



Community News

President: Tommy Richardson (582-7383) **Secretary: Carolyn Brewer (585-8114)** **Treasurer: Wayne Roodard (864-345-2171)**
J. Ruth Littlejohn: Editor/Vice Pres. **Theron Moore: Co-Editor** **Horace Littlejohn: Co-Editor** **April/ May 2015**

Big Tent Event

Once again the Spartanburg City and County Governments sponsored a "Housing Fair - Big Tent Event" on May 16, from 10 a.m. to 1p.m., at the Spartanburg County Administration Building.

The Citizen Advisory Council encouraged neighborhood associations to come out and join other communities for a morning of education, fun and community outreach. As an incentive for participating and sharing useful information, an award was given to the neighborhood that had the most residents show up. Last year the South Converse neighborhood won first place. This year we came in 2nd place winning \$100.00, which will go into the SCNA treasury and be used for community projects. The first place winner received \$250 and third place received \$50. Thanks to all residents who gave their support in this effort.

Mobile Mammography

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church will hold its 18th Annual Community Health Awareness Day on **June 6**. Mobile Mammography, which is quick and convenient, is returning by popular request. To schedule your mammogram at Mt. Moriah for June 6, contact **Dr. Glenda P. Sims, RN at 864-316-9579**, before **June 1, 2015**. No doctor's order is required. **Registration is required.** It must be a full year since your last mammogram and you must be ambulatory (able to walk up unit stairs).

Women **will not be eligible** for Mobile Mammography if they are **pregnant or breast-feeding, under age 35, have been diagnosed with breast cancer, have breast implants or have current breast symptoms.** If any of these apply, you may call **(864) 560-6186** to make an appointment at the main hospital location.

A Celebration Concert

RISE UP! A Celebration Concert, featuring Gospel recording artist **Canton Jones**, with special guests Shawn Bigby, Teen Pure - N - Heart and more, will be held at Cornerstone Baptist Church on Sunday, **May 31 at 4:00 p.m.** **Admission is free** if you bring a canned food item. Your canned food donation will help address hunger and access to food crisis in the community. Cornerstone invites you to come out and help celebrate faith, family, local businesses and community. Attire is jeans and tee shirt.

"Sometimes small things lead to great joys"

Samuel Joseph Agnon

Congratulations SHS

For the 4th year in a row Spartanburg High School received ranking in the Washington Post list of America's Most Challenging High Schools for how well they prepare their students for college level work.

SHS earned the 18th spot in the state. With 26 advanced placement courses to choose from (which is more than any other school in the state), Spartanburg High boasts a 75% pass rate on AP exams. Students and their parents are attracted to AP courses because it saves families quite a bit of money. Last year's senior class earned more than 22 million dollars in college scholarships, ranking it first in Spartanburg County among individual high schools and setting a new school record.

The Washington Post accolade is a credit to Spartanburg High's dedicated teachers and students, and they invite all to celebrate with them. *Article taken from 7Headliner, April 17, 2015*

New Members

We welcome new members **Crystal Thomas & Jennifer Pace** of 601 South Converse Street, to the S. Converse Community. Thank you for your membership.

Be Alert for Scams and Rip-offs

Recently there have been individuals going door to door attempting to sell security services. Please be aware of door to door solicitation. Some door to door sales people are selling real products and services, but quite a few are pushing scams. Therefore, if you did not make a request for services, it may be safer to reject them. **Also remember, all door-to-door salespersons MUST be licensed by the city and must show their permits on request.**

Big Day at the Park!!!

On June 27th, the South Converse Community will enjoy a double hitter - Community cleanup from 8-10 a.m., followed by a Big Time Cookout from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The bigger the turnout, the faster the pickup, so bring the family. Our usual menu of hot dogs and trimmings and music will be provided by SCNA. Hope to see you there!

"To escape criticism - do nothing, say nothing, be nothing" Elbert Hubbard

Community Clean-ups

Many thanks to the faithful volunteers who came out in the cold weather on March 28, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. to participate in the community clean-up.



Pictured left to right are DiAnne Gibson, Robert Brewton, Joseph Broadus, III, J. Ruth Littlejohn, Joseph Broadus, Jr., Jamil Gibson, Ruth Davis, Carson Rogerson & P.K. Garmon. Not pictured are Angelio Dukes, Carolyn Brewer, Noah Banks, Marvin Banks, Anderson Jeter and Shirley Jeter.

On April 25 at 8:00 a.m. a few volunteers showed up to participate in the Palmetto Pride Clean-up. Keeping America Beautiful (The Great American Cleanup) is the nation's largest annual community improvement program, utilizing the power of more than three million volunteers and participants throughout America to create local improvement. However, these efforts were hampered due to the pouring rain. Many thanks to those who showed up.



