
President: Tommy Richardson (582-7383) **Secretary: Carolyn Brewer (585-8114)** **Treasurer: J. Wayne Rookard (864-345-2171)**
J. Ruth Littlejohn: Publisher/Editor/V. Pres. **Theron Moore: Co-Editor** **Horace Littlejohn: Co-Editor** **Mar/April 2016**

The Voters Said Yes!!!

On March 15, voters in Spartanburg School District 7 voted overwhelmingly to pay for the district's \$185 million building plan. Reports showed the final vote turnout higher-than-expected, with 63% voting for the plan and 37% voting against.

Two new schools will be built: a new elementary school in the fall of 2018 and a new Spartanburg High School in the fall of 2019. In the fall of 2020 McCracken Middle School will undergo renovation. The District Seven community can look forward to the addition of modern learning environments that will carry students and faculty well into the 22nd century. Congratulations District 7!!!

Great Things are Happening

It's a great time to live in the City of Spartanburg! Take to heart the slogan "Love Where You Live." District 7 has some of the best schools in the country, and with new schools being built, this will bring more homeowners to the city. The Montgomery Building will soon get a new facelift, bringing apartment units as well as an upscale restaurant and retail shops. The Hub City Co-op was opened on April 15, and a new five-star hotel is off the ground on W. Main. Major work is taking place on the north side of town, new homes are being built on the south side of town, and a new addition is being added to the Prep School on Spring Street. Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light is working with ten local communities to place unique and exciting art work on display October 4 (National Night Out). "Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light" is a grand opportunity to make Spartanburg highly visible as a distinctive city with a character unsurpassed by any other. Spartanburg is unique in its own right; we're incomparably the "The Sparkle City!"

Earth Day Festival

The Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 210 Henry Place, will host its first Spartanburg Earth Day Festival on **Saturday, April 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** The focus will be on stewardship, sustainability & appreciation of our wonderful planet. There will be **free activities for children, including free dental screenings by Healthy Smiles**, and 24 exhibitors offering wonderful interactive demonstrations of earth friendly techniques and products. There will be presenters showcasing snakes, butterflies, cooking demonstrations and bicycle commuting tips. The Farmer's Table food truck, Little River Roasting Company coffees and freshly squeezed lemonade vendor will offer foods & drinks. Also there will be live entertainment.

June's Primary Election

There will be no **DEMOCRATIC** primary in Spartanburg County in the June 14, 2016 primary election, as there are no **DEMOCRATIC** candidates with opposition to any of the offices on the ballot.

If you have requested an absentee ballot for the Democratic Party in the June 14, 2016 primary election, you will not receive one.

However, South Carolina allows an "open primary" as registration by party is not required. You may vote in whichever primary you choose. Should you desire to vote in the **REPUBLICAN** Primary, you may do so; however, you must request another absentee application from the Voter Registration and Election Office in Spartanburg County, and state your desire to vote **REPUBLICAN**. Should you have any questions, please call **864-596-2549**.

Newly Elected Officers

On April 4, the SCNA held its election, which was non contested on all positions. **Tommy Richardson** will resume as president, **Kenneth Meyers** (Vice President), **Nichelle Nichols** (Secretary), **Carolyn Brewer** (Assistant Secretary), **Barbara Rutledge** (Treasurer) and **Wayne Rookard** (Assistant Treasurer). Officers will assume their new positions on May 1. We congratulate each of these persons, who have stepped up to help carry on the duties of this community.

We also extend special thanks to outgoing Vice President **J. Ruth Littlejohn** for her dedication in serving eight years of service as President (5 years) and Vice President (3 years). Littlejohn said she will continue to serve the community where she lives and throughout Spartanburg.

Welcome New Members

Welcome to our new member **Lawrence Davis**, 218 Dallas Place.

We also welcome **Project Hope**, 103 Elford Court. Project Hope is unique in their broad range of services for the autism community. They serve across ages from toddlers to adults. They have nine programs which include: Applied Behavior Analysis therapy, education, training, social groups, professional workshops and adult programs.

