



# The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

February '99

## Y2K Presentation at February Meeting

The next meeting of the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District will take place on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. at Central Baptist Church (activities room - Lloyd Street entrance). Resident Kathleen Crispin will present potential problems with Y2K and sources to use for determining how it can affect us. Eric Lewis, our Community Police Officer, will also be present at the meeting.

The January meeting consisted of a presentation by Ed Ritts of the Greenville Historic Foundation.

Thank you for braving the cold to attend the January Meeting: Robert Benedict, Ed Ritts, Jim Townsend, Kathleen Crispin, Claudia Price, Judy Benedict, George Bell, Betti Wright, Margie Montgomery, Eric Englehardt and Beth Burris.

Visitors are always welcome. -jb

## History Museum To Be Located Adjacent to Hampton-Pinckney

The keynote speaker at the January meeting for the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District brought the best news to our neighborhood in years. Ed Ritts, Executive Director of the Historic Greenville Foundation, announced the new History Museum will be located at the corner of Atwood and Buncombe. The Foundation was created in the early 80's to obtain property surrounding the Peace Center for the purpose of establishing a history museum. The Foundation felt that people in the area could be bet-

ter informed and educated in the history of Greenville. The Museum will establish a forum within which to teach an appreciation of Greenville's past. Greenville's history is quite unique from the rest of the state of South Carolina.

The corner of Atwood and Buncombe, 1.4 acres in all, has been donated to the Foundation (this does not include the Coca-Cola building). A 30,000 square foot History Museum with 2 2 floors is now in the final design stage by the HOK architectural firm. Construction is expected to begin within the next 18 months. The design of the facility will complement the homes in the Historic District by incorporating arches and other architectural elements from the old Women's College that was located on Village Green. The Exhibitions will place the visitor into a specific time period to get a feel for life during particular eras in Greenville history. The Museum is not underwritten by the City or County of Greenville and with a six million dollar construction budget, donations will be graciously accepted. For any additional information, or to make a donation, please contact Ed at 467-3100. The Historic Greenville Foundation is located at 123 West Broad Street, behind the Peace Center.-jb

## Traffic Calming Defined

The following was taken from the Editorial Page of *The Greenville News*, Sunday, January 10, 1999.

### Long past time for use of traffic calming here

Your recent editorial "Calming Traffic" misses the mark. You express caution about recent efforts by local jurisdictions to control volume and speed of traffic through residential neighborhoods and state that "research is noticeably lacking about the long-term advantages to these artificial impediments to speeding drivers." Your pejorative and doubting tone suggests that perhaps you should get out of the office more often.

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Traffic calming has long been popular in Europe and has been successfully pursued in U.S. cities like Seattle, Portland, Milwaukee, Austin and Sarasota. It is also more than "speed bumps," as a trip up our own Main Street or down to Charleston would show you.

The Federal Highway Administration and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have conducted numerous studies that reinforce the wisdom of well planned passive restraints that slow drivers when there's not a police officer around. One shows, among other things, that pedestrians have an 85 percent chance of surviving if they're hit by a car going under 18 mph while they have the same chance of being killed by one going 35 mph or more.

As the only major newspaper in an urban county where pedestrians are usually treated with the same deference as possums and where yield signs and yellow lights are often an excuse to floor it, your editorial fails the public. Local officials should be applauded for any proactive efforts they make to respond to legitimate complaints about unsafe conditions. Our county leads the state in traffic fatalities. Traffic calming devices in combination with aggressive enforcement make sense here. It's long past time for more research!

**Robert M. Lloyd**

*Greenville*

## Resident Dog Speaks

Hi! My name is APapillion Victoria Virginia@Crispin, although my Mommie most often just calls me Virginia, or Sweet Pea. I am a four pound Yorkie who lives at #26 Pinckney Street with my two sisters: a hyperactive Yorkie named Miss Baby and a fluffy couch potato Shih Tzu name CheChe.



