

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 6

November 2013

Employees Fellowship Luncheon

Mayor Davis along with the City Administrator and city staff during the monthly meeting contemplated on the idea of engaging an employee outing other than the annual awards banquet that is scheduled every March. Mayor Davis conveyed that it would be an ideal time to fellowship and get to know one another but also to instill a sense of appreciation to the employees by letting them know that each one of them and their job is equally important to the entire system here in Marion. The employee luncheon was held on October 11th at Pop Dorsey Park and the attendance was great and it appeared that everyone had a wonderful time.



Pastor Larry Williams once again distributed free food to the community at Grice's Recreation Center from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 13, 2013. His last giveaway was very successful with more than 40 tons of food distributed to our citizens. This year was even larger, with over 700 large bags were distributed in the community. The Food Bank is sponsored by the Tabernacle of God Ministries Mobile Food Bank.



FREE FOOD GIVE AWAY

Please join the City of Marion as we recognize our Veterans.

Friday, November 8, 2013, 4:30 p.m. Veteran's Memorial Triangle (located on S. Main Street at West Liberty Street).

We invite our citizens to come out and show their appreciation for our Veterans for their loyal and faithful service in protecting our Freedom!



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 7-14

Though the city's firefighters are always out and about discussing fire safety and prevention with students, residents and business owners, the week of October 7-14 was National Fire Prevention Week.

They traveled to the schools; daycare and preschools visited the fire station to learn how to stay safety if a fire occurs. This year's campaign **"KITCHEN SAFETY"** was targeted at teaching the children how to call 911 for an emergency, and that matches and lighters are for adults and are not toys. They were also taught if their clothes catch on fire to drop and roll.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association website, (www.nfpa.org), when a fire occur your home could be surrounded by flames in just minutes. If you have questions about fire safety, please call the Fire Department at 423-8602.

CITY TO TAKE DONATIONS FOR HOLIDAY FOOD BOXES

For the fourth year, Marion City Council members and Mayor Bobby L Davis will be seeking donations to fund its Christmas **"Food for Friends"** program.

The program has been wildly successful, thanks to the generous gifts of the city's residents and businesses. During last year's program the people of Marion donated make it possible to help families enjoyed all the trimmings and fixings for a Christmas meal. Each pre-packed box costs \$35. Donations are welcome in any amount and will be put with other donations to help make purchases.

City firefighters and police officers will distribute the boxes throughout the city week of December 9th. Donations can be made at City Hall on Main Street or to the Fire Department on Bond Street. For more information, call the Administrator at 423-5961.

Performing Arts and Science Academy (PASA)

The Performing Arts and Science Academy (PASA) is currently in negotiations with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) to create a new Science, Engineer, Mathematics, and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) after school and summer program in Marion, South Carolina. The academy is designed to function as a highly competitive and innovative national project to increase the participation and retention of historically underserved and underrepresented K-12 youth in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

What makes Marion County's PASA's program so unique is that it not only encompasses the highly innovative SEMAA curriculum, but also houses the renowned performing arts academy that has aided students in receiving scholarships to attend colleges and universities, and maintain careers in dance with professional dancing ensembles. PASA will take a step further to house an outreach program designed to educate the underserved and underrepresented communities in the importance of eating and growing their own foods, medical and empowerment conferences, workshops, and mentoring programs for males and females. Lastly the after school and summer program will provide music, drama, and a basic automotive curriculum for youth.

PASA will begin taking applications for enrollment in November 2013 and will official open its doors on January 6, 2014 at our first phase location at the Fashion Arts Complex at 320 N. Main St. Marion, SC 29571. PASA is also in negotiations with the owners of the vacant Terrell's Bay High School in Centenary, SC to soon begin reconstruction of the historical school and hopefully begin classes in the two adjacent buildings located on the school property in June 2014 and visualizes having the vacant school reconstructed and classes to begin in the Terrell's Bay High School in August 2014.

For further information, please contact Justine Roberts at 843-230-1298, Michelle Brewton at 704-299-0458, or Regina Dyer at 317-531-5633.

Columbus Hope Foundation, Inc.



Operation HOPE (Helping Other People Everyday) is dedicated to increasing the self-reliance and dignity of challenged citizens. Marion Mayor Bobby Davis signed a proclamation marking October as Operation Hope month in the city in conjunction with members of the Marion-Dillon Council of the Knights of Columbus.

The group is dedicated to charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism and work to raise money for programs that assist citizens with disabilities. Members of the Knights of Columbus are collecting donations to help those living in our area. Anyone interested in giving can still do so through their free Tootsie Rolls fundraising, found at local retailers or by mailing a check to Columbus HOPE Foundation, Inc., 108 Squire Court, Summerville, SC 29845-8012. **Please denote this information is for Council NO. 8790.**

Trees for the Trail Plan

Once again the time has arrived for the "Trees for the Trail" program kick off. This program is where we've asked the citizen to donate trees to be placed on the west end of the City's Hike-Bike Trail. This is a "You buy the tree, we will plant it and care for it," program. You donate these trees in memory of love ones or in honor of someone. Not only will this enhance the beauty of the city but aid the environment and leave a living monument of the person it was dedicated to.

Anyone planning to purchase a tree should talk to City Administrator Alan Ammons. Each year the city participates with the Azalea Garden Club in its Arbor Day celebration. In South Carolina, Arbor Day is celebrated on the first Day in December. Trees will be planted in early December.

Marion County's Fall Clean-up Friday, November 15, 2013

A Fall Clean-up is being organized by the Marion County Beautification Commission.

The City and County will have **debris, tire and appliance pick up** on Friday, November 15 for all citizens.

