



The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

January 2000

Raise the Hunley Slide Presentation at January Meeting

The next meeting of the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District will take place on Tuesday, January 4th at 7 p.m. at Central Baptist Church (entrance at Lloyd Street). Following this short business meeting to organize and kick-off the 2000 Neighborhood Association program, we'll be treated to a short slide presentation about the efforts to raise the Confederate submarine, the Hunley, which sunk off the coast of Charleston during (pick one):

- (a) the War Between the States
- (b) The Civil War
- (c) The War of Northern Aggression

Media mogul Ted Turner has been instrumental in the effort to raise the ship and serves on the board of directors along with Clive Cussler, Strom Thrumond and our own George Bell. Since Ted can't attend our meeting (wasn't asked) on such short notice, George Bell has agreed to show his slides of the project.



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At the meeting we will "pass-the-hat" to collect money to pay for the ownership rights to www.hamptonpinckney.com.

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At the December meeting we elected officers and committee chairpersons and added the office of Fundraising.

Thanks to the following Hampton-Pinckney residents who attended the December Meeting: Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Kennedy, George Bell and Betti Wright, Robert and Judy Benedict, Patrick Duvall, Billie Rutherford, Bobbie Parks, Kathleen Crispin, Jim and Anne Meyer, Eric Lewis, Leonard Price, Claudia and Irene Price, Margie Montgomery, Eric and Sara Dellinger, Lynda Morrison and Deborah and Keith Rodgers. - bl & jb

New Officers Elected

The following is the list of Officers and Committee Chairs that were elected at the December meeting. Please note that we are still looking for a person to organize the July 4th Celebration. Maybe that perfect person is YOU! -jb

2000 Officers and Committee Chairs

Chair:	Bob Lloyd
Welcoming Committee:	Deborah Rodgers
Treasurer/Secretary:	Claudia Price
Fundraising:	Robert Benedict
Newsletter:	Judy Benedict
Government Liaison:	Bob Lloyd
Crime Watch:	Anne Meyer
Traffic Calming:	George Bell
Neighborhood Clean-Up:	Deborah Rodgers

Easter Egg Hunt:	Becky Boyd
4th of July:	??????????
Holiday Walk-About:	Sara Dellinger
Neighborhood Directory:	Donna Kivett

Help Save Our Children

The Surface Transportation Policy Project, a Washington D.C. advocacy group, conducted a study which determined that more children die from pedestrian accidents than infections, *E-coli* and accidental shootings combined. In one year alone, 440 kids ages 18 and under died from accidental gunshot wounds, 8 from air-bag injuries, and 3 from *E-coli* infections. In that same year, those children that died from being hit by cars - 837.

The group recommends that parents can help to reduce this number by lobbying for **traffic-calming measures, such as speed bumps and islands**, to slow down motorists. "Neighborhoods today are designed for cars, not pedestrians—and especially not for children," says Ron Kienitz, executive director of the project.

The Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood not only has a problem with speeding cars, but volume of cars. The traffic-calming measures we have waited for this past year-and-a-half would help alleviate these two problems. Because after all, saving the lives of our children is the most important reason to institute a traffic-calming program. -jb

Message from Bob Lloyd, Our New Association President

Thanks to Robert Benedict...the Hampton-Pinckney Neighborhood Association has enjoyed a string of successes during the last year.

By showing that continuing effort and attention to an activity is the surest way to guarantee positive outcomes, Robert has led our neighborhood through a full year of events, activities, and involvements that have demonstrably improved the cohesion of the place. His genuine good attitude and the ability to ask others for help and gain their commitments has assured that the neighborhood association is a real one and not a figment of someone's imagination. Groups like this one are like a lot of other voluntary associations — you can't force someone to attend or participate; you can't make everyone agree on a course of action; and you have to be prepared for the occasion when someone will have their sensibilities stepped on. With those realities, most of us can look back over the last year and remember some

things that we did as part of the group that we're glad about. Robert's steady leadership has been a key ingredient in making that possible.

So, what do we do for the next year? Well, certainly, some more of the same. Fun events like the Easter Egg Hunt, the annual Fourth of July street celebration and the Holiday Walk-About have become neighborhood traditions. The fact that different neighbors come forward every year to do some of the "heavy lifting" for those events says something very positive about Hampton-Pinckney.

The monthly "First Tuesday" meetings are no longer a form for just venting complaints, particularly because Robert lined up a series of outside speakers who have had some interesting things to say about neighborhood history and context. The meetings should still serve as a way to watch crime or express a concern about a condition that not everyone may be aware of. And, in that context, they should provide a means to quickly grasp a problem and step toward a solution. Since we don't live in an antiseptic, gated, suburban community, there will continue to be a need for us to do some of that. A few ideas have already been floated about ways to maintain the momentum of the monthly meetings. Beyond motivational talks by Lou Holtz and Tommy Bowden and perfect attendance awards, all thoughts are solicited and welcomed.

Unfortunately, there remains plenty of unfinished neighborhood business relative to the activities of the city and state governments. Three years ago this month, four neighbors met with Mayor White in his office. There, we heard about two important and seemingly exciting initiatives that were just underway — the Poinsett Plaza project and neighborhood traffic calming. If you look out an upstairs window now that all the leaves are off the trees, you can probably see the completed Poinsett Plaza project gleaming in the distance. Unfortunately, if you look out your front door, you won't see much calmed traffic. High volume, excessive speed, and illegal "thru trucks" still plague the neighborhood despite a couple of years of meetings and effort. Those of you who talk with the Mayor and some members of the Council know that they have a level of frustration about the delays that comes close to matching our own. Hopefully, this year will be the one that changes that. Closely related are nearby transportation projects that are inching in our direction — the Western Corridor, the Stone Avenue Extension, and the West Washington Street redevelopment. In the long view, they're all potentially positive. But, we're still going to need to monitor these activities and stay involved. A renewed effort to get our historic district signs refur-

bished should also be on our agenda.

So, for 2000 in Hampton-Pinckney — some fun, some work —some neighborhood. And, thanks again, Robert! -bl

Holiday Wreaths

A correction must be made to our “thank yous” from last month for hanging the wreaths. Bobby Critser helped to hang the wreaths on Hampton Avenue, not Larry Boyd. Sorry Bobby! -jb

Holiday Walk-About News

Thanks to Betti Wright for her consistent efforts arranging our Holiday Walk-About and to all the people who graciously opened their homes - Lynda Morrison, The Whitworths, The Novacks and the Rolfes. Each year it seems to get better and better! - jb

Luminaries A Success!

The second annual lighting of the luminaries took place the night of the Holiday Walk-About and was a huge success. Many thanks to those of you who set up and lit your own luminaries and also to Jim Meyer, Robert Benedict and George Bell who spent a joyful two hours prior to the Walk-About setting up and lighting the remaining luminaries. Hats off to Anne Meyer for buying all the supplies and organizing this spectacular light show. - jb



The History Corner

Hampton-Pinckney and Greenville 100 Years Ago...Looking Back....

In 1899, our country had just 76 million citizens (today it exceeds 210 million) and Greenville was still a small upstate town with only 9,000 residents. Like the rest of the country, it was a town of dirt streets, horse drawn carriages, kerosene lamps and outhouses. Largely rural in character, Greenville resembled the rest of the country in many respects. Only 40% of America lived in cities in 1899 and the average workweek was 59 hours with the average paycheck of less than \$10 a week. However major changes were on the horizon and like today, national and global events were starting to change Greenville. Two such events played a major role in shaping our neighborhood 100 years ago.

The Spanish American War was underway in

1898 and Greenville was selected to have a military camp for troops destined for duty in Cuba. Camp Wetterill was established in late 1898 and encompassed Whitehall on Earle Street. According to Henry Bacon McKoy, the historic residence was used as a nurses' home for the hospital corps. The property was owned by E.E. Stone at the time and today is the residence of former Hampton-Pinckney residents, Chuck and Rita Stone. The military camp extended from Buncombe Street almost to present day Wade Hampton Boulevard. Another section of the camp was located near Mills Mill. Several thousand troops from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, West Virginia and New Jersey were stationed at Camp Wetterill. Greenville opened its arms to the troops and many of the nearby homes were opened with hot food for the soldiers during one of Greenville's harshest winters. The Greenville News later reported that the friendship of Greenville's Capt. W.G. Sistine with General Leonard Wood during the Spanish American War brought the General to Greenville and eventually led to the establishment of Camp Sevier during World War One.

Another event occurred in 1899 that significantly changed Greenville and Hampton-Pinckney. The Greenville Traction Company was granted a franchise by the city that year to establish and operate an electric trolley car system. Previously a horse-drawn street railway system had been operational and primarily served the two railroad terminals and the business district. By 1895, municipalities such as Richmond and Baltimore had successfully changed over to electric trolley cars and plans were underway for Greenville to upgrade its public transit system. The horse-drawn railway system ceased operating and the tracks dismantled and sold for scrap. On January 1, 1901, the electric trolley car system became a reality for Greenville. The original line ran from the Southern Railway Depot on West Washington Street to Main Street. Additional tracks were added to the established textile mills and the San Souci Country Club.



Greenville Trolley Car circa 1900

The popularity of the Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood can be largely attributed to the emergence of the trolley car system. The trolley cars offered convenient transportation to most of the town and our neighborhood was within easy walking distance from several trolley stops.

The coming years saw dramatic changes with the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 and a young vice president named Theodore Roosevelt assuming the presidency to lead our country for the next seven years. Queen Victoria also died that year which was the symbolic passing of the Victorian era. The next several years saw the Wright brothers successfully fly their airplane and the "great age of invention" brought on by men like Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. A hundred years ago our ancestors could not even begin to foresee the changes ahead. One would have to believe that the same is true for us! - rb

Know What I Like About Hampton-Pinckney...

...There are neighbors who will pick up litter even when it isn't in front of their house.—bl

Of Personal Interest

Hampton Avenue residents Pete, Jennifer and Nicholas Mosteller have moved to a new home in Greer. We will miss seeing them and Nicholas playing in their front yard! -jb

Important Reminders

- ◆ The February Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2000 at Central Baptist Church
- ◆ Important phone numbers – Eric Lewis, Community Police Officer: Pager: 217-3188, Work: 271-5333, Mobile: 616-2275.
- ◆ Neighborhood meetings are scheduled the first Tuesday of each month.
- ◆ If you have something you would like to discuss at any if the meetings please contact Bob Lloyd prior to the meeting so he can place your request on the agenda.

Letter From the Editor

Well, it is Saturday, January 1st as I sit here to write this letter from the editor. The electricity is working, the water is running and the telephones are ringing. Last spring things didn't look so great. A lot

of work was done behind the scenes to keep our lifestyles up to par. The world did not end, however, another millennium has ended as well as the 20th century. Even though we only ordered three extra bottles of water, I was thinking that we placed our total confidence in our local and national governments in maintaining our utilities, food and gasoline supplies. What if there was a true disaster? How many of us are really ready? I heard several stories about people who took all of their money out of the bank and buried it in their garage under several feet of concrete. Others cashed in all their money for gold. Some built fortresses in a remote area with generators and stockpiled canned goods and ammunition. For the majority of us, we place our trust in the good old U.S. of A. This is a great country we live in and we just happen to also be lucky enough to live in a great neighborhood - the Hampton-Pinckney Historic Preservation Area.

Judy

Thanks to Our Sponsor

This month's sponsor of *The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette* is George Bell and Betti Wright. -jb

Contributors this issue: Bob Lloyd, Robert Benedict, Judy Benedict

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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