

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 12

May 2017

Ashley Brady elected as new Mayor



City officials, employees, citizens and friends gathered in the Council Chambers at Marion City Hall on April 17, 2017 for the swearing in of Ashley Brady. Ashley Brady was elected as the new Mayor of the City of Marion on April 11 in an election with former Mayor Bobby L. Davis and Bennie Davis. Also re-elected were Councilmembers Michael Baker (District 6) and Emerson Hunt (District 3). Tassie Lewis (District 5), was elected to fill the seat of former Councilwoman Odesa Gregg. At left Pat Speth, City Judge, swears in Mayor Brady as his wife Rebecca and family members look on. Pat Speth also gave the oath of office to Hunt, Baker and Lewis as family and friends were there for support. Hundreds turn out for the ceremonies.

I'm thankful for all the friends and supporters for helping me win this election," Mayor Brady stated. "I look forward to working with Marion for the benefit of the whole town, making sure it's the safe, clean, beautiful town it's always been. Mayor Brady said he was shocked. He was the underdog, running against the incumbent, who has 25 years of government experience. "He's done a wonderful job in his years here, he's a military veteran, so he had a lot going for himself." Mayor Brady further commented, "It's just I think that Marion was looking for a change, and I'm hoping I will be the one who can help them make that change."



Annual Foxtrot Festival - Celebrating 25 Years

This year events are scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. **Thursday, May 18th**, 5:30 p.m. Doors open at The Opera House "**Sam The Magic Man Show**". ShowTime: 6:30 p.m. everyone is invited to come out and enjoy, light refreshments will be served after the show. Seating is limited so please arrive early. **Friday, May 19th**, 9:15 p.m. - **Firework Show** at Withlacoochee Park. **Saturday, May 20th**, 10:00 a.m. - 25th Annual Foxtrot Festival Parade, 11:30 a.m. – until International Food Court, vendors galore, Kid's Zone with carnival rides behind the library, bounce house, mechanical bull, inflatable bumper cars, trackless train and more! **Entertainment on the Stage**, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - **Street Dance - D. Myers Band, Myrtle Beach SC.**

Mark your calendar for May 18th, 19th and 20th. You don't want to miss it!!

Marion First Baptist Church will host the celebration of **National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 4th**

Pastor Denley Caughman extends a cordial invitation to all Pastors, Congregations, Elected Officials, Educators Protective Service and members of the public, to join in this special service at Marion First Baptist Church. 106 S. Main St. Marion, 7:00 p.m. **Organizing committee members are Bishop Michael Blue, Karen Christmas, Rev. Chip Scruggs, Morris Ward.**

This years theme is "FOR YOUR GREAT NAME'S SAKE". Scripture – Daniel 9:19. "O Lord, listen! O Lord Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your sake, O My God..."
For more information call Karen at 843-229-0260.

CITY NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Mrs. June Godbold of 610 Oliver Street has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for April 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. Mrs. Godbold will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

Join the Marion County Museum for their
6th Annual Art & Wine Stroll
Tuesday, May 2nd
7:00-9:00 p.m.

New Brick Dedication 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Marion County Museum – 101 Wilcox Ave, Marion SC
Come stroll by to see local artists works on display and enjoy!

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

May 2nd
New Brick Dedication 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. **Marion County Museum.** 7:00-9:00 p.m. **Marion County Museum 6th Annual Art and Wine Stroll.** No admission charge.

May 3rd
8:30 a.m. **Rise and Shine** hosted by the FoxTrot Festival, at the HMRA Business Center, 103 E. Dozier Street.

May 7th-13th
National Travel & Tourism Week

May 5th
7:00 p.m. - **National Day of Prayer.** First Baptist Church, 106 S. Main St. Marion SC.

May 9th
6:30 p.m. **City Council Meeting,** Council Chambers.

May 14th
Mother's Day

May 18th-20th
25th Annual FoxTrot Festival

May 29th
Memorial Day – City and County offices Closed. City of Marion Reopen on Tuesday, May 30th 8:00 a.m.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Ashley Brady**, (843) 423-5961, (843) 992-3773
- 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 Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Ann Jackson**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dwayne Tennie**, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Cindy Barr**, Training Officer (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith**, Captain (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
- Almeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

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 Ashley Brady or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

City recognized Bill Johnson



A resolution was presented to Mr. William "Bill" Johnson, Jr. honoring his retirement as President/CEO of Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank at the March 14th City Council meeting. Through his love for the community, Mr. Johnson was instrumental in helping

many community organizations provide better opportunities for Marion County citizens. He dedicated many years of outstanding leadership to our community by his board participation and support for the Marion Chamber of Commerce, Marion Historic Revitalization Association, and Marion County Habitat for Humanity, Marion County United Way and many other local organizations. Mr. Johnson thanked Council for their support and stated this is truly an honor. He added that he and his wife were not born or raised in Marion County, but they truly love this community.

