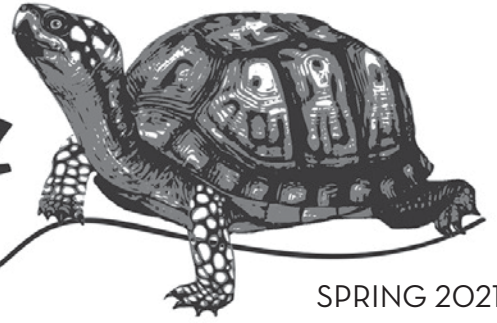


# The Optimist



SPRING 2021

INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## *Three Decades of Leadership, One Extraordinary Neighborhood*

By Shelly Hatton

Grant Gelhardt, the former president of the Indianhead Lehigh Neighborhood Association (IHLNA), retired from the position in October 2020, after nearly three decades of service. Today we have a robust neighborhood, a testament to his understated but remarkable leadership.

Grant is easy to work with, unassuming, with a ready laugh. He puts people at ease. But don't let the sandals and ponytail fool you—Grant made things happen. For 29 years, he addressed the concerns of his neighbors, delivered on their ideas, tackled impossible requests, and acted on his own intuition to improve the 'hood. Though he had significant help, Grant was the long-lasting superglue. After a board meeting, he would be the one to collate the dozen topics brought forth at the discussion and decide how best to move the neighborhood and its association forward. On projects, he hammered out the details, made phone calls, drew up plans, attended countless city meetings, followed up, and saw it through, often with few people noticing. Maybe that's why a handful of board members served for ten or even twenty years, and took on considerable responsibilities under his lead. He is a gracious leader, light-hearted to his core. Oh, and by the way, being president of IHLNA is 100 percent volunteer.

Look where you live, neighbors—the most envied of all neighborhoods. Look what unfolded under Grant's direction. The following are excerpts from a conversation I had with Grant about his tenure.

### **What kept you interested all these years?**

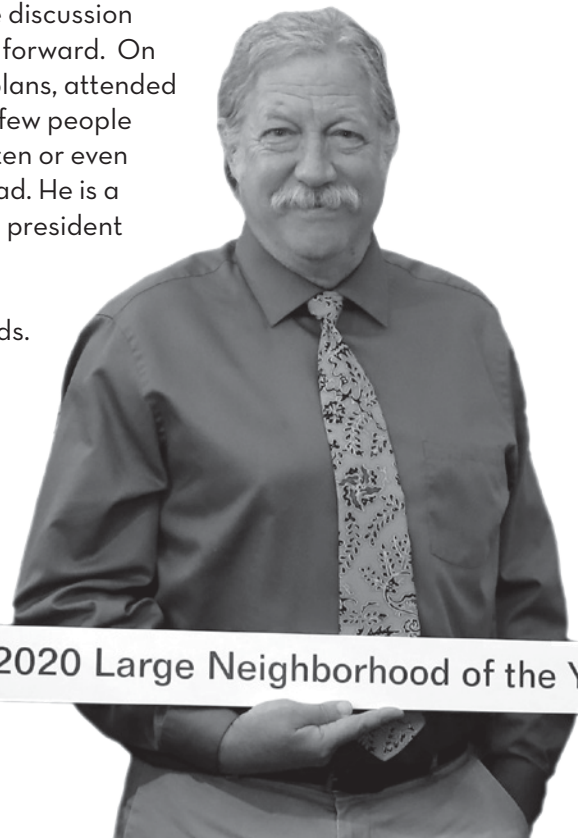
I wanted to see our neighborhood thrive and prosper and become a community that cared about what was happening in Tallahassee, in our neighborhood, and with our neighbors. I wanted to create a sense of community.

Grant prepared four successful award nominations for Indianhead Lehigh, including the 2020 Large Neighborhood of the Year award.

*Courtesy of Leon County Community and Media Relations*

### *In This Issue*

- Grant Gelhardt Tribute
- News & Notes
- Blueprint Projects
- Local Development
- Sustainable Indianhead Lehigh Community (SILC)
- Neighbor to Neighbor
- Hartsfield Corner
- Feral Cats
- Real Estate News



**2020 Large Neighborhood of the Year**

# Three Decades of Leadership, One Extraordinary Neighborhood (cont.)

## Did you build the Apakin/Hokolin trail system?

Ken Woodburn [former vice-president of the INLNA Board] and I decided that it would be nice to have a nature trail through the greenway, behind Optimist Park. The thought was that it would give the neighborhood a sense of ownership to the greenway and prevent the city from building a stormwater pond in this area. I support water quality improvements, but did not think placing a stormwater pond in the greenway was the solution. The city eliminated that project from its plans.

## How did you build it?

We first bushwhacked through the vegetation, creating a footpath. I built a small foot bridge across the smallest creek. The second two creeks were deeper, and we worked with some neighbors who were able to get leftover telephone poles from the telephone company. Then I made handrails for the bridges. Now, other people have taken further steps, and the trail extends out and around the Beaver Pond and back.

## And the sidewalks?

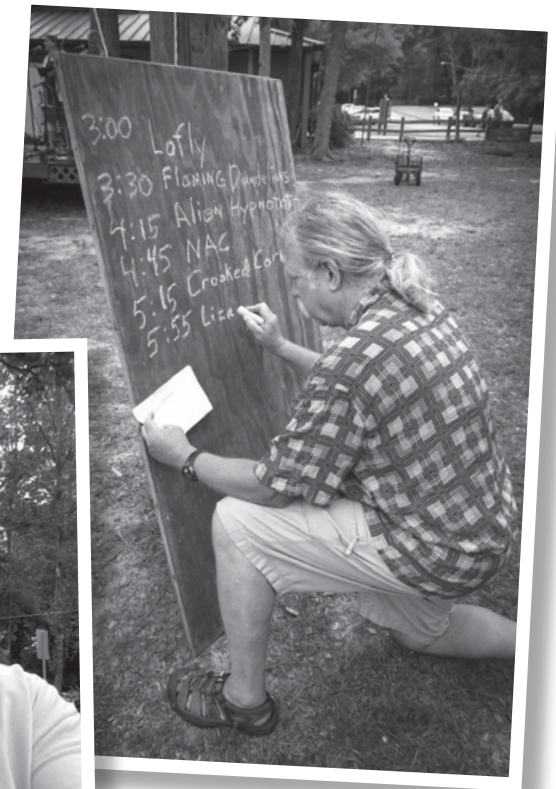
When the neighborhood was built, there were a couple of short sidewalks, but not many and they didn't go anywhere. So, I started the discussion with the city to install additional sidewalks in the neighborhood and to extend the ones we had. After that, it became harder to get the city to install sidewalks, but after 20 years, a sidewalk on Magnolia is slated to be built soon.

