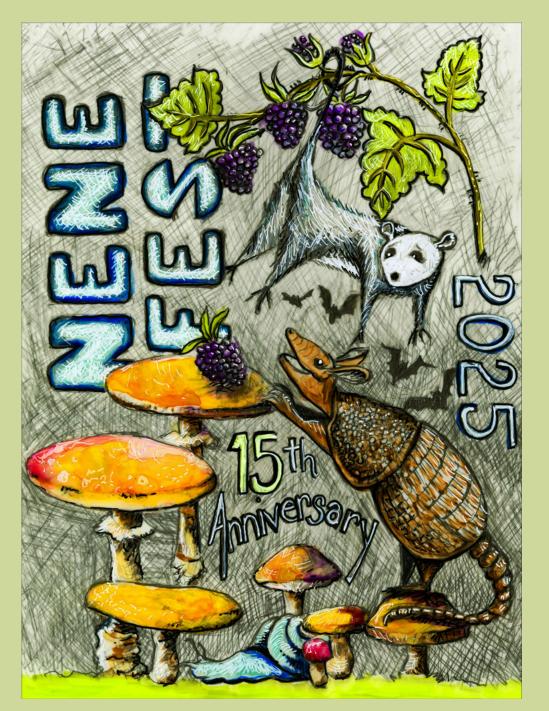


MORABEAD REMIGION NEVO



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15th Anniversary of Nene Fest

By The Nene Fest Planning Committee Cover drawing by Laura Nicole Floyd Spots in this issue by Laura Nicole Floyd Photos by Bob O'Lary except as noted

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Nene Fest, our neighborhood festival for neighbors, by neighbors. The very first Nene Fest took place at Optimist Park on May 9, 2009 and has been a cherished annual spring tradition ever since, with the exception of 2020 and 2021 due to Covid. A group of neighbors, many of whom are still involved today, worked together to create the original vision for Nene Fest:

Nene-fest is a participatory music and art festival featuring giant puppets. Rooted in a DIY (do it yourself) philosophy and a loose policy of "No Spectators," Nenefest celebrates the talent and diversity of our neighborhood in an afternoon and evening of collective mischief aimed at freeing the muse. From performance art to a community puppet show, Nene-fest has something for all ages.



Neighbors Belong Together! Original puppets Fanny Mae and Matilda Jane reappear in Puppet Show 2019.



Signpost made by Charity Myers for Nene Fest 2015



The original Nene Fest stage, 2009 Photo by Marie-Claire Leman



Gorgoglia: The Book of Love, Nene Fest 2023



The ever-popular tie-dye booth, 2019



Stage with backdrops from Hartsfield in 2019



Lasagna dinners, with sides of bread and salad made with love by neighbors, 2016

From the start, the event included all the elements you've come to expect year after year: music, food, dancing, puppet show, booths and activities, t-shirts, and a shared sense of community and celebration of our neighborhood and its many talented residents. It's that showcase of local talent and initiatives that makes each Nene Fest unique.



Giant bubbles featured in 2016



Along with featuring the musical talent of the neighborhood, Nene Fest centers around the participatory puppet show, inspired by recent local events and contemporaneous political context, aiming to bring neighbors together through humor and finding joy in our strength as a caring community.



Puppet Epoc-Eclipse! The Board of Grovelers, 2024



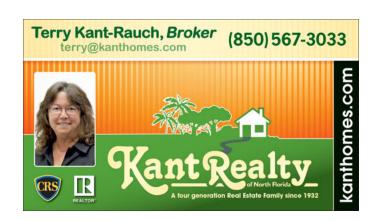
Ms Mossy, 2017



Mastering the Puppet Master: The Grand Poohbah, 2015



Hurricane puppet, 2016





Climate Refugee: The Barracuda and the Hurricane, 2017



Meanie Nene with kids in 2011



Puppet show ends with a full audience dance party, 2015



Waking up to Love! The Love Rocket, 2018

Arts, Crafts, and Small Businesses Showcase

Nene Fest is hyper focused on the local and is a great opportunity for neighborhood artisans, artists, crafters, businesses, and organizations to share information about their organization, promote their services, or sell handmade products.



