



COTTONTOWN

— BELLEVUE HISTORIC DISTRICT —

NEWSLETTER

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2021 Board of Directors

*President

Will Thrift

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*Vice President

Paul Bouknight

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*Treasurer

Lee Jennings

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*Secretary

Robin Spaniel

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Amelia Bradley

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Daniel Machado

Amy Chalmers

Tressy Davenport

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Ellen cooper

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My Brief History of Cottontown

by Will Thrift, President

In 2007, Cottontown was literally a diamond in the rough. There was no Indah, War Mouth, or NoMa Warehouse. Main Street had yet to begin street-scaping. Cottontown was a little-known, hidden gem of a neighborhood whose residents took pride and cared enough to establish an architectural preservation overlay to preserve the aesthetic integrity of the neighborhood. I knew it was important to become involved in the effort to improve our collective quality of life. So I volunteered to serve on Cottontown’s board as secretary. I also served in the offices of treasurer and vice president before being nominated and elected as president (for each of the past four years). Although my time as president will come to an end this year (per our bylaws), I intend to continue serving our wonderful neighborhood in any volunteer capacity in order to ensure and improve the future quality of life for Cottontown’s residents and businesses. I look forward to welcoming new residents at 2222 Main, and new businesses like Gardener’s Outpost. And I encourage anyone and everyone to get as involved in the continual improvement of Cottontown as you are able. While Cottontown’s structures might be the tangible expression of the neighborhood, WE are Cottontown’s soul.



Fall Membership Meeting

Sunday, 11-7-2021 3:00 pm

NoMa Warehouse 2222 Sumter St

Please join us to vote for new board members for 2022. Your dues must be up to date to vote. Lee Jennings, board treasurer, will be present and he can let you know if you are up to date. A family membership is \$15, per person \$10. Please bring cash or a check. Included in this newsletter are the bios of residents running for the upcoming board. Your Cottontown Board is vital in keeping our community vibrant. The board keeps up with city council activities as well as new developments. Invited guests include city and county council members, Mayor Benjamin, and Columbia Police and Fire representatives.

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Nominees for Cottontown's 2022 Officers and Board

PRESIDENT - DENISE WELLMAN

Denise Wellman has lived in Cottontown for 11 years and has previously served a term as secretary to the Cottontown Board. During this time she was asked by the Board to also organize and chair the Cottontown Planning Committee to help neighbors stay informed on the planned growth in and around Cottontown and to engage residents in city zoning and planning meetings when issues that impacted our historic neighborhood were on the agenda. The work of this Committee also started the Board's early effort to develop a logo for Cottontown and to ultimately sell branded merchandise. Denise has worked at UofSC for over 45 years, currently serving in a part-time special appointment to develop experiential learning activities beyond the classroom and a co-curricular transcript.

Denise hopes to build on the work of the current Board and especially to listen to all homeowners so as to develop collaboration across the neighborhood and to guide planned growth and initiatives that support the historic and vital significance of Cottontown.

VICE PRESIDENT - PAUL BOUKNIGHT

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 19 years.

TREASURER - LEE JENNINGS

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 4 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. It would be my pleasure to continue to serve as Treasurer.

SECRETARY - ERIN LAUGHTER

Erin has been a resident of the Cottontown neighborhood for three years and enjoys being in such a close-knit community that supports the arts and local businesses. She volunteered at the Cottontown Art Crawl last year and is an active participant in community events and meetings. Erin graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 2000 and completed her master's degree in Social Work at the University in 2006. Erin is a Licensed Social Worker and serves as the South Carolina Department of Health (SCDHHS) and Human Services' Policy Director for the BabyNet Program which provides Early Intervention Services for qualifying children ages birth to three years old. Erin is on the Trustus Theatre Board of Directors and is the Governance Committee Chair.



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 also 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. Ginger considers that life in Cottontown is as good as it gets: friendly, welcoming, and neighborly.



Host an Artist
Cottontown Art Crawl
Email or sign up with
the QR code:



DALE SCOTT

Dale is a Columbia native and graduate of USC. Dale has practiced law for 16 years and currently works in State government. He and Margaret moved to Cottontown in September of 2019 after a long and extensive home search. They were drawn to the idea of being so close to downtown while still being able to enjoy the quiet tranquility of the tree lined streets of Cottontown. Dale enjoys time with the family, weekends on the lake, Gamecock sports, traveling, home projects, and strolling the neighborhoods and the river walk.

RICK PACE

I moved to Cottontown just over a year ago, 2421 Marion Street, and would like to pass along my thanks to the warm welcome to the neighborhood. I have a degree in Accounting from USC, several professional certifications, and have previously served as a board member for multiple organizations. As with you all, I have a vested interest in our community and would be happy to serve as an at-large member of the Cottontown Neighborhood Association Board for the upcoming year.

See you at the Fall meeting
Sunday 11-7 @ 3 pm

MARY DENIS CAUTHEN

Mary Denis Cauthen has lived in Cottontown for 37 years except for a year and a half on a sailboat in the Bahamas. She is the research director for the S.C. House of Representatives Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee and serves on the HSPCA Board of Directors. She previously served on the Cottontown board in the positions of secretary, vice president, and president. She is interested in preserving the residential character of the neighborhood and promoting neighborhood friendly development on our borders.

ZACH OYER

When my wife Layne and I moved here from Houston last year, we fully expected to have to live out in the suburbs, as we did there, but are so grateful to be able to live right in the heart of the city in a community like Cottontown. A big part of why we wanted to live here was because it's so enjoyable to walk in, so we've volunteered with the diverter clean-ups, and have done trash pick-ups along Sumter Street as well. I want to be even more involved in helping this community keep all the great things that we enjoy so much about it! I think as a spatial analyst for the City, working closely with the Planning, Police, and Fire departments, I will bring a lot of value to the board.

BRENT BASTON

Brent and his wife, Elizabeth, fell in love with the NOMA area while living in Earlewood for almost 10 years. They moved to Cottontown in April of 2017 and love living in the heart of Columbia. Brent works for PayRilla as Vice President. When not working, he enjoys pottery at the City Art Center, brewing beer and spending time with his three boys, William, Owen, Thomas and dog, Charlie. Brent and his family are excited for the revitalization of North Main and to see Cottontown continue to flourish.

DANIEL MACHADO - CURRENTLY ON THE BOARD

Daniel Machado is a senior designer at truematter, a web user experience consultancy headquartered on the upper floor of Bull Street's Ensor Building. He is the principal songwriter in The Restoration, whose music has appeared in Paste Magazine and was adapted into a stage musical at Columbia's Trustus Theatre. Daniel has lived in Cottontown since 2011. He served as a designer on the Cottontown logo committee, is director of design for the Cottontown Art Crawl, and has a continuing interest in stewarding a visual neighborhood identity that provides strong representation during an exciting period of growth in the surrounding area.

TRESSY DAVENPORT - CURRENTLY ON THE BOARD

Tressy 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 9 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. She obtained her Associate in Public Service from Midlands Technical College. She is a Certified Paralegal and has worked in the area of Employment Law. Tressy also taught a weekly women's mentoring group for 3 years at Hyatt Park.