## Lehigh was made more vulnerable with the widening of Orange Avenue. How did you help?

When Orange Avenue was being widened, I worked with the county to build a fence behind the houses in Lehigh neighborhood. This gave our Lehigh neighbors some privacy and security from the new, four-lane Orange Avenue traffic.

## Our playground is extraordinary. It was renovated years ago. How?

We worked with the city to redesign the Optimist Park playground. And then we worked to build a restroom facility and to get air conditioning in the Optimist Park clubhouse. For a few years, voting was at the church



Ringmaster and jack of all trades, Grant was the first to arrive, the last to leave, and ready for any task during Nene Fest.

*Photos courtesy of Bob O'lary*

Grant was ready to celebrate our cancelled Nene Fest 2020, the twelfth festival.

Page 3: Grant and friends enjoying Nene Fest.

because our clubhouse was too hot. Once we got the AC in there, they brought the voting precinct back to Optimist Park.

## What are you most proud of?

I am proud that the neighborhood has received four Neighborhood Award Recognitions, and I see more coming in the future. And, of course, getting the Nene Fest up and running and continuing for over ten years is a crowning achievement. Nene Fest is what building a community is all about. It's everyone pitching in where they can to create a pleasant afternoon and evening vibe. And having the spirit to continue on, and for the get together to happen again next year.





### **Appreciations of Grant Gelhardt from friends and former neighborhood board members**

**Connie Bersok:** Our neighborhood association, like most others, has long been concerned with those issues that affect our quality of life: traffic, development, zoning, schools, parks and playground, fighting crime. We have had the added bonus, however, of the steady leadership with one president for nearly 30 years, Grant Gelhardt. His professional planning career combined with a genuine interest in our neighborhood and its environment was a perfect fit to weather many challenges and changes over the decades. He knew who's who in local government, which helped to move ideas and plans into reality. He was also a strong supporter of the arts, our resident artists and musicians, and Nene Fest.

**Ashley Arrington:** Gelhardt was a dedicated and steadfast leader of IHLNA for decades. His many efforts on behalf of our association included representing us to the greater Tallahassee community, advocating to preserve the natural environments in our urban neighborhood, and celebrating our unity with events such as Nene Fest. Grant was the guy stringing up tarps to create shade and working to make sure we had a stage and sound at Nene Fest. I enjoyed my time serving on the board with Grant. He was always a calm and reassuring presence. Thank you, Grant, for your service to this neighborhood and to our community.

**Edward Reed:** What's it take to herd cats for thirty years? Stubbornness? Resignation? Facial hair? Acceptance of what cannot be changed? Granted, some events don't gel, but you gotta have heart. (This off-hand tribute was written with affection because as Edward Reed puts it, "I think uniform seriousness would be a violation of Grant's spirit.")

**Mary Louise Bachman:** At a time in the late 1980s when no one wanted to assume responsibility of the vacant position of president of the IHLNA board, Grant graciously agreed to accept the role. Members of the board have come and gone over the years, but he has been the mainstay. His knowledge of past history and current concerns helped him guide us with skill, energy, patience, and sensitivity to the viable organization we are today. Thanks, Grant, for all the time, energy, and expertise you have devoted to your neighbors, friends, and community. You will be greatly missed.

**Betsy Tabac:** Grant Gelhardt, president of the IHLNA since—forever? We moved to Indianhead in 2012 and since then depended on rumors, guesses, and “don't knows” when asking about Grant's tenure. What was obvious was the “can do,” “will do,” friendly attitude prevalent in the 'hood, and it was interesting to watch Grant keep that alive or give it birth year after year, not sure which. Indianhead/Lehigh is special. No one has shown me any other neighborhood comparable to us in Tallahassee, so it was important that the president of the neighborhood association go about the business of presiding in such a way that the specialness remained intact. Too much interference and something would be lost; not enough managing, and things would fall apart. There are so many nuances to keeping volunteer organizations afloat and vital. Grant walked right down the middle of the road on that one and nailed it. Thank you, Grant, for taking the helm so long and so Grantishly.

**Marney Richards:** There are many tasks a neighborhood board president can take on. As others have noted, helping orchestrate Nene Fest set-up was one Grant was committed to and seemed to delight in. On the morning of the 2019 Fest, my first time at the set-up, Grant was there leading the crew of tarp-stringers, as well as helping make sure stage and sound were ready. He was there, finishing the last touches, as most folks went home for a break before the festivities started. And he was there at the end of the evening for cleanup, and back the next day. Thanks, Grant, for your work on so many things for many years.

**Ashley C. Edwards:** Grant has been a tireless and dedicated advocate for the Indianhead Lehigh neighborhood, especially for the parks in the neighborhood. We have very much appreciated his stewardship, suggestions, and engagement as we have worked together to make enhancements. It's been a pleasure to collaborate with him and the neighborhood association over the years. We will miss his involvement, but we wish Grant all the best in his future endeavors. (Edwards directs the city's Division of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs)

## Spring Events at Optimist Park

It will come as no surprise that IHLNA again will forego two annual events in May—the neighborhood yard sale and the Nene Fest and 5K Fun Run. Masking and distancing notwithstanding, it's not quite time to bring folks together en masse. That doesn't mean you can't enjoy Optimist Park and the picnic tables, play area, sports equipment, Little Free Library, and lovely environment that are available every day.

## IHLNA Website

If you haven't checked out the Indianhead Lehigh website lately, take a moment to explore the new and updated information. A team of neighbors is working diligently to add material that informs residents about meetings, policies, and resources. Recent posts include the revised IHLNA association bylaws, which board members finalized in October, and minutes from recent board and neighborhood meetings. Take a look at [ihlna.org](http://ihlna.org).

## Tallahassee's Energy Goal: 100% Renewable by 2050

By Marney Richards

On February 20, 2019, the Tallahassee City Commission passed the Clean Energy Resolution, committing to transition the community to a 100 percent clean, renewable energy future by 2050. Tallahassee is one of more than 160 cities in the US, and one of only ten in Florida, to set this goal.

Jalicia Lewis, a member of the city's Clean Energy development team, and Michael Ohlsen, with the City of Tallahassee utilities, spoke to the IHLN neighborhood via Zoom in February. The team is meeting with residents throughout the community to provide information and receive as much feedback as possible.

The capital city already is engaged in a robust effort to switch to renewable sources. According to the utilities department website, Tallahassee currently maintains the largest airport solar farm in the world, generating 62 megawatts of solar power. The StarMetro bus fleet includes nineteen all-electric buses, with plans to increase that number. In addition, the Energy Smart Plus (e+) program continues to help residents save energy and money through rebates, grants, and loans for decades. With a goal of reaching 100 percent clean, renewable energy, the city already has met goals related to the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Accords.

To learn more about the project, provide input, and help shape the Clean Energy Plan, go to <https://www.talgov.com/sustainability/cleanenergyplan.aspx>, where residents can take an online survey.

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# Coral Ardisia: A Landscape Menace

By Judy Rainbrook

The Indianhead Lehigh Coral Ardisia Slayers came into being in spring 2014. Working cooperatively with Tallahassee Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs staff, we have come close to eradicating the invasive plant in the Greenway and Koucky Park. Coral ardisia is the worst of the non-native species in the neighborhood because 95 percent of the berries (hundreds per plant!) will become new plants in one to two years. Formerly used for landscaping, the plant since has “gone wild,” spread in part by berry-eating raccoons and squirrels. Homeowners can help contain ardisia with a few easy actions.



Mature coral ardisia plants with berries

## Permanently Remove Coral Ardisia

- Remove and bag all berries, and place the bag in your black trash bin.
- Clean up loose leaves at the base of adult plants and remove baby plants underneath and nearby. Check the landscape downhill for single or clusters of plants.
- Loosen soil around the base of the mother plant and remove the entire plant. The root base should be put in your black trash bin, but you can cut off the stem and leaves about six inches above the root base and discard these with yard debris.
- Check the area the following year for baby plants that have sprouted from buried seeds.

## Minimize the spread

- Remove berries when they appear in the spring; bag and place them in the trash. This prevents plants from spreading.
- Cut off adult and juvenile plants at the ground and place with yard debris as long as no berries or roots are included.



Telltale cluster of baby ardisia leaves. *Photos courtesy of Judy Rainbrook*

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# *What is Blueprint and Why Should You Care?*

By Autumn Calder

In 2000 and 2014, Leon County voters approved a penny sales tax to fund local infrastructure. With that support, the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, or “Blueprint,” implements projects designed to improve roads, reduce traffic congestion, protect lakes and water quality, reduce flooding, and invest in economic development. It operates under the direction of the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency (IA) Board, which comprises the City and County Commissions.

You are probably familiar with Blueprint’s Cascades Park, built with the penny sales tax. The investment in our community through this tax has accomplished much. To date, Blueprint projects have protected 1,423 acres of environmentally sensitive lands, opened 250 acres of new parks, increased vehicular capacity by 200 percent on Capital Circle, and brought in more than \$130 million through grants and partnerships.

Community engagement remains a key element of the Blueprint program. While the IA Board governs the Blueprint program, projects originate from citizen-led groups. A Citizen’s Advisory Committee provides

trail system, from S. Monroe Ave. to Pontiac Dr., will go to construction. The Orange-Meridian Placemaking project, which will result in a park space and multiuse path near the intersection of Orange Ave. and S. Meridian St., is in the planning stage now, with construction anticipated for early 2023.

Soon, there will be more reasons to bike, scoot, and walk along the Capital Cascades Trail. This year, Blueprint will build a skateable art park, a green-roofed restroom at the FAMU Way playground, a new trailhead where the St. Marks Trail begins at Gamble Street, a walking trail around Coal Chute Pond, and a stormwater facility that removes harmful nutrients before they enter natural waterbodies.

The Blueprint team also is developing a History and Culture Trail along Cascades Trail. Although not yet construction-ready, the project will honor and celebrate adjacent neighborhoods, civil-rights advocates, and local economic engines. It will highlight the culture and stories of these communities through artistic, cultural, and historical interpretations. Through a partnership with



recommendations to the IA Board, and over the last three years, more than 150 community outreach events have been held.

Many of the forthcoming projects are a walk or a short bike ride away from the Indianhead Lehigh neighborhood! The addition of a wider than normal sidewalk along Magnolia Dr. is a Blueprint project and part of the Magnolia Trail project. This spring, a segment of this

the Council on Culture and Arts, artistic installations are planned to complement the educational kiosks.

Through the Blueprint program and the direction of the IA Board, the penny sales tax investments that local citizens approved are creating a more walkable, bike-able, sustainable, and economically vibrant community. This increases the quality of life for everyone in Tallahassee-Leon County, including Indianhead Lehigh residents.





To learn more about Blueprint or to be notified about upcoming meetings, please send an email to [susan.emmanuel@blueprintia.org](mailto:susan.emmanuel@blueprintia.org). Our website, [www.blueprintia.org](http://www.blueprintia.org), has a wealth of information, including an interactive map, where you can find project details and contact information for project managers. You can also follow us on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

*Autumn Calder, AICP, directs the Blueprint program, and she also is an Indianhead Lehigh resident.*



## Keeping an Eye on Change

By Ramona Abernathy-Paine

Based on crews at construction sites and plans on the drawing board, one is reminded of why our neighborhood association was founded. Just as in 1982, builders and developers once again are looking to move into our area. A look at current and planned building projects in Tallahassee's southeast quadrant, near Indianhead Lehigh, provides ample testimony.

**Panera Bread**—This proposed project involves 1.45 acres at the SW corner of Apalachee Pkwy. and Linda Ann Dr. The construction will be a 3,980-square-foot restaurant with a drive-through.

**Popeye's on South Monroe**—This proposed project will affect 1.03 acres at 2785 S. Monroe St. The existing Lindy's Chicken building will be demolished and replaced by Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen Restaurant with a drive-through.

