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## *Promoting SCN's Positive Attributes*

As residents of the South Converse Neighborhood we should be very proud of our community and take every opportunity to share the positive attributes that this community has to offer. As a community we are located between two well known historically designated communities---Converse Heights and Hampton Heights. The South Converse Neighborhood has many significant features that makes it a community worth promoting, especially with it being so close to the downtown area. The following are just a few of the important features that makes our community a *vibrant* and *livable* place to be: sidewalks throughout the community, public transportation options, affordable housing, easy access to shopping and green spaces, new park with covered pavilion, playground equipment, basketball court, horse shoe pits and walking trails. We have one additional park "Priscilla Rumley" and many different places of worship.

This community is the ideal place to be if you like working and living near downtown Spartanburg. Families here are in walking distance to family support features like Duncan Park, C.C. Woodson Community Center, the YMCA, Mary Black Trails, Skate Park, two elementary schools (Mary H. Wright & Pine Street), Carver Middle School and a Charter School. The community is just one block from Spartanburg Community College (downtown) and convenient to five other colleges and Universities: The George, Converse College, Wofford College, University of South Carolina Upstate and Spartanburg Methodist College. The community is within walking distance to the main library and post office.

Throughout this community you will see new and restored homes, many of which have a historical significance. There is so much good for us to talk about regarding this community. I encourage you to get out, meet your neighbors, get involved and become more familiar with the many features in our community so you can promote the positive aspects by sharing them with others. Proudly tell everyone that *the South Converse Neighborhood is the place to be.*

## *Reminders*

Once again, it's a new year and time to pay dues. Everything else is going up, but our dues remain the same. Please mail your dues of \$25.00 to: SCNA, P.O. Box 6541, Spartanburg, SC 29304. If you are a new member and did not receive a copy of the By-Laws, please contact **President Tommy Richardson at 864-582-7383**.

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*"Faith is trusting God even when you don't understand his plan"*

## *Arbor Day*

Arbor Day (from the Latin arbor, meaning tree) is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. The day of this celebration varies for different parts of the country, depending on climate and suitable planting season. A few individuals braved the weather on December 5, where a **Kentucky Coffee tree** was planted at Priscilla Rumley Park on Alexander Ave.



*Pictured from left is Josh Baker (City Ground Services), Bernice Lewis, Timothy Dean (Rec. Specialist), J. Ruth Littlejohn, Tommy Richardson & Councilman Robert Reeder. Not pictured are Carolyn Brewer and Caveril Pryce.*

## **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 & New Years). Regardless to 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 Thursday. If a holiday falls on this day, pickup will be the following day - a one day delay.

Help save our landfills! If you do not recycle, we encourage you to contact Public Works to get a recycle bin. There is no charge. **Call 596-3690.**

## *Brian Wofford's Monument*

If you have not had an opportunity to see the new brick monument of Brian Wofford that was placed in the South Converse Park on December 3, please stop by and see it. This monument replaced the one that was installed for the October 18, 2014 tribute to Brian.

## President's Letter

by Tommy Richardson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made an effort to improve our neighborhood during 2014.

As your Association President it has been a rewarding experience for me to be involved with people who are willing to volunteer to do whatever is needed to make a difference in the livability of our community. Such things as picking up litter, beautification of your property, concern for neighbors and crime prevention goes a long way in enhancing the image of our neighborhood. As we enter into 2015 we can, as a Neighborhood Association, continue in this united effort to be even better citizens in our City, State and Country. I encourage you to keep me informed of items of interest that needs attention and also any accomplishments that need to be acknowledged.



I can help you make sure your coverage is up-to-date.  
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## Friends of Carver

On December 13, 2014, friends of Carver held a meet and greet at the Chapman Cultural Center. Friends of the former Carver High School were invited to participate in building a Carver High School Scholarship Fund through the Spartanburg County Foundation. During the meet and greet participants got a chance to peruse Carver High School artifacts and other memorabilia associated with the school. This historical display is part of the Spartanburg Regional History Museum. The scholarship fund will benefit Carver Middle School students who go on to graduate from Spartanburg High School and then attend college. If you would like to make a donation to this fund or want additional information, contact **Brenda Lee Pryce at 864-585-4736**.



