Betton Hills Neighborhood Association

Summer, 2007

www.mybettonhills.org

Summer in Betton Hills

Mary Kay Falconer, BHNA President

Summer settled in with its usual heat, humidity, and afternoon thunderstorms. On June 30, several of you faced unfortunate damage to your homes from an afternoon thunderstorm. Fortunately, no one was injured during the storm, and we can count our blessings for that. Still, that storm was a reminder that we must be prepared for future storms that could be even more hazardous. This has been an ongoing concern among members of the BHNA board. If you are interested in helping the neighborhood get better organized for storm preparedness and recovery, please contact us at bettonhillsna@hotmail.com.

BHNA Summer and Fall Activities

Summer is vacation time for many families. Recognizing that typical pattern, no neighborhood events were planned for the summer. However, we did have several events during the year. You might want to take a look at the BHNA website (www.mybettonhills.org) for pictures of you and members of your family if you attended any of these events.

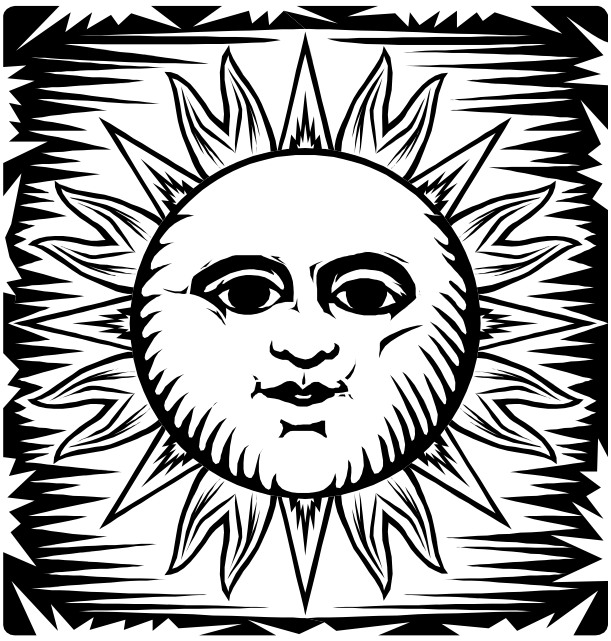
Planned activities in Betton Hills will pick up again this fall. One event will be a forum on stormwater management and water quality. Our neighborhood has two major stormwater ponds (McCord and Harriman parks) and this will be an opportunity to learn about our stormwater and to get informed on drainage basin management in our city and county. Check the BHNA website for the date, time, and location for this event.

BHNA Annual Meeting

Another event will be our BHNA annual meeting in October at Winthrop Park. Again, check the BHNA website for the date and time. For those of you who appreciate what this neighborhood has to offer and want to make it even better, we are looking for new board members. If you would like to participate, please get in touch at bettonhillsna@hotmail.com or call me at 222-3807.

Thank You!

The BHNA Board would like to thank one of our residents, Rob Sniffen, for attending a meeting with the new chief of TPD, Dennis Jones on July 21. Rob mentioned our concerns regarding speeding traffic in our neighborhood and we appreciate his willingness to assume this responsibility on behalf of BHNA.



Have a
Safe and Happy
Summer!

The BHNA Officers
and Board of Directors

CREATE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Tonya Ehrhardt and Mike Brezin

Many people find that attracting birds, butterflies, and other animals makes for a more peaceful and pleasant backyard. The great thing is that you can create a backyard that is appealing to wildlife and humans without too much fuss.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has a program known as Backyard Wildlife Habitat to help you. (Their website www.nwf.org/backyard. guides you through the process.) As you create your habitat, you can submit an application and get your yard certified as one of tens of thousands of official NWF Backyard Wildlife Habitats.

Once certified, your yard will be designated as part of the NWF's national registry of habitat sites and you will receive a certificate suitable for framing. You may also choose to receive an attractive yard sign for display in your habitat. When you certify your yard or garden, you automatically become a member of NWF with full membership benefits, including a year's subscription to the award winning *National Wildlife* magazine. The basic cost is $15.

IT CAN BE DONE!

Betton Hills residents Kelly, Laurie, and Danielle Dozier have a NWF Backyard Habitat at their home on East Randolph Circle (look for the NWF sign). Kelly reports that going through the certification was educational and confirmed her belief that it is possible to have a yard that is attractive and safe for wildlife while being pleasing for her family.

Kelly says there are four basic steps to create the habitat:

1. Grow food. While birdfeeders help, it's best to grow plants that produce food for wildlife. Kelly uses a mix of native and cultivated flowers to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. Her yard had plenty of seed and fruit-bearing trees along the border, including pines, wild cherry, and cherry laurel.

2. Give water. "With the drought this year, our water spots really bring in the wildlife," says Kelly. "This year we've even had foxes and raccoons visit the pond and plenty of birds at the baths."

3. Give cover and shelter. Along the borders, Kelly has filled in beneath the trees with a variety of shrubs. This gives cover for lots of wildlife, especially birds, as well as nesting places.

4. Garden in an environmentally friendly way**.** Kelly says the family likes to play outside games so they wanted to keep a fair amount of grass. Even so, she uses an organic fertilizer (sparingly) and spot kills problem weeds. She uses leaves from her trees as mulch in the flowerbeds, covering that with pine needles for a nice look. There's a compost bin in a back corner for yard debris and to create good garden soil. To save water she installed a drip irrigation system. As a special feature to keep rainwater on site, Kelly created a water garden by sloping the yard to create a low area. In that, she planted a cypress and hydrangeas.

In sum, Kelly feels the yard works great for her family, works for wildlife, and helps protect the soil, water, and air quality of the neighborhood. "This is exactly what I was hoping for in my yard," Kelly says, "it's great!"

Please visit www.mybettonhills.org for additional information and to see larger, color pictures of the Doziers' backyard habitat.

We'd Like to Thank Our Local Business Sponsors!

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Red Elephant Restaurant	Southern Floorings	Suburban Salon	Vogue Cleaners

MARKER MAN PHILIP FROEMKE LEAVES BETTON HILLS

Mary Kay Falconer, BHNA President

In August, Philip Froemke, a dedicated BHNA board member, will be moving to another area of Tallahassee. Many of you know him from his days as a youth living in this neighborhood or as a BHNA board president. His initiative brought us our beautiful neighborhood markers which have been admired by many.

Some of you might have seen him recently applying a fresh coat of paint to bring them back to their original luster. Philip also was responsible for our neighborhood event signs and the maintenance of our gorgeous median at Betton and Thomasville roads. He recruited several new board members and worked tirelessly to do many good things for Betton Hills.

Please join me in thanking Philip for the service he provided to this neighborhood. We all hope he will still be close by and maybe return to this neighborhood in the future.

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www.mybettonhills.org

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