



# The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

February/March 2001

## City's Arborist Will Speak At Combined Feb. - Mar. Meeting

This Tuesday's meeting news: The February and March meetings have been combined. On February 27, we'll convene at the old club house-Central Baptist Church-at 7:00 P.M. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Dale Westemeier of the Greenville Parks and Recreation Department. Dale serves as City arborist and is responsible for plantings and city maintenance activities in public spaces. Accordingly, he should be an expert on crepe myrtles. He'll discuss our public spaces in the neighborhood (e.g. the existing plantings along the sidewalks and the coming traffic islands) as well as the applicability of the City's tree ordinance. And, with his expertise and experience, he can surely answer any questions that neighbors have about trees and bushes on our own properties. Also included on the agenda will be:

\*Introduction of our new Community Patrol Officer from the Greenville Police Department, Corporal M.L. Gilliard.

\*Election of Officers and Solicitation of Volunteers—The draft ended in 1973 so willing volunteers are the only way to fill key roles for 2001.

\*Update on Other Activities—Calendar Project & City Government Consideration of Adoption of Property Maintenance Code to Address Dilapidated and Substandard Structures

January meeting news: Hampton-Pinckney, joined by those from three other neighborhoods that will be affected by the Western Corridor project

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(Southernside, James Street and Heritage), attended the January meeting. Fifteen staff members from the various agencies and firms (City staff, SCDOT and Fluor Daniel) involved in the project and two members of the Greenville City Council were present also. Thanks to all that attended: Leslie Fletcher, John Castille, Mike Ridgeway, Brad Wyche, Reid Hipp, Sara Dellinger, Travis Seward, Wade Cleveland, Patrick Duvall, Larry Boyd, Thomas Henderson, Deborah and Keith Rodgers, Rebecca Neuren, Anne and Jim Meyer, Rosa James, J.M. and Lillian Flemming, George Bell, Bobbie Parks, Billie Rutherford, Judy and Jonathon Baxter, Tena Looper, Kathleen Crispin, Margie Montgomery, Winn Freeman, Mary Duckett, Sue Taylor, Rebecca Lawrence, Bettie Blanton, Bessie M. Smith, Mary Windsor, Lt. Randy Evett, Sukey Reid, Duwan Dunn, Gretchen Otte, Joyce Wilson, Susan and Tom Cobb, Randy Green, Hope Roark, Ben Smith, Francis Freeland, Bob Lloyd, Judy Benedict, John Michael McCalley, Jennifer Henderson, Della and Robert Settles, Glenn Kennedy, Tom Faulkner, Randy Oliver (City Manager), and representatives of SCDOT. -jb

## City Adds TV & Phone Line Updates on Construction Progress

At the City Council meeting on Monday, January 8, and within a subsequent letter to City Manager Randy Oliver, a request was made for an aggressive public information campaign to include printed material, use of the City's cable TV channel and website, and a recorded telephone message. The targets for such a campaign should include not only those of us who live in the area affected by the construction but also those commuters from outside the immediate area who pass along the major streets adjacent to our neighborhood. In response, Mr.

Oliver arranged for a regular telephone line (467-ROAD) which will carry information not only about Western Corridor but also other construction projects within the City such as reconstruction of the South Main Street bridge. In the midst of our own traffic calming program coming to fruition, this should help alleviate some of the future construction traffic problems as the Corridor moves closer to our neighborhoods. -bl

## "Garden Variety" Traffic Calming

During the City Council meeting on January 8, the request for full implementation of the Hampton-Pinckney/Southernside Traffic Calming was renewed along with suggestions for a downtown truck route and adoption of a 25 mph speed limit within residential areas. The latter would make our neighborhood and others consistent with school zones-something that we urged as part of our traffic calming plan. At-large City Councilwoman Michelle Shain agreed to have the speed limit issue as an agenda item for her Council "Quality of Life" Committee.



