BETTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

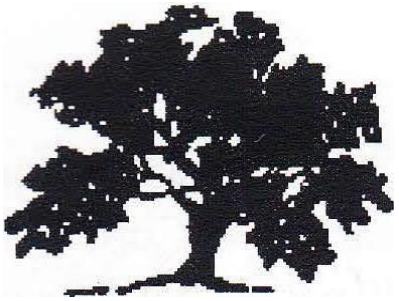
https://bettonhills.us
Facebook: Betton Hills Neighborhood

Hop On Over to The Betton Hills Easter Egg Hunt!

Nancy Proctor

The bunny is back with plenty of eggs! Join your Betton Hills neighbors for an old-fashioned Easter Egg Hunt in **Chittenden Park** (Sycamore and Chouteau Avenue between Lee and Spruce Avenues) on **Easter Weekend, Saturday, April 8th, at 11:00 A.M.** All ages welcome! **It would be so helpful if you could drop off 1-2 dozen plastic eggs (per family) filled with treats at the park BEFORE 10:30 AM the morning of the hunt** so the Easter Bunny can get them hidden before the youngsters arrive (stash them on the bench under the tree in the center of the rose garden). **You can also drop them off in the basket on my front porch at 1511 Spruce Avenue (Green Metal Roof) anytime the week of April 2nd.**

We will gather at 11:00 A.M. The Hunt will commence at 11:15 sharp. Please remember to bring your Easter baskets!!! As in previous years, we will have a separate hunt area for the "under 3's", so don't hesitate to bring your youngsters! Photo ops will abound! Come meet with neighbors and enjoy some time with old friends. If you would like to help or have questions, contact: **Nancy Proctor (850) 459-9798**. We look forward to seeing you there!



Upcoming Events

Food Truck Thursdays
April – October (Except July)
3rd Thursday of the Month
5:00 – 7:00
Harriman Circle Park

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 8
11:00AM – 12:00PM
Chittenden Park

BHNA Block Parties Season
Anytime in April

BHNA Neighborhood Garage Sale
Saturday, May 6
8:00AM – Noon

Betton Hills SpringFest & Cruise-In
Sunday, May 21
1:00-4:00 PM
Harriman Circle Park

Contribute to Your Neighborhood!

Eliza Hawkins, BHNA President

We hope you will agree with us that we had a wonderful year of events sponsored by the Betton Hills Neighborhood Association (BHNA) in 2022. Things finally felt back to normal as we were able to put on all our usual events!

Perhaps you enjoyed last April's Easter Egg Hunt with your kids or grandkids? Or maybe you unloaded some junk, I mean items useful to someone else, in our coordinated yard sale held the first week in May? Maybe you enjoyed the comradery of the many McCord Park workdays? Did you get your free ice cream at the May Spring Fest Cruise-In and Ice Cream Social, or get some wonderful food during one of the Food Truck Thursdays from April to November? Did your kids participate in our organized Halloween Crawl Event, or did you just have a blast handing out candy? Did you attend the 2022 Fall Fest? (We were thrilled with the numbers that attended!) The BHNA works hard to organize and provide these events for YOU, but they do not come free. We spent about $4,300 bringing you and your neighbors together at these events in 2022.

In addition, BHNA believes that it is important to support our local neighborhood schools- the BHNA provided $2,000 in 2022 to support various activities and maintain relationships with our neighborhood schools (Kate Sullivan Elementary, Cobb Middle School, and Leon High).

The BHNA is also proud to keep our 1100 households up do date on various neighborhood events with its bi-annual Spring and Fall Newsletters, our website (https://www.bettonhills.org), with regular postings on the Betton Hills Neighborhood Facebook Page and with email notices to members on our email distribution list (sign up if you want to be informed: https://www.bettonhills.org/mailing-list/). It takes about $3500 to fund our website, email a large numbers of members, and send 1100 Newsletters through the mail.

Community sponsored gatherings and events, supporting our local schools and making sure the neighborhood is informed are keys to a friendly, safe, inclusive, and uplifting neighborhood.

