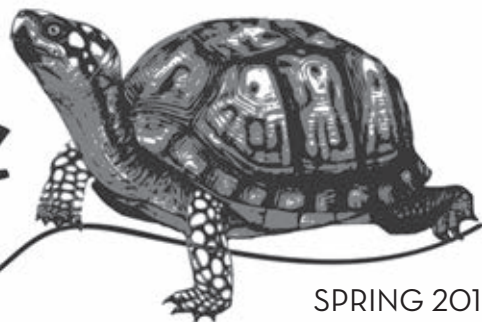


# The Optimist



SPRING 2018

INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Nene Fest 2018

A Festival for Neighbors by Neighbors

April 28 • 3:00-9:00 p.m. • Optimist Park

By KC Smith

Join neighbors and friends for our 10th annual, free, family-friendly event that includes music, food, art, crafts, kids' activities, and a theatrical production. There's something for everyone! If you'd like to be more than a spectator, read on to learn how you can have a hands-on role in the event. Proceeds from festival food and memorabilia help to fund future IHLNA projects.

### Music

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



## In This Issue

- Nene Fest and 5K Run
- Neighborhood News
- Love Missile
- Get Out and Vote
- Taking Care of Wild Babies
- Sustainable Indianhead Lehigh Community (SILC)
- Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes
- Hartsfield Corner
- IHLNA Membership



### Food and Supplies

A catered main dish and side salads, bread, and desserts donated by neighbors provide a hearty meal for a nominal charge. Food is served from 5:00 p.m. till there's nothing left. But, whoa! The food department needs plenty of help to make this happen! To donate a 20-portion salad or a few loaves of bread, OR to volunteer to serve food, contact Wendy at [yashimalu@hotmail.com](mailto:yashimalu@hotmail.com) or Marnie at [marneyrichards370@gmail.com](mailto:marneyrichards370@gmail.com). To dazzle dessert lovers by donating a dozen or more single servings, contact Claudia at [claudiaesperber@gmail.com](mailto:claudiaesperber@gmail.com). In addition, you can't have food without paper goods, and that takes a coordinator. Contact Wendy or Marnie if this is your forte.

(continued on page 2)

# Nene Fest 2018 (cont.)

## Art, Craft, and Business Showcase

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

## Activities

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

## Puppet Show

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

## Merchandise

Every good festival has its array of memorabilia, and Nene Fest is no different. You can go home with a festival tee-shirt or mug, knowing that all proceeds will support future festivals. If you would like to be on the sales side of the table, contact Patty at [cecisharp@embarqmail.com](mailto:cecisharp@embarqmail.com) or Melissa at [farleymelissa70@gmail.com](mailto:farleymelissa70@gmail.com).

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

It's "the more, the merrier" when it comes to making Nene Fest a reality. Setting up the stage and handling other logistics require folks with long ladders, trucks, and a willingness to show up early on the morning of the event. Likewise, we need diehards who'll stay to take it all apart. And because Nene folks are so tidy, we need someone to round up trash and recycle containers beforehand and a team to clean up afterward. If you fit any of these descriptions, contact Brad at [autumnandbradley@gmail.com](mailto:autumnandbradley@gmail.com) or George at [lukegx2012@gmail.com](mailto:lukegx2012@gmail.com).

## One more word about trash . . .

We recycle at Nene Fest, but the best way to reduce waste is to bring your own utensils, plates, and cups.

*Photos courtesy of Bob O'Lary*



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## PET SITTING

Jenna Kant-Rauch

Call or text:  
(850) 656-3033

## NEWS & Notes

### One Man's Junk . . .

Clean out those closets, and clear out that stuff! IHLNA's Annual Yard Sale provides a no-excuses incentive for doing this. Join us on Saturday, April 14, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, for some neighborly bargaining and serendipitous socializing at Optimist Park. Participation is free for residents whose IHLNA dues are current and \$10 for nonmembers. The Association places an ad in the *Tallahassee Democrat* and a notice on Craigslist, which adds to a robust turnout. Here's your chance to get rid of that outgrown coat, vintage beer stein, or spare weed whacker. For more information, contact Grant at [grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com).



