

**President: Toni Sutton (864) 804-3686**

**Secretary: Frances Richardson**

**Treasurer: Barbara Rutledge**

**J. Ruth Littlejohn: Publisher/Editor**

**Horace Littlejohn: Co-Editor**

**June / July 2019**

## Great News!!!

**Crescent Avenue is now open! Hallelujah!!!** For fifteen months we have all had to take detours. The commute time was quite stressful for many motorists, however, the project was completed in the time projected and under budget. The project includes sidewalks, updated street lights and turn lanes at the intersection of Crescent Avenue and Forest Street.

## A Meeting with Duke Energy

Duke Energy held a community meeting at Carver Middle School on Thursday, June 13 from 6-7:30 p.m.. The purpose of this meeting was to inform residents of their upcoming Neighborhood Energy Savers Program. Over the next three months, many of you will receive a post card in mail from Duke Energy. By receiving this card, it means your home has been chosen to participate in their Neighborhood Energy Program, which could save you up to \$95 per year on your energy bill. If your home qualifies, you may receive up to 16 energy-saving products installed in your home, all at no cost to you.

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the program covers the South Converse Community from Union Street, south of Marion Avenue to Duncan Park Drive, south to Forest Park, the Liberty Square area and Bomar Street to Church Street (east). Then Church Street north to Caulder Ave and streets in that particular area.

If you have not received a card and you live in the areas outlined, please call **1-855-231-5273** today to take part in this program. Please share this information with your neighbors. A second phase should be announced in the coming weeks. **All Duke Energy representatives will have identification and driving a Duke Energy Vehicle. Always ask for identification, if not presented, before you open your home up to them.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**“Change can be uncomfortable until it happens.”**

## A Day of Service

On Saturday, May 25, 2019 a group of devoted servants showed up in scorching heat for a day of service (cleanup) to show their gratitude for the men and women who gave their lives for this country. We were glad to see everyone especially **P.K. Garmon**, who served as secretary for the neighborhood association, but have since purchased a home in Boiling Springs.

Volunteers are standing around South Converse's new addition, the Little Free Library, that was donated by Riley Institute of Diversity & Inclusion Group.



**L-R: Ruth Stanton, Tommy Richardson, J. Ruth Littlejohn, Fred Stoll, PK Garmon, Rick Hahnenberg, Larry Cooper, Toni Sutton, Joyce Harrison, Horace Littlejohn, Bernie Kakukse, Jeanette Keepers, Pam Stoll and Josi Buona. Not pictured are Alice Sutton, Sheila Dawkins, Robert Brewton & Rita Gilmer.**

The South Converse Community held a cleanup on Saturday, June 29, however, due to scheduling conflicts, the only ones to show were President **Toni Sutton**, her son **Elijah Sutton** & City Councilwoman **J. Ruth Littlejohn**.

\*\*\*\*\*

**“The traits that bother us in others are often the habits we dislike in ourselves.”**

## *Farewell to Samantha*

A farewell gathering was held for **Samantha Overton** at the Mary Black Foundation on June 18, 2019. Samantha was the Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator for the Wellville project. She was the point of contact for all of the Southside neighborhoods. The Way to Wellville project included Obesity Prevention, Care for the Uninsured, Health Care for the Insured, Kindergarten Readiness and Community Pride.



*L-R: Leroy Jeter (President Highland), Toni Sutton (President South Converse), Willa Reeder (President Forest Park), Samantha Overton, Councilwoman J. Ruth LittleJohn, Margaret Swindler, Tommy Richardson (outgoing president of South Converse), Monique Watson and Patrina Mims (Director of Bethlehem Center).*



## *Congratulations!!!*

We extend our congratulations to SCNA members **Sheila Dawkins** on earning her degree in Social Biblical Studies from the Carolina College of Theology on June 1, 2019, and to Representative **Rosalyn Henderson Myers** on her graduation from Leadership South Carolina on April 10, 2019.

\*\*\*\*

*"Don't let the fear of what might happen cause you to miss an opportunity."*

## *Dedication for Newt Hardie*

The Converse Heights Neighborhood dedicated a Bench in the honor of Newt Hardie, who was a friend to us all on June 25, 2019. When Newt Hardie passed on May 5, 2018, members of the South Converse Community were working along with members of the Trees Coalition removing Kudzu on Caulder Avenue. While Newt will be remembered most for his efforts to protect native trees from kudzu and other invasive species, he was also committed to making Spartanburg a better community.

