



The Converse Heights Ravine

It's a geological feature owned by the City of Spartanburg that starts at Boyd Street at the foot of Mills, is bounded by Sherwood Circle and follows along Woodburn Road to the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks. A quiet stream threads through the bottom. Past the tracks, the stream continues through private property.

Seventy years ago - even as recently as 30 or 40 years ago - it was a hangout for neighborhood children who spent afternoons, weekends and long summer days there playing, riding bikes, even, according to one reliable tale, burying treasure there. It was a beautiful Piedmont natural forest in the middle of the City.

Today, the story is different. While the ravine still has incredible potential for recreational opportunities, it's becoming overgrown with English Ivy, mahonia, privet and other invasive species. Old pathways are overgrown, massive trees have collapsed, and if nothing is done, it could become an ecological disaster, with invasive species destroying the canopy of trees and undermining the stability of the landscape.

The question is what can or should be done to save and restore the Ravine. This spring, the Converse Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA), with the approval of the City, contracted with Alta Planning + Design to study the Ravine, and to assess neighborhood attitudes about the Ravine's future. Alta has an impressive national reputation for the development of trails, parks and green spaces. Its Spartanburg projects include the development of the Spartanburg Trails and Greenways Plan and the Forest Avenue Park adjacent to the Mary Black Rail Trail. In Greenville it was involved in development of the Swamp Rabbit Tram Trail.

A Steering Committee for the effort has been meeting with the planners, and additional meetings will be scheduled to invite public input. If the meetings show a positive response, CHNA hopes to raise additional funds for Alta to develop a Master Plan for the Ravine, including a budget for implementing the plan and maintaining the Ravine.

Neighborhood members and the public will receive notice of future meetings so that everyone has a chance to provide input on the future of the Ravine. CHNA Interim Chair Wesley Hammond said that the Association isn't going into the planning process with any pre-conceived conclusions. "We want to hear what the public has to say and we'll take our direction from there."

Community Pride in Action

Your CHNA Board is very active in supporting the mission of MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE, BEAUTIFUL AND FUN. Listed below is a summary of what your board has been doing:

Recent Community Pride activities in Converse Heights

1. Easter Egg Hunt
2. July 4th Parade and Festival
3. National Night Out
4. Fall Social
5. Trees Parties and Universi-Tree with Trees Coalition
6. Maintaining the 4 entrances to CH.
7. Landscaping the RR overpass at Woodburn and Connecticut
8. Supporting the efforts of Trinity United Methodist, which is located in Converse Heights. Some of their non-denominational activities include free yoga classes, use of their social hall for meetings, food drop-off days, and basketball league.
9. Supporting Pine Street Elementary School, also in Converse Heights. It also provides meeting space for CHNA, and such healthy activities as Bike to School Day, a Fun Festival, plays and other events.
10. Developing the 16-acre tract of land in CH called the Ravine. This neglected City-owned property has been the subject of several volunteer clean-up days and neighborhood meetings. Now we have a steering committee working with neighbors and a landscape firm to determine the feasibility of a master plan.
11. Planting trees. Each year we invite neighbor input on where we need to plant or replant up to 20 trees in public spaces.
12. Purchased a new infant swing for Happy Hollow Park.
13. Keeping CH neighbors connected. We try to communicate with neighbors with email blasts, quarterly printed newsletters that go to all CH residents, with NextDoor Converse Heights, at socials, and at events.
14. Mulch days. With help from the City, we mulched several hundred trees, making CH more attractive for all.

CHNA's activities fit in nicely with the Way to Wellville Challenge currently underway in Spartanburg. Many of our activities encourage neighbors to walk or bicycle to our events. The 4th of July Parade is just that, with people out walking, biking, strolling down CH streets for about a half mile.



Like us on Facebook

In Facebook look for the "find" field at top right by the magnifying glass and type in "Converse Heights Neighborhood Association Official." This will take you to our wall where you can click "like." You can also go to our website and click on Facebook under "Social Links."



Wild Birds Unlimited has donated feeders and feed for our birds at Happy Hollow Park.

Wild Birds Unlimited is celebrating over 30 years of providing bird feed and nature products.

Thank you! Wild Birds Unlimited!



Converse Heights
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 187
Spartanburg, SC 29304-0187

2015 Social Calendar



July 4th Parade



National Night Out
August 6



Fall Social
November 12

Don't encourage crimes of opportunity!

Lock your Car door

Lock your Dog Door!

And don't leave valuables in sight!

Break-ins continue in the neighborhood. Many could be avoided.

Converse Heights has Special Thanks to:

The Converse Alumnae House
for providing a gracious venue for several of our CHNA events.

Trinity United Methodist Church for the use of its meeting rooms and Social Hall.

Pine Street Elementary School for letting us have our annual meeting there.



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MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE, BEAUTIFUL AND FUN

Contact us at: www.converseheights.org

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Open

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Thank you, Patrick! Job Well Done!

Patrick Anderson has moved out of the neighborhood, and has asked to be relieved of his duties as Chairman of the Neighborhood Association. Patrick is selling his house on Boyd Street and has moved out to make it ready. The CHNA Board thanks Patrick for his strong leadership and dedication to the neighborhood. He was a great Board Chairman.

Patrick promises to stay involved, and is planning on cooking hotdogs for Neighbors' Night out!

The Board asked me to step in as Interim Chair, and I am glad to do so. There is so much going on in Converse Heights, and in Spartanburg, right now. Exciting projects and plans are in the works. This is a very positive time for us all.

You can be a part of this in many ways. Volunteer for the CHNA Board. Serve on a committee. Submit an article for the newsletter. Invite your friends to an event. Participate in Next Door Converse Heights. And of course, please join your Association.

Working together, we will make Converse Heights *safe, beautiful and fun!*

Wesley Hammond
Wesley Hammond, Interim Chair

Introducing New Board Members

Alyson Campbell: I'm so excited to be on the CHNA board. I love living in Converse Heights and look forward to being a part of maintaining the wonderful feel of this neighborhood and improving it. My husband Andrew Taber, a gastroenterologist with Spartanburg Regional, and I moved to Spartanburg three years ago from Louisville, Kentucky. We are both from Greenwood, South Carolina, and are glad to be back in this part of the state. I work as a lawyer with an insurance company that handles real estate errors and omissions insurance. We have a dog named Roscoe that we love walking around the neighborhood. We also enjoy sitting on our front porch, watching traffic, and talking with people as they walk by.

Matt Daly: We welcome Matt Daly to the CHNA board of directors. Matt and his wife, Dr. Caroline Daly, now reside on Sherwood Circle with their 5-year-old son Oliver. They enjoy close proximity to friends, First Presbyterian Church, work and Happy Hollow Park. They love the small town feel of Spartanburg and can hear the chimes from Trinity Methodist from their porch. Caroline says this brings a sense of nostalgia and peace at the end of a long day. Matt will assist the board with his skills in web design and management.

National Night Out

Get out and walk the neighborhood on August 6 for the 32nd Annual National Night Out. NNO is a unique community-wide event designated to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships. The CHNA board will host the community with FREE HOT DOGS AND MUSIC at Happy Hollow Park beginning at 6 pm. Last year over 150 people enjoyed the picnic and opportunity to meet new and old friends.



Happy Hollow refreshment table

Happy Hollow Etiquette

Question: May I take my well-behaved doggie inside the fenced-in play area at Happy Hollow Park?

If you are signed on to NextDoor Converse Heights* (we recommend it), this question was recently the subject of intense debate. Lots of great comments and thoughtful insights were bounced back and forth. It was democracy in action, beautiful, messy, and rewarding.

And the answer is... no, you can't. Dogs are welcome in the Park if they are on a leash, and if you pick after them, just not welcome inside the fenced-in play area where the swings and other playground equipment is located.

Kim Moultrie, City Parks and Recreation Superintendent, tells us that we will soon have a new toddler swing, a new kiosk for messages, and new signage for Happy Hollow that will spell out all the rules. We do have a doggie comfort station with bags in the Park, and the Rail Tail Dog Park is nearby if you want your pooch to run free.

To follow up on the question of who to call if there are dogs in the fenced-in play area and you are not comfortable asking the dog owners to keep their pets outside, you can call Kim Moultrie at 596-3889 or Scott Page at 809-1900. They are the City folks in charge of Parks and Recreation once the new signs are installed, maybe this won't be such a problem.

*https://converseheights.nextdoor.com/email_prefs/ -It's a free website. Create a username and password and sign in.

It's a Sign of the Times

Signs in the yards, in the medians, and along city streets. They pop-up like weeds. Yard sales, houses painted, psychic readings, vote for me. Clutter, or useful information? Like beauty, it's all in the eye of the beholder.

But there is a City sign ordinance, and according to City Planning Coordinator Josh Henderson, the rule is that signs are not allowed "on city property, in city medians, or in right-of-way areas."

Generally, exceptions are made for informational signs, political signs during elections, and realtor signs.

Josh adds that the City is complaint driven, and not in the business of going around looking for signs to pull.

If you have questions, or want to report a sign you think should be removed, call Josh at 596-2069, or email him at jhenderson@cityofspartanburg.org.

Pine Street School Playground Update

After holding several meetings with neighbors to inform and ask for guidance, Pine Street School Principal Ann Jeter says playground improvements are well under way.

The large play field will be resurfaced with a synthetic turf, like that used already on the smaller field, and there will be new landscaping, and an outdoor learning center. While some mature trees have been removed, many new ones will be planted to protect the privacy and property of adjacent homeowners.

Pine Street School is a source of pride for Spartanburg, and a great CH neighbor!



New Residents

Let's welcome out new CHNA neighbors who have moved into the neighborhood in 2015:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Chris and Molly Rains | 712 Maple Street |
| Courtney and Phil Dorroll | 657 Rutledge Street |
| Kristen and Cary McAlister | 721 Glendalyn Avenue |
| Katie and Andy Halligan | 368 Connecticut Avenue |
| Glorian Hayes | 498 Connecticut Avenue |
| Keri and James Wagner | 584 Otis Boulevard |
| Jenni and Allen Smith | 625 Poplar Sstreet |
| Lindsay and Chad Graham | 921 Brentwood Drive |
| Anne and Rhett McCraw | 320 Mills Avenue |
| Elizabeth and Bert Shuler | 618 Palmetto Street |
| Brooks and Ryan Gaylord | 792 Glendalyn Avenue |
| Richard Reutter | 786 Glendalyn Avenue |
| Laura and Roger Sullivan | 386 Peachtree Road |
| Philamena and Les Raines | 533 Palmetto Street |
| Melanie Thomas | 754 Rutledge Street |
| Kristy Caradori | 747 Otis Boulevard |



Photo's from April's Happy Hollow Easter Egg Hunt



Garbage and Recycling Bin Information

Garbage collection is every Thursday

It is recommended you not leave your bin out any longer than possible. Besides not being safe, BEAUTIFUL and fun, potentially dangerous refuse has been placed in bins left out on the street. Get you bins put away ASAP!

Recycling is collected - 2nd and 4th Mondays

Glass bottles and jars, empty metal and aluminum cans, all paper and boxboard, plastic and flattened corrugated cardboard. (no garbage, trash, food plastic bags, yard trimmings, hazardous waste, hard back books, paper towels, tissue/toilet paper, plastic coated paper or styrofoam.)

Green Waste is collected - 1st and 3rd Thursdays

Separate leaves from grass and from brush. Limbs should be under 6 feet long and 6 inches in diameter. NO dirt and stumps, mixed green waste, construction debris and NO green waste generated by a contractor. It is recommended a 6 inche space between the green waste and the curb exist for drainage from rain.



Do you have your Sticker?

If you've paid your 2015 membership dues and need a sticker, please contact Suzi Henry and she will get one to you.

suzihinen@yahoo.com - (864) 415-1136

Unsure if you've paid your dues for the year?

Go to converseheights.org, click on membership; there is a link that says "2015 Membership List"

This clip-out is your official request to join CHNA for 2015. Please let us know that you care about Converse Heights as much as we do by sending in your check for membership in the enclosed envelope today. If you have already sent yours in, *thank you!*

Please join your Neighborhood Association today

Neighbors working together get things done and make safer, more attractive communities with higher home values.

P. O. Box 187, Spartanburg, SC 29304-0187

These are our membership levels for January through December 2015:

Neighbor - \$25 Bronze - \$50 Silver - \$100 Gold - \$150 Platinum - \$500

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I am interested in serving on the Board or as a volunteer of my Neighborhood Association

You may send a check in the enclosed envelope or go to the web site at www.converseheights.org and pay by credit card through Pay Pal.

What's happening

at Trinity United Methodist Church

Zumba with Leah Patterson continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 - 11:00 AM in the Christian Life Center Gym. Cost is \$5 per class. Wear comfortable clothing, bring a water bottle and a towel.

Trinity's Leisure Ministries will take a group to see Les Miserables at the Limestone Theater on June 21, leaving at 2:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased by calling Ben Chumley at 585-4884. Cost is \$15, Seniors and students are \$10.

Trinity will also travel to see several of its members in the play "Dorothy of Oz" at the Tryon Little Theater on Sunday, July 20 (matinee). Details will be available soon.

Trinity continues to offer a variety of activities including hiking trips, eating out, road trips, etc. and it welcomes our neighbors to join it.

For more information, check out their web page at www.trinityspartanburg.org or contact Patti Hall at 585-4884, ext. 14.

Membership Box Score

Year	Neighbor	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum	Grand Total
2014	\$ 4,725	\$3,675	\$3,650	\$2,650	2,250	\$16,950
Neighbor	135	83	24	13	3	258
2015	\$ 3,355	\$3,850	\$2,250	\$2,000	14,910	\$14,910
Neighbor	138	66	38	13	4	259

Clip this number out and put it on your refrigerator, or bulletin board.

**Non-Emergency
Spartanburg
Police number**

596-2222

Remember:
Report any suspicious behavior