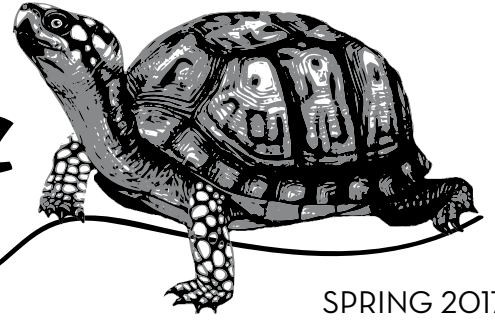


# The Optimist



SPRING 2017

INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Nene Fest 2017

A Festival for Neighbors by Neighbors

**April 29 • 3:00-9:00 p.m. • Optimist Park**

Join neighbors and friends for a free, family-friendly event that includes music, food, art, crafts, kids' activities, and a theatrical production. There's something for everyone! If you'd like to be more than a spectator, read on to learn how you can have a hands-on role in the event. Proceeds from festival food and memorabilia help to fund future IHLNA projects.

### Music

Live music by neighborhood talent is a festival highlight. If you'd like to perform or be an on-stage emcee who announces bands and activities (and channels your inner lounge lizard), contact Richard at [bertram63@gmail.com](mailto:bertram63@gmail.com). Performance slots fill quickly, so don't wait!

*continued on page 2*

## In This Issue

- Nene Fest and 5K Run
- Neighborhood Updates
- Wildlife Safety and Animal Rights
- Sustainable Indianhead Lehigh Community
- Yard Art
- IHLNA Retrospective
- Hartsfield Corner



All photos courtesy of Bob O'Lary.  
To see a gallery of Bob's  
festival images, go to  
<http://www.olary.com/nene1/>.



# Nene Fest 2017 (cont.)



## Food and Supplies

A catered main dish and side salads, bread, and desserts donated by neighbors provide a hearty meal for a nominal charge. Food is served from 5:00 p.m. till there's nothing left. But, whoa! The food department needs plenty of help to make this happen! To donate a 20-portion salad or a few loaves of bread, OR to volunteer to serve food, contact Wendy at [yashimalu@hotmail.com](mailto:yashimalu@hotmail.com). To dazzle dessert lovers by donating a dozen or more single-servings, contact Claudia at [claudiaesperber@gmail.com](mailto:claudiaesperber@gmail.com). In addition, you can't have food without paper goods, and that takes a coordinator. Contact Wendy if this is your forte.

## Art, Craft, and Business Showcase

Artisans, artists, and crafters are invited to sell hand-made products and food (but no single servings of the latter, which compete with festival food). Businesses and organizations also are welcome to share their materials. There is no vendor fee, but you must provide your own booth, table, and supplies. Contact Kevin at [kevin@kevinhattaway.com](mailto:kevin@kevinhattaway.com) to sign up.

## Activities

From tie-dying to maypole dancing, there's no excuse for boredom at Nene Fest because neighbors present myriad activities for big kids and little kids. If you have an activity or idea, would like a booth space, or want to be on the schedule, contact Daphne at [daphne.holden@comcast.net](mailto:daphne.holden@comcast.net).

## Puppet Show

This is not your usual Pinocchio show. Kids and adults present a larger-than-life theatrical performance that features an original script, live music, children's chorus, and giant puppets. If you'd like to be part of the production—produce, direct, build props, play music, or help with logistics—contact maestro Doug at [dpschrock@comcast.net](mailto:dpschrock@comcast.net). For participation in the children's chorus, contact Marie-Claire at [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com).



## Merchandise

Every good festival has its array of memorabilia, and Nene Fest is no different. You can go home with a festival t-shirt, water bottle in your backpack, and stuff in your hands, knowing that all proceeds will support future festivals. If you would like to be on the sales side of the table, contact Patty at [cecisharp@embarqmail.com](mailto:cecisharp@embarqmail.com).

## Set-up, Break Down, and Clean Up

It's "the more, the merrier" when it comes to making Nene Fest a reality. Setting up the stage and other logistics requires folks with long ladders, trucks, and a willingness to show up early on the morning of the event. Likewise, we need diehards who'll stay to take it all apart. And because Nene folks are so tidy, we need someone to round up trash and recycle containers beforehand and a team to clean up afterward. If you fit any of these descriptions, contact Grant at [grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com).

One more word about trash. We recycle and compost at Nene Fest, but the best way to reduce waste is to bring your own utensils, plates, and cups.

## Garage Sale—Pass It On

*With a little bit of polish, paint and glue,  
You can patch things up, make them “nearly new.”*

Fran Avni’s song, “Garage Sale—Pass It On,” is meant to teach young kids about recycling, but it contains a kernel of wisdom for everyone: if you no longer want something, pass it on.

