Newsletter designed by
Adam Grayson

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association

Fall, 2016

https://bettonhills.us/
bettonhillsna@hotmail.com
Facebook: Betton Hills Neighborhood

Proud member of Partners for Excellence with Leon County Schools

Join Us

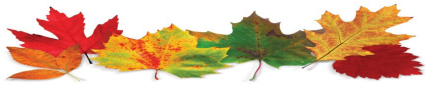
By Tom Vickers

Home buyers often ask whether there is an active neighborhood association when considering a home purchase. They know that a neighborhood association gives them a bigger voice in addressing concerns—beautification, zoning, traffic, noise, bus routes, and others--that affect the livability of the neighborhood. Support the Betton Hills Neighborhood Association by becoming a member. 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?

Joining is easy: complete and mail the attached membership form or, even easier, join online at https://bettonhills.us/join. Our membership year runs July 1 through June 30. You can pay now for the 2016/2017 membership year or choose the two-year option and also pay for the 2017/2018 membership year.

BHNA has a board that meets at 7 PM on the third Monday of the month, August 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 social at Winthrop Park, 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, block parties in April and May, and a neighborhood garage sale on the first Saturday in May. To enhance communication among neighbors we have a web page (https://bettonhills.us), a Facebook page (search for Betton Hills Neighborhood and ask to join), and email notification of important events (send an email to bhnaalert@gmail.com to get on the list).

A NOTE ON MAILING ADDRESSES. 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 several adjacent neighborhoods that share our interests and concerns. I know that some of you will not like the way your address looks: last name first, only one owner's name, extraneous information like "living trust." I apologize in advance, but this is the format in which they come to us. It would take a long time to make changes to the more than 950 entries.



Upcoming Events:

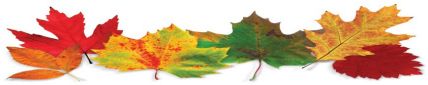
Fall Annual Neighborhood Get-Together and Meeting, October 30, 2 to 4 PM.

Join neighbors for an afternoon at Winthrop Park. There will be Steel Drum live music, pizza and beverages, and neighbor camaraderie. The Fall get-together also serves as our annual meeting with a 15 minute overview of matters impacting the neighborhood. If you are planning to attend Halloween "trunk or treat" events that day, why not start your afternoon at Winthrop Park for a ghoulish good time.

Christmas Eve Caroling, 4 PM.
This annual tradition is held at Harriman Circle park. It is a great way to unwind and enjoy the music of the season. If you don't know all the words, no worries, sheet music is provided.

Next Up……

- Arbor Day, which occurs late January to early February
- Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt, 11AM Easter Sunday
- Block Parties, occurs in April
- Neighborhood Garage Sale, occurs in May



My Top Ten- Why Betton is a Great Neighborhood!

By Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey

1. Neighbors- we all pitched in and helped each other during this last storm. Nothing new for Betton. On Facebook a neighbor offered coffee for those in need. Nice!

2. Parks- so downtown may have the chain of parks, but we have an abundance of parks. Each park is beautiful with its own character.

3. The Dog Park at McCord- I enjoy watching the dogs playing and neighbors have a nice afternoon together. It makes me want to borrow a dog so I can join in! (I have cats and that would not work.)

4. Trees- Even though they caused havoc with the last storm, a deforested area like Kissimmee, is just NOT pleasant!

5. Friendliness- So, here's my story. A friend from Miami and I went walking in the neighborhood and she said, "you are so popular, everyone is waving to you." No, I just live in Betton. (Just for the record, I was born in Miami.)

6. LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION- Need I say more?

7. Looking out for each other- be it watching out for increasing billboards, widening of streets, or rezoning for over-development- we are on it and watch out for our neighborhood.

8. Arbor Day- this is a great family event. If you have not attended, you are missing out. It is a great family event and I learn something new every time!

9. Your Neighborhood Association Board- if you haven't been to a board meeting, come on over. We meet the third Monday of the month at 7:30PM, Ashford Club Apts. Come on, you know you want to join the board! (If you know a board member, tell them thanks. They are SO inspirational.)

