

Swamp Fox Scene

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



Keeping up with what's going on ...



If you've been accepted as a student at Florence-Darlington Tech, you may be interested in the math courses to be taught in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center. Call Marie Ferguson at (843) 676-8558.

June 3rd

Friday, 6-8 p.m.: Main Street Marion's Annual Meeting & Auction. Call Chuck at the Main Street Marion office, 423-9918, for details.

June 4th

Saturday, City-wide Clean-up: Place your trash out along the curb early for the city Sanitation employees to pick it up. Call City Administrator Alan Ammons at 423-5961 for details.

June 14th

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

June 20th

Monday, 6:30 p.m.: Fox Watch (Third Monday of the Month) in the group's Main Street Headquarters building.

June 24th

Friday, 7 p.m.: The Latta Singers in the Marion Opera House; Free Concert! Contact Tom Griggs, Arts Council Marion County director, at 423-5407 for details.

June 25th

Saturday, 6 p.m.: The Marion County NAACP Freedom Fund and Woman of the Year Banquet. (See Page 3 for more information.)

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

Coming up in July

July 1st-2nd

Marion County's 4th of July Independence Day Celebration: Friday night reception in the Marion County Museum, Saturday at the Marion County Airport.

July 4th

Monday, City offices closed. Celebrate responsibly!

Fire Department provides free car seat safety checks

Is your child's safety seat installed correctly? Are you sure? The majority of parents believe that their child's car seat is properly installed, but research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that eight out of 10 car seats are installed incorrectly.

For a free installation and safety inspection, Marion residents can visit the Marion Fire Department at 107 E. Bond Street or contact Andrew Herring or Steven Bullard at 423-8602.

"Inspections are an educational experience for parents," Marion firefighter Andrew Herring said. "We get in the vehicle with the parents and discuss minimum and maximum weight limits for

the seats and make sure the seats are properly installed."

Herring said the most common problem he finds is that a car seat is in the vehicle, but is not used or installed correctly. The Marion firefighters will inspect each car's child safety seat that is brought to the station for free to ensure that the seats are installed correctly so the children who ride in them can be safe.

Parents should bring their vehicle owner's manual and car seat instruction book, if they have them. Seat checks usually take between 20-30 minutes per seat.

Remember: **CHILD SAFETY SEATS SAVE LIVES!**



Garden Ground Rules ...

City plants two gardens for citizens to tend

You tend, you pick! The two city gardens are open to CITY RESIDENTS only. Work is allowed from dawn to dusk and citizens are asked to take what they need, but to leave some for others. There is to be absolutely NO SELLING of items grown in the garden and NO PETS are allowed. Any children must be supervised while in the gardens. Anyone with questions about the gardens can call Alan Ammons, city administrator, at 423-5961. The gardens are on Reaves Street and Withlacoochee Avenue.

Council getting ready to have vote on 2011-12 fiscal budget

City council members had first reading of the 2010-11 city budget and a budget workshop in May. After publishing the revenues and expenses in the local newspaper, the

city will have a public hearing for the budget at 6:15 p.m. before the June 14 City Council meeting. Second reading of the budget will also be done at the June meeting, which starts at 6:30 p.m.

CITY NEWS

Askins is April's employee of the month



Cheryl Askins was named the City of Marion Employee of the Month for April 2011.

Cheryl joined the City of Marion Recreation Department in January 2010. As the administrative assistant at Watsonia Recreation Center, Cheryl is responsible for overseeing registration of all sports programs. She also oversees facility rental agreements.

Additionally, Cheryl coordinates the youth cheerleading program, assists Recreation Director Frank Page with a number administrative duties, and is a member of the Swamp Fox Scene staff.

Cheryl exemplifies a positive attitude toward her job responsibilities and exhibits a strong work ethic. The Mayor and Council recognized Cheryl for her contributions and dedication to the City of Marion at the May City Council Meeting.

Who do I call?

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

City Administrator, Building Official

Citizen concerns; Street, Sanitation, Storm Drainage Issues; Trees; Building Permits & Inspections
Alan Ammons 423-5961

Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant

Building & Sign Permits; Zoning Information; Historical Commission
Vickie Nichols 423-5961

City Clerk

Business Licenses; Yard Sale Permits; City Council Agenda & Meetings; General City of Marion Information
Pam Jones 423-5961

Personnel, Purchasing Director

Job Openings and Employment Applications; Supplier and Contractor Bid Opportunities
Elizabeth Ficik 423-8614

Recreation Admin Assistant

Recreation Programs; Sign-Up Information; Recreation Facility Rentals
Cheryl Askins 423-5410

Municipal Court Clerk

Traffic Tickets & Police Fines; Bond Hearings & Municipal Court Information
Heather Evans 423-8616



Gray is named Police Chief; Barr is city's first female Captain

Interim Police Chief Capt. Jim Gray has been named Marion's Police Chief by Mayor Rodney Berry and Lt. Cindy Barr, who has been supervising the School Resource Officers, was promoted to Captain of the Marion Police Department. The promotions were effective in mid-May.

City will have annual clean-up

The City of Marion's annual city-wide clean-up is set for Saturday, June 4. On that morning, city sanitation workers will pick up all debris, junk, trash or otherwise unwanted stuff that has been placed by city residents on the street curb by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 3.

Residents can leave trash, unwanted junk, appliances, etc., and the city will pick it up and haul it off, Administrator Alan Ammons said.