Your dues support all these activities. We simply cannot maintain the community we have in Betton Hills without your dues support. All of our events have been and continue to be "free" but are funded by your contributions.

If you participated in 2022 but did not support the BHNA or if you just want to contribute to the neighborhood, please consider making a dues donation in 2023! Simply go to our website (https://www.bettonhills.org/join/) or mail in the form at the end of this newsletter.

As always, please send us a message if you have any suggestions or questions about events or happenings in the neighborhood (https://www.bettonhills.org/contact/) or email me at president@bettonhills.org. And if you were not able to participate in any BHNA sponsored activities last year, please think about participating in 2023! We look forward to seeing you!

McCord Pond Drainage Ditch Project Update

Jim Ward

Project Background:

At a projected cost of nearly $7 million, the City's McCord Drainage Ditch Project will remediate erosion and improve maintenance access, public safety, and stormwater conveyance capacity. The project runs from Betton Road and ends 300 feet north of Post Road (behind the Ashford Club Apartments). According to the City, erosion along this segment of the ditch had caused steep side slopes and deep drop-offs.

After a series of public meetings held in 2018 and 2019, the City ultimately opted to replace the original open, earthen ditch with a buried, cement box culvert. This option conveys stormwater below ground (similar to the culvert along Franklin Boulevard). Project work began in fall, 2022 and is continuing. Betton Hills Neighborhood Association (BHNA) board members have monitored the planning and construction work in progress and have had periodic update meetings with project engineers and other City officials.

Project Update:

At a recent meeting with project officials, BHNA board members were informed that the project should be completed by May or June 2023, weather permitting. Once installed, the box culvert will be covered with dirt and sodded with grass.

BHNA is aware that the project work has caused noise and other disruptions for nearby residents, especially those on Trescott Drive. The City was candid from the beginning that the project would require removal of a number of trees along both the west and east sides of the ditch. Removal of these trees, unfortunately, has eliminated much of the vegetation that provided a visual barrier between the residents and the commercial properties and traffic along Thomasville Road. The loss of that barrier, as well as installation of the box culvert, also has the potential to reduce a "safety buffer" against possible trespassers that the ditch and vegetation had provided to residents along the west side of Trescott.

BHNA has engaged with City representatives, and with some Trescott residents, to explore solutions to recreate some of the barrier. Potential solutions include fencing and/or replanting vegetation along the box culvert. BHNA plans to intensify its engagement on these issues with residents, as well the City, as the Project approaches completion. Interested residents are encouraged to reach out to BHNA board members: Mary Kay Falconer marykay.falconer@bettonhills.org) or Jim Ward (james.ward@bettonhills.org).

Arbor Day 2023: Bountiful!

Donna Legare

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association celebrated Arbor Day this year on Saturday, February 4th. We had an excellent turnout with participants from age 4 to age 82. We started the morning with hot chocolate, coffee, muffins, and bagels. Nancy Leiva-Krause secured the refreshments and stayed at the welcome table, along with husband Dave to direct latecomers.

Tom Schulte led a crew to clean out the two wood duck houses and the five bluebird nest boxes. Several of the children joined this team. It is always interesting to see the old nests that are removed. Tom reported that the McCord Pond wood duck box was in disrepair, so a replacement donated by Native Nurseries was installed a few days later. We noticed a pair of wood ducks swimming not far from this house on February 9th.

We focused our energy on invasive plant removal in two areas. Jody Walthall, Wilson Baker and Richard Crisler attacked invasive vines growing among the trees between the paved trail and the pond, primarily cat's claw vine (bright yellow flowers) and potato vine. They also removed ligustrum trees, privets, and tallow trees. We planted two mayhaw trees and a dahoon holly along the water's edge.

Mary Kay Falconer led a group of volunteers in the woodland between the paved trail and Thomasville Road where we had previously removed copious amounts of ardisia along with ligustrum, privet, mimosa, Taiwan cherry, loquat and other invasive plants.

Vanessa Crisler brought her kayak and spent the morning removing styrofoam cups and other litter from the pond. The Subers, who usually do this, were out of town. They promise to put in a few hours of pond litter cleanup soon.

