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February 2017

Serving With A Purpose

Some people view the Martin Luther King's Holiday Day as a day of rest. However, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. He taught us through his example, the values of truth, courage, compassion, justice, humility and dignity, but above all, a day of service that defined his character.



Pictured are Ellison Watson, Savannah Watson & Drayton Watson

On January 16, fifteen South Converse residents paid tribute to Dr. King's memory by serving not only in their community, but across town. It was wonderful getting some of our youth involved, helping make a difference in our community. **Tommy Richardson** helped a family with the painting of a home.



L-R: Haylee Moore, Bernice Lewis, Theron Moore, Nichelle Howard, James Norris, Horace Littlejohn, Karen Hill, Bea Hill, Rita Gilmer. Not pictured: Margaret Swindler and J. Ruth Littlejohn.

Drum Circle

Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light has featured many exciting events in the South Converse Park. Among those in the month of November were "Open Mic/Jam," "Intro to AFROP Dance Class," and "Sparkle City Drumming." Sparkle City Drumming was an exercise that brought an array of drums to the event, and some participants brought their own drums. Drummers both big and small had a great time just beating their drums and getting to know each other. No particular skill level or experience was required. As many as 25 people showed up for this event. We were pleased to have former Mayor **James Talley**, **Jennifer Evins**, President & CEO of The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg, & her mother, **Chris Martin** & his family, **Carson Rogerson**, **P.K. Garmon** and **Horace** and **J. Ruth Littlejohn**, among this energetic group of people. **Melisa Emkjer** of Sparkle City Drumming made this event possible. These events, among others, are held to showcase the "lights" in the ceiling of the park's pavilion, the "lights" a project of *Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light* by Artist, **Erwin Redl**. **Renee Denton**, *special events and volunteer coordinator* for the Cultural Center, arranges programs for the different sites.

Take a Trolley to visit the different sites every Tuesday. The Trolley leaves the Cultural Center, 200 E. St. John St. @ 6 p.m. & returns at 7:45 p.m. Children 0-4 are free, but must have a ticket. Youth 5-18 or college ID \$7.00. Adults 19 & up \$15.00; \$2.00 discount per ticket for a group of 20 or more. Trolley limit is 34 people. Tickets are available at www.chapmanculturalcenter.org



Children enjoy making music, while Melisa Emkjer listens on. Cont. page 4

Collection of Leaves

You may have noticed by now at certain times that there are announcements posted throughout the neighborhoods in the City of Spartanburg, notifying the neighborhoods when the leaves will be collected in their community. The South Converse Neighborhood (**area 4**), was recently collected on January 30th & 31st. Because the crew works the entire city of Spartanburg, it may be another 3-4 weeks before we see another posting. Stay updated as to when work will be done in your community by going online to cityofspartanburg.org or **Google** City of Spartanburg and go to Ground Maintenance.

Garbage & Recycle Schedules

Blue bins (recycle) are collected **ONLY** twice a month. They are collected on the **1st & 3rd Mondays**, even on holidays (except Christmas & New Years). They are **NOT** collected every other Monday. The regular garbage, **Gray bins**, are collected on Thursdays. If a holiday falls on this day, pickup will be the following day - a one day delay. If you have large items to be collected, you can call **Public Works at 596-2932**.

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

The Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance will begin construction on a new Habitat for Humanity home on East Hampton Avenue in March. The Interfaith Alliance, housed at the Spartanburg County Foundation, is a network of clergy, lay leaders and faith communities that work together for the "common good." The Alliance will fully sponsor and provide volunteers for the project, which will take about three months. The home will be located on a vacant lot at **257 East Hampton Ave.** The Wall Raising Celebration for this Build will be held on **March 16**.