IHLNA’s Annual Yard Sale makes this very easy to do. Join us on Saturday, April 15, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, for some neighborly bargaining and serendipitous socializing at Optimist Park. Participation is free for folks who have paid their 2017 IHLNA dues and \$10 for non-members. The Association places an ad in the *Tallahassee Democrat* and a notice on Craigslist, which adds to a robust turnout by neighbors. Here’s a chance to profit from that bountiful box of junk that’s been stashed under the bed for who-knows-how-long. For questions, contact Grant at grant.gelhardt@gmail.com. —KC Smith

Song: <http://www.songsforteaching.com/avni/garagesalepassiton.htm>

## Holiday Bike Parade

A decade ago, a former Indianhead Lehigh neighbor coordinated the first 4th of July Holiday Bike Parade. She recalled fond memories from her childhood, when hometown residents hosted a parade, and wanted to bring the tradition here for her children and neighbors to enjoy. Although she eventually moved out of the neighborhood to accept a new job, she left a tradition that lives on. This year will be the tenth annual parade!



As in years past, we’ll gather at Optimist Park at 9:00 a.m., decorate and ride bikes, and return to the park for food and festivities. Older kids and adults will ride through the neighborhood, and there is a short route around the park for younger riders. IHLNA will provide bike decorations, beverages, and a water slide; neighbors are asked to bring potluck brunch items. Come one, come all! This event is for young and the young at heart, bike riders, bystanders, and brunch-eaters! —Sandra Neidert

## No Way to Move Out

KC Smith

Changing a residence is never easy, but when it occurs, people usually take the opportunity to get rid of detritus. Most people do this responsibly, but occasionally some folks deposit a large refuse mound at the curb, knowing that the city’s Solid Waste Services will pick it up within two weeks. In the meantime, trash pickers often redistribute the flotsam widely.

There are other options. Goodwill Industries ([www.goodwillbigbend.org](http://www.goodwillbigbend.org)) accepts any clean, sellable item; has twenty-four donation centers, retail stores, and donation boxes in Tallahassee; and also has a home pickup service. Lighthouse Children’s Home ([www.lighthousechildrenshome.com](http://www.lighthousechildrenshome.com)), which has a donation center and thrift store on East Mahan Drive, accepts nearly everything that is usable except electronics. It has a pick-up service for large items such as appliances,



KC Smith

although it may take a week to be serviced. Even the City can help (<http://www.talgov.com/you/you-learn-utilities-solid-index.aspx>) by providing extra recycle bins for free and bulk-item containers for a small charge. Indeed, a city solid waste representative had this suggestion. Before your next move, take time to plan what you’ll do with your castoffs. Give away items that still have some life, recycle as much as possible, and use your large trash bin and sturdy boxes to leave items for city pick-up.



# *“Keep Public Land Public” Initiative*

Last fall, Tallahassee residents learned that city managers were considering a comprehensive plan amendment to rezone about eleven acres next to Cascades Park that would allow for denser development of the land. The construction of apartments, condos, and townhouses by a private developer would eliminate the city’s need to build a sound wall to buffer nearby residents from Cascades concert noise. Residents from the Indianhead Lehigh, Myers Park, Woodland Drives, Glendale, Los Robles, All Saints, Betton Hills, and Lafayette Park neighborhoods, as well as the Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Big Bend Sierra Club, came together to object to the city’s proposal to “up-zone,” sell part of Myers Park, and allow the dwellings development. Ramona Abernathy-Paine has been following the situation; this is her update.

By Ramona Abernathy-Paine

Thanks to everyone who participated in the “Keep Public Land Public” effort. Our red signs, calls to city commissioners, emails, and attendance at the February 22 Planning Commission meeting helped convince the Commission to deny a comprehensive plan amendment. City staff have been directed to work with neighborhood residents to create a master plan for Myers Park. This is great news, but it’s not the end of the story.

During an address by Commissioner Gil Ziffer to the Woodland Drives Neighborhood Association on February 28, we learned that the city still has plans to develop part of Myers Park. Ziffer emphasized the need for new housing for people moving to Tallahassee and a desire to “infill,” or build, on vacant land within city limits to avoid urban sprawl. Myers Park is an attractive target for infill planning because of its proximity to downtown. In addition, the city is unsure of the structural integrity and energy efficiency of Parks and Recreation Department buildings west of Myers Park Drive and believes staff will be better housed in a different location. Vacating these Myers Park buildings will leave the space susceptible to rezoning and development.

One idea for use of the land suggests that city staff work with Progress Pediatrics to build an on-site facility to house and support adults with special needs. Ziffer would like to form a committee to work with neighborhoods, the Parks and Recreation and City Planning departments, and Florida Department of Transportation not only to find the best use for the property, but also to create a solution that will prevent the same land use issue from emerging in the future.



Grant Gelhardt

It was standing room only at City Hall when citizens, many wearing red, attended the City Commission meeting on February 22.

The committee will have three members from Myers Park and Woodland Drives, the neighborhoods most affected by changes at Myers Park; one member each from IHLNA and Betton Hills, neighborhoods that have been very involved in the process; one from City Planning due to land use and zoning impacts; and one from DOT because of the railroad and to address bike and pedestrian opportunities. IHLNA may hold visioning meetings to gather neighbors’ ideas to share with the committee.

If you still have a red yard sign, please keep it posted until The Friends of Tallahassee Parks and Recreation (TPR) formulates the next steps. If you would like a yard sign, email Heather Fleming at [heatherflemingdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:heatherflemingdesigns@gmail.com). Look for additional updates on the IHLNA, Myers Park Neighborhood, and Friends of TPR Facebook pages.

