

BETTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

<https://bettonhills.us>
Facebook: Betton Hills Neighborhood

JOIN IN THE FUN AT OUR ANNUAL FALL FEST!

FOOD TRUCKS - MUSIC - GAMES
FALL CRAFTS - DOOR PRIZES
GREAT NEIGHBORS



You asked for it, you got it! Back by popular demand is our neighborhood Fall Fest. Grab a blanket or lawn chair and come out to enjoy some fall weather. Enjoy visiting with your wonderful neighbors, both those you already know and those you will be meeting for the first time.

There will be a variety of food trucks for the dinner of your choice.

Vegetarian options will be available. Drinks and desserts will be provided by your neighborhood association.

There will also be music, crafts, games, face painting, pumpkin decorating, door prizes, and information tables about many issues. At some point in the fun, we will have a short business meeting to vote on the proposed slate of officers for the coming year.

Here are the details:

WHEN: October 28,
4:00-6:30

WHERE: Winthrop Park at
the large pavilion

WHO: All Betton Hills
neighbors are invited to
attend

ANYTHING ELSE? Yes!
When you arrive, sign in at
the welcome table for a
name tag and to enter for
door prizes. If you would
like to join or renew your
neighborhood association
membership, you can also
pay your dues at the table.

And yes, you are very
welcome to lend a hand to
help this event be lots of
fun for all of us. If you
would like to volunteer to

assist with crafts, kids'
games, pumpkin
decorating, or cleaning up,
please email
Margie McInnes at
[margiemcinn92@
gmail.com](mailto:margiemcinn92@gmail.com)

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!

UPCOMING EVENTS 2018-2019

October 28, 2018
4:00-6:30 p.m. Fall Fest
and Food Trucks

December 24, 2018
4:00 p.m. Caroling at
Harriman Circle

January/February, 2019
Arbor Day - McCord Park
(Date TBD)

April 20, 2019
11:00 a.m. Chittenden
Park Neighborhood Easter
Egg Hunt

March - April 2019
Block Parties

May 4, 2019
Neighborhood Garage
Sale

BHNA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike Brezin

It's a common observation that crisis creates opportunity. Reflecting on this past year of the BHNA, I have to add a variation to that expression: love creates opportunity. I understand that love may seem like a quaint term in our hardened times. I mean, from being spoken or expressed in about one in ten words or actions in the 1960's, love has fallen away with groovy or hippie. (Just because something has disappeared doesn't mean it was wrong, however.) In this past year, I've come to see that love still abounds and guides, it's just gone from universal to local. That observation's been heartening for me.

We've had a fairly calm year from a BHNA point of view. There were no major hurricanes, no disruptive conflicts with the city, no internal threats to put us into crisis mode. It would have been easy to sit back and run our traditional events and do the day-to-day things that make Betton Hills more friendly, safe, and uplifting. And yet the officers, board, and some volunteers persisted. To me, it's as if on some deep level we recognized the turmoil within our country, state, and even to some degree, the city with the city staff leadership and commissioner turnover. Out of love for neighborhood and city, we stepped up. We held our usual events with more gusto, we organized new efforts for community building, and we played a more active role in making Tallahassee a more flourishing city, particularly for neighborhoods. For the BHNA, 2018 was a year for community and advocacy for a neighborhood we love.

For a rather comprehensive review of BHNA actions, see our website's news section: <https://bettonhills.us/news>

First the horn . .

Allow me to toot the horn about three things. How about that food truck night last April? For a first time effort, it was a huge success, drawing 225 neighbors to a night of fun and good food. This was a BHNA-initiated event, spearheaded by boardmember **Mario Taylor**. It was such a fun time that an informal picnic in McCord Park a week later was organized by resident **Brittney Raehn Mayfield**.