### Spring Membership Drive

This issue of *The Optimist* makes it as easy as pie to pay your 2018 Indianhead Lehigh Association dues: go to page 15 for a membership application. You also can join/renew online at <http://www.ilhna.org>. Participation is voluntary, but the income supports neighborhood activities, improvements, and advocacy that are offered to all residents. The annual membership donation is \$10 or \$5 for twenty-year residents. For questions, contact Ashley Arrington at [ashleyroberts10@hotmail.com](mailto:ashleyroberts10@hotmail.com).

**ihlna.org**

*The Optimist* — SPRING 2018

## Safety First!

The Indianhead and Lehigh Acres neighborhoods are very walkable and rideable. Year-round, from pre-dawn to late-night hours, folks walk their pets, exercise their bodies, and take their kids for a stroll. In addition, IHLNA actively promotes the use of bicycles for recreation and travel, especially among children. Regardless of the time or reason, it's important to keep personal safety in mind. Here are several things that pedestrians and cyclists can do for protection.

Always walk against traffic and peddle with it, which allows you to see a vehicle coming toward you. Wear a reflective vest, belt, or clothing and have a flashlight, which forewarns motorists of your presence. It doesn't hurt to have a light or illuminated collar on your pet as well.

The Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Transportation offer webpages that address pedestrian and cyclist safety and provide links to related resources. Check them out and be safe!

[www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/injury-prevention/links](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/injury-prevention/links)

[www.fdot.gov/safety/2A-Programs/Bicycle-Pedestrian.shtm](http://www.fdot.gov/safety/2A-Programs/Bicycle-Pedestrian.shtm)

Jeanne Greenleaf

See her paintings and sculpture  
April and May • 1020 Art  
1020 E Lafayette St Tallahassee





# The Mother of All Love Missiles

By KC Smith

“Love and Rockets” is the name of an avant-garde comic book series and a British alternative rock band, and it probably should be the title of an iconic artwork in an Indianhead front yard. The fourteen-foot-tall, heart-bedecked rocket that appeared just before Valentine’s Day was created by Eddie and Nancy Gines, assisted by friends. Although the *Cupid 1* prototype is a product of fantasy, Eddie says the world’s first “intercontinental ballistic love missile” symbolizes a weapon that’s needed to address the social discontent of modern society.

“People today are bombarded with fear and negativity that leave us polarized, riddled with anxiety, and unhappy about elected officials who are failing us,” says Eddie. “However, each of us possesses a power far greater than any weapon, real or imagined. Each of us can be a love missile by helping other people, being thoughtful and compassionate, and spreading positive messages. These behaviors are very addictive, and they can have a powerful impact.”

After hatching the project four months ago, Eddie deliberated about construction materials. However, when he saw the open duct work in a local tavern, he knew that he’d found the perfect product for a sleek rocket body. Everything else—from an “Authorized Personnel Only” sign to credible doodads affixed to the scaffold—was scavenged from garages, trash piles, and friends. Eddie originally planned to position a twenty-four-foot projectile adjacent to a wooden “launch pad” to emulate the Apollo missions. However, for reasons of stability, safety, and weight, he had to settle for a shorter rocket affixed directly to the sturdy scaffold.

The “Love and Rockets” artwork is anything but discreet. Nancy initially was not keen about having it in the front yard, but once the project materials and purpose took shape, she was on board completely. She’s

actually been delighted by the positive responses it’s garnered, including a front-page article in the *Tallahassee Democrat* on February 13. As I was interviewing Eddie, a woman stopped her car in front of the house, took a photo, and shouted, “I’m new in the neighborhood, but I heard about the love rocket.” Eddie says the display will remain in place “as long as it makes a difference.”

The novelty factor aside, Eddie and Nancy are voicing a sentiment that is not uncommon in current Tweets, blogs, and conversation. He observes, “A lot of things are fracturing our national and local communities right now, but we can get back on track if we focus on love energy.” To this Nancy adds, “Put down your phones and devices, wave when someone passes you on the street, and start appreciating each other.”

Photo by KC Smith



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

- Martin Luther King Jr.

## Remember to Vote!

By Shelly Hatton

**Primary Election: Tuesday, August 28, 2018**  
**General Election: Tuesday, November 6, 2018**  
**Polls are at Optimist Park Clubhouse:**  
**7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.**

Two important elections are just around the corner. Will you be registered to vote? Will you be prepared to make informed choices? Can you get to the polls? Will you be voting early? Are you mailing in a mail ballot? Did you move and, if so, is your voter registration information up-to-date?

