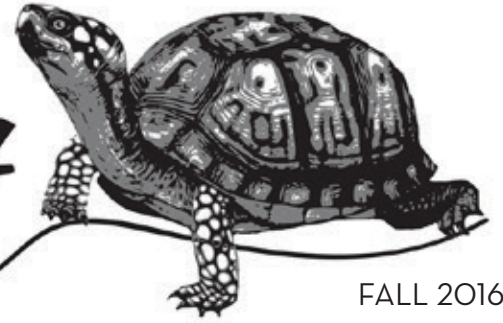


The Optimist



FALL 2016

INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Best in Show!

By Connie Bersok

Winners of the annual City of Tallahassee and Leon County Outstanding Neighborhood Awards were announced by the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) on June 13, and the Indianhead/Lehigh Association (IHLNA) was named the Leon County Large Neighborhood of 2016. IHLNA President Grant Gelhardt accepted the award on behalf of our organization and residents. The city has installed a Neighborhood of the Year sign in Optimist Park at the corner of East Indianhead Drive and Hokolin Nene.



Leon County Government

IHLNA residents were invited to the Leon County Commissioner meeting on July 12 for a formal presentation of the CONA Award. Joined by Commissioner Bill Proctor, they included (l to r) Connie Bersok, Stuart Funke-d'Egnuff, Marie-Claire Leman, Sandy Neidert, and Grant Gelhardt.

How did this happen? All of us who live here know that we have a great neighborhood, but our job was to convey its dynamism to the city and county. In early April, board member Sandy Neidert got the ball rolling by suggesting that we submit an application. Grant prepared an initial draft that listed nearly twenty events and initiatives that residents had undertaken in 2015. Sandy, KC Smith, and Marie-Claire Leman provided initial edits, and I was asked to assist in preparing a final version that specifically addressed

continued on page 2

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- Annual Halloween Party
- IHLNA Votes
- Turtles: Tips for Protection
- Sustainable Indianhead/Lehigh
- Hartsfield Elementary Updates
- Training Puppies
- Magnolia Multiuse Plan
- Real Estate Trends

FALL/WINTER CALENDAR

Sunday, October 30

Halloween Party & Potluck,
Optimist Park, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 6

Daylight Saving Time (DST) ends; turn
back clocks one hour ("fall back").

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day! Optimist Park,
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

Holiday Lights Bike Ride,
Optimist Park, 6:30 p.m.

2nd Sunday of the month

Potluck in the Park, Optimist Park,
4:00 p.m. (Oct. to Mar.) Bring a
potluck dish to share, your own
utensils, and (optional) a chair or
blanket.

Best in Show! CONA Neighborhood Award (cont.)

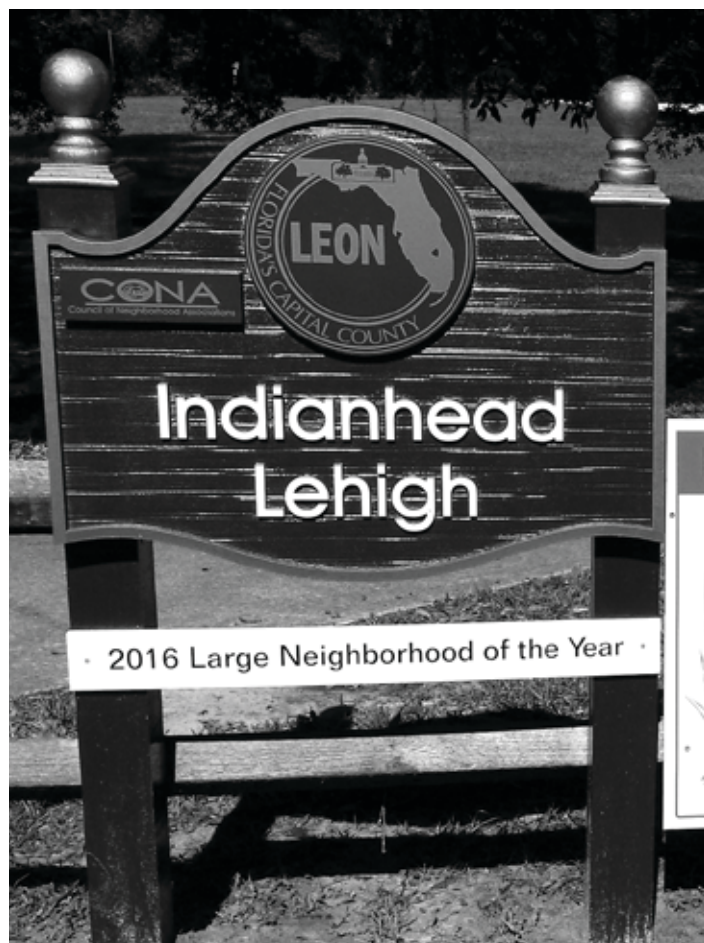
questions in the application. That document was turned over to our master graphics designer, Charity Myers, who added photos and a smart-looking format. Thanks to a group effort, we succeeded!

