Betton Hills Neighborhood Association
Fall, 2013
www.mybettonhills.org
bettonhillsna@hotmail.com
Facebook: Betton Hills Neighborhood

Proud member of Partners for Excellence with Leon County Schools

Newsletter designed by Adam Grayson

BHNA President's Message Fall 2013

By Margie McInnes

I have been away a lot this year, traveling to help take care of the needs of my far flung family members plus planning an out of town wedding for my daughter. It seems a bit sentimental to confess how much I loved driving through our neighborhood when I returned home after each trip. Whether it was the beautiful quality of the Winter light coming through the leafless trees, the vibrant colors of Spring flowering on every street, the lushness of this Summer's green, the spectacular cobalt and red of bluebirds and cardinals flitting about in abundance, the snowy colors of the wading birds who enjoy our ponds, the croaking frogs that make an impressive chorus during these warm nights, the friendliness of the many neighbors who take a moment to talk or smile or wave as they go about their daily lives… all of this and more contribute to my feeling and appreciation of home.

We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful neighborhood, and to have so many neighbors who help maintain the way it looks and feels. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to our sense of community, both by participating in the organized events in our neighborhood, as well as doing things on your own…greeting newcomers to the neighborhood, inviting neighbors to take a walk together, checking on your neighbors' homes when they are away, offering assistance to your neighbors who are having difficulty…so many ways to reach out and create community right where we are.

Thank you to the 392 neighbors who joined or rejoined your Betton Hills Neighborhood Association this past year. Your financial contributions supported many events which you can read about in this newsletter. This fall newsletter is also the official kick-off of our Association's "new year," so please take a moment to fill out the member form on the back of this newsletter and mail in your check.

If you have not joined your Neighborhood Association yet, please consider doing so this year. The base annual dues remain $10-yes, an incredible bargain! The member form indicates 3 other funds that you can contribute to, and there is more information about those funds in the newsletter.

And a huge THANK YOU to our neighbors who volunteer their time and energy on our Neighborhood Association's Board. They do the thinking and planning and carrying out of all the details for the events we sponsor.

Please join us at our monthly Board meetings. Your ideas and willingness to participate are welcome. In between our biannual newsletters, you can keep up with all meeting and activity dates and times on our website: mybettonhills.org.

Now it's time to get together and celebrate the arrival of autumn at Fall Fest!

Hoping to see you there,

Margie McInnes

BETTON HILLS' FALL FEST

EVERYONE WELCOME!
Sunday, October 20
2:00-4:00PM
Winthrop Park Pavilion
FOOD
Pizza-Boiled Peanuts-Desserts-Drinks provided
EVENTS
Leon High School Steel Drum Band
Games and Crafts for Kids
Door Prizes
Annual Meeting

Collection of canned goods and other non perishable food items to donate to community charities.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!

SAVE THE DATES

Here is a heads up about upcoming events in our neighborhood. Signs will be up throughout the neighborhood a week before each event, so double check them for dates and times.

2013

Fall Fest	Sunday, October 20, 2-4PM	Winthrop Park
Christmas Caroling	Tuesday, December 24, 4-4:30PM	Harriman Circle

2014

Arbor Day	Saturday, February 1, 9-11AM	McCord Park
Spring Ice Cream Social	Sunday, TBA in March or April	Winthrop Park
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 19, 11AM-12PM	Chittenden Park Rose Garden
Neighborhood Garage Sale	Saturday, May 3, 8AM-12PM	Neighborhood wide

BETTON HILLS FALL FEST 2013

You asked for it, you got it: Back by popular demand is our neighborhood **FALL FEST**.

Come on out to **WINTHROP PARK** big pavilion, and join in the fun!

MUSIC provided by Leon High Steel Band- **GAMES AND CRAFTS** for the kids-Red Elephant **PIZZA AND BOILED PEANUTS**- Plus **DOOR PRIZES** from neighborhood shops and restaurants.

Please join us on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2-4PM**. Enjoy visiting with your great neighbors, both those you already know and those you will be meeting for the first time.

If you are able, please bring a **donation of canned goods and non perishable food items** which we will donate to community charities for distribution.

At some point in the fun, we will have a very short business meeting to vote on the **2014 proposed slate of officers** for your 2014 Board:

Co-President: Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey and Mike Brezin
Secretary:Melissa Jacoby
Treasurer:Tom Schulte
Membership:Tom Vickers

2013 PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

The following neighbors have agreed to serve on our BHNA Board for the coming year:

Co-President: Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey and Mike Brezin
Secretary: Melissa Jacoby
Treasurer: Tom Schulte
Membership: Tom Vickers

At Large Members-Andy Fink; Andy Grayson; Anne Longman; Bill Jones; Donna Legare; Eric Thorn; Heather Wilgenbusch; Jeff DeVore; Jill McSoley; Margie McInnes; Mary Kay Falconer; Sue Hansen; Tom Crapps

TIPS FOR WALKERS AND RUNNERS

- It's safest to walk on a sidewalk, but if you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic.
- Increase your visibility at night by carrying a flashlight and wearing retro-reflective clothing.
- Be careful at intersections where drivers may fail to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians while turning onto another street.
- Cross the street at a designated crosswalk.