I wanted to say a few words from my canine perspective about how great it is to live in the Hampton-Pinckney Historic Neighborhood. There are so many nice people here who live with very special fluffy critters. Before my arthritis got so bad, Mommie used to walk me around the block. I always enjoyed those trips since I got to visit with my many friends like Misty, the beautiful and friendly doggie who lives with the Garretts and Angus, the very handsome Singletary spaniel. I do miss Caroline, the Basset who moved with Eric and Beth over to Hampton Avenue, although occasionally I can hear her plaintive Abaying@ (I think she misses me.)

Its so great to live in a neighborhood where the folks care about each other and where they not only know each other's names but also the names of their fluffy companions. What a great place!

Love, Virginia Crispin - kc

## HTraffic Calming Meeting Jan. 14

On January 14, the Traffic Calming Committee, along with City representatives Pat Fleming, Roger Dyar and Hartley Cooper, presented their findings. Deborah Rogers addressed the data collected and the problems

found by the Committee. The problems identified were as follows:

1. Excessive cut-through traffic
2. Excessive truck traffic
3. Speeding on Hampton and Pinckney Streets
4. Ineffective signage
5. Poor coordination between City, County, and State on transportation projects

Kathleen Crispin presented the recommendations to solve these traffic concerns. Improving Mulberry as a major connector, reducing the speed limit to 25 mph in the area, making Lloyd Street one-way leading out of the neighborhood, installing speed humps, islands and landscaping, and closing off Hudson at Asbury were just a few of the actions listed. Questions were taken and at the conclusion of the meeting ballots were distributed to allow voting on the recommendations that will be presented to the City for consideration. Ballots could be mailed to the Traffic Engineering Office up to 10 days after the meeting. We would again like to thank the Traffic Calming Committee for all their hard work and dedication to this project: George Bell, Deborah Rodgers, Mary Duckett, Bob Lloyd, and Kathleen Crispin. -kd

## The History Corner

Four churches have played an integral part of the history of Hampton-Pinckney and continue to help preserve the character of the neighborhood.

Central Baptist Church was organized in 1893 with 89 members. The first location of the church was on Rutherford Street and was called Rutherford Street Baptist Church. In 1904, Lula McBee Briggs (326 Hampton Avenue) and Melinda Penelope McBee Landrum (402 Hampton) donated the land that became the existing location of Central Baptist Church on the corner of Pinckney and Lloyd



Central Baptist Church

Streets. The Gothic Revival design has Gothic arch windows, a castellated tower with buttresses and a stepped parapet. During



the fifties and sixties, the gymnasium and education annex were added.



Matoon Presbyterian Church

Matoon Presbyterian Church is the oldest surviving Black church in Greenville. Organized in 1878, the church structure at 415 Hampton Avenue was built in 1887 and features handmade bricks and distinctive hooded windows and buttressed walls. The ground floor of the church was originally used to house a parochial school (grades 1-9). The school and church played a significant role in the cultural life of Blacks in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Holy Trinity Anglican Church at the corner of Lloyd Street and Buncombe Road was built in 1914. This handsome stone church was designed in the Gothic Revival style and features buttresses, lancet windows and an oculus window over the entranceway. It also has a distinctive slate roof.

The Pentecostal Move of God Church, formerly Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, was built in 1919 at the corner of Hampton Avenue and Hudson Road. The two-story brick structure has large pilasters that form stepped parapets.

A fifth more recently formed church, Universal Fellowship Of Metropolitan Community Churches at 314 Lloyd Street, is a distinctive stone structure which originally housed Haynsworth School before it relocated to East Park Avenue. It was constructed circa 1925.-rb

WANTED: Historic photographs of the neighborhood. I would like to borrow photographs of the people, buildings, etc. to scan for future issues of *The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette*. If you can help, please call me at 271-5220 or e-mail me at RCBENED@aol.com. I am also looking for anecdotes, information on historic events, etc. that would be appropriate for the History Corner. A wealth of history exists in our neighborhood that needs to be shared! A special thank you goes to the Adairs for the use of their archives on the neighborhood. -rb

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tion of North Carolina, Inc.

## Help Do A Good Turn...

A portion of the Southernside Community, which is adjacent to the Hampton-Pinckney Historic Preservation Area, was included in the on-going neighborhood "Traffic Calming" study. As those who attended the Traffic Calming meeting at Central Baptist Church on January 14 are aware, many residents of Southernside were attending their regularly scheduled "potluck dinner" on that same evening. Accordingly, several representatives of the Traffic Calming Committee, along with Bishop Alfred Simpson of The Pentecostal Move of God Church, went to the Southernside meeting afterward to brief these neighbors about the proposed Traffic Calming measures.

The "potluck dinner" presented a good opportunity to get acquainted with some of the folks from Southernside, a few of whom have lived in the neighborhood since before most of us were born. A couple of cases in point are Mrs. Ethel Compton and her sister, both of whom are in their eighties. Unfortunately, these active ladies live in housing on Oscar Street (a block below West Washington) that is in dire need of some routine maintenance. What is needed might easily be accomplished in an hour or two by a crew of helpers willing to employ some garden and hand tools. The work would probably be no more of a time investment than the recent "Holiday Wreath Detail". Those organizing the effort will be trying to schedule something on a weekend in February. If you would be interested in helping call Bob Lloyd (235-2432) or George Bell (242-9229). -bl

## City And County Planning News

A tiny legal notice on an obscure page of *The Greenville News*, January 28, 1999, alerts us to the next City activity that needs monitoring. A public hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 1999 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall to "consider the elements and maps pertaining to land use and community facilities for the City of Greenville Comprehensive Plan." The Plan that is referred to is the City's "Big One"--it is supposed to guide development and zoning decisions in the future and replace the 1988 version which has been amended to death by piecemeal actions like moving central business district zoning across Academy Street in the direction of the Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood. It is a fair bet that other studies like the Downtown Transportation Plan, the West Washington Street Traffic Study, and the plans for the Western Corridor and Stone Avenue Extension will be incorporated into the "Comprehensive Plan". It is important that we monitor this and provide input. Watch this space for

more information in future issues of *The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette*.

For those who are gluttons for such punishment, the County Council is having the same kind of meeting on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:00 P.M. to consider comments on the County's draft comprehensive plan. In its own inimitable way, the County has dubbed its document "Designing Our Destiny". If you weren't scared before, you should be now. -bl

## Of Personal Interest

- C Thank you to Patrick Duvall for his leadership the past year and a half as head of the Neighborhood Association.
- C Thanks to Patrick and Kristen Duvall and Kathy and Keith Lloyd for helping to distribute the newsletters.
- C Congratulations to all of our neighbors with babies born within the last year:
- j Jacob Meyer, born March 30, 1998, son of Jim and Anne Meyer
- ? Hayley Benedict, born April 17, 1998, daughter of Robert and Judy Benedict
- j Erik Rolfe, born October 6, 1998, son of Charlie and Mary Beth Rolfe
- j Nicholas Mostoller, born December 10, 1998, son of Pete and Jennifer Mostoller
- ? Catherine Duvall, January 25, 1999, daughter of Patrick and Kristen Duvall -jb

## Important Reminders

- C The next neighborhood meeting will be held Tuesday, March 2<sup>d</sup>, at 7 p.m. at Central Baptist Church.
- C If anyone has anything they want to add to the meeting agenda for discussion at the meeting, please call Robert Benedict at 271-5220 or e-mail him at RCBENED@aol.com.
- C Important phone numbers - Eric Lewis, Community Police Officer. Pager: 217-3188; Work 271-5333; Mobile: 616-2275.
- C Our next neighborhood event will be an Easter Egg Hunt, headed up by Becky Boyd. The hunt will take place sometime in March (Easter is April 4th). -jb

## Letter From the Editor

I wrote the last newsletter during our ice storm, frantically trying to finish it before we lost our electric-

ity. Somehow this time we were lucky because almost everyone around us was without power, some for several days, but we stayed warm (and the computer kept working!). Because of the cold, not many people made it to hear our wonderful speaker, Ed Ritts, at the January meeting. I strongly urge you to help support the History Museum and to help us to try to preserve what is left of the Coca Cola building, which I hope to give you more information about in our next issue.

Judy

## Thanks to Our Sponsor

This issue of *The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette* is sponsored by Charlie and Mary Beth Rolfe. -jb

Contributors this issue: Kathleen Crispin, Bob Lloyd, Robert Benedict, Judy Benedict, Kristen Duvall

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