Leon County Supervisor of Elections Mark Early has a job essential to the functioning of our democracy. It is his job to make the voting process in Leon County easy and secure so that all eligible voters in Leon County, regardless of income or ability, are able to vote.

His office is the go-to place for all your voting questions.

- The website to visit is [LeonVotes.org](http://LeonVotes.org).
- The phone number to call is (850) 606-8683.
- The location is 2990-1 Apalachee Parkway.

### Register to Vote

You can now register to vote online by visiting the [LeonVotes.org](http://LeonVotes.org) website. Or phone Mark Early's office at (850) 606-8683 to learn how. Numerous agencies around town provide voter registration forms; community events often have tables for registering people to vote as well. To register, you must have either a Florida driver's license or Florida I.D., and provide the last four digits of your social security number. Please remember to register at least twenty-nine days before the election.

### Vote by Mail

Voting by mail is easy. Simply request a mail ballot when the ballots become available (closer to election times) and mail it back. Voting by mail is especially helpful if you will be out of town during the election.



### Vote Early

You can vote early at a number of locations, including the Leon County courthouse, the main library and many library branches, and at some of our community centers. Early voting for the Primary Election is August 18 to August 26, 2018. Early voting for the General Election is October 22 to November 4, 2018.

### Update your Voter Registration Information

(Did you just move to Indianhead Lehigh?)

Going to the polls when you have recently moved and your registration information is out-of-date can cause much confusion. Get your voter registration information updated by visiting the [LeonVotes.org](http://LeonVotes.org) website or calling the office at (850) 606-8683.

### Learn about the Candidates

Closer to election time, [LeonVotes.org](http://LeonVotes.org) website will provide information about the local, state, and national candidates. Visit this site to learn about the position candidates have taken on topics important to you. Find out what seats they are running for.

Please remember that our democracy depends on you. Your single vote will help shape the future of our country.

Note: your Indianhead Lehigh board of directors is considering having a neighborhood candidates' forum this spring. This will be an opportunity for you to meet some of the local candidates and have your questions answered. Stay tuned. Details will follow if the board is able to arrange this get-together.



# How to Help Wild Babies

By Sandy Beck

Soft body, wobbly limbs, and a round head with big, bright, forward facing eyes. This irresistibly cute combination says, “I am vulnerable and helpless, and I need you.”

It doesn't have to be human. In fact, our need to nurture and protect is so tightly hardwired that the sight of almost any baby with this assortment of features—puppy, kitten, bear, manatee, squirrel, owl—will melt us.

Wild baby season is in full bloom now, and the cute factor is palpable at St. Francis Wildlife. Last year, our wildlife rehabilitation hospital rescued and cared for 3,101 wild animals, half of them orphaned or injured babies.

Last year, near Myers Park, Kat Figley discovered a tiny owlet just after dawn on the ground next to her mailbox. When I arrived, the baby was beneath its nest tree with a concerned adult owl perched above.

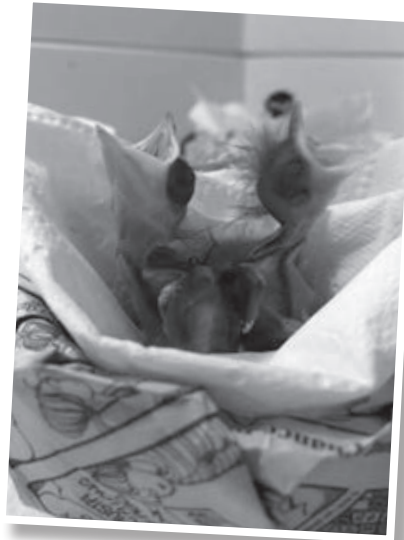
As I examined it, the doe-eyed baby bravely flapped its tiny wings, clacked its beak, and grabbed at my glove with its talons. The nestling was uninjured. I gave it some delicious mouse tartare, courtesy of Chez St. Francis.

Then, Bill Armstrong Tree Service to the rescue! After making a few repairs to the owl's damaged tree cavity, the crew in the bucket truck returned the baby to its nest. Within minutes the family was reunited, and cheers were heard along Seminole Drive.

