

Talk to the Town

City of Rincon Newsletter to our Citizens, Friends and Visitors

May 2010



Mayor Ken Lee, Council Members Ann Daniel, Reese Browher, Scott Morgan, Frank Owens, Levi Scott, Paul Wendelken



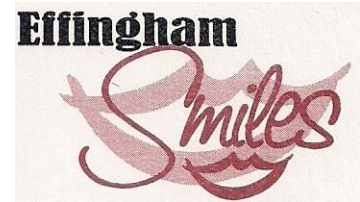
Welcome to the City of Rincon's Newsletter

We will place the Newsletters in the City Hall lobby, on the City's website, and also share it with interested persons and businesses via e-mail. Please contact us if you want to be added to the E-mail address list, or if you have some information to share that our readers might be interested in.

May's Featured Business

Effingham Smiles Family Dentistry

Beautiful, Healthy Smiles for a Lifetime. Effingham Smiles Family Dentistry is accepting new patients. Dr. Craig Martinson opened his Rincon office in August 2008, but has maintained his private practice in Sylvania since 1993, after receiving his DMD from the Medical College of Georgia. The Rincon office is located on GA 21 at 1102 North Columbia Avenue, just north of the overpass in Rincon. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Effingham Smiles Family Dentistry offers a full range of personal services including prevention, oral hygiene, good appearance, and comfort. A part of this service includes cosmetic dentistry, Invisalign, whitening, bonding, veneers, fillings, crowns and bridges, sealants for children's teeth, and periodontal gum treatment. Please call (912) 826-2402 to schedule an appointment; and check out our website at www.ffmpegsmiles.com. For convenience, we accept cash, personal checks, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. As a courtesy to you, we will submit all of the charges to your insurance company to reimburse you. The highest compliment we can receive is your recommendation to others.



Featured businesses will be chosen for some unique happening in the immediate future or recent past, or at random from the community if there are no special events planned that we are aware of. If you wish to have your business acknowledged, please provide us with some information about the business and perhaps a photo (staff, business front, etc.)

City Going's On

This section is about your City government and things that should be of particular interest to you.

Watch Us Grow: Patriot Park is under construction just beyond the "Y", for new tennis courts, walk paths, soccer fields, and other options as the park progresses. Improvements are being made on the back side of Macomber Park with Batting Cages and Score Boards on the way, and other ideas on the table. A new basketball court is in place at Giles Park, and additional parking has been added. Work is progressing on the Hinely Community Center and should be completed in the next few weeks with ADA restrooms and improvements to the whole building. A new pad for parking is in the works, currently in planning stages. The Lion's Club Building is under repair and upgrade, and should be available to handle large group meetings in the very near future. A wetlands nature trail is in the concept stage for the Diane Kessler Memorial Park on East Ninth Street. Rincon is very much oriented toward recreation programs and opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages. P.S. Your ideas are welcome; and you may think of something that we may have overlooked.

The City of Rincon has several US flags that have become worn and frayed, and we will be working with the local Scout Troops to appropriately dispose of them in a proper ceremony. If you have a flag that you would like to add, bring it to City Hall. It would help the Scouts appreciate the significance of the Stars and Stripes to all of us, and to them.

Field of Dreams – Build it and they will come. It would be good if Rincon had a couple of annual special event days and weekends each year to bring in visitors and tourists, so they can see what a great place we live in. It would also be a great time to invite your family to come visit. What do you think about having a “Race Day” in Rincon? It could be an all day event. How about “Bed Races” and “Bathtub Races” and “Toilet Races” ? No engines, but steering and brakes (and helmets and knee pads) are allowed. Bed Racers could use Runners to keep the beds moving. We could hold races on the southern end of Lexington or Richland, where there is a little bit of a slope. We might be able to get some of the nearby car clubs to display their “classics” and “old timers”, and we could invite some groups to set up tents and sell gifts and souvenirs and food. We might get a couple of local race car drivers to show off their own race cars at strategic locations on GA 21 for a day or so. We currently have 4th of July and Christmas. We could plan the Race Day for the Spring time next year (It may take a while to get these “race cars” built). Go on the Internet, and see what others have done (Bing – Search or Images; Baxley Bed Race). It would be a fun day for everyone, and good for the community. We would like to hear from you on this.

P.S. And we could also work on an OctoberFest idea for the Fall.

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Westwood Heights Community. The City of Rincon is still interested in annexing part or all of the Westwood Heights community into the City limits. Extending the City limits into areas where everyone would benefit is just a good common sense answer. Annexation would provide closer and better government for residents and property owners who already benefit from the closeness of the City’s services (Fire Department and Recreation), and they could even better benefit from Public Works (Roads and Drainage) and Police Department services in their community. City Hall has the appropriate forms to request annexation by the residents or property owners; and we will probably schedule an “Evening at the Gate” under a tent, now that the weather is better, to talk to local community members and help them appreciate why annexation is a good idea for them. The City of Rincon collects No Property Taxes, and if the County’s effort to take over the current Rincon Fire service area succeeds, then the City Fire Department would not be able to respond to fires outside the City limits, and ISO ratings and home insurance premiums would skyrocket for those persons who are more than five “road” miles from the nearest assigned fire station.

