

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 9

February 2018

9th Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook off

HMRA is excited the about the 9th Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook Off. The Chili Cook Off festivities will begin at 2:00 p.m. Cornhole Tournament entry fee is \$40 per team. Grab a friend and try your hand at winning \$500, \$200, or \$100 dollars. At 3:00 p.m. Chili Cookers will be ready to serve up their masterpieces at a chance to win \$1,000, \$500, or \$250 dollars. Do you think you have what it takes? Is your chili up for the challenge? Do you have a few friends that you would like to gather together and perfect a recipe to join in the fun with? Call the office (843) 423-9918 or register **FOR FREE** online at <http://www.the-swampfox.org/chili-cook-off-rules>.

**9th Annual HMRA
CHILI COOK-OFF
&
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**

FEB. 24, 2018
Main Street, Marion SC
Cornhole 2:00 pm
Chili Cook Off 3:00 pm
Band 5:00 pm

Chili Prize	Cornhole Prize
1st \$1,000	1st \$500
2nd \$500	2nd \$200
3rd \$250	3rd \$100

Want to enter
as a cooker?
Cornhole player?

**CONTACT US AT
843.423.9918**

Visit www.the-swampfox.org for more information

PosterMyWall.com

There will be entertainment for the entire family. Music during the cornhole and cook off, as well as a band at the Main Street Commons from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Bring the kids, plenty of activities for them to enjoy as well. Food vendors coming to town include food options as diverse as loaded tater tots, deep fried candy bars, cakes

& cookies, caramel apples with even more in the works. Would your nonprofit group like to earn **50% profit** by selling tickets to the Chili Cook Off? Contact the office (843) 423-9918 or email us at hmra@theswampfox.org.

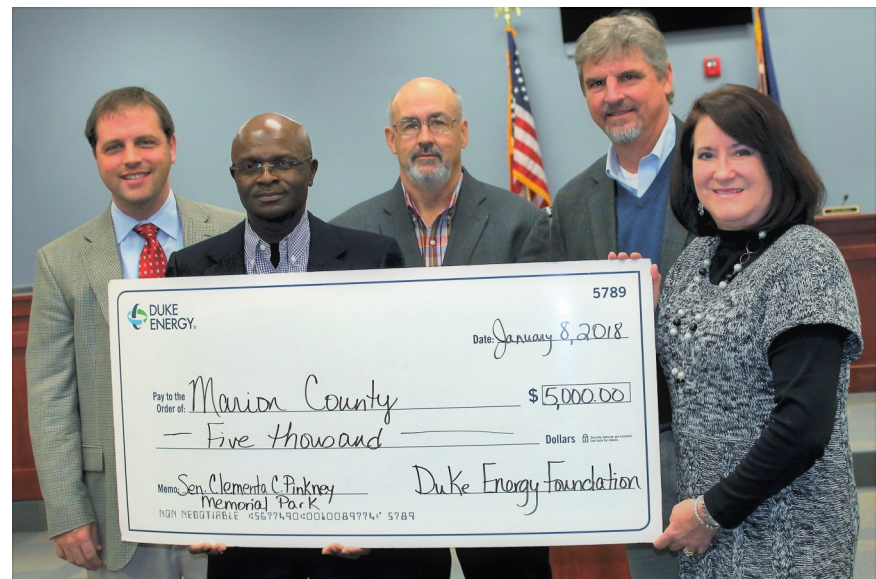
HISTORIC MARION 8th RUNFEST

The RunFest will again have its 5k Run/Walk and Tot Trot races through our Historic District and numerous residential areas on February 24, 2018. Events: 9:00 a.m. 5k Run/Walk and Tot Trot, 10:15 am. For details, see our website at www.rmssports.com/run.html

Please register for the RunFest online at www.rmssports.com/run.html or pickup your application at City Hall.

After the awards ceremonies head over to the Public Square on Main Street for the Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off!

Duke Energy Donate to Senator Clementa Pinckney Park



Senator Kent Williams, Representative Lucas Atkinson and Representative Roger Kirby met on Monday, January 8, 2018 at the Marion County Delegation office, located at 2523 East Highway 76, Marion, SC to accept a donation from Mindy Taylor, District Manager, Government & Community Relations at Duke Energy. The funds are for the development of the Senator Clementa C. Pinckney Memorial Park which is estimated to break ground in the early spring of 2018. The park will be nestled near the Marion County Museum and will include a walking trail and reflecting area for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Senator Kent Williams, Marion County Delegation Chairman stated that "The Honorable Clementa Pinckney was a native son of Marion. The development of this park will compliment the planned, permanent exhibit in honor and remembrance of my cousin, colleague and friend, Reverend Clementa Pinckney housed in Marion County Museum, which will adjoin the park. Duke Energy and their support for projects in Marion County is appreciated."

