



# Indian Head Lehigh

Neighborhood Association, Inc.

NEWSLETTER \*\* Spring 2001

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## **Yard Sale**                      *Saturday, May 19*

The Neighborhood Association will be sponsoring a neighborhood yard sale on Saturday, May 19 at Optimist Park from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The yard sale is open and free to all members of the Neighborhood Association. For all others it will be \$10, but with it comes with a 1 year membership to the Neighborhood Association.

Do some spring house cleaning and make some extra cash. Come on down - sell some stuff, buy some stuff, (recycle) and meet your neighbors. For more information call Grant at 942-7608.

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### **Sheep and Kudzu**

This spring the City will be bringing sheep to the upper reaches of the greenway around the transformer area and behind the church to eat the kudzu. The kudzu has been creeping into the greenway and wetlands over the last few years and the Neighborhood Association has been requesting the City to do something about it. And what do we get, ... Sheep! Apparently sheep really like kudzu. The City will be bringing the sheep in to graze down the kudzu. Once it is grazed down the City will bring the sheep back every 6 to 8 weeks to continue to graze it until the kudzu runs out of energy and quits resprouting

### **Neighborhood "Oil Spill"**

In mid-December an odor was noticed at the creek/trail area on Wekewa Nene. One of our residents contacted the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regarding the odor. At that time FDEP went to the site, conducted ground water and surface water sampling to detect the source. It was decided that water source was contaminated with Fuel

Oil/Kerosene. FDEP then installed a boom, which would soak up the fuel oil in the creek. Once that was done, the City of Tallahassee was contacted. The City began inquiries as well as more surface water sampling. The City spoke with homeowners in the area to try and determine which tank was the source of contamination. One homeowner had their tank removed, while another was filled with concrete or abandoned.

The FDEP went out in February and replaced the original boom with a new one, and at that time noticed the odor had decreased. The City of Tallahassee has been regularly checking the site and conducting surface water and ground water sampling to make certain that this contamination has not and does not spread. The contamination has not currently spread downstream and the City is certain that it is localized in that area only. The City will also be replacing the current FDEP owned boom with their own boom, and they are working on new techniques on capturing the contaminants.

Within the last month the City of Tallahassee has contacted two homeowners to urge them to abandon their tanks or properly remove them.

The Indianhead-Lehigh Neighborhood Association is urging all residents that have underground or above ground fuel oil tanks to properly remove or abandon the tanks by filling them with concrete or sand to ensure that this does not happen again in the future. For one to properly remove a fuel oil tank you should contact a Kerosene/Fuel Oil Company that installs them. The tank must be drained and the contents properly disposed of. To abandon a tank, you could contact the same type of company and they will fill the tank with sand or concrete once the tank is drained.

Currently, neither the State of Florida nor the City of Tallahassee has any kind of regulation on fuel oil or kerosene tanks that are smaller than 500 gallons. However, the City is diligently working on new procedures for removing and abandoning fuel oil tanks less than 500 gallons. The City of Tallahassee has not formally made any decisions at this time, but will let the Neighborhood Association know when a decision has been made. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Christy Gandy with the Neighborhood Association at 877-0294.

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## Creekwalk Enhancement

A walk along the creek's greenway can be a pleasant escape from the day, with the lush vegetation providing shade and comfort from the summer sun. Except that some of those plants in the greenway are not supposed to be there. They are not native to this region and they can crowd out the native plants and wildlife. They are known as "invasive exotic" species. You may be familiar with some of these: Chinese tallow (popcorn) tree, coral ardisia (Christmas berry), Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese climbing fern, air potato and privet.



On Saturday, June 2, join your neighbors at 9 am at Optimist Park to help clear the greenway of coral ardisia and perhaps some other invasive exotics. In the meanwhile, if you have any invasive exotic plants in your yard, why not remove them and replace them with native plants! For more information, contact Grant at 942-7608.