We identified problems and issues that arose and how we took action to resolve them. In response to neighbors' concerns about the expansion of air potato vines in the greenway, we encouraged the city to release an air potato beetle as a biological control—with dramatic results in just one season. Neighbors formed a team of "Ardisia Slayers" to physically remove another invasive exotic plant, coral ardisia, from the greenway. The city supplemented that effort with a larger-scale invasive plant treatment.

A dedicated group of neighbors designed, built, painted, and installed a Little Free Library in Optimist Park (littlefreelibrary.org) and now maintains it so that age-appropriate books are arranged with adult materials on one side and youth/children's books on the other. Our Sustainable Indianhead/Lehigh Community (SILC) group organized tours of compost piles/bins (including vermiculture); created a community compost bin; conducted tours of community vegetable and fruit gardens; and arranged a group trip to the Farmers Market using the city's Star Metro bus system.

Communication is a key to our neighborhood's vibrancy and success. We have this biannual newsletter, which is hand-delivered to all homes in the neighborhood; a Facebook page that is open only to residents for discussions and "curb alerts"; an expansive email distribution list; and the IHLNA website (IHLNA.org).

Congratulations to IHLNA residents for their many efforts to make this neighborhood special.



KC Smith

Terry Anne Kant, Broker
terrykant@aol.com

(850) 567-3033
office: (850) 877-2121

A black and white portrait of Terry Anne Kant, a woman with glasses and dark hair, smiling.The logo for Kant Realty, featuring a stylized house and palm trees, with the text "Kant Realty" and "A four generation Real Estate Family since 1932".

kanthomes.com

CRS REALTOR

A cartoon illustration of a dog and a cat sitting together.

PET SITTING

Jenna Kant-Rauch

Call or text:
(850) 656-3033

Halloween Party & Potluck Will Be Spooktacular

By The HallowNene Committee

Ladies and germs, boys and ghouls, it's almost time for the annual Halloween Party and Potluck! Sponsored by the neighborhood association, this spooktacular event will be held October 30, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Optimist Park. Open to all neighborhood residents young and old, the party will feature live music, a costume parade, potluck dinner, kids' carnival, and, for the second year, the haunted trail.

Music provided by Tao Jones and Ontological Elephant will kick off at 4:30 p.m. Alien Hypnotist will create atmospheric sounds for the haunted trail. The costume parade is open to all ages and ogres, so polish your fangs, get out the scarespray, and compete with your neighbors for Beast in Show.

Participants are asked to bring food for the potluck. The neighborhood association will provide plates, utensils, and beverages, but please consider bringing your own plates and utensils to reduce the amount of trash. We'll start serving food at 5:15 p.m., so bring your covered dish to the clubhouse by 5:00 p.m.—but earlier would be better! If you arrive late, don't worry; just bring in your dish and find a place on the table.

Games and activities for all the little monsters will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the soccer field. The haunted trail will be across Hokolín Nene in the greenway. The theme for this year's haunted trail is "Invasive Species," with a nod to B-movies and Creature Features. The haunted trail will open at dusk.

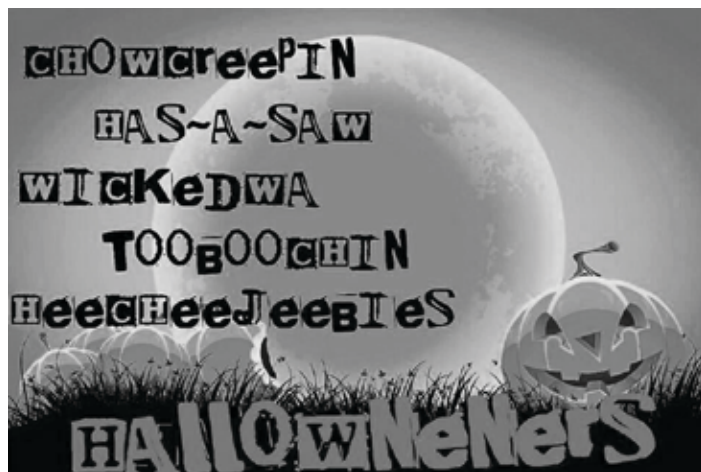


Marie-Claire Leman

Because it's a neighborhood spook-a-thon, we'll need volunteers before, during, and after the event. We need folks to help with decorating, setting up, cleaning up, and working on the haunted trail. We'll begin setting up on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. As in previous years, we welcome donations of all sorts—decorations, lights, effects, costumes, and other mood-making media. If you'd like to get involved or have something to donate, please email hallowneners@gmail.com or grant.gelhardt@gmail.com. In addition, keep an eye on the Indianhead Lehigh Facebook page for announcements.

And speaking of donations, IHLNA will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable items for area food banks during the event. Look for donation stations where you can share an item or two for someone else's holiday basket.

We'll be lurking for you!



HELP HAUNT THE TRAIL!

We need actors of all ages and genders for the Haunted Trail. Some parts have speaking roles that are better suited to adults or older teens. We will have rehearsals for actors during the month of October. We also need prop makers and makeup artists. If you're interested, please email hallowneners@gmail.com.

NEWS & Notes



IHLNA residents gave sighs of relief and groans of dismay on September 2 as they surveyed the damage from Hurricane Hermine at home and in the 'hood. Alas, there was no dearth of trees in the road and on roofs. About 70 percent of Leon County lost power, and it took some homes as long as a week to regain it. Meanwhile, the cleanup continued. One neighbor calmly watched from her porch as All American Tree Pros removed three spindly trees from her roof.

Changes at the Park

IHLNA President Grant Gelhardt and Board Member Edward Reid met with Tallahassee Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs staff on September 16 to discuss requests for several improvements at Optimist Park. The parks department agreed to install a new water fountain with a standard faucet, doggie fountain, and water bottle filler and to trim lower branches to encourage trees to grow higher and develop a healthy canopy. It has installed IHLNA's Neighborhood of the Year sign in Optimist Park and will repair the split rail fence but install a new fence later this year. And in the missing components department, it will replace the head of the playground turtle as soon as possible. In the future, the two groups will arrange for the installation of a covered picnic shelter near the clubhouse that can be used as a stage for events in the park.

A Set Date for Nene Fest

The IHLNA board has agreed that the annual neighborhood Nene Fest will be held on the last Saturday in April—rain or shine, game or not. In 2017, our “festival for neighbors by neighbors” will be held on April 29.

Honor Flight Update

An article in the spring newsletter detailed the important work of the Honor Flight network to send nearly 100,000 veterans to visit historical monuments in our nation's capital. Each flight costs \$700, but the program is free for participants, who are escorted by guardians. The IHLNA board has agreed to match funds up to \$300 to sponsor travel to Washington, DC, for someone who has served in the US armed forces. Send your donation to IHLNA Treasurer Ashley Arrington, 1809 Chowkeebine Nene, 32301, or go to IHLNA.org, click on Membership and then the PayPal donate button.

DEP Medicine Collection

Discarding medications improperly, such as flushing them down the toilet, can contaminate Florida's aquatic environment. To give folks an option for disposal, the Department of Environmental Protection Waste Management Division will host Operation Medicine Cabinet on October 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Costco, 4067 Lagniappe Way, off Mahan Drive. The collection event will help prevent misuse and protect the environment by ensuring that unused and outdated products are destroyed safely.

Get Out and Vote!

"The world is run by those who show up." Anonymous

By Shelly Hatton

2016 Election Day

Tuesday, 11/8 • Optimist Park

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Indianhead/Lehigh Neighborhood Association (precinct 5203) has an excellent record of voter turnout. In the 2012 presidential election, 84 percent of our residents voted; in 2008, 89 percent turned out; and in 2004, 90 percent voted. Neighbors who come to our voting site at Optimist Park (corner of East Indianhead and Hokolin Nene) discover hospitality inside and curbside—cheerful poll workers who get you in and out in nothing flat, and free coffee outside for those who want to linger and talk about the weather and college football. Keep in mind that, in the General Election, all voters may vote regardless of their party affiliation.



Dates to remember

- Last day to register to vote in the general election: October 11
- Early voting: October 24–November 6

Questions about the voting process

Contact the Leon County Supervisor of Elections:

- Website: www.leonvotes.org
- Phone: 850-606-8683
- Email: vote@leoncountyfl.gov

Three ways to vote

- Come to Optimist Park on November 8.
- Vote by Mail ballot (formerly called an "Absentee Ballot"); see leonvotes.org/Vote-By-Mail/Vote-By-Mail-Information.
- During early voting; locations include the County Courthouse, branch libraries, and some community centers.

What can you do on www.LeonVotes.org?

- Get assistance with a ride to the polls
- Register to vote
- Request a mail ballot
- Change your address
- Register a changed name
- Change your party affiliation
- View a sample ballot (one will be mailed to you)
- View maps of voting locations
- Get assistance with the act of voting (for the elderly or disabled)
- Learn what to do if you're a student registered in a different county
- Learn about provisional voting

You may be asked to cast a provisional ballot if the following circumstances apply (visit www.leonvotes.org for details):

- your form of identification is not accepted;
- you are not registered;
- your eligibility can't be verified; or
- you are not at the correct polling precinct.

Have questions about the candidates?

The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee is a non-partisan group dedicated to educating the public about local, state, and national candidates. For each candidate, its website provides a succinct biography of the candidate's education and professional experience. Also posted are candidate responses to a handful of questions on hot topics in their field. A three-minute video message posted from each candidate allows voters to watch the individuals in action. For amendments, the League provides a non-partisan synopsis of the amendment, then describes the impact of a "yes" vote and a "no" vote.

The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee:

- Website: www.Vote411Leon.org
- Phone: 850-309-3005

After voting

Grab a snack and a smile from your neighbors. The neighborhood association always has a table with coffee and goodies available on major voting days.

