



Community News

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J. Ruth Littlejohn: Publisher/Editor Horace Littlejohn: Co-Editor Theron Moore: Co-Editor July/August 2016

Last Day to Register to Vote!!!!

October 8 is the last day to register to vote in the upcoming General Election on November 8. If you will turn 18 years old on or before the election, you are eligible to register by October 8 and vote on November 8.

To help ensure a smooth Election Day sign in process, please make sure your voter registration information is current & accurate. If you have moved or made a name change since you last voted, there are four ways to update your information. Go online to SCVotes.org & (1) Submit an online voter registration form. If using this method, you must first update your information with DMV; (2) Download a change of address form, print it out and either mail, fax, or scan to your voter registration office; (3) Fill out the back of your voter registration card & mail it to your county voter registration office; or (4) Visit your county voter registration office at **336 N. Church Street** (located at the rear of the County Administration Building facing Magnolia Street), and make the necessary changes.

Voting in person now requires Photo ID. Make sure you have one of these forms of identification: **S.C. Driver's License, S.C. DMV ID Card, Voter Registration Card w/photo, United States Passport, Federal Military ID or Concealed Weapon Permit**. Free Photo IDs are available at the DMV and your voter registration office. If you are voting absentee in-person, then you will need to present proper ID; if requesting an absentee ballot by mail you do not need to show ID. Voters who have a reasonable impediment to obtaining photo ID may show a non-photo voter registration card in lieu of photo ID, sign an affidavit attesting to the impediment, and cast a provisional ballot.

Your sample ballot is now available online at SCVotes.org. For further information contact your voter registration office at **596-2549**.

You have your one vote, and if you don't exercise it, you give up your right to have a say. Thousands of people have given their life for you to have this right! Make your one vote count!!!

Dates to Remember

Due to Labor Day being on the 1st Monday, the next SCNA Association meeting will take place on **Tuesday, September 6 @ 5:30 p.m.** in the C.C. Woodson Center.

A Town Hall meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 6 @ 6:30 p.m.** in the C.C. Woodson Center. This meeting is being held by City Councilperson **Rosalyn Henderson Meyers**.

Workshops "All Under One Roof"

Volunteers are needed to help with the South Converse Neighborhood's light installation, which is part of Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light, a national public art challenge funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies based in New York. Volunteers will work with **Erwin Redl** and his technician **Chris Buchakjian** and learn how to install LED light strips to individual rafters at the picnic shelter at the park on 440 S. Converse Street. No experience is necessary, although volunteers should be good with their hands, able to follow instructions as expressed by the artist and able to expend some physical energy. This is an amazing opportunity for any interested individual who wants to contribute to an innovative, city wide public art project with a world renowned contemporary artist.

Workshop installation will take place at 5p.m. on Tuesday, August 30 & Wednesday, August 31. Volunteers should arrive prepared with the following: work clothes, sturdy shoes (no open toes), work gloves, water bottles, sun screen & bug spray.

Light refreshments are provided and your contributions will be recognized and appreciated on the official seeingspartanburg.com website, as well as at the opening events on **October 4** on site at the picnic shelter.

Part II of the Programming is **Saturday September 17, 5-7 pm** at the park's pavilion. **Erwin Redl** will teach people how to program LED light strips into colorful patterns. Erwin, members of the creative team, and the SCNA will host a community picnic at 7pm after the workshop and test our skills. Everyone is invited to bring what you would like to grill. Please **RSVP to Elizabeth Goddard at egoddard@spartanarts.org or call (864)582-7616x236**.

The lights will be turned on **October 4**, for National Night Out. **This is really big!** It's bigger than words can express. Now is the time for each of us to help make our neighborhood look its best by mowing our lawns, edging not only our yards, but the median between the road and sidewalk, and removing litter that's been tossed in front of our homes. Let's work to make visitors want to make Spartanburg their home.

"If people around you aren't going anywhere, if their dreams are no bigger than hanging out on the corner, or if they're dragging you down, get rid of them. Negative people can sap your energy so fast, and they can take your dreams from you too. Earvin "Magic" Johnson, NBA Basketball Superstar

Spring Fling Public Forum

The City of Spartanburg's Spring Fling Evaluation Committee plans to hold a **public forum August 30 @ 6:30 p.m.**, in City Council Chambers at City Hall, to gather input on the annual festival. People who want to share their thoughts, concerns and/or suggestions about Spring Fling will be given three minutes to speak at the forum. If you cannot attend the forum and would like to share your opinion via email, please send to the following email link: springfling@cityofspartanburg.org. What changes you'd like to see? Or do you like things as they are? The Spring Fling Evaluation Committee members, who were appointed by City Council are Nick Belmont, Luke Connell, Eric Kocher, Ruth Littlejohn, Melvin Norwood, Brenda L. Pryce & Rick Stripling.

First Day at School

The children at Mary H. Wright Elementary School appeared to be excited to get back to their first day of school on August 15. They came displaying their big smiles and new clothes. South Converse residents joined Principal **Marc Zachary**, staffer **Jerome Rice** and other volunteers in welcoming these beautiful children on their first day of school.



L-R: **Norma Pitts**, **Principal Marc Zachary**, **Horace Littlejohn**, **J. Ruth Littlejohn**, **Jerome Rice** & **Brenda Lee Pryce**, join students on first day of school.

WHITE'S

Pine Street Exxon

2165 S. Pine Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302-3350

Phone: 585-1226

JUNIE WHITE- Owner

Yards of Month

Congratulations to **June's** Yards of the Month: **Carolyn Brewer** (131 Collins Ave), **Kenneth & Julie Goins** (349 Marion Ave) and **Tommy & Frances Richardson** (130 Prospect St). Yards for the month of **July** were **Mary Ann Miller** (108 Pyle), **Melinda Gladden** (227 Dallas Place) and **Edward & Marilyn Bates** (287 E. Hampton Ave). Thank you for your dedication in helping make this a better community.

YouthBuild - Spartanburg

The Spartanburg Housing Authority is introducing an exciting program called YouthBuild-Spartanburg. The program is for unemployed young adults between the ages of 16-24 who left high school without a diploma. YouthBuild-Spartanburg gives young adults an opportunity to reclaim their education while receiving a \$95.00 stipend each week. This program will deliver young adults several pathways to success. With this program young adults will gain the necessary skills needed for employment and also leadership skills within our community. To learn more about YouthBuild-Spartanburg, please contact **Eric Cheek** at echeekshasc.org or by phone at **864-764-8413**.

A Blast in the Park

South Converse residents and friends celebrated a fun day in the Park on Saturday, July 23, 2016. We actually had a **blast** with many young children playing on the park equipment and fun games from the Park and Recreation mobile play truck. The adults had a great time as well. There were plenty of hot dogs and hamburgers to feed everyone. We thank **Kim Moultrie** (Director of Park and Recreation) and **Wanda Cheeks** (Recreation Specialist), for their continued support. We also thank **Caveril Pryce**, who provided music that had everyone **jamming**.



Wanda Cheeks brought the Play-Mobile and had fun with the children. The children made this event an enjoyable one.



Our master griller, **Horace Littlejohn** took his spot at the grill, giving **Bernice Lewis** & **Janie Foster** some lessons.



Committee Members L-R: **Patricia Wofford**, **Linda Sanders**, **Doris Clowney**, **Bernice Lewis**, **Carolyn Brewer** (Committee Chair), and **Frances & Tommy Richardson**.



Kim Moultrie (Director of Parks & Rec), **Wanda Cheeks**, **Willie Mae Thacker**, **Barbara Ann Perry** & **Jaylan Johnson**.



Music was provided by **Caveril Pryce**. Joining him is **Carolyn Brewer**, **Carolyn's daughter**, **Brenda L. Pryce** & **guest**.



Enjoying the dancing, children at play and the delicious food, **Tommy Richardson** (SCNA President), **Ali Abdul**, and **friends**.

Beautification in Motion

Tsuey-Ping Lee, Professor, Department of Political Science, National Chung Cheng University and her assistant **Jenny**, both from Taiwan, were touring the Spartanburg Community on July 5 with State Representative **Harold Mitchell**, when they spotted **J. Ruth Littlejohn** pruning roses at the Mary H. Wright Memorial. They stopped for a brief visit to chat. **Dr. Lee** made a special trip to S.C. to visit the Arkwright Landfill and other projects with **Rep. Mitchell**.



Carolyn Brewer, Tommy Richardson and J. Ruth Littlejohn (below) were the Lone Rangers to show for a community clean-up on July 23. Thank you for your dedication. We also thank **Carolyn Brewer & J. Ruth Littlejohn**, who were worked long hours in the heat on July 1.



Spartanburg Water Choose Tap

Spartanburg Water has partnered with the new Way to Wellville initiative to launch a new program called Choose Tap, which is designed to encourage people to drink more tap water. To celebrate the initiative, officials unveiled a water bottle refill station on April 20th, on Morgan Square in Downtown Spartanburg.

Way to Wellville encourages collaboration, and that charge to "**be bold, be brave, be well**" is being heard throughout the community. It's changing our culture for the better and inspiring innovation and investment among the local businesses and non-profit sectors across the entire landscape of Spartanburg.

In addition to the bottle refill station at Dunbar and Church streets on Morgan Square, Choose Tap has also partnered with Spartanburg School District 7 to install bottle refill stations for the students at Spartanburg High School. Plus, Spartanburg has designed a mobile water dispensing unit, or the "Choose Tap Oasis," that it has deployed at select, pre-determined community events.

"By taking water fountains into the community, we're not only providing convenience and refreshment for those on Morgan Square and the surrounding areas of Downtown Spartanburg, we're also supporting the Wellville goals by encouraging a healthy, local option," said **Sue G. Schneider**, Spartanburg Water's Chief Executive Officer. "Just as water is important, it can often be overlooked and taken for granted. We're meeting people where they are---on the Way to Wellville. And it is our sincere hope that the water from this fountain will encourage the growth of many new things for Downtown Spartanburg." *Take the pledge to Choose Tap at the website www.choosetapwater.org.*



Water Commissioners **Angela Viney & Horace Littlejohn**.



