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J. Ruth Littlejohn: Publisher/Editor

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September 2020

Early Voting

The absentee in-person voting for the November 3 election begins **Monday, October 5** and ends November 2. **The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Because of the expected record turnout, social distancing and long lines, Spartanburg County Elections Director **Henry Laye** said the early, in-person absentee polling location, has been moved from Conference Room 6 at the Elections Office to the **Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium, lower level, at 385 N. Church Street**. If you don't like standing in long lines, vote early. *Everyone is encouraged to wear a mask.*

If you are not registered to vote, the last day to register by mail is **Oct. 5**. Make sure your voter registration is up-to-date with your current address. You can go online to **SCvotes.org** to print a sample ballot.

When voting in person you will be asked to show one of the following Photo IDs: S.C. driver's license, SC Department of Motor Vehicles ID Card, SC concealed weapons permit, SC voter registration card with photo, Federal military ID, which includes all Department of Defense photo IDs & Veterans Affairs benefits card & U.S. Passport - includes US Passport ID Card.

If you do not have one of these photo IDs: Get a free Photo ID from the Spartanburg County Board of **Voter Registration & Elections Office, located at 366 N. Church Street, Lower Level, Suite 1630 Spartanburg, SC 29303**

"Today and every day, as you make decisions about the things you'll say and do, remember who's responsible. And if you make a mistake, admit it, learn from it, and move on. The blame game has no winners; don't play."

Census

We need your help!!! The power to change your community lies in your hands. The Census data is used to make critical decisions, like funding for more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP. The results will show where communities need new schools, new clinics and new roads. It will also determine how many seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives. Your input is needed and time is running out. If you received a form in mail, please complete it or go online to **2020census.gov**. The deadline to file is **September 30, 2020**. If you need help, please ask someone.

National Night Out

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual event that has been recognized by the city of Spartanburg for a number of years as a combined effort between our police department, city officials and neighborhoods. This year's event will be somewhat different. Even though our country is currently facing a pandemic, we are making efforts to continue with National Night Out but in a safe manner. **NNO will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020** and the theme is **"Lights On At Home."** City police, fire department, council members and city staff will "cruise" through neighborhoods that choose to partake. We would love to see your involvement all while remaining vigilant against the spread of COVID, by seeing you in your driveway or on your front porch as we cruise.

Large gatherings are discouraged and you are encouraged to use this time to stay safe while participating from your home.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted"
AESOP

Community Meeting

Councilwoman **J. Ruth Littlejohn**, hosted a Community meeting for residents in City Council District 3, on September 17, 2020. The meeting was held from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. at the C.C. Woodson Center. The primary agenda item was a presentation and discussion related to the future of the former Mary H. Wright School building on Caulder Avenue. The agenda also included updates on the status to bringing a grocery to the Southside. City Manager **Chris Story** led the discussions. Assistant City Manager **Mitch Kennedy** and **Martin Livingston**, Neighborhood Services assisted. **Chief Alonzo Thompson & Deputy Chief Jennifer Kindall** of the Spartanburg Police Dept., were on hand to answer questions pertaining to policing. Social Distancing was practiced and masks were worn. There was a great turnout in spite of the pouring rain. Participants included **Kathy Hill** (Community Relations), **Kensley Drummond Aiken** (Communications) and current & former Civic Leaders: former Mayor **James Talley**, **Horace Littlejohn** (Water Commissioner), **Kenneth Myers** (School District 7), **Brenda Lee Pryce** (former State Rep.), **Robert Reeder** (former City Council), **Atty. Monier Abusaft** (Candidate for County Council District 1), **Toni Sutton** (Pres. SCNA), **Ruth Davis** (SCNA Board Chair) **Willa Reeder** (Forest Park NA) and **Wesley Hammond** (Pres. Converse NA). Hampton Heights was also represented by **Carol McCulloch** and **Sandy Bottocchio**. Many thanks to **Maxine Templeton** and **Nadine Anderson** for braving the weather to assist with the sign-ins.

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Community Cleanup

A Community Cleanup was held on August 22, 2020. We are grateful for those who participated: **Rick Hahnenberg, Ruth Stanton, Rick Christian, Tommy Richardson** and Councilwoman **J. Ruth Littlejohn**. Thanks to each of you for your service to the Community.