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting." Franklin D. Roosevelt

Tips for Turtle Protection

By Sandy Beck

Walking my dog by a Lake Jackson boat ramp, I noticed a family standing nearby. The mother was holding a box turtle above the water.

"Hi!" I called. "I see you've rescued a turtle, but you can't drop it in the water."

They looked confused. "Why not?" she said. "It's a turtle, isn't it?"

Sink or swim—all turtles are not created equal

Most of Florida's twenty-six turtle species would be grateful to be rescued from a busy road and escorted to the nearby water body to which they were headed. But while no turtles can breathe under water (all hold their breath), two terrestrial species might actually drown.

Box turtles prefer moist, forested areas or pine flatwoods with nearby streams. Box turtles will drink and soak at the shallow edge of a stream or pond. The gopher tortoise, now a "threatened" species in Florida, is our other terrestrial "land turtle." It lives in the deep burrow it excavates in a beach dune or an upland area with sandy soil. Recently, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission received three reports of well-intentioned



Teresa Stevenson

"Land turtles" like the box turtle and this gopher tortoise cannot swim well and probably will drown if placed in water deeper than its shell.

people releasing young gopher tortoises into the ocean, thinking they were sea turtles. Both the box turtle and gopher tortoise, if dropped into deep water by a well-meaning rescuer, may tire after paddling a bit and drown.



Sandy Beck

Please watch the road and stop to help turtles like this Eastern box turtle.

The shape of the shell gives helpful clues to where a turtle lives. Terrestrial turtles and tortoises have a higher, dome-shaped shell. Most aquatic turtles have flatter, streamlined shells that slide easily through the water. Gopher tortoises have claws, while sea turtles have flippers; in most cases, if found on a beach, neither species would need our help.

Box turtles can live 100 years and gopher tortoises can live 60 years, but it's not easy to dodge cars or evade dogs—who think you're a chew toy—when you move at a turtle's pace.

Turtles don't need Google Maps

Many turtles brave our roads to search for water or a mate or to lay eggs. If you see a turtle in the road and feel it is safe to stop, always carry it across the road in the same direction it was going, or it will just turn around and cross the road again. You can slide your car mat beneath a large turtle and push it to the side of the road. Resist the urge to relocate it; turtles have a powerful homing instinct and will only try to find their way back. Also, turtles pee when they are upset, so hold it out in front of you.

Unfortunately, many turtles are not lucky enough to cross safely. The St. Francis Wildlife rehabilitation center receives hundreds of turtles with cracked shells, fractured legs, and worse. Most of it is accidental.

Cold-blooded murder

I stopped to help a large gopher tortoise across Orange Avenue. Before I got out of my car, a driver intentionally sped up, aimed his tire at the tortoise, and crushed it. I should have gotten the license number, but I was in shock.

Bill Cotterell, best known for his political commentary in the *Tallahassee Democrat*, is also an animal lover. A few months ago, he stopped to help a turtle across Buck Lake

Tips for Turtle Protection

(cont.)

Road. "... but before I could get from my car, some slob behind me deliberately changed lanes and splattered the poor thing," Mr. Cotterell wrote in a Facebook post.

The intent was apparent in the despicable acts that both Bill Cotterell and I witnessed.

Intentional turtle murder happens more often than one would imagine. An article in *Outdoor Indiana* reported that in 2012, a Clemson University student placed a plastic turtle in the middle of a busy road and hid behind a bush. Within the first hour, eight drivers swerved to hit it. One in every fifty drivers tried to run over his decoy turtles.

What can you do if you witness someone intentionally trying to hit a turtle or other animal? Gregg Morton, a

Tallahassee attorney who has worked on animal cruelty cases, has this to say. "If you got the license plate number and could tell they intentionally hit the turtle, they would potentially be guilty of animal cruelty under 828.12, Fla. Statutes, so you could file a police report."

"There's also an issue with the statute in that cruelty requires the person's act to result in a 'cruel death,'" Morton said. Because turtles can live and suffer for a long time after being hit, that's as cruel as it gets.

So, in addition to being a conscientious driver, consider becoming a turtle crossing guard, and please report any crimes against animals that you witness.

Sandy Beck serves as education director with the St. Francis Wildlife Association, www.stfrancis.org. This article appeared in Beck's community blog in the Tallahassee Democrat, June 1, 2015.

Turtles in History

Turtles are part of Indianhead's landscape. A box turtle image greets people on signs at neighborhood entrances; the reptile is our newsletter icon; and we see them lumbering across streets and in backyards. For aboriginal Floridians, they were an important source of food. Their remains have been found at archaeological sites of all ages, and colonizing Europeans included local species among the native foods they adopted.

