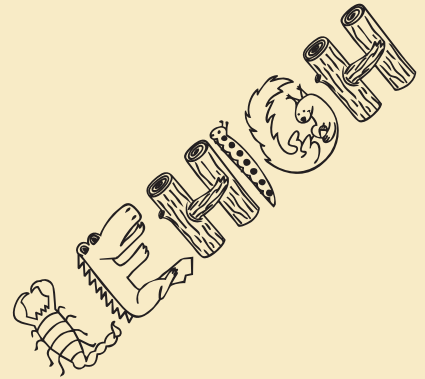


# The Optimist

Fall 2024



## Inside:

Free Trees  
Our Schools  
Bats in the Hood  
Tornado Candlelight Vigil  
Phases of Disaster Recovery  
Replanting and Rebuilding  
Aging in Neneland  
Tornado Haiku  
Our Neighbors  
Bird Nerds  
and more

## The Tornado Vase

Linda Marie and Gordon recovered the shards of the vase from under a fallen pine and pieced it back together, mostly. Linda Marie explains "Why I put the clay pot back together" in the poem surrounding the vase, which Gordon photographed. The light leaking from the vase reminds some of Leonard Cohen's line "There is a crack, a crack, in everything. That's how the light gets in."

radiate vision hope toward renewal retrieval for we too are made of clay  
a whole village of living vessels gathered together to  
parts pathway gently removed fallen trees a whole village of living vessels gathered together to  
buinessil spuay uado puaw pub arotser

Tornado Vase  
Cracked and Resurrected



# News and Notes

## Happening Soon

All events will be held at Optimist Park except as noted.

**Sunday, Oct 20, 6:45-8:00**  
**Tornado Candlelight Vigil**

**Saturday, Oct 26, 4:30-7:00**  
**Nene Halloween**

**Sunday, Nov 10, 5:00**  
**IDLNA General Meeting**

**Saturday, November 16, 3:00**  
**Bird Nerds**  
**2029 Chowkeebin Nene**

**Saturday, November 30**  
**Free trees application deadline**

**A weekend in January or February**  
**Tree planting in the greenway**

**Saturday, January 25, 2025**  
**Saturday, February 1, 2025**  
**Fairview Middle School**  
**Open House**

**Sunday, February 9, 2025, 10:00**  
**Native Trees Workshop**  
**Koucky Park**

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**  
**Nene Fest**  
**(see The Optimist next Spring)**

## Tornado Candlelight Vigil

**What:** A neighborhood sharing about the May 10 tornadoes

**When:** Sunday, October 20, 6:45 pm - 8 pm

**Where:** Optimist Park, under the big oak tree (East Indianhead & Hokolin Nene)

It's been five months since two EF2 tornadoes tore through our neighborhood. The recovery continues. To formally acknowledge what we have collectively experienced, we invite you to a candlelight vigil.

Here, you can share personal thoughts, feelings, and reflections about the event and its aftermath. We welcome personal anecdotes, feelings of loss and/or grief, insights, redemption, humor, poems, works of art, songs... or no need to share anything at all. Sharings will be brief, 3-5 minutes, to allow everyone to have an opportunity. Children are welcome. The focus of our sharing will be on our emotional experience (not the logistics of repairing).

Please bring the following:

- 1 or 2 long burning candles
- chair or blanket for sitting
- instruments such as bells, drum, etc. (if so moved)

Afterwards, light refreshments will be provided, and we can swap stories about insurance, FEMA, damage, and all other variety of craziness.

## Trees in the Greenway

**What:** Help renew the Greenway

**When:** A weekend this winter TBA

Volunteers will plant a variety of native trees supplied by the city. Meeting date and place will be announced by email and on Facebook. Possible species to be planted include ash, black gum, hickory, hornbeam, magnolia, red maple, swamp chestnut oak, and more.

## Change

*By Thomas Eason*

Twin whirlwinds converge.

Life altered in an instant.

Shiva's swirling step.

*Spot drawings in this issue  
are by Melynda Reid.*



# News and Notes

## Nene Halloweenee

**What:** Annual Halloween party

**When:** Saturday, October 26, 4:30 to 7:00

**Where:** Optimist Park

Don't miss the annual Nene Halloweenee potluck party. Live music by Tao Jones and the Ontological Elephants will kick off at 4:30 pm. Start thinking of some spooky recipes for your contribution to the potluck and keep in mind these contest categories as you plan your costume:

- best duo/group
- best babies and tots 0-3
- best dressed pet
- most sustainable/creative/upcycled/recycled
- best traditional Halloween

Keep an eye on the Indianhead Lehigh Community Facebook page or your email for more details as the date approaches.

## Election Day Snack table

**What:** Welcome voters with coffee + snacks

**When:** Tuesday, November 5, 7am to 7pm

**Where:** Optimist Park

For Election day, Tuesday November 5, the IHLNA will host a Coffee + Snack table at Optimist Park to greet and chat with our neighbors who come down to vote.

