



Betton Hills Neighborhood Association Fall, 2011

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BHNA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FALL 2011

By Tom Schulte

As a homeowner in Betton Hills for the past last nine years and Board member for the past seven, I have really come to appreciate the work your Betton Hills Neighborhood Association (“BHNA”) does for you. We are a volunteer board and most of our board members also have full time jobs. We are very fortunate to have so many people living in our neighborhood who care about maintaining its beauty and preserving its appeal.

The BHNA is funded completely by donations from folks living in the neighborhood, and even some who have moved away but are still members. Membership is only \$10 per year; more is happily accepted! Your membership dues allow us to put out a newsletter twice a year with updates on current events and neighborhood happenings. Your dues sustain our website: mybettonhills.org. Your dues fund two neighborhood events at Winthrop Park, the “Spring Fling” and our “Fall Fest,” which is right around the corner.

You have all seen the beautiful markers we have on Betton Road, Lee Avenue, Randolph Circle, Trescott Drive and Armistead Road. The markers were paid for and are maintained with BHNA membership dues. Your dues also have been used to restock our neighborhood ponds with fish to help keep the ponds healthy.

In addition to dues, we encourage neighbors to donate to 3 funds we maintain, and which are described in more detail in separate articles in this newsletter. We use “Neighborhood Beautification” donations to purchase trees and various landscaping materials, which are planted at our annual Arbor Day event. Donations are also used to support academics in our 3 local schools. The “Mansfield Fund” awards scholarships to seniors at Leon High School who have excelled in journalism. The “Partner’s Fund”

provides money to Kate Sullivan, Cobb and Leon, and is used to purchase various items the schools need.

I have seen first hand over the years how a strong neighborhood association like ours carries considerable weight with our elected officials. We have actively participated in a variety of issues affecting our neighborhood, including garbage/trash pick up policies, size and placement of billboards and yard signs, enforcement of yard/garage sales ordinances, and problems resulting from abandoned properties.

We usually have between 350-450 dues paying members, but are always striving to have 100% neighborhood participation. Please invest in your neighborhood by joining your neighborhood association, paying your dues, donating to the funds that you value, and contributing your ideas and time. Join us at a monthly Board meeting; we meet at 7:30PM on the first Thursday of nearly every month at the Ashford Club Apts. Clubhouse. (We do not meet July or August; December’s location varies.) Consider becoming more actively involved; take a look at the “Ideas for Your Community” page and see if there are activities you would like to help implement.

Thank you for all that you do to make Betton Hills the wonderful neighborhood we all enjoy.

BETTON'S FALL FEST
COME ONE COME ALL!
 Sunday, October 23
 2:00--4:00PM
 Winthrop Park Pavilion
FOOD
 Pizza-Boiled Peanuts-Drinks Provided
 Bring a Dessert to Share
EVENTS
 Leon High School Steel Drum Band
 Games and Crafts for Kids
 Annual meeting
A GREAT TIME TO VISIT
WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!

CAROL BELLAMY NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION FUND

By Donna Legare

We will celebrate **Arbor Day** in January or February this year by planting trees, blueberry bushes or other shrubs, maintaining past plantings in various parks and islands, cleaning purple martin and bluebird houses, and by continuing removal of invasive alien plants such as Chinese tallow and coral ardisia from area parks. If you have any ideas for Arbor Day, please contact Donna Legare at 386-1148. Watch for future newsletters and signage with the exact date and time of Arbor Day 2012.

Last Arbor Day, we planted a grove of needle palms and bluestem palmettos beneath the open woods behind the compost bin on Armistead. We were planting for the future. Picture this area in twenty years. Bushy evergreen palms beneath this urban deciduous forest will provide cover for birds and other wildlife and visual beauty for park visitors.

Volunteers also planted a weeping yaupon holly and a Walter's viburnum to replace a large invasive ligustrum tree that we asked the city to remove. We also mulched the previous year's planted southern magnolia trees. We had 100% survival on these trees.

