Fall, 2009

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association

www.mybettonhills.org

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Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting: Meet Us in the Park!

Come on out and share the joy of living in Betton Hills! Here's the lineup: Free entertainment, featuring a return engagement by the world-renowned steel drum band from Leon High, *Leon Steel*. The band is a self-supporting group and relies on events like ours for support. Plus, their music brings out an island-inspired festive mood, so we're glad to have them play.

We'll also have plenty of ice cream and members to organize games for small children. And of course, there's the opportunity to meet your neighbors, the election of new officers, and plenty of ice cream. By popular demand, we'll also have root beer floats!

The location is Winthrop Park, by the playground. We're starting earlier this year, at 2:00, and the party will go on until 4:00.

Whether you are new to the neighborhood or a long-time resident, please join us. Officers and board members will be circulating to make everyone feel welcome.

If the spirit moves you, bring along some cookies, a pie, or other baked goods. It's a fine neighborhood tradition that is greatly appreciated.

COME ONE COME ALL!

Sunday, October 18,
2:00--4:00
Rain or Shine
Winthrop Park

FOOD
Ice Cream! Ice Cream!
Bring a Dessert to Share

EVENTS
Leon High School Steel Drum Band
Games and Crafts for the Kids

A GREAT WAY TO VISIT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!

President's Letter

by Andy Fink, BHNA President

The fall season marks the beginning of numerous events in our area. Our children begin a new school year, football season leads to tailgating season, squirrels start burying their acorns for the winter, and the leaves begin to blanket our yards. As it relates to BHNA, fall marks the formation of a new board.

We have several people who have stepped up to take on new roles. Tom Schulte will become our President; Margie McInnes, Treasurer; Melissa Jacoby, Secretary; and Shawn Einarson has already taken over the duty of putting our newsletter together. If you know any of these neighbors, be sure to thank them for their commitment to BHNA.

Our upcoming Fall Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting will mark the end of the current board's term. The past year was very busy and we accomplished many things. Some of the highlights were:

*We worked with some of our own residents and the City to fund and insure the future of the rose gardens throughout Tallahassee. The Mayor recognized the neighborhood and our efforts with a proclamation at a City Commission meeting.

*We recruited residents to participate in the City's Energy Challenge. Currently, Betton Hills is in 1st place in the energy savings standings.

*Our annual events, Arbor Day, Christmas Caroling, and Family Fun Day, were successful with increased turnout to all events.

*Betton Hills was recognized as Neighborhood of the Year by the City of Tallahassee!!

It has been a pleasure working with our board and our residents over the past year. I hope each of you enjoy your neighborhood as much as my family does! We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Ice Cream Social on October 18, and around our streets for years to come!

Betton Hills? Now On FACEBOOK?!

BHNA 2.0

By Andy Fink

One of the constant struggles of our Neighborhood Association is finding ways to keep our residents connected and informed. We operate our own website, www.mybettonhills.org, but it is difficult for Betton Hills residents to add information to the site.

Therefore, in an effort to encourage neighbors to connect with one another in a more casual, immediate way, we have started a group on Facebook called "Betton Hills Neighborhood."

To add our site to your Facebook friends list, find us under "Groups" where you search for new friends. The BHNA board will post event times, photos from our socials, and any pertinent info regarding the neighborhood as a whole. But the best source for content should come from you! So look us up. Join the group. Post your yard sale dates, look for walking partners, trade plants, and share neighborhood observations. We invite you to participate!

Neighborhood Beautification is the Goal of the Carol Bellamy Fund

by Donna Legare

Your donations to the Carol Bellamy Fund enable volunteers to plant trees and shrubs in our neighborhood parks and islands and to provide benches in parks. The fund may be used for anything that promotes beauty in our neighborhood. This year we provided funds to the City of Tallahassee to continue planting flowers in McCord Park.

On Arbor Day 2009, a group of neighbors planted a variety of trees in McCord Park including a longleaf pine, two more blueberry bushes, and a native plum tree. The City of Tallahassee Parks Department provided 15 bales of straw, which we used to mulch past plantings. This relly helps in the long term care of trees and shrubs by preventing damage from weed whackers. All plantings have done well this year due to ample amounts of rainfall. Watch for blueberries in the summer and eventual satsumas in the winter.

This year, our group also thinned the pines that had grown up along the southern edge of McCord Park. The Arbor Day gorup cleaned out the bluebird house, wood duck nest boxes and purple martin gourds. Please help yourself to compost from the large compost bin that was built during Arbor Day 2007; it is on the Armistead Road side of McCord Park.