"We are proud of this partnership and are excited to start this Build in the South Converse Street neighborhood," said Habitat Spartanburg Executive Director **Lee Close**. "This home will provide a deserving family with a wonderful home in a very vibrant neighborhood with access to the South Converse Street Neighborhood Park and the Mary H. Wright Greenway." Habitat Spartanburg, founded in 1987, has built more than 120 homes primarily in the City of Spartanburg, but in other areas in the county such as Greer. Habitat Spartanburg uses volunteers, overseen by two trained on-staff supervisors, to build homes. All Habitat Spartanburg homes are Energy Star 3.0 Certified, have an open floor plan and have HardiPlank (cement) siding and landscaping. Habitat Spartanburg qualifies partner families based on three criteria: need, income and willingness to partner. In lieu of a substantial down payment, Habitat partner families provide 250 hours of sweat equity on their homes, or another Habitat home. Habitat for Humanity is a home ownership program, so partner families will own their homes.

Lions At Work

On January 14, several Upstate Lions Clubs met for a day of service. More than 10,000 pairs of glasses were collected and brought to the Spartanburg Marriott, where the Lions Clubs were meeting. **Earlene Corrothers**, president of the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club, had originally set aside two hours to clean and package what she thought would be about 1,500 eye glasses, however after seeing the number collected, there was no way to complete the project in one day. Lions **Jennifer Kendall** (Deputy Chief/Spartanburg City Police), **Russell Booker** (Superintendent Spartanburg School District 7), **Horace Littlejohn** (Spartanburg Water Commissioner) & **J. Ruth Littlejohn** (Spartanburg Election Commissioner) joined in. Leo Clubs from the Deaf & Blind School, Chapman High School, Carver Middle School, Boiling Springs High School and Dorman High School helped wash and package about half of the glasses. The remaining eye glasses were picked up by the Boiling Springs High School Leo Club. The students coordinated a time to finish the project, and once the glasses were cleaned, they were packaged and sent to overseas countries.



L-R: President Earlene Corrothers, Horace Littlejohn, Russell Booker, Daekwom Carpenter, Jennifer Kendall, Jeidon Wilkins and Bobbie Dove from Winsboro, SC.

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Credit Counseling

The **ReGenesis Community Development Corporation (RCDC)**, formerly known as The Upstate Housing Partnership, offers credit counseling for first-time home buyers, mortgage assistance, a savings program that matches up to \$4,000, and financial education. Become a Home Owner! Give them a call at **864-504-3090**, or stop by their office at **139 S. Dean Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302**

Black History Month

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in US history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week", the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every US president has officially designated the month of February as Black History month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black History. **African Americans/Blacks have a very rich history of achievements in all fields of endeavor. This history should be discussed every day, not relegated to one month. One has to wonder if our young people would stride to be better if they knew their history. We weren't always able to do the things now that many take for granted. Sit down with your grand-parents and the elders in your family, and learn about your history. You can also get information from your local library and internet sites like Black History.com.**



Johnnye Code-Stewart Honored

A ceremony was held on December 30, at the corner of Caulder Avenue & Collins Avenue to dedicate a portion of the street in honor of the late **Johnnye Code-Stewart**, a former **County Councilwoman**. Code-Stewart served on Spartanburg County Council for 16 years. She was a civic leader, educator and served on multiple boards. Code -Stewart, who died in 2008, was the second African American to serve on Spartanburg County Council. The first was **Sallie Peake**, who served on County Council for nine years and went on to serve as the mayor of Welford for sixteen years



"In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress."

Booker T. Washington

Landlords/Owners Help Needed

For neighborhoods to prosper, they need the help of the owners and landlords. Because garbage pickup days differ in the various neighborhoods within the city it would be helpful if the owners/landlords would provide the tenants with information from Public Works, informing them of the regular dates for pickups and other information that would be helpful to them. Many garbage bins are placed on the curb 3-4 days before the scheduled pickup date. Providing the information needed is not only helpful to the tenant, it benefits the neighborhood. It also helps with the appearance of the community, which enhances property values, and that's a great benefit.

