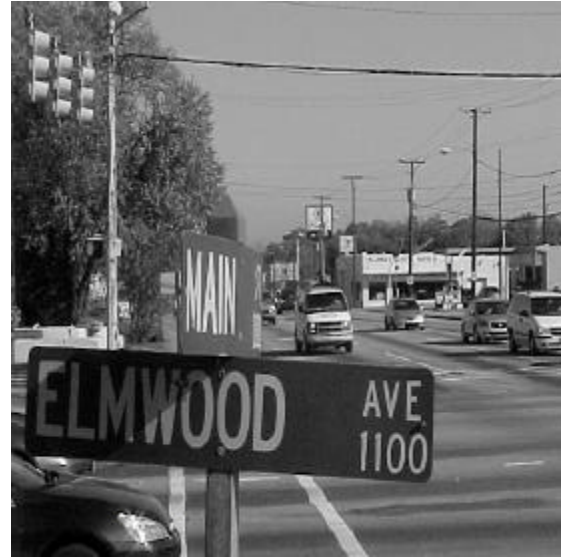


Spring Neighborhood Meeting April 29th

Meet neighbors and enjoy a cookout!

Date: Sunday, April 29th, 2007
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: North Main Street Fire Station, corner of Main and Geiger Avenue

Plan to attend the spring neighborhood association meeting and stick around for a good old-fashioned picnic. Hot dogs, fixin's and drinks will be provided. Bring a pot luck side dish or dessert to share. The meeting agenda will include updates on issues and projects of interest to the neighborhood, reports from city officials, and time to meet and greet your Cottontown neighbors and friends. You don't have to be a member of the neighborhood association to attend, but if you would like to join the association, please see the form on page 4.



Streetscaping should begin this summer on North Main Street, starting at Elmwood Avenue.

2007 Board of Directors

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

Doug Aylard
koadoa@sc.rr.com

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

Susan Creed
screed@paretoassociates.com

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

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

Sandra Ligon
sligon@usa.net

Rusty Sox (secretary)
soxmoore@earthlink.net

Robbie Sockwell
robbiesockwell@yahoo.com

Tom Walters
totalofficemgmt@mindspring.com

North Main Street Redevelopment to Begin at Elmwood Avenue

City officials say they are close to starting a long-awaited project to overhaul the North Main Street corridor between Elmwood Avenue and Columbia College. The city held a meeting with area neighborhoods on February 15 to update residents and field questions about the project. Members of the audience voiced concerns about the city's ability to pay for and complete the \$40 million streetscaping, and where and when the actual work would begin. City Manager Charles Austin, Mayor Bob Coble, and city council members Sam Davis, Tameika Isaac-Devine and Dan Rickenman, assured residents that the city would have the money to complete the project, which is estimated to take 2 years to finish.

Visit our neighborhood web site:

www.cottontown.us

Historic Preservation Project Still Waiting to Start

At a special meeting last summer, members of the neighborhood association voted to begin a process to have the neighborhood designated as a historic district by the city. (Cottontown is already a nationally recognized historic district). At the time, it appeared the city would be ready to move ahead with Cottontown, as it was finishing similar projects in the Wales Garden and Oakwood Court neighborhoods. But delays with those neighborhoods have stalled the city's ability to begin its research and surveying work in Cottontown. The city planning office now expects the Cottontown project to begin in the summer. The city's historic designation would help preserve the historic character of Cottontown by requiring that building alterations and new construction in the neighborhood be compatible with surrounding structures. The project includes historical research, mapping, surveying and documentation of the neighborhood, public meetings, and a vote by city council to approve the historic district designation. Once it begins, the process should take approximately a year to complete. If you would like more information, contact Rusty Sox at soxmoore@earthlink.net or 252-4270.



Neighborhood church for sale

The Greater Carolina Baptist Church at the corner of Anthony and Grace Streets just went on the market. The church is asking \$306,500 for its 3780 square-foot building and lot. The property is zoned RS-3, single-family residential, but the city may grant a special exception to allow other uses, such as a church, at that location.

