

Swamp Fox Scene

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



If it's May, it's time for Marion's FoxTrot Festival



The 19th annual FoxTrot Festival, which brings 20,000-25,000 visitors to Main Street, is set for Friday and Saturday, rain or shine, May 20-21.

Beginning with Friday night's movie and fireworks, the festival picks up again on Saturday morning with the 10 a.m. parade down Main Street and ends after Saturday evening's dance on Fox Field.

In addition to those activities, there will be the traditional antique tractor exhibit, pony rides, a petting zoo, two car shows and more for the crowds, festival organizers said recently.

Friday evening's movie, *The Prince of Egypt*, will be shown outdoors at 6 p.m. on Fox Field just off Bobby Gerald Parkway, and a professional fireworks display will follow. Fee is \$2 per person.

Vendors will begin setting up at 9 a.m. Saturday, downtown businesses will be open, there will be living history reenactors and the Friends of the Marion County Library has planned its annual book sale in the Records Building at the corner of Main and Godbold Streets.

New this year are a 40-foot ferris wheel that should allow riders to see

over the Main Street activities and a "water walking ball" for folks to enjoy. Featuring local and regional talent in 30-minute sets, the stage entertainment begins at noon.

The day's finale, a dance, will begin at 7 p.m. on Fox Field. The Holiday Band is the featured band for the Saturday night dance. Price is \$5 for those 25 and under and \$2 for those 26 and older. Concessions will be on sale and no coolers will be permitted. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lounge chair, blanket and their dancing shoes.



With all the great weather, yard sales will be popping up all over town. **Remember to purchase your permit (\$3 per day) at City Hall Monday through Thursday.**

No yard sale permits are issued on Fridays. Call Pam at 423-5961 if you have questions.



Photo by Winky Fore

From parading Easter eggs to Easter bonnets

Each Spring on Main Street in Marion children enrolled in various preschool programs participate in a walk that makes the loop from the intersection of Godbold and Main streets to Bobby Gerald Parkway. Participating businesses treat the children to goodies. This year's parade included eggs, bonnets, bunny ears and baskets galore!

CITY NEWS

Nichols is new assistant to the building official

The City of Marion recently hired Vickie J. Nichols as Administrative Assistant to the Building Official at City Hall. Nichols replaces Pam Jones, who was promoted to the position of City Clerk in February.

Vickie, who is shown in a photograph on the right with Lt. Tony Flowers of the Marion Police Department, has previous municipal government experience with the Towns of Mullins and Santee. In Mullins, she served as utility billing clerk for 11 years until she was promoted to city treasurer, a position she held for eight years.

City Administrator and Building Official Alan Ammons said he is thrilled to add Vickie to the staff at City Hall.

"With her strong background in government, this has been an easy transition for her," Ammons said, adding that he is looking forward to working with Vickie.



City employee James Smith retires



Congratulations to the city's newest retiree, James Smith, shown above.

James retired from the City of Marion in April after 15 years in the Street Department. He began working for the city in 1996.

"James Smith was one of my most dependable employees," said Street Department Superintendent Ronnie Sanders. "He never complained and was

always willing to take on anything I asked of him."

James described Smith as a steady worker who took great pride in his work, whether he was raking, planting flowers or decorating Marion for the Christmas season.

Thank you, James, for your hard work and 15 years of service with the City of Marion!

Relay for Life honors, remembers victims of cancer

The annual Marion County Relay for Life will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, May 13 in the city's Withlacoochee Park and continue until 6 a.m. Saturday, May 14. According to Chairman of the Marion County Relay for Life, Sandra Tindall, the Survivors' Walk will begin at 7 p.m. and the lighting of the luminary candles will be at 10 p.m. Tindall says she and her organizers are expecting a lot of food, games for children and the City of Marion Fire Department Puppets, entertainment from local talents and competitions among the teams.

According the Relay for Life website, the event "is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking or running laps.

Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times." Marion has about 14 teams and 229 team members involved in raising money this year.



City to conduct annual clean-up first Saturday in June

According to City Administrator Alan Ammons the City of Marion's annual city-wide clean-up is set for Saturday, June 4.

On that morning, city sanitation workers will pick up all debris, junk, trash or otherwise unwanted stuff that has been placed by city residents on the street curb by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 3.

"You can leave your trash, unwanted junk, appliances, etc., and the city will pick it up and haul it off for you," he explained, saying this is residents' "once-a-year opportunity" to discard such unwanted items and to have them picked up and hauled off by city workers. For additional information about the city-wide clean-up, call Ammons at 423-5961.

The 2011 National Day of Prayer

... the annual day of observance set by Congress when U.S. citizens are asked to "turn to God in prayer and meditation," is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. **This year, that day is Thursday, May 5.**

Look for details on when, where & how you can join others to pray!

Questions about your Water or Sewer Bill?

Call (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.

Citizens Advisory Committee seeks new members

Interested in being active in the City of Marion by serving on a committee or commission? The Citizens Advisory Committee is seeking new members.

The group meets the second Monday night of each month in the City Fire Department on Bond Street to discuss ways to improve Marion. More folks who care about their city need to step forward to help them with their mission.

From time to time, other boards, commissions and committees need volunteers to be appointed by City Council to represent the City. If you are interested in serving in another capacity, let us know that, too.

