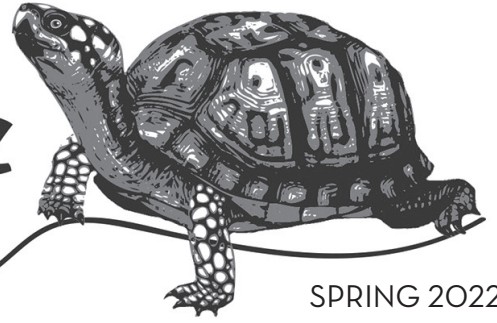


The Optimist



SPRING 2022

INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back, Nene Fest 2022!

By Marie-Claire Leman

Known from its onset in spring 2009 as a “festival by neighbors for neighbors,” Nene Fest will emerge after a two-year Covid shutdown on Saturday, April 30, at Optimist Park, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. Organizers are planning an array of fun, free, family-friendly activities, including music, food, art, crafts, kids’ activities, and camaraderie. The related Nene Fest 5K and 1 mile Fun Run invite runners and walkers to start the day traversing a marked and monitored course through the Indianhead neighborhood. There truly will be something for everyone!

Because help is needed before, during, and after the event, anyone can be part of the process. As the old English proverb states, “Many hands make light work.” For questions about the event or volunteering, contact festival organizers at indianheadlehighna@gmail.com.

In This Issue

- Nene Fest and 5K Run
- News & Notes
- Neighbor to Neighbor
- Sustainable Indianhead Lehigh Community (SILC)
- IHLNA Drainage
- Saving the English Forest
- Hartsfield Corner
- Real Estate Trends
- 5K Race Form

Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run

Registration: from 6:45 to 8:00 a.m.
Times: 5K begins at 8:00 a.m.;
Fun Run begins at 9:00 a.m.
Needed: runners, walkers,
supporters, and volunteers

Nene Fest Stage and Festival Set-up

Time: begins at 10:00 a.m.
Needed: ladders, rope, and lots
of helping hands

Merchandise Sales

Time: one-hour shifts from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Needed: assistance selling festival tee shirts and other merchandise

Art, Craft, and Business Showcase

Time: set-up in the early afternoon
Needed: artisans, artists, crafters, businesses, and organizations who would like to share information about their organization or sell handmade products. There is no fee, but exhibitors must bring their own canopy, table, and supplies.



Photos courtesy of Bob O'Lary

Welcome Back, Nene Fest (cont.)



On Stage

Time: from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Needed: performances feature individual performers and bands related to the neighborhood.

Food

The Global Café of Tallahassee will sell a plate of food for \$8 that includes East Indian Chili (Chickpea Masala), Lentil Stew (Dahl), Basmati rice, mixed salad with almond dressing, and a dessert. Volunteers are needed to help keep water and tea coolers filled throughout the afternoon.

Stage and Festival disassembly and clean-up

Time: May 1, beginning 9:00 a.m.

Needed: lots of helping hands!

About the Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run

Event organizers are excited about bringing back the Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run this year and couldn't resist giving it a twist!

Since 1998, the neighborhood hills annually have hosted the Women's Distance Festival in September on a certified course familiar to many local runners. In 2014, the Nene Fest 5K began to use the same course in the spring.



This year, for the first time, the course will be used for a 2-way race. Runners can choose to tackle the course counterclockwise (the traditional way) or clockwise.

As in previous years, this race benefits Hartsfield Elementary School. Supporting the Hartsfield PTO with proceeds from the run will help enrich the experience of Hartsfield students, support their dedicated teachers and administrators, and encourage community investment in the neighborhood public school.

Residents can help to make the race a success by running, sponsoring, or volunteering! Here are some details about how to get involved.

To register for the run

- Use the form on page 16 of this newsletter;
- Go online to runsignup.com; or
- Sign up on race day at Optimist Park, starting at 6:45 a.m.



Entry fee

Before April 27: 5K—\$18; Fun Run—\$8
 Day of race: 5K—\$25, Fun Run—\$10
 Hartsfield students: \$5

Race details

6:30 a.m.: packet pick-up begins at Optimist Park
 8:00 a.m.: 2-way 5K starts
 9:00 a.m.: 1 mile Fun Run starts
Motorists will be encouraged and assisted by the course marshals to find alternate routes that morning.

What's a 2-way 5K?

All runners begin together on East Indianhead Drive. After 700 yards, counterclockwise runners split left, while clockwise runners continue straight up the hill. Both groups cover the middle miles of the course in opposite directions. (Keep right and wave hello as you meet your rivals!) The two courses converge 550 yards before the line, and runners finish together. Counterclockwise runners hit the highest point of the hilly course at Hartsfield Elementary School, after 4 kilometers. Clockwise runners hit the peak after 1K. Participants decide which direction they want to take.

How to be a volunteer, donor, or sponsor

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and to ensure the event runs smoothly and is fun for all. They will help with registration on the morning of the race and serve

as marshals along the course and at the finish line. And, as noted above, assistance is needed with the festival. Please contact Marie-Claire Leman to get involved (contact details at end of article).

Event organizers also are seeking sponsors who will make a donation to the race and help support Hartsfield Elementary. Various levels of recognition are offered to individuals, organizations, and businesses who donate. To be a sponsor or for questions about the race or festival, contact Marie-Claire Leman at (850) 728-7514 or marieclaireleman@gmail.com.



