
President: Tommy Richardson (582-7383 or 431-3834) **Secretary: Toni Sutton** **Treasurer: Barbara Rutledge**
J. Ruth Littlejohn: Publisher/Editor **Horace Littlejohn: Co-Editor** **Theron Moore: Co-Editor** **December 2017**

Making a Difference

If you've been around Spartanburg County for any length of time, you've heard the name **Newt Hardie** and his Trees Coalition & Kudzu team. They've worked miracles along the Mary Black Trail and other trails and greenways throughout Spartanburg County. The South Converse Neighborhood has been blessed to have Kudzu and ivy removed from many areas throughout the community over the years. The area most infested with kudzu was at the corner of Ridgewood & South Converse St. In recent years, the Coalition team tackled areas on Winsmith Street & Hudson Barksdale Street. On November 4th, the Coalition and volunteers, headed by **Anthony Radziewicz** and chaired by **J. Ruth Littlejohn**, worked at the corner of Winsmith Street, Marion & Alexander Avenue from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in shifts. A lot of work was put in, and changes can easily be seen. Trees, vines, bushes and discarded trash were taken out. This was the 4th Event to take place and it was very successful, with twenty two churches participating: **Believer's Fellowship, Beta Club Methodist, Cornerstone Baptist, First African Methodist, Glendale Baptist, Hindu Society of Spartanburg, Macedonia Baptist, Majority Baptist, Metropolitan AME Zion, Mt. Moriah Baptist, Redemption, Shepard Heart, Silver Hill Methodist, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic, St. Paul Methodist, Success Ministry, Trinity Methodist, Westminster Presbyterian, Whitestone Methodist, Woodward Memorial Baptist & the Unitarian Universalist.** Some of the participants were **City Manager Ed Memott, Rev. Michael Henderson, Ralph Lyles, Alan Pruitt & Donna Pruitt, Martha Corbin, Clara Dillard, Gerod Allison, Wayne Rookard, Beatrice Hill, Jackie Tate, Julie Goins, Archie Gist, Linda Sanders, Rita Gilmer, Horace & J. Ruth Littlejohn, Kinesh & Kashmira Patel, Ben Ransom, Diane Remeta, Dr. Bob Reynolds, Chris Miller, Bobby Strickler, Dick Schelat, Dory Davis, Kelsey Leahy, Ben Ransom, Dr. John Scott, Anitoni Bryant, Jared Gist, Ronald Hamlin and Phillip Kimbrell.**

It was very heartwarming to see everyone pitching in to accomplish this very exciting community event. Some of the participants were surprised, but excited to see City Manager **Ed Memott** rolling up his sleeves and working as hard as he did. In fact, one volunteer commented "you don't normally see anyone with a title working this hard. Normally they assign others to do the dirty tasks."

Newt Hardie, the Trees Coalition and the **Faith Community** started the Event projects, on March 11th, north of Cleveland Park. The 2nd Event took place on May 13th also, north of Cleveland Park. Event #3 was held in Duncan Park on September 16th.



Volunteers working on November 4, L to R: **Alan Pruitt, Rev. Michael Henderson, Ralph Lyles, Archie Gist & Dick Schelat**
 See additional photos on page 2.

"True Greatness comes in serving others."

Mayor White Wins Third Term

Congratulations to **Mayor Junie White** on winning his third term as Mayor of Spartanburg! White was challenged by **Todd Horne**. White led the highly contested race with more than 57 percent of the votes. Voter turnout for the Mayor's race was 18.5 percent.

Unity Celebration

The 31st Annual Unity Week Celebration will take place on **Monday January 15 @ 6:30 p.m.**, at Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. The keynote speaker will be **Erica Campbell**, Grammy Award Winning Gospel Artist & Radio Host.

We need you!!!

The next SCNA meeting is February 5th, 5:30 pm @ C.C. Woodson. If you would like to join the SCNA, but do not have time to attend meetings, you can still become a member. Dues are \$25 per year. Mail your check to **SCNA, P.O. Box 1267, Spartanburg, SC 29304**, or call President **Tommy Richardson** at 864-582-7383.



L-R: Ronald Hamlin, Ben Ransom, Kelsey Leahy, Ed Memmott & Horace Littlejohn



L-R: (1st row) Linda Sanders, J. Ruth Littlejohn, Clara Dillard, Donna Pruitt & Diane Remeta; (2nd row) Grace Corbin, Martha Corbin, Anthony Rodziewicz & Chris Miller.

President's Message

Many SCNA residents were disappointed that this year's Christmas Party was cancelled. However, for safety reasons it was best for all stated President, **Tommy Richardson**. "I would like to express my disappointment in having to cancel the Christmas Celebration, but due to the weather conditions, I and the committee felt that one's safety comes first.

"Hoping that everyone had a wonderful Christmas. As we go into this New Year 2018, it is my wish that we become more grateful for the relationships that we have developed with each other as neighbors. Best wishes to all and have a happy and healthy New Year!"

New Members

Members joining since our last community newsletter are **Sheila Delores Dawkins**, 114 Pyle Court, and **Jerry Allen & Annie Theresa Kerns**, 293 South Converse Street. We thank you and we welcome you!

Swearing In Ceremony



Once again we congratulate **Rosalyn Henderson Meyers** in winning the House District 31 seat on September 26, currently held by outgoing Representative **Harold Mitchell**. The official swearing-in Ceremony of Representative-Elect **Rosalyn Henderson-Meyers** will take place on January 5, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Statehouse Chambers. The ceremony is to be done by **Chief Justice** (and Spartanburg Native) **Donald W. Beatty**, of the South

Carolina Supreme Court. A combined choir of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, will sing at the swearing in ceremony. Some of the distinguished guests will be **Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Snoddy** of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, **Rev. & Mrs. Ronald Henderson**, Pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, and **Juan Thomas, Esq.**, National Bar Association President.

WHITE'S

Pine Street Exxon

2165 S. Pine Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302-3350

Phone: 585-1226

JUNIE WHITE- Owner

Special Election, City Council District 3



The City of Spartanburg will have a **Special, Non-partisan Municipal Election on Tuesday, March 13, 2018** for the purpose of electing a City Council person to represent District 3. The seat is currently held by outgoing Councilwoman and Representative Elect **Rosalyn Henderson Meyers**. Filing opened at Noon, **December 29, 2017**, and closes at Noon, **January 8, 2018**.

J. Ruth Littlejohn, a board member and former President and Vice President of the South Converse Neighborhood Association, filed on December 29th to serve in this position.



I can help you make sure your coverage is up-to-date.
Call me today.

(864) 515 9004

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"Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies" Nelson Mandela

Refocusing on litter control

On November 24, 2017, there was an article in the Herald Journal by **Bob Montgomery**, which I quote in parts: Spartanburg County Councilman **Jeff Horton** was on his way to a retreat on Rainbow Lake Road when he became disgusted with the litter along both sides of the road. Horton said a majority of Spartanburg County's 300,000 residents take pride in the county's appearances, and that it's a small minority that continues to be the problem. County Environmental Enforcement **Officer Jamie Nelson** said most of the litter is unsecured trash that has fallen from pickup truck beds. About a third of it is from people tossing out trash from their car windows.

The landscape of Spartanburg is changing. We have development taking place all over, and young people are wanting to live here, and raise their families. Many parts of our city are littered with trash. It's important that we all do our part in helping keep our community clean. Some of us use our back entry only to leave or enter our homes. By doing so, it is easy to miss seeing trash in front of own homes, but our neighbors cannot escape seeing it. In 2018, may we all do our part in helping to make Spartanburg a cleaner place to live!



Steam Garden

A ground breaking ceremony was held on November 3rd, for the STEAM Garden, a community project designed by **Daniel Zongrone** with assistance from **Keisey Leahy**. It is funded in part by the ArtsXcelerator Grant through the Chapman Cultural Center. The Garden will be located on land that belongs to District 7, at the former site of the City of Spartanburg Swim Center. This location will serve as a bridge between the Downtown and Southside areas of Spartanburg. Students from Carver Middle School were on hand for the ground breaking ceremony.



Carver Middle School Students & Instructor, on November 3.

Boy Scouts Troop 106

On December 2, the B.P. Moody Usher Board at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, hosted a Christmas dinner for the Seniors, and Troop 106 in their usual gentlemanly ways, helped serve the meals.



