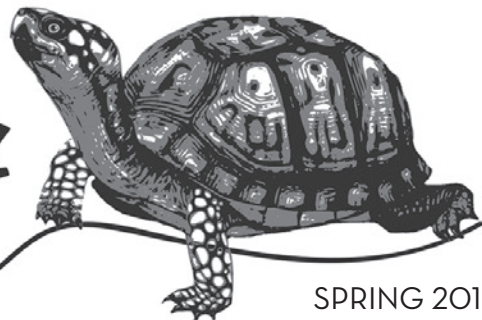


# The Optimist



SPRING 2019

INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Nene Fest is Coming!

April 27 • 3:00-9:00 p.m. • Optimist Park

By Marie-Claire Leman

As long time residents of the Nenes, many of you know exactly what to expect. But if you are new to Indianhead Lehigh, this might be the first time you attend our “by-neighbors, for neighbors” festival. This event includes live music, food, art, crafts, kids’ activities, and a theatrical production, kicked off by an early-morning 5K Run or one-mile Fun Run. There’s something for everyone! Just as important, there are myriad ways for neighbors—young and old, newbies and old-timers—to help with festival activities. Read on for details, and see page 3 to learn about the 5K Run.

## In This Issue

- Nene Fest and 5K/Fun Run
- Local Development
- Oh, Possum
- Backyards and Beyond
- Urban Forest Master Plan
- Sustainable Indianhead Lehigh Community (SILC)
- Hartsfield Corner
- IHLNA Board News



## Stage and Festival Setup

Time: setup begins at 10:00 a.m.

Needed: ladders, trucks, and lots of helping hands

Contact: Grant,  
grant.gelhardt@gmail.com

## Merchandise

Time: shifts from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Needed: help selling festival t-shirts and more

Contact: Melissa,  
farleymelissa70@gmail.com

## Arts, Crafts, and Business Showcase

People, businesses, and organizations may sell handmade products or share information.

Time: setup in the early afternoon, prior to 3:00 p.m.

Needed: no vendor fee, but you must bring your own booth, table, and supplies.

Contact: Kevin,  
kevin.hattaway@comcast.net



# Nene Fest is Coming! (cont.)



## On Stage

Time: 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Needed: bands and performers connected to the neighborhood

Contact: Richard, [bertram63@gmail.com](mailto:bertram63@gmail.com)

## Puppet Show

Time: rehearsals and preparations in weeks/days before event

Needed: directors, writers, actors, musicians, puppet creators

Contact: Doug, [dpschrock@gmail.com](mailto:dpschrock@gmail.com)

## Nene Café Contributors

Time: preparation in advance

Needed: side salads, bread, dessert (about twenty portions)

Contact: Claudia, [claudiaesperber@gmail.com](mailto:claudiaesperber@gmail.com)

## Nene Café Servers

Time: one-hour shifts, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Needed: lots of volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up

Contact: Marney, [marneyrichards370@gmail.com](mailto:marneyrichards370@gmail.com)

## Activities

Time: 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Needed: activities you would like to organize for kids or adults

Contact: Daphne, [daphne.holden@comcast.net](mailto:daphne.holden@comcast.net)

## Stage and Festival break down and cleanup

Start time: Sunday morning, 9:00 a.m.

Needed: lots of helping hands

Contact: Grant, [grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com)

Can't find what you're looking for? Any general questions? Contact Grant Gelhardt, [grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com), or Marie-Claire Leman, [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com).

*All photos courtesy of Bob O'Lary*



# Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run



Begin your festival fun with a challenging run or walk, all the while helping your health, being with neighbors, and supporting Hartsfield Elementary. All proceeds go to our neighborhood school. Winners walk away with stronger legs and Nene honey!

**To register for the Run or Walk**, you can 1) complete the form on page 16 of this newsletter; 2) go online to [eventbright.com](http://eventbright.com); or 3) register before the event at Optimist Park, starting at 6:30 a.m.

**Here are the race details.** Participants can pick up their packet at Optimist Park starting 6:30 a.m. The 5K begins at 8:00 a.m.; the one-mile Fun Run begins at 9:00 a.m.

**Got questions?** For information about the run or registration, contact Jessica at (850) 241-3283 or [jesskennett0079@yahoo.com](mailto:jesskennett0079@yahoo.com).

**Can you sponsor or volunteer?** We are so grateful to our **Gold** sponsors—Kevin Hattaway, Terry Anne and Sharon Kant-Rauch of Kant Realty of North Florida, and Dender Construction—and our **Silver** sponsors—AFL-CIO, Awards4U, Namasté, Oecohort, Tallahassee Pediatric Dentist, and Vertigo Burger and Fries. The race is a success every year thanks to our sponsors' support and the hard work of many volunteers. To be a sponsor or volunteer, contact Marie-Claire at (850) 728-7514 or [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com).



It's that time of year! **IHLNA's Annual Yard Sale** provides a no-excuses incentive for spring cleaning. Join us on **Saturday, April 13, from 8:00 a.m. to noon**, for some neighborly bargaining and serendipitous socializing at Optimist Park. Participation is free if your 2019 association dues are paid and \$10 for nonmembers. Here's your chance to pass on that outgrown coat, vintage beer stein, or spare weed whacker. For questions, contact Grant at [grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com).



