



Swamp Fox Scene



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

Volume 3, Issue 2

July 2012

City officials ask citizens to partner in resolving storm drainage issues

The City continues to work to resolve storm water runoff issues and is asking citizens to help in the efforts.

On Bobby L. Davis Boulevard, the City is cleaning trash out of ditches to ensure proper water flow following heavy rains. Also, larger pipes are being put in to carry out flow from the ditch. On Phillips Street, the City is replacing a storm drain line. Around Withlacoochee Park, the City is redoing the existing pipe and installing a new 48-inch concrete pipe and new catch basins to help with drainage.



An underlying cause of some of the drainage has been littering, as shown above, Administrator Alan Ammons said. For instance, trash that is either thrown directly into a catch basin or onto the ground can be pushed into a catch basin during periods of heavy rain, which impedes the flow of water, clogs the catch basin, and creates flooding.

It's important to understand the connection between littering and the slow run off after heavy rains, city officials said. Also, some folks live in low-lying areas so run off is slower when rainfalls are heaviest. Below, city employees are shown working on Phillips Street.

Appropriately disposing of bottles and such and keeping up with balls and other toys left outside by children will help to ensure everyone's well-being, Ammons said. If a problem exists with a nearby catch basin, residents should call Ammons at 843-423-5961.



Farmer's Market brings fresh produce at good price

A second objective of the Marion Farmers Market and Marketplace, besides promoting healthy living and offering fresh, locally grown produce, is to attract people to Historic Marion.

According to Olde Towne Marion (HMRA) Executive Director Chuck Wiegert, the Market, in its second year, is satisfying both of those.

"The idea of the Market is to bring good produce at a

The produce available at individual stands varies each week, with a wide variety available.

Debbie Erwin of Erwin Produce said "We sell stuff during the week as people call us for orders. Last week, we sold out of squash, so we had no squash. This week, we sold out of okra, so we won't have okra until next week. It all depends on what's available."



good price. A lot of the stuff you can find here is cheaper than in the stores," he said.

Additionally, "Our job is to bring people downtown to expose them to the businesses. So, by bringing the Farmer's Market and setting up, it turned out to be a good thing," he added.

Marion Farmers Market and Marketplace is open to the public 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. each Saturday through December. Last year, the Market was based in the old Coca Cola Plant. This year, it moved to the vacant lot on Marion Street.

Dan Shelley, another farmer at the Market, said the produce sold is based on what is available, a testament to the freshness of the products. "I grow all of this stuff, so whatever I got is what I bring. I pick this stuff on Friday morning or Saturday morning, so it's fresh. I try to have as much variety as possible."

While providing fresh produce and plants, as shown above, the Market also provides a place for social gathering and purchasing handcrafted items, such as jewelry.

THE CITY'S NEWS

Graves is Employee of the Month



The City of Marion selected Police Lt. Thomas Graves as its May 2012 Employee of the Month.

Lt. Graves has 10 years of experience in law enforcement and has served with the City of Marion Police Department for the past four years.

The past two years he has served as the School Resource Officer at the Marion County Alternative School. Lt. Graves is a dedicated officer and is well respected by his peers and the community, as well as by the staff and students at the Alternative School.

Lt. Graves, shown at right telling one of his many jokes, is always eager to assist the Department.

"Lt. Graves enjoys working with the students and citizens of Marion," Police Chief Jim Gray said.

"He has a real gift for making people feel comfortable, relaxed and amused with his ability to make them laugh."

The Mayor and Council recognized Lt. Graves for his dedication and significant contributions to the City of Marion at the June Council Meeting.

Ordinance requires owners to upkeep lawns

According to the City's Health and Sanitation, Weeds and Vegetation Ordinance grass, weeds, or other overgrown vegetation higher than one foot on average is declared to be a nuisance.

The ordinance also states that any property owner or occupant of the property that allows the property to serve as a breeding place for trash and litter or as a fire hazard is to be declared a nuisance.

Any individual who fails to resolve the issue within 10 days of notice of non-compliance will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The City may remove weeds, overgrown vegetation either by the use of a city crew or designated contractor and the cost will become a lien upon the property and collected in the same manner as municipal taxes.

