

---

**President:** Tommy Richardson (582-7383 or 431-3834)      **Secretary:** Carolyn Brewer (585-8114)      **Treasurer:** Barbara Rutledge  
**J. Ruth Littlejohn:** Publisher/Editor      **Horace Littlejohn:** Co-Editor      **Theron Moore:** Co-Editor      **April 2017**

---

## *Boy Scouts at Work*

March 25 was a busy day for most people throughout the City and County of Spartanburg. However Troop 106 of Mt. Moriah made time in their schedule to help remove litter that's tossed by drivers and walkers in the South Converse Community. The dedicated workers were *Aiden Bates, Jamil Gibson, William Johnson, Noah Banks, Milton Hand, Gary Jordan, Anderson Jeter, Angelo Dukes, Ruth Davis, Robert Brewton and Shirley Jeter*. Also working were *Karen Mitchell* and *Alice Sutton* of the Unitarian Universalist Church and *J. Ruth Littlejohn*. After helping with the clean-up, it was time to walk with our elected officials, on events which occurred throughout the county.



*Members from Troop 106 and the Unitarian Universalist Church.*

## *We Love Our Children Too!!!*

Because the S. Converse Community has so many through streets, we are constantly seeing vehicles speeding through our community, even on Marion Avenue, where speed humps are installed. It appears to be worse in the early morning hours and again between 3-6 pm, and on the weekends. There is a three-way stop sign at South Converse and Ridgewood, and many times vehicles don't even slow down for the sign. We are so concerned that one day this will lead to a tragedy. We have many children in our community and are concerned about this. We love our children, and don't want to see any harm come to them!

*"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little." Sydney Smith*

## *Students Stage A Disney Classic*

The students at **Mary H. Wright** have much to be proud of, after putting on the school's first-ever full-length drama production, on Thursday, April 20. With help from the teachers and volunteers from the **Episcopal Church of the Advent**, the students staged two performances of the Disney classic, 101 Dalmatians, and one could easily see the excitement and pride that glowed from the students as they performed before a packed gym.



Quoting **Zach Fox** ([zach.fox@shj.com](mailto:zach.fox@shj.com)): Mary H. Wright Principal **Marc Zachary** said the play was part of an effort to counter assumptions people make about the school because it's located in a lower income area of the city. "Right here on the south side of Spartanburg, people who don't come down to this area much have preconceived notions about it." Part of what I like about it was having the play here on campus and having them see our campus and how well-kept our school is. It's a beautiful place down here." Zachary said the school's students, faculty and staff have been working hard over the years to improve achievement levels. That work includes finding new strengths for students, such as fine arts, to build them up at a young age. One of the first things we had to do was change our mindset in what our students can do," he said. "Today showed, people were blown away by how much talent our kids had." The production and the work that led up to it signal a change in attitude and culture at Mary H. Wright Elementary, Zachary said. The play was organized by the school's music teacher **Lindsay Singleton**.

The early showing appeared to be standing room only reported SCNA member **Ruth Littlejohn**. Others attending this show were **Mayor Junie White**, School District 7 Superintendent **Russell Booker**, School Board Trustee **Sharon Porter**, **Sally Hammond** Chief Communication Officer & **Richard Wheeler**(SCNA).

## Creation Care Events

Non-native, invasive plants are everywhere and hard to defeat, and are choking the life out of our trees. **Newt Hardie** and his team are constantly working on removing kudzu and other vines, trying to save our trees. On **March 11, 2017**, one hundred twenty four people from 34 churches, joined **Newt Hardie** and his team on the northside of Cleveland Park in the **Creation Care Event #1**, to save trees and make environmental improvements in Spartanburg County. It was wonderful seeing the young people getting involved. **Creation Care Event #2** will take place on **May 13**, in the same location, on the northside of Cleveland Park. There will be two shifts: **1st shift is 9-11 a.m. and 2nd shift is 12-2 p.m.** **Creation Care Event #3** will take place on Saturday, **September 16** in the Duncan Park neighborhood - centered at the parking lot for the baseball field. **Creation Care Event #4** will take place in the **South Converse Community on Saturday, October 28**, working in many locations, but mostly on Winsmith, Alexander and the park. Please mark your calendar and let's make this event the best ever! If you live here, whether you own or rent, you have an invested interest. Therefore, let's come out and show support.