The Bellamy Fund also supports the planting and maintenance of islands and traffic calming devices in the neighborhood. These islands could be eye sores, but due to the work of several neighbors, they are pleasant and beautiful accents in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, the Betton island plantings were destroyed by road construction; we are waiting for cooler weather to replant this island.

Potential projects for this year are installing a new predator guard on the martin gourd pole and installing a bluebird house in the "dog and wildlife garden" area. Jil and Bob Harper are donating a martin gourd pole and gourds; we may set this up in Harriman Circle. We plan to replace the stolen sundial in the Bellamy Garden in Chittenden Park. This year we will continue the removal of Chinese tallow trees and mimosa trees from McCord Park. This is a slow process, but one that must be dealt with regularly. We will also plan another Arbor Day event and hope to see you there. It is always a good time, working with friends and neighbors.

Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund Report

by Mike Brezin

The Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund supports Leon students with writing talent and a commitment to journalism. We had two winners this past year, Kyle Muller, who served as the newspaper Editor, and Kathryn Haley, the newspaper Business Manager. The Leon journalism teacher selects the award winner based on the student's diligent efforts in journalism, serving as a key worker for either the student newspaper or student yearbook (the yearbook at Leon includes stories as well as pictures,) and being one who may not receive other scholarships for college work. The winners each received a $250 scholarship from BHNA.

The fund honors the memory of long-time Betton Hills residents Bill and Marge Mansfield. Bill was a working journalist for much of his life and was committed to helping new journalists find their "voice." Bill came to Tallahassee in 1965, serving as Bureau Chief for the *Miami Herald*.

He worked as the Editorial Page Editor for the *Tallahassee Democrat* in the 1980's and 90's. Bill wrote and spoke publicly on education, the environment, integration, and many other issues of local interest.

After his retirement in 1995, and until his death in 2000, Bill devoted his time and talents to volunteering his services to a number of worthy causes, one of which was the BHNA. Bill was our newsletter editor and a respected voice on our Board of Directors.

Bill would be the first to say that Marge contributed a great deal to his success. She was a fine thinker, didn't hesitate to voice her opinions, and had a great desire to see each person in our society treated fairly. As a BHNA board member she was particularly active in our events organized to get neighbors to know one another better. Marge died in 2005.

Thank You Sponsors!

The Welcoming Committee delivers a "Welcome to Betton Hills" package to new residents. We delivered about 12 last year. The contents of the package include goodies from local businesses, and we would like to thank those listed below for their donations.

If you know a new neighbor, email the committee at bettonhillsna@hotmail.com and we will help welcome them to our community.

ABC Liquors
Bernice at Betton
Beef O' Brady's
Betton Place Antiques
Brown's Kitchen Center
Capital City Lock
Chestnut Hill Clothier
Cobblers Shop
Elizabeth's Designer Resale
Florida Bank
Food Glorious Food
Functionality
Grammy and Gee
Great Bicycle Shop
Helen's Uniforms
Hobby Shop
Jason Nauman Realty
Karmanos Print Shop
My Favorite Things
Native Nurseries
Premier Bank
Rapid Refil Ink
Red Elephant
Robert's Jewelers
Shoaf Realty
Southern Flooring
Strauss Gallery
Suburban Hair Salon
Suntrust Bank
SuperLube
Tallahassee Decorative Fabrics
Tallahassee Little Theater
Tallahassee Nurseries
Ten Thousand Villages
Things Remembered
Vogue Cleaners
Womens' World

Jack Robertson Partners For Excellence In Education Fund

by Margie McInnes

Your donations to this fund assist the three public schools in the Betton Hills neighborhood better meet the needs of their students. During these times of reduced school budgets, our donations are even more neded and appreciated than ever!

Kate Sullivan Elementary used their donation to purchase additional children's books for their media center.

Cobb Middle put the funds into their science and research program toward the purchase of a microscope and lab supplies.

Leon High's allotment helped to sponsor Winterfest, an annual student musical event for the entire school. In addition, we donate to Project Graduation, an alcohol and drug-free graduation night celebration, and we invite Leon High's award-winning steel drum band, *Lion Steel*, to play at our Annual Ice Cream Social and Board Meeting in October.

