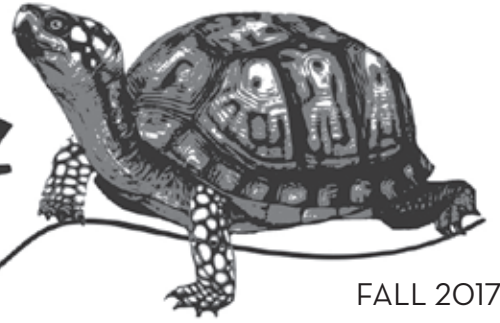


The Optimist

INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



FALL 2017

A Spook-a-licious Party and Potluck

Saturday, October 28 • 4:30-7:30 p.m. • Optimist Park

By The HallowNene Committee

With fall creeping in, it's time for the annual Indianhead Lehigh Acres Neighborhood Association (IHLNA) Halloween Party and Potluck! Open to all residents young and old, the party will feature live music, a costume parade, and a potluck dinner. Music by Tao Jones and the Ontological Elephants will begin to rouse hobgoblins at 4:30 p.m. The costume parade is open to all ages and ogres, so polish your fangs, get out the scarespray, and compete with your neighbors for Beast in Show.

And don't forget to bring your favorite ghoulish gruel for the spooktacular potluck! The neighborhood association will provide plates, utensils, and

(continued on page 2)

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- Tigers of the Sky
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- IHLNA Retrospective
- Home Care Tips



An event that draws neighbors young and old, the Halloween Party features a costume parade that allows everybody to walk the red carpet and show off their guise. *Photos courtesy of Marie-Claire Leman*

A Spook-a-licious Party and Potluck (cont.)

beverages, or bring your own dining tools to help reduce the amount of trash. Food service will begin at the hair-raising hour of 5:15 p.m., so bring your covered dish to the clubhouse by 5:00 p.m.—but earlier is better! If you arrive late, just bring in your dish and find a place on the table.

Because it's a neighborhood spook-a-thon, we'll need volunteers before, during, and after the event. We need folks to help with decorating, setting up, and cleaning up the clubhouse



and basketball court for food service and the costume parade, respectively. To our grave dismay, we will not have a haunted trail this year. Instead, we'll come together for a good time around the clubhouse, with a focus on friends and family. Setup will begin Saturday afternoon. If you'd like to be involved, please email hallowneners@gmail.com or grant.gelhardt@gmail.com, and keep an eye on the IHLNA Facebook page for announcements.

Invite from a Neighbor

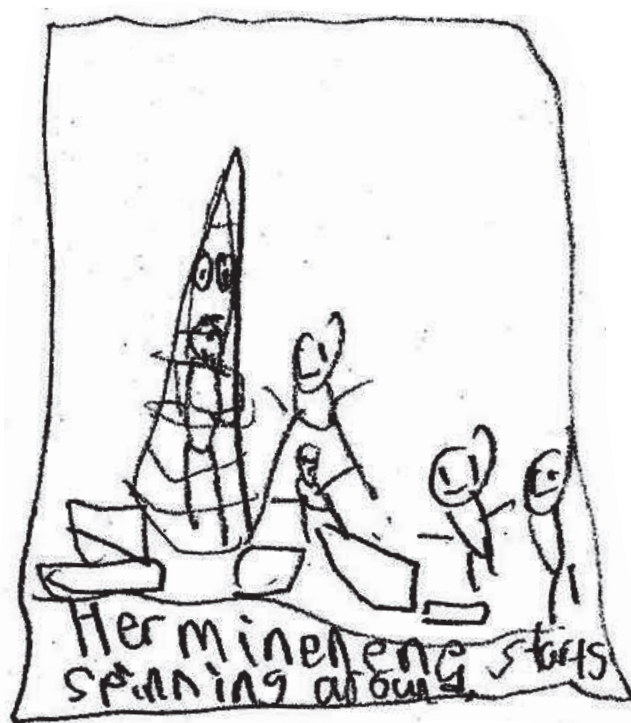
Right after Nene Fest on April 29, a young resident expressed his thoughts about the festival and other neighborhood events on the IHLNA Facebook page.

The Optimist

By Daniel Schwenkler (age 7)

It's [the] day after Nene Fest with the runs (5k and mile), the puppet show and music. Thank you for coming and definitely [sic] thank you for being in the show (if you were)! Please come today and next weekend for the potluck! We have lots of great food and will be playing soccer (as always), so feel free to join in. You do not have to be part of our neighborhood, it's for anyone.