Mike Brezin and Jim Ward led a group to tend to the plantings along Trescott. We did our original Arbor Day in this area and the trees are now quite mature. We thinned out a bed where cat's claw vine and skunk vine had gotten established.

It is amazing to see all that was accomplished in a little more than two hours. We planted a snow bell within the blueberry patch bed along Trescott. It is a small tree or large shrub that has small white flowers in spring that are used by bees and hummingbirds. A fringe tree and a coontie were also planted along Trescott Drive. The City of Tallahassee provided twenty-five bales of pine straw that Todd Sperry and Donna and others spread around previous plantings throughout the park. In addition, the park staff graciously picked up our piles of vegetative debris and bags of ardisia berries and trash. If you contributed to the Carol Bellamy Fund when you paid your dues, you helped fund these activities. Thank you.

I would also like to thank Clair Cotton-Watkins for photographing the event and Michael Bannister and Barb Shoplock for putting up the Arbor Day signs around the neighborhood. Casey McLaughlin posted Arbor Day information to the website and board president Eliza Hawkins sent out email and Facebook announcements.

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Thank you to the following participants (forgive any spelling errors or omissions):

Donna Legare and Jody Walthall
Mike Brezin
Jim Ward
Nancy Leiva-Krause and David Krause
Claire Cotton-Watkins
Mary Kay Falconer
Tom Schulte
Layne Schulte
Vanessa and Richard Crisler
Wilson Baker
Kris and Ross Ellington
Scott Ellington
Elizabeth Slack and Soren and Bridget Nelzen
Holly Thomas
Kathy Mears
David DiSalvo
Breeze Howard
Baia Terracciano and Antonio
Todd Sperry
Sonja and Joey Carter
John Kennedy
Plus 2 adults and 1 child anonymous

Get the Most with Compost

Mary Kay Falconer

Residents in the Betton Hills neighborhood have favored composting for many years. We have held workshops and posted composting information on our BHNA website (https://www.bettonhills.org/2022/01/make-your-own-compost/). Residents, including me, have also subscribed to services provided by Compost Community (https://compostcommunity.org/). Because of my reliance on this composting service, I seldom need more than 1 city trash pick-up a month. This helps reduce the waste going into our landfills as well as the number of trash pick-ups. Benefits abound when using composting for managing food waste. Feel free to contact me if you have questions and need more information (marykay.falconer@bettonhills.org).

Your Neighborhood Elementary School: Kate Sullivan

Mary Kay Falconer and Casey McLaughlin

School Overview:

Kate Sullivan Elementary School (927 Miccosukee Road) was established in 1948. It was the third elementary school in Tallahassee. Today, there are 750 students enrolled and 54 teachers. The largest cohort is Kindergarten at 135 students.

For the last two years, the school has experienced steady enrollment and has been at capacity. Kate Sullivan continues to be one of the top three choices for students seeking school choice options in Leon County. The ideal location, diverse backgrounds of the students, and the excellent teachers make Kate Sullivan a special place to learn and thrive. The principal is Julie Lawson and the assistant principal is Brian Dobie. They make an impressive team! The school mascot is the crocodile!

Julie Lawson and Brian Dobie keep the little crocs learning and thriving!

A Parent's Perspective: Casey McLaughlin

We have sent our two kids to Kate Sullivan for the past six years. We have been very happy with our children's experience there. It is a truly a neighborhood school with excellent caring teachers and staff. Our son, Andrew (5th grade) and daughter, Mary (3rd grade) have especially enjoyed being able to walk or bike to school and back on occasion.

Volunteer!

There are many opportunities to volunteer at Kate Sullivan. Some of us mentor students for 30 minutes each week. Training for new mentors will need to wait until next year but if you are interested, you can contact me now, Mary Kay Falconer at katesullivanmentors@gmail.com. We can add you to the list for next year. Teachers will also need assistance with end of the year student testing in early May. Assistance includes distributing and retrieving test forms, making sure all pupils have pencils, and similar teacher assists. If you are interested in lending a hand with that, please contact Brian Dobie at dobieb@leonschools.net or Mary Kay Falconer, mentor coordinator, at katesullivanmentors@gmail.com.