Turtle shells long played a role in the Seminole Indian Stomp Dance, an element of the Green Corn Ceremony. During the dance, women with shell shakers tied to their

legs carry the rhythm, though today small cans are used as the shakers. Turtle motifs also are found on ancient native artworks, including pottery, pipes, petroglyphs, gorgets, and adornments. (A bowl from the Mimbres culture is pictured to the left.) Turtles were seen as a symbol of long life, opportunity, and motherhood. Shells were used for rattles because, just as a turtle is connected to its shell, all earthly creatures are connected to each other. —KC Smith



University of Texas, El Paso





Take Advantage of Leon County Extension

By Molly Jameson

Did you know that just five minutes from Indianhead, you can attend gardening workshops, become a Master Gardener, enroll your child in 4-H youth camps, tour a demonstration garden, visit bee hives and a chicken flock, learn how to compost, get a soil-testing kit, receive help identifying a plant or insect, learn about Florida Friendly Landscaping, take a plant propagation class, and much, much more? Well you can! The UF/IFAS Leon County Extension Office is just up the road, at 615 Paul Russell, near the fairgrounds.



Amy Mullins

Molly Jameson presents a container gardening workshop.

Extension is a nationwide partnership between state land grant universities, the US Department of Agriculture, and county governments. In Florida, Extension is administered by the University of Florida and by Florida A&M University. Extension offices in all of Florida's sixty-seven counties connect citizens with research from the universities through community education and outreach. The Leon County office includes Extension Agents who specialize in horticulture, sustainable agriculture and food systems, small farms, family and consumer sciences, natural resources, and 4-H youth.

If you are thinking about starting a vegetable, flower, or ornamental garden—or improving your existing garden, don't hesitate to call or visit the Leon County Extension Office. Staff there can give you advice on how to get started, varieties to grow in our area, what materials you will need, and how to be successful. Additionally, every Friday in the Home and Garden section of the *Tallahassee Democrat*, you can read articles written by Extension staff and their partners that cover a vast array of topics, such as climate change, ecosystems, insect management, invasive plants, garden fertility, and popular vegetable varieties.

Don't miss the upcoming fall events taking place at the Leon County Extension Office.

- Garden Educator Training Series: Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, and Dec. 15; 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
- Fall Extension Office Day: Oct. 22; 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Grow Healthy, Eat Healthy Workshop—part of Seven Days of Local Delights, Oct. 25; 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Molly Jameson at mjameson@ufl.edu or (850) 606-5219. Be sure to check out the Leon County Extension Facebook page, website (<http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu>), and Eventbrite activities.



Molly Jameson

4-H youth listen to a chicken talk during the "Farm Your Backyard" 4-H Camp.

SUSTAINABILITY CORNER



Tallahassee Time Bank

Did you know that there is a way to earn help for yourself or your family by helping others? In the Tallahassee Time Bank, the currency is time instead of cash.

A Time Bank is a community of people who help each other by sharing their abilities, talents, and experiences. We all have needs and gifts to share. When you provide a service for another Time Bank member or organization, you earn one Time Bank hour for each hour you spend providing the assistance. You then can exchange each Time Bank hour you earn for an hour of service from someone else.

Through the Time Bank, you can get transportation, child care, gardening help; learn a language or an instrument; get to know your neighbors and build your skills. The Tallahassee Time Bank periodically has potluck dinners to share information about its activities. For more information, like the group on Facebook at The Tallahassee Timebank or go to its website at www.timebanktally.strikingly.com.

Greenway Walk and Talk

SILC will host a walk and talk at Koucky Park and along the Greenway to enhance appreciation for our forested jewel in the heart of Indianhead. Join David Copps, landscape designer and meadow and forest aficionado, on October 29 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., for a greenway tour and discussion about basic tree identification, planting, and care. A follow-up meeting on November 12 at 9:00 a.m. will include volunteer plantings on the property of a lucky home owner chosen through a drawing.

With a background in environmental education, Copps has worked for the Trust for Public Land, University of Florida Extension Service, Tall Timbers Research Station, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and currently is a park planner with the Department of Environmental Protection. Please RSVP by contacting Geoff Brown at gjbrown425@aol.com so organizers will know how many neighbors and friends plan to attend.

Treasurers' Report

January 1, 2016, to August 31, 2016

Beginning

Balance	January 6, 2016	\$8,040.06
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Revenue	Nene Fest	\$3,738.00
	Membership Dues	\$2,940.00
	Ads - Spring Newsltr	\$685.00
	Recovered Funds	\$800.00
	Honor Flight Donations	\$70.00

Total

Revenue	\$16,273.06
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Expenses	Nene Fest	\$3,248.14
	Newsletters/Copies	\$541.54
	Membership flyers	\$139.22
	Insurance	\$403.00
	Annual Report Fee	\$61.25
	Bike Parade	\$86.78
	Water Slide	\$285.95
	Hartsfield Art Project	
	(Wafa Elska)	\$400.00

Total

Expenses	\$5,165.88
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Current

Balance	August 30, 2016	\$11,107.18
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ER0015100



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Mike Cote
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Hartsfield Murals Displayed In Kids' Peace Exhibit

By Grace Frances

In August, Hartsfield art teacher Wafa Elsaka represented the school in Nagasaki, Japan, at the International Kids' Guernica Exhibition. The exhibition was a commemoration of the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki during World War II. Hartsfield and Rickards students created four large peace murals to display at the event, held at ground zero, alongside children's works from Indonesia, Poland, Italy, and other countries.