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Most days you get “news” from the newspaper; but this deserves repeating (and it’s about Rincon). Three individuals were arrested in Rincon for going door-to-door and scamming residents by offering to sell them cleaning goods, getting into the house, holding the homeowner’s attention while two others searched and stole cash or whatever. A smart homeowner gave a good description and the thieves were caught in another nearby community. This had been reported as happening earlier in Savannah. What does that say about your Police in Rincon? One of the Council members said it best “If you commit a crime in Rincon, you will get caught.” Good Police work. Our thanks to the police officers and firefighters who do a good job protecting you.

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Friendly Reminder: We want everyone to be welcome in Rincon. They may eventually become your next door neighbor, the father of your daughter’s boyfriend, the boss of the next business to move into town, etc., so make them feel at home. Wave to them if they are in the car or walking on the street. Say “Hello, how are you?” in the shops and restaurants, and shake hands. And if you are behind the counter, say “Have a good day.” It makes them “feel at home” in our home – Rincon, Georgia.

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Community Groups and What You Should Know

Note that on Saturday, May 22nd, the City of Rincon will be participating in the Great American Clean Up Day. It will be an opportunity to spend a few hours doing something special for your community, and for Rincon – cleaning up where someone else littered the side of the road. Trash sometimes gets blown out of the back end of a pickup truck. Sometimes it gets blown out of the trash truck. Sometimes a bag of trash falls off on the way to the dumpster. And sometimes, people don’t care, and they just toss it out of a car or truck. We live here.

We take care of our yards, and the street in front of our house. We should also be willing to help take care of the trash in front of our neighbor's house. There is no white line on the ground between Georgia and South Carolina, even though, in our minds, we know that one exists. There is no line around your yard, your neighborhood, or the City streets. We are all responsible for the mess that others leave, because if we leave it there, then we are truly responsible for a messy community, for the messy community that we live in. Get a group of your neighbors together to help, scout group, ball team, or just people you know. We should be willing to give up one hour, once each month, to clean up our neighborhood. We should do it for our children; and we should do it so our children can see that we care about our community, and where we live; so that they will care about their community, and may not be the ones who are tossing it out the car window. Did you see your neighbor out picking up trash on the side of the road? Tell him "Thank you". And next time, grab a trash bag and help him. He is doing it for you. Who are you doing it for?
P.S. Be careful. It is important that you be safe while you are picking up litter. Use a pick-up stick, a trash bag, gloves, and a yellow vest. For information, call Kia Westmoreland at Rincon City Hall, 826-5745.

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The Coastal Workforce Investment Board has opened up a One-Stop Workforce Center location in Effingham County on GA 119 in the County Annex, just west of Springfield. The purpose of the facility is to assist employers with their needs for qualified workers, and to assist workers with training and support services to prepare them for the current and future job market. This assistance includes Georgia Department of Labor services, local and national job listings, education and training, rehabilitation services, access to resources (internet, computers, e-mail, fax, etc.), labor market information, Veteran services, special population services, and Unemployment Insurance Benefits.

In addition, Rincon City Hall will provide a handout to help workers "think-outside-the-box" about job skills. If nothing else, it will be an eye-opener. Ask the Rincon City Hall staff for a copy of "Colonel Sanders".

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The Official Earth Day 2010 Campaign - April 22, 2010

For at least forty years, many across the globe have celebrated Earth Day in various ways, and yet climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We must all (individuals, businesses, and governments) join together to create a green economy at work and at home. You might ask yourself:

"How can I take action?"

1. Pay bills online
2. Take shorter showers and use a water-saving shower head
3. Turn off the water when you brush your teeth
4. Use environmentally friendly cleaning products
5. Do not use plastic bags while shopping and bring your own bags
6. Outfit lights with compact fluorescent light bulbs
7. Plant a few trees in your neighborhood
8. Clean up a neighborhood or a park for children and pick up litter
9. Turn down the thermostat on your hot water heaters
10. Ensure the lights are off when you leave your office, copier or classroom/conference rooms. Turn restroom lights off when you leave.
11. Set the air conditioning up to 76-78 degrees. Keep doors shut when the AC is on in your home or building. Set the Heat down to 68 degrees.
12. Use the recycle dumpsters and trailers for recycling plastics, paper, cardboard, and aluminum.

President Obama Challenges Americans to Take Action to Improve the Environment in Honor of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day. The President challenged Americans to take action in their homes, communities, schools, or businesses to improve the environment in honor of the upcoming 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2010. In conjunction with the video message of President Obama, the White House unveiled <http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/EarthDay> as a resource guide for all those interested in learning how they can help make a difference in their community. In summary, as this Earth Day approaches we would ask that you be

conscience of your surroundings and help us make the environment a better place by starting here at work and home. Turn off the lights not being used, and recycle appropriately.