Spending time at Kate Sullivan School has been a real joy and it is a great way to spend time volunteering in our community.

How You Can Help The Monarchs

Kerri Post

- Replace non-native milkweed with native.
- Provide diverse nectar sources spring thru fall.
- Grow plants of single species in clumps.
- Avoid use of pesticides.

Source: Native Nurseries

Watching the metamorphosis from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly is absolutely magical. Whether monarchs or swallowtails, seeing their first flight inspires hope that our children's grandchildren will get to witness these majestic beauties. For two decades I've planted native pollinator plants and native milkweed in the yard for the traveling and newly emerged monarchs.

Many neighbors have native milkweed in their yards for these winged sojourners. If you do not, please consider planting native milkweed, golden rod, and/or pollinator plants in your yard. (These plants are readily available at Native Nurseries and Tallahassee Nurseries.) Let's make Betton Hills a "**Monarch Butterfly Waystation**," for the magnificent species to produce successive generations and sustain their journey. You'll see more butterflies in your yard!

Call Your Neighbors on Over!

Michael Bannister

It's a great time to share this warm, not hot and humid season with your neighbors by hosting a block party! The BHNA wants to encourage residents to host a block party **anytime in April.** The BHNA will sponsor a main meal and accoutrements, the host will provide the venue, and neighbors can bring side dishes. It can be as fancy as a sit down dinner or as informal as a paper plate with hot dogs and beans setting in your lap. It's all up to the host or hosts. It is also a great way to welcome new neighbors or renew acquaintanceships with longtime neighbors.

Hose off the patio, put out some folding chairs, and have a party!

For additional details or suggestions, please email Mike Brezin, mike.brezin@bettonhills.org.

When: Your choice in April.

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

'Round'em Up and Move'em Out with The BHNA Garage Sale!

Melissa Jacoby

A year has passed since the last BHNA Garage Sale and you're wondering how you possibly could have accumulated so much stuff! Don't worry. We have a perennial opportunity for you to declutter. On **Saturday, May 6, from 8 a.m. until noon**, BHNA will sponsor its annual neighborhood garage sale.

This is a chance to share your less needed and unloved household and personal items with someone who will be thrilled to have them. Get some spring cleaning done, meet your neighbors and add a few extra dollars in your pocket. Or you can donate those dollars to a favorite charity.

To promote the community garage sale, BHNA will advertise the event on Craigslist, in the Tallahassee Democrat and on the BHNA website and Facebook. Shoppers will be directed to the BHNA website for a list and map of participating households. We'll also announce the event with our BHNA signs at prominent neighborhood entry points.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO DO:

Register your sale at: **https://www.bettonhills.org/garagesale** by **Saturday, April 29th**.

Get your stuff together! On the day of the sale **(May 6)** place a sign in your yard so shoppers can easily find you.

Even if you don't get around to registering, we still welcome your participation.

Meet a BHNA Board Member: Jim Ward

1. A little personal background to set the context . . . how did you decide to live in Betton Hills, how long have you lived here, perhaps what you do for work/hobbies, etc.?

My name is Jim Ward, and my wife Amber and I have lived in Betton Hills since 2021. I was born and raised on the Florida Space Coast. However, I lived in Kansas City, Missouri (Go Chiefs!) for many years before recently moving back to the Sunshine State. We relocated to Tallahassee shortly before the pandemic, when Amber accepted a permanent position as an assistant professor (art education) at FSU. I am an attorney, with a primary practice of employment law. My hobbies include playing music (drums and piano) and hiking and biking all the great trails in and around Tallahassee.

We previously lived for years in an historic neighborhood in K.C. that would closely compare to the Midtown neighborhood, albeit on a larger scale. So, there was never a doubt that we wanted to live in such a neighborhood in Tallahassee. We're convinced that we found the very best one of its kind right here in Betton Hills!

2. Now that you've lived in Betton Hills for a while, how does the neighborhood compare to your initial impressions?

I'm pleased to say that BH has greatly exceeded our expectations! We love the diverse mix of housing, expansive tree cover, wonderful bird, and wildlife all around, amazing parks, walkability, and the incredible devotion of our neighbors to maintaining all these things that make the neighborhood truly exceptional.

3. What prompted you to get involved with the BHNA board?

I got involved with the BHNA board through getting to know some of its board members. The specific item through which I initially connected was an interest in the City's recent revision of its noise ordinance. I wanted to make sure that the City revised it to better enable BH residents and law enforcement to address and resolve noise issues effectively. As I interacted with some of the BHNA board members, I quickly realized that they care deeply about our neighborhood and are devoted to enhancing our quality of life here as much as possible (and strictly as volunteers!).

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4. What kinds of things would you like to help the BHNA accomplish?

Besides wanting to help put on great community events, I am dedicated to helping the BHNA engage with BH residents and the City on issues that affect our neighborhood. Like any neighborhood, we can be quite impacted by what our neighbors, visitors, and the City do (and don't do) to respect our property and way of life. As an attorney who has worked with government agencies on every level, I hope to be able to help engage with government officials and residents whenever an issue arises that might affect our shared interest in maintaining and enhancing this special neighborhood.

Betton Hills SpringFest Cruise-In and Ice Cream Social!

DETAILS:
https://www.bettonhills.org/events/cruise-in-and-ice-cream-social-2023/

Questions? You can contact Mario Taylor at Mariotaylor@comcast.net or 904.222.1855.

2023 BHNA PAID MEMBERS: THANK YOU!!

The BHNA Board of Directors extends s special thank you to members who have already joined for 2023! If you don't see your name on the list, please renew/join BHNA at: https://bettonhills.org/join.

*Indicates members who contributed to one or more of BHNA's special funds.

John and Pura Ahler*
Frank and Anne Ashcroft*
Jeff & Lisa Askins*
Douglas Bailey*
Hal and Roxana Beardall*
Charles & Abbie Benedict*
Bob and Dusty Bennett
Mary-Anne Bestebreutje and Wilson Baker*
Peter and Kathy Mullen
Jordan Biehl Family