When you donate to the **Carol Bellamy Fund**, your dollars go to support neighborhood beautification projects such as these. The fund has also been used to provide park benches, tables, recycling bins, plants for traffic islands and marker maintenance.

BILL AND MARGE MANSFIELD WRITER'S FUND REPORT

By Mike Brezin

Dear BHNA,

Thank-you so much for the Mansfield Award. Taking Newspaper has changed my life in many ways. I've learned to become a better communicator through the interviews and also to become a curious individual who cares for the role of the media to set the right agenda.

I hope to continue in this field with a specific focus on business and political science, thanks to the Leon High Life.

Thank-you so much for your appreciation for high school journalists. I received the award at Leon's ceremony with great pleasure.
-June Lee

The Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund supports Leon students with writing talent and a commitment to journalism. We had four winners this past year. For outstanding work on the student newspaper, *High Life*, we recognized two students: Betton Hills resident **Roberta Fiorito** (daughter of Susan and Jack Fiorito) and **June Lee**. For dedicated work on the student yearbook, *Lion's Tale*, we recognized **Abigail Crane** and **Mary Kennedy**. The Leon journalism teachers, Ms. Pam Owen (yearbook) and Mr. Kevin Record (newspaper) select the award winners based on the student's diligent efforts in journalism and serving as a key worker for either the student newspaper or student yearbook (the yearbook at Leon includes stories as well as pictures). The winners each received a \$175 scholarship from BHNA.

The fund honors the memory of longtime 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 *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, who died in 2005, 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.

JACK ROBERTSON PARTNERS IN EDUCATION FUND

By Donna Legare

When you donate to this fund, you support our neighborhood public schools. The fund is divided equally between our three schools - Kate Sullivan, Cobb and Leon. Each year we choose a department or a project at each school as the beneficiary of the funds. This year Kate Sullivan is using their share to build the new vegetable garden beds in front of the K-1 building. The garden is a cooperative venture between students, parents, teachers and community volunteers and will be used to enhance curriculum and provide hands-on education.

In the past, the money has been used to purchase sheet music, to tune instruments, to purchase novel sets for language departments, to purchase books for media centers, to provide supplies for art departments, to purchase audio materials for language classes, to sponsor math summer camp and much more. Teachers who have received the grants have been very appreciative and would welcome mentor volunteers as well.

Hello Garden friends,

Monday morning gave us plenty to do in the garden. I got to work and play with Ms. Mann's Kindergarten class. We discovered that the plants were quite happy as they got a good rain the night before. The children went right to the milkweed plants to check on the aphids only to find a ladybug eating breakfast. Several of the children noticed the squash plant was growing almost as tall as the average Kindergartener. We dead headed the basil again and will soon be harvesting it for pesto, yum! With much excitement, each child harvested a radish, washed it and did a taste test. I was impressed to find that they all wanted to try one. Most of the kids said it was spicy, some said too hot, and one child ate the leaves and said it was great. We talked about different ways to cook and eat radishes, how we planted a seed, watched it grow, watered it, harvested it and ate it! I look forward to many smiling faces & good garden helpers next week.

Kelley Des Marais
Garden Coordinator

TALLAHASSEE'S EDIBLE GARDEN CLUB

By Carol Eidahl

The Edible Garden Club of Tallahassee meets every first Monday of the month at the pavilion in Winthrop Park at 6pm. The meetings are informal and informative. Anyone is welcome to come to learn, share and sometimes take home baby plants or seeds others bring to share. You will meet experts and novices all willing to "grow". We usually have someone to present a talk on topics of interest to the group. Sometimes, we just all share what is going on at home in our own gardens. Come join us!

Contact Info:

Elizabeth Markovich

elizabeth.markovich@gmail.com

Carol Eidahl

eidahl@terranhost.com

Find us on Facebook!

BETTON FALL FEST & ANNUAL MEETING MEET US IN THE PARK!

By Margie McInnes

The weather is (finally) getting cooler. Leaves are changing colors. The days are getting shorter. That means two things: Fall is coming, and it's time for Betton Hills Neighborhood Fall Fest!

