



# The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

April 2000

## Western Corridor Back In Front of GRATS

Since 1995, members of our neighborhood have been voicing concerns over the Western Corridor Project. At-large City Council member Michelle Shain, whose council committee jurisdiction includes environment and quality of life, has been leading an effort to reduce the scope of the corridor, provide adequate landscaping and make it more pedestrian friendly. Many comment letters to the SCDOT, some written as far back as 1995, have virtually been ignored and are now being used as a basis for reforming the Corridor plans. The "seven lanes" is nothing new and has always been a part of the original design. But now that we are at the 11th hour on the planning phase of this project, much more focus has been placed on the scope of the Western Corridor. Several factors come into play here that have resulted in a closer look at the plans, two of which are a new City Council and a changed attitude toward what is "best" for Greenville today as opposed to ten years ago when the plans were originally drawn. After the actual plans for the corridor were finally presented to City Council and other members of City Staff and citizens on February 21 of this year, it became clear that this project would be a new Wade Hampton Boulevard for the Westside of Greenville.

The GRATS committee, of which Mayor Knox White is a member, has the final determination

on the scope of the Western Corridor plans. The GRATS meeting, which was to be held the first of May, is rescheduled for this Friday, April 7, at 10 a.m., conference room A, County Square. Originally, at the May meeting, the subject of altering the plans for the Western Corridor was to be presented by Sen. Verne Smith, who will now present them at the meeting on Friday. Please make your way to County Square in support of altering these plans!

Although much has been presented in *The Greenville News* over the last several weeks, the following was published in *The Greenville News*, Wednesday, April 5, 2000 and sums up the redesign on the project. - jb

A transportation policy devoted entirely and blindly to moving traffic without consideration to the affected neighborhoods runs contrary to the current revitalization of Greenville's downtown neighborhoods.

South Carolina DOT project manager Kevin Ulmer stated in your March 23 article on the Western Corridor that DOT's responsibility is to move traffic from the Westside into downtown Greenville. This responsibility should include a sensible road design with pedestrian-friendly features and a landscaping plan appropriate for a gateway into Greenville.

As presently designed, the Western Corridor consists of seven lanes with little emphasis on landscaping, sidewalks and crossings. The present design will make the Western

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Corridor comparable to Wade Hampton Boulevard. It also will bisect an intact neighborhood with numerous historic residences dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including Holmes Bible College.

The impact of a seven-lane corridor upon the Southernside, James Street, Atwood and Hampton-Pinckney neighborhoods could significantly set back revitalization efforts that have been so successful in recent years. Mayor Knox White and City Council should be applauded for their efforts to reduce the Western Corridor to five lanes with appropriate enhancements.

It's time to reverse old biases whereas bigger is not better. DOT can encourage the continued revitalization of Greenville downtown residential areas with a sensible, well-planned Western Corridor.

**Robert Benedict**

*Greenville*

*The writer is a member of the City of Greenville Design and Preservation Commission.*

## April Meeting To Host Greenville News Staff

As previously announced by special flyer, the rescheduled monthly meeting for April will be held on April 11 at 7:00 P.M. at Central Baptist Church. Our invited guests are Bill Fox, City Editor, and Beth Padgett, Editorial Page Editor, who will discuss how our only local daily newspaper covers neighborhood and local news and how that coverage gets translated into editorial page positions and commentary. For most of us, our knowledge and impressions about local issues are largely derived from reading those pages. So take a break from working on your 1040 and come meet and talk with these members of the "fourth estate."

The March meeting consisted of a presentation by Norm Gollub updating our neighborhood on the specifics of the Western Corridor. In addition, Thurmond Norris discussed the plans to revitalize West Washington Street. Thanks to those who time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting: Tom Faulkner, Brad Wyche, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Kennedy, George Bell,

Betti Wright, Bishop Alfred Simpson, Margie Montgomery, Mary Duckett, Kathleen Crispin, Eric and Sara Dellinger, Chuck Drake, Reid Taylor, Robert and Judy Benedict, Jim Meyer, Keith and Deborah Rodgers, Reverend Cole and three of his parishioners. - bl & jb

