



The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

September '99

Director of Greenville Rescue Mission at September Meeting

The next meeting of the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District will take place on Tuesday, September 7th at 7 p.m. at Central Baptist Church (activities room – Lloyd Street entrance). Winn Freeman, the Director of the new Greenville Rescue Mission located across the street from the main Post Office on Washington Street, will speak to our group. The grand opening of the mission will be within the next few weeks. We will also have food from Schlotzsky's Deli for you to munch on during the meeting.

The June meeting consisted of a presentation by Jim Townsend, a resident of downtown Greenville. Other business included a discussion of the 4th of July Party and an update by George Bell on Traffic Calming.

Thanks for attending the June meeting: George Bell and Betti Wright, Jim Townsend, Rev. Simpson, Becky and Larry Boyd, Patrick Duvall, Joe Simpson, Peggy Watson, Bob Lloyd, Kathleen Crispin, Jim, Jacob and Anne Meyer, Courtney Shives, Robert and Judy Benedict, and from James Street: John Michael and Michelle McCauley, Maria Therese, Colleen Christian. –jb

Jim Townsend, Neighborhood

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Advocate

Hampton-Pinckney and other downtown neighborhoods are very lucky to have a neighbor like Jim Townsend, our speaker at the last meeting. Jim organized the Downtown Residential Neighborhoods (DRN) which covers the Central Business District (CBD) and an additional three-fourths of a mile radius around the CBD. The DRN was purely a social group for those living within the DRN area to meet each other and evolved into a watchdog group that attempts to keep an eye on City Hall. In 1997, the City Action Neighborhood Network (CANN) (similar to Charlotte, NC's "Congress of Neighborhoods") was borne out of the failed attempts of City neighborhoods to stop the BB&T rezoning for a parking lot adjacent to the Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood and from problems surrounding the White Oak community with rezonings. CANN was instrumental in supporting neighborhoods to halt a rezoning of land for a drug store at the corner of Cleveland and S. Pleasantburg Dr. The group also helped prevent the opening of a video poker parlor at N. Main and Rutherford. CANN consists of 34 representatives and can quickly mobilize for any future threats to our City neighborhoods.

Another topic of interest that Jim spoke about was his candidacy for Water Commissioner. The Greenville Water Commission was established in 1918 and consists of three elected commissioners with six-year, staggered terms, the Mayor, and a City Council member appointed by the Mayor. Our water bills include fees that could be covered by raising our taxes and

therefore would be tax deductible. As they are now, they are part of our quarterly water bills. Another issue of contention is a decision by the commission, in 1963, to place water lines outside the City of Greenville without an annexation agreement. The establishment of such an agreement would increase the City tax base and help to spread out taxes and fees across a wider number of businesses and households. The water lines are also bringing "sprawl" to Southern Greenville County – by managing the extension of lines, the growth within this area can be better controlled. Jim also pointed out that he would like the Water Commission to become involved in the community.

Jim offers these "19 Painless Ways to Save Water":

1. Fix those faucet, toilet, showerhead leaks.
2. Use the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.
3. Don't run water continuously for vegetable and dish washing.
4. Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth or shaving.
5. Use a broom to clean driveways, walks, patio.
6. Use a sponge and bucket of water to wash the car.
7. Take showers rather than baths, keep them short.
8. Don't use the toilet as a trash can.
9. Water the lawn in early morning or evening to avoid evaporation.
10. Keep grass at least two inches high to shade roots.
11. Aerate regularly, and use mulch to reduce evaporation.
12. Plant native or drought-resistant grass and plants. Better yet, Xeriscape™.
13. Water trees slowly, deeply, infrequently to encourage deep rooting.
14. Don't run tap to get cold water. Instead, keep a bottle in the refrigerator.
15. Install aerators on bathroom and kitchen faucets.
16. Install low-flow toilet (1.6 gal per flush).
17. Install low-flow showerhead.
18. Insulate water heaters and pipes.
19. Ask your water provider for more water conservation ideas. –jb

Time To Vote For City Offices

The time has arrived for us to vote. On November 2nd, we can vote for Mayor (Knox White, Republican or Stephanie Duncan, Democrat), City Council—At Large (Stan Tzouvelekas, Republican, Michelle Shain, Democrat, or Paul Varga, Reform) and one seat on the water commission (Paul Aughtry, Republican or Jim Townsend, Democrat). If you have not registered to vote you must do so by October 2nd. Absentee Ballots can be requested by phone or you can visit the voter reg-

istration office at County Square to vote starting the 2nd week of October. They will also be open on Saturday October 30th. For additional information, please call 467-7264. –jb

Candidate Forum October 5th

It all started with a meeting in Mayor Knox White's office early this summer and now we have a new City-wide neighborhood group that calls itself, "Neighborhoods United for Excellence" (NUE). The purpose of NUE is "Promoting neighborhood-friendly solutions". At present, the group consists of representatives from Overbrook, Hampton-Pinckney, Southernside, North Main, Nicholtown, Gower, Westend, Pleasantburg Forest and White Oak. The impetus for the formulation of NUE was to introduce to the City neighborhoods the candidates running for City-wide offices in November. NUE wants all of us to determine for ourselves which candidates are truly "neighborhood-friendly."



The Candidate Forum sponsored by the Neighborhoods United for Excellence will be held Tuesday, October 5th at Greenville High School auditorium from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tom Faulkner, who attempted to organize this type of forum for us three years ago but did not receive any support, is delighted to serve as moderator for the event. Every neighborhood is encouraged to make signs with the name of their neighborhood (similar to what is done at political conventions) and when a question is asked from the group, the sign will be held up so that the candidates will know what neighborhood to which they are responding.

Since this great event will be taking place during our regular, first Tuesday, meeting time, we are asking you to attend the Candidate Forum either in place of or in addition to an October Hampton-Pinckney meeting. Let's join together to put our neighborhoods first and elect "neighborhood-friendly" candidates to help! –jb

Holiday Walk-About 1999

Plan to join us for our neighborhood Holiday Walk-About scheduled to take place Saturday, December 11th. We would love to have all first-time hosts this year and have some plans to make this event easier on the host homes. We welcome any new suggestions you may also have. Discussion will take place at the September 7th meeting.

If you have an interest in participating or have a

question about this event, please call Betti Wright at 242-9229. —bw

July 4th Party Was Great!

Beth Burris did a wonderful job arranging the 4th of July party. She had everything in place but no one to sing the National Anthem to start the festivities. She said that Tom Faulkner offered to sing but she thought he was kidding. As she stepped up to the microphone, she made one last plea and up walked Tom. We all thought, "Oh, No!" but when he opened his mouth to sing we were all pleasantly surprised by our neighbor who kept his wonderful singing voice such a secret! We thank Tom for sharing his great voice.

We then proceeded to the dog parade, where we had seven dogs participating who won awards ranging from "Most Political" to "Mr. 4th of July". After this our children, dressed in their patriotic best, paraded for us and Bob Lloyd surprised us with his own list of awards. These awards were so creative that they must be shared here:

The "You Are What You Drive" Award – To the neighbor who has gone the longest without washing his or her motor vehicle —Bob Lloyd.

The "Robert Frost" Award – "Good Fences Make Good



The Children's Parade

Neighbors" – For the longest running drama involving an iron fence. —Donna and Walter Kivett and Reed Taylor.

The "Tower of London" Award – For the longest running drama involving scaffolding — Ron Whitworth.

The "HUMVEE" Award – For the largest sport utility vehicle not used for combat purposes – Steve Anderson and Jamey King.

The "Hug a Tree" Award – For those who would like to preserve the neighborhood if outside forces would just let them — Donna and Walter Kivett and Brad Wyche.

The "Home Canning" Award – To the neighbor who has done the most to perpetuate South Carolina's tradition of agriculture in the Upstate by planting the largest vegetable garden – Walter Kivett.

The "Ear Plug" Award – To the neighbor with the loudest leaf blower —The committee could not reach a consensus.

The "Most Trucks in the Neighborhood" Award — King Express and Keith Rodgers.

The "Dogs Are People Too" Award – For her tireless efforts to ensure proper care and feeding of the guard dogs at South-eastern Recovery Systems —Kathleen Crispin.

The "Lili Pulitzer" Award – To the neighbor who has done the most to upgrade the sorry state of journalism in Greenville and to control neighborhood rumors —Judy Benedict and Jim Townsend.

The "Platoon Sergeant Charles J. Mack" Award – Named for my U.S. Army drill sergeant who, upon spotting a recruit drop a cigarette butt and a candy wrapper made him eat it-To the neighbor who has done the most to combat neighborhood litter and graffiti — Jennie Garrett.

The "Jay R. Kirkman Community Involvement" Award – To the neighbor who by his own willingness to mind his own business has done the most to advance the ideals of the award's namesake — Jay Kirkman.

The "Lee Cory" Award – Named for the former official of BB&T who spearheaded that institution's desperate expansion of its parking facilities – To the neighbor(s) that have done the most to demonstrate that BB&T really just wants our business —Dusty and Morgan Bateman, Conner Kirkman, Keith Lloyd, Lexann Crawford, and Robert Novak.

The "Tooth Fairy" Award – To the neighbor who continues to believe against overwhelming evidence to the contrary that the City Traffic Engineering Department really wants to calm traffic — George Bell.

The "Centrum Silver" Award – To the neighbor who, by engaging in pursuits normally reserved for younger people such as purchasing pick-up trucks and motorcycles and becoming an accomplished theater actor has shown that middle-age crazy is more a state of mind — Michael Hoffman.

The "Real Work" Awards – To those neighbors who took on the sometimes thankless task of organizing a neighborhood effort during the last year — Kathy Anderson, Becky Boyd, Janie and Scot Singletary, Reed Taylor, Robert and Judy Benedict, Anne Meyer and Beth Burris.

The "Neighborhood Spirit" Award – To the neighbor who by general good will and positive attitude demonstrates why we live in the neighborhood that we do — Rev. Alfred Simpson.

After the awards ceremony, the children played in Officer Eric Lewis' Patrol Car and the Fire Truck supplied to us by the West Station #2. We sincerely thank Eric and the Firemen, Captain H.W. Graham, Robert Sitton, and Cory Willimon for spending their afternoon with us. Mindy Kirkman manned the kids games while our resident chefs lighted up the grills. Everyone's side dishes and desserts were delicious as were the hamburgers supplied by Eric and Sara Dellinger. Also, thanks to Bob Lloyd for acquiring the permit to close the street, Jay Kirkman for the tables, Joe Simpson for the sound system and George Bell and Betti Wright for supplying the paper products. If you missed this event this year, please plan to join us for our 4th of July 2000 party! -jb

The History Corner

During the 1890's and the first two decades of the Twentieth Century, two major movements dramatically affected city planning. The first movement, known as The Public Health Movement, focused on improved sanitation and safer living and working conditions. The second movement arose from the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago and became known as the City Beautiful Movement. By the turn of the century this movement



caught the imagination of civic leaders and led to an increased enthusiasm for urban planning with an emphasis on the aesthetics of local communities. It was the combination of these two planning movements that in 1906 the Municipal League of Greenville commissioned the Boston landscape firm of Kelsey and Guild to compile a report on “Beautifying and Improving Greenville”. It was released in January, 1907 and listed below are some of the highlights of the report.

“Greenville is Practically Without Street Trees” - A survey was compiled of the trees (or lack thereof) lining Greenville’s streets. It was noted that Hampton Avenue only had a few elms lining the street while Pinckney and Hudson had no trees lining the street. Washington Street had a “few large elms, oaks and other trees”. Kelsey and Guild recommended that the city implement a “Street Tree” program to plant and maintain trees on a strip between the gutter and sidewalk. At the time the few street trees were randomly placed outside and inside the gutter with “lopsided, decayed trees in painful evidence everywhere”. Other noteworthy recommendations included: A quiet shady park to greet travelers to be built next to Greenville’s “new” Southern Railway Station on West Washington Street. It was noted that adjacent to the station were “ugly buildings, flaming billboards” that were unsightly and depressing. The historic station was demolished approximately 10 years ago. Think about the potential this landmark possessed.

Kelsey and Guild proposed a network of parks with connecting parkways. The parks anchoring the network were the City Park (McPherson Park today although the study suggested changing the name to Richland Creek Park), Cleveland Park and the Hudson Athletic Field – then located on the north side of the Reedy



☛ Southern Railroad Depot – 1908. Post Card Collection, H. B. McKoy

River between Hudson and the Southern Railway Trestle. It was proposed that McPherson Park and Cleveland Park be enlarged to a “municipal clubhouse, indoor and outdoor gymnasia for old and young of both sexes, swimming pools, baths, a playground for small children and [for Hudson Athletic Field] a little lake excavated on the site of the old brick yard”.

It was noted in the study that the “Reedy River with its falls and gorge” constituted the most distinctive feature in the landscape of Greenville. Kelsey and Guild recommended that the city take and preserve the Reedy River to develop a “River Drive” that would replace Broad Street and also create a park. The study stated that the “splendid view of the gorge and falls below is an object of scenic beauty the likes of which few cities can boast; yet it is being rapidly destroyed and wasted and the proper use of one of the city’s greatest assets perverted”. One hundred years later, with the proposed removal of the Camperdown Bridge, Greenville might finally capitalize on its “greatest asset”. –rb (Thanks to Paul Ellis with the Greenville City Parks and Recreation for the Kelsey and Guild Study.)

Of Personal Interest

We welcome to the neighborhood two new babies born over the summer – to the parents of Tracy and Jeff Tiddy, a girl, Sara, born July 29th, and their next door neighbors, Tammy and Lee Dowdy, a boy, Porter born June 18th. -jb

Important Reminders

- ◆ The next neighborhood meeting will be determined at the September meeting since we are planning for *everyone* to attend the Candidate Forum on October 5th.
- ◆ Important phone numbers – Eric Lewis, Community Police Officer: Pager:217-3188, Work: 271-5333, Mobile: 616-2275. Please note that Eric now only spends two days a week in our area and we hope to find out at the September meeting more about our neighborhood policing efforts.

Letter From the Editor

After two months without the newsletter it would seem that nothing has taken place all summer. But to the contrary, our Traffic Calming Committee has been hard at work keeping in touch with City Hall to make sure our Traffic Calming becomes a reality. Our telephone lines have been upgraded and our sidewalks and lawns destroyed and repaired. We have had three

families lose precious loved ones and to these families we extended our sincerest sympathies.

I have also had the pleasure of meeting some wonderful people who live in other City neighborhoods who are planning to be with us on our day of reckoning (for closing of Hudson) in front of City Council. These people are the group that comprise the new Neighborhoods United for Excellence (NUE). I am proud to be a member of this group and we all may be called upon at some time to help out other neighborhoods around the City to fight rezonings, video poker parlors, or some other threat to our neighborhoods. Our first project is the Candidate Forum which will educate us to determine who are our "neighborhood-friendly" candidates. There are seven people on City Council and it takes four votes for our issues to pass.

We will talk about all of this and more on Tuesday, September 7th. So I hope to see you and break bread with you (eat Schlotzsky's) at the meeting.

Thanks to Our Sponsor

This issue of *The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette* is sponsored by Patricia Shepard, who now lives in West Palm Beach Florida during the winter and the Highlands during the summer. She owns the lot at the corner of Hudson and Hampton. Patricia supplied us with the stamps. We also would like to thank George Bell for supplying the paper and printing. -jb

Contributors this issue: Betti Wright, Robert Benedict, Judy Benedict

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Jessica Wyche Babysitting Services/Rates

If Adult is Present:
1 Child.....\$3.00/hr 2 Children.....#4.00/hr
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Reference: Judy Benedict



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