

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 7, Issue 6

November 2017



REMEMBERING OUR VETERAN'S

"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*

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.

Please join the City of Marion as we honor our Veterans on Thursday, November 9th, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. at the Veteran's Memorial Triangle (located on S. Main Street at West Liberty Street).

We invite all citizens to come out and show their appreciation to our Veterans for their loyal and faithful service, and their many sacrifices to protect our freedom.

Visit Historic Marion, SC

Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes will feature Bazaar & Luncheon.

Saturday, December 9, 2017
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Ticket for Home Tour -\$20
Luncheon - \$8 (12noon-2:00 p.m.)
Bazaar – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

For information call 843-423-3561.

City of Marion 28th Annual
Holiday Prelude &
Community Tree Lighting Celebration

Saturday, December 2nd
HMRA Prelude to Christmas 9am-1pm
Marion Christmas Parade 4:30pm
Sponsored by the Marion Chamber of Commerce

Sunday, December 3rd
Annual City Tree Lighting Celebration 6pm
Marion County Courthouse
Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park 7pm

Saturday, December 9th
Pilot Club of Marion Bazaar 10am
Marion County Museum
Luncheon 12pm
Sponsored by Marion County Museum
Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes 3-6pm
Sponsored by Marion Chamber of Commerce
& the Pilot Club of Marion

**Thursday, December 14th
& Tuesday, December 19th:**
Downtown Marion Merchants'
Extended Shopping Hours
6-8pm Downtown Marion

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

Marion Arbor Day Celebration

The 2017 Arbor Day Celebration will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 30th. The celebration is sponsored by the Marion Azalea Garden Club and the City of Marion and will be held at the Marion Hike and Bike Trail. Ms. Lois Edwards of the SC Forestry Commission will speak about the importance of Marion's status as a Tree City USA and our Annual Celebration of Arbor Day. Please add this important event to your calendar. We hope to see you there!



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Marion Police Department recognized the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness month. Mayor Ashley Brady, City Administrator Alan Ammons along with a few of the many survivors are pictured with the officers. They will be displaying pink ribbons on their patrol vehicles in recognitions of Breast Cancer Awareness.

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Christmas Food Baskets



For the eighth year, Marion City Council members and Mayor Ashley Brady will be seeking donations for 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 enjoy 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 during the week of December 18th. 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.

Thank you for all your support!

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) 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 Gray, Personnel / Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Kimberly Elliott, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dewayne Tennie, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith, Captain (843) 423-8616
- Tony Flowers, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Marilyn Rogers, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Jackie Yates, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616, Ext. 305
- Almeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Judy's Flowers of 225 N. Main Street has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for October 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. Judy's Flowers is a beautiful asset to our Main Street. Judy's will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

National Recovery Month

The City of Marion celebrated National Recovery Month at the City Fountain on Monday September 25, 2017. The purpose of National Recovery Month is to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance abuse disorders and encourage individuals in need of treatment and recovery services to seek help. It is a time to celebrate those in long-term recovery and recognize the dedicated workers who provide prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

The official color of National Recovery Month is purple. The City of Marion turned the fountain water purple and Trinity Behavioral Care released purple balloons as a reminder that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover in Marion County and around the nation.

Special thanks to Mayor Ashley Brady who gave the welcome and read the City's proclamation. He also shared encouragement from personal experience. Also in attendance were City Administrator Alan Ammons and City staff, Marion Baptist Youth Pastor Adam Work, Sharee Fortune (the Voice of Recovery), Police Chief Tennie and City officers, Fire Chief Cooper and Marion firefighters, Councilmembers Tassie Lewis and Ronald Atkinson, Superintendent Kandace Bethea and MCSD staff, and representatives from Trinity Behavioral Care.

To learn a little more about the significance of National Recovery Month and the services that Trinity Behavioral Care provides to Marion County residents, please contact Trinity Behavioral Care at 843-423-8292.

Photos are on the City Facebook page. www.marionsc.gov

Robbie Johnson say good-bye



The City of Marion congratulates longtime Recreation Department employee Robbie Johnson on his recent retirement. Robbie was a student when he was first hired by the City in

1979. He became a full-time employee with the Recreation Department in 1988. Robbie directed programs at Grice's Recreation Center for many years and worked as the custodian for our many recreation facilities and buildings. He served the children and citizens of Marion for over 38 years and retired on September 22, 2017.