10. Families- they make our neighborhood great!

Betton Block Parties

By Tom Vickers

We started these events in 2015. This year neighbors held a dozen super successful parties over several weekends in April and May. In a typical party the volunteer host chooses the date and time and type of event and invites a "block" of neighbors. BHNA provides funding to cover some of the cost. Parties range from simple coffee and cake affairs to elaborate covered dish dinners. Last year parties were held on Harriman Circle, Laguna, and in Chittenden Park and for sections of Betton Road, Armistead, Chamberlin, Mayfield, Noble, Marston, Trescott, W. Randolph, and Mitchell. The largest party was held by the residents around Chittenden Park. The accompanying picture is from that event (more pictures on our website https://bettonhills.us/events/2016-04-24-14-00-00-betton-block-parties). Wouldn't it be great to have twice as many parties next Spring? Start planning.

Carol Bellamy Neighborhood Beautification Fund

By Donna Legare

We will celebrate **Arbor Day** in January or February this year by planting native trees and shrubs, maintaining past plantings in various parks and islands, cleaning the wood duck house and 4 bluebird houses, and by continuing removal of invasive alien plants such as Chinese tallow, privet and coral ardisia from area parks. Coral ardisia berries, as usual, will be bagged before digging out the plants. If you have any ideas for Arbor Day, please contact Donna Legare at 386-1148. Watch for future e-mails and signage with the exact date and time.

Last Arbor Day, we focused on invasive plant removal on the back side of the woodland between McCord Pond and Thomasville Road. We planted 3 arrowwood viburnums, an Ogeechee tupelo, a blackgum, a swamp chestnut oak and a blue beech in the cleared area. We also added a shade tolerant spruce pine to the open woods near the Armistead parking area. We took down the old martin pole because we haven't attracted purple martins there in several years probably because the area is not open enough. Because bluebirds had nested in one of the martin gourds, we installed a new bluebird house in the vicinity. Bluebirds used the house last season. When I checked the house in early August, there were nestlings still inside - almost ready to fledge.

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.

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. Last year each school received $1000! Kate Sullivan is dividing their share between the art teacher and the music teacher to purchase additional materials for their programs. Principal Pam Stephens wrote that they were both very appreciative and she thanked our neighborhood for being "incredibly supportive of our school over the years."

Leon High's share went directly into the Leon High Foundation to which teachers apply for grants for special projects or supplies every August.

Cobb split theirs with $200 going to the Garden Club for purchases of Earth Boxes and $800 to the Robotics Club for materials used in competition. I volunteered to help the enthusiastic students plant vegetables in their new Earth Boxes - they were very appreciative and did not hesitate to get their hands dirty!

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.

Thanks to the Boy Scouts for their annual help in cleaning out McCord pond!

Betton Hills Neighborhood Facebook Group Proves Its Worth

By Melissa Jacoby

The Betton Hills Neighborhood Facebook group really proved its worth in keeping neighbors connected during Hurricane Hermine with its devastating effect on our neighborhood. Group members were able to share information about power outages, road closures, damage to homes and there were many many many posts offering encouragement and help to neighbors in need. What a great neighborhood!

If you are not a member please consider joining. Betton Hills Neighborhood is a closed group. That means that only group members can read the posts. Neighbors who want to join the group should search in Facebook for the Betton Hills Neighborhood group and ask to join. The group administrators will be notified to approve the request. We try our best to make sure everyone has a legitimate connection to the neighborhood, but as with all social media, please be judicious about posting personal information.

Another helpful Betton Hills Facebook group feature is the "Pets of Betton." Learn about it in the article: Calling All Dogs (and Cats)!

Zinnia Patch at McCord Park

By Donna Legare

Have you noticed the nice patch of zinnias in McCord Park up near Thomasville Road? They were planted in a sunny patch that became available after the trees in the area came down in a storm. The park managers allowed us to plant zinnia seeds there for butterflies and other pollinators. The seed was collected from the grounds of Linda van Beck from a field of old garden zinnias that she has been growing for years. It's an annual, but reseeds well. Ann Camp has volunteered to watch over this patch and add some wildflowers that benefit pollinators. I have collected purple coneflower seed from my yard for her to sow. The city will weed whack it once a year after the plants go to seed. If you would like to help Ann on this project, contact her at spooch@talstar.com.

