



NEWSLETTER

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2023 Board of Directors

Denise Wellman
President
denisew2204@gmail.com

Lee Jennings
Vice President
lee@bagappraisals.com

Rick Pace
Treasurer
Pacer77212@gmail.com

Joannie Nickel
Secretary
joannie_nickel@att.net

Will Thrift
Past President
willthrifthomes@gmail.com

At Large Members

Jeannie Aull
Assistant Secretary
jeannieaull4@gmail.com

Cindy Rainey
misscindyr60@gmail.com

Renee Johnson
rmjohnson36@sc.rr.com

Ginger Thrift
ginthrift1@gmail.com

A Note from the Cottontown Board

Happy fall! Thanks to everyone who hosted a “porch party” over the summer (Dangerfields and the Spaniels) and to everyone who either helped plan (Renee Johnson, Carol Jennings, Rusty Sox and Ginger Thrift) or attended our celebration of National Night Out!

Your Board is closely watching any movement on the property at Scott & Sumter St. and staying in close communication with city staff. Since the last newsletter, the mayor has joined us in two meetings with the developer. While they continue to refuse to answer our questions and still don’t seem to be working with the VA nor the Columbia Housing Authority, we believe they are making plans to build a multi-family development that would be permitted with existing zoning (CAC2 & MU2). It is anticipated that we will need neighborhood support to steer this project as it proceeds through Planning, DDRC, and possibly BoZA. Please watch Facebook for information.

Many thanks to Joe Haynes for chairing the Nominating Committee (and Perry Rainey and Joannie Nickel for serving on the Committee). At the fall meeting you will hear a report from all Committee chairs, helpful information about “no trespass” laws from CPD, and hear an update on the development at 2222 Main St. We look forward to seeing all of you on 11/12. To facilitate a smooth meeting and election process, **please ensure that you pay your 2023 dues in advance of the meeting using the form at the back of the newsletter (and while you are at it, go ahead and pay for 2024 as well).**

Fall Membership Meeting – SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 12 at 4:00 pm

Fire Station at Sumter & Geiger

Neighborhood Board Elections

Neighborhood Chili and Pie Contest with prizes

Enter one or both contests or just come to taste and vote!

Cottontown Art Crawl

Would you be willing to let an artist set up in your yard or on your porch? If you would like to use your lawn or porch to display and sell your own art, let us know that too! Your only obligation is to provide the space and access to a restroom for one or more artists from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 9. The rain date is Sunday, March 10. If you are willing to host one or more artists, please email cottontowncrawl@gmail.com or complete the signup form at <https://form.jotform.com/232505709567159>.

There are many more volunteer opportunities to participate. If interested please email cottontowncrawl@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for March 9, 2024 and plan to enjoy a great day at our award winning Cottontown Art Crawl!

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Cottontown and Art Crawl merchandise (T-shirts, Koozies, etc.) is available to purchase. Contact [Ginger Thrift](mailto:GingerThrift) for additional information. You can also purchase merchandise at Cottontown.us.



2023 Cottontown Officer and Board Nominees

Denise Wellman, President, 2204 Marion

It has been a tremendous pleasure to serve Cottontown as president over the past two years and I'm thankful to be nominated to serve in 2024 as well. I retired from USC about 5 years ago after more than 45 years in administration and teaching and while still teaching a course each semester, retirement has provided more time to seek our new opportunities and to serve Cottontown. I have previously served on the Cottontown Board for 4 years, serving as secretary and chairing a committee that kept the Board abreast of city issues that might impact Cottontown. I am beyond thankful for the hard work of your Board over the last two years, in addition to the many ways neighbors have stepped in to host or attend events and to advocate on behalf of our beautiful historic district in front of City Council. I look forward to the opportunity to work with each of you in 2024.

Lee Jennings, Vice President, 2306 Sumter

Lee and Carol Jennings moved to Cottontown in 2012 and fell in love with the neighborhood almost immediately. Friendly neighbors, great walking spaces and convenient to local amenities (grocery stores notwithstanding). Lee has served on the Board for 5 years as an at-large member and Treasurer and is currently serving as Vice President; filling the void left by our dear friend Paul Bouknight's passing. It will be a pleasure to continue serving on the Board in whatever capacity is needed and highly recommend serving on the Board to everyone else in Cottontown.

Rick Pace, Treasurer, 2421 Marion

Rick has lived in Cottontown for several years and previously served on the board as Secretary and Chair of the Communications Committee. Rick works as a Senior Audit Manager for a local financial institution and is a Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Internal Auditor. He would be happy to continue to serve on the Board in the role of Treasurer for the upcoming year.

Amy McKissick, Secretary, 1301 Summerville

My love for historic homes and its nestled location in downtown made Cottontown my top choice for our new home. When the "pink house" on the corner of Sumter and Summerville hit the market, we snagged it! I promptly joined the neighborhood association and volunteered to support the Cottontown Art Crawl. In addition, I worked with our neighborhood association president, Denise Wellman, and several of my fellow neighbors to prepare arguments to present before Columbia City Council in opposition to the Woodley Project. It would be an honor to serve you on the Cottontown Neighborhood Association board.

Cindy Rainey, At Large, 1220 Anthony

Cindy and her husband, Perry, moved to Cottontown from Lexington in the Spring of 2022. Cindy is a retired teacher with an interest in both history and architecture so owning and living in a historic craftsman bungalow has been very satisfying. She joined the Historic Preservation committee and has been involved in both the application process for expanding the borders of the National Historic Register designation for the Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District and the redesign of the Cottontown street sign toppers. Cindy took over the leadership of the Historic Preservation committee upon Zach Oyer's departure and was recently asked to fill his vacant position on the board. She has also been involved with the Art Crawl Committee. She looks forward to meeting and working with more neighbors.

Ashley Walker, At Large, 2404 Sumter

Two years ago, after deciding I wanted to live downtown, I fell in love with my house and our beautiful neighborhood. At closing I met Jeannie Aull who was moving to another house in the neighborhood, made fast friends with the neighbors, joined the book club and hosted an artist for the Cottontown Art Crawl. I decided to join the board this month so that I can give back to the neighborhood that I enjoy so much. I look forward to future participation with our wonderful community!

Jeannie Aull, At Large, 1231 Geiger

I moved to Cottontown in August, 2017. I fell in love with the neighborhood and neighbors immediately. I decided to move to another house four years later but definitely still in Cottontown! I've loved participating in porch parties and neighborhood meetings the past few years and decided to join the board as a mid-year addition in June. I am also serving on the Art Crawl committee. I've loved hosting artists and look forward to more involvement with both the art crawl and the board.

Ginger Thrift, At Large, 1400 Geiger

Ginger and her husband, Will, moved to Cottontown in 2007. She loves that Cottontown has a great up-and-coming business district within walking distance, and the proximity of the Bull Street District and Main Street. Ginger is a certified Medical Dosimetrist in Radiation Oncology at Lexington Medical Center. She is a graduate of MUSC with a BS degree in Radiation Therapy. Ginger has served on several professional committees and subcommittees, including the Merchandising and Special Events committees for the Cottontown Neighborhood Association. She also serves on the Cottontown Art Crawl Committee. She is a current Cottontown Neighborhood Association board member. Ginger considers that life in Cottontown is as good as it gets: friendly, welcoming, and neighborly.

2023 Cottontown Officer and Board Nominees (continued)

Dale Scott, At Large, 1314 Summerville

I am an attorney with offices in Columbia. I grew up in West Columbia before moving to Chapin where I attended high school. I went to USC as an undergrad and attended law school at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Upon graduation, I moved back to South Carolina. Since then, I have lived primarily around Lake Murray but in 2019, my wife and I began talking about moving closer into town. It made sense because we were always downtown for work, going out to eat, visiting friends or going to ballgames. She was immediately drawn to Cottontown. We actually just happened to stumble upon an open house event for our home while we were downtown for an outdoor festival. We were immediately drawn to this quiet downtown neighborhood that was did not feel like it was downtown. We moved to our home in September of 2019 and have enjoyed our time here. My wife Margaret, son Grady and daughter Caroline enjoy walking the neighborhood and visiting our local businesses.

Jeff Seshun, At Large, 2212 Marion

Jeff has been a fixture of Cottontown for over 35 years. He initially moved to the 1400 block of Geiger Ave in 1986 after residing in a rental behind the baseball backstop on Earlewood Drive. In 1987 he moved into the vacant house at 1317 Geiger after helping the owner, who lived next door, clean it up. Many years later and after extensive renovations he sold it in 2021, but couldn't see leaving Cottontown and now resides on the 2200 block of Marion Street. Jeff works from home in the financial services industry consulting on Mortgage Software applications and is a frequent attendee of events and activities around the various districts such as Bull Street, Main Street, the Vista & Carolina. One of his three brothers lives in Lexington as does his Mom and Sparky the rescue pup.

Renee Johnson, At Large, 2113 Wallace

I have lived on Wallace St. since 2008 with my husband Jim and our fur child Abbey, (beagle, neighborhood crier). About to complete my 1st year on the board as Chair of Social Events. The experience has been great and look forward to an opportunity of a second year. In addition, also approaching the 1st year anniversary of my retirement. I'm never going to return to work, it's wonderful! P.S. Great Neighborhood.

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:

Rick Pace
Cottontown Treasurer
2421 Marion Street
Columbia SC 29201

Please contact Rick at Pacer77212@gmail.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"/> | Crime Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |