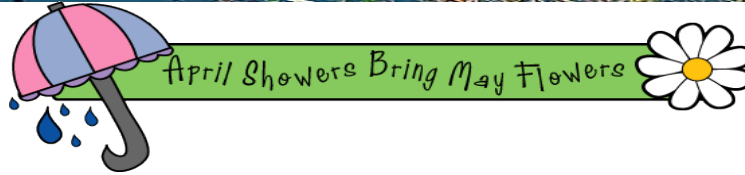


City of Seneca, South Carolina



April 2017



Mark your calendars: Seneca City Offices will be closed on Friday, April 14th in observance of Good Friday.

Drought Continues

The Upper Savannah River Basin, which includes Lake Jocassee and Lake Keowee, continues to experience drought conditions. The Upper Savannah River Basin Drought Monitor confirms the Stage 2 condition (or worse) for the basin as of February 28, 2017. Please be aware of these conditions and continue to conserve water.



Student Faces Smiling at Seneca City Hall



Student faces are now smiling in downtown Seneca. Across the street from both City Hall on N.E. 1st Street and from Norton-Thompson Park on Main Street, Seneca High School students have decorated the former Kimbrell's store front. Now instead of seeing furniture, you can see students' artwork. "These are Face Motif Design works my students created for the windows of the empty Kimbrell's building," said Seneca High School Art Teacher Fred Edgerton. "The faces are those of my students here at Seneca High School," added Edgerton.

The downtown art project was sponsored by the Blue Ridge Arts Center (BRAC). "Our mission is bringing art to the people and people to the arts. To that end, we make it our goal to bring art into the local community whenever we can," said Suzette Cross, President of the Board for BRAC.



"Fred's students provided art for the windows about four years ago, and they were looking old and worn, so, I contacted him to see if his students would do something again," said Cross. "I'm so glad he said yes, and I love what the students have done. I hope they feel proud when they drive by and see their faces in the window. It also is something that people driving downtown through Seneca or coming to City Hall can enjoy," added Cross.

City concerned about House Bills 3650 and 3651

The City of Seneca is concerned about two pieces of legislation under consideration by the SC House of Representatives; Bills 3650 and 3651. In February, State Representative Bill Sandifer of Seneca introduced Bill 3650 that would keep businesses from having to pay a fee for their business license and Bill 3651 that would prevent non-government entities from collecting insurance premiums or telecommunications taxes on cities' behalf.

“These Bills actually restructure business licenses,” said Seneca Mayor Dan Alexander. “The City of Seneca collects business license from local city businesses. Business licenses from large companies, like telecommunications or insurance companies, are worked through the SC Municipal Association. It’s these larger business licenses that help so much to operate our city. These bills are not good and I know there is a lot of concern from municipalities across the state,” added Alexander.

“For the past two years, the SC Municipal Association has been working with Rep. Sandifer’s folks in order to come up with a way to streamline the business license,” said Seneca City Administrator Greg Dietterick. “We all agree that business licenses are cumbersome and is different throughout the state. There was a consensus of how to streamline the process and move the bill forward. However, there were a number of exceptions added by Rep. Sandifer that cherry-picked larger businesses, giving them exemptions of up to 25% reductions. There are just a ton of inequities now in the bill that create problems for municipalities,” added Dietterick.

“If approved Bill 3650 would cripple the livelihood of Seneca and other South Carolina municipalities. Seneca would lose over \$1 million from the General Fund,” explained Dietterick. “That is a huge hit for a small city like Seneca where the General Fund Budget is somewhere around \$10 million.”

According to Rep. Sandifer, the bill is revenue neutral to cities because cities can just raise rates to make up for the shortfall. But Dietterick disagrees and thinks this will drive businesses outside of city limits in order to avoid getting a business license from cities.

“If we raise the rates, you are talking massive increases with business licenses because the only other vehicle cities have is to raise the millage and you are talking over a 30 mills increase just to cover the losses,” said Dietterick.

However, several years ago, state legislation capped millage and established that raises could only be done according to Census data and growth.

