

**Inside:**  
**Community Interest: Page 2**  
**Legals: 3 - 11**  
**Comics & Games - Page 11 - 12**

**GE Appliances expanding with planned distribution center in Greenville County - Page 2**

**Campobello author releases new audiobook - Page 2**

# Spartan Weekly

Community news from Spartanburg and the surrounding upstate area  
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## AROUND TOWN

### Professional Pours at Rockers Brewing Company

Join OneSpartanburg, Inc. at the recently-rebranded Rockers Brewing Co. to learn more about their new identity, and try their in-house golf simulator, Streaking Birdies! After that, enjoy live music and great networking with colleagues and friends from across Spartanburg. This event will be held on Thursday, February 23 at Rockers Brewing Company, 226-A W Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. There is no fee for members, and a \$10 fee for non-members. Drink tickets will be given on first come first serve basis. For more information or to register go to <https://spartanburgareasc.chambermaster.com/events/>

### Community Meeting:

#### Trail development along Fairforest Creek

PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well, and the Spartanburg County Parks Department are holding a community drop-in meeting from 4:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. on February 23, 2023, at the CC Woodson Community Center (210 Bomar Avenue).

In November 2021, PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well, in partnership with Spartanburg County, received a major grant from the United States Department of Transportation to build 14 ½ miles of trail, mostly along the Fairforest Creek, reaching out to the Spartanburg Downtown Airport heading west and along WO Ezell Boulevard heading east into downtown.

The trail starts in the Arcadia community and crosses the City of Spartanburg from northwest to southeast, ending at the CC Woodson Community Center. It passes through the Vanderbilt Hills, Summerhill, Park Hills, Highland, and South Converse neighborhoods. Along the route is RP Dawkins Middle School, Jesse Bobo Elementary, Spartanburg Methodist College, Woodland Heights Elementary, Mary H. Wright Elementary, and Carver Middle School.

At this meeting, we will reveal the initial trail routing maps. Attendees will be able to view the routes, ask questions of the designers and make comments about the trail.

For more information about this meeting, please contact Ned Barrett at [nbarrett@palspartanburg.org](mailto:nbarrett@palspartanburg.org) or 864-598-9638; ext. 101.

### Meet Your Manufacturer: MOCOM

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

MOCOM GmbH & Co. KG is a global compounder of thermoplastic polymers and offers the plastics processing industry a comprehensive range of high-performance customized and standard compound solutions and supplies a wide range of industries including: Automotive, Energy and Electronics, Home and Garden, Sports and Leisure, Transportation, and Healthcare.

This event will be held at MOCOM, 1720 E. Main St., Duncan, SC 29334. It is a free event, and you can register at <https://spartanburgareasc.chambermaster.com/events/>. Space is limited for this event.

### Middle Tyger Area Council event

For February's meeting, the Middle Tyger Area Council is heading to the The Bryant Center for a lunch with speaker Don Williams and an introduction to JUMPSTART. With a 96% success rate, JUMPSTART differentiates itself from other reentry programs. They take pride in working with 17 out of SC's 21 prisons and provide vital accountability and program diversity to combat recidivism.

Don's heartfelt desire to help individuals tap into their 'True Potential' is the driving force that pushes him to equip returning citizens to become productive and fulfilled in the mission God has called them to. Don's passion for assisting those who were incarcerated is dear to his heart. He knows all too well how difficult this can be as he personally endured this journey- and now speaks to youth and adults about making the right choices and living a life committed to giving themselves away.

The event will be held on Thursday, March 2, at The Bryant Center, 180 Groce Road, Lyman, SC, from 12 Noon - 1:30 p.m. Register online at <https://spartanburgareasc.chambermaster.com/events/>

### PROGRESS: Women in Business

#### Building Professional & Personal Momentum

Take advantage of the opportunity to get your business in front of businesswomen who are playing a pivotal role in moving Spartanburg County forward. *PROGRESS: Women in Business 2023* will feature keynote and breakout sessions dedicated to helping attendees build and reflect on their personal and professional PROGRESS.

This event will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 1881 Event Hall, 805 Spartan Boulevard, Spartanburg. Register at <https://spartanburgareasc.chambermaster.com/events/>



Southside Cultural Monument rendering. City of Spartanburg image

## Celebrating the City of Spartanburg's historically Black communities

Content prepared by the City of Spartanburg

Like cities across the United States, the City of Spartanburg failed from its inception to recognize and safeguard the rights of its Black citizens, denying their communities the investments made in white areas and denying Black individuals and families the tools to build generational wealth.

Despite that systemic oppression and racism, Black people in Spartanburg persevered for decades and built strong, proud communities connected by institutions like churches, schools, and small businesses and shepherded by a long list of community leaders. The story of those leaders and the communities they built has never been fully told and their lives and work have never been fully commemorated.

The Southside Cultural

Monument will tell that story.

Featuring images displayed along the monument's panels of Spartanburg's historically Black communities and the people who built and sustained them, the Southside Cultural Monument will be both an artistic display and a celebration of the culture, vibrancy, and dynamism of those communities before urban renewal, a tribute to the economic and cultural engines of the Black experience in our city.

Located at the intersection of South Converse Street and Hudson Barksdale Boulevard at the trailhead of the Mary Wright Greenway, the Spartanburg Cultural Monument will create a new gateway to Spartanburg's Southside, leveraging previous adjacent trails and green-space investment on the Southside and providing a physical link between our oldest historically Black

community and Downtown Spartanburg.

Supported by \$940,000 in state funding and by many private contributors, this project will elevate and give recognition to the history of one of South Carolina's most storied historically Black communities and will help enhance and restore the cultural vibrancy and economic vitality of the Southside for the residents who call it home. With broad support from Spartanburg's leaders and our community, the Southside Cultural Monument will help to bridge both the physical divides created by the injustices of the past and the cultural divides that persist, in the spirit of inclusivity and unity.

The monument began construction in January. Visit [cityofspartanburg.org/southside-monument](http://cityofspartanburg.org/southside-monument) for more information about the monument.

## Spartanburg County native publishes book on life in the Army

Spartanburg native Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Jason Pike recently published a memoir about his life and 31 years of service in the United States military.

His book 'A Soldier Against All Odds' compiles all his life events in an inspiring storytelling format with the ups and downs of a life in uniform. His diversity of Army jobs, assignments, and schools from age 17 to 48 sets this military memoir up differently than most.

LTC Pike's brutal honesty on how he did it while disclosing many sacred secrets about how he survived is unique. With a straightforward account of one man's journey, he inspires audiences nationwide at speaking events and shows how to be resilient and to persevere no matter what disadvantages and life struggles may happen.

In his own words, "I Am a Soldier Against All Odds, and what follows is a genuine and frank account—the good, the very bad, and the very ugly—of my thirty-one years in uniform. Diagnosed at age seven with an acute learning disability and failing first grade that year, I was sent back to repeat it. At age nine, I was diagnosed with osteomyelitis, a crippling bone disease dissolving the bone of my knee that added to my academic challenges and a significant physical disadvantage.



LTC Jason Pike, US Army (retired)

With more than three decades of national guard and active service, after starting my military career at seventeen and retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel, I was told that none of it would be possible. For that advice, there were undoubtedly excellent grounds. My story, therefore, is one of survival, perseverance, and a refusal to quit, no matter what, a characteristic gifted to me by my father. Once I did it, everyone asked, "how the hell did you do it?" And many times, I asked myself the same question...

In *A Soldier Against All Odds*, I show that it is possible, through determination, careful application, and bold strategy, to overcome or compensate for personal humiliation brought about primarily by my own mistakes, being haunted by investigations, academic difficulty, arrests, many ass-chewings, and physical frailty. I did pay the price for

being me. This is how I did it, but most importantly, how I survived it.

The chronicle of life will inspire you to wince, cry, and laugh. I hope that the lessons I learned through the course of my life and my military career will be an inspiration to anyone confronting the future from a place of disadvantage."

LTC Pike joined the South Carolina National Guard in 1982. After graduating from Boiling Springs High School in 1984, he earned a ROTC scholarship from Clemson University, and later earned a commission in the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1988. His accomplishments include Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Clemson University, as well as a Master's degree from Colorado State University. His thirty-one years of military service includes earning over 30 various badges, awards and service ribbons including the Bronze Star for actions while serving in Afghanistan. LTC Pike completed over 25 formal military schools.

For more information about LTC Pike visit his website at [www.jasonpike.org](http://www.jasonpike.org)

For more information, or to purchase the book 'A Soldier Against All Odds', visit [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## The Cottages at Turtle Creek in Boiling Springs announces grand opening

Greenville – Durham Homes, USA, operating partner of Broadstreet, Inc., has announced the grand opening of The Cottages at Turtle Creek, a beautiful and rural community nestled in Boiling Springs, South Carolina. It is located eight miles outside of downtown Spartanburg and close to some of the biggest industrial employers in the Upstate.

"With over 25% growth in the past decade, the housing market in Boiling Springs is flourishing and is expected to continually grow due to the strong demand," said Joseph Baldassarra, president of Broadstreet. "When you live in Boiling Springs, you're close to big cities, mountains and local parks. You can hike or shop, dine or see a show—all within a short drive from home, making it an ideal place for families."

The new modern craftsman-style homes include desirable interior features like copper ceilings, exposed wood trusses, interior brick and high-detailed trim work. The exterior details incorporate stone and cedar accents.

"Boiling Springs is known to have some of the nicest neighborhoods in Spartanburg County and The Cottages at Turtle Creek is no exception," said Martin Childress, part owner of Durham Homes, USA. "The community offers a laid-back atmosphere with luxury, quality homes with attention to detail and we're excited to help meet the current housing market demand in the area."

The development has 36 houses with six floor plans to choose from that range in size from 2,400 to 3,900 square feet. Located at 1035 Tudor Cottage Trail, the community is in the Spartanburg County School District Two, a highly rated public school district. The homes are selling in the range of upper \$500,000s to the lower \$700,000s, with an average sell price of \$650,000. The development is currently under construction with approximately (20) of the allotted (36) homes nearly complete.

Durham Homes is a prominent homebuilder based out of Simpsonville, South Carolina and offers a diverse option of homes for any potential homebuyer. They have built high-level homes across the Upstate of South Carolina including Tindal Park, a development located off South Church Street in downtown Greenville, Braxton Ridge in Simpsonville and Squires Pointe in Duncan.

For more information on The Cottages at Turtle Creek and to schedule a tour of the model home, call 864-565-8500 or visit <https://www.durhamhomesusa.com/>