



# NEWSLETTER

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[WWW.COTTONTOWN.US](http://WWW.COTTONTOWN.US)  
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## 2023 Board of Directors

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## A Note from the Cottontown Board

What a wonderful 2023 Cottontown Art Crawl! To our sponsors, hosts, artists, volunteers, the hard-working Cottontown Art Crawl Committee, and of course Mother Nature, we owe a hearty thanks! The neighborhood was beautiful, and spirits were bright. Be sure to read more about the 2023 Art Crawl elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are getting ready for the Cottontown Spring Meeting on May 21 at 4 pm @ the Fire Station. Please add this date to your calendar and plan to attend as we have some important business to attend to and reasons for celebration!

**IMPORTANT BUSINESS:** As a non-profit entity, there are many new tasks that the Board must complete each year and many deadlines to manage. We also have more money to account for, thanks to our dues paying members, successful grant applications, and especially to the Cottontown Art Crawl. There is simply more work to do and therefore, we need to clarify officer duties, add two new Board at-large positions to help manage our growing responsibilities and resources, delineate where our funds would go should the Association dissolve (a requirement for non-profit entities), and make the Art Crawl a standing committee of the Association. Such changes require amendments to our bylaws. Well in advance of the spring meeting, the proposed bylaws will be pinned at the top of the Cottontown Facebook page. Please review these in advance of the meeting and send any questions to Denise at [denisew2204@gmail.com](mailto:denisew2204@gmail.com). To vote on these changes, you must be a current (2023) dues paying member of the Association. So we can efficiently start the meeting at 4 pm, we ask that you pay your dues in advance of this meeting by using the form at the end of this newsletter. We will vote on the amended bylaws at the start of the spring meeting. We also need members to serve on the various Cottontown standing Committees so look for sign-up sheets at the meeting and get involved!

(Continued on next page)

**Spring Membership Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 21, 2022, 4:00PM**  
**Fire Station**

## What's **Your** Home Worth?

For a FREE market analysis, Call Will Thrift!



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## A Note from the Cottontown Board (continued)

CELEBRATION: As a neighborhood, we have a great deal to be thankful for and our spring meeting will be a celebration of the officers of the Columbia Police Department North Region who serve and protect, 24/7, this beautiful place we call home. At 4:30 PM, we will shift from our short business meeting to prepare to celebrate the officers of the North Region, who will join us at 4:45 PM. We hope to have you part of the celebration and ask for your help in three ways:

1. Be present for the entire meeting and celebration.
2. Send a story about how a CPD North Region Officer has helped you or your family to Denise Wellman at [denisew2204@gmail.com](mailto:denisew2204@gmail.com).
3. Volunteer to help set up in advance of the spring meeting and to clean up afterwards. To volunteer, please contact Renee Johnson at [rmjohnson36@sc.rr.com](mailto:rmjohnson36@sc.rr.com).

May is National Preservation Month and city staff have planned a host of interesting events. This year they will host scavenger hunts, a bike ride, arts and crafts, a walking tour, a lunch and learn about how to conduct research on your historic home, a historic window workshop, and even a video series about some of Columbia's historic districts, where Cottontown neighbors will share why they love living here. Learn more on the calendar at [Cottontown.us](http://Cottontown.us) and the City of Columbia preservation regular newsletters and special event announcements through the City Preservation Mailing List. [Click here](#) to join the mailing list.

Hope to see you at upcoming Cottontown Porch Parties and on 5/21!

## Merrill Gardens at Columbia

Proud to be part of Merrill Gardens  
Celebrating 30 Years



Visit And Enjoy A Meal On Us!

(803) 234-5113  
merrillgardenscolumbia.com  
2205 Gregg St, Columbia, SC 29201



## Porch Parties

Hosts Lissa & Worthy Evans have graciously agreed to host the next porch party on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 06:30pm. Feel free to bring a snack to share, a bag chair, and your beverage of choice. For our new residents, someone donates their porch, driveway, or yard, and we gather to socialize and discuss topics pertinent to our neighborhood.

If anyone is interested in hosting a future porch party or for additional information, please contact Renee Johnson at [rmjohnson36@sc.rr.com](mailto:rmjohnson36@sc.rr.com).

## Art Crawl 2023: Biggest and Best Yet!

by Rusty Sox

Art, music, and fun were in the air over Cottontown as an estimated crowd of 5,000 turned out for art, food, live bands and beautiful weather on Saturday, March 11. Area restaurants and food trucks reported higher-than-normal business, participating artists rang up more than \$150,000 in art sales and Cottontown never looked better to the thousands of visitors who roamed our streets. In short, the 2023 Cottontown Art Crawl was a giant success in accomplishing its 3 primary goals:

- Spotlight Cottontown as a creative, vibrant community,
- Promote neighborhood businesses,
- Create opportunities for local artists to show and sell their work.

Many thanks to all the residents, volunteers, organizers, and neighborhood leaders who pitch in every year to make this one of the up-and-coming annual events in the City of Columbia. This year's organizing committee included Brent Baston, Amy Chalmers, Nick Hauser (Indah Coffee), Beth Lawson (NOMA Warehouse), Bethany Pendley, Cindy Rainey, Julie Seel, Miranda Smeck, Rusty Sox, Robin Spaniel, Ginger Thrift, and Kate Voigts. If you'd like to help with the 2024 event, just reach out to Rusty Sox, [soxmoore@sc.rr.com](mailto:soxmoore@sc.rr.com).

Mark your calendars for March 9, 2024!

## Historic Preservation Update

by Zach Oyer

Hopefully by now, many of you should have noticed we have updated our neighborhood signs! After a long process of design with a former member of the neighborhood, Daniel Machado, we finally reached the signs we now have today. For those of you that may be disappointed that we went again with brown signs, rather than something a bit more colorful, I want to ensure you that we considered many different options that included some more fun ones. However, after considering things like longevity, design, and legibility, we ended up on the ones we have. Hopefully, these signs will look great for a decade or two!

Also, to update the neighborhood on the expansion of our national register historic district boundaries, I presented our grant proposal to the Richland County Conservation Commission about a month ago. We are hoping to hear back by late summer on whether we will receive the funds to cover 80% of the cost of our application. They seemed optimistic that we will be likely recipients, so I will let the neighborhood know as soon as I hear back!



Cottontown and Art Crawl merchandise (T-shirts, Koozies, etc.) is available to purchase.  
Contact Ginger Thrift for additional information.



## 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](mailto: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"/> | Crime Prevention      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |                       |                          |