Celebrating History

The Southside Heritage and Preservation Committee celebrated **Mrs. Mary H. Wright's Birthday** on August 11, 2020, by honoring one of her students 100 years old **Mrs. Hazel Jackson**. Mrs. Jackson, thanked everyone for coming and also shared with us some of her memories of Mrs. Wright and her commitment to education.

Mrs. Jackson is a faithful member of Macedonia Baptist Church, an active member of the Spartanburg Chapter of NAACP and the Spartanburg Memorial Committee. She is a very active and energetic lady who walks daily. Prior to COVID, she worked out for one hour at her church with a group called the Mountain Movers and drove herself to Bible Study every Tuesday. She is the mother of four daughters, **Betty Ann Stinger, Peggy Carson, Jacqueline Tate and Thomasina Goode**.



L-R: Peggy Carson, J. Ruth Littlejohn, Mrs. Hazel Jackson, Rosalyn Henderson-Myers, Brenda Lee Pryce & Horace Littlejohn.

Several local officials showed their support for the occasion, including **J. Ruth Littlejohn**, Mayor Pro Tem; Rep. **Rosalyn Henderson-Myers**; Honorable(s) **Erica Brown; Michael Brown; Horace Littlejohn; Sharon Porter; Jerome Rice; Sarah Simmons**; former Mayor **James E. Talley**, City Manager **Chris Story**; Assistant City Manager **Mitch Kennedy**; **Toni Sutton**, President SCNA; **Apostle Douglas Styles**, United House of Prayer; **Harlem Farr**, College of Charleston; **Alisha Moss**, recent USC School of Law Graduate; and **Courtney McClain**, USC Columbia student.

A flower was placed on each of Mrs. Wright's ten children's grave. Thanks to former Rep. **Brenda Lee Pryce**, Executive Director of the Southside Heritage & Preservation Committee, for her contribution to this article.

Panthers Provide Funding

Thanks to **Riley Fields** and the entire **Carolina Panthers Organization**, for its \$200,000 donation to the new state-of-the-art synthetic field and renovated track fields at Carver Middle School, and for their continued support of our great city. We also thank former Mayor **Bill Barnet** and the **Northside Development Group**, and **Spartanburg County School District 7**, for this amazing investment on the Southside. District 7 Superintendent **Jeff Stevens**, outgoing Superintendent **Russell Booker** and Spartanburg High School's new coach, **Mark Hodge** were on hand to congratulate Principal **Nicole Thompson** and the students of Carver Middle School on this great gift! Among the other officials present were Assistant City Manager **Mitch Kennedy**, former Mayor **James Talley**, **J. Ruth Littlejohn**, Mayor Pro Tem; Rep. **Rosalyn Henderson Myers**, former Rep. **Brenda Lee Pryce**, and Honorable (s) **Vernon Beatty**, **Horace Littlejohn**, **Sharon Porter** and **Jerome Rice**.

Coach **Mark Hodge**, said "Facilities like this actually give these kids a vision and a dream. They can step out here on this turf and imagine anything they want around it, whether it be a collegiate field, an NFL Field, or a super Bowl Field. It gives us and these children a first-class classroom, but it also gives them a visual daily of what excellence looks like."



L-R: **Horace & J. Ruth Littlejohn**, **Mark Hodge**, **Brenda Lee Pryce** & **James Talley**.

Vehicle Thefts

Lock your car doors! Vehicle thefts have risen in Spartanburg County and nationwide. Put your windows up before you exit your car, and don't leave valuables in sight.

Restoring Voting Rights

South Carolina is one of 21 states which allows former felons to restore their voting rights after serving their entire sentence, including parole and/or probation. **Chris Whitmire**, South Carolina State Election Commission director of public information and training, said there is no waiting period. "As soon as the terms of a sentence are complete, a person can register," Whitmire said. "The person can register like anyone else - online, by mail, at the DMV or other voter agencies and in person at the voter registration office."

<https://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2018/06/14/sc-losing-voting-rights-after-felony-conviction-not-life-sentence/701344002/> First reported in newsletter dated 11/2019.

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Kite Festival

The Spartanburg Soaring International Kite-Festival has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 26 from 11 AM to 5 PM at Barnet Park. Come out and enjoy a day of high-flying fun with live musicians & performers, a makers market, food trucks, an interactive kids zone & more.

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Forest Park

Former Rep. **Harold Mitchell** reports that ReGenesis is finalizing an agreement with the bank and hopefully, building will get started on **Lawrence Johnson Drive** and **Everett Street** mid to late October. The plan is to build six homes at a time. If you know someone who wants a new home in the City, please have them call ReGenesis at **864-504-3090**.

Police Department Receives Award

The **Spartanburg City Police** Department was re-accredited by the S.C. Police Accreditation Coalition on September 4th. The department completed the first phase of the national reaccreditation process in March and is scheduled to complete the final two phases before the end of the year. They go before the National Commission in March 2021.

Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence. It requires written directives and training to inform employees about policies and practices; facilities and equipment to ensure employees' safety; and processes to safeguard employees' rights. *A community with an accredited law enforcement agency can take pride in their department, knowing it represents the very best in law enforcement.*

Mural Celebrated

The unveiling and dedication of the Grimke' Sisters Mural, located at the Unitarian Universalist Church was held on August 18, 2020. This gorgeous design is by Artist **Nancy Corbin** and the masterful painting was done by **Stephen Long** and **Jeremy Kemp**. This mural honors the memory of **Angelina & Sarah Grimke'**. They were South Carolina sisters who stood for justice and equality and dignity for every person.

If you missed this historic event, you can go to **YouTube.com**, then **LWV Dedication of Grimke'** Mural, or you can watch it on this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/D8noqpJCaAg>. If you want to read more about the Grimke' sisters, read the novel "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd.

Among the South Converse residents who were present, were **J.Ruth Littlejohn**, Mayor Pro Tem; **Bernice Lewis**; Rep. **Rosalyn Henderson Myers**; former Rep. **Brenda Lee Pryce** and **Toni Sutton**, President of SCNA.

Animal Ordinance

When you walk your dog, we are asking your cooperation in taking along a bag and removing the poop. This way, not only will the dog feel relief, so will the residents. You can review the new rules for Animal Ordinance by picking up a brochure at City Hall or check www.cityofspartanburg.org.

South Converse Receives Grant



Councilwoman J. Ruth Littlejohn & Toni Sutton, SCNA Pres

Keep One Spartanburg Beautiful, presented its second round of grants to qualifying applicants on September 16, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.. The South Converse Neighborhood was among those receiving grant funds, in the amount of \$2,000. **Toni Sutton**, President of the SCNA was there to accept the funds. The presentations were made at the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, at 190 Beech Street in Pacolet, SC. Keep One Spartanburg Beautiful Board members in attendance were Councilwoman **J. Ruth Littlejohn**, **Wesley Hammond**, KOSB Chairperson, **Jamie Nelson**, **Christy Snow** & **John Kimbrell**.

WHITE'S

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JUNIE WHITE- Owner

Unsolicited Newspapers

We continue to get complaints about the unsolicited newspapers that continues to litter the community. Many of these papers are thrown in the yards of vacant and condemned properties. Some are thrown in yards of occupied homes and are not picked up. We ask if you do not want these papers, please call the Herald-Journal and request they be discontinued. Either way, we ask your cooperation in picking them up.

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

Yards of the Month

Congratulations to our Yards of the month for **July:** **349 Marion Avenue** (Julie & Kenneth Goins) and **296 Collins Avenue** (Vastie Hazel). For the month of **August:** **171 Collins Avenue** (Patricia & Curtis Wofford) and **634 South Converse Street** (Darlene & Gary Brewton).

If you know of someone who is deserving of the award, please contact our judges **Tommy Richardson** at 864-582-7383 or **Toni Sutton** at 864-804-3686.

Guidelines for Judging Yards

Judges will use the general criteria below when choosing Yard of the Month. These are only guidelines, and the final decision is based on the evidence of the homeowner's pride in his or her yard.

1. Yard is well-groomed; lawn, as well as median (area between road and curbside) is mowed.
2. Yard should look attractive from all views (from street).
3. Trees/bushes are trimmed; weeds are pulled.
4. Flower beds are maintained (Flowers are not necessary to win, but desired).
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 (including grass clippings).
8. 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.

