

BETTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

<https://bettonhills.us>

Facebook: [Betton Hills Neighborhood](#)

BHNA Chairperson's Message

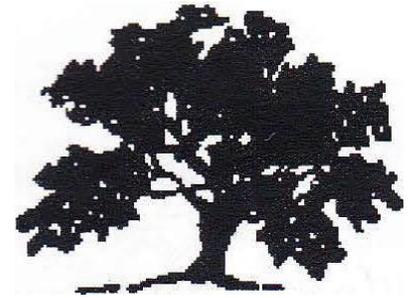
By: Mike Brezin

Chair's Leanings

It's spring . . . what a great time of year! What a great time to live in Betton Hills! When I think about why I live in Betton, here are some of the things that quickly come to mind. I like to be able to walk around safely, even on the streets that don't have sidewalks. I like seeing people I recognize, many that I've come to know, and to wave to them or talk with them. I like seeing birds at our parks and throughout the neighborhood, especially those that remind me of the seasonal rhythms of our year. I like watching kids play baseball, football, and soccer at our parks. I like working out in my yard at this time of year, even with the deluge of live oak leaves, before it gets too hot.

Better yet, I like sitting in my yard on a still cool morning listening to bird songs and breezes in the pines and oaks. I see more young couples, some pushing baby strollers or guiding their youngsters on bikes with training wheels, and I like that very much. I imagine how much I'll enjoy doing those walks again on Betton streets, next time with grandchildren. I like that my dogs can enjoy plenty of other dogs walking by or getting to know them down at McCord Park. I like walking the neighborhood at night taking in the constellations, planets, and moonlight, stirring thoughts of my life to date, the wonder of our planet and our species, and how privileged I am to live in this time and place.

Continued on page 8



Upcoming Events

March 12, 2017

1:00-3:00, McCord Park
Games in the Park (Bocce
and Badminton) - Page 2

March 18, 2017

1:00-3:00, Chittenden Park
Games in the Park (Bocce
and Badminton) - Page 2

April 16, 2017

11:00 am, Easter-Egg Hunt –
Chittenden Park - Page 2

April

BHNA Annual Block Parties -
Page 3

May 6, 2017

8-Noon - BHNA Annual
Neighborhood Garage Sale
- Page 2

COMING TOGETHER IN BETTON HILLS PARKS FOR BADMINTON AND BOCCE

By: Mary Kay Falconer

We are so fortunate to have several parks in our neighborhood to enjoy. As another opportunity to enjoy them, BHNA is coordinating two "low impact" game days this March. The featured games are badminton and bocce. Badminton is a game many of us know well and is now a summer Olympic sport. Bocce is described as lawn bowling the Italian way. Both games are quick to set up and quick to take down. **Sunday March 12, 1:00-3:00, at McCord Park, will be the first BHNA game gathering. Saturday March 18, 1:00-3:00, at Chittenden Park** (Spruce and Hickory) will be the second BHNA game gathering. If any of you want to coordinate games and activities, please let us know by going to our website and emailing the BHNA board. We hope more of these game days (with even more game variety) will be in our BHNA future!

BETTON HILLS EASTER-EGG HUNT

By: Karen Weimer

Join your Betton Hills neighbors for an old-fashioned Easter Egg Hunt in **Chittenden Park** (on Sycamore and Chouteau Avenue between Lee and Spruce Avenues) on **Easter Saturday, April 16th, at 11:00 A.M.** All ages welcome! Please bring 1-2 dozen plastic eggs (per family) filled with treats and your own baskets for the egg hunt. You may drop off your filled eggs at the park anytime the morning of the hunt (stash them on the bench under the tree in the center of the rose garden) or bring them with you. We will **gather at 11 A.M** and play some games while the eggs are hidden. **Egg Hunt will commence at 11:15** sharp. As in previous years, we will have a separate hunt area for the "under 4's", so don't hesitate to bring your youngsters! Photo ops will abound! Come meet some new neighbors and have fun with old friends. If you would like to help or have questions, contact Karen Weimer, 510-5573.



BHNA ANNUAL GARAGE SALE- 2017

By: Melissa Jacoby

Are you worried that you're going to be asked to appear in an upcoming episode of "Hoarders of Betton Hills"? No problem! We have an opportunity for you to avoid any embarrassment. On **Saturday, May 6, from 8 a.m. until noon**, BHNA will sponsor its annual neighborhood garage sale.

This is a great opportunity to share your less needed household and personal items with someone who will be thrilled to take them off your hands. Get some spring cleaning done, meet some neighbors and put a few extra dollars in your pocket.

To help promote the community garage sale to the public, BHNA will advertise the event on Craigslist, in the Tallahassee Democrat and on the BHNA website and Facebook. Shoppers will be directed to the

**BETTON HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL
GARAGE SALE**

MAY 6th, 8 AM-NOON

BHNA website for a list of participating households and map. We'll also announce the event with our BHNA signs at prominent neighborhood entry points.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO DO: We encourage you to let us know if you intend to participate by registering at: <https://bettonhills.us/garagesale> by **Friday, April 28**. On the day of the sale (May 6) place a sign in your yard so that shoppers can easily find you. Even if you don't get around to registering, we still welcome your participation.

BHNA ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTIES 2017

By: Lynn and Michael Bannister

Under a Tallahassee springtime sun, neighbors on Betton Road, Lee Avenue, and Dillard Street gathered at the backyard patio of **Bill and Pat Bruckheimer** to renew acquaintances, make new ones, and trade neighborly news. Put together by **Elizabeth Markovitch, Pat Bruckheimer** and **Lynn Bannister**, this assembly was one of several "Betton Block Parties" that took place in the spring of 2016. Serving lemonade, hamburgers, hot dogs, and covered dishes, neighbors enjoyed catching up on the latest news and trading stories of "the hood". Invitations via flyers delivered door to door notified residents they were welcome to come early, stay late, or anything in between.



When: Your choice in April or May

For \$50 reimbursement from BHNA, tell us how many people attended, send us a picture, and include your name and address. Send to: board@bettonhills.us. We'll send you the check.

From the casual, as above, to more formal gatherings, these Block Parties took place throughout Betton Hills to bring neighbors together and strengthen our sense of community.

Again this year, the BHNA is sponsoring block parties to gather neighbors together. We are hoping to persuade members in every area of Betton Hills to invite a dozen or so neighbors for a meet and greet party. BHNA will provide \$50.00 to each party organizer to defray the cost of providing party basics. Anyone who would like to host a party or help out with one, please send us an email: board@bettonhills.us. It's a great way to meet new neighbors, catch up with old neighbors, and make new friends.

ARBOR DAY RECAP 2017

By: Donna Legare

It was a cool, cloudy, windy morning but 37 faithful Arbor Day volunteers turned out to plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive plants, care for past plantings and maintain nest boxes. We gathered at 9am, warming up with hot coffee and delicious pastries, bagels and fruit lined up by **Mike Brezin** and **Suzanne Choppin**. We were happy to have more children participating this year and we hope they will come back in years to come to see how much "their" trees have grown.

Our major project this year was to plant native trees and shrubs to continue the urban forest along the boundary of the park. There are some large trees there but very little shrub and small tree cover. This planting will be beneficial to wildlife, will be appreciated by visitors to the park who enjoy a more natural environment and will provide privacy for the adjoining neighborhood. Parks and Recreation, under the leadership of **Brenda Pratt** is providing water to this planting. We planted 21 Ocala anise that will eventually form a green backdrop along with the following species to increase diversity of the understory – Ashe magnolia, red cedar, agarista, rusty blackhaw, hophornbeam, needle palm, Southern magnolia.