NEWS & Notes



The annual Pony Ride and Petting Zoo event at Optimist Park on February 13 drew an excited group of children, ready to get up close and personal with equines, bunnies, and other small critters. As in the past, Black's Pony Rides of Tallahassee provided the animals. The kids provided the squeals and laughter.



Photos by Katie Clark

"I'm thrilled that our neighborhood offers pony rides for its residents. For the kids, there's the sheer thrill of riding a pony. For adults, there's a flood of nostalgia and childhood memories as we watch the kids ride." —Carol Bryant-Martin

"The Optimist" Garner's National Recognition

For the second year, IHLNA's biannual newsletter is a finalist in a national contest that rewards excellence in community publications. Sponsored by Neighborhoods USA (NUSA), the Neighborhood Newsletter Competition program recognizes first-, second-, and third-place winners in print and electronic format categories. Last year, The Optimist was a finalist in the print group. NUSA recently informed newsletter staff that it again is a finalist, but its exact position will not be revealed until the NUSA annual conference in Little Rock, AR, in May.

Entries are evaluated by a panel of judges based on five criteria: branding, aesthetics and design, technical layout, informational content, and outreach/involvement content.

According to NUSA, "Community newsletters are an effective communication tool to share news about [a] city, community, and neighborhood. A well-designed newsletter can spark interest in neighborhood

involvement, increase ... association membership, and spur volunteerism."

Created in 1975, NUSA is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to building and strengthening neighborhood associations. It encourages networking, information-sharing, and the development of partnerships among community organizations, government, and the private sector.

Experienced & Compassionate



PET SITTING
Jenna Kant-Rauch

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COT Program Offers Campaign Refunds

By Ceci Michelotti

To increase small donor participation in local elections, the City of Tallahassee (COT) offers a Campaign Contribution Refund Program (CCRP), administered by its Independent Ethics Board (IEB). The program allows voters to receive a refund for donations to mayoral and city commission campaigns. The program began in 2014 after voters passed a charter amendment establishing CCRP and IEB, but to date it has been underused. According to IEB member Ernie Payne, COT general revenue funds have been earmarked for payments relating to the 2022 elections. For more information about program guidelines, email ethics@talgov.com or call (850) 891-6552.

Registered voters who reside within city limits may request a rebate by submitting a Refund Claim Form with a receipt(s) from a candidate's campaign committee by January 10, 2023. The maximum refund is \$25 per person, and only one request can be made per election cycle. Go to https://www.talgov.com/uploads/public/documents/ethics/ccr_refund.pdf to download the form, or request a copy from IHLNA board member Ceci Michelotti at indianheadlehighna@gmail.com. Forms also will available at Nene Fest on April 30.



The IHLNA board supports CCRP because it is nonpartisan, upholds core values of the neighborhood, and reduces dependence on corporate financing and influence during a campaign. It also has the potential to motivate people to become more involved in the political process, especially those with limited resources for contributing to important COT campaigns.

View IHLA Artists At RR Square Studio

By Wendy Morgan

A walk into SideTrax Studio is an attack on the senses. The smell of pit-fired pottery or espresso coffee and spice tea; the large, colorful paintings and soft lighting; and music playing in the background all create a special place that highlights the pottery, paintings, sculpture, and photography of many of Indianhead's and Tallahassee's local artists.

Known as "a studio for the Visual and Aural Arts," SideTrax opened last summer in a small studio near the train tracks at the back of Railroad Square. We soon outgrew our tiny space



as more and more artists expressed interest in showing their work. In December, we moved to a larger space and now have a full gallery with space for a monthly musical concert. The concerts are free, and guests are offered complimentary coffee or tea. Most of the visual artists are from Indianhead. Among them are Tom Anderson, a retired FSU professor who has large, Covid-inspired work; Natasha Hartsfield, who travels and paints colorful, fun portraits of children; Grant Gelhardt, who shows his pit-fired pottery; and Pam Ryan, who had a storage facility filled with paintings that her mother, Pat Abbott Ryan, created many years ago. We have other artists as well, including my own work.

IHLNA resident Richard Bertram, who has coordinated the Nene Fest music for many years, now offers a monthly concert on Saturday afternoon. The Side Trax webpage at sidetraxstudio.com offers a calendar and information about featured musicians and events each month. We would like to keep the studio filled with works by Indianhead artists, although we also will have occasions when we feature a single artist. The first will be an Indianhead artist! Artists who wish to inquire about showing their work should contact the studio at sidetrax2021@gmail.com. The Railroad Square Art District is located at 602 McDonnell Drive, Tallahassee 32310. For information: visittallahassee.com/partners/railroad-square-art-district/

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N³ Neighbor to Neighbor IN THE NENES

AgingInNeneland.org

A Typical Day

By Betsy Tabec

As I write this article for *The Optimist*, things are happening that bind our community together and make life better for some residents. This probably is happening in many different ways, but these are some examples I know about.

A Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes (N³) volunteer is picking up items from a drugstore for someone over 65 years of age who temporarily can't drive. Another volunteer is placing her weekly call to a resident. Referrals to local fee-for-service providers are being made. Library books are being returned to the library for a home-bound elder. Last-minute changes are being made to a proposal requesting funding support so N³ can continue to provide services.

We are so lucky the stars align in such a way that things like this happen in Indianhead Lehigh. In spite of bad news all over the place, this is good news. Let's savor it.