"Robbie Johnson was a great employee and asset to the Marion Recreation Department," said City Administrator Alan Ammons, adding that Robbie was always courteous and helpful to others.

Congratulations Robbie Johnson! We appreciate your years of service and wish you the best in your retirement!

Community Gathering Rosewood Housing Complex

Executive Director Anne Burroughs of the Marion Housing Authority hosted a Community Outreach Gathering on September 29, 2017 in the Rosewood Housing Complex. Mrs. Burroughs opened the invitation to the residents of the housing complex, City of Marion officials, Marion Police Department and Marion Fire Department. The goal of this gathering was to help the housing authority residents become more acquainted with the police and fire departments in the community. The gathering was very well attended. Mayor Ashley Brady, City Administrator Alan Ammons, and Council Members Tassie Lewis, Joseph Frazier and Michael Baker were all in attendance. Also in attendance were Police Chief Dewayne Tennie and Assistant Fire Chief Jackie Yates, along with other police officers and firefighters.

FYI: Protect Your Property

It is important as vehicle owners that you do your part to reduce the chances of being a crime victim. This could mean the difference between the suspect breaking into your car or moving on. Lock your car doors and keep the windows up. There is no way to prevent all crime, but this could help reduce it.

Lend a Helping Hand

Citizens of the City of Marion: Let's all work together and help each other. If you see where there is debris around or near the catch basins near your house, please help the city out by cleaning it. Also, clean the surrounding curb area, because any litter, leaves, or grass on the street or sidewalk can end up in the catch basin. To report issues involving storm drains, please contact City Hall at (843) 423-5961.

Safety Checkpoints

The City of Marion Police Department will be conducting DUI Sobriety and Traffic Safety checkpoints within the city limits of Marion throughout the month of November and December. All checkpoints will be conducted at various locations within the city limits of Marion.



Each month there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting, sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. Call Randy Floyd (843) 992-1627 or email floydrandy@hotmail.com for information.

Wednesday, November 1st.... 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Performing Arts and Science Academy.

Thursday, November 9th..... 3:00 p.m. Recognize our Veterans, at the Veteran's Memorial Triangle (located on South Main Street and West Liberty Street).

Friday, November 10th...City and County Offices Closed, Veterans Day Observance.

Saturday, November 11th..... 11:00 a.m. Veterans Day Parade and Celebration, Downtown Mullins. Program will follow at Mullins High School featuring guest speaker and Marion County Councilman Lt. Col (Ret) Milton Troy II. For more information call (843) 423-8255.

Tuesday, November 14th..... 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

Wednesday, November 22nd..... 7:00 p.m.— 10:00 p.m. 2nd Annual Music Festival. Main Street Commons, Marion SC. \$5 admission. Featuring; **Eaglewing**.

Thursday & Friday, November 23rd & 24th Thanksgiving. City and County offices will be closed.

Thursday, November 30th 10:00 a.m. 2017 Arbor Day Celebration. Marion Hike Bike Trail.

Fire Prevention Week

This year Slogan was "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 ways Out!"

On October 10, 2017, the City of Marion Fire Department celebrated Fire Prevention Week. The crew kicked things off with a special presentation at the fire station, inviting and transporting more than 200 children from local daycares. Assistant Chief Jackie Yates spoke to the children about the importance of fire prevention. The children were treated to snacks and enjoyed a fun and educating puppet show. Firefighters also traveled to several schools to help educate the youth.

Assistant Chief 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 do we target kids, we're trying to teach adults as well."

"Because they see adults using fire all the time, children 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 remember I came to the school with the puppets, then they remember the message."

The department also paid a visit to Easterling Elementary, Marion Intermediate and Springville Head Start in Marion.

Photos are on the City Facebook page. www.marionsc.gov

HMRA is current in the process of a fundraiser. Stop by the HMRA office to browse their collection of art prints, past Christmas ornaments, notecards, and flags for sale. Proceeds from these sales will be put towards purchasing seasonal banners for Main Street. Located at 103 E. Dozier Street. Monday - Friday 9:30-2:30.

Randy Brown Selects as Employee of the Month



It's with great pleasure that the City of Marion announces Building Maintenance Supervisor Randy Brown as its September 2017 Employee of the Month.

Randy began working for the City of Marion in April 2016 and is responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the City's many buildings and facilities.

"The quality of Randy's work is exceptional. He has a strong work ethic and is always looking for ways to save the City money on our repairs", said City Administrator Alan Ammons.