We will be located near the baseball diamond, to comply with the rule requiring us to be located at least 150 ft away from the polling station.

The Neighborhood association will provide coffee, cups, cream and sugar. We will count on contributions from neighbors for the snacks. If you would like to sign up for a shift or to bring a snack to the table, please email [IndianheadLehighNA@gmail.com](mailto:IndianheadLehighNA@gmail.com) to let us know. We will also circulate a sign-up sheet online closer to the date.



## IHLNA General Meeting

**When:** Sunday, November 10, 5:00 pm

**Where:** Optimist Park Clubhouse

Indianhead-Lehigh neighbors are encouraged to attend the Neighborhood Association General Meeting on November 10. During the General Meeting, Board of Directors vacancies will be filled. Any member of the Neighborhood Association may self-nominate or be nominated by a board member. To learn about board participation, which involves a renewable, two-year term of office, contact the neighborhood association Board of Directors at [IndianheadLehighNA@gmail.com](mailto:IndianheadLehighNA@gmail.com).

After the election of Directors, neighbors will have an opportunity to share suggestions and concerns relating to the neighborhood.

At this year's General Meeting, we will hear a special presentation by Mark Wool, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service's Weather Forecast Office in Tallahassee. We look forward to hearing an explanation of what we experienced on May 10 from a meteorological perspective.

## Final Fridays

**What:** Potluck gathering once a month

**When:** Last Friday evening of the month

**Where:** Various hosts at their homes

Experience the vibrant camaraderie of our neighborhood through the Nene Final Friday parties! Each last Friday from September to May, a different neighbor hosts a casual get-together at their home.

These gatherings typically feature a potluck dinner and music. It's a fantastic way to unwind, catch up with friends, meet new neighbors, and enjoy the company of our diverse community.

To sign up to be a Nene Final Friday host or to find out when and where the next party will be hosted, please email Molly Jameson at [mcjam88@gmail.com](mailto:mcjam88@gmail.com). Information about upcoming parties will also get posted to the Indianhead Lehigh Community Facebook page.

# Rebuilding through Replanting

By Chase Brestle and  
Connie Bersok.  
Photos by Connie Bersok.

The tornadoes that tore through Tallahassee on May 10 were unprecedented for Leon County. The initial shock was pushed aside as we checked in on neighbors and dug out our chainsaws, then removed our broken trees and repaired our homes. Now we turn to our yards after a long hot summer and think about what's next.

One of the unique aspects of our neighborhood is the variety of habitats and wildlife. Replanting and rebuilding Indianhead habitat is an important task not just for us, but for future generations. We need to maintain a minimum 70% native plants to keep our local ecosystem functioning. Unfortunately, we lost a massive number of plants, specifically overstory trees, during that one short event.



*Native plants can be part of every layer in your landscape.*

*Drawing by Brian Bryson.*

insects, who are consumed by songbirds, whose young become food for oak snakes, who are preyed upon by hawks, and so forth. Similarly, berries and seeds of these plants support native birds and mammals alike. Some species are critical to the life cycle of pollinating insects and butterflies. It is a tightly and beautifully choreographed web of life.

What comes next will be multifaceted. First is to

prevent the establishment of non-native invasive plants. Those plants have few or no natural environmental controls and can replace the native plants. As such, they



*Hearts-a-bustin (Euonymus americanus)  
seeds and seed pods.*



*Ocala Anise (Illicium parviflorum)*

Why are native plants so important? These are the plants that evolved with our climate and soils, along with the insects, birds, and other wildlife. These are the plants whose leaves are chewed upon by a variety of

disrupt the native wildlife, too. These plants are especially adept at taking advantage of disturbed areas. Figure 1 (p.6) lists the most common invasive species in the 'hood. Of particular concern are tree species such as Camphor and Mimosa that can wind up replacing our native species. They are easy to remove physically when they are still young. Larger ones can be cut and then stump-painted with the herbicide triclopyr.



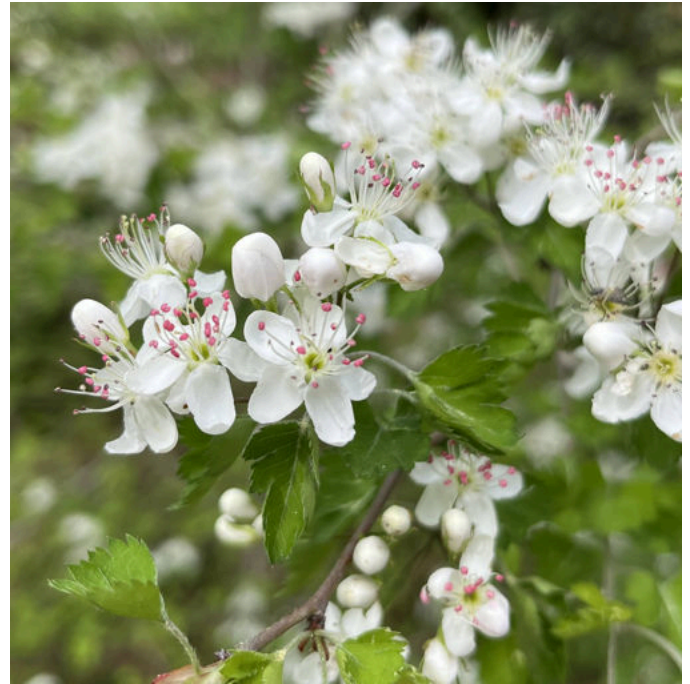
Next, determine the condition of your yard and your landscaping interest. You might need to replace a hedge, establish a more private setting, or want to re-establish some shade. There are many native plant options to match your aesthetics while also providing habitat. Figure 3 (p.7) lists some shrubs and understory trees that are often available, and when planted together, they can help replace your privacy barriers. Canopy or overstory trees that are both native and wind-resistant, listed in Figure 2 (p.6), will help you and future generations beat the summer heat.



*Live Oak (Quercus virginiana)*

If you are interested in some showy blooms, then Flatwoods plum, Red buckeye, Fringe tree, and Southern magnolia would be trees to look into. If your goal is a yard with colorful berries, then Hollies, Chokeberry, Arrowwood, Serviceberry, and Beautyberry would make great additions. Some of us love the beautiful colors of autumn, so adding deciduous trees that show a bit of fall color like Maples, Sassafras, Sourwood, and Blackgum could be the addition your yard needs. Some deciduous species also show off interesting bark texture and color in winter, as seen in Oak leaf hydrangea, Blue beech, and Sparkleberry. Evergreen shrubs such as Wax myrtle and Anise, along with

evergreen trees like Live oak and Red cedar, provide year-round shade and a visual screen.



*Parsley Hawthorn (Crataegus marshallii)*

Don't be afraid of overstory canopy trees! The key is to ensure that they are planted in a location with enough room to grow to maturity while being far enough away from homes and other structures so as not to pose a hazard for future generations.

If you have any questions about plant identification, visit your favorite nursery or reach out to our local Leon County IFAS Office at 615 Paul Russell Road. To continue learning about the importance of native trees, check out Dr. Douglas Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home* and Gil Nelson's *Best Native Landscape Plants for Southern Gardens*.

*Native Nurseries will be hosting an event at Koucky Park on Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 10 a.m. Neighbors Chase Brestle and Ben Wiggins, who work for Native Nurseries, will give a short talk on proper tree planting and the importance of native trees. Come out and help get Indianhead replanted the right way!*



*Red Maple (Acer rubrum)*

**Figure 1:  
REMOVE these  
non-native,  
invasive plants!**



Common Name	Botanical Name	Size
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Tree
Camphor Tree	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Tree
Chinese Tallow	<i>Triadica sebifera</i>	Tree
Heavenly bamboo	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Tree
Tung oil tree	<i>Vernicia fordii</i>	Tree
Coral Ardisia	<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	Shrub
Chinese Privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Shrub
Giant Taro	<i>Alocasia macrorrhizos</i>	Perennial
Wild Taro	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Perennial
Mexican petunia	<i>Ruellia simplex</i>	Perennial
Wedelia	<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>	Perennial
Wild Lantana	<i>Lantana strigocamara</i>	Perennial
Rose Glory hydrangea	<i>Clerodendrum bungei</i>	Perennial
Air-potato	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Vine
Skunk vine	<i>Paederia foetida</i>	Vine
Chinese wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Vine
Wandering spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Vine

**Invasive vines: bag and put in garbage!**

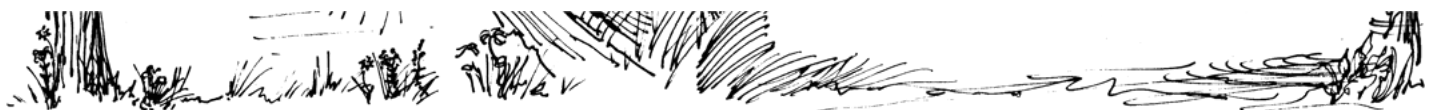
**Figure 2: Recommended native canopy trees**

Common Name	Botanical Name	Size	Leaves
Black gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	up to 100 ft	deciduous
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	up to 75 ft	deciduous
Shumard oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	up to 90 ft	deciduous
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	up to 80 ft	deciduous
Swamp chestnut oak	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	up to 80 ft	deciduous
Blackjack oak	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	up to 60 ft	deciduous
Pignut hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>	up to 90 ft	deciduous
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	up to 75 ft	deciduous
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	up to 75 ft	deciduous
American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	up to 60 ft	evergreen
East Palatka holly	<i>Ilex x attenuata</i>	up to 45 ft	evergreen
Live oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	up to 80 ft	evergreen
Sand live oak	<i>Quercus geminata</i>	up to 50 ft	evergreen
Sabal or Cabbage palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	up to 60 ft	evergreen
Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	up to 90 ft	evergreen



**Figure 3: Recommended native shrubs and understory trees**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical name</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Leaves</b>	<b>Sun</b>
Silver saw palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	shrub	evergreen	full sun
American beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	shrub	evergreen	full sun
Salt bush	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	shrub	deciduous	full sun
Elliott's blueberry	<i>Vaccinium elliotii</i>	shrub	deciduous	full sun
Simpson stopper	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	shrub	semi-evergreen	full or part sun
Wax myrtle	<i>Morella cerifera</i>	shrub	evergreen	full or part sun
Oak leaf hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	shrub	deciduous	full or part sun
Ocala anise	<i>Illicium parviflorum</i>	shrub	evergreen	part sun
Needle palm	<i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i>	shrub	evergreen	part sun
Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	shrub/small tree	deciduous	full sun
Deer berry	<i>Vaccinium stamineum</i>	shrub/small tree	deciduous	full or part sun
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	shrub/small tree	deciduous	full or part sun
Walters viburnum	<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	shrub/small tree	semi-evergreen	full or part sun
Yaupon holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	shrub/small tree	evergreen	full or part sun
Pipe stem aka Florida leucothoe	<i>Agarista populifolia</i>	shrub/small tree	evergreen	part sun
Florida anise	<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	shrub/small tree	evergreen	part sun
Arrow wood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	shrub/small tree	deciduous	part sun
Parsley hawthorn	<i>Crataegus marshallii</i>	tree, up to 25 ft	deciduous	full sun
Sparkle berry	<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	tree, up to 30 ft	deciduous	full sun
Fringe tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	tree, up to 30 ft	deciduous	full sun
Red bud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	tree, up to 35 ft	deciduous	full sun
Flatwoods plum	<i>Prunus umbellata</i>	tree, to up 20 ft	deciduous	full or part sun
Rusty blackhaw	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	tree, up to 25 ft	deciduous	full or part sun
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	tree, up to 35 ft	deciduous	full or part sun
Blue beech aka musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	tree, up to 30 ft	deciduous	full or part sun
Red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	tree, up to 35 ft	evergreen	full or part sun
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	tree, up to 30 ft	deciduous	full or part sun
Silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	tree, up to 30 ft	deciduous	part sun
Red buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	tree, up to 30 ft	deciduous	part sun
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	tree, up to 35 ft	deciduous	part sun
Witch hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	tree, up to 30 ft	deciduous	part sun



# What Just Happened? Phases of Disaster Recovery

By Mary Beth McBride

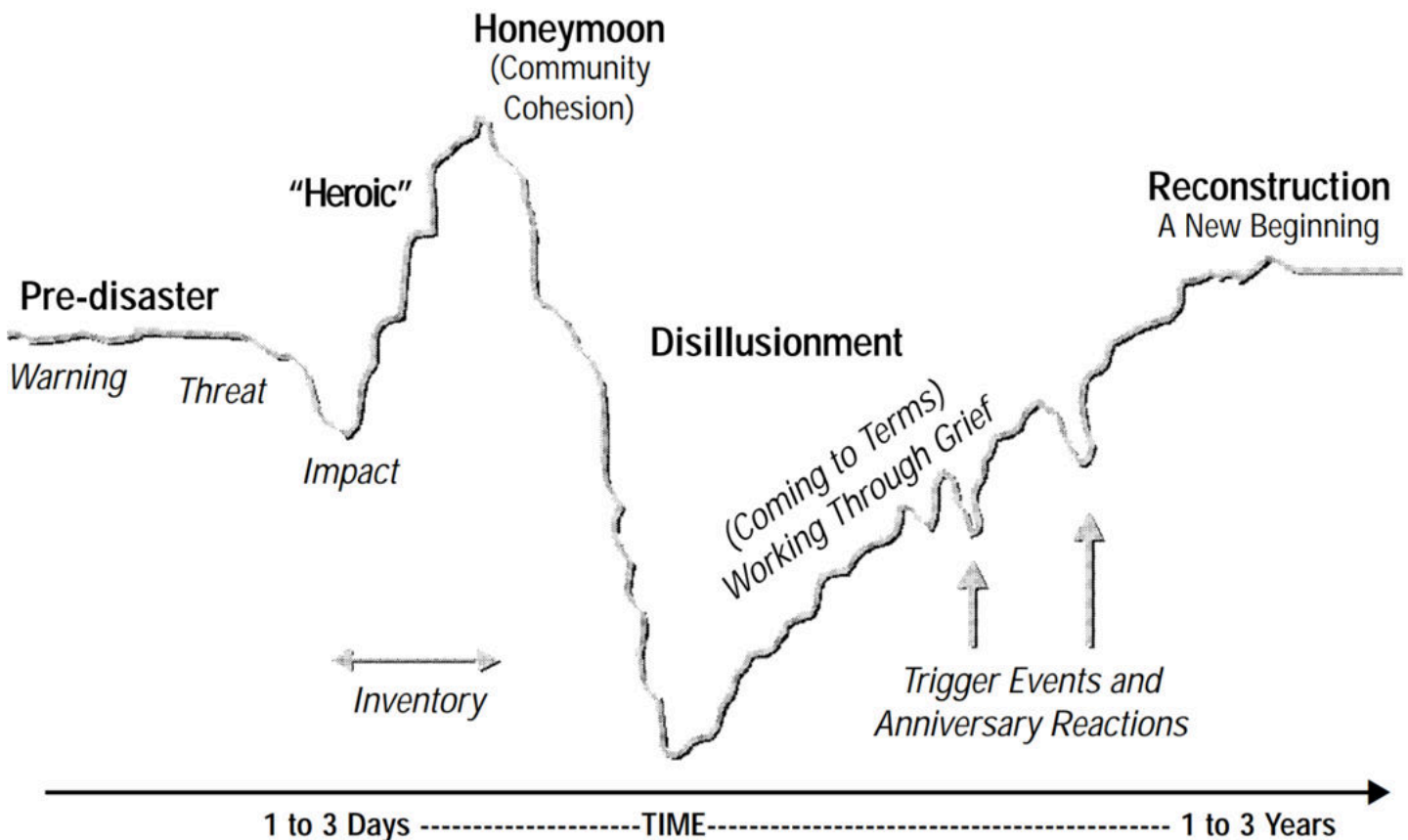
As I sat in Kat Figley's Disaster 101 presentation in her living room, gazing at the diagram below, a million pieces of scattered tornado bits fell into place. Oh, I thought, I've been through all of these, sometimes more than 1 phase in a minute. I've had the feeling of being on a roller coaster physically and emotionally. I don't like roller coasters. Considerations in our responses to a disaster include whether they are of natural or

## Warning or Threat Stage

We had no warning. The suddenness leaves a deep imprint of distress and loss of control.

## Impact Phase

The tornado impact was violent and destructive, with no slow buildup such as we have with hurricanes and floods. There was no time to prepare. We experienced being stunned, frightened, frozen, confused. There is a quick focus on immediate survival of self and others.



human causation, the personal impact involved, the size and scope of the disaster, the probability of recurrence, and the ongoing visual impact.

We can all fill in our own blanks for each of these. For me, the unexpectedness, the probability of recurrence and the ongoing visual impact are my personal stressors 5 months later.

Following are descriptions of the phases shown in the diagram—they rarely occur linearly, but overlap from minute to minute and day to day.

## Rescue or Heroic Phase

We will always remember our specific heroes who came to our rescue immediately: cutting through trees in the streets and to our doorways, walking and climbing over trees to check on someone on the other side of the hood, helping each other gather up belongings and get to a safe place, and those who cooked and fed us. This is an adrenaline fueled phase and is where post-disaster injuries often occur.

## Honeymoon Phase

In our neighborhood, I'd say this phase was in the first 2-6 weeks. Formal help arrived:



the Red Cross, FEMA assistance, FEMA trucks, and city crews were highly visible. Tree companies worked nonstop to free our houses of tree fall. The therapist community offered EMDR to help with psychological trauma. Community bonding was strong.

## Inventory Phase

Reality sets in. The extent of the damage is worse than we thought. We are actually not getting all that we need from insurance, FEMA, Red Cross, and other sources. The adrenaline has tanked, and we are exhausted.

## Disillusionment Phase

We feel abandoned. FEMA trucks stop picking up debris piles. We are on a contractor's long list, a tree company's long list, a roofer's long list. Don't they realize hurricane season is about to begin? We are struggling to figure out how to pay for all the cleanup and repairs. FEMA returns may be low; insurance estimates may be low. For many, every day begins with calls and ends with dead ends and bad news. Discord arises over shared neighbor boundaries and in families stressed to the max. The sun is blazingly hot without our trees, and our yards are wastelands of tree truck ruts. Some have relocated once and realize they will need to do so again. AND - the larger community has moved on. What tornado? What are you talking about? I felt isolated and different from the rest of the city—going up Thomasville Road felt like another planet. Grieving in waves began at this stage for me. The shock was finally wearing off.

## Recovery Phase

We are now entering a phase of realistic expectations about how long it will take to recover: not weeks, but months and years. The relief of seeing debris gone, the pounding sound of roof replacements finally replacing blue tarps, the sight of construction companies in various driveways - all are cause for cheer 5 months later. Looking more directly at our worst fears (losing our homes and our trees) and knowing we survived is recovery. Assessing how to harden our properties for future storms is recovery.

When I started to understand these waves of the post disaster experience, I truly began my recovery. No longer tossed around by the intense emotions of panic, overwhelm, and confusion, this framework will serve me

well, now and in the future. I can pace myself; I can take rests. I feel more able to support my community in recovery. This is post-traumatic growth, and it is growth towards resiliency, community, and neighborly care. We are ready for whatever comes next. I hope it's just the next Nene Fest!!

*Primary Source: "The Training Manual for Mental Health and Human Service Workers in Major Disasters"*



# After Tornadoes, Bats Find New Home in Indianhead

*By Thomas H. Eason, Neighbor and Wildlife Biologist with over 30 years of experience*

In a testament to nature's resilience, hundreds of Brazilian free-tailed bats have recently made a new home in a bat house located on West Indianhead Drive. This unexpected development followed damage caused by the two tornadoes that swept through our neighborhood earlier this year.

Brazilian free-tailed bats (scientific name *Tadarida brasiliensis*), known for their remarkable agility and speed, are an essential part of the local ecosystem. These bats are nocturnal insectivores, consuming vast quantities of insects each night which helps curb mosquitoes and other pests in the area. Their sudden relocation to a previously installed bat house on West Indianhead Drive not only highlights their adaptability but underscores the importance of bat conservation efforts.

The tornadoes that impacted the community likely led to the loss of roosting sites used by the bats. The loss of these roosts could have had severe consequences for the local bat population, disrupting their breeding cycles and feeding patterns. However, the vacant bat house on West Indianhead appears to have provided a timely and effective solution.

Bat houses, designed to mimic natural roosting sites, offer a safe and stable environment for bats to rest and rear their young. The timing of this relocation was particularly fortuitous as the bats were currently in their breeding season. The bat house's structure provides them with the room and protection needed to raise their young in safety. The presence of hundreds of bats in this new roost is gratifying to the homeowners who installed the bat house after they moved in nearly a decade ago. It is common for bats to take years to occupy a new structure. The maternity-size bat house can hold up to 1,100 bats and was built and installed by Fly By Night, Inc. of Osteen FL.

The homeowners and neighbors have been fascinated by the sudden influx of bats, often observing them in the evening as they emerge from their new home. Seeing them swoop down out of the bat house, swirl around the front yard, and then fly out into the neighborhood to forage for insects is exciting and fun. They emerge at sunset, flying out in groups of 5-20 at a time. This spectacle not only serves as a reminder of

the area's rich natural diversity but also provides a unique opportunity for residents to learn more about these beneficial animals. Neighbors are encouraged to view the bats from a distance and respect their space.

The arrival of hundreds of Brazilian free-tailed bats at the bat house is a heartening development in the aftermath of the tornadoes and is a positive step toward ensuring their continued presence in our community. This event underscores the resilience of wildlife and reminds us that we too are resilient and adaptable to altered conditions after the tornadoes. The bat house stands as a symbol of hope for both the bats and people of Indianhead Acres and Lehigh.





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# Free Trees! City Offer for Reforestation

By Gordon L. Magill

Photos courtesy of City of Tallahassee

Calling all Indianhead-Lehigh neighbors who lost trees in the May tornadoes and want to re-plant trees on their lot!

here. Actual tree selection at the time of application will depend on supply and demand.

Neighbors must complete a short application to be eligible to receive the trees. The



*Black Gum*  
(*Nyssa sylvatica*)



*East Palatka Holly*  
(*Ilex x attenuata*)



*Southern Red Cedar*  
(*Juniperus silicicola*)

The City of Tallahassee Community Beautification Department, through an enhanced Adopt-A-Tree program, will provide trees to any Indianhead-Lehigh property owner who lost trees or was otherwise impacted by the tornadoes. The



*American Hornbeam*  
(*Carpinus caroliniana*)

city will offer up to five trees per household, to be distributed and planted beginning in December. Trees will come in 15-gallon pots and will be planted by Adopt-A-Tree crew. It is hoped that the trees, which are between 4 and 7 feet in height, will gain height and offer shade cover more quickly than smaller

trees. Planting will occur this winter when temperatures are cooler.

Trees must be planted in the front or side yard and be within 100 feet of the nearest road's centerline. Planting crews will select the best locations that comply with the City planting criteria.

The tree species currently under consideration for planting are pictured

program application process is open now. Applications must be submitted by November 30. The sooner you apply, the more likely you are to get the trees that you want. Delivery and planting will be from early December 2024 through February 21, 2025.

Anyone interested should visit the City of Tallahassee 2024/2025 Adopt a Tree Program web page: <https://talgov.com/sustainability/adoptatree>. Don't confuse the Leon County Adopt-A-Tree program with the one offered by the City of Tallahassee.



*Southern Magnolia*  
(*Magnolia grandiflora*)



# Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes (N3)

*By Nancy Gines*

Happy fall y'all from your friends at Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes!

Wow, so far this has been a very active 2024 for our organization. This past January, Betsy Tabac, founder of N3, announced that she was retiring from her position as president of the board of directors. Betsy's tireless dedication to, and love for, our neighborhood residents has been the driving force of N3 since its inception in 2017. Betsy remains a dedicated N3 volunteer, providing guidance and compassion just like she always has.

N3 is delighted to report that we now have a new board of directors which has hit the ground running. This board will continue to oversee services to our 65+ elderly residents so they can safely remain in their homes and in our neighborhood.

New board members include Nancy Gines, Connie Beane, Rosie Mintern, Kat Milla, and Eddie Gines, along with previously serving members Sonia Crockett and Janice Hartwell. Our focus is on increasing our organization's presence and accessibility within Indianhead-Lehigh.

N3's purpose and mission revolve around a collective of vetted volunteers, the majority of whom reside in our neighborhood. Their services are designed to help keep residents over 65 years old in their own homes. Examples of N3's most used services include general yard work and transportation (grocery, pharmacy, doctor visits...) at no cost to our client neighbors. Smaller services include friendly phone calls to check in with elderly neighbors, and help with technical support for computers and other electronic devices.

The impact of this grass-roots organization is evident in the following stories:

An N3 board member had a doctor's appointment. The doctor noticed the patient's address was in the Indianhead/Lehigh area and mentioned that some time back, the office had a client who needed a simple surgery. It was one of those surgeries where the patient is in for an hour or two and then back home. The problem was that the client's family was not available to drive, and the patient's sight was so bad they could not see to drive. This particular patient did not trust public transportation either, which is not so unusual among seniors.

The doctor made a phone call, and within a few days the patient received a visit from one of the N3 volunteer coordinators. After signing up for service, the patient had the surgery. The doctor was delighted, reporting that "It was a perfect fit because the client was able to get help and make some very dear friends in the process."

Another N3 highlight revolves around a person moving into our neighborhood because of N3. One of our volunteer coordinators was interviewing a new volunteer who is also a new resident in the neighborhood. The new volunteer said one of the reasons they decided to buy in our neighborhood was the presence of the N3 organization. The idea that folks who live here care enough about each other that they volunteer their time and effort really had an influence on them—enough to make our neighborhood the place they wanted to call home.

It is not all work and no play for the N3 Board of Directors. The board hosted a volunteer appreciation BBQ in late June and provided dishes, door prizes, and oodles of appreciation for our dynamic volunteers.

Want to find us? Website is <https://aginginneneland.org>. To reach out for assistance or to volunteer your time, talents, and skills, please contact us via email: [info@aginginneneland.org](mailto:info@aginginneneland.org). Or call 850-901-7818.



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# Get To Know Your Neighbor

*A New Column Featuring Neighbors Giving Back*

*By Samantha “Bee” Blaykworth*

In this first installment of “Get to Know Your Neighbor”, meet Laura Nicole Floyd, a vibrant heart of our neighborhood's artistic community! She's the creative genius behind the main illustrations for the last two Nene Fests, crafting designs that have adorned T-shirts and promotional materials—completely out of her love for the neighborhood. You may also remember the clever “I survived Nene-nado, and all I got was this t-shirt” design, which she whipped up after the tornadoes, providing a little humor and unity during a challenging time.



But Laura's contributions to our community go far beyond art. If you've attended one of her “Donation Yoga @ Optimist Park” sessions, you've likely experienced her infectious enthusiasm firsthand. For the past 2.5 years, Laura has been leading these yoga classes under our neighborhood's sweet, beautiful oak tree—a perfect setting to unwind and connect with fellow residents.



Whether you're a seasoned yogi or just beginning, Laura's classes are welcoming to all ages and skill levels, making them a wonderful way to gather and spend time together positively. Laura's talents have also made our

streets safer with her latest project: the “SLOW DOWN” signs. These eye-catching designs are now proudly displayed on yard signs and reflective vests, helping to keep our neighborhood safe. And guess what? She donated the vest design to the neighborhood association, once again showing her dedication to our community.



And if you're interested in more signs, Laura has them for sale—so don't hesitate to support a neighbor who's always giving back, often with a smile and a touch of humor!

*To nominate someone that you want to see appreciated, please email [samantha.buzzybee@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.buzzybee@gmail.com) with their name, why they should be nominated, and how to contact them.*





## Calling Nene Bird Nerds of All Ages

**What:** Birds—watching, identifying, and attracting

**When:** Saturday, November 16, 3:00

**Where:** 2029 Chowkeebin Nene

Perhaps you began paying more attention to the birds in your yard and neighborhood during the COVID outbreak. If you did, you were not alone—birdwatching grew considerably during those years of quarantining, social distancing, and fearing for our health and safety. It is not a surprise that people found, and continue to find, peace and contentment in birdwatching, as many recent studies have revealed that spending time in nature is beneficial for our mental and physical health.

If you are fond of birdwatching, want to meet other neighbors who enjoy this hobby, and wish to learn more about the birds in Nene Land, consider joining us on **Saturday, November 16, at 3:00 p.m.** at the Neidert-Smith home—2029 Chowkeebin Nene. Nene resident Jim Cox, biologist and recently retired director of the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station, will inform neighbors about the types of birds seen in the Nenes, the basics of bird identification, and ways to attract birds to your yard. Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a camp chair (no worries if you don't have any of these!).



*Mixing types of bird feeders enhances the diversity attracted. Photo by Jim Cox.*

A stylized illustration of a piano keyboard. The keys are represented by black and white rectangles, and the keyboard is shown from a perspective that makes it look like it's curving upwards. Blue musical notes of various shapes are floating around the keyboard. The background is a light blue with a subtle pattern.

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The Kant Realty logo features a green house icon with palm trees and the text 'Kant Realty of North Florida' and 'A four generation Real Estate Family since 1932'. Below the logo are two headshots: Terry Anne Kant on the left and Sharon Kant-Rauch on the right. Both are smiling and wearing professional attire.

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## Fairview Middle School – Where Futures Take Flight

*By Cameron Thompson, IB Prep Coordinator*

You may know that Fairview Middle School, on Zillah Street, is our neighborhood school for youth in 6th-8th grades, but what else do you know about Fairview? It is a school where "Futures Take Flight." Fairview is home to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Prep program, an accelerated curriculum that promotes a well-rounded education.



At Fairview, students are involved in athletics, jazz and symphonic band, orchestra, chorus, drama, and academic and service clubs. IB Prep students enjoy a family atmosphere. Students at each grade level share a core team of teachers who work together to ensure the transitions between school levels are as smooth as possible. Teachers plan together to establish cross-curricular themes and units. The program is led by a dedicated magnet coordinator who works daily with IB Prep students and families to ensure their success. Morning and afternoon transportation is provided for all IB Prep Magnet students from any home in Leon County.

Students in IB Prep are academically competitive at the state and national levels. For example, Fairview is home to the 9-time MATHCOUNTS Florida State champions, multiple 1st place trophies from our Mu Alpha Theta teams, and six 1st place medals at the Science Olympiad Regional competitions. We are also home to many district championship sports teams.

No matter your child's area of interest, we will prepare them for all higher-level educational endeavors here at Fairview's IB Prep Magnet program. We'd love for you to join us at our Open Houses on **Saturday, January 25th, 2025**, and **Saturday, February 1st, 2025**, where you can check out more about our program. We also have shadowing available for students interested in Fairview's IB Program to see what a day in the life of a Fairview IB Prep student is like—sign-ups begin in December. See our website for more information. <https://www.leonschools.net/domain/9498>.

## The Real Estate Market in Indianhead/Lehigh

*By Terry Anne Kant-Rauch*

I am frequently asked what I think is going on in Tallahassee/Indianhead real estate. The real answer is "I have no idea," because so many factors are involved.

I'm observing sellers pricing their homes a bit higher than the market, resulting in longer times to sell and/or more concessions to make to buyers. Most sellers are not getting pre-list inspections, and big issues on older homes often pop up unexpectedly, which leads to more price adjusting or tanked sales, even for well-maintained homes. Obtaining insurance for an older home can also be an issue. However, Indianhead/Lehigh remains a popular area and well-priced homes without insurance issues sell pretty quickly.

For a review of Indianhead/Lehigh specifically, here is information gleaned from CATRS/Tallahassee Board of Realtors MLS: From mid-September 2022 – mid-September 2023:

- 33 homes sold in Indianhead/Lehigh
- Days on Market average: 21. Range: 1-124
- Average list price: \$266,573. Range: \$160,000-410,000
- Average sales price: \$268,060. Range: \$140,000-398,500

From mid-September 2023 – mid-September 2024:

- 28 homes sold in Indianhead/Lehigh
- Average days on market: 52. Range: 2-201
- Average list price: \$262,533. Range: \$65,000-375,000
- Average sales price: \$256,083. Range: \$61,000-365,000

Many variables, like the condition of the home, updates, floor plans, garage, pool, etc., get factored into the price. Indianhead/Lehigh has an incredible range of homes. Most neighborhoods reflect a consistent pattern of construction. No one can say we are a cookie cutter neighborhood!

*Terry Anne Kant-Rauch is the owner and Broker of Kant Realty of North Florida. She and her wife Sharon are 34+ year residents of Indianhead and can't imagine living anywhere else.*

## Your IHLNA officers

IHLNA president and VP: duties of these offices are currently shared by several directors.

IHLNA Treasurer: Melissa Farley

IHLNA Corresponding Secretary: Marie-Claire Leman

IHLNA Recording Secretary: John Tomasino

IHLNA directors: Ashley Arrington, Katie Clark, Jason Khan-Hohensee, Doug Martin, Gordon Magill, Ceci Michelotti, Edward Reid, KC Smith, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley, Eli Wilkins-Malloy

Contact point for IHLNA officers and directors is IndianheadLehighNA@gmail.com.

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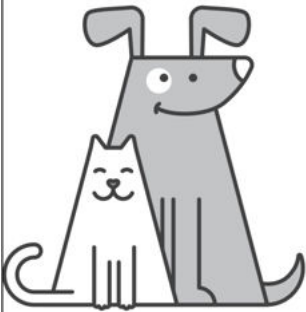


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