**Intersection at 27 and 319**—The proposed project, covering 3.8 acres at 3100 Apalachee Pkwy., will convert the Days Inn motel into a multifamily housing development that offers workforce housing.\* Apartments will be priced for \$12-15/hr. wage earners. It will not be a homeless shelter. To listen to the extensive February 24 discussion about the project by city commissioners, go to [talgov.com](http://talgov.com) (look for <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNX-MT8acXo>).

**Winewood Complex**—The proposed project at 1317 Winewood Blvd. will convert eight existing office buildings into unsubsidized, workforce housing units. Rents likely will range from \$700 to \$850 per month. Renovation will all be interior, with no damage to existing trees.

**Koger Center**—Located at E. Apalachee Pkwy. near Capital Circle SE, all buildings in the complex are for sale due to bank foreclosure on the property.

**ALDI Grocery**—Remodeling is underway of the former Earth Fare building at 2425 Apalachee Pkwy. for a new grocery store.

**Chick-Fil-A**—Construction has begun at 111 S. Magnolia, on the corner of Governor's Square Blvd. Site plans presented to the city last year show that all traffic will be contained in the current Winn-Dixie parking lot.

**Tallahassee Suites**—Plans for a three-story, extended stay hotel on Lafayette Dr., west of Desoto Park Dr., seem to have been abandoned for the time being.

**Lafayette Gardens Apartments**—Located on E. Lafayette, east of The Moon, the apartments are under construction and may be ready for occupancy in 2021.

**The English Planned Unit Development**—A property bounded on the north and south by Tram Rd. and Orange Ave., and on the east and west by Paul Russell and Jim Lee, has been annexed by the city. Houses likely will be built on this property.

**Governor's Park Corners**—At the NE corner of Blair Stone Rd. and Governor's Square Corners, the sign announcing "Storage Coming Soon" is gone. The realtor told me the deal to sell the property for mini-warehouses fell through. The property is still for sale. Any future construction will depend on whether a buyer can propose a project that fits the zoning.

\* "Workforce housing" typically refers to households that earn too much for traditional subsidized housing.

# Discover Wildlife and Nature Along New Indianhead Trail

Ready for a walk on the wild side, right here in our neighborhood? Want to see what has attracted humans and wildlife, thanks to the construction efforts of an industrious, paddle-tailed family? If so, lace up your hiking shoes; bring your binoculars, birding guide, and a garbage bag; and head to Indianhead Creek at Apakin Nene.

The recently completed Indianhead Wetland Circumnavigation Trail allows people to explore, from one side to the other, the creek headwaters and the nearby, newly formed wetlands. A series of dams constructed by a family of beavers converted a forested area into a flooded landscape. This expanded, multilayered wetland has become a haven for spring peeping frogs at night and an array of raptors, Canadian geese, ducks, and other wading birds during the day.

From the west entrance of the trail, steps north of Apakin Nene descend to the edge of the creek, where it quickly turns north. Continue to follow the trail northwest, which meanders adjacent to and west of the creek. Small orange/red flags and surveyor flagging situated at turning points provide guidance to keep you on the trail.

As you walk, you will find some cleared, short, side trails where you can get great views of the wetland and witness the channel construction of the beavers. At one of the viewpoints, you will find the original beaver dam that impounded the wetland. Storms caused the dam to breach, and the beavers moved to other areas to build new dams. Hikers have counted at least four different water levels created where the beavers built a series of smaller dams, and one that meanders almost across the width of the entire watery basin.

Continue on the trail as it leads to the grassed area at the foot of the hill below the transformer station on Chowkeebin Nene. Climb that grassed hill and walk along the boundary fence of the station, turning north toward Chowkeebin Nene.

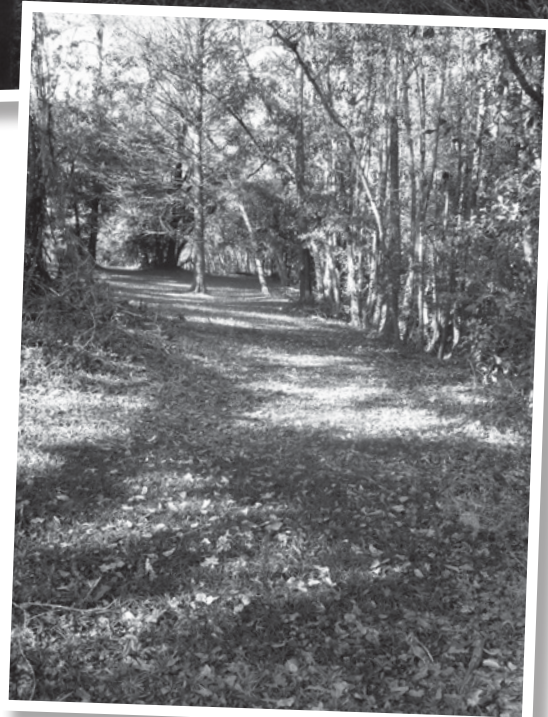
From the transformer station, head east for about 40 feet, then turn right and walk down the hill along the east side of the ditch leading to the wetland. In this northern edge of the wetland, the trail will undulate in a mixed forest of cypress, palm, and wetland trees