Come on out and share one of the joys of living in our beautiful neighborhood.

Here's our plan: **MUSIC** by the terrific **Leon Steel**, the steel drum band from Leon High School. The band is self-supporting and relies on events like ours for support. Their music always creates a festive mood, so we're glad to have them play. And there is plenty of **FOOD!** We'll provide **Red Elephant pizza, boiled peanuts and drinks**. If you would like to bring a dessert to share, please do so.

There will be **CRAFTS AND GAMES** for children. And of course, there is the opportunity to **Visit with neighbors** you already know and meet some you haven't met yet. Finally, we will have the **Election** of our neighborhood association officers.

Whether you are new to the neighborhood or a long-time resident, please join us on Sunday, October 23, 2-4PM. This is a fine neighborhood tradition that we are happy to continue.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY

The following are some Halloween Safety tips offered by the Tallahassee Police Department's Community Relations Unit.

- 🦇 Never allow your children to Trick-or-Treat alone. It is always better to have an adult accompany a group of children.
- 🦇 The safest time to Trick-or-Treat is before dark or at dusk.
- 🦇 Make sure the costume will not cause a child to trip and is fire retardant.
- 🦇 Try to have your children use make-up instead of a mask. If a mask is used, remove it while walking due to restricted visibility.
- 🦇 Use light colored clothing or reflective material on costumes.
- 🦇 Limit Trick-or-Treating to your own neighborhood or other areas you know well.
- 🦇 Never let your children go into another person's house for any reason, especially those you don't know.
- 🦇 Only stop at houses that have outside lights on or are well lit.
- 🦇 Advise children not to eat any candy or goodies they receive until they return home for inspection by parents. Only eat unopened treats that are in the original wrapper.
- 🦇 Carry a flashlight or other light source and be very careful of moving vehicles.
- 🦇 Check the FDLE Sexual Offender website to determine if any offenders are residing in your neighborhood before trick or treating. <http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do>
- 🦇 **MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL WHEN TRAVELING HALLOWEEN NIGHT. TRAVEL SLOWER THAN THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT AND WATCH FOR ANY CHILDREN THAT MAY DART ACROSS YOUR PATH UNEXPECTEDLY.**



The Tallahassee Police Department takes the safety of children very seriously. If you have any questions contact the Community Relations Unit at 891-4251.

IDEAS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

By Margie McInnes

People have different ideas about what makes a community feel like “home.” As a Board, we would like to foster neighborhood activities that can help us enjoy a greater sense of community. We have collected ideas from our neighbors and other neighborhoods, and dreamed up some of our own. Please take a look at these suggestions, add your own, and check any that you would like to see us pursue.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Springtime Easter Egg Hunt at one of our neighborhood parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Preparedness training offered to neighbors to help develop a core of volunteers within our neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pumpkin carving contest to encourage more jack-o-lanterns on Halloween | <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts in our parks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Halloween Pumpkins in the Park-carved pumpkins lighting the paths in one of our parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies in our parks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luminaries throughout the neighborhood on one night during the winter holidays | <input type="checkbox"/> Expanded website and/or facebook page |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information about neighborhood sustainability classes to gain more practical information about how to “live greener” | <input type="checkbox"/> Night of Block Parties-to encourage neighbors to meet the people who live close by |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Begin a cooperative garden for our neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertise neighborhood bookgroups who want to organize or expand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classes about edible gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertise walking groups for those who want walking partners |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Potluck dinner for the entire neighborhood |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sale for the entire neighborhood |

To offer a range of activities for our neighbors, we need more help! Please provide your contact information and let us know how you would like to become more involved in our neighborhood by helping with particular activities and/or attending Board meetings. We have little and big jobs, short term and long term, something that would be a good fit for your interests, talents, and available time.

NAME/Email or Phone number:

What would you like to do:

Please return with your membership check.

**IT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR!
JOIN BHNA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Annual Membership Dues	\$10.00
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	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

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!

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