Second, we conducted a variety of informational gatherings for Earth Week. **Donna Legare**, BHNA board member, led an invasive plant removal dig at McCord Park (nature). Volunteers **Eliza Hawkins** demonstrated the community garden (local food) and **Mark and Terri Repasky** shared their experiences with building and operating a rooftop solar energy system (alternative energy). **Mary Kay Falconer**, boardmember, and **Great Bicycle Shop** introduced bicycling routes and various bicycles (alternative transportation). For these efforts, the City of Tallahassee awarded BHNA its Neighborhood Award for most inspiring earth-friendly living demonstrations.

Last but not least, the BHNA has joined with in-town neighborhood associations to form the Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods (ATN). This non-partisan organization unifies and strengthens the voice of neighborhoods. It works to preserve what we most cherish, to advocate for what we need, and to support thoughtful planning and growth management policies and practices that respect Tallahassee's unique character while enabling it to grow and flourish. (You can see one of ATN's first efforts, city commission candidate interviews on

neighborhoods at <https://www.atntally.com/interviews>. **Michael Bannister, Mario Taylor, and Mike Brezin** represent BHNA. **Casey McLaughlin**, board member, set up the website and helps with policy development.)

And now the drum . . .

Now, I will happily beat the drum for a few of our residents. Musician (and accountant) **Bill Jones** leads our Christmas Eve caroling at Harriman Circle and has for many years now. **Karen Weimer** coordinates the best Easter Egg Hunt in Tallahassee at Chittenden Park. **Too many residents** to mention set up block parties for their neighbors in the spring. **Barbara Shoplock** and **Colin Thorn** faithfully post our event signs around the neighborhood throughout the year. I'm also impressed by the way **Megan Funkhouser** (Ladies Night) and **Beth Dolan** (Bunco) fired up some informal fun events in Betton Hills. Keep it rolling!

You know all you need is . . .

Do you hear the music? That's a song of love for Betton Hills and the people in it. Does it stir something inside you? Feel free to join in. Renew your membership. Volunteer to lead an activity. Join the BHNA board! That's the tune of a friendly, safe, and uplifting neighborhood!

PREP: Plan for Readiness and Emergency Preparedness

Margie McInnes and Mario Taylor

Tracking Hurricane Florence this month is a vivid reminder that this year's hurricane season is not over and we need to be prepared. We must be able to respond to our own needs for at least 3 days until emergency responders and electrical crews arrive.

The Betton Hills PREP project helps us determine our neighborhood's assets and needs. Several neighbors have stepped up to help implement this totally voluntary project.

Those leaders survey the neighbors on their block to identify the tools, resources, materials, and skills that would be useful in responding to a severe weather event. Also, the leaders identify neighbors who may need special attention during or after an event, such as needing oxygen or other equipment that requires electricity, etc.

Betton Hills covers a huge area with over 800 households. Most of us who live in Betton Hills like it because it is beautiful, safe and has friendly, helpful neighbors. This project helps organize those helpful neighbors so that all of us are safer. Training is provided, and simple, short forms are

already available to organize the information. Our goal is to have a PREP leader on every block. By having more leaders, we can cover more of our neighborhood, and reduce the amount of work for each leader. With a lot of hands, we can do this!

If you will join this effort, or if you have some questions about this project, please email Margie McInnes: margiemcinnnes92@gmail.com
Mario Taylor: mariotaylor@comcast.net

REMINDER: Hurricane Season isn't over until November 30!
Don't be caught un-PREPared!

CAROL BELLAMY NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION FUND

Donna Legare

When you donate to the **Carol Bellamy Fund**, your dollars go to support neighborhood beautification and conservation projects. The fund has been used for Arbor Day plantings, to help fund the McCord Park statues, to maintain the Betton Hills markers throughout the neighborhood, to provide park benches, tables, recycling bins, and plants for traffic islands. We use this fund to set up and maintain bluebird nest boxes in McCord Park as well as the bat house, which now houses over 250 mosquito eating Brazilian freetail bats!

