

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 2017

Candidates competing for Mayor and city council seats

Seven candidates have filed for the upcoming Marion general election, set for Tuesday, April 11th. Included in this year's election are races for mayor and council seats in Districts 3, 5 and 6. Mayor Bobby L. Davis will be seeking reelection. Ashley Brady and Bennie Davis will be making their bid for the mayor's seat. In District 3, incumbent Emerson Hunt will face Betty Wright McRae. One candidate is running to occupy the District 5 seat, Latashia "Tassie" Lewis. That seat is held by Odessa Gregg, who will not seek reelection. Michael Baker will run unopposed in District 6.

City rehires Clerk

Marion City Council voted to rehire Lakesha Shannon as City Clerk. Lakesha served City Clerk for the City of Marion from 2006 to 2010 prior to accepting a position as Town Clerk for Kiawah Island. She is already holding her own as she stepped neatly into the shoes of former City Clerk, Pam Jones, who retired in January. Lakesha is a graduate of the SC Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute and has completed various trainings that have enriched her knowledge and skills of the City Clerk role. She also holds a certificate for completing the SC Business License Officials training. A life-long resident of Marion, South Carolina, Lakesha has a vested interest in serving the citizens of Marion. Lakesha stated that she is overcome with joy for the opportunity to return to work for the City of Marion. She is a dedicated professional who has already taken on various projects to enhance the record keeping and provide quality services to the citizens of Marion. Lakesha, a graduate of Webster University with a dual Master's degree in Business & Management and Leadership, brings over 6 years of municipal government experience.



City Clerk Retired

Marion City Clerk Pam Jones retired on January 31, 2017. Pam was hired by the City of Marion in August 2008. She worked in the building official's office for three years and was promoted to the position of City Clerk in 2011.

In addition to her duties as municipal clerk and business license administrator, Pam coordinated and made the necessary arrangements for numerous meetings, special programs and City events throughout the year. She also volunteered her time to community service projects that provided local children with needed school supplies at the start the school year and gifts during the Christmas season.

Pam continues to serve the community an active member and Treasurer the Board of Directors for the Marion Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations on your retirement, Pam! And thank you for your years of service to the City of Marion!

District Basketball Tournaments



The City of Marion Recreation Department will be hosting the Eastern District Basketball Tournament 12U Boys and Girls on March 4th. The girls' games will be played at the **Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium, 702 Willcox Ave** and the boys games

will be played at **AC Tollison Gymnasium Gym, 701 Willcox Ave.** The first games will be begin at 10:00 a.m. Championship games will start at approximately 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.

CORRECTION!!!

Last month's edition inadvertently credited Mack McClellan as the current owner of Taylor's Barber Shop when it is actually owned by Wendell Patterson.

Chamber Community Service Award



Bishop Michael Blue, the Chamber of Commerce Community Service Recipient, is presented a check for \$250.00 from John Q. Atkinson with Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank. Bishop Blue will donate the monies to the Marion County Recovery effort. The Chamber would like to thank Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank for their generosity in sponsoring this donation for the Chamber's Community Service Recipient and Bishop Blue for everything he does to assist Marion County and its citizens. Pictured from left is Bishop Michael Blue, John Q. Atkinson, Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank.

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

March 1st - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p. m. **Ash Wednesday Service** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by First United Methodist Church.

March 4th - 10:00 a.m. Marion Recreation will be hosting the 12U girls and boys Eastern District Basketball Tournaments. Championship game starts at 7:00 p.m.

March 8th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Cost \$4.00 per person.

March 12th - Daylight Saving Time Begins/Spring Forward. **Also remember to change smoke alarm batteries.**

March 14th - 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

March 15th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Cost \$4.00 per person.

March 21st - 6:00 p.m. Relay for Life Team Rally at Carolinas Hospital Systems in Marion.

March 21st - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **"Youth Art Month Reception"** at Marion County Museum.

March 22nd - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Cost \$4.00 per person.

March 20th - Spring begins.

March 25th - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Main Street Commons.** Spring Market, 229 N. Main St., Artisans / Crafters Fair.