"Laziness and inactivity kills just as many people as smoking."

Carver, Site of Distinction

In mid March, Carver Middle School received notification that they were an AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction. On March 31, Carver was named a National Demonstration Site for its AVID program. AVID stands for **Advanced Via Individual Determination**. This recognition means Carver will be added to a register so that schools across the nation will come to visit them to see how they implemented their AVID program. The AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction represents the highest level of AVID implementation, demonstrating excellence in instructional practice and the promotion of college readiness schoolwide. Carver Middle School is closing the achievement gap by preparing their students for college readiness and success in a global society.



Joining in the celebration standing from left are **Dr. Terry Pruitt (District 7), Charles Mann (Alumnus), Dr. Allen Johnson (AVID Regional Director), KC Amerson (AVID Program Manager), Alberta Banks (AVID Program Manager), Karen Dawkins (Carver Teacher), Brenda L. Pryce (Alumnus), Dr. Russell Booker (School District 7 Superintendent), Principal Nicole Thompson & Horace Littlejohn (Alumnus)**. Seated are all Alumnus: **Polly Goins, Anzonia Reeder, Matilda Rogers and Martha Grove**. **J. Ruth Littlejohn (S. Converse Resident)** was also present to witness this honor.

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

Landscaping & Clean-up

Thanks to those of you who are helping keep our neighborhood looking nice. What about others? We can always use an extra hand. We held our monthly clean-up on March 19. Thanks to **Barbara Rutledge, Beatrice Hill, J. Ruth Littlejohn and Tommy Richardson** for their participation.

We also thank **Carolyn Brewer, Louise Gossett, Tommy Richardson and Horace & J. Ruth Littlejohn** for their help with pruning and weeding the roses. Weeding is a never-ending, "unglamorous" and "unsought-after" job, but it must be done to keep the flower beds looking attractive.

South Converse Neighborhood Serves

Serving in our Community is what we do,
 Stand tall, South Converse, they are looking at you
 We have great integrity, we do what is right
 We fight for our Community with all of our might.
 Here at South Converse, we love to get involved,
 Handling our business, getting issues resolved.
 We cherish our Community; we work to keep it clean
 Having a safe haven is our collective dream.
 As we approach the new beautiful spring weather,
 There is one special project that will bind us together.
 Our pavilion is getting ready, for the new Shining light
 No matter where you look, to the left or to the right
 You'll see a grand view of that magnificent sight.
 As we welcome the new season, and look around
 We beam with pride, in the progress of our town.
 We've come a long way, making our neighborhood safe
 Believing in ourselves and keeping our faith.
 As we continue to serve, in our beautiful neighborhood
 Working as hard as we possibly could
 Our Community is continuing to progress and do well
 Our struggle to succeed will never fail
 As we look to the hills from where we have come
 We'll continue to work, until we are done
 By: **Barbara Rutledge**

Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light

On March 7, **Jennifer Evins**, President of Chapman Cultural Center, and artist **Erwin Redl** visited the SCNA meeting to brief our members on the project Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light. They provided views of some of Mr. Redl's Light projects in other cities/towns across the nation and showed sketches of what the Light project will look like for the pavilion in the South Converse Street Park. They are looking forward to working with us on this project.



Kneeling L-R: **Officer Chris Banks, Carolyn Brewer, Daniel Zongrone, Erwin Redl, Mark Sloan, Elizabeth Goddard, Jennifer Evins & Frances Richardson**. Seated: **Bernice Lewis, Jessie Kiensler, Willie Thacker & Elaine Wheeler**. Standing L-R: **Linda Sanders, Margaret Swindler, Tommy Richardson, Wayne Rookard, Abdul Ali, Kenneth Meyers, Delores Means, Dana McKnight, Ruth Jefferies, Nichelle Nichols, Barbara Rutledge, Janet Dawkins & Horace Littlejohn**. Not pictured are **Brenda L. Pryce, Roz Gibbs & J. Ruth Littlejohn**.

