

NEWSLETTER

BVA Agenda, March 1 Meeting

6:30-7:30 PM, *New Testament Church on Gentry*

In addition to our police report, we will hear proposals from members about our calendar for 2018 and BVA initiatives. At the February meeting we started with the Clemson Study areas where we hope to partner with the city. Jack Gowan (historic guidelines education) and Don Tisdale, Jr. (traffic calming & signs) will make proposals in March. Jennifer Masters & Matthew Johnson will be presenting possible activities & events. Contact these individuals if you might be interested in serving on an area task force.

Other initiatives the Executive Board has proposed are on indefinite hold until and unless we are sure we have the interest and the man/woman-power to be successful. Updates will be posted on the website under "Calendar & Initiatives."

Why I Joined the BVA

Introducing a new feature: share your story.

Everyone likes stories. We are starting to tap into this with our oral history project. A whole lot of people in Spartanburg & environs will tell you about their connections with Beaumont as well as other mill villages. We also have our share of in-comers who have their own stories and are also interested in local history. Thus this new newsletter feature. Contact the editor to share your story.

We have some great storytellers around here, but I will go first anyhow.
— *Marilyn Graves Kimple, editor.*

I bought my house on Maywood Street in 2014, knowing nothing about the area and nothing about the city historic guidelines. I bought the house because it was just the right size (maybe a little big), and the yard was the perfect size. It all needed a lot of work but the roof, the siding, and the heating/AC system were decent and there was a carport and an old garage for storage. It was very convenient to town, and the price was right.

Before I even signed the papers I saw the signs about the Neighborhood [Village] Association that Thursday evening, and I decided to show up. **[continued on page 4]**

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, New Testament 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*

- We would like to express our sincere sympathy to Officer Chris Banks, whose wife, Janice, passed away recently. The funeral was February 11 in Chesnee. Officer Banks is a long-time friend of the village and our former Public Safety Officer.
- **Membership Renewals are now due** — because of a by-laws change last year, all memberships now run for the calendar year beginning January 1. All property owners and residents should have received a brochure and application form for new members and renewals in the mail. You can also download an application from the website at <http://www.beaumontvillage.org>. Mail a check or pay at the door at a meeting (or other BVA activity).
- **It's true** — when the city, the newspaper, or organizations such as Way-to-Wellville, The Mary Black Foundation, and the Spartanburg County Foundation want to hear from Beaumont Village, they contact the Association (BVA). You need to be a member if you want to be sure your voice is heard, and we need you to pitch in and help build up our neighborhood.
- **Scam Alert!** We learned at the meeting last month that a family had rented a house here in the Village after contacting someone on Craig's List— but that person did not own the property! They paid money to the fraudster and had even moved in before they learned the truth. They lost their money and were evicted. If you own rental property please be aware; if you see folks looking at the property next door you might want to warn them.
- You may not know that the the brick house at the corner of Gentry and Maywood is part of the “Welcome Hope Veterans” program, which provides transitional housing and helps veterans get into permanent housing. **Interested veterans should contact their office at 864-342-0907 to learn more about the program and program requirements.** Operation Restoration (est. 2011), the parent organization, and the New Testament Church, where their offices are located, have always been good neighbors in the Village. They also sponsor the Up State Stand Down for veterans and their families.
- **New Features:** beginning this month we are introducing two new features: **“Why I joined the BVA”** and **“Beaumont Facts”** We want your contributions! Keep it short, but we know you have something to share. **If your story is “Why I have not joined the BVA,” tell us that, too! We won't print it but we will try to do something about it!**

Calendar

March 1, 2018

Beaumont Village Association;
6:30 - 7:30 PM, New Testament
Church on Gentry Street. (new
location).

April 5, 2018

Beaumont Village Association;
6:30 - 7:30 PM, New Testament
Church on Gentry Street.

October 2, 2018

National Night Out, a city-wide
event scheduled by the city.
**Our level of participation
will be determined by
interest from the Village—
what do you want?**

**What activities would
you like to see on our
calendar for 2018? We
will hear a
presentation and hope
to set the calendar for
the year at the March
meeting.**



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News & Notes (continued)

