

# Swamp Fox Scene



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

## See crime happening? City's "Text-a-Tip" program in place

Beginning the end of September, the City of Marion Police Department implemented a "Text-a-Tip" system for citizens.

When citizens see suspicious activity or a crime in progress they can write a text message and send it to 430-0938 from their cellular phones. This does not replace calling 911 for emergency services, Mayor Rodney Berry stressed, but is an option in addition to dialing 911. A text to 430-0938 is received by city police officers. A call to 911 dispatches officers and fire and rescue personnel as needed.

"This is just another option for citizens in our combined efforts to stop crime in the City of Marion," Berry said.

"Together we can work to make Marion safer and to make a difference in our communities."



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**IT'S IN OUR HANDS!**  
**SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN.**

Together, we can make a difference ...  
The City of Marion has a **TEXT A TIP** line ...  
See a crime happening? Have a TIP?

**Text it to 430-0938.**

## Fire prevention is focus for firefighters

Though the city's fire-fighters are always out and about discussing fire safety and prevention with students, residents and business owners, the week of Oct. 7-13 is National Fire Prevention week and fire-fighters will have added emphasis on safety.

This year's campaign, "Have two ways out!" reinforces a need to have well planned escape routes in case of fire.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association's website, ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)) "... when fire strikes, your home could be engulfed in smoke and flames in just a few minutes. It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds."

If your first escape route is blocked by smoke or flames, an alternative is needed. Having two ways out is a key part of your plan. This year's theme, "Have 2 Ways Out!," focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

City of Marion firefighters are available to speak to groups regarding fire safety and prevention. Call the Fire Department at 423-8602 for more information. Additionally, activities for students can be found at [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org).



## Foundation helps fund Business Jump Start program for job creation

The Marion County Healthcare Foundation has made possible, through a grant, the upcoming Business Jump Start program for those seeking to create jobs locally. From left are Mayor Rodney Berry, Francis Marion University Professor Dr. Brianna Zhang, MCHF Director Gene Tucker, and Coordinator of Special Projects at FMU Suzan Orrico. For information, call Orrico at 843-661-1283.



## Table tennis anyone?

Call the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Department at 423-5410 to see about getting involved with a new table tennis group.

# CITY NEWS

## City hires Smith to lead parks, recreation & leisure activities

Marion Mayor Rodney Berry is pleased to announce the selection of James R. "Russ" Smith as Parks, Recreation and Leisure Director for the City of Marion. Russ, shown below, is a Marion native who graduated from Marion High School and Francis Marion University.



Russ has worked in the education field for the past 12 years, teaching English as a foreign language in China. Before that, he worked with the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

As the director of parks, recreation and leisure activities, Russ will oversee seven parks, the city's pool, athletic fields and their maintenance, recreation facilities and the scheduling and creation of a variety of recreation programs and special cultural events for the community.

Russ will have a staff of six full time employees and seven seasonal employees to help him with his duties.

"Growing up in Marion, I've always appreciated what the city has to offer. I am very impressed with the investment Mayor

Berry and City Council members have made toward the quality of life facilities and services for their citizens," Russ said. "I'm honored to be selected and very excited to become part of such an outstanding city." Mayor Berry said he is optimistic about the future of recreation in the city and confident in Russ' leadership skills.

Smith assumed his new duties as the city's parks, recreation and leisure director on Friday, Sept. 14.

## City selects Owens as Employee of the Month

The City of Marion selected Grant Writer and Publicist Dianne Owens as its August 2012 Employee of the Month.



Dianne, who has worked for the City since July 2009, was previously editor of the Marion Star and Mullins Enterprise.

"Dianne is one of our most dependable employees," Alan Ammons, administrator said. She is always willing to take on anything asked of her, said Mayor Rodney Berry, such as teaching a beginning computer class to senior citizens, which she began in September. The Mayor and Council recognized Dianne for her strong work ethic, love for the City of Marion, and significant contributions to the community through her work at the City, during the September Council Meeting.

Each month, on a rotating basis, the City of Marion Department Heads choose an employee whose work for the previous month is worthy of note. The employee is recognized during a Council Meeting and given a \$25 Chamber Check to redeem at Marion businesses.

## Employees learn how to fend-off stress

All City of Marion employees attended a stress management seminar in September. The classes, presented by Trinity Behavioral Care, were conducted in the training room at the new fire station on Sen. Gasque Road.

The seminar focused on recognizing signs of stress and developing stress management strategies.

City of Marion Purchasing and Personnel Director, Elizabeth Ficik, coordinated the training.

"It was a positive experience for the employees," she said, adding "and they now have a few new tools in their arse-

nal of weapons that they can use to fight off feeling stressful. The classes were offered free to the employees and are part of the city's wellness efforts.

Helping our employees stay fit mentally and physically is something we address routinely, Ficik said.

Quoting Robert Updegraff, Ficik said "It takes intelligence, resourcefulness, patience, tact and courage to meet the troubles of any job." It is necessary to handle stressful situations cheerfully and with good judgment, she said, and to use stressful situations as opportunities for growth.

## Time to change your clocks & smoke detector batteries!

**Fall Back:**  
Set your clocks back one hour ...  
"Fall Back"  
is at 2 a.m.,  
Sunday, Nov. 4.



Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors, too! Call the City Fire Department at 423-8602 if you need assistance.

MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF MARION FIRE DEPARTMENT AND POLICE DEPARTMENT TOOK TO THE VOLLEYBALL PIT IN WITHLACOOCHEE PARK ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 15, AS PART OF THE CITY'S PLAY DAY 2012 ACTIVITIES. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TOOK TOP HONORS IN THIS FIRST OF ITS KIND, BEST TWO OUT OF THREE TOURNAMENT. FOR OTHER PLAY DAY 2012 PHOTOS, VISIT THE MARION RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S FACEBOOK PAGE ONLINE.



**FD v PD: In the Pit, Play Day 2012!**

## Coming up in October ...

Keep up with what's going on in and around Marion!



**EACH Saturday:** Marion Farmers Market & Market Place at 229 North Main Street beginning at 9 a.m. Come early for the best choice of plants, vegetables, treasures & more!

**EACH month** there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting. Both are sponsored by the *Arts Council of Marion County*. Call the Council at 843-423-6636 for details or e-mail Brian Nolan at [briannolanemail@gmail.com](mailto:briannolanemail@gmail.com).

**3, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Rise & Shine!** Networking opportunity at Bridgers Drug Store, Main Street! Call 423-9918 for details.

**5, Friday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.,** Marion High School Homecoming Parade on Main Street.

**6, Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.,** Fall Celebration, Saffold Community Center, Highway 908, Gresham. Something for everyone!

**6, Saturday, 7 a.m.-noon,** Community Yard Sale spon-

sored by HMRA, on Court Street in front of Pee Dee Federal Bank. Spaces are \$5 each. For details, call 432-9918.

**8, Monday, 10 a.m.,** LaLeche League of the Pee Dee, in the Sunday School House of the Church of the Advent, 103 East Mullins Street, Marion. Call 843-360-0101 for details.

**8, Monday, 5:30 p.m.,** The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be in the Bond Street Fire Department's community room. All are welcome.

**9, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.,** City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

**10, Wednesday, noon-1 p.m.,** Alzheimer's Support Group meets in the Marion County Medical Center. Call 843-423-1888 for details. These meetings are the second Wednesday of each month.

**27, Saturday, 9-10:30 a.m.,** Walk to Support Breast Cancer Awareness. N. Main Street to Green Street and Pop Dorsey Park. Contact Novella Davis for details.

**31, Wednesday, Halloween!**

### COMING IN NOVEMBER:

Saturday, Nov. 3, Boys & Girls Club Golf Tournament fundraiser; Saturday, Nov. 17, County-wide fall clean up day!

