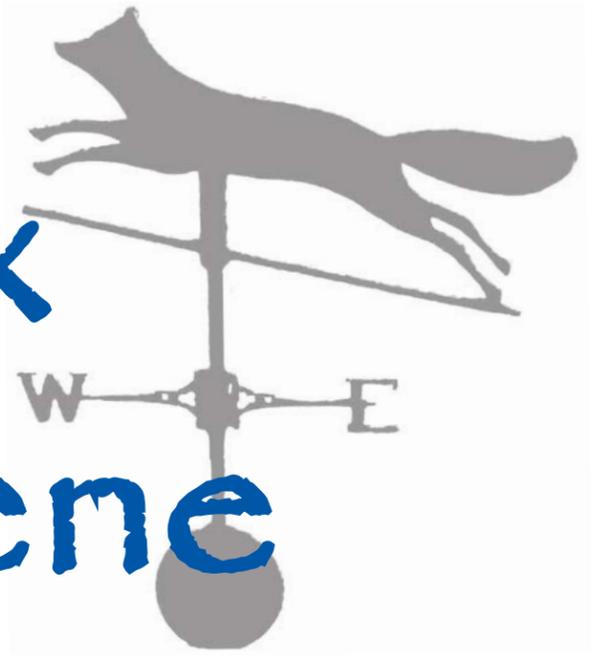


Swamp Fox Scene



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



Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days! WEEKEND INCLUDES MEMORIAL TRIBUTE, REENACTORS, RUNFEST & CHILI COOK-OFF

The City of Marion will be bustling with things to see and do Feb. 25-27 during *Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days!* For the past two years several groups have worked diligently to present a memorial tribute to the famed Revolutionary War Hero at the foot of the General's statue on Main Street.

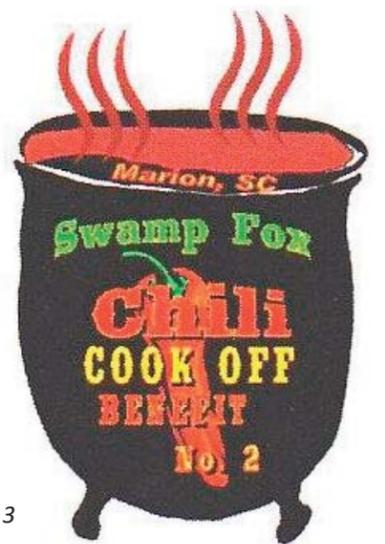
State legislators have designated the anniversary of Gen. Francis Marion's death, Feb. 27, as his Memorial Day. This year, organizers have come together to expand the offerings of the weekend, to create an event to remember.

The weekend's activities begin Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. with the Blue Savannah-Swamp Fox Chapter of the S.C. D.A.R., accompanied by a period-dressed color guard, laying a wreath at the base of the statue of Francis Marion. (Inclement weather will move the tribute indoors in the C.D. Joyner Auditorium.) The county's third and eighth graders will be present for a historical retelling of some of the General's exploits.

The public is invited to all events. On Thursday night, in the park behind the Marion County Library on Godbold Street, reenactors will set camp.

Following the morning's Memorial Service, eighth graders will be treated

See "Celebrating," on page 3



Courts need 'more curing,' but almost ready for play



Members of the Marion High School boys and girls tennis teams gave up a Saturday to help repaint the practice wall and to trim hedges and take care of a little landscaping. The teams are getting ready to play on the newly reconstructed courts. According to contractors, a little more curing is necessary for the \$136,000 project to be complete. Dedication plans and a ribbon cutting are in the works!



CITY NEWS

Bass is city's Employee of the Month

The City of Marion selected heavy equipment operator Bobby Bass as its December 2010 Employee of the Month.

Bobby holds a CDL license and had 10 years of previous experience with the City of Marion when he was re-hired by the Street Department in April 2008. Most recently, he has been working to help the City prepare for the closing of its Construction and Debris (C&D) Landfill.

Bobby takes great pride in his work and is always willing to assist in any capacity needed by the City.

The Mayor and Council recognized Bobby Bass for his dedication and significant contributions to the City of Marion at the Jan. 11 Council Meeting.



RETIREE NEWS ...

