

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 5, Issue 6

November 2015

Celebrating Veteran's Day



There are not words big enough. There is not a hug strong enough. There is not a smile wide enough. All we can offer is THANK YOU. You are our HEROES. You are in our thoughts and our prayers for all you have done.

"Honor to the soldier everywhere who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also to the citizen who cares for his brothers in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause." *Abraham Lincoln*

Please join the City of Marion at our 3rd Annual Veteran's Appreciation Program on Friday, November 6, 2015 at 3:30 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 protecting our Freedom!

Marion County 2015 Firefighter Expo



Saturday, November 7th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. **Marion County 2015 Firefighter Expo** at the Marion - Dillon County Fairgrounds, Open to the public. Firetruck Displays, Firefighter Competition, Games, Food and Fun. Come support your local fire departments.

Marion's 26th Annual
Holiday Prelude &
Community Tree Lighting Celebration

CITY OF MARION
South Carolina

Thursday, November 12th
HMRA Snowball Drop 6pm
Downtown Marion Merchants' Extended Shopping Hours 6-8pm Downtown Marion

Saturday, December 5th
Community Farmers Market 9am-1pm
Marion Christmas Parade 4:30pm
Sponsored by the Marion Chamber of Commerce

Sunday, December 6th
Marion Pilot Club Soup Supper, Bake Sale & Silent Auction
5-7pm Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
Annual City Tree Lighting Celebration 6pm
Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park 7pm

Saturday, December 12th
Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes 2-6pm
Sponsored by Marion Chamber of Commerce & the Pilot Club of Marion

Thursday, December 17th:
Downtown Marion Merchants' Extended Shopping Hours
6-8pm Downtown Marion

You don't want to miss these events!

*call the Chamber office for information/details 843-423-3561

Christmas Food Baskets

Holiday Food Boxes

For the sixth year, Marion City Council members and Mayor Bobby L Davis will be seeking donations for funds 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 to help families enjoyed all the trimmings and fixings for a Christmas meal. Each pre-packed box costs \$40. 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 14. 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.

Don't forget Daylight Savings Ends November 1st. Set your CLOCK back.

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

Marion County Museum BBQ and Bluegrass, Friday, November 6th 6:00-9:00 PM
Join us for an evening of Good Ole Family Fun. Enjoy a plate of BBQ while listening to the Down-Home Bluegrass sounds of The Morris Brothers Bluegrass Band on the grounds of the Marion County Museum. Plates only \$15. Call the museum for tickets 843-423-8299 or more information.

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

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
- 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
- Dewayne Tennie, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith, Captain (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

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Nancy Demery of 221 West Bond Street has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for October 2015. 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. Demery will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

Sensitivity Training

On September 29 and October 1, 2015 Officers from the Marion Police Department were invited to attend a Cultural Professionalism seminar, which was hosted by the SC Dept. of Public Safety, in Florence, SC. Lt G.M. Caulder and Sgt J.A. Segars of the SC Highway Patrol were the speakers and covered topics such as public perception, professionalism, and interacting with the public. The purpose of the seminar was to assist officers with "bridging the gap" between themselves and the public due to the recent rash of events around the nation that portrays Law Enforcement in a negative light. At times, Officers can appear to be insensitive, as well as overly aggressive, while performing their duties. Mayor Davis, along with Chief Dewayne Tennie, felt that this type of training would be beneficial to the officers of the Marion Police Dept. in assisting them with dealing stressful situations, as well as how the officer could be perceived by the public. After the class, many officers felt that the seminar was beneficial and that they would apply what they learned when dealing with the public. Chief Dewayne Tennie says this one step closer to bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community and we are working hard to let the community know that we are their friends, not the enemy.

M.A.G.N.I.F.Y Breast Cancer support Group trip to New Orleans

M.A.G.N.I.F.Y Breast Cancer support Group is planning a bus trip to New Orleans set for November 5-8. The trip includes hotel lodging for three nights in downtown. For more information call Novella Davis at (854) 617-9850.

Robert G. Taylor city's employee of the Month



The City of Marion selected Robert Taylor as the September 2015 Employee of the Month. Taylor, or better known as "Chili" to his fellow employees, has been working in the Street Department since 2004. He was previously employed with the City of Marion from 1993 to 2002.

