

Swamp Fox Scene



A FREE monthly news magazine for the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City

Volume 3, Issue 9

February 2013

Marion history: Discover it every month

Among the many things going on in our schools and community helping to remind us to take note on our collective Black History, is the Marion County Museum's discover "Who's Who: Black History in Marion County." Rosanne Black, Museum Director, encourages everyone to go on a treasure hunt through the Museum to match 15+ people featured in the Marion County Museum with the facts about them.

Below, local author Stacie Davis answers the challenge to provide the Swamp Fox Scene with a feature on Black History Month.

"What Black History Month means to me"

By Stacie Davis

February is "Black History Month," a time to commemorate African-Americans who have changed the world.

Celebrating Black History began in 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard Ph.D., initiated "Negro History Week."

Woodson was concerned that the contributions of Black Americans were

See "History" on Page 2

2013 Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days Feb. 22-23, Historic Marion

City plans events to honor, remember namesake

Several Marion County groups, businesses and individuals come together each year to organize events to help the community remember Gen. Francis Marion and the unique role he and the people of this area played in the American Revolution. To start, you can view the Francis Marion Project, a 20-minute video about Francis Marion exploits in Marion County during the Revolution circa 1780, online at <http://hometown8.com/fm.html>.

Typically there is a wreath-laying in conjunction with Gen. Francis Marion Memorial Day at the statue of Marion on the Courthouse Square on Feb. 27. More details will be forthcoming during February regarding this event, so stay tuned!

The last weekend in February is set aside to offer other activities that bring families and friends together in our historic city, such as the annual Historic Marion RunFest and Swamp Fox Chili Cook off. A Revolutionary War era living history encampment, with demonstrators and exhibits, is set up as well. This year's activities, scheduled to date, include the following.

Friday, February 22nd

4-7 p.m., Opera House, Pre-registered runners pick up their race packets

5-7 p.m., Marion County Library grounds at Godbold and Court Streets Britton's Neck Militia



Reenactors, Revolutionary War Encampment; Walk through camp, talk a little history and enjoy gingerbread and spiced cider by campfire.

Saturday, February 23rd

6 a.m., Opera House

Late Registration/Package Pick up for 5K, 10K

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Marion County Library grounds at Godbold and Court Streets Living history reenactors, exhibitors and demonstrators (See tentative schedule below.)

9 a.m., Opera House

5K, 10K walk/runs begin

10:45 a.m., Opera House

Awards Presentation

11 a.m., Opera House

Tot Trot (free for children 6 years old and younger)

Noon, Dozier & Court Streets

Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off taste-testing begins

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Camp open to the public.

Come & visit camp whenever you wish, however, specific times will be set for the following demonstrations/conversations:

10 a.m., 12:30 & 3:30 p.m.: Meet the Village Joiner and learn about furniture making

10:20 a.m., 12:50 & 3:50 p.m.: Meet the Village Surveyor and learn about measuring for land grants

10:30 a.m., 1:10 & 2:30 p.m.: Meet the Village Spinner and learn about 18th century textiles

10:50 a.m., 1:30 & 2:50 p.m.: Meet the Tombstone Carver and discover the art of working with chisel & mallet

11:10 a.m. & 2:10 p.m.: Musket and firing drills

Noon & 3 p.m.: Learn which local families fought with, and against, Gen. Francis Marion

Throughout the day: Meet the Village Gunsmith and learn about the making of 18th Century weapons, Observe and discuss 18th Century Open-Fire cooking demonstrations, Visit with the Village Soap Maker and Candle Maker, Question the Brain Tanner about his furs and leather, Watch the Village Blacksmith at work, and Examine 18th Century tools, toothbrushes and more.

What does it mean to sleep tight? Where did "lock, stock & barrel" originate? Visit Camp and learn!

To register in the 5K or 10K and for information about the Historic Marion RunFest, call Pam Jones at City Hall at 843-423-5961.

To register to compete in the Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off, and for information about this event, call Steve Pool at 843-468-8366.