For more information, see the Planning Commission’s document at <https://talgov.com/uploads/public/documents/planning/pdf/agenda/170119/pcm201706.pdf>.

# Lafayette Street Construction

By Will Hanley

In 2010-11, the Florida Department of Transportation funded a citizen-led “Lafayette Paseo” proposal, drafted by IHLNA neighbor Tony Biblo, that built on a Lafayette Streetscape Study done in 1999. Drawing inspiration from the “paseos,” or tree-lined public promenades of Spain, the aim was to enhance pedestrian and bicycle facilities and to beautify the Lafayette Corridor. However, the county’s 2012 renovation of Lafayette Street changed the situation on the ground. The proposal’s original scope was narrowed to focus only on the “service road” that runs along Lafayette where it intersects with Indianhead Drive.



KC Smith

Extending sidewalks along Lafayette Street is one of the project objectives.

Current construction on the service road—impossible not to notice—is an effort to move forward on that work. Notably, the Lafayette Project will:

- close Winchester Lane’s access to the Chowkeebin/ Indianhead intersection;
- narrow Indianhead between Chowkeebin and Lafayette from four to three lanes;
- extend an existing sidewalk along the service road;
- construct a crosswalk approximately between Video 21 and Moe’s; and
- resurface and reconfigure existing parking.

The city-administered project is worth about half a million dollars. In October 2015, Public Works traffic engineer John Desilets presented a draft plan to a well-attended public meeting at Hartsfield School. Attendees objected to the plan because it focused on parking resurfacing at the expense of pedestrian improvements and beautification. Unfortunately, residents did not hear from the city again before ground was broken in January

2017; When at last IHLNA received a set of the plans, we saw that neighborhood input was not reflected. After strenuous objections from several neighbors, city engineer Steve Shafer, now in charge of the project, managed to find partial solutions to some of the problems, but he was unable to turn a ship that already had sailed.

Pedestrian improvements are cash-starved, and the Lafayette Paseo Project was a rare opportunity to undertake a creative intervention to transform this area of our neighborhood, as envisaged in the 1999 and 2010 plans. In a well-designed process, staff in charge of such an assignment would feel enthusiastic about its objectives and would honor the intentions of the citizens who initiated the project. As the design of the next phase of the Magnolia multi-use trail is rolled out, as a neighborhood we must demand, early and often, that the city do better this time around.



## PET SITTING

Jenna Kant-Rauch

Call or text:  
(850) 656-3033

the **WORDSMITH**

writing, research, editing, proofing

Contact KC Smith

(850) 766-9904; [kcsmith614@hotmail.com](mailto:kcsmith614@hotmail.com)

reasonable rates • rapid return

# Wildlife Safety Guidelines

By Pat Simmons

The Indianhead Lehigh neighborhood hosts a diversity of people and wildlife. The various native plants and animals that thrive in the area create unique habitats for everyone to enjoy. However, within this range of flora and fauna are members worthy of caution. Poison ivy, oak, and sumac; an array of sucking and stinging insects; and the occasional passing predator are a few to note.

During summer and fall of 2015, the Leon County Division of Animal Control (DAC) and St. Francis Wildlife Association (SFW) experienced a large increase in calls for assistance to deal with sick and injured rabies vector species (RVS) that included raccoons, foxes, bobcats, bats, and, less commonly, opossums. In prior years, St. Francis had averaged about five calls a month for RVS animals. From August 2015 to February 2016, that number rose to an average of thirty calls a month. Most calls came from the northwest section of Leon County; however, several were from the Indianhead Lehigh area. In early 2016, three sick raccoons and one sick opossum, all at or near the corner of Chinnapakin and Chuli, were reported to SFW. Due to the cost and logistics of testing, a definitive diagnosis was not made on these animals. However, Teresa Stevenson, the licensed rehabilitator at SFW, believes that all of these animals were dying of distemper, an infectious viral infection of the central nervous system.

At least one otter has been spotted in the Indianhead Acres creek. Otters and beavers live in and travel through canals that run the length of Leon County. As cute as they are, both species grow to be very large and are equipped with sharp teeth. Both are territorial and protective of their homes and young. Should you spot an otter or a beaver, enjoy their company without approaching, disturbing, or touching. They too can carry dangerous diseases, and one bite or scratch to a person or pet can have serious consequences.



A beaver found locally awaits its release back into the wild.

St. Francis Wildlife joins the Division of Animal Control in encouraging people to keep these cautionary behaviors in mind regarding pets and wildlife.

- Whether they live indoors or outdoors, make sure your pets are properly vaccinated against rabies and distemper. Vaccination is the best first line of defense.
- Do not approach or touch any animal that appears sick or injured.
- Resist the temptation to feed those adorable raccoons and foxes. Doing so may put them and you at great risk.
- Remind your kids that, while raccoons, opossums, and other creatures are way too cute—especially when they are in a family unit, they also are wild and untamable.
- If you see any animal that is behaving in a way that is out of the ordinary, report this to DAC (850.606.5400) or SFW (850.627.2291).

