

The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

May 2001

Details About The New Library On Tap for May 22 Meeting

This Tuesday meeting's news: With apologies to those eager neighbors who tried to attend a combined May/June neighborhood meeting on May 15 and couldn't find one anywhere, the actual gathering will take place on **May 22 at 7:00 PM at the Center for Developmental Services (CDS)** at the corner of Hampton Avenue and Academy Street. Joining us will be **David Suddeth**, who chairs the Board of Trustees for the Greenville County Library, along with several key County and construction agency staff who are involved in the construction of the new Main Library on the old Coca-Cola plant site. They will give us the details about what to expect over the next few months as the project begins to take shape. Since virtually every Hampton-Pinckney resident gives lip service to the benefits of living so close to the Library and most actually mean it, this meeting will be a great opportunity to hear about the future of this community resource.

Following the presentation by our guests, we'll give just enough attention to other neighborhood activities, including the 4th of July Celebration and the Calendar project. Please enter CDS at the Hampton Avenue (back) entrance. The CDS conference room is being used for a class on our meeting night, so we'll be meeting in the big open lobby area that runs the entire length of the building. That area, which is loaded with lots of bright colorful and comfortable chairs appears to hold about 400-500 people, so don't be shy about attending. If you're lucky, you won't get another chance to attend a neighborhood meeting until September.

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Thanks for attending the April meeting: Kathleen Crispin, Larry and Sam Boyd, Bishop Simpson, Jeff, Tracy and Sara Tiddy, Diane Smock, Carol Anne and Michael Hoffman, Anne Meyer, Robert Benedict, Bob Lloyd, Corporal Gilliard, Mel Lyons and Travis Seward. - jb & bl

Why Did They Cut That Tree?

A stump that is about a yard in diameter is all that is left of an oak tree that graced the sidewalk area in front of the Hoffman's house at 17 Pinckney Street since before most of us were born. A City of Greenville crew made relatively short work of the tree on April 24, leaving some of us feeling a little naked and others raising the question-why did they cut it down?



The cutting was triggered by calls to the City's Grounds Maintenance unit, made by a couple of neighbors concerned about the health of the tree. The absence of new leaf growth on many of the limbs had some thinking that a pruning might be in order. However, when Dale Westermeier, who heads that unit and has become a particular friend of Hampton-Pinckney over the last few months because of all the help he has provided, examined the old oak, he found it afflicted with hypoxylene canker. This is disease that he warned us about during the March meeting of the Association that is affecting a lot of the City's older trees and is apparently easily spread. Some individual property owners in the neighborhood have had unfortunate experiences with their own trees which have lost substantial limbs in ice storms or been unrooted altogether. The resulting damage to their properties and, in some cases, adjacent ones is well known. Fortunately, there haven't been

any personal injuries.

The lesson for all of us is to monitor the trees that are close by whether they are on public property or private. For many consecutive years, the City of Greenville has won an award as a Tree City USA in part because of its efforts to conserve trees. So, as he offered at the March meeting, Dale and his staff members (467-4350) are willing to advise residents about the health of specific trees. They can't prune or cut on private property. But they are certainly interested in avoiding a situation where they are having to remove a tree that fell off of private property onto the street. And they've often had to watch from a distance when somebody was dealing with the misery that a fallen tree generated in their back yard, across the top of their car, or in the middle of their living room. - bl



Easter Egg Hunt a Hit!



Thanks to the quick actions on the part of Becky Boyd and Tracy Tiddy, the neighborhood Easter Egg hunt took place the day before Easter. Betti Wright and George Bell offered the use of their yard for the occasion. And, although they were not home when it occurred, they did find evidence of a few eggs still hiding in the bushes when they arrived home.



What Goes Around, Comes Around

In a decidedly understated fashion, the Greenville City Council May 14 voted unanimously to rezone a portion of the block between Whitner and Butler and along Hampton. A little later on in the same meeting, they voted to sell the re-zoned land which had been deeded to them by BB&T to Butler Avenue LLC,

developers of the Commons at Hampton-Pinckney. The next day, the Greenville News carried an article that accurately captured the surface details of what went on. But, of course, most of us know that there was a lot more to it than that.

The latest City Council actions were taken by a group that, with one exception, either wasn't on the Council in late 1995 and early 1996 or, if they were, voted to support the positions this neighborhood took in attempting to preserve residential zoning on that critical block and to block central business district zoning being allowed to cross Academy Street in our direction. Hopefully, what they brought to the City Council with them or what they've learned since they joined up will encourage them to be a lot more careful about future planning, zoning and economic development decisions. Their predecessors were basically from the old South Carolina business development tradition-give away the farm. The current Council has some new opportunities to test their skills that are nearly as close to our neighborhood as the Butler-Whitner block is. They have recently requested proposals for development of City owned land on both sides of Mulberry Street between Pinckney and Buncombe-across from the future entrance of the Stone Avenue extension. What happens there will have major impact on us because of traffic patterns and the potential for commercial activity. Elsewhere, a variety of parcels on West Washington Street will finally be getting attention once a consultant's economic development study is released near the end of this month. If anyone doubted that change was in the wind in our area, they need only go to the end of Lloyd Street and gather in the view of McDonald's that was not there prior to this today (May 17).

The irony of the reversal of fortune on the Butler-Whitner block is that many of the most active protagonists in the original zoning fight have moved on. The former Mayor and four of the five councilmembers who voted to give BB&T what they wanted and then proved they couldn't use, no longer hold public office. The key executive point man for BB&T has retired. Four people have warmed the City Manager's chair since the departure of the one who helped engineer the bank deal. And, of course, several neighbors who were in the center of the controversy are gone as well.

Pretty soon, we'll be welcoming some new neighbors who will be moving into the townhomes. A few of them have already taken the trouble introduce themselves around or to show up at City Council meetings where the subject was traffic calming. That they

have done so and that they're investing so heavily along with the rest of us speaks loudly and clearly. As a wise current neighbor said the other night during a sidewalk conversation, "Something was always going to have to happen on that block. Thank goodness it finally turned out right." - bl

Local Women Make Big Commitments

The long search for people to head up our two big social events for the year has ended. After solicitations in several consecutive editions of the Gazette failed to raise any volunteers and announcements at previous neighborhood meetings were met by wall-gazing or swift exits, two volunteers have come forward. Diane Smock (21 Pinckney Street, 271-4381) has agreed to handle the 4th of July Celebration and Sara Dellinger (309 Hampton Avenue, 232-4951) is back for a second consecutive run at our December Holiday Walk-about. Sara is clearly a glutton for punishment since it was previously announced in this space that she was off the hook for having managed the 2000 event. The explanation from one of her neighbors is "she likes that stuff!"

Both of these fine people are going to need help and Diane will need it pretty soon. The closure permit for Pinckney Street has been submitted to the City covering Wednesday afternoon, July 4 from 1-6 PM. Since the holiday falls in the middle of the week, your "long weekend away" little credibility. Attendance will be easy and fun. Please watch for a special announcement in mid-June, identifying the activities and seeking to spread the heavy lifting around so every one can enjoy the event. We're, of course, looking for ways to top last year's visit from the replica of the Hunley. - bl



History Museum Groundbreaking Celebration!

Don't miss this Monday, May 21st at 4 p.m., the Greenville Regional History Museum ground breaking scheduled to take place at 540 Buncombe Road (the corner of Buncombe and Atwood Streets). Let's all show up in support of this endeavor undertaken by the Historic Greenville Foundation. - jb



The History Corner

An adjoining neighborhood, comprised roughly of Atwood Street/West Park Avenue and known as The Heritage Neighborhood, has requested local historic district designation from the City of Greenville. This neighborhood has a rich and interesting history in addition to its architectural significance. Most of the homes were built during the early decades of the 20th century in Craftsman and Colonial Revival architectural styles. The area behind the Coca Cola building was a working dairy that supported the Greenville Women's



College formerly located on the site of Heritage Green. The dairy also offered stabling for the horses belonging to the employees of the college and a number of college employees lived in and around this neighborhood. The Heritage Neighborhood also served as the center of Greek culture in Greenville. Many of the residents attended St. George Greek Orthodox Church and chose to live nearby. Some of Greenville's most prominent Greek residents grew up in the neighborhood including former Lt. Governor Nick Theodore, who grew up on Barrett Street. The Francis family, one of Greenville's leading philanthropists were long-time residents of Atwood Street. Unfortunately, their boyhood home was demolished for a parking lot. Other prominent Greenville residents of the Atwood/West Park Avenue neighborhood include former mayor and distinguished attorney Captain John Barrett Marshall. Captain Marshall served as mayor from 1909 until 1911 and was responsible for many of city's road improvements including the Main Street Bridge. Other recognizable family names from The Heritage Neighborhood include Peace, Pearce, Hughey and Mayo. Long-time *Greenville*

News editor and Furman sports publicist "Scoop" Latimer also lived on Atwood Street.

With construction now underway on the Greenville History Museum and new main library, The Heritage Neighborhood provides historic character complementing these high-profile buildings. Best of luck to The Heritage Neighborhood as they pursue their local district designation. - rb

Important Reminders

- ◆ 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 May, July, September and November.
- ◆ Don't forget to call 467-ROAD for updates on construction surrounding the neighborhood!
- ◆ Please look for an important letter that the calendar committee will be sending out to the neighborhood residents within the next few weeks. For any additional information or updates, please visit our website at www.hampton-pinckney.org. jb



Letter From the Editor

Since we are not planning to have another neighborhood meeting until after the summer, **The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette** will probably not be published again until just prior to the next meeting. I therefore plan to utilize the several hours I work on the newsletter to work instead on the web site for the neighborhood. Last fall I purchased www.hampton-pinckney.org, and since then we have just had a few pages up there that I threw together in a hurry. If anyone would like to help me work on the content, or have any suggestions, please let me know. If you are not on our e-mail list, send me your email so that I can send you updates to see the site as it progresses.

See you around the neighborhood!

Thanks to Our Sponsor

The **The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette** is sponsored this month by Reid Taylor. - jb

Call! When You've got a problem with City Services. It works--a polite, mild-mannered person answers the phone and actually follows up on your complaint or concern.-bl

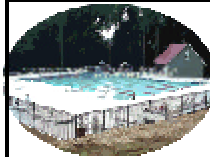


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Contributors this issue: Bob Lloyd, Robert Benedict, Judy Benedict

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:

Judy Benedict, e-mail: judy@giraffeweb.net
Mailing Address: 411 Hampton Ave. Greenville SC 29601