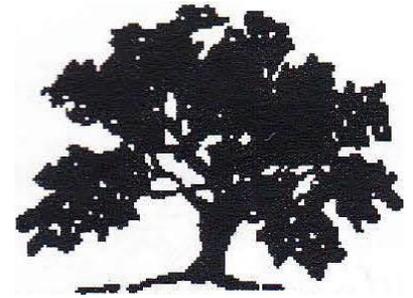


# BETTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

<https://bettonhills.us>  
Facebook: Betton Hills Neighborhood



## HALLOWEEN IS HAPPENING!

A safe and fun Halloween is being planned by a group of Betton Hills' neighbors. To help out the trick-or-treaters, put out a pumpkin or some other sign by your mailbox a few days before Halloween to let them know you'll be putting treats out.

Read the flyer for Halloween directions. If you would like to print these directions to display near your treats, see: <https://dev.bettonhills.us/2020/10/betton-hills-halloween-trick-or-treating-guidelines>.



### GIVING OUT TREATS

**PUT AWAY YOUR CAULDRONS!** Don't have a bowl filled with treats to grab. Our little monsters must only paw their own goodies. **GET CREATIVE INSTEAD!!**

**SET OUT** treats individually by using spaced out **TREAT BAGS** (available by request\*). Use your emergency stash of **WOODEN STAKES** for some 'Stick-or-Treat' in your yard.

**HANDLESS** hand outs! Drop socially distanced goodies using a 3 ft grabber stick (we have them\*). Decorate a wrapping paper tube or PVC pipe and slide a treasure down for kids to catch! Don't forget your **ZOMBIE-PROOF HAND SANITIZER & PPE!!**

\*Email [ccottonwatkins@gmail.com](mailto:ccottonwatkins@gmail.com) for supplies.

**DON'T LET THE GOBLINS DARKEN YOUR DOOR!** Why hand out from your door, when you can set up a table/stand at the end of your driveway or yard? **COFFINS** are fine, but **car trunks** are not.

Sorry **WITCHES & WARLOCKS**, but poisoned apples are prohibited!! No homemade treats. Keep candy packages closed until preparing to give out. Sanitize hands & **MINIMIZE** touching treat wrappers.

**TRY NOT TO GHOST US!** Participate by watching from your porch. **DRESS UP & DECORATE** if you can. Have as much fun as possible for **SCREAMING** out loud!!!

### TRICK-OR-TREATERS

**DON'T HUNT IN PACKS!** Have a howling good time with just your household.

**DON'T HAUNT YOUR NEIGHBORS!** Stay 6 ft or more from other groups. Wait for groups to clear before approaching a driveway/yard.

**SCARY GOOD HYGIENE:** Bring hand sanitizer & don't touch your face!! Wash hands before you **TRICK!**

**BRING A MASK** for times that you can't socially distance!! It will keep the germs & **VAMPIRES** away!!

**DON'T LURK IN DOORWAYS!** Knock, knock, knocking on doors is a no go! Safe treats come from driveways and yards only.

**AVOID REBELS WITHOUT A CAUSE.** Only take candy from houses that follow the **RULES!!**



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## **BHNA President Talk:**

### **State of the Neighborhood: Thank You!**

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**By: Mike Brezin**

My BHNA president stint concludes at the end of 2020. I am very happy to report that the BHNA will be in extremely good hands going forward with Eliza Hawkins, a current board member, serving as president.

When I first became president, I expressed in my Fall 2017 newsletter article that I was seeking to enhance the neighborhood consciousness of Betton Hills. That is, that we, as BHNA board members and members/neighbors, have the belief that Betton Hills is worth taking group and individual actions to make it an even more friendly, inclusive, safe, and uplifting neighborhood.

Neighborhood consciousness is strongly influenced by good communications. I am particularly happy that we've boosted our intra-neighborhood communications. The BHNA Facebook Group, guided by board member Melissa Jacoby, dramatically strengthens our day-to-day sharing of information and concerns. Casey McLaughlin, board member, keeps our website and membership management up to date. I've had a good number of leaders of other neighborhoods complement the frequency with which we update the website with relevant articles. With your help in giving us your email addresses, we've also been able to get the word out through email blasts that complement the website and Facebook Group information.

