



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
Immediate Past President
willthrifthomes@gmail.com

Tressy Davenport
tressydavenport@gmail.com

Daniel Machado
djoosephmachado@gmail.com

Zach Oyer
zachoyer07@yahoo.com

Ginger Thrift
ginthrift1@gmail.com

Brent Baston
wbbaston@gmail.com

A Note from the Cottontown Board

The Cottontown Board is looking forward to being with you for the Fall Meeting at 4 pm on November 13th at the Fire Station. It has been a busy year and there is a lot to share. At this meeting we will hold our annual elections (see the slate of officers in this newsletter) and you will hear from each Committee chair. Your attendance is important to the work of the Board and the success of our neighborhood. Please make plans to attend, bring a snack to share, and enjoy fellowship with your neighbors and of course our great fire fighters!

Please note that your dues must be up to date to vote. Lee Jennings, Board Treasurer, will be present and can let you know if you are up to date. Dues are \$10 per person or \$15 per household.

Host an Artist for the 2023 Cottontown Art Crawl!

By Rusty Sox

Planning is underway for the 2023 Cottontown Art Crawl. Each spring, the neighborhood event brings thousands of visitors into Cottontown to enjoy local art and the charm of our historic neighborhood. The 2023 event is set for Saturday, March 11 with a rain date the next day, March 12. We need your help!

The artists set up their displays on porches and in yards and businesses throughout the community. Would you be willing to let an artist set up in your yard or on your porch? Your only obligation is to provide the space and access to a restroom for one or more artists between the hours of 10am and 4pm. If you would like to use your lawn or porch to display and sell your own art, let us know that, too! If you are willing to host one or more artists, please email Amy Chalmers at cottontowncrawl@gmail.com.

There are lots more opportunities to get involved with the 2023 Art Crawl. We need volunteers to help set up the day before and morning of the event, folks to staff the welcome stations and merchandise tent, and volunteers to help take things down at the end of the day. We also welcome sponsorships of financial or in-kind support from area businesses or individuals. If you would like to help with any of these tasks, email cottontowncrawl@gmail.com. Mark your calendars for March 11, 2023, and plan to enjoy a great day at the Cottontown Art Crawl!

Fall Membership Meeting
Sunday, November 13, 2022, 4:00PM
Fire Station 7

Neighborhood Beautification

By Jack Smeck

Fall is one of my favorite times of year. The leaves start changing, temperatures drop, the furnace kicks on for the first time, football season kicks off, Halloween decorations go up...I could go on... The beauty of the season is perfectly complemented by the quaint, picturesque homes scattered throughout the historic Cottontown community. Our neighborhood is a gem, and enjoying a long walk with family, friends, or pets is one of the many perks we all get to enjoy. As things gear up for backyard bonfires, grilling, and adult-beverage sipping, we're planning more opportunities to improve and/or maintain the beauty of our neighborhood.

We've already tackled several beautification efforts this year. In addition to our regular spring clean-up day, we teamed up with Keep the Midlands Beautiful to facilitate a litter pick-up day along north main. Keep the Midlands Beautiful is a non-profit organization that provides all the essential equipment and supplies to host a community clean-up day including trash grabbers, bags, and gloves. We had several gracious volunteers who came from both the Elmwood and Cottonwood neighborhoods. By the end of the day, we were able to fill a truck bed to the brim with litter consisting of nearly everything under the sun.

Another exciting initiative taking shape in our community is an effort to convert the diverter at the intersection of Victoria and Bull to a pollinator garden consisting of exclusively native species. Not only will this provide a sanctuary for many of South Carolina's bees, butterflies, and moths—the native species also require less water! This neighbor-led project is an exciting example of how Cottontown can creatively utilize its natural spaces.

Interested in participating in a beautification event? Neighbors can stay up to date on any upcoming beautification efforts by checking the Cottontown Community Facebook page or emailing me directly at jack.smeck@gmail.com. Our most recent event was another litter clean-up day where we partnered with the University of South Carolina's Day of Service! This event was held on October 8th. Cheers to Fall, y'all!

Historic Preservation Committee Update

By Zach Oyer

Some of you may remember from the Spring Meeting earlier this year that the Historic Preservation Committee was looking into expanding our National Register boundaries. So, now that we're approaching the Fall Meeting, we wanted to give an update on what we've been working on and how it may affect you. Right now, there are two different "boundaries" within our neighborhood, we have the Bellevue Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places, and the City of Columbia's Historic Preservation Overlay. Both designations provide different benefits to those who are within them, however the city's preservation overlay is what brings about regulation and restrictions to renovations. Right now, the city's overlay extends over the entirety that most people would consider our "neighborhood", but the National Register boundaries fall a bit short. So, to bring about the tax credit benefits provided to those in the National Register, we are attempting to expand those boundaries and include more houses. Most of our expansion will occur on the northside of the neighborhood to Grace St, but other houses that may have not been included in our application in 1997 might be eligible this round, due mostly to construction date or other factors. We are hoping to submit the application by Spring of 2023!

STARKES LAW FIRM, L.L.C.

1817 Hampton St.
Post Office Box 1497
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Telephone: (803) 758-2882
Toll Free: (866) 605-7800
xavier@starkeslawfirm.com
www.starkeslawfirm.com

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2023 Cottontown Officer and Board Nominees

Denise Wellman, President, 2204 Marion

Denise moved to Cottontown in 2010 and has worked at the University of South Carolina since 1978, with positions in community service, Greek life, admissions, development, financial aid, visitor services, experiential learning, and as an instructor for a variety of courses. She has served as Board secretary and chair of the Cottontown Planning Committee and is the current president of Cottontown. Denise recognizes the significance of historic districts and the positive economic impact they bring to our capital city, as well as the importance of building strong partnerships with all downtown neighborhoods and area businesses. She considers it an honor and privilege to serve with the dedicated individuals that make up the Cottontown Board and our hard-working committees.

