



NEWS RELEASE

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Beaufort's Northwest Quadrant named one of nation's 'Best Old House Neighborhoods'

A year of intense clean-up help by the City of Beaufort, coupled with "preservation-minded" Mayor Billy Keyserling and the efforts of Historic Beaufort Foundation, helped editors of *This Old House* magazine name Beaufort's Northwest Quadrant one of the nation's 51 'Best Old House Neighborhoods.'

The area, once a thriving black middle-class neighborhood just blocks off the Beaufort River, fell into disrepair in the 1970s. It became one of Beaufort's blighted and neglected areas until renovations started in earnest in the mid-1990s.

Starting in 2009, City leaders joined hands with involved area homeowners to remove huge amounts of accumulated debris as well as help them remove overgrowth and clean up the blight, said Henrietta Goode, chairman of the Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Improvement Association.

The Northwest Quadrant features hall-and-parlor cottages mostly of wood frame construction and tin roofs. The magazine notes that homes in the area are available from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

"This is a great opportunity to live in one of the prettiest waterfront cities in the South," the magazine wrote. "The Quadrant's downtown location puts it within walking distance of restaurants and shops."

The magazine (available online at www.thisoldhouse.com/bestplaces) also notes values in Salisbury, NC and Brunswick, GA, among the Palmetto State's neighbors.

“We have worked hard with the residents of the Northwest Quadrant, our neighborhood associations and the Historic Beaufort Foundation to showcase some of these neighborhoods that have been overlooked,” Keyserling said. “It’s a real treat to have the Northwest Quadrant recognized for the jewel that it is.”

The magazine article praises Beaufort’s work to help beautify the Northwest Quadrant: “... The City and its preservation-minded mayor are determined to breathe new life into (the neighborhood) by working with residents to edge sidewalks, clear vacant lots, and entice people to buy and restore a house here.”

During 2009-2010, City leaders, volunteers and residents removed more than 300 tons of debris from Beaufort, including the Northwest Quadrant. The effort not only improved the area’s looks, but also removed tons of flammable material, noted Mack Cook, the City’s comptroller and key organizer for the clean-ups.

“It’s nice to see the Northwest Quadrant in the magazine,” Cook said. “It’s a great little neighborhood, filled with history and good people who take pride in their homes. We’ll continue to support them and the rest of the City residents as we work to make this the ‘Best Place to Live’ in the whole country.”

In addition, City leaders continue to improve the Northwest Quadrant and other areas by encouraging appropriate in-fill development and using new form-based zoning and other tools to boost the economic growth of Beaufort.

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