

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 8, Issue 10

March 2019

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: The Paw Spaw

Written by Historic Marion Revitalization Association:



The Paw Spaw, owned by Brooke Zeman, is located at 621 N Main Street, Marion, SC. Established in 2015, the Paw Spaw is a full grooming shop for all dog breeds, open Monday –Friday 7:00 am until last furbaby looks glamorous! They are also open every other Saturday until 2:00 pm.

The Paw Spaw was opened by Brooke when she was just 18 years old. She knew at an early age (as soon as she could talk!) she would work with dogs in some capacity. While still in high school, the opportunity was presented to

her to buy the Paw Spaw, previously owned by Jake Bales. As soon as she graduated from high school, she left the very next day for Groom A Dog Academy in Blythewood, SC. Her passion was found! Brook loves grooming all fur babies! She also loves being able to live and work in her hometown.

Brook is a compassionate groomer, with genuine love for dogs. She strives to be a professional dog groomer that all dogs love to come see. You can find the shop on Facebook, or call (843) 615-0117.



Fire Department Gets New Paint Job



The City of Marion has been working diligently over the past few weeks to keep Marion looking beautiful. Here are some of the things that they have been busy doing: • Edging sidewalks throughout the City • Trimming sidewalks • Trimming trees • Painting the Fire Department, Sprucing the Marion Police Department with the help of the Garden Club. Cutting the entrance on 76 and mowing. The employees take prides in maintaining the beauty and restoring our community back to the “Pretty Little Town”.



VOTE!! Election Set for April 9th

The City of Marion General Election for Council seats in Districts 1, 2, and 4 will be April 9th.

Running unopposed and seeking reelection are Ralph Atkinson, District 1, Ronald Atkinson, District 2 and Joseph Frazier, District 4.

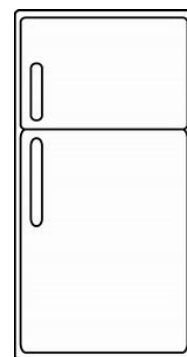
Precincts will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. To see where you will need to vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission located at 2523 East U.S. Highway 76 or call Teresa Moody 423-8268.

Candidates should remember that political signs may only be displayed on private property. City ordinances prohibit the placement of signs on public property, including right of ways. Signs picked up for being improperly posted can be claimed by candidates at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street.

Remember every vote makes a difference.

Attention Residents

Yard debris will be picked up Monday thru Friday. If you see a white flag, please move yard debris to the designated area (**Away from utilities**). Brown and white goods will be pickup on **Wednesday and Thursday ONLY**. For more information contact City Hall at (843) 423-5961.





March 1st - Go Orange for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (wear orange, put up orange ribbons or decorate your door with ribbons).

March 4th - 6:00 p.m. **Marion Library.** Craft and Chat.

March 5th - 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Shrove Tuesday.** Pancake Supper. Church of the

Advent, located at 307 S. Main St. Tickets are \$6.00. For more information please call (843) 423-5402.

March 5th - Bookmobile, **Rains.**

March 6th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunches** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by Marion United Methodist Church, Rev. Burton Off. Cost \$5 per person.

March 7th - Bookmobile, **Mullins.**

March 9th - **Womanless Pageant.** Sponsored by Relay for Life. For more information contact Ms. Dana Graham at dmcgraham78@yahoo.com or (843) 254-0412.

March 9th - 11:00 a.m. **Mullins Library.** Craft and Chat.

March 9th - 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Leprechaun Leap.** Withlacoochee Park. For more information contact Hometown Promotion & Event Planning, 843-431-8148 or 843-624-0309.

March 10th - Daylight Saving Time Begins/Spring Forward. **Also remember to change smoke alarm batteries.**

March 12th - 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

March 12th - Bookmobile, **Marion.**

March 13th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted Marion Baptist Church, Rev. Adam Work. Cost \$5 per person.

March 13th - 4:00 p.m. **Marion Library.** Family Crafter noon.

March 14th - Bookmobile, **Gresham / Brittons Neck.**

March 19th - 6:00 p.m. Relay for Life Team Meeting / Bank Night at Carolinas Hospital Systems in Marion. For more information contact Ms. Dana Graham at dmcgraham78@yahoo.com or (843) 254-0412.

March 19th - Bookmobile. **Centenary / Ariel's Crossroads.**

March 20th - Spring begins.

March 20th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. TBA. Cost \$5 per person.

