

## Crystal Springs Ravine Improvement Plan Moves Forward

Your Board's long-term plan to restore the 16-acre, City-owned property called the Crystal Springs Ravine is moving forward at a nice pace. This property, neglected and over-grown, is located between the rail road overpass at Connecticut and Woodburn and the traffic Sherwood at Boyd Street.

With hard work from the Steering Committee, and with partnerships formed with the Trees Coalition, the City, the Horticultural Department at Spartanburg Community College, the Balmer Foundation, and neighborhood volunteers, invasive plants and vines are being challenged, land is being cleared for reforestation, and bags and bags of trash are being gathered.

Detailed plans will be presented on March 14 at the Annual Meeting of CHNA.



## Balmer Foundation Plans Major Tree Care Project

In 2006, Converse Heights embarked on a huge project to restore the tree canopy in our neighborhood by planting new large, noble trees and smaller understory trees along our sidewalks and in public spaces. This campaign, thanks to significant grants from the Milliken's Noble Trees Foundation and Hans and Lucia Balmer's Balmer Foundation, raised \$300,000.

A total of 889 trees were planted. Since then, trees have been replaced and new trees introduced at a rate of 15-20 trees a year.

Horticulturalist Kevin Parris described this as a "revolutionary" event that reestablished the canopy with a widely diverse selection of trees, making Converse Heights a "neighborhood arboretum."

After the deaths of both Hans and Lucia Balmer, the Fund is now managed by Lucia's sister, Monty Mullen Hankinson. Carrying forward the legacy of healthy trees and active communities, Monty has made a generous contribution to the Trees Fund to allow CHNA to hire a trees expert to revisit the trees planted in the original project. Delex Tree Company will begin pruning, shaping, crowning, and tending these trees to insure their continued health and beauty.

The contribution will also be used to continue planting more trees in public areas, including the Crystal Springs Ravine. On behalf of the CHNA Board and everyone in Converse Heights, we offer our sincere thanks.

## Mail Box Make-Over.

Board Member Jennifer Stanger noticed that the drop-off mail boxes in the 'hood were looking a little shabby, and she wanted to do something about it.

Jennifer contacted the Post Office and got the attention of the officials there. Last month, our mail receptacles got a fresh coat of "P.O. Blue" paint. Well done, Jennifer!

## Alleyways in Converse Heights.

*(Disclaimer: this article is not about bowling).*

Every so often, someone will ask "Who owns the alley behind my house, and why don't they clean it up?"

In the early 1900s, when Converse Heights was being developed, many streets had service alleys. They were used to deliver coal, for trash cans, and for storage and such.

According to City Attorney Cathy McCabe, these alleyways are the private property of the homeowners whose land abuts them. As private property, they are to be maintained by their owners. (See City Code Section 12-31. There is a link to the City website on the CH website). An alley can be closed if all the abutting property owners agree to it.

Thanks to our hard-working City Council Representative, Laura Stille, for this information.

## Safety Through Surveillance...or "Big Neighbor Is Watching You."

Working on the "safe" part of "safe, beautiful, and fun," Chuck White and Wesley Hammond had informative meetings with Deputy Chief of Police Jennifer Kindall, Sargent Randy Hardy, and tech consultant Josh Buchan of Network Controls.

The idea was to see if CHNA might purchase several video cameras that could be mounted on light poles, moved from place to place, and used to monitor and record traffic violations, break-ins, and similar violations.

What Chuck and Wesley learned was that what you see on "C.S.I." is not yet adaptable to CH.

The cameras are expensive, about \$3,500 each, are not portable, and are not practical to monitor. At this time, it seems that each homeowner should investigate the many models available and the Public Safety Committee will continue to explore options for the neighborhood.



Like us on  
Facebook

On 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."



**Converse Heights**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
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Spartanburg, SC 29304-0187

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## 2016 Social Calendar



**Annual Meeting**  
March 14



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
March 26



**July 4th Parade**



**Fall Social**  
November



**National Night Out**  
August 2

## 2016 Annual Meeting

The CHNA Annual Meeting will be held in the Media Room at Pine Street Elementary School at 6 pm, Monday, March 14th. Members of the Crystal Springs Ravine Steering Committee will present an account of the activities involved in restoring and reforesting this 16-acre space back into a healthy, natural Piedmont forest.

**Converse Heights offers 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.**

## Converse Heights Annual

## Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt & Celebration

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00 am**

**Happy Hollow Park**



**MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE, BEAUTIFUL AND FUN**

Contact us at: [www.converseheights.org](http://www.converseheights.org)

## Board Members

### Chair

Wesley Hammond ♦ 640 Crystal Drive  
497-0880 ♦ [Wesleylibba@bellsouth.net](mailto:Wesleylibba@bellsouth.net)

### Vice-Chair

Open

### Treasurer

Allison Sutton ♦ 322 Mills Avenue  
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### Secretary

Francie Little ♦ 642 Palmetto Street  
585-2785 ♦ [flittle@cbcaine.com](mailto:flittle@cbcaine.com)

## Committees

### Community Safety and Outreach

Chuck White, Chair ♦ 530 Sherwood Circle  
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### Finance

Allison Sutton, Chair

### Social

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Allie Ballenger McCown, Co-Chair ♦ 649 Palmetto  
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Maggie Nowell ♦ 708 Hollywood  
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### Membership

Colleen Rice, Chair ♦ 707 Hollywood Street  
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Wesley Hammond

### Communications

Gail Ebert, Webmaster ♦ 125 Connecticut Avenue  
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### Nominations

Chuck White

Francie Little

### At Large

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Blaine Elizabeth Alexander ♦ 620½ Poplar Street  
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Lindsay Webster ♦ 184 Mills Avenue  
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## Momentum

My uncle, Howard E. Greer, passed away in November of 2015. He was an Annapolis grad and a fighter pilot, and retired from the Navy as a 3-Star Admiral. An impressive man, he lived to be 94. On his desk, wherever he was stationed, he kept this motto "I must hurry, for there they go, and I am their leader."

When I look around at all the people working so hard to make Converse Heights "safe, beautiful, and fun," I think I understand what that motto means.

The Ravine Steering Committee has been successful at making partnerships with the City, the Trees Coalition, and several people with unique talents to move this important project forward. Walk down Woodburn, Sherwood, or Crystal and you'll see what I mean. And the best is yet to come.

The Bloomberg Lights Team is actively working to make sure that this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity shows Spartanburg in a new light, as a vibrant, interesting community that embraces the Arts. The collaboration between all 10 neighborhoods has been superb. And the lights go on in August.

Your Board of Directors has several exciting projects underway:

Alyson Campbell's Beautification Committee has planted about 20 new trees, met with Mark Ford, Josh Baker, and Jay Squires of the City to work towards improvements in our plant-able medians, and met with Steven Callicutt of Roebuck Landscaping to make sure that the entrances to our neighborhood always look fresh and welcoming.

Amber Anthony, Ali Ballenger McCown, and Maggie Nowell are planning our excellent social events: the Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July Parade, Fall Social and along with Chuck White, National Night Out.

Gail Ebert and Iris Laudig keep the 'hood in the loop with our website, Facebook page, and this newsletter.

Jody Traywick is on board actively working to solve traffic concerns and make our streets and sidewalks safer to travel.

Behind the scenes, Ali Sutton keeps a sharp eye on all things financial, and Francie Little makes us stay on track with her accurate minutes.

The Membership Committee, under Colleen Rice's leadership, and with help from Everett Powers, Suzi Henry, and Joseph McCown, gives neighbors plenty of good reasons to invest \$25 (or more!) in Converse Heights.

Newer Board Members Jennifer Stanger, Blaine Alexander Nancy Holland and Lindsay Webster are providing valuable input and guidance as they work on a variety of concerns, as does the Board as a whole.

It is an honor (and a lot of fun) to try and keep up with these community leaders as we all strive to make Converse Heights "safe, beautiful, and fun."

*Wesley*

Wesley Hammond

## Converse Heights and Andrews Farm Neighborhoods will Share a Bloomberg Lights Installation

When the City was announced as one of the winners of the Bloomberg Light Challenge, a national competition among cities for grants to commission public works of art involving light, Spartanburg asked its neighborhoods to submit letters of interest to join in the project. Five were to be chosen. The response was so great that the artist, Erwin Redl, asked if he could create an installation for all 10 of them! Of course, the City agreed.

The theme is "Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light." This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase Spartanburg as a unique, vibrant community where people work together, where the Arts have value, and where people are willing to take a risk on something that's never been done before.

The City asked Converse Heights to partner with Andrews Farm for the project. Our installation will be on the Cottonwood Trail. The CH/Bloomberg Steering Committee, consisting of Jody Traywick, Jennifer King, Nancy Kochenower, Jenni Smith, Angie Wallace, Chip and Alice Smith, Erika Shoobred, Aimee Wise, Ken Gordon, and the CHNA Board (with Alyson Campbell and Wesley Hammond as Contact Persons), expressed several concerns about the location. These will be addressed in March, when Mr. Redl presents

## Born Learning Trail

You may notice new signs and sidewalk paintings in Happy Hollow, which are part of a new Born Learning Trail. The signs offer parents and caregivers ideas to create learning opportunities for young children, wherever they may be. Each sign has learning activities that correspond with the drawings in front of it.

CHNA sponsored the Born Learning Trail, which several neighbors installed on October 7. It was a fun opportunity to work together to add a new feature to the park. The Born Learning Trail was possible due to a grant that the United Way Young Leaders secured from The Spartanburg County Foundation.



## Three Resolutions for the New Year

### 1. Join your Neighborhood Association.

Our largest on-going expense is taking care of the 4 main entrances to Converse Heights. These are Mills at East Main, Connecticut at Woodburn, Twin at Pine, and Hollywood right below Spartan High.

We are not a gated community, and our dues are entirely voluntary. The Board depends on you to help us make CH "safe, beautiful, and fun". You can use the enclosed envelope to sign up, or go to our website ([www.converseheights.org](http://www.converseheights.org)) and join via Paypal.

### 2. Join Nextdoorconverseheights.

This is the 21st Century equivalent of Neighborhood Watch, or a good old nosy neighbor. And it's free. According to Next Door, there are 1,351 houses in the CH area. There are 630 people signed up to send and receive messages on Nextdoor. The 630 people represent 490 houses, for a participation rate of 36%. Not bad, but with the popularity of cell phones, notebooks, and other devices, shouldn't it be at least 50%? Not sure if this is for you? Learn more at <http://demo.trynextdoor.com/vip>.

### 3. Attend at least one neighborhood event.

Little ones love the Easter Egg Hunt. Families and folks of all ages turn out for the spectacular 4th of July Parade. National Night Out in Happy Hollow has become a can't-miss-it hotdog supper with fun things for young and old. The Bloomberg lights will go on all over the City at this year at Neighbors Night Out. It's going to be huge! And the Fall Social gives neighbors a chance to meet one another in a quiet, casual setting.

We believe that neighborhoods are safer, and more fun, when people know their neighbors.

## Power of the Petition

by Jody Traywick  
In an effort to get the attention of City leaders and Public Safety a petition has been circulated:

**We, the residents of Spartanburg, formally petition the City to establish and enforce 30 MPH speed limit on Pine St between Country Club Rd and St. John St.**

It can be signed at the office of Partners for Active Living on Spring Street or to my home, 635 Crystal Dr.

It is very possible it will be posted on NEXTDOOR. In which case it can be signed and dropped in my mail box on Crystal Drive. The limit already exists (see attached photo of sign on Pine St. across from Ingles).



## New Residents

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

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| David and Betty Tate          | 1030 Glendalyn Circle     |
| Aundie Bishop                 | 650 Otis Blvd.            |
| Charles & Amanda Atkinson     | 1055 Otis Blvd.           |
| Brooke and King Mueller       | 716 Otis Blvd.            |
| Faith and Gary Pope           | 241 Mills Ave.            |
| Charles and Kelly Reid        | 101 Glendalyn Terrace     |
| Noel and Howard Kinard        | 330 Connecticut Ave.      |
| Ashley and Taylor Moody       | 736 Plume St.             |
| James and Katherine Nelli     | 216 Clifton Ave.          |
| Roger and Debbie Estes        | 641 Palmetto st.          |
| Bridget Wolfe                 | 169 Ivy S.                |
| Joseph & Madelide Reistroffer | 735 Otis Blvd.            |
| Marsha and Dale Frazier       | 647 Norwood St.           |
| Cindy and Frank Sanders       | 644 Crystal Drive         |
| Chandra & Boone Hopkins       | 721 Palmetto St.          |
| Nicole Eye                    | 395 Mills Ave.            |
| Tiffany Walker                | 755 Maple St.             |
| Kristana & Robert Harding     | 908 Brentwood Dr.         |
| Katharine Gregory             | 615 Woodland St.          |
| Ellis Gammons                 | 435 S. Fairview Ave. Ext. |
| Sarah Rabe                    | 553 Woodland St.          |
| Nick Belmont                  | 667 Maple St.             |
| Elizabeth Robertson           | 404 Mills Ave.            |
| Drew & Michelle Flemming      | 560 Glendalyn Ave.        |
| Liza & Jonathan Lounsberry    | 530 Poplar St.            |
| Andrea & Austin Brokamp       | 815 Rutledge St.          |
| Caleb & Allie Thrower         | 660 Glendalyn Ave.        |
| Kenneth & Donna Brown         | 617 Maple St.             |
| Katherine Finotti             | 568 Glendalyn Ave.        |
| Franziska & Ilker Guner       | 705 Maple St.             |

## Introducing a New Board Member

**Lindsay Webster:** Lindsay has just joined the Converse Heights Board. She is a 20-year resident of her house on Mills Avenue (The spider web house). Originally from Washington D.C., she works as a translator at St. Luke's Medical Clinic. Linsay has 4 children: 17, 15, 13, 11. She is a lover of all things Halloween, community outreach and Democratic politics.



## Cecilia Hanna has a special way to slow down traffic on Boyd Street.



## Garbage and Recycling Bin Information

### Important announcement

**Your last day to recycle GLASS is February 22. Glass will no longer be accepted for recycling.**

**Recycling in garbage bags is automatically sent to the land fill. Everything must be loose. Do not bag your recyclables.**

### 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 your bins put away ASAP!

### Recycling collection - 2nd and 4th Mondays

Empty metal and aluminum cans, all paper and boxboard, plastic and flattened corrugated cardboard. (No garbage, trash, food plastic bags, yard trimmings, hazardous waste, hardback books, paper towels, tissue /toilet paper, plastic coated paper or styrofoam.)

### Green Waste collection - 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-inch space between the green waste and the curb exist to allow drainage for rain.**



## Do You Have Your Sticker?

If you've paid your 2016 membership dues and need a sticker, please contact Suzi Henry and she will get one to you.

[suzihinen@yahoo.com](mailto:suzihinen@yahoo.com) - (864) 415-1136

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

Go to [converseheights.org](http://converseheights.org), click on "Membership"; there is a link that says "2016 Membership List."

This clip-out is your official request to join CHNA for 2016. 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!**

SAFE - BEAUTIFUL - FUN - SAFE - BEAUTIFUL - FUN

**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 2016:

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](http://www.converseheights.org) and pay by credit card through Pay Pal.

SAFE - BEAUTIFUL - FUN - SAFE - BEAUTIFUL - FUN

## What's happening at Trinity United Methodist Church

If walking in inclement weather is a problem for you, consider coming to the Trinity United Methodist Church gymnasium between the hours of 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We open our doors to all who want a safe, level, dry, warm place to do some laps.

Zumba classes are held each Tuesday from 10:00 – 11:00 AM, taught by Leah Patterson. Each class is \$5.00. Wear comfortable clothing and good shoes, bring a towel and a water bottle, and come prepared to watch your fitness monitor record about 7,000 steps!!

A "Stop Hunger Now" event will be held February 28 at 11:45 AM in the Christian Life Center gymnasium to package over 10,000 meals to feed 60,000 people worldwide. Many hands make light work so we invite the neighborhood to join us in this fun activity for all ages.

A Mobile Food Pantry to benefit Total Ministries is another project for lots of helping hands. The food truck arrives at 1:00 PM on Friday, April 15. We will unload and package into bags for participants to pick up on Saturday, April 16 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Come join in the fun!

Many other activities will be held this Spring including outdoor adventures, road trips, and classes to teach new skills. Ongoing activities include knitting groups, sewing groups, needlepoint groups, etc. Check out our web page for all the details [www.trinityspartanburg.org](http://www.trinityspartanburg.org)

## Membership Box Score

|               |           |           |         |            |                 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------------|
| 2015 Neighbor | Bronze    | Silver    | Gold    | Platinum   | Grand Total     |
| \$3,930       | \$4,030   | \$3,825   | \$3,375 | \$2,000    | \$17,160        |
| Neighbor 157  | Bronze 78 | Silver 38 | Gold 19 | Platinum 4 | Total Count 296 |
| 2016 Neighbor | Bronze    | Silver    | Gold    | Platinum   | Grand Total     |
| \$2,050       | \$1,450   | \$1,400   | \$1,050 | \$1,000    | \$6,950         |
| Neighbor 82   | Bronze 29 | Silver 14 | Gold 7  | Platinum 2 | Total Count 134 |

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