



The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

December 2000

Variety of Presents Under the Tree At Upcoming Meetings



The excuses to skip the next regular "First Tuesday" neighborhood meeting and simply get together while "walking about" on December 16 had sounded good. However, there are several agenda items that have carried over from recent meetings that suggest that the excuses should be shelved and dusted off in January. And, since construction signs have been sprouting all over our part of town and machinery is getting ready to roll soon, January isn't looking like a time we can avoid meeting.

DECEMBER 5, 2000—The next meeting will take place at Mattoon Presbyterian Church, 413 Hampton Avenue beginning at 7:00 PM. Pastor Don Johnson and several Mattoon parishioners attended our last meeting to discuss their community outreach activity and they have graciously agreed to host us this month. This will be a great opportunity to get better acquainted and to see their historic landmark facility which was built in 1888.

Our agenda for the evening includes the following:

- ◆ Welcome and Introduction of Guests
- ◆ Neighborhood Holiday Activities
 - Wreath Project Thank-You's
 - "Walk-About" Update-Sara Dellinger
 - Luminary Project-Anne Meyer
- ◆ Update on Hampton-Pinckney Calendar Project
- ◆ Labor Pool Problems and Responses-As discussed at our November meeting, some neighbors met in late October with representatives of the

In this issue...

Holiday Walk-About...Luminaries...Wreaths...History Corner...Next Meeting Information...Historic Calendar...

Greenville City Manager's Office, Greenville Police Department and Greenville Rescue Mission to discuss problems associated with the Labor Ready facility on West Washington Street. Follow-up to that meeting as well as to a specific letter request to Mayor White has involved a substantial police presence and reduced tolerance of violations.

Several key players in that response will be present at our meeting. They include: Lieutenant Myron Alderman, supervisor of community patrol, Greenville Police Sergeant Mike Gambrell, assistant to Chief Johnson, Greenville Police crime prevention officer, Melvin Lyons, and Labor Ready, Inc. manager Jack Case. - bl



Thanks for attending the November meeting that was held at Pentecostal Move of God Church: Bryan Wood, Bob Lloyd, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Kennedy, Billie Rutherford, Bobbie Parks, Kathleen Crispin, Margie Montgomery, Robert & Judy Benedict, Lynda Morrison, Lake Pitman, Bishop Alfred Simpson, Charles Hill, Larry & Sam Boyd, Eric Englehardt, George Bell & Betti Wright, Eric & Sara Dellinger, Pastor & Mrs. Don Johnson and others from Mattoon Presbyterian Church. - jb

Holiday Walk-About December 16

Yesterday I talked to my friend Rick as he was making his way over to the Dellinger's to work on some of their woodwork. Sara Dellinger has been hard at work behind the scenes arranging our next Holiday Walk-About and her home that also will be open. The festivities will begin at 6:30 and end by 9:30. All four homes will be opened the entire three hours. In addition to the Dellinger's, we will have the pleasure of visiting the Faulkner's, the Hoffman's and the Engle



bardt's home. A flyer should be coming around soon with additional details. -jb

Light Up The Night!

Light Up the Night on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th! Neighbors, please do not forget to purchase your luminary! \$6.00 will buy you one kit. Encourage your neighbors to take part so that the luminary wraps completely around Hampton-Pinckney! We need volunteers to help with set up and clean up. - am



Holiday Wreath Decorating Time Again

At the time of writing this article the wreaths are making their rounds appearing on our light poles. Jennie Garrett's idea of decorating our own streets is now heading into its fourth year, and going strong! I saw Deb Morse with some helpers placing them on Hampton Avenue and I know Pinckney, Butler and Lloyd will be needing some help from the rest of you. Please call Kathy Anderson or Amy King to see when you can help. -jb



New City Manager To Attend January Meeting

JANUARY 2—The contractors to the South Carolina Department of Transportation "Western Corridor" project have installed giant orange signs throughout the neighborhood for all to see. Without rehashing all of our five year old efforts concerning this project, a central concern for many of us has been measures that will mitigate neighborhood impact once construction is actually underway. These include such things as:

- ◆ implementation of remaining steps adopted in the neighborhood's January 1999 traffic calming plan
- ◆ prevention and/or minimization of cut through traffic generated by the project, particularly by construction equipment
- ◆ neighborhood friendly scheduling of construction activity (start and stop times)
- ◆ noise and dust reduction efforts
- ◆ effective monitoring of construction areas to prevent dangerous situations such as open pits and demolition sites;



- ◆ minimal utility disruption (water, gas, electricity, telephone).

A formal request for attention to and monitoring of such issues was made to the Greenville City Council at their meeting on Monday, November 27. The basis for the request was that, even though the project is not being supervised by City staff or contractors, the impact of the phase between Academy Street and the City line will be on City residents.

