



Newsletter designed by Adam Grayson

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association

Fall, 2014

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Facebook: [Betton Hills Neighborhood](#)



FALL ENERGY SPARKS NEW IDEAS!

By Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey

Is Fall more fast-paced than any other season? Sometimes I think so with new school schedules, FSU/FAMU football excitement, and so on. And of course, the pop of Fall color and wonderful weather. It is a great time to live in Betton Hills.

The Fall marks the neighborhood's start to the event calendar for the year. First is our annual meeting and festivities which is planned for Sunday, October 26 from 2 to 4 at Winthrop Park pavilion. The Leon Steel Band will be playing again this year and they are INCREDIBLE! Food, beverage, and plenty of fun for the kids is planned. This serves to elect the slate of board officers, discuss upcoming plans, and have a time to celebrate the season. Let this be an official "shout out" that we are looking for a Secretary officer to take meeting minutes. If you are interested, please contact me at bgaughanbailey@hotmail.com.

There are new ideas and projects in the works thanks to neighbor input. A lending library will be established in Chittenden Park around the first of the year. The Waverly neighborhood initiated the idea and it traveled into Betton. Thanks to Mark Olive. What a great idea!

In addition to our regular events—Fall annual meeting, Christmas Eve Caroling, Arbor Day, community Garage Sale, and Easter Egg Hunt—the idea of Pot Luck Block Parties was suggested. Another great idea! Find out more in an article found in this newsletter. Keep up with Facebook for more details.

Sustainability is another important interest area of neighbors. More details can be found in this newsletter. Yet another great idea!

We are organized as a neighborhood association, not a homeowner's association, which focuses on camaraderie, connectedness, preservation,

and enhancement of our neighborhood. We are here because we appreciate living in this great neighborhood. Join neighbors for our many activities.

Do you have an idea to make our neighborhood even more wonderful? Come to a board meeting. We meet the third Monday of every month at the Ashford Club Apartments Clubhouse from August through May at 7:00PM. Or, please contact me at bgaughanbailey@hotmail.com and I will get back with you within 48 hours. On behalf of the board, we are ready to learn about your great ideas on how to make our neighborhood even better.



BHNA Calendar of Events

- **October 26th** - Annual Fall Meeting at Winthrop Park pavilion, from 2PM to 4PM with Leon High Steel Band performing, pizza, and fun
- **December 24th** - Annual Christmas Eve Caroling at Harriman Circle
- **January 31st** - Arbor Day at McCord Park, 9AM - 11AM
- **April 9** - Easter Egg Hunt at Chittenden Park, 11AM
- **April 19** - Afternoon of Block Parties (more to come)
- **May 2** - Neighborhood Garage Sales

HOW TO JOIN BHNA FACEBOOK GROUP

If you live in the neighborhood and have a Facebook account send an email request to join the BHNA group to bhnaalert@gmail.com. One of the group administrators will issue an invitation to your email address. When you accept the invitation you are added to the group.

WHY I AM A BHNA MEMBER

By Mike Brezin

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 third Monday 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, caroling at Harriman Circle on Christmas Eve, an Arbor Day activity in McCord Park, an Easter Egg Hunt in the rose garden at Chittenden Park, and a neighborhood garage sale on the first Saturday in May. 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 (send an email to bhnaalert@gmail.com to get on the list). You are reading this note in the first newsletter issue of our 2014/15 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?

A BLOCK PARTY FESTIVAL

By Mike Brezin

Knowing our neighbors is important for many reasons, including mutual aid in times of emergency, crime watch, and fostering the sense of community that maintains our neighborhood and makes it such a desirable place to live. BHNA members have asked for events to bring neighbors together. To that end we propose replacing the usual Spring Fling in Winthrop Park with an afternoon of block parties. Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 19, midway between the Easter Egg Hunt on April 4 and the Neighborhood Garage Sale on May 2. We will ask for volunteers to organize pot-luck parties for their block. The Board will set a budget and reimburse volunteers for the cost of providing soft drinks and paper products, provide a template for a flier to invite neighbors, and advertise the event. Now all we need are volunteers. If you might be willing to host a party contact the Board by email (bhnaalert@gmail.com).

POTLUCK INVITATION FOR SUSTAINABLE BETTON HILLS

By Sue Hansen

Some residents of Betton Hills have started a Facebook group called Sustainable Betton Hills with the goals of helping to save energy, getting to know neighbors, helping each other with projects, and preparing for emergencies while having some fun. With the recent incidences of break-ins, a series of small potlucks around the neighborhood was proposed. The first scheduled date is on Nov. 9th. The theme is "Be safe" - some crime prevention tips, with a parallel goal of giving some information on "Bee safe" community - what can be done to restore our local bees. The plans are to keep it fun and light with a short agenda, mostly getting to know each other a little better.

Also, Elizabeth Markovch asked if we could also include an announcement or reminder about the Edible Food Group, which meet every first Monday at the pavilion in Winthrop Park at 6:30. Lots of sharing of info takes place with frequent knowledgeable guest speakers, and sharing of seeds, fruits, vegetables and foods. Lots of fun!