Illustration: Herminenene starts spinning around.
Courtesy of Daniel Schwenkler



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NEWS & Notes

Holiday Lights Bike Ride

Sunday, December 17 • 6:30 p.m. • Optimist Park

Every year, we celebrate the coming holidays by touring the festive lights of Indianhead Lehigh by bike. After riding through the neighborhood for about three miles, we gather for cookies and cocoa. Some years, the weather is so warm that all we really want is ice water, but when there's a chill in the air, the cocoa and warmth of the exercise are most welcome. Of course, the warmth of the friendship is always appreciated, regardless of the weather. Some of us decorate our bike, and we all have front and rear lights for night-time riding. For more information, contact Marie-Claire Leman at marieclaireleman@gmail.com or (850) 728-7514.



Coastal Cleanup in IHLNA

For nearly thirty years, volunteers participating in the annual Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup® have picked up everything imaginable along the world's shorelines—from cigarette butts to kitchen appliances. During this year's event on September 16, members of Tallahassee's Boy Scout Troop 115, aided by two IHLNA neighbors, gathered debris along the "shores" of the greenway creek from Chowkeebine Nene to Optimist Park.

Photo by David Swanson

The
Optimist — FALL 2017

Second Sunday Potluck

For years, IHLNA has offered a casual, second Sunday potluck dinner for neighbors, but with reduced attendance in recent months, a scaled-back schedule is planned for the coming fall and spring. The free event is held at Optimist Park, and the starting time changes as daylight waxes and wanes. Participants should bring a dish that will feed about ten people, their own utensils, and (optional) a chair or blanket. Herbal tea is provided. Dates and times include: October 8 and November 12, 4:00 p.m.; no potluck in December and January; February 11 and March 11, 4:00 p.m.; April 8, 6:00 p.m.; and no potluck in May.

The November potluck dinner traditionally features free pony rides for kids, which will be offered on November 12 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. This gathering also will feature a petting zoo with rabbits, baby goats, and other farm animals that kids and even adults love to cuddle.

Leon County Adopt-a-Tree

Last September, Hurricane Hermine downed a lot of trees in the neighborhood, and many homeowners later had others removed professionally as a safety measure. Hurricane Irma also took a toll on the landscape. If all of these processes left a hole in your yard and your heart, the county's Adopt-a-Tree program will reopen in October for folks who would like to register to receive up to two trees.

Applicants must live within the city limits and agree to water each tree three times a week for one year. Trees must be planted in the front yard on a public street right-of-way, and city personnel will visit each site prior to planting to assist with tree selection and location. An online registration form and information about tree maintenance are available at www.talgov.com/sustainability/adoptatree.aspx.

Your neighborhood



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

Keeping an Eye on Neighborhood Projects

Ramona Abernathy-Paine is among the IHLNA residents who carefully monitor county and city actions that might impact the neighborhood. Here's her update about proposed and ongoing projects that she has been following.

By Ramona Abernathy-Paine

Auxiliary Dwelling Units

Auxiliary Dwelling Unit (ADU) is the official term for apartments and living spaces attached to primary residences. These living spaces often are called mother-in-law suites, granny flats, or garage apartments. In an attempt to standardize the language applied to these units and to "incentivize ADU development," the City of Tallahassee Growth Management proposed changes to the ordinance. For some neighborhoods in town, the language changes felt like an invasion of their space by developers. Most of the changes apply to neighborhoods in the MultiModal Transportation District; IHLNA is just outside the MMTD.

Neighbors from Betton Hills, Lafayette Park, Myers Park, and IHLNA have met twice in an attempt to refine the language in a way that preserves the integrity of each community. Suggested adjustments to the verbiage address the size, appearance, and number of such units, and limit the ways they can become separate rentals. Currently in Lafayette Park, several households are renting their ADUs through Airbnb. There are concerns that continued construction of ADUs will undercut the zoning of neighborhoods and change the overall density of the area. IHLNA is zoned RP-1, which allows no more than three dwelling units per acre. People working on the ordinance wording are striving to maintain this density, thus preventing ADUs from being built in a way that allows them to become separate dwellings. The ordinance was on the City Commission's September agenda, after this newsletter went to press; look for an update in the spring issue of *The Optimist*.

Myers Park

The City of Tallahassee has withdrawn its request to rezone 9.7 acres of Myers Park, the portion known as the "Parks & Rec parcel." The proposal to change the zoning gave rise to the "red sign initiative" expressed by hundreds of front-yard signs in neighborhoods

adjacent to and near the parcel. When that request was withdrawn, Commissioner Gil Ziffer proposed working with a group called Progressive Pediatrics to build a residential facility to house and provide training and job support for special needs adults.

People from multiple "Friends of the Park" groups, neighborhood associations, and the general public met repeatedly with Commissioner Ziffer and city Growth Management staff to express their desire that the parcel be retained for public use as a park. Throughout the discussions, neighbors and citizens reaffirmed that they had the highest regard for Progressive Pediatrics and its goal to provide support for a very special population. Their concerns related to the program's proposed location on public park land, and not the program itself.

