

THE PROGRESS REPORT

FEB
2019

A Monthly Publication from Marion County Progress, Inc.

Thank you to all!

Marion County Progress would like to thank all who attended the 2019 Economic Outlook Dinner event at the Academy for Careers & Technology. There were more than 85 people in attendance. Dr. Julie Norman, Executive Director of Marion County Economic Development, gave a very informative presentation on past successes and all that 2019 has in store of our county. Dr. Pat Cawley of MUSC spoke to the audience about the acquisition of Carolinas Hospital Systems-Marion and what it will mean for healthcare here. A wonderful meal was prepared by the Culinary Arts Chef, Jennifer Ferguson, and her Culinary Arts students at the Academy. A fantastic time was had by all.



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!



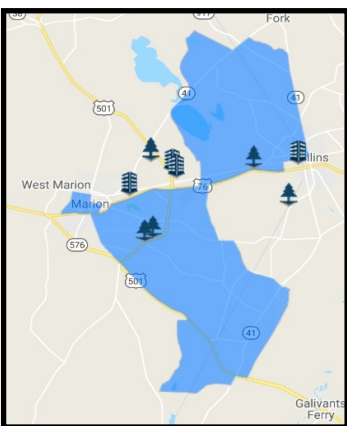
Let's get building! In the past few years, Marion County has suffered tremendous physical damage to businesses, homes, and infrastructure. Florence

Darlington Technical College is offering a "pre-apprenticeship" program of roughly 50 – 60 hours in length, designed to be a quick launch into the construction industry. With so much housing reconstruction from damage by prior hurricanes in Marion County, the construction industry is looking for a way to build their workforce.



"What's up, Marion County?" -  teamup

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Opportunities Await...In the Zone! The Opportunity Zones program provides a federal tax incentive for taxpayers who reinvest unrealized capital gains into "Opportunity Funds," which are specialized vehicles dedicated to investing in low-income areas called "Opportunity Zones." Marion County has two of these zones. **If you have available land or a business within these zones, contact us!**

Marion County Fun Fact

Marion County is home to more than 50 festivals and events throughout the year. Check out our shared calendar for event dates!

Can You Spot This Spot? Congratulations to George McMillan who was the first to identify last month's spot as the Cotton Press in Sellers! Thank you all for participating. We hope you will try again this month! **If you are a Progress Partner**, be the first one to contact our office, by phone or email, with the correct name of the spot to win a fabulous prize! If you aren't a partner but would like to be in order to participate, join today! Can you spot this month's spot?



More information on the back! 

(843) - 423-8235

www.marioncountysc.com

"Calling All Partners!"



2019 Partners of Marion County Progress are invited to attend a Spring forum that will be held on March 14, 2019 at 8:30am at the Marion County Opera House. During this forum, we will have engaging dialogue about economic development strategies. We want to encourage you all to attend and to be active participants. Bring suggestions, strategies, and ideas that you believe will help Marion County continue to be successful! **Please call our office at 843-423-8235 to confirm your attendance or email Hillary at hjohnson@marionsc.org.**

"An Offer We Couldn't Refuse"- An offer has been made on the "Spartan" building that was formerly home to Road Rescue years ago. We are now in the due diligence phase of the project but all signs point to closing within the next 60 days. Successful completion of this project will create 64 jobs in manufacturing and distribution for Marion County. More details will be coming soon!



Meet the Board!



Marion County Progress would like to introduce our Vice Chair, Jeff Singletary. Jeff has served on the board since 2014

and is in his second year as Vice Chair. Aside from serving on the board, Jeff is the Vice President of Marketing for Pee Dee Electric Co-operative. We greatly appreciate Jeff's dedication to the community and to the Marion County Progress board.

Real Steel- Construction on the newest spec building is picking back up. Steel has now been installed on the site! Projected completion date for the building is April of 2019. This building is located in the Marion County Industrial Park. Take a



Going, Going, Gone!

Marion County is almost sold out of buildings! Our sites are ready to be seen and sold, though!



Economic Vocabulary - A **gig economy** is a free market system in which temporary positions for independent workers are arranged with organizations for short-term engagements or "gigs". The trend toward a **gig economy** has begun. A study by Intuit predicted that by 2020, 40% of American workers would be independent contractors in addition to, or in place of, traditional W-2 employment.



The mission of Marion County Progress, Inc. is to assist the county Economic Development Office to promote, implement, and support activities designed to improve the economy of Marion County and advance the quality climate for business and industry in Marion County.

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