Representative Roger Kirby stated that "Duke Energy remains one of our area's most benevolent corporate partners. This generous gift from the Duke Energy Foundation will help in the creation of this tangible memorial park in honor of Senator Pinkney. His exemplary life and historic legacy are so important to Marion County and to the Great State of South Carolina."

Representative Lucas Atkinson stated that "Thanks to Duke Energy for their generous contribution and their continued support for the community. Senator Clementa Pinckney Park will be well appreciated in Marion County and his service will always be remembered."



Teddy Bear Adoption Event

On February 15th, the Marion Library will be having the Teddy Bear Adoption Event from 4:00 - 5:00 PM. Children of all ages are invited to the Marion Library to help with the homeless teddy bear population of Marion. Participants will be able to meet, learn about, and adopt some furry, stuffed, forever friends.

Martin Luther King Jr., Celebration

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Marion and Marion County at large, Mayor Ashley Brady and the City Council of Marion, thank Bishop Michael A. Blue, participating Clergy, Pastor Malinda Blue and the host church, Door of Hope Christian Church for sponsoring the Martin Luther King Jr. Day program. This year's event was epic and we look forward for your presence next year.



Good Morning... Richardson Funeral Homes

Submitted by Stephanie Indergaard

Jerry Richardson opened the original location of Richardson Funeral Home on Main Street, Marion in 1971 at the age of 24. The funeral home moved to its current location on Senator Gasque Road in 1974. Jerry and his son, Jason, are both licensed in funeral directing and embalming and manage the current operation which employs eight people. Jason and his siblings grew up beside the funeral home and had odd jobs around the business such as cutting grass, setting up tents, and answering the phones, but when it came time to choose a career they all went off to college to become something other than a "mortician".



Jason was halfway through his first semester of law school before deciding law was not for him and returning home to work in the family business with his father. Jerry and Jason both enjoy interacting with the public and feel this is their calling. In fact, this family owned, family centered business prides itself in being there for you during a difficult time so much that they do not employ an answering service. Their telephone is answered by either Jason, Jerry or someone directly employed by the business 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They believe this service sets them apart from others and take pride in knowing they can provide grieving families with a familiar voice and a sense of comfort in a difficult time. When asked what advice they offer from their experience, they encourage people to plan in advance when possible. They note that many people pre-plan their own services which removes some of the stress and concerns from remaining family members during a time of grieving. Richardson Funeral Home can be contacted by telephone at [843-423-5100](tel:843-423-5100), by email Richardsonfuneralhome@yahoo.com, or stop by and see them at 1936 Senator Gasque Road in Marion.

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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.



February 6th
5:00 p.m. **Public Hearing.** City Hall in Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting is to give

the public an opportunity to become acquainted with a proposed Rural Development project consisting generally of the purchase of a Grapple Truck to be used for debris collection and removal.

February 7th
Rise and Shine: TBA

February 13th
6:30 p.m. **City Council Meeting,** Council Chambers

February 15th
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. **Marion Library,** Teddy Bear Adoption Event.

February 24th
9:00 a.m. **The 8th Annual Historic Marion Run-fest,** (Marion Fire Department) 100 W. Bond St, Marion. 5k Run/Walk and Tot Trot. For details, see our website at www.rmssports.com/run.html

February 24th
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Main Street Commons – Cornhole Tournament.** For details contact Stephanie Indergaard, at (843) 423-9918 or hmra@theswamptox.org.

February 24th
3:00 p.m. **Main Street Commons – 9th Annual Chili Cook off .** Chili Cookers will be ready to serve up their masterpieces. For details contact Stephanie Indergaard, at (843) 423-9918 or hmra@theswamptox.org

February 24th
2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Main Street Commons – Music, food vendors and activities for the kids.**

February 27th
1:00 p.m. **Francis Marion Memorial Day Wreath-laying,** General Francis Marion statue on Main Street. Inclement weather would move this into the C.D. Joyner Arts Center on Elizabeth Street.

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
- Kim 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) 464-8602
- Heather Evans,** Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins,** Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Brantley is city's employee of the Month



Officer Jonathan Brantley was selected as the December 2017 Employee of the Month. Officer Brantley has been employed with the City of Marion Police Department since November 2015 and graduated from the SC Criminal Justice Academy in February 2016. Brantley's hard work and dedication is very much appreciated. He is truly an asset to the Marion Police

Department and our community. Jonathan and his wife Shenequa lives in Rains.