If it looks weird, it probably is, even in the wonderfully diverse Indianhead Lehigh neighborhood.

*Pat Simmons is president of the St. Francis Wildlife Association board of directors.*

# *Pets Ad Litem: Providing a Legal Voice for Animals*

By Gregg Morton

Pets Ad Litem (PAL) Inc. is a Tallahassee-based nonprofit organization started by attorney Ralph DeMeo after he served on the Animal Shelter Foundation board of directors and saw the need for legal resources and volunteers to help address Tallahassee's homeless pet population. Since PAL's inception, it has grown into an alliance of advocates and professionals dedicated to helping provide a legal voice for animals. It is patterned loosely after Guardian Ad Litem programs that focus on protecting the interests of children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

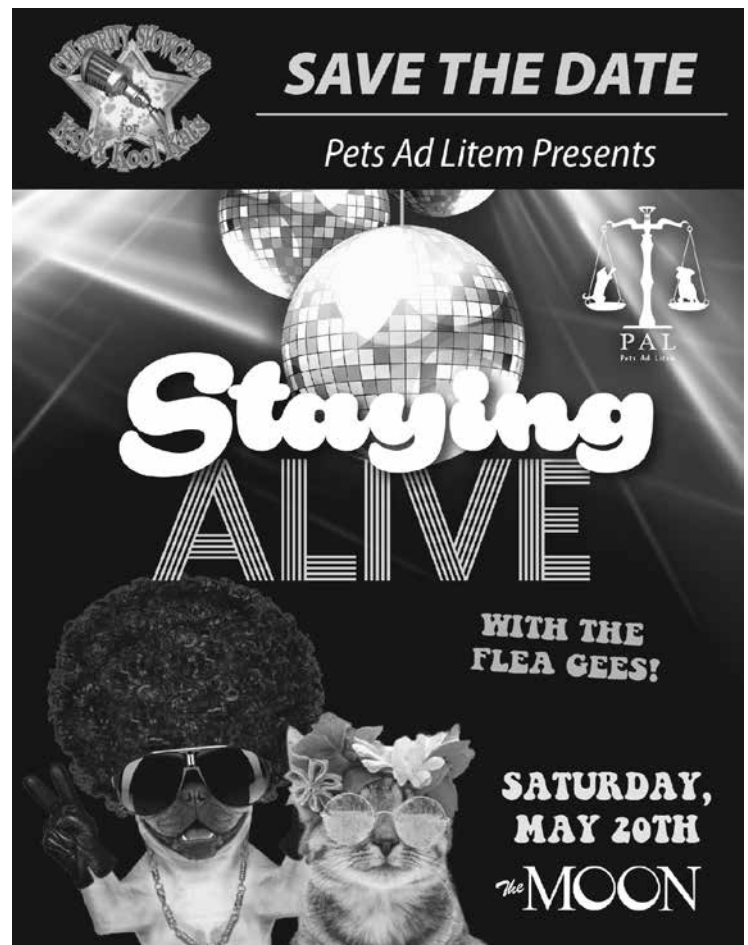
The organization's goals include enhancing public awareness of responsible pet ownership, offering legal assistance to state and local governments on animal law issues, providing legal representation for the interests of animals in legal proceedings, and protecting the rights and promoting the best interest of animals. PAL has partnered with the City to help create new guidelines and rules relating to animal ordinance laws. In addition, PAL and the Tallahassee-Leon County Animal Services Center host a Responsible Pet Ownership course several times a year. The program explains how pet owners can best care for their animals and discusses proper pet nutrition, travelling with a pet, vaccinations, proper shelter, tethering, and pet identification. County residents who have been cited for city animal ordinance violations can attend the course rather than paying a fine. PAL also has created cards for animal control officers to distribute on various topics, including dangerous dogs, finding lost pets, preventing heartworm, and rabies vaccination requirements.

PAL works closely with the Animal Law Section of the Florida Bar and the FSU College of Law. For the past five years, it has cosponsored an animal law-writing competition with the College of Law's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Chapter. Florida law students and recent law school graduates submit papers on an animal law topic of their choice and compete for a \$1,000 prize. PAL also provides opportunities for law students to research animal law issues and work on projects to satisfy pro bono work requirements needed to graduate.

The organization also works with other local nonprofits that focus on animal protection and welfare. Over

the years, PAL has donated resources and volunteer time to the Animal Shelter Foundation, Caucican Animal Rescue, St. Francis Wildlife Association, Leon County Humane Society, and Be The Solution, just to name a few. Most of its funding comes from donations and its annual Celebrity Karaoke fundraiser held at The Moon. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, and will be '70s themed, so break out the bellbottoms and get ready to see local celebrities sing some of your favorite glam, punk, and disco hits.

To learn more about Pets Ad Litem, contact [greggrileymorton@gmail.com](mailto:greggrileymorton@gmail.com) or go to [www.petsadlitem.com](http://www.petsadlitem.com).



# Creating a Gardening Community

By Marney Richards and Marie-Claire Leman

Indianhead Lehigh has a wealth of gardeners, many of whom dedicate time, energy, space, and love to their vegetable gardens. The spirit of collaboration has prompted some neighbors to join forces and work together. We spoke with members of two community gardens about what they most appreciate about their experience. This article not only shares what we learned, but also invites you to join a newly forming community of gardeners.