Neighborhood consciousness depends on organizational effectiveness. The BHNA is fortunate to have a dedicated board of directors. Within that conscientious group, we are particularly fortunate to have steady hands at the till and pen . . . Tom Schulte as treasurer and Margie McInnes as secretary.

If we have a large membership base (that means join/renew now!) and active leadership, we strengthen neighborhood consciousness not just within the neighborhood, but in City Hall as well.

Over the past few years, we've been able to build successful working relationships with the elected commissioners and city staff. We don't look for special favors, but we do strongly emphasize our concerns, expectations, and appreciation. Recently, this approach has led to design improvements on Mitchell Road and Betton Road (as you will see over the coming year) through the work of board members Michael Bannister, Mario Taylor, and Mary Kay Falconer.

We've started a balanced management approach for geese at Harriman Circle, aided by the active involvement of a number of neighbors including Ed Oaksford and Rob Sniffen. I look forward to working with city parks staff to enhance native plantings and manage invasives at McCord Park, guided by board member Donna Legare and incoming president Eliza Hawkins.

Board member Mary Kay Falconer works with transportation and planning staff to boost multi-modal transportation and safer walking throughout Betton Hills.

It goes without saying that Betton Hills doesn't exist in a bubble. We're increasingly influenced by city-wide policies and decisions. It's a bit wonky, but I feel very fortunate to have Betton Hills be a member of the Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods (ATN). Actually, through Mario Taylor, Michael Bannister, and myself, Betton Hills played an active role in getting ATN up and running. ATN is a group of, as of now, 12 in-town neighborhoods. We seek to protect and enhance neighborhoods through sound and forward-looking urban planning and growth management policies and practices. A primary focus over the last year has been strengthening how neighborhoods receive notice of development and maintenance projects and enhancing the early and on-going neighborhood voice in those projects. In working with other neighborhoods, we protect the natural beauty and character of Tallahassee, enhance walkability and transportation options, and promote social and economic equity in development patterns and city resources allocations. An enlightened city consciousness nourishes neighborhood consciousness.

Well, this article went on a little longer than I thought it would. Let me conclude on a personal note. Over the past three years, I've gotten to know many neighbors. Others I've heard from through comments on Facebook or emails. To all of you, I would like to say thank you very much for contacting me whether it is a compliment, criticism, question, suggestion, or observation. Well, OK, I did like the compliments the best! Through the years, and especially through the craziness of 2020, you've kept my faith strong in the inherent goodness of people. I'll continue to serve on the BHNA board of directors not just from a personal commitment, but also because of the goodness you've shared with me. In that regard, I'll end with a saying I've learned from Jewish friends that I find very helpful: "It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but you are not free to desist from it either."

Keep doing what you're doing to make Betton Hills an even more friendly, safe, inclusive, and uplifting neighborhood. Feel free, too, to crank it up a little! 

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## 2021 BHNA Officers and Board of Directors

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### OFFICERS

Eliza Hawkins President  
Michael Bannister Vice President  
Margie McInnes Secretary  
Tom Schulte Treasurer

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Brezin Donna Legare  
Geoffrey Deibel Casey McLaughlin  
Mary Kay Falconer Mario Taylor  
Melissa Jacoby

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## Get Growin'! Betton Hills Community Garden

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**By: Eliza Hawkins**

Our local Community Garden should be in full swing during fall. Stop by and check it out: Cline Street near the intersection with Trescott Drive. All the plots are currently being worked. But if you are interested in renting a plot, join our Betton Hills Community Garden Facebook Group. We announce openings there. To join, you can send an email to Eliza Hawkins ([ehawkins@yahoo.com](mailto:ehawkins@yahoo.com)) to request to join; or, search for the group on Facebook and ask to join.