CONA NEWS FROM THE SEPT. 15TH MEETING: THE NOISE ORDINANCE

By Jeff DeVore, BHNA Representative for CONA

Once again, the hot topic at the recent Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) gathering was the noise ordinance. This may be a reflection of the particular neighborhoods which choose to participate, but it is a recurring theme. As the BHNA representative, I will confine this article to the issues put upon the table.

A sheriff's spokesman was helpful in describing the current state of sound ordinance laws. At this point, only the unincorporated, county areas have a viable noise ordinance which only enforces a curfew. Any and every noise can occur before 10:00 PM, after which, responses are handled on a complaint basis. Deputies do not cruise around looking for violations. They respond to individual complaints based on an individual's tolerance for disturbance, rather than an officer's evaluation of the reasonableness of the complaint. Noncompliance to a complaint will result in escalating levels of penalty: from civil citation to actual arrest and confiscation of property (items creating the disturbance).

There is currently no noise ordinance within the city limits and Sheriff Deputies have no authority to respond to complaints within city limits. A recent attempt at a city ordinance was struck down and a narrower, acceptable law was the subject of the meeting. Anything you believed about a current ordinance within the city limits is void. There is no city regulation regarding boom boxes, loud vehicles, partying neighbors or ice cream trucks. This is an issue that pits speech, property and individual rights against peace disturbance and the right to be left alone. It's quite amazing how passionate the sides are! We live in a vibrant, growing town and there are certain urban encroachments that should be reasonably tolerated. If the county law prevailed, Doak Campbell Stadium would have to observe "Hush Day" after halftime and it would be lights-out before Downtown Get-downs even got started. As noted, county laws do not pertain to neighborhoods within the city limits.

Even though peer-to-peer neighbor complaints, private business (bars with patio bands) and booming cars represent 90% of the civil complaints, Cascades Park Amphitheater has catalyzed a growing concern over noise in general. Concerns cover several disparate themes:

1. Volume and timbre: Decibel levels of both upper-register and the physical effect of pulsing bass notes. Booming bass tends to rattle windows.
2. Curfew and licenses for exceptions. 10:00 is recommended, but there are outliers.
3. Frequency of events: once a month on a Friday night or any time it can be rented?
4. Topography of Tallahassee, which exacerbates and funnels noise. Apparently, folks in Indianhead are hearing the loud speakers above Madison Social from Woodward and Gaines.
5. Lack of mitigating structures like acoustical tiling.
6. Displeasure over the lack of foresight in the original design.
7. Balancing the activities of large crowds against individual rights.
8. Business vs private rights. What are the expectations of quietude in an urban setting and how do they conflict with our efforts to promote infill vs sprawl? Do private businesses have the right to maximize business by offering outdoor venues?
9. Content and location. Is there a difference between the Tallahassee Orchestra playing an evening concert on the meadows of Southwood and an urban rap group at Cascades?
10. Subjective determination of a sound violation versus calibrated evidence gathered by mechanical devices.
11. A recommendation that the city get a second opinion from professional sound experts to evaluate the potential for obtrusive noise.

Our own neighborhood does not suffer these intrusions, but there is a proposal to include us as a designated areas that would allow relaxed enforcement. It includes open space around the Betton Shopping area. Frankly, I don't have a dog in this fight. But if you have particular concerns over this issue, make your opinion known. That's why we have association and civic meetings.

JACK ROBERTSON PARTNERS IN EDUCATION FUND

By Mike Brezin

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.

Betton Hills resident Ezzie Goldman used **Kate Sullivan's** allocation to purchase science books and materials for the first grade classrooms. See her thank you note below which was accompanied by a delightful card signed by each first grader.

Thank you for choosing Kate Sullivan 1st Grade as the recipient for this year's grant. The money will be used to purchase science books and materials, which will enhance our science curriculum and give students a more hands-on science experience. Reading and math often get the most funding, so we're very appreciative of your generosity. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Ezzie Goldman
1st grade teacher

At **Cobb Middle School**, Kendra Wendein, Director of Bands used the funds to repair and clean school owned instruments such as tubas, euphoniums and baritone saxophones. She wrote,

"The students and I are extremely grateful! Thank you for your generosity and consideration of the Cobb Bands."

This year, we donated **Leon High's** funds to the language department for purchases of wall maps that will be used in the Spanish classrooms. A few years ago we made a similar donation to the French classroom. The letter below shows how important the donation was to Betton Hills resident and Leon High French teacher, Colette Clarke and her students.

Many thanks to the **Betton Hills Neighborhood Association** for your support of the **Leon High School French Department**. Thanks to your generous donation a few years ago, we were able to purchase some excellent school maps of France and the French speaking world for use in our two classrooms. We use these maps nearly every day, when we refer to important places in France, as well as landmarks, monuments and places of historical and cultural importance. Today's students do not have enough opportunities to study world geography and this is an excellent way to incorporate geography in their study of French. The maps are up to date and list the names of countries and cities in French, thus providing us with another way to encourage the pronunciation of French words. The maps are especially coated to last a long time. This resource will be used for many years by many children who attend Leon High School. Thank you for everything that you are doing for our community and especially in support of educating our children!