2021 Services

The numbers are in! Last year N³ provided services to Indianhead Lehigh elders 383 times. The most-used services were the Friendly Phone Call and errands without the client present. Help with yard work was the third most-used service. The volunteers providing these services are amazing. Thank you to all of you.

Capacity-building

For nonprofit organizations like N³, investing in capacity-building is a good thing because it increases an organization's effectiveness. It provides a measureable improvement in an organization's ability to fulfill its mission. I mention this because N³ is devoting significant resources during 2022 to capacity-building. This is not glamorous work, but it is essential for long-term sustainability.

N³'s capacity-building involves updating strategic planning for 2022 (completed) and focusing on resource development, fundraising, and board development.

By resource development, we mean compiling a policies and procedures manual; identifying resources older residents might need; using more functions of Run My Village, our management software platform; transition bookkeeping from Quicken to Quick Books; and more. As I said, not glamorous.

Fundraising is obvious. We are eying three opportunities for larger grants than we have received in the past.

Board development for N³ involves increasing the number of board members and focusing board attention most of the time on the future instead of day-to-day matters. If interested in serving on the board, please contact N³.

All of which is a great deal of work, but by the end of the year, which will arrive way too fast, we will be stronger for having done capacity-building. Essential policies, procedures, and documents will be in place and accessible when needed. We'll even be able to help another village get started if any request assistance.



Image by Colleen ODell from Pixabay

Madam Librarian

Or Monsieur Librarian. N³ needs one.

Resources for elders in electronic form that have been identified as useful need to be collected in one place instead of stored among 1,000 N³ files in dozens of folders. Then they need to be catalogued, and other resources identified. And then, all of it has to be put online in an electronic library for easy access.

Anyone interested in doing this, with or without a librarian's degree, is welcome to volunteer. There is already one volunteer, so all we need is one more to get started. Email or phone: ageinplace@earthlink.net; (850) 901-7818.

Survey Polls Seniors' Interest in Activities

Currently, there are no recreational facilities at Optimist Park that older IHLNA residents would be inclined to access. In March 2022, Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes (N3) sent a survey to people on its email lists, asking whether older residents would like to have organized activities such as board games at the park. Among seventy-one seniors who responded, fifty-eight said they are or might be interested in having recreational opportunities at the site. Some even expressed a preference for specific games. Survey results are available at aginginneneland.org. N3 thanks the respondents and invites everyone to a meeting on May 11, at 2:00 p.m., at the Optimist Park clubhouse to discuss the results and future options.

Stay Fit with BBB

Exercise has never been so fun! Sponsored by the Tallahassee Senior Center, "Brain, Body, Balance" is a falls-prevention fitness program that helps to reverse many types of aging. It fuses movement with neuroplasticity-enhancing drills to improve balance, strength, reflexes, and brain functions. The drills also enhance Activities of Daily Living (ACL), such as getting up from a chair without assistance and bending over to tie shoes. The suggested donation is \$3 per class, but cards are available that save \$5 on ten classes or \$10 on twenty sessions. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., at the Optimist Park clubhouse. For details, contact Wendy Barber at (850) 891-4052 or wendy.barber@talgov.com.

Please tell these businesses in and near the Indianhead and Lehigh Acres neighborhoods that you appreciate their support for Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes, our aging in place organization.

A Time to Change Counseling Center
Michael G. Bell, CFP • First Commerce Credit Union
Kant Realty • Magnolia School • P3 Automotive
Sandra's Flower Basket • The Clothesline
Top Tier K9 • Larry K. White, Attorneys at Law

Indianhead Lehigh Real Estate Summary

October 1-December 31, 2021

By Terry and Sharon Kant-Rauch

This information is from the MLS/Multiple Listing Service (CATRS) sales. A few sales that are not on MLS and that sold separately are not included here.

For this fourth quarter, sixteen homes sold, ranging in price from \$146,000 to \$385,000. Average price was \$275,000. As we've mentioned previously, this is a quite a wide spread in a planned neighborhood from the 1950's. The size spread also is unusual. Of the sold properties, sizes ranged from 1,044 square feet to 3,797 square feet. Many of the smaller homes have only one bath, and the largest has three baths. The average square footage is 1,777, with more large homes being sold than usual. A continuing trend is that many of the smaller homes (~1,000 sq. ft.) sold for a higher price per square foot than the larger ones. Time on the market ranged from 0 days (sold prior to listing) to 385 days (for a Magnolia Drive property). Median days on the market was forty-nine. As was true for most of Tallahassee, multiple offers on most homes were the norm. And with multiple offers comes more stress and higher prices paid for the properties.

For January and February 2022, we saw a similar trend, though the number of sales has slowed a bit. However, prices and price per square foot have increased. Previously, a slowdown was not unusual for the beginning of the year; however, last year there was more activity right from the get-go.

As interest rates rise and prices continue to go up (the current predictions), it will continue to be challenging to purchase. We've had several buyers decide to wait to purchase because of this, but if rates do rise and inventory stays low, it's likely that prices will continue to price many out of our neighborhood.