Randy is a lifelong resident of Marion County. He and his wife, Jeanne, live in Rains. They have five children and three grandchildren.

The Mayor and Council recognized Randy Brown for his positive impact and significant contributions to the City of Marion at the October 10th Council Meeting.

A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

"We Are Our Neighbors' Keepers"

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

Happy Fall from A-Team. Our daylight hours will be shorter so please look out for kids and other pedestrians as you move through our neighborhood. As always please obey the speed limit. September 28th was National Good Neighbor Day. We chose Lynn and Greg Corson as our Neighbors of Year. During Hurricane Matthew they worked tirelessly helping neighbors. The Corsons are always supportive of our activities and overall mission. I certainly appreciate their help with National Night Out each August. They also are on Marion County's CERT team. In addition to all this, Greg serves as A-Team's vice-chairman. Thank you Lynn and Greg for all you do for us!

I hope most of you know October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This topic may seem completely unrelated to Neighborhood Watch but "Neighbor" is the most important part of our group. Our concern is not only a safer neighborhood, but an enhanced quality of life for residents. At our October meeting I made the same plea to our members as I am now making to you all. Ladies, please get your mammograms and do your self-exams. Men, remember you can also get this disease. As a survivor, I was very touched that our Police Department went pink on October 12th. The department's cars are sporting pink "Find the Cure" ribbons.

You will also notice a large pink ribbon displayed in front of the department. That ribbon and others around town were made by Teddy White. Many thanks to him for his hard work. Additionally I want to thank my Mother, Miona Blount, for donating the ribbon to the Police Department. As a survivor, I know the support I feel when I see these displays.

On a very personal note let me say no one survives this disease without the support of others. People I didn't even know reached out to me. My family fought the battle with me and I could not have done it without them. So a big thanks to John David, D'anna, Mama, Jerry and Alyce. I love you all. And a special thanks to the little girl that makes it all worthwhile, Savannah! She is my heartbeat and the reason I keep going each day. I want to teach her to care for others and always try to make things better.

A-Team meets the first Monday of each month @ the Firehouse on E Bond St. Meetings start at 6:30 PM. The public is always welcome. For more information I can be reached @ 843-433-0941.

Life is full of give and take. Give thanks and take nothing for granted. May you and your family be blessed on Thanksgiving and throughout the rest of the year!

Mayor Ashley Brady, Marion City Council along with City Administrator Alan Ammons, to our employees and Citizens of Marion, please have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving!

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

Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed at Watsonia 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.

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.

Recreation Event

The Marion Recreation Football and Soccer teams will be participating in the District Tournament for the possibility to play for STATE.

All Soccer games will be played on November 18, 2017 at Sumter County Recreation 380 General Drive, Sumter SC 29150. All Football games will be played at Freedom Florence dates and times will vary. Call Marion Recreation Department or check out our Facebook under Marion Recreation Department for time and place.

Here is our admissions fee schedule:
Season Pass: \$5.00 (inclusive for Basketball)
Adult: \$2.00
Kids (6-12): **FREE**

**Marion Chamber of Commerce
2017 Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 2, 2017
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 November 27, 2017 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 16, 2017 for Commercial Float rental

All other entries Monday, November 27, 2017, 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
2017 Christmas Parade
P.O. Box 35
Marion, South Carolina 29571**

For more information please contact the Chamber office 843-423-3561.

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.

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 - It also has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

SAVE THE DATE
2017 Historic Marion Christmas Tour of Homes
to include
Pilot Club of Marion Bazaar & Museum Luncheon
Sponsored by:
Marion Chamber of Commerce
and
Pilot Club of Marion
Saturday, December 9, 2017

Strengthen our Social Network

Trinity Behavioral Care requests your support to reach as many people as we can by helping us strengthen our social network presence. As you know the opiate epidemic is hitting this area hard, in fact one of the counties we serve is ranked the second highest opiate affected in South Carolina. Feel free share our request with as many local folks as you like.

Please friend us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/trinitybehavioralcare/> Or follow @caretrinity on Twitter.

We continue to update our information on our website which can be found at <https://www.trinitybehavioralcare.org/> or chooseabetterlife.org.

Thank you in advance for joining us as we advocate for healthier communities by preventing/reducing the impact of alcohol and other drug abuse/addiction in Marion, Dillon, and Marlboro counties. We want to continue to help others "choose a better life".