Pictured from left to right: Tommy Richardson (President SCNA), Horace Littlejohn (Commissioner Public Works), Ruth H. Davis (Scouts Troop Leader 106), Willa Reeder (Pres. Forest Park, NA), Crystal Thomas (Marriott Sales Manager), Gerod Allison (SCNA Board Chair/Allstate Insurance) and Robert Reeder (City Council). Not pictured: J. Ruth Littlejohn (Vice Pres./Voter Election Commission).

"When you are going through something hard and wonder where God is, remember, the teacher is always quiet during the test." Monique A. Honaman

Getting to Know You!!!



Tommy Lewis Richardson of 130 Prospect Ave. has a daughter and two grandchildren. He and the former Frances McBeth, have been married 16 years. Frances is an Information Specialist for Spartanburg Regional. Although he and Frances have only lived at their Prospect home since 2012, Tommy's parents purchased the home when he was 14 years old, and he lived there until he joined the Air Force in 1963, after graduating from Carver High School. Tommy has an Associate Degree in Business Admin. from Spartanburg Community College and he serves as president of the SCNA. He is an active member of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, where he serves as a Sunday School Teacher and sings on the choir. He is currently enrolled in the Spartanburg County Foundation's Grass Roots Leadership Program, enjoys gardening and works part time as a Handy Man (painting, etc.).



P.K. Garmon is a divorced mother of four children, who range in age from 18-28 years. She has lived in South Carolina for 11 years. P.K. is from Kentucky, where she graduated in 1980 from Western Kentucky University. She has worked as a Training Manager at Tietex since Dec. 2012, and says the high point of her career has been returning to work after being home for 16 years as a stay-at-home-mom. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church, where she served as president for 2 years & membership chair for 5 years. PK served as secretary of the SCNA for nearly 3 years, and continues to be very active in the Community's neighborhood clean-ups and where ever else she is needed. P.K. was also a regular volunteer at Mary H. Wright Elementary until she resumed her career.

Spelling Bee

Braelond Roosevelt Means of 630 South Converse St, a 5th grade student at E.P. Todd Elementary School, was a school winner in an Spelling Bee contest, and competed in the District Wide Spelling Bee earlier this year. He is in Mr. Vangnes homeroom class. Congratulations Braelond!!!



Braelond with his mother, Trina Means.



I can help you make sure your coverage is up-to-date.
Call me today.
(864) 515 9004

GEROD ALLISON
770 UNION STREET
SPARTANBURG
gerodallison@allstate.com



Allstate
You're in good hands.

Insurance subject to availability and qualifications. Allstate Insurance Company and Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Northbrook, Illinois © 2009 Allstate Insurance Company.

Congratulations!!!

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded State Representative Harold Mitchell, Jr. and the ReGenesis Project a National Planning Excellence Award for Advancing Diversity and Social Change. The ReGenesis Project blended collaboration and the need for partnership building in a manner that addressed multi-stakeholder interest and concerns. The award was presented to Mitchell April 20, 2015 in Seattle, WA.

WHITE'S

Pine Street Exxon

2165 S. Pine Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302-3350
Phone: 585-1226
JUNIE WHITE- Owner

*"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."
George Washington Carver*

Yards of Month

Congratulations to yards of the month for March: **284 Marion Ave.** (Horace & J. Ruth Littlejohn), **492 Greenlea St.** (Kim Downs) and **117 Cornell St.** (Eric & Terry Rice). Yards for the month of April were **115 Collins Ave** (Bernice Lewis), **365 Marion Ave.** (Cathy Gladney) and **120 Princeton St.** (James & Pearl Ellis).



**PROFESSIONAL
DESIGN & PRINTING
SERVICES**

140 WEST HENRY STREET
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29306
T 864 585 9581 F 864 583 2115
E INFO@ACTIONPRINTINGINC.NET
WWW.ACTIONPRINTINGINC.NET

Christmas in Action

On April 18 Christmas In Action held its Rebuilding Day with a total of fifteen homes in the city receiving either repairs, painting, pressure washing, handicap railings, or whatever the request may have been. Five of the homes receiving these gifts were located in the South Converse Community. Work that was started at 521 S. Converse by students from Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin was completed on this date. Many thanks to Christmas In Action.



Pictured are some of the team members from the Mary Black Health System, including Sean T. Dardeau (CEO), and Polydeck Screen Corporation, including Scott Gajewsky (Caring Culture Manager). Also included are SCNA members, Doris Cunningham (home owner) and J. Ruth Littlejohn, who worked with the teams.