Pictured L-R are **Troy Hanna, J. Ruth Littlejohn, Liz Patterson, Linda Bilanchone, Mitch Kennedy and Newt Hardie.**

There were many dedicated workers, with smiles and laughter, who came with the spirit to make a difference. Among them were former Congresswoman **Liz Patterson, Donna Mabry** (Voters Registration & Election office), **Troy Hanna** President/CEO Spartanburg County Foundation), former Mayor **Bill Barnet, Mitch Kennedy** (Director Community Service), **Donna Pruitt** (Action Printing), **Atty Max Hyde**, former Water Commissioner **Linda Bilanchone**, City Councilwoman **Erica Brown** and Water Commissioner **Horace Littlejohn** and Voter Registration & Election Commissioner **J. Ruth Littlejohn**, who represented both their church and the South Converse Community.

The following Churches participated in Event #1: **Bunton CME, Cannons Campground Methodist, Central United Methodist, Chapel Baptist, Church of the Advent Episcopal, Fernwood Baptist, First African Methodist, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Glendale Baptist, Mayfield Chapel Baptist, Mt. Moriah Baptist, Mt. Pleasant Baptist (Inman), North Spartanburg Baptist, Redemption Nondenomination, Risen Savior Catholic, Second Presbyterian, Silver Hill Methodist, Skyland Drive Presbyterian, St. Christopher's Episcopal,**

*Creation Care Events continued...*

**St. James United Methodist, St. John's Lutheran, St. Matthews Episcopal, St. Paul Methodist, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic, St. Christopher's Episcopal, Temple B'nai Israel Jewish, Trinity United Methodist, Unitarian, Westminster Presbyterian, Whitestone United Methodist and Wofford IYC Interfaith.**

### WHITE'S

**Pine Street Exxon**

2165 S. Pine Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302-3350

Phone: 585-1226

**JUNIE WHITE- Owner**

## Are You A Leader???

The City of Spartanburg is looking for Achieving & Innovative Youth Leaders (SAIYL). Who must be between the ages 14-17 and live in or attend school within city limits. Those selected will explore aspects of City government, leadership, community service, community engagement and recreation. They will also take field trips, listen to speakers, have hands-on interactive learning and will receive a financial incentive. If you are a leader or know someone who is, please contact the **Youth Development Office at 864-580-5266** or download the application at [http://www.cityofspartanburg.org/cms\\_assets/SAIYL%20Application%202017.docx](http://www.cityofspartanburg.org/cms_assets/SAIYL%20Application%202017.docx)

**Community Mortuary, Inc.**  
of Spartanburg, SC  
102 Marion Avenue / P.O. Box 5664  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
Telephone: (864) 948-0025 / Fax: (864) 948-0016  
communitymortuaryinc@gmail.com  
www.communitymortuaryinc.com

## Way-to-Wellville Grant

The South Converse Neighborhood Association will apply for the \$5,000 Way-to-Wellville Grant, representing one of five participating neighborhoods. There are requirements that must be filled in order to qualify. We hope to have more information regarding this Grant in our next community newsletter.

**Action PRINTING**  
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

\*\*\*\*\*

*"A Person's True Wealth is the Good He or She does in the World" Mohammed*

## Getting to Know You!!!



**Abdul H. Ali** has lived at **245 Rigby Avenue** for 12 years. He is a resident of South Carolina where he has spent most of his life. He spent most of his youth in Brooklyn, NY, but later returned to SC, where he graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia. Abdul graduated with honors from Phillips Junior College in 1990, where

he earned an associate degree in business. Abdul was married but divorced after 28 years in 2006. From this union were born four beautiful children; Dalya H. Ali, Anwaar M. Ali, Laila Ali and the late Abdul Ali II.

Abdul worked as a Fire Safety Inspector in Jenkinsville, S.C. for 10 years. He worked for Stone Continental and G2 Fashion several years prior to returning to Spartanburg, where he worked 18 years for Leigh Fibers in Welford, prior to retiring. Abdul states what he enjoy most in life is being a great father and grandfather, and the high point of his career was being a Safety Inspector. Abdul is an active member of the SCNA.



**Margaret Ruth Jones Swindler** was born and raised in Spartanburg, S.C., and since 1955, she has lived most of her life at 407 Caulder Avenue. Margaret

graduated from Carver High School in 1968. She went on to graduate from Converse College in 1972, receiving a degree in psychology after receiving a four year scholarship. The highlight of her career was being a Counselor/Social Worker at Piedmont OIC, DSS at Piedmont Community Action. Margaret is a 2011 graduate of Grassroots Leadership Development Institute, where she currently serves as Chairperson of membership for the Alumni. She is an Evangelism Chair at Cornerstone Baptist Church, where she is very active. She is also an active member of the SCNA.

Margaret is the daughter of association member **Ruth Jones** and the late Elder Daniel Jones. Margaret was married to and now divorced from Charles Swindler. They have a son, Bryan Keith Swindler. She also has two sisters and one brother: Mary Elizabeth Jones, Daniel M. Jones and Dale Paulette Jones Griffin.

\*\*\*\*\*

*"If you have not often felt the joy of doing a kind act, you have neglected much, and most of all yourself"*

A. Neilen

## Celebrating Earth Day!

The second annual Spartanburg Earth Day Festival took place on Saturday, April 22, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 210 Henry Place. The Spartanburg Earth Day Festival seeks to educate Upstate citizens about the need to protect our amazing planet and to encourage active stewardship. The



goal is to assist attendees in "thinking globally" while "acting locally." Speakers shared their expertise about small container gardening, world population concerns, eco-friendly restaurant take out kits, snakes & etc. There were more than 25 eco-friendly nonprofits and businesses that

offered information and goods, and there was a full line up of entertainers. The art exhibit showcased the artwork of three local elementary schools, **Arcadia, Jesse Bobo and Mary H. Wright Elementary Schools**, that participated in their pilot art contest: "For the Beauty of the Earth." First, second & third place were given to each of the three schools. An awards ceremony will honor all participants.



*UUC Pastor Sally Beth Stone & Alice Sutton stand beside 1st prize painting by Rokia Gooden, a student at Mary H. Wright. **Top photo** L-R: Chad Lawson, Mary A. Deku & Lisa Oliphant*

## New Members

We are excited to have several new members who recently joined the SCNA: **Barbara J. Kelly** (215 Dallas Place), **Jerry Wayne Sanders** (128 Prospect Avenue), **Delores Means** (247 Rigby Avenue) and **Robert E. Floyd, Sr. & Violet B. Floyd** (322 S. Converse). Thank you!

\*\*\*

*"Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve"*

## Yards of the Month

Congratulations to our "March" Yards of the Month: **342 Alexander** (Margaret Gist), **137 Princeton Street** (Franklin & Faye Woodruff) & **143 Collins Ave.** (Ruth Linder).

Yards of the Month were put in place in 2009 to show appreciation to residents who show pride in their surroundings. It is just one step towards making our community a better place to live. We must care about more than our own little space, but also areas surrounding us. No one likes to pick up trash tossed by someone else. However, if we don't pick it up, it speaks volumes about who we are. Yards are judged 4-5 times during the months, between March and October. Guide lines for Yards of the Month are:

1. Yard is well groomed; lawn mowed as well as median (area between roads & sidewalks).
2. Trees/bushes trimmed, weeds pulled, especially from flower beds.
3. Trees/bushes should not hang in the path of sidewalks.
4. Flower beds maintained. Flowers are not necessary.
5. Portion of yard that's viewed from street should be free of litter, clutter, junk and debris. No appliances, clutter or indoor furniture on porches or patio.
6. Yard is free of junked or inoperable vehicles.
7. Curb in front of home is swept and free of debris.
8. For a cleaner neighborhood, after mowing yard, lawn debris should be swept up from sidewalks and streets.
9. Garbage bins should be placed on curb no sooner than Wednesday evening and removed from curb no later than Friday morning and placed in rear or as far from front view as possible.