Kant Realty LLC: Proud sponsor of Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes

Controlling Invasive Species: Key to a Healthy Forest

By John Kunzer

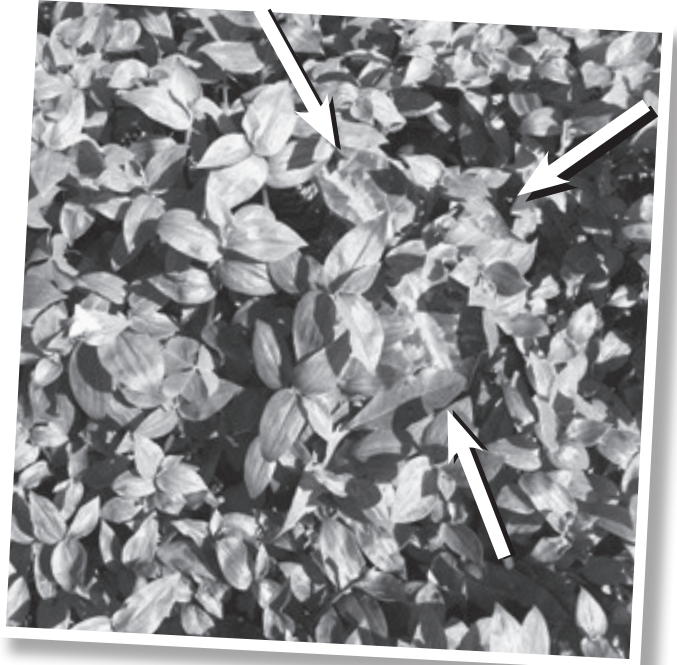
For the past six years, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the City of Tallahassee (COT) have been working to control invasive plant species in Indianhead Acres through a state-funded grant program. The initial project in fiscal year 2015-16 saw an investment of \$7,716. In FY 2017-18, the project scope was expanded to include additional invasive species and more area, for an investment of \$25,852. In FY 2019-20, \$35,596 was invested.

When invasive species are kept at lower levels, it reduces the total amount of herbicide required to control them. If they are allowed to grow unchecked and reach abundant levels, more herbicide is needed to bring them back under control. Fortunately, the “heavy lifting” has been done in Indianhead, and the invasives can now be controlled with smaller ongoing applications.

The three primary and most important species for future maintenance control are coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*), small-leaved spiderwort (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), and bridal veil (*Gibasis pellucida*). The latter two are related and practically indistinguishable until they flower. All of these species should be controlled for the same reason. Because they grow in such dense populations, they eventually shade the forest floor completely and prevent typical ground cover species (such as Trilliums) and new tree seedlings from becoming established. The latter aspect is especially problematic, because when invasive species smother tree seedlings, the future of the tree canopy is jeopardized.

A healthy forest should be composed of many different species of differing ages. If a forest only has a few species, and those trees are all the same age, that forest is particularly vulnerable to insect damage, pathogens, and wind damage. A healthy forest has numerous saplings and immature trees growing under the canopy, poised to occupy the canopy when a mature tree dies or is damaged severely. In Indianhead Acres, this natural replacement currently does not exist in any meaningful way because the three primary invasive species are preventing seedlings from growing into saplings.

Triclopyr is the most effective herbicide for all three primary species. It is an auxin mimic, which targets a plant’s growth regulation system and causes the plant to “grow itself to death.” This growth regulation system



Arrows indicate a small-leaf spiderwort overtaking a Trillium. All photos by John Kunzer, FWC

occurs in plants but not animals. Triclopyr also does not affect grasses or many other monocots at the same application rates. This aspect allows applicators to target specific species while leaving the native grass and sedge groundcover intact.

FWC and COT can continue these efforts, but want to ensure that Indianhead residents support them. People with questions or concerns about this potential project, or about herbicide use in general, are welcome to contact the author at john.kunzer@myfwc.com.



A Trillium thrives when unimpeded by invasive species.



If left unchecked, small-leaf and bridal veil spiderwort can occur at a density that inhibits native tree seedlings. The only species emerging from the shade are camphor (left side) and Chinese privet, both of which are invasive.



Graphic Designer?

We need you!

Do you love our Nene community and want to find a creative way to contribute? Volunteer as our graphic designer and help with the biannual newsletters and neighborhood events. Interested folks should email: indianheadlehighna@gmail.com



HAWKSVIEW GARDENS

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Frog REALTY

INDIANHEAD & NEARBY HOME LISTINGS

Address	Sold Price	# Sq/ft	Bed/Bath
1509 Chowkeebin Nene	\$316,000	2277	4/2
2310 Atapha Nene	\$245,000	1516	3/2
1904 Chuli Nene	\$224,000	1189	3/2
1502 Chowkeebin Nene	\$230,000	1048	3/1
2101 Cheeke Nene	\$245,000	1720	2/2.5
1513 S Magnolia Dr	\$360,000	2443	4/2.5

*Data from CRTRS, INC. MLS

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HAIR STYLIST



IH Drainage Issues Are Nothing New

By Dr. Will Hanley

It's hard to miss the drainage work along the creek between Optimist Park and Koucky Park. The Tallahassee *Democrat* archives show that heavy equipment has been working to shape that waterway since the 1950s.

The creek is fed by a spring that emerges somewhere beneath the Marathon service station at Lafayette St. and Magnolia Ave. The spring drains, via a culvert, into the bog south of Chowkeebein Nene. From there, the creek cuts a sharp straight path to Orange Ave., where it disappears into another culvert.

In the 1950s, that section of Orange Ave. was not yet built. The creek turned sharply to the west at the foot of the hill that you can see today climbing Jim Lee Rd. toward Rickards High School. Water from the steep valley that is Indianhead Acres flowed from there toward the low-lying lots of South City and onward to Munson Lake.