## Veterans have "Forget-Me-Not" Banquet, fundraiser

The Disabled American Veterans will have a Forget-Me-Not Banquet Fundraiser on Oct. 13 in the A.C. Robinson Family Resource Center (1333 Penderboro Road, Marion), beginning at 6 p.m.

All funds raised will go to the purchase of a bus or van for local veterans in need. To purchase a ticket, contact Commander Willie Miles at 843-464-0727.

## Mullins Chamber to have annual bog-off and Fall Fest on Oct. 20

The Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the annual Fall Fest and Bog-off on Oct. 20 in Smith-Haven Park beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The event features an ATV, motorcycle and golf cart show, games, live entertainment and dress your pet competition (sponsored by Small Paws). Children can also enjoy hotdogs and drinks. To participate call 843-464-6651.

## Marion alumni plan Fall Reunion, weekend of Oct. 19-21

Schoolmates, classmates and friends are invited to support the Marion High School Alumni Association.

The group's goals are to create a community-oriented organization, contributing to the needs in the community, and to improve the scholarship funding program for graduating high school seniors.

This month, there will be a Meet & Greet on Oct. 19 and a Fall Banquet at Johnakin Middle School on Oct. 20. The weekend ends with a Sunday worship service at St. John AME Church on Oct. 21.

Cost for the three days of fun is a \$75 donation. See any Committee Member for each day's cost break down.

Ways to support your Alumni Organization if you cannot attend in October are to make a class contribution (Class of 1950 - 2012); make an organization contribution (clubs, civic groups, churches, etc.); or to have businesses or individuals contribute.

Call Vivian Wade Rogers, chairperson, at 843-423-5678, or Willie M. Legette Rayford, secretary, 843-765-3234.

## Mayor to give State of City address

City of Marion Mayor Rodney Berry will give a State of the City address on Oct. 18 during a Lunch-n-Learn, sponsored by Olde Towne Marion. The event is set for noon in the Marion Opera House. Call 423-9918 to make reservations. Cost is \$5 per person and covers lunch.

Seating is limited.

## City continues spraying every other day for mosquitos

Mosquitos have been spreading the West Nile Virus in near record numbers this summer. To help stop the mosquito-borne illness, city employees have been spraying throughout the city on an every-other-day rotation. If you have questions about this, call City Administrator Alan Ammons at 423-5961.

According to the CDC website, the virus is a potentially serious illness. It is a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall.

To prevent or reduce the likelihood of being bitten by infected mosquitoes, when outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-reg-

istered active ingredient. Mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Wearing long sleeves and pants or staying indoors during these hours is a good precaution.

Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels.

Visit a doctor if you suspect you may have the virus.

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 Multi-forms 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 information about the newspaper, call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

## 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 ...

<u>Mayor</u>	Rodney Berry, 843-423-8235
<u>City Administrator, Building Official</u>	Alan Ammons, Ext. 19
<u>City Clerk</u>	Pam Jones, Ext. 10
<u>City Treasurer</u>	Patricia Brown, Ext. 18
<u>Municipal Court Clerk</u>	Heather Evans, 843-423-8616
<u>Personnel, Purchasing Director</u>	Elizabeth Fick, 843-423-8614
<u>Planning &amp; Zoning Admin Assistant</u>	Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11
<u>Recreation Admin Assistant</u>	Cheryl Askins, 843-423-5410

## 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 .....

## City has Bingo twice a month

Bingo for our Senior Citizens is offered on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 8:15 a.m.– 9:15 a.m. We have plenty of room for new people to join the fun. We offer prizes and free refreshments!

## Facilities are available for rental

The Recreation Department is accepting rental applications for the 2013 year. Anyone interested in renting the Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter or a Recreation Center should call (843-423-5410) or stop by the Watsonia Center (100 Recreation Drive) to check on availabilities.