Reminiscing with city retiree Willie Joe Skipper

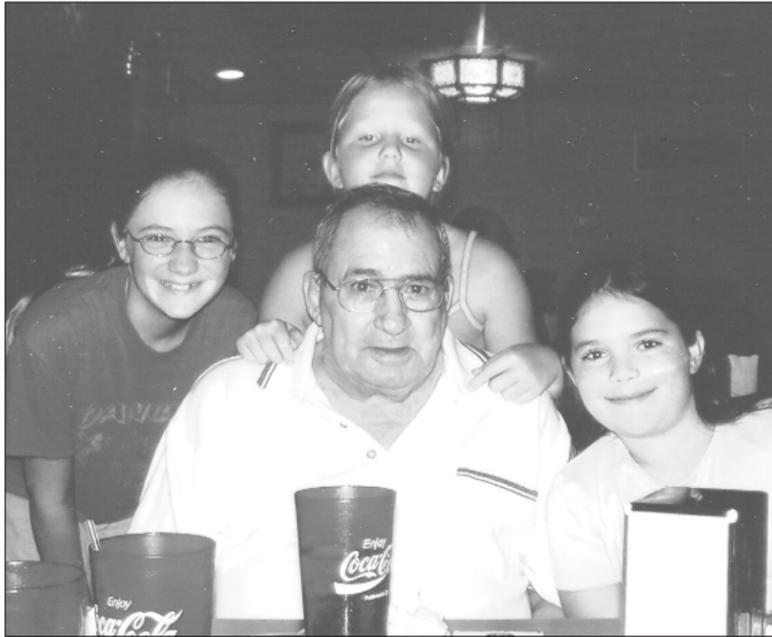
This month the City of Marion has chosen to recognize a retiree that was often described by former Mayor T. Carroll Atkinson, Jr. as a man who went "the second mile" at times to get work completed in the Street Department, Mr. Willie Joe Skipper.

Willie Joe Skipper came to work for the City of Marion in May 1972. In addition to being a qualified heavy equipment operator, he also assumed many other duties in the Street Department. Willie Joe was always willing to do undertake any assigned job, whether it was marking streets or collecting garbage, spraying for mosquitoes or cleaning storm drains, operating a bull dozier or supervising a group of employees on a project.

Many of his duties involved long, hard hours and often resulted in him being called out at night to take care of such things as cleaning up streets after a storm or some other emergency that required immediate attention.

Willie Joe Skipper was named Employee of the Year in 1980, promoted to Street Department Superintendent in 1990 and retired from employment with the City in December 1998.

Willie Joe Skipper and his wife Pat, who retired from Sara Lee Hosiery in 2002, are both lifelong residents of Marion. The couple has three children, Joey, Norma, and Jo; and four grandchildren. Thank you, Mr. Willie Joe Skipper, shown making memories with three of his grandchildren, for your exceptional dedication and outstanding service to the City of Marion.



NEED MONEY NOW? Become your own boss! Register today to take part in entrepreneurial training in Marion

A free program, called Entrepreneurship Training for Unemployed Adults, for 25 individuals in Marion County, will be conducted in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center from March 7 – April 1.

Sessions are on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. – noon.

The program seeks to make individuals become self employed or to become a better employee.

To be qualified to take part in the training, individuals must:

- Be unemployed in Marion County and older than 18;
- Attend every session and provide their own transportation.

Interested? Contact Suzan Orrico at SOrrico@fmarion.edu or by telephone at 843-661-1283; or Brianna Zhang at BZhang@fmarion.edu or by telephone at 843-661-1112.

A GED or High School Diploma is not necessary to apply.

You will be asked to describe your potential business location and business idea, and to explain why you want to open this business.

The program is offered through a partnership with Francis Marion University and YESCarolina at the newly opened Swamp Fox Higher Education Center on Elizabeth Street.

Youth Entrepreneurship South Carolina, a 501(C)3 non-profit, is the only organization in the state of South Carolina dedicated to teaching youth the principles of entrepreneurship and free enterprise.

YESCarolina has helped thousands of young people from communities statewide build business skills and unlock their entrepreneurial creativity. YESCarolina is a program partner of the Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).

Get to know your City Council



RODNEY BERRY

Mayor

He can be reached by calling his office telephone at **843-423-8235.**



RALPH ATKINSON

Mayor Pro Tem
District 1

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



RONALD ATKINSON

District 2

He can be reached by telephone at **843-230-0072.**



BETSY ATKINSON

District 3

She can be reached by telephone at **843-430-1137.**



BOBBY DAVIS

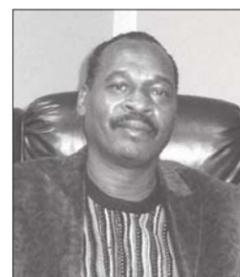
District 4

He can be reached by telephone at **843-423-4655.**



Vacant
District 5

Elections to fill this seat and for Districts 1, 2 and 4 will be in April.