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# *Keeping an Eye on Change: Local Development and IHLNA*

By Ramona Abernathy-Paine

Tallahassee is growing and that growth is heading to the south part of town. Development along Gaines Street and at Cascades Park has refocused the building community's interest in land on the south side. While we welcome the growth, we want to ensure that expansion is consistent with the look and lifestyle of the IHLNA neighborhood.

Here are some of the recent and forthcoming projects in our area. Proof Brewing Company has opened in the long-vacant Coca-Cola bottling plant on South Monroe Street. Catalina Coffee is moving into the building vacated by C&L Printing & Bindery on South Adams. A housing/business redevelopment called Cascades Gardens is coming to the blocks between South Monroe and Gadsden. The City is looking into locations for a Community Safety Complex that combines a new police headquarters with a variety of community services. Southside locations are high on the list for this complex, though the Towne South Shopping Center no longer is an option. And, of course, retirees and millennials continue to look for houses in Indianhead Lehigh.

Growth and change are coming to Tallahassee and to our neighborhood. It will be increasingly important to watch for issues as they develop so we can influence changes that work well in our established neighborhood. Our new Mayor and City Commissioners are encouraging input from neighborhoods and citizens. Let them know what you think, and take advantage of easily accessible information, updates, and resources.

Many Tallahassee city meetings are televised live over WCOT and streamed over [talgov.com](http://talgov.com), the city's information website. Buttons near the top of [talgov.com](http://talgov.com) connect to "Meeting Agendas" and "Events Calendars." Check these links regularly to know what is going on in City government.

The City Services menu at the bottom of the [talgov.com](http://talgov.com) website has a link to "email subscriptions." Here you can sign up to receive notices about city business. Through these subscriptions, you can monitor requests for zoning changes, building permits, and code enforcement, and view other announcements available on the site. Leon County's website, [leoncountyfl.gov](http://leoncountyfl.gov), offers similar

information regarding county business. County meetings are streamed through this site and televised over LCTV.

In addition, the Tallahassee/Leon County Comprehensive Plan is being revised. Staff with Planning and Growth Management are conducting public meetings to review information about this process. See the calendar at [talgov.com/LandUseUpdate](http://talgov.com/LandUseUpdate) and plan to participate.

## **Lafayette Planned Unit Development (PUD)**

In 2015, the land at 1235 East Lafayette Street, east of The Moon, was designated as a Planned Unit Development, which is a specialized zoning arrangement. The PUD was to allow construction of housing for senior citizens and mini-warehouse self-storage units. However, the PUD has been reversed and the land returned to its original Urban Pedestrian (UP-1) zoning, which will allow the housing but not the mini-warehouses. The property currently is for sale.

## **Midtown Parking Garage**

The City Commission recently rejected two proposals for parking garages on Thomasville Road at Midtown. The Commission directed City Planning staff to resume working with the Midtown Work Group, a group of citizens and area neighbors, to explore other options to alleviate local parking problems. Objections to the garage proposals were led by Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods. ATN-conducted research demonstrated that information about the required number of parking spaces was based on inaccurate and inflated estimates. Both proposals would have benefitted several landowners along Thomasville Road, but would have been paid for by all city taxpayers at a cost of \$12 to \$30 million, depending on which garage was built. ATN showed that the proposed garages were bad business decisions for Tallahassee.

## **Magnolia Drive Projects**

IHLNA residents think of Magnolia as a city street bordering our neighborhood. The City has utility easements along the roadway, but does not control the road. Parts of Magnolia are funded by Leon County; other parts are funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The latter has designated Tallahassee and Leon County as District 3, supervised from the FDOT office in Chipley, not the state offices near Cascades Park. FDOT in Chipley historically has been insensitive to Tallahassee/Leon County needs.

## The Magnolia Multiuse Trail

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency is funding the Multiuse Trail, overcoming the difficulties and conflicts between the City and County to build sidewalks that residents have requested for more than thirty years. Blueprint staff have been very helpful in sharing information with neighborhoods affected by the project, and they have listened to peoples' wants and needs, and made changes in response. One big win for neighbors is that utilities will be put underground in the roadway as the project moves along. Project drawings can be viewed at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ncwtzv8esjxv3d2/AADUs8mA8ArU5HQ2mjSM4NQEa?dl=0>.

## Magnolia at Apalachee Parkway

Current work at the intersection of Magnolia and Apalachee Parkway will close the east end of the access road at the corner by New Leaf Market. All traffic will have to exit Parkway Center onto Apalachee Parkway going east-bound only, onto Magnolia Drive going south-bound only, or onto Lafayette Street. Closing this access

is going forward despite the expressed objections of neighbors in IHLNA, Woodland Drives, and Myers Park. Businesses in Parkway Center also petitioned to keep the service road access open, to no avail. Project details can be found at <https://nwflroads.com/projects/438148-1>.

