



COTTONTOWN NEWS

The Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District Neighborhood Association

June 2008

3rd Annual Cottontown Independence Day Parade

From the Fountain to the Fire House!

Date: Friday, July 4th, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Intersection of Marion & Franklin St.
Request: Bring a brunch dish to share!

Plan on kicking off your 4th of July with your friends and neighbors in the 3rd annual Cottontown Independence Day Parade! Wear your proudest patriotic clothing! Decorate your bicycles, wagons, strollers... even the pets (on leashes, please!) We'll gather at the Marion Street fountain, and then step off at 9 a.m. for a flag-waving stroll through the streets of Cottontown. The mayor and city council members have been invited to serve once again as our Grand Marshalls. This event keeps getting bigger and better! This year, our neighbors in Elmwood Park and Earlewood have been invited to join the fun. The parade ends at the North Main Street fire station with a pot-luck brunch, so bring a dish to share (drinks and paper products provided.) Come show your pride in country, city and neighborhood on July 4th!



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Save the Date: National Night Out

Event Aims to Fight Crime Through Awareness

Cottontown will join forces with neighbors in Earlewood for this year's observance of **National Night Out** on August 5th. Cottontown residents are invited to turn on their porch lights, and then join their neighbors at 6:50 p.m. at the community center at Earlewood Park (just north of the train trestle off North Main Street.) National Night Out is a nation-wide effort to bring communities together around the common purpose of preventing crime in neighborhoods. Community policing, neighborhood crime watch programs, and public awareness are key themes of the campaign. Come join your Cottontown and Earlewood neighbors and help take a bite out of crime!

Visit your neighborhood web site:

www.cottontown.us

North Main Street Work Has Begun!

You may have noticed some lane closings on North Main Street and some side street closings in Cottontown as the city begins a major streetscaping project on North Main between Elmwood Avenue and Anthony Street. These are the earliest stages of a 2-year project to improve the functionality and appearance of the North Main Street corridor. Work is expected to continue through May of 2010. If you use North Main, it's likely you will encounter some inconvenience before the project is complete. You can monitor progress and see announcements of street closings on the city of Columbia's web site at www.columbiasc.net. A field office has been established at 2321 North Main Street. You can stop by or call 758-5838 with questions or concerns.

Signs of the Times

You may have noticed signs posted around the perimeter of the Cottontown announcing Planning Commission meetings or upcoming zoning hearings. Cottontown is one of several historic Columbia neighborhoods included in *Interim Measures for Community Character Protection*. Other neighborhoods include Hollywood/Rose Hill, Forest Hills, Shandon, Sherwood Forest and the Whaley Street neighborhood. While these neighborhoods work on crafting their own design guidelines for future development, these temporary interim measures grant a level of protection from demolitions or new construction that may be inconsistent with an area's historic character. City Council has scheduled a public hearing on the measures for July 16, 2008. You can see the proposed measures in the "planning" section of the city's web site at www.columbiasc.net.

Meanwhile, Cottontown continues to work on its own design guidelines for an architectural conservation district. A draft of the guidelines is now posted at www.cottontown.us. Look for an announcement of another neighborhood meeting later this summer to present a revised draft and proposed boundaries for the district. If you have questions, would like more information, or wish to receive a printed copy of the draft design guidelines, send an email to Rusty Sox at soxmoore@earthlink.net or call 252-4270.

April Showers Bring.... April Street Floods!

The April neighborhood association meeting ended with a strong downpour and the sound of fire trucks responding to an urgent call. The emergency was just a few blocks away, as clogged storm drains caused a foot or more of water to flood streets, yards and at least one vehicle near the Cottontown fountain on Marion Street and one block over on Sumter. These tips appeared in the last edition of this newsletter, but they are worth repeating to help avoid future floods in Cottontown.

- Do not cover catch basin/storm drainage inlets
- If you see a blocked drain, remove the debris
- Do not place yard debris out prior to the day before collection
- Do not leave grass clippings in the curb line
- Report any tree limbs or backed up storm drainage systems to 252-2911. Report all emergencies to 911.

New Trees to Take Root Residents Get Choices for Tree Zones

Cottontown is blessed with large mature trees throughout the neighborhood, but we have lost several in the last few years, and more are reaching the end of their life spans. Beginning next December, the city is planning to replant some trees and add new ones in tree zones across Cottontown.

Do you have a space in front of your home where you would like to see a tree planted? Do you have a particular kind of tree in mind? If so, the city would like to hear from you. Contact Carroll Williamson in the city's forestry division at 545-3860, or email him at cswilliamson@columbiasc.net.