Booths in 2022

Join us this year! We look forward to sharing this year's anniversary festivities with you and we welcome any and all participation and contribution to help make our 15th Nene Fest truly for neighbors, by neighbors.

Nene Fest 2025

When: Sunday, April 27, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. (the day AFTER the 5K Race and Fun Run)

Where: Optimist Park.

4:00 Music starts
Nene merchandise table opens
Art and business booths open
5:00 Nene Grill and Dessert Table open
7:15 Puppet show

A more detailed schedule—as well as prices of merchandise and food—will be shared via the Facebook group "Indianhead Lehigh Community", monthly email, and neighborhood website: ihlna.org/nene-fest.

NeneFestSignup to let us know how you would like to contribute or participate.
Contact festival organizers at IndianheadLehighNA@gmail.com with any questions or ideas.

Nene Café becomes Nene Grill

The Nene Café has evolved over the years. From pure potluck to a hybrid model, it has always come together beautifully thanks to the dedication and hard work of organizers and contributors alike. It is definitely a case of many hands making light work as well as the whole being better than the sum of the parts.



Sweets prepared by our talented bakers for the dessert table, inspiring donations that help cover the cost of the Fest. 2024



Nowadays, we have our own BBQ Master who devotes himself to grilling while a team of volunteers serves sides donated by neighbors. 2024



10th Anniversary of Nene Fest 5K Race and Fun Run



Fun Run start

2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the Saturday morning 5K and creek trail Fun Run in conjunction with Nene Fest. Since it was inaugurated by Mike and Jessica Kennett in 2014, the race has been a fun and energetic way for neighbors to come together on Nene Fest morning (and enjoy Marie-Claire's homemade bagels). Orchard Pond now

supplies the prize honey, replacing the Nene honey originally provided by our very own neighborhood beekeeper, Michael Callen, whom we all miss. The race now runs in two directions. If you haven't run or walked the event before, this anniversary year is a great time to give it a try.

From the very start, the race has benefited Hartsfield Elementary School. Proceeds from the run go directly to the Hartsfield Elementary PTO to help fund field trips, support classroom

needs, celebrate the teachers, and fund school-wide social and cultural activities. Over the years, we have been able to count on the commitment and support of many sponsors, including Kant Realty, Graham Duffy, Dender Remodeling and Construction, as well as neighborhood-adjacent businesses like Fiorini Chiropractic Center, Awards4U,

Lucilla, Just Fruits and Exotics, and Sandra's Flower Basket. Their generosity, year after year, is so appreciated by both race organizers and Hartsfield Elementary. Neighbors have also helped to make the race a success by running, sponsoring, and volunteering!

Nene Fest 5K Race & Fun Run 2025

When: Saturday, April 26, 2025 (the day BEFORE Nene Fest)

Registration: from 6:45 to 8:00 a.m.

Start: 5K at 8:00 a.m.; Fun Run at 9:00 a.m.

Details at ihlna.org/nene-fest-5k-fun-run. Register for the 5K Race or the Fun Run. Sign up to volunteer during the race.



You can also register on race day at Optimist Park, starting at 6:45 a.m. For questions about the race contact Marie-Claire Leman at (850) 728-7514 or marieclaireleman@gmail.com.



Our Mid-Century Modern Homes



Low pitch roof and skinny tubular steel Lally columns provide structural support on porch. Often seen as supports on carports also.

Text and photos by Linda Meadows

There are specific styles and features that define mid-century modern (MCM) homes besides the timeframe in which they were built—1950-1960. These styles and features incorporate minimalism, geometric lines, and absence of ornamentation resulting in a simple, contemporary look. Aspects of the typical MCM aesthetic are blended in a variety of combinations.

MCM-designed homes were featured in the First Tallahassee Parade of Homes held in

1954 sponsored by the Tallahassee Home Builder's Association. Popularity of the modern designs interested buyers throughout the city.