If anyone questions why changes and improvements to streets take so long in Tallahassee, one factor may be the dual oversight of some roadways. For example, a recent notice in the Tallahassee Democrat mentioned changes at the intersection of Highway 20 and Magnolia Drive. A bit of investigation revealed that Apalachee Parkway not only is U.S. 27, but also State Road 20. Likewise, parts of Magnolia are under county jurisdiction, but the current resurfacing of that street between Apalachee and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital is a state project. It's enough to make one wonder, "Who's in charge?"

This is yet another reason why vigilance and diligence are useful strategies when it comes to involvement in neighborhood and community affairs.



## Stormwater Management

If there's one thing the ninth rainiest city in the lower U.S. needs, it's a stormwater management system. Tallahassee's clay-based soils and an abundance of streets, sidewalks, parking lots, and walkways create rainwater runoff that has to go somewhere. Within the Tallahassee city limits, state, county, or city agencies manage drainage depending on which entity owns an affected roadway.

When the stormwater pond adjacent to Orange Avenue and Nancy Drive was installed in 2008, the County agreed that it would be buffered with foliage to mask its

appearance. This project remained undone until local resident Laura Anstead got the ball rolling with help from IHLNA President Grant Gelhardt. Last July, they met with Leon County Canopy Road Coordinator Dean Richards Jr. to discuss the type of vegetative buffer that public works staff would plant. With feedback from neighbors about invasive species to avoid, they agreed on a hedge row of wax myrtles, complemented by a sprinkling of southern redbud trees. The work recently was completed, as evidenced by the photos above, taken by Anstead (left, pond before; right, pond after). Although the shrubs are tiny now, eventually they will grow to cover most of the fence.

*Photos by Laura Anstead*

# Peaceful 'Possums

By Sandy Beck

The verdict is still out on whether birds are dinosaurs, but opossums—the oldest living mammals on this continent—are, without a doubt, living fossils.

While dinosaurs still roamed the huge landmass known as Gondwanaland, the first mammals to evolve were opossum-like marsupials (pouched mammals). When Gondwanaland separated, Australia drifted down under, South America sailed away, and a whole slew of marsupial species evolved.

Two to five million years ago, North and South America met up again, opening a super-highway for wildlife traffic in both directions. Only one marsupial managed to travel northward. The Virginia opossum, basically the same little guy that waddled between dinosaur legs, settled in the area that is now the southeastern United States. How come this species continues to thrive while so many slowly disappeared?

Unlike the red-cockaded woodpecker that builds homes only in old longleaf pines, or the limpkin that holds out for snails, opossums are not picky; it would be easier to list what they don't eat. They can survive in just about any warmish habitat, from wilderness to inner city.

Opossums clean up our gardens by eating snails, slugs, roaches, crickets, beetles, rodents, snakes, carrion, and overripe fruit. Rumor has it they even slurp up ticks—thank you very much, but this probably is because, like cats, they constantly are licking and cleaning themselves, and not because they actually hunt the little parasites. They also have a natural resistance to many diseases, including rabies, and are immune to pit viper venom.

And talk about a baby machine—mama possum can raise up to thirteen babies in each litter. Accounts of the opossum's reproductive system, both real and imagined, border on the bizarre. Early pioneers noticed that the male opossum was endowed with a bifurcated penis, but saw no corresponding double receptacle in the female. So, in an amusing bit of deductive reasoning, our forefathers believed that the male copulated with the female in her nose, and she then impregnated herself with a sneeze. Claritin for birth control?

Actually, the truth is almost as strange as fiction. Just twelve and a half days after a brief rendezvous with a



*Photo by Sandy Beck*

musky male, the female sits up, licks the fur on her belly, and gives birth to about twenty babies the size of black beans. Blind and deaf, they use their two front feet to “paddle” up the wet pathway to her pouch where the thirteen strongest babies each swallow one of her thirteen nipples.

Two months later, when the youngsters have grown to chipmunk-size, their eyes open, and they venture outside. Little prehensile tails and hands with opposable thumbs clutch the fur on her back while she forages.

Adult opossums use their tail as a sort of “fifth leg” to climb trees or carry nesting material. Carrying a full-grown opossum by its tail would be akin to dangling a person by one arm. Thus, I cringe when I see photos of Florida politicians who have bid for the privilege of swinging this helpless animal by its tail at the annual Wausau Possum Festival. Yes, I hope they are reading this and will consider a more humane tradition.

Opossums are pacifists. They will rarely, if ever, attack another creature. If approached, one will show its fifty sharp teeth (more than any other land mammal), hiss, and then waddle away or scamper up a tree.

If it is cornered, the opossum turns on his best survival adaptation—playing 'possum. But there's really no play involved; stress causes it to go into shock. The body grows limp, heart rate and breathing slow, and the mouth drops open. Most predators will turn up their nose at this drooling, defecating, unappetizing creature and move on. The unscathed animal eventually wakes up and continues on its way. Unfortunately, this deathlike trance will not save the opossum from its most lethal foe—the human automobile. Otherwise, opossums live in the fast lane—most for only two or three years.

You probably won't ever notice your own opossum neighbor unless you catch him tidying up your yard in the light of a moonbeam. But this ancient and helpful neighbor provides a window into our distant past and possibly a clue to the future.