“We could maybe go to 3 mill, so this is handcuffing cities across the state, not just here in Seneca,” added Dietterick. “They would need to change legislation all over the place in order to accommodate this bill. We support streamlining business licenses by establishing a portal to access it online and establishing one due date for the entire state in order to make it easier for businesses but not this,” continued Dietterick.



Find out all the great thing going on in the city every Saturday morning 8-9 AM on City Talk with Mayor Dan Alexander!!!!

Electrical Safety Tip of the Month

Power lines

Have a professional tree cutting service trim branches that might fall on electric wiring. Use a wooden or fiberglass ladder outside. Keep the ladder at least 10 feet away from power lines. Never touch anyone or anything in contact with a downed wire. Power lines may be live, stay a safe distance away. Report downed wires to authorities right away.



This coming summer on August 21, 2017, Clemson and the neighboring cities will experience a total solar eclipse where the Moon's shadow will fall across the United States and block the light of the Sun over the course of approximately three hours. Eclipses themselves are not rare, but the chance to see one in your own backyard is very special!

SENECA FEST 2017
MAY 26-27
Gignilliat • Seneca, SC

FRIDAY NIGHT HEADLINE SHOW

Talent Show Presented by 101.7

MOTHERS FINEST

SATURDAY WRESTLING FEATURING ROCK AND ROLL EXPRESS

Wrestling starts at 12 noon

CONCERTS START AT 4:00 PM

Sammy Kershaw

Aaron Tippin

McKayla Reece

8th Annual
CITY OF SENECA HALF MARATHON & 5K

March 18th 2017 BEGINS @ 8:15 A.M.

Follow us on Facebook Seneca SC Events • More info at www.seneca.sc.us

Upcoming Events

Bertha Lee Strickland
Cultural Museum

★★★★★
**COLORED
SOLDIERS**
★★★★★

On Exhibit
February 11 - May 31

Free Admission

Open
11am - 4pm
Tues-Sat

(864) 710-9994
f/culturalmuseum
www.biscm.org

208 W. South 2nd St.
Seneca, SC

**EVERY THURSDAY
6:30PM
RAM CAT ALLEY**
Featuring:
Americas Touring Musicians

**jazz
ON THE ALLEY**

**Funk Factory 5
April 6**

**Nathan A'ngelo
April 13**

**Jamie Wright
April 20**

**Snopes Family Band
April 27**

Bring your lawn chairs & enjoy a night of music under the stars!

Sponsored by:



**GREENVILLE
HEALTH SYSTEM**



Chip Browning Memorial Golf Tournament for Shop With A Hero

Location: Oconee Country Club, 781 Richland Rd, Seneca, SC 29672

Date: Friday, May 5th, 2017 and Rain Make Up Day Friday, May 12th, 2017

Time: Registration-0800, Shotgun Start 0900

Entry Fee: \$240.00 4-man team, Captain's Choice, Flights TBD

*Mulligan's-2 for \$10 *Red Tees-\$10 (150 yards for women)

Host: GHS Oconee Memorial Hospital EMS *Chip Browning, former OMH paramedic for 30 years, succumbed to his battle with cancer in 2016. His passion for helping others was not limited to the back of an ambulance, but in every aspect of his life. He loved supporting the former OMH Charity Golf Tournament for Shop With A Hero and spent countless hours obtaining sponsors, teams, and gifts. From this year forward, we come together to raise money for the children in our community and to honor Chip's memory.*

Proceeds: All proceeds will directly benefit underprivileged children in Oconee County via the Shop With A Hero organization. For every \$200 raised, one child can be sponsored. The support of businesses and the community will help provide needed and wanted items to select children residing in our county. For further questions, please contact Tara McGowan at (864) 238-9809 or whitehead@ghs.org. Also, check us out on Facebook -Chip Browning Memorial Golf Tournament for Shop With A Hero! Thank you in advance for your support!

***Prizes will be awarded to the top two teams in each flight. A meal will be provided immediately following tournament play.