"To a quick question, give a slow answer."

Getting to Know You!!!



Reverend Dr. Michael A. Glenn was born and raised in Union County. He is the fourth of six children. He was licensed to preach by the St. Paul Baptist Church of Union, S.C. and ordained by the Pacolet River Assoc. He has been pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church in Spartanburg since 1988 and has held pastorates at Monarch Baptist, and

three other churches. He graduated from Union High School and is a 1980 graduate of Morris College w/a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences/Secondary Ed. and the Columbia Bible Institute with a Bachelor of Ministry Degree. He has also completed more than 24 graduate credits at Converse College and received the Doctor of Laws Honorary Degree (LHD) from Morris College in 2004. He has taught for 21 years in Union and Spartanburg Counties and is a retired social studies teacher from Spartanburg School Dist. 7. Rev. Glenn is past chair of the **SCNA Board of Directors**. He is president of the Union County Branch of the NAACP, member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, National & SC Education Assoc., and the Spartanburg County Assoc. of Educators. Rev. Glenn has many professional affiliations, too numerous to mention. He has two adult children, Ashley Nicole Glenn Robinson and Allen Michael Glenn. He is owner of Community Mortuary of Spartanburg and the Michael A. Glenn funeral Home of Union.

Dana Wheeler-McKnight and her son Xavier Isaiah McKnight have lived in the South Converse Community for four years. She is a Human Resources Administrator. Dana is a native and 1986 graduate of Spartanburg High School. She attended the Community College of the Air Force with a major in Logistics Management & Limestone College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resources Development. After serving 8 years in the USAF, she returned home to care for



her mother, who was diagnosed with cancer. Dana is a Human Resources Administrator. She is a former US Postal Service supervisor, Insurance Producer with State Farm & SC Works Upstate Lead Business Services Consultant. She is a SC Commissioned Notary Public and a Certified Teen Straight Talk Coordinator. Dana is a 2014 Citizens Police Academy Graduate, Spartanburg Human Resources Assoc. Member, member of Cornerstone Baptist Church, where she is very active serving on many ministries. She is a member of the SCNA. She is also a former Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce, Diversity Committee - Executive member, and former Cub Scout Volunteer with Troop 106, where her son served as a Scout. Xavier is very active in his church.

Sparkle City Grant

The South Converse Community received a \$2500 Community Development Block Grant in 2016. All requirements for the grant must be completed by June 2016. The requirements were fulfilled as of March 2016, and all funds are exhausted. The funds were used for mulch in nine locations, roses, fertilizer, weed killer, color pictures in community newsletters and three signs for the S. Converse Park. One sign was placed near the horseshoe pits; one pays tribute to the Mary Black Foundation and another is a tribute to the City of Spartanburg. The S. Converse Community is grateful to have received these funds.



Member Carolyn Brewer lending a hand with the mulch.

Need to Buy a Car?

Do you know anyone in the market for a car, but does not have enough money for a down payment? The Community Works Car IDA Program is a 1.5 to 1 matched savings program designed to help low-income families and individuals purchase reliable transportation. If participants save \$1,000, they will be matched with \$1,500 toward the purchase of a vehicle. Applicants must be employed part-time or full time and meet IDA income limits. For more information on this program, call **864-235-6331**. You can also visit their website at www.CommunityWorksCarolina.org and complete their online application.



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

Yards of the Month

We congratulate our yards for the month of March: **John & Barbara Rutledge** (172 Collins Ave.), **Dorothy Blackley** (275 Alexander Ave.) and **Jessie Kiensler** (107 LaSalle Ct.). Thank you!

"Be kind, everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle"
John Watson

Save the Dates

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church will host its annual Men's Day Celebration on **April 24, 2016**, at both the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Services. The Speaker will be **Major Willie Manshack**, from Rock Island, Il. Major Manshack is a Chaplain with the US Army.

On Wednesday, April 27 from 9:00 AM to noon, a free document shredding event is scheduled at City Hall. **It will be in the parking area on the side of Fire Station 1.** This is a free event where Public Safety partner with AARP and Shred Away to help citizens reduce opportunities for identity theft. City employees are encouraged to bring personal documents that they wish to have shredded.

Music on Main is every Thursday, April-July, from 5:30-8:30.

Jazz on the Square is every Friday in April & May, from 5:30 - 8:00.

Spring Fling is scheduled for May 6-7, 2016.

Cornerstone Baptist Church is now enrolling for Summer camp. Dates are **May 31-August 5, 2016**. Registration per child is **\$25**. Call **864-582-2550 ext 33**, for Early Bird pricing, which ends on April 29th.

Mt. Moriah will host its annual **Health Fair on June 4, 2016** & starts its **Vacation Bible School June 13 to June 17.**

National Night Out will **not be** held in August this year. It is scheduled for **October 4, 2016**. More details will be available in upcoming newsletters.

Upstate Housing Partnership

- HUD Certified Counseling Agency
- Credit Counseling For First Time Home Buyers
- SC Help Mortgage Assistance
- IDA Savings Program That Matches Up to \$4,000
- Financial Education

If you're paying more than \$500 per month for rent, you may want to give them a call at **864-504-3090**, or stop by their office at **139 S. Dean St., Spartanburg, SC 29302**.

Tidbits

The campaign is still on to try to get as many residents as possible to join our neighborhood association. The fee is only \$25 per year, and your involvement will help us stay on top of what's happening in our community. Make your check payable to **SCNA, and mail to P.O. Box 6541, Spartanburg, SC 29304**. If you would like more information, please contact **Pres. Tommy Richardson @ (864) 582-7383 or 431-3834**. Our next meeting is **May 2 @ 5:30 at C.C. Woodson**.

"Often people excuse selfishness, pride or evil by claiming their rights, but as believers, we should have a different attitude, one that enables us to lay aside our rights in order to serve others." Philippians 2:5-11

Have a Restful Mother's Day!!!

Seeking Solutions

There are many reports of vehicles traveling through our community at a high rate of speed, and many times they are the same vehicles. Our suggestion is to try to get a tag number and color and make of vehicle (if possible), and contact Public Safety to make the report. Their non-emergency number is **596-2222**. And always report any suspicious behavior.

We have also gotten reports that 18 Wheeler Trucks/Rigs are parking in some areas of the community. According to City Code, Chapter 10, Article 3 & Section 10-63 (1), "No person shall park, store, or knowingly permit any other person to park a commercial vehicle on any street, road or right-of-way within the city in a residential district or on any residential lot at any time of day or night." For additional information on this, go to the city's website. If you know of someone who is not aware of this code, you may want to share this info with them.

At our April Meeting, **Officer Chris Banks** gave our community a wonderful report. He credits this to the residents caring enough about their community to report suspicious behavior/incidents.



Beautification Tips

The goal of the Yard of the Month Award is to recognize the efforts of the South Converse Neighborhood residents who take pride in not just their home and yard, but also the surrounding area.

These are just a few tips on ways you can help make our community more appealing:

1. Keep yard well groomed, lawns mowed & edged. This includes the median (area between the road & sidewalk).
2. Weeds pulled, especially from flowerbeds, and bushes trimmed & not hanging in the path of sidewalks.
3. Portion of yard that's viewed from street should be free of litter, clutter, junk and debris. No appliances or clutter on porches or patio.
4. After mowing yard, sweep lawn debris from sidewalks and street.
5. It is recommended that you not leave your trash bin out any longer than possible. Besides not being safe, there's the potential of dangerous refuse being placed in bins left out on the street. Once you remove the bins, try to place them in rear or as far as possible from view.

WHITE'S

Pine Street Exxon

2165 S. Pine Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302-3350

Phone: 585-1226

JUNIE WHITE- Owner