*Sandy Beck is the education director at St. Francis Wildlife, a local, nonprofit organization that rescues and rehabilitates orphaned, injured, and sick native wildlife, and provides public education, [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org). SFW annually saves more than 3,000 wild neighbors with the goal of returning each to its natural home.*





## Spring is Baby 'Possum Season

St. Francis Wildlife receives about 300 injured and orphaned opossums every year; most are involved in car accidents. If you find a dead opossum on the road, check its pouch (only females have pouches). If you find babies, remove them, but don't give them food or water; just keep them warm and call St. Francis Wildlife, (850) 627-4151, or go to [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).

Photo top, left: Three-month-old baby opossums were rescued from their mother's pouch after she was killed by an automobile. They were raised at St. Francis Wildlife and released in a suitable habitat.

*Photo by Sandy Beck*

Photo top, right: Orphaned baby opossum at St. Francis Wildlife.

*Photo by Teresa Stevenson*

Photo middle: Nancy Thomas feeds an orphaned northern mockingbird at St. Francis Wildlife. Baby birds need to be fed every twenty to thirty minutes, dawn to dusk.

*Photo by Sandy Beck*



## VOLUNTEER AT ST. FRANCIS WILDLIFE

April to October is "wild baby season," St. Francis Wildlife's busiest time of year. Incubators and cages at our wildlife hospital and 36-acre sanctuary are filled with orphaned and injured babies. They need TLC, and we need volunteers to help rescue and transport wildlife · clean and feed animals · do laundry · prepare special diets · repair cages · maintain the grounds · and more!

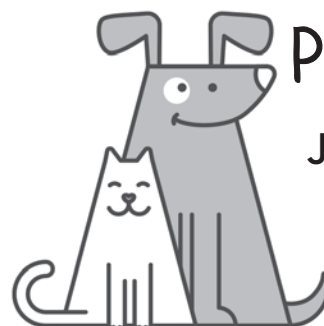
You must be at least 18 years old · reliable · have your own transportation and health insurance · love animals · want to learn new skills · and want to spend time with other animal lovers. If so, we have a project for you.

Call (850) 627-4151 or visit [www.stfranciswildlife.org/GetInvolved.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/GetInvolved.html).

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# To The Backyard...And Beyond!

By Peter Kleinhenz

Where is nature? The question may seem too philosophical to have much meaning, but asking it is a valuable exercise. Many people respond with the names of national parks or bioregions such as Yellowstone, the Amazon Basin, or the Himalayas. But what if I told you that, for most young Americans, the answer is “my backyard”?



*Photo by Sandy Blair*

The Nature of Americans, a national study released in 2017, reported that most children ages eight to twelve years old identified “nature” as their yard or a nearby park. After all, that’s where they get the dirtiest, interact with most wildlife, and initially explore the natural world. Consequently, we should start close to home to establish connections between young people and nature.

This realization guided the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), which co-sponsored the study, when it created “Backyards and Beyond”—a program that helps people expand the natural world they create at home (backyard) to include Florida’s network of public conservation lands (beyond). Believe it or not, while pristine nature and a perfectly planted backyard can spark an interest, basic technology is all that one needs to get started.

Most people take their phone everywhere. With this in mind, FWC created the Florida Nature Trackers program, which uses the free app, iNaturalist, to record observations about plants and animals statewide via a number of taxonomic and place-based projects. As part of Backyards and Beyond, FWC created the “Backyards of Florida” and “Backyards of Leon County” projects, since the program initially will be based in Tallahassee.

So how does an amateur naturalist document life with this app? It’s easy! You go into your yard, look for plants and animals, and take a photo with the iNaturalist app or a camera. Then, you add it to whichever project is appropriate, and click “share,” if you’re using your phone, or “upload,” if you’re using a computer. FWC encourages people to set up iNaturalist projects for their own backyard so they can keep personal tallies of what they find and have an incentive to spend more time in their yard while at home. It worked for me. I’ve rolled over every log in my backyard looking for new insects and,

because of the app, I’ve learned, for example, that millipedes living by my driveway are *Dicellarius bimaculatus*. Who knew?

As a birder, I always am amazed by how many species stop to use something from my yard to make a nest. When you record the species that stop by, FWC will reward you with “Wings Over

Florida” certificates based on the number of varieties you observe—yet another incentive for attracting birds to your yard!

You might look out your window and think, “There’s no way that anything of note lives out there.” That depends. If your yard consists mostly of green lawn and non-native plants, that’s a real possibility. However, planting native trees and plants can shift that scenario. For example, consider a Carolina chickadee, which requires 5,000 insects per clutch of hatchlings during the nesting season. These insects generally won’t be found on non-native plants as often as on the native plants with which they evolved. Every live oak or milkweed you plant can make a big difference.

Natural habitat in the nation and Florida is shrinking. About 900 people move to the state each day, and these folks need places to live. Their homes and yards can reverse the decline in wildlife habitat, if each person plants even a few native plants in their backyard. The net result would be dramatic in creating hospitable conditions for native wildlife. Getting involved with Backyards and Beyond is a solid alternative.