Research on the Internet for other recycling and conservation ideas (rainwater harvesting, programmable thermostats, solatubes and skylights, passive solar heating, interior insulating windows, etc.).

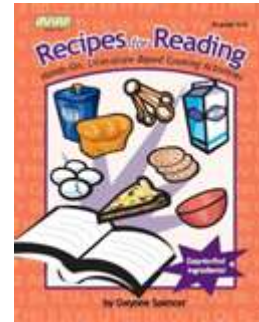
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Good Food & Recipes for Reading

Earthquake Cake

Ingredients:

- o 1 cup chopped nuts
- o 1 cup coconut
- o 1 German Chocolate Cake Mix
- o 1/2 cup margarine
- o 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- o 3 1/2 (1 lb) powdered sugar



Grease a 9x13 cake pan. Cover bottom of pan with nuts and coconut. Mix cake as directed on package. Pour cake batter over nuts and coconut. Mix margarine and cream cheese until smooth. Add powdered sugar and mix well. Spoon mixture over the cake batter. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. Cool completely. Turn upside down on plates.

Do you have a simple recipe to share ? Send it to us.

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Did You Know?

Trees not only help clean our air of automobile pollutants (early morning trips into Savannah and late afternoon return trips from Savannah), but they also provide an attractive view of our community, for us, for our friends, visitors, and tourists. We should promote and plant new trees, particularly those with flowering blossoms which add color to the community; and shade our business parking lots. Have you been to Hilton Head? It is attractive with their trees, cool for your vehicles while you shop, and just generally a nice place. Rincon is a nice place. Let's add a few more trees in needed places, and make it even better.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 1 – May Day

Wednesday, May 5 – Cinco de Mayo (The Fifth of May)

Sunday, May 9 – Mother's Day

Saturday, May 15 – Armed Forces Day

Saturday, May 22 – The Great American Clean Up in Rincon, City Hall

Monday, May 31 – Memorial Day, City Hall Closed

Old South Charm

Have you been looking for a chance to get out of the house, during an evening or on a weekend, and get a few minutes of peace and quiet and alone time? Try the Ebenezer Boat Ramp at the edge of the Savannah River. You can sit there and leave the world behind for an hour or two. Bring a blanket (too much slope on the river's



edge for a chair). You can bring a fishing pole to look enterprising, but forget the hook and bait. You didn't come to fish; you came to relax. You will find it hard to get up and leave. You don't even need a book; just watch the river, or take a nap.

Have you ever rode "around" the Town of Springfield? Have you ever been to Clyo, and stopped, and really took the time to "look"? Have you noticed how many great places there are just in this area, to stop and appreciate what a wonderful world we live in and what we have in these United States of America? That is Old South Charm, at its best. That's also "tourism".

Let's bring those destination-starved Savannah tourists to Rincon and Effingham for a day.

Olde Effingham Days

*Do you have a story to tell about Rincon?
Perhaps some history that others might not
know. Tell us about it.*



New Comers to Rincon

Please check out our website www.cityofrincon.com. It should have answers for many of your questions. E-mail the Rincon City Manager with ideas for improving the newsletter, information, questions, comments, and upcoming events, etc. at RinconCityMgr@cityofrincon.com The City Manager will answer and include items wherever appropriate and newsworthy to the community. Please share this Newsletter with your friends and neighbors. Photos for the Newsletter are welcome, and may be used as needed and as appropriate. Some e-mail addresses are limited in the "size" of an e-mail accepted to stop "spam" and "viruses", so, some of you may receive this Newsletter in two parts. If you wish to sign-on to our e-mail list to receive the Talk to the Town Newsletter, just send us an e-mail.

Think About It

Do you have smoke alarms in your home – kitchen, hallways, garage, where fires might start? Do you have a couple of fire extinguishers conveniently located – not in the danger zone, but nearby, easy to get to, easy to see (mounted on the wall is better than under the sink)? Do you have a plan for emergencies? At home, like fire; and away from home, in case you can't return home? Do you, and your children, have those “special contact” numbers for neighbors, friends, and family, in case they might need them? Does your family “know and understand” the emergency plan? Would you like to have a Volunteer Fireman or a Police Officer check your home for dangers? Call City Hall 826-5745, and we will try to set up a “look-see” for you. No charge.

Be Aware. If the County succeeds in changing the Rincon Fire District at the end of June, the ISO rating for homes and businesses in the unincorporated area around Rincon will increase to a “9”, perhaps a “10”; and your homeowners insurance premium will double, perhaps triple. Do you know what your current premium is? What would three times that amount be? Can you afford that? Tell the County Commissioners “No”.

This Month's Friendship Theme:
“Where does it say that you can't have roots, and wings, too?”

City Hall: (912) 826-5437
Website: www.cityofrincon.com



This is South Georgia
There is always room
for another tractor show

But I'm not that old !

