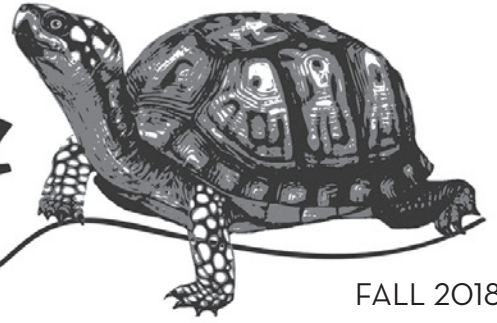


# The Optimist



FALL 2018

INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Another First for IHLNA Neighborhood Wins Sustainability Award

By Peggy Sanford

Once again, the neighborhood rocks the party! During the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) annual meeting on June 18, the Indianhead Lehigh Neighborhood Association was presented the first Sustainable Neighborhood of the Year Award, sponsored by Sustainable Tallahassee.

"This recognition is a culmination of many years of concerted effort by Indianhead Lehigh residents," said IHLNA President Grant Gelhardt, who wrote the award nomination with assistance from Connie Bersok and Marie-Claire Leman. "It's simply part of being a 'Nenelander.' It's what we do and who we are."

(continued on page 2)



## In This Issue

- IHLNA Sustainability Award
- Halloween Party and Potluck
- Neighborhood Roundup
- Underappreciated Friends: Bats
- Sustainable Indianhead Lehigh Community (SILC)
- Neighborhood Schools Update
- Aging in Place
- Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods

## FALL/WINTER CALENDAR

### Sunday, October 14

Potluck in the Park,  
Optimist Park, 4:00 p.m.

### Saturday, October 27

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

### Tuesday, November 6

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

### Sunday, November 11

Daylight Saving Time ends at  
2:00 a.m.; turn back clocks one  
hour ("fall back").

### Sunday, November 11

Potluck in the Park,  
Optimist Park, 4:00 p.m.

### Friday, December 21

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

# Neighborhood Wins Sustainability Award (cont.)

The award application requested information about such common practices as household recycling and composting, organized litter clean-up, energy audits, and awareness of local farmers' markets. Gelhardt also described other proactive steps that IHLNA residents have taken, including

- numerous neighborhood community gardens and community compost;
- yards that are certified by the National Wildlife Federation as Wildlife Habitat Friendly;
- a biannual newsletter, *The Optimist*, that promotes thoughtful use of energy, sustainable landscaping practices, use of alternative forms of transportation, and participation in the city's adopt-a-tree program;
- creation of the Sustainable Indianhead Lehigh Community (SILC) "EcoTeam" that plans and presents programs and contributes articles to *The Optimist*;
- an annual yard sale, "curb alerts" on the IHLNA Facebook page, and the Little Free Library at Optimist Park, all of which help to reduce, recycle, and reuse; and
- the recently established "Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes" project, which enables senior residents to age in place.

In addition, Gelhardt highlighted IHLNA's extensive sustainability efforts relating to Nene Fest and invasive plants. Organizers of the annual neighborhood festival purchase only compostable utensils, plates and cups; encourage attendees to bring their own

reusable utensils; and facilitate composting and recycling of all event waste. Gelhardt also cited the "Ardisia Slayers," an informal team of folks who have worked unflaggingly with the city's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs to remove coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*) and other nuisance plants from greenways and individual yards.

Indianhead Lehigh was among four neighborhoods that competed for the award, which Sustainable Tallahassee plans to present annually. Sustainable Tallahassee is a nonprofit organization that promotes environmental, economic, and social sustainability through education and collaboration. In particular, it examines how sustainability impacts and is impacted by energy, transportation, water, waste, and local food. The award's objective is to encourage people to become more sustainably minded as individuals and as neighbors.

To celebrate the recognition and offer guidance to other neighborhoods, Gelhardt, Bersok, Leman, and SILC member Judi Rainbrook will discuss some of IHLNA's strategies at the Sustainable Tallahassee Green Drinks event on January 28, at 5:30 p.m., at Grasslands Brewing Company, 603 West Gaines Street. Neighbors and friends are invited to come, celebrate, and share ideas.

Photos:

Front cover: Jim Davis, executive director of Sustainable Tallahassee (left), presented the first Sustainable Neighborhood of the Year Award to IHLNA President Grant Gelhardt, who was joined at the event by Jessica Kennett and her daughter, Lydia, and Ramona Abernathy-Paine. Kennett was nominated for CONA's Neighbor of the Year Award because of her work coordinating the annual Nene Fest 5K Run.

*Photo: Becky Parsons, Sustainable Tallahassee*

Left: IHLNA's community gardens such as this one on Wahalaw Nene were highlighted in the award nomination.



# A Spooktacular Party and Potluck

Saturday, October 27 • 4:30-7:30 p.m. • Optimist Park

Polish your fangs and pull out your scarespray for the annual Indianhead Lehigh Halloween Party and Potluck Dinner. Open to residents young and old, the event will feature

- hair-raising music by Tao Jones and the Ontological Elephants;
- a wicked costume parade and Beast in Show awards; and
- an array of gruel fit for zombies and ghouls.

Bring potluck dishes to the clubhouse by 5:00 p.m.; dinner begins at 5:15 p.m. IHLNA will provide beverages, plates, and utensils, but consider bringing your own eating tools to reduce waste. Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the event to decorate,

coordinate, and clean-up. Contact Brad Perry ([bradley.estes.perry@gmail.com](mailto:bradley.estes.perry@gmail.com)) or Grant Gelhardt ([grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com)) if you're willing to add your spooktacular talents and time.