The Backyards and Beyond pilot project will culminate on April 26–29 with the Leon County “City Nature Challenge.” Coincidentally, nature lovers around the globe will observe nature using the iNaturalist app. I’d like to see Indianhead Lehigh challenge one of the other neighborhood associations to see which can record the most observations over the four-day period and help Leon County win the worldwide Nature Challenge!

*Peter Kleinhenz is an interpretive planner and writer with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This article is revised and reprinted with permission from the Tallahassee Democrat.*



# Growing with Trees

By Ryan A. Wilke

Is an urban forest an oxymoron?

Or is it simply an exception in a world dotted by urban areas more often referred to as concrete jungles? Certainly, Tallahassee is seen as exceptionally beautiful by those who choose to put down roots, and when talking with people who know the city but do not live here, the conversation inevitably branches to a mention of “all of the trees.”

With roughly 55 percent of our city covered by the canopy,\* Tallahassee boasts one of the nation’s densest and most diversified urban forests. However, it hasn’t always been able to make that claim. Aerial photographs spanning decades show a growth in the canopy over time, likely due to outlying farmland being returned to forest or becoming communities with dense tree growth. Indianhead Lehigh is an example of this phenomenon, but like other older Tallahassee neighborhoods, many of the trees are maturing and reaching the upper limits of their life expectancy.

In response to community support for our beautiful canopies and a desire to keep Tallahassee’s public spaces green, the City recently released its Urban Forest Master Plan, a 142-page document, accompanied by interesting statistics about the current status of Tallahassee’s public tree canopy.

- Carolina laurel cherry is the most common tree (15%), followed by water oak (10%), and laurel oak and live oak (7% each).
- Twenty-two percent of the trees possess the highest level of wind resistance, while 37 percent have the lowest level of wind resistance.
- Eighty-one percent were deemed in good or fair condition, compared to 17 percent in poor condition or dying.
- Sixty-seven percent are categorized as young, compared to an industry standard of 40 percent.
- Seventy percent of Tallahassee’s urban forest is on private property.



*Urban Forest Master Plan*

What a great snapshot of where we stand!

The Urban Forest Master Plan also details the actions the City plans to take in an effort to keep Tallahassee green and beautiful. Three primary goals outlined in the plan are to 1) improve canopy quality, 2) maintain canopy coverage, and 3) engage the community. To these ends, a number of sub-goals are expected to be reached, including completing the inventory of public trees, maintaining strong planting programs, fostering development regulations

that focus on key species and their proper planting, and engaging the public to improve their own communities.

Whether you enjoy walking in our parks, driving on our shade-dappled roads, or picnicking pondside under a majestic live oak, take some time to explore Tallahassee’s well-crafted Urban Forest Master Plan and consider your unique role in promoting and maintaining our city’s urban forest.

- <https://www.talgov.com/place/pln-urbanforestry.aspx>
- <http://www.davey.com/media/1942450/tallahassee-urban-forest-master-plan-2018.pdf>

\*Data derived from a 2015 tree survey, prior to two hurricanes Tallahassee subsequently experienced.



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# Réchauffé: A Recycled Perspective

By Ryan Wilke

The sugar sands of Munson Hills support a longleaf pine habitat that hosts the sounds of wind rustling in trees, birds trilling, woodpeckers knocking, and squirrels scurrying up flakey bark. This is native Florida at its best. However, a little south of the St. Marks trailhead on Woodville Highway, the splendor gives way to the rumblings of a facility that works to keep more of nature *within* the forest—Marpan Recycling Center.

On a recent tour of the site, we got an eyeful about how objects that folks put in their recycle bin are sorted, sifted, bundled, and dispersed once they get to Marpan. The “single-stream” system, which means that all recyclables go into the same container, is a technological marvel of heavy machinery, conveyor belts, optical scanners that read tiny numbers on plastics, deck sorters, shakers, separators, compactors, and bailers that reduce and wrap a smorgasbord of colorful paper and plastic into four-by-four-foot cubes, seemingly inspired by a Kandinsky-Picasso collaboration.

Led by Recycling and Marketing Manager George Loscialo, our tour began at two mountains of rain-soaked boxes before we entered a warehouse filled with industrial noises, a pervasive scent of garbage, front-end loaders shoveling recyclables, and forklifts moving compacted cubes. We saw massive conveyer belts carrying “dimensional material”; paper, plastics, and cans falling into their respective bunkers; and employees fine-sorting stuff that mechanical means had missed. Everything was perfectly choreographed. The truly recyclable materials were headed for baling and shipping to businesses within 250 miles of Tallahassee that will turn them into usable products. The non-recyclables have a dim future.

Loscialo took us to the area where collection trucks dump from 65 to 80 tons of stuff every day (more of it coming from the north side of town than the south). He stopped for a moment, picked through the gargantuan heap, and extracted a couple of items.

“This is our biggest problem,” he said, holding up a plastic bag; but he quickly switched to a plastic shelf and a



Ryan Wilke and George Loscialo display a metal ball and piece of rebar discarded in recycle bins. Photo KC Smith

metal coat hanger. “These items are trash, not recyclables. Stuff like this can shut down our operation or damage the equipment.” The economics of recycling are important. It costs about \$80 a ton to process acceptable materials, but the resale return is far less, especially on inappropriate material. In addition, replacement parts for damaged equipment are expensive. Loscialo stressed the necessity of raising awareness about what can and cannot be recycled, and how critical this is to the success of local recycling efforts.