The City Council provided immediate and generally positive feedback and newly appointed City Manager Randy Oliver has already initiated a multifaceted effort to respond. Mr. Oliver believes that one feature of the program should be an opportunity for affected residents to meet with the multiple governmental and contractor parties responsible for the construction project. He has committed to arranging for those parties to be with us for the January neighborhood meeting and to attending himself.

While many of us have had more than our fill of Western Corridor related meetings, this one will be very important because it will be with the people who are going to be "moving dirt." Also, because the project impact area is bigger than our neighborhood, we are inviting residents of the Southernside and James Street neighborhoods to join us. The meeting will be held at Pentecostal Move of God Church, 325 Hampton Avenue, beginning at 7:00 PM. - bl

From Somebody Else's Mail Bag

In Florida, counting votes takes a long time; in Greenville, implementation of the things that are voted on is the slow process. As the two year anniversary of the vote on our traffic calming plan approaches (January 14, 2001 for those planning observances), neighbors may be heartened by correspondence received by Greenville's City Manager from Elizabeth Mabry, Executive Director of the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Responding to the City's request to transfer control of Hampton Avenue and Hudson Street back to the City, Ms. Mabry stated, " The Department generally does not object to removing roads from the state system and allowing local governments to maintain the roads, unless there are issues which make it desirable to retain state control. I am asking our District office and members of my staff to further review this request for approval... Once this review is complete, we will provide you with additional information." Transfer back to the City would



enable the installation of the traffic calming features voted on two years ago, bypassing state approval. -bl



The History Corner

The annual Hampton-Pinckney Holiday Walk-About takes place on December 16th and the History Corner this month takes a look at the history of each of the homes that will be open.

The O.P. Earle House at 18 Pinckney Street was built in 1918 by O. Perry Earle, Sr. who owned a pharmacy on Main Street. His brother was a physician who lived across the street at 9 Pinckney Street and the brothers were descendants of Elias Earle. Elias Earle is known as the builder of the "Great Wagon Road" that connected Tennessee to South Carolina. The Elias Earle estate was known as The Poplars and comprised property adjacent to what became the Hampton Pinckney neighborhood. The Earles sold 18 Pinckney Street in the sixties and it was used as a rooming house and later as an advertising agency before being purchased by Tom Faulkner III in the late 1970's. Tom and Becky Faulkner extensively restored their house which features distinctive architectural features that include a Dutch gambrel roof, Tuscan columns at the porch and a garland detail in the gable above the porch.



The O.P. Earle House at 18 Pinckney Street

The Rickman House at 17 Pinckney Street was built in 1905 by J.P. Rickman and is a striking example of the exuberance of the Queen Anne style. The Rickman house features a Dutch gambrel roof, wrap-around porch, gazebo, roof cresting, corbeled brickwork chimneys, and a porte cochere. It was built to resemble the

same design as Rickman's previous house in Hendersonville. It has nine fireplaces, inlaid oak floors, beveled leaded glass windows and pocket doors. The third floor was the Victorian male retreat area and Mr. Rickman enjoyed his billiards on a massive pool table on this floor. The current owners are Dr. Michael and Carol Ann Hoffman.



The Rickman House—17 Pinckney Street

The J.M. Geer/Mahon House at 309 Hampton Avenue was constructed in 1894 by J.M. Geer and sold in 1898 to G. Heyward Mahon, a former mayor of Greenville. The turret, wrap-around porch and second floor balcony are distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style. It is interesting to note that the house was covered with asbestos shingles and the porch had wood columns prior to its rehabilitation in the late 1970's. The current owners are Dr. Eric and Sara Dellinger who have recently finished extensive remodeling.



The J.M. Geer/Mahon House - 309 Hampton Avenue during a recent snowfall

The Briggs House (326 Hampton Ave. - ca. 1905) is notable for both its architectural significance and its role in local history. This distinctive two-story brick

house shows the influence of the Prairie style of architecture. The front porch with its Tuscan columns and dentils complement the prominent entrance pavilion and front door with sidelights and transom. Other exterior features include the bracketed cornice, quoins and porte corche. The interior is richly detailed with leaded and stained glass, parquet floors, gas chandeliers and pocket doors. The house was built by Henry Briggs, a mayor of Greenville and the husband of Lula McBee, a granddaughter of the "father of Greenville" Vardry McBee. The Briggs house often was the center of meetings of community and political interest and William Jennings Bryan, a candidate for President and famous trial lawyer (Scopes trial) visited Mayor Henry Briggs at his house. The current owners are Eric Englehardt and Beth Burris. -rb



The Briggs House - 326 Hampton Avenue

Bob Lloyd's Christmas Message

A few neighborhood occurrences lately have been the equivalent of screeching chalk against a blackboard-unpleasant. The case a couple of months ago when the media was contacted to serve as a watchdog for cars parked in the wrong direction has been supplemented more recently. One neighbor received a visit from the police because another had called about a barking dog. Another family received an anonymous typed letter in the mail addressed to "Homeowner." Some aging Halloween pumpkins had apparently offended the sender.