## The Story of Halloween

Halloween's origins go back 2,000 years to the festival of Samhain, observed by Celts—residents of modern Ireland, United Kingdom, and northern France—to mark the end of summer and beginning of winter. Among the rituals, Celts lit bonfires and wore costumes to ward off spirits that caused trouble and damaged crops. After Romans conquered Celtic territory in 43 AD, elements of Samhain were incorporated into their festivals. The succeeding growth of Christianity prompted further adaptations, including the establishment of November 2 as All Souls' Day to honor the dead. Observed with parades, bonfires, and dressing up, the celebration also was called "All-hallows" or "All-hallowmas,"

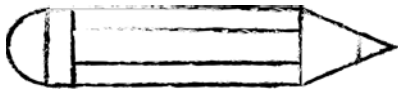
from a word meaning "All Saints' Day."

In the American colonies, a distinct version of Halloween emerged from the varying beliefs and customs of settlers and natives. Initially, celebrations marked the autumn harvest with fortune- and storytelling, mischief-making, singing, and dancing. In the mid to late 1800s, a new flood of immigrants helped to popularize Halloween more widely and introduced such customs as pumpkin carving and going house-to-house in costume. As the focus gradually pivoted from witchcraft and ghosts to community get-togethers, Halloween lost most of its religious and superstitious overtones. Eventually, town-centered events shifted to neighborhood trick-or-treating as a way to safely and inexpensively involve children in a new set of holiday traditions. Today, one quarter of all

candy sold annually in the US is purchased for Halloween. —KCS; [www.history.com](http://www.history.com)



## NEWS & Notes



### *Holiday Lights Tradition*

Join us for the Sixth Annual Holiday Lights Bike Ride. We will meet with bells and lights on at Optimist Park at 6:30 p.m. on December 21. The ride through the neighborhood, about three miles, will take us to see the best holiday lights and decorations. It will be suitable for children riding independently on two-wheels, accompanied by a parent, and of course, kids “as cargo” are always welcome! All bikes must have front and back lights, and we give extra credit for holiday lights! At the end of the ride, please join us for a traditional treat of cookies and hot chocolate at 1911 Wahalaw Court. For additional information, contact Marie-Claire at (850) 728-7514.



### *Welcome Aboard!*

We are pleased to introduce Neighborhood Services Coordinator Robyn Wainner, who is IHLNA's new representative from the Tallahassee Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs. Wainner is one of five coordinators who facilitate communication between the city and individual neighborhoods. Although anyone may contact her with concerns or ideas, because she works with more than forty residential associations, she typically interacts with one or two residents in each to share news and updates. (For IHLNA, these include Grant Gelhardt and Ramona Abernathy-Paine). Folks can reach Robyn at (850) 891-8836 or [robyn.wainner@talgov.com](mailto:robyn.wainner@talgov.com).

### *Don't Miss the Potlucks!*

As the dog days of summer draw to an end, the neighborhood will resume its periodic fall and spring potluck dinners at Optimist Park. These free, second-Sunday events are open to all Indianhead Lehigh residents. Participants should bring a dish that feeds ten people and (optional) a chair or blanket. Herbal tea will be provided. Guests are encouraged to bring their own plates and flatware, although disposable utensils will be available if needed. Note that starting times change as daylight waxes and wanes. Dates and times include October 14 and November 11, 4:00 p.m.; February 10 and March 10, 4:00 p.m.; and April 14, 6:00 p.m. A dinner will not be held in December, January, or May.

The November event traditionally features free pony rides for kids, offered from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The gathering also will feature a petting zoo with rabbits, baby goats, and other farm animals that kids and even adults love to cuddle.

### *Keeping an Eye on Crime*

During the spring, IHLNA resident Bryon Mohs tried to resuscitate the neighborhood Crime Watch Program by contacting the Tallahassee Police Department for training and recruiting committee members at Nene Fest and elsewhere. He soon discovered that folks already are doing what needs to be done: keeping an eye on things and calling TPD if something seems odd. Although the police and sheriff's offices logged 189 calls from Indianhead Lehigh residents between February and August, more than half were for community policing, miscellaneous service, and suspicious behavior, and twenty related to a crash without injury. According to Mohs, TPD regards the neighborhood crime rate as “very low.” This is good news, but continued success depends on everyone's participation. Keep the following contact details handy, and as they say, “If you see something, say something.”

- Call 911 to report a critical emergency.
- Call (850) 606-5800 to report an incident that requires an officer to be dispatched.
- Call (850) 891-4200 to report non-critical incidents or for other administrative matters.
- Go to [www.talgov.com/publicsafety/tpd.aspx](http://www.talgov.com/publicsafety/tpd.aspx) to report non-critical incidents online.

# Preparedness Needs a Plan and a Team

By Robyn Wainner

As Florida moves through the hurricane season, which ends November 30, Tallahassee officials are reminding residents about the resources available to prepare for and respond to major storms and disasters. The “Neighborhood Plan for Readiness and Emergency Preparedness”—aka “Neighborhood PREP”—provides a simple and well-organized set of procedures that can facilitate neighbors working together in an emergency. The toolkit is divided into four customizable units, and while neighborhoods can implement any or all of these, the first module, “Form a Neighborhood Response Team (NRT),” is particularly important. Often organized around a network of “block captains,” NRT volunteers coordinate local response activities and serve as primary points of contact—especially when city and emergency management personnel need to share information. Details about the program and the PREP Toolkit are

available online at [www.talgov.com/PREP](http://www.talgov.com/PREP), or residents can call the city’s Neighborhood Services office at (850) 891-8795. Staff are available to present the program to neighborhoods to make the community better prepared and self-sufficient during emergencies.

