

Swamp Fox Scene



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

'Happy-Timers' take part in taping of Swamp Fox Country for local TV

Each month, City of Marion officials produce a 30-minute television segment for airing on HomeTown TV 8, the local public access channel. The late-August taping was done as the Mayor addressed the local senior citizens group, "The Happy-Timers." The show will be aired on Saturdays at 8 p.m., and at other times. For information about HomeTown TV 8 and its programs, visit www.hometown8.com.



Below, City of Marion Mayor Rodney Berry, Janice Lane and Faye Atkinson share a laugh.



United Fund sets annual Gala TV personality to speak at fundraiser

The United Fund of Marion County Board of Directors has announced that Nicole Boone, an anchor of news broadcasts with WBTW TV13, will be the guest speaker at the group's annual fundraiser gala.

The event is set for 6 p.m. on Sept. 16 in the Marion Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall. To get tickets and reserve a seat or to make a donation to the United Fund, call Judy Stanton, executive secretary, at 843-423-3411. Seating is arranged by tables of eight. Organizations and corporations are encouraged to purchase tables for their guests.



Jo Sanders of O'Haras tells those gathered at the August Open House of American Waste Management Systems in Marion about her bouts with cancer. The company, which has received the contract to pick up household trash in the City of Mullins and Marion, also rolled out their "Pink Cart" campaign. Service in Marion begins Oct. 1. The company's "AWS in the Pink" campaign allows customers to have pink trash carts as part of a "personalized curbside statement" about supporting breast cancer research.

AWS brings 'Pink' campaign to Marion

Beginning Oct. 1, household trash pick up in the City of Marion will be conducted by American Waste Management Systems.

During the last week in September, on the last trash pick up day, customers are asked to put all Waste Management trash carts by the curb. Trash and carts will be collected. Additionally, AWS will be putting out new carts, green ones and pink ones for those who have requested it.

AWS will contribute 50



cents per month to breast cancer awareness and research for each 96-gallon, all-pink trash cart, it has in service in the city.

For information about AWS, visit www.awsinc.net. For information about the "In the Pink Campaign," visit www.awsinthepink.org.



The City of Marion, in partnership with American Waste Systems, invites you to order YOUR pink trash can (at no cost) by calling City Hall at (843) 423-5961

www.awsinthepink.org

Coming up

September 1st

Wednesday, 1 p.m.: 20th Annual Marion Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, Dusty Hills

September 6th

Monday, City Hall closed to observe Labor Day

September 13th

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

September 14th

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

September 20th

Monday, 6:30 p.m.: Marion's Fox Watch meeting, 332, N. Main Street

It's Main Street Scarecrow Time!

Each year, Main Street Marion, Historic Marion Revitalization Association, sponsors the "SCARECROW" contest. Organizations and businesses are asked to put together a scarecrow representing their group or business.

Deadline to have the completed Scarecrow at the MSM, HMRA office, 301 N. Main Street, is at 2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 1. Participants are asked to put a name in a plastic-coating somewhere on the scarecrow and are asked to weather proof their creations as much as possible.

This is a judged event. One Main Street Marion gift certificate will be awarded for each category, which are Most Creative, Most Original and Most Scary. Winners will be announced at the Nov. 3 Rise and Shine.

Scarecrows must be secured on a 2x2 wooden stake that extends the length of the scarecrow, plus 9 inches above and below. Questions? Call Chuck at 843.423.9918.

Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov and 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 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

Bullard is named top employee for July

The City of Marion selected Firefighter Steven Bullard as its July 2010 Employee of the Month.

Steven, shown at right, graduated from the S.C. Fire Academy Firefighter II Recruit School in 2008 and received his EMT certification in 2009. He is a member of the Marion Rescue Squad and was honored as their 2009 Rescue Member of the Year.

Active in the Marion Fire Department's public education and fire prevention programs, he and his dalmatian, RECEO, are likeable members of our community. The Mayor and Council recognized Steven for his contributions to the City of Marion at the Aug. 10 Council Meeting.



Marion's SROs keep a busy summer schedule

The City of Marion has three full time School Resource Officers. They are certified law enforcement officers, assigned to provide coverage to our schools. As SROs, shown above, Lt. Cindy Barr (JMS), center; Cpl. Allen



Elvis (MHS), left; and Lt. Thomas Graves (MCAS), are specifically trained to perform three roles, as a law enforcement officer, law-related education teacher and law-related counselor.

In addition to their responsibilities in the schools and their roles in juvenile arbitration hearings and court proceedings, this summer they worked on a public relations program in Marion.