National magazines of the 1950s, like Better Homes and

Gardens, helped spread the popularity of MCM designs. The simplicity of the designs was a solution for building economically and expeditiously. The style took off mostly in California and Florida and was especially well-suited to warmer climates. Flat or lowpitch roofs with broad over-hangs blocked the summer sun, and clerestory and

jalousie windows facilitated cross ventilation, as home air-conditioning was not yet widespread. California and Florida designs have slightly different looks reflecting the local vernacular.

There is a burgeoning interest in preserving and renovating Tallahassee's MCM homes. as is evident when driving through the neighborhoods where these homes exist. Indianhead has a high concentration of MCM homes, and smaller clusters exist in other neighborhoods including Waverly Hills, Betton Hills, Country Club

Estates, Forest Heights/Holly Hills, Osceola Heights, and Apalachee Ridge.

Today's Indianhead MCM homes embody a variety of conditions. Some have been

restored to reflect their original architectural integrity while others were renovated in ways that hide their original features.

The Koucky home on Atapha Nene, built in 1950, was recently renovated using the original plans. Mr. Koucky built an estimated 200 homes in Indianhead. In the 1950s, he

Minimalism, geometric lines, and absence of ornamentation



Minimalism and geometric lines create a contemporary look. Breeze blocks provide a landscaping backdrop.



Butterfly roof with gutter drainage between the wings. Simple, clean lines.

advertised modern contemporary homes on 100' x 180' lots in Indianhead for \$13,500 to \$17,000 with GI financing at 5% down. President Franklin Roosevelt signed the GI Bill in 1944 authorizing the Veterans Administration to provide low-interest mortgage loans to returning WWII veterans.

A city-wide survey titled "Mid-Century Modern: Post World War II Residential Architecture in Tallahassee" was conducted in 2003 by the Florida State Archives, Office of Historic Preservation. This survey was done in relation to a home located on Paul Russell Road built in 1956. The house was listed in the National Register of Historical Places in 1998 based on the belief that it was designed by Walter Gropius, an international designer and great master architect of MCM designs of the 20th century. After a challenge to this claim, and lack of proof of the designer, the certification was rescinded.

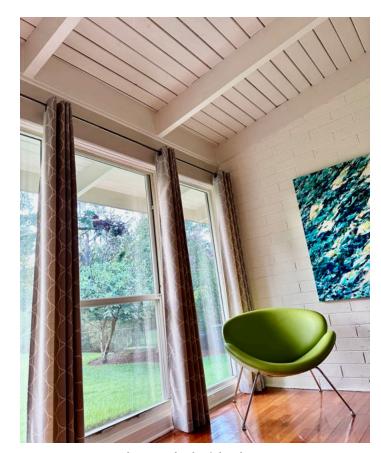
Gropius was commissioned by the City of Tallahassee in 1956 to design a downtown multi-use cultural center. Gropius's design was rejected by the voters and never built. Thus, the city passed on the opportunity to have a public building designed by one of the great masters.

Frank Lloyd Wright was a well-known architect of the MCM movement. The only private residence of his design in Florida is in Tallahassee. His design of Spring House, for Clifton and George Lewis, was built in 1954. The residence was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in February 1979 and offers tours-see preservespringhouse. org.





The Koucky house circa 1950, from an old album of uncertain provenance. Photograph by Charles P. Walker, probably at George Koucky's behest.



Large overhangs help block summer sun. Window wall runs the length of the entire room. Cathedral ceiling with exposed beams and tongue and groove decking. Ocala block is a structural component on outside wall.