Mayor Ashley Brady and Council recognized Officer Brantley for his service and dedication to the City of Marion at the January 9th Council Meeting.

JOIN TRINITY BEHAVIORAL CARE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST OPIOID MISUSE



South Carolina has been hit hard by the opioid epidemic facing our nation. According to the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), five million opioid prescriptions are filled each year in South Carolina.

That is more than one prescription per person in the state. Marion County is not exempt from this epidemic. In fact, it is one of the counties most affected. Currently, Marion County is in the top tier of counties in South Carolina experiencing opiate abuse and overdose deaths per capita. The problem is real, but the team at Trinity Behavioral Care has made immense strides in trying to prevent and reduce the impact of substance abuse and addiction in Marion County on the quality of life through the implementation of effective, efficient, meaningful, quality, primary Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment services.

In regards to Trinity's efforts to combat the opioid epidemic, they have implemented an opiate treatment program that was recently recognized by the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) as a best practice model for rural communities and provided a \$130K expansion grant. In addition, the Prevention Department at Trinity continues to educate the community on how the opioid epidemic is affecting the county and ways to help reduce the problem. To assist in this effort, DAODAS just released a statewide media campaign called "Just Plain Killers" (www.justplainkillers.com) that seeks to disseminate information about opioid misuse across South Carolina.

Trinity Behavioral Care is asking for the citizens of Marion County to join in the fight against opioid misuse. One way to do that is to properly dispose of your old and unused prescription drugs. According to DAODAS, more than 70% of those abusing opioids admit to taking them from a friend or loved one who had a prescription. Therefore, it is imperative that we take appropriate action in preventing this. Here are several ways that you can dispose of your old and unused prescription drugs:

***DROP THEM:** You can take your old and unused medications to the Prescription Drug Drop Box located inside the Marion County Law Enforcement Center / Sheriff's Department at 2715 East Highway 76 in Mullins (near Walmart).

***TOSS THEM:** Mix (don't crush) your old and unused medications with cat litter or used coffee grounds. Put this mixture into a sealed container, such as a plastic bag or a coffee can, and throw it away. Not all medications can be disposed of using this method. To see if this method is appropriate, call the FDA at their toll-free number: (855)-543-3784.

*If you get your prescription drugs from the Walmart Pharmacy, they will give you drug deactivation bags to properly dispose of old and unused medications. Instructions for disposal are on the bag.

For more information on how to become educated about the addictive nature of opioids and how to seek treatment for yourself or someone you know, contact Trinity Behavioral Care at 843-423-8292 or check them out on Facebook and Twitter. You can also visit their website at www.chooseabetterlife.org.

Marion Chamber Book Project

The Marion Chamber of Commerce will be continuing their Book Project this year which is to give all Marion County 3rd grade students and Pee Dee Academy a copy of "Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox" by Kate Salley Palmer for their personal library. The Chamber feel this project will have a two-fold impact-impressing the importance of reading and also to give our county's young people a chance to see just how important our county was in the history of our nation.

Over the last six years we have placed over 2500 books in the hands of every third grader in Marion County. We estimate the number of third graders for this school year will be approximately the same. A contribution of \$100 will help us place 10 books or any amount you feel you could give. The books will be delivered in February. A book plate inside each book will identify the sponsors of this project. We hope that you will consider being a part of this program. Your support and assistance will be appreciated. For important on how to donation please contact Cindy Rogers at the Marion Chamber of Commerce, 843-423-3561.

Marion's 1st Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival

Leprechaun Leap is Marion's first annual St. Patrick's Day Festival! The event will kick-off with a pre-race warm up with Jessica Herrington of Jess Fit, before the 15K run throughout the beautiful City of Marion. The 15K event, which will be timed by RMS Sports, may be performed individual or as a 3-person relay. Run participants are encouraged to dress in green or in their favorite St. Patrick's Day attire Awards will be presented to the overall winners in each age group of individuals competing in the 15k and to the top 3-person relay team. This is event will be March 10th from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at 800 N. Withlacoochee, Marion SC.

Following the run, the City of Marion will host a St. Patrick's Day themed golf-cart parade with a prize awarded to the best decorated St. Patrick's Day Cart.