## Aerobics offered daily in CDJ

Aerobics are offered in a CD Joyner Fine Arts Building class room, Monday – Friday, taught by Lille Ann Sanders. The class, 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m., is \$5 per class.

There are plenty of slots for newcomers! Something different is offered nightly, kick boxing, aerobics, cardio workouts, etc. If you have any questions, call 423-5410.

## Yoga meets Tuesdays, Thursdays

Frances Bethea and Judy Johnson are teaching yoga for the City of Marion Recreation Department. Classes are in the training room in the Fire Department Substation on Senator Gasque Road, across from Richardson Funeral Home and are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$5 per class or \$30 for the month. Come and join the group ... No experience is necessary!

## Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser

Marion Recreation Mite Cheerleaders are selling raffle tickets for a Breast Cancer Awareness quilt.

Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. Tickets can be purchased through any Mite Cheerleader, Coach or the recreation department.

The quilt winner will be announced at the last football game of the season during a special Cheer for a Cure event

hosted by the girls. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Susan G. Komen for a Cure, with the remaining going to continue improvements to the cheer program. We thank you in advance for your support.



# Chamber announces annual golf tournament results

Sixty-four players participated in the Dusty Hills Country Club-hosted 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Marion Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament and dinner on Sept. 5.

Results are:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: (59) Lester Wilson, Colby Hyduke, Tony Odom, and Bill Cox.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: (61) Wesley Williamson, Rusty Creech, Jim McCormick Sr., and Jim McCormick, Jr.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: (61) Wayne George, Johnny Atkinson, Tommy George, and Tony Elvington.

4<sup>th</sup> Place: (61) Johnson Atkinson, Ray Shubert, Ray Spivey, and Alan Zeman.

Closest to Pins: # 2, Johnson Atkinson; # 18, Wayne George

*Special Prizes:* T- Roy's Restaurant sponsored the 4<sup>th</sup> place prizes, Hulon Jewelers sponsored a diamond ring and Marion Tire sponsored a customized golf cart as prizes for the first hole in one on # 11 and #18.

This year there were no takers.

Tournament sponsors for this year were American Waste Systems; Anderson Brothers Bank; First Charter Co., Inc.; First Citizens Bank; Pee Dee Electric Cooperative; Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank; and Pee Dee Food Service. Greens sponsors were Beneteau, USA.; Herlong Insurance Agency, Inc.; Industrial Solutions & Supply, Inc.; Robert E. Lee, Attorney at Law; Craig Martin,

CPA,PA.; and Williamson Printing Company.

A Captain's Choice format was played with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. After golf, awards were presented by Chamber President Alan Zeman, Chamber Executive Director Judy Johnson and DHCC Club Professional Freddie Barkley.

T'Roy's Restaurant catered a chicken dinner. Tournament committee members were T. Carroll Atkinson III; Chairman, Lucas Atkinson; Elaine and Freddie Barkley; Ashley Brady; Craig Martin; and Alan Zeman. Special thanks are extended to Chamber member volunteers and sponsors for making this year's tournament and dinner a success.

## Business opens doors to new Marion office

The Marion Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce welcomed TLC Your Way Home Care Services, Inc. to its new location at 621 N. Main Street in Marion on September 6. TLC offers a variety of services, including personal care, meal preparation, light housekeeping, transportation,



Alzheimer's care and more. Natalia Feely, owner, and her staff can be reached at 843-423-1888. Feely also conducts the Alzheimer's Support Group on the second Wednesday of each month. For information call TLC at 423-1888.



## Congratulations to our 2012 PP&K participants

Shown are participants in our September National NFL Punt Pass & Kick Competition. First place winners were Peyton Britt, Drew Covington, Rylyn Marsh, Ryan Forney and Kyle Zeman. All of them move forward to their sectional competitions on Oct. 13th at 2 p.m. in Cheraw. Again, we thank all who participated and supported this event.