## Out of Africa...

Sorry, I missed the last meeting. As Tom Faulkner, who graciously agreed to chair the session, communicated to the assembled group, I was indisposed in West Africa in a country called Burkina Faso, where the annual per capita income is less than \$200 and the HIV infection rate and the percentage of fecal matter in the air are the highest on the planet. It is the sort of place that can provide you with perspective and make you glad when you get back to the neighborhood. It did and I am. There is a lot going on that needs to be shared (see related articles):

Fourth of July Celebration

Western Corridor

Traffic Calming

Crime Watch

Canine Fecal Syndrome -bl

## Easter Egg Hunt April 15th, 10 am



Please drop off a bag of one dozen eggs, stuffed with candy, at Larry and Becky Boyd's house by April 14th to participate in our second annual Easter Egg hunt. They would also like the names and ages of the children participating in case we need to split the children into two groups. Last year everyone had a great time, including Becky and Larry (who missed playing golf to help set up!). Neighbors, friends and relatives are all invited. -jb

## Traffic Calming Update

Members of the neighborhood Traffic Calming committee have been meeting with Interim City Manager, Ron McKinney, in an effort to "jump-start" many of the uncompleted recommendations from the long-running effort to achieve less and slower traffic through Hampton-Pinckney. The resignations of the previous City Manager and the Traffic Engineer obviously did not help an implementation process that was previously moving at a snail's pace. To his credit, Mr. McKinney has tried to get things back on track and there is some movement, particularly on the recommendations that were made about traffic on Lloyd



Street. In a related development, one of the concessions that the SCDOT has made on the design of the Western Corridor has been the redesign of the intersection of Lloyd Street and Buncombe so as to not encourage additional incoming traffic. -bl

## Car 54, Where Are You?



Even though Jim and I have been very busy with Jacob and Ella Claire, we met with Eric Lewis. He is going to provide us with an official crime report for January through March and his work schedule each month. Both will be shared at our next meeting. Jenni Garrett has also volunteered to help with Crime Watch. If you cannot reach us, please call her.

Here are a few reminders to keep our neighborhood safe:

1. When you go out of town, have someone turn your porch light on at night, collect your mail and newspapers, and call Eric Lewis to notify him how long you will be gone so that the patrols can check on your house for you. Be sure to turn your porch lights off during the day.
2. Keep your porch lights on at night when you are at home.
3. Lock up! Lock your cars and your home at all times. Keep valuables out of your car.
4. When driving home, take the "long" way home. Drive around the perimeter of Hampton-Pinckney. Look carefully and notice anything remiss.
5. If someone suspicious comes to your door, call the Greenville City Police. They will usually take them to a safe place such as the Salvation Army, if they are homeless.
6. Be a "nosy" neighbor (Mrs. Kravitz is coming out here!) We have found this to be very effective.

These suggestions were taken from the Crime Watch booklet. If you would like a copy, please let us know.

Also, call us if you see anything suspicious or if you have called the police about any neighborhood crime. This is necessary so that we can perform a follow up with Eric. If you do not call us so we can notify Eric, then he may not know about the incident and cannot help us learn more about what happened.

Two recent incidents within the neighborhood involve one on Hampton Avenue and one on Pinckney Street. On Friday, March 24, a man knocked on the windows of a home at 409 Hampton Avenue. Within a few minutes the police arrived and identified the perpetrator as a recent inmate who had just been let out of jail. The other incident occurred on Saturday morning,

April 1st at 9 Pinckney Street. Kaye Southerland observed a man breaking into her husband Mike's locked pick-up truck and stealing tools. The truck was backed into their driveway. A call to 911 elicited a quick response from City police officers who were investigating a break-in at Luthi's Sports and Pawn at 23 Butler Avenue. The responding officers were not able to apprehend the thief who, in his haste to escape, dropped all the stolen tools in Michael Hoffman's yard. This and the recent experiences of Miles Adair (10 Pinckney Street) and Charles Rolfe (314 Hampton Avenue) suggest that tools are desired and potentially vulnerable. -am

## Out of Africa's Take On Crime...

At our April 11th meeting we have scheduled some time to talk about crime, what has been done so far to curb it and what else can be done. In the meantime, though, here are a few important points:

