

The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

October '99

Candidate Forum on Agenda for October Meeting

The next meeting of the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District will take place on Tuesday, October 5th, 7 p.m., at the Candidate Forum to be held at the Greenville High School Auditorium.

Our guest at the September meeting was Winn Freeman, Director of the Greenville Rescue Mission on Washington Street. Thanks to Larry Boyd for supplying us with the food from Schlotzsky's.

Thanks for attending the September meeting: Tom Faulkner, Mimi Garrett and Rosalyn Hester (guests of Rev. Simpson), Rev. Simpson, Becky and Larry Boyd, Eric Lewis, Nancy Wilkes, George Bell and Betti Wright, Jim Townsend, Margie Montgomery, Winn Freeman, Robert and Judy Benedict, Deborah and Keith Rodgers, Jenni Garrett, Bob and Keith Lloyd, Kathleen Crispin, Anne Meyer, Leonard Price and Amy King. -jb

Candidate Forum October 5th

The Candidate Forum sponsored by the Neighborhoods United for Excellence (NUE) will be held Tuesday, October 5th at Greenville High School auditorium from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tom Faulkner will serve as moderator. Please place the enclosed flyer (on the back of this newsletter) on your refrigerator and mark your calendar for this event. When you en-



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ter the auditorium look for the Hampton-Pinckney sign. Each neighborhood will sit together to make it easier for questions to be asked and so the candidates will know to which neighborhood they are responding.

This event is being held for all of you! NUE wants all of us to determine for ourselves which candidates are truly "neighborhood-friendly." Even though we are not voting for our City Council representative we will be voting for Mayor, City Council At-Large and Water Commissioner on November 2nd. With all the critical issues our neighborhood faces, it is imperative that you attend the Candidate Forum. Please tell those that live around you and any of your friends that live within Greenville's City limits about the Candidate Forum and why they should attend. If you need any additional information please call Judy Benedict at 271-5220 or Peggy Garland at 241-0298.

Greenville Rescue Mission Helps The Least, Last, Lost

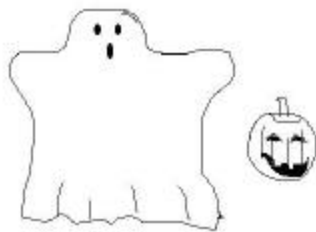
Winn Freeman knows what it feels like to be on his last leg. Ten years ago, he was addicted to alcohol and heroin and had lost everything that was dear to his heart. Today, he is the Director of the Greenville Rescue Mission on Washington Street. The Mission is now the largest in the Southeast and held its dedication ceremony and cookout several weeks ago. With seven family apartments and 176 beds for men, the mission helps those who need a place to stay, whether from homelessness or addictions to drugs. Those who want to help themselves can enroll in "an in-house Christ-centered ministry seeking to reach those imprisoned by addiction" called the "Overcomers". The program can accommodate 40 men and an extra 25 who have graduated from Overcomers.

These men live under strict guidelines where they awake at 5:30a.m., go to work and must go straight back to the mission. All meals are served at the mission. Seventy-three percent complete the program and are doing well at least one year later.

At last count, there were approximately 500 homeless in Greenville. Mr. Freeman wants to form a coalition of those organizations that help the homeless in order to help get these people off the streets, get them jobs and help them battle their addictions. He encourages tours of the facility. To contact him call 242-6933.-jb

Halloween – BOO!

A few weeks ago a group of children from the Southernside Community were selling candy on Hampton Avenue. As they were leaving the home of George Bell and Betti Wright, one of the older children turned around to George and told him how much he enjoyed



Halloween every year at his house. This is the kind of feedback we like to hear! Well, it is once again time for Halloween which falls on a Sunday night this year. We are asking those that wish to accommodate Trick-or-Treaters to turn their lights on. Last year Officer Lewis and another Officer walked the neighborhood in their Halloween Costumes (actually their police uniforms) and distributed candy. We welcome all the children from around Greenville who like to Trick-or-Treat in our Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood. Our children and adults have a great time too. –jb



Hayley and Alexis Benedict sit on Santa's lap at George and Betti's house last Halloween. Hayley just found out she had to wait until she was a teenager to ride in Santa's sleigh.

Crime Report

Within the last few weeks we had a break-in at one of our neighborhood homes on Lloyd Street.

Please be on the lookout for anything suspicious going on around the neighborhood. Who to call? Eric Lewis is our Community Police Officer and can be reached at: Pager:217-3188, Work: 271-5333, Mobile: 616-2275.

At the September meeting Eric brought along Police Officer Nancy Wilkes who is in charge of the Buncombe Street area. Should you need to contact Officer Wilkes, call 271-5333. –jb

Historic Homeownership Assistance Act

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is working on an Act that would give up to a 20% income-tax credit (maximum dollar amount of \$20,000) for expenses incurred in rehabilitating "owner-occupied homes in qualifying historic districts." You can write or e-mail your congressman expressing support for this Act or you can log onto the Trust's web site at <http://www.nationaltrust.org> to find out more information. –rb

The History Corner

An event that has been called "the worst catastrophe in Greenville history" occurred near Hampton-Pinckney on November 19,1946. A gas explosion at the Ideal Laundry, located at the corner of Echols and Buncombe Streets, caused devastating destruction to homes, churches and businesses along Buncombe Street and in our neighborhood. Six people were killed and 120 injured. The force of the explosion was so strong that it was heard 60 miles away. Ten homes were completely destroyed with another 120 damaged. Four churches and numerous businesses were also damaged. Plate glass windows were blown out on Main Street.

Mr. And Mrs. Glenn Kennedy are long-time residents (almost seventy years) of our neighborhood at 603 Hampton Avenue. Mrs. Kennedy was pregnant with their first child at the time of the explosion and Mr. Kennedy was in the antique business making a pick-up of an antique sofa on that fateful afternoon in 1946. He heard the explosion on Augusta Road and immediately drove home. When he arrived home he discovered 19 windows blown out and two chimneys toppled at his residence. His front door was blown open. On a humorous note, upon hearing the explosion, Mrs. Kennedy's first reaction was that Glenn had driven his truck into the house causing the destruction. Mr. Kennedy recalls that many homes had substantial damage with cracked plaster and broken windows. A number of the homes never had the plaster fixed. Judy and I have a better appreciation of the cracked plaster walls in some of the rooms in our first home on Pinckney Street.

Mr. Kennedy laughed when he recalled how one employee of Ideal Laundry was thrown from the building and landed on top of the adjacent building.



The employee got up and walked away unnoticed. He was reported missing and feared dead. However several days later he turned up without injury.

As devastating as the explosion was, it could have been even worse. The routeman delivering propane gas for the gas furnace noticed the smell of gas and a vice president of Ideal Laundry, E.R. Haynie, immediately turned off the gas to the main boiler and evacuated the plant. He also notified the firemen, next door at the Echol Street Fire Department and the gas company. Unfortunately, the explosion occurred fifteen minutes later. The Ideal Laundry and the adjacent fire station were completely destroyed and never rebuilt. -rb



"Betty Walker's Mother's House on Hampton Avenue." This photograph is part of the Coxe Collection at Bob Jones University. Now, you tell us where was it located on Hampton Avenue. (It is not Eric and Sara Dellinger's house like we originally believed.)

Important Reminders

- ◆ The next neighborhood meeting will be on election day, Tuesday, November 2nd, at 7 p.m. George Bell plans to show us his slides of the Hunley.
- ◆ The Holiday Walk-About is scheduled to take place Saturday, December 11th. Anne Meyer is working on the luminaries.
- ◆ Important phone numbers – Eric Lewis, Community Police Officer: Pager:217-3188, Work: 271-5333, Mobile: 616-2275.

Letter From the Editor

At the meeting in September I feared that Winn Freeman and the Rescue Mission would be unfairly blamed for many of our problems. We have so much foot traffic through our neighborhood that sometimes we just don't feel safe. Our major concern is the

"Build It and They Will Come" - with the expansion of the Mission to the largest in the Southeast. We also have three Labor Pools surrounding our neighborhood that force people to walk through our streets to go from one to the other. The corner of Butler and Washington is apparently now a well-known pick-up spot for those who want to work in a construction job for the day. Many of these people are homeless. Therefore, I am very excited about Mr. Freeman's idea about forming a coalition of agencies that work with the homeless so that maybe there can be a way to help these people.

I started this newsletter because at every neighborhood meeting I heard the same complaints, and nothing being done to correct the problems. I wanted a way for our voices to be heard and an impetus to get the people in our neighborhood to get out of the "victim" mode and into the "action" mode. Maybe we can help Mr. Freeman in his quest.

Thanks to Our Sponsor

This issue of *The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette* is again sponsored by *Judy Shepard*, who donated stamps for two mailings of this newsletter. -jb

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Contributors this issue: Robert Benedict and 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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Want a Puppy?
A golden-retriever mix, less than six months old has been abandoned. He is trying to fight for attention where he is living now but there are three older dogs living there already. The Animal Shelter will take him but will put him to sleep - they don't let the puppies be adopted. He is free to a good home. Call Bob or Kathy Lloyd at 235-2432 to take your new puppy home with you today!

Candidate Forum

Sponsored by.....

Neighborhoods United for Excellence

Promoting Neighborhood Friendly Solutions



Please join us to meet the candidates running for
Greenville's City-wide elections on November 2nd!
We will gather at the Greenville High School Audi-
torium at 7p.m. on Tuesday, October 5.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Neighborhoods United for Excellence

Phone: 241-0298