We continued work on our **Woodland Restoration Project** by attacking the non-native invasive coral ardisia and privet. There was something for every ability. Some clipped the red berries off coral ardisia plants; these have to be bagged and disposed in the garbage, never in the compost. Others pulled small ardisias that pull up easily. Others used shovels and picks to dig out the larger ardisias and privets. We planted an arrowwood viburnum and a blue beech on the west side of this woodland in the area where we planted several native trees last year.

Without our efforts at removing the invasive non-native plants, the woodland would become a solid mass of invasive species which have little to no value for native wildlife. They crowd out and shade our native species which have unique ecological relationships with wildlife. Next time you are in the park, look for our **Woodland Restoration sign**. We plan to remove all non-native plants from this woodland over time. We will continue to plant native plants in the woodland as it is freed of invasives.

Tom Schulte and his daughter **Layne** led a small group of children on a mission to clean out the 4 bluebird houses and the wood duck box in preparation for this year's nesting season.

Thank you to our Arbor Day Volunteers! I hope I didn't leave anyone off the list and I apologize for any misspellings.



Donna Legare & Jody Walthall
Mary Kay Falconer
Melissa Jacoby
Ed Oaksford
Vanessa & Richard Crisler
Mike Brezin & Suzanne Choppin
Dan Kelly
Eliza Hawkins
Holly Thomas
Sandy Warren & Gene Hollis
Tom and Layne Schulte
Casey & Andrew McLaughlin
Regine Maligne
Mike & Ann Riley
Jim & Linda Mabry
Bob Walker
Leah, Haley & Trip Steele
Henry Rayburn
Tom & Nicolas Waits
David Beggs
Todd & J. Sperry
Nancy Swords
Vincent DiMarco
Jay & Carter Gelin
Jesse & Hope Suber

The children were excited to find 4 old eggs that had not hatched in the wood duck nest box.

We planted a Myer lemon tree in honor of **Sue Hansen** near the community garden. Sue was instrumental in starting this garden, but has since moved from the neighborhood. Our association also had a beautiful stained glass stepping stone made for the center of the garden to honor Sue. When the lemon tree produces, its fruit may be shared by all.

Thanks to the **City of Tallahassee** for donating 25 bales of pine straw for the mulching of past and new plantings. Thanks to **Barb Shiplock** for putting up the Arbor Day signs, to **Tom Vickers** for posting the e-mail announcements, **Melissa Jacoby** for posting on Facebook and **Casey McLaughlin** for web site updates.

Alas! No box turtles were found this year, but we did unearth a small earth snake to the delight of the children. We placed him carefully back in the soil after everyone got a good look at him.

One final note: **Jesse and Hope Suber** could not be with us on Saturday, but they launched their canoe on McCord Pond on Sunday and filled several large bags of litter. They do this every year. Most common litter - Styrofoam cups that float in from upstream. Wish our country could ban Styrofoam containers for fast food.

Thank you, thank you - it was lots of fun, volunteering and visiting with each other as we worked on a common goal. It is amazing how much we did in 2 hours!

BHNA Reports By: **Mike Brezin**

Here are brief reports on some of the major actions in which the BHNA has been engaged since the beginning of the year. If you would like more information on any of these, contact a BHNA board member or see reports on our webpage (bettonhills.us).

Gas Generators on Medical Drive (TMH)

The city has proposed building two natural gas-powered generators next to the electrical substation on Medical Drive. While supporting the intent of the facility – power efficiency, enhanced power reliability, and storm-hardening capability – the BHNA opposed the specific siting, claiming it was too close to Spruce Ave. residents. Our concerns, and theirs, were that the noise and visual appearance of the facility would be detrimental. Despite a number of neighborhood and private meetings with utility staff, we were not able to get them to relocate the facility further within the TMH campus. This project is when the BHNA was introduced to the late notice strategy of the city. We've gone to school through our efforts to intervene with the city to change the location. While that process did not help the Spruce Ave. residents, we hope for better results on subsequent projects. **Mario Taylor** is leading our effort for earlier noticing on projects that affect Betton Hills. Still, with the generators we respect that city staff have taken a number of steps to accommodate neighbor concerns, particularly in terms of noise mitigation. We're working on a few other ways to better accommodate the generators as well.