Kids' Guernica is an international children's art project to create peace murals modeled after Pablo Picasso's Guernica, a painting created to protest brutal bombings in the 1937 Spanish Civil War. Working together to paint guernicas, children develop messages for world peace through art.

In Nagasaki, Ms. Elsaka spoke at a number of venues about Hartsfield's participation in the project, explaining how the students painted their own artistic visions of what peace means to them. She was interviewed by newspapers and television stations, spoke with international delegations to the exhibition, and presented to children at Yamazato Elementary School.



Wafa Elsaka

Hartsfield Elementary students created this mural for the peace project.

Hartsfield students' work will remain abroad for international audiences to view. One piece will hang at Yamazato Elementary School while another will stay on permanent display at a Nagasaki public gallery. Two others will be sent to another international venue for exhibition with kids' guernicas from around the world.



Wafa Elsaka

International kids' murals are displayed in this Peace Park in Nagasaki.

Ms. Elsaka and Hartsfield students, staff, and families convey deep gratitude to Indianhead Lehigh neighbors for helping to make this experience possible. Neighbors donated more than \$1,200, the first \$400 of which was matched by IHLNA. To express appreciation for this support, Ms. Elsaka will give a presentation about her trip and the International Kids' Guernica Exhibition on October 25, at 6:00 p.m., in the Hartsfield Elementary Media Center. We hope you will attend and learn how this international project is influencing the art that Hartsfield students are creating now.

HARTSFIELD CORNER

Meet Faydre Hawkins-Brown Hartsfield's 2016 PTO President

By Marie-Claire Leman

How long have you been a Hartsfield parent?

My husband Derrick and I joined Hartsfield when our son, Dylan, entered kindergarten. Our older daughter was enrolled at Florida High, but Dylan didn't get a spot there. We live in Indianhead, so we visited the school and decided to give it a shot. It turned out to be a great fit for him. The smaller school environment at Hartsfield and the individual attention that students receive from teachers and staff suit our son very well.

Why did you want to be PTO President?

I saw it as a good opportunity to work with the school, teachers, administration, and other parents with a common goal—the betterment of Hartsfield for Hartsfield students.

What are the PTO's primary goals this year?

One of our goals is to increase the participation of Hawks Dads on Campus. Through Hawks Dads, fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other male relatives greet students on campus, every other Tuesday, as students arrive at school. We hope Hawks Dads will lead to some of these men becoming mentors or classroom volunteers.

As always, the PTO hopes to raise money. This is crucial to accomplishing our other goals—funding some field trips, celebrating our teachers and staff at the end of the school year, and organizing fun activities on campus for all students.

We would like to have a better, more significant presence at the Orange Avenue apartments where many Hartsfield families live. We plan to host some PTO events there, such as a movie night. We hope to make it easier for families to get involved in school events by bringing the fun to them!

How can the Indianhead/Lehigh neighborhood best support Hartsfield?

For neighbors who have kids attending Hartsfield, there are many many ways to get involved in the day-to-day life of the school through the PTO and by volunteering in your child's classroom. People who are not Hartsfield parents also can be classroom volunteers or become a mentor.



Hartsfield PTO President Faydre Hawkins-Brown

Mentoring involves a commitment of one hour per week for one school year. You meet the same child every week and get to know her or him while working on reading or math, depending on the teacher's assessment of where the student needs help. Hartsfield has other projects and events, such as the Garden Club and the Fall Carnival, and neighbors' help would be most welcome. And if you have a special skill that could benefit the school, please don't hesitate to offer your help to Hartsfield's Parent and Community Liaison, Judi McDowell, whom you can reach at mcdowellj@leonschools.net.

Hartsfield Garden Club

Join neighbors and Hartsfield students, parents, and staff as we work together to make the most of our school gardens. The Garden Club meets weekly on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. to plan, plant, care for, and harvest our garden beds throughout the year. For more information and to join the club, contact Marie-Claire Leman at marieclaireleman@gmail.com or (850) 728-7514.

Upcoming Hartsfield Events

Fall Carnival: October 20, neighbors welcome from noon to 2:00 p.m.; annual fundraising event, \$7 per child for access to all booths, activities, and lots of fun!

Kids' Guernica Program: October 25, 6:00 p.m.; lecture and photo presentation by art teacher Wafa Elsaka in the Media Center.

Hartsfield Movie Night and Fish Fry: November 4, 6:00 p.m.; enjoy a fish fry dinner for \$8 and a free movie with friends in the school cafeteria. For more details, contact Marie-Claire at marieclaireleman@gmail.com.

Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run Recap

By Jessica Kennett and Marie-Claire Leman

We are veterans now! The Third Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run on April 30, 2016 raised \$4,000 for Hartsfield Elementary School, and everyone involved had a great time!

Moreover, our race is growing. We had another large turnout, with 140 registrants, 56 volunteers, and 25 sponsors. The sponsors' generosity, participation of runners and walkers, and assistance from volunteers made it possible for Hartsfield Elementary to acquire new playground equipment.



Rachel McAllister

Hartsfield Principal BJ Van Camp (second from left) and Assistant Principal Ava Williams (far right) accepted a "mega-check" from 5K Run sponsors Kevin Hattaway and Terry Ann Kant-Rauch and IHLNA President Grant Gelhardt.

We saw remarkable speed on the course again this year. Matt Mezereck dominated the men's race and was our overall winner with a time of 16:26. Geb Kiros came in second at 18:16, followed by Teddy Feracho with a time of 19:41. Laura Reina came in first among female runners, with a swift time of 23:36. She was followed closely by race veteran Paula O'Neill at 24:01 and Lyssa Oberkreser, not far behind in third place with a time of 26:11.

Continuing our tradition of celebrating community through both art and athletics, we displayed the Hartsfield Peace Guernica murals at Optimist Park during the race. Hartsfield art teacher Wafa Elsaka was on site with art supplies and a large canvas just waiting to be painted. Kids had a great time contributing their talent to the mural in progress.

It was a pleasure to work with our neighborhood school and our many community volunteers. We are proud to raise money to make Hartsfield's campus an even better place for kids to spend their days. We also are grateful for the continued support of the school administration, teachers, parents, and students. They came to run, volunteer, and cheer us on.

Mark your calendar for the Fourth Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run on Saturday, April 29. We look forward to seeing you bright and early!

Special thanks to our sponsors

We extend sincere thanks to the individuals and businesses that helped to ensure the event's success.

Golden Armadillo Sponsors:

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Animal Training Adventures

By Jenna Kant-Rauch

Every year during summer vacation, I volunteer at the Animal Training Adventure Summer Camp. This camp is full of opportunities for puppies and fun activities for children. The kids learn how to train puppies that are assigned to them. The kids are divided into five groups—Agility, Sports, Dog Dining, Basic Training, and Meet Spot (for younger kids, usually from age five to seven). The groups are held in classrooms with about fifteen kids, although Basic Training has about thirty kids, and Meet Spot has about six.

In Agility, the focus is on training the pups to do advanced tricks such as jumping through hoops, running through tunnels, and weaving through poles. There's an agility course in the yard that the dogs train with all day long. As the week continues, the puppies learn to run the course faster and faster, sometimes within thirty seconds.

In our Sports class, the puppies are taught different sports such as soccer and tri-ball.

Our Dog Dining class is one of the most exciting classes. In this class, the counselors and campers make food for the puppies and teach them manners such as how to sit and wait and not to beg when people are eating at the table. In this class, the kids also have the opportunity to play dress up with the puppies.

The Meet Spot classroom has about six kids from ages five to seven. The point of this class is to socialize our younger puppies and let the kids bond with them. The puppies are usually seven to nine weeks old. In this class, the kids and puppies just lie around and relax. The kids like to color all kinds of pictures, and sometimes they draw pictures of their puppies.

The last class is called Basic Training. This is the class in which the dogs are taught to sit, lie down, jump, and so on. All of the campers must take this class before they go to any other class. Every Thursday, we have bath day. All of the dogs at camp get a bath, and the campers either chose to help bathe their dog or sit out. When the dogs have been bathed, the campers and dogs go back to their designated classrooms, and the campers clean their puppy's ears and brush their teeth.



Terry Kant

Jenna Kant-Rauch is a local advocate for the loving care of pets, especially dogs.

Every Friday, we have a dog show, which lets the campers show their parents what they have taught their puppies. Also on Friday, there's an option to foster a dog for the weekend. To be able to foster, you have to fill out an application to make sure you have everything the dog needs.

Animal Training Adventure Summer Camp is a great way to teach your kids how to train and take care of dogs of all ages, and it's a great experience for the kids, dogs, and the volunteers/counselors. For more information, visit www.animaltrainingadventure.com.

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Improving Magnolia Drive: Progress and Plans

By Edward Reid

On May 25, several Indianhead residents met with Leon County engineers to receive detailed information about the next phases of the Magnolia Drive reconstruction.

Phase 1 is currently in progress from Pontiac to Meridian. The estimated completion date is October 2016. Phase 2, Part 1, will reconstruct the segment from Pontiac to Jim Lee and include the installation of a traffic light at Jim Lee and Magnolia and an eight-foot-wide sidewalk on the northwest side from Seminole to Alban. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2017. Roundabouts are not planned for any part of the project.