According to his supervisor, Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders, Chili is "a hard worker and a great asset to our department." Chili 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 the Christmas season. "He never complains, and is always willing to take on any additional tasks that I assign to him", added Sanders.

The Mayor and Council recognized Robert Taylor for his positive attitude and significant contributions to the City of Marion during the October 13th City Council Meeting.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Each month the Mayor recognizes someone in the community for going above and beyond in helping keep Marion beautiful. You can help us recognize those deserving residents by giving us their contact information and how they are contributing. Please call Pam Jones at City Hall 843-423-5961 with your recommendations. An individual or group is chosen each month for

The Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award

And recognized at the City Council Meeting.

Thank you!

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.



Community Farmers Market located at 109 Bobby Gerald Parkway (The Old Thomas & Howard Building) is open every Saturday starting the first Saturday in October from 10:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m.. We have a farmer that can accept the Senior Citizen Vouchers and WIC Vouchers. We welcome anyone interested in setting up a booth for handcrafted items or locally grown produce to contact Nicole Brown at 843-610-6246.

Each month there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting, sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. Call Janine Jordan at (843) 289-5054 or email artcouncilji@att.net for information.

Wednesday, November 3rd.... 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at B & S Creations and Consignment, 326 North Main Street.

Friday, November 6th..... 3:30 p.m. recognize our Veterans, at the Veteran's Memorial Triangle (located on South Main Street and West Liberty Street)

Friday, November 6th..... 6:00 p.m. – until. Bring your lawn chair and stay awhile! BBQ and Bluegrass produced by the Marion County Museum (MCM). HMRA and the MCM are teaming up to bring you this event. BBQ plates...\$15 each. HMRA Beverage Garden on site too. Location: **Marion County Museum**. Music provided by **the Morris Brothers Bluegrass Band**.

Saturday, November 7th ...10:00 am - 2:00 pm. **Marion County 2015 Fire-fighter Expo** at the Marion - Dillon County Fairgrounds, Open to the public. Firetruck Displays, Firefighter Competition, Games, Food and Fun. Come support your local fire departments.

Saturday, November 7th..... 11:00 a.m. Veterans Day Parade and Celebration, Downtown Mullins.

Tuesday, November 10th..... 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

Wednesday, November 11th...City and County Offices Closed, Veterans Day.

Thursday, November 12th..... 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Historic Downtown Marion Holiday Open House.

Thursday, November 12th..... 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Snowball Drop. **Marion County Courthouse**. Catch as many snowballs and see what specials you can take advantage of from our downtown businesses as you start or finish a chance to WIN THE WINDOW, a Santa-sack full of gifts supplied by our downtown businesses.

Thursday & Friday, November 26th & 27th Thanksgiving. City and County offices will be closed.

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.



Fire Prevention 2015

Daycare children paid a visit to the City of Marion Fire Station to learn about fire safety in a special presentation for Fire Prevention Week. Captain Jackie Yates spoke to the group with the help of a puppet show on October 7, 2015.

The City of Marion Fire Department hosted more than 100 children for a Fire Prevention Week program, featuring a puppet show. The crew kicked things off with a special presentation at the fire station inviting and transporting local daycare providers. More than 100 children were treated to snacks and a puppet show. Firefighters traveled to several school to help educate the youth. Due to inclement weather the schools were closed for several days and the firefighters were not able to visit all schools on their list.

Captain Jackie Yates said the education through characterization program is part of the National Fire Prevention Week activities. Established by the Nation Fire Protection Association the first full week in October, Fire Prevention Week is held across the nation.

"It gives local fire departments the opportunity to bring kids into the station or go out to the local schools and teach the kids about fire safety," he said. "Not only to we target kids, we're trying to teach adults as well."

"Because they see adults use it all the time they don't know that they can't do that or control it," Yates said. "This is a good opportunity to reach them because kids will listen to puppets sing those songs because kids learn through songs. These traditions are very effective."

Yates said the department has showcased the puppet show for more than a decade. "It's called the City of Marion puppet show and our slogan is saving lives through education," Yates said. "I have kids that come up to me in high school now that remember me with the puppets and we know if they can remember I came to the school with the puppets then they remember the message." The department also paid a visit to Easterling Elementary School in Marion.