Tidbits

SCNA's next meeting is February 6 @ 5:30 p.m. All meetings are held at C.C. Woodson. We invite you to join us. Association dues are only \$25 per year, per house hold. There's always a friendly face to greet you. If you would like to join the South Converse Neighborhood Association, contact **Tommy Richardson** (President), at **864-431-3834**, or send your check to: **SCNA, P.O. Box 6541, Spartanburg, SC 29304. Members, annual dues are now due. Please remit to treasurer as soon as possible.**

Farewell to Councilwoman Jan Scalisi, who represented City Council District 2; she was also a friend to the South Converse Neighborhood. Whenever she was invited, she showed up, and many times, stayed until the event or project was finished. She lost her battle with malignant melanoma on Thursday, January 19. We will miss her, Spartanburg will miss her.

The next cleanup dates are **February 25** and **March 25**. Please mark your calendar and join other residents in helping keep our community clean. Many thanks to **Aaron Robinson** from Believer's Fellowship for his contribution to the community. We also thank **Tommy Richardson, Beatrice Hill, Jacqueline Tate, Louise Gossett, Bernice Lewis & Horace & J. Ruth Littlejohn** for their continued support.

Wednesday, March 8 is Walk to School Day!

City **Councilwoman Rosalyn Henderson Meyers** held a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, December 14, at the C.C. Woodson Center. The invited speakers were **Martin Livingston** and **Mitch Kennedy** from the City of Spartanburg, **Horace Littlejohn, Commissioner of Public Works** and members from the City police Department.

Want to place an ad in the SCNA Community Newsletter? A business card size is only \$30. You can contact **J. Ruth Littlejohn** at **573-5066** or **Tommy Richardson** at **431-3834**.

Thanks to our advertisers: Action Printing, Allstate Insurance, Community Mortuary & White's Exxon.

"The image you have of yourself is important. If you feel like a failure, chances are you'll fail. If you think you'll succeed, you'll be successful. You can't just sit back and expect people to do things for you. You've got to get up and do it yourself." *Diana Ross*

Continued from page 1, Drum Circle



Former Mayor James Talley, 4th from right joins drum circle



J. Ruth Littlejohn joins Jennifer Evins & her mother

Congratulations!

Justice Donald Beatty, became the third African American to serve on the South Carolina Supreme Court when he was elected as an Associate Supreme Court Justice in 2007. **Justice Beatty** became the second African American **Chief Justice** of the South Carolina Justice in January 2017. **Justice Ernest Finney** was the second African American Supreme Court Justice and the first American Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court. **Justice Finney** was elected as an Associate Supreme Court Justice in 1985 and later became Chief Justice in 1994. The first to hold the position was **Justice Jonathan Jasper Wright**. He served during reconstruction from 1870-1877. **Congratulation Chief Justice Beatty!**

We also congratulate Spartanburg County Clerk of Court, **Hope Blackley**, who was recently appointed by South Carolina's **Chief Justice, Don Beatty** to serve on the State's Clerk of Court and Register of Deeds Advisory Committee.

"My Daddy used to ask us whether the teacher had given us any homework. If we said no, he'd say, "Well, assign yourself." ...Don't wait around to be told what to do...Hard work, Initiative, and Persistence are still the Nonmagic carpets to success." Marian Wright Edelman

Water Matters

Dana McKnight recently graduated from Spartanburg Water Matters Citizen Academy. She joins **Barbara Rutledge** and **J. Ruth Littlejohn**, who graduated from the inaugural class in 2015. Congratulations Dana! If you would like to learn more about the Spartanburg water system, contact **Chad Lawson** at Spartanburg Water, to find out when the next class is offered.



Dana McKnight receiving certificate from Chad Ladson

Christmas Party 2016

The South Converse Neighborhood Association held it's Christmas Party on December 9 at the C.C. Woodson Community Center, and it was a big success. The food was plentiful and delicious. Many thanks to **Bernice Lewis**, who chaired this event and her committee. Music was provided by **Caveril Pryce**. Guests in attendance included Representative **Harold Mitchell**, **Martin Livingston & James Ledlow** from the City of Spartanburg, Kathy Ronson and her husband from the Maxwell Hills Neighborhood and members of the Forest Park Neighborhood.



Frances Richardson & Margaret Swindler takes a break from serving

"When I discover who I am, I'll be free." Ralph Ellison