Formation of an NRT for Indianhead Lehigh was discussed at the neighborhood meeting on August 1. Most folks felt that IHLNA’s robust resident email list and active Facebook page work well for neighbors who want to communicate with one another. During times of disaster, neighbors can use these platforms to share their most urgent needs as well as their readiness and availability to help. However, if someone in the neighborhood would like to pursue setting up a more formal system of disaster response, he/she should contact Robin Wainner at (850) 891-8836 or [robyn.wainner@talgov.com](mailto:robyn.wainner@talgov.com).

## Magnolia Drive Trail Update

By Kristin Dozier

I wanted to provide an update on the Magnolia Drive project and news about the decision by the Blueprint Inter-Governmental Agency to include underground electric utility lines as a part of this initiative.

The original design concept for the project included a ten-foot-wide multiuse trail directly adjacent to the curb and gutter. Modifications to the original design now include three- or four-foot planted buffers between the roadway and a slightly narrower trail. Dimensions of the buffer and trail vary depending on the affected stretches of highway, which include Monroe to Meridian, Meridian to Pontiac, Pontiac to Circle (south side, then east side), Circle to Chowkeebin (east side of Magnolia), Circle to Apalachee (west side of Magnolia), and Seminole to Alban (north side, then west side).

The redesign was scheduled to reach the 90 percent design phase in June, by which point additional right-of-way (ROW) needs would have been identified. Typically,

ROW acquisition requires twelve to eighteen months, and during this period, design plans and permitting will be finalized and readied for bid and construction. The City of Tallahassee is designing the underground electric and will coordinate with the consultants for the multiuse trail design. The underground electric will require additional ROW for installation. The county anticipates construction to begin in fall to winter 2019.

Leon County Commissioner Kristin Dozier represents District 5, which includes the Indianhead Lehigh Acres neighborhoods.



# Bats: Our Underrated Friends

By Sandy Beck

What immediately comes to mind when you hear the word “bat,” especially so close to Halloween? Count Dracula bending over a sleeping beauty; his fangs piercing her smooth, white neck; evil eyes glowing with new life as he swirls his black cape, throws open the French doors, morphs into a large bat, and flaps off into the night?

Or how about blind, rabid rodents flying at terrified people, their pointy wings entangled in someone’s hair?

Sound familiar? Well, bats have had a lousy PR agent.

The truth is that bats are among the most gentle, beneficial, and necessary animals on earth. However, because of centuries of myth and superstition, they also are among the world’s least appreciated and most endangered animals.

Much of what we think we know about bats is not true. First of all, bats are not rodents. They are mammals, more closely related to primates than rodents. Bats differ from all other mammals in their ability to fly—not merely glide like flying squirrels, but actually fly. Their wings are folds of skin stretched between elongated finger bones, the sides of the body, the hind limbs, and, in some species, the tail.

There are nearly 1,000 species of bats worldwide—approximately one-quarter of all mammal species. Bats have evolved a wide range of sizes and physical and behavioral adaptations that enable them to thrive in a variety of habitats. About forty species live in North America.

Some bat species are fruit eaters, some are insectivores, and others catch small vertebrates such as frogs and mice. Yes, there are vampire bats. But these little guys live only in South and Central America, do not migrate, and lap up just tiny bits of blood after pricking the feet of livestock such as cows and chickens, rather than people.

Many of the world’s most valuable food products depend on fruit- and nectar-eating bats for survival. A few notables are bananas, avocados, mangoes, cashews, and tequila. Seeds pooped by tropical bats replant clear-cut rain forests.



According to the Florida Bat Conservancy, Florida is home to thirteen bat species that are either year-round or seasonal residents. All are insectivorous. Some form colonies and some roost alone. There also are seven “accidental” species that occasionally are found in Florida. Four species that sometimes blow in from the tropics to the Keys and south Florida feed on nectar, pollen, and fruit. About eight different species call Tallahassee home.

Do most bats carry rabies? Less than one half of one percent are identified as rabies carriers. Rather than becoming aggressive like other mammals, a rabid bat becomes paralyzed, drops to the ground, and dies. Nonetheless, as a general precaution, you should avoid handling bats. Healthy bats will bite in self-defense, and so will rabid ones. If you are bitten or scratched by a bat or any other mammal that is a common rabies vector, you should contact your physician immediately. If you find an injured, orphaned, or sick bat, call St. Francis Wildlife.

And “blind as a bat?” Nope. Bats see very well. They also use a type of sonar (like whales and dolphins) called “echolocation” to navigate and communicate. Actually, scientists have determined their echolocation system to be infinitely more sensitive than anything developed by humans. They can detect a mosquito or even a human hair in total darkness. Thus, it would be pretty unlikely for a bat to collide with and get entangled in an entire head of hair.

Birds that hunt flying insects catch their prey in their feet or mouths, but most insectivorous bats scoop up their victims in wing or tail membranes, then pop the tasty morsels into their mouth.

Building a bat house is no guarantee that bats will move in, but a well-constructed house properly placed in a suitable habitat has a chance. The reward—free, natural, non-toxic insect control—is worth the effort. Imagine, no more trucks creeping through our streets spraying clouds of chemicals into hot summer nights. The Florida Bat Conservancy has a wealth of good information and bat house plans at [www.floridabats.org](http://www.floridabats.org).

The world's largest occupied bat houses—the University of Florida's two bat barns and bat house—are located on their campus across from Lake Alice. According to the UF website, the most common species living here is the Brazilian free-tailed bat. The southeastern bat and evening bat also live in the structures. The estimated 40,000 bats that live in this colony suck up about 2.5 billion insects every night. That's more than 2,500 pounds of mosquitoes, gnats, flies, and other little pests that drive us crazy.

A few years ago, my husband Bob and I drove down to Gainesville to witness the bats' nightly emergence. As the orange sun set, the bats' soft chirping grew more excited. Then, suddenly, dozens of bats at a time dropped from their home, swooshed out over our heads and into the night.

The stuff of horror movies? Hardly. I was thrilled down to my toes.

*Sandy Beck serves as education director with the St. Francis Wildlife Association, [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).*

Photo left: The hoary bat is Florida's second-largest bat species, with a wingspan of 13 to 15 inches. This little fellow was rescued and rehabilitated by St. Francis Wildlife. *Photo: Teresa Stevenson*

Photo above: St. Francis Wildlife successfully raised and released this eastern red bat, which it received as a young orphan. Red bats are solitary. During the day, they often will hang from a small branch, looking very much like a dead leaf. *Photo: Sandy Beck*



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# Are We Seeing the Forest for the Trees?

By Ryan A. Wilke



The character of our neighborhood is defined in part by our beautiful canopy. Trees of many types and ages weave themselves into a verdant tapestry appreciated by residents, both of the human-kind and critter-kind. I have seen cuckoos, raccoons, cicadas, possums, foxes, owls, turtles, oak snakes, moths, and even a turkey making this urban forest a home. Additionally, our trees provide shade from the harsh summer sun, serve as an acoustic buffer from the rumble of busy city streets, work to improve our air quality, and protect our rich soils from erosion during endless seasonal rains.

But such benefits, beauty, and biodiversity can come with a cost, as many of us have experienced during our recent severe weather events, including Hurricane Hermine. My wife and I experienced firsthand the wrath of wind and wood, when we returned home to find our very large hickory resting peacefully atop our crushed house. I lamented that I reluctantly had taken down so many aging and declining trees over the previous ten years, but ironically, not the right one!

This unfortunate event naturally led to additional pondering about the purpose of our trees and the risks they entail. Anecdotally, I had noticed that some trees seemed to succumb to the elements more frequently than others, and I wondered whether certain types were less likely to come down during storms. What could I do to improve the safety of our canopy while still promoting the numerous benefits of a wooded yard?

Fortunately, my questions ran squarely into some helpful information published by the University of Florida in an article titled, "Wind and Trees: Lessons Learned from Hurricanes." This publication details the effects of hurricanes on trees in the Southeast. It covers a number of topics related to tree survivability and variables such as tree species, rooting space, tree density, tree maturity, and tree maintenance. One of my favorite sections is a list of trees that have the highest resistance to wind—sabal palm, live oak, holly, dogwood, southern magnolia, cypress, sparkleberry, and crape myrtles, to name a few. Some of these trees are smaller and less looming than others. Also noted are an additional twenty species that have medium-to-high wind resistance and that are suitable for our neighborhood. Okay, I thought, these are the types of trees I want to keep or plant in greater number. I might even consider planting some of these

smaller types with higher resistance to wind closer to my house if I still wanted to cast some shade on it but also limit the odds of damage.

Importantly, the article also lists the types of trees most vulnerable to wind, including laurel oak, water oak, Bradford pear, pecan, tulip poplar, spruce pine, and red cedar, as well as those types with only medium-to-low wind resistance, including black cherry, sugar berry, mulberry, and several other pine species and maples. Plant these types far away from the house or not at all, I thought to myself. The essay also details evidence of greater survivability for trees that have been well-pruned and trees that have been planted in groupings of five or more. Sections on older tree management, soil properties, and tree structure each provide useful and easily digested tips to help one make modifications that may reduce the risk of significant damage.

As an inveterate admirer and steward of trees, I felt empowered by this information. It provided me with solid facts that I could use to make reasoned decisions about the trees under my care, while still aiming for a healthy, diverse canopy. If you also are struggling to balance your love of trees with concerns about the safety of your home and yard, you might enjoy this article from beneath a shade tree!

Mary L. Duryea and Eliana Kampf. "Wind and Trees: Lessons Learned from Hurricanes." Gainesville: University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation Department, rev. 2017. To download a copy: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> and search for UF/IFAS publication FOR 118.

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A graphic of a piano keyboard, with the keys curving upwards from left to right, creating a sense of motion and depth.

# Ribbons and Memories Await At the North Florida Fair

By Molly Jameson

Growing up, as soon as I went through the gates of the North Florida Fair, I headed straight for the rides. The spaceship, the mini roller coaster, the alien arms, and of course, the Ferris wheel. After plenty of twirls on various contraptions and too much cotton candy, I was ready to make my rounds through the buildings along the promenade, where there surely was a llama or a goat to be fed at the petting zoo.

After I started volunteering at the Leon County Animal Shelter as part of the 4-H Pet Partners, I was introduced to these buildings in a completely new light. We created papier-mâché cats and dogs to display at the fair to build awareness about pet overpopulation. The day I set up my beagle-like creation, my adrenaline soared because I knew it would be judged, and I just might get a ribbon. Today, I relish every stroll through the buildings because they contain myriad handmade treasures, many of which are adorned with blue rosettes of triumph.