- **Our new *Beaumont Facts* feature is dedicated in memory of Carrol & Helen Wright**, who grew up here. Carrol had a love of history and Beaumont, and collected photos & information for Beaumont Methodist's centennial. He shared the information with us when we celebrated the Mill's 125th in 2015. Many of the notes I am using for the column came from Carroll. The first time the Wrights came to my house in the Village, Helen came up the walk and exclaimed, "This is the house I was born in!" . — mgk
- **Want more personal notes in the newsletter?** Find us a Membership Coordinator who can keep us informed as to what is happening with you.
- **The oral history project** continues. We will donate interviews (there is a release form involved) and photo scans to the county library's Kennedy Local History Room to be archived and available to the public. Call Susan Billings at 579-2257 to sign up and she will set up appointments.
- **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.
- Officer Randy Hardy is our new Public Safety Officer, and he will make a monthly report at our BVA meetings. If you need to contact him, call his office at 596-2331 to leave a message and he will automatically get an email. Or call his cell phone at 809-7335. His email address is rhardy@cityofspartanburg.org. **If you have an emergency, call 911. Remember: if in doubt, go ahead and call.**

Beaumont Facts

- Beaumont Mill was built in 1890. Building started in June and was finished the following January.
- The first mill was 238 x 78 feet. It was three stories high plus a basement.
- Clay for the bricks was dug from the mill pond and the Longleaf Pines were cut for the floors and columns.
- Longleaf Pine trees take 150-400 years to mature, and were harvested at 100 years. Originally common in the Southeast, extensive logging (clear cutting) almost decimated the species and it is now rare, with restoration projects underway.

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Thanks once again to New Testament Church for allowing us our new meeting space. Our goal is to eventually out-grow it and need another option!

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. If you wonder why we are here, read the home page!

BVA Beaumont Village Association
Beaumont Mill Village • Spartanburg South Carolina

Home Initiatives & Calendar Resources Articles Contact/Join Us

The Voice of the Village

The Beaumont Village Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, with voting membership open to residents and property owners in the Village, and a cordial invitation extended to "Friends of the Village" who are interested in participating and supporting us financially. Beaumont Village in Spartanburg, South Carolina, is one of two in-fact textile mill villages in the state, and was designated a city historic area in 2011.

The purpose of the Association is to involve residents in planning and implementing programs and initiatives that advance our goals and promote the Village:

- Develop positive neighborhood relations
- Develop a safe, kid and elder friendly environment
- Preserve historic heritage while promoting community development
- Work with law enforcement

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 09 2017
Beaumont Village Association; 6:30 PM, Police Report, short business meeting. Beaumont United Methodist Church, North Liberty Street, Spartanburg SC

Nov 18 2017
BVA Executive Committee, 10 AM, 789 Maywood Street

Dec 07 2017
Beaumont Village Association

Our Own BVA SWOT Analysis

[Strengths/ Weaknesses/ Opportunities/ Threats]

Adapting a tool used by Clemson's City Planning Seminar for our own use; your comment is invited

Strengths:

- We have a growing group of leaders who want to see the Association succeed.
- We have grant money from the Mary Black Foundation and Palmetto Pride.
- We have a good relationship with the city. The city wants us to succeed as a neighborhood and is willing to help in any way possible.
- There are a good number of individuals with ties to the Village who are interested in the oral history project and want to preserve and promote the historical character of the Village in some way.

Weaknesses:

- Low membership numbers and participation, which can in part be attributed to lack of information or misinformation about the Association and historic guidelines.
- Lack of a membership coordinator who can tap into existing networks and keep in touch with residents, help organize activities, etc.
- The lack of our own BVA gathering place/ office space, not to mention greenspace and a park which might be incorporated.
- **note:** *although the large number of rental properties in the Village might be considered a weakness, we have the advantage of protection afforded by the*

historic guidelines; also the fact that many if not most landlords are local and many have historic ties to the Village. All property owners and residents (owners or renters) are eligible to be voting members of the Association, and we consider this a potential strength.

Opportunities:

- If we use the resources we have well, including effective promotion, participation will increase as residents see the progress that is made.
- With effective education and better enforcement of the historic guidelines now—major points of contention—we can build goodwill, foster better neighborhood relations, and better determine what changes should be made in the future to update the guidelines or make needed changes.

Threats:

- If we cannot go ahead with historic neighborhood signage and some landscaping we will lose a major opportunity for increased pride, visibility, and promotion.
- This may be our last opportunity to make the most of the momentum gained from the Way-to-Wellville/Mary Black Foundation Grant investment.

Why I joined the BVA [continued from page 1]

I had lived in Spartanburg for over 25 years but I had never even heard of Beaumont Village. I had seen the mill on Pine Street, of course, and I knew what a mill house was but I did not have the concept of a mill *village* or the history. I had actually worked in a couple of mills as an office temp in the 90's (greige goods and accounts

receivable), before the textile industry ... at one time the expression would have been "went south." I like it here. I got interested in the history right away, and I even contacted city planning for information.

The group at the Methodist Church was small but welcoming. I joined, I saw that we had some great leadership potential (especially Joe Kowal), and I volunteered to help. — mgk