Because our neighborhood is so large with so many deserving yards, the policy has always been, that no yard receives the recognition more than once in a season.



Let's all make it our personal agenda to bring change to our community.

Produce Give-A-Ways



The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service continues to partner with the national, regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels and other food service businesses, who

purchase up to \$4 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products from American producers of all sizes. Distributors package these products into family-sized boxes, then transport them to food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need. City Councilwoman **Ruth Littlejohn** has worked with **Partners for Active Living (PAL)** and **FoodShare Spartanburg**, who worked together to provide the boxes of produce sponsored by **FoodShare SC**. On August 20, 2020, Littlejohn was joined by **Alissa Duncan, Rodrick Drummond, Commissioner Horace Littlejohn, MarcheLe Garrett and Lori Boyd** to provide Produce boxes to J. C. Bull, Liberty Square and Brookwood Terrace.

The City of Spartanburg, joined by other groups, will continue providing the produce over the next weeks.

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“Take a 10-30 minute walk everyday & while you walk, SMILE. It is the ultimate antidepressant.”

*To escape criticism - do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.
Elbert Hubbard*

CDC Guidelines

South Carolina is still in the red zone, with the coronavirus. We can all help in making this a safer environment for not only ourselves, but our parents, children and the elderly. Plus, our children need an education, we want our churches open and our businesses need us! Let's all do our part by continuing to follow CDC social distancing and hygiene in helping to end this crisis more quickly:

- Avoid hugging and shaking hands
- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and others in public spaces
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw used tissues in the trash, or cough inside of your elbow.
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water
When handwashing is not practical, use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, tables, countertops, handles, and desks regularly
- ***Visit cityofspartanburg.org/coronavirus for the latest local information on COVID-19's impact on City services and amenities, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for regular updates.***

Garbage & Recycle Schedules

If you have a **recycle bin** (blue bin), it is **only collected** on the **1st and 3rd** Mondays of the month, even on holidays (except for Christmas & New Years). The regular garbage pick-up day (**gray bins**) for the South Converse Community is on Thursday mornings. If a holiday falls on this day, pickup will be the following day, a one day delay. Please help your community look its best by removing bins from the curb as soon as possible after collection. Thank you for being a good neighbor!

Fresh air is really good for you! If you are not comfortable going to one of the local trails, now is a great time to work in your yard and work around the outside of your home. This way, you're getting fresh air, exercise & making home improvements.

Stay Safe!!!!

Tidbits

The next SCNA meeting is October 5, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. at the C.C. Woodson Center! Please wear your mask. Social Distancing will be in place.

The next community cleanup is **September 26, 2020**. Please note that the cleanup date has been moved back to the **4th Saturday** of each month. When we put our neighborhood first, we all profit.

The **Vic Bailey Subaru Bike Park** located off the **Mary Black Rail Trail** is now finished.

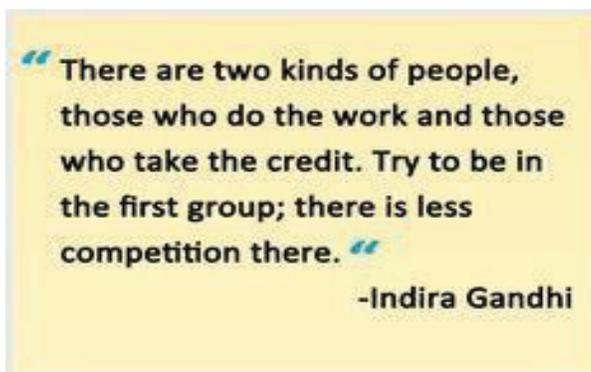
The **Mary H. Wright Greenway Trail** is getting a great deal of activity from walkers, bikers and joggers.

We wish to thank **Glen Cook** and **Luther Norman** and the City of Spartanburg for all they do.

Last Hand Delivered News

Please take note: Do to the coronavirus and lack of volunteers for delivering the newsletters, this may be the last door to door, hand delivered newsletter for a while.

Newsletters are emailed bi-monthly to each resident, that we have an email address for, whether you are a member of the association or not. The emailed letters are in color. We want to get the news out to you. Therefore, if you or someone in your household have an email address, please email it to: **jrlittlejohn@charter.net**. Place your address in the subject line. Please add your name.



"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."
William Penn