*Great American Egret*



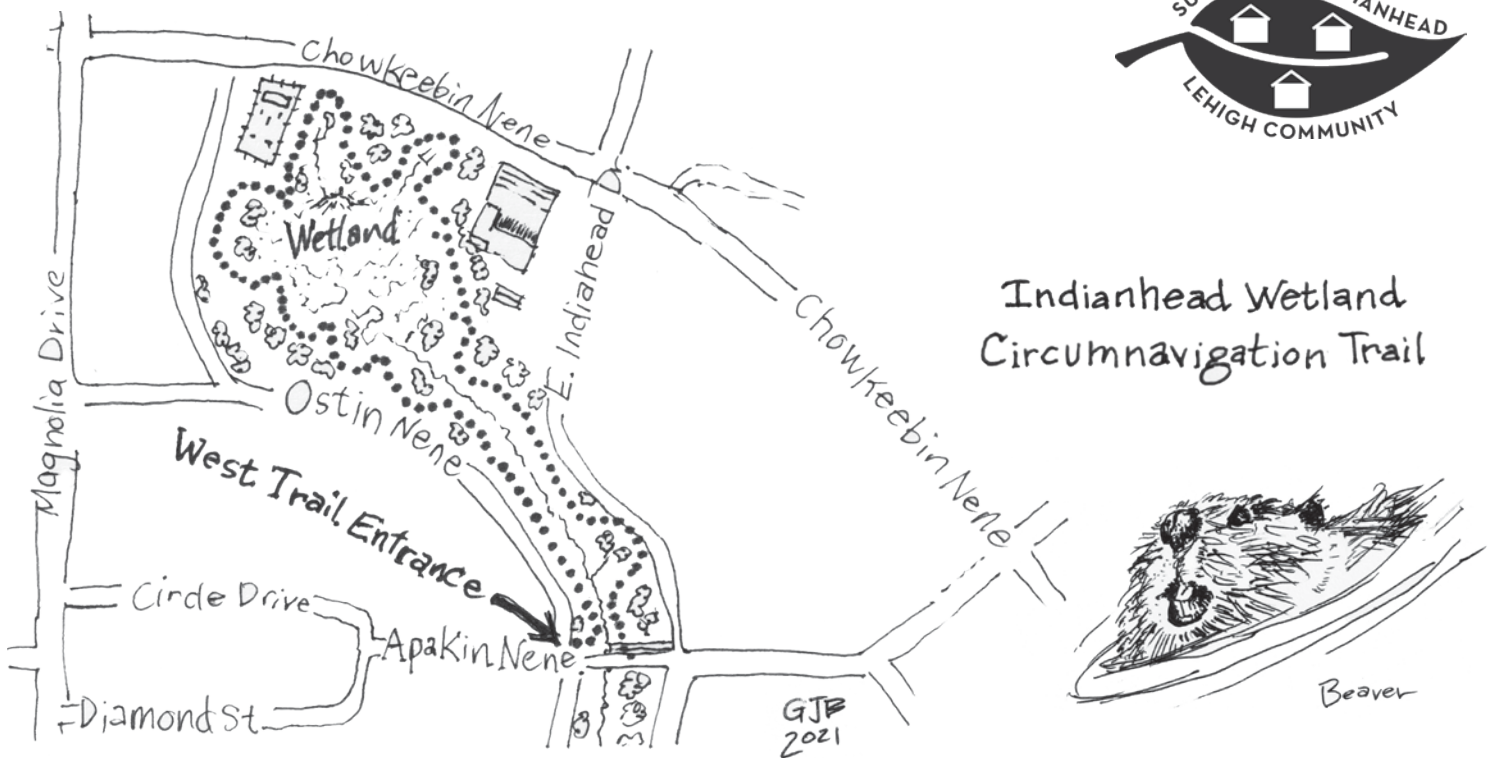
View of the wetland created by the beavers



View of the trail straddling the creek

and shrubs and eventually lead up the hill past another culvert, to the back of the church. At this point, the trail turns south along the eastern side of the creek. This part of the trail varies between large grassed areas and views of the deep, fern-covered banks of the creek. Continue following the orange/red flags at the trail's





turning points. When you have returned back to your starting point at Apakin Nene, you will have walked approximately 0.8 miles.

Prepared by Geoff Brown, this article is based on a larger document by Tom Ballentine.

*All photos are courtesy of Mr. Ballentine. Illustrations by Geoff Brown*

Inspired by the hard work that was put into reopening and marking the trail by a group of volunteers, two Indianhead residents, Connie Bersok and Marney Richards, organized a neighborhood cleanup to pick up trash and remove invasive plants such as Boston fern and coral ardisia. Participation by about ten hard-working neighbors on a sunny weekend made a huge difference in the beauty and well-being of the landscape.

The trail has been enjoyed by many of us who live nearby. With that privilege comes responsibility, and we hope everyone who explores the trail will help minimize the impact of their visit. Trash tends to accumulate due to blowouts from the culverts and from businesses and other human activities on the northern side of the trail. Hikers should bring a garbage bag and collect trash as they go and, of course, always pick up after canine pets. The trail graces the neighborhood with plenty of watchable-wildlife opportunities. A pair of binoculars and a bird identification guide will ensure that visitors can enjoy the inhabitants, while keeping a distance and not disturbing their activities. Thanks to the volunteers who contributed to make the trail accessible.

# Frog

## REALTY

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### INDIAN HEAD RECENTLY SOLD HOMES

Address	Sold Price	# Sq/ft	Bed/Bath
2107 Cheeke Nene	\$185,000	1512	3/3
2021 Atapha Nene	\$205,000	2174	4/2
1533 Heechee Nene	\$95,000	1281	3/1
1306 Toochin Nene	\$255,000	2186	4/2
2012 Wahalaw Nene	\$145,000	1200	3/2
1815 Chuli Nene	\$170,000	933	3/1
1403 Chocksacka Nene	\$180,750	1725	3/2

\*Data from CRTRS, INC. MLS

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

# Parks Staff Welcome Input from Neighbors

By Ramona Abernathy-Paine

Part of the beauty of the Indianhead Lehigh community are the two city parks and public greenway within our borders. All three areas have seen lots of activity during the pandemic. We are fortunate to have easy access to outdoor spaces during these times of isolation.

Recently, I've been in contact with Ashley Edwards, who directs Tallahassee's Division of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs (PRNA), and her staff member, Superintendent of Parks Brian Hopper. These conversations highlighted the special relationship that exists between the Indianhead Lehigh neighborhood (IHLN) and the parks division. The city views Optimist and Koucky parks as "neighborhood parks" rather than "regional parks," the designation given to larger sites such as Tom Brown and Jack McLean. This designation means that PRNA maintains the public spaces as IHLN residents want them, and it will not make changes without neighborhood agreement. At our request, PRNA recently installed bike racks at Optimist Park and placed logs along E. Indianhead Dr. to discourage parking on the creek bank north of Apakin Nene. Also at our request, the city stopped using objectionable herbicides in our parks. In the past, our Coral Ardisia Slayers have collaborated with the city to remove invasive plants from public spaces. That said, while these are our neighborhood parks, they are still city property, and the city is responsible for maintenance and liability. As



Ms. Edwards recently explained in a note to me, IHLN residents should contact her office when we see areas needing attention before taking any action.

