

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

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



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Councilmember Odessa Gregg Graduated From Municipal Association

Councilmember Odessa Gregg graduated from the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government on July 11. Ms. Gregg received her certificates during the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Annual Meeting.

Established in 1986, the Institute is a program of the Municipal Association of South Carolina that gives municipal officials a strong foundation in the operation of local government. Participants learn about the role of elected officials and administrative staff and the relationships municipal officials have with other local governments, the state and federal government. The Institute includes two daylong sessions and three

evening sessions.

The Elected Officials Institute is specifically designed to give South Carolina municipal elected officials a knowledge base for establishing good public policy for their hometowns. It consists of both in-person sessions and sessions streamed to councils of governments locations across the state.

"For almost 30 years, the Association has encouraged local elected officials to participate in the Institute, whether they are newly elected or have served for a while," said Miriam Hair, executive director of the Municipal Association. "This Institute gives elected leaders with diverse personal and professional backgrounds an understanding and overview of the details of running a local government."

Officials participate in more than 25 hours of classroom work in order to graduate from the Institute. Highlights of topics covered during the sessions include the Freedom of Information Act, ethics and accountability, budgeting, planning and zoning, human resources and economic development.

The Institute draws its faculty from recognized local government leaders in South Carolina and other states, state officials, faculty and staff of the state's colleges and universities, and other guest lecturers.

In 2013, the Association began offering its' first credited, on-demand course as part of the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government, as well as an Advanced Institute for MEO graduates.

The Advanced Institute provides elected officials who have graduated from the MEO Institute with an option for continuing education through classroom instruction, interaction with experienced peers and case studies.

Job well done Ms. Gregg, the City of Marion is very proud of you.



Summer Camp Teens Rescued Couple

Gavin Brown (gray shirt), Preston Hilton (blue shirt) and Emir Elhumi (stripe shirt) rescued a Myrtle Beach couple when their canoe began to fill up with water and over turned. The three thirteen year old young men used their experience and what they had learned while they were camping this week at the Little Pee Dee State Park when they saw the couple in distress and reacted quickly. They paddled the overturned canoe to safety. Preston Hilton jokingly stated that his arms later hurt after all the swimming and paddling he had to do to bring in the canoe.

Mayor Davis, Marion City Council and the City Administrator thank you!!

*******CITY NEWS*******



9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Every Saturday in the month of August, HMRA Farmers' Market at the Market Place on Main Street will be open.

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 at (843) 992-1627 or email at floydrandy@hotmail.com for information.

Marion High School Booster Club meets every third Monday, at 6:30 at the high school.

August 1st - 3rd - Friday - Sunday
Annual Sales Tax Holiday Weekend.

August 6th - Wednesday
8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Marion County Performing Arts Complex, 320 N. Main St.

August 9th - Saturday
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. : Free School Supplies give away at Pop Dorsey Park. For more details call Ms. Ellen Baldwin at (843) 731-3702.

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

August 23rd - Saturday
Marion Citywide "Worship Explosion" - C D Joyner Auditorium. Sponsor by Pastor Joshua Nelson. For details call (209) 605-1326 or email pjnelson25@gmail.com

August 27th - Wednesday
1:00 p.m. Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament. Contact Cindy Rogers for details (843) 423-3561.

SAVE THE DATE

COMING UP

September 1st - Labor Day Holiday Observance

September 16th - Tuesday: Marion County United Fund Gala. @ Woodhaven Restaurant, @6:30 p.m. Marion SC.

September 20th - Saturday: City of Marion Play Day

September 20th - Saturday: HMRA Cornhole Tournament with Music, Food and More!!!



Employee of the Month

The City of Marion is proud to announce Sanitation Department employee Vondell Roberts as its June 2014 Employee of the Month. Roberts has been employed with the City of Marion since November 2013 and quickly earned the respect of both his supervisor and his peers. He is responsible for collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill.

"Vondell is one of our most dependable employees. He has a strong work ethic and is always courteous to our residents and the other employees in the department", said Sanitation Superintendent Winky Fore.

The Mayor and Council recognized Vondell Roberts for his dedicated service to the City of Marion and its citizens at the July 8th Council Meeting.

Brown Bag Lunch Seminar

The Marion Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Center for Entrepreneurship at Francis Marion University, will continue their summer brown bag lunch seminar. Take your lunch hour and come learn valuable skills to help your business. There is no fee for the classes but registration is required. The Chamber office is taking reservations for the classes at 423-3561 or email mari-onsc@bellsouth.net. Call to reserve your spot. This year session will focus on Small Business. Each class is from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the Swamp Fox Education Center on Elizabeth Street. Call Bring Zhang at 843-661-1112 or Cindy Rogers at 843-423-3561 for more information.

