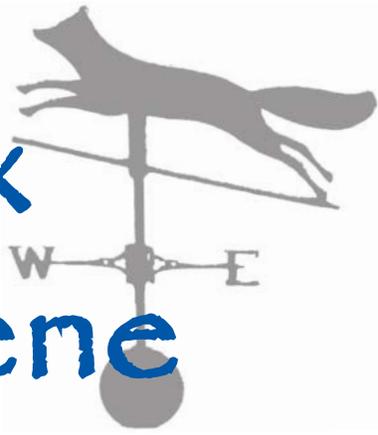


Swamp Fox Scene



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

Issue 2, Volume 1

July 2010

Council accepts administrator's resignation

Fire Chief, others promoted

On June 22, during a called City Council meeting to approve the city's budget, Marion City Council members voted to promote Alan Ammons to the position of City Administrator.

The position became open when council accepted the resignation of Bob Anderson, administrator from March 2009-June 25, 2010. Anderson announced he had accepted an offer to serve as town administrator in East Jordan, Michigan.

Ammons, who became the administrator effective immediately, continues to be the city's building inspector. Trey Cooper, assistant fire chief since his hire in 2007, was promoted to Fire Chief effective immediately.

In other business, the city approved its 2010-2011 operating budget and selected Alex Stedman to serve as the City's representative on the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Citizen Advisory Committee.

JUST A REMINDER ...

... DID YOU KNOW THAT A TIRE, OR TIRES, PLACED CURBSIDE IN THE CITY OF MARION IS CONSIDERED LITTER BY CITY ORDINANCE? FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH DHEC REGULATIONS, CITY EMPLOYEES NO LONGER PICK UP TIRES AT CURBSIDE.

THE FINE FOR LITTERING IS \$1,092.50. HOMEOWNERS ARE TO DISPOSE OF UNWANTED TIRES IN THE MARION COUNTY LANDFILL ON RED BLUFF COURT OR ON SEN. GASQUE ROAD.

CALL THE LANDFILL AT (843) 464-1157 FOR HOURS OF OPERATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS REMINDER, CALL THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, MARION CITY HALL (843) 423-5961.



For sale: 'Steel Swamp Fox'

See Page 4 for a story on the City of Marion's Steel Swamp Foxes and the coming "Gen. Francis Marion Center."

Business license renewals are due

All City of Marion Business Licenses expired on June 30. To avoid paying a penalty, renewals are due by 5 p.m. July 31.

When paying in City Hall, payments may be made by MasterCard, Visa, Discover, cash and by check. Credit card payments are also accepted in City Hall for building permits. Renewal Business Licenses will be issued once the application and payment is received in City Hall.

Anyone receiving the business license renewal form and no longer doing business in the City of Marion, should write "No Longer Doing Business" on the application. It can be faxed to Lakesha Shannon at (843) 423-8620. For help or if you have questions, call her at (843)423-5961.

City crews finish repairs on Pine Street; update flower bed

City of Marion workers repaired a storm drain under Pine Street in near 100 degree temperatures in June. The work took about a day and a half. Additionally, they worked to update a flower bed on U.S. Highway 76. Shown are James Smith, Glen Bridges and Perry Mason. Additionally, sidewalks are being put in along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, providing pedestrian safety.



Photos by Winky Fore

SPARKY'S GOT IT ALL **500 Tricolors Parachute** **99c Big Brick Firecrackers 99c** **Countdown to 4th of July**

SPARKY'S

New 5,000 Sq. Ft. Fireworks Showroom!
Highway 501 • Marion, S.C. 7 a.m. - until 843-423-2217

Coming up

July 2nd & 3rd

Friday: Opening Reception, Marion County Museum, Wilcox Street; Patriotic Display, 5-6 p.m. Saturday: Patriotic Celebration, Airport on U.S. Highway 76; 6 p.m. until.

July 4th Holiday

Monday, July 5th, City Hall closed to observe the Fourth of July Holiday.

July 12th

Monday, 5:30 p.m.: Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Second Monday of the Month), Fire Station, Bond Street.

July 13th

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: City Council (Second Tuesday of the Month), Council Chambers, City Hall, 107 S. Main Street.

Summer Art Classes

To register for art classes, call Rosanne at the Marion County Museum, 423-8299; Scrapbooking, for children 3rd grade and up on July 27 and 29; 1-3 p.m.; \$50

Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov and on Facebook under City of Marion, South Carolina.



FOX WATCH SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH:

Summer is a great time for family vacations in crowded locations ... and it's also easy for children to get distracted. Because they may lose sight of family members, for their safety, teach children they should go to a security officer or store clerk and say they are lost if they get separated from you.