Community
Mortuary, Inc.

of Spartanburg, SC

South Converse Park

Please keep in mind the hours for the South Converse Park are from dawn to dusk. Public Safety has received reports of people being seen in the park after dusk grilling and gathering for whatever reason. Rules and hours are posted at the park. Please remind family and friends that no activities are to take place after dusk. If you would like to make reservations for the park, call **864-596-3105**.

Healthy Schools Summit

Thursday, **June 4, 2015**, from 8:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M., Partners for Active Living and SRHS Corporate Education are hosting a daylong conference for administrators, school board members, teachers and staff, nurses, guidance counselors, food service, SIC/PTSO members, interested parents and community members to discuss many topics such as school wellness policies, nutrition, nutrition education, employee wellness, physical education, Safe Routes to School, tobacco free schools, healthy fundraising, etc. The event is sponsored by the Mary Black Foundation and the Spartanburg Community Indicators Project. The keynote speaker is Dr. Dave Walsh, founder of Mind Positive Parenting, which equips parents and communities to raise children and youth who can not only survive but also thrive, meeting the demands and challenges of the 21st Century. **Registration is free but donations are encouraged.** The conference includes light breakfast, lunch and snack. Dress comfortably and get there early to participate! **Location: Whitlock Flexible Learning Center (364 Successful Way, Spartanburg, SC 29303).** For more information go to www.active-living.org

Kudzu

The Kudzu Coalition, led by **Newt Hardie**, has worked over the past years eradicating kudzu from public sites in Spartanburg without using chemicals. Occasionally this group partners with schools, civic organizations, city and county agencies, and ordinary citizens who want to help make a difference in the community. Each year the Trees Coalition asks the City of Spartanburg where are the city's biggest tree and kudzu problems. This year the problem was identified as a kudzu problem along WinSmith Street, starting at the corner of South Converse Street. The team fought its way through the briars and kudzu to remove ivy from the trees. Many thanks to **Roy Mortimer, Benny Carter, Jimmy Kelly** and **Andre Anderson**. We also thank **Josh Baker** and **Mark Ford** for the removal of all the debris afterwards.

Website

If you have pictures or information that you believe would benefit others, please send to **Tommy Richardson** at tlrfsmr@msn.com, and check it out on our Face book page at www.facebook.com/SouthConverse. We are grateful to Matthew Manley for setting this site up for us, and we wish him well.

"Karma: what goes around, comes around. Keep your circle positive. Say good words. Think good thoughts. Do good deeds." Monique A. Honaman

Happy Father's Day!

Showing Gratitude

Our Community Newsletters are distributed free to all residents in the South Converse Community, and we are grateful to those who give up their time to make this possible: **M.B. & Fannie Bates, Dorothy Blackley, Carolyn Brewer, Doris Clowney, Bennie & Joan Drummond, Roz Gibbs, Julie Goins, Beatrice Hill, Ruth Jones, Bernice Lewis, Horace & J. Ruth Littlejohn, Chris Martin, Dana McKnight, Tommy Richardson, Margaret Swindler, Willie M. Thacker, Elaine Wheeler.** We also thank Dorothy Hunter and Jessie Kiensler who recently withdrew their help, due to health issues. Thank you.

Rail Trail

Have you walked on the Rail Trail lately? If not, you are missing all the fun things that are taking place, especially on the south end of Forest Ave. Plus there are many benefits to walking: you can reduce your blood pressure and improve your cardiovascular functions. Heart health is huge in enjoying a healthier lifestyle. Also, walking has a positive impact on your weight and age-related illnesses. It helps you build muscle strength, endurance, maintenance of healthier bones and joints. And it can reduce your stress level.

AARP Free Shredding Day

AARP is sponsoring a free shredding day **Wednesday, May 27** from **9:00 - 12:00 noon**, at City Hall, Spartanburg Police Department, 145 W. Broad Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306

Please no more than three bags or boxes per person. Paper clips and staples do not need to be removed from documents. **For more information, call 866-389-5655 or go to www.aarp.org/sc**

Tidbits

June 3rd is the last day of school, please slow down and watch out for the children.

There is no meeting in July. National Night Out is scheduled for **August 4.**

If you know children in the South Converse Community, who are excelling in school or other community activities, please let us know. It's important to recognize our children. Contact **J. Ruth Littlejohn at 573-5066.**

Special thanks as always are extended to **Glenn Cook** and his team for the work they do in the community.

If you would like an SCNA tee shirt, there are a few available for sale. Call Tommy Richardson or J. Ruth Littlejohn.

June 6 - Margarete Bell Dance Recital

Have a Safe July 4th!