Several traffic calming recommendations have been bottled up by a combination of factors, not the least of which is the fact that affected streets (Hampton, Hudson and Mulberry) are part of the state highway system. Suggested measures (speed humps, islands, and possible closure) required the approval of the S.C. Department of Transportation. Numerous requests, proposals, and revisions were met with rejection by the state or further delay. In early October of 2000, despite obvious reservations, the City made a formal request to assume maintenance responsibility for Hampton and Hudson. The state responded that it normally does not object to such requests and agreed to study it. In the meantime, the state has been proceeding to develop regulations that would allow installation of traffic calming features on state roads. It now appears that those factors have led the state to approve installation of our specific requests on Hampton Avenue without the City having to take over maintenance. Tangible evidence of that commitment are the paint marks that have been put down to identify where the humps and islands will go.

The issue of cut-through traffic proceeding into the neighborhood along Hudson from the Post Office remains a big open question along with pedestrian friendly improvements on Mulberry. For reasons that escape some of us who were involved in the first round of traffic calming research in the fall of 1999, additional traffic counts have been performed in the Post Office drop box area. The new counts may show that there is a cut-through traffic problem that originates at that

location. -bl

## Neighborhood Clean Up Time Again

The winds will blow and the trash will flow! It is time to get out and clean up the streets again. We have designated March 31 as our clean up day. Please look for a flyer prior to the event. -am



## Sweep the Streets!

Everyone should have received a card in the mail but as a reminder, the City has expanded their street sweeping program. In order for this great program to be a success, we need to cooperate. The City has asked for us not to park our cars on the street and clear the curb lines of leaves, yard debris or waste between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursdays during March, May, July, September and November. Our normal trash pickup day is Tuesday, so we should not have any trouble getting our garbage cans and recycle bins out of the way by Thursday. Let's show our support to this program and if you have any questions or comments you can call the Department of Public Works at 467-4335. -jb



## More Notoriety for HP's Brightest And Best

On Tuesday, January 16 an editorial in The Greenville News entitled "Cleveland Set Example" congratulates neighbor Wade Cleveland for his twelve years of service on the Greenville County Council. In case you missed it, the piece states, "All retiring council members have received their recognition plaques and kind words, but a councilman who made contributions of the caliber of Cleveland's deserves more... He has set an extremely high standard for public service." It concludes, "Our community will be the winner if someday he decides to re-enter politics." You know he's done a good job when someone says they want him back! -bl

## Watch Out Strom!

If you think that Strom Thurmond is the only South Carolinian who can get things named for him while he's still living, you should follow that portion of the bicycle path along the Reedy River that starts beyond the Governors School for the Arts and Humanities.

After you cross the metal bridge and under Cleveland Street, you'll find a sign identifying the "Brad Wyche Section of the Reedy River." The section continues past the F86 Memorial to Major Rudolf Anderson all the way to McDaniel Avenue where another sign signals the opposite end. Unless these signs mean that Brad has exclusive clean-up duty for that part of the river, congratulations are in order. Brad's sustained commitment to environmental common sense in Greenville and throughout the Upstate is deserving of recognition and support. He was *for* the River before it was trendy. -bl

## Car 54, Where Are You?

If anyone has been out at all in our neighborhood over the past few weeks, you would see that Car 54 has been here, greatly curtailing the speeding and the cars that run through the stop signs. We are so grateful to the Greenville Police Department for the extra support they have given our neighborhood. Anne Meyer has written Chief Johnson a personal note of thanks and has asked us to take the time to thank them ourselves.



We also would like to thank Officer Lewis for all of his hard work as our Community Patrol Officer and wish him well in his new position in the downtown area. Our new officer is Corporal M.I. Gilliard. He will be present at the next meeting to meet all of us and Anne Meyer will have a flyer for you with all of his contact numbers. jb

## Calendar Shaping Up

The calendar committee will have their next meeting on Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at Anne Meyer's house. They will be discussing sponsorship of the calendar (and if you would like to be a sponsor, or know of someone who would like to be a sponsor, please let Anne know). They also will be arranging a location for a viewing of the paintings to be used on the calendar. Some of the paintings will be available to view at the May neighborhood meeting. Anne is requesting that if anyone has any neighborhood photos of people or events that they would like included on the calendar, to please drop them by her house before the meeting. - am



## Fires Burn Two Homes

Over the past month two of our neighbors homes caught fire. On Christmas day, the home of Wade Cleveland and Travis Seward was host to 14 family members when a fire truck showed up at their

front door. Some candles burning on the mantle caused a fire that burned the mantle, some of the wall and the crown molding above the fireplace.