Proctor Sculptures at McCord Park

Be on the lookout! Up to six Sandy Proctor sculptures are being installed in McCord Park over the next few months. The sculptures will be spaced throughout the park. The subjects are animals, sometimes with children, and are of a size that children can play on them. The sculptures are privately funded, an effort led by **Commissioner Ziffer**.

Early in the development of this effort, **Donna Legare** and **Mike Brezin** met with City Park and Recreation staff, **Ashley Edwards** and **Brenda Pratt** to discuss whether McCord Park was the appropriate place for the sculptures and possible impacts on the park. Later, **Commissioner Ziffer** attended a BHNA board meeting to present models to the board, to answer any questions, and to re-emphasize his desire to work with the BHNA on the project. Finally, for final placement decisions, **Jody Walthall** served as the BHNA representative.

Out Sculpt the Sculptor

The BHNA sponsored a photo competition to see who could best sculpt a photo on the base of one of the Proctor sculpture concrete pads prior to installation of the actual sculptures. The winners are: **Carter** (thinker) and **Joy Gelin** (photographer and mother)! Besides fame and high-fives all around, they will each receive an "I Love My Neighborhood: Betton Hills" T-shirt!



Keep thinkin' Carter! Looks like you're good at it!

Carter Gelin, The Thinker

Myers Park Parcel

The BHNA joined with several neighborhood associations and park- and nature-related organizations to oppose the sale of a parcel of Myers Park to a developer for construction of multi-family housing. The sale, proposed by city planning staff, was to be accomplished by a comprehensive plan amendment and rezoning of the property. **Mike Brezin**, BHNA Chair, wrote a My View column for the Democrat and spoke as part of a team presentation at the Planning Commission review of the comp plan amendment. Also attending were Betton residents: **Michael and Lynn Bannister, Michele Ceci, Wilson Baker, and David Beggs**. Over 50 yard signs opposing the comp plan amendment were displayed by Betton Hills residents. Way to go **neighbors!** The opposition to the city's plan focused on two points: (1) we should not be selling park land and (2) neighborhood integrity (in this case, the Myers Park neighborhood) should not be infringed upon by a development so out of character with the neighborhood. The Planning Commission agreed unanimously that the city's amendment should not pass; that it was, in fact, not consistent with the vision statement that guides the plan. The City Commission later voted to withdraw the amendment. Instead, an inclusive process to determine how the parcel should be used will be initiated. This proposal was introduced by **Commissioner Ziffer**. (This approach is what we should be doing with many developments or infrastructure projects that affect neighborhoods; see Chair's Leanings article.) The committee will get to work in April.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Size Matters

By: Tom Vickers

BHNA's recent advocacy for the preservation of green spaces made it clear that our concerns are best addressed when we speak with one voice. The bigger our membership roll the greater our clout when we come to the table. If you have not yet signed up I urge you to do so today. Our dues are only \$10 a year for a household. It's easy to join. Join online using the link <https://bettonhills.us/join> or mail a check for \$10 (or more) to BHNA, PO Box 15612, Tallahassee, FL

32317. If you are signing up by mail be sure to include your (and spouse's) name, your preferred mailing address, and your email address. Our current membership is 332. For a neighborhood of our size and vitality I think we should have at least 500 members. I hope you will help to get us there.

BHNA puts out two mailed newsletters a year and maintains a website (<https://bettonhills.us/>), a Facebook page (a closed group, Betton Hills Neighborhood, with 700 members), and an email list (with 626 contacts) for rapid notification about events in the neighborhood (bhnaalert@gmail.com). We make these various forms of communication available to everyone in the neighborhood (nearly 1000 households) because we think that access to the information they provide makes the neighborhood better for all of us. I hope you will agree and help to support these activities by becoming a member.

BEING RESPONSIBLE WITH OUR HAZARDOUS WASTE

By: Mary Kay Falconer

All of us have hazardous waste. Disposing of it needs to be done responsibly. For those of you know who are not aware of an easy disposal option close to our neighborhood, it is important that you know about the **Leon County Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Events** on the first Saturday of the month between September and May at the Public Works Operations Center, 2280 Miccosukee Rd. This location is 5 minutes from our neighborhood. During my last visit at this collection site, I disposed of fluorescent bulbs, household cleaners, paints and paint thinners. It took 3 minutes to pass through their well-organized collection center. I was also told that the paints are checked for possible recycling and use. That made me smile. I was also surprised to know that they accept some electronics. According to information posted on the website (<http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/Home/Departments/Public-Works/Solid-Waste/Hazardous-Waste-Center/Collection-Events>), during the September 2015 to May 2016 season, 3,027 citizens dropped off 49.0 tons of hazardous waste and 36.1 tons of electronic scrap at our collection events. **Please keep in mind that there are only 2 more collection events before summer break (April 1 and May 6).** Round up your hazardous waste now. There are no excuses for dumping our hazardous waste irresponsibly.

EXAMPLES OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ITEMS ACCEPTED AT REMOTE COLLECTION SITES:

Aerosol Cans
Ammunition Rechargeable and Alkaline
Batteries
Bleach Drain Cleaner
Electronics-TV's and Computers (limit 5 per vehicle and only one a large-screen TV)
Fire Extinguishers Flares and Pyrotechnics
Fluorescent Bulbs (limit 25 tubes) and Ballasts
Gasoline, Kerosene, Diesel Fuel

Mercury-containing Devices (thermometers, thermostats, manometers)
Motor Oil
Paints and Thinners
Lawn and Garden Chemicals
Photographic Chemicals
Pool Chemicals
Pressure Bottles & (oxygen, carbon dioxide, etc.)
Propane Bottles and Tanks (under 40 lbs.)

EXAMPLES OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ITEMS **NOT** ACCEPTED:

Medical Sharps and Biohazards
Radioactive Material
Major Appliances (washers, dryers,
water heaters, etc.)
Refrigerators
Construction and Demolition Debris
Carpets
Other Bulky Items and Materials

Medicines (including veterinary)
Household Garbage
Yard Debris
Furniture
Lawn Mowers
Furniture
Styrofoam

CHAIR'S LEANINGS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1:

On a most general level, the key threats come as natural outgrowths of the fact that Tallahassee is growing. We add more people every year than live in Betton Hills. We have to put these people somewhere. They have to move around to get to work and school. They need food, parks, jobs and places to hang out. I get it. This growth naturally challenges established neighborhoods. Historically, city government has been a strong force in balancing the needs and interests of neighborhoods with those of development and infrastructure. We tended to put new development in areas that wouldn't have too strong of a negative effect on existing neighborhoods. No more. The city's operational pendulum has swung too far to promote growth at the expense of neighborhoods.

Whether it's in the name of infrastructure improvements, infill, or the 18-hour downtown, the growth-related cuts come to neighborhoods. We experience these cuts as bigger roads, more cut-through traffic speeding down our streets, more noise all around, more litter in our streets, yards, parks, and ponds, more strangers cruising the neighborhood, more crime, less home ownership and more rentals. What happens then? These primary cuts are bad enough; but it's the secondary cuts that kill the neighborhood. There's fewer young parents out walking with their babies or helping their children ride bikes; fewer people visit the parks as they are less safe or clean or inviting; our elders don't want to get outside; it's less enjoyable and far noisier to work in a yard or take in the beauty of the day; there are fewer people to see and meet; there's less wildlife to appreciate; I may not be able to walk my grandkids safely. Livability takes a dive. You've heard the expression, "death of 1,000 cuts." That's what happens. When neighborhoods are cut, they bleed livability. We need to work to limit the cuts and to stanch the bleeding when they occur.

Yeah? How?