Annual Sales Tax Holiday; Section 12-36-2120

State Sales tax holiday weekend is set for August 1st - 3rd. Clothing, shoes, school supplies, computers, printers, bedding, sheet, washcloths, and towels are tax-free. During this time, the 8 percent state sales and use tax and any applicable local sales and use tax will not be imposed on certain items. Not all items are included in the sales tax-free weekend. The tax holiday, however, does not apply to jewelry, cosmetics. Eyewear, wallets. Watches. Furniture, items for use in a business. Or items placed on layaway or similar deferred payment and delivery plans. For more information, visit www.sctax.org.

City of Marion New Fee Schedule

ORDINANCE 14-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARION, SOUTH CAROLINA ESTABLISHING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR CITY FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the City of Marion from time to time must review its fees and charges and make adjustments as necessary; and

WHEREAS, the need to develop a fee schedule for all City of Marion facilities is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the fees recommended by the Mayor and Marion city council are as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Marion, the City of Marion Code Ordinance is amended to include the following provisions:

CITY OF MARION FEE SCHEDULE

1. CD JOYNER RENTAL FEES

	<u>Non-Ticketed Event</u>	<u>Ticketed Event</u>	<u>Add'l Rehearsals</u> (One Free Rehearsal Day)	<u>Classrooms</u>
Churches (Inside City)	\$250.00	\$250.00 or 10% Gross (Whichever is Greater)	\$100.00	\$75.00/day
City Resident	\$350.00	\$350.00 or 10% Gross (Whichever is Greater)	\$100.00	\$75.00/day
County Resident	\$450.00	\$450.00 or 10% Gross (Whichever is Greater)	\$100.00	\$100.00/day
Outside County	\$550.00	\$550.00 or 10% Gross (Whichever is Greater)	\$100.00	\$15.000/day
Custodial	\$20.00/hour	\$20.00/hour		
Police	\$20.00/hour	\$20.00/hour		
Security Deposit	\$100.00	\$100.00		

2. OPERA HOUSE RENTAL FEES

Downstairs	\$200.00
Upstairs (Auditorium)	\$200.00
Both	\$300.00
Security Deposit	\$100.00

3. RECREATION CENTERS - GRICE'S & WATSONIA

In City	\$75.00 first 4 hours	\$10.00 each additional hour
In County	\$100.00 first 4 hours	\$10.00 each additional hour
Out of County	\$125.00 first 4 hours	\$10.00 each additional hour

4. POP DORSEY PICNIC AREA

In City	\$35.00 first 4 hours	\$10.00 each additional hour
In County	\$50.00 first 4 hours	\$10.00 each additional hour
Out of County	\$75.00 first 4 hours	\$10.00 each additional hour

5. SWIMMING POOL

In City	\$250.00 - 4 hours
In County	\$300.00 - 4 hours
Out of County	\$350.00 - 4 hours

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon 2nd Reading.

AND IT IS SO ORDAINED.

1st Reading: June 10, 2014

2nd Reading: July 8, 2014

NEED HELP?

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

- Mayor Bobby L. Davis**, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Pam Jones**, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Elizabeth Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Ficik**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Ann Jackson**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Jim Gray**, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Questions about your water or sewer bill? Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at (843) 765-4539 or Visit them in City Hall at 107 S. Main Street, Marion SC.

SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING (AGES 62 & UP)

The Marion Senior Council will meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at 3:00 pm in the meeting room of the Marion Fire Station on Bond Street. Goal: Address Senior concerns, build a better vision for Marion and decide what, in our experience and wisdom, we can do to create a more unified community.

Historic Marion Revitalization Association Membership Drive Continues....

The Historic Marion Revitalization Association membership drive continues! We encourage you to become a member for 2014-2015. Funds that are raised through our membership campaign **support the purpose and goals to:** (1) grow Marion's business and retail base, (2) cultivate tourism to revitalize downtown, (3) support overall city improvement initiatives and (4) create, manage and support promotional events.

Your membership will support activities for your town to create the buzz needed to attract new businesses while sustaining and supporting your veteran businesses in the Downtown District through seasonal promotions and upcoming training opportunities. We urge you to participate in our events, shop local, as well as volunteer to help with our ongoing projects. We are always looking for new ideas on how we can better serve our community. Download a membership application at www.theswampfox.com, stop by the HMRA Business Center at 103 E. Dozier Street or give us a call at 843.423.9918. Let us hear from you and thank you for your support!!!

Downtown property owners, let HMRA help you in filling your empty buildings. We'll be glad to retain information about your properties to share with potential buyers or renters. Find the information on the HMRA website at www.theswampfox.com under Establishments/Available Properties.