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## Unity Week Celebration

**Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King: Thurs., Jan. 15 @ 7pm, Community Forum**, Community College Downtown Auditorium; **Sat., Jan. 17 @ 9am, Walk As One & 5k Run**. Meet at Chapman Cultural Center: **Day of Service, Monday, Jan. 19 @ 9am**, Denny's Tower - Downtown. Register online at: [wvpiedmont.org/getconnected](http://wvpiedmont.org/getconnected); **Unity Celebration, Mon. Jan. 19 @ 6:30pm**, Twichell Auditorium. Keynote Speaker is Dr. James L. Moore III

## This Month's Spot Light Is On



**Willie Mae Thacker** has resided at 117 Collins Ave. about 37 yrs. and enjoys spending time with her dog, Missy. She attended Highland Elem. and Carver High School. Willie Mae graduated from Benedict College, receiving a BA degree in Elem. & Early Childhood Education. She did further studies at Converse College and the University of S.C. Upstate. She taught for 2 yrs. at Highland Elem. and 28yrs. at Jesse Boyd. Willie Mae served as the first association president, which was named the Cornerstone Community Neighborhood Watch Association from 2004-08. In 2008, the association's name was changed to the South Converse Neighborhood Assoc. (SCNA), where she later served as Vice Pres. She continues to be active in the SCNA. She is retired and works part-time at a local Day School. She is a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church and a member of Zeta Psi Beta Sorority.



**L. Elaine Wheeler** has lived at **118 Harvard Place** for forty three years. She has been a devoted member of the SCNA since its beginning, where she served as treasurer for eight years and continues to be active. Elaine attended Mary H. Wright Elementary and Carver High School. She attended Benedict College in Columbia, where she received a BA Degree in Elementary Ed. Elaine later attended the University of S.C. Upstate and received a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She furthered her education at Converse College. She taught school in Woodruff, S.C. for thirty-five years. She is an active member of Mount Moriah Baptist Church and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

## Christmas Celebration!!!

Our annual Christmas party was held December 12, at the C. C. Woodson Center. We were joined by members from the Forest Park Association, which included City Councilman **Robert Reeder** & his wife **Willa**, and the Highland Association, for a pot-luck dinner. Other guests included **Kim Moultrie** (Parks & Recreation Superintendent), **Kathy Hill** (Community Service Coordinator), **Chanel Richardson** (Spartanburg County), **June Henson** and **Phyllis Williams**.

Thanks to our working committee of **Julie Goins** and **Willie Thacker** (co-chairs), **Elaine Wheeler**, **Carolyn Brewer**, **Dana McKnight**, **Ruth Littlejohn**, **Jessie Kiensler**, **Bernice Lewis**, **Margaret Swindler**, **Tommy & Frances Richardson**.

Our DJ did not show, but we were still able to dance the night away. Thanks to **Horace Littlejohn** for filling in to help make this a jolly occasion. We also thank him for setting up for the occasion.

Other members in attendance were **Dorothy Blackley**, **Doris Cunningham**, **Johnny & Shirley Elmore**, **Charles & Polly Goins**, **Kenneth Goins**, **Ruth Jefferies**, **Ruth Jones**, **Margaret Swindler**, **Richard Wheeler**, **Monique Watson** and **Patricia Wofford**.

Many thanks to all members who brought delicious food for us all to enjoy.



A few South Converse members pause for a group photo.



Committee at work, Frances Richardson, Margaret Swindler, Julie Goins, Willie Thacker & Bernice Lewis.



Committee members Jessie Kiensler & J. Ruth Littlejohn at work.