Let me say again that Betton Hills still has it pretty darn good. But, from what I've seen recently in Betton Hills and from what I've heard from other neighborhood leaders, there are two aspects of imposed "improvements" to neighborhoods that create deep concerns: (1) too often the proposed projects are at loggerheads with livability; and (2) neighborhoods are informed far too late in the development process of the planned improvements.

There's a rather straightforward solution to neighborhood threats. It comes in two stages. In the near-term, we need to better organize within a neighborhood and across neighborhoods. (In the current climate, no one neighborhood can stand alone and maintain its livability qualities.) Without the money or power the city or a developer can bring, we have to go with numbers of people, preferably voters. Long-term, neighborhoods need to get notice of a project early in its

development and participate in the planning of that development to best integrate it with the neighborhood. There needs to be much more consensus building and a lot less last minute confrontations. Neighborhoods need a seat at the table from the get-go.

Let me say again, too, that no one is saying growth should be (or could be) stopped. What we are saying is that developments or supportive infrastructure should be placed first in areas that have minimal impact on existing neighborhoods. When that can't happen, there needs to be a formal consensus-building process in place to balance the development and neighborhood interests. While these may occur on a piecemeal basis for some projects now, in general, they are too little too late.

Lest We Forget

The majority of the residents of an established neighborhood like Betton Hills have lived there for some time. Through the years, we've improved our homes, taken care of our yards, gotten involved in our schools, cared for our parks, and become friends with our neighbors. We've dug in, we've nurtured, and we've persevered. We've made Betton a desirable place, a livable neighborhood you might say.

We do not deserve to be punished for our hard work and social investment. Let's not cast our lot with the "no good deed goes unpunished" school of urban planning. Rather, let's lay our bets with the school of responsive governance. This is not an issue of being "not in my backyard" or NIMBY. It's an issue of protecting the livability of Tallahassee's neighborhoods; the qualities that make Tallahassee such a wonderful place to grow up, raise children, and grow old. We've earned a voice in our own future. We sense an obligation to raise that voice to protect Betton Hills and other neighborhoods for now and for the future. We embrace the responsibility to listen to and grow the voice of our newer neighbors. We're not opposed to change or growth per se (well, OK, maybe we are to some of it and how it's designed); we just want it to be done in a responsible, rational, and at least somewhat aesthetic manner.

Going Forward

Livable neighborhoods aren't free. It's up to all of us to understand the issues that affect our quality of life in Betton Hills and to participate in making Betton a more livable neighborhood. Specifically, you can do things like: join the BHNA; voice your opinions on our Facebook page; learn from the articles on our webpage (bettonhills.us); participate in neighborhood activities; demand an early and on-going voice in neighborhood land use and zoning projects; support actions of neighbors dealing with the latest city intervention, and vote for leaders that nurture neighborhoods. Together, we can continue to live in a neighborhood that best represents our sense of community. And do that in a city of vibrant neighborhoods in which we are proud to live.

BHNA BOARD RETREAT AND FOLLOW-UP

By: Mike Brezin

Believe me, I know what it's like to serve in an organization that lacks a strong and engaged board. No fun. Which is what makes me so happy to think of the BHNA board and officers; they are a dedicated bunch of volunteers in service to you.

Last January, we huddled up to plan for 2017. While we are quite pleased with the general operation and activities of the BHNA we were meeting to determine how best pursue new opportunities and needs. We identified five "causes" to guide our new and on-going efforts. For these causes, we listed supporting actions a board member or volunteer could do which would help meet the cause. We've made good progress on these causes and actions!

1. Boost membership to 500 (from roughly 350) through neighborhood activities and protective actions.

You'll read more about the actions related to the membership cause in this newsletter, for example, our Easter Egg Hunt by **Karen Weimer**, Arbor Day led by **Donna Legare, Melissa Jacoby** organizing the Garage Sale, **Mary Kay Falconer** leading another invasive plant pull and games in our parks, and **Michael and Lynn Bannister** coordinating the Block Parties. Also, **Karen Weimer** and **Chris Caughran** are reinvigorating our Welcoming Committee. We want to boost membership for many reasons, but a very important one is that when we make our case before a city commission or planning commission, they know that we have strong neighborhood support. Your membership in BHNA makes that support more defined.