MICHAEL BAKER

District 6

He can be reached by telephone at **843-222-9405.**

Grice earns Chamber's Community Service Award for 2011

Among the guests at the Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on Jan. 24 were several members of the Hugh Giles Regiment, Britton's Neck Militia, a group of Revolutionary War reenactors. The Regiment members, shown below, shared some about the important Revolutionary history that took place in what is present day Marion County.

The evening was a prelude to the upcoming "Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days" that will be held in Marion on the weekend of Feb. 24-27.



During the evening's activities, Michael P. "Perry" Grice, at left, was named the 2011 recipient of the Community Service Award. As an outstanding member of the community,

he has served in many civic positions and worked hard to help make Marion and Marion County a great place to live, work, raise a family and in which to do business.

Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank will make a contribution in Perry's name to the charity of his choice in recognition of this honor.



CELEBRATING!

Continued from page 1

to several living history exhibits with interpreters at the Marion County Museum on Willcox Street.

On Friday at 7 p.m. there will be an event on the Opera House stage, an opportunity for live theatre! The weekend focuses attention on Gen. Francis Marion and the role he and his men, many of whom were from the area, played in the American Revolution, with reenactments and living history on display throughout Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday, Feb. 26, the first **Historic Marion RUNFEST** will begin at 9 a.m. from the Opera House with the running and walking of the 5K, 10K and 10-Mile Swamp Fox Challenge.

At 11 a.m. there will be a free Tot Trot for children 6 and under and at 11:30 there will be the 1-mile Church Challenge. Prizes and T-shirts will be awarded. Call Pam Jones at 843-423-5961 about registration or visit www.rmssports.com for details. These are sanctioned races.

The **Second Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off** will begin at noon and "finishes when the last bean is gone!", organizer Steve Pool says. The 2010 Chili Cook-off event winners will be back, defending their title! Cash prizes will be awarded to First Place and People's Choice.

Tickets, \$8 each, are on sale through members of Main Street Marion, Pilot Club of

In other Chamber business, President Ashley Brady, at right, shared upcoming plans for 2011 and recognized outgoing board members for their service to the Chamber.



Members rotating off of the Chamber board were Al Blake, Perry Grice, Craig Martin, Terry Thompson and Laura H. White. Laura was commended for her service as the President of the Marion Chamber for 2010.

Members and officers of the Marion Chamber 2011 Board are President, Ashley Brady; Vice President, Alan Zeman; Treasurer, Jason Hulon; and Board Members, Lucas Atkinson, Tim Harper, Cindy Rogers, Carson Whittington, Betsy Atkinson, Jason Richardson, Cindi Sloan, Mary Gail White, Jonathan Atkinson, Anne Burroughs, Dianne Herrington and Bruce Williams.

For information about the Marion Chamber of Commerce or about the upcoming "Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days" event, contact the Marion Chamber of Commerce, in the Historic Depot, 209 E. Bobby Gerald Parkway or call 423-3561.



Marion, Marion Presbyterian Church Youth, Little Promises Learning Center, Marion County Habitat for Humanity, Lady Jazz Morticians, Champion Martial Arts, Mullins Chamber of Commerce, Marion County HOSA and the Marion County Museum.

Helping to sponsor the "Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days!" are Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority, Marion County, Anderson Brothers Bank, First Citizens Bank, Progress Energy, Beneteau, American Waste Systems, Marion County Regional Healthcare Systems, Pee Dee Electric, Pee Dee Federal, Carolina First and Main Street Marion, Marion Chamber of Commerce, the Pee Dee Genealogical Society and others.

The creation of the Brig. General Francis Marion Center, presently housed in the Marion County Archives & History Center, was announced in 2009. The Center will serve as a place of discovery and conservation of the people, places and events of the American Revolution in Marion County and surrounding Pee Dee Region. Anyone with artifacts to share or lend the Center, please contact the Marion County Archives and History Center, 431-5024; Tres Hyman, 423-7394; or the Marion Chamber of Commerce, 423-3561.

A commemorative newspaper, highlighting times and places of activities, will be published the week before the event.

Keep Up With What's Going on!

February 8th

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

February 14th

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

February 21st

Monday, President's Day, Federal Offices closed; City Offices open.

February 21st

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

February 23rd

Wednesday, noon, First Citizens Bank offers investment seminar in the Marion County Museum. To reserve a seat, call 423-1000.