To learn more about the Britton's Neck Militia Reenactors and 18th Century living history, call Dianne Owens at 843-687-9507.

Filing of candidates closes at noon on Feb. 7

Voter ID Law in effect for April elections

The City of Marion General Election for Districts 3, 5 and 6 Council seats and for Mayor will be on Tuesday, April 9. This year,

the state's Voter ID law, requiring voters to have an identification card with a photograph of the voter on it, is in effect. Filing for those people interested in being candidates in the upcoming elections opened in January and closes on Thursday, Feb. 7 at noon.

March 9 is the deadline for

people to be registered to vote in the April election. To get registered to vote, to find out more about having a proper ID at the polling precincts, and to see where you will vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission at 137 Airport Court off East U.S. Highway 76 or call Teresa

Moody at 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 can be claimed by candidates at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street.

CITY NEWS

Sanders is city's top employee for December

The City of Marion proudly announces that firefighter William Sanders was selected as its December 2012 Employee of the Month.

Sanders, shown at right, has been a full-time employee with the City of Marion Fire Department since September 2011 and a dedicated volunteer firefighter and member of the Marion Rescue Squad for many years.

As the Senior Engineer for C-Shift, he brings a lot of knowledge and experience with him to the profession. Sanders has a passion for public education and teaching children about fire safety and for fire service overall. He is known for his high standard of performance and friendly smile.

"William Sanders is a great employee and asset to the City of Marion Fire Department," said Assistant Chief Chris McKenzie, adding that the longtime firefighter is always courteous and helpful to others.

"Mr. William is highly respected by his peers and appreciated by the community because of the way he treats others. The combination of his high ethical standards and vast experi-



ence enable him to be an excellent mentor to other employees." The Mayor and Council recognized William for his dedication and contributions to the City of Marion during the Jan. 8 Council Meeting.

"History"

Continued from Page 1

overlooked or misrepresented and he began lobbying for Negro History Week as early as 1915.

A pre-eminent historian, Woodson chose the second week in February because it included the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

This month serves as an opportunity for schools and communities to organize various events on the history of black Americans.

On the other hand, it should also serve as a time for families to recognize the achievements and contributions by African-Americans not in our textbooks.

Numerous black history events will emerge throughout the City of Marion in February, whether they are religious functions, school programs, city activities and or something you do in your home, such as Black History trivia or watching African-American films.

A few members of the City of Marion commented on what Black History Month means to them. The following are their responses

What does Black History Month mean to you?

"Black History Month is an every year life lesson and reminder of our heritage. It is a reminder of just how beautiful, powerful and influential African-Americans are."

Christina F.

*Marion High School Graduate 2011
Clafin University Sophomore student*

What does Black History Month mean to you?

"This month is a time when many African-American families speak about their family history. This month examines the success and achievements of African-Americans and how important Blacks have been to this Country."

Rosena D.

Retired from SC Workforce Center

As February progresses, remember the folks who paved the way for you and me to be where we are today. Celebrate Black History Month not only this month but throughout the year.



Get to know your City Council



RODNEY BERRY

Mayor

Mayor Rodney Berry was elected in April 2009. His term ends in April 2013. He can be reached by calling his office telephone at **843-423-8235**.



RONALD ATKINSON

*Mayor Pro Tem
District 2*

Council member Ronald Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-230-0072**.



RALPH ATKINSON

District 1

Council member Ralph Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-250-0446**.



BETSY ATKINSON

District 3

Council member Betsy Atkinson was elected in April 2009. Her term ends in April 2013. She can be reached at **843-430-1137**.



BOBBY DAVIS

District 4

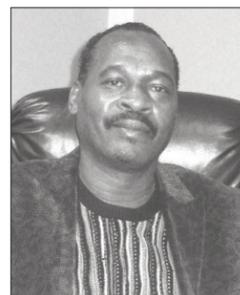
Council member Bobby Davis was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-423-4655**.