## The Hasosaw Community Garden

Meet Barry Fraser and LucyAnn Walker-Fraser. When they bought their Indianhead house, they were struck by how much of the front yard was grass. “We set a goal to improve the property through landscaping and creating a vegetable garden,” says Barry. One day eleven years ago, they were working on the beds when friends Sue Cerulean and Jeff Chanton walked by and mentioned that they would be keen to share some of the space and help with the upkeep. Since then, this garden community has grown and usually has four or five households sharing about 900 square feet of bed space. Each group maintains its own beds, helps with the common areas, and shares the cost of supplies and water. “The gardeners have shifted a bit over the years,” says Sue, “but a core group still participates eagerly. We grow (and freeze) all of our greens for the year, and many pounds of seasonal produce. Everyone should do this!”

## The Wahalaw Community Garden

Inspired by Barry and LucyAnn’s enterprise, Patty and Brad Sharp and neighbor Connie Bersok began a garden in the Sharp’s front yard on Wahalaw and invited neighbors to join them. They made rows of raised beds, in which each participating neighbor can work. Veteran gardeners Melissa Farley and John Robertson joined the group last fall because the yard at their new home lacks sunlight. Setting up in the Sharps’ garden allows them to continue growing vegetables year round. Grace Frances tends a bed with help from her kids, Aster and Roland, who represent the “next generation” of gardeners. Patty notes, “Connie has been the force behind our garden, and her presence in my front yard has been the greatest gift. And I love watching Aster and Roland eat greens right from the ground.”



Patti Ceci Sharp

Participants at both gardens agree that the sense of community that grows over time and the opportunity to share food and best practices are the highlights of their collaboration. They enjoy planting and harvesting together and, adds Barry, “sharing the wonderful experience of creating wholesome, organic produce.” Patty and Brad share the view that “our yard is your yard.”

## New Community Garden

SILC—Sustainable Indianhead Lehigh Community—has been consulting with and recruiting neighbors who would like to establish a community garden in Tom Ballantine’s yard on the corner of Chowkeebin and Chinnapakin. The SILC community garden could also include neighbors keen to share expertise and trade vegetables throughout the year. Please consider joining if you:

- want to garden but don’t have the space or sunlight;
- want to share the care and responsibility of a garden bed;
- have a garden and would like to trade help with garden chores; or
- want to share produce, ideas, and knowledge about caring for a garden.

If interested, contact Marney at [marneyrichards370@gmail.com](mailto:marneyrichards370@gmail.com) or Marie-Claire at [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com). We look forward to growing with you!



# Neighborhood Tree Workshop

By Geoff Brown and Marie-Claire Leman

Last fall, SILC hosted a two-part workshop with arborist and landscape designer David Copps, a park planner with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. David also has worked in outreach and extension for the University of Florida IFAS and environmental planning for Tall Timbers, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Trust for Public Land.

During the first session, eight neighbors enjoyed a tour of the trees at Koucky Park, during which we learned about tree identification, tree selection for our climate and landscape, and proper tree planting and caring techniques. One participant's name was drawn from a hat as the lucky winner of a planting demonstration in his yard a few weeks later. As we learned during the first workshop, the way a tree is planted can determine how well it thrives.

At the second meeting, attended by sixteen people, David provided tips and a demonstration about the proper way to plant a tree. He donated a maple to neighbor Bill Murray and left clear instructions to ensure that the newly planted tree would thrive from the start. David answered neighbors' questions about permaculture and beneficial trees for humans and supporting wildlife. He also gave advice about fruit trees and caring for trees that are not thriving due to less-than-ideal planting techniques.

David led the group to a few other yards and spoke about ways in which our community can support and nurture urban forests. He also offered several take-home messages for the neighborhood: partner with neighbors to choose trees in groupings so they can thrive long term; and choose trees that not only benefit your family, but that also provide wildlife habitats and green corridors.

This enjoyable and informative workshop may be repeated to deepen neighbors' knowledge of trees and could provide the format for other sustainability efforts. To share ideas about future speakers or activities, contact Geoff at [gjbrown425@aol.com](mailto:gjbrown425@aol.com) or Marie-Claire at [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com).



David Copps demonstrates proper tree-planting techniques during the SILC workshop.

Geoff Brown



**Kevin  
Hattaway**

**850-980-2134**

[www.KevinHattaway.com](http://www.KevinHattaway.com)  
[Kevin@KevinHattaway.com](mailto:Kevin@KevinHattaway.com)



Changing Times  
Realty Company



**2208 Pontiac Drive: \$140,000**

**Approx. 1,600 SQFT.**

Groovy 50's Ranch • BIG workshop off carport.  
Almost 500 SQFT concrete floored basement w/ windows,  
electricity & separate entrance.

# Yard Art Gardening–Trending

By Terry Kant-Rauch

Walking by neighborhood yards, do you ever notice how some stand out and others don't? Well-landscaped and manicured lawns draw attention, but there also seems to be an uprising of "Yard Art" gardens.

I've chosen to individualize my yard without having to do much gardening or maintenance. The existing ground cover is less than ideal for planting and keeping up with seasonal needs, and I totally lack the green thumb and incentive required to make flora flourish. Consequently, I've opted for yard art, which is fun, simple, and variable in cost. Some folks don't like it, but some (including me) go a little nuts on the amount; it is an individual or family choice. However, it is a viable option for gardener "wannabes." We get compliments and see folks stopping to look, and we assume that they're having a positive response.

I started very small when my daughter Jenna was seven. I got pine straw, a potted plant or two, and a few yard-statue things that I thought she would like or that we had lying around. I surprised her with these materials and told her we were going to create a special birthday garden for her. She was thrilled! We then went shopping so she could select her own special items to add.

We designated an area around our front-yard beech tree, cleared it with a rake, pulled the weeds, and laid down pine straw. We anchored the garden with a small bench that already was there (seven years later, it's falling apart, but she still likes it), and then we started laying out items and moving them around until we liked how it looked. We continue to add and remove items, which is an easy way to refresh the appearance.

Our family liked this so much that we created another small spot in front of our bay window. That was such a hit that we got really bold and added a large third garden. We cleared out some azaleas around the driveway but kept the ferns, small bushes, and trees and added a wooden landscape border. The area now displays items that we either had or have found in unusual stores—metal birds, windmill art, animals, rocks, colored glass, bird bath/feeders, potted plants, and items discarded by others. We even have a few solar lights, although they don't do well under the trees. About three times a year, we put down



Jenna Kant-Rauch

Jenna's birthday gift was the family's first foray into yard art gardens.

new pine straw or mulch and rearrange things. I'm always on the lookout for something to add to complement our gardens.

As you drive around our neighborhood, you'll see other examples of yard art gardens and perhaps pick up some ideas. It is a fun and easy way to individualize the space around your home, and I'd be happy to consult with neighbors who would like to give it a try.

**Terry Anne Kant, Broker** **Sharon Kant-Rauch, Realtor**  
(850) 567-3033 • [terrykant@aol.com](mailto:terrykant@aol.com) [rauchsh@aol.com](mailto:rauchsh@aol.com) • (850) 524-3033



**Kant Realty** LLC  
A four generation Real Estate Family since 1932

**(850) 877-2121 • [kanthomes.com](http://kanthomes.com)**

# Fighting Coral Ardisia While Having Fun

By Judith Rainbrook

Coral ardisia is a perfectly lovely plant, with thick, glossy leaves and bright red berries. It's like having holly berries all year long.

But wait! This plant has no enemies; nothing loves to graze on its enticing leaves; and nothing makes its roots rot. That's because it arrived from India, and its natural predators missed the boat. So coral ardisia just grows and grows and grows. In two years, it goes from a single berry to a mature plant that produces from 100 to 500 berries. With a germination rate of nearly 100 percent, each berry will become a new plant, and one plant becomes 100 to 500 plants within three years. This is why some yards and much of the Indianhead greenway is thick with ardisia!

Fortunately, a team of ardisia slayers has been tramping along the greenway and neighborhood streets, uprooting plants and humming their mantra: "Pick the berries, Pick the babies, Dig up the roots! Through it all into the trash!" Many neighbors helped with this year's "Valentine's Present for the Park" by collecting berries. The slayers began in mid-January and worked for several weeks. At the end, the City weighed the collected berries—185.21 pounds—and calculated that, at 1,600 plants per pound, 296,336 new plants had been prevented. Collecting the berries interrupts the reproduction cycle and gives the slayers a chance to remove parent plants before the next berry cycle occurs. Ed Reid also has organized several work sessions to remove berries from adult plants in Koucky Park, which was too small to qualify for spraying last year.



Troy and River Spencer clip and bag berries from mature plants.

Judith Rainbrook

The ardisia slayers have made substantial progress in the greenway by removing adult plants, berries, and baby ardisia erupting nearby, in concert with an invasive plant spraying effort by the City last winter. Likewise, individual neighbors have stepped up plant and berry removal in their yards. Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Department Park Management Specialist Eric Mason believes that IHLNA may be the only neighborhood that has a chance of eradicating this pesky plant.

So join the fun and the progress! Come to a work session or plan to remove plants and berries in your neighborhood by carrying a trash bag and clippers as you walk the dog or ride your bike. (Be mindful that the berries

fall off a clipped branch easily, so pick up what you don't shove into the trash bag!) Together we can conquer this invasive menace.



# Sunday Soccer

By Quinn Holden-Schrock

Soccer has always been a part of my life, beginning as a hobby and turning into a competitive sport that has yet to fail at keeping all of my Saturdays booked. As a competitive soccer player who plays for a Tottenham travel team, it's unusual for me to participate without pushing myself to play my hardest or to play without a certain level of pressure to succeed. About two years ago, I found the perfect soccer game; it's a game without the pressure, without the competition, and with all of the fun—all while being located in my own neighborhood.



Quinn is always up for soccer.

Daphne Holden

stress game: we don't have any referees or coaches, and there's no scoreboard. Everyone is there to have a good time and play the sport that they love.