Marion Neighborhood Watch-A Team WE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS KEEPERS

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

Over the last few months I have written about the various activities of A Team of Marion Neighborhood Watch. This month I thought I would concentrate on what a regular monthly meeting is like. We cover safety tips and concerns of the neighborhood. The meetings are attended by Chief Tennie and Captain Barr. They are open to our concerns and ideas about improving the safety of our neighborhood and thus the city as a whole. They update us on the crimes they are seeing in the city and share pointers on what we can do as citizens. They see our feedback and input as a valuable tools to aid their efforts. They recognize as we do, that having a safe city takes a partnership between citizens and law enforcement. We often have guest speakers who cover topics of interest pertaining to safety. We have also been fortunate to have Jerry Williams, Director of EMS, attend most of our meetings for the past year. He is about to start a CERT class for Marion County. During the last week, with the devastation in surrounding communities, I'm sure you saw people on the news serving as CERT volunteers. Mr. Williams has shared information about the upcoming training and the many benefits of having such volunteers in our community. We try to keep the formal part of our meetings to an hour, so you can see it does not take a huge investment of your time. We end our meetings by taking a few minutes to share refreshments and fellowship. Please, come check us out. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the firehouse on E Bond St. We are our neighbor's keepers and we need everyone to participate in keeping the Swamp Fox City a wonderful and safe place to live!

.....**GOING ON IN MARION**.....

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.

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.

Looking for the right place to hold your next event?

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 423-5410 for availability.

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.

Basketball sign ups at Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium


Registration has begun at the Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium for 2015 Basketball Season and will close on Friday, December 4th. Parents and guardians may register children from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fees are \$21 for city residents with proof of residency and \$35 for out of city residents. Ages are 4-17 years old. Registration requires a copy of the child's birth certificate. PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHILD'S AGE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1st WILL BE THEIR PLAYING AGE.

Anyone interested in coaching or officiating in should contact the Recreation Department at 423-5410.

Join the Arts Council of Marion County

THE ART OF A STORY

An Open Mic Storytelling Show & Dinner



Tuesday, November 17th
7:00 pm
City Food & Spirits
1106 E. Godbold St. - Marion, SC

Tickets - \$20
Includes Dinner & Drinks
Reservations contact 843.289.5054
or email artcounciljj@att.net

*Everyone has a story to tell -
Come share yours!*

SAVE THE DATE



2015 Christmas Tour of Homes
Sponsored by:
Marion Chamber of Commerce
And
Pilot Club of Marion
Saturday, December 12th
2pm-6pm

**Marion Chamber of Commerce
2015 Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 5, 2015**
Line up begins at 3:30pm and the parade starts promptly at 4:30 PM

The form must be completed in its entirety, and the appropriate fees must be returned by December 2, 2015 at noon. No late entries will be accepted.

Decorated Commercial Floats are available to be rented for a fee of \$380. We have 4 available. This includes signage, transport vehicle and driver. These are on a first come/first serve basis. Photos are available in the Chamber office. Please call 423-3561 to reserve your float.

There is no fee for elected officials, School bands, queens, or marching units, Fire Departments or Municipal rescue units. Entry fee for all other units is \$10 and are subject to the criteria under the Rules and Regulation form.

Deadline to enter: November 25, 2015 for Commercial Float rental

All other entries Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 12:00 noon.
Mail all entries along with your entry fee check if applicable made payable to the Marion Chamber of Commerce to:

**Marion Chamber of Commerce
2015 Christmas Parade
P.O. Box 35
Marion, South Carolina 29571**

Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the Law Firm of Brad C. Richardson on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Located at 208 West Dozier Street, Mr. Richardson will be serving the citizens of Marion County. Mr. Richardson spent the better part of a decade and a half serving as a lead prosecutor and Senior Assistant Solicitor for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Marion Chamber President, T. Carroll Atkinson III and Mayor Bobby L. Davis along with other friends and family members welcomed this new business to our community. Mr. Richardson can be reached at 843-421-7483. *Photo Courtesy Marion Chamber of Commerce*