Stop Mosquitoes From Breeding

- Females breed by laying eggs in standing water, so at least once a week, empty, turn over or cover things that can hold water, such as toys, tires, buckets, birdbaths, car or boat covers, gutters, trash containers, etc.
- Store outside items in a covered area if they can hold standing water.
- Keep flower pots and saucers free of standing water and flush out water-retaining plants like bromeliads with a hose once a week.

For more information, go to:
http://www.floridahealth.gov/

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.

Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund Report

By Mike Brezin

We've reached the 15th anniversary of the Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund!

The rising cost of college, higher interest rates for student loans, 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.

The Fund supports Leon students with writing talent and a commitment to journalism. Award winners are selected 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 includes stories as well as pictures).

This year, the two winners were: Camille Okonswo, editor of the student yearbook, the Lion's Tale and John Ike Smith-Schoenwalder, editor of the student newspaper, Leon High Life. They each received a $500 scholarship from BHNA.

In looking over the thank-you notes from award winners over the past years, the key qualities that stand out are the students' appreciation for the leadership opportunities they were provided and the development of the journalism skills, both in terms of writing (to deadlines!) and working as a team to make each issue as strong, relevant, and clear as possible. Given the many hours the students put in to bring out these qualities, the Mansfield Award is a welcome "thank-you" for their hard work and dedication.

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 the value of distinguished public schools, a vibrant natural environment, increasing social justice, the beauty of canopy roads and our urban forest, 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 strong desire to see each person in our society treated with dignity. Marge died in 2005.

Calling All Dogs (and cats, I guess)!

By Harper Brezin, guest columnist

I know how exciting it is to suddenly break free from humans and bolt for the open country. No leash! No collar! No pulling you along when you just want to sniff! You can go where you please. What fun! Still, I understand that it's very upsetting for your human when you make the break. They worry about your safety and well-being. (They even do that for cats! Go figure.) Tell your human about the Betton Hills Facebook page that helps gets pets back pronto: a pictorial pet registry! Yep. **Kristin Bigham** of Betton Hills came up with the idea and got it going. Here's how it works:

1. From the Betton Hills Facebook page, click on "Photos" in the tabs just below the page title.
2. From the photos page, click on "Albums" in the tabs across the top of the page.
3. On the Albums page, click on the "Pets of Betton Hills" album.
4. You'll see plenty of pictures of dogs and cats. Click on "Add Photos" in the top right corner to upload your pet's amazing photo.
5. Add some explanatory text as you wish: pet's name, street, special care issues, etc.

That's it. It's so simple even my owner could do it.

Hey neighbors, if you find a wandering or exploring pet, check the Pets of Betton Hills album to see if it's pictured there. You then know who the owners are to contact them.

JOIN BHNA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 15612, Tallahassee, FL 32317-5612
https://bettonshills.us

Membership Form

Annual Membership Dues ($10 minimum; additional donations welcome!) $_____

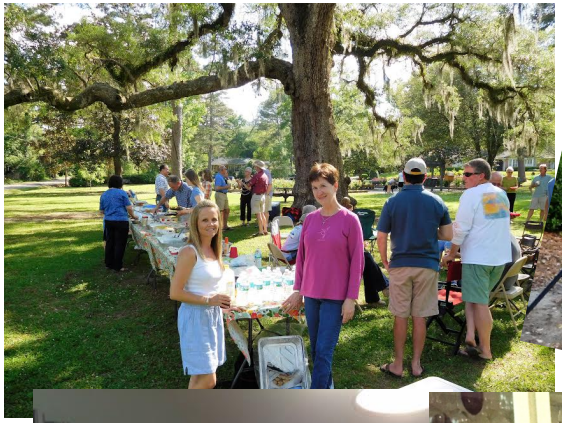
Donation to Carol Bellamy Neighborhood Beautification Trust Fund $_____
Donation to Jack Robertson Partners for Excellence School Fund $_____
Donation to Bill Mansfield Fund for Young Writers $_____
TOTAL $_____

Membership year is July 1 to June 30. Payment is for ☐ this year ☐ next year.

Household Name: _____
BH Address: _____
Mail Address if different: _____
Email Address (print clearly, please): _____
☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Enter your donation amounts, name and addresses. Make checks payable to BHNA.
Please send your form and check today (address above). Thanks!

Neighborhood Events



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