As a result of these efforts, Progressive Pediatrics has withdrawn its interest in the parcel, and Commissioner Ziffer has promised that the parcel will not be developed for non-park use during his tenure in office. The Friends of Myers Park has developed suggestions for ways to enhance the quality of the parcel and return it to a superior park space that offers areas for unstructured play, picnicking, bicycling, and walking trails. These suggestions were presented to the City Commission at its September meeting; look for an update in the spring issue of *The Optimist*.

Lafayette Paseo

This project to rebuild the entrance to the IHLNA neighborhood on East Indianhead Drive has been complicated by the combined responsibilities of the county and the city for different parts of the work. The roadway is under county control; the sidewalks and utilities are managed by the city. Many of the design issues that initially had been agreed on by all parties, such as providing greater protection for pedestrians and bicyclists in the area, got lost along the way.

Final construction is wrapping up with placement of landscaping. Many neighbors have been involved in the design of this entrance. Neighborhood association president Grant Gelhardt and board members Connie Bersok and Edward Reid have continued to meet with city and county officials to ensure that solutions proposed by IHLNA are implemented.

Keeping an Eye on Neighborhood Projects *(cont.)*

Magnolia Drive Multiuse Trail

Design is underway for the next section of this project, from Pontiac Drive to Circle Drive. Plans include a traffic light at the intersection of Jim Lee and Magnolia. Property at this location, formerly owned by Cathy Gaynor, has been purchased by the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency. This county and city program will fund construction of the multiuse trail, while the county will fund the roadway construction.

This project has been complicated because the county owns and is responsible for the roadway, and the city owns and is responsible for the easements. Problems arose when the original design for the East Magnolia section from Adams Street to Pontiac Drive was changed to allow concrete to be laid right up to the roadway. This eliminated the separating green swath that originally was planned between the concrete and the asphalt. The

section had hardly been finished when some residents along that portion of Magnolia began using it for parking. Grant Gelhardt, Connie Bersok, Edward Reid, and I have continued to meet with county and Blueprint representatives to ensure that these problems are corrected as the design of the next phase is started. A portion of the Gaynor property will be used for the multiuse trail. Once the project is finished, the remainder of the property likely will be sold, although at this point, the size of the parcel is unknown. The property likely will be replatted after construction is complete.

Grant has learned from Blueprint representatives that construction of the section from Pontiac Drive to Circle Drive is on hold while design issues are revisited. A public meeting will be held to present the new design ideas before construction bids are let. Stay tuned!

Sign up for Solar—Now!

Tallahassee's new solar farm—set to be one of the largest in the Sunshine State—is under construction. Crews are removing debris and vegetation from the site, located on Springhill Road near the airport. When completed, the farm will produce enough energy to power 3,400 homes and businesses in the area.



You can become an active participant in this effort by signing up for solar. By doing so, you will get some or all of your electricity from the new solar farm. Slots are filling up, so act soon! If local commissioners see that Tallahasseeans are signing up in droves, they are more likely to consider construction of future farms. For more information or to sign up, go to www.tal.gov.com/you/solar.aspx.

Neighborhood Calendar

2nd Sunday of the month

October 8 & November 12

February 11 & March 11

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

Bring a potluck dish, your own utensils, and (optional) a chair or blanket.

Saturday, October 28

Halloween Party & Potluck

Optimist Park, 4:30–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 5

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

Sunday, December 17

Holiday Lights Bike Ride

Optimist Park, 6:30 p.m.



Tigers of the Skies

By Sandy Beck

When the cloak of night sweeps across the earth, and the moon stretches our shadows, careful little creatures begin scanning the skies—for tigers that stalk on silent wings, the owls.

Special light-sensitive cells in an owl's immense eyes endow them with extraordinary night vision. What might appear as total darkness to us, owls see as a cloudy morning. A feathery facial disk funnels sounds to their large, sensitive ears. Silent flight enables an owl to listen for tiny footsteps and soar undetected. Powerful, crushing feet and sharp talons kill the prey, and a curved beak rips it into bite-sized pieces. This is one very efficient predator, perfectly adapted for hunting in darkness.

The four species native to north Florida, from largest to smallest, are the Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Barn Owl and Eastern Screech Owl.

The Great Horned Owl, our largest and most powerful owl, is at home in open fields, at lake shores, and in pine forests—habitats with lofty perches and the flying room for their large wingspans. With large ear tufts or “horns” and big, yellow eyes, these owls are unmistakable. Pound for pound, Great Horned Owls are one of the most capable predators on earth. A Great Horned Owl can kill and fly off with an animal that weighs twice as much as he does. Another good reason to keep your cats indoors.

