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Please Wear A Mask

Many of us are starting to realize that people we know, including love ones, have been infected with the coronavirus. In some cases the carrier of this virus wasn't aware he or she was infected. They had no temperature and weren't sick. That's why it is so important for all of us to take every precaution necessary to protect ourselves and others. Please do your part and wear a mask! Spartanburg's economic recovery is tied to our ability to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Experts have proven that wearing a mask significantly limits the spread of the virus.

As of **July 20, 2020**, the following businesses are requiring all customers to wear a mask: **Walmart, Sams, Best Buy & Target. Costco**, already had this requirement in place.

See below *City of Spartanburg's Ordinance* that went into effect at noon on June 29, 2020:

Masks are required for Customers and employees in pharmacies, grocery stores and City facilities, where at-risk people are likely to be. Although encouraged, customers are not required to wear masks while supporting City's restaurants, retail stores and salons, however, employees in these businesses **are required** to wear masks.

Please put your disposable mask and gloves in the trash, after use. Please do not litter!

"We are one people with one family. We all live in the same house...and through books, through information, we must find a way to say to people that we must lay down the burden of hate. For hate is too heavy a burden to bear." Congressman John Lewis

Grocery Update

The plan for a full service grocery on South Church Street is still in the works. However, as with other developments, it's possible that the COVID-19 Pandemic has added a small amount of "uncertainty" on the part of the potential lender. In speaking with City officials, patience is the best approach as we remain confident of a positive outcome regarding a grocery. A full service grocery remains a priority and has the full attention of all involved.

Census

The power to change your community is in your hands. Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions. The results will show where communities need new schools, new clinics, new roads, and more services for families, older adults, and children. The results will also inform how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP. It will also determine how many seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives. Your input is needed and time is running out. So please complete the census today online, by phone, or by mail. Complete online today at 2020census.gov.

The 2020 Census Bureau will **never** ask you for: Your Social Security number, money donations, anything on behalf of a political party, your bank or credit card account numbers, nor any citizenship questions. If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau contacts you by email or phone and asks you for one of these things, it's a scam, and you should not cooperate.

Grateful!



L-R: Jessica Holcomb (SHA Chief Operating Officer), Councilwoman Ruth Littlejohn, Cierra Fowler (SHA Director of Community Engagement) and Tamidra Wilkins (SHA Multi-Family Coordinator).

When the Southside of town lost its only grocery store in 2019, it created a hardship for seniors who wanted healthy food, but have no transportation, other than the bus system. Once COVID-19 hit, it caused even a greater hardship, since many seniors are confined to their homes. Councilwoman Ruth Littlejohn saw a need within her district to serve the seniors, especially those without transportation. Littlejohn serves City Council District 3 and on July 23, 2020, she made sure each of the 100 residents in the J. C. Bull Apartments and Liberty Square's 42 residents received a box of fresh produce. Littlejohn was joined by Horace Littlejohn, Commissioner of Public Works and Rodney Drummond, to deliver fresh produce to other senior residents as well. Littlejohn is grateful to Dr. Chris Duncan from Lander University and Alissa Duncan for their help in getting the produce delivered. On that day, the pair delivered a total of one thousand boxes to different location in Spartanburg County. She is also grateful to all who made this effort possible: Partners for Active Living (PAL) and FoodShare Spartanburg, who worked together to provide the boxes of produce sponsored by FoodShare SC and the United States Department of Agriculture. Thanks also to Lindsey Graham from PAL, whose marketing skills helped make this possible. *Continued on page 6*

"If you're too busy tooting your own horn, you run out of breath before the work starts."
Former Mayor James Talley

Determined

A Tribute to the Grimke' Sisters

"The Grimke' sisters lead us still - to work with and for one another, without exception, without ceasing," - Scott Neely, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

The Unitarian Universalist Church, a member of the South Converse Neighborhood Association, is marking the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote by honoring Angelina and Sarah Grimke', South Carolina sisters who were abolitionists and suffragists in the 19th century. The honor takes the form of a mural--Determined: A Tribute to the Grimke' Sisters--designed by local artist Nancy Corbin and executed on one wall of the church at 210 Henry Place. A small park, the Grimke' Connector, will serve as a link between the Mary Black Rail Trail and the Mary H. Wright Greenway.