Does every wild baby animal you find need rescuing? Probably not. Just like humans, most wild mothers have powerful maternal instincts and will not abandon their little ones. It can be difficult to resist the urge to pick up an adorable baby and give it a little water or food. But here's what you need to know.

## Baby birds

- Never give them water. Birds breathe through a hole in their tongue, so they will “drown” if you place water in their mouths. Baby songbirds get their moisture from juicy insects.
- Replace a nestling—a featherless or downy baby—in its nest. Its parents will not reject it; most birds don't have a developed sense of smell. If you can't find the nest, attach a little basket filled with pine straw to the shady side of the closest tree or bush. Place the baby



inside and observe from a distance.

- Leave fully feathered juveniles with short wing and tail feathers (fledglings) on the ground. Parents protect and feed them until they can fly in a few days. Keep children and pets away.

## Rabbits and deer

They do not stay with their babies all the time; they feed elsewhere to deter predators. Bunnies are independent at three weeks of age or when four inches long and able to rest in a sitting position.

## Baby Squirrels

Try to reunite them with their mothers. First warm the baby, then place it in a box beneath the tree from which it fell. Take pets inside and watch from a window for the parent to return.

## Opossums

Many people find baby opossums now. Some become orphaned after the mother is killed. Others become orphaned when they fall from her back.

If an opossum has been hit by a car, check her pouch. Only females have pouches. If her babies are still alive, remove them, place them in a box on a t-shirt (never a towel), keep them warm, and take them to St. Francis Wildlife.

If you find one baby opossum look around. There may be more—mama has thirteen nipples! Be very quiet and listen for the “sneezing” sounds babies make to call the mother.

## These animals always need help

- The parent is dead, and the baby is helpless—too young to be on its own.
- The animal is weak, thin, cold, or sick.
- It is bleeding or injured.
- A cat or dog caught the animal (even if you don't see a wound)—it will need antibiotics.
- Flies or other insects are on or around it.

## Never touch these animals

Always call St. Francis Wildlife for rabies vectors—mammals such as raccoons, foxes, and bats, even babies. Birds and reptiles do not carry rabies. Florida's opossums,



squirrels, and rabbits are extremely uncommon rabies vectors, but it is still wise to use gloves as your scent may attract predators.

Many of the injured babies people find have been caught by pets. Hungry owls, hawks, coyotes, and other predators, in turn, prey on cats and small dogs. Please keep your cats indoors, especially during baby season.

#### If you think an animal needs help

Call St. Francis Wildlife for advice. From 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., call (850) 627-4151; after 5:00 p.m., call (850) 933-2735, or check our website for advice and directions: [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).

#### Don't put yourself at risk.

- Use a cardboard or plastic box, punch air holes in the lid, add a t-shirt or blanket (NOT a towel—teeth or claws get caught in the terry loops), place the animal in the box, and secure the top with strong tape.
- Never give it water or food.
- Keep babies warm with a heated plastic water bottle wrapped in a t-shirt.
- Do not stare at it or handle it. Keep it quiet, warm, and in the dark. Stress can kill a wild animal.

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



Photos:

Nestling songbirds in an incubator at St. Francis Wildlife.

Photo by Sandy Beck

Orphaned cottontail rabbit with a fractured leg at St. Francis Wildlife. Photo by Teresa Stevenson

## 3rd Annual In Concert for Wildlife

**Where:** The Junction at Monroe,  
2011 S. Monroe Street

**When:** Friday, May 11; 6:00-10:00 p.m.

**Why:** Belle and the Band will dedicate their music to helping local injured, orphaned, and sick wildlife at St. Francis Wildlife.

**Admission/Tickets:** \$15. Restaurant and bar open at 6:00 p.m.; music begins at 7:00 p.m.

Come early for the Junction's home-cooked specialties and local, craft beers.  
All sales benefit St. Francis Wildlife.



# Frog

REALTY

#### INDIAN HEAD RECENTLY SOLD HOMES

Address	Sold Price	# Sq/ft	Bed/Bath
2105 W Indian Head Dr	\$145,000	1346	3/2
1551 Chowkeebbin Nene	\$160,000	1166	3/1
1915 E Indian Head Dr	\$189,000	1482	4/2
1410 Wekewa Nene	\$169,000	1296	3/2
2014 Atapha	\$220,000	1952	3/2
1819 Tamiami Dr	\$159,900	1596	3/2

\*Data from CRTRS, INC. MLS

Jacques Depart (850) 222-FROG (3764)

# Leon County 4-H: Not Just Cows and Sheep

By Allison Leo

When most people hear the word “4-H,” their mind often fills with visions of cows, sheep, and pigs. While 4-H clubs across the country are still involved with raising animals, modern 4-H has evolved to fit the needs of today’s youth. Current Leon County 4-H clubs include sewing, cooking, forest ecology, horticulture, engineering, and more! Leon County 4-H is headquartered right around the corner from Indianhead Lehigh Acres at the Leon County Extension Office, 615 Paul Russell Road. This close proximity allows our neighborhood friends to get involved without having to travel too far from home.



The mission of Leon County 4-H is to develop leadership, character, and good citizenship in America’s youth. 4-H is open to youth ages 5 to 18, regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, or disability. Adults choose to volunteer for an assortment of reasons, and they play a vital role in the youth education programs. Teaching young people enduring life skills and having a positive impact on the next generation are two common motivators for participation. Leon County 4-H has a variety of volunteer opportunities, ranging from leading community clubs to helping with the Leon County 4-H/Tropicana Speech Contest. Not only does volunteering provide value to the community, but it also adds value to the life of the volunteer.

4-H volunteers come from different backgrounds and bring diverse skill sets to the table. An ideal 4-H volunteer enjoys working with young people, believes in the importance of life skills, and is interested in becoming a mentor for future generations. There is not one “cookie cutter” model of the perfect 4-H volunteer. An individual

who is interested in learning new skills and values the sense of community is a terrific candidate.

It is a common misconception that one has to be familiar with 4-H to be a successful volunteer. Providing service and time to 4-H youth education programs allows a person to share experience and knowledge with the next generation. Even individuals who have limited time are able to assist by volunteering intermittently. Leon County 4-H relies on dedicated volunteers to help youth gain the knowledge and life skills they need to be productive, responsible citizens. Time spent as a volunteer provides the safe environment that young people need to pursue the interests, causes, and leadership roles that are most important to them.

To learn about volunteer opportunities or enrolling a child in 4-H, contact 4-H Agent (and Nene resident)

Allison Leo at (850) 606-5212 or [aleo@ufl.edu](mailto:aleo@ufl.edu).



Kids learn about reptiles and amphibians in the Wild about the Woods Club.

A young 4-H member learns how to harvest produce in the Horticulture Club.

*Photos by Allison Leo*





# Coming Together to Remove A Neighborhood Menace

By Judy Rainbrook

Last spring, because of the initial success of the city's spraying efforts in the Greenway and in anticipation of a second spraying this last winter, the Ardisia Slaying project offered to help individual homeowners with ardisia removal. The first person who requested assistance had a very large property on West Indianhead that was deeply covered with ardisia. We put out the call to help remove plants this fall, but the response was small. Some of our original slayers have been "aging out," and many others are very involved in uprooting this plant in their own backyard, so the going has been slow. In addition, we have several more requests from homeowners that we haven't been able to address. We are looking for yard folk who are trained in ardisia removal and able to assist homeowners who are willing to pay for this help. Send an email to [ardesia.slayer@earthlink.net](mailto:ardesia.slayer@earthlink.net) if you are interested.

The Tallahassee Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs was scheduled to meet with residents before spraying in the Greenway commenced again this fall. Unfortunately, it didn't happen because our speaker was trapped in Atlanta when the airport lost power. After that, the weather became too cold for spraying to be conducted. Even ardisia stops growing when it gets down to 30 degrees! Spraying has now

been delayed until May to prevent damage to native flowers and ferns that are all bursting forth right now. But it will happen.

Despite these setbacks, the neighborhood is still making good progress. Our "Valentine to the Greenway" campaign has seen all three collection cans getting heavy use. However, the important prevention element is still you! If you see ardisia in your yard, at the edge of your property, in the city easement along roads, please help! The minimum intervention is to remove any berries. Whether it's in your yard or you're helping a neighbor, the next step is to look below the larger ardisia plant and remove all the baby plants coming up from last year's seeds. After that, dig up and remove the plant. It's okay to leave stray roots, but removing the root crown at the base of the stem is critical. Place berries, babies, and roots in your black trash can to make sure they can't sprout again. The city shreds yard waste that it collects and uses it for mulch. Ardisia debris mixed in will only spread this menace to new areas. Arrg!