October is a great time to be in the garden in Florida. North Florida has three growing seasons so there's still time to plant fall crops including onions, arugula, lettuce, spinach and various herbs. Try herbs from plants or seed such as dill, fennel, oregano, and sage. Most of these will do well in a container if you do not have a plot of land around your house.

If you want more North Florida Gardening planting information refer to the UF/IFAS North Florida Gardening Calendar: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep451#SECTION\\_10](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep451#SECTION_10).

Also don't forget it is Monarch Butterfly season so plant some milkweed in your garden. Unfortunately the St Marks Wildlife Refuge will not be holding its annual Monarch Butterfly Festival this year due to - you guessed it - COVID-19 - but they have developed some great virtual butterfly related events and activities instead: <https://www.stmarksrefuge.org/live-your-wild-2020>. 

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## Betton Road Improvements: The Continuing Story

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**By: Michael Bannister**

The Betton Road improvements we've been talking about throughout 2020 are coming, just not as soon as we originally had hoped. The latest word from the City of Tallahassee project leaders looks to early 2021. The pandemic pushed back the original start time of summer 2020 into the fall and holiday period. Rather than disrupt traffic during the holidays, the City determined the work should begin following New Years.

Despite the schedule change, the bright spot is the planned improvements have remained intact. These improvements are designed to reduce off-peak driving speeds thereby boosting safety for walking, biking, and pulling onto Betton from driveways and side streets. The BHNA has worked closely with the City's traffic engineers and other professionals from the Underground Utilities & Public Infrastructure and we're very pleased with the overall schedule and enhancements for Betton Road. For those of you that would like to see the general design documents, check out: <https://bit.ly/bettonrd> 

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## Plant a Tree in Your Front Yard to Shade our Sidewalks and Roads

**By: Donna Legare**

If you walk or ride a bike in the neighborhood in summer, you will notice how hot it gets when walking in front of houses where there are no trees. Many have lost trees due to storm damage. Let's try to keep our neighborhood cool and leafy green in summer by planting trees this winter. The City of Tallahassee offers a unique Adopt-a-Tree program to any residence within the City limits.

The tree choices for this year are: Live Oak, Magnolia "DD Blanchard", and Okame Cherry. If you have enough room in your yard, the Live Oak is a good choice. It is native to Florida and does very well here. DD Blanchard is a cultivar of the native southern magnolia. It does best in a full to part sun location, is a slow grower, and has an upright rather than spreading growth habit. Okame Cherry is not native, but not invasive. It stays small enough to grow under power lines. It's an early bloomer (February) and likes full sun.

Residents agree to water and care for their tree for one year. The City provides the tree and the professional planting of the tree for free. For more information, contact the adopt-a-tree program at: <https://www.talgov.com/sustainability/adoptatree.aspx>. The application process will be set up in November.

Should you decide to purchase a tree at a local nursery, please refer to an article on our website on Successfully Planting Trees: <https://dev.bettonhills.us/category/garden-and-landscape/>. Follow the steps in the article to avoid costly mistakes. 

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## Betton Business Wednesday Comes to Facebook

**By: Melissa Jacoby**

*Editor Note: If you're not a member of the Betton Hills Facebook Group, consider joining. Search Facebook for Betton Hills Neighborhood, request to join and answer a couple of basic questions.*

This COVID-19 time strengthens our resolve to create an even more supportive community within Betton Hills. After receiving suggestions from a number of residents to support neighborhood businesses, the BHNA unveiled a Business Wednesday feature to its Facebook Group. The kickoff date was October 7, 2020. We want to balance the need for neighborhood support without the Group being overrun by advertising. Of course, we need rules to guide the process.

The posting rules can be found in Betton Hills Facebook Group and on the Betton Hills website (<https://bettonhills.us/pages/betton-business-wednesday>). 