Play Red, White and Blue Downtown Marion Merchant Bingo at participating downtown Marion merchants: The game runs through Saturday, August 16. Every downtown customer will have the opportunity to play for a variety of discounts at all of their favorite shops.

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 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 Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Jacqueline Crawford of 804 Cooper Street has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for July 2014. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Ms. Crawford will receive a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

Check out the City's Facebook for updated pictures for city's happening, activities and announcements. Also follow HMRA on their website www.theswampfox.com and visit their Facebook page.

ORDINANCE 14-05 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 7, SECTION 7-6008 RELATING TO YARD SALES, SO AS TO INCREASE THE FEE AND CHANGE THE TIME FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.

WHEREAS, the City of Marion from time to time must review its fees and charges and make adjustments as necessary, and

WHEREAS, upon due consideration and deliberation City Council has decided that it is in the best interests of the City of Marion to increase the fee and change the time for issuance of permits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Marion, that Part 7, Section 7-6008 of the City of Marion Code of Ordinances is amended as follows:

"(a) All persons desiring to have a yard or rummage sale within the city limits of Marion shall be required to apply for a permit to conduct such sale. There shall be a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for the issuance of any permit to conduct such yard or rummage sale within the city limits of Marion. The application for the yard or rummage sale shall give the names and addresses of the persons conducting the sale, type of merchandise to be sold, and the date, time and location of the sale. Each permit shall be good for one (1) day's sale only. The permit fee shall be nonrefundable. The permit may not be transferred to another person or to another day because of weather or inability to conduct the sale on the date requested.

(b) Any person conducting a yard or rummage sale without a permit shall be in violation of the city ordinance and shall be subjected to a fine of not less than \$15 nor more than \$50.

(c) There shall be no charge for a permit issued to any religious or charitable organization desiring to hold a yard or rummage sale.

(d) A permit for a yard or rummage sale must be obtained before 12:00 noon on the last Thursday before the yard sale.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect on the date of second reading.

.....RECREATIONAL CORNER

Yoga classes set

Yoga classes are offered each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the fire department sub-station on Senator Gasque Road. Taught by Judy Johnson and Frances Bethea, the classes are \$5 each or \$30 per month. For information or details, call the 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.

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month. 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.

Marion Recreation Fall Sports Round-Up

The City of Marion Recreation Department will start accepting youth sign-ups for **CHEERLEADERING**, (ages 4-12) **FLAG FOOTBALL**, (ages 4-12), **SOCCER**, (ages 5-15), & **TACKLE FOOTBALL**, (ages 9-12), **FALL SOFTBALL**, (ages 4-18). Beginning July 7, 2014 through August 01, 2014. You may register at the Watsonia Recreation Department Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m-5:00 p.m. The registration fee for those residing inside the city limit is \$16 (must have proof of residency in your name); fees for those outside of city limit is \$30. All child must bring copy of birth certificate at the time of registration. **NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE, NO SIGN-UP!!** Cutoff date for all sports is September 1, 2014.

CITY POOL

The Pool is officially open. Come and enjoyed the newly renovated pool. Certified Lifeguards on duty at all times. Pools hour are Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Price is only \$1.00. Pool is closed on Thursday and Friday morning ONLY from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for summer camp students admission only.

Youth Coaches and Officials

Anyone interested in coaching or officiating in the Marion Youth Leagues should contact Marion Recreation at 423-5410. All coaches must be **CERTIFIED** to coach at the recreation department.

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.

Computer lab open for all

Need to use a computer to apply for a job or conduct research? The Swamp Fox Computer Lab has 12 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 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and after lunch 2:00-5:45 p.m. For more information, call 423-6447.

Debs 18U

City of Marion Recreation Department Debs Baseball Team 18U playing in Lancaster in the State Tournament July 11th. The debs came in 4th place.



Adult Flag Football

The City of Marion Recreation Department is organizing an adult flag football league. The cost is \$15.00 per person in the city and \$30.00 outside of the city. Ages are 16 and older. The cost for organizing the team is a \$200.00 flat rate. For more information, please contact Ann Jackson, Marion Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & COME PLAY WITH US!

We will celebrate on Saturday, September 20, 2014 in Withlacoochee Park with fun events such as a Punt, Pass & Kick competition; Table Tennis, Volleyball and more. Event is schedule to begin at 9:30 a.m. HMRA will also have a Cornhole Tournament with Music, Food and more!!!

You don't want to miss the fun and excitement. So mark you calendar, call a friend and come out and play with us!

Last year Punt Pass and Kick Champions: Owen Turner (6/7), Emily Britt (8/9 girls), Kyle Allen (8/9 boys), Conner Garris (10/11 boys), Abby Johnson (10/11 girls), Lacy Johnson (12/13 girls), Peyton Britt (12/13 boys), Annie Gibson (14/15).

