

The Item

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SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

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PAMPERED PETS

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Sumter institutions celebrate 100th anniversary of booming year of 1912

Sumter has changed a lot in the past century. Its population is now more than three times what it was when some of its oldest institutions were set up.

At the time, many streets had yet to be paved, and some buildings that would have been most recognizable at the time are no longer standing.

But decades' worth of development in this community can be directly tied back to some of the biggest changes made in Sumter 100 years ago this year.

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
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1912 was a big year in Sumter, when a small Southern town took several steps toward becoming a more substantial city. Between 1910 and 1913, the population of the city grew by 50 percent, from 8,000 to 12,000. The process of transformation was already well under way by 1912, but as a number of centennial anniversaries this year illustrates, that was the year Sumter

ON THE NET

Item archivist and local historian Sammy Way talks about Sumter 100 years ago in an online video and photos with this story at www.theitem.com.



WAY

when the YMCA received its charter and when Sumter became one of the first cities in the world to adopt the then-experimental council-manager form of government. One hundred years later, those institutions will each mark the anniversaries of those monumental changes.

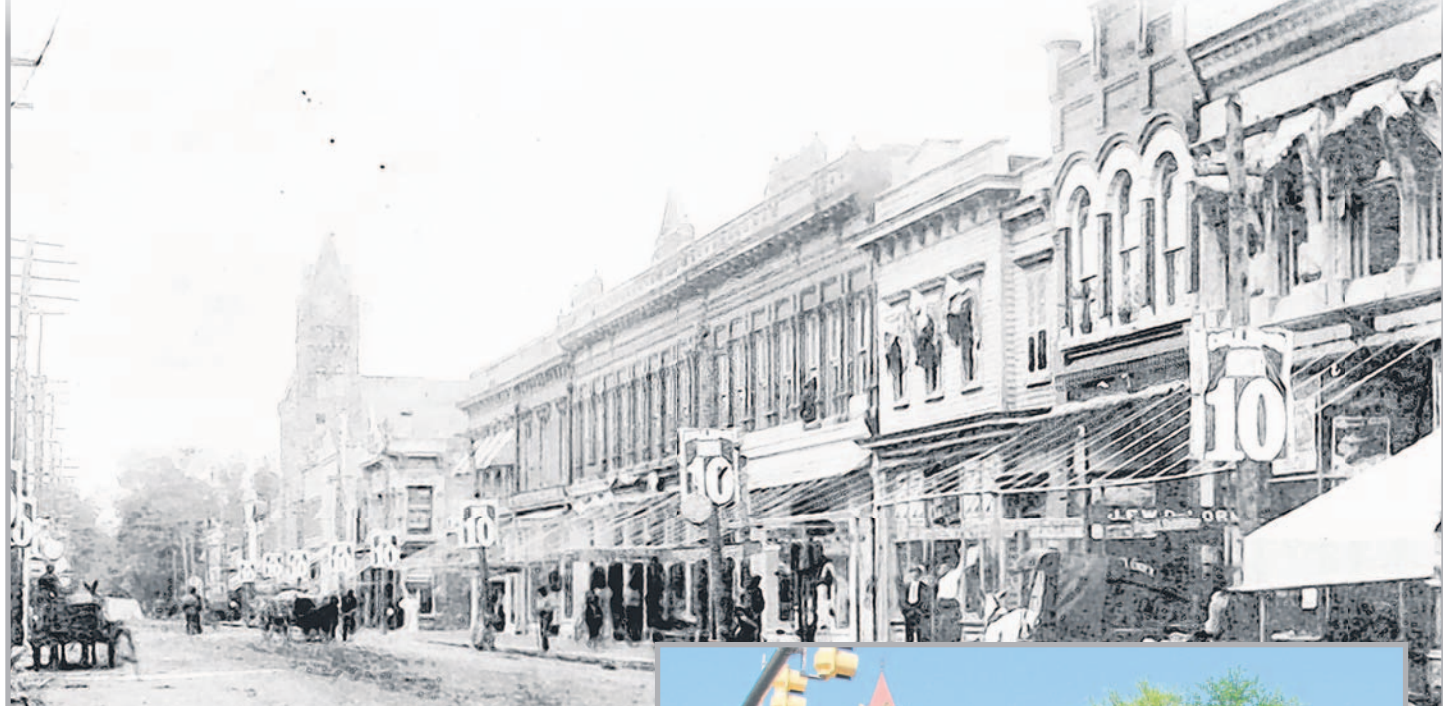
stepped into the big leagues.

That was the year the Chamber of Commerce was formally incorporated,

REVOLUTION IN GOVERNMENT

The first big anniversary

SEE 100 YEARS, PAGE A6



Then ...

Sumter's Main street is seen in 1912, above, and again in 2012, right. This year, the city of Sumter is celebrating 100 years since the Chamber of Commerce was formally incorporated, the local YMCA received its charter and the city became one of the first to adopt the council-manager form of government.

Now ...



ITEM FILE PHOTOS



The Claremont Hotel, seen left in a 1912 rendering, was one of several hotels on South Main Street in 1912 serving railroad travelers. It was later demolished, and now South Carolina Community Bank sits in its old place on the corner of Bartlette and South Main streets.

Then ...

Now ...



BRISTOW MARCHANT / THE ITEM

Events around city will mark centennial dates

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
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COUNCIL-MANAGER

The city of Sumter will hold a ceremony from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Sumter Opera House marking the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the council-manager form of government. Representatives of the International

City/County Management Association and the South Carolina City and County Management Association will be on hand to mark the occasion. A presentation will be given on the history of Sumter up to and including 1912, and there will be videotaped statements from the mayor and

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Churches will help Sumter on service day

BY COREY DAVIS
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It is often said the true mission of churches should be reaching out and helping those less fortunate in their respective communities.

On Saturday, 12 local churches will participate for the first time together in a day of service projects in the area called Operation Inasmuch United Sumter. It is coined from the North Carolina-based Operation Inasmuch, a nonprofit organization that has equipped more than 1,600 churches in 21 states

READ MORE

Find more information about Operation Inasmuch Day and a list of local churches involved on page A5.

as well as Canada, England and Botswana in South Africa to mobilize their congregants on one day each April to reach out in their communities and serve others. Locally, Sumter church members will fan out across the county providing different types of assistance to those in need.

Joel Singletary, who is a member of Alice Drive Baptist Church, brought the Operation Inasmuch concept to the church from its origins in North Carolina. He has coordinated the day of service since Alice Drive's involvement in 2008. Singletary said he and the pastors at Alice Drive had past discussions about having more churches involved in Operation Inasmuch, which has led to Saturday's united effort.

"The purpose of our local churches being involved is to demonstrate God's love to all people with the emphasis on serving the elderly, the homeless and others often overlooked or forgotten," Singletary said. "For the most part, churches usually work independently. There may be these little things in our doctrine that causes us to find different ways of showing our worship to God. But we often find we share the same beliefs, share the same Bible, share the same love of Jesus Christ and we all understand what Jesus wanted us to

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Morgan Hilton

Alice Mae Spann
Carrie Lee Spann

A9

OUTSIDE

RAINY SUNDAY

Showers this morning and cooler with a storm tonight
HIGH: 70 LOW: 46

A10

INSIDE

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CHURCHES from Page A1

do. By doing this together, we found what we all have in common, and when we find those common things, we say we can work together. When we work together, there is strength in numbers."

Singletary expects about 2,000 people from the 12 churches to be involved. He said church members will work on a variety of projects around Sumter and three community block parties will provide refreshments, recreation, Bible study and games for the youth in the Cherryvale, Crosswell and Miller Road communities.

According to Singletary, the activities will include providing hygiene kits and feeding the homeless. He said several churches are collecting staple foods at every Sumter grocery store, and the food will be delivered to United Ministries of Sumter where it will be used to assist hundreds of area families struggling with the loss of jobs.

Singletary said one family whose home was gutted by fire a year ago will see a large team from several churches work to restore the residence. There will also be one church sending a team to work on a Habitat for Humanity house and churches will paint and repair homes of the less fortunate.

Communities will witness volunteers coming to install smoke alarms and test those already installed. Hundreds of meals will be delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients, homeless shelters and to the Sumter County fire departments and first responders. Health care facilities throughout the area also will be visited by church members delivering flowers and bringing musical entertainment.

"These are some of the projects that will be taking place, and there will be more little projects happening around Sumter County," Singletary said.

Webb Belangia, senior pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, said its mem-

'I feel our church and others involved in this project will say that we're doing what Jesus Christ has called us to do.'

Webb Belangia, senior pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church

bers will help to rebuild the home of the family displaced by fire. His and other churches' participation in Operation Inasmuch is simply doing God's work, he said.

"I'm just thankful something like this is going on, and we have always been a church that focuses our mission on doing things locally," Belangia said. "I feel our church and

others involved in this project will say that we're doing what Jesus Christ has called us to do."

Pete Hipps, deacon chairman at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, explained Trinity members will be involved in collecting food, providing food to the needy and uplifting the sick in nursing homes. Singletary hopes

Saturday will push people to realize how important it is to lend a helping hand to those dealing with problems in the world.

"We want to inspire people that come out and serve on this one day to realize this is something they can do on a regular basis," Singletary said. "We don't want to leave people with the impression that God wants us to work one day a year."

In the future, Singletary's mission is to involve more local churches in Operation Inasmuch.

"We want to involve new churches because that will allow us to get more contact with people that need help," Singletary said.

Reach Corey Davis at (803) 774-1295.

OPERATION INASMUCH DAY

North Carolina will conduct a statewide Operation Inasmuch Day. Past events have had more than 600 churches of many denominations mobilize in excess of 60,000 volunteers for the single day of service. Sumter organizer Joel Singletary hopes the event will spread in South Carolina.

"The goal of the ministry is to have a statewide Inasmuch Day in South Carolina no later than 2014, modeled after the North Carolina Inasmuch Day," Singletary said. "Hopefully, the efforts of our Sumter churches will serve as a model for other cities in the state."

Churches involved in Operation Inasmuch United Sumter are: Aldersgate United Methodist, Alice Drive Baptist Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Concord Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Sumter, First Church of God, Gateway Baptist Church, Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church, New Life Church, Northside Baptist Church, St. James Lutheran Church and Trinity Missionary Baptist Church.



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EVENTS

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former Sumter city managers.

CHAMBER

The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce is holding a gala dinner May 16 at the Sumter County Civic Center to celebrate the Chamber's 100th anniversary. A reception will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner following at 7 p.m. A silent auction for prizes and Chamber memorabilia will also be held. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$750 to reserve a table for 10 are available for purchase through the Chamber at (803) 775-1231.

YMCA

The Sumter Family YMCA is holding a series of events to mark the 100th anniversary of receiving its charter and opening its original facility on Liberty and Sumter streets. Longtime members, volunteers and supporters of the Y will be invited to a gala dinner Nov. 18. The YMCA is also creating a walking timeline to display throughout the building. Planners are seeking YMCA artifacts from the past 100 years including awards, ribbons, sports jerseys, sports equipment, photographs and printed items. The Y will also open to the public for "100 Hours of the Y" between the gala and Thanksgiving. Anyone wanting to take part in the celebrations should contact the Y at (803) 773-1404.

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