

# Crossroads

GREENVILLE'S TIMELY TIDBITS AND NEWSY SNIPPETS

G Picks **18 & 22** History **24** Local Seen **26** 20 Answers **28**

## Full Steam Ahead

*An abandoned railroad becomes a multi-purpose community trail*



Celebrate the "Grand Hopping" on May 7-8 with a 5K, family block party, and more. Visit [www.ghs.org/swamprabbit5k](http://www.ghs.org/swamprabbit5k).  
Cont'd on page 18

*This May, Greenville will celebrate the completion of the ten-mile stretch that follows the old Swamp Rabbit railway, connecting the city to Travelers Rest.*

## Full Steam Ahead

Cont'd from page 17

Until 1993, the Greenville & Northern Railroad chugged through the Upstate. The line plowed through patches of swampy lowlands near the Reedy River, earning the nickname "Swamp Rabbit." Today, the Swamp Rabbit no longer puffs along the track—but you can, thanks to local efforts in converting railways to greenways.

Realizing that Greenville needed to prioritize healthy avenues of transportation and play, the city devoted a year to seeking public opinion. The vision details an ambitious network of trails—128 miles to be exact—that will link Greenville residents to the outdoors.

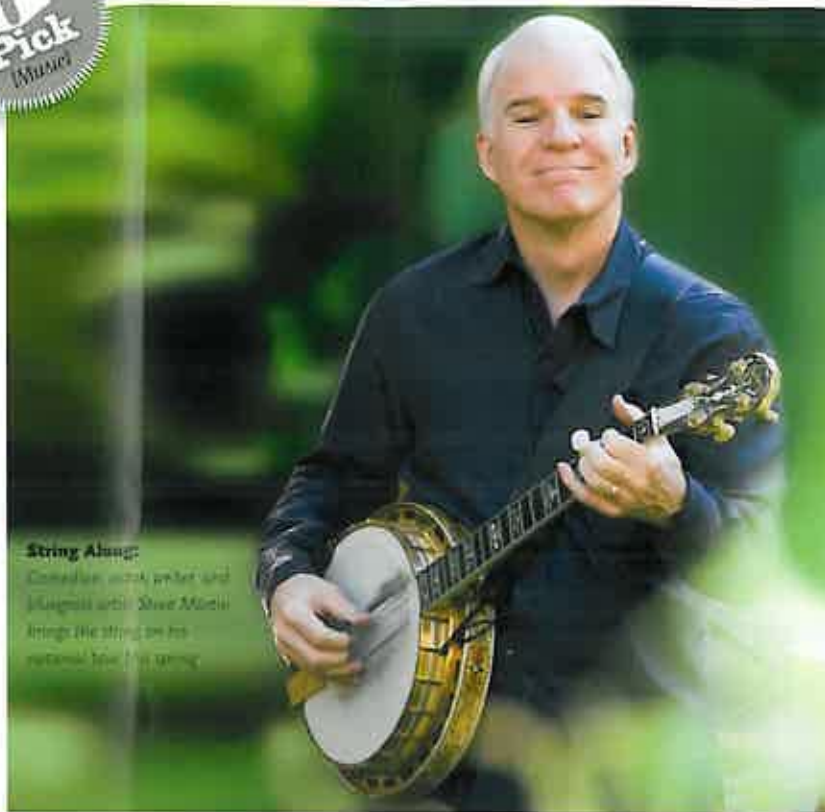
Designed to encourage physical activity, benefit the environment, and stimulate the local economy, the project features three different types of trails to best serve the city. Greenway trails chart a course through natural settings; street-based trails accommodate sidewalks and bike lanes; and natural surface trails protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Good things come to those who wait. Greenville celebrates the completion of the master plan's first ten miles of trail this May. Connecting Greenville to Travelers Rest, the ten-mile stretch follows the old Swamp Rabbit railway. When the railroad appeared on the market in 1998, local conservation organization Upstate Forever lobbied for Greenville to acquire the line. Eventually Greenville County won the railroad corridor, and Greenville volunteers spent their weekends clearing the trail and removing railroad ties.

Thanks to their hard work and the city's diligence, you can walk, run, or hike from Travelers Rest to downtown Greenville, via Furman University. At the least, the trail has already done exactly what city planners hoped: encouraged creative discussion about better transportation and perhaps one day a light rail or tram transit system that would parallel the Swamp Rabbit.

When the railroads steamed into America with the Industrial Revolution, they brought progress. Today, those old train tracks keep it coming—though, now, it's powered by feet, not steam. So, dust off your resolutions and hit the Swamp Rabbit Trail. If you huff and puff a bit, that's okay—just keep chugging.

—Kathryn White



**String Along:**  
Comedian, actor, writer and bluegrass artist Steve Martin brings the string on his national tour this spring.

## Banjo Man

Actor-comedian Steve Martin brandishes his banjo for a rare Peace Center performance

You've witnessed his comedic genius on *Saturday Night Live*, not to mention his acting chops in everything from *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* to *Shoggirl*. But this summer, Steve Martin will tread the boards, banjo in hand, during a national tour with Asheville's own acoustic quintet, Steep Canyon Rangers. Last year, Martin enjoyed a successful foray into the music industry with his first bluegrass album, *The Crow: New Songs for the Five-String Banjo*. (So successful that it topped the Billboard bluegrass chart for thirty weeks.) Don't miss Martin's signature wit and musical talent as he stops into town for a one-night performance. The evening is sure to be one pickin', grinnin', toe-tapping good time. —April A. Morris

**Five-String Jam**  
Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers  
The Peace Center  
300 S. Main St.  
Thursday, June 10, 8 p.m.  
\$35-\$65. (864) 467-3000  
[www.peacecenter.org](http://www.peacecenter.org)