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Former Arkwright Landfill

The former Arkwright landfill site in Spartanburg is being brought back to life as a solar farm. **State Rep. Harold Mitchell** is heading up the effort to bring 12,000 solar panels to the 35-acre plot, using the sun's energy to power 500 homes, offsetting CO2 emissions equal to taking 800 cars off the road. "This is something new for South Carolina," said Mitchell of the project, the first landfill-turned-solar farm in the state. "This is being done all over the country."

Willa Reeder, President of the Forest Park Neighborhood Association, said the homes that sit next to the old landfill site will benefit from the solar farm. "Once that solar farm project is implemented our existing power bills will be lowered tremendously," said **Reeder**.

The initiative is part of the ReGenesis project, headed up by Rep. **Mitchell**. The Arkwright landfill was one of 29 Superfund sites that needed immediate attention. Since the land was hard to re-develop for business, **Mitchell** said the place was a perfect fit for a solar farm. "It's been an eyesore since 1958 to the present," he said. ReGenesis and a company called groSolar are working with Duke Energy and DHEC to see the project through. The project will use EPA funds and private investment, totaling about \$7 million. The solar farm is slated to be up and running by the end of 2017.

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Congratulations!!!

The South Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women (SCBPW) has selected its 2016-2017 Young Careerist. **Crystal Pace**, who represented the Breakfast of Spartanburg BPW organization, was selected as the SCBPW Young Careerist. Pace currently serves as Corporate Sales Manager for the Spartanburg Marriott. The sales and training program she developed has been a model for the corporation.

Attorney Rosalyn Henderson Meyers, who serves as City Councilmember for District 3, was recently elected as Chairperson for the Women Lawyers Division - National Bar Association. Attorney Meyers is the first from South Carolina to be elected to this position.

Both of these ladies serve on the SCNA Board of Directors.

"Remember, you can choose your attitude. You can approach life expecting to be served, or you can look for opportunities to serve others." Philippians

Church News

Majority Baptist Church will host the following:

Sunday, September 18 @ 3pm - Gospelfest

September 25-29 - Annual Revival

October 9 @ 10:30 a.m. Senior Citizen's Day (Morning worship)

October @ 3pm 13 - 100 Women in Red (Sponsored by the Pastor's Aide)

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

Annual Revival, Sunday, Sept. 11 - Thursday, September 15

Sunday Morning - 10:00 Pastor Benjamin D. Snoddy, MMBC

Sunday @ 6:00pm, Rev. Kippie Brown, Pastor Springfield Baptist Church, Greenville

Monday - Thursday @ 7pm, Dr. Stephen J. Thurston, Pastor of New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago, IL

Tuesday, September 13 - Greeters Chapel, Children's Revival

Service 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Speaker: Rev. Paulette Porter-Hallmon

Ten's Revival Service - 7:00 -9:00pm, Speaker: Jerone Wilder

The Pizza Blast will immediately follow each Revival Service

Some Happenings in the Burg

August 28: Let's Unite! A Community Cookout (4-7)

September 2: Return of Jazz on the Square (Fridays in Sept/Oct)

September 2 & 3: #1 Spark! Festival (11-5pm)

September 10: Upstate Pride March & Festival (10am-6pm)

September 12: Dance Class /Bella Dance Studio (6:30-7:30pm)

September 18: Jam in the Park (Duncan Park)

September 20: Dance Class with Upstate Party Fitness (6-7)

September 21: Storytelling on the Square (5-7 pm)

September 22-25: Spartanburg Greek Festival

September 24: Melting Pot Music Festival

September 24: Record Swap (9:00 am-12 noon)

September 27: Dance Class w/Upstate Party Fitness (6-7)

September 29: Hanger B Ball at Down Town Airport

Tidbits

Many thanks to **Daffne Martinez** (student at Spartanburg High School) for her continued volunteer work in the South Converse Community.

Many thanks are also extended to the City of Spartanburg (Public Safety, Community Relations & Public Works). Special thanks to Glenn Cook and his crew.

School is in, please slow down and watch out for the children.

Community newsletters are hand delivered bi-monthly, to each resident & business within the South Converse Community. We truly thank each person who takes the time from their busy schedule to make it possible for you to receive the letters, and they are **Ali Abdul, M.B. & Fannie Bates, Dorothy Blackley, Carolyn Brewer, Roz Gibbs, Beatrice Hill, Ruth Jones, Bernice Lewis, Horace Littlejohn, J. Ruth Littlejohn, Chris Martin, Dana McKnight, Tommy Richardson, Margaret Swindler, Willie Mae Thacker & Elaine Wheeler.**

"Never, if possible lie down at night without being able to say "I have made one human being at least a little wiser, or a little better this day." Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)