At age fifteen, I am one of the oldest participants, but I actually enjoy playing with kids younger than me. The younger ones love the game, and their joy and excitement about it rubs off on me. Sunday soccer is my stress reliever. I look forward to it all week, and it's what pushes me to get my homework done on Sunday morning.

Every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. (change to 5:00 after Daylight Savings Time), my two little brothers and I ride our bikes to Optimist Park for the weekly soccer game. We've been going for about three years, and I can't recall a time when I wasn't enjoying myself. The games began using helmets or cones as our goal posts, but since then, the City has provided real soccer goals. Sunday soccer is a very low-

Sunday soccer is a pick-up game, and anyone can come and play, even if you have little or no experience. It's a perfect learning opportunity for people of all skill levels. For advanced players, it's a great way to develop skills you don't always get the chance to practice, and for beginners, it's a way to learn about soccer in a fun and non-competitive environment.

**CABO'S**  
**ISLAND GRILL & BAR**  
850-878-7707  
1221 Apalachee Pkwy.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
WWW.CABOSGRILL.COM  
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
CABOS ISLAND GRILL & BAR

**Piano Lessons**  
for beginners and intermediate players  
with TOMOKO BALDRIDGE  
(850) 559-7076  
tomokorolfer@gmail.com

## OFFICERS OF IHLNA

President: Grant Gelhardt  
grant.gelhardt@gmail.com

Vice President: Patty Ceci Sharp  
cecisharp@embarqmail.com

Treasurer: Ashley Arrington  
ashleyroberts10@hotmail.com

Secretary: Marie-Claire Leman  
marieclaireleman@gmail.com

Newsletter Design: Charity Myers  
thecreativepool@gmail.com

Newsletter: Shelly Hatton  
shellyhatton@gmail.com

Newsletter: KC Smith  
kcsmith614@hotmail.com

Nene Watch: Vacant

Nene 5K: Jessica Kennett  
jesskennett0079@yahoo.com

At-Large: Mary Louise Bachman  
Connie Bersok  
Edward Reid  
Sandra Neidert



# Calling All Crime Stoppers

When IHLNA residents expressed interest in having a Crime Watch Coordinator, Sylvia Smith stepped up and created a protocol to help improve the safety of our neighborhood. Unfortunately, a new job prevents her from continuing, so the Association is seeking a replacement. To create an effective program, Sylvia implemented the following activities, although each CW coordinator can develop a unique program:

- coordinate periodic neighborhood meetings with a Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) representative;
- answer neighbors' questions and direct folks to TPD's resources and "home checklist," which she posted on IHLNA's Facebook page;
- represent IHLNA at periodic TPD-sponsored events;
- staff an information table at Nene Fest; and
- write a Crime Watch column for the newsletter.

Sylvia says a Crime Watch Coordinator should enjoy communicating with others; be willing to share information with "new move-ins," who are the most vulnerable residents for a robbery; and remain in contact with TPD about burglary episodes in the area.

In addition, keeping neighbors apprised of best practices by providing articles for *The Optimist* is an essential step. If you are interested in volunteering to be the new Crime Watch Coordinator, contact Grant at [grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com). —KC Smith



popshoptally.com

colorful • modern • handmade goods & original art  
mindfully crafted & environmentally thoughtful

HISTORIC RAILROAD SQUARE

jewelry • handbags • home decor • stationery  
kid's stuff • textiles • art • gifts • clothing



## INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD

### Spring/Summer Calendar

#### 2nd Sunday of the month

Potluck in the Park, Optimist Park, 6:00 p.m.  
Bring a potluck dish to share, your own utensils, and (optional) a chair or blanket.

#### Saturday, April 15

Neighborhood Yard Sale, Optimist Park,  
8:00 a.m.-noon

#### Saturday, April 29

4th Annual Nene Fest 5K & Fun Run,  
Optimist Park, 8:00 a.m.

#### Saturday, April 29

9th Annual Nene Fest, Optimist Park,  
3:00-9:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, July 4

Holiday Bike Parade, Optimist Park,  
9:00 a.m.



Yoga for Every Body!

Daily Classes • All Levels • Great Teachers

[namaste-tallahassee.com](http://namaste-tallahassee.com)  
find us on facebook

1369 E. Lafayette Street  
(850) 556-2625

# Treasurer's Report

**Beginning Balance**  
January 6, 2016

**\$8,040.06**

<b>Income</b>	Nene Fest	\$3,748.00
	Membership Dues	\$3,413.57
	Ads - Spring Newsltr	\$685.00
	Recovered Funds	\$800.00
	Honor Flight Donations	\$100.00
	Ads - Fall Newsltr	\$385.00
	Donations to Luna Fund	\$225.00

**Total Revenue** **\$17,396.63**

<b>Expenses</b>	Nene Fest	\$3,248.14
	Nene 5k donation	\$103.15
	Spring 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
	Fall Newsletters/Copies	\$574.14
	Ponies - Potluck	\$200.00
	Halloween Materials and Supplies	\$389.04
	Band Halloween	\$300.00
	Election Day Table	\$86.80
	Ardesia removal tool donation	\$108.70
	Payment to Luna	\$225.00
	Pay Pal Fees	\$149.60
	Website Domain Renewal	\$26.00

**Total Expenses** **\$7,328.31**

**Current Balance**  
January 1, 2017

**\$10,068.32**

## CAFÉ 21

Breakfast & Lunch



1447 E. Lafayette St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
judsonwiard850@gmail.com

Judson T. Wiard, Owner  
850-566-4927

## HARTSFIELD CORNER

### Join Hartsfield's Garden Club

By Marie-Claire Leman

Hartsfield Elementary School's on-site gardens are in their third consecutive season of production. This year, we created a Garden Club as part of the afterschool program to bring together students, teachers, and community members. Last fall, with the support of many Indianhead neighbors, we raised \$800 through a challenge called SeedMoney.

