Betton Hills Neighborhood Association
Spring, 2011
www.mybettonhills.org
Facebook: Betton Hills Neighborhood Association

Betton Springfest

By Margie McInnes

Hello Neighbors,
Yes, the weather is gorgeous, our neighborhood is blooming beautifully, the pollen is thick, so that means it must be time for our annual Springfest!
Please come and enjoy an afternoon with your neighbors…both those you already know and those you would enjoy meeting.

When: Sunday, May 1
Where: Winthrop Park Large Pavilion
What's going on:
2-3 GARDEN TOUR meet at the pavilion for a guided tour of some of our lovely Betton gardens, both edible and non edible
3-5 MOONWALK for younger children
3:30-5 ROCKWALL for older children and adults
3-5 ICE CREAM in all its glory-cups, cones, toppings, floats
3-5 MUSIC provided by our own neighbor Bill Jones and his musical friends. If you want to bring an instrument to strum along, please do!

And since you are probably doing some spring cleaning right now, we have some opportunities to help you "go green!" Cyndy Brantley, the Leon County Recycling Coordinator, will bring information about composting, rain barrels, and safe disposal of waste products.

PLUS, clean out those corners of your garage as you can bring small electronics and Styrofoam* which will be collected at Springfest.

*The kinds of Styrofoam that can be accepted and recycled include: computer packaging, furniture packaging, appliance packaging with all tape, labels and plastic bags removed.

*The kinds of Styrofoam that cannot be accepted include: foam trays or carry out food containers previously contaminated with food, and solid polystyrene products like food trays. Clean Styrofoam peanuts can be taken to some of the mailing centers for them to reuse.

There will be future opportunities to collect and recycle the Styrofoam, so when you get some with items you purchase, instead of putting it in the garbage please set it aside for recycling.

So SAVE IT-BRING IT-WE'LL HAUL IT!!

For more information about Betton Springfest or to volunteer to help with this event, please email mmmcInnes@comcast.net.

BHNA President's Message Spring 2011

By Tom Schulte

We, in Betton Hills, are fortunate to have many people living in our neighborhood who care so much about its appearance.

You have all seen the beautiful markers we have on Betton Road, Armistead Road, Lee Ave. and Randolph Circle, welcoming people to our neighborhood. Our former BHNA president, Philip Fromke, was instrumental in the design and implementation of the markers. Recently one of our neighbors, very generously, volunteered to make decorations for the markers to commemorate various times of the year. She currently has a Spring decoration on the markers. It has also been proposed that we decorate the markers during July 4th, Fall and Christmas time.

The BHNA Board voted to put up the Spring markers. Since that time we have had various comments about

the decorations, both positive and negative. Whether you like the idea of decorating the markers or not, I think it is great that someone cares enough to take the time to design and construct the decorations. The issue of whether or not to continue decorating the markers has not been resolved. We would like more input on this issue. Please let us know your thoughts on this issue. You can tell any Board member directly, e-mail us, or face book (yes, Betton Hills has a face book page.), etc. Your opinions are important and we, as a Board, do not want to engage in actions that are contrary to the majority of the neighborhood residents.

The proposed locations are at Guyte McCord Park (by Armistead road entrance) and at Winthrop Park on the south end. Those participating would pay a small fee and agree to participate in the necessary tasks to keep the garden(s) maintained. The City would provide the irrigation. Please let the Board members know if this is something you would like to see implemented in the neighborhood. Our annual Spring 2011 event is fast approaching (May 1, 2011). See this newsletter and our web page for more information. The event will be held at the Winthrop Park pavilion. There will be plenty of food and drinks, and an arts and crafts table for the kids, as well as live music. We have also rented a moon walk and a rock wall, which have both been big hits in the past. Please come out and enjoy the food and get to know your neighbors.

In February, we enjoyed another great Arbor Day in Betton Hills. Once again, with the help of Native Nursery on Centerville Road, we were able to plant some new native plants and do plenty of mulching. We also cleaned out the martin houses, weeded, pick up trash at Guyte McCord and other assorted tasks that help keep McCord Park looking great. My daughter Layne and I enjoyed it and it has become an annual tradition for us.

I hope everyone takes the opportunity to enjoy spring and everything our neighborhood has to offer. Thank you to all of our neighbors for everything you do for the neighborhood.

Arbor Day 2011 Recap

By Donna Legare

The threatening (cold and rainy) weather kept some folks away this year, but our yearly regulars turned out and the weather turned out to be just perfect for planting – overcast but not too hot or too cold.

Thanks to Jody Walthall, Wilson Baker, Mike Brezin, Peter Butzin, Tom and daughter Layne Schulte, Melissa Jacoby, Sue and Dean Hansen, Mary Kay Falconer, Regine Lynch and the young woman who works for the US Forest Service (whose name I neglected to record) for participating in this year's Arbor Day.

We raised the martin gourds and within an hour, bluebirds were observed going in and out, checking them out! We also cleaned both bluebird boxes and one woodduck house where we found one unhatched egg from last year. The woodduck house on Trescott has become a squirrel den as the nearby brush has grown too close. Once the squirrels are finished nesting, we will move this house closer to the pond. Just after cleaning the McCord Pond woodduck house, we flushed about ten woodducks from the water – their wings whistling as they flew by us.

We planted a grove of needle palms and bluestem palmettos along with one agarista beneath the open woods behind the compost bin on Armistead. We are planting for the future. Picture this area in twenty years; large clumps of 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 last year. We also mulched last year's newly planted southern magnolia trees. We had 100% survival on these trees.

The City of Tallahassee donated 20 bales of pine straw that we used to mulch all current and previous Arbor Day plantings. We replaced a dying Satsuma tree near Trescott with a blueberry bush and one at Chittenden Park with a native fringe tree, also known as granny greybeard.

Jody and Wilson worked the perimeter of McCord Pond, removing the ever present Chinese tallow trees and privets. They also found about five Drake elm seedlings – another non-native tree that is currently in the nursery trade that we should keep our eyes on as a possible future invasive. I noticed that the City of Tallahassee included Drake elm in their tree giveaway for city residents this year.

Last but not least, Mary Kay Falconer led a few volunteers in the weeding and mulching of the traffic islands on Trescott and Betton Roads.

Whew - we accomplished a lot in two hours!

Let's Have a Community Garden!!

By Sue Hansen

For many reasons, including health issues related to what you are consuming when you buy processed foods, more and more people are interested in growing their own food. In many cities and smaller communities, coop and community gardens are appearing. If you are interested in the possibility of a coop garden in Betton Hills, be sure to stop by the table at the Springfest (May 1, Winthrop Park) which will have information about community gardening, as well as a sign-up sheet. This sheet will be shared with the appropriate city officials to convince them that the citizens of Tallahassee seriously desire to have the opportunity to garden in their community, whether it is on a vacant lot or a city park.

Great Opportunity to Visit Neighborhood Gardens!

By Sue Hansen

Are you interested in seeing how some of your Betton neighbors are growing vegetables and other plants? A tour of 4 gardens will be held on Sunday, May 1 at 2 PM. Meet at Winthrop Park; carpooling will be arranged. Then come back to the park to enjoy Springfest!

The 4 homes on tour are: Regine and Tim Lynch, 1515 Argonne; Sue and Dean Hansen, 2210 Cline St.; Leslie Hanks, 1430 N. Randolph Circle; Mike Brezin, 1401 W. Randolph Circle.

StarMetro Returns to Bettons Hills

By Mike Brezin

The wheels of the StarMetro bus will be rolling through Betton Hills starting this July. We'll be on an east-west route under the city's new decentralized routing. For the east bound route, the bus stop will be at Mitchell Ave. near Betton Rd. The route will continue on Mitchell to Sixth Ave. and then travel past both hospitals. For the west bound "return" route, the bus will take Centerville to Betton and then continue west on Tharpe. The stop will be at Betton and Lee. The eastbound route goes over Mitchell as the bus cannot make the right turn safely at Betton and Centerville Rd.

Fares are $1.25, although monthly passes will be available. The great part about the service is that with one transfer from the neighborhood route, a rider can get to Southwood, downtown, or FSU. The bus will run every 45 minutes from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. For more information, see www.talgov.com/starmetro or contact the route planner, Brain Waterman at brian.waterman@talgov.com or 891-5200.

Springtime Wreaths

By Margie McInnes

Our thanks to our neighbor Pat Brueckheimer for making the Springtime wreaths that are adorning our markers. We appreciate her creativity, energy and willingness to volunteer for this project.

Adopt a Median

By Mary Kay Falconer

Betton Hills has a few special places that bring life with color on our neighborhood road ways. These medians are great places to put some of our favorite and more resilient plants. From time to time, we need to request some assistance with our medians and now is one of those times. We have a particularly bountiful median on Trescott (near McCord Park), a few along Mitchell (up from Winthrop Park), a few along Lee, and one that sees a lot of traffic each day on Betton. If you are interested in spending a little time each month to dress up and restore any of our medians, we would love to have your assistance. For families with young children, keep in mind that traffic will be a challenge on Betton and Mitchell. Contact Mary Kay Falconer at mkrows@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Book Drive

By Melissa Jacoby

Guy Moore at 2141 Trescott Dr is having a book drive for the inmates at Wakulla Correctional Institution to enhance their small library. Any titles and all levels are welcome. If no one is home, just drop the books off on the front porch. Call Guy at 251-3924 (cell) if you need him to bring the van.

Facebook BHNA Page & Summer Jobs

By The BHNA Board

Several neighbors have asked about summer part-time jobs for teens. We have a Betton Hills Neighborhood Facebook Page and we recommend that you check that out for this purpose. When you get to the page using the search capability, you will need to join the group (bottom left of the Facebook page). After that, you can post messages regarding summer jobs that you would like to advertise or summer jobs that you are looking for. It should work well for this purpose and we hope you are able to make the needed connections.

Morning Runners & Walkers

By Andrew Grayson

Dear Neighbors, I revel in the fact that many of you have the fortitude to rise early enough to get in that early morning run or walk or take Fido for his/her morning constitutional! I too rise early to leave for the Capitol. I raise for your consideration the fact that when I am up at 5 a.m. and heading Downtown that I am a tad groggy. The problem is that I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE YOU - running or walking in your dark clothing with no reflective bands or lights. May I suggest, for your safety and my peace of mind, that you reconsider your attire/gear so that my car and your rear don't accidentally meet! Thanks!

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