As adults, the Grimke' sisters were repulsed by slavery; they moved to New York to fight for abolition. They joined other abolitionists who were also suffragists--fighting for the right of women to vote. "Letters on the Equality of the Sexes" by Sarah Grimke' was an important early women's rights treatise. Angelina spoke to the Massachusetts legislature in 1838 about the evils of slavery, the first woman to do so. The sisters identified the illegitimate sons of their brother who were born to a mixed race woman and educated them. They attended Harvard, Howard University and Princeton Theological Seminary and became active in the founding of the NAACP. The mural was commissioned by the League of Women Voters of Spartanburg County.

"There is so much good and bad in the best of us. It hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us."

COVID-19 Testing Made Possible

State Representative Rosalyn Henderson-Myers has worked to ensure that Spartanburg Residents are tested at "No Cost" for the coronavirus. Testing took place on July 13th, 14th and 22nd at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Henderson-Myers stated another testing is scheduled for the coming week. She is waiting for confirmation. Other sponsors of this project are:



Medical University of South Carolina, Spartanburg County Baptist Association, Tyger River Baptist Association, Spartanburg Clergy Initiation, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and Spartanburg

Chapter of the Links, Inc.



L-R: Links Robin Bullock, Ann Waddell, Rep. Henderson-Myers, Rosalind Patton Brown, Rhonda Young, Andrea Butler & Cynthia Jeffers.



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Neighborhood Cleanup

The South Converse Neighborhood held a cleanup on June 20, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. (while social distancing). This was the first cleanup in five months. We are grateful for the faithful members of the *Unitarian Church*, who showed up to show their support. Those participating were *Rick Hahnenberg, Ruth Stanton, Jeanette Keepers, Joyce Harrison, Alice Sutton, Pam* and *Fred Stoll*. They were joined by residents *Toni Sutton* (SCNA Pres), *Tommy Richardson* and City Councilwoman *J. Ruth Littlejohn* and Commissioner *Horace Littlejohn*.

More often than not, litter can be seen blowing from the back of trucks, and tossed from vehicles as they travel through the community. However, if we don't pick it up, it makes us all look bad. The community needs the help of everyone with this effort! If we would put the community first and check daily around our homes for discarded litter, it would make a big difference.



L-R: Toni Sutton, Alice Sutton, Fred & Pam Stall & Horace Littlejohn



L-R: Ruth Stanton, Tommy Richardson, Rick Hahnenberg, Joyce Harrison, J. Ruth Littlejohn & Jeanette Keepers.

"I believe race is too heavy a burden to carry into the 21st Century. It's time to lay it down. We all came here in different ships, but now we're all in the same boat. Congressman John Lewis

City's Green Waste

Due to the unprecedented volume of debris on the streets, City staff simply cannot pick up in most areas in less than 3+ days. With current volumes, residents should expect 20 to 30+ days between collections as crews work through the city's nine zones. **NOTE:** As the City tries to get back to a twice a month collection schedule, there are a couple of things that would help keep our streets cleaner: (1) Once the City picks up on your street, if at all possible, please wait at least 10 days or so before putting more yard waste out. (2) If paid contractors are generating the yard waste, have them haul the debris away. That will help get it off the street quicker. **It is City Ordinance, that all contractors are to haul/remove their waste/debris. There was an exception during the Tornado & the storm that followed.** The City continues to ask for your patience and understanding & will continue to work extended hours and 6 days a week to hopefully get back to normal collections.