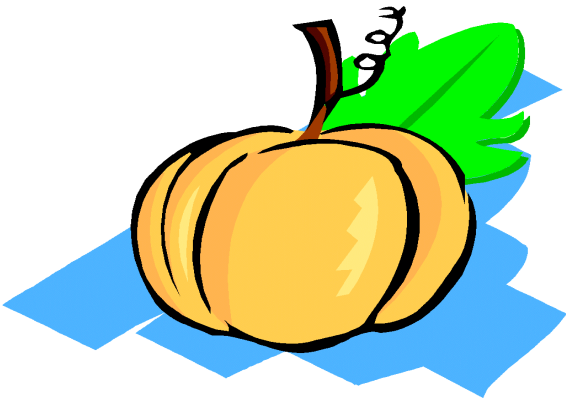
Please remember that these schools welcome donations of time as well as money. If you have even a small amount of time available, each school is happy to match your interests and talents with volunteer opportunities. You can reach the schools at the following phone numbers:

Kate Sullivan Elementary---487-1216
Cobb Middle---488-3364
Leon High---488-1971

BHNA Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors

Tom Schulte, President
Mary Kay Falconer, Vice President
Margie McInnes, Treasurer
Melissa Jacoby, Secretary
Shawn Einarson, Newsletter Editor
Tom Vickers, Membership

Mike Brezin	J. T. Ehrhardt	Mary Kay Falconer
Andy Fink	Tami Frankland	Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey
Andy Grayson	Dean Hansen	Sue Hansen
Bill Jones	Donna Legare	Anne Longman
Charles Pattison	Carolyn Smith	Eric Thorne



Edible Gardening, Anyone?

by Sue Hansen

On Labor Day evening, about 25 people gathered under the pavillion at Winthrop Park to share ideas, questions, experiences, seeds, plants, and food. The purpose of this group is to promote home-grown foods--vegetables, fruits, herbs--in whatever manner works for each individual, whether it is growing tomtoes, peppers, and eggplants in pots on the porch or patio, a raised bed vegetable garden, or a community/cooperative garden. In attendance were pcople from all over town and from Lake Talquin and near Monticello, from young to old, from novice to Master Gardener. Betton Hills was represented by Mike Brezin, Leslie Hanks, Elizabeth Markovitch and her daughter and husband, and Dean and Sue Hansen.

Plants, seets, pots, herbs, and gardening information were exchanged. After all attendees introduced themselves and briefly told about their gardening interests, food was shared and lively conversation flowed as people exchanged addresses so that they could visit other gardens, offered help with projects such as building a raised vegetable bed, and discussed how to go about establishing neighborhood gardens.

The Edible Garden Club plans to remain informal and free and will meet once a month on the first Monday of the month. For more information please contact Elizabeth Markovitch at emarkovitch@comcast.net or Sue Hansen at shansen1070@yahoo.com.

HAVE YOU ENJOYED THE BLOOMS AND BLOSSOMS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC ISLANDS?

BE SURE TO THANK YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR THEIR HARD WORK! THANK YOU TO MARI-JO LEWIS-WILKINSON AND FAMILY (TRESCOTT ISLAND) THE FINK FAMILY (LIRIOPE BEDS IN TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES ON WOODGATE WAY) AND DEAN HANSEN AND MIKE BREZIN (BETTON ROAD ISLAND) OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS A PRETTIER PLACE BECAUSE OF YOUR EFFORTS!

Betton Hills--We're #1 and Still Saving!

by Mary Kay Falconer

At the end of this past spring, 23 residents in Betton Hills registered to participate in the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) Neighborhood Energy Challenge. This is a program designed to encourage neighborhoods to "out do" each other in reducing their energy use over a three month time period. The measure was kilowatts used in 2009 compared to 2008 for the same three months. The results released at the end of August for month two of the program placed Betton Hills at the top of the list for cumulative energy reduction and first for percentage energy reduction. Considering the high number of neighborhoods participating, including Lafayette Park and Waverly Hills, this is very impressive. Thanks to those in Betton Hills participating and leading the neighborhoods in energy reduction. For more information on the program, and to track our neighborhood's status, go to http://www.tallyenergychallenge.com.

"How Do We Save Energy?"

"Our front yard fountain is totally off the grid." "We have a vegetable garden, reducing the need for imported fruits and veggies." "We put in guttering and rainbarrels, no longer using City water in our yard." **"I always turn off lights when I leave a room."** "Fans only!! Very little use of A/C." "I only use gas burners and the microwave for food preparation." **"The kids moved out! :-)"** "I turn off lights." "We pick up and make use of other people's pine straw and leaf/grass waste before the City truck comes." **"Weather permitting, I hang all laundry on the line."** "We have a hybrid car." "I walk and bike for as many errands as possible." "We use half-full water glasses for watering house plants." **"I bike to work."** "We take advantage of City rebates for efficient replacement of appliances." "We carpool our kids to school and sports practices." **"We reduce what we send to the landfill by composting."** "We have mulch piles and no yard waste." "We converted all our windows to argon low e moderns." **"All our lunches are packed in reuseable containers."** "I had a free energy audit and increased my insulation."