"We hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy your neighborhood parks and trails recently, and if not, we hope you will soon! Be sure to let us know if you encounter any issues during your visit. If you see an established/sanctioned trail in need of attention, please let our Parks Division staff know at (850) 891-5340. Just a friendly reminder: it is against city ordinance for the public to cut vegetation in parks without prior approval. This is for your safety, and it helps us ensure trails are maintained in the proper way. You can reach us on social media, through the Digitally app, or by calling (850) 891-FUNN. Thank you!"—Ashley C. Edwards

MELISSA FARLEY

850-591-9590

HAIR STYLIST

As president of our neighborhood association, I receive calls and emails about safety issues and conditions that need attention. I appreciate these contacts because I want to be aware of what's happening in our community. If a call to PRNA is warranted, I'm happy to make it, but neighbors also are welcome to contact the office directly. However, if you have ideas for improvements or changes to the parks, please contact the Indianhead Lehigh Neighborhood Association at indianheadlehighna@gmail.com.



# Keeping Up with N3

By Betsy Tabac

Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes received a Christmas card this year from a local resident, whose note, quoted verbatim, explains why we do what we do.

*"I appreciate so much what you and others are doing in this 'neighbor to neighbor' venture. When you are 92, it is very unexpected to have so much loving kindness bestowed upon you. Three such kind, sweet souls came and celebrated my birthday with me with a huge chocolate birthday cake and a 'happy birthday' sing. Considering the Pandemic, we stood on the front porch and wore our masks. This is a birthday experience to remember always."*

## Recent N3 Activities

**Friendly Telephone Call service**—Laura Copeland, coordinator. We instituted the Friendly Phone Call service gradually during 2020. Four volunteer callers talked with thirteen elders thirty times in January 2021. We can reach out to more elders, so we ask Indianhead residents to spread the word about the service. Our calls are not medical check-ups. Rather, they are gestures of friendship from one person to another. As it turns out, the friendship goes both ways; callers often receive a call from their elders.

**2020 Stats**—Last year, Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes served 24 elders 164 times. The 2020 total compares favorably with 2019, when we assisted 34 elders 81 times. While we helped fewer people last year, we served some elders more, and that is the direction we want to go—more attention where it is most needed.

**Fundraising**—The direct-mail fundraiser to Indianhead Lehigh residents last fall was very successful, generating more than \$9,000 toward a goal of \$25,000. Sincere



AgingInNeneland.org

thanks to everyone who contributed. Since then, we have explored other types of fundraising, such as using the Internet and seeking donations from corporations, foundations, and organizations. We still need about \$10,000 to reach our goal. We have five outstanding requests—two to foundations, two to corporations, and one to an organization. None of these are shoo-ins because funding for elders is not high on most donor priority lists.

We are very grateful that the Indianhead Lehigh Neighborhood Association has made a donation of \$1,000 to N3. In addition to helping us meet our fundraising goal, it is important that we can report to potential donors that the program has support within our community. Thank you, IHLNA board members.

**Vaccinations**—N3 currently is contacting elders whom we know are not computer users to check on their access to vaccination appointments and their need for transportation to a vaccination site. If you need these services or know someone who may need or want them, call the N3 phone number at the end of this article.

**Future Programming**—As with everyone else, we anxiously await the end of the pandemic. When it is safe, we will begin to offer cleaning and laundry services for eligible elders as well as a friendly companion service.

If you have questions or suggestions for Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes, contact us at **(850) 901-7818 or [ageinplace@earthlink.net](mailto:ageinplace@earthlink.net)**.

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# Hartsfield Creates a Space For Parental Engagement

