chamber Community Service Recipient, presented Rosanne Black, Director of the Marion County Museum a check for \$250. Thank you to Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank for their generosity in sponsoring this donation for the Chamber's Community Service Recipient. Pictured from left are Rosanne Black, Marion County Museum, Ralph Atkinson with Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank, and Janice Lane, Community Service Recipient.

Marion County Voter Registration

The Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission will remain open at its current location until after June.

Volunteers to offer free tax help

The Marion County Collaborative Action Network offers free tax preparation services from January 20th through April 6th. VITA free tax preparation site locations are open 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Locations are set in Mullins Success Academy on 204 Broad Street, in Mullins on Monday and Wednesday; Southside Success Academy on 614 Eutaw Street, in Marion on Monday and Tuesday; Centenary Community Center on Hwy 41-A in Centenary on Monday and Tuesday.

Spring forward!
Time Change
March 13

Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour
before you go to bed on March 12

Spring has sprung!
March 20th is the first day of
SPRING!!!!

Lost Pet

The Marion County Animal Shelter encourages all pet owners seeking their lost or stolen pet to call 843-423-8370.

Marion Booster Club

Marion High School Booster Club meetings are held every third Monday at the school at 6:30 p.m.

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

March 2nd - 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Baxley Hardware, 417 N. Main Street.

March 2nd - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by The Harvest Church.

March 4th - **Relay for life**— Woodmen of the World #122 (Highway 76) will be sponsoring a Chicken Bog. For tickets contact Betty Tindall 843-423-6659.

March 5th - 10:00 a.m. Marion Recreation will be hosting the 10U and 12U girls District Basketball Tournaments. Championship game starts at 7:00 p.m.

March 8th - 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

March 9th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by Bethel United Methodist Church.

March 12th - 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Womanless Beauty Pageant/Survivor Pageant**. CD Joyner Auditorium. Each team is asked to have at least one Survivors participant. For more information contact Debbie Erwin at 843-260-4483.

March 13th - Daylight Saving Time Begins/Spring Forward. **Also remember to change smoke alarm batteries.**

March 15th - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Marion County Museum –**Roast Bunny** - Highlight on Wildlife Action and Bunny Beeson, \$15. Dinner Included.

March 15th - 6:00 p.m. Relay for Life Team Rally at Carolinas Hospital Systems in Marion.

March 16th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by Marion Baptist Church.

March 19th - Marion Recreation Department will have Opening Day Ceremonies for spring sports on Saturday morning, at Green Street Park. Times will be announced later.

March 20th - Spring begins.

March 21st -25th 7:00 p.m. **"The Last Day of Prophecy Seminar"** at Mt. Olive Seven Day Advent Church, 512 Henry McGill Jr, Marion SC. Pastor Joshua Nelson.

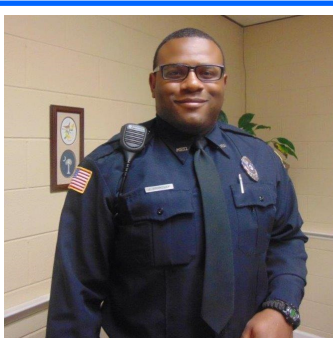
March 22nd - 5:30 p.m. **Taste of Marion County** at the Academy for Careers and Technology (former MCTEC), 2697 E. Highway 76, Mullins.

March 25th - 6:00 p.m.- **"Survivors Dinner"**- Woodmen Life building on Highway 76. For more information please call Debbie Erwin at 843-260-4483.

March 26th – 11:00 a.m. **"Community Guest Day"** at Mt. Olive Seven Day Advent Church, 512 Henry McGill Jr, Marion SC. Pastor Joshua Nelson. Dress Casual

March 26th **"Youth Art Month Reception"** at Marion County Museum.

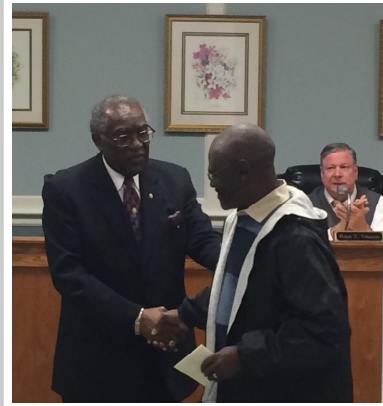
March 26th - 27th Marion Recreation Department host the AAU Basketball Tournaments. For more information, contact the Marion Recreation Director Ann Jackson, (843) 423-5410.



Officer Jonathan Brantley

Congratulations to the Marion Police Department's Officer Jonathan Brantley. Officer Brantley graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy on February 12, 2016.

Chief Tennie stated he was glad to have Officer Brantley as a part of the Marion Police Department and he was confident he would be a great asset to the department.



Fling City's Employee of the Month

The City of Marion selected Elma Fling as the January 2016 Employee of the Month. Elma has been working in the Street Department since December 2015. He was previously employed with Dusty Hills Country Club and has

over twenty years of experience in landscaping and grounds maintenance. Elma quickly established himself as a hard worker and valuable member of the crew.

According to his supervisor, Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders, "Elma is very dedicated and dependable; he takes great pride in his work." His duties include beautification projects such as planting trees and preparing flower beds, mowing grass in the summer, and decorating the City for Christmas and other holidays.

The Mayor and Council recognized Elma Fling for his positive attitude and significant contributions to the City of Marion during the February 9th City Council Meeting.

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.

Who Do I call for 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 Writer & Publicist, Ext. 22
Ann Jackson, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
Dwayne Tennie, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
Chris Smith, Captain, (843) 423-8616
Cindy Barr, Training Officer, (843) 423-8616
Tony Flowers, Investigator, (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
Alemeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Don't forget to **VOTE** on April 12th for Board of Education. Districts 2, 6 & 7

Historic Marion is a great place to visit, shop, dine and live. Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov and on Facebook under City of Marion, South Carolina.