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Yards of Month

Congratulations to our Yards for the month of **May**: **115 Collins Avenue** (Bernice Lewis), **121 Princeton Street** (MB & Fannie Bates) and **131 Collins Avenue** (Carolyn Brewer). Yards for **June** are: **107 LaSalle Court** (Jessie Kiensler), **172 Collins Avenue** (John & Barbara Rutledge) and **335 Marion Avenue** (Charles & Polly Goins).

Poll Workers Needed

The Voter Registration & Election Office is in need of more poll workers, especially younger people with no known underlying health conditions. This will help the election season go by smoother and maybe help avoid the closing of some of the voting precincts. For more information, please call 864-596-2549

Learning during the COVID-19

Scouts of the Daniel Morgan District has had over fifteen Scouts earning their Eagle rank this year and three of them were connected with churches in our community. Eagle Scouts are involved in more than just scouting. These Scouts serve with SCNA by helping with the Neighborhood cleanups; competed with the NAACP Black History Bowl; and volunteer at their churches.

Eagle Scout Joseph Harold Broadus III is a member of **Mount Moriah Baptist Church** of Spartanburg and a Scout of Troop 106 at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. A student at Spartanburg High School, Viking Early College, has obtained an induction into The Beta Club and Spartanburg High School Varsity Lacrosse Team. His Eagle Project was "Mobile Learning Units."

Eagle Scout Donum Jamil Gibson is a member of **Majority Baptist Church** and a Scout of Troop 106 at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. A student at Dorman High School and has obtained an induction into The Beta Club and Private Cadet in J.R.O.T.C. plus Dorman High School Varsity Lacrosse Team. His Eagle project was Church Beautification with Flowers and a bench

Eagle Scout Charles Patrick Goodwin is a member of **Cornerstone Baptist Church** and a Scout of Troop 3. A freshman student at Dorman High School and part of the Honor Band plus has earned a Black belt in Karate. He completed his Eagle Scout project "Praying Garden" at Cornerstone Baptist Church, and anyone can use it. These Scouts are evolving as young men---strengthening their mental fortitude, becoming better persons, while staying mentally strong, mentally



Eagle Scout Goodwin & Bishop Charles Jackson



Eagle Scout Broadus



Eagle Scout Gibson

Seeking Assistance

Piedmont Community Action, Inc. (PCA) is a private non-profit agency which serves Spartanburg and Cherokee counties in the Upstate of South Carolina. Their Mission is to provide a nurturing environment in which low-income families can seek assistance that helps them to become less dependent upon government assistance. Some of the services provided by PCA are:

Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program provides communities direct and case management services in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties.

Health: Medical prescriptions, information and referrals

Food & Nutrition: Financial food vouchers, information and/or referrals for seniors & disabled

Housing Trust: Home repairs for low income families

Rental Assistance: For qualifying delinquent renters.

Mortgage Assistance: One month of assistance for past due mortgages.

Water Bills: Assistance with delinquent water bills.

Job Readiness and Self Sufficiency: Designed to aid clients with employment and self-sufficiency skills and free tuition.

Head Start: Prepares three and four-year-olds to enter kindergarten.

Early Head Start: Serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers up to age 3.

Senior Housing: Low income single family apartments for Seniors 62 years old and above.

For additional information, please call **864-585-8183** or **www.pca.org**

WHITE'S

Pine Street Exxon

2165 S. Pine Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302-3350

Phone: 585-1226

JUNIE WHITE- Owner

"When people tell me nothing has changed, I say come walk in my shoes and I will show you change."

Congressman John Lewis

Neighborhood Safety

Crime can make its way to any neighborhood, no matter how "safe" it is, especially in times of economic distress. However, some of the **safest** neighborhoods, are those where the residents are consistently visible. Criminals thrive on neighborhoods, where there appear to be little or no activity---neighborhood safety requires team effort. Get to know your neighbors and be vigilant by looking out for each other. Being able to recognize who lives in or don't live in your neighborhood will help determine when there are suspicious persons in the area.

Recently, there have been reports of stolen vehicles, not only in this area but other areas as well. In some of the cases, the keys were left in the vehicles and in others, vehicles were left unattended with the engine running. Therefore, turn off your vehicle and take your keys with you. Always remove your belongings from the vehicle. Even if the doors are locked, thieves can break the windows to take your belongings, if they feel bold enough.

Also, there have been reports of gun shots in the neighborhood. Please report such incidents to the police, even if you believe it's fireworks.

Another safety tip: it is a good idea to leave a light on at night, either inside or outside. Lighted areas could help to deter crime.



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"Before we went on any protest, whether it was sit-ins or the freedom rides or any march, we prepared ourselves, and we were disciplined. We were committed to the way of peace--the way of non--violence --the way of love--the way of life as the way of living."
Congressman John Lewis

Grateful continued from page 2



L-R: Rhonda Jolly, Manager of Liberty Square, Rodney Drummond, Councilwoman Ruth Littlejohn, volunteer and Horace Littlejohn, Commissioner of Public Works.

Block Captains

Since COVID-19, the South Converse Neighborhood Association has discontinued delivering newsletters from door to door. The letters are mailed to active members of SCNA and copies are e-mailed to both members and non-members.

There are many seniors in our community and we try to keep them informed. SCNA asks Blocks Captains to contact each resident on their block or street and provide them with useful info, including your phone number, email address, etc. Also, encourage them to give you their name(s), phone number(s) and email address, in order to stay in touch. The block captain/co-captain should also make sure their block/street is free of litter, that's tossed regularly from uncaring motorist/pedestrians. This is just another step in helping make our community a cleaner & safer community. If you are willing to serve as a block captain or co-captain, please contact **President Toni Sutton at tonisutton@me.com or 864-804-3686**

Garbage & Recycle Schedules

If you have a **recycle bin** (blue bin), it is **only collect-ed** on the **1st and 3rd** Mondays of the month, even on holidays (except for Christmas & New Years). The regular garbage pick-up day (**gray bins**) for the South Converse Community is on Thursday mornings. If a holiday falls on this day, pickup will be the following day - a one day delay. Please help your community look its best by removing bins from the curb as soon as possible after collection. Thank you for being a good neighbor!

Poll Workers Needed

The Voter Registration & Election Office need more poll workers, especially younger people with no known underlying health conditions. This will help the election season go by smoother and maybe help avoid the closing of some of the voting precincts. You must be a registered voter. There are two online training courses you will need to take plus attend an in-person training class in September (dates not yet determined). If you are a 16 to 17 year old, you may also work at a polling location but still have to take the training.....the Voter office will need your name, date of birth, phone number, address and email address. For more information, call **864-596-2549**.

Tidbits

There will be no SCNA meeting in August.

Many thanks to **Fred & Pam Stall**, who repaired the Little Library at the South Converse Park, and supplied it with more books.

If you are interested in purchasing property, don't wait for a "For Sale" sign to go up. Go directly to the Assessor's office or go online and get the name of the owner and see if they have an interest in selling the property. In fact, that's probably how most of these vacant properties are being sold. If you don't know the value of your own property, call an experienced realtor to get an idea. Do not take the word of someone who's wanting to purchase your home. If you are planning to purchase another home, make sure you can afford it, before selling the one you now own. Keep in mind...the buyer wants your property for the lowest price he/she can get it for, but you the seller, want the best price you can sell it for.

If you don't understand contracts, never sign one without an attorney reviewing it.

Let's Not Forget

The unfortunate and senseless deaths of **George Floyd** and others killed during arrests have raised alarming concerns over these matters and have given increasing attention and importance to the issues and movement of **Black Lives Matter**.

Our hearts and sympathies go out to families of those lost in these often unexplained deaths. We all must work together to show not only that Black Lives Matters but all lives matter. When we work together toward a fair and just society, the lives of all of us shall improve for the betterment of all.