

39th Annual Marion Mayhaw Fest Activities

The 1st Annual Marion Mayhaw Fest Banquet took place on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center! It was well attended on a severe weather night and the banquet decorations looked great!

Don Cincone, internationally known speaker and author delivered a very inspiring message using the analogy of mayhaw trees and people. Our banquet theme was "Working Together for Positive Change." Bobby Joe Douglas was our banquet Master of Ceremonies and Mayor Danny A. Smith extended a welcome to everyone and introduced Mr. Cincone. Shirley Burch, Delta Medlin and Donna Medlin did an incredible job serving as members of our banquet decorations committee!

Mayor Smith presented the coveted "Citizen of the Year Award" to Dr. Rhonda Davis! Rhonda serves on the Marion Town Council, a member of the Marion Baptist Church and the Director of the Union Parish Public School System Special Education Department. Also, Rhonda was instrumental in organizing our Town of Marion "Back to School Supply Event" which has been a great benefit to the families in our town and our surrounding areas.

Mayor Smith presented another special award to Bobby Joe Douglas for being recently inducted into the LHSAA Hall of Fame and for being listed in the Guinness Book of World Records! Bobby Joe is listed because of his 54 point average per basketball game continues to qualify him as a world record holder!

I was happy to recognize and honor the members of our Marion Volunteer Fire Department and thank each of them for their contributions to our town and our surrounding areas! Marion Fire Chief Jimmy Caldwell also offered words of appreciation to our fire department members.

Our "Festival Gold Sponsors" were CommuniHealth Medical Center - Marion and Union Parish Tourist Commission. I appreciate their generous sponsorships for our festival! Also, thanks to Cre Cre's – Marion for catering our banquet and First Marion for letting us have the banquet at their Family Life Center!

I'm already looking forward to our 2nd Annual Marion Mayhaw Fest Banquet!

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We enjoyed live music in the gym on Friday, May 6, 2022! Susan and Robin Cox, Danny Allen, Justin Callicott, Little Joe Wheeler and Robbie Simmons provided great music entertainment! The event was well attended and the singing and the musicians were enjoyed by everyone. Mayhaw t-shirts were on sale and light concessions were available. By the way, we sold out of our mayhaw t-shirts this year!

We appreciate Richard and Mickie Hinkle for allowing us to have this musical event at their gymnasium!

Fesitval and Parade.

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, our 39th Annual Mayhaw Fest was a huge success and we were blessed with nice weather! We had some 30 vendors including food, crafts, business, plants, face painting and of course, mayhaw jelly. I visited with almost every vendor and they were happy with the attendance and their festival proceeds. Also, children enjoyed petting and having their picture taken with a Bermese Python Snake and enjoyed Glory Land's Kiddie Horse Carousel Rides. Jessica with Glory Land Farms plans to bring more of her petting zoo animals next year.

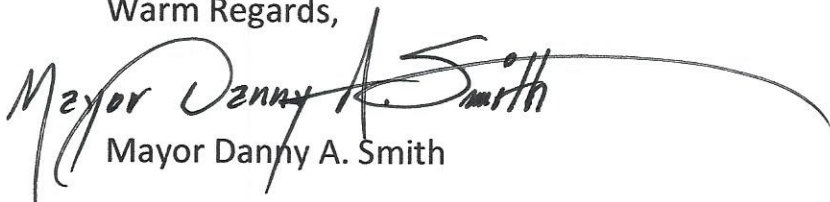
Our mayhaw parade was long and both participants and parade revelers loved the parade excitement! Thanks to everyone who participated.

Live festival music was provided by Susan and Robin Cox, Danny Allen, Justin Callicott and Robbie Simmons. This group always sounds great and four out of these five of them are home grown!

The revenue from our festival activites were split between the Marion Fire Department and the Marion Community Center, LLC. The MCC Board of Directors are working to save and restore some of the Marion School Buildings to be used to meet community needs.

I'm very pleased with the success of all of our festival activities, the beautiful weather, great attendance, the parade, banquet, music and our revenue. The plan is for the 40th Annual Mayhaw Fest to be even bigger and better!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mayor Danny A. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. The name "Mayor" is written in a smaller, more compact script, while "Danny A. Smith" is written in a larger, more prominent cursive style.

Mayor Danny A. Smith