

Swamp Fox Scene

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



Volume 2, Issue 3

August 2011

Keeping up with what's going on ...

August 4th, 11th & 18th

Thursday Night LIVE! Free concerts in the historic Marion Opera House; Doors open at 6:30. (See Page 3 for more.)

August 6th

Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon: Farmers Market; 4-8p.m.: Marion Market, both at the old Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Bobby Gerald Parkway. (See Page 2 for details.)

August 6th

Saturday, 8 p.m.: Project "Rising Phoenix," fundraiser, C.D. Joyner (See page 3 for details.)



August 9th

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

August 15th

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

August 15th

Monday, FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

August 20th

Saturday, noon until! Second annual Phillips Street Block Party.

August 26th

Friday, 4:30 p.m.: Entries must be received for the City's Tennis Tournament. (See Page 4 for more details.)

VISIT THE CITY OF MARION ONLINE AT WWW.MARIONSC.GOV AND ON FACEBOOK UNDER CITY OF MARION, SOUTH CAROLINA.

If you are a student at FDTC, you may be interested in the math courses to be taught in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center. To learn more, call Marie Ferguson at (843) 676-8558. To find out about other offerings at the Center, call Suzan Orrico at (843) 661-1283.

Coming up in September

City offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 in celebration of Labor Day.

City of Marion will have a PLAY DAY in Withlacoochee Park on Saturday, September 17. Look for details and plan to volunteer!

Finals for the Swamp Fox Open will be on the Withlacoochee Tennis Courts on Sept. 17-18.

Council agrees to spend money on improvements

At the July City Council meeting the following capital items and projects were prioritized and approved by city council.

The expenditures will take place over the course of the upcoming fiscal year, which began on July 1.

The city will have the A.C. Tollison Gymnasium roof replaced and repaired and the building will be equipped with air conditioning.

The C.D. Joyner Auditorium will have flashing repaired and sealed.

The city will have its 1999 street

sweeper refurbished and will purchase a 16-foot hydraulic boom mower. Additionally, the sanitation department will get a new truck for towing.

The police department will get a new computer server and several city parks will be getting new playground equipment. The playgrounds at Grice's Recreation Center, Withlacoochee Park and Tilghman Park will be redone and sport new equipment. Total cost of the updating, renovations and new purchases is expected to be around \$540,695.



20 attend first QuickStart Camp

Coach Iris Stackhouse and several high school tennis team players worked with 6-12 year olds in July, teaching the basic skills of tennis during the city's first such camp.

Sales tax holiday August 5 -7

Back-to-school shopping has become a little more bearable, thanks to the state's annual Sales Tax Holiday weekend. For the 12th year, sales taxes will not be charged on many items from Friday, Aug. 5 at 12:01 a.m. until the Sunday, Aug. 7 at midnight.

During this popular three-day tax free weekend, the 6 percent state sales and use tax and any applicable local option taxes will be lifted on traditional

back-to-school items, including clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, school supplies, computers, printers, blankets, bedspreads and linens, bath cloths, bath towels, bath rugs and mats, shower curtains, pillows and pillow cases.

The sales tax holiday does not apply to jewelry, cosmetics, eyewear, wallets, furniture, or items on layaway.

(Visit www.sctax.org for information.)

CITY NEWS

Taylor is June's employee of the month



The City of Marion selected Robert Taylor as its June 2011 Employee of the Month.

Taylor, or better known as "Chili" to his fellow employees, has worked for the Street Department since June 2004 and was previously employed with the City from 1993 to 2002.

A hard worker who takes great pride in his work, which ranges from mowing grass in the summer to decorating the City for the Christmas season, "Chili is a great asset to our department," said Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders.

"He never complains, and is always willing to take on any additional tasks that I assign to him." The Mayor and Council recognized Robert Taylor for his strong work ethic and significant contributions to the City of Marion at the July 12th 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

Calling all crafters and more! MSM's Farmers Market to add more 'Market'

Since the end of June, Main Street Marion, the Historic Marion Revitalization Association, has been sponsoring and promoting the Farmers Curb Market at the old Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Bobby Gerald Parkway.

Fruits and vegetables, fish and seafood have been available on Saturdays from 8 a.m.-noon. The effort brings local producers and consumers together downtown. Thanks to Main Street Marion, you don't have to travel far to be able to buy and eat fresher and healthier produce.

And now, on **Saturday, August 6**, the group is adding craftsmen and artisans to the afternoon's line up. Not to be a flea market, Steve Pool, organizer and president of MSM, said anyone and everyone is invited to set up for free from 4-8 p.m. to sell their hand-made goods. **Kate Brown of Conway will perform during the event.**

The Marion Market is being created to give people who live within a 25-50 mile radius of Marion a place to sell their home-made items. Pool said he is expecting art of all types, jewelry, hand-made furniture, and other such items to be on sale. Only DHEC approved food



items will be accepted for sale, he cautioned. Pool said the Market will also have exhibitions, demonstrations and entertainment. Vendors must register with MSM, but **there is no fee. Registration can be done the afternoon of the event or by calling 843-423-9918** and arranging to complete the forms.

The Marion Market will be conducted within the fenced area of the old Coca-Cola Bottling plant. The Market Place is expected to continue each Saturday while the Farmers Market is open.



Charge those batteries! The 2nd Great American Golf Cart Poker Run will be on Aug. 26

If you missed the first Great American Golf Cart Poker Run, then plan now so you don't miss this year's! Back by popular demand will be the **2nd Great American Golf Cart Poker Run** in Marion's downtown business and historic district.

The Poker Run around the city is a terrific fun-filled way to end the summer and is a fundraiser for civic groups. In addition to golf carts, bicycles are welcomed as entries, too, event organizer Steve Pool says. The **2nd Great American Golf Cart Poker Run** gets everyone out in Marion on a Saturday, helps promote businesses and civic groups, raises money for area organizations, shows our American pride and allows us to have a good time without traveling out of town.

Visitors are welcome! Stay tuned for more details! The event will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27. Mark the date and charge the batteries! You can call Chuck at 843-423-9918 or Steve at 843-457-7492, they'll keep you up on the details.

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.

City pool, centers open to help residents stay cool

The City of Marion welcomes people to its City Pool and into the Grice and Watsonia Recreation centers as cooling points. Individuals can go in the centers during regular business hours of 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. for cold water, restrooms and air conditioning.

The centers also offer activities for seniors and children. Residents are welcome to bring a book or project from home to work on while they "chill."

IF YOU'RE GOING:

Eloise Grice Recreation Center, Gurley Street, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 423-8623

Eloise Grice Swimming Pool, Gurley Street, 9 a.m. to noon & 2 to 6 p.m. Mon. - Sat. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Call 423-9391.

Watsonia Recreation Center, Watsonia Street, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 423-5410.

Council member Gregg is Council's Chaplain

City of Marion Council member

Odessa Gregg, shown at right, has been named the Council Chaplain. She was appointed to the position during the July Council meeting. Gregg represents District 5 and is filling the remaining two years of an unexpired term.



'Rising Phoenix' project to raise money, benefit Main Street fire victims

At about 4 a.m. on Friday, July 8, a wall of flames dealt a knockout blow to downtown businesses, including Tio's, Richardsons Appliances & Antiques, Betty's Beauty Salon, Champion Martial Arts, Jus-Shoes-n-Things and Justine Roberts' Performing Arts Academy. The fire reduced three businesses to ashes and the others suffered smoke and water damage.

At 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 in the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center students of Champion Martial Arts and the Performing Arts Academy will take to the stage like a Phoenix rising above the ashes!

This event will kick-off fundraising efforts that will help restore this city block and each business affected. Pitch in to help create, from the embers, a true "Rising Phoenix" story. For information, call 843-453-2616 or e-mail Fred Gause at fredskarate@yahoo.com.

IF YOU'RE GOING: C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center, Elizabeth Street, 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Checks should be made payable to Main Street Marion.



Next up: Hartsville's Jazz band "After Dark..."

In July, the Sugarloaf Mountain Boys from Columbia kicked off the city's free concert series "Thursday Night LIVE!" About 150 people enjoyed the bluegrass music and homespun humor. The series is being sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County, the Marion Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Marion and the City of Marion. Shows in August are on Thursdays, Aug. 4, 11 and 18. For info, call 843-423-9918.

Thursday Night LIVE!
MARION Opera House
 100 West Court Street
 Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
 Shows start at 7 p.m.
 250 seat capacity
FREE Admission!

July 21
SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN BOYS
 Columbia, South Carolina
 Blue Grass & Folk

July 28
CAMERON ALLEN
 Atlanta, Georgia
 Guitar Extraordinaire

August 4
AFTER DARK
 Hartsville, South Carolina
 Jazz

Aug 11
MELANIE McMILLAN
 Florence, South Carolina
 Acoustic / Folk Rock / Pop

Aug 18
JEBB MAC
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
 Funk/Hip Hop/Pop

Get your teams ready! Chamber's 21st Golf Tournament set

The Marion Chamber of Commerce will play host to its 21st annual Chamber Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Aug. 31 at Dusty Hills Country Club. Format will be Captain's Choice. Shotgun start at 1 p.m.

Money raised through the tournament helps offset the cost of the various Chamber programs and activities provided to the city and its businesses. Teams and tournament corporate sponsors, hole sponsors and cart sponsors are welcome!

To register or sign up for sponsorships, visit Judy in the Chamber of Commerce office at 209 E. Bobby Gerald Parkway or call her at 423-3561.

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**.



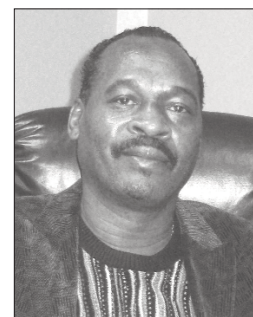
BOBBY DAVIS
District 4

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
Chaplain
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**.

SPORTS & RECREATION

City getting ready to host Swamp Fox Open, a blind draw tennis tournament in September

The City of Marion Recreation Department is sponsoring the first **Swamp Fox Open**, Blind Draw Tennis Tournament, with finals on Saturday and Sunday on Sept. 17-18 at the Withlacoochee Park tennis courts.

Players can register to play in **Singles – Men & Women; Doubles – Men & Women; Juniors – Must be 14 or under**. All playing levels are encouraged to participate in the tournament.

Register as an individual or a doubles team and match ups will be determined by random draw. Entries must be received by Friday, Aug. 26 to allow time to set up the draw. Entries received after Aug. 26 will be considered based on the number of entries received and space available.

Registration forms and rules are available by calling 843-423-5410 or online at <http://marionsc.gov/government/events.aspx>.

Early rounds will be played beginning Sept. 3 and championship matches will be played Sept. 17-18.

Entry Fees are:

\$20 registration fee for individuals

\$30 registration fee per doubles team

\$10 registration fee for Juniors.

USTA rules govern play.

All players are expected to uphold their commitment to the tournament and the other players in the tournament by completing all matches.

Players are encouraged to play all matches on the city's new tennis courts at Withlacoochee Park. An alternate

court may be used only if both players agree. Each player (team) supplies an unopened can of yellow USTA approved balls for the match. Winners receive the unopened can of balls.

The winning team must report the match score to the Watsonia Recreation Center before 9 a.m. the morning after the "play by" date.

Coaching is not permitted and spectators may not intercede in any way and a parent or guardian must accompany juniors to their matches. All matches are best two of three sets. A set is completed when one player wins six games by a margin of two games. If the set score reaches 6-6, a seven-point tie-breaker (first to seven by two games) is played to determine the winner of that set.

Recreation Department accepting registrations for fall sports; COACHES NEEDED

The City of Marion Recreation Department is taking youth sign-ups for participation in its cheerleading, soccer and football programs. Anyone wishing to register can do so at the Watsonia Recreation Department, 100 Watsonia Street, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – noon and 1-5 p.m.

Registration fee is \$16 for City of Marion residents and \$30 for out-of-city participants. If you would like more information, call Cheryl at 423-5410. Registration requires a copy of the child's birth certificate at registration, even if the child has played sports with the City of Marion before.

If there is no birth certificate, there will be no registration.



Ages for cheerleading and football are 8-12 years old and ages for soccer are 5-14 years old.

The age cut off date for all fall sports is Sept. 1: Meaning, whatever the age of a child on this date is the child's playing age.

Anyone interested in coaching or officiating in the Marion youth leagues should also contact the

Marion Recreation Department.

All coaches must be certified. The city provides the certification classes.

Anyone interested in participating should also call Cheryl at 423-5410.



Have you had your workout today? Exercise at C.D. Joyner

There is an aerobics class conducted in the C.D. Joyner Auditorium Monday thru Friday, taught by Lille Ann Sanders. Cost is \$30 each month and the class is from 5:30-6:30 pm. New members are welcome! Join the group and keep moving! If you have questions, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

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

The Watsonia Recreation Center has FREE B-I-N-G-O on the first and third Thursdays ... Come over and join the fun. There are refreshments and prizes!



Marion's Charles McRae has photos in national journals

Marion resident Charles McRae has had several of his "backyard photographs" published in national magazines. Above, his "Yellow Warbler" was featured in the Audubon Magazine and Natures Best. Additionally, his Cedar Waxwing was in a recent "Natures Best" issue and he has had an article appear in the spring Carolina Nature Photography Association's publication. His works are viewable online at www.chasmcraephotography.com.

Chamber announces Yard of the Month

Mrs. Marie Daniels, 408 McEachern Heights, has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for July 2011. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently and add so much to our community's unique character. Mrs. Daniels will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