L-R (front row): **Nick Cohen, Peyton Jones, Miach Kennedy, Noah Banks, Tony Johnson, Ruth Davis** (2nd row) **Robert Brewton, Taj Mack-Pete, Isaiah Werts, Joe Joe Broadus III & Joseph Broadus, Jr.**



Clemson University's Report

The City of Spartanburg hosted a forum of presentations on Tuesday, December 5, 2017. Over the past several months, Clemson University Planning Students met with residents and City staff to discuss the neighborhoods of the Beaumont Mill Village, the Highland Neighborhood, the South Converse Neighborhood, and West Main Street Corridor. The students first visited Spartanburg on September 14th, and toured all neighborhoods listed above. They returned to Spartanburg on October 12th, and met with residents in some cases, or held discussions with neighborhood leaders to get input on issues important to the community. A final presentation of their findings and recommendations were made at City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 5th, starting at 5:00 PM. For the South Converse Community, they discussed "Exploring the right kinds of investments to make this jewel in our city shine even brighter." **Martin L. Livingston, Jr.**, Neighborhood Services Director, is credited for bringing the Planning Students to Spartanburg. SCNA members **Tommy Richardson, Brenda L. Pryce, Toni Sutton & J. Ruth Littlejohn** were present for the presentation.

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dedicated Volunteers

We are truly grateful for our dedicated volunteers, who most have delivered newsletters to our residents, since we began the bi-monthly news in 2008: **Willie Mae Thacker, Bernice Lewis, Beatrice Hill, J. Ruth & Horace Littlejohn, Elaine Wheeler, Ruth Jones, Margaret Swindler, Joan & Bennie Drummond, Fannie & M.B. Bates, Tommy Richardson, Chris Martin, Dana McKnight, Abdul Ali, James Norris, Jerry Sanders, Jessica Felder and James Jones.**

As time and age will have it, there may come a point in the near future that we will only deliver the news to SCNA members without an email. We will, however, email a copy to any resident for whom we have an email address. If you have an email address and want to continue receiving the community newsletter, please contact **J. Ruth Littlejohn** at 573-5066 or **Tommy Richardson** at 582-7383 to share your email address.

Nextdoor Connections

If you want to stay informed with what's going on around Spartanburg, go to www.Nextdoor.com, and sign up. Not only will you be kept up to date about what's happening around town, but you'll get notices on city updates, upcoming storms, search for contractors, and advertise items you may want to sell. Stay connected! It's free! Invite your neighbors to join.

Garbage & Recycle Schedules

If you have a recycle bin (blue bin), it is collected on the **1st and 3rd** Mondays of the month, even on holidays (except for Christmas). Regardless of how many Mondays fall in the month, **it is only collected twice.** The regular garbage pick-up day (gray bins) for the South Converse Community is on Thursdays. If a holiday falls on this day, pickup will be the following day - a one day delay. Help your community look its best by removing bins from the curb as soon as possible after collection.

Improving Your Health

The Mary Black Health System is offering free help on how to improve your health. Adults age 50 or older are invited to take part in a free four-week support program called "My Route to Health." The program will be held 1-3 p.m. on Wednesdays, starting Jan. 10, at the Mary Black Conference Center at 1650 Skylyn Drive. Participants will receive workbook journals and recipe booklets and be guided by health professionals to practice simple exercises, participate in mood and mental health activities and learn about healthy nutrition and hydration. Each session will end with a short walk around a nearby nature trail for those who want to join. Participants don't have to attend all four classes, but must register by Jan. 8th to get the journal and recipe booklet. Registration can be completed **by calling (864) 573-3921 or go online to www.MaryBlackSeniorCircle.com** or. This information is credited to the "The Huddle" of the Herald Journal.



Have a Happy New Year!!!!

Did you know?

- People who laugh a lot are healthier than those who don't.
- Laziness and inactivity kills just as many people as smoking.
- Take a 10-30 minute walk everyday & while you walk, **SMILE.** It is the ultimate antidepressant.
- Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.
- When you wake up in the morning, pray to ask God's guidance for your purpose today.
- Eat more foods that grow on trees & plants & eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
- Try to make at least three people smile each day.
- Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
- Life is too short to waste time hating anyone. Forgive them for everything.
- Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
- You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
- Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
- Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
- No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
- Frame every so-called disaster with these words: 'In five years, will this matter?'
- Help the needy. Be generous! Be a 'Giver' not a 'Taker'
- What other people think of you is none of your business.
- Time heals everything.
- However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
- "Friendship isn't about whom you have known the longest, it's about who came & never left your side."
- Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
- Each night before you go to bed, pray to God & be thankful for what you accomplished today.
- Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.
- "Learn a lesson from your dog -- no matter what life brings you, kick some grass over that s*@t and move on."