Marion Chamber Annual Meeting

The Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting was held on Monday, January 25, 2016 at Woodhaven. This year's meeting included a silent and live auction.



This year's recipient of the Community Service Award was Mrs. Janice Lane. An outstanding member of our community, she has served in many positions in her church and started the Hands of Faith Soup kitchen that serves a hot meal to homebound and other needy individuals in our community. She has worked very hard to help make Marion and Marion County a great place to live, work, raise a family and do business. Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank will make a contribution in Janice's name to her charity of choice in recognition of this honor.

The Chamber recognized Vickie Alvarez & Candlelight Gifts/Lulu's Boutique as the Small Business of the Year. Vickie has been in business in the downtown area since the 1970's and is an asset to our community.

In other business of the Chamber, outgoing President Carroll Atkinson shared upcoming plans for 2016, and recognized outgoing board members for their service to the Chamber. Members rotating off of the Chamber board were Sabrina Davis, Jim Gray, Karen Grice, and Craig Martin. Officers and Board members for 2016 were recognized, President- Kelli Noland, Vice-President-Darrell Jameson, and Treasurer-Ashley Brady.



For more information on the Marion Chamber of Commerce please contact the Marion Chamber of Commerce, the Depot, 209 E. Bobby Gerald Parkway or call 423-3561.

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Gary and Lori Blackmon of 214 Warwick Drive have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for February 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. The Blackmon's will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

A TEAM....NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH "WE ARE OUR NEIGHBOR'S KEEPERS" Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

A Team is off to a positive start in 2016. Our first two meetings were well attended. We have welcomed several new members and see renewed enthusiasm. The volunteer spirit is growing. By banding together we will make our neighborhood safer and that will lead to a safer Marion. Please don't sit on the sidelines. Join us at an upcoming meeting. We meet on the first Monday of each month @ 6:30 PM in the meeting room of the Firehouse on East Bond Street. Hope to see you there!



Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award

Mayor Davis presented the January Beautification Award to Ms. Ruth Gurley because of her hard work and dedication to the City of Marion at the council meeting on February 9th, in appreciation for helping maintain the beauty of the City of Marion.



Marion Wrestling Team Champs

Marion, SC, February 16, 2016– Saturday February 13, Marion High School won its first Wrestling State Championship in dramatic form against Liberty High School. Marion was making its first appearance in the wrestling state championships, Liberty was competing in its fourth consecutive state championship. Marion came into the state championship with a record of 33-2. Marion was trailing throughout the match, they were down 30 - 36 with two matches remaining. Jesse Brown won a dramatic match on points to close the deficit to 33-36. In the final match Dilan Gillard pinned his opponent in the first round to secure the state championship for the Swamp Foxes.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Deborah Wimberly at 843.423.1811 ext. 1020 or email at dwimberly@marion.k12.sc.us.



Gerber Daisy Sale

Marion County 4-H is taking orders until April 4, 2016: Mixture of colors, Cost: \$30 per flat of 18 plants; all checks are made payable to Marion County 4-H, 206 Airport Court, Suite-C, Mullins SC 29574. Call Sharon Grice at 423-8285, Ext. 114 to place your order. Pick-up will be: Friday, April 16, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Airport Court (off of Hwy 76) (behind Marion County Law Enforcement Center).

.....RECREATIONAL CORNER

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.

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.

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.

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 web site. Find us under "Residents" and then click on "Recreation". To Find us on Facebook, visit **Marion Recreation Department!**

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.

Shannon Wilkerson Gym

The Shannon Wilkerson Gym located on 221 Elizabeth is open for the public from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The afternoon program for kids are from 3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.

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.

District Basketball Tournaments

The City of Marion Recreation will be hosting the District Division 10U Girls and 12U Girls Basketball tournament on March 5th. The games will be played at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym, 221 Elizabeth Street and AC Tollison Gym, 701 Wilcox Ave. The first games will be begin at 10:00 a.m. and the Championship games will start at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Day Ceremonies for Baseball and Softball, T-ball have been set!!!



Marion Recreation Department is planning to have Opening Day Ceremonies for spring sports on Saturday, March 19th at Green Street Park. Times are still to be announced. Everyone please mark your calendars to come out and enjoy friends, families, food and some ball and don't forget to show your support for the players and coaches.

For more information, call Ann Jackson (843) 423-5410 or find them on Marion Recreation Department Face Book.

City's Playgrounds

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

Withlacoochee Park

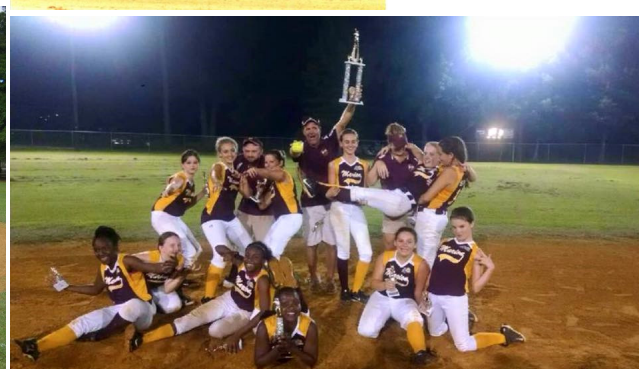
Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion's Tennis Courts.

Grice's Recreation Center

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

Tilghman Park

409 Montgomery Street - This is the City's location for T-ball and coach-pitched baseball. It also has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.



Keep Calm and Let the Games Begin. Opening Day Ceremonies on Saturday, March 19th at Green Street Park. Hope to see you there!!!!