At the end of the tour, we watched for a few minutes as a small conveyor spilled recycled glass—reduced to smithereens by many stages of sorting—onto a pile. A large semi-truck with a trailer rolled up, and soon the glass debris was being scooped up and loaded for transport to a factory that will turn it into sandblasting material.

After all, the glass began as sand.



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# Whys and Hows of Recycling

By KC Smith

There probably aren't many IHLNA residents who think recycling is a silly idea. Association President Grant Gelhardt has reported that 90 percent of the neighborhood routinely rolls out their green bin. I thought about this achievement recently during a predawn dog walk on trash day, as I passed numerous homes with only the black trash bin in front, or no bins at all. Were these folks sleeping late, or were they just lazy? Asking around, I discovered that a lot of residents have so reduced their trash output, they don't need to drag their bins to the curb every week.

This may be an ideal objective, but many factors affect a family's devotion to trash management, including the size of the household, complexity of schedules, purchasing options, and depth of commitment. However, as Tessa Schreiner, Leon County's recycling and sustainability manager, has pointed out, there's a reason why "recycle" is "the last R." She's referring, of course, to the Five Rs mantra of sustainability—Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle—that we all should practice if we want to be good Earth stewards.

Nowadays, many Earth stewards focus on climate change, but we should be equally anxious about the worldwide problem of trash disposal. In 2009, a half-million volunteers in 108 countries participated in the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup and collectively reclaimed 10.2 million pieces of debris. During the same event in 2017, 800,000 people removed 21 million pieces of trash. Granted, more folks were involved, but a doubling of seaborne garbage in less than a decade is serious. Moreover, plastics were the most abundant items. Though no one knows for sure, the Ocean Conservancy estimates the decomposition rate is 20 years for plastic bags, 450 years for plastic bottles, and 600 years for fishing line. The World Economic Forum hypothesizes that, by 2050, there will be more plastic, by weight, in the ocean than fish. That's great news if you're an archaeologist, but not so good if you like fish filets.



Leon County and the City of Tallahassee have excellent online resources that give guidance about why, what, and how to recycle. If you want to be a good steward, check out their information. Being familiar with what can and cannot be recycled not only will help with trash management, but it also will make you a more thoughtful and efficient consumer. In addition, teach your children so they learn and care about recycling at an early age.



## >>Google "leon county + how do I recycle"

Scroll down to "What Can Be Recycled." Be sure to click the underlined link, "What Can Be Recycled List," which is thorough and clear. You'll also learn about public education programs.

## >>Google "talgov + what can I recycle"

The home page summarizes recycle categories and offers compelling reasons why it's important to recycle. At the bottom of the page, click the link to see an excellent list of dos and don'ts—ideal for printing and keeping handy.

Photo above, top: Loscialo displays a plastic step stool retrieved from the recycle pile; note the metal and plastic coat hangers on the ground.

Photo above, bottom: Cubes of compressed and baled plastic bottles are ready for shipment.

# Connecting with Community Through School Gardens

By Marie-Claire Leman

Hartsfield Elementary School long has benefited from the contributions of dedicated neighbors. Some give hours each month to mentor; others donate essentials the school can't afford; and a few are integral to ongoing school programs. The after-school Garden Club volunteers are among the latter. From applying for grants to building beds and planning the club's weekly meetings, three IHLNA neighbors—Marney Richards, Tom Ballentine, and I—have kept the school's gardens going and growing for the past three years.

This year, our team has the support of Florida State University students from the Engage Tallahassee project at the Center for Leadership and Social Change. The third- to fifth-graders who participate in Garden Club absolutely love to have their presence because of the attention the collegians generously devote to the kids.

Our team of kids, college students, and volunteers meets every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. to care for the Hartsfield garden beds. Weeding and watering almost always are needed, and certain times of the year, we turn our attention to planting seeds and seedlings. Each student keeps a journal to reflect on activities of the day and document the garden's progress through the season. Occasionally, we call in reinforcements; for example, this fall we invited Molly Jameson, a neighbor and a Leon County Extension Agent, to visit the club. Molly's experience with the Sustainable Agriculture and Community Food Systems program enabled her to give students a presentation about the cycle of seeds.

Lately, club members have been reaping the rewards of their labor and patience. The greens have matured, and every week the kids harvest mustards, kale and collards to take home for dinner or share with the community. The harvest has been so plentiful that we participated in Frenchtown Farmer's Market one Saturday so students could sell the products of their hard work and experience a connection to Tallahassee's larger gardening community.



Gardening is all about connection: to the land and our food sources, between effort and reward, between multigenerational people who help each other, and to the community to which we contribute and from which we benefit.

*Hartsfield after-school gardeners display campus-grown greens ready for sale.*

*Photo by Tanya Peres*

## Here's what two students say about their Garden Club experience.

*"It's fun. I'm learning how to plant and harvest veggies. I know how to tell if a plant is ready to harvest. I like watering; water helps our plants live and grow. My family liked the collards that I brought home."*

—Elijah, third grade

*"It opens my eyes to different opportunities like botany and gardening. We get to have something that we look after and care for ourselves that is our own."*

—Ingrid, fourth grade

## HARTSFIELD CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

### **Cultural Fair—Tuesday, May 14, 6:00 p.m.**

Enjoy the tastes, smells, and sights of cultures and countries represented by the Hartsfield student body. The event is free and open to all. For details, contact Mary Jo Peltier or Wafa Elsaka, (850) 488-7322.

### **Kindergarten Orientation—Tuesday, April 16**

If your child is starting school in the fall, have you considered Hartsfield? Learn about the curriculum and environment your youngster will experience during a tour and presentations by kindergarten teachers. For information, call Ms. Thompson, (850) 488-7322.



# Two Neighbors Putting Their Heart into Hartsfield

By Shelly Hatton

Hartsfield Elementary has no shortage of people cheering it on. Two of these folks have been cheering a little louder the past few years through actions that speak volumes. For that, the State of Florida has recognized both, and we want to do the same in *The Optimist*.

In January, Danny Burnett was recognized as the Florida School Crossing Guard of the Year, an award presented annually by the Florida Department of Transportation. Without doubt, "Mr. Danny" is an excellent crossing guard, but that's only part of the reason he so deserves this award. His devotion to Hartsfield, the students, parents, and neighboring community is integral to fulfilling his duties as our crossing guard and goes well beyond his job requirements. His concern for students drives him to attend and support all school functions, and the students see him seeing them. He checks in with them daily and encourages them to be and do their best. Day-after-day, his attention to parents helps to create the school's welcoming and inclusive environment. He also greets every passing commuter with a wave and smile that brightens their day.

For our neighborhood community, Mr. Danny is the face of Hartsfield in many ways. He assumes the role humbly, without pretense, and fills it assiduously and wholeheartedly, caring for each individual and the entire community.

Meanwhile, IHLNA resident and Hartsfield parent Marie-Claire Leman has given an extraordinary amount of time to ensure that the school is an enriching place for kids to learn. Her eleven years of volunteer work is as impressive as it is extensive. For her service, Marie-Claire was among the nominees for a Florida Department of Education Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award, recently winning in the adult category in Region 1 (Northwest Florida).



Over the years, Marie-Claire's contribution to Hartsfield has included coordinating the school Garden Club, volunteering in the classroom and on the playground, mentoring students, helping with fundraisers, field days, and carnivals, and serving on the School Advisory Council and PTO. She also co-coordinates the annual Nene Fest 5K Run, which raises money for Hartsfield; in 2018, the race earned more than \$5,000 for school field trips. Off campus, Marie-Claire helped establish a districtwide Title I Advisory Council to represent schools serving low-income families and advise the local school board on important issues. Each year, she

addresses state legislative education committees about the impact of their policies on public schools.

Hats off to these remarkable individuals. We are very lucky to have them at our school and in our community!

Photo by Shelly Hatton

## Frog

### REALTY

FROG ACTIVE LISTING			
Address	Sale Price	# Sq/ft	Bed/Bath
1313 Tootchin Nene	\$265,000	2,418	4/2
1173 Seminole Dr	\$350,000	2,579	4/3
1804 Old Fort	\$289,900	1,977	4/2

INDIAN HEAD RECENTLY SOLD HOMES			
Address	Sold Price	# Sq/ft	Bed/Bath
1512 Apakin Nene	\$155,000	1,574	4/2
1205 Sarasota Dr	\$328,200	2,764	4/2.5
1606 Kolopak Nene	\$138,800	1,228	3/2
2012 Chowkeeb Nene	\$95,752	1,497	3/2

\*Data from CRTRS, INC. MLS

Jacques Depart (850) 222-FROG (3764)

# Bored? Attend an IHLNA Board Meeting!

Can you think of another Tallahassee neighborhood that is as creative as ours? Who else has its own festival—Nene Fest—that includes live music and a puppet show with larger-than-life puppets? A 5K run to raise money for its local school; an army of ardisia slayers to battle the invasives; and nighttime holiday bike rides? Who has community gardens, a Neighbor-to-Neighbor in the Nenes program to help our elderly, and a 4th of July bike parade? We rock!

We also have a neighborhood board of directors that makes this neighborhood purr. Our board wants you to know that it is an open and welcoming group, and invites anyone interested in attending board meetings to come. This includes renters! The group meets three or four times a year in a neighbor's living room, usually to plan for big events such as Nene Fest.

Our board has officers with well-defined duties, assisted by a handful of at-large board members who attend meetings and work on neighborhood projects of their choosing. Then there are those residents who faithfully attend meetings and quietly work on IHLNA-related tasks, but hold no board position. The board operates loosely; for example, Nene Fest is a well-choreographed effort by dozens of volunteers who organize the food, music, T-shirts, tarps, eco-plates, and puppet show, with the board serving as a central hub.

That said, if you have an inventive idea for our neighborhood and want board support, please consider attending a meeting. That's how Neighbor-to-Neighbor in the Nenes got started and became an IHLNA fixture. Or simply come if you want to see what goes on behind the scenes. Occasionally, a board position becomes vacant—you could throw your hat in the ring, if interested.

To attend a meeting or be added to the agenda, please email Board President Grant Gelhardt at grant.gelhardt@gmail.com. He will follow up with the time and location of the next meeting.

## OFFICERS OF IHLNA

### Board Members

President: Grant Gelhardt · grant.gelhardt@gmail.com  
Vice President: Marney Richards · marneyrichards370@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Ashley Arrington · ashleyroberts10@hotmail.com  
Secretary: Vacant  
At-Large: Mary Louise Bachman, Connie Bersok, Sandra Neidert, Edward Reid

### Special Projects

Graphic Designer: Charity Myers · thecreativepool@gmail.com  
Nene 5K: Jessica Kennett · jesskennett0079@yahoo.com  
Newsletter: Shelly Hatton · shellyhatton@gmail.com  
Newsletter: KC Smith · kcsmith614@hotmail.com

[ihlna.org](http://ihlna.org)

## INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 2018 Financial Statement

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>January 1, 2018</b>	<b>\$6,832.66</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Nene Fest		\$5,067.76
Membership Dues		\$2,160.00
Ads - Spring newsletter		\$525.00
Ads - Fall newsletter		\$175.00
Neighborhood sign donations		\$20.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$7,947.76</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Nene Fest		\$4,119.95
CONA Membership Renewal		\$50.00
Nene 5k donation		\$375.00
Spring Newsletters/membership flyers		\$579.10
Insurance		\$404.00
Sunbiz Annual Report Fee		\$61.25
Bike Parade		\$0.00
Water Slide		\$0.00
Fall Newsletters/Copies		\$552.89
Ponies/Petting zoo - Potluck		\$400.00
Halloween Materials and Supplies		\$0.00
Band Halloween		\$300.00
Election Day Table		\$54.68
Pay Pal Fees		\$157.73
Website Domain Renewal		\$26.00
Neighbor-to-Neighbor donation		\$500.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$7,580.60</b>
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>January 1, 2019</b>	<b>\$7,199.82</b>





# CELEBRATING *my* 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

selling real estate in Tallahassee  
on April Fool's Day 2019!

It's been a great omen for me!  
I literally got my real estate license on  
April Fool's Day 1989. LOVE my career  
and the people I get to work with!  
I couldn't have the success that I do  
without the great folks in Indian Head  
and Lehigh!

\*\*Data from CRTRS, INC. MLS

## ACTIVE LISTINGS

**1405 Wekewa:** approx. 1,630 SQFT, 3 BDRM, REAL wood floors, updated insulated windows, NEW HVAC system, deck and fenced backyard! **\$165,000.**

**1522 Chowkeebin:** approx. 1,588 SQFT, 3 BDRM, REAL wood floors, 2 porches, HVAC'd detached building w/ 432 SQFT perfect for office/studio, in ground pool, 2 more storage buildings. **\$185,000.**

**1713 Kolopakini:** approx. 1,464 SQFT, 3 BDRM, REAL wood floors, screened and covered porches, storage shed. Metal roof and lots of updates! **\$215,000.**



**Kevin  
Hattaway**

**850-980-2134**

[www.KevinHattaway.com](http://www.KevinHattaway.com)

[kevin.hattaway@comcast.net](mailto:kevin.hattaway@comcast.net)



Changing Times  
Realty Company

## N3 Neighbor to Neighbor IN THE NENES

The mission of Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes (N3) is to help elders in Indianhead Lehigh to stay in their homes as long as possible as they age.

Elders have several services designed just for them. N3 makes referrals for help with

**Transportation • Grocery shopping • Meals  
Yard work • Home repair • Home modification •  
Pick up of medications**

No other neighborhood in Tallahassee can make this claim. N3 provides opportunities for socializing via weekly dinners at Cabos Island Bar and Grill and rides to Brain, Body, Balance exercise class at Optimist Park on Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Monthly education programs are held at Optimist Park. Join us on April 29 for "Car-Fit" and May 19 for "Getting All the Help Your House is Entitled To."

**Call (850) 901-7818 or email  
[ageinplace@earthlink.net](mailto:ageinplace@earthlink.net)  
for more information.**

## Piano Lessons

for beginners and intermediate players  
with TOMOKO BALDRIDGE

(850) 559-7076



[tomokorolfer@  
gmail.com](mailto:tomokorolfer@gmail.com)

Your neighborhood



**BURGERS & FRIES**  
So good it'll make your head spin!™

1395 E. Lafayette Street  
(850) 878-2020

Mon-Sat: 11am-9pm  
Sunday: 11am-6pm



*Benefiting Hartsfield Elementary*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019**

**ENTRY FEE:**

Before 4/24/2019

Day of Race

\$15

\$20

\$10 (12 and under)

\$15 (12 and under)

\$ 5 (Hartsfield student)

\$ 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:



**CHIP TIMING!**

**Nene Fest 5K/Fun Run**

c/o Jessica Kennett

2017 Chowkeebbin Nene

Tallahassee, FL 32301

(No additional charge for online registration)

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

Category: (circle) Male Female Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Entering: ☐ 5K ☐ Fun Run ☐ Donation

**Not a runner but still want to show support?  
Check "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, Gulf Winds 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)**