Complete this information and bring it to City Clerk Pam Jones in City Hall, or mail it to her at P.O. Box 1190, Marion, SC, 29571.

Call Pam at 423-5961 if you have questions.

NAME _____

BEST WAY to contact me is by telephone at _____

by e-mail at _____

Address _____

Interested in serving on the Citizens Advisory Committee _____

Other _____ (check either or both)

Thanks in advance for serving !

Chamber's document shredding was a success



The Marion Chamber of Commerce had a successful "Shred Day" in April when Cintas came to the Baxley Hardware parking. According to Judy Johnson, the Chamber's executive vice president, the event was free, but donations were accepted to help with the Chamber's 2011 Education Programs. "We collected some donations for our programs," she said, adding that the event took in 13,000-plus pounds. "We had a nice turn out and lots of folks took advantage of the service. We were quite pleased and at one time thought we were going to run out of room in the truck ... We are already having people ask if we will be doing this again, so we take that as a good sign," she added. Cintas, a company that oversees the shredding and disposal of all types of documents, brought the shredder. This project was sponsored by chamber members Ashley Brady at First Charter Company and Stacy Smith at Wheeler Street Package.

Fifth city garden added to May 14 tour

Previously the Swamp Fox Scene reported there would be four gardens in the city of Marion open for tours on May 14, during the ticket-only Garden Club of South Carolina's Follow the Blooms tour.

A fifth garden has been added. The list of gardens to be available for tour is: *The Grove Garden at 408 Harlee Street; Gary & Charlene Marshall's Garden at 405 Harlee Street; Ruth and William Brady's Garden at 924 Evans Road; Elise Tollison's Garden at 903 Willcox Street; and Palmetto Gardens at Tru-Green Nursery on South Main Street.*

For an additional donation of \$5 each, the Grove and Marshall homes may be

toured. These donations will go to local garden clubs. The Marion Garden Tour also features lunch, by reservation only, in the Marion County Museum at 101 Willcox Ave., from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For luncheon reservations, call Ann Caughman at (843) 423-5220. Deadline for reservations is May 6 and cost is \$12.

Purchase a \$50 Follow The Blooms™ tour ticket and visit any or all gardens from May 14-22, especially the gardens in the City of Marion. For details about tour offerings across the state, visit www.gardenclubofsc.org.

For tour details, send e-mails to followtheblooms@gmail.com.

Keep Up With What's Going on!

May 4th

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.: Main Street Marion's Rise & Shine, HMRA Building

May 4th

Wednesday, noon: Wonderful Wednesday event for Friends of the Marion County Museum. Call Rosanne at 423-8299 for details.

May 5th

Thursday, 5:30 p.m.: Mullins Chamber of Commerce Taste of Mullins. Call Cindy at 464-6651 for details.

May 9th

Monday, 6:30 p.m.: Citizens' Advisory meeting, Fire Department on Bond Street.

May 10th

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: Marion City Council meeting, City Hall.

May 13-14th

Friday-Saturday, Marion County Relay for Life, Withlacoochee Park (See story on Page 2 for details.)

May 14th

Saturday, State Garden Clubs Tour of Gardens comes to Marion. (See story at left for details.)

May 14th

Saturday, 5K Nature Run, Fork Retch Wildlife Refuge, Mullins. Pre-registration required, call 283-3388.

May 16th

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

May 20th-21st

Friday-Saturday, FoxTrot Festival, Downtown Marion. (See story on Page 1 for details.)

Coming up in June

June 4th

Annual City Wide Clean-up!

Have your trash on the curb of the street by 5 p.m. Friday, June 3rd. City workers will be picking up your discarded items, yard debris, etc. For details, call Alan Ammons, City Administrator, at 423-5961.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Coming up

City provides safe, fun places to play

School is nearly over for this school year and many children will be at home more.

If you are looking for something to do with your children or looking for a safe, fun place where your children can hang out with friends, it is good to know the city will be opening Play Centers at Grice's & Watsonia Recreation Centers.

Centers will be open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and children are welcome to come in out of the sun and play games. Children will be under adult supervision and will be asked to follow rules. Younger children are expected to be accompanied by adults.

Questions? Call 423-5410.



Aerobics set for Mondays, Thursdays

Marion County Council on Aging has Senior Aerobics classes at Watsonia Recreation Center every Monday & Thursday, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The classes are free, although donations would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about the class, call 423-4391.

Ten & Under tennis teams

Interested in coaching or enrolling your child in the new City Recreation Tennis Program?



Call Cheryl at 423-5410. Stay tuned for details!

Players, coaches, families enjoy successful 2011 Opening Day!



On April 9 Marion Recreation Department had its Opening Day ceremonies for baseball season at its Green Street Complex. Above, at left and below, teams and coaches take to the field to show off new uniforms and gloves! The Recreation staff members thank everyone for the great turn out of team sponsors, family members, friends, volunteers and community members, showing support to the players and coaches.



For a schedule of the games, visit the Recreation Department's page on the City of Marion website. The website's address is www.marionsc.gov. Select the "Residents" tab and then select "Recreation." From there, select "Programs & Activities" and choose the appropriate sport. You can also call Cheryl or Billy at 423-5410 for game information.