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## Nature Trail

The old steps leading to the nature trail north of Hokolin Nene are not in good shape. The Neighborhood Association would like to construct some steps from Hokolin Nene down the slope to the nature trail. If there are any contractors in the neighborhood that would like

to provide the Neighborhood Association with a simple plan (or better yet build the steps), the neighborhood association would supply the materials. Also we are sure that we could get some neighbors to assist in building it, if only we had a design. If you have any ideas, contact Grant or any member of the board

## **Calling All Babysitters....**

As many of you know, there are lots of families in the neighborhood with young children in need of babysitters. The Neighborhood Association would like to offer a Babysitter Training Course given by the American Red Cross. The informative course will teach the responsibilities and qualities of being a good babysitter and what to expect from the person who hires you. All that attend the 8-hour course will receive a Babysitter's Handbook, Safety & First Aid Kit, and an American Red Cross Certificate of Course Completion. The cost of the course is \$25.00 and will take place at the clubhouse at Optimist Park on a convenient Saturday. All participants will receive a pizza lunch provided by the Neighborhood Association. Those interested (boys and girls ages 11 and up) please contact Christy Gandy at 877-0294 as soon as possible.

## **Optimist Park**

### **1. Playground**

The City has upgraded the existing playground and has installed new playground equipment. Isn't it great???

### **2. Traffic calming**

David Chapman, with the Parks Department, stated that there are continuing discussion with the Traffic Department on whether to put one or two speed bumps in front of Optimist Park on East Indian Head Drive. The Neighborhood Association has also requested that the City consider placing speed bumps on Hokolin Nene adjacent to the park.

### **3. Restrooms**

The proposal to construct outside bathrooms adjacent to the club house at Optimist Park got bumped from the projects to be funded this year due to funding constraints. The project has also been expanded to include redoing the front door of the clubhouse, modify the roof line and

adding other improvements. The project may be funded in a one year or so. Please call the City commissioners at 891-8181 and ask them to fund the construction of restrooms this year.

### **4. Finishing the park improvements**

The City has ordered picnic tables and benches for the playground. They should be installed in a few weeks. The Neighborhood Association has requested that they place two picnic tables on the slab in the middle of the park and to bolt them down, so they do not get moved by the basketball players. We have also suggested that they install two benches on the east side of the park, preferably between the fence and the playground, in the middle by the fence opening, and two benches in the area of the small children's playground. Any parents of the children using the playground that have any ideas on locating the benches, please call Grant at 942-7608.

## **Sidewalks in the Neighborhood**

The City surveyed the roads in the neighborhood and they all rank high for possible sidewalk improvements, but the only way to put sidewalks in would be to cover the ditches and install curbs and gutters along the roads. If you have any thoughts on whether additional sidewalks would be good for the neighborhood and or where sidewalks should be placed, please let the neighborhood board members know.

## **Orange Avenue Widening**

The County is planning to four lane Orange Avenue from Monroe Street to Blair Stone. A portion of the four laning will run behind the Leigh Neighborhood. The Neighborhood Association has requested that the County install a sound barrier between the four laned Orange Avenue and the houses in Lehigh - either a wall or planting a dense vegetative hedge. We are suggesting that the County either plant azaleas and wax myrtles to create a dense hedge.

## Tree Art Update

We were thinking of getting a chainsaw artist to do a carving on the stump at Optimist Park. The chainsaw artist inspected the tree and informed us that the tree was hollow and could not be carved. Well, so much for that idea.

### OFFICERS OF IHLNA

President: Grant Gelhardt	942-7608	At-Large: Ann Kemp	877-3419
Vice-pres: Christy Gandy	877-0294	At-Large: Tony Biblo	
Secretary:		At-Large: Johnnie Chavies	878-7632
Treasurer: Mary Louise Bachman	877-6344	At-Large: Vacant	
At-Large: Connie Bersok	942-7904	At-Large: Vacant	
At-Large: Charlie McCoy	878-3106		

WE Really Need Some People on The Board - We only meet every two to three months - that is 4 -6 times a year.

E-mail

If you would to get periodic updates on what is happening in the neighborhood - we are putting together an e-mail list where we would inform you of issues of important to the neighborhood. If so, fill out the e-mail address on the membership form.



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## INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please print

Membership \_\_\_ \$10.00 Current resident  
year 2001

\_\_\_ \$5.00 20 year resident

**Make Checks Payable to IHLNA  
Mail to M L Bachman  
1905 Wahalaw Court**

I am interested in participating in the following activities of the neighborhood:

\_\_\_ Halloween party volunteer \_\_\_ Landscaping/Nature Trail \_\_\_ Crime Watch

\_\_\_ Planning/Zoning Issues \_\_\_ St. Augustine Road cleanup \_\_\_ Deliver News Letters

\_\_\_ **Neighborhood Association Board Member** - we always appreciate any help and ideas

Comments or Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

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