Phase 2, Part 2, the largest remaining segment, from Jim Lee to Chowkeebin, will completely reconstruct the road, replace the deteriorated roadbed, upgrade the water main to eight inches, and upgrade the sewer lines. The design is complete, but changes are expected. This part also will include a ten-foot-wide multiuse path on the east side of Magnolia from Jim Lee to Circle and a continuing eight-foot-wide sidewalk to Chowkeebin. The original design anticipated the path on this side continuing to Apalachee, but conflicts made this infeasible.

The existing light at Magnolia and Circle and the planned light at Magnolia and Jim Lee are critical to the plan. At these points, sidewalk/path users will have to cross Magnolia, as no sidewalk or path is planned on the west side from Alban to Circle. New storm water facilities will be hidden under the paths and road. Where no sidewalk or path is built (west side from Alban to Circle), ditches will remain.

Phase 3 will be a ten-foot-wide multiuse path on the west side of Magnolia from Circle to Apalachee. The design is about thirty percent complete, and right-of-way acquisition has only begun. Some use of eminent domain may be needed. There are many obvious issues with property, setbacks, and trees. Phases 4 and beyond will deal with Meridian to Adams.

Issues

- The pedestrian crossing at Chowkeebin must be improved because people need and want to cross here rather than at Circle for many reasons.
- The west side of Magnolia from Tally Square to Super Lube can only be described as a mess. Expanding the sidewalk to a ten-foot-wide path will not make this easier to navigate on foot. This is not easy to fix, but it's critical.
- There is no provision to aid pedestrians who need to cross Magnolia between Alban and Circle.
- Curbs will be installed where sidewalks/paths are built. In Phase 2, they will be installed on the east side of Magnolia from Jim Lee to Chowkeebin, the northwest side from Seminole to Alban, and the west side from Circle to Lafayette. From Alban to Circle, the west side of Magnolia still will not have curbs.
- Landscaping plantings are anticipated, but choices are limited by existing large trees and power lines.
- Pedestrian rest facilities are designated in the plan but will not be constructed as part of this project. The concrete pads and pavement treatments for bench/shelter facilities will be built, to be ready for future development.

The county website has a "County Projects" page at cms.leoncountyfl.gov/Home/County-Projects. Details of the Magnolia project include a map and summary of the phases. Click on the map to see the details.

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Preparing for the 2017 Real Estate Sales Season

By Kevin Hattaway

Fall is a great time to start thinking about selling in the spring/summer of 2017. A Realtor can help you analyze your house for potential problems so you put your best foot forward in presenting your property.

One of the greatest challenges to selling a home in today's market is getting insurance for the new buyer. Most homes older than twenty years require a "clear" four-point inspection report for insurance underwriting. The four-point inspection looks at heating/cooling system(s), electrical, plumbing, and the roof. Heating and cooling systems must be in proper working condition and not a safety hazard. Electrical typically requires a minimum 200 amp service for the home and no safety hazards. Two-prong plugs that you replaced with three-prong plugs but didn't ground will have to be grounded or reverted back to two-prong plugs. Plumbing must be free of active leaks. The roof also must be free of leaks and have several years of "life" remaining. Insurance companies may have concerns about peeling paint and other hazards that the inspection doesn't address. A pre-list whole house inspection can help determine concerns with these items.

How the house presents itself is another challenge for sellers. Curb appeal is how the house looks from the curb or street. An appealing appearance increases not only the chances of selling the house, but also your chances of getting a higher price! People tend to overlook the landscaping in thinking about curb appeal. Do bushes or shrubs grow higher than the lower edge of your front windows? If so, it's time to trim them. Do you have dead or dying trees? These need to be removed to increase curb appeal and eliminate potential insurance issues. Cracked driveways also can be problematic if they present a tripping hazard.

On the inside, a home needs to be decluttered and depersonalized. A good Realtor will go room-to-room with you, giving guidance and telling you what to remove or replace. Many homeowners are "nesters"; they have a comfortable nest to live in, but it may not be appropriate for a buyer. A Realtor can look at your house with fresh eyes and see things that are invisible to you because you live with them every day. Don't make the mistake of doing "improvements" without checking with your agent, who may suggest that you spend your money on something else. The kitchen and bathrooms are critical in any home sale. Generic real estate articles often state that you

should update them; that may be appropriate, but vintage kitchens and bathrooms have more appeal in this area than in other neighborhoods.

Decluttering and depersonalizing allows a potential buyer to "see themselves" in your house. All those family photos need to be removed and prepacked, and that goes for excess "stuff." Most homes are over-decorated and filled with too much furniture. This is a great time for you to reduce, reuse, and repurpose some of the stuff in your house. Prepacking not only improves the interior appearance, but also reduces packing stress when the house is under contract and you're preparing to close. Although painting is one of the best investments in selling a home, let your Realtor guide you on what needs to be painted and what colors are popular today.

Selling a home is a challenge under the best circumstances, and getting a head start helps you get a better price and reduces stress. I tell every buyer and seller I work with, "There are no stupid questions." If you have any questions about this article or anything related to real estate, please contact me for assistance: Kevin Hattaway, Changing Times Realty Company, (850) 980-2134 or www.KevinHattaway.com.



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