



NEWSLETTER

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2022 Board of Directors

Denise Wellman
President
denisew2204@gmail.com

Paul Bouknight
Vice President
pbouknight@me.com

Lee Jennings
Treasurer
lee@bagappraisals.com

Rick Pace
Secretary
Pacer77212@gmail.com

Will Thrift
willthrifthomes@gmail.com

Tressy Davenport
tressydavenport@gmail.com

Daniel Machado
djmachado@gmail.com

Zach Oyer
zachoyer07@yahoo.com

Ginger Thrift
ginthrift1@gmail.com

A Note from the Cottontown Board

Thanks to the exceptional leadership of Julie Seel & Rusty Sox and a highly motivated group of committee members, even Mother Nature could not get in the way of another outstanding Art Crawl! On behalf of a very thankful neighborhood, we want to also thank our exhibiting artists and business partners as well as our generous sponsors! Plans are already underway for the 2023 Art Crawl, and I encourage **all Cottontown residents to see how you could contribute to an even better event in 2023!**

As pollen settles and spring continues to unfold, the Cottontown Board has been at work pursuing what is required for the Cottontown Historic District Neighborhood Association to become a non-profit entity; planning for spring and summer social events to celebrate our neighborhood and bring us together; ordering more branded merchandise to meet demands; working with the City to calm traffic and reduce crime; enhancing the overall safety of our neighborhood; and identifying ways to make the neighborhood a friendly and inviting place for all. Look for additional information on Board activities in this edition of the newsletter and on Facebook.

The Board has also been busy planning for the spring membership meeting on **May 22 from 4:00–5:30PM at NoMa Warehouse**. May is National Historic Preservation Month, therefore, historic preservation will be the focus of our spring meeting. Rusty Sox will help everyone understand the two historic districts that make up our neighborhood: the Bellevue Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places, and the City's Cottontown Architectural Conservation District. Patti Marinelli will outline the tax incentives for each historic district. You will leave the meeting with a better understanding of Cottontown's preservation history and how historic preservation efforts benefit everyone (check out Peter & Susie LeRoy's article about their recent **Bailey Bill Journey** with their home on Wallace St.). We will also highlight valuable city resources and plans to expand the Cottontown website to provide even more information on historic preservation.

We need everyone involved in helping to advance Cottontown and at the spring meeting you will also learn more about the active neighborhood committees and how you can get involved. Food and drinks will be provided. We look forward to seeing everyone on 5/22 at 4 PM.

Spring Membership Meeting
Sunday, May 22, 2022, 4:00PM – 5:30PM
NoMa Warehouse 2222 Sumter Street

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Art Crawl 2022: Rainy but Rewarding!

By Rusty Sox

The weather did not play nice on March 12. As forecast, the rain cleared by 9 a.m. and about 70 optimistic artists began setting up their displays around the neighborhood. Not in the forecast was an unexpected second wave of rain that moved through mid-morning, followed by falling temperatures and rising wind! In spite of the damp and cold, about 1,100 stalwart shoppers from 11 different states made their way through the neighborhood, happily making purchases from artists totaling over \$50,000 for the day. Cottontown businesses were packed! All in all, not a bad showing for a cold rainy Saturday in Cottontown.

This was the fourth year Cottontown invited art lovers to visit the neighborhood, enjoy meeting and shopping with artists, tour the charming streets and visit our neighborhood businesses. Each year a group of neighborhood volunteers contributes their time and energy to plan and execute the best possible experience for artists, residences and businesses. We want to thank Amelia Bradley, Nick Hauser, Beth Lawson, Daniel Machado, Julie Seel, Rusty Sox, Robin Spaniel, and Ginger & Will Thrift for all their efforts on behalf of the neighborhood.

Plans are already in progress for 2023. The planning committee will experience some changes in membership, so anyone wanting to be a part of next year's exciting event, please step forward! No experience necessary – just good ideas and a willingness to work as part of a team to plan and implement a great event. As usual, the committee will be looking for homes willing to allow artists to set up in their yards or porches, and plenty of volunteer helpers on the day of the event. Look for more information in the fall. If you would like to help in some capacity, please email Rusty Sox at soxmoore@sc.rr.com.

Crime Prevention

By Lee Jennings

As we journey into spring our thoughts often turn into summer vacation plans. It is easy to neglect crime safety during the excitement of planning a trip. Here are a few reminders to keep you thinking ahead:

- Stop your daily mail delivery; full mailboxes advertise an empty house.
- Let your neighbors know when you will be gone and ask them to keep an eye out for you.
- Alert the police that you're away. They'll make a note and do a drive-by check while you are gone.
- Consider automatic timers to turn lights on and off during evening hours to give the impressions that you are home.
- Resist the temptation to post your vacation photos on social media until you return. You never know who may be reading your posts.

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it go to your head.

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Bailey Bill Journey

By Susie and Peter LeRoy

The house at 2216 Wallace Street had seen better days, and by better days, I mean years and years ago. The one-hundred-year-old brick house was not even visible from the street. South Carolina's lush vegetation threatened to consume the crumbling structure, and who would even care? Well, that's where fools rush in! Peter and I purchased the house in "as-is" condition in December 2021.

We knew we had a project on our hands and needed all the help we could get. Fortunately for us, Robin Spaniel to the rescue. She braved her way onto the property, sheaf of papers in hand. Had we heard of the Bailey Bill? No, we had not. The Bailey Bill is an incentive for owners of historic buildings in the city of Columbia. If the owner of the building makes an investment of 20% of the home's value in qualifying expenses, the city will then freeze the building's assessed property tax value at the initial rate for twenty years.

Blah, blah, blah. We were SO BUSY with the sheer magnitude of our house's issues. Did we have time to start a paper chase? As it turns out, thus far our Bailey Bill journey has not been difficult at all. One phone call and Megan McNish, who has since moved and been replaced with Olivia Manfredi, sent us all the forms we needed. And those forms came with brief YouTube videos in case we had questions. Megan then paid us a visit at the house to make sure it would qualify.

Peter and I submitted the paperwork and Megan presented our case to the Design/Development Review Commission in February. 2216 Wallace Street received preliminary certification. Going forward we will comply with all preservation standards, save, and document all expenses, and restore this shabby house to its former glory. Did I mention we have two years to accomplish this? Yes, that is one other requirement of the Bailey Bill. So, the work continues. Please drop-by and say hello, ask questions, or pick up a paint brush or a hammer. We would love to meet you.

Social Event Update

By Tressy Davenport

Hello Spring! Let's go outside! As the Special Events Committee Chair, I would like to share with you a few of the upcoming events that we are planning. I would like to cordially invite each of you to attend our annual Spring Meeting. This is our time to meet each other and put names with faces. We have a lot of new neighbors!

We are in the planning of stages of our Spring Fling! We would like to kick spring off with an Ice Cream Social (more to follow)! We are also discussing the return of our 4th of July Parade (this is an incredibly fun event) and recognizing special days in May. For example, May 1 is Loyalty Day!

Social Event Update (Continued)

During the month of May let's plan to patronize The War Mouth and show our neighborhood businesses some Cottontown appreciation! When you are at The War Mouth, please snap a photo and email to tressydavenport@gmail.com. We would love to show your family on our neighborhood Facebook page.

Please check out our Facebook page for more information of things going on in Cottontown.

Remembrances

By Paul Bouknight

Ellen Cooper was a resident of Cottontown for 35 years. She was an active community leader in the City of Columbia. She served as President of the League of Women Voters, Chair of the Richland County Health and Safety Council, Chair of Coalition of Downtown Neighborhoods, President Cottontown/Bellevue Neighborhood Association, Board of Directors Senior Resources, Chair Silver Haired Legislature – Midlands Caucus, Chair Regional Aging Advisory Committee, Senior Mentor Program, USC School of Medicine, City appointee to Central Midlands Council of Governments, American Association of University Women and President of Pi Beta Phi Alumni association. In addition to the previously mentioned honors, she also received the Jefferson Award for Community Service, Columbia Neighborhood Hall of Fame, Distinguished Service Award – South Carolina Association of Education – Retired, and the Brenda Williams Hellams Outstanding Alumnae Leadership Award. Ellen was given the Key to the City of Columbia and received a Proclamation celebrating the contributions to her community from Richland County Council. We will certainly miss Ellen and the contributions that she made to Cottontown, Columbia and beyond.

Cottontown also wishes to express our deepest sympathy for the passing of two other dear neighbors, Billy Finethy and Juanita S. Drew. Please keep the families of Carol Latimer Finethy and Candace Drew Knox in your thoughts.



Cottontown and Art Crawl merchandise (T-shirts, Koozies, etc.) is available for a small donation. Pick yours up at the Spring Meeting or contact Ginger Thrift.



Join Your Neighborhood Association

Owners and renters, please join the
Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District Neighborhood Association

Dues are per calendar year. **Resident:** \$10.00 per person, or \$15.00 per household. **Business:** \$50 per business, or \$125 with 4 annual Newsletter advertisements. Businesses interested in newsletter advertisements may contact Denise Wellman to discuss options. Checks may be made payable to "Cottontown" and mailed to:

Lee Jennings
Cottontown Treasurer
2306 Sumter Street
Columbia SC 29201

Please contact Lee at lee@bagappraisals.com for additional payment options. Members must be in good standing to vote.

I would like to join the neighborhood association. Enclosed are my dues for \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____

I am interested helping, and would like to join a committee:

Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beautification	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)	