



Attend the Fall Neighborhood Meeting

Elections of board and officers planned

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2006
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: North Main Street Fire Station, corner of Main and Geiger Avenue

Hear the latest updates on neighborhood news and issues that impact Cottontown. The neighborhood's fire station will once again host the meeting. City officials have been invited to be present and answer questions, and members will elect the board and officers for 2007. Information on this year's nominees is on page 2. You must be a current member to vote. Use the form on page 4 to join or renew your membership today!



Neighborhood children enjoy the post-parade party at the North Main Street Fire Station on Independence Day. Close to fifty Cottontown neighbors, and assorted pets, participated in the parade.

2006 Board of Directors

Paul Bouknight (president) 255-8015
paul.bouknight@palmettohealth.org

Ellen H. Cooper (past president)
ecooper3@sc.rr.com

Bruce Cotner
brucecotner@bellsouth.net

Susan Creed
screed@paretoassociates.com

Carol Hall (vice-president)
carolhall@sc.edu

Amy Herin (treasurer)
aherin@Lex5.K12.sc.us

Howard Hunt
hh@howardhuntphotography.com

Sandra Ligon
sligon@usa.net

Rusty Sox (secretary)
soxmoore@earthlink.net

Robbie Sockwell
robbiesockwell@yahoo.com

Proposed Homeless Shelter on Hold

The plan to locate a temporary 250-bed homeless shelter in the Williams Building on the old State Hospital's Bull Street campus appears to have shifted away from that location. Instead, city council recently voted to establish a daytime homeless services center at Taylor and Gregg Streets, which would not include overnight accommodations, and begin to investigate a different model of providing transitional housing dispersed through the Columbia area. In the interim, the city is searching for a site for a temporary winter homeless shelter, but not at the Taylor Street or Williams Building locations. An announcement from the city on the new location is expected soon.

Visit our neighborhood web site:

www.cottontown.us

Nominees for 2007 Cottontown Officers & Board

The Cottontown nominating committee, comprised of Immediate Past President Ellen Cooper and neighborhood association members Toby Burleson and Sandra Billmeyer, has announced nominees for the 2007 neighborhood officers and board. Additional nominations may be taken from the floor of members present at the fall annual meeting on Saturday, October 14. Association members will vote for 4 officers and 5 at-large members from the slate of nominees

President – Paul Bouknight, 1324 Confederate Ave., 255-8015, paul.bouknight@palmettohealth.org

Paul is completing his third year on the board, most recently as president, and would like the opportunity to serve as president again for 2007. He feels the greatest challenge facing Cottontown is the preservation of the neighborhood in a rapidly changing urban environment - not only to protect and preserve, but also to improve the quality of life for those living here. He is a Columbia area native, and has worked for Palmetto Health for over 21 years. He has lived in Cottontown for 4 years.

Vice President – Carol Hall, 2301 Marion St., 765-1268, carolhall@sc.edu

Carol moved to Cottontown in 1999. She has served on the traffic committee, as a block coordinator, then on the board as a member at large, as secretary, and currently as vice-president. She works at USC. Her spare time is usually devoted to reading and creating traditional handcrafts – spinning, knitting, making rugs.

Secretary – Rusty Sox, 2231 Wallace St., 252-4270, soxmoore@earthlink.net

Rusty has lived on Wallace St. for 14 years. He has served two terms on the board and is currently secretary and chair of the Historic Preservation and Communications Committees. He loves the historic character, friendliness and “walkability” of Cottontown. Rusty is employed at the SC Arts Commission.

Treasurer – Amy Herin, 1402 Summerville Ave., AmyHerin@hildrethus.com

Amy and her husband Ron have lived in Cottontown for 4 years. She is interested in preserving the historic character of the neighborhood. Before Cottontown she lived in Elmwood Park in a former warehouse that she and her brother renovated. They also restored the building on Park St. which is now the Mouse House. Amy teaches at Dutch Fork High School and is a violinist with the SC Philharmonic.

Doug Aylard, 1310 Summerville Ave., 765-2302, koadoa@sc.rr.com

Doug was born in Ohio and moved to SC in 1999. He has lived in Cottontown for 1½ years. He supports a stronger neighborhood, with more events like the 4th of July parade, where everyone knows and looks out for one another, making Cottontown a nicer place to live. He also favors having the city perform its due diligence when it comes to road maintenance and enforcement.

Susan Creed, 1426 Geiger Ave., 770-4071, screed@paretoassociates.com

Susan has lived in Columbia since 1965, in Cottontown since 2003. She has 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Her interests include the natural world, children, and trying to understand life. She has served one term as a board member. Priorities include keeping the neighborhood safe and enjoyable for residents and having a positive influence on the development of the area.