Living in the Indianhead Lehigh neighborhood, there is a good chance you have been lulled to sleep by a Barred Owl's “who cooks for you, who cooks for you all” or have been startled by its monkey-like screams. These beautiful, round-headed, brown-eyed owls are homebodies. A pair will not roam far from the nest site where they raise babies every spring.

Barn Owls are easily recognized by their white and golden plumage and distinctive heart-shaped



facial disks. They hunt rodents in open fields and nest in barns, abandoned buildings, or tree cavities.

Eastern Screech Owls, which may look like miniature Great Horned Owls with their bright yellow-green eyes and ear tufts, feel at home in suburban back yards where they prey on mice, insects, lizards, and small birds. Because of their trembling call, local old-timers call them “shivering owls.”

What can you do to help these owl neighbors? Resist your “tidy-up instinct” to cut dead or dying trees. If a snag poses a threat to your home, top it off leaving 15 feet or so for wildlife. Many species, including owls, depend on dead trees for homes. If you have a rodent problem, forget the d-Con, which also kills owls and other rodent predators; preserve the snags or build an owl box and hang your welcome sign.

Sandy Beck serves as education director with the St. Francis Wildlife Association, www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Photos, top to bottom:

Great Horned Owl, *Photo by Sandy Beck*

Barred Owl, *Photo by Sandy Beck*

Barn Owl, *Photo by Michael Schwartz*

Eastern Screech Owl, *Photo by Sandy Beck*

ST. FRANCIS WILDLIFE'S ANNUAL OWL-O-WEEN PARTY

Meet LIVE OWLS on
Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m.
to 2:00 p.m., at the Downtown
Marketplace, North Monroe and
Park Avenue.

There will be owly arts and crafts
and face painting for little hooters.
Purchase tee-shirts with original
owl designs by local artists, owl
jewelry, photography, and more.
All proceeds benefit orphaned,
injured, and sick owls and their
wild friends.

Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run: 2017 Event in Review

By Jessica Kennett and Marie-Claire Leman

The fourth annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run on April 29 was a great success! The event raised \$4,000 for Hartsfield Elementary School, and the turnout again was large, with 155 registrants, 45 volunteers, and 22 sponsors.

We extend a heartfelt thank-you to our many sponsors, all of whom helped to make this event a success. We're especially grateful for the support of the following businesses and individuals.

Golden Sponsors: Capital City Runners; Dender Construction; Kevin Hattaway, Changing Times Realty Company; and Terry Anne and Sharon Kant-Rauch, Kant Realty of North Florida;

Silver Sponsors: Florida AFL-CIO and Vertigo Burger and Fries;

Bronze Sponsors: C. Scott Dudley, Journeys in Yoga, Lucky Goat Coffee Company, Namasté Yoga, Purple Martin Nursery, and Norma Reesor.

the second year in a row, Geb Kiros came in second at 18:30, followed by Kurt Dietrich at 19:02. In the women's category, Katie Sherron came in first with a swift time of 21:39 (while pushing a stroller!), followed by Alyssa Bertinelli at 23:32 and Alese Autore at 23:59.

We were excited to bring back the award-winning Hartsfield Chorus to perform at the 5K and Fun Run awards ceremony. The entire 2017 Nene Fest event benefited from the artistic talent of Linda Hartsfield-Ogle, who created the 2017 logo and other design elements. As always, it was a pleasure to work with our neighborhood school and our many community volunteers. We are all proud to raise money to help make Hartsfield's campus a great place for kids to spend their days.

Mark your calendar now for the Fifth Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run! We're pleased to report that our event has been designated by the Gulf Winds Track Club as one of its 2018 Grand Prix races. We look forward to seeing you bright and early on Saturday, April 28, 2018.



The generosity of our sponsors, enthusiastic participation of runners and walkers, and tremendous help of our volunteers ensured that Hartsfield will be able to acquire much-needed sound equipment for its music program and cafetorium.

Runners exhibited remarkable speed on the course again this year. Jim Halley dominated the men's race and was the overall winner, with a time of 17:57. For



Top: On your mark, get set . . . Nene Fest 5K participants are off to a strong start!

Bottom: The Hartsfield chorus captured everyone's attention with their fabulous voices and impressive dance moves.

Photos by Jasun Burdick

SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

Scout Out the Additions That Enhance Koucky Park

Dear Indianhead Neighborhood:

My name is Dylan Rudlaff. I am a senior at Leon High School, and I've been a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop 115 since 2007. I have just completed a project in your neighborhood for my requirements to become an Eagle Scout. Part of my project entailed cleaning and restoring two concrete frames from a 1950s-era bench that were retrieved from the Koucky Park creek by Ben Brown and his dad, Geoff Brown. The objective was to reconstruct the bench and place it back in Koucky Park, which we accomplished.