That program focused on extending the support of the SROs from the school campuses into the community. The SROs visited churches and businesses, school and daycare facilities, recreational centers, the public pool and the Marion County library. They participated in summer feeding programs and a number of recreational events and activities and volunteered to read books to local children. The SROs also made home visits over the summer to check on the Marion youth and our elderly residents and to promote crime watch activities within the community.

Chamber offers help, places to serve, and more!

The Marion Chamber of Commerce works hard to give its members a voice in interests that affect our community. Joining the Chamber is the best way to be involved directly in not only the business community, but in all aspects that affect the quality of life in Marion.

There are opportunities for people to become involved as a volunteer in the community, such as on Economic Development task forces and with Marion County Progress. These work to facilitate economic growth.

There are programs in our education system that will help strengthen the education of our young people headed for the work place and there are programs at the Marion County Museum offering opportunities for historical, artistic, and cultural activities. Main Street Marion welcomes supporters and help in the work they are doing to preserve our historic downtown area.

The Marion Chamber of Commerce also offers many unique and specialty services for our community. For those new to the area and for our local residents, we have the 911 Marion County maps for sale. We also have available extra copies of this year's Marion County telephone book. Anyone looking for gift ideas, we have framed prints of Francis Marion Crossing the Pee Dee, T-shirts with the Marion logo, and Main Street Marion's book, *Images of Marion*.

As another service to our member businesses and those looking for that special gift, the Chamber offers Chamber Checks on sale in \$10 - \$50 denominations in \$5 increments. These are redeemable at any participating

Chamber member location. The purpose of this program is to promote shopping at home with our local retailers and merchants. Since this program has been in effect we have helped keep over \$400,000 in our community. We are very proud of this program and believe it is helping our community.

The office also makes referrals for our members. We help people connect with local businesses, civic groups or other agencies for services they need.

For example, in addition to different business services, do you know where to call if you are interested in yoga, quilting, art classes, theater, gardening, sports opportunities for young people, or doing volunteer work? Check in with the Chamber and we can help with these contacts. Another Chamber service is for out-of-town guests. The Chamber works with the Marion County Museum, local restaurants, businesses, and the Grove - the Inn on Harlee Street to provide exciting day trips to Marion. In addition, we have a self-guided walking tour book available in the chamber office for visitors that would like to tour on their own.

We are always working on projects and programs to better showcase our beautiful city of Marion and the quality of life offered here. Whatever form of involvement you choose, please let us know how we are doing, what we can do better, and items of community interest that you would like to see the Chamber involved in. We invite you to stop by and visit us in the Depot, 209 East Bobby Gerald Parkway or on our website: www.marionscchamber.com.



City officials remind citizens about proper use of bins

Just as a reminder, anyone caught putting their household or personal trash or tire at any of the business trash dumpsters will be fined for littering, said City of Marion Sanitation Superintendent Winky Fore.

Business owners pay for the dumpsters, he said, and the public shouldn't help fill up those receptacles, because doing so adds to the business owners' cost.

Fore also reminds citizens that the city's Recycling Center on Bobby Gerald Parkway is for items that can be recycled, not household trash, oil, tires or other items.

"This is considered littering," Fore said. "For littering in the City of Marion, the fine is \$1,092.50. So remember, if you get caught putting your household waste where it doesn't belong, you will pay the fine." The city will soon be employing the help of surveillance cameras at regular dump sites, Fore said.

Other waste not able to be placed in your garbage cart can be taken to the county landfill on Red Bluff Road, Mullins. Tires can be taken to the county landfill on Sen. Gasque Road, across from the Fish House Restaurant, Fore explained.



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

Pastor seeks support for youth event

The City of Marion and the Town of Nichols will be helping Rev. Marvin Hemingway when he puts together the third annual "Marion County Youth Day," set for Saturday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in C.D. Joyner.

Rev. Hemingway appeared before City Council on Aug. 10 and asked for that group's help in putting together the annual program. Admission will be free.

Council voted to give the program \$1,000. Tonya Brown of WPDE TV 15 will be Mistress of Ceremonies and James "Pee Wee" Hayes of WCIG Radio will be Master of Ceremonies.

Other officials, celebrities, musicians and singers are slated to be on tap for the day's event. Anyone wishing to help with the program can call Hemingway at (843) 423-7117.

Fall Fest is set!

Don't forget to get your tickets from Main Street Marion, Historic Marion Revitalization Association for the Design Committee's first Fall Fest.

