



# The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

Spring 2002

## Neighborhood Meeting Takes Place At CDS On April 23

The Meeting Respite is Over...But, with spring, warmer weather, and a variety of agenda items that deserve attention, that stretch is over. The next meeting for the Hampton-Pinckney Neighborhood will be held on **Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 PM. The Center for Developmental Services (CDS)** at 1 Hampton Avenue has graciously agreed to allow us to use their facility. This will be an important meeting as a nominating committee will be formed for upcoming elections.

The Agenda for the Meeting is:  
1. Activities and Commitments: At the March 26 new residents' coffee, a neatly decorated sign-up sheet produced multiple sign-ups to help with a variety of current and prospective neighborhood activities. This level of signatory support cannot go unrewarded. We need to organize our long-standing events like the 4th of July Street Party and the Holiday Walk-About.

2. Money: The neighborhood association has existed for many years without much need to discuss money. When an activity required legal tender, some type of "hat" was passed and willing donors emerged. That has changed. The very successful Hampton-Pinckney calendar project has generated considerable funds. The money raised has been deposited with a local bank. However, appropriate internal control procedures need to be established for continuing custody and access, identification of appropriate projects, and ultimate disbursement. We would like to arrive at a consensus on these subjects based on

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the good ideas of those attending. - bl

Thanks to those who came to the new member drop-in held at Anne and Jim Meyer's home March 26, 2002: Jenni Garrett, Larry & Becky Boyd, Travis Seward, Phyllis Jones\*, Marv & Krystal Gray\*, Robert Creech\*, Margie Montgomery, Robert, Judy, Alexis & Hayley Benedict, David & Cremora Carter\*, Bob & Kathy Lloyd, Michael Hoffman, Billie Rutherford and Bobbie Parks, Patrick & Kristen Duvall, Corporal Gilliard, Claudia Price, Sylvia Stevens (friend of Claudia), Deborah & Keith Rodgers, Beth Burris, Betty Adair, Betti Bell, Eddie Sue Ware, Lynda Morrison, Mary Beth Rolfe. \* new to the neighborhood. - jb

The neighborhood association received the following note from Kathleen Crispin in response to our recent gift in memory of her mother-in-law:

"Please express my thanks to our neighborhood for the gracious and kind gift to the Bob Jones Gymnasium Project. I really appreciate your remembering Mom in such a wonderful way; it really has touched me that you would do that. Thanks so much."

## BI-LO Seeks Community Input

Three representatives from the Operations unit of BI-LO supermarkets recently met with the Heritage Neighborhood Association (the neighborhood behind Heritage Green) and invited guests from other neighborhoods that are served by the company's store at the corner of North main and Park Avenue. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit neighborhood ideas about how to improve the store. While a representative of our

neighborhood was invited to attend, a schedule conflict precluded attendance. However, a follow-up with Tom Cobb (108 Atwood Street, 232-4505), President of the Heritage Association, provided the following information:

- ◆ the company has explored expansion options at that location which are largely unrealistic given the facilities available and the economics;
- ◆ the company is not looking to close the store but wants to find ways to make it more functional and attractive; they recognize that, for many customers, the store takes on the role of convenience store rather than "stock up" supermarket;
- ◆ continuing to offer a full range of products (i.e. dog food, detergents, etc.) rather than "cherry-picking" food items (a la "The Fresh Market") would continue to limit the company's options;
- ◆ some suggestions from attendees focused, among other things, on cleaning up the cash register and inside front areas which are currently crammed with sizable cigarette sales cabinets and other assorted junk; if you've been in there recently, you'll notice some of that has happened.

The BI-Lo representatives agreed to accept additional input from attendees and other interested customers. If you want your voice heard, contact Tom Cobb at the number above. - bl

## Hampton-Pinckney "Flora & Fauna" Report

There are several developments affecting trees, plants, and other things that have "sprouted" from the public spaces in our neighborhood:

- ◆ The young trees and other plantings in the spaces between the sidewalks and the streets in the neighborhood have received a healthy dose of mulch, courtesy of our friend, City Parks and Grounds Administrator Dale Westermeier, and his crews, who manage all of the landscaped public spaces in the City. For those who may not know or who are newcomers to the neighborhood, the City of Greenville not only owns the sidewalks but those narrow spaces between the sidewalks and the streets where many of us plant pansies, monkey grass, and other stuff.
- ◆ One of Dale's crews has just recently made more mulch by grinding the giant tree stump in front of Central Baptist Church. Like a number of other trees in the neighborhood, that one was a victim of hypoxylene canker, a disease that affects older oak

trees. Some of our earlier winter power outages have been hastened by limbs falling from canker-ravaged trees. Please keep a close eye on any older trees near your property for signs like rot, limited leaf growth (in spring) or the appearance of mushroom-like growths on the bark. These are signs that the canker may be at work and that the tree is vulnerable to toppling on its own. Call Dale at 467-4350 so he can come out and get a look at it.

- ◆ Dale's crews have been planting redbuds in selected public areas along Butler Avenue. Also, the white signs that warn about the traffic islands on Hampton have received a color makeover. The current prevailing view is that, in their current configuration, they detract from the attractiveness of the plantings.
- ◆ With all of the medians, triangles, and other public parcels that are sprouting welcome greenery throughout the City, the Parks and Recreation Department has launched an adoption program, called "Adopt-a-Scape." In exchange for an agreement to help maintain a specific location, neighborhood associations, other nonprofit groups and businesses can receive the same kind of sign recognition currently meted out for litter control efforts. On a less formal basis, Dale and his crews would also appreciate any help with watering the public space vegetation.
- ◆ Finally, please don't commit "*crepe murder*." This is



Photo courtesy of  
Schneider Tree Care

what the City staff calls it when a citizen takes it upon themselves to prune the crepe myrtle trees that are planted all over the City, including within Hampton-Pinckney. The objective of planting similar sized trees at the same time a few years ago was to create a canopy effect when they grew and blossomed. Aggressive pruning of a few

trees undercuts that attempt at attractiveness. - bl

## Western Corridor Impact Committee Formed

The City of Greenville has helped organize the "Western Corridor Impact Committee," a gathering of neighborhood representatives and senior City staff members to address some of the ongoing disruptions and other issues associated with the construction of the

Western Corridor within the City limits. Representatives of the Hampton-Pinckney, Southernside, Heritage and Viola Street neighborhood associations are being asked to identify problems and suggest solutions to City staff. Representatives from the Police and Fire Departments, Codes Enforcement attend the meetings that are being staffed by John Castile, the Assistant to the City Manager and Leslie Fletcher, the City's Neighborhood Communications Coordinator. - bl

## Changes Underway at Central Baptist

After many years of declining membership, the deacons and parishioners of Central Baptist Church ceased operations at their 37 Pinckney Street facility. The congregation's final service was held the last Sunday of February. The Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Mr. Ray Gray, clarified their plans:

- ◆ Most Central Baptist Church parishioners will be joining Earle Street Baptist Church. According to Mr. Gray, this is somewhat ironic because that church was something of a spin-off of Central decades ago;
- ◆ Central Baptist will continue to own the facility and be responsible for its upkeep. It will be "making the facility available" to three other congregations for church related activities. These include the Grace Church, which has for the last few years conducted services in the Central Baptist gymnasium and has displayed a temporary banner during those times. Grace Church will now be moving to the main sanctuary for its Sunday and Wednesday worship activities. The pastor of Grace Church, Mr. Bruce Walker, will be using parish offices at Central and is likely to be on site for a part of each week day. In addition, a predominately Hispanic congregation will start to use the gymnasium for their services and a smaller predominately Vietnamese congregation will be using the smaller auditorium where the neighborhood association has met so often in the past. These three congregations are apparently still working out what times on Sundays they will be holding their services. As always, their parking will be confined to the paved and grass lots which Central owns between Pinckney and Hampton on Lloyd and to legal spaces on Pinckney.
- ◆ According to Mr. Gray, there are no plans for use of

the church facility for what might be termed "rescue mission" activity—such as overnight domicile or routine feeding programs. Rumors to the contrary are false. In fact, he stated in our phone conversation, "Someone from outside shouldn't notice any difference from the way things are now."

- ◆ As City Zoning Administrator Bryan Wood explained to a neighborhood meeting early last year, the city zoning ordinance permits churches in areas (like ours) that are zoned single family residential. Typical service activities that are carried out by churches thus fall within the rubric of the zoning ordinance. The City's design guidelines which cover construction and alteration activity within designated historic overlay districts (again, like ours) have no bearing on permitted uses. If Central or its occupants wish to make changes to the outside of the facility, they would have to seek a Certificate of Appropriateness from the City in the same manner that other affected property owners are supposed to.
- ◆ Central Baptist Church has been a good neighbor to us. It has provided us with a free place to meet, allowed us to regularly borrow its tables and other equipment, and its people have responded positively and forthrightly to every inquiry and request we've made. When other good neighbors have moved away, we've been sorry to see them go. This case is no different. - bl



## The History Corner

With the relocation of Central Baptist Church's congregation to Earle Street Baptist, Hampton-Pinckney lost a longtime fixture of the neighborhood. Organized in 1893, Central Baptist Church had over 1,200 members at its peak prior to World War

II. Many of its members walked to church, however the increased popularity of the automobile after the war and the suburbanization of Greenville gradually led to a much smaller, and mostly elderly, congregation in recent decades.

Central Baptist's Gothic Revival sanctuary was built in 1904 and has become one of downtown's most distinctive churches. The architectural design features prominent detailing of the Gothic Revival style with its castellated tower accented with tall buttresses and Gothic arch windows. It is truly a neighborhood church, without massive parking lots or imposing frontyard setbacks characteristic of newer, suburban churches. The

ministry always reached out to the neighborhood by graciously providing the use of its activities building for neighborhood meetings and loaning tables for the Fourth of July picnic. Central Baptist also played an active role in the Baptist community by helping with the formation of ironically, Earle Street Baptist and Pelham Road Baptist Churches. - rb



Central Baptist Church Sunday School Classes of 1922. Although we have tried to confirm the building's identity, we cannot say with certainty that it is a prior version of the present-day Central Baptist Church. The picture was taken March 5, 1922. (Photo courtesy of Diane Eldridge.) - rb

## Of Personal Interest

- ◆ Welcome to our new kid on the block: Josh Tiddy, born in February to his parents, Tracy & Jeff Tiddy and his big sister, Sara.
- ◆ Welcome to our new neighbors: Susan Reynolds, Phyllis Jones, John Foster, Brian Smith, Robert Creech, Jim Oliver, Mike & Nancy Yeargin, Nancy Smith, Jane Brice, Marv & Krystal Gray at the Commons at Hampton Pinckney and David & Cremora Carter, of 213 Butler Avenue.

## Important Reminders

- ◆ Please let me know if someone new moves into the neighborhood so I can include them in the next issue of *The Gazette*!
- ◆ I am still collecting our resident's email addresses! Please send me an e-mail to [judy@giraffeweb.net](mailto:judy@giraffeweb.net) so I can include you on important neighborhood e-mailings!
- ◆ Get ready for someone to be knocking on your door to retrieve your information for a new neighborhood directory. jb

## Letter From the Editor

I received an interesting email the other day asking me if I knew that "*The Gazette* is read all the way in the United Arab Emirates by the Gulf of Arabia." I was at first a little stunned until I realized that Bobbie Parks was sending it to her son, Rip. He then continued, "and we always read your *Gazette* to stay in touch with the wonderful HP Community of which our family has been a part longer than almost anyone." I

then actually felt a little sad because the issues of *The Gazette* have become far and few between. However, what a great way to see what is happening in your old stomping grounds.

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting some people from Clemson who are building a traditional neighborhood development and they are using OUR neighborhood as a basis for their designs by incorporating the upstate historic vernacular in their designs. They have been on the sidelines, silently cheering on the revitalization of our neighborhood. It seems that more people who live outside Greenville know more about our neighborhood than those who live in Greenville!

*Judy*

## Thanks to Our Sponsor

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



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