SORRY, THIS PICK UP DOES NOT APPLY TO COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES ☹

If you want to organize a group or have questions, call Latoria Smith at 423-8234.

All Marion County communities are participating in this clean up. Organize your church civic or youth group.

Appliances and tires can be left curbside for removal on Friday, November 15, **ONLY**.

Bagged trash will be picked up by city and county sanitation workers.

Anyone needing gloves, safety vests or trash bags can contact the following:

Latoria Smith, Marion County, 423-8234
Alan Ammons, City of Marion, 423-5961
Tarus Gilchrist, City of Mullins, 464-9583
Chief Mark Lewis, Town of Nichols, 526-2193
Mayor Barbara Hopkins, Town of Sellers, 758-3873

Employee of the Month



Marion City Clerk Pam Jones was selected as the September 2013 Employee of the Month. "The quality of her work is exceptional, and she gets along well with everyone", said City Administrator Alan Ammons. "Pam is dedicated to the City of Marion, especially our citizens

and our rich history."

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

Pam serves an active member and Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Historic Marion Revitalization Association (HMRA, Olde Towne Marion). She has been employed with the City of Marion since 2008 and was previously employed with the United States Postal Service for 18 years. The Marion native is the daughter of retired Fire Chief and former City Administrator Bill Jones.

Mayor Bobby Davis and City Council recognized Pam Jones for her service and dedication to the City of Marion at the October 8th Council Meeting.

"Find Your Roots"

at the Marion Community Garden
Located at 403 N. Withlacoochee Ave.

Rent a raised bed or attend gardening workshops!

For more information or to become a member

Call: (914) 879-8622

Or Email: SarahTGerald@gmail.com

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



Open each Saturday.....

Olde Towne Marion's Farmers Market & Market Place on Main Street, as well as the Community Farmer's Market. Olde Towne Marion's Farmers Market is open from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6th.... 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Martinis & More, 317 N. Main Street. Sorry, no martini samples will be provided. Come meet owner Audrey Bahan and learn more about her establishment.

Friday November 8th...4:30 p.m. City of Marion will recognize our veterans, Veteran's Memorial Triangle (located on South Main Street at West Liberty Street)

Monday, November 11th...City & Marion County Closed for Veterans Day.

Tuesday, November 12th..... 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

Friday November 15th....City-Council Fall Clean-up. Questions contact Latoria Smith at 423-8234 or email lsmith@marionsc.org.

Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29th..... Thanksgiving. City and County offices will be closed.

Here's what coming in December !!!!



Saturday, December 7th...10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Pictures with Santa & Hay Rides at the Farmer's Market. Marion Christmas Parade: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 8th.....5:30 p.m. The arrival of Santa Claus, aboard the City of Marion Fire Truck. Pre-Christmas Tree Lighting Show: Courthouse 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, December 8th.....6:00 p.m. Tree Lighting Celebration. **Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park Immediately following Ceremony.**

Saturday, December 10th.....6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

Marion Chamber ribbon-cutting Ceremony

The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the Subway - Walmart Center on Thursday September 26. Located within the Walmart Center, new owners for the business are Dee and Jay Patel. Marion Chamber Vice President, Elaine Barkley and Mayor Bobby L. Davis along with other Chamber Board members and friends welcomed the Patels to our business community.



MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Jackson, 313 Lipscomb Street, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for October 2013. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

MARION CHAMBER RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Angela's Touch Hair and Nail Salon on Friday October 4. Located at 1838 Senator Gasque Road, the business is owned by Angela Buffkin. Marion Chamber President, Dianne Herrington and Mayor Bobby L. Davis along with other Chamber board members, friends and family members welcomed this new business to our community. To make an appointment or for more information on Angela's services call 843-430-1865

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
Russ Smith, 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
Almetia 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 Multi-forms 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.

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

Marion's 24th Annual Holiday Celebrations Line - Up



Don't forget to SAVE the dates below & come enjoy the festivities.

Saturday, December 7th

10:00 am - 12:00 pm : Pictures with Santa & Hay Ride at the Farmer's Market on Main Street
4:30 pm : Marion Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 8th

5:30 pm : Arrival of Santa Claus on the City of Marion Fire Truck
5:45 pm : Pre-Christmas Tree Lighting Show at the Courthouse Square
6:00 pm : Tree Lighting Celebration

Fireworks to follow immediately after Tree Lighting at Withlacoochee Park !



Bounce & Play of South Carolina LLC

Bounce & Play



I am excited to announce the grand opening of Bounce & Play of South Carolina LLC! We are located in Downtown Marion 1404 North Main Street. Inflatable bounce houses, arcade games, major sporting events shown on TV, snow cones, cotton candy, pizza, wings, hotdogs and lots more!!! Our potential events and activities include things like hosting birthday parties, any occasion celebration, school spirit day, church youth day and parents' night out. Coming soon events are: day/summer camp, community day, college fair day, & professional day. Our hours of operation will be Monday thru Thursday 10:30 - 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Friday has the same schedule except we will close at 10:00 p.m. Saturday all day 10:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. and Sunday 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

We look forward to making parties come to life and sharing in lasting memories! Indoor fun, where imaginations run!

For more information or questions you can email dejra.b@gmail.com or call 704.258.7286.

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 Russ Smith, 423-5410 for availability.

COMPUTER LAB OPEN FOR ALL

Need to use a computer to apply for a job or conduct research? The Swamp Fox Computer Lab has 12 computers for public use, free of charge and is in the Swamp Fox Higher Ed Center in the C. D. Joyner Fine Arts building on Elizabeth Street. Hours are 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and after lunch 2:00-5:45 p.m. For more information, call Robbie Johnson at 423-6447.