*It doesn't matter the time that lapses between the time one is born and the time one dies. What matters most are the things one has accomplished and the many lives touched by helping, teaching, and sharing. Newt Hardie was that person.*



*Among those attending the Dedication were: Willa Reeder (President of Forest Park), her grandson, Councilwoman J. Ruth LittleJohn, Melvin Norwood (President of Woodland Heights), Alyson Campbell (President of Converse Heights), Councilman Jamie Fulmer and Wesley Hammond (Citizen Advisory Council Chair & former President of Converse Heights).*

# WHITE'S

**Pine Street Exxon**

2165 S. Pine Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302-3350

Phone: 585-1226

**JUNIE WHITE- Owner**

*"It is much safer to live according to the truth, even if it means not obtaining everything you want."*

## SCNA Members Run for Office

### **Kenneth E. Myers, Sr., BA, RN, M.ED: Seeking Election to Spartanburg School District 7-1.**



Married to SC House of Rep. Rosalyn Henderson Myers; four children State Trooper Kenneth Myers, Jr., Assistant Solicitor Katherine Myers, Medical Student Monique Mattingly, Dr. Katrina Mattingly-Cartier. Leadership. Service. Experience: Parent Educator, RIF, Inc. PTA President, Assistant Principal, Girls Basketball Coach, Vice President SCNA, Men of God

Ministry, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Civil Service Commission, City of Spartanburg Healthcare Administrator, Chesterfield Hospital Executive Board, Spartanburg NAACP, Radio Ministry WASC 1530 AM.

### **Horace C. Littlejohn, Jr.: Seeking Re-election to Spartanburg Commission of Public Works.**



Married to J. Ruth Littlejohn, has one son, Terry (Michaelle) & grandson Zachury. He has spent his life serving our country & community. Horace has served as City of Spartanburg Commissioner of Public Works since 2014; Lt. Col, USAF (Retired) 21 years; Employee Relations Manager & EEO Officer, Brevard County Florida; M.A. Human Relations, Webster College 1982, B.A. in Sociology & Social Work, Livingstone College,

Salisbury, NC, 1973; Carver High School Class of 1969; First Worship (formerly First AM) Board of Directors, Community volunteer – Southside Lions Club Charter Member; Big Brothers, Big Sisters Volunteer, SCNA Board Member, Daniel Morgan Chapter Military Officers Association (Outgoing President), Editor South Converse News.

### **J. Ruth Littlejohn: Seeking Re-election to Spartanburg City Council District 3.**



Married to Horace Littlejohn, has a son Terry (Michaelle) and grandson Zachury. Littlejohn filed in a Special Election to fill a vacant seat for City Council Dist. 3 in 2018. She is a Community Leader, Activist & Mentor. Past President/Vice President South Converse NA, Publisher & Editor SCNA Newsletters. Boards: South Converse NA, Partners for Active Living, Claflin University Board of Visitors & League of Women Voters, Girl Scouts of America, Leadership Spartanburg Alumni, Usher, Mt. Moriah

Baptist Church, Business Professional Women, Life Member Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Charter Member Southside Lions Club.

## Dates to Remember

**Saturday, July 27, 2019 @ 8:00 a.m. - Community Cleanup.**

**Sunday, July 28, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m. - Mt. Moriah Baptist Church Anniversary.** Guest Speaker, **Rev. Courtney Meadows**, First Baptist Church of Whitehall, AL.

**Monday, August 5, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m. - SCNA Monthly Meeting at C.C. Woodson.**

**Friday, August 9, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. - Summer Breeze Concert, featuring Lia Holman @ Mt. Moriah Baptist Church Gym.** Please see a MMBC Greeter for tickets.