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## Carol Bellamy Neighborhood Beautification Fund

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By: Donna Legare

When you donate to the **Carol Bellamy Fund**, your dollars go to support neighborhood beautification and conservation projects. The fund has been used for Arbor Day plantings, to help fund the McCord Park statues, to maintain the Betton Hills markers throughout the neighborhood, to provide park benches, tables, recycling bins, and plants for traffic islands. We have used this fund to set up and maintain bluebird and wood duck nest boxes in McCord Park as well as the bat house, which now houses over 100 mosquito-eating Brazilian free-tailed bats!

Last Arbor Day, over 28 neighbors showed up at McCord Park to plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive plants, care for past plantings, maintain nest boxes and remove litter from the pond. Every year we remove camphor trees, Taiwan cherry trees, Chinese privet, tree Ligustrum, Chinese tallow trees, Ardisia, Nandina, Skunk vine, Cat claw vine, and other invasive plants.

Arbor Day is always a fun event that starts with hot coffee and pastries and provides two hours of great exercise in the fresh air, working side by side with neighbors to improve habitat in the park. Very rewarding work! This year we will also be planting two swamp tupelo trees at Harriman Pond.

McCord Park would look like a very different place without our Arbor Day volunteers and the funding provided by the Carol Bellamy Fund. There would be little diversity in trees and shrubs in the park and therefore fewer songbirds and other wildlife. We would be overrun with Chinese tallow trees especially around the perimeter of the pond. There would be few bluebirds. There would not be any blueberry bushes. Contribute and keep a good thing going! 🌳



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## Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund

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**By: Mike Brezin**

The Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund supports Leon High School students with writing talent and a commitment to journalism. The BHNA established this fund in 2000. Bill and Marge Mansfield served on our Board of Directors. Bill was a working journalist for much of his life, including a stint as Editorial Page Editor for the Tallahassee Democrat in the 1980's and 1990's. He was particularly committed to helping new journalists "find their voice."

Award winners are selected based on the student's diligent efforts in journalism and serving as a key worker for either the student newspaper or yearbook (the yearbook includes stories as well as pictures). Journalism teachers select the award winners. Last year's award amounts were: \$300 for working on the school paper and \$300 for the yearbook.

The Mansfield Fund recognizes the importance of young writers developing their voices and telling their stories. It seeks to reward them for the writing challenges they've faced in high school. It also is meant to encourage them to further express themselves through writing . . . and maybe even through a college major in journalism. 

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## Jack Robertson Partnership for School Excellence Fund

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**By: Mary Kay Falconer**

Your contributions to this fund support our neighborhood schools (Kate Sullivan Elementary, Cobb Middle, and Leon High School). Contributions enable the schools to buy important supplemental materials, books, and other resources that teachers select to improve instruction. Recently, our funds have acquired resources for reading, STEM, band and orchestra, and the Leon High School Foundation. This partnership with the schools is one of the BHNA's top priorities.

For the 2019-2020 school year, our annual contribution was postponed due to COVID-19. We hope to re-engage with the schools in the current school year. Please consider this partnership when you renew your membership dues. The school programs supported with our funds are always appreciated by the teachers and students. Thank you! 

**Betton Hills Neighborhood Association**  
**P.O. Box 15612**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32317-5612**

**JOIN BHNA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

*BETTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION*

*P. O. BOX 15612, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317-5612*

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Annual Membership Dues (\$10 minimum)	\$ _____
Donation to Carol Bellamy Neighborhood Beautification Trust Fund	\$ _____
Donation to Jack Robertson Partners for Excellence School Fund	\$ _____
Donation to Bill and Marge Mansfield Fund for Young Writers	\$ _____
Additional Contributions	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL \$ _____</b>	

**Membership Year: Please let us know if your contributions are for one year or two.**

- One Year: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021**
- Two Years: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022**

We have many great opportunities, big and small for you to get involved and help keep our neighborhood be a great place to live.

**Please check this box if you would like us to contact you about volunteer opportunities.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**Enter your donation amounts, name and address. Make checks payable to BHNA. Send your form and check today (address above). You can also pay your membership online at: <https://bettonhills.us/join>. Thanks!**