Howard Hunt, 2421 Marion St., 348-5707, hh@howardhuntphotography.com

Howard is interested in positive growth for Cottontown and N. Main Street. He is glad to see new families with children in the neighborhood, which increases the need for efforts to make the neighborhood and N. Main Street safe. He has renovated five homes in Cottontown and wants to help ensure its future.

Carol Latimer-Finethy, 2420 Marion St., 256-7415, imagfxr@bellsouth.net

Carol is a Bishopville native who has lived in Cottontown since 1998. She has served on several Columbia area boards, and has served on Cottontown’s traffic committee for 6 years. She and her husband are raising two boys, ages 15 years and 19 months.

Saundra Ligon, 2130 block Wallace Street, 779-6688, sligon@usa.net

Saundra first moved to Cottontown in 1979. She has served one term on the board. She is employed by the SC Human Affairs Commission and is a member of St. Peter’s Catholic Church. A major concern of hers is safe streets for the children in the community.

Robbie Sockwell, 2222 Wallace St., 237-3895, robbiesockwell@yahoo.com

Robbie has served one term on the Cottontown board. Originally from NC, he moved to Columbia in 2000 and to Cottontown in 2004. He is a representative with Astellas Pharma US, and has enjoyed serving the neighborhood and working for a safe and pleasant place to live.

Tom Walters, 1412 Anthony Ave., 920-0606, totalofficemgmt@mindspring.com

Tom has lived in Cottontown for 4 years. He is president of Total Office Management. He is particularly interested zoning and development in and around the neighborhood, as well as neighborhood security, safety, code enforcement and other quality of life issues.



City Holds Traffic Talks

City officials called a special meeting August 29 to discuss traffic issues with Cottontown residents and N. Main Street business owners. Councilman Sam Davis, Councilman Daniel Rickenman, City Manager Charles Austin and City Traffic Engineer Dave Brewer asked questions and took input on recent traffic calming measures in Cottontown, including the No Right Turn signs from Bull St. onto Confederate Ave. Several area business owners believe the turn restrictions have hurt their businesses by making it harder for customers to get to them. The city is re-evaluating the situation, and proposing some alternative measures to help reduce Cottontown cut-through traffic, including asking for directional signage to downtown from 277 at the Sunset exit, and a possible second right turn lane from Bull St. onto Elmwood Ave. No decisions have been announced.

The city is considering a second right turn lane from Bull St. onto Elmwood Ave. to help reduce cut-through traffic in Cottontown. Several new tactics have been proposed.

State Income Tax Credits for Our Historic Homes

By Patti Marinelli

Would you like to get a 25% credit on your state income taxes? With some advance planning and paperwork, nearly all home owners in Cottontown are eligible for this benefit. This is because most of our homes are considered “contributing properties” for Cottontown’s listing as a district in the National Register of Historic Places. To get a state income tax credit, a property owner must live in a home that contributes to the National Register listing, spend at least \$15,000 on qualified repairs, complete the work over a three-year period, and fill out an application and get approval before starting the work.

So what are “qualified repairs?” They include all the basics here and more:

- ✍ heat and air conditioning
- ✍ roofing
- ✍ exterior painting
- ✍ repairing windows (not replacements)
- ✍ storm windows
- ✍ upgrading electrical wiring
- ✍ new water pipes and sewer lines
- ✍ fixing sagging floors
- ✍ replacing rotted wood (exterior)
- ✍ attic insulation
- ✍ repointing your brickwork
- ✍ fixing plaster walls

All the work must preserve the original appearance/style of the home. The credits can not be used to add on to your home.

To learn more, call the SC Department of Archives and History at (803) 896-6199 and ask for information about the state income tax credit for renovating historic properties. Information is also online at www.state.sc.us/scdah/hptaxincentives.htm.

A number of homeowners in Cottontown have already been approved for this program. You could be the next one!

Stop the SPLAT!

Proper paint disposal avoids unsightly spills

You may have noticed them on several streets in Cottontown – big unsightly splotches of paint splattered on the pavement. It's not usually vandalism, but the result of partial cans of paint being placed in trash bins, then crushed by the garbage truck on pickup days. The paint spills into the truck and onto the street – potentially damaging the truck and leaving that telltale splat.

So how to get rid of unwanted paint? The SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control does not regulate the disposal of household paint, and Richland County does not offer a paint recycling program. Some non-profit groups that use paint,

like community theatres or Habitat for Humanity, may accept donations of usable paint.

If you must trash it, DHEC does offer these tips for disposing of paint:

- ✍ remove the lid and allow the paint to dry completely
- ✍ for larger amounts, line a cardboard box with a trash bag, pour the paint into the bag and allow to dry
- ✍ you can add cat litter, shredded newspaper, sawdust or sand to speed the drying process
- ✍ once the paint is dry, dispose of it with the household garbage.

These tips apply to latex and oil-based paints, as well as stains, sealers and solvents. A little extra care can help protect the environment and keep our streets free of the dreaded SPLAT!

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

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