

# A look at the past, future of the Belmont Historical Society

Ted Hall / Special to The Gazette

“Preserving the Past for the Sake of the Future” is both the mission and motto of the Belmont Historical Society, which resides in Belmont’s second oldest house, built in 1899, at 40 Catawba St., just one block from Main Street shops and restaurants.

The home is the birthplace of Bel-

mont textile industry icon Robert Lee Stowe Jr., and it was donated by the Stowe Foundation to the Belmont Historical Society soon after the organization was founded in 2005.

Historical Society President Myra Joye told Belmont Rotarians recently about the work of the organization and about the museum, which is known as the Cultural Heritage and Learning Cen-

ter. Also on the site and available to tour are the 1899 freestanding kitchen and cook’s quarters and a restored and furnished 1920/30s mill village house. BHS Treasurer Elizabeth Atterberry also participated in the presentation.

Mrs. Joye praised the vision of the society’s founders: the late Yates Abernathy, the late Robert (Bobby) Brown, Jack Cannon, Allen Millican, Jack Page,

David Robinson and Max Robinson.

The museum, which consists of six rooms and two long hallways, contains furnishings, artifacts and pictures that tell the story of Belmont from the time of the Indians through the textile age.

A reading library contains books about Belmont’s history and genealogical

**See BELMONT, Page 2A**

# Belmont

Continued from Page 1A

information. And glass display cases are used to present both permanent and rotating exhibits.

The Belmont Sports Hall of Fame, recounting the city's storied sports history, is permanently housed in the museum. Other recent exhibits include Black History Month, an exhibit featuring the history of the Belmont Police Department and an exhibit on Native American history.

The Historical Society also hosts events such as Living History Day in the spring and a fall Silent Auction, and participates in others including the Juneteenth Celebration, the Community Foundation Run and the Festival of Trees and Christmas parade.

Mrs. Joye announced two projects now in planning. One will be an exhibit featuring women who've made major contributions in the Belmont area. And

she said work will begin soon on a Belmont Historical Society video to be produced locally by Rutherford Media Group.

The museum is free to attend and is operated entirely by volunteers. Hours are Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 until 4 p.m., except closed on 5th Saturday and 5th Sunday. Group tours are welcome. Call to arrange a time, 704-825-4848.

Membership in the Belmont Historical Society is \$25 per year. For more information, visit the Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BelmontHistoricalSociety/>

Belmont Rotary Club, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025, meets for lunch and a program on local topics each Wednesday, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church in Belmont. Guests interested in learning more about local businesses and issues and how Rotary serves the community are welcome. For more information, visit [www.belmontrotaryclub.com](http://www.belmontrotaryclub.com).



**The Stowe family homeplace is now home to Belmont Historical Society's Cultural Heritage and Learning Center at 40 Catawba St.** PHOTO COURTESY OF J. MICHAEL JONES, GETTY IMAGES.