Snow

by Katie Clark

It is 35° The clouds are heavy with anticipation Snow is in the air Will it snow? It sleets as we go to sleep The Sun rises A winter wonderland! All white as far as I can see My car is frozen over Not going anywhere fast I make a snowman And snow angels My dog plays in the snow And fetches ice from frozen puddles How long will the snow last? No one knows But it will be remembered from generations to come



Snow Angel Photo by Kelsea Clark

I have a dream

By Katie Clark

I have a dream A dream of snow in Florida Not just a dusting But a full dousing Bring out the hat scarves and gloves Let the creation of snowman commence And snow angels Oh what fun! I have a dream A dream of equality of the Of equal power of women What a great day that would be! 28th amendment states Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

I have a dream
I dream of equal
opportunity no matter
the race
Equality in the workforce
Equality in housing
In the words of Dr Martin
Luther King
"that all men — yes, Black
men as well as white
men — would be
guaranteed the
unalienable rights of life,
liberty and the pursuit of
happiness."

These dreams few but mighty

If we share these dreams They're sure to come to fruition

Black History month

By Katie Clark From the slave ships of 1692 To the civil Rights era of the Black history should be taught Lest it be forgot Ida Wells, bless her soul Established the NAACP George Washington Carver worked tirelessly on the development of hundreds of applications for new plants Ruby Bridges at the age of 6 Help to desegregate an Elementary school Thurgood Marshall was a great lawyer And the first black man on the supreme court The disappearance of diversity equity and inclusion Should worry you Protest its disappearance



Diversity matters

People of color matter

Life Coaching Dream Analysis Ceremonies

Katherine Milla 850-345-7505, katmilla@protonmail.com



Get to Know Your Neighbor: John "Juancho" Robertson

By Samantha "Bee" Blaykworth

If you've spent any time in Indianhead-Lehigh, chances are you've crossed paths with John Oliver Robertson—though around here, he's better known as Juancho. A resident of our neighborhood for the past 15 years, Juancho has made his mark in ways

both humorous and heartfelt, from lighthearted event support to deep, long-term commitment to causes that help others move through life—literally.

Juancho insists he doesn't get any insider perks despite being married to Melissa Farley, our neighborhood association's treasurer (a fact he considers deeply unfair!), but that hasn't stopped him from pitching in where needed. He's played the role of grill chauffeur for Nene Fest, dramatically hamming up what he admits was an easy job. He's also braved the earlymorning hours to cheer on Nene Fest 5K runnersthough he vows never to do that again.

But beyond the neighborhood, Juancho's true passion lies in making

transportation more accessible. For years, he's been a dedicated supporter of Bicycle House, a local nonprofit that provides bikes to those in need. In addition to monthly contributions, he also lends his expertise in board governance and development, helping the organization thrive. "Helping people get to work and move about town safer and faster helps all of us," he says.

When he's not improving mobility in the community, you might catch Juancho strumming guitar and writing songs for Squirrel Bullet, his "naive folk-punk" duo. He warns against attending their rare live shows—something about maintaining

exclusivity—but the mystery only adds to the intrigue.

Juancho's love for Indianhead runs deep, from the red-berried plants he admires on daily walks to gathering around his front yard fire pit with friends—always responsibly, of course. He's also a lover of the Apalachicola National Forest, which brought him back after years of wandering, and he holds a special place in his heart for restaurants Azu Lucy Ho's on casual days and Bella Bella when the occasion calls for it. And, as expected, his favorite neighborhood tradition is Nene Fest—because, really, what

else could it be?

For those looking to support the causes Juancho is passionate about, here are two. Bicycle House provides access to bicycles and bicycle education to those who need it. They are going through major reorganization and are always in need of donations (bicyclehouse.org). Also see his work with Capital City Youth Services, which helps provide critical support for kids and families in crisis (ccys.org).

And if you're just curious about what's on Juancho's mind, you can check out his blog at bigringcircus.com, where he occasionally writes about—well, whatever moves him.

So next time you see Juancho around the neighborhood, whether he's

grilling, biking, or just enjoying the scenery, be sure to say hello. Just don't ask him to wake up early for another Nene Fest 5K.



John "Juancho" Robertson Photo by Melissa Farley



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Get to Know Your Neighbor: Nicolette Castagna

By Samantha "Bee" Blaykworth

For the past nine years, Nicolette Castagna has been a part of the Indianhead-Lehigh community, bringing her passion for healthy aging, mental health, and community connection to both her work and daily life. If you haven't met her yet, chances are you or someone you know has already benefited from the initiatives she's been involved in—

whether it's through dementia awareness, mental health support, or community education.

Nicolette is deeply committed to improving the lives of older adults and their caregivers. Through her work at FSU's College of Medicine Department of Geriatrics, she helps strengthen healthcare and support systems, especially in rural North Florida. She's currently working with Florida's libraries and transit agencies to make them more dementia-friendly, ensuring that individuals with memory challenges can navigate public spaces with greater ease. She also co-chairs the Big Bend Dementia Care and Cure Initiative, where she advocates for better education and resources for caregivers and first responders.

Closer to home, Nicolette serves as a mental health counselor at the Tallahassee Senior Center's UPSLIDE Program, where she helps older adults combat social isolation, loneliness, and depression. She provides free individual counseling and facilitates a weekly Friends Connection group—work that has already impacted over 500 older adults. The program was even recognized nationally, receiving an innovation award from the National Council on Aging.

What inspired Nicolette to dedicate her career to this work? Simply put, she has always loved learning from older generations and feels a deep sense of responsibility to

ensure they receive the care, dignity, and respect they deserve. "I deeply care about other people's well-being," she says. "I'm trying to help meet the true need for improvements in care and supports for our communities' older adults and those that care for them.

Beyond her professional life, Nicolette has another role she's most proud of—being a mom. She and her husband welcomed their now 19-month-old "wild child", and they've been balancing parenthood with their careers ever since.

Nicolette is a live music enthusiast, and if there's a good show at the Adderley Amphitheater, you'll proba-

bly catch her dancing her heart out (as long as she can find a babysitter!). In fact, she even danced on stage with The Beach Boys when they performed at Cascades Park—a claim to fame she's rightfully proud of!

When she's looking for a quieter escape, Nicolette heads to the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, a place she fell in love with during her college years. It's not just a beautiful retreat it also holds special meaning for her, as it's where she got engaged in 2020 and where she's recently developed a growing love for birdwatching.

As for what she loves most about Indianhead? The trails n Harrell and the strong community spirit, where "sharing is caring" isn't just a saying—it's a way of life.



Nicolette Castagna Photo by Justin Harrell

How You Can Support Nicolette's Work

If you're interested in learning more about the programs Nicolette is involved in, visit REACH.med.fsu.edu for information on geriatrics workforce training. You can check out the UPSLIDE Program at the Tallahassee Senior Center, which offers valuable mental health support for older adults.

Next time you see Nicolette around the neighborhood—whether she's dancing, birdwatching, or enjoying a walk on the trails—be sure to say hello! She's always ready to connect, share resources, and help build up the community she loves.

Worm Farming has Earth-Friendly Benefits

Well-mixed worm bed can

have coir, sphagnum moss,

shredded paper, leaves.

Photo by Tamara Burns

By Gordon Magill

With Earth Day upon us, maybe it's time to think about earthworm farming. Worm farming is called "vermicomposting."

Vermicomposting, even with one bin of worms, can shrink our vegetable food waste by at least 50%, reduce smells in the kitchen, and allows year-round composting, even indoors, of vegetable food waste. If this sounds very environmentally friendly and sustainable, it is!

I've been vermicomposting for about two years. My worms consume two-thirds of the organic garbage that my wife and I create from our culinary activities. Our weekly garbage bag output has gone from about four bags to less than two. Every six months, aided by mesophilic organisms, my worms produce at least ten pounds of "castings" or worm poon. Dried

"castings" or worm poop. Dried, these castings make excellent fertilizer for house and garden plants.