Trouble trickles down more readily than benefit. In 1957, our community realized it (and not for the last time). The problem started at the Scout House (now the Optimist Park clubhouse), which opened in October 1954. The Optimist Club built the block structure largely with donations. "Plans call for the addition of a porch and fireplace to the Scout House in the near future," the *Democrat* reported. And crucially: "A stream will be dammed up to make a small pond to surround it on three sides."

I did not manage to discover when exactly this dam was built, but a 1956 aerial photo (available on the IHLNA website) shows a sizable basin where Optimist Park is today. Hokolin Nene was in fact a dam, and all of the land between West and East Indianhead was underwater. There were no trees west of the park; everything we see today grew subsequent to the 1950s.

The pond lasted less than three years. In June 1957, the dam broke in heavy rain, and it broke again in September, when ten inches of rain wreaked havoc through the city. City engineers were confident that they could rebuild it, but residents opposed their plans. Homeowners in Lynndale, the low streets behind Wesson School (south of Orange Ave. and east of Meridian St.) were especially vocal. Their homes were badly inundated during both floods, when the mass of water held in the Optimist Park basin was deposited in their yards.



ROAD CUT TO KEEP WATERS FLOWING—Not taking any chances on letting water back up to flood more property, the county road department cut Hasosaw Nene in Indian Head Acres. Two large culverts are planned for the street as soon as waters drop. The two 36-inch drain pipes proved inadequate for heavy rainfall the area has been experiencing this month. (Democrat Photo)

It is hard to reconstruct the geography of the breaches. The newspaper reports that Chocksacka Nene was washed away, and that city crews cut open Hasosaw Nene to release pent-up waters. But these reports refer to "Koucky Park Lake," which suggests that there may have been a second reservoir.

For a few years in the mid 1950s, a club named the "Mimosa Garden Circle" worked intensively to beautify Koucky Park. They were given this land by George Koucky, who developed eighty acres of housing in the vicinity. The Circle planted extensively in the park and installed playground equipment and flood lights. It seems possible that they also built a reservoir. Nearby houses advertised in the *Democrat* mention this lake.

In November 1956, the Circle deeded Koucky Park to the city. Two months earlier, Jim Stead, the other major developer of Indianhead, had turned Optimist Park over to the county. A few months later, in 1957, Stead sold his "Indian Head Water Company" (which supplied 284 customers in houses he had built) to the city for \$40,000.

Thus, by the time of the floods, the municipality was in charge of fixing all of the water problems in the neighborhood. The dam was never rebuilt, but heavy construction continues even today. So much for the story that the newspaper tells.

Do you have memories that can fill in the blanks or correct the errors? Send your response to indianheadlehighna@gmail.com.

Don't Blow It!

Think Twice about Your Leaves

By Charity Myers

What pollutes more in a half-hour than a 6,200 pound truck driving 3,900 miles; destroys healthy environments for insects; is louder than a jet taking off; and can RUIN a perfectly lovely afternoon nap?

THE GASOLINE-POWERED BACKPACK BLOWER!

From parking lots to public parks and even our picturesque neighborhood—backpack blowers are everywhere! They blow dust and pollen clouds at unsuspecting passersby while spewing noxious gas at deafening decibel levels. I encounter them frequently on my walks through the neighborhood, and although I appreciate folks' desire to keep their yards tidy, are our suburban American desires for the traditional, perfect, manicured lawn *really* worth the environmental impact?

Consider the following.

Topsoil in the Wind

Not only do these powerful blowers remove your topsoil and scatter it to the wind, they also are a big culprit in soil compaction. Compacted soil repels water and oxygen, which causes all kinds of problems for your lawn.

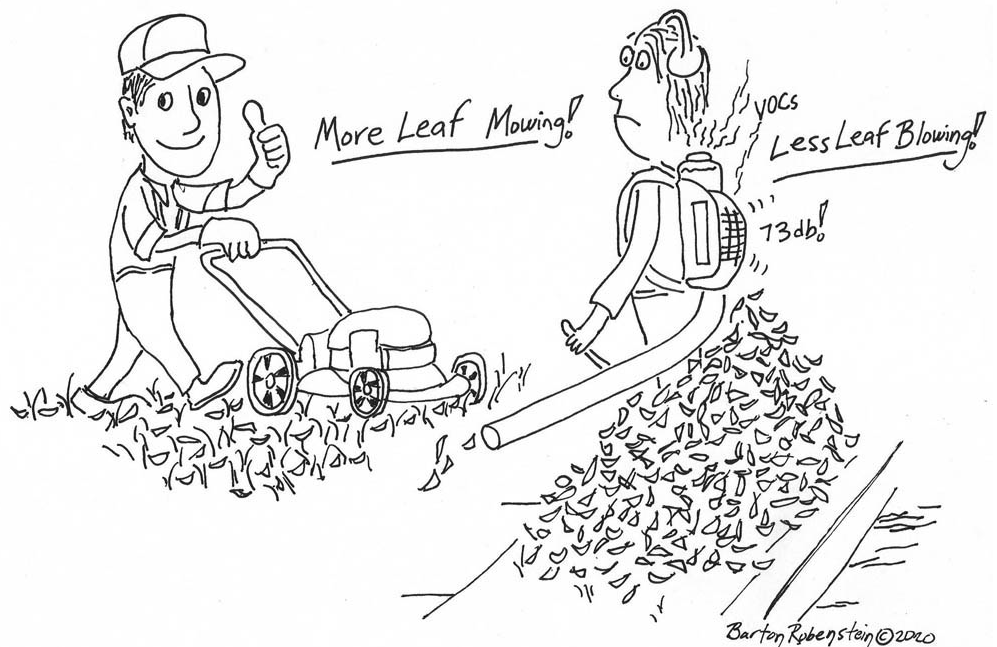
“The Secondhand Smoke of this Era”