Lee Jennings, Treasurer, 2306 Sumter

Lee and his wife Carol moved to Cottontown in 2012 and have loved it ever since. The unique and historical character of Cottontown makes it a very desirable location especially when the proximity to the downtown area is factored in; just a great place! Lee is a Certified Real Estate Appraiser and founded his company in 1996. Carol joined him in appraising (and life) in 2009. Both are quite visible in the neighborhood on their evening walks and morning runs. Lee has served on the Cottontown Board for the past 5 years, most recently as Treasurer. Stepping out of 3rd person, it has been an honor to serve on the board and I'd be very happy to continue. We've made some great strides in the past few years; our property values have never been higher, and demand remains high. It's important that we remain vigilant to ensure that the progress we've made continues, and I am positive Cottontown will continue on the most positive path available.

Ginger Thrift

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 sub-committees, 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.

Paul Bouknight, Vice President, 1324 Confederate

Paul has served on the board for several years including the positions of president, past president, and vice president. 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 recently retired after serving as Facilities Director for Palmetto Health/PRISMA for 35 years. He and Joe Haynes have lived in Cottontown for over 20 years.

Rick Pace, Secretary, 2421 Marion

Rick has lived in Cottontown for several years and served on the board for the past year 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 and looks forward to further enhancing newsletter, website, and social media communications during 2023, based on your feedback.

Zach Oyer

Zach has lived in Cottontown with his wife and daughter for 2 years and has enjoyed getting to know more of you all as a member of the Board for the past year. He serves as the Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee and works alongside several dedicated members of the neighborhood to expand our Historic District to bring more benefits to the neighborhood for preservation and restoration. As a City of Columbia employee, he brings a lot of insight about the City's plans and contributes useful skills in preparing documents on behalf of Cottontown when dealing with the city. He hopes to continue his efforts in Historic Preservation for another year!

Jack Smeck

Jack Smeck and his wife Miranda moved to Cottontown in the Summer of 2020. Since then, they've enjoyed all that Cottontown has had to offer including porch parties, art crawl, and the scattered events that take place around our neighborhood. Jack has participated in several community clean up days and has served as the Beautification chair since this time last year. He is excited at the prospect of expanding his role within the Cottontown community board and looks forward to contributing to the continued improvement of our neighborhood.

Renee Johnson

I have lived on Wallace since the year 2008 with my husband Jim. We relocated from Phoenix Arizona to live closer to his father. Jim and I have enjoyed the wonderful growth our neighborhood and surrounding area that has been developing. Good time to join the board I'm about to retire from the work world in October, oh the many projects I have in mind! On our daily walks, you may hear us before you see us due to our loud beagle Abbey, the neighborhood crier.

2023 Cottontown Officer and Board Nominees (continued)

Joannie Nickel

Joannie Nickel and her husband, Michael, moved to Cottontown in 2007 with the idea that they were going to flip their house at 1311 Summerville Avenue with Michael's parents. After getting married in 2009, Joannie and Michael purchased the house from Mr. and Mrs. Nickel and decided this was going to be their forever home. For over 15 years, Joannie and Michael have renovated their house from the inside out, including recently adding on a 1000 sq ft addition in the back and an outdoor kitchen that they enjoy family, friends, and neighbors. Joannie is a Legislative and Public Policy Advocate with the Municipal Association of South Carolina and has been in South Carolina politics since college, where she helped a now house member with his campaign. Joannie and Michael have two lovely children, Connor (8) and Sullivan (5), they also have a sweet dog, Cooper, who thinks he is their kid as well. In her spare time, Joannie loves to spend time with her family, travel, paint, and write children books. Joannie has a black thumb and will never be offended if anyone wants to help her dying plants on the front porch.

Tressy Davenport

Tressy Davenport is the Staffing Coordinator Manager for BeWell home Services, an entity of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina. She has been a part of this organization for 10 years. She is a single parent. She moved to Cottontown in 2011 Tressy is the Owner of The Memory Keyper, Inc., a natural light photography business. She is also the proud owner of Human Resources in the Box - a specialized service for businesses that do not have a full-scale Human Resources Department (i.e., churches, gas stations, etc.) She obtained her Associate in Public Service from Midlands Technical College. She is a Certified Paralegal and has worked in Employment Law. She is planning to pursue her Bachelors in the fall from the University of South Carolina. Tressy also taught a weekly women's mentoring group for 3 years at Hyatt Park. The topics ranged from Parenting to Establishing Health Boundaries. She believes that you must have a good mindset to maneuver through life without continually offending people or being easily offended. She is a member of Life Resurrected Ministries and truly understands that we must love/treat our neighbor as ourselves. Tressy's daughter Taylor is a junior at Temple University in Philadelphia, where she is a member of the Lady Owls Volleyball Team. Taylor received a Mac Book Pro from our neighbors in Cottontown. Taylor's story was featured on Sunday Today with Willie Geist. This story allowed others to see love in action!

Cottontown merchandise (T-shirts, Koozies, etc.) is available for a small donation. Contact Ginger Thrift for additional information.



Interesting Cottontown Fact

You may remember that Wallace St. (as well as the State Hospital) is named for Mr. William Wallace, whose farm was in Cottontown. Grace St. is named for his wife. The two large homes at the corner of Bull St. and Calhoun are credited to the Wallace family and were located on their farm. Be sure to check them the next time you drive by!

Join Your 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

Historic Preservation

Beautification

Communications

Social Events

Other (please specify)