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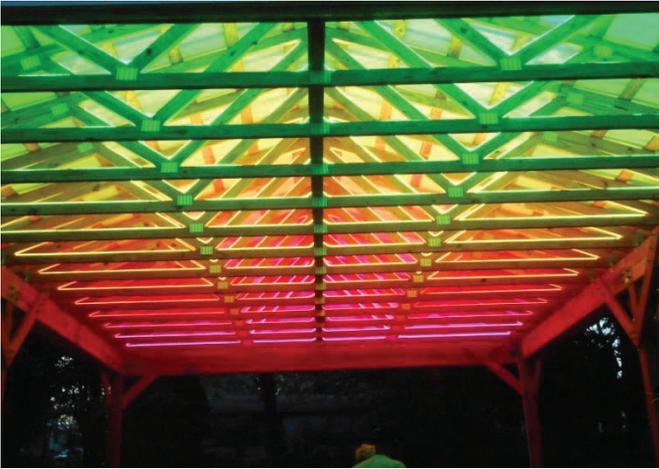
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November 2016

Big Lights, Little Progressive City!!!!

These big lights "Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light," have definitely gone to our heads. On October 4 Spartanburg was a scene of celebration, as several neighborhoods held festivities to mark National Night Out and the debut of nine public art installations.



The day started out with a grand opening in Denny's Downtown Plaza. Then there were three bus loads of local and out-of-state dignitaries who visited all nine neighborhoods. We were thrilled to have so many people visit our community.



Programming the pavilion lights from L-R are Artist Erwin Redl, Elizabeth Goddard, Abdul Ali, Tommy Richardson, Chris, Barbara & John Rutledge.. Not pictured is J. Ruth Littlejohn. Continued page 2

Trees Party

There aren't words enough to express the gratitude we have for **Newt Hardie** and his devoted volunteers, who have worked not only in the South Converse Community, but throughout Spartanburg removing kudzu and overgrown brush. On August 27, it was no surprise that he and two of his volunteers, **Jimmy Kelly** and **Joe Gomisier**, would join the South Converse community in a Trees Party at 7:30 a.m. **J. Ruth Littlejohn** started as early as 6:00 picking up the pre-ordered breakfast. At 7:00 a.m., **Bernice Lewis & Jessie Kiensler** were at the park preparing for the breakfast that was enjoyed by all. Newt said we broke the record for the number of persons that showed up for the Trees Party.

Following breakfast, Newt gave a few instructions on the proper ways to trim trees and remove vines. We then went in separate directions, some trimming roses, some cutting back overgrown brush, and some removing litter. Many thanks to those who came out to make this project a success, Boy Scout Troop 106: **Ruth Davis, Travis Berry, Aiden Bates, Jacob Ramirez, Jamil Gibson & Angelio Dukes**. Thanks to members of the Unitarian Universalist Church, **Rev. Sally Beth Shore, Steve & Abby Fowler, Rick Hahnenburg, Ruth Stanton & Liz Perry**. Thanks to **James Ledlow** from the City of Spartanburg, who gave his support, and to former **Mayor Bill Barnet**, who offered cheers and encouragement to all as this was also his birthday. Other residents participating were **Tommy & Frances Richardson, Horace Littlejohn, M.B. & Fannie Bates, Carolyn Brewer, Barbara Rutledge, Jackie Tate & Jerry Kerns**.



Trees Party on August 27, 2016.



Members of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Staff, from L-R are Anita Contini, Christina Giaccone, Kim Molstre, Allison Jaffin & Brandi Stewart.

We are really grateful to the Bloomberg Philanthropies, especially artists *Erwin Redl, Mark Sloan* and *Anita Contini* and to the Chapman Cultural Center President/CEO *Jennifer Evins, Chris, Elizabeth Goddard & Luke Connell*; The entire City of Spartanburg Police Department, especially *Chief Alonzo Thompson, Deputy Chief Jennifer Kindall, Art Littlejohn, Tim Suber & Christopher Banks*. Thanks to the City of Spartanburg, especially *Mitch Kennedy, Kathy Hill, Martin Livingston, Kim Moultrie, Scott Page, Darryl Goodwin, Mayor Junie White, City Council & Glen Cook & the Public Works Dept.* We also thank *Women Giving of Spartanburg* & the South Converse residents. The South Converse Community had a large amount of people to come out to show support and see the lights turned on at the picnic pavilion. The lights in the ceiling of the pavilion add a beautiful addition to the park. Special thanks to all who came out to help with the installation of the lights: *John Rutledge* (who will manage the control of the lights), *Barbara Rutledge, Tommy Richardson, Horace & J. Ruth Littlejohn, Abdul Ali, Richard Wheeler, Elders Morton, Reynolds, Sharp & Rose.* We also thank the SCNA members who helped make this a successful evening: *Carolyn Brewer, Horace Littlejohn & J. Ruth Littlejohn, Barbara & John Rutledge, Bernice Lewis, Linda Sanders, Jessie Kiensler, Patricia Wofford, Tommy & Frances Richardson, Frances Dye, Doris Clowney, Willie Mae Thacker & James Norris.* We are grateful that *Rev. Sally Beth Shore* of the UUC Church came to show her support. Music was provided by *D.J. Caveril Pryce.*

The art work at all locations will be in place until April of 2017. Trolley Rides of the Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light to tour the different art installations will leave from the Chapman Cultural Center Tuesday evenings at 5:30 and 7:15 p.m. through November 29. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$7 for youth or college ID. For more information go to <http://seeingspartanburg.com/trolley-schedule>. *Continued in next column*

"The reason so few people are successful is no one has yet found a way for someone to sit down & slide uphill." W. Clement Stone



Yards of the Month

We congratulate residents for yards of the month of **August**, **Raymond Hall & Karen Hill** (328 Marion Ave.), **Berdie Granger** (243 Rigby Ct.) & **Ruth Linder** (143 Collins). Yards for the month of **September** were **Charles & Polly Goins** (331 Marion Ave.), **Jennifer Rice** (106 Pyle Ct.) & **Franklin & Faye Woodruff** (137 Princeton St.). Yards for the month of October were **Cathy Gladney** (365 Marion Ave), **Jacqueline Tate** (645 S. Converse) & **Mary Pat West** (195 Collins Ave.). Thank you all for the pride you show in helping make this a better place to live.

"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

"Under One Roof"

People of all ages and skill levels are invited to join **Sparkle City Drumming** for a **drum circle** at the art installation *Under One Roof* at the South Converse Street Park (440 S. Converse St.) in Spartanburg, on November 26, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. The event is **FREE** and **family friendly** & No experience is necessary! Bring your own drum or borrow one at the event. We recommend you bring a chair and or blanket and be prepared for cool weather. This event is weather dependent. If it's raining or too cold, the event will be rescheduled. Check Seeing Spartanburg's social media for updates <http://seeingspartanburg.com/event/drum-circle-at-s-converse-street-park-under-one-roof/>



Garbage & Recycle Schedules

Residents moving into the South Converse Neighborhood from other areas sometimes do not know the Public Works schedules for the recycle & garbage bin pick-up days. If you have a recycle bin (**blue bin**), it is collected on the **1st & 3rd Mondays** of the month. Regardless to how many Mondays fall in the month, it is only collected twice. This collection takes place even on holidays (except for Christmas & New Years). The regular garbage pick-up day (**gray bins**) for the neighborhood is Thursday. If a holiday falls on this day, pickup will be the following day, a one day delay.

Be a good neighbor! If you are going to be away for a few days or you are ill, please ask a neighbor or friend to remove your bins from the curb. Also, 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.**



Hello & Farewell!

The South Converse Board of Directors welcomes its new member, **Adrienne Kirsten Miller** of Project Hope. Sadly, a farewell is extended to **Crystal Pace**, who has served well. We wish her much success in her new home.

City Rehab Loan Program

The City of Spartanburg's Neighborhood Services Director, **Martin Livingston**, attended the SCNA monthly meeting on Nov 7 and presented an opportunity to create a rehab loan program in partnership with local banks and credit unions. City staff is asking for community comments and recommendations about the program to make it successful. The program would work with residents interested in making repairs to their homes. No rental properties would qualify for the program. Homeowners would be able to select their own contractors. Other considerations of the program include flexible terms, no credit scores, and properties would need clear title. Maximum loan amounts would be about \$20,000.00. City staff will share with other neighborhoods that may have an interest in the program including Highland, Beaumont, and South Converse. Currently the City does not have enough funding to create a grant program. This loan program would be an alternative to help homeowners make needed repairs to their homes. City staff will bring back the final program design to the neighborhood once it is approved. For questions or recommendations contact Neighborhood Services at **(864) 580-5323** or mlivingston@cityofspartanburg.org.