March 21st - Bookmobile, **Nichols.**

March 23th - Relay for Life Team. Paint the County Purple. For more information contact Ms. Dana Graham at dmcgraham78@yahoo.com or (843) 254-0412.

March 26th - Bookmobile, **Friendship.**

March 27th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by Marion Presbyterian Church, Rev. Tom Langston. Cost \$5 per person.

March 28th - Bookmobile, **Sellers / Zion.**

March 31st - 6:00 p.m. **Relay for Life Concert.** Location will be the Reedy Creek Baptist Church, Rains SC. For more information contact Ms. Dana Graham at dmcgraham78@yahoo.com or (843) 254-0412.

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.

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

Vacant, 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

Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410

Randy Brown, Maintenance Superintendent (843) 423-5961

Winkie Fore, Public Works Superintendent (843) 423-8648

Tony Flowers, Police Chief (843) 423-8616

Chris Smith, Captain (843) 423-8616

Lt. Marilyn Rogers, Investigator (843) 423-8616

Sgt. Derrick Smith, 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

Almeta Mullins, Victim Advocate / Administrative Assistant, (843) 423-8616

Ethan Brown has been selected as Employee of the Month



The City of Marion recognized firefighter Ethan Brown as the January 2019 Employee of the Month. Ethan began his firefighting career with the Marion Fire Department in 2010 as an Explorer while he was in high school. He became a volunteer firefighter in 2012, before deciding to go into the career side of the fire service in 2018. Ethan has

been a full-time employee with the City of Marion Fire Department since September 2018. He is also a certified EMT and has been a member of the Marion Rescue Squad for many years.

Ethan works hard for the community and the fire department, and he volunteers countless hours on his days off to transport patients and respond to calls. "Ethan Brown is a great employee and asset to the City of Marion Fire Department," said Chief Trey Cooper, adding that the firefighter is as always courteous and helpful to others.

Ethan Brown is a resident of Marion County, and a graduate of Marion High School and Coastal Carolina University.

The Mayor and Council recognized Ethan Brown for his dedication and contributions to the City of Marion at the February 12th Council Meeting.

"What's up, Marion County?"

Be sure to access our shared calendar that lets you know "what's up" in Marion County! Download the Teamup app and use <https://teamup.com/kst5rhof3cj9dv81q6> to access our community calendar!

Marion Chamber Annual Meeting

The Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at Woodhaven. This year's meeting included a silent and live auction.



This year's recipient of the Community Service Award was Mr. Scott Collins. An outstanding member of our community, Scott is a lifelong resident of Marion and has taught in the public school system for over twenty years. He began the Backpack Buddy program in the school system five years ago. He saw a need that was not being met. The program began with six backpacks going home to children and has grown to now serving over 100 children a week. The program is filling one heart and stomach at a time. The Marion Chamber was pleased to present Mr. Collins the Community Service Award. Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank will make a contribution in Mr. Collins' name to the charity of his choice in recognition of this honor.

The Chamber recognized Randy Floyd-Daniels, owner of the Marion Emporium as the Small Business of the Year. The Emporium is a fixture on Main Street and provides a high level of customer service. Randy has shown innovation in the way he markets his business. They carry antiques, gifts, baby items, jewelry, home goods, kitchen ware, wedding china and registry and the list goes on and on. The Marion Emporium is a wonderful place to shop and browse.

In other business of the Chamber, incoming President Betsy Atkinson shared upcoming plans for 2019, and recognized outgoing board members for their service to the Chamber. Members rotating off of the Chamber board were Fran Brown, Karen Coleman, Pam Jones, Deborah Martin, and Judy Wesley. Officers and Board members for 2019 are President-Betsy Atkinson, Vice-President, Gordon McLellan and Treasurer-Craig Martin.



MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Mr. & Mrs. Alex Stedman 901 North Main Street have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for February 2019. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. The Stedmans will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.



Helping Hands Free Medical Clinic has expanded their women's health services. Our nurse practitioners insert and remove contraceptive implants (Nexplanon's) and intrauterine devices (IUDs) at no cost to patients. We also offer pap smears and breast exams, as well as management of common women's health issues. Recently, McLeod Mobile Mammography provided mammograms to our patients, and we have several mobile mammogram dates set for the rest of 2019.

