



COTTONTOWN NEWS

The Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District Neighborhood Association

October 2008

Cottontown's Annual Fall Meeting

Major Issues Facing Neighborhood

Date: Sunday, October 26, 2008
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: North Main Street Fire Station, corner of Main and Geiger Avenue

This year's annual fall meeting of the Cottontown neighborhood association brings updates and news on some significant issues impacting our neighborhood. Come hear the latest on negotiations around the location of a new homeless shelter, North Main streetscaping, historic preservation, an exciting new partnership with the Historic Columbia Foundation, and more. Members will also elect board and officers for 2009. 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!

The Year in Review by Paul Bouknight, Cottontown President

It has been a very busy year in Cottontown. Your board has been meeting monthly, and sometimes more often, in our efforts to protect and enhance the quality of life we all enjoy as residents of our unique downtown neighborhood. Safety, crime prevention and efforts to protect Cottontown's historic character have dominated our work this past year. In 2008 we took steps to form the Coalition of Downtown Neighborhoods, which includes Cottontown, Elmwood, Earlewood, Arsenal Hill, Downtown Neighborhood Association, Robert Mills Historic District and Laurel Hill. This group is receiving a lot of notice from city council, particularly in the group's opposition to the proposed location of a new homeless shelter on the old Salvation Army site. Your Cottontown leaders have been and continue to be active and vocal in their opposition to the location of this shelter just steps away from our neighborhood.

The board and the Historic Preservation Committee have worked hard with the city on drafting guidelines

for an Architectural Conservation District for Cottontown, and we plan to have the latest draft of the plan for your review and comment at the October 26 meeting. We believe that a historic preservation plan is vitally important to the future of Cottontown.

Neighborhood social events have been huge successes, thanks to our Social Committee and you! We had our 2nd Annual Holiday Celebration at the fire station, our third 4th of July parade and joined ranks with Earlewood for National Night Out on August 5th. We also gave back to our community by raising \$1,000 for the Firefighter's Fund.

We have been vigilant and visible at Board of Zoning Appeal meetings, successfully arguing against at least four issues that threatened to have negative impacts on Cottontown. We owe a big thank you to the faithful Cottontown supporters who have attended Planning Commission and City Council meetings as we continue to keep city leaders apprised of our positions. *(continued on page 3)*

Visit our neighborhood web site:

www.cottontown.us

Nominees for 2009 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 2008-2009 officers and board. Additional nominations may be taken from the floor at the fall annual meeting on Sunday, October 26. 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 fifth year on the Board, his third year as president, and would like the opportunity to serve as president again for 2009. He feels the greatest challenge facing Cottontown is the preservation of the neighborhood and its quality of life in a rapidly changing urban environment. He is a Columbia area native and a Clemson grad. He is Director of Facilities Planning and Development for Palmetto Health, and serves on several community boards including LRADAC, Cultural Council of Richland/Lexington Counties, and the Ronald McDonald House.

Vice President – Joshua McDuffie, 2417 Marion St., 606-2015, joshua_mcduffie@yahoo.com

Josh McDuffie, his wife Joanna and their dog Roark have lived in the neighborhood for over 3 years and love living in Cottontown. Josh manages real estate for the United States Air Force in Southwest and Central Asia. He is completing a PhD in geography at USC, and holds an MBA and BA from the University of Tennessee. He currently serves the community as vice chairman of the Richland County Board of Zoning Appeals. He hopes to continue to improve in-town living through his experience in planning and zoning, as well as through improved code enforcement and crime prevention.

Secretary – Rusty Sox, 2231 Wallace St., 252-4270, soxmoore@sc.rr.com Rusty has lived on Wallace St. for 16 years. He has served four 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 six years. She has served on the board for four years and has been treasurer for the past three years. She is most interested in preserving the historic character of the neighborhood. 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 2½ years, and has served on the board for two 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.

Mary Broadwater, 1432 Franklin St., 806-8041, maryb2020@yahoo.com

Mary is a native of Columbia and has lived in Cottontown since 1998. She has served on the board for one year. She is the General Counsel for the S.C. Technical College System. She received both undergraduate and law degrees from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She enjoys in-town living and close proximity to major interstate exchanges. Mary is interested in helping the neighborhood preserve its historic character and charm in the midst of impending commercial development.

Dennis Butt, 1303 Geiger Ave., 252-9984, dbutt646@sc.rr.com

Dennis Butt moved to Cottontown in 1996 after retiring from the US Navy. While he worked at the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce he volunteered for many local charities assisting in organizing fundraisers and other types of events. His background has been in business marketing, public relations and communications where he hopes to assist the neighborhood in the future.

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

Carol is a Bishopville native who moved to Columbia in 1979 and has lived in Cottontown since 1994. She is currently serving on the board as chair of the Social Events Committee. Carol is interested in promoting a stronger, more cohesive neighborhood and has planned and executed the July 4th parades, Christmas Socials, National Night Out and other events to give residents more ways to get to know one another. She is also interested in neighborhood safety and preserving the historic character of Cottontown. She and her husband Billy are raising two sons: Mathew 16½ and Patrick 3½.

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

Tom has lived in Cottontown for 6 years. He is president of Total Office Management. He is particularly interested in zoning and development in and around the neighborhood, as well as neighborhood security, safety, code enforcement and other quality of life issues.

Cottontown Seeks Official Historic District Status

This summer, Cottontown worked with the city's planning department to continue revising draft design guidelines that would protect historic residential architecture in the neighborhood. Guidelines would require the city to review plans for new construction, demolition or exterior alterations to structures within the historic district to determine whether the proposed work is compatible with the character of the neighborhood. If implemented, Cottontown would join other historic neighborhoods like Elmwood Park, University Hill, Melrose Heights and Wales Garden that have taken this proactive step to protect their historic character. The city and the Cottontown board will present the most recent draft of the guidelines at the neighborhood meeting on October 26. This will be the third official public meeting for Cottontown property owners to ask questions and provide comments on the guidelines. All property owners within the district will have the opportunity to vote on the final guidelines before they are implemented. You can preview the current draft on the Cottontown web site at www.cottontown.us. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can request a printed copy of the guidelines by contacting any member of the Cottontown board.

Historic Columbia Foundation Chooses Cottontown

Cottontown's efforts in Historic Preservation have earned the neighborhood a place in an exciting new project coordinated by the Historic Columbia Foundation. HCF will work with six neighborhoods, including Cottontown, to do historical research, record oral histories and collect artifacts and images. Historic Columbia will then create an exhibit, brochures and a self-guided walking-tour of the Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District.

Year in Review *(continued from page 1)*

We have accomplished a lot this year, but there remains a lot to do. We will continue to advocate for an alternate site for the proposed homeless services center. We must continue to monitor proposed uses for properties at Elmwood and Main Streets and insure that they will not have negative impacts on our neighborhood. We must pursue ways to protect Cottontown's unique historic and residential character in the face of rapid downtown development. We will continue to persevere through the inconveniences of the North Main Street project, but will enjoy the benefits in 2 years.

We need your help in these pursuits. I urge you to join or renew your membership in our neighborhood association. Our primary source of income is the small amount of dues we collect each year. That money pays for newsletters, flyers, postage, and helps with the social events the neighborhood enjoys. We also need volunteers for committees. Yes, we have had a busy year – but there is a lot to accomplish yet. I thank you all for your support and assistance.

Be Part of the Project!

If you or someone you know grew up in Cottontown, has great stories to tell, or has old photos of people and homes in the neighborhood, we want to hear from you! Call or email Rusty Sox at soxmoore@sc.rr.com or 252-4270.

2008 Board of Directors

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

Doug Aylard
koadoa@sc.rr.com

Mary Broadwater
maryb2020@yahoo.com

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

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

Carol Latimer-Finethy
imgfxr@bellsouth.net

Josh McDuffie (vice president)
joshua_mcduffie@yahoo.com

Rusty Sox (secretary)
soxmoore@sc.rr.com

Patrick Thiele
prthiele@yahoo.com

Tom Walters
totalofficemgmt@mindspring.com

Calling All Cooks!

Judging from the delicious dishes that have been shared at neighborhood cookouts, drop-ins and socials, there are quite a few great chefs in the neighborhood. Here's your chance to share your favorite recipes and get a few new ones from friends and neighbors. We're collecting recipes for the first-ever Cottontown Cookbook, to raise public awareness of Cottontown and raise funds for neighborhood projects. Do you have some recipes you'd like to share? Email or call Ellen Cooper at ecooper3@sc.rr.com or 799-1762. She will send you a format for submitting your recipe, or bring it to the neighborhood meeting on October 26.

Your Dues at Work

Dues from members of the neighborhood association help with:

- Newsletters and flyers
- Meetings
- Special events
- Neighborhood beautification

Fire Station #7: Make Yourself at Home!

The fire fighters at the Cottontown fire station on North Main Street invite you to think of the station as a neighborhood resource. Captain Reed says he is always happy for neighbors to drop by, say hello, and take advantage of some of the amenities the fire station offers. The station has a large-capacity ice maker, and the fire fighters are glad to share ice with neighbors. There's also an air compressor, and neighbors are invited to fill their bicycle tires, basketballs or other inflatables. The men and women of station #7 are always happy to come to your home to conduct safety inspections or provide information on fire prevention for groups or individuals. We in Cottontown are lucky to have a neighborhood fire station that opens its doors so willingly for its neighbors. Be sure to drop in and say thanks to the folks who help keep Cottontown safe.

2008-2009 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 per person. Checks may be made payable to "Cottontown."

I would like to join a committee: Traffic Historic preservation Social Events
 Crime Watch Neighborhood Beautification

Please mail this form and your dues to our Treasurer,
Amy Herin, 1402 Summerville Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201
or bring them to the next meeting.