This is a once-a-year opportunity to discard such unwanted items. For information about the city-wide clean-up, call Ammons at 423-5961.

Main Street Marion to have annual auction, meeting on June 3

Main Street Marion, a volunteer organization established to stimulate Marion's economic development within the context of historical preservation, will have its Annual Meeting & Auction from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, June 3.

Everyone is invited to the meeting and asked to consider joining the Main Street Marion program.

For information, call Chuck Wiegert, executive director, at (843) 423-9918 or visit the group's website at www.theswampfox.com.

Questions about your Water or Sewer Bill?

Call Grand Strand Water & Sewer at (843) 765-4539

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



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 Ficik, 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. The Marion Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Marion help the city to offset printing costs. Call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961 for more information.

BUSINESS NEWS



Chamber honors couple

Denley and Ann Caughman, from left, are named the Marion Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Person of the Year during the Chamber's annual Small Business Appreciation Breakfast. The 2010 winners of the award, Kelli Noland and Connie Thompson, made the presentation. Denley and Ann own and operate The Grove, the Inn on Harlee, a bed and breakfast.



Goody's opens in Marion

Store and community leaders pose for a photograph during the Marion Chamber of Commerce's ribbon-cutting for Goody's department store in mid-May. The store replaces the Peeble's store on U.S. Highway 76. Nearly a hundred people were on hand for the grand opening and ribbon cutting.



Odessa Gregg takes oath of office as council member during May meeting

Odessa Gregg, at right, takes her oath of office, administered by City Attorney Robert Lee, at the beginning of the May City Council Meeting. Her daughter, Nathalie, looks on. Gregg replaces former City Council member Poiette Bromell and was elected in April to represent District 5. She fills the remaining two years of Bromell's unexpired term.



Business owner is recognized

J.D. Jackson and his family are shown during the May City Council meeting. Jackson was recognized by the Mayor and Council for his business' long-time community service. The Liberty Street business, C&J Auto Parts, has been helping to meet the needs of area customers for 50 years; Staying open during good and bad economic times, "a significant milestone," city leaders said.



Attorneys open for business

The Marion and Mullins Chambers of Commerce had a ribbon-cutting in May for the law office of Battle & Allen, P.A. Bess Battle is shown to the left of the sign, and her partner, Harry Allen, is to the right of the sign. The two have opened their general law practice at 201 Tom Gasque Avenue. They are graduates of the University of South Carolina School of Law. For information, call (843) 423-3003.

NAACP's annual meeting set

The annual Marion County NAACP Freedom Fund and Woman of the Year Banquet will be on Saturday, June 25. The reception starts at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. Theme for this year's banquet is "So Close and Yet So Far, 'Forging a 21st Century NAACP through Our Service.'" Keynote speaker will be the Honorable James E. "Jim" Clyburn, S.C. Representative for the 6th Congressional District. For tickets and information, call Isaac Black, Marion County NAACP President, at (843) 245-5441. Tickets are \$25 per person and tables are \$200. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Get to know your City Council



RODNEY BERRY
Mayor

Mayor Rodney Berry was elected to his first four-year term in April 2009.

He can be reached 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 at **843-250-0446**.



BETSY ATKINSON
District 3

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



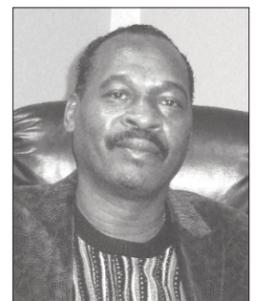
BOBBY DAVIS
District 4

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 to fill an open seat. Her term ends in 2013. She can be reached at **843-423-4847**.



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 **843-222-9405**.

Scenes from the 2011 FoxTrot Festival



SPORTS & RECREATION

Prepare to make a SPLASH!

Repairs to the city pool at the Grice's Recreation Center are underway! Stay tuned for details about the pool's summer opening. For information, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

One aerobics class takes a summer break, while another is still offered at C.D. Joyner

The Monday and Thursday Senior Aerobics class in the Watsonia Recreation Center has been canceled for the summer. The class will begin again in the Fall. Anyone with questions regarding the class and when it will start again can call the Marion County Council on Aging at 423-4391.

Anyone interested in working out during the summer is invited to the aerobics class offered in the C.D. Joyner Auditorium Monday thru Friday.

The class is taught by Lille Ann Sanders and is \$30 per month. The class is taught from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and there are plenty of slots for new members to join the class.

If you have questions about this program, call 423-5410.

Recreation department offers 'Playing Centers'

School is out and children are looking for places to play. If you are looking for a safe place for your child, keep in mind that Watsonia and Grice's Recreation Centers are open during the day. Children are allowed to play games, watch TV and hang out with their friends.

Children who visit the center are asked to follow rules while they are there and if rules aren't followed, a recreation staff member will suspend the child for a few days before they are allowed to return to the center. Anyone with questions about the centers can call Cheryl at 423-5410.

Let's play B-I-N-G-O!!

The Watsonia Recreation Center has **FREE** B-I-N-G-O games each month on the first and third Thursday. There are plenty of seats for old and new players to join in the fun.

Refreshments are served and prizes are awarded to the winners. Come and bring friends! If you have any questions, call 423-5410.

Chamber announces Yard of the Month

Mrs. Mary G. Eaddy, 917 Bluff Street, has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for May 2011. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community who work so diligently and add so much to our community's unique character. Mrs. Eaddy received a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