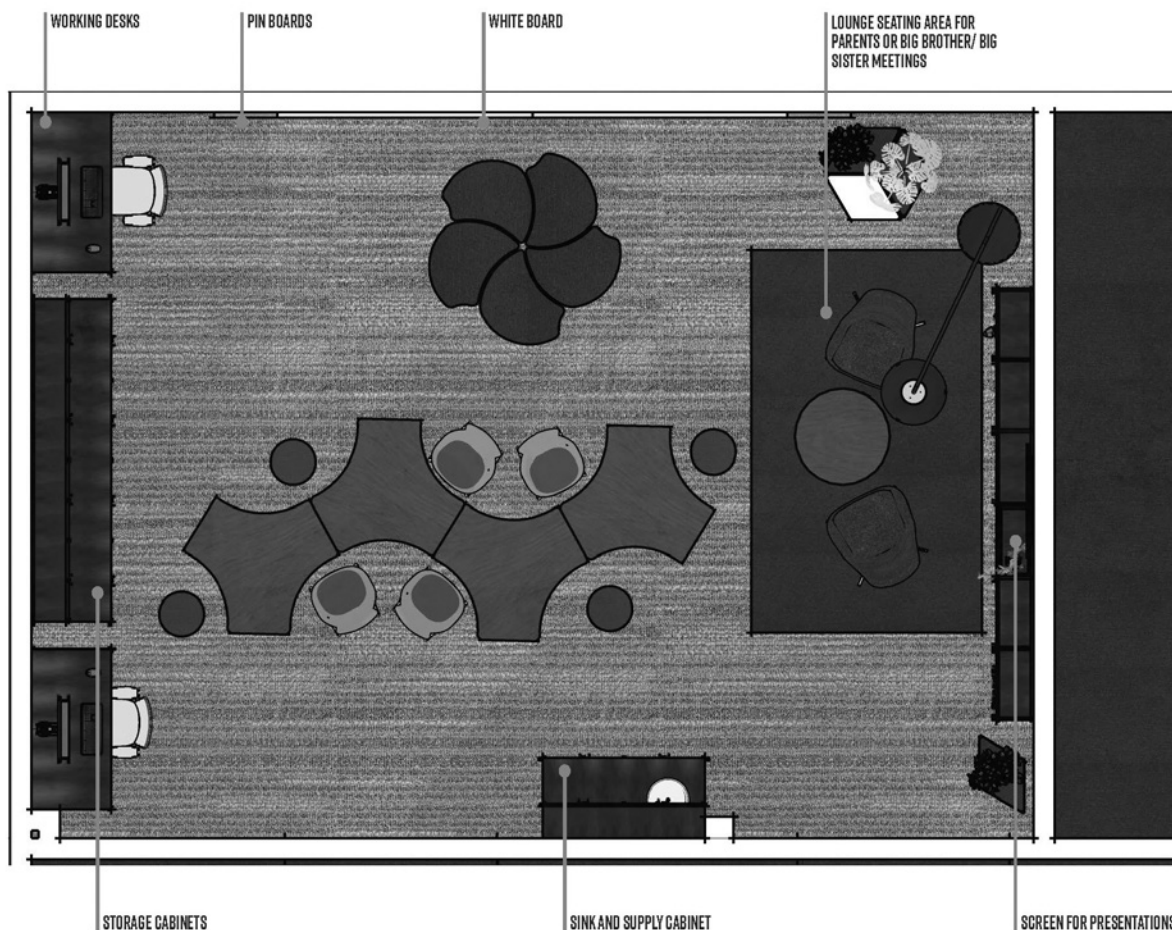
By Marie-Claire Leman

As in many schools this past year, at Hartsfield Elementary the participation of parents in their child's academic journey has been limited to the home and a few online events. Since 2018, Hartsfield has hosted a successful, one-day Parent and Family Engagement Conference in January that includes workshops on such topics as mental health, building better readers, becoming a better advocate for a child with special needs, and Conscious Discipline. This year, the school had to change to a virtual format, so staff instead are hosting monthly workshops for parents and the community.

When fall comes around again, Hartsfield will be more prepared than ever to engage with parents. It is transforming a space in the media center where parents can access resources, work with their children, attend workshops, meet with other parents to plan activities for the students, or lend a hand by volunteering to mentor students or prepare classroom materials for teachers. This well-equipped space will help bridge the digital divide, and it will help connect parents to each other and to the schools.

Scheduled to occur during Spring Break, the demolition of a wall between two rooms in the media center will provide about 660 sq. ft. for planners and designers to reimagine and fill. Because the school's budget cannot cover all of the renovation expenses, the Leon County school district will pay for the demolition and construction costs. Although this support will be a huge help, Hartsfield must find outside funding for furnishings, technology, and a small operating budget to keep the resource center well stocked.

This is where the South City Foundation (SCF) comes in. Several months ago, SCF donated \$7,500 to the project through a grant from the Community Foundation of North Florida. The Hartsfield School Advisory Council is working on a fundraising plan for additional funding needed to create a room with resources to meet the needs of many families, including those with preschoolers who are not yet attending Hartsfield.





In 2020, SCF also coordinated the distribution of \$1,000 grants from the Community Foundation of North Florida to Southside neighborhoods adjacent to or near the South City neighborhood. These grants are meant to support better community engagement. The Indianhead Lehigh neighborhood, which already has a high level of intracommunity engagement, has partnered with Woodland Drives and Myers Park to strengthen our participation in our local public school. This interaction also benefits the residents of South City because Hartsfield is their local elementary school too. This spring, all three neighborhoods will launch a matching fundraising effort, with the goal of doubling the amount we received from the grant.

We know that the more connected parents are, the more their children will benefit from the opportunities Hartsfield has to offer. Improving the connection between the school and the community is a big part of that, given the number of resources we have to offer right in our midst. Parent engagement is at the heart of a successful school, and a successful school, in turn, contributes to a thriving community.

Look for updates on this project on Facebook and our neighborhood website at [ihlna.org](http://ihlna.org). We look forward to engaging with each of you as we support Hartsfield and the wider Southside community.

## Mark Your Calendar

Kindergarten registration will be held on **Thursday, April 15**. The process will be conducted virtually, with a link available on the school website and Facebook page.



### School Garden in the Time of Covid

This year, the Hartsfield Garden Club is reduced to its adult community volunteers, Marney Richards, Tom Ballentine, and Marie-Claire Leman. The lifeblood of the club, the students, could not congregate with off-campus volunteers to work on the beds. We tended to the garden without them after hours and hoped they enjoyed the sights and smells during mask breaks.

In the beds pictured on the left, we are growing various types of kale, a full bed of carrots, radishes and beets, and a full bed of mustard greens, some, already gone to seed. Seen above is a robust purple cabbage. The harvest is ongoing, and hardworking teachers and staff get first pick. For additional photos, visit the Hartsfield Garden Club blog at [gardenclubhartsfield.blogspot.com](http://gardenclubhartsfield.blogspot.com).

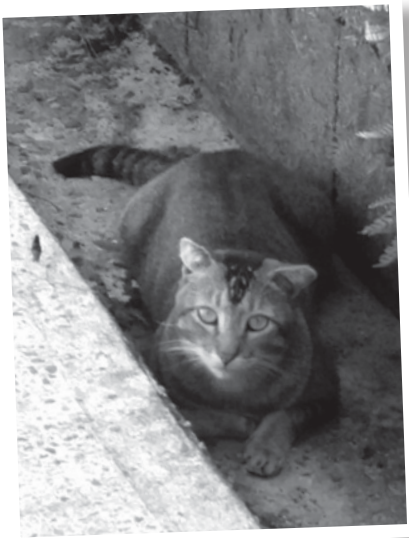


# Too Many Cats?

By Gordon L. Magill

You may have seen them—leaping on trash bins, hiding under bushes, or diving into a storm drain. Feral cats. In 2017, the Tallahassee *Democrat* estimated that the capital city was home to at least 20,000 feral cats. Some reside in the Indianhead Lehigh neighborhood, although you may not see them because these felines remain hidden and, thus, out of sight and mind.

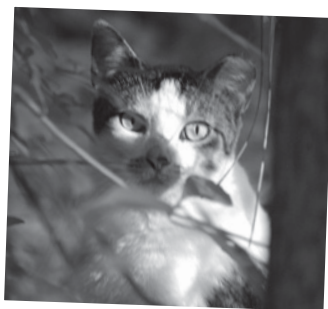
A “feral” cat is unsocialized and exhibits some degree of wild behavior. It may be a lost or abandoned pet that once had a home but has reverted to a wild state, or the offspring of former pets. In contrast, a “stray” is a former pet that is without a home but is still socialized. When reintroduced to a domestic setting, a stray usually will display its tame behaviors quickly.



At least ten percent of the thousands of injured wild animals taken to the St. Francis Wildlife Association hospital have been attacked by cats, and wildlife studies show this is not a unique phenomenon. While such data underscore the need to control and reduce feral cat populations, removing them from their locale can create a “vacuum”

effect. When a feral cat colony is removed, another brood may move in, if food sources are available.