In addition to restoring the bench, my team of scouts and sponsors built a freestanding arbor swing on the west side of the bridge, directly across from the jungle gym area. This will become a quiet place to relax, talk, read, or birdwatch in the park. I met with Grant Gelhardt of your neighborhood association for approval of the project and the location of the swing. I also met with Ashley Edwards of the City of Tallahassee Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs to ensure that the swing was the same specifications as other swings around the city. My sponsors for the project were Riley Palmers Construction Company, which provided wood materials and supervisory help; my father, Scott Rudlaff, who provided a lot of technical guidance; and my brother, Brandon, who handled the power tools and provided elbow grease. Individual sponsors included Louise Carpenter, Vickie and Gary Droze, and Mr. and

Mrs. Charles Maddox. Mentors from the troop were Geoff Brown and Dennis Smith.

I held a yard sale and cook-out on July 29 at the Scout House on Meridian Road, across from Lake Ella. I extend thanks to my grandparents, Midge and John Rudlaff, who coordinated the event and to the neighbors who provided additional items for sale. Special thanks to Ken Rice and Joe Hurd for access to their water hose and electricity, and other neighbors who supported the project; and to Grant Gelhardt and Parks and Recreation for allowing me to do this as my Eagle project.



If you have not yet seen them, come check out the swing and the bench. I hope you'll be very pleased to enjoy these new amenities in your neighborhood park.

Sincerely,
Dylan Rudlaff

Photo, left: Grant Gelhardt, Dylan Rudlaff, and Geoff Brown enjoy the reconstructed concrete bench.

Photo by Mrs. Rudlaff

Photo, right: Dylan and his family members—brother Brandon (also an Eagle Scout), father Scott, and mother—relax on the finished arbor swing. *Photo by Geoffrey Brown.*

Garden Beds Available

Are you a gardener without a garden? Tom Ballentine is able to welcome two or three more people to share his very fertile garden beds on the corner of Chowkeebin and Chinnapakin.

You would be joining Tom—who has a wealth of information and is keen to help neighbors become successful gardeners—as well as two other neighbors already benefiting from this ideal location.

Here are the simple expectations:

- keep your bed(s) all organic;
- keep them mulched and fairly weeded (Tom has lots of leaves to share); and
- help keep the walking paths clear of weeds.

As far as contributions are concerned, there is a small annual cost for the compost that Tom will bring to the garden beds. You are welcome to use water from his hose whenever needed.

There is still time to put in a fall/winter garden! If you're interested in this opportunity, contact Marney at marneyrichards370@gmail.com.

Photo: Tom Ballentine invites you to share his garden beds. *Photo by Marie-Claire Leman*



Keep on Walkin'

By Connie Bersok

Wouldn't you like to be able to walk to work? For more than twenty years, neighborhood residents who work at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) office on Blair Stone Road have had the enviable opportunity to walk to work along a sidewalk and shaded pathway. In addition, DEP employees can safely take a lunchtime run or a walking break in our shaded neighborhood.

This wasn't always the case. Before 1995, the only access was a tenuous footpath along a stormwater drainage and up a wooded hill. After the state erected a fence along the path, the neighborhood worked with the City of Tallahassee and the State of Florida, which agreed in 1995 to build a sidewalk and set of wooden stairs with decking, respectively. This connection between the neighborhood and DEP provided a safe pathway for pedestrians while reducing vehicle traffic. Unlike the route a car would use along St. Augustine and Blair Stone Roads, this access way has never flooded after strong storms, lost electrical power or traffic lights, or caused an accident in all these years.

However, the state Department of Management Services sent a notice to DEP in June that it intends to close off the pedestrian walkway. During a meeting with DMS, a group of IHLNA residents was told that the current walkway is "a liability," and subsequent correspondence with DMS has not revealed much more information.

IHLNA has elevated this issue through a meeting and site visit with City Commissioner Nancy Miller. Letters requesting support to maintain the pedestrian walkway also have been sent to Mayor Andrew Gillum, Leon County Commissioner Kristen Dozier, Senator Bill Montford, and Representative Loranne Ausley. Be assured that IHLNA board members will do all we can to keep, and perhaps even improve, this pedestrian pathway.

"If You Rest, You Rust!"

By Karla Brant

... So says Tallahassee Senior Center fitness instructor Wendy Barber. If you've noticed that you're starting to rust a bit, try the Brain-Body-Balance class that is offered at Optimist Park twice a week and at other times and locations in town (see details below).

The program was created by certified fitness instructor Kathy Gilbert, who explains, "The Tallahassee Senior Center asked me to teach Brain Gym about eleven years ago. I had been working at a senior center in upstate New York, and I realized there was so much need for balance improvement and fall prevention." The Senior Center told her to go for it, so she added lots of exercises and games, and that's how Brain-Body-Balance was created.

Many exercises are seated, and standing exercises can be done with one hand on a chair for support. The class includes movements to sharpen reflexes, stretch muscles you didn't know you had, and improve your awareness of where your limbs are in space (technically called proprioception). And there is a bonus: the class includes lots of laughing.

The Optimist Park classes cost \$2 per class; reservations are not required; and participants should wear comfortable clothes and nonslip, closed-toe shoes.

Another nearby venue for exercise is Namasté Yoga on East Lafayette Street, between East Indianhead and Magnolia. Co-owners Ellen Shapiro and Gretchen Hein live in Indianhead and are both in their sixties. Ellen says, "Yoga can be practiced very gently with lots of modifications, or more vigorously with more physical challenge. People can start at any level of fitness or condition." Namasté offers several classes for beginners on weekdays and weekends at a variety of times. Call (850) 556-2625 or go to www.namaste-tallahassee.com for course options and costs.

If you're not into structured exercise, there are many more ways to move. Take a walk in our beautiful neighborhood. Go for a swim or try a water aerobics class at Wade Wehunt Pool at Myers Park; go to www.talgov.com/parks/aquatics.aspx for a schedule. You also can find exercise ideas and inspiration for older adults at the National Institutes of Health Go4Life site at go4life.nia.nih.gov.

So don't rust! Rejuvenate. You'll be glad you did.



Brain-Body-Balance classes end with a spirited round of volleyball that helps hand-eye coordination.

Photo by Karla Brant

Local Exercise Resources for Seniors

Brain-Body-Balance classes (one hour)

Optimist Park clubhouse: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 a.m., \$2

SouthWood Community Center: Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., \$5

Tallahassee Senior Center: Monday, 1:30 p.m., \$2

Allegro Inspired Living: Wednesday, 2:00 p.m., \$2

Tallahassee Senior Center classes (one hour)

Call (850) 891-4042 for class costs.

Mindful Movement: Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.

Chair Yoga: Friday, 11:00 a.m.

Life Exercise: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

Tai Chi: Wednesday & Friday, 10:00 a.m.

Zumba Gold: Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Yoga: Monday & Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

Jack McLean Community Center (one hour)

Super Seniors Fitness: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 10:00 a.m.

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Aging-in-Place in Indianhead

By Betsy Tabac, Aging-in-Place Planning Committee

Residents of Indianhead and Lehigh Acres (IHLNA) look out for each other. Each morning, we make sure our older neighbors pick up their newspaper; after storms, we help each other clean up; we share meals, music, gardens, and concerns.

Many current IHLNA residents are planning to grow old together in the neighborhood. This is one of the findings revealed by a small survey that our committee conducted last spring. It is possible that, within five years, the number of IHLNA residents who are 65 years and older will double. These residents will need help with tasks such as yard maintenance, cleaning, and transportation in order to stay in their home as long as possible.

Some of us on the leading edge of the “aging-in-place” tsunami are setting up a support system for older IHLNA residents. The objective is to link neighborhood providers with elderly neighborhood users. We also will make referrals to aging-in-place services provided by outside organizations. We have identified a list of services that seniors may need if they want to stay in their home as they age, including the following:

Cleaning	Shopping
Companionship	Transportation
Yard work	Tech support
Decluttering	Pet sitting/walking
Laundry	Delivery service
House security	Letter writing
Home maintenance	Home modifications
Coordination of helpers	Temporary meal prep.
Organizing memorabilia	Writing life stories
Preparation for weather emergencies	

At this point, we are looking for feedback from you.

- If you are an IHLNA resident, 65 years or older, who wants to tap into this type of support system, please send an email with your contact information to ageinplace@earthlink.net.
- If you are someone who might want to provide any of the listed services—out of the kindness of your heart or for barter or pay, please send an email with your contact information to ageinplace@earthlink.net.

We look forward to hearing from you and will respond as soon as possible.

A Mighty Oak

There is no dearth of poems, images, or expressions that laud the oak tree, which was designated the official national tree of the United States in 2004. This statuesque example on Jim Lee Road, photographed in 1965, is still thriving today. The same limb overhangs the roadway, despite the nearly twenty hurricanes and tropical storms that have passed through Tallahassee since 1966 and the street-side development.



HARTSFIELD CORNER

New Principal is Putting the Heart Back in Hartsfield

By Dr. Rhonda Blackwell-Flanagan

Greetings to our friends and neighbors in the Indianhead Lehigh Community!

I am very excited to continue my professional career as principal of Hartsfield Elementary School and honored to be a part of a community that seeks ways to embrace the school, its successes, and its place in the neighborhood. Hartsfield Elementary is unique because of its history, traditions, and the diversity in the populations that it serves.

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, and came to Tallahassee for college. I attended Florida A&M University, earned my bachelor's and master's degrees in education, and was fortunate to be hired by now-Senator Bill Montford into my first job teaching science at Godby High School. I married, raised a family of five girls, and Tallahassee began to grow on me because of the community, career, and educational opportunities that come with living in a college and government city. My path in Leon County Schools has brought me through middle school teaching at Cobb and Deerlake, working with special populations of students at The Teenage Parent Program, and through an



administrative tour at Bond and Buck Lake Elementary Schools in Leon County and Jefferson Elementary in Jefferson County. I continued my own education and obtained a doctorate in educational leadership from Florida State University and had the opportunity to teach and coordinate graduate-level leadership programs at Oakland University in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and at FSU.

With my years of teaching and administrative experience, and my background in research and leadership development in academe, my ultimate goal is to use both platforms to guide my efforts in leading Hartsfield forward. I view my position as principal as an opportunity to impact and influence curriculum and to implement new programs that serve the needs of a diverse population of students, while attracting new students to the Hartsfield family. With my agenda of "Putting the Heart Back in Hartsfield," my goal is to connect the vision and mission of the school with the support of our communities and partners to make Hartsfield Elementary a school that prepares students for success in an environment of excellence and care.

I am confident that Hartsfield is the best choice, and I encourage you to experience it by scheduling a tour of the school or by participating in our events that are open to the community. I look forward to a year of building relationships with the community and connecting our efforts to ensure that our Hawks soar high and strong!

Photo by Michael A. Cork, MACORK Solutions

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The Neighborhood Connection

By Marie-Claire Leman

What you can do for your neighborhood school

People look for places to donate their time in the hope of making a difference. Look no further than your neighborhood elementary school! Contact Judi McDowell at (850) 488-7322 or mcdowellj@leonschools.net to volunteer. Here are some ways in which you can help Hartsfield.

- Front office and classroom volunteers always are needed and very much appreciated.
- Mentors are cherished. The commitment is one hour a week for the entire school year. The next training sessions are October 10, 19, and 24, and November 7 and 16. You can register online for a workshop at www.leonschools.net; select "Community," then "Volunteer Program Services."
- Become a Hartsfield Garden Club volunteer. The club meets once a week in the late afternoon.
- Become a morning volunteer. Parents and volunteers are needed from 7:45 to 8:25 a.m. to help teachers keep an eye on students on the playground before school begins. Email marieclaireleman@gmail.com if you're interested.
- If you are a Hartsfield parent, join the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), volunteer in your child's classroom or help at the annual Carnival and other school events.

What your neighborhood school needs

Public schools increasingly depend on parents and communities to provide resources to meet the needs of all students. Fortunately, Hartsfield is nestled in a community that is willing to donate items to the school. If you wish to help, consider donating new or gently used small toys, stuffed animals, dolls, and art supplies for the High-5 store; and cash donations to help the school fund field trips or purchase sunshades for campus picnic tables.



Upcoming events at Hartsfield

Veterans Day Parade and Breakfast: November 9—Veterans, let us celebrate you!

Fall Fish Fry: November 17—\$10 for a fish dinner and \$5 for a fish sandwich; proceeds support the Hartsfield Chorus.

Book Fair: December 4 to 8—do some early shopping and support the media center.

Holiday Concert: December 7—ring in the holidays with music and hot cocoa!

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Indianhead Lehigh from My Rearview Mirror

By Patricia James Cheavers

Believe it or not, a long time ago—more than a century, my paternal great-grandparents resided west of Jim Lee Road where the Talla Villa Apartments now are located at the corner of Country Club and Magnolia Drive. Although I've only resided in Indianhead Lehigh for about thirty-one years, it seems as if I always have lived in the hood.

I was born and reared a few blocks away on East Magnolia Drive. When construction began on this subdivision in the early 1950s, many men from my old neighborhood were employed by the developers. Not only were these men construction workers, but they also were amazing storytellers, who frequently recalled their work experiences with local builders. Occasionally they took us through the area on weekends when the carpenters were off, and we joked that the well-designed and constructed houses were mini mansions.

As construction neared completion, shrubs and flowering plants—dogwoods, azaleas, magnolias, camellias, hydrangeas, gardenias, and rose of Sharon—were planted. The neighborhood was well known for being beautiful, especially during the spring and fall. Parks, walking trails, and streams were all added assets. When I was a kid, my dad shared many stories about the huge, heavily wooded forest that was used in the mid-1930s for hunting rabbits, squirrels, possums, quail, raccoons, large birds, and other wild creatures.

After returning from World War II, my dad found employment with the City of Tallahassee Water Department in 1947. Indianhead Acres was one of his assigned areas. He learned to zigzag through the neighborhood easily and even pronounce a few of the strange-sounding street names. Even today, drivers who are not familiar with this area often get lost, but I can traverse the neighborhood with ease by foot or by car. As a teenager, I often babysat for families on West Indianhead and Atapha Nene.