WHY I AM A BHNA MEMBER

By Tom Vickers

For $10 a year, why wouldn't I want to belong to an organization that does so much for my neighborhood? Property value is a big concern for me. Home buyers often ask whether there is an active neighborhood association when considering a purchase. The presence of a group suggests community spirit that is attractive to newcomers. And they know that a neighborhood association will give them a bigger voice in addressing concerns—beautification, zoning, traffic, noise, bus routes, and others--that affect the livability of the neighborhood.

BHNA has a board that meets at 7 PM on the first Thursday of the month, September through May. All members are welcome to attend, and we welcome volunteers who want to serve on the board. At board meetings we address issues raised by members, and, when appropriate, transmit requests and recommendations to the relevant departments of city government.

We also organize events to foster a sense of community. Annual events include the fall and spring socials in Winthrop Park, an Arbor Day activity in McCord Park, an Easter Egg Hunt in the rose garden at Chittenden Park, and caroling at Harriman Circle. Welcome baskets are delivered to newcomers twice a year. We have a web page (http://www.mybettonhills.org/), a Facebook page (Betton Hills Neighborhood), and email notification of important events to enhance communication among neighbors.

You are reading this note in the first newsletter issue of our 2013/14 activity year. Expect a second issue in March. We obtain names and addresses for the newsletters from the Leon County Property Appraiser, which allows us to reach every property owner in Betton Hills and a few adjacent properties that share our interests and concerns.

You are one of more than 950 neighbors on our mailing list. Why wouldn't you want to belong to an organization that does so much for your neighborhood?

Connecting with Our Community

By Mary Kay Falconer

There are always several ways to connect with our community but there are two that we highlight in this newsletter to our neighbors. Many of you are probably familiar with these opportunities but, just in case, we bring them to your attention!

Change for Change

This is a program that was adopted in 2004 by the City Commission to allow members of the community to contribute to worthy causes on their utility bill. The focus of the contributions through this program is services for the homeless and the key recipients are The Hope Community (6 month transitional housing), The Capital Area Community Action Agency, Inc., and America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend. More information is available at the website, www.talgov.com/ecd/ecd-community-change.aspx. This is an easy way to help a great cause.

Imagine Tallahassee

This is described as a "grassroots initiative providing citizens an opportunity to brand their community." It is an opportunity to provide input in the use of sales tax dollars for economic development. According to the website, the "Leon County Sales Tax Committee has tentatively set aside up to 15% of the future infrastructure sales tax revenues (currently the Blueprint 2000 tax) for economic development. Once the branding process is complete, Imagine Tallahassee will provide the Sales Tax Committee, and ultimately the County and City Commissions, a compass for future economic development investment in our community. This initiative has the potential to determine the best economic development use of more than $113 million." While there has been activity over the past several months, there are still plenty of meetings scheduled for the rest of 2013. Check the website for more information at www.imaginetallahassee.com/. Get involved!

Dean Hansen
In Memoriam

By Tom Schulte

Betton Hills lost one of its oldest and best neighbors this summer with the passing of Dean Hansen. Dean was what a football fan would call "a go to player." Dean served on the BHNA for several years and was always willing to do whatever was necessary to help the neighborhood. Those of us who served on the BHNA board with Dean knew that any task he took on was going to be done well. Any of you who received a BHNA "welcome basket" can thank Dean. He would visit each merchant in the area, asking for donations for the baskets, and he and his wife wonderful wife, Sue, would put the baskets together for distribution to our new neighbors.

Dean was a regular around the neighborhood. He could be seen riding his bicycle often and particularly at Mc Cord Park, fishing with his grandchildren, hitting golf balls and making sure the fire ant population in the park was under control. He was always willing to lend out his canoe and kayaks for clean up of the pond, and often times participated in the clean up himself. He and Sue were instrumental in setting up the beautiful community garden we have in Mc Cord Park and he always made sure the City took proper care of the park.

He cared deeply about plants and animals and was always willing to take on any project that would benefit one or both. Several years ago, the turtles in the pond at Mc Cord were in danger of being eliminated, so Dean and an FSU employee took it upon themselves to "relocate" them. He paddled around in a canoe catching the turtles and then relocating them to a safe pond.

Dean's contributions to the neighborhood and to others were evident at his memorial service. Lots of Betton Hills neighbors attended and many recounted stories of the help Dean had given them over the years, from painting in their homes, to setting up their backyard ponds. Dean was the epitome of what a good neighbor and a good friend mean, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Carol Bellamy Neighborhood Beautification Fund

By Donna Legare

We will celebrate **Arbor Day** on Saturday, February 1, 2014, by planting fruiting and native plants in McCord Park, maintaining past plantings in various parks and islands, cleaning bluebird houses, and by continuing removal of invasive plants such as Chinese tallow, coral ardisia and Chinese ligustrum from area parks. If you have any ideas for Arbor Day, please contact Donna Legare at 386-1148. Watch for future newsletters and signage for details.

