

NEWSLETTER

Planning Meeting Set for Jan 20

Saturday morning at CC Woodson

Come to CC Woodson on January 20th for our first annual Village Planning Meeting— lunch will be provided. You may pay your dues at the door, but reservations are required by January 15th (email bvaspartanburg@gmail.com or phone 585-6465). The objectives: (1) a listening session, to make sure everyone is heard (2) discussion and priority-setting and (3) setting the calendar for 2018, deciding on events and what resources (budget and people) are needed to pull it off. We also plan to have some fun!

One of our key goals as an Association is **“to provide an open process by which residents may become involved in neighborhood planning through interaction and participation.”** (By-laws, Article II, Section 2B). We are growing our membership with a membership drive and improved communications (a new website, social media, and mailings as needed), thanks to our grant from the Mary Black Foundation.

Join Now— and decide how you will be involved!

Depending on your interest and situation, you can choose your level of involvement. You can send in your membership and stay informed by reading the newsletter. You can follow the website and social media. You can participate in “listening sessions” to share your ideas and perspective. You can attend regular meetings for the police report and current updates on activities.

You can participate in special events, like the Village flea market and National Night Out. You can also volunteer to help with events and promotion. (Welcome Wagon? Block Captain?)

Ramping it up, if you have the interest, experience, or skills, you can serve on a team to research and promote the Village’s priority initiatives, or even serve as a team leader or officer.

We are in the process of reorganizing, and now is a great time to “get in on the ground floor.” Make it new year’s resolutions!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAUMONT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

is published once a month, on or around the 20th, before the regular meeting of the Association (first Thursday of the month, Beaumont United Methodist Church, 6:30 pm) and is distributed free to members and anyone who requests it via email. For home delivery call 585-6465.

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Dues: \$12 per year for
individuals, \$20 per household.
Life Membership \$125



IN THE WORKS...*News & Notes*

- **Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for the New Year!** Here's hoping that 2018 is the best year ever for you and yours — as well as for the Village and the BVA!
- **No regular meeting in January! Plan to come to the special planning meeting at CC Woodson January 20th instead** (register by January 15th). We will be deciding when and how often we want to meet as well as deciding on a possible new location that better meets our needs. (Outdoor lighting, parking, space.) Registration & coffee at 9 AM, and a light lunch will be served at 11:15 or so, since we need to be out by noon. A full report will come out in the newsletter after the meeting.
- **Need transportation to CC Woodson on the 20th?** Call Marilyn at 585-6465 and we will try to set up some car pools. Willing to help? Call Marilyn.
- **Membership Drive Continues**— Renewals are due January 1. Twenty-two new members have joined since October, and they are also paid up for 2018. See our December mailing, or contact Marilyn Kimple, Membership Coordinator, at 585-6465 or bvaspartanburg@gmail.com.
- **Beaumont's Oral History project** will get underway after the first of the year, thanks to help from the library's local history staff. If you have already signed up, expect a call to make an appointment. Contact Susan Billings at 579-2257 for more information or to sign up. There will also be opportunities at the planning meeting on January 20th.
- **Visit our new website at <http://www.beaumontvillage.org>** The website and membership drive are part of the "capacity building" made possible by the grant we received from the Mary Black Foundation, thanks to Way-to-Wellville.
- **Recycling** is picked up the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month.
- Please make sure the leaf piles are not mixed with brush. Leaf piles should be free from sticks, twigs, limbs and other yard waste items that prevent them from being collected with our leaf vacs. It IS ok to mix leaves with grass clippings.
- Our new Public Safety Officer is Officer Hardy. Call his office (596-2331) and he will get back to you. **If you have an emergency, call 911. Remember: if in doubt, go ahead and call.**

Calendar

January 1, 2018

Happy New Year!

January 4, 2018**Meeting Cancelled;** plan to attend the special planning meeting on the 20th.**January 20, 2018****Beaumont Village Association: First Annual Planning Session**Saturday, 9 AM- 12:00 noon; lunch provided (reservations required by January 15) CC Woodson Community Center on Bomar Avenue. **The plan is to set the calendar and budget for the year at this meeting.**Stephen B. Cannon, Ph.D., CPCU
President/CEO

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Editorial: a bunch of amateurs

by Marilyn Graves Kimple, editor; share your feedback and opinions on Facebook!

In its original meaning an amateur (from the Latin *amare*, to love) was a person who did something for the love of it. They might be highly skilled but pay was not involved. We qualify: we work for the Association for the love of it, because we love where we live and want to make it a better place.

On the other hand, we cannot afford to be amateurs in today's usage, in the sense of someone who does not know what they are doing! We have goals and we want to organize the neighborhood to work toward those goals.

Thanks to the Way-to-Wellville and the Mary Black Foundation, we have the opportunity to build our organization, and we are learning how to do that. **What have we learned so far?**

- Some things are about how we see ourselves as an organization, while some things are about how we are viewed from the outside.

- It is important to take care of our members: keep them informed, provide them with a pleasant, safe meeting space to meet, have good meetings. Have new member packets to orient new people. Listen to our members. Provide leadership and organization so we can all use our time and talents well.
- We need professional signage so people will take us seriously; also so we can be proud of who we are.
- We need professional communications, including a website, email and social media communications; also mail campaigns where appropriate, and printed literature.
- We need to build-in how we will promote our goals and activities when we do initial planning.

All these things take resources— money and people. We need to scale our activities to our resources, even as we grow our resources to meet our needs.

Beaumont Mill Village (since 1890!)

“Buying into” our unique history on many levels

Whether or not you are From Here, Beaumont Village's history makes us unique. And whether your interest is in family history or building codes, the Village's history is also a major resource for promoting the Village and building our “brand.”

In a (very) informal survey, we have discovered that Village residents run the gamut from having grown up here (or even been born here) to having no idea about the history of the place, or, unfortunately, anything about the special Historic Guidelines which apply to properties in Beaumont. (The city & and the Association will be addressing this problem.)

On the other hand, if you mention “Beaumont” to the average person in Spartanburg you will get one of two answers:

1. Never heard of it, or the mill on Pine, although now that you mention it I have seen the mill and I heard something about it being refurbished by the hospital system as offices.
2. It's a mill village! My (parents/grandparents/aunt) grew up in (name the local mill village).

In the case of the second response, the person will proceed to tell you their family history and/or a special story.

We are one of only two “in-tact” mill villages in SC. Many people choose to live here because they have family connections or because they like the idea of living in a historical neighborhood. Others just liked the neighborhood or a particular house, or its location or affordability. And there are a large number of Beaumont people who no longer live here but still feel a connection.

Visit our new website at <http://www.beaumontvillage.org>. Click the green button at the bottom right of the page to add your email to the list to receive the newsletter and occasional announcements.