Tell them NEVER to leave the store or go to a parking lot to look for you.

Zero Tolerance for NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

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

The staff consists of City of Marion employees Cheryl Askins, Elizabeth Fick, Pam Jones and Dianne Owens. Call Pam Jones if you are interested in sponsoring an issue.

The newspaper is distributed by city employee Dennis Brown and may be found in City Hall, in the Marion Chamber of Commerce's office in the Historic Train Depot, in the Main Street Marion office on Main Street and in other spots around town.

Call Mayor Rodney Berry or the City Administrator at 843-423-5961 with questions, concerns and comments.

CITY NEWS

Officials expect citizens to keep their properties maintained, tended

In March, City of Marion officials sent a letter to affected property owners telling them that the City would no longer be maintaining the grass and overgrown weeds on parcels of privately owned properties within the city limits.

City Ordinance 10-02 was amended by council earlier this year and addresses, for health and sanitation reasons, the cutting of grass and the maintaining of personal real estate property.

Section 6-1009.1 of the Ordinance states that is unlawful for a property owner or occupant of a property to fail to cut grass, weeds and other overgrown vegetation when the height is more than one foot and that it is the duty of property owners and occupants to cut and remove all grass, weeds and other overgrown vegetation as often as is necessary to comply to the ordinance.

Vacant lots should be cut at least three times per year, or as required dur-

ing the growing season, April through September, the ordinance states.

If grass, weeds or vegetation grow beyond the one foot mark and the property is deemed a nuisance by the City's Code Enforcement Officer, notice will be served to comply with the ordinance.

When citizens do not comply with the ordinance, the city will charge the following rates to maintain the property according to code.

\$100 per lot, 1/2 acre or less

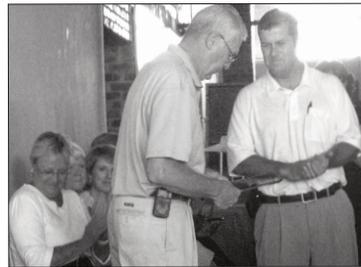
\$175 per lot, 1/2 acre to 2 acres

\$250 per lot, 2 acres to 5 acres

\$250 per lot, 5 acres and over, plus \$100 per hour, or designated contractor's cost that is billed to the city in addition to the cost of mailings.

Charges will appear as a lien on property and will appear on and be collected the same way property owners' municipal taxes are.

Richardson gets award from downtown group



Laura White, Judy Johnson and Karen Grice look on as Jerry Richardson receives the Bobby Gerald Main Street Hero Award from his son Jason during the Main Street Marion's annual meeting on June 15.

Jerry Richardson, county coroner and owner of Richardson Funeral Home, received the Bobby Gerald Main Street Hero Award from the Main Street Marion, Historic Marion Revitalization Association during the group's annual meeting in June.

Millie Scott, owner of Millie's Flowers on Main Street, received the group's first Bobby Gerald Main Street Hero award. This is the second year for the award, one that is given to a business owner for his or her significant and consistent contributions to Marion and the Main Street Marion program, Chuck Wiegert, MSM executive director, said.

"Jerry consistently supports all our programs and goals," he added, with significant emphasis on advertising. Richardson appeared nearly speechless when his son Jason surprised him by announcing him as the award's recipient.

In other business at the meeting, new member Chuck McLain was elected; committee chairs, Kelli Nolan (Executive), Connie Andrews (Design),

Karen Grice (Organization) and Ann Flynn (Publicity), gave reports to the 75 or so folks gathered for the event; and facade grants were given for the work done by Joanne Hickey, Zeman's and the Presbyterian Church to their properties in the Main Street shopping area. The group's annual fundraiser auction followed the annual meeting, raising about \$2,300 for the group's programs, events, etc. The group announced its membership drive is underway.

Also, board members and others gathered in the Main Street Marion office on June 16 for a workshop on economic restructuring, conducted by Main Street South Carolina's Beppie Legrand.

Legrand led the group of about 12 business owners and volunteers through exercises and conversations that helped them to see Main Street as it is and envision it as it can be. Anyone interested in serving on the group's economic enhancement committee can call Chuck.

Main Street Board members will have a board retreat on July 7. Call Chuck at 423-9918 for details or for information.



Members of Main Street Marion, Historic Marion Revitalization Association, had their annual meeting and auction in the Emporium on Main Street in June.

Plan now to play, support Chamber's golf tournament

The Marion Chamber of Commerce will be host to its 20th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Sept. 1 at Dusty Hills Country Club.

Format will be Captain's Choice, with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

"We cordially invite you to participate in the 20th Annual Tournament. This is one of the Chamber's most important fund raisers for the year," Chamber Executive Vice President Judy Johnson said, adding that money earned at the tournament goes to help provide the Chamber's programs and activities.

Tournament Corporate sponsors, Hole sponsors, Cart sponsors are all welcomed for this year's tournament. To register or sign up for sponsorships for the tournament, visit Judy in the Chamber of Commerce office at 209 E. Bobby Gerald Parkway or call her at 423-3561. The 2010 Marion Chamber of Commerce Golf Committee is T. Carroll Atkinson III, chairman; Laura White; Lucas Atkinson; Elaine Barkley; Freddie Barkley; Ashley Brady; and Craig Martin.

Marion: A trendy place to live

I have been working on a project for the Chamber that has required some reading and research on small towns.

I have discovered that there are areas where planners and promoters are actually trying to recreate the small town, with community shopping, schools and goods and services located close at hand.

Long commutes and hours spent in a car are becoming more unpopular. The trend is to move, not to the suburbs of large towns, but to small towns.

Most of the time, if you live in Marion, you hear "We're so behind the times." or "We need to move into the 21st century."

Now just imagine, the residents of Marion are "trend-setters." As residents of Marion, we've already made the choice to live in small town. There's no need to create a community, we already have one of the best ones around.

Our small town has more charm and character than any that could be created. We also have what the new com-

munities will not have: History.

Isn't it wonderful that our community leaders have had the foresight to help keep our town's charm and character intact?

There has been a great deal of hard work, (ongoing even as this is written) to make Marion the best small town community in which to live, work, and raise families in.

Our downtown area is thriving. It is charming and quaint. How many small towns have you gone through on your vacation and noticed that their Main Street did not compare to ours.

Our community leaders, and volunteer organizations are certainly responsible for this.

If you encounter our Mayor, a council member, or member of a community volunteer organization, thank them for making Marion the "trend setter!"

Without their help we all might be looking for a "small town community" to relocate to.

Submitted by Judy Johnson

Candidate to speak at Fox Watch meeting

Twelfth Circuit Solicitor candidate Rosemary Parham will meet with Marion Citizens at the July Fox Watch meeting.

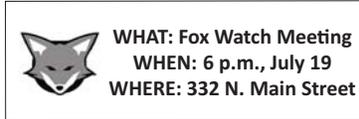
The meeting will be in Fox Watch Headquarters, 332 N. Main Street, at 6 p.m., Monday, July 19.

Citizens may also bring family and friends to the meeting, Teresa Scholz, president of the Fox Watch group, said, adding that the meeting will be an opportunity to meet the candidate and ask questions, leading to a better informed decision on Election Day in November.

Also, Scholz said, the group is selling Fox Watch yard signs for \$20. Anyone interested in buying a sign can call (843) 423-0847.

Scholz said "We are looking for individuals who are interested in the safety, health and welfare of their community to become a member of Fox Watch."

"Our message is clear, Fox Watch is an organization in the City of Marion developed for the purpose of promoting a zero tolerance to crime in our community by inspiring, informing and educating those who live, work, shop and play here."



City wages Facebook campaign to bring back "our Sonic!"

In late May city officials began a Facebook campaign to "Bring our Sonic BACK!" Mayor Rodney Berry said he is negotiating with the Sonic owner about the site's future and hopes the 760 "likes," comments and ideas will help make the case for the Sonic to be reopened. To participate in conversation about bringing back the Sonic Drive-In to Marion, search for and visit "We want our Sonic BACK!" on Facebook.



Distribution points for your Swamp Fox Scene

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is delivered by a city employee to the following locations for pick up. We thank these folks, and any others who have been added since this distribution list was made, for distributing the City's newspaper. Let us know if you want copies of the newspaper in your business.

Marion City Hall
 Marion Police Department
 Watsonia Recreation Center
 Grice's Recreation Center
 Marion Chamber of Commerce
 Main Street Marion, to Main Street businesses
 Marion County Library
 Marion County Administration Building
 Marion County Tax Assessor's Office
 Marion County Clerk of Court Office
 Marion County Medical Center

Marion Medical
 IGA
 Tiger Mart
 Earl's Grocery
 Burger King
 Blackmon's Piggly Wiggly
 Pizza Hut
 Thursday's
 Jimmy B's
 McDonald's
 Wendy's
 Breakers BP
 Chinese Restaurant
 Sunoco
 Southern Exposure
 Zapatas
 Hometown Movie Rentals
 Mental Health Center

Who should I call for city information?

For answers to your questions about living and working in Marion, call ...