Continued from Page 10

Philip and Kristina Bowers
Brian and Kim Branciforte
Mike Brezin and Suzanne Choppin*
Brueckheimer Household*
Dr. Gerald Bryant*
Kasia Bugaj and Renato Pinto
Mildred Chason Bunton
Bob & Beverly Burleson*
Bob & Harriet Butler
Butler-Harris Household*
Peter & Sally Butzin*
Bill & Traci Carnes
Dan and Cathy Cashin*
Michele Ceci and Clay Brower*
Jason Chen*
Anna Cleveland and Jacob Kline*
Jim Cobbe*
Patrick & Cassie Conn
Copeland/Eidahl Household*
John Costigan & Debora Hall*
Bobbie Jo Crouch and Michael Crouch*
Moritz and Penny Dehler*
Greg & Carla Deloach*
Trudy & Bob Deyle*
David and Kelley DiSalvo
Jeff and Courtney Doker
Mary Ellen and Bobby Downie*
Laurie and Kelly Dozier*
Everitt and Julie Drew*
Michael Dugger
Shirley Ann & David Dunbar
Durland Household*
Earl Household
George Eckerle*
T.R. Eckler
The Elliott Family
Tom & Julie Enoch
Helen Ervin*
Mary Kay Falconer*
Richard and Liz Farmer
John & Cherie Fenstermaker*
Linda Figg and Richard Drew*
Nancy Fischer
Scott & Ann Ford*
Jerry and Cay Ford
Roy Forman and Vicki McCrary
Kelly Gergen
Laura Glenn, Jerry Aron, Dublin Dodd*
Chris and Patricia Gosen*
Jeannie Graf*
Bettie Jane Grant*
Beth Green*
Michael and Kierstan Greif
The Guterman Family
Richman Haire*
Walt & Carolyn Haley*
Mack and Beth Harper
Tonya Harris*
Ron & Natholyn Harris*
Hauer Household
Eliza Hawkins and Mary Ellen Hawkins*
Bill Crona and Jane Hayes*
Gary and Mary Heald*
Penny Herman*
Robert & Sue Hessman
Houle Family*
Mark & Susan A. Isaac
Melissa and Thomas Jacoby*
Mr. & Dr. Cameron & Emily Jacox*
Laura Jernigan
Bill & Caroline Jones
The Kaplan Family*
David and Nancy Krause*
Barbara K. Lambert
Mike & Laura Layerd*
Mr. and Mrs. Terry C. Lee
Donna Legare and Jody Walthall*
Ms. Leann Livingston*
Charles and Carol Long*
Debra Longman*
Joan Macmillan
Bill & Gayle Manly*
James Mathes & Margaret Pendleton
Hetal and Pat McGuire*
Margaret McInnes and Mario Taylor*
Bobby F. & Yvette McKown
Anna and Casey McLaughlin*
Linda & Robert McNeal*
James and Jill McSoley*
Jennifer Menendez
Alfred & Carolyn Mikell
Karin Morris
Harry A Mullikin, Jr.*
Munasifi Household*
Jane Munroe*
Rodney/Debbie Nash
Bernardette Mocera-Langnlin
Rob and Leah Pierce
Kerri L. Post*
Barry Ray
Sumner and Pamela Reed*
Katherine Reeves*
Mark Repasky & Terri McGowan Repasky*
Louise Rill*
Rusty & Susan Robbins*
Ann & Mike Robeck
Nancy Stepina-Robison & Paul Fredrickson*
The Rodgers Family*
Gloria and Raleigh Rollins*
Ruzicka Household*
Alan & Ruth Sands
Billy and Joy Sexton*
Dee Scarlett and Geoff Strouse
Joe & Zeina Schlenoff*
Ron Schomburger*
Travis and Sarah Schroder*
Tom and Wendy Schulte*
Doug and Cyndi Sessions*
Stan & Marcia Sheppard
Barb & Zoe Shoplock & Greg Falstrom
Mike and Marty Sittig*
Kenny & Allison Small*
Eric Smith
Julia H. Smith & Alfie J. Brown
William and Meredith Snowden
Ken & June Stivers*
Kent and Susan Strauss*
Mark and Mary Fran Strickland
Ed and Sue Stripling*
The Terracciano Family*
Brent & Amanda Sutton
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Swerdzewski*
Switzer/Balthrop Household*
Tilden Family
Ed and Marty Towey
Bill Pike & B.J. Vickers
Kathy Villacorta and Tommy Warren*
Barbara and Richard Wagner*
James & Amber Ward*
Robert and Claire Watkins*
Bettye and Ron Watkins
Sarah Bleakley and Christian Weiss*
Ken & MJ
Jennifer and Mark Winegardner*
David & Rose Marie Worley*
Jim and Linda Zingale

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

Quick phone access to the BHNA website!

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association

Join or Renew
Your Betton Hills Neighborhood Association Membership!

Not sure if you're a current member? Please check our BHNA website membership directory ***(https://www.bettonhills.org/members/).*** It is kept up-to-date as we receive credit card payments and process checks.

You can join or renew online, via secure credit card payment, or you can mail us a check. Our suggested dues are $10 a year. Dues are voluntary. Your dues to the Betton Hills Neighborhood Association (BHNA) are used to fund special events, the BHNA website ***(https://www.bettonhills.org/),*** enhance our neighborhood parks, and print and mail bi-annual newsletters, among other things.

Please write your donation amounts below: Additional Donations will be allocated at the discretion of the BHNA board among the Bellamy and Robertson on-going project funds. See fund descriptions: (***https://www.bettonhills.org/funds/***):

2023 Dues Year: November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023 at $10: _____
Additional 2023 Donation: _____
Total Check: _____

Name: _____

Specify how you want to be listed in the BHNA website membership directory (e.g., the "Smith Household" or "John and Jane Smith") _____

Betton Hills Street Address: _____ **Zip Code**: _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number** _____

Check here _____ if you want the BHNA board to contact you about opportunities to volunteer on neighborhood projects or events planning.

Write any comments along with your membership here:

Mail this page with your check to: BHNA, P.O. Box 15612 Tallahassee, FL 32317