Throughout the month, Yoga Classes are offered in the Marion County Medical Center, U.S. Highway 76, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. Call 431-2630 for details.

THREE WEEKENDS IN FEBRUARY: Marion Baptist Church will play host to the annual presentation of Judgment House: **Saturday & Sunday 12th & 13th; 19th & 20th; and 26th & 27th.** Call (843) 423-9083 and reserve your spot to see this year's show in the Marion Baptist Church, Main Street.

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

& on Facebook under City of Marion, South Carolina, for the latest in news and things to do.

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. Many photos are taken by city employee Winky Fore.

Additionally, 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 with questions, concerns and comments.

Questions about your Water or Sewer Bill?

Call (843) 765-4539

SPORTS & RECREATION

Coming Up

Check us out online!

The City of Marion Recreation Department now has a Facebook Page and is on the Internet, on the www.Marionsc.gov web site.

Find us under "Residents" and then click on "Recreation." To find us on Facebook, search Marion Recreation Department! There are game times, photos and much more!

Rec basketball continues; Baseball season approaching

Marion Recreation Department conducted its basketball opening scrimmage on Jan. 8 and kicked off the 2011 season.

All teams gathered at A.C. Tollison Gym to play with their age groups. Turnout was terrific and support was super for the coaches and the children playing.

Department officials thank everyone who showed up and sacrificed their Saturday morning to make the day a success.

Next up: Baseball season! Registration is underway. We look forward to having another great year, teaching the fundamentals of baseball, softball and t-ball to our children. Anyone interested in coaching or otherwise volunteering, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

Join the aerobics fun, take a class at CDJ!

Interested in working out during the week and can't find the right program? We just might have the solution for you! Daily aerobics classes are offered in the C.D. Joyner Auditorium, 221 Elizabeth Street, Monday – Friday 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost for the class is only \$30 for the month and there are plenty of slots available for new members.

Don't sit around and think you're too late to join! Enrollment is continuous! Come on down, and bring some friends and family members with you. For information about this program, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

Bingo played at Watsonia

Come out and join the Bingo fun in Watsonia Recreation Center! Played on the first and third Thursday of each month from 8:15 – 9:15 a.m., there are plenty of seats for newcomers to join us in the quest for prizes, refreshments and fun! Bring a friend, there's still room at the tables! Bingo is free and open to the public. Winners get prizes!

PARENTS, REMEMBER: Watsonia and Grice Recreation Centers are open from 2:30 – 4 p.m. Children will be under adult supervision and are expected to follow rules. There are plenty of games, and more, for them to enjoy. For details, call 423-5410.

City employees, citizens get moving with Couch-to-5k training program



City of Marion officials, led by Personnel Director Elizabeth Ficik, started a 'Couch-to-5k' physical activity training program the first week of the new year. Shown running on the Withlacoochee Track are Fire Chief Trey Cooper, School Resource Officer Lt. Cindy Barr and Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Skipper. About 20 employees and three citizens have been training to run in the upcoming Historic Marion RUN-FEST on Saturday, Feb. 26. Call Pam Jones, 423-5961, Ext. 11 for RUNFEST registration and volunteering information. Call Elizabeth at City Hall, 423-8614, or Cheryl at Watsonia, 423-5410 for training information.

Interested in a free karate class?

Karate is offered at Grice's Recreation Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are two time slots available for your convenience.

The first session is from 6-7 p.m. and the second session is from 7-8 p.m. For information, call 423-8623.

Classes are free to city residents.

Get moving ... keep moving!

A free senior aerobics class is offered at the Watsonia Recreation Center Monday and Thursdays from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

The class is sponsored through the Marion County Council on Aging and is FREE, however, donations are appreciated.

For details, call 423-4391.

Playgrounds abound!

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public!

Watsonia Recreation Center

100 Watsonia Street ... The playground is adjacent to the building and has swings, slides and monkey bars.

Grice's Recreation Center,

603 Gurley Street ... There is a playground behind the center that has swings, slides, hobby horses, a baby swing, basketball court, and is near the walking track.

Tilghman Park

409 Montgomery Street ... The city's location for softball and T-ball. It also has slides, swings and hobby horses.

Withlacoochee Park

Withlacoochee Avenue ... This park has a walking track and a playground equipped with swings, a slide and hobby horses.

Support your local basketball teams!

City of Marion Recreation Department basketball is underway and All-Star teams will be named in just a few weeks. Thanks for supporting our basketball players and coaches!