Effective January 1, 2022, Washington, DC, banned the use and sale of gas-powered backpack blowers. California also signed a law prohibiting all gasoline-powered lawn equipment, and cities and states around the country are exploring similar bans. As a result, lawn companies are getting ahead of these bans by replacing their fleet with electric versions, which they view not only as environmentally friendly, but also healthier for their workers.

Forgo the Blow

Growing up on a north Florida family farm, I had plenty of outdoor chores, and raking leaves was up there with digging potatoes in the sweltering August heat. It was hard and, in retrospect, probably unnecessary. Raking is zen, but removing all the leaves is not so zen, so consider mulching. Let the leaves stay over winter until the grass begins to grow, and then mulch. Raise the blade a bit, set the mower for mulch, and begin producing high quality mulch for your lawn.

I understand that not everyone is able to take care of their own yard. If you have a lawn service, there are some simple requests you can make to lessen the negative impacts of yard maintenance. If your service uses a backpack blower, ask them not to blow leaves in winter and to mulch them instead. And while you're at it, ask them to raise that blade on the mower. Not only is this better for your grass, but lawn mower blades kill and injure snakes, baby bunnies, and turtles that can't get out of the way fast enough. Mowing with a high blade will mulch the leaves as they go and keep the yard tidy without the destruction and unnecessary environmental implications. It's a win-win.



Pristine Forest near IHLA In Peril of Development

By Mark Okasako

In 2012, the English Property Planned Unit Development (PUD) of 250+ acres was approved by the Tallahassee City Commission. In 2021, an additional 494 acres were submitted as an Amendment to the original PUD, which was approved in March 2022. The total parcel extends from Blair Stone Road to east of Rickards High School, and from Orange Avenue to Tram Road.

If the proposed plan from the 2021 Amendment submittal is followed, the existing forest will be clear cut, leaving disjointed small islands of greenery. The VA Tallahassee Outpatient Clinic, Russell Office Park, and Lullwater apartment complex are examples from the 2012 PUD. This will mean there will be nearly a complete loss of habitat for fauna and flora.

The loss of habitat for wildlife in the English Forest will impact surrounding neighborhoods, especially Indianhead Lehigh and Blairstone Forest, because they have a higher density of woodland. Wildlife that survive the clear cutting in the PUD will have to move to other areas, which will mean Indianhead Lehigh and Blairstone Forest will see, at least temporarily, an increase in wildlife. However, there may be a domino effect of displacement, and some current species may move elsewhere. As an example, blue jays and gold finches, which were plentiful in Blairstone Forest before the SouthWood community was built, rarely are seen today.

Should the existing thriving ecosystem in the English Forest be eradicated and replaced with expansive impermeable surfaces, there will be significant soil erosion compounded with surges of stormwater runoff. Swells of runoff with elevated levels of fertilizers and toxins will adversely affect the low-elevation and prone-to-flooding Blairstone Forest and portions of the Indianhead Lehigh neighborhoods.

The English Property PUD is in the Woodville Karst Plain, with multiple karst features including sinkholes and a spring head and run. These geologic features are unique to this property, and they are vulnerable to stormwater runoff with elevated pollutants from manmade disturbances. Contaminated water will enter the Floridan aquifer, manifesting at Wakulla Springs.

In addition, the quality of daily life and safety of established communities adjacent to the English Property PUD will be affected irreversibly. Congested vehicular



Aerial view of the English Forest property and nearby development.

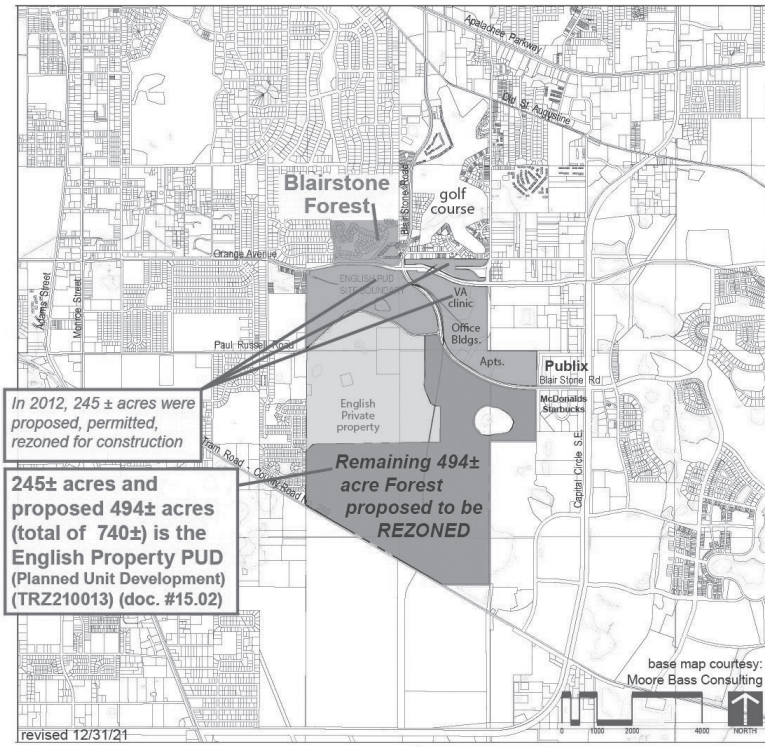
traffic, safety, and noise on Blair Stone Road and Orange Avenue will be exacerbated by the expansion of human density planned for the property.

