



# Cottontown News

The Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District Neighborhood Association, March 2006

## Announcing the Spring Neighborhood Meeting

April Meeting at a new time and place!

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2006  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Location: North Main Street Fire Station, corner of Main and Geiger Avenue

Come meet your Cottontown neighbors, catch up on neighborhood news, get updates from city officials, and find out about issues that impact us as residents of a historic downtown neighborhood. Our neighborhood fire station is opening its doors for our meeting. Come see the newly renovated facility and help us thank the fire fighters that protect our homes and property.



*The historic North Main Street fire station will host the spring neighborhood meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 22nd.*

### 2006 Executive Committee

Paul Bouknight (president) 255-8015  
[paul.bouknight@palmettohealth.org](mailto:paul.bouknight@palmettohealth.org)

Ellen H. Cooper (past president)  
[ecooper3@sc.rr.com](mailto:ecooper3@sc.rr.com)

Bruce Cotner  
[brucecotner@bellsouth.net](mailto:brucecotner@bellsouth.net)

Susan Creed  
[screed@paretoassociates.com](mailto:screed@paretoassociates.com)

Carol Hall (vice-president)  
[carolhall@sc.edu](mailto:carolhall@sc.edu)

Amy Herin (treasurer)  
[aherin@Lex5.K12.sc.us](mailto:aherin@Lex5.K12.sc.us)

Howard Hunt  
[hh@howardhuntphotography.com](mailto:hh@howardhuntphotography.com)

Sandra Ligon  
[sligon@usa.net](mailto:sligon@usa.net)

Rusty Sox (secretary)  
[soxmoore@earthlink.net](mailto:soxmoore@earthlink.net)

Robbie Sockwell  
[robbiesockwell@yahoo.com](mailto:robbiesockwell@yahoo.com)

### City Council to Examine Traffic Issues

The city's traffic engineering office is reporting decreased traffic counts throughout Cottontown since restrictions were placed on turns into the neighborhood off of Bull Street. The mayor has now requested a meeting with the neighborhood to discuss issues raised by several North Main Street businesses. At the time of this printing, the date for that meeting had not been set. City Council will determine whether the turn restrictions off of Bull Street will become permanent. The neighborhood traffic committee chaired by Bruce Cotner is working on this and other issues related to automobile traffic in Cottontown. You can email Bruce at [brucecotner@bellsouth.net](mailto:brucecotner@bellsouth.net).

Visit our neighborhood web site:

[www.cottontown.us](http://www.cottontown.us)

# Neighborhood Crime Stats Drop

The Columbia Police Department says crime is falling in the Cottontown area, with a recent decrease in crimes reported. Neighbors are encouraged to keep a watchful eye for suspicious activity, and report anything unusual to the police. Residents should remember to reserve using 911 for emergencies only. Less urgent calls should go to the police dispatcher at **252-2911**. Your Cottontown Crime Prevention and Safety Committee is looking into expanding the Crime Watch program in our neighborhood, and is working on a neighborhood contact list with emergency numbers. Would you like to get involved in helping keep Cottontown a safe place to live? Email committee chair Howard Hunt at [hh@howardhuntphotography.com](mailto:hh@howardhuntphotography.com).

## Beautification Committee Helping to Keep Cottontown Clean and Green

The neighborhood's Beautification Committee, chaired by Victoria Avenue resident Sandra Billmeyer, is keeping the neighborhood's landscaped medians looking attractive. Sandy and volunteers have recently been cleaning, replanting, repairing irrigation in the medians and cleaning around the neighborhood's entrance signs. Can you lend a hand to help keep our common areas beautiful? Contact Sandy at [detroit1028@yahoo.com](mailto:detroit1028@yahoo.com).



*The neighborhood's Beautification Committee recently replanted a damaged tree and cleaned in the Grace Street median.*

## Lending Neighbors a Helping Hand

Cottontown's Senior Helpers Committee is expanding to offer help to neighbors who are elderly, ill, have a disability or otherwise need some help with tasks around the home or yard. If you are interested in lending a hand, contact Paul Bouknight at [paul.bouknight@palmettohealth.org](mailto:paul.bouknight@palmettohealth.org)

## Protecting Cottontown's Historic Character

The Cottontown/Bellevue district has attained national recognition as a classic American neighborhood. The fact that the majority of homes in Cottontown still appear as they did in the early 1900s earned the neighborhood a spot in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. Now the neighborhood is seeking a designation from the City of Columbia that would help ensure that the Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District retains its character for generations to come.

The Design Preservation designation will help assure that historic and aesthetic characteristics of the neighborhood will remain. This assurance can increase property values by maintaining the appearance and quality of the neighborhood's historic architecture, and ensuring that new construction will enhance, not detract from its historic appeal. Plans for major changes to existing buildings and any new construction would be reviewed by the city in a process similar to that of obtaining a building permit.

## **Historic Character** *continued from page 2*

Several other historic Columbia neighborhoods already have this designation. Elmwood Park, Earlewood, Melrose Heights, Old Shandon and Waverly have completed the process. Cottontown is among several other neighborhoods on a waiting list to begin. If the city stays on schedule, Cottontown could begin the process in the fall of 2006 and finish in approximately 9-12 months. The process includes an inventory of structures in the district, neighborhood meetings and public hearings followed by a vote by city council.

## **Your Old House: Bungalow Colors**

### **Think historic when choosing colors**

*By Patti Marinelli*

As the warm days of spring and summer approach, our thoughts turn to painting! For an authentic bungalow experience, consider painting the exterior of your home in colors commonly used when most of our neighborhood was built during the 1920s, 30s and early 40s. Here are some guidelines:

*Number of colors:* Usually, homes had two basic colors: the body color and a contrasting color for doors, windows, and trim pieces.

*Brick bungalows:* Brick was left in its natural color and not painted. The windows, doors and other wood trim were often painted in a single contrasting color that helped define the edges of the house and make it stand out from the brick. Depending on the color of the bricks, this trim color might be ivory, pale yellow, brown, sage green, or slate blue. Pure white was not usually used as a trim color because it was considered too stark.

## **Want to Know More?**

Visit the City Planning Office's web site at

[www.columbiascdevelopment.com](http://www.columbiascdevelopment.com)

A city staff person has been invited to speak and answer questions at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> neighborhood meeting.

You can also email questions to Rusty Sox, chair of the neighborhood's Historic Preservation Committee, at [soxmoore@earthlink.net](mailto:soxmoore@earthlink.net).

*One-story bungalows with wood siding:* These homes frequently featured an autumn palette of browns, tans, "muddy" golds, muted greens, terra cotta, gray or grayish-blues. When the body of the house was a dark shade, the trim would be in a lighter tint of a contrasting color. If the body was a lighter tint, the trim was often painted in a darker, contrasting tone.

*Two-story homes:* Generally, non-brick two-story homes have a dividing line: either a trim piece between the two stories or a change in materials. The two stories were often painted in contrasting colors, such as a brown second story over a cream or medium yellow first story.

*Stucco in the gables:* This area was left unpainted, or painted a light tan. Timbers in the stucco were painted in the same color as the house trim. Timbers could also be painted a medium brown or dark muted green to resemble old wood, even when the rest of the trim was a different color.

# Bungalow Colors

*continued from page 3*

**Roofs:** The color of the roof was meant to harmonize with the body and trim colors. Colors included brown, reddish-brown, muted green and black or dark gray. Light colored roofs were not used.

**Foundations:** When plants cover the foundation, the color is less important. But if you can see the foundation from the street, consider its color as part of the overall plan. Brick foundations are best left unpainted; concrete blocks with molded designs may be appropriately painted gray. Cinder blocks can be tinted dark green, red, or brown, depending on the color of the body of the house. They may also be painted the same color as the body.

**Porches:** Floors were often painted in dark grays, dark reds, or in browns and greens

that harmonized with the other colors used in the overall paint scheme.

**Windows and doors:** Window sashes and trim were painted in the same color as the rest of the trim. Sometimes, window sashes were painted in a darker color than the window trim. The front door may be painted brown, to resemble wood, or in the same color as the rest of the trim. Modern colors such as burgundy and hunter green were not used.

Interested in learning more about historic colors? Sherwin-Williams carries a line of historic colors. Of those, choose the ones called Arts & Crafts, which fit the time frame of our neighborhood (You can view these online at <http://sherwinwilliams.com>). Or, consult the book by Richard Schweitzer, *Bungalow Colors: Exteriors*.

**COTTONTOWN MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District Neighborhood Association  
*We welcome home owners and renters alike!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to join the neighborhood association. Enclosed are my dues for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Dues are **\$5.00** for a household. Checks may be made payable to "Cottontown"

I would like to join a committee:  Traffic  Historic preservation  
 Crime Watch  Neighborhood Beautification  Senior Helpers

Please mail this form and your dues to our Treasurer,  
Amy Herin, 1402 Summerville Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201.