



# Indian Head Lehigh Neighborhood Association, Inc.

NEWSLETTER \*\* Fall 2004



## Halloween Party



The Neighborhood Association will be sponsoring the annual Halloween Party on **Saturday, October 30**, at Optimist Park from 4:00 to 6:30 pm. Round up the kids, put on the costumes, and bring a cover dish. Join your neighbors and friends for the always-great pot luck dinner, costume contest, and a fun time. There will be prizes and goodies for children of all ages. Live music will be provided by Tao Jones and the Entological Elephants.

For more information, or to volunteer for organizing, decorating, or clean up, call Grant Gelhardt at 942-7608.



Also on **Saturday, October 30**, join Sharon Rauch for a ramble along Indian Head Creek and author signing. Sharon and several other writers in the neighborhood have contributed to the beautifully illustrated, newly released book ***Between Two Rivers: Stories from the Red Hills to the Gulf***. Look for Sharon and other authors at a tent in Optimist Park for a book signing event from 3:30 pm to 5 pm.

At 4 pm, Sharon will lead a 30 minute walk and will read from her essay about her experiences from her many walks along the nature path. This event is free and open to all.

### Other happenings...

Remember to mark *the second Sunday of the month* on your calendars for the "**Potluck in the Park**" starting at 4:30 pm. Bring a cover dish and utensils, some chairs or blanket if you wish, and join your neighbors for a leisurely dinner in the park.

Grant Gelhardt is proposing a series of work days this fall and winter – one for removing invasive exotic plants from the greenway, one for greenway trail maintenance, and one for park playground cleaning. He will send out e-mails as these are scheduled. For more information, contact Grant at 942-7608.

If you know of any other special events in the neighborhood that would be of interest, let Grant know (at 942-7608) and he will pass on the information via e-mail.



## Optimist Park Clubhouse gets a make-over

Over the last couple of years, the neighborhood has asked the city Park and Recreation department to undertake some maintenance and improvements to our clubhouse. Early this summer, the city installed a brand new central heating and air-conditioning unit in the Clubhouse. In addition, the clubhouse got a much-needed coat of new paint.

As a result of these changes, the polling location has returned to Optimist Park, thanks to Ion Sancho. So, if you didn't already notice and appreciate these changes when you voted in the primaries, you might want to take a look around and appreciate the return of your tax dollars when you vote in the general election on November 2.

Hopefully the new outdoor bathroom facility will be in place, too, by the time you read this!

### See you at the polls!

Do you need a ride to Optimist Park to cast your vote on **November 2**? If so, call Sandy Neidert at 656-7894. She has graciously offered to give rides to folks in the neighborhood to Optimist Park so they can vote.

And after you have voted at the clubhouse, stop by the IHLNA table for a chat and a cup of coffee or cider. (This would also be a good time to renew your membership, too!)

## Neighborhood Yard Sale update

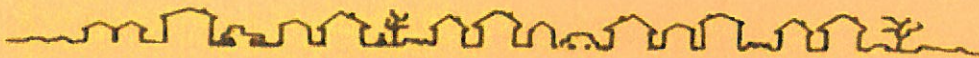
Did you hear? In addition to a great turnout of sellers and buyers and traders, the IHNLA raised \$47 from the bake sale at the park during last spring's neighborhood yard sale. It's not too early to start setting aside items you want to sell at next spring's event. The date and details will be in the spring issue of the IHLNA newsletter.

### Following a drop of water....

Not many in-city neighborhoods have their own creek, but we are one of the fortunate few. However, all of the runoff from our yards and roads drain to that creek, which then eventually drains to Munson Slough, which is part of the "springshed" of Wakulla Springs.

If you would like to know more about your connection to Wakulla Springs, how your actions can have an effect on that local jewel, and the latest discoveries about the springs south of town, head on down to the R.A. Gray Building Auditorium on **Thursday, October 7**, at 7:00 – 8:30 pm for a free presentation "Exploring the secrets of Wakulla Springs." For more information, call 386-1944.

In addition, there is a "Walk for Wakulla Springs" on **Saturday, November 13**, which will start with a rally at city hall followed by a walk all or part of the way to Munson Slough, with bus transit to and from the Wakulla Spring State Park. For more information, call 561-7278.



## Does the name Barry Brooks sound familiar?

Garret and Heather Brooks, who have lived in Indian Head Acres for over 40 years, are proud to announce that their youngest son, Barry, is running for the Florida Senate District 3 seat. Barry and his two older brothers (Kevin and Murray) spent many summers riding their bicycles to Optimist Park for summer day camps, in addition to baseball, football, and Cub Scout meetings. Barry and his wife Robin now bring their young son to play in Optimist and Koucky Parks. In the meanwhile, Garrett and Heather continue to enjoy being involved with Indian Head-Lehigh events and can be seen walking their two daschunds around the tree-lined Nenes every evening.

## Turn on the TAPP!

### TAPPwater.org

It is a well-established fact that nonpoint source pollution — pollution that cannot be traced to a specific point of origin — is the most significant source of pollution affecting our water resources nationwide. Potential sources are fertilizers and pesticides from yards, farms and gardens, failing septic tanks, urban runoff, construction, trash and even animal feces. When it rains, water that is not absorbed into the soil washes over the land surface, picking up natural or man-made pollutants and depositing them in nearby storm drains, streams, rivers and lakes.

In an effort to raise awareness of this “pointless personal pollution,” the Ochlockonee River Soil & Water Conservation District, funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and administered through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, has launched the *Think About Personal Pollution* (TAPP) campaign.

TAPP focuses on the small changes that each of us can make in our daily behaviors to reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution running into our local waterways. These small changes include using the right types and amounts of fertilizers and pesticides, picking up after pets, maintaining septic systems and being more conscientious with household chemicals. Consider planting a “rain garden” to help slow stormwater runoff and allow it to naturally percolate into the ground. Here are some practical “pollution solutions.”

### Fertilizers

- Lawns generally need only one or two fertilizer applications per year, if any.
- If you fertilize, use fertilizer with at least 50 percent of the nitrogen in a slow-release or water-insoluble form.
- Florida soils are phosphorus rich. A 15-0-15 fertilizer (15 Nitrogen; 0 Phosphorus; 15 Potassium) has been found to be sufficient for most lawns and landscape-plant needs in our area.
- It's very important to apply the proper

quantity of water after fertilizing. It's better to water it in yourself than to depend on unpredictable rainstorms.

- Don't apply fertilizer when heavy rains are forecast.

### Pesticides

- Choose the correct pesticide to combat pests that may be infesting your home or lawn.
- Try to identify the good insects that provide natural control of more harmful pests.
- Use non-chemical approaches to pest control, such as pruning off affected areas.
- Use environmentally friendly alternatives if you can.

### Septic Systems

- Avoid compacting the soil around septic systems to keep from crushing the pipes. Keep heavy vehicles, etc. off the septic field.
- Don't plant trees near the septic field - the roots can cause damage to septic systems.
- Inspect your septic system every three to five years to make sure it is operating properly.

### Car Care

- Use drip pans under your vehicle to catch leaks.
- *Never* dump motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid or any other engine fluids into storm drains, gutters or on the ground.
- Wash your car on a grassy area if possible, so the ground can filter the water naturally.
- Use non-phosphate detergents, and use them sparingly.
- Empty your bucket of soapy water down the sink, not in the street.
- Use a car-wash facility that does not generate runoff.

For more information on how you can make an impact on your environment and help keep our local waterways beautiful, go to the TAPP website at [www.tappwater.org](http://www.tappwater.org) or call Nancy Caire Miller at 224-TAPP.