A few weeks after the Hampton Avenue fire, another fire gutted large portions of the Barksdale and Brown residence at 109 Lloyd Street. A call went out to Hampton-Pinckney residents for cash contributions to help these neighbors in their time of difficulty. Enclosed is a letter from the Evonne, Brandy and Arlga:

## To - The Residents of the Hampton-Pinckney Community Thank You

Some of you stood with us in sympathy during the course of our house fire or spoke words to assure us that everything would be well again. Some gave much needed advice, said a prayer for us, or offered us blankets, flashlights, candles, food, or electrical items. Some neighbors offered the use of their home and checked with us to see how we were progressing. Another neighbor offered the use of his electricity, covered windows to keep out the elements, and installed a lock to give us added security. After all these acts of kindness, we were amazed by the extraordinarily generous monetary gift from the Hampton-Pinckney Community. The ultimate gift of this adversity has been the knowledge that people are so caring and generous. The words "Thank You" seem insufficient to express what we feel, but they are heartfelt. Whatever you did - Thank You!!!! God is good, and we praise Him even in our adversities. We know that "this too shall pass." May God bless and keep you all.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Barksdale, Arlga & Brandy Brown  
109 Lloyd Street

## The History Corner

The corner of Butler Avenue and Buncombe Street is undergoing a major transformation with the demolition of the former Coca Cola annex buildings in anticipation of the construction for the Greenville History Museum and new main library. Across the street, where Gene's



Restaurant is located today, was a large, distinctive residence belonging to one of Greenville's most prominent families of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was the home of Jefferson Davis Gilreath and his family. J. D. Gilreath was the son and deputy of Greenville's most famous sheriff Perry ("P. D.") Gilreath. Sheriff P.D. Gilreath was sheriff of Greenville County from 1876 to 1900 and was known as "the sheriff who never carried a gun". Perry provided Greenville with law and order during a tumultuous time as Greenville was recovering from Reconstruction. There are written accounts of firm but fair dealings with attempted lynchings, moon shiners and other incidents. The photograph below is J. D. Gilreath's house when he hosted his parents 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1905. Members of other notable families (and descendants of the Gilreaths) in the photograph include the Furmans, Bartons, Clinkscales, Earles and Hungerfords. (Thanks to Earle Hungerford for supplying the photographs.) - rb



The Jefferson Davis Gilreath Home  
Corner of Butler & Buncombe  
The 50th Anniversary of P.D. & Emily Taylor Gilreath Wedding,  
1905

## Of Personal Interest

- ◆ Amy, Jamey and Ginny King have a new addition to their family - James Anderson King, who was born in January.
- ◆ Please welcome Reed Wilson, Brock Koonce and Stewart Caldwell who have moved into 101 Lloyd Street. -jb
- ◆ A special thanks goes out to Jennie Garrett, Michael

Morse, Bob and Keith Lloyd for taking down the wreaths.

## Important Reminders

- ◆ If you did not receive your neighborhood directory, please contact Donna Kivett at 213 Butler Avenue.
- ◆ Please read the enclosed letter from Mr. Oliver concerning several issues mentioned in this newsletter.

## Letter From the Editor

In January I attended a meeting at City Hall where it was announced that the City is planning the adoption of the International Maintenance Code. At this point I know very little about the code except that it is more stringent than our current zoning. We talked about how the Code will better allow the City to take action concerning dilapidated or substandard property. I became a little concerned because it seems like a group of people are already falling through the cracks and losing their homes because they don't have enough money to fix them up. To receive low interest loans or qualify for the World Changers Volunteer program, the owner must be below a certain income level. I don't know of a program like The Salkehatchie Summer Service in the Upstate and Christmas in April is only for disabled seniors.

We have had someone in our community who may be above the minimum income level, but needs help fixing up her house. Several of us are most concerned about this woman, whose home has been in her family for generations and it would be unfortunate if she lost her family home. If anyone knows of an organization that could help, or would like to be part of a team to help her, please let me or Anne Meyer know!

*Judy*

## Thanks to Our Sponsor

This month's sponsor of **The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette** is Dorothy Clark. -jb

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**The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette** is published 10 times a year. All information to be included in the newsletter must be submitted in writing no later than seven days prior to the first Tuesday of each month. Editor:

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