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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. If you are paying more than \$500 per month for rent, you may want to give them a call at **864-504-3090**, or stop by their office at **139 S. Dean Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302.**

WHITE'S
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JUNIE WHITE- Owner

"I find that if I'm thinking too much of my own problems, and the fact that at times things are not just like I want them to be, I don't make any progress at all. But if I look around and see what I can do, and go on with that, then I move on." Rosa Parks

Welcome New Members

We welcome our new members: **James A. & Juanita Norris**, 134 Prospect Avenue, and **Franklin & Faye Woodruff**, 137 Princeton Street. These joining members have already been involved in making their community a better place to live. Thank you for your membership!

We encourage all residents to become a member of the SCNA Association! When we grow, the community becomes stronger. Contact **Tommy Richardson** at **431-3834** or **582-7383**, or any one of our members for more information.

Criminal Justice Youth Institute

The Spartanburg County Clerk of Court and The Spartanburg County Foundation (SCF) held a press conference on November 4, 2016, to announce a new collaborative initiative offered to Spartanburg County youth in the coming year. The Spartanburg County Criminal Justice Youth Institute, a partnership of the Clerk of Court and The SCF, is a four-month leadership training program designed to introduce Spartanburg County 11th and 12th grade students to the criminal justice system. In response to several recent tragedies across the country, the Institute will help strengthen understanding and eliminate any misconceptions between youth and criminal justice officials in Spartanburg County. This innovative program, modeled after the Foundation's **Grassroots Leadership Development Institute**, will empower Spartanburg County youth to become positive contributors and leaders in the community.

Participation in the program is open to any 11th & 12th grade student attending a Spartanburg County public, private, or home school. Go to www.spcf.org to download an application. All applications must be received at The SCF (424 E. Kennedy Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302) by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 30, 2016. Selections for the pilot program will begin early December. Questions regarding the application process should be directed to The SCF 864-582-0138.

An Advisory Committee has been established for the Institute comprised of **Barry Barnette, Victor Durrah, Vicky Free, Kevin Harrison, Susu Johnson, Tim Metz, Dr. Ifekan-Shango Simon & Mary Thomas**. This committee will guide and promote the Institute through the pilot year and will help grow the program. Spartanburg County Clerk of Court, **Hope Blackley**, stated she is delighted to partner with The Spartanburg County Foundation to make the Spartanburg County Criminal Justice Youth Institute a reality.

A fund has been established at The SCF entitled **The Clerk of Court Community Fund**. This fund is devoted to the education and promotion of the criminal justice field and supports the Spartanburg County Criminal Justice Youth Institute.

The SCF has awarded a \$15,000 lead match grant to The Clerk of Court Community Fund & will match donations to this fund dollar for dollar until December 31, 2016. Anyone interested in supporting the Spartanburg County Criminal Justice Youth Institute may donate to The Clerk of Court Community Fund by visiting www.spcf.org.

"A Vote always outweighs A protest"

Tidbits

The next scheduled **cleanups** for the community is **Saturday, November 19 & December 17**. We will meet at the S. Converse Park & the cleanup starts at **8:00 a.m.** We need your help! If you have gloves, please bring them, if not, they will be provided.

The Next SCNA meeting date is December 5. All meetings are held at the C.C. Woodson Center at 5:30 p.m.

The SCNA Christmas Party will take place on **Dec. 9**, at the C.C. Woodson Center, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. **Bernice Lewis** is chairing the event. Please contact her at **583-0358** and let her know what dish you will be providing. If you plan on attending, please contact **Tommy Richardson** at **582-7383** or **431-3834** to RSVP.

Congratulations to all the candidates on their election or reelection to office!

Neighborhood Services Director

Martin Livingston, who previously worked with the City of Spartanburg, moved to Greenville, where he served as the Executive Director of the City's Redevelopment Authority. He has returned to Spartanburg and serves as the Neighborhood Services Director for the city. Martin replaced **James Ledlow**, who now works as a Business Licensing Officer for the city. We wish Mr. Ledlow the best in his new position, and we thank him for the service he provided to our community.

We look forward to continued support from **Mr. Livingston**, as he is already working on some of the problems facing the community. If you see violations, contact him at **580-5323** or our Code Enforcement office at **596-2915**. You can also report code violations to our SCNA President **Tommy Richardson @ (582-7383 or 431-3834)**.

Believers Fellowship Church

Believers' Bible Institute (BBI) School of Theology is operated by Believers' Fellowship A/G Church at 150-A Marion Ave. BBI is a member of the Christian Life Educators Network. BBI provides quality, flexible, and affordable Christian training. The process is very easy and user friendly! We are here to serve you!

"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

"If you want the present to be different from the past, study the past." Baruch Spinoza

Happy Thanksgiving!!!