

# NEWSLETTER

## National Night Out CANCELLED

*No event at Beaumont this year— but let's walk!*

Other neighborhoods will be celebrating National Night Out, an event which grew out of the old Community Watch program and is sponsored by the city & Public Safety, on October 2—the date was moved from August because of the heat. Due to lack of volunteers the BVA has been unable to organize the event this year. **Instead, if the spirit moves you, get the family together and walk the neighborhood around 6:00 PM. Or sit on the porch. Get out and visit with your neighbors.**

## Joe Kowal: An Appreciation

*BVA President retiring because of health issues*

When Joe & Angelina Kowal moved into the neighborhood five years or so ago, Joe showed up at the neighborhood meetings and when we needed a president 3 years ago he accepted the challenge. In that time he has been the face of the Association. He has attended city council and participated on the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC). He has met with the city and others to keep us connected and keep us informed. He worked hard to set up our non-profit status. We are respected in this town, and it is largely because of Joe. When we have had events, Joe and his whole family have made it work.

Thanks, Joe, for your service and for being a good neighbor. We wish you all the best.

## BVA to meet Thursday, October 4

*Regular meeting at New Testament, 6:30 PM*

With attendance at an all-time low and leadership vacancies, the Association will hold our regular meeting to discuss where we go from here. In spite of our best efforts we have been unable to involve residents in planning and grow our membership. We are unable to plan activities if there is apparently no interest, and no volunteers from the community. It is now crunch time. We may have to cut back in other areas where we have been successful, but those of us who have been active want to continue benefiting our neighborhood in any way we can.

### 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.

Marilyn Graves Kimple,  
newsletter editor.  
Malinda Willard, Secretary  
Virginia Painter, Treasurer

Beaumont Village Association  
PO Box 771  
Drayton SC 29333

#### website:

<http://www.beaumontvillage.org>

#### email:

[bvaspartanburg@gmail.com](mailto:bvaspartanburg@gmail.com)

**by phone:** Marilyn Kimple,  
585-6465.

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



**IN THE WORKS...***News & Notes*

- **Next BVA meeting is October 4**, 6:30 PM at New Testament Church on Gentry.
- **In Memoriam, Helen Humphries (1944-2018)**. Helen passed away September 12th at the age of 74. She was a Life Member of the Association. Our sincere condolences go to her sister Cathy Humphries.
- **Visit our 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. 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 have questions or comments about the Association at this time, please do not call Joe. Marilyn Kimple may be reached at 585-6465.
- Just so you know: it has been our editorial policy to keep things positive. You know, glass half full and all that. This is how we mean to go on. It would be nice to get feedback, especially from village residents. **Does anyone out there read this stuff?** We quit delivering it door-to-door because of a lack of “manpower.” If we thought it was worth it we would mail it out— we have the money if we could find someone to do the work.
- **Do you think more folks would join the Association** if we offered members a way to track dealings with the city? What about a services registry (yard work, etc.) file with references? Would you be interested in working on these project?
- **Beaumont Facts:** Beaumont Mill was built in 1890, including 15 mill houses along North Liberty Street. By 1920 there were 142 homes. (*Textile Town*, p. 308)
- Officer Randy Hardy is our 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](mailto:rhardy@cityofspartanburg.org). **If you have an emergency, call 911. Remember: if in doubt, go ahead and call.**

## Calendar

**October 2, 2018**

National Night Out  
CANCELLED

**October 4, 2018**

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

**October 17, 2018**

Beaumont Village Association;  
Executive Board Meeting, 5:30 PM,  
789 Maywood Street. Open to  
interested members & guests.



Stephen B. Cannon, Ph.D., CPCU  
President/CEO

## LAW INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

708 East Main Street Phone 864/582-2334  
Spartanburg, SC 29302 Fax 864/582-2337  
scannon4@juno.com

**Editorial:** *So where do we go from here?*

The Beaumont Village Association continues to work toward our stated goals for the good of our neighborhood. But we appear to be at a crossroads (or maybe an impasse?).

We are a membership organization, a 501C3 non-profit run by volunteers, in need of membership, participation, and volunteers. Notice I did not mention money. The money will come if we have the participation. We are further handicapped by not having a regular gathering place— an office or a public park. We have reached a crisis point in leadership: we have not been able to develop leaders for the future.

We are currently facing difficult political times in our country. We know many people feel that government should “stay out of our business.” Government in this country, however, is “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” At least that is what *I* learned in school. As citizens we have responsibilities, and as neighbors we depend on each other— to keep the place nice, be civil, and maybe be called upon in an emergency. Also to follow the rules, which we have a voice in making and we have a voice in changing if they are not working and need to be fixed. This is supposed to be For the Common Good.

The Association is, of course, not government, although we work closely with the city for the good of the neighborhood. A while back, folks came together to form this Association to “develop positive neighborhood relations” and “involve residents in planning,” among other things. It is not working. Membership has been around 10% and attendance at meetings and events is way down.

We have the newsletter and the website and are working with other organizations on projects to benefit the Village. Why we lack participation, we are not sure. There is bad feeling about the

historic designation and the city, but no one comes to us except occasionally to complain— what we need is ideas and “manpower” participation for solutions. (If you don’t like the way the BVA is run and think you could do a better job— maybe you could. So step up!)

There is also a lot of misinformation out there. We are not a homeowners’ association, as some people still think, and we are not responsible for code enforcement (that would be the city).

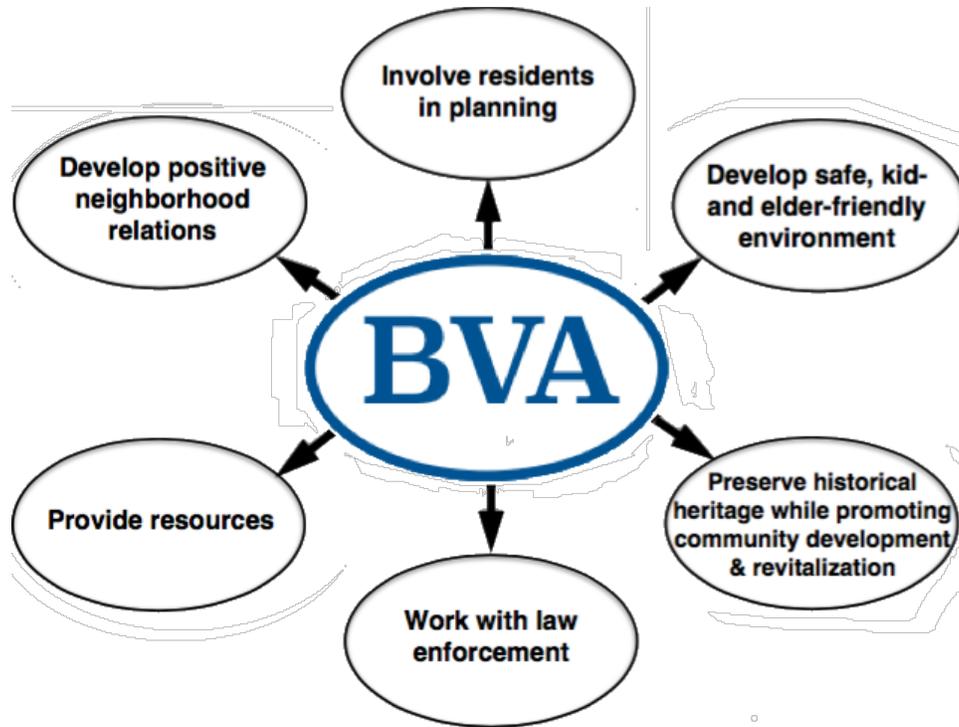
Maybe it is just another symptom of the current mistrust and division in this country today. Or maybe it is just that people are discouraged: they have decided to tend their own garden and hope for the best.

Surely it is not the case that people are just out for themselves. They don’t care about their neighbors or our historic neighborhood. They don’t want to bother keeping the place up. They want to be free to sell drugs or make money on rental properties without maintaining them. Or they don’t want to participate in making this place better for everyone. They are waiting around for someone else to take care of it. Surely not...

We plan to discuss alternatives for the BVA at our October meeting on the 4th. We could try to keep the organization going on a more limited basis. We could close up shop altogether. If there is interest we could go back to being a Neighborhood Watch Group. (We would need a coordinator and “block captains” for each 10-15 houses, as well as to pay fees to the National Sheriffs Association, which sponsors the group.) We could wait for the city to follow through on their plans, including promoting the area as historical and revising codes to be more resident-owner friendly.

—*Marilyn Graves Kimple, editor*

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