- ◆ To paraphrase the Zombies--"It's the crime of the season." If you look back the last several years, it is pretty clear that spring and fall seem to be the times when we have the most incidents. Being more watchful right now makes sense.
- ◆ As Eric Lewis can document, most of the crimes we experience in the neighborhood are crimes against property or vagrancy complaints. It is also clear that, WITH EXCEPTIONS, many of the property crimes are crimes of opportunity--made easier by unlocked cars or sheds, unsecured items of some value, or preventable evidence that there is nobody around (piled up newspapers on the front walk, overflowing mail box, etc.). In no way does that say that the victim is to blame. It says that Crime Watch is as much prevention as it is calling 911.
- ◆ Some people are apparently embarrassed to call 911 for what they think might be perceived as a minor incident. Let the responding officers figure out whether they think it is minor once they get there. If they want to laugh about it later over a couple of Krispy Kremes, let them.
- ◆ When a pest control company comes out because you have a rodent problem or a swarm of bees or wasps, what do they do? They try to eradicate the nests. In the last several months, there has been some neighborhood action related to "nests." Last month's newsletter documented the effort, led by Bishop Alfred Simpson, to address the crime related problems that have been forthcoming from the big messy rooming house at 557 West Washington Street. While not completely solved, there is no question that the situation has markedly improved. Neighborhood based efforts have already been undertaken to

clean out and secure what is now City-owned property at 15 Lloyd Street. The last time that place was unsecured and was swept by city police, they took 28 (count 'em) vagrants out of there. If you do not think stabilizing that corner will help our crime watch situation, drive by and count the new deposits of trash (liquor and beer bottles mostly) that its previous tenants leave when they cannot get in. -bl

### “Way To Go” Department

Congratulations are already in order for Linda Price, 6 Pinckney Street, for her selection as one of ten finalists as Greenville County Teacher of the Year. Linda, who currently teaches at the School District's Golden Strip Career Center, previously taught at League Academy where she instructed many young Hampton-Pinckney residents. She was also the long-time host of the "Kitchen Show" on our local cable network. Linda and her fellow candidates have been subjected to some serious judging during the past few weeks but results will not be announced until August. Good luck, Linda! -bl

### Say Hello Victoria!

Hi! My name is Victoria and I am new to the neighborhood. I live on Pinckney Street with my mommie (Kathleen) and my Yorkie sister Miss Baby. I really like my older sister around; when I am quiet, she tells me what a great neighborhood this is to live in—lots of nice people and critters. I am looking forward to living here! Have a nice day and come see me! - kc



### The Scoop on Poop

When I got back from Africa, more than a few neighbors came by or called and asked how my extended business trip went. Eventually, a few conversations got around to what I like to call "Canine Fecal Syndrome." Spring has sprung and virtually every household in the neighborhood is actively engaged in yard beautification. Undercutting those efforts, unfortunately, are the yellow spots on the grass or the steaming piles that are caused by dogs. Leaving aside that there are some strays that come through and identifying the perpetrator is difficult after the fact, this is an appeal to all neighborhood dog owners to do whatever you can to prevent yours from contributing to the syndrome, on somebody else's lawn or flower bed. Here is my com-

mitment to doing so. We own three dogs--most of you have met "Scout" only--she is our very intelligent golden retriever who jumps the back fence to roam the neighborhood for a short period each day. As smart as she is, she has been known to make her "contributions" elsewhere. If she does in your yard, call us (235-2432) and we will come clean it up as quick as we can. -bl

### July 4th Picnic...Already?

You must be thinking that Amy must have way too much time on her hands to already be thinking about July 4th. Well, that may be true, but there are a couple of things I would like everyone to be considering. The first concerns food. What about the possibility that this year we try fried chicken instead of hamburgers and hotdogs? It would save us from having to wheel our grills out to the street and from heating up the already steamy July afternoon with more heat from our grills. I am sure all of you who have had to cook in previous years will not mind this change. If anyone has a problem with this, please give me a call. Secondly, volunteers are needed. Anyone interested should call me at 298-0346. Thanks! (Bob has already applied for the permit to close Pinckney Street on July 4th from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.)