Hummingbirds in the Autumn Garden

by Donna Legare

"When should I take my hummingbird feeder down?" I am asked this question every autumn. The questioner is usually concerned that she will keep "her" hummingbirds here too long, disrupting their natural pattern of migration.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird, the only species of hummingbird that nests here, migrates to Central America each fall. The ones that nested in Tallahassee will migrate soon, but so will birds that nested farther north. There is a succession of birds passing through that may stop at your plants and feeders in the fall.

Most ornithologists and hummingbird researchers that I have talked to assure me that hummingbirds will migrate without your feeder and plants. However, those plants and feeders are a valuable source of energy for the diminutive birds stocking up for their long trip to Central America each year.

So my answer to the above question is to leave your feeder up until you notice that no birds are using it. Of course, this means cleaning it regularly. My advice for those who want to see hummingbirds up close is to plant lots of nectar-rich plants for them.

Cardinal guard, also known as firespke, is one of the best perennials for attracting hummingbirds in late summer and autumn. It is in full bloom by September, sporting abundant red tubular flowers loaded with nectar. Cardinal guard prefers a lightly shaded spot. We planted ours on the north side of the house near a window and another at the end of our front porch, so we can watch hummingbirds up close from our rocking chairs. Other good hummingbird plants in our yard that continue to bloom into autumn are shrimp plant, Salvia guaranitica, red pentas, firebush, Mexican sunflower, cigarette plant, pineapple sage, and ironweed.

Other excellent choices are lantana, butterfly bush, hummingbird plant (Dicliptera,) cigar plant, false gloxinia (Sinningia) and all salvias.

Some folks in Tallahassee leave their feeders up all winter to attract other species of hummingbirds, such as the Rufous Hummingbird, that migrate here from the west and spend the winter feeding on sugar water from feeders, insects, nectar from perennials that overwinter due to recent mild winters, natural winter blooming plants, and sap from sap wells drilled by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. If you decide to leave a feeder up over the winter, you will need to clean it regularly, though not as often as a summer feeder.

Does your mailing label look a little odd?
With this first newsletter of our new year we try to reach all property owners in Betton Hills including new owners and those who did not join our neighborhood association last year. We download the information from the Leon County Property Appraiser, hence the odd format. On future issues, members will recieve newsletters with our usual, less institutional labels.

Congratulations Betton Hills Tallahassee Neighborhood of the Year!

☺ IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR BHNA MEMBERSHIP! ☺ ☺

Is there something you'd like to see in a future newsletter? Would you like to see your name in print? Please send ideas, suggestions, stories, and thoughts to einarson2112@comcast.net.

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Annual Membership Dues: $10.00

Donation to Carol Bellamy Trust Fund* $_____

Donation to Jack Robertson Partners for Excellence Fund** $_____

Donation to Bill Mansfield Writer's Fund*** $_____

Your Name: _____

Address and Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Enter your donation amounts, name, and address.
Answer survey questions (see next page.)
Return this page and your check in the enclosed envelope. Make checks payable to BHNA.
Thanks!!

*The Carol Bellamy Trust Fund has been set up by the BHNA to provide money for the renovation or enhancement of the public areas of Betton Hills.
**The Jack Robertson Partners for Excellence Fund is used to assist neighborhood public schools (Kate Sullivan Elementary, Cobb Middle, and Leon High) better meet the needs of the students.
***The Bill Mansfield Fund recognizes exceptional Leon High student writers. An award is given to support their future writing efforts.

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association

MEMBER SURVEY

1. What would make Betton Hills a better place to live? Are there neighborhood issues that concern you? Are there projects you would like to see the BHNA take on?

2. Would you like to serve on the BHNA Board of Directors? (Meetings are first Thursday of the month and last about one hour.)

_____Yes! Phone number or email: _____

3. Would you be willing to help with one of our projects or committees? (Check those that interest you.)

___Welcoming Committee
___BHNA Newsletter Editor
___Clean the Betton Hills markers
___Arbor Day plantings
___Web designer for BHNA website
___Prepare displays for the McCord Park kiosk
___(Fill in a project you'd like to take the lead on to make it happen.)_____

_____

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

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

COME TO THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

October 18

2:00--4:00