Set to begin at 5:30 p.m. at Rosewood Manor on Main Street, the event will feature live music, "Ka-Bobs on the Bar B" and fun for all ages.

Community and business sponsorships may still be available. For information, call Chuck at 843-423-9918.

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 by calling his office telephone at **843-423-8235**.



RALPH ATKINSON
Mayor Pro Tem
District 1

Council member Ralph Atkinson was reelected in April 2007. His term ends in April 2011. He can be reached by telephone at **843-250-0446**.



RONALD ATKINSON
District 2

Council member Ronald Atkinson was reelected in April 2007. His term ends in April 2011. He can be reached by telephone at **843-230-0072**.



BETSY ATKINSON
District 3

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



BOBBY DAVIS
District 4

Council member Bobby Davis was reelected in April 2007. His term ends in April 2011. He can be reached by telephone at **843-423-4655**.



POIETTE BROMELL
District 5

Council member Poiette Bromell was reelected in April 2009. Her term ends in 2013. She can be reached at **843-275-0265**.



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

Coming Up

City pool closes Sept. 6

Summer's essentially over, with school back in session, and that means the city's swimming pool will close Sept. 6. For information, call 423-5410.

Fall rec seasons begins

Sign-ups have gone great and we are looking forward to having a great fall recreation season. Thank you to all who have signed up and volunteered to help. Football games will take place by the Watsonia Recreation Center, 100 Watsonia Street, and soccer games will be at the Green Street Park, near the high school. For information, call 423-5410.



Senior aerobics starting again in Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics will begin again in September in the Watsonia Recreation Center, 100 Watsonia Street, on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. For information, call 423-5410.

Join us for a game of B-I-N-G-O!

Don't forget that Watsonia Recreation Center has Senior B-I-N-G-O every first and third Thursday of the month. Bingo is free of charge and participants can bring friends and family members to join in the fun.

Aerobics class looking for a few good participants

Come join in the fun -- all ages are welcome. The aerobics class runs Monday thru Friday 5:30-6:30 p.m. and cost \$30 to join for the month.

You just can't beat that price! So, come on down and join in on some fun with your friends and family members. For information about the class, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

Looking for the right place to hold your next event?

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.

Cooling centers open

To help residents beat the heat this summer, the City of Marion has cooling centers open. The Eloise Grice and Watsonia Recreation centers are each open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Grice's, on Gurley Street, at 423-8623 and call Watsonia, on Watsonia Street, at 423-5410, for more information about staying cool.

City to construct new tennis courts in Withlacoochee Park

If you've wandered over to Withlacoochee Park in the past couple of weeks, you've notice the tennis courts are gone. The City of Marion has been working for a year to get the financing in place to construct new tennis courts for our high school teams and resident players. Several sources will fund the construction project.

First constructed in the late 1960s, and updated throughout the years, the tennis courts were in need of an overhaul in order for our players to have a safe playing experience.

Deconstruction is complete; the bids are in and re-construction of the site and new construction of four tennis courts should begin soon. City officials hope the courts will be open for action before Christmas.



City of Marion employees have demolished and hauled away the debris that was the tennis courts at the Withlacoochee Park. Above, the fencing and posts were removed. Below, the site awaits new construction. Four new courts, with striping for QuickStart Programs for youngsters 8 and under and 10 and under. For more about the U.S. Tennis Association's Quick Start program, visit <http://consumers.quickstarttennis.com>.



Youth Day celebrates 'Champion Within'

At right, Sensei Sam Midgette of Way of the Warrior in Marion, right, coaches Austin Jeffords as he participates in a sparring match during the 3rd annual Youth Empowerment Day Martial Arts Tournament and Exhibition in Marion on Aug. 21. The event was conducted in the city's C.D. Joyner Auditorium in Marion. Below, Jasmine Strong attempts to kick Jami Stocks during their sparring competition. (Photos are courtesy of Andrew Golden and the Marion Star & Mullins Enterprise.) Marion County Karate Studios offered the youth Youth Empowerment Day, with the theme



of discovering the champion within, Sensei of Champion Martial Arts in Marion and event organizer Fred Gause said. Martial arts students ages 3-17 participated in the day-long event. Gause said that martial arts was the tool used to help the young people celebrate their youth and that the event was to help get students excited about returning to school and about learning and getting their education. The tournament included katas, weaponry and sparring competitions. The free exhibition at 5 p.m. featured several area martial arts groups. "We want them to see how important they are," Gause said. "It's going beyond martial arts and getting to the soul of children."