**Monday, August 12, 2019 @ 5:30 City Council Meeting @ City Hall**

**Saturday, August 24, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m. Evangelism Explosion Conference @ Mt. Moriah Baptist Church,** Guest Speaker: **Rev. H. Gregory Haygood**, Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, South Bend, IN

**Saturday, August 24, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Taste of Soul Food Cook off" @ Cornerstone Baptist Church.** (Churches in the Spartanburg area compete for the title of Master Chef). Admission \$10 Bring your appetite and fellowship with CBC! **Special Appearance: GC Capital Steppers of the Carolinas**

**Monday, August 26, 2019 @ 5:30 City Council Meeting @ City Hall**

**Tuesday, September 3, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m. SCNA Monthly Meeting.**



**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

**"According to a [study by Johns Hopkins University](#), "Having at least one black teacher in third through fifth grades reduced a black student's probability of dropping out of school by 29 percent."**

\*\*\*\*\*

**"Never succumb to the temptation of bitterness"**  
*Martin Luther King*

## *Overgrown Lawns & Lots*

The following are excerpts from the City's recent ordinance regarding all kinds of overgrowth on properties within the City. Please make sure you understand this ordinance so you can be in compliance and avoid a fine. The amended ordinance has lowered the required removal height to 12 inches from 18 inches. This applies to all kinds of overgrowth.

When code enforcement becomes aware of an overgrown lawn or lot, they will send a letter noting the violations to the person in charge of maintaining the property, whether that's the owner, occupant, or lessee. If the grass or other overgrowth isn't dealt with in 15 days, the person in charge of the property will receive a court summons with a fine of up to \$200, plus court costs.

"Each and every time Mr. (Jeff) Tillerson and his guys see the grass going back up over 12 inches, you will get a summons." If the City has to cut the lawn or lot, the person in charge of maintaining the property will be sent an invoice for the service. If the invoice isn't paid within 60 days, a lien will be put on the property for the cost of the service and all expenses incurred. For more information on **this Code of the City of Spartanburg see Weeds, Brush & Debris, Chapter 12, Article II Section 12-28 (a).**

## *Yards of Month*

Congratulations to our Yards of the Month for **April: 365 Marion Ave.** (Cathy Gladney), **143 Collins Ave.** (Ruth Linder), **299 South Converse** (Kenneth & Rosalyn Myers). For the month of **May: 165 Cambridge Circle** (Tenisha Paris), **645 S. Converse St.** (Jackie Tate) & **121 Princeton St.** (MB & Fannie Bates) and for the month of **June: 505 S. Converse Street** (Richard Wheeler), **644 S. Converse St.** (Mary Gardin) & **171 Collins Ave.** (Curtis & Patricia Wofford)

## *ReGenesis's New Location*

**ReGenesis** Community Development Corporation, has moved to **450 E. Main Street**. They offer credit counseling for first-time home buyers and Home Buyer Education classes so you can earn your 8 Hour Certificate. If you are paying more than \$500 per month for rent, you may want to give them a call at **864-504-3090**, or visit their new location.

## *Tidbits*

Did you know that **Recycle & Garbage bins are collected on every holiday, except** Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years? Well they are, and the trucks can run as early as 8:00 a.m. If a holiday falls on either of these three holidays, pickup will be the following day - a one day delay. Also, **recycle (blue) bins are only collected** on the **1st & 3rd Mondays**. They **are not** collected every other Monday. If a holiday falls on the 1st or 3rd Monday, pickup will be the next scheduled day.

**When we leave our bins on the street/curb, we not only do a disservice to our neighbors, we do a disservice to our entire community.**

We extend our deepest sympathy to members **Dana McKnight** on the passing of her brother **James Harris Wheeler, Jr.**, & to **Rita Gilmer** on the passing of her mother **Geneva Gilmer**.

**National Night Out** is October 1, 2019. More details will come later.

Thanks goes out to **Raymond Hall**, a South Converse resident, for working to help make the city a better place to live.

We continue to thank **Glenn Cook** of Public Works and his Crew for all they do.

Don't forget to get out and take advantage of the Trails, Parks and many amenities that are just a few steps away.

**Nancy Eaker**, wants you to know that their local AARP does monthly classes on Care giving; they do legal seminars; Fraud & Scam & the Veterans Fraud & Scam Program. They do each of these programs for neighborhood Associations, churches or agencies, et. They are all free! If you are interested contact Nancy at [naneakr241@aol.com](mailto:naneakr241@aol.com) Also, their Seniors take Charge Program is 2nd Tuesday of each month (August 13) at 10:00 a.m. at Cleveland Park.

## *"Ban The Box"*

The City of Spartanburg has made it easier for persons with criminal convictions to make application for employment. The City does not ask an applicant about criminal convictions in the initial application phase of employment. They may, however, conduct a criminal background check after a conditional offer of employment has been made. The applicant may be rejected based upon that criminal background check. This gives applicants the chance to make it through the first phase of employment without being rejected solely based upon their prior conviction.