Citizen concerns, Storm Drainage Issues, Trees, Building Permits, Inspections, Street and Sanitation:

Alan Ammons 423-5961
 City Administrator,
 Building Official

Building Permits, Zoning Information, Sign Permits, Historical Commission

Pam Jones 423-5961
 Planning & Zoning Office

Business Licenses, Yard Sale Permits, City Council Agenda & Meetings, General City of Marion Information:

Lakesha Shannon 423-5961
 City Clerk

Job Openings and Employment Applications, Supplier and Contractor Bid Opportunities:

Elizabeth Ficik 423-8614
 Personnel,
 Purchasing Director

Recreation Programs, Sign-Up Information, Facility Rentals:

Cheryl Askins 423-5410
 Watsonia Recreation Center

Traffic Tickets, Police Fines, Bond Hearings, Municipal Court Information:

Heather Evans 423-8616
 Municipal Court Clerk

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.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Jump in! The pool is ready!

Summer time is here and the pool is ready! There is a 50 cents charge for admission. Get your parents' permission and come on over to Grice's and stay cool from the heat with friends. The pool is open from 8 a.m. - noon; 2-5 p.m. For information, call Robbie at 423-8623.

Photos by Cheryl Askins



Teams get ready to participate in All Star games

It has been such a great season for all of the baseball teams, with each doing a wonderful job. The City of Marion Recreation Department thanks all the parents for coming out and supporting the kids and their coaches.

Although the games have ended, the coaches are excited about the All-Star games coming up. More about that next month. Good luck to the ones going into play offs. We look forward to seeing everyone next season for more fun.

Coming Up

Watsonia, Grice's open for the summer

School is out and the kids are staying at home. Would you like for them to get out of the house for a while and do something with friends?

Send them on down to Watsonia or Grice's Recreation Centers to play in the game rooms.

We have a variety of games at the centers for the kids to play and they will be under adult supervision. If you would like more information, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

Senior Aerobics takes summer break

The senior aerobics at Watsonia is taking a break for the summer.

The group, and anyone wishing to join them, will start back around September. Keep a look out for more information on when this activity will be coming back.

Look forward to seeing everyone come back who has participated and

some new folks looking to stay in shape and have fun with friends.



Think Soccer!

Keep an eye out for more information on soccer sign-ups!

Looking for that just right rental?

Are you getting ready to have a family reunion, birthday party or anniversary?

Need a place to have your party? We have the perfect locations for you.

Looking to have an outside event? We have Pop Dorsey picnic shelter. Looking for a cool place inside to gather? We have Grice's Recreation and Watsonia Recreation Centers.

Anyone interested in these locations for their events should call Cheryl at 423-5410 for rental rates and other information.

Sale of newly-created 'Steel Swamp Foxes' to benefit new center

The Francis Marion Initiative, comprised of a group of local educators, history lovers and reenactors, came before City Council on June 8 to present their idea for a Gen. Francis Marion Center.

Denley Caughman, a member of the Initiative and the Hugh Giles Regiment, Britton's Neck Militia, which operates under the auspices of Marion's Main Street Program, told council members that the new center, to be based in downtown Marion, will serve "as an anchor in the discovery of education and conservation of people, places, and events in the American Revolution."

The Center will "make tangible our rich heritage to our students and educational community," Johnakin Middle School history teacher Wallace Foxworth, also a group member, told those present. The Initiative began meeting in February, following a meeting of citizens who discussed ways to "Jump Start" Marion's economy. Some members of the Initiative had previously worked with a group to present a program about the famed war hero on Gen. Francis Marion Memorial Day each February.

The work of that group and the "Jump Start" group was seen as compatible by city officials and the Initiative was born. Through Jump Start, several new ventures are in the works, city officials say, regarding things that may be brought to or developed in the city to advance its economy.

Francis Marion and his brigade provide a story that needs to be told, "a voice ready to be heard," Denley said. The Initiative believes a new Center will bring others to Marion in their pursuit of information about the General, whose troops and opponents lived and operated in this area. Those visitors will in turn bring money to local businesses.

The center is in the first stages of development and members of the state's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department attended the meeting to show that group's support for the Initiative's efforts.

Funding is needed for the project. Toward that end, the Steel Swamp Fox, shown on Page 1, was created and is for sale, initially for \$25. The next run of the Swamp Foxes, which has a tag telling the story of Marion's namesake, will cost \$30 each. The first \$20 goes to pay for the cost of producing the keepsake and the rest of the money will go to help create the center.

The Steel Swamp Fox was created by Pete Rambo of www.themetalpalmetto.com. Each fox is hand-finished and each is unique. For an additional cost there is a heat-tempered version of the Swamp Fox for sale, too. For information about purchasing a Steel Swamp Fox, call Pam Jones in City Hall at 423-5961.

For information about the Gen. Francis Marion Center or the Francis Marion Initiative, call Dianne Owens in City Hall, 423-5961.