A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

"We Are Our Neighbors' Keepers"

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

As one year ends and another begins, I have been reflecting on my year personally and also as chairperson of A-Team. It is not always easy to lead a group of such diverse people. We focus on what we have in common, not our differences. We strive to treat each other with respect and dignity. We have a unity of purpose. What unites us is our desire to live in a safe neighborhood where the quality of life is enhanced for our families and neighbors. The holidays are a busy time. It is easy to become overwhelmed. I have found myself questioning why I have undertaken this job as A-Team's leader. Through reflection, I have found the answer. I do this because I love my hometown and my neighborhood. I have lived in a four block radius my entire 58 years except for the 16 years I lived out of state. Leading A-Team is not a thankless task. Over the last month signs have gone up on Woodland Dr. and all the residents have received letters about dumping in the grassy area between the divided streets. Those concerns found their voice at our meetings. We have affected change. This may seem a strange concern for neighborhood watch. It is not. Research shows there is a direct link between pride in your neighborhood and crime rates. That is why we call ourselves Neighborhood Watch not Crime Watch. The greatest gift I receive from A-Team is the opportunity to really know my neighbors. Because of A-Team my life is enriched by people like Tyrone and Daisy Collins. While Tyrone battled cancer, he set a wonderful example of commitment to our common purpose. His support of our efforts and me personally never wavered. During his cancer battle, he found the strength to attend most all meetings and events. Tyrone was a gracious, soft-spoken man devoted to his family and friends. Unfortunately, we lost Tyrone over Christmas. I feel honored to have called him my friend. All of A-Team send our condolences to Mrs. Daisy and all of the Collins Family. We are glad his pain has ended, but he will be missed. A-team meetings and events will never be the same. So my reasons for being involved with A-Team are really about love. Love for Marion and love for its people. A-Team has seen me through my journey with breast cancer. They have been a valuable part of my support system just like my family. No one journeys through cancer alone. As important as the doctors and medicine, are the support a person receives from their family and friends. I have been so fortunate to have my son and daughter-in-law and little Savannah. They walked every step with me along with my parents and sister. A-Team was there too. They gave me purpose and something to focus on other than myself. As 2017 ends and 2018 begins, I am feeling grateful and blessed. Grateful and blessed to be part of my family, my neighborhood and my town. Take time to count your blessings. After three years, I have come to count even my cancer journey as a blessing. A-Team wishes you all a Happy 2018.

.....**HAPPENING IN MARION**

Basketball Jamboree 2018

On Saturday, January 6, 2018, the Marion Recreation hosted our Basketball Jamboree for the 2018 season. Represented in the event were 21 teams. These teams were composed of a total of 218 children. Because of our large turnout of teams for the Marion Recreation, all teams playing in the Jamboree were our very own Marion teams. We were also graced by the presence of Mayor Ashely Brady and Lucas Atkinson, House Representative District 57.

Excitement from the community seemed to be at an all-time high. People were thrilled to see a basketball jamboree again.

I want to thank each and every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, and guardian that came out to support these young children. I also want to give a huge shout out, because the basketball program would not be possible without the coach volunteers. And most of all, I want to thank all of the children who are participating in the Marion Recreation.

See photos on city Facebook page.

Opening Day Ceremonies for Baseball and Softball have been set!!!

Marion Recreation Department is planning to have Opening Day Ceremonies for spring sports on Saturday, March 24th at Green Street Park. Times are still to be announced. Everyone please mark your calendars to come out and enjoy friends, families, food and some ball and don't forget to show your support for the players and coaches.



For more information, call Kim Elliott (843) 423-5410 or find them on Marion Recreation Department Face Book.

Keep Calm and Let the Games Begin.

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!**

City Rentals

We are starting a **NEW YEAR**, which means the NEW rental calendar is accepting reservations for Grice's, Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium and Watsonia Recreation facilities. These facilities hold up to 150 people are equipped with warming kitchens, heating/air and restrooms. Also, Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter located on **Green Street** for those looking for an outside event. Make sure that you get your event booked as soon as possible. So to reserved your date for that special occasion give us a call at (843) 423-5410

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.

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.

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.



Marion County Sheriff's Office

First Annual MS Walk

honoring Captain Judith Barker

Saturday, March 3, 2018

8:00am Sign-in (\$20 registration includes t-shirt)

9:00am WALK

Marion Hike & Bike Trail

*Parking is available along the route. Sign-in will be at the Marion Chamber Office (depot). The trail is 2 miles long. There are benches along the route. We will have golf cart patrols for anyone that needs to ride back to the depot. This walk is to bring awareness and honor to those battling Multiple Sclerosis in the Pee Dee. All proceeds go to the National MS Society to fund life-saving research!

Call Victim Advocate Tammy Erwin for details or to register a team.

843-423-8389

Celebrating Black History Month

Did you know Marie Brown invented the Home Security System? How about C. B. Brooks invention of the Street Sweeper or George Carruthers invention of the Image converter for Radiation Detector?