The students are so enthusiastic and grateful for the participation of our volunteers—Marney Richards, Tom Ballentine, and Lena Burnett. Together, so far, we have grown kale, mustard greens, arugula, carrots, radishes, lettuce, cabbage, swiss chard, and beets—all the fixings for a tasty meal. The kids enjoy harvesting and tasting the produce, and they are proud to take some home to their families. We meet at the school gardens every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. Working together, we tend each of the school's raised beds, weeding, planting, watering, and harvesting. We are always looking for new volunteers to ensure that we have enough adults every week to keep these young gardeners engaged. If you have questions or would like to participate, contact Marie-Claire Leman at [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com).



Marie-Claire Leman

Hartsfield's bountiful vegetable beds are the work of students and adult volunteers.

# 4th Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run

April 29 • 8:00 a.m. • Optimist Park

By Jessica Kennett and Marie-Claire Leman



Melinda Stuart-Tilley

Participants of all ages await the start of the one mile Fun Run.

After our big success with last year's Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run, which raised \$4,000 for Hartsfield Elementary, we did not hesitate to plan for a repeat performance. This time we hope to top the turnout of previous years. Tell your friends that this is the sweetest springtime run; indeed, the prize for speed again will be Nene Honey! Special thanks to Linda Hartsfield-Ogle, who designed the new 2017 Nene Fest and 5K logos.

In addition to bringing our unique neighborhood together for a morning of fun and exercise, primary goals of the race are to enrich our elementary school environment and strengthen the neighborhood-school connection. Money raised by this year's event will be used for much-needed sound equipment for Hartsfield's music program.

## How you can participate

- *Become a sponsor.* Consider making a personal or business contribution; we welcome any amount. Sponsorship information is available on the Nene Fest 5K Facebook page, [facebook.com/nene5k](https://facebook.com/nene5k), or you can contact Marie-Claire Leman (see below).
- *Sign up to run or walk.* See page 16 of the newsletter for a mail-in race registration form or register online at [eventbright.com](http://eventbright.com).

- *Volunteer.* The 5K and Fun Run races are a success each year largely due to more than fifty volunteers who make this an exciting, safe, and smooth event for everyone. To volunteer, contact Marie-Claire (see below).

If you have questions about the race or sponsorships:

- [jesskennett0079@yahoo.com](mailto:jesskennett0079@yahoo.com)  
850.241.3283  
or
- [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com)  
850.728.7514

We wish to thank our top sponsors from last year for their high-level, sustained support: Kevin Hattaway, Changing Times Realty; Terry Anne and Sharon Kant-Rauch, Kant Realty; and Dender Construction. We also are grateful to Vertigo Burger and Fries, Canopy Road Cafe, Creative Pool Design, Capital City Runners, Norma Reesor, and the AFL-CIO for their generous contribution to last year's race. We hope they and many others will consider supporting our efforts again this year.

We look forward to seeing you bright and early on Saturday, April 29. Thank you for supporting our school and our community!



# April 29

**OPTIMIST PARK**  
E. Indianhead Drive, Tallahassee

## ENTRY FEE:

**Before 4/26/2017**

\$15

\$10 (12 and under)

\$ 5 (Hartsfield student)

**Day of Race**

\$20

\$15 (12 and under)

\$ 5 (Hartsfield student)

**Giveaway included in price to first 150 registrants.**

**Registration, 6:45-8:00 a.m. | 5K Race 8:00 a.m. | Fun Run 9:00 a.m.**

Registration: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) OR Mail completed form with payment to:



**Benefiting Hartsfield  
Elementary**

Nene Fest 5K/Fun Run  
c/o Jessica Kennett  
2017 Chowkeebbin Nene  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age on 4/29: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Entering (circle): ☐ 5K ☐ Fun Run ☐ Donation

**Not a runner but still want to show support? Check the "Donation" box. We welcome any amount.**

Please make checks payable to: IHLNA (Indianhead Lehigh Neighborhood Association)

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

WAIVER: I know that participating in running activities is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running in this race including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather (excessive heat and/or humidity), traffic and the conditions of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of you accepting my application, I for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf waive and release the Race Director, GulfWinds Track Club, or any other sponsoring agent, their representatives and successors from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the parts of the persons/agents named in this waiver. I grant permission to all of the foregoing to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose.

Signature of Entrant (Parent or Legal Guardian if under 18 years old) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

For additional information, please contact Jessica Kennett at [jesskennett0079@yahoo.com](mailto:jesskennett0079@yahoo.com)