During last year's Arbor Day, we added more blueberries to the blueberry patch in McCord Park near Trescott and, in our effort to increase the diversity of native plants in the park, we added a witchhazel, an oakleaf hydrangea and a red cedar tree to the Armistead woodland. We planted a kumquat at the edge of the woodland where it will get more sun, yet be somewhat protected from cold by the tall trees. We also planted a longleaf pine in Chittendon Park.

Bluebirds should be happy; we installed another bluebird house near the community garden and it was not vacant for long. Our Arbor Day efforts are significant in making McCord Park and other areas in Betton Hills more beautiful and beneficial for wildlife.

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

Jack Robertson Partners in Education Fund

By Donna Legare

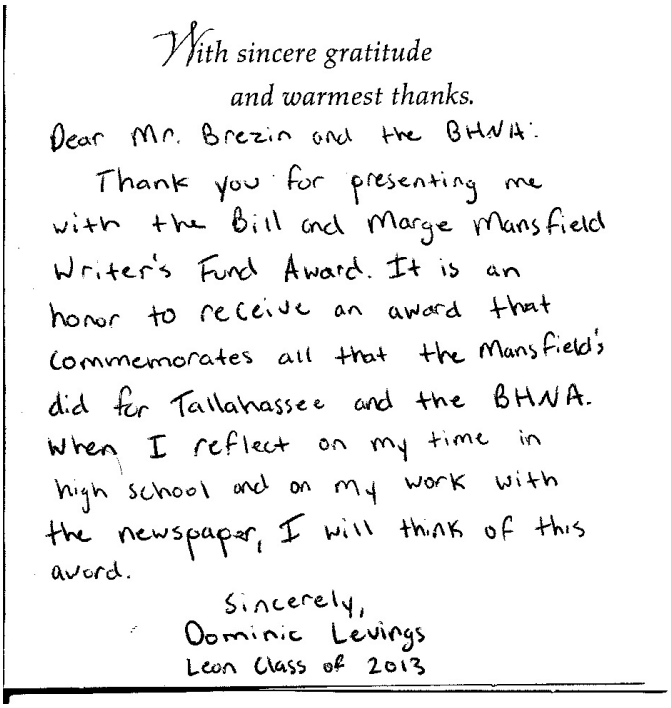
When you donate to this fund, you support our neighborhood public schools. The fund is divided equally between our three public schools - Kate Sullivan, Cobb and Leon. Each year we choose a department or a project at each school as the beneficiary of the funds.

Last year **Kate Sullivan** music department received our donation. At **Cobb Middle School**, history and drama teacher Jeannine Meis used the money to support their production of Annie Jr. We donated **Leon High School**'s share last year to the Leon Band to help them with their upcoming trip to London.

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

Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund Report

By Mike Brezin



With sincere gratitude
and warmest thanks.

Dear Mr. Brezin and the BHNA:

Thank you for presenting me with the Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund Award. It is an honor to receive an award that commemorates all that the Mansfield's did for Tallahassee and the BHNA. When I reflect on my time in high school and on my work with the newspaper, I will think of this award.

Sincerely,
Dominic Levings
Leon Class of 2013

The rising cost of college and declining amounts for Bright Futures awards have made college financing increasingly difficult for many students and families. The BHNA aims to lessen this burden and acknowledge dedicated journalism students at Leon High through the Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund. Please contribute to this fund so we can continue to support future journalists and reward them for their efforts at Leon.

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Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund Report
continued from page 5...

The Fund supports Leon students with writing talent and a commitment to journalism. We had two winners this past year. For outstanding work on the student newspaper, Leon High Life, we recognized Dominic Levings, the editer (just kidding about the typo). For dedicated work on the student yearbook, Lion's Tale, we recognized the editor, Kendyll Humphrey. The Leon journalism sponsors, Ms. Pat Garrett (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 $300 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 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 with dignity. 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.

Change to BHNA Board Meeting Dates

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS, WE ARE CHANGING OUR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING DATES IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE SCHEDULES OF INCOMING OFFICERS.

BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER, WE WILL MEET ON THE 3RD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7PM IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT ASHFORD CLUB APARTMENTS, 2055 THOMASVILLE ROAD.

ALL NEIGHBORS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

Public Service Announcement:
You can search for registered sex offenders in your area at http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do.
You can click on individual offenders and read what each was convicted of and when.

Arbor Day 2013

Anna was a great help during Arbor Day, and made friends with a tree frog.

Carter is proof that Arbor Day provides a job for people of all ages…and sizes!

Anna and Andrea battle the nandinas and other invasives.

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 minimum; additional donations welcome!) $_____

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.

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

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association
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