These didn't come to my attention as problems that needed to be solved. But, I have to admit that the way the situations were handled troubled me. I decided that someone should remind me and everyone else that there is probably a better way to handle these things. Not being an expert on the subject, I rooted around for authorities on getting mad and getting even. I found

three that appeal to the more rational and compassionate side of all of us and place things in the context of this time of year.

The first is from a book called "Neighbor Law" by Cora Jordan, a lawyer who works for Nolo Press, a publisher of self-help legal handbooks (Sorry, Eric). In her introduction, Jordan states, "Even small claims court judges dread fighting neighbors." After discussing the many reasons why such court cases are so problematic, she adds, "Then there are the majority of today's squabbles-the ones neighbors work out between themselves and the ones they don't. Some neighbors simply don't speak to each other, and some occasionally just grumble."

"Most of us go along day-to-day being cordial, never mentioning that a problem exists, except behind the neighbor's back. Sometimes, ...we admit that we despise the dadburned tree or ugly fence or barking dog. Often the offending person is never even aware of a problem. We don't dislike the neighbor, we don't want to cause a hassle...we don't know what to do about the situation..."

The second is from William Blake whom many of us were forced to read in English Lit 101 and then decided we liked because a few of his works became the basis for legendary rock and rock anthems. In a poem initially penned as "Christian Forbearance" but later retitled "A Poison Tree," Blake wrote:

I was angry with my friend,
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe;
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And, finally, there is Charles Dickens, whose 1843 effort to make quick cash to satisfy his creditors has become a holiday tradition rivaling evergreens. When he confronts Ebenezer Scrooge with the "Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come," Dickens has one of fiction's most famous regenerate villains promise "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

Here endeth the sermon. The literature suggests that if you've got a problem with one of our neighbors: (1) pick up the handy directory that one of our neighborhood barristers, Donna Kivett, recently updated, (2) ask yourself how Henry Kissinger or Madeline Albright would handle this if Middle East peace were at stake and (3) make contact directly. When you decide what to do, consider offering the object of your call what Scrooge, Marley and Cratchit would know as "a bowl of steaming bishop." The ingredients for such holiday punch are up to you.

However, anonymously delivered poison is apparently not recommended if you want a receptive audience. -bl

Do You Know Your Neighbors?

Whether your answer is yes or no get a neighborhood directory! Donna Kivett has distributed most of them but if you live within the Historic District and did not receive one, please call Donna. -jb

Calling All E-Mail Addresses

Wow! I received one more e-mail address since I placed this in last month's newsletter. DIRECTIONS:

1. Place this copy of The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette next to your computer
2. E-mail me at judy@giraffeweb.net
3. Now you will be added to our contact list! - jb

Historic Calendar In The Works

Our artist friend has been walking the neighborhood taking pictures to include in an Historic Calendar that is to be published by the Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood association. For an update, please come to the meeting on Tuesday. -am



Important Reminders

- ◆ The next neighborhood meeting will to be held on January 2nd, 2001. The new City Manager is the scheduled speaker.
- ◆ Look for the next issue of **The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette** for updates on new zoning regulations and the new Design Guidelines which become effective in January. -jb

Letter From the Editor

When I was younger my family would travel to my mother's hometown of Butler, PA, just outside of Pittsburg. I remember thinking how old everything looked. The brick or siding homes with the front porches that seemed so close that you could reach out your side windows and almost touch the house next door had no appeal to me at all. I liked everything new and sparkly. That attitude did not change until not too long ago when someone educated me, making these old homes come alive for me.

The other night I had the "Images of America

Greenville" book sitting on my desk which inspired a conversation with a woman who was at my house and had grown up in Greenville. She remembers the old Ottaray Hotel, how the front facade was painted white and how the older folks would sit up on the balcony overlooking Main Street. She also remembers the cables still hanging on Main Street from the trolley cars. And the other day I was speaking with someone about The Daniel Building, which is now called The Landmark Building but will always be The Daniel Building to me, no matter who moves in and renames it.

We still have the Daniel Building, which in the not too distant future will be considered an historic structure. But, we don't have the Ottaray Hotel, the Sans Souci Country Club, the homes on Buncombe and Washington, the trolley cars, the old Train Depot or the Record Building. However, all of you can have mementos of these properties because the Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission has printed note cards with pictures of many of these lost treasures on the front. And soon, they will be offering old maps that will help you determine where these properties were located. Sometimes you never realized the importance of something until you lose it.

Judy

Thanks to Our Sponsor

Well, Reid Talyor was sponsoring this issue of **The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette** but I never had time to go by his house before he moved to pick up his check. So I am sponsoring this issue! -jb

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