I began vermicomposting when a friend gave me a couple hundred "red wigglers" (*Eisenia fetida*) which are the most popular composting worms. There are several other varieties of worms excellent for composting organic materials too. My friend showed me how to make "bedding" for my worm bin by shredding damp newspaper, then adding some sphagnum moss and coir, or coconut fiber, plus some dry leaves and garden soil. I

Make a worm bin from an opaque heavy plastic bin with ventilation holes drilled near the rim, 21" L x 14" W x 9". Photo by Gordon Magill

added about two cubic feet of these materials to a large opaque or dark plastic storage bin (see photo). Several rows of 1/8" holes drilled just below the rim of the plastic bin allow plenty of air to reach the worms. This is very important. I also keep a snug lid on the

worm bin, but you can cover the bin with old towels as well. If the worms are kept in the dark, they will stay in your worm farm bin.

What to feed your worms? Easy. Composting

worms will ingest most fruits and vegetable waste. Chop large pieces into 1-inch or smaller chunks. Foods can include lettuce, broccoli, cucumber, tomato, corn, greens, watermelon, grapes, blueberries, other fruits. Banana peels torn into narrow strips are especially popular with worms. They like moderate amounts of cooked foods such as potatoes, pasta, grains, coffee grounds, and old bread or toast. Too much water from cooked foods or coffee grounds will make your worm soil wet and muddy. Dry, crumbled eggshells are excellent for maintaining a slightly alkaline pH in the worm soil. Add these regularly!

After about six months of feeding your worms, they will

have produced lots of castings. Your worms will need to be separated from the rich compost in the bin and transferred to a clean bin with fresh "bedding." Then the whole process begins again. You may then have two

bins of worms. All composting worms tend to reproduce steadily, and the worm population will increase over time as you feed them. Not to worry! There are plenty of uses for worms. And if you have a larger family and produce a lot of kitchen waste, you may need two or more worm bins.



Harvested and dried worm castings have a granular texture. Photo by Tamara Burns

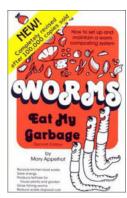
Vermicomposting Workshop

If worm farming appeals to you, plan to attend a FREE workshop on vermicomposting given by Molly Jameson, Sustainable Agriculture and Community Food Systems Agent, UF/IFAS Leon County Extension.

Thursday, May 1, 6 pm - 7:30 pm UF/IFAS Extension Office Auditorium 615 Paul Russell Road, Tallahassee

You will learn all you need to know to get started with vermicomposting!

An excellent quide to all aspects of vermicomposting is Worms Eat My Garbage by Mary Appelhof. Revised 2nd Edition, Flower Press, 1997. ISBN 0-942256-10-7. Locate at new or used book sellers.



Register for the workshop at 2025vermicompost.eventbrite.com.

Your IHLNA officers

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

Treasurer: Melissa Farley

Corresponding Secretary: Marie-Claire

Leman

Recording Secretary: John Tomasino

Directors: Ashley Arrington, Katie Clark, Jason Khan-Hohensee, Gordon Magill, Ceci Michelotti, Ana Orosco, Edward Reid, KC Smith, Eli Wilkins-Malloy

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



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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

N3 Volunteers are Key

By Robin Collins, N3 Publicity Committee N3 has strengthened community ties and improved the quality of life for many-both the volunteers and the elders. Community matters. (Sandra Neidert, neighborhood resident and N3 volunteer)

You have likely heard of our home-grown, non-profit organization Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes (N3). Thanks to the vision and drive of its founder, Betsy Tabac, N3 continues to support our elder neighbors. Our success relies heavily on neighborhood volunteers.

There are many opportunities for volunteers to help. Some are less frequent and require a small time commitment, while others may be more involved. A few examples are: driving neighbors to the store or to appointments, calling neighbors to check in with them, or serving on the N3 Board or one of its committees.



As a longtime volunteer on the N3 Publicity Committee, I can tell you that I enjoy posting helpful information for our elders on N3's Facebook page. (Dare I confess that I get a "warm, fuzzy feeling"?) You may have noticed that N3 posted and emailed several times about the support services available after the May 2024 tornadoes ravaged our neighborhood.

Have I sparked your interest? If you previously signed up to be a volunteer and you haven't been contacted in a while, or if you've been wondering how you can help your elder neighbors, please reach out to the N3 Volunