



Cottontown News

The Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District Neighborhood Association, June 2006



For more information about the circus, visit www.universoulcircus.com.

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UniverSOUL Circus Coming to North Main Street

Offers discount tickets, good neighbor pledge

The circus is coming, and it's just up the street! The UniverSOUL Circus will set up its tent in the field between North Main Street and River Drive, offering performances from June 28th – July 2nd. Because of its location so close to neighborhood homes, members of the Cottontown board recently met with representatives of the city and the circus to clarify some questions about the circus, such as potential traffic, parking and noise issues. The circus has pledged to be a good neighbor during its 5-day run, and is offering discounted tickets to all Cottontown residents (see coupon in this newsletter). The city has committed to providing extra police patrols and security. If Cottontown neighbors experience any difficulty caused by the circus, they should notify city police at 252-2911.

Zoning Decisions Impact Cottontown

It has been an active spring for your elected representatives on the Cottontown Neighborhood Association's board. Several issues have required the neighborhood to take a stand before city council and the Board of Zoning Appeals (BOZA). Many residents have provided input and shared thoughts on these issues. Here are some brief updates on some of them.

Tattoo Shop - A tattoo shop was proposed for North Main Street near the old Coca Cola plant. The board notified the city of its opposition to the location. The owners withdrew their application for a zoning variance, which was required for the shop to open. *Continued on page 2.*

Zoning Decisions (continued from page 1)

Digital Billboards – In spite of the neighborhood’s opposition, Lamar Outdoor Advertising has won city approval to convert several billboards in Columbia to digital video displays, capable of changing images and messages every 6 seconds. This includes the billboard bordering Cottontown on Bull Street, near the American Red Cross. The signs must be at least 300 feet away from homes. The city has pledged to monitor the brightness of these signs to determine the impact they may have on neighborhoods.

Payday Loan Store - The operators of a Cash Advance payday loan store have applied to open a location at 2321 North Main. The neighborhood opposes another payday loan establishment on North Main. The city has yet to decide on the zoning variance required for the store to open. It should be back on agenda for the BOZA on July 11th.

Furniture Maker - A craftsman and furniture maker has applied to open a studio and furniture shop at 2327 North Main. The neighborhood supports this application for a zoning variance.

Cottontown becomes Wild Kingdom

Several Cottontown neighbors have reported seeing a fox roaming the north end of the neighborhood. The sighting has been reported to the city’s Animal Control office, and officers are working with residents to try to trap the sly visitor. A representative at Animal Control said it is not likely the fox poses any threat to residents or pets, but offers these tips to help avoid any unpleasant encounters with our foxy four-legged friend:

- Don’t feed the fox. Take any pet foods indoors when your pets are not eating.
- Don’t torment the fox by throwing rocks or chasing it.
- Don’t approach the fox, or try to trap it without Animal Control assistance.

The Animal Control office says it is not necessary to call if you spot the fox, but if you want to put a trap in your yard, officers can provide one with instructions on how to set it. For more information, call 776-PETS.



A wine club is forming in Cottontown.

Wine with Neighbors

A group of Cottontown neighbors is organizing a wine club on the third Friday of each month. Members will share hosting duties, providing cheese, crackers and other wine-friendly foods. Wines for tasting will be provided for each meeting around a theme, such as Italian wine or “Bubbly from Around the World.” A small fee covers the cost of wine. The first gathering is being planned for July 21st. Interested? Email Doug Aylard at koadoa@sc.rr.com or drop your name and contact information by 1310 Summerville Avenue. Doug says there will be only one rule: “No driving!”

Find back issues of Cottontown News, neighborhood history, board member contacts and current news on the neighborhood’s web site:

www.cottontown.us

Drain the Rain

Keep Storm Drains Clear to Help Prevent Flooded Streets

Recent heavy rains created minor flooding and standing water on some low-lying streets in Cottontown. It reminded some residents of more severe flooding that occurred several years ago. The problem was attributed to clogged storm drains. You can help avoid future problems by checking storm drains on the street near your home, and making sure they are free of debris that could block the free flow of water. Also, place yard trash for city pickup away from storm drains, about a foot out from the curb so water flows freely behind it.

Join the Parade!

Cottontown neighbors Carol Finethy and Denise Hunt are organizing an Independence Day parade through the neighborhood on July 4th. Walkers, bicycles, strollers, pets (on leashes, please!) and the like will meet at 9 a.m. at the Marion Street fountain, parade through the neighborhood, then end at the North Main Street Fire Station for a pot-luck brunch. Bring a brunch food to share. Beverages will be provided. If the parade is a success, it could become an annual event, so join the parade and celebrate your nation and neighborhood! For more information, contact Denise at 765-4533 or Carol at 256-7415.

Remember!

Cottontown will soon be deciding whether to pursue city designation as a Design Preservation District.

The intent is to preserve the historic character and architecture of Cottontown, and protect the neighborhood from unsympathetic development.

For more information, visit the City Planning Office's web site at

www.columbiascdevelopment.com

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

COTTONTOWN RESIDENT SPECIAL



\$15 SPECIAL
WEDNESDAY: 6/28
@ 7:30PM

June 28th – July 2nd: Main St and River Dr

- Present this Special Coupon or Cottontown Bulletin and receive \$15 tickets on Grandstand tickets for Opening Night, Wed, 6/28 @ 730pm
- Redeemable at UniverSOUL Circus Advance Box Office ONLY

HURRY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!!!

Customer: This special is **NOT** valid on child's ticket or with other offers. Not valid on Box or Rear Grandstand Tickets. Void if sold. Limited time offer and subject to availability. Limit six (6) tickets per coupon. Cash redemption value 1/100 cent.

For additional information call: 800.316.7439

Neighborly Reminders

Summer Security

“There’s no better security system than a nosy neighbor!” A city police officer said this a while back at a neighborhood meeting, encouraging Cottontown neighbors to look out for each other’s homes and property. Especially in the summer months when folks are away on vacation, do not hesitate to report unusual happenings, behaviors or individuals on your street. Be sure to tell your neighbors if you are leaving town, and whether anyone has permission to be in your house or yard. To report any suspicious (non-emergency) activity, call the city police dispatch at 252-2911.

Pet Courtesy

Cottontown residents love their pets and their pet-friendly neighborhood. Please help keep Cottontown friendly for man and beast

by picking up after your pet when you walk, including in the tree zones between the sidewalk and the street.

Some City Offices Have Moved

The City of Columbia has moved its Community Development, Planning, Payment Center, Parking Tickets, Water Customer Service, Business License and Development Services (Permits, Building Plan Review, Inspections & Zoning) operations from 1225 Laurel Street to their new location at the corner of Washington & Main streets. Please enter on Main Street. The mailing address for these offices remains the same: P.O. Box 147, Columbia, SC 29217.

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.