Last Arbor Day, over 30 neighbors showed up at McCord Park to plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive plants, care for past plantings, maintain nest boxes, and remove litter from the pond. This year, six Leon High French Club students joined us; they cleaned the bluebird houses and wood duck house and weeded and mulched the blueberry patch. Arbor Day is always a fun event that starts with hot coffee, fruit and pastries. Next comes two hours of great exercise in the fresh air, working side by side with neighbors to improve habitat and scenic views in the park. Very rewarding work!

McCord Park would look like a very different place without our Arbor Day volunteers and the funding provided by the Carol Bellamy Fund. There would be little diversity in trees and shrubs in the park, and therefore fewer songbirds and other wildlife. We would be overrun with Chinese tallow trees, especially around the perimeter of the pond. There would be few bluebirds. There would not be any blueberry bushes.

We will schedule the next Arbor Day for late January or early February and continue to work on invasive plant removal in the woodland restoration areas.



PARTNERS FOR EXCELLENCE WITH NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

Mary Kay Falconer

Partnerships in our neighborhood are important and some of our most important partners are our schools. Kate Sullivan Elementary School, Cobb Middle School and Leon High School are our three neighborhood schools. At the end of each academic year, we donate \$500 to each school, needed funds that have served a variety of purposes through the years.

This past year, Kate Sullivan used the funds to cover clinic supplies and upgrades in classroom technology, including laptop computers in classrooms. Cobb allocated the funds to a program called Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports, which is a student recognition program. This program offers a variety of incentives for students to “stay on track.” Our donation to Leon High School went to the Leon High School Foundation which covers a variety of purposes that correspond with promoting educational excellence.

The school administrators, teachers, students, and BHNA board thank you for your generous support of these partners.

BILL AND MARGE MANSFIELD FUND

Mike Brezin

The Bill and Marge Mansfield Writer's Fund supports Leon High School students with writing talent and a commitment to journalism. The BHNA established this fund in 2000, shortly after Bill's death. Bill and Marge Mansfield served on our Board of Directors. Bill was a working journalist for much of his life, including a stint as Editorial Page Editor for the *Tallahassee Democrat* in the 1980's and 1990's. He was particularly committed to helping new journalists "find their voice."

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 yearbook (the yearbook includes stories as well as pictures). Journalism teachers select the award winners. Last year's award amounts were \$300 for working on the school paper and \$300 for the yearbook.

The journalism program teaches the basics of writing – the grammar, story structure, engaging phrasing, etc. But, more importantly, it gives a student the opportunity to clarify and strengthen one's writing voice. The student develops the confidence to tell the story in a clear and comfortable style uniquely her or his own. Where does that voice come from? From wrestling with what to say and how to say it.

Few, if any, writers are born with a natural voice. They have to earn it. They earn it through practice. Writing all sorts of articles while meeting deadlines. Quieting the demons; sticking with it. Mastering the inner skills of attention, imagination, contemplation, analysis, synthesis, patience, and perseverance to go with the outer skills of structure, grammar, and style to inform, entertain, inspire, or challenge their readers.

The Mansfield Fund recognizes the importance of young writers developing their voices and telling their stories. It seeks to reward them for the writing challenges they've faced in high school. It also is meant to encourage them to further express themselves through writing . . . and maybe even through a college major in journalism.

RENEW/JOIN BHNA NOW!

Mike Brezin

There are two easy ways to renew or join BHNA. Online (<https://bettonhills.us/join>) or complete and mail the membership form included in this newsletter. Membership is a real bargain at \$10 per family. This year you get a special bargain of an additional six months free as we're switching our

membership year to January 1 – December 31. Member dues fund our newsletters, website, and the various neighborhood get-togethers activities the BHNA sponsors. Additional contributions to our three funds, as described in this newsletter, are also greatly appreciated (cont'd. pg. 6).

Getting more BHNA members serves another important function, too. As the BHNA engages with city commissioners and staff, it's very beneficial that they know we represent a **large** group of concerned and engaged voters. City representatives rightly see membership numbers as an indication of the vitality of our neighborhood and as support for BHNA board actions on behalf of the

neighborhood. Next to voting, joining the BHNA may be the easiest and most effective way to have your voice heard and respected by city government.

Think you may have already paid dues for this year? Check to make sure. Around the first of each month, a list of paid members is posted at <https://bettonhills.us/members>. Don't delay, renew/join today!

KEEP BETTON HILLS BEAUTIFUL

Ann Riley

Many of us enjoy living in Betton Hills because of its park-like nature, its canopy roads, and its well-kept homes. That ideal is often ruined by a trash pile, a discarded toilet, or a pile of no-longer needed furniture at the side of the road. Unsightliness devalues the neighborhood and shows a lack of respect for neighbors. Let's pick it up!

The city recycling truck comes every Friday. Please use the recycling bins to dispose of plastic bottles, cardboard, newspapers, etc. The city picks up yard waste and bulk items every other week on Thursdays. In Betton Hills, that's the red week on the calendar you receive in your December utility bill or you can get here: http://talgov.com/Uploads/Public/Documents/you/learn/library/documents/red_blue.pdf
Here are some trash transgressions that are easily remedied:

- Putting cardboard boxes in trash bin rather than recycling. Plus, not breaking down cardboard boxes. It only takes a minute; use a sharp razor knife and gloves. Flattened boxes can usually fit into your recycling bin. (Broken down boxes stacked by the recycling bin are usually picked up too.)
- Putting bulk items or yard waste out too long before pick-up. Try to put it out the day before pick-up. If using a commercial service that comes "early", have them put yard waste in bags by the street or in a place where you can move them to the street yourself on trash day.
- Not having remodeling contractor haul their waste. It's the contractor's responsibility to haul away anything pulled from your house as part of the remodeling job. Makes sure this is clear during the job bidding stage. If doing your own remodeling, plan on hauling the waste to the landfill or recycling center.
- Leaving hazardous waste with your trash. TVs, computers, other electronics, batteries, paint, etc. can be brought to the landfill's hazardous waste facility at 7550 Apalachee Parkway. Or, on the first Saturday of every month from September to May from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, you can drop it off at the Leon County Public Works Operations Center at 2280 Miccosukee Rd.
- Leaving a mess when moving. Respect yourself, your neighbors, and the neighborhood by cleaning up before you leave. Many charities accept items you may be discarding.

LOOKING TO STEP IT UP?

Mike Brezin



Your BHNA needs you! Many of our board members have served for a good number of years. We realize we need some new blood to bring fresh ideas and energy to the board. The opportunities are great. Some examples are:

- Improve our parks and street canopy.
- Improve walkability and bikeability.
- Improve drainage.
- Improve planning and growth management.
- Increase neighborhood events and gatherings.
- Increase activities for parents with young children.

The responsibilities are not too much. As a board, we meet once a month. Depending on a particular project, we may meet as committees more often and/or work together via email.

Looking for a smaller step?

If you have a particular hobby, interest, or concern that you'd like to share with the neighborhood, you can lead the way on that rather than be on the board. Some examples are the Christmas Caroling, Easter Egg Hunt, Ladies Night, and Bunco events.

Let the BHNA board know of your interest:
board@bettonhills.us.

2019 OFFICERS AND BOARD SLATE

Here are the nominations for 2019 for BHNA Officers and Boardmembers. The slate will be presented to BHNA members at the Fall Fest for election.

Officers

Mike Brezin	President
Michael Bannister	Vice President
Margie McInnes	Secretary
Tom Schulte	Treasurer

Board

Liz Anderson
Mary Kay Falconer
Melissa Jacoby
Donna Legare
Casey McLaughlin
Ann Riley
Mario Taylor

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

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 and Marge Mansfield Fund for Young Writers	\$ _____
Additional Contributions	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Membership Year: July 1, 2018 - December 31, 2019

We have many great opportunities, big and small for you to get involved and help keep our neighborhood be a great place to live. **Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.**

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 online at:

<https://bettonhills.us/join> Thanks!