Helping Hands Free Medical Clinic offers free healthcare to patients of Marion County who have no insurance. In addition to women's health services, we also care for patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. We have clinic sites conveniently located in Marion and in Mullins. If you would like to make an appointment or need more information about our services, please call (843) 464-8750 (Mullins) or (843) 423-5212 (Marion).

A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

"We Are Our Neighbors' Keepers"

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

At our monthly meeting on February 4th, we had the privilege of a visit from Mayor Ashley Brady, as well as Alan Ammons who was our scheduled speaker. The group shared our concerns about poor lighting, out of control dogs and speeding in our neighborhood. Mr. Ammons shared the criteria for adding street lights along with the limits of the infrastructure. Before the City Council meeting on February 12th, the Mayor informed me that 22 lights that are out have been identified as well as locations for a few additional lights in our area. Two months ago I gave Mr. Ammons a list of junk vehicles in our neighborhood. I am happy to report that progress is being made in getting these cars moved. In one case, four vehicles were involved. Three of those vehicles have been moved after sitting inoperable for twenty plus years. The dogs and speeding concerns are also being addressed. I share these details as an example of the value of neighborhood watch. When a group is united in purpose, their voices are heard. Our meetings provide citizens with common concerns an opportunity to express their concerns and constructive ideas for improving the quality of life for themselves and their neighbors. It is not intended as one long gripe session where people just attend when they want to vent. Citizens need to attend consistently and be willing to listen and understand that society is governed by laws, not opinions. In today's world, if you aren't part of the solution, you are part of the problem. A-team meets @ 6:30 PM on the first Monday of each month in the Firehouse on E Bond St. Our next meeting will be March 4th. For more information contact Dolly @ 843-433-0941.

Marion's 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival

Leprechaun Leap is the City of Marion's second annual St. Patrick's Day Festival!. 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. You can signup at active.com or www.rmssports.com/run.html. 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. This is event will be March 9th from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at 800 N. Withlacoochee, Marion SC. For more details visit hometownpromotioneventplanning.com

HAPPENING IN MARION

Police Officers get Security Cameras



Mr. Scott Webster from State Farm Insurance Agency in Marion presented each member of the Marion Police Department with a Canary Home Security System on February 15th. In 2015, Canary Home Security and State Farm partnered and wanted to do something for first responders and decided on security systems. They felt that since first responders were not home, but protecting the citizens, this was a way that they could help them by providing a security system and protection for their homes while away.

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Chamber Community Service Award

Scott Collins, the Chamber of Commerce Community Service Recipient, is presented a check for \$250.00 from George McMillan with Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank. Mr. Collins will donate the monies to the Backpack Buddies program. The Chamber would like to thank Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank for their generosity in sponsoring this donation for the Chamber's Community Service Recipient and Scott Collins for everything he does to assist Marion County and its citizens. Pictured from left is Scott Collins and George McMillan, Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank.



Dolgun's Soup Kitchen



On Sunday, February 3rd, Marion saw the opening of Magnolia's doors for a unique lunch buffet. Owners, Dolgun and Karen Dervish, decided to redo the front space of their building to serve as an entertainment and rental space available to the public. The first Saturday of each month, the doors will be open, free to the public, for a lunch buffet. This month's menu included a Greek salad, three types of soups, cornbread, chicken, and more. If you've frequented their current restaurant, Magnolia's, then you know how amazing their food is. This is such a treat to have something available on our Main Street on a Sunday and at no cost. Donations are graciously accepted and are donated directly back to a community member in need. This past month, the guest of honor was Barbara Parker. She received a hot meal, a make over - including new clothing, as well as the money donated from patrons who walked through the door that day to enjoy a lunch at Magnolia's. It has been said time and time again, that Marion's best asset is our people, and with things like this happening, it's obvious why! You can visit Magnolia's lunch buffet the first Sunday of each month at the corner of Harlee and Main Street starting at 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in renting the space for a party, shower, or business meeting, please call Dolgun or Karen Dervish at 843-433-8082.

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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.

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 Ms. Lillie Sanders. 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.

ROCK YOUR SOCKS - World Down Syndrome Day



Wear your wacky socks to raise awareness for our friends with Down syndrome then join us for an ice cream part at 3:00 p.m. This event will take place at the Marion County Sheriff's Office

located at 2715 E. Highway 76, Mullins SC, on Thursday, March 21st. Honored Guests: Jack the Great & Awesome Ayden.

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.

You can register for softball/baseball at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym. 843.423.5410