Photo: A special "Valentine's Day for the Park" trash can was prepared especially for Indianhead by the Tallahassee Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs.  
*Photo by Judy Rainbrook*

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**Mary Louise Bachman**  
**Connie Bersok**  
**Sandra Neidert**  
**Edward Reid**

**ihlna.org**

*The*  
**Optimist** — SPRING 2018



## A Valentine's Day Present To Your Park!

As you spend time in the park, please collect coral ardisia berries as you go.

Place Coral Ardisia BERRIES here.  
(No trash please)

Every pound of berries collected is 1,600 invasive plants prevented.

# *Congrats to Our Neighbors: Mentor and Volunteer of the Year*

By Marie-Claire Leman

Like all schools, Hartsfield Elementary values its mentors and volunteers. Students rely on their mentors to come, without fail, on a weekly basis and help them practice reading or math, or simply be another trusted adult with whom they can discuss things on their mind.

Sharon Kant-Rauch is one of the many mentors who can be counted on to show up for the students she has mentored diligently over the years. Her generosity, dedication, and compassion have made her stand out. She was honored as Mentor of the Year at Hartsfield this year and has been selected as a finalist for Mentor of the Year at the district level. Thank you, Sharon!

Since my children started school, I have had the privilege of time and resources. In recent years, I have spent a lot of time volunteering in the classroom and helping to organize various school events. Hartsfield teachers and staff continuously have shown their gratitude for my and other volunteers' time and help, and this year I was honored by being named Hartsfield Volunteer of the Year. I also have been selected as a finalist for this category at the District level. Volunteering is a privilege, and I am grateful for it!

Photo above: Award winners Marie-Claire Leman and Sharon Kant-Rauch.  
Photo by Judi McDowell



## *Hartsfield Calendar*

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### **Cultural Fair—May 8**

Don't miss Hartsfield's Cultural Fair on Tuesday, May 8! This signature event is popular with students and parents, and this year, the community is invited to attend. Come and enjoy the tastes, sights, and smells of the many countries represented by the Hartsfield student body. Learn about different countries and cultures through students' artwork and displays. This is a good way to meet teachers, administrators, and other Hartsfield families to get a feel for the school, especially if you're considering it as a choice for your child. The event is free and open to all. For more information, contact Media Specialist Mary Jo Peltier, (850) 488-7322.

### **Kindergarten Orientation—May 9**

Do you have a child starting elementary school in the fall? Have you considered Hartsfield? Are you wondering what curriculum and classroom environment will be offered to your incoming kindergartener? You can find out by visiting with your child on Wednesday, May 9. You'll receive a tour of the kindergarten classrooms and learn a lot from presentations by kindergarten teachers. You'll also have an opportunity to ask questions and fill out the registration forms. Call Ms. Thompson at (850) 488-7322 for more information.

### **Music to the Ears—May 17**

The Hartsfield Chorus is grateful for the wonderful support it has received from neighbors over the last few months. We hope you will join us for the end-of-the-year concert on May 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Hartsfield Elementary.

# Wild Wednesdays

By Jessica Kennett

How can I consistently get more vitamin “N” (that is, nature) into my life and those of my children, spend more time with friends, and move off-road more?

These were questions that I often asked myself four to six months ago. One day in mid-October, I decided to stop thinking about the situation and just do something—like right now! I sent out a text message to a few friends with kids in our neighborhood to let them know that I would be starting an afterschool hiking club on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Optimist Park Trailhead. Just like that, “Wild Wednesday” was born!

The group varies from week to week in number, age, and level of “wild.” No matter the size or dynamic, we always manage to have an adventurous time exploring the hidden and often magical trail along the creek. As a rule, the kids lead the hike. They run up and down the path, often detouring for no set amount of time into our mini ravine. Occasionally, we talk briefly about the plants that surround us. We’ve snacked on wild wood sorrel (lemony and kid-approved); identified poison ivy; and even slayed a few bagfuls of coral ardisia. Certain parts of the trail have even been lovingly named—“The Tree,” “Fairy River,” “Mysterious Creek,” and “The Stick Forest,” to name a few. Every week, I look forward to meeting a new group of wild and free spirits on the trail and soaking up all their energy and excitement for the little things in life—all while getting my much-needed tree therapy. It’s a beautiful hour in the middle of the week!

*Photos by Jessica Kennett*



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# A New Initiative for Older Residents

By Betsy Tabac

Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes, which we call N<sup>3</sup>, is a burgeoning project to serve seniors in the Indianhead Lehigh Acres community who choose to stay in their home as long as possible as they age. By linking elders with needed resources, including neighbors, N<sup>3</sup> will enhance the quality of life for everyone in the community.

After a year of preparation that has been guided by a volunteer planning committee, Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes is transitioning into a formal nonprofit under the leadership of a board of trustees. We soon will begin to deliver information and referral services, focused initially on transportation and assistance with grocery shopping and other errands. As this service gets up and running, we intend to add referrals in other categories, including help with yards, minor home repairs, and similar tasks.

Our planning committee is small, and we need some local support. We're recruiting members for the board of trustees and need professional experience in the areas of accounting, fundraising, internet technology,



organizational development, and insurance. We're also looking for individuals who

- are aware of the needs of the elderly and have a passion to meet those needs;
- understand the role of the board of trustees in a non-profit organization;
- have a proven ability to function effectively on a non-profit board; and
- have time to devote to the organization.

N<sup>3</sup> is an exciting, innovative approach to meeting the needs of the growing number of seniors in our local community. We look forward to building on the famous IHLNA "help a neighbor" ethos that is already so prevalent in the neighborhood.

Neighbors who would like to assist N<sup>3</sup> financially should go to our crowd-sourcing website, [www.youcaring.com/n3](http://www.youcaring.com/n3), to make a donation.

For additional information, contact Betsy Tabac at [ageinplace@earthlink.net](mailto:ageinplace@earthlink.net).



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# 5th Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run

April 28, 2018 • 8:00 a.m. • Optimist Park



By Marie-Claire Leman and Jessica Kennett

Five years ago, the IHLNA 5K and Fun Run joined the larger Nene Fest organization, with several goals in mind. These included encouraging neighborhood and community involvement; promoting health and wellness; and supporting and connecting residents with our community school, Hartsfield Elementary. Every year, the 5K Run has exceeded our expectations.

We are grateful for the dedicated involvement of neighbors, volunteers, participants, sponsors, and donors. This year, money raised by the race will go to Hartsfield's Parent Teacher Organization to help fund field trips, afterschool activities, and classroom needs. We thank everyone who has supported our school and our community!

We invite you to participate in the Nene Fest's 5K and Fun Run, and here's how you can do so.

- You can sign up to run or walk. You'll find a race registration form on the back cover of this newsletter, but you also can register online at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). If you are among the first 150 people to register, you'll receive a one-of-a-kind race bag and a chance to win an age-group award, and you'll be entered in a drawing for unique door prizes!
- You can be a volunteer. Every year, both races are a success largely due to the more than fifty volunteers who help make this an exciting, safe, and smooth event for everyone. You can be part of this team!
- You can be a sponsor. Consider making a personal or business contribution. We welcome any amount. Sponsorship information is available on the Nene Fest 5K Facebook page, [facebook.com/nene5k](https://facebook.com/nene5k).

This event would not be possible without local support. Once again, we'd like to thank our top sponsors of last year's race.

- **Golden Sponsors:** Kevin Hattaway; Terry Anne and Sharon Kant-Rauch of Kant Realty of North Florida; Dender Construction; and Capital City Runners
- **Silver Sponsors:** Vertigo Burger and Fries; and the AFL-CIO.

Over the past five years, the Nene 5K Run has grown and become recognized as an important local event for many reasons. These include the generosity of our sponsors—many of whom are not named above; the dedicated participation of runners and walkers; and the unflagging assistance of volunteers. In case you haven't heard the news yet, the 5K has been selected by the Tallahassee Gulf Winds Track Club as a Grand Prix Event!

Individuals and groups have unified our neighborhood for a morning of fun and exercise, while strengthening and enriching our neighborhood-school connection. We look forward to seeing you bright and early on Saturday, April 28, 2018, for the Fifth Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run!

*Marie-Claire Leman & Jessica Kennett*  
Race Directors

**Sponsorship & Volunteering:** Marie-Claire Leman  
[marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com); (850) 728-7514

**Registration & General Info:** Jessica Kennett  
[jesskennett0079@yahoo.com](mailto:jesskennett0079@yahoo.com); (850) 241-3283

**Find us on Facebook:** [facebook.com/nene5k](https://facebook.com/nene5k).

*Photo by Jasun Burdick*

# INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## 2018 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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The Indianhead Lehigh Neighborhood Association (IHLNA) has about 850 households.

- EVERY household receives a hand-delivered newsletter in the spring and fall.
- About 800 neighbors are members of the IHLNA Facebook page.
- About 500 neighbors are on the IHLNA email distribution list.
- Only 25-30% are paid members of the neighborhood association.

### *Here's what we do with your membership fees:*

- sponsor more than 18 family-friendly events every year;
- produce a biannual newsletter that updates neighbors about local events and issues;
- coordinate an annual neighborhood yard sale;
- provide volunteer and financial support for Hartsfield Elementary, our neighborhood school;
- fund educational and social projects that benefit the immediate and larger community;
- monitor and respond to the effects of neighborhood development projects; and
- advertise the services of businesses and individuals in our neighborhood.

### *What we've accomplished...*

- New neighborhood main entrance sign at East Indianhead and Lafayette Streets
- 2016 Neighborhood of the Year Award
- Improvements to the intersections at Magnolia/Lafayette and East Indianhead/Chowkeebin
- New playground equipment and porch-style swing at Optimist Park
- Crosswalk at Circle Drive
- Sponsorship of Nene Fest for 9 years
- Neighborhood potlucks with special activities such as "ponies at the park"
- Neighborhood Halloween party
- July 4th Bike Parade
- Successful lobbying for a privacy fence and the planting of vegetation along Orange Avenue to provide noise and safety barriers to the neighborhood
- Successful lobbying for restroom facilities at Optimist Park and clubhouse upgrades
- Cooperation with the city to get sidewalks installed on Mountbatten and sidewalks extended on Chowkeebin and East Indianhead behind the school and through Optimist Park
- Nene Fest 5K & Fun Run (benefiting Hartsfield Elementary School)



## Our Mission:

Indianhead Lehigh Acres Neighborhood Association works to maintain and enhance the character and spirit of our community as a well-maintained, safe, friendly neighborhood.

Neighbors of Indianhead Lehigh work with city and county governments to develop specific plans that encourage safe traffic patterns for all vehicles and pedestrians, providing access throughout the neighborhood and into surrounding areas.

Neighborhood web page: **ihlna.org**

## Our 2018 projects include:

- Additional neighborhood signs
- Construction of a multiuse pavilion at Optimist Park
- 10th Anniversary of Nene Fest
- Nene Fest 5K & Fun Run (benefiting Hartsfield Elementary School)

To **JOIN US** on

**facebook**

Email Grant: **grant.gelhardt@gmail.com**

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE YOUR PAYMENT ONLINE AT: ihlna.org.**

Click on "Membership" & **PayPal** 

**OR Make checks payable to IHLNA and mail or place check in Nene Dropbox located by downstairs backdoor:**

Ashley Arrington, IHLNA Treasurer  
1809 Choweebin Nene, Tallahassee, FL 32301

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete and return to IHLNA Treasurer.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for neighborhood email list \_\_\_\_\_  
(if you are not currently on the list) to receive crime watch bulletins and information on pertinent issues

Resident since \_\_\_\_\_

If you have comments, questions, or suggestions, please email **membership@ihlna.org**.

☐ YES, I'm interested in getting involved with the Association Board.

☐ \$10.00 Resident      ☐ \$ 5.00 20-year plus resident

Support events that the neighborhood sponsors by providing a little extra:

☐ \$10   ☐ \$20   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$100   Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor a special project or event need:   Nene Fest \$ \_\_\_\_\_   Neighborhood Signs \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**April 28**

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

**ENTRY FEE:**

Before 4/25/2018

\$15

\$10 (12 and under)

\$ 5 (Hartsfield student)

Day of Race

\$20

\$15 (12 and under)

\$ 5 (Hartsfield student)

Giveaway included in price to first 150 registrants.

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

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

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



## Grand Prix Race! Chip Timing!

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

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age on 4/28: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WAIVER: I know that participating in running activities is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running in this race including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather (excessive heat and/or humidity), traffic and the conditions of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of you accepting my application, I for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf waive and release the Race Director, 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)