ODESSA GREGG

District 5

Council member Odessa Gregg was elected in April 2011. Her term ends in 2013. She can be reached at **843-275-0265**.



MICHAEL BAKER

District 6

Council member Michael Baker was reelected in April 2009. His term ends in 2013. He can be reached by telephone at **843-597-3617**.

Coming in February

Keep up with what's going on around Marion!
Get your event listed! Call City Hall at 423-5961.

6th, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Rise & Shine! Business networking opportunity on Main Street. Call Chuck at 423-9918 for details. Come and bring a friend to the new Olde Towne Marion, HMRA, headquarters at 103 East Dozier Street.



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

15th & 16th, Friday 2-6 p.m. and Saturday

9 a.m.-2 p.m., Friends of the Marion County Library Book Sale, Old Records Building Corner of Main and Godbold Streets. Books, tapes and more!

22nd & 23rd, Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days! See schedule of activities, Page 1.

Coming soon: Good Friday, March 29th; Annual Pancake Supper at the Episcopal Church ... **Stay tuned for details!**

Fitness, reading & other adventures offered around town ...

Fitness w/Renata on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Marion County Arts Building, 320 North Main Street, Marion. Call 423-4782 for more information or drop in at class time, 4-5 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. \$4 per class.

Ronda Todd is seeking to start a Book Club. The club would meet once a month in the Watsonia Recreation Center. The group needs five to eight people to start. Anyone interested can contact Ronda @ 843-340-7904.

Foodies & Film Groups: The Arts Council of Marion County has a Foodies of Marion County Group and a Film Group. Each meets once a month.

Call Randy Floyd at 992-1627 or Tom Griggs at 423-5407 for details and times.

Visit rmssports.com today online and get ... *Registered to Run*

City employees getting fit, ready to participate in 5K

City employees have been training, losing weight and getting fit thanks in part to their participation in the annual Couch to 5K program.

City Treasurer Patricia Brown, Personnel and Purchasing Director Elizabeth Ficik and Street Department Employee Jeneral Harps have been leading walking sessions during the past months in preparation for the City's RunFest, set for Saturday, February 23.

Sanitation Department employee Hezekiah Brown and Harps, at right, along with others who are not shown, walk several times a week after work. The Couch to 5K program was instituted two years ago, as part of the City's Wellness Program. Employees are also encouraged to get involved in the 5K Run-Walk during the Historic Marion RunFest, set for Saturday, Feb. 23. Registration is available online through www.rmssports.com.

Preparing for any run can be a daunting task, Ficik said, "So we've chosen a program to help move participants from walking to running. 'Couch to 5K' is designed to ease you into a running program." Each session takes about 20 to 30 minutes, three times a week, the same amount of moderate exercise recommended by numerous studies for optimum fitness, Ficik said.

Employee training for the RunFest began in December. Harps leads his group from the Historic Train Depot on Bobby Gerald Parkway each afternoon (Monday-Thursday) at 3:30 p.m.; Brown



leads her group at 4:30pm each Monday and Wednesday on the Withlacoochee Park track and on the Hike/Bike Trail; Ficik leads a group each Tuesday at Grice's Recreation Center track.

The public is encouraged to join any of the groups.

Historic RunFest to feature 5K, 10K & free Tot Trot

Registration for the races through Historic Marion is underway. The 5K is \$15 per runner and the 10K is \$20 per runner. The TotTrot, for children six and under is free.

Races begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning during the Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days. For details, call Pam Jones at 423-5961 in City Hall.



Liberty Tax Service opens for business

The Marion Chamber of Commerce conducted a ribbon cutting for Liberty Tax Service on Tuesday January 15. Located at 2524-C East Highway 76, the business is owned by Melissa "Missy" Farmer. Marion Chamber President Dianne Herrington and Mayor Rodney Berry, along with other Chamber board members, friends and family members, welcomed this new business to the community. To make an appointment or for more information on their services, call their office at 843-275-9975.

Questions about your water or sewer bill?

Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at **(843) 765-4539**

or visit them in City Hall on Main Street.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, **843-423-5961**, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you...

Mayor Rodney Berry, 843-423-8235

City Administrator, Building Official Alan Ammons, Ext. 19

City Clerk Pam Jones, Ext. 10

City Treasurer Patricia Brown, Ext. 18

Municipal Court Clerk Heather Evans, 843-423-8616

Personnel, Purchasing Director Elizabeth Ficik, 843-423-8614

Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11

Recreation Admin Assistant Cheryl Askins, 843-423-5410

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's **free** monthly newspaper for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina.

Printed by Herald Multi-forms 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 information about the newspaper, call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS! SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN.

Together, we can make a difference ... The City of Marion has a **TEXT A TIP** line ... See a crime happening? Have a TIP?

Text it to 430-0938.

T-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * T-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938

SPORTS & RECREATION

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Don't forget to find us on Facebook under "Marion Recreation Department." The site is updated with game schedules, cancellations, photos, photos and more photos, and much more.

Check it out! You'll be glad you did!

Rec league basketball off to a quick start!

Marion Recreation's basketball season jumped off to a great start on Jan. 5 with scrimmages in the Tollison Gym.

All are invited to come and support the players and coaches. They have practiced hard since early December, as shown in the photograph at right. We are having another great basketball season!



We are thankful for our sponsors for this basketball season!

Next stop: Baseball & softball!

The City of Marion Recreation Department is accepting youth baseball and softball sign ups through Feb. 21.

Please note: There will be no late sign-ups after Feb. 21.

Register children at Watsonia Recreation Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Registration fee is \$16 per child for city residents and \$30 per child for those living outside the city limits. City residents must show proof of residency, such as a current electrical bill.

Everyone must bring a copy of their child's birth certificate at the time of registration. The following age groups will be offered:

BASEBALL:

- 5-6 (BOYS & GIRLS) PEE WEE MINORS
- 7-8 (BOYS & GIRLS) PEE WEE MAJORS
- 9-10 (BOYS) DIXIE YOUTH

- 11-12 (BOYS) DIXIE YOUTH
- 13-14 (BOYS) DIXIE BOYS

SOFTBALL:

- 9-10 (GIRLS) ANGELS
- 11-12 (GIRLS) PONYTAILS
- 13-15 (GIRLS) BELLES

Cut off dates for league placements are April 30, 2013 for baseball and December 31, 2012 for softball.

Anyone interested in coaching or being an official can also apply to assist the Recreation Department for the 2013 season. Visit the Watsonia Recreation Center or telephone Russ Smith at 423-5410. No coaching applications will be taken after Feb. 21.

City offers yoga, ping pong, aerobics for all

Yoga classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 5:30-6:30

p.m. in the Fire Department substation on Sen. Gasque Road. Classes are \$5 a session or \$30 a month. Come and bring a friend! The Marion Recreation Department's Ping Pong Club meets twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.

Feel free to stop by either evening and check them out! Everyone is welcome come practice and play. It's free to city residents. Call 423-5410 for details.

Aerobics is offered in the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center on Elizabeth Street each week day, Monday through Friday, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This class is also \$30 a month. Each night there is something different going on, from kick boxing to cardio and more. Additionally, senior flexibility exercises are each Monday and Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Watsonia Recreation Center and Marion Recreation's Senior Bingo is played the first and third Thursday of each month from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

There are always refreshments and fun and prizes are awarded to the winners! Call Cheryl at 423-5410 for details about these programs and more.

Computer lab open for all

Need to use a computer to apply for a job or conduct research?

The Swamp Fox Computer Lab has 14 computers for public use, free of charge and is in the Swamp Fox Higher Ed Center in the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts building on Elizabeth Street.

Hours are from 10 - noon and after lunch from 2 - 5:45 p.m. For information, call Robbie Johnson at 423-6447.

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month

Lee and Kim Wilson, 211 S. Main Street, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for January 2013. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently and add so much to our community's unique character. Lee and Kim will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