Membership Campaign

The Month of May: HMRA 2017-2018 Membership Campaign in Progress. Be on the lookout for correspondence in your mail or visit www.theswampfox.org.

Arbor Day Names Marion Tree City USA

Marion, was named a 2016 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest service and the National Association of State Foresters.

“Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Marion make smart investments in urban forests,” said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits.”

Cleaner air, improved storm water management, energy saving and increased property values and commercial activity are among the benefits enjoyed by Tree City USA communities.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees.

A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

The number one reason Watch programs work, is that citizens act as the “eyes and ears” of law enforcement. Yet many of us go through the day without noticing everyday events. The first step in recognizing what is not normal is recognizing what IS normal. We should all practice our observation skills to make them stronger. First you need to learn what type of things to observe: 1) physical setting: specific location, time of day, day of week, 2) people: what do they look like-height, weight, ethnicity, gender. How many? 3) Specifics-what is important. 4) routines or recurring patterns-who? How often? Practice looking at people to know how to describe them. Vehicle observation is similar: start with the basics-make and model, type (SUV, compact, truck) and of course license plate number and state. Remember the license plate is only useful if it is correct. Try to write the tag number down. You can use paper, hand or even the dirt to capture the number while it is fresh in your mind. Never be afraid to say “I’m not sure” when relaying information to law enforcement. A-Team meets the first Monday of each month @ 6:30 PM in the Firehouse on E Bond St. The public is always welcome. For more information, call Dolly @ 843-433-0941. Remember A-Team is the group truly believes “WE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS’ KEEPERS!”

Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Studio 610 Fitness LLC on Thursday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m. Located at 610 North Main Street, this fitness studio is owned by Jamie Wiggins Craig. Studio 610 will be offering yoga, cycling and fitness workouts for the ultimate cardio experience. Marion Chamber of Commerce President Darrell Jameson and Mayor Ashley Brady along with family and friends welcomed this new business to Marion. You can contact the Studio 610 at studio610fitness@gmail.com or on Facebook at Studio 610 for more information and class schedules.



May 20
11AM to 9PM

TWENTY 17 MARION FOXTROT FESTIVAL

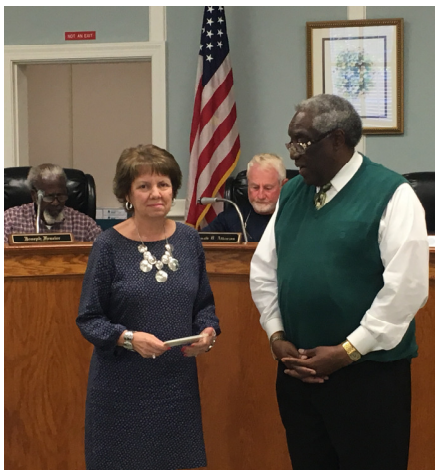
Scheduled to Appear

- 11:30 Zumba with Jessica Herrington
- 12:00 Emmalyn Davis School of Dance
- 12:45 Jebb Mac Band
- 2:00 Justine Roberts Performing Arts Academy
- 2:45 M-CAST (Marion County All-Star Step Team)
- 3:00 Bubba Rushing
- 3:30 Johnny “Bugga” Ellis
- 4:15 Driven by Dance Studio
- 4:45 The Diamond Divas of Marion Intermediate School
- 5:00 Socially Awkward
- 6:00 PM Street Dance by  D MYERS BAND

Celebrating our Silver Anniversary!!!

Come share in the fun, activities, music and food. A little something for everyone. Mark your calendar for May 20th. You don’t want to miss this event....

Brown is city’s employee of the Month



Marion City Treasurer Patricia Brown was selected as the March 2017 Employee of the Month. Patricia was hired in 2001 and is responsible for administering the financial activities and programs of the City, including the receipt, disbursement and accounting of City revenues and expenditures. “The quality of her work is exceptional, and she gets along well with everyone”, said City Administrator Alan Ammons.

Mayor Bobby Davis and City Council recognized Patricia Brown for her service and dedication to the City of Marion at the April 11th Council Meeting.

HMRA Annual Meeting and Payback Playback Concert, **May 13th** 12:00 -6:00 p.m. located at the Main Street Commons. We’re bringing back the Frogmore Stew! Ticketed event. Call the HMRA Office to reserve your space: [843.423.9918](tel:843.423.9918).

Marion Foodie Meetings

Marion Foodie and Marion Film Club meetings are held each month by the Arts Council of Marion County. For more information call 843-992-1627 or email floydrandy@hotmail.com.