2. Improve social media communications and BHNA archiving through technology standardization and transfer.

Casey McLaughlin and **Tom Vickers** are leading our effort to update our website (bettonhills.us) and data management system. I'm particularly excited about the website; check it out! What I like so much is that we will be able to easily update it. As neighborhood issues arise, like the Myers Park parcel, we will be able to provide background information and recent developments to keep you informed so you can make a reasoned decision regarding your or the BHNA's involvement. These guys are also merging different databases and functions to simplify tasks such as data entry, archiving, email alerts, and membership renewals so that other volunteers can learn them easily allowing for some resiliency that will keep the information flowing in a timely manner. **Melissa Jacoby** continues to master the intricacies of Facebook to ably serve as our lead administrator.

3. Establish a productive alliance with other in-town neighborhoods.

Michael Bannister leads our efforts to strengthen Betton Hills by linking with nearby neighborhoods. He's met a number of times with nearby neighborhood leaders. We'll be joining a Facebook group of Thomasville Road neighborhoods to share information and expertise primarily related to developments and infrastructure projects that impact our neighborhoods. Michael is our lead guy, too, for an effort to form an informal alliance among in-town neighborhoods basically for the same purposes. The planning for that alliance is just beginning.

4. Strengthen relationships with city government and area organizations (e.g., TMH).

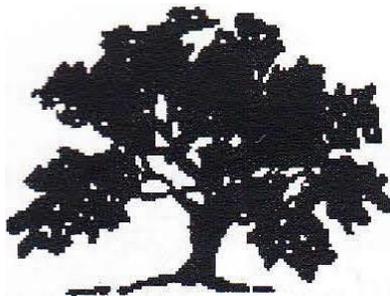
We recognize very clearly that BHNA needs more interaction with city officials and nearby organizations, particularly TMH. **Mario Taylor** is all over this cause. He's met with Reese Goad, the Deputy City Manager for Citizen Services to identify who's who in the city and to start to nail down a standardized process for informing neighborhoods of city actions that may affect them. Mario's progress in this noticing process will dramatically improve our voice in how those projects are conducted, especially when we speak as one voice in our neighborhood. I'm hoping that getting early notice will be the foundation for early involvement to best merge the city's intentions with Betton's characteristics and requirements.

5. Create a more time-efficient board structure and increase project-specific volunteer opportunities.

On one level, this is a nuts and bolts cause, that our making for a more efficient board structure. The intent is to be able to make decisions quickly when necessary; that is, sooner than our monthly board meetings allow. While email has certainly helped in this regard, frequently there is a need for board members to have a good amount of background information to make a good decision. Therefore, as issues arise, we're forming what amounts to a cause-based steering group of interested board members to speak for the board, as necessary. Information will continue to be shared with all board members on an on-going basis and at board meetings. We're aiming to balance the time availability of board members with the need to make good but quick decisions.

We're also looking to involve non-board member volunteers to extend the reach of BHNA. There are some issues we should be able to "get out in front of" but we don't have enough board member time to do so. For instance, speeding traffic, organizing fun bike rides, addressing tree-trimming and the maintenance of our urban forest, etc. Or, if you have a particular interest that you feel could be supported by BHNA, we may be able to help you advertise, organize an event, or support you financially. Either way, let us know. We'd very much appreciate your contribution to the neighborhood and support you in your efforts.

In addition to these causes and actions, **Tom Schulte** continues to guard our gold as treasurer. **Margie McInnes**, a past BHNA president keeps us on track with neighborhood events and provides a reasoned voice in our deliberations.



Betton Hills Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 15612
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5612

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 minimum)	\$ _____
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). You can also pay your membership on-line at: <https://bettonhills.us/>. Thanks!