Unfortunately, only three percent of domestic cats impounded at the City of Tallahassee Animal Service Center are reclaimed by their owner. Until recently, most animals taken to the facility were euthanized. Today, Tallahassee Animal Services euthanatizes fewer animals by promoting and endorsing the practice of Trap/Neuter/Return, or TNR. Feral animals are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, given a rabies vaccination, marked by “tipping” the left ear, and



Top: A Community Cat with left ear tipped indicates she has been TNRed. *Courtesy of Gordon McGill*

Left: A typical feral male takes it easy. *Courtesy of Gordon McGill*

Bottom: Miss Mouse, a feral female, shows her tipped ear. *Courtesy of Tony Cossa*

returned to their “home” location. The city now labels any feral cat that has been neutered or spayed and received appropriate vaccinations as a “Community Cat.” These felines are not considered a nuisance by Animal Services and will not be impounded and euthanized unless they are adjudged to be a danger to humans. Animal Services discourages the feeding of untreated feral cats. However, if a community cat clearly has been “TNRed” and ear-tipped, homeowners can feed and keep it on their property, provided they are willing to assume the financial and legal responsibilities of ownership.

Several volunteer, nonprofit organizations in Tallahassee practice TNR and freely offer advice and assistance to homeowners who notice feral cats nearby. Among these, Feline Advocates operates Fat Cat Café and Fat Cat Books, two locations that offer cat adoptions as well as comestibles and used books. Be the Solution has a thrift shop that raises funds for low-cost neutering.

- It's Meow or Never: (850) 974-9596  
**[itsmeowornevertally.com](http://itsmeowornevertally.com)**
- Leon County Humane Society: (850) 224-9193  
**[leoncountyhmane.org](http://leoncountyhmane.org)**
- Feline Advocates of Leon County: (850) 339-2625  
**[fatcatcafetally.com/falc](http://fatcatcafetally.com/falc)**
- Be The Solution: (850) 545-2043  
**[bethesolution.us](http://bethesolution.us)**



# It's A Seller's Market...

By Terry and Sharon Kant-Rauch

It's been a Seller's Market for the last couple of years, locally and nationally. This often results in bidding wars and multiple offers. And lots of extra stress.

One reason is limited inventory—not enough houses on the market compared to the number of Buyers looking to purchase a home. Another is interest rates. Buyers are eager to take advantage of the current low interest rates. For example, if you have a 3 percent interest rate on a \$200,000 loan, the monthly principal and interest will be \$843.21. At 5 percent, that payment jumps to \$1073.64. In addition, rates seem to be inching upward again, hence the rush. A lot of Sellers are refinancing to a lower payment and rate and staying put.

In Tallahassee, houses that look nice and are priced reasonably often are getting multiple offers. As a result, many Buyers pay more than the asking price to outbid the other Buyers. This raises the concern that Buyers may be paying too much for a house. One check and balance is the appraisal. The bank will hire an independent appraiser to determine a value for the house. If the appraisal is less than the offer, the Buyer sometimes can negotiate a lower price. However, if a Seller has four offers, all higher than the asking price, there is little incentive to agree to a reduction. That means more cash out of your pocket.

## If you are a Buyer

- Find a Realtor you feel compatible with and trust.
- Get preapproved with a local bank before you start looking. You can compare and switch to a different lender once you nail the property, but most Sellers won't look at offers without preapprovals or proof of cash funds.

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- Go see houses you are interested in immediately. Many houses are getting offers the first few days on the market. No waiting for the weekend.
- Be prepared to offer more than the asking price if there are multiple offers.
- If you particularly love this house, consider a short, heartfelt letter to the Seller to let them know about you and what you love about their home.
- Be prepared to lose the house. Some Buyers will have to make offers on several houses before one works out.
- Be patient and flexible. If you lose out in a multiple-offer situation and really love the house, ask your Realtor to write a "backup offer" for that property in case the initial deal falls through (thirty-plus years ago, we got our Indianhead home on a backup offer).
- If it doesn't work out, have faith that it wasn't meant to be your home.

## If you are a Seller

- Be aware that interest rates are inching upward, which means the market pendulum may swing the other way.
- Before selling, make needed repairs and spruce up your home like you would in any market. Bad home inspections can still kill a deal, despite multiple offers.

*Real Estate Brokers Terry and Sharon Kant-Rauch have been Indianhead residents for more than thirty years.*

## RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBORS

When you see people on the street walking, jogging, and biking—SLOW DOWN and give them space.



REMEMBER:  
Pedestrians & cyclists  
have a right to be  
there too.

Be kind. Be respectful.  
Be neighborly.

**IHLNA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**  
**indianheadlehighna@gmail.com**

**OFFICERS**

*President:* Ramona Abernathy-Paine  
rapweaver@embarqmail.com

*Vice President:* Vacant

*Corresponding Secretary:* Marie-Claire Leman  
marieclaireleman@gmail.com

*Recording Secretary:* John Tomasino  
johntomasino@mac.com

*Treasurer:* Rhonda Cooper  
coopjan@aol.com

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Ashley Arrington  
ashleyarrington510@gmail.com

William Hill  
willahill06@gmail.com

Douglas Martin  
martin.douglas.w@gmail.com

Charity Myers  
thecreativepool@gmail.com

Edward Reid  
edward@paleo.org

KC Smith  
kcsmith614@hotmail.com

**ihlna.org**

**2020 IHLNA Financial Statement**  
**Beginning Balance, January 1, 2020: \$8,821.75**

**Revenue**

Nene Merchandise	\$2,029.06
Membership Dues	\$3,055.00
Ads - Spring Newsltr	\$695.00
Ads - Fall Newsltr	\$385.00
Neighborhood sign donations	\$0.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,164.06</b>

**Expenses**

Nene Merch/Fest	\$2,923.79
CONA Membership Renewal	\$0.00
Spring Newsletters/Copies	\$571.42
Membership flyers/copies	\$174.15
Insurance	\$418.00
Sunbiz Annual Report Fee	\$61.25
Fall Newsletters/Copies	\$596.50
Ponies/Petting zoo - Potluck	\$0.00
Band Halloween	\$0.00
Pay Pal Fees	\$73.85
NUSA Newsletter Competition Fee	\$65.00
Check Order	\$32.01
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,915.97</b>

**Current Cash Balance** December 5, 2020 **\$10,069.84**