Jim Lee Road, originally named Humpin Nene, or First Trail, is an integral part of the hood because it was named for Tallahassee's famous golfer, Jim Lee Jr. His family owned much of the land on which Rickards High School is located. My dad and his childhood buddies learned to play golf by serving as caddies for Lee and other golfers, and many neighbors were employed at the country club. As homeowners living across from the course, we watched golfers play from our front porch; when we retrieved stray balls in our yards, we sold them back to the golfers.

Walking was our primary mode of transportation, and we used the golf course as our private thoroughfare from Magnolia to Myers Park Drive. Once on Myers Park, we continued down across the railroad tracks onto Gaines Street, past the old city jail and Smokey Hollow before reaching downtown Tallahassee. As long as we respected the rights of the golfers, there was implied consent that we could make shortcuts and tiptoe through the course. But after all, the course belonged to the city.

My memories of Indianhead Acres are vivid, but I miss sharing these memories with my mother, who died at the age of ninety in 2013. Life is good in the Nenes.



Revised and reprinted with permission from the Tallahassee Democrat.

Photos: Horace James, 1943, and Patricia James Cheavers



Crawlspaces and Basements: Hidden Areas of a Potential Mess

By Terry and Sharon Kant-Rauch

How often do you go under your house and look in your crawlspace? Many people don't go there. Ever.

That's a mistake. If you live in or are trying to buy an older home that has a crawlspace, you need to know what's going on underneath the house.



But first, let's talk about the positive aspects of an older, off-grade (i.e., not built on a concrete foundation) house.

- It often means that there's real hardwood on the floors. (You can't put real hardwood directly on a slab floor.) That's often a selling point with buyers.
- Electrical wiring, plumbing pipes, and heating and air-conditioning duct work often are more accessible for repairs and inspections than in a house built on a cement slab.
- Some folks think that the natural air flow of an open crawl space allows for cleaner air in the house and less chance of high radon levels.

But then there are the downsides.

- Standing water or water intrusion underneath a house can contribute to moisture problems such as mold, wood rot, and damaged duct work and insulation. Fungus or other organic growth can start rotting out the inside of joists.
- Animals can build nests, eat electric wires, and tear into duct work and insulation.
- Bathroom or kitchen plumbing leaks often can go unnoticed until it's a major concern.

The good news is that most problems can be fixed, but the earlier they are discovered, the less costly they are to remedy. Craig Howard, home inspector with CMH Inspections, suggests going under your house at least once a year to inspect for wood rot, water leaks, wires on the ground, damaged duct work, or structural abnormalities such as leaning columns.

If you haven't looked under your house for a long time, or you're thinking about selling your home, consider getting a home inspection and a WDO (wood-destroying organisms) inspection. The home inspector will look for problems

all over your home, including the crawlspace and attic, and also look for wood rot and organisms. Costs usually run from \$300 to \$500 for a home inspection and about \$150 to \$200 for a WDO inspection.

Buyers always should get these inspections done before purchasing a home, but sellers also can get them before putting their home on the market. This way, sellers know in advance about any problems

with the house and either can fix them or price the house accordingly.

In Indianhead Lehigh Acres and other older neighborhoods, problems in the crawlspace often become a "deal breaker." The outside and inside of a home can be maintained well by its owner, but sellers often are shocked by the inspection reports that reveal what's underneath.

Craig Howard and others in the industry say there are many ways to keep a crawlspace in tip-top shape. If water intrusion is the issue, you can mitigate the problem with gutters, creating swells, and/or installing French drains. The slope of the land will impact the fix, and landscapers often can address this. Some folks go to the expense of getting an entire crawlspace encapsulation system with a permanent dehumidifier. The cost ranges from \$6,000 to \$12,000.

A simple vapor barrier—often a plastic lining covering the ground in the crawl space—can be helpful as well, as long as overall drainage problems are mitigated, and water doesn't start pooling on top of the lining. Some people also close up the open spaces where the water is coming in, but you need to leave enough good air vents to keep the air circulating underneath your house.

You also may need to get estimates from folks who treat fungus, fix wood rot, address plumbing issues, replace or repair duct work, and/or evaluate and remedy structural issues. Be sure to hire licensed and insured folks who are knowledgeable and experienced.

Stay ahead of the game and get to know your house—inside and under.

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1915 E Indian Head	\$200,000	1566	4/2
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INDIANHEAD RECENTLY SOLD HOMES

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1501 Chocksacka Nene	\$199,900	1751	3/2
2210 W Indian Head Dr	\$225,000	1897	4/2

*Data from CTRTS, INC. MLS