May is National Historic Preservation Month

Did you know that Cottontown has an award-winning historic preservation handbook, written specifically for preserving our neighborhood's unique historic charm? The handbook is full of information and tips on preserving, repairing and maintaining the features that add to your home's character and value. If you are new to the neighborhood, or have never received a copy and would like one, contact Rusty Sox at soxmoore@earthlink.net or 252-4270.



National Register Plaques: Show Your Pride in Your Home's Preservation

The Cottontown neighborhood is listed as the Belleview Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the nation's official list of properties and sites with significance in American history and culture. Cottontown earned its place in the Register for its noteworthy state of preservation: most of the homes and structures in the neighborhood today look much as they did when they were originally built in the early 20th Century. Not every home in the district qualifies, but most are eligible to bear a special plaque marking the home as a National Register property. You can find out if your home qualifies, and order the oval brass plaque by contacting the SC Department of Archives and History. A plaque costs \$70 plus \$2.25 for postage and handling. Call the SCDH at (803) 896-6178 or visit the agency online at www.state.sc.us/scdah.



Cottontown and Wine: A Successful Pairing!

Every other month since the fall, a growing group of Cottontown neighbors, with assorted friends and guests, has been gathering in neighborhood homes to explore wines of the world. With the guidance of wine professional Doug Aylard, the group has tasted wines from Italy, France, the United States and South America. One evening focused on high-quality, yet inexpensive wines. The gatherings have moved around the neighborhood to a variety of host homes. Attendees bring a party dish to share and pitch in to cover the cost of wine. If you discover a wine you really enjoy, there's an opportunity to place an order at the end of the night. Participants agree, it's

been a fun way to meet neighbors, see some lovely homes, learn about wine, enjoy good food and a fun social evening. The next gathering will happen in May. If you are interested, contact Doug Aylard at koadoa@sc.rr.com or 799-0509.

Upcoming Events

Tour of Historic Randolph Cemetery – Historic Columbia Foundation, April 15, 2 p.m.
www.historiccolumbia.org

Humane Society DogFest Film Festival – April 21, 6 p.m – 9:30 p.m., West Columbia Riverwalk Amphitheater. This pet-friendly event will feature movies, food, vendors, microchipping, dog agility demonstrations and more. \$5 for adults, children and dogs get in free. www.humanesocietysc.org or 783-1267.

Holy History: A Tour of Historic Downtown's Sacred Sites - Historic Columbia Foundation, April 28, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. www.historiccolumbia.org

Columbia Festival of the Arts - April 26 – May 6, www.columbiainfestivalofthearts.com

Symposium and Tours of Old State Hospital – May 5, learn about the State Hospital and tour the grounds before redevelopment begins. \$15 for symposium and tour, \$10 for tour alone. Call 779-2126 for info.

At-large Open House - Meet one-on-one with at-large council members Tameika Isaac Devine and Daniel Rickenman. Next meeting May 9th at City Hall. Call 545-3061 to make an appointment.

Second annual Cottontown 4th of July Parade and Picnic – July 4, 2007. Join your neighbors for a parade through Cottontown and a pot luck picnic at the fire station. Details to come!

Drew Wellness Center: Healthful Programs Just a Few Blocks Away

Just across the old State Hospital grounds from Cottontown, the Drew Wellness Center offers area residents a quality health facility and programs for health and fitness. The center includes a gymnasium for basketball and volleyball, 8-lane 25-meter pool, weight and cardio equipment with individual CD/DVD players, indoor walking/jogging track and several rooms for classes and meetings. Classes are offered for all age levels, including yoga, aerobics, tai chi, spinning, water exercise and personal training. Fees are discounted for city residents. Drop by the Drew for a tour, or check out www.drewwellnesscenter.com.

Earlewood Community Plant Sale and Flea Market – May 5th

Support our fellow North Columbia neighborhood during its annual flea market and plant sale, Saturday, May 5th, 8 a.m. – noon at Reformation Lutheran Church, 1118 Union St. You can rent a space for \$5 to sell your stuff, or just go to shop for bargains and locally grown plants. Visit www.historic-earlewood.org.

Notice: The neighborhood association's dues will change to **\$5.00 per adult** effective in October 2007. There will no longer be a household rate.