Films are showed at different locations. Come out of and see what the Arts Council has to offer. Hope to see you there!!!

MOLD REMEDIATION TRAINING

May 9th at 5:30 p.m. The Academy for Careers and Technology, 2697 US-76 Marion SC 29571

All are encouraged to join us for a **FREE** interactive presentation to gain the step-by-step skills to remediate the mold in severely flood damaged homes. RSVP on Facebook or email recovery@marionsc.org or call [843-275-6110](tel:843-275-6110).

Hosted by the Marion County Long Term Recovery Group.

Questions or to share information for the Swamp Fox Scene, please email vnichols@marionsc.gov.



The Fox 84 Initiative 5K Fun Run/Walk

On April 22, 2017 The Fox84 Initiative for Boys hosted its 1st Fox 84 Initiative 5K fun run/walk.

On Behalf of the Founding Members and Mentors of the Fox 84 Initiative for Boys, we would like to thank everyone for their support of the 1st Fox 84 Initiative 5K fun run/walk. It was a successful event, thanks to our volunteers who kept everything running smoothly and the “Flourish” Mentorship program.

Special thanks for their extensive contributions to the 5K fun run/walk are also extended to Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, City Administrator Alan Ammons, Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders, all of the Marion City Employees that sacrificed their Saturday morning to set

up, Captain Barr-Marion Police Department, Vivian W. Rogers & the Marion Alumni Association, Al Blake & the Historic Marion Revitalization Association, Jerry Fore-Event Organizer, Stephanie Rogers-Samuels- Event Organizer, DJ Précises, Tammy Miles Lecque for a wonderful performance, The Marion Shriners, Dr. A.C. Robinson of Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Garry L. Davis-photographer, and Danny White-RMS Sports.

We extend our thanks to principal Gore and her staff at Marion High School for setting up the stage and equipment and the use of campus grounds. We received many positive comments and you should be extremely proud to have a professional staff who takes pride in their work.



It would you be remiss of us not to thank all who volunteered, vendors, water stations attendees, and the over 40 runners/walkers that participated. We had individuals come from as far as Atlanta and Virginia to participate. Some of the winners included Shawn Shannon-1st Place Male Overall Winner, Ann Gerald-1st Place Female Overall Winner, Henry McGill-1st Place Male Master Division, and Sharolyn Howard-1st Place Female Master Division. Other winners included Robert McCray-1st Place Kids Division, Jazmie Howard- 1st Place Teen Division, Christen Ross- 1st Place Women Division, Marcus Jackson-1st Place Male Division. The AKA Sorority Inc. won the award for the largest group participation.

Results are posted on the RMS Sports Website:
<http://www.rmssports.com/results/17fox84initiative5k.txt>

We hope that the residents of Marion enjoyed being involved with this event. It is our sincere hope that you will join us again in 2018 when we create an even bigger and better event in support of mentoring the young men of Marion County. The Fox 84 Initiative for Boys is a new local non-profit organization on a mission to provide mentorship activities for young men in the Marion, South Carolina, and area. The organization provides activities, team-building programs, and educational workshops for community youth. ‘Our goal is to put a positive male role model in front of these young men in hopes to inspire and motivate them. ‘We must pay attention to the plight of the young man in our community. “ If we build them up, help them dream, it will make Marion a better place to work and live”, quoted President & CEO Christopher Shelvin.

The Fox 84 Initiative for Boys serves at-risk youths in the Marion, South Carolina and area with mentoring services designed to help young men succeed.

For more information you can contact:

Christopher Shelvin, President and CEO
The Fox84 Initiative for Boys
E-mail: cshelvin@thefox84initiative.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thefox84initiative>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fox84initiative>
Website: <http://www.thefox84initiative.com/>



NO TIRES OR TELEVISIONS ON CURBSIDE

The City takes pride in keeping Historical Marion looking beautiful. With spring comes warmer weather and the grass-cutting season is quickly approaching. There are City Ordinances for over grown and vacant lots. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact City Hall at (843) 423-5961. In case you didn't know, a **tire, tires** or **televisions** place curbside in the City of Marion is considered litter by city ordinance. For health and safety reasons and in accordance with DHEC regulations, city employees no longer pick up **tires** or **television** at curbside. The fine for littering is **\$1,092.50**. Homeowners are to dispose of unwanted tires and television at the **Palmetto Hardwood Recycle Center** located at **2631 Senator Gasque Rd, Marion SC**. Call the **Palmetto Hardwood Recycle Center** at **(843) 423-8284** for hours of operation. If you have any questions about this reminder, please call the city administrator at Marion City Hall, (843) 423-5961. Property owners in the Historic District. Please be aware of the zoning ordinances and guidelines that are in place before any changes are made to historic properties. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at (843) 423-5961.