Save The English Forest, a group with members from Blairstone Forest, Indianhead Lehigh, and other nearby areas, has been trying to make the construction plan more environmentally friendly, with less negative impact to the surrounding communities. There had been some progress leading into the City Commission vote on March 23. And although the vote to approve the PUD Amendment was approved, it was done so with several conditions attached. This includes the requirement that a continuous greenway must extend through the entire PUD.

Now that the amendment has been approved, Save The English Forest is focusing on three different tasks. First, group members continue to raise community awareness about the PUD by distributing flyers and speaking with homeowners in nearby neighborhoods. They also intend to approach various churches in the area.

Second, they are monitoring for any site plans that are being submitted. Currently, there are two—Hathaway and Orange Avenue. Hathaway is a 36-acre parcel located

Map of English Forest property approved for development in March 2022.



If the applications for both projects are approved and if the English family agrees to the sale, this will mean the more vulnerable areas of the property (e.g., the ravine, wetlands, and sinkholes) will be protected. With the connecting land, this also will be a wildlife corridor. The northern portion with the ravine can become a nature park. This would be a fine legacy for the English family to leave to Tallahassee.

For more information about Save The English Forest, upcoming meetings, and the PUD, visit savetheenglishforest.carrd.co.

across Blair Stone Road from the Lullwater development. Currently, it is in the site plan phase. Orange Avenue is in the pre-submittal phase. To date, there are no other projects or buyers of the other parcels.

A second task is related to these unpurchased parcels. Save The English Forest is starting the application process to purchase some of the parcels through two programs. The first is Florida Forever, which is the state land acquisition program for conservation and recreation lands. The application process has several steps and can take more than a year. To reduce the time, Save The English Forest is applying for a Boundary Amendment that will attach some of the parcels to an existing project; in this case, it is the Wakulla Springs project. However, there is a limitation. The value of the parcels cannot exceed \$2 million. Therefore, the application will be for the three parcels south of Orange Avenue, north of Paul Russell Road, and west of Blair Stone Road. One parcel has a ravine, and the other two are on either side of the ravine.

A second application has been started for the parcels south of Paul Russell Road. These parcels have three sets of wetlands and sinkholes. The application also will be for the connecting land between the three sets. The application is for a land acquisition program managed by the Northwest Florida Water Management District. Currently, the agency has received the parcel information, and its GIS staff are mapping the parcels for a desktop evaluation. After that is complete, they will determine whether or not to proceed with the application.



English Forest property in peril is a majestic upland hardwood forest. *Courtesy of Midori Okasako*

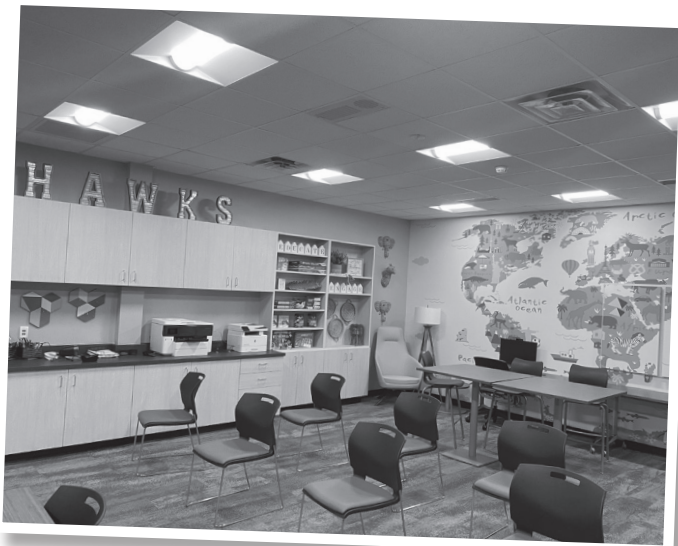
Hartsfield Elementary: Progress Despite Challenges

By Dr. Rhonda Blackwell-Flanagan, Principal

Hello, Indianhead Lehigh Community and Friends of Hartsfield Elementary!

We are nearing the end of the 2021-22 school year, and we are daily embracing a new norm for doing school. The past two years have been among the most challenging in our lives as communities, families, students, and schools. As a school community, we learned to navigate risks and barriers that impacted the health and welfare of everyone. Our ability to traverse these times can be attributed to many factors: the guidance of our school district and school board, and the health and safety protocols we followed; the support of the IHLA community and other neighborhood friends through donations to support needy families; and the assistance of community and business partners to provide technology, internet, and ongoing food assistance. All of it was promulgated and coordinated by the navigational vision and leadership of our teachers, staff, and volunteers. Always holding up the education banner of “*Still We Rise*,” their dedication kept the opportunities to learn accessible to all. Having made it through the roughest part of the storm, it is a perfect time to look back with a grateful heart while continuing to strive to reach our goals *with heart and soul!*

Despite the challenges, Hartsfield has achieved much progress. Since our last entry in the newsletter, we have continued toward our school improvement goals that



Brand new Family Resource Center, made possible by the generosity of many neighbors! *All photos courtesy of Mary Jo Peltier*

frame learning and teaching for students and staff. We championed through significant disruptions, believing in our theme for this year—*One Team; One Dream*. It is a reminder of who we are, keeps us fastened together as a family, and has taught us that we can still work toward accomplishing our goals amid unfavorable conditions. We have a few monumental benchmarks to celebrate, all achieved while reopening schools in these uncertain Covid-19 years.