March 29th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Cost \$4.00 per person.

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

Lakesha Shannon 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

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

Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616

Alemeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

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.

Altman City's Employee of the Month



The City of Marion selected Brad Altman as the January 2017 Employee of the Month. Brad has been working in the Street Department since September 2012. He was previously recognized as the City's Employee of the Month in August 2014.

According to his supervisor, Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders, Brad is "a hard worker who takes great pride in his work." Brad's duties include beatification projects such as planting trees and preparing flower beds, mowing grass in the summer and decorating the City for the Christmas season.

The Mayor and Council recognized Brad Altman for his positive attitude and significant contributions to the City of Marion during the February 14th 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.

Candlelight Gifts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Candlelight Gifts/Lulu's Boutique Wednesday, February 1st at 10:00 a.m. Vickie Alvarez, owner, relocated her business to 235 North Main Street. Make your plans to visit Candlelight Gifts at their new location on Main. Marion Chamber President Darrell Jameson, City Administrator Alan Ammons and Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Atkinson welcomed Mrs. Alvarez to her new location as well as family and friends that attended the ribbon cutting.

Photo Courtesy Marion Star Enterprise

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.

Marion Chamber Annual Meeting

The Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting was held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at Woodhaven. This year's meeting included a silent and live auction.



This year's recipient of the Community Service Award was Bishop Michael Blue. An outstanding member of our community, he has been instrumental in assisting those in our community who are less fortunate and is working to make Marion a better community. His passion for helping the community has been seen in his involvement with the iMPACT organization which under his leadership has conducted a career fair and small business expo. Most recently he has been instrumental in organizing Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts. Bishop Blue represents the meaning of a community leader and the Marion Chamber was pleased to present him the Community Service Award. Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank will make a contribution in Bishop Blue's name to the charity of his choice in recognition of this honor.



The Chamber recognized Jerry and Jason Richardson of Richardson Funeral Home as the Small Business of the Year. Jerry has been in business in Marion since 1971 serving the citizens of Marion County and the surrounding area. They are life-long residents of Marion and an asset to our community.

In other business of the Chamber, incoming President Darrell Jameson shared upcoming plans for 2017, and recognized outgoing board members for their service to the Chamber. Members rotating off of the Chamber board were Johnson Atkinson, Ashley Brady, Kelli Noland, Lina Rice and Laura White. Officers and Board members for 2017 were recognized Vice-President-Deborah Martin, and Treasurer-Pam Jones.

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

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Rosa Dorsey of 615 Spruce Street has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for February 2017. 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. Dorsey will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

"We Are Our Neighbors' Keepers"

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

With the recent car break-ins being experienced in the city, now seemed a good time to cover tips to avoid that experience: 1) Always lock your car. 2) Leave no valuables in sight. 3) Leave no accessories for electronics visible. 4) Always set the alarm. If you don't have one, invest in one. They are very inexpensive and can be installed quickly. 5) Park in well-lit areas. Do not park between two cars larger than yours. 6) Do not leave a spare key on or in your car. 7) When storing valuables in the trunk or glove box, do it before reaching your location. It takes a thief only 30 seconds to smash a window, release the trunk and run. A-Team meets the first Monday of each month. Our next meeting will be March 6th @ 6:30 PM in the Firehouse on East Bond St. For more information contact Dolly @ 843-433-0941. Please, come out and learn how to keep yourself, your family and your neighborhood safer. We are the group that believes "We are our neighbors' keepers."

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.

Fick graduates from Risk Management Institute

City of Marion Personnel/Purchasing Director Elizabeth Fick was recently recognized by the South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust and South Carolina Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund as 1 of 13 graduates of the Risk Management Institute in 2016.

The Risk Management Institute is a continuing education program for municipal staff who have risk management responsibilities and work for cities and towns that are SCMIT and SCMIRF members. Some of the topics covered in the institute include: employment liability, driving safety, public works risk management, fire policies, special events liability and public safety. To complete the institute, individuals must participate in eight classes over a two-year period.

SCMIT provides self-funded workers' compensation coverage to its member cities. SCMIRF provides all lines of property and casualty coverage including tort liability and automobile coverage for its members. The Municipal Association sponsors both programs.

.....GOING ON IN MARION

★★★★★ Mayoral Candidates' Forum ★★★★★

Meet the candidates and hear their vision for our great city.



Wednesday, MARCH 8
6:00P - 7:00P

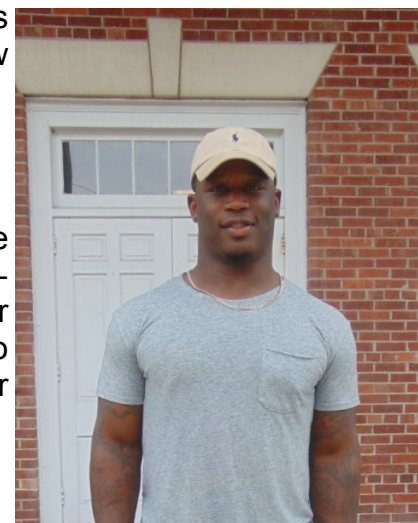
Historic Marion Opera House
100 NE Court St
Marion, South Carolina



City hires new Assistant Athletic Director



Marion Recreation would like to welcome former University of South Carolina Running Back Shon Carson to our staff. Shon is our new Assistant Athletic Director. We are excited for him to join our staff!!



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!**

Good Morning... The Marion Emporium!

Submitted by Kathy Stedman for HMRA

Prior to opening The Marion Emporium at 405 N. Main Street in downtown Marion, in April 2004, Randy Floyd had been selling merchandise in booths in several antique malls throughout South Carolina. He remembers that when he was around 12 years old, he made a rather short bucket list of places he would like to live when he grew up. Of course, that list included places like New York and Boston, but it also included what Randy lovingly calls "the sweet, charming little town" of Marion, South Carolina, which he well knew from spending some of his youth here while visiting his father's relatives who were from what Randy calls the "Old Marion District".



It was an easy decision to move here from Charleston, especially when he was able to purchase this property, and he promptly set in to motion plans he had formulated in his mind for quite some time. Randy explains that he had been traveling and collecting items which he fell in love with and considered rather exquisite or exotic; but he was always making these purchases with the express intent to "gift" them to friends and family at the appropriate time. As his collection grew, it became obvious to Randy that not only did he thoroughly enjoy these travel/shopping expeditions, but he had developed a keen eye and an uncanny aptitude for acquiring just the right item for just the right person. And now, he wanted to consolidate his inventory under one roof, so the simple solution was to set up business in his beloved Marion.



At The Marion Emporium evolved in accordance with his master business plan, Randy proceeded to add Tea Totaler's Restaurant in 2007, and then diversified yet again in 2010, when he shifted his emphasis to morphing the Emporium into an auction house. That lasted for a year and a half, and midway through 2011, Randy came back around to his original plan of offering merchandise for sale primarily by the Emporium and a small cadre of individuals who exhibit their collectibles in booths within the store. Randy now offers a bridal registry with on-line access, on-line shopping for hundreds of items in his inventory, infant and nursery items, toiletries, jewelry, art work, fine china and crystal, an extensive book collection, vintage clothing, gourmet cookware and gadgets, ladies and men's accessories, soaps, lotions, and fragrances, furniture, and what Randy refers to as "a constant flux of stuff" which is what an emporium truly exemplifies. He finds it interesting that men frequent his store in search of "functional collectibles" while women shop for personal and household articles of interest, not necessarily of need.

Randy states that, whereas he used to make purchases based on his personal preferences in taste and style, he has acquired quite an affinity for knowing his customers well enough to cater to their tastes; but, he is always, though subtly, introducing items that just might move them beyond their normal comfort zone and really pique their interest. His business has grown exponentially in the past two years and his goal is twofold: to offer an array of merchandise affordable to all socio-economic levels, and to make shopping at The Marion Emporium an experience you will treasure. From time, Randy offers special sales events with extended hours and a great deal of pampering. So please call 843 275-9899 or come by from Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., or check out the website at www.marionemporium.com.

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