



Betton Hills Neighborhood Association



www.mybettonhills.org

Winter, 2008

BHNA NEIGHBORHOOD AESTHETICS

Mary Kay Falconer, BHNA Fall Chair

Many of us who chose to live in the Betton Hills neighborhood were attracted to the neighborhood's breathtaking natural beauty. Well-maintained residences and surrounding property complement the natural aesthetics of the neighborhood. Over the past year, several neighborhood residents have voiced concerns to BHNA about choices homeowners have made that affect "neighborhood aesthetics." These concerns have fallen into three major categories: out or accessory buildings, yard sales and vehicle parking.

OUT OR ACCESSORY BUILDINGS

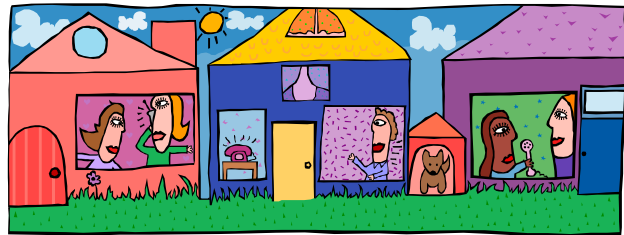
With limited storage areas in our primary residences, many of us need additional structures in our yards. An outbuilding or accessory structure is a very popular modification for many neighbors. The city regulates outbuildings through the city zoning code in an effort to "ensure that they are not harmful either aesthetically or physically to residents and surrounding areas".

The city code limits the square footage allowed for these outbuildings. Some outbuildings may fall within the criteria for allowable square foot-

age but might not fit with the architectural look of the neighborhood. Additionally, if trees or other foliage is removed along property boundaries to erect the structure, it may impact the "aesthetics" and value of the neighboring home.

YARD SALES

Many of us love to unload belongings in yard or garage sales. It is convenient to conduct these sales right at our home and neighbors have a perfect opportunity to do the bargain hunting. But yard sales that occur frequently at the same residence and for the purpose of selling goods as a



business can have a detrimental impact on neighboring residences.

VEHICLE PARKING

Some of us are fortunate to own several vehicles. There are many reasons that justify owning these vehicles. However, when these vehicles sit in the front yard or on the street for extended periods of time, it is aesthetically unpleasing to neighbors.

Other concerns that have been expressed by neighbors include making sure dog waste gets picked up, trash cans are pulled out of the street in a timely manner and that neighbors are considerate of one another when using yard machinery in the evenings and on weekends.

If you who would like to get more involved with maintaining neighborhood aesthetics, please read

RED ADDRESS LABEL???

If you have a red dollar sign on your newsletter address label, STOP! Immediately turn to the back page, fill in your membership form, write a dues check, and send to BHNA. Please renew, we'd hate to lose you!

BHNA CHAIRS CHANGE WITH SEASONS

Mary Kay Falconer

Being in a leadership role for BHNA is a great opportunity to meet wonderful neighbors and learn to appreciate what this neighborhood has to offer.

Each year we accomplish an impressive number of tasks and organize several events attended by residents in the neighborhood. This year, BHNA will be changing its chair with the seasons.

The next chairperson, **Dean Hansen**, took the helm on January 1.



As always, BHNA benefits when new volunteers come aboard. Please consider doing that by attending our board meetings the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the community meeting room at Ashford Club Apts. Also, check our website, www.mybettonhills.org for updates and events.



BHNA Arbor Day Planting!

Saturday, February 9th; 9:00 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: McCord Park Parking Area on Armistead Road

Bring: shovel, gloves and water

This year we will be adding a few interesting native trees — longleaf pine, blue beech and hophornbeam to McCord Park to add diversity to this urban forest. In addition, we will have a crew mulch past plantings in the park and plant some more blueberry bushes on the Trescott Road side of the park.

We would also like to plant a few citrus trees — satsuma, kumquat and Meyer lemon — in the neighborhood for all to share. If you know of a good site in one of the public parks and are willing to water it to get it established, let us know of the site. It should be a sunny, well-drained location

out of the way of ball and Frisbee playing. Then, we will check with our parks department about each location.

Betton Hill's past Arbor Days have always been fun; come out and get to know some of your neighbors and get some exercise at the same time! Dress for the weather, wear garden gloves and bring shovels and water. It's also time to clean out the bluebird house and martin house in McCord Park. Contact Donna Legare 386-8882 wk, 386-1148 hm, dlegare@comcast.net for more information.

HARRIMAN CIRCLE'S CAROLING TRADITION — 40 YEARS AND GETTING STRONGER!

Bill Jones, Guitarist

Traditions are a very important part of our lives, especially during the holiday season. Harriman Circle residents have a neighborhood caroling tradition that goes back 40 years — caroling on the circle. This past Christmas Eve, the tradition cranked it up an octave with a record attendance, nearly 80 people!

Plus, with the added musicians, **Cary Moon** on the accordion and **John Harrison** on guitar (his folks started the tradition), the music and vocals were great. Before singing, I went around the circle and had everyone introduce themselves. It was determined that there were people there who had been coming to the caroling for the past 37 years. We sang a dozen Christmas songs, and I believe that if the weather is good next year we may even have more participants than this year. A good time was had by all.