Colette Clarke
French Teacher, Leon High School
Sponsor of the Société Honoraire de Français, the French Cultural Exchange Program and the Amitié Club of Leon.

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. Your donation to this fund will truly be appreciated! Teachers would welcome mentor volunteers as well.

CAROL BELLAMY NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION FUND

By Donna Legare

We will celebrate **Arbor Day** on Saturday, January 31, 9am - 11am this year 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 planted two more blueberries in the blueberry patch near Trescott. In our effort to increase the diversity of native plants in the park, we added an arrowwood viburnum and another red cedar tree to the Armistead woodland. We also planted a saw palmetto and a Virginia sweetspire in the 'dog park' area after a request was made by users of the dog park area.

Some folks kayaked the pond collecting litter, while others removed litter from the shore. Another team removed Chinese tallow, privet, nandina, and ligustrum from the edges of the pond. One volunteer just about eradicated the English ivy growing in the trees in the Armistead woodland near Armistead road. Yet another team continued ardisia and privet removal in the area we work on every year.

Bluebirds have been very active in McCord Park; I see them regularly near the nest box located by the community gardens. 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.

BILL AND MARGE MANSFIELD WRITER'S FUND

By Mike Brezin

The BHNA established the Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund in 2000 to support future journalists at Leon High School. Bill and Marge served on our Board of Directors. Bill was a working journalist for much of his life, working for the Miami Herald and then as editorial page editor for the Democrat (back when journalism was its first priority). He was committed to helping new journalists "find their voice." Marge added the fire to Bill's writing, as needed. The faculty journalism sponsors select the award recipients.

For this column, I usually write about the previous year's Award winners (we had two and awarded them \$300 each). This year, though, I like to write a few words about Bill, particularly.

The fund started following Bill's untimely death. Bill and Marge helped me a lot with the BHNA newsletter for a few years before his death, through which I came to know both of them very well. While Bill was a bona fide journalist, he didn't hesitate to do whatever was necessary to get the newsletter out. We published the newsletter at least four times a year back then . . . and I remember plenty of times with Bill and Marge sitting around their dining room table labeling and stamping the newest edition.



In 2001, Jody Walthall, a few more of Bill's BHNA friends, and I planted a longleaf pine for Bill in Winthrop Park. It's between the rose garden and Betton Road, to the left of a tall slash pine. From a mere sapling, the longleaf has grown through the years. This year, I got a special treat when I visited it: cones! It was a deeply heartwarming feeling to see that the pine had matured to the point of producing cones. Still young, though. Longleafs can live for 400 years in good circumstances.

Bill always had a passion for developing young writers. He appreciated the nascent maturity and headstrong passion, especially in those of high school years that participated in school journalism. I looked at the green cones on Bill's pine and thought about the seeds maturing within. I hoped that his award had helped some seeds to mature. If the recipients had not continued in journalism, then at least in supporting their clear thinking, direct writing, and passionate expression of the human story.

BRING BACK THE POLLINATORS IN BETTON HILLS

By Donna Legare

Insecticides are harmful to pollinators. Scientists are particularly concerned about the increased use of neonicotinoids, which are systemic poisons that the plant absorbs, making all of its parts including nectar and pollen poisonous to insects. These chemicals are readily sold at garden centers. Some of the trade names are Ortho Bug B Gon Garden Insect Killer, Ortho Rose and Flower Insect Killer, Bayer Advanced 3-in-1 Insect, Disease, & Mite Control.....Eventually these products containing neonicotinoids will be taken off the market due to their effects on honeybees and native pollinators. Even when neonicotinoids don't kill bees outright, they can impair their immune systems and sense of navigation.

The more difficult part of this problem is that wholesale nurseries often use these products on plants that flower and attract bees. The chemicals last a long time which saves on labor costs. People who buy these plants think they are doing something to help bees when they are actually poisoning them. When you purchase a plant from a garden center, especially if it is a bee or butterfly plant, ask if the grower uses neonicotinoids. They probably will not know, but perhaps they will put pressure on their growers to steer clear of these products.

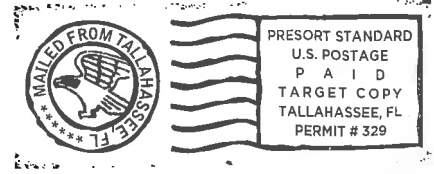
For more information on neonicotinoids, visit www.xerces.org The Xerces Society is a non-profit organization that promotes invertebrate conservation. In addition to not using harmful insecticides, they also recommend planting plants that bloom from spring through fall and that provide nectar and pollen for pollinators.

2014 - 2015 PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey and Mike Brezin
Secretary: VACANT
Treasurer: Tom Schulte
Membership: Tom Vickers
CONA representative: Jeff DeVore

At Large Members: Andy Fink, Andy Grayson, Anne Longman, Donna Legare, Eric Thorn, Hilda Gilchrist, Karen Weimer, Margie McInnes, Mary Kay Falconer, Melissa Jacoby, and Sue Hansen.

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association
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HANSON FAMILY TRUST
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TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308-0748

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!