The tradition of displaying wares and handiwork at fair competitions goes back to the Middle Ages and Renaissance, when merchants sold and traded agricultural goods that were freshly harvested in the fall. Naturally, competitions arose, as people strove for the finest products. Today, fairs nearly always include judges who inspect homegrown fruits and vegetables, preserved foods, and baked goods entered into competition by the community. The North Florida Fair began at the Leon County Armory in 1939, took a hiatus during World War II, reopened at FAMU in 1947, and finally moved to its current location on South Monroe Street in 1949.

By 1964, \$22,000 was awarded in cash prizes in more than 680 categories of competition. Don't tell your kids, but in the '60s, children got out of school early one day to attend the fair! Today, about \$80,000 is awarded in cash prizes. North Florida residents may enter as many exhibit categories as they like, which are arranged into departments such as Home Agriculture, Baked Goods, Fine Arts and Crafts, and 4-H Clubs. Classes are split



into age divisions or experience levels. Details are available on the North Florida Fair website, <http://northfloridafair.com>, under the "Exhibitors" tab.

Consider entering your creations into this year's fair, which is set for November 8-18. You might just earn a blue ribbon that other attendees will admire as they create their own fond fair memories.

*Molly Jameson is a sustainable agriculture and community food systems agent with UF/IFAS Leon County Extension.*

Photo above: A youth showcases his prize-winning chicken at the North Florida Fair. *Photo: Aly Donovan*



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## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

### *Hartsfield Elementary School*

By Rhonda Blackwell-Flanagan, Ph.D., Principal

I am honored to serve as principal of Hartsfield Elementary and consider it a privilege to work alongside a community whose hands continue to give and hearts continue to share love toward Hartsfield. This year our theme is "Reaching Our Goals with Heart and Soul." While teaching and learning will remain at the heart of our instructional focus, the soul of Hartsfield comes from our passion and love for what we do, our culture of collaboration, engaging our school community, and the resiliency that we demonstrate in being able to bounce back. Yes, we have work to do ahead, and there is progress to be made, but with the wind in our sails, and our parents and community partners ALL IN, we will soar confidently into Reaching Our Goals with Heart and Soul!

In June 2018, we received the Golden School Award in recognition of exemplary programs that promote family and community involvement in education. This is a testament to the energy, heart, and planning put forth to ensure that families and community are engaged and included in all that we do. We also are implementing the Conscious Discipline curriculum to complement our Trauma Informed strategies as we continue to focus on the education and development of the whole child.

We are grateful to be nestled in a community that embraces us and supports our efforts to prepare our Hawks to soar in excellence! We need you more than ever, and there are many ways that you can be ALL IN this year: volunteer in a classroom or on the playground, become a mentor, support after-school programs such as the Art Club, Chorus, or Garden Club, become a business partner, or simply support us with your presence at public events. For any questions about volunteering or donating, contact Judi McDowell at (850) 488-7322. Your support allows our Hawks to soar even higher!

### *Fairview Middle School*

By Scott Hansen, Principal

Fairview Middle School prides itself on meeting the needs of our individual students. We offer a general and an advanced track as well as an accelerated program (International Baccalaureate Prep). Our general and advanced teachers work together to ensure that students have hands-on learning experiences that will create lifelong learners.

Fairview students can choose from a variety of elective options that include world languages, guitar, chorus, band, orchestra, art, physical education, business technology, animation and gaming, and SSTRIDE (Science Students Together Reaching Diversity and Excellence). After school, we offer a myriad of sports and clubs for your child. We encourage all students to find an activity they enjoy and to join whatever suits them. They have an opportunity to participate in football, volleyball, cross country, track, soccer, softball, cheerleading, or dance. We also have clubs for math, Brain Bowl, Black History Brain Bowl, yearbook, Student Government Association, Junior Beta, Science Olympiad, and Model United Nations.

We will host an IB Prep Open House in January for those interested in applying for the IB Prep magnet program. This will be a great time to ask questions and visit with our teachers. In addition, past parents and former students will be on hand to address questions and concerns about the transition to middle school. We look forward to meeting you soon!

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### **HARTSFIELD ELEMENTARY UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November 3:** Parent and Family Engagement Conference

**November 9:** Veterans Day Breakfast and Parade

**December 6:** School Fundraiser: Book Fair, Community Night, and Winter Chorus Concert

**December 18:** Winter Carnival

*For details, call (850) 488-7322.*

# *Rickards High School*

By Douglas Cook, Principal

I am honored to serve as principal of James S. Rickards High School. It is truly a privilege to be part of a community in which parents, teachers, and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth.

It is our mission to make every student feel welcomed, connected, and part of the Rickards High family. We continue to challenge each student to grow in his or her academic abilities and to be college-ready by the end of four years. Our teachers spend countless hours planning and creating classroom activities to engage our

students in learning. We believe that all students should graduate from high school prepared for the demands of postsecondary education, meaningful careers, and effective citizenship.

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a building to renovate a school. Our current construction renovation will continue over the next two years. We appreciate your understanding while this work is ongoing; our contractor will make every effort to keep the common spaces clean and minimize disruptions during this time. We are excited to have you all visit as the phases are completed!

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## *What Students Have to Say*

### **Hartsfield**

"Hartsfield is so very fun and interesting. I have learned a lot and made many friends there."

Aster, 5th grade

"I'm most looking forward to getting all the privileges the fifth graders get at Hartsfield."

Alice, 5th grade

"My favorite part of the day is math with Ms. Reynolds." Lydia, 1st grade

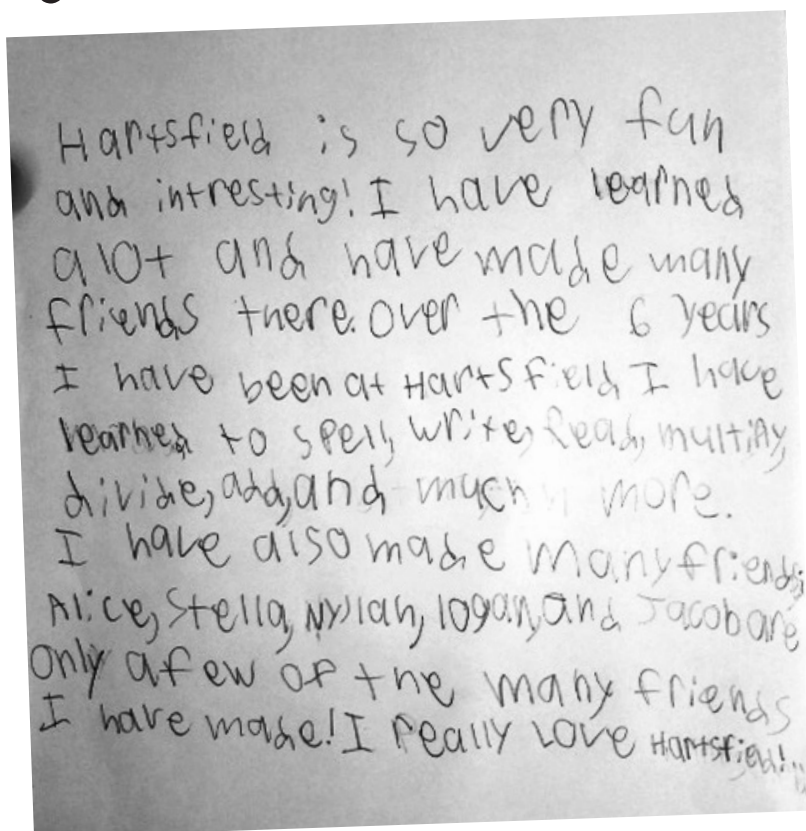
### **Fairview**

"The best advice I could give would be 'organization is key.' For all future IB Prep students, it's important to know that this means everything from time management to writing in your planner daily. By doing this, you can keep up with [other] kids ... and achieve the grades you want."

Ravi, 8th grade

"Do not get behind in school work. Make a solid friend in the same grade that you can ask and share questions regarding homework and projects."

Naomi, 8th grade



### **Rickards**

"One thing I like about Rickards is that if you want to take super-rigorous classes for the entire day, you can do that. But if you want to take more rigorous classes in subjects that you want to do after high school, and take some classes that aren't so rigorous, you can do that, too." Ollie, 9th grade

# Re-cap: 5th Annual Nene 5K and Fun Run

By Jessica Kennett and Marie-Claire Leman

We are pleased by the success of the Fifth Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run! The 5K was selected to be a Gulf Winds Grand Prix race this year, which boosted the turnout considerably. We raised \$1,000 more than last year, for a total of \$5,000 to be donated to Hartsfield Elementary School to help ensure that all students are able to attend field trips.

We are very grateful for the many people who helped to make the race a success, including 232 registrants, 45 volunteers, and 22 sponsors. A special thank you goes out to our steadfast **Golden Sponsors**: Kevin Hattaway, Terry Anne and Sharon Kant-Rauch of Kant Realty of North Florida, and Dender Construction.

We had many more **Silver Sponsors** this year and are grateful to them all: AFL-CIO, Awards for You, Namasté Yoga, Oecohort, Tallahassee Pediatric Dentist, and Vertigo Burger and Fries. Our **Bronze Sponsors** also helped to make this event a success: Journeys in Yoga, Just Fruits and Exotics, Norma Reesor, Purple Martin Nursery, and Tiger Rock Martial Arts. The continued generosity of all of our sponsors, wonderful participation of runners and walkers, and tremendous help of volunteers came together to ensure that the Hartsfield PTO will be able to support field trips in each grade level. Field trips offer such enrichment to students, and we are delighted to help make them accessible to all.

We saw remarkable speed during the course of this Grand Prix race. Vince Molosky dominated the men's race and was the overall winner with a time of 17:02. That's a 5:29 mile pace! Chris O'Kelley came in second at 17:07, followed by Ryan Truchelut at 17:45. Katie Sherron came in first for the women again this year with a swift time of 19:16, followed by Brittney Barnes at 21:10 and Angela Dempsey, not far behind in third place, with a time of 21:42.



Mark your calendar now for the Sixth Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run. We look forward to seeing you bright and early on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

Photos top to bottom:  
Hartsfield Elementary advertised the 5K run on its street-side marquee. *Photo: Marie-Claire Leman*

Big kids and little kids were ready to participate in the one-mile Fun Run. *Photo: Jasun Burdick*

# Calling All Gardeners

Hartsfield Elementary School's Garden Club grows young gardeners and great veggies—and it could use the help of adult green thumbs and mentors. The club meets on Thursday from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. Adults can help in several ways. They can work in garden beds; teach kids about growing, cooking, and eating veggies; and help kids with writing and communication skills that expand the Garden Club journal and start a new Hartsfield Garden blog.

Stalwart volunteers Tom Ballentine, Marney Richards, and Marie-Claire Leman are looking for other folks who will 1) join them each week to help with gardening or blogging/journaling; or 2) share a special skill or expertise throughout the year. Green thumb or not, all participants are welcome, including high school juniors and seniors looking for volunteering opportunities. If you or someone you know is interested, please send a message to [hartsfieldgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:hartsfieldgardenclub@gmail.com).



Photo above: The Garden Club provides real-world experiences for students relating to nutrition, health, nature, and camaraderie, as well as the life lessons shared by adult mentors. *Photo: Marie-Claire Leman*

## A Loss of Anonymity Is a Gain in Community

By Marie-Claire Leman

A few weeks ago, for Sabri's eleventh birthday, we met fifteen of his friends at Optimist Park to play soccer before heading home on foot to celebrate with pizza and cake. The pizza arrived early. Finding the house empty, the delivery man called us and offered to deliver to the park. Since we had no means of transporting it back home, he assured us he would wait.

We did not realize that, standing in our carless driveway, he had put two and two together. He knew he would recognize us, the family he had seen ride around this part of town for years. He was delighted to meet us, finally. He clearly thought of us as old friends—exclaiming how the kids had grown, remarking on what skilled cyclists they had become over the years, and inquiring about

Hartsfield, his alma mater of some forty years ago, where he'd seen our bikes parked every day since he started delivering pizza at the school and in the neighborhood.

The lack of anonymity and privacy on a bike is not without its drawbacks. For example, the occasional inappropriateness of children and short-temperedness of parents is on display for all to see and hear, and there is no sneaking in a donut at Krispy Kreme's drive-through without the risk of being spotted. And, of course, we are not immune to the shouting and dangerous maneuvers of road-raged drivers. In fact, it seems we are its trigger at times. Connections like the one we shared with this complete stranger—who really was not—remind us that our loss of anonymity is a net gain in the strength of the bonds with our community.

# Get to Know N3

By Betsy Tabac

Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes (N3) is a neighborhood group dedicated to enabling elderly residents (65+) to stay in their homes for as long as possible as they age. N3 has recruited a cadre of volunteers to assist our elders with basic services such as transportation, delivery of medicine, and shopping for groceries. In short, N3 serves as a neighborhood information and referral organization.

Thanks to a team of volunteers, we are introducing N3 in person, going door-to-door to connect with our elder neighbors. Seniors 75 to 85 are the first target group. We hope the resident(s) will be home when our volunteer stops by, but if they aren't, we leave a flier and business card. We're also offering brief "get-to-know-us" presentations throughout the hood so that we can get the word out. These are for any resident of any age. If your Indianhead Lehigh club (garden, music, book, or other) is having a meeting, invite us to make a short presentation. If you have a few friends over, let us know, and we will stop by for a brief update.

Right now, we are providing referrals for transportation and assistance with grocery shopping and other errands,



and we just added picking up and delivering medications. Other services are coming along and will be announced as soon as possible. Keep in mind that we will give voters a ride to the polls on November 6 to vote in the mid-term elections.

Everything N3 does depends on volunteers, and we have been graced with some wonderful helpers. We always need more volunteers to serve elderly neighbors or to help with administrative tasks such as going door-to-door or making calls to interview prospective service providers. Most of all, we want to make sure that every elder person in the neighborhood knows about our services.

To join our effort or to learn more, contact us at [ageinplace@earthlink.net](mailto:ageinplace@earthlink.net) or (850) 901-7818, or go to our website, <http://n2nnenes.wordpress.com>. N3 is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization.

## Aging in the Nenes: Another Option

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By Terry Anne Kant-Rauch

As people age, many think about assisted living, nursing homes, or simply downsizing. But here's another option to consider: group housing. This may be a particularly good option if you're living alone in a too-large home. If you're someone who can imagine living with one or more other people, this may work out well for you.

In this scenario, everyone in the home saves money and energy because the cost of tasks such as cleaning, cooking, gardening, and shopping are combined. If you get to a point where you need to hire outside help for home health care or to make interior features more accessible, using several peoples' funds makes this more affordable. And, of course, there is the benefit of companionship and safety in living with others.

Figuring out this arrangement is complicated, but it can be done. Working out issues of compatibility—for example, a trial run of staying at each other's homes

beforehand—may reveal enough to inform you whether to proceed with confidence or retreat from this plan, or group. Deciding which house(es) are sold and how much non-owners pay for rent must be worked out, and other considerations related to pets, visits by family and friends, furnishings, contingencies for illness, and disability and/ or death of a resident must be discussed, and agreements made. Additional decisions may insure that a "renter" has time to relocate if the owner is unable to remain in the home or passes away, or if the co-inhabitants simply want to stop living together.

Flexibility and openness to change are a requirement, and written agreements are a necessity. Indianhead Lehigh has long been a model for innovative thinking and action. Moreover, I've been a resident since 1990; I'm a certified realtor; and I'm working on a Senior Residential Certificate. Neighbors who would like to discuss this residential concept can contact me at (850) 567-3033 or [terry@kanthomes.com](mailto:terry@kanthomes.com).

# New Neighborhood Group Focuses on In-Town Issues

In response to concerns about development in the community, several neighborhood associations have formed a new coalition to improve communication among themselves and with city and county government. The Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods (ATN) grew out of residents' dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of the existing Council on Neighborhood Associations, especially in regard to the City of Tallahassee's efforts last fall to rezone a 9.7-acre parcel of Myers Parks. To date, representatives from the Betton Hills, Glendale, Lafayette Park, Levy Park, Myers Park, and Woodland Drives associations are involved, and Indianhead Lehigh, Killlearn, and Waverly have been invited to participate.

IHLNA has not made a commitment to join in part because it interfaces with neighborhoods that have a variety of needs, concerns, and issues that must be addressed by any partnership. ATN recently released a statement about its purpose and objectives, which is shared below. For more information, contact Ramona Abernathy-Paine, who attends ATN's monthly public meetings on IHLNA's behalf, at [rapweaver@embarqmail.com](mailto:rapweaver@embarqmail.com).

## The Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods

**Who are we?** We are nonpartisan neighborhood advocates troubled by recent development policies and initiatives to boost urban population density at the expense of in-town neighborhoods. Vibrant neighborhoods drive Tallahassee's enviable quality of life. We seek to ensure that neighborhoods thrive for the collective good of the whole city.

We support sound urban development. We are acutely aware of sprawl's adverse impacts on city resources and

citizens. We support thoughtful incremental development paired with sensible policies that enhance, complement, and respect our neighborhoods. This perspective corresponds to the Vision Statement in the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan. While we have begun as an organization of in-town neighborhoods, we will expand to neighborhoods outside the city core that face similar issues.

**Why did we organize?** We were driven together by the fact that we all face increasing threats to the integrity of our neighborhoods. Neighborhoods in which we've improved our homes, taken care of our yards, gotten involved in our schools, cared for our parks, and become friends with our neighbors. This is not an issue of "not in my backyard." Rather, it's protecting the livability of Tallahassee's neighborhoods; the qualities that make Tallahassee such a wonderful place to live.

We are stronger together. We cooperate with one another to enhance neighborhoods. We're an alliance to defend any one of our member neighborhoods. We're prepared to mobilize residents from all neighborhoods to take political action to protect each neighborhood.

Which constituencies do we represent? We are conduits of influence for our neighborhoods. We keep neighbors informed about the planning and growth management issues that affect our livability. Our neighbors care deeply about where they live—and they VOTE their interests.

**Terry Anne Kant, Broker**  
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## PET SITTING

Jenna Kant-Rauch

Call or text:  
(850) 656-3033

# Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2017) \$9,919.64

## Revenue

Nene Fest	\$3,110.00
Membership Dues	\$2,203.59
Ads - Spring Newsltr	\$300.00
Honor Flight Donations	\$45.00
Ads - Fall Newsltr	\$325.00
Neighborhood Sign Donations	\$50.00

**Total Revenue \$6,033.59**

## Expenses

Nene Fest	\$3,413.43
CONA Membership Renewal	\$50.00
Myers Park Rezoning Project	\$400.00
Neighborhood Entrance Sign	\$1,666.25
Ardesia Eradication Support	\$509.57
Nene 5K Donation	\$125.00
Spring Newsletter/Copies	\$579.64
Membership Flyers	\$92.42
NO Rezoning Yard Signs	\$400.00
Insurance	\$403.00
Sunbiz Annual Report Fee	\$61.25
4th of July Bike Parade	\$405.28
Fall Newsletter/Copies	\$579.10
Ponies/Petting Zoo-Fall Potluck	\$400.00
Paypal Fees	\$104.63
Website Domain Renewal	\$26.00

**Total Expenses \$9,215.57**

**Current Balance (December 31, 2017) \$6,737.66**

## OFFICERS OF IHLNA [ihlna.org](http://ihlna.org)

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Vice President: **Marney Richards** • [marneyrichards370@gmail.com](mailto:marneyrichards370@gmail.com)

Treasurer: **Ashley Arrington** • [ashleyroberts10@hotmail.com](mailto:ashleyroberts10@hotmail.com)

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Newsletter: **KC Smith** • [kcsmith614@hotmail.com](mailto:kcsmith614@hotmail.com)

Nene Watch: Vacant

Nene 5K: **Jessica Kennett** • [jesskennett0079@yahoo.com](mailto:jesskennett0079@yahoo.com)

At-Large: **Ramona Abernathy-Paine, Mary Louise Bachman, Connie Bersok, Sandra Neidert, Edward Reid**



## VOTE ON NOV 6.

**Register to vote:** Go to [LeonVotes.org](http://LeonVotes.org).

**Update your info:** Go to [LeonVotes.org](http://LeonVotes.org).

**Vote by mail:** Call (850) 606-8683 to request a mail ballot.

**Vote early:** Oct. 22-Nov. 4, at the Courthouse or main library

**Vote in person:** Optimist Park, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Prepare to vote:** Learn about candidates through local forums, media outlets, and the TLH League of Women Voters ([www.lwvtallahassee.org](http://www.lwvtallahassee.org)).

**"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter."**

—Martin Luther King Jr.

# Frog

## REALTY

### FROG COMING SOON

Address	Sale Price	# Sq/ft	Bed/Bath
1504 Wekewa Nene	TBD	1,525	4/2

### FROG ACTIVE LISTING

Address	Sale Price	# Sq/ft	Bed/Bath
2014 Wahalaw Nene	\$155,000	1,176	3/2
1310 Chocksacka Nene	\$200,000	2,133	4/2

### INDIAN HEAD RECENTLY SOLD HOMES

Address	Sold Price	# Sq/ft	Bed/Bath
1514 Wekewa Nene	\$260,000	2,712	4/3
2001 Wahalaw Nene	\$215,000	1,480	3/2

\*\*Data from CTRTS, INC. MLS

**Jacques Depart (850) 222-FROG (3764)**