John Harrison, Cary Moon, and Bill Jones supplied the music as nearly 80 people sang their good cheer for the 40th Christmas Eve Caroling at Harriman Circle.

Still Need a New Year's Resolution?

The end-of-year holidays are over and the new year begins. This is a good time to cut the red berries from the nandina and ardisia plants so common in our yards.

These ornamental plants have become very invasive into the wetlands by our ponds and streams. Cutting their berries gives the violets, trilliums, and other wildflowers a chance, at least.

Better yet, thin them or eliminate them from your yard entirely. There are plenty of attractive native wildflowers and shrubs to serve as worthy replacements.

**WE THANK OUR NEIGHBORS
FOR PAYING THEIR 2008 BHNA MEMBERSHIP DUES**

(as of December 6, 2007)

If your name is not on this list, please renew your membership today!

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Wilson Baker and Mary-Anne Besterbreurtje	Dan Cashin and Cathy Cashin	Edward Desloge and Moira Desloge
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Gail R. Bellamy and Daniel J. Kurland	Marvin Collins and Jerilyn Collins	Laurie L. Dozier and Kelly Dozier
Frank Bernardino	Patrick Conn and Cassie Conn	Everett Drew and Julie Drew
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Jack Shoemaker and Frances

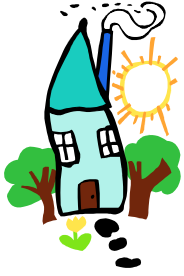
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Barbara B. Wilkison
John W. Word and Edna E. Word
David P. Yancey and Kathleen Yancey
Bert Zeegers and Sally Zeegers

**If your name is listed incorrectly,
please email us at:
bhna@comcast.net.**

KEEP BETTON HILLS BEAUTIFUL

Peter Butzin



Although we live in one of Tallahassee's most beautiful and well-kept neighborhoods, occasionally there's an ugly duckling that needs to be tamed. It may be in the form of junk, trash and debris or overgrown grass. Or maybe it's a derelict car, broken fence or a neighbor who consistently

leaves trash containers at the curb.

TALK FIRST!

The best approach is to begin by contacting the neighbor that's offending you. Don't want direct contact? No problem — write a letter or put a note in a place where the neighbor will find it. Or, maybe a mutual acquaintance can help out. In most cases, talking things over with the neighbor before taking more aggressive actions will lead to the best result. Remember, you may be living by this person for years. You want the immediate situation improved, but you also want to maintain some hope of an amicable future. The idea of a neighborhood is to get along with the people nearby.

SECOND: CALL CODE ENFORCEMENT

Talking didn't work? This is where the City's Code Enforcement division can help. David Thomas is the code enforcer for Northeast Tallahassee. You don't need to remember Dave's name to get action. Simply call the Code Enforcement Hotline at 891-CODE (2633), or use the City-Wide Trouble Reporting System on the City's website at talgov.com.

Common code violations include:

- Fences in need of repair, or fences which use banned materials, such as barbed or razor wire and electrified fencing.
- Derelict or inoperable vehicles.
- Open storage. Any equipment, materials or furnishings that would ordinarily not be used outdoors may not be stored outdoors.
- Minimum housing standards, including a requirement that structures be sound, well

maintained and in compliance with building codes.

- Swimming pools must be maintained in clean and sanitary condition, and surrounded by a fence of at least 4 feet.
- Junk, trash and debris must be disposed of properly.
- Although home occupations are permissible, signs may not be displayed, only people living on the premises can be engaged in a home occupation, and work must be conducted entirely within the principal building. Also only one motor vehicle used in the conduct of the home business can be kept on the premises.
- Building numbers must be at least 3 inches tall for homes and 6 inches tall for businesses.
- Most signs are prohibited in residential areas and are never allowed on public right-of-way. Small political signs are permitted, but must be on the occupant's property and displayed with the occupant's permission. Many residents violate the sign ordinance by placing political signs too near the street on public right-of-way.

YOU CAN HELP, TOO

Also, if you'd like to become a "neighborhood scout" to help the City's limited enforcement staff, ask about this program. It's like "crime stoppers," except limited to code enforcement issues. A bit of training is involved.

PITCH IN

Most importantly, if you see something on the above list that may apply to you, clean up your property, so Dave Thomas doesn't have to spend as much time enforcing codes in Betton Hills!

A single gentle rain makes the grass many shades greener. So our prospects brighten on the influx of better thoughts.

H.D. Thoreau



**IF YOU HAVE A RED DOLLAR SIGN ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL,
RENEW YOUR BHNA MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

BETTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 15612, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317-5612

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Annual Membership Dues	\$10.00
Donation to Carol Bellamy Neighborhood Beautification Trust Fund*	\$ _____
Donation to Jack Robertson Partners for Excellence School Fund	\$ _____
Donation to Bill Mansfield Fund for Young Writers	\$ _____

Your Name:
Address and Zip Code:
Email address:

Enter your donation amounts, name and addresses. Make checks payable to BHNA.

Send your form and check today (address above). Thanks!



It's winter so the tiny yellow-rumped warblers are thick in the wax myrtles that border McCord Pond. Come see them!

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

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