Some of the Picnic volunteer opportunities include:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Chair              | Amy King          |
| Meat               | Need volunteer(s) |
| Children's Games   | Need volunteer    |
| Permit             | Bob Lloyd         |
| Tables             | Need Volunteer    |
| Music (microphone) | Need Volunteer    |
| Paper Products     | Need Volunteer    |
| Awards             | NeedVolunteers    |
| Dog Parade         | Need Volunteer    |
| Children's Parade  | Need Volunteer    |

-ak

### Center For Developmental Services at May Meeting

The May meeting of the Association will feature invited guests from the Center for Developmental Services (CDS), the shining refurbished facility at the corner of Hampton Avenue and Academy Street, that will collocate a variety of agencies serving child and adolescent development needs of the community. Since the CDS will be a new neighbor of ours and is holding its grand opening in May, we have asked Lesa Kastler, its Board chairperson, and Katy Smith, the Center's Executive Director, to attend our meeting on May 2 to tell us

about what will be going on as the Center begins its work. The possibility of a tour of the facility is also being explored.

In addition, some of our neighbors have been pulling together in small groups to take actions to try to improve some sites on the periphery of the neighborhood. Among the targeted zones are:

- ⇒ the open space lots between Hampton Avenue and Asbury Street off Hudson
- ⇒ the brick apartment building at 15 Lloyd Street which was recently acquired by the City of Greenville.

Reports about the status of these efforts will be shared at the May meeting as well. -bl

## Of Personal Interest

On Sunday, April 2nd, our community lost one of its oldest residents, the sister of the late Helen Ragsdale, Mrs. J.D. Isbell. Mrs. Isbell, who lived at 321 Hampton Avenue in the home that her father built in the early part of the 20th century, was just over 100 years old. She was buried in a private service this week and any donations are asked to be made to Meals on Wheels. -jb

## Important Reminders

- ◆ The next neighborhood meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2000 at 7 p.m. at Central Baptist Church.
- ◆ Important phone numbers – Eric Lewis, Community Police Officer: Pager: 217-3188, Work: 271-5333, Mobile: 616-2275.

## Letter From the Editor

The most important development affecting our neighborhood since BB&T's rezoning is the Western Corridor. Way back in 1995, several copies of the plan were distributed to people around Greenville for comment and letters were written to the State DOT detailing impending impact on our community.

We are not trying to stop construction of the Western Corridor. We would just like to soften the blow a bit, reduce it from seven lanes to five, and add some extra landscaping. This is going to be another one our "gateways" into Greenville, and we would like visitors to believe we care about Greenville and make the drive a pleasant one, and in addition accommodate the growing amount of pedestrian traffic to Heritage Green. Would you try to cross Pleasantburg Drive or Wade Hampton on foot? It is risky enough in the car!

I applaud the City and the new City Council for all their hard work and dedication to making Greenville a better place to live. And, if you can, go to the GRATS meeting on Friday and show your support.

There also seems to be a lot of emphasis about crime in this newsletter. I want The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette to be a "positive" endeavor to those who take the time to read it. My sister-in-law, who lives in a gated community in Mt. Pleasant, had all of her jewelry stolen out of her house a few years ago. So as you can see, even gates cannot keep the thieves out. The crimes that took place these past few weeks did not originate within the neighborhood, they came into the neighborhood. Part of the way to deter crime here is to clean up the "lures" existing outside our neighborhood. A few people living in our neighborhood have spent a considerable amount of their time and some of their money, trying to do just that.

This newsletter is distributed to many more people than just those that live in the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District as a way to inform others what a great place this is to live. Do your part in getting involved in the neighborhood and getting to know your neighbors in and around the neighborhood. Our monthly meetings are more than just "Crime Watch". We have a neighborhood association that includes "Crime Watch" as one of its many programs, among a full agenda. Yes, focusing on crime is important. Let's just try to keep a positive attitude!

*Judy*

## Thanks to Our Sponsor

This month's sponsor is once again Dorothy Clark, owner of Butler Manor. Thank you Dorothy for your generous contribution to the newsletter.—jb

Contributors this issue: Amy King, Anne Meyer, Kathleen Crispin, Bob Lloyd, Judy Benedict

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**Editor reserves the right to edit any material submitted.**