Fast Forward From 2019

- Since being admitted into candidacy to become a Primary Years Program IB World School in October 2019, we are well on the road to Authorization, the next phase, and we are excited! During the pandemic, the faculty maximized the time and continued building capacity to understand the framework, attributes for learning, and dispositions for creating and teaching in the IB World. We added Spanish to our Special Area electives for Grades 1-5, which is a requirement for IB authorization. In February 2022, we had our first visit with our assigned IB consultant, which included a community conversation to inform parents and the community about the program, the process, and the benefits of becoming an IB World School. Recently, teachers have begun the process of writing curriculum to implement a pilot this spring. From this juncture, the goal is to have our official site visit for Authorization in spring 2023 and thereby complete the Leon County Schools trajectory that connects Hartsfield to the IB Programs at Fairview Middle and Rickards High.

- In December 2021, we held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to open our Family Resource Center. A three-year vision that evolved from our annual Parent and Family Engagement Conference finally was realized, and it is spectacular to say the least! It was made possible through generous donations from the Indianhead Lehigh, Myers Park, and Woodland Drive communities; neighborhood association matching grants; and local business partner contributions. Our inaugural workshop is a three-part Financial Literacy Seminar, and additional workshops are planned for this school year. The Center will focus on giving parents skills and resources to help their child with schoolwork and to thrive in the community.

- An added highlight to our curriculum has been the implementation of Creative Cadres—an in-school clubs program. Once a month, we flex the daily schedule, and students choose a club of interest for a six-week period. This gives them access to opportunities they wouldn't have without staying afterschool. It also supports our



Grace Frances (Indianhead neighbor and Hartsfield Parent), Christic Henry (School Advisory Council President), and Dr. Rhonda Blackwell-Flanagan (Principal at Hartsfield), at the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Family Resource Center



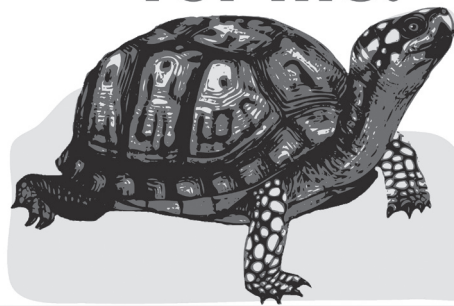
Members of the South City Foundation Neighborhood Leadership Council met at Hartsfield in December 2021.

Primary Years Program trajectory because students have voice, choice, and ownership in their learning. Our Cadres also serve as a path to engage partners and experts, teaching alongside teachers and connecting students to business, careers, and humanitarian efforts in the community. Let us know if you would like to support this program. Examples of the options are Chess, Yoga, Cool Math, Stage Performance, Criminology, Meet a Scientist, Robotics, and Culinary Arts.

- Our expanded curriculum and projects to become an EcoSchool, through which students engage in their environment and actively protect it, has earned us a Bronze Award! Meanwhile, we are continuing with our school-wide implementation of the Conscious Discipline program.

Great things are happening in the Halls of Hartsfield! We value your ongoing engagement and support and invite you to stay connected as we continue learning, growing, and thriving!

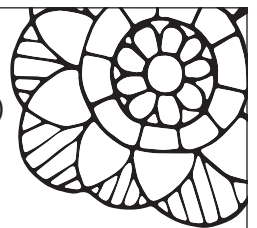
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When the body gets working appropriately, the force of gravity can flow through. Then, spontaneously, the body heals itself. - Dr. Ida Rolf



Benefiting Hartsfield Elementary

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022

ENTRY FEE:
Before 4/27/2022 Day of Race
 5K: \$18 5K: \$25
 Fun Run: \$8 Fun Run: \$10
 Hartsfield Students: \$5

REGISTRATION 6:45-8:00 am | 5K RACE 8:00 am | FUN RUN 9:00 am

Registration: runsignup.com/Race/FL/Tallahassee/NeneFest5KandFunRun

OR Mail completed form with payment to:



CHIP TIMING!

Nene Fest 5K/Fun Run
 c/o Marie-Claire Leman
 1911 Wahalaw Court
 Tallahassee, FL 32301

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Gender (circle): Male Female Date of birth: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Entering: 5K Fun Run Donation

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

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

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Donation Amount \$ _____

WAIVER: I know that participating in running activities is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running in this race including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather (excessive heat and/or humidity), traffic and the conditions of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of you accepting my application, I for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf waive and release the Race Director, Gulf Winds Track Club, or any other sponsoring agent, their representatives and successors from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the parts of the persons/agents named in this waiver. I grant permission to all of the foregoing to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose.

 Signature of Entrant (Parent or Legal Guardian if under 18 years old)

 Date

For additional information, please contact Marie-Claire Leman at nenefest5kandfunrun@gmail.com.