	I can help you make sure your coverage is up-to-date. Call me today. <b>(864) 515 9004</b>
<b>GEROD ALLISON</b> 770 UNION STREET SPARTANBURG gerodallison@allstate.com	 <b>Allstate</b> 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>	

## Town Hall Meeting

**Councilperson Rosalyn Meyers** and SCNA Member, held a **Town Hall Meeting** on Thursday, April 13, at the C.C. Woodson Center. The topic was on Domestic Violence, and the panelists were: **Honorable Hope Blackley**, Spartanburg County Clerk of Court; **Jacqueline Moss**, Moss Law Firm; **Investigator M.C. Morgan**, Criminal Investigation division Spartanburg Police Dept.; **Jamie Hughes**, College Outreach Advocate, Safe Homes Rape Crisis Coalition; and **Alexandria Lyles, Esq.**, Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office.

In addition, a ceremony was held on December 30, at the corner of Calder 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. **Councilperson Meyers** was instrumental in the sign being placed at Calder Ave. Regretfully, this acknowledgement was omitted from our last newsletter.

## Tidbits

**Closing Ceremonies for Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light** have been rescheduled for **Tuesday, April 25th, 7-8 pm**

**Spring Fling** is early this year. It will take place from **5-10 pm, Friday, April 28-Sunday April 30.**

**Russell Booker**, Superintendent of School District 7 will be the guest speaker at the **Unitarian-Universalist Church, Sunday, April 30 at 11:00 a.m.**

**AARP** will hold a **Shred Day on May 23** at the Spartanburg Police Department.

**TWG Latitude** will tour at **Cornerstone Baptist Church**, 700 South Converse St., Spartanburg, SC, on **July 28, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.** Purchase tickets at: [TWG2017WorldTour.Eventbrite.com](http://TWG2017WorldTour.Eventbrite.com). [www.TheWalkGroup.org](http://www.TheWalkGroup.org). For more information, contact Cornerstone Baptist Church at **(864) 582-2550**

**Special thanks** to **Horace & J. Ruth Littlejohn, James Norris, Tommy Richardson, Jerry Sanders and Patricia Wofford**, who pruned the roses throughout the community on February 20.

**The S. Converse Neighborhood**, along with other Spartanburg Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) members, have come together to make donations to **Officer Jason Harris's** family. Each neighborhood will make their individual donation, and the donations can be taken to the **Police Department, Kathy Hill's office or Chamber of Commerce.**

## Derelict Vehicle Removal Enforcement

Through a collaborative effort, the Property Maintenance and Housing Inspection Division and the Spartanburg Police Department will conduct concentrated enforcement of derelict vehicles located within city neighborhoods. Derelict vehicle means a motor vehicle: A derelict vehicle is defined by city code as a motor vehicle: **which does not have a current license plate; or property taxes have not been paid; or which is partially dismantled or wrecked or incapable of self-propulsion or being moved in the manner for which it was originally intended; or whose registered and legal owner of record disclaims ownership or releases his rights to thereto; or which has been left on private property without the consent of the owner, occupant or lessee thereof for a period of time exceeding twenty-four (24) consecutive hours.**

**Why is the City concerned about derelict vehicles?** Derelict vehicles detract from neighborhood appearances and contribute to blighted conditions.

**When will the City be conducting inspections in my neighborhood?** This initiative will take several months to complete. The enforcement team plans to work in at least two neighborhoods per month.

**How will I know when the City will be inspecting my neighborhood?** The City will post neighborhood signs at least one week in advance of starting inspections.

**How can I get more information about derelict vehicles?** You may view the entire ordinance concerning derelict vehicles (Chapter 12, Section 4) at [www.cityofspartanburg.org](http://www.cityofspartanburg.org) on the Property Maintenance and Housing Inspections Division webpage. Or you may contact the Property Maintenance & Housing Inspection Division **864-596-2915** or [kbyrnes@cityofspartanburg.org](mailto:kbyrnes@cityofspartanburg.org) for more information.