K. Moultrie, E. Gibbs, R. Wheeler & Patricia. Wofford sitting w/ her/sisters



Committee member Elaine Wheeler w/brother Richard & Horace Littlejohn



Members Ruth Jones, Doris Cunningham & Ruth Jefferies w/guests

## Homebound Services

Homebound Services aids those individuals and caregivers who cannot (for medical reasons) get to their local library for books, videos (DVD's) which are featured films, magazines, music CDs and spoken CD's which are books that can be heard. Either staff or volunteers will deliver the material once a month and also be responsible for bringing a smile and some much needed conversation on any subject that the person would like to talk about. Book-By-Mail is another service that the library offers. It is provided for those individuals who prefer not to have home visitors or for those who would like to receive additional material within the month. This is a free service and there is no age requirement. For more information contact Evelyn Parks, Homebound Services @ 864-596-3514.



## Recycling Paper Plates ??

Many of us have talked about whether or not we can recycle paper plates. Here is the answer from the head of Spartanburg County Recycling. The deal with paper plates is that MOST of them are wax coated, and most of them contain enough food contamination to be unrecyclable. For our purposes (i.e. trying to get a simple message out to a large population), the simplest thing is to say NO paper plates, HOWEVER, if you know for a fact that the plate is not wax coated, and you know that there is no food contamination (i.e. the food held a sandwich, and not a greasy slice of pizza), it's fine to put in with paper. But when in doubt, throw it out just to be on the safe side. Paper is extremely easy to contaminate, and one small greasy pizza box will render a whole load unusable in the recycling process.



## Upstate Housing Partnership

The UHP unveiled three new homes in the Forest Park neighborhood, on Nov. 24, 2014. Harold Mitchell, Dir. of UHP & State Rep. District 31, said Spartanburg needs a strategic plan to address housing in the city; a plan that would be developed with elected officials, ministers, non-profits and neighborhood residents all working together. For more information contact UHP at 864-864-504-3090.

## Congratulations District 7!!!

In 2014 Spartanburg District 7 excelled in many ways, and many of their accomplishments were spelled out in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal on December 17 by **Mr. Rick Gray**, who serves as chairman of the School Board for District 7. Listed below are just a few of the many accomplishments taken from Mr. Gray's article:

(1) Its report card ratings has climbed for four consecutive years and is rated "excellent." Jesse Boyd Elementary & McCracken Middle School all received ratings of excellent on the most recent release. (2) District 7 has been selected as one of 57 districts nationwide to join the League of Innovative Schools for leading the way in technology and innovation. (3) Spartanburg High School was recognized by Newsweek and The Washington Post as being among the nation's best high schools. (4) **Dr. Russell Booker** has been named the 2015 S.C. Superintendent of the Year; **Dr. Terry Pruitt**, the S.C. Arts Administrator of the Year; **Tammy Cooley**, the S.C. Adult Education Director of the Year; and **Myles Wilson**, Risk Manager of the Year. (5) For the second time in three years, Spartanburg High has received the prestigious General Excellence Award in athletics from the Herald-Journal. (6) The Cleveland Academy of Leadership has been distinguished with national Lighthouse Status as a Leader in Me school. (7) The district surveyed more than 3,200 students to measure critical elements such as hope, engagement and well-being. (8) Representing District 7, **Dr. Booker** recently joined 100 superintendents at the White House in support of the Future Ready campaign to advance technology in our schools. Having launched 7 experimental programs in 2013, the district is on the fore-front of digital learning. "Mr. Gray went on to say, There is so much great to celebrate. We are a city on the grow."

The South Converse Community joins others in congratulating District 7 on these wonderful accomplishments!!!

## Tidbits

**Thanks to members** of the SCNA who responded in making donations to Mary H. Wright on behalf of the recent fire victims, **Israel and Nehemiah Smith**.

**Yards of month** will resume in March. Thank you for helping keep our community clean.

**Community Clean-ups, January 24 & February 28 @ 8:00 a.m.**

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*"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway"* Dr. Kent Keith



**Happy New Year!!!**