The cost of such action by the city is as follows: \$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 any contractor costs incurred by the city to correct the nuisance lot in addition to the cost of mailings.

If an owner or occupant of a property believes they are unable to pay to have the grass, weeds, or overgrown vegetation removed, he or she may ask the City of Marion for assistance. A voucher program, administered by a seven-member committee, is available for reviewing requests for assistance by low-income persons. For information about the voucher program, contact City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

Sanitation Department hires new employee



Michael Cain accepted a full time position with the City of Marion Sanitation Department, effective June 1. Michael is a Dillon native and lives in the Zion community of Marion County with his fiancé Brandi Bass and their nine-month-old daughter, Sophia.

Michael is completing the required classes to receive his high school diploma from Marion County Adult Education and worked on an as-needed basis before transitioning to his full-time position. The Sanitation Department is responsible for collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill.

"Michael has hit the ground running. He is a hard worker and has a good attitude towards his job duties," said Winky Fore, Sanitation Superintendent.

City approves \$5.5 million 2012-13 budget

At the City's June Council Meeting, Council approved the \$5.5 million 2012-13 budget for the City of Marion. The balanced budget does not require a millage increase.

Council also approved the hospitality tax revenues for the City of Marion for the upcoming fiscal year and agreed to continue using Kenneth Cobb & Co, PC, as the city auditor. They also approved the lowest bid for the purchase of a bush hog side cutter.

A topic of public comments during the

meeting was storm water runoff. A citizen spoke about the flooding issue on Bobby L. Davis Boulevard. During City Administrator Alan Ammons report, he highlighted other areas with flooding concerns in the city. Council recognized Ashley Williams, a recent graduate of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, for her hard work in and out of school. Minutes for the meeting, once approved, and an agenda of the July meeting will be available at www.marionsc.gov.

This issue of the City of Marion's Swamp Fox Scene was produced, in part, by Benjamin N. Duke scholar Priyang Shah. Priyang, interning with various government entities in Marion County, is part of an eight-week enrichment program.

NEED HELP WITH CITY SERVICES?

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

- 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, 423-5410

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's free monthly news magazine 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. Call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961 for more information.

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.

Planning to play with fireworks for the 4th? Know the city's rules



The City of Marion's Fireworks Ordinance states that it is unlawful for anyone to possess, sell, offer for sale, store, transport, or use within the city, any fireworks that are not classified as ICC Class C "Common Fireworks."

It is also unlawful to explode or ignite fireworks within 600 feet of a church, hospital, asylum, or public school; to explode or ignite fireworks within 75 feet of where fireworks are stored, sold, or offered for sale; to ignite or discharge any permissible fireworks within or throw the same from any motor vehicle; and, to place or throw any ignited fireworks into or at any motor vehicle.

No fireworks of any kind shall be used, fired, shot, or discharged except from 5-11 p.m. on New Year's Day and the Fourth of July, and from 11 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. on New Year's Eve.

Keep up with what's going on!

EACH Saturday the Marion Farmers Market & Marion Market Place is open at 229 North Main Street from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Plants, vegetables, handmade treasures & more!

EACH month there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting. Contact Brian Nolan for information ... e-mail Nolan at briannolanemail@gmail.com. Both are sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. Call the Council at 843-423-6636 for details about other events.

Wednesday, July 4, City offices closed to observe Independence Day! Offices reopen at 8 a.m. on July 5.

AT THE LIBRARY!

Friday, July 6, 10 a.m.: Opera House, "The 'New' Billy Goats Gruff!" Part of the Marion County Library's educational and entertain-



ing summer programs for children ... **Friday, July 13**, 10 a.m.: Opera House, "There's a Monster Under my Bed!" **Friday, July 20**, 10 a.m.: Opera House, "Elephant & Piggie Extravaganza!"

For more about the Library's summer offerings, call Cathy Pruett, Youth Services Librarian, 843-423-8300 or e-mail her at cjpruett@marioncountylibrary.org.

Monday, July 9, 10 a.m., The LaLeche League of the Pee Dee, nursing mothers and mothers-to-be, babies and toddlers; Sunday School House of the Church of the Advent, 103 East Mullins Street, Marion. Free; no reservation required. Call 843-360-0101 for information.

Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.: City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

COMING IN AUGUST: GRITS takes to the Historic Marion Opera House stage ... Stay tuned for more.

Museum invites citizens to celebrate local heroes

Marion County Museum is displaying its Independence Day Celebration Exhibit, featuring historic memorabilia from local military heroes.

The exhibit, which opened with a reception on June 29, will be up through August and is open to the public for free. A speaker, the singing of patriotic songs, and a white table ceremony for all of the soldiers from Marion County lost in America's wars, along with a fireworks show at the Marion County Airport, were part of the opening night events.

The exhibit, conducted for the third year, is sponsored by the county. It celebrates Marion County's military history by displaying memorabilia from the Revolutionary War to the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.

Some displayed items include old newspapers and magazines, as shown below, uniforms, paintings, military gear and war bonds.



SAVE THE DATE! Golf Cart Poker Run coming up in August

Proceeds from this year's Great American Golf Cart Poker Run through historic Marion will benefit the City of Marion Police Department, organizer Steve Pool said. Set for the last Saturday of August, the 25th, registration for the Poker Run will be at 3 p.m. in the alley behind the Farmer's Market site on Main Street.

Decorated bicycles and golf carts will begin their trek through town at 5 p.m. Poole said live entertainment and other activities are planned.

The Poker Run around the city is a fun-filled way to end the summer with a bang and serves as a fundraiser for civic groups. Stay tuned for details!

Church youth group works to make visible changes in Marion

This summer, just like last summer, several area high school and college students, part of Marion Baptist Church's City Changers



group, have taken upon themselves the task of sprucing up homes and city facilities. At left, members of the group work on the bathhouse at the Grice Recreation Center pool. At right, members paint a house on Waverly Way. For information about the group, call Tommy Noland in the church office at 843-423-3111.



SPORTS & RECREATION

Senior aerobics takes summer break: *No classes in July*

Senior Aerobics, offered at Watsonia Recreation Center, will not have classes during July. The group will resume classes in August, and all are invited to attend.

If you have any questions, call Cheryl Askins at 423-5410.

Cheerleading Camp planned for August ... Sign up now!

The Marion Recreation Department will conduct a three-day Cheer Camp from Aug. 1-3 for 7-12 year olds.

Applications will be taken until July 31. The camp is \$40 for early registration. Anyone signing up to participate after July 31 will be charged a \$15 late fee. Camp will be conducted from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Watsonia Recreation Center.

Anyone with questions can call 423-5410.

For information about the city's new Yoga class, call Judy at 423-3561.
Classes are from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays.



Pool Hours

50 CENTS PER PERSON
Monday - Friday
10 am - 12 pm
2 pm - 6 pm
Saturdays
10 am - 6 pm
Sundays
2 pm - 6 pm



The Pool is OPEN!

SWIMMING LESSONS 2012
LOCATION: GRICE'S POOL
507 GURLEY ST, MARION

TIMES: 6:00pm - 7:00 pm
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

PRICE: \$25/week or
\$75 for private lessons

FOR INFORMATION
CALL: Cheryl - 423-5410
William - 230-4517



**CERTIFIED
LIFEGUARDS
ON DUTY**



COME JOIN IN ON THE FUN
& LEARNING THE PROPER
TECHNIQUES TO
SWIMMING SAFELY.

BACK TO SCHOOL BINGO

Where: Watsonia Recreation

Time: 9am- 1pm

Date: Thursday, July 26th, 2012

Age: 1st grade - 8th grade

Questions: Please Call 423-5410

Movie: 9am- 10:30 am
Snack & Clean Up: 10:30 am-11:00 am
Bingo: 11:00 am- 1 pm

Marion Recreation is offering this free, community-sponsored event as a way to help students get school supplies and to give them an opportunity to get out and have a good time with friends. Parents do not have to be present for children to attend.
We look forward to having a good time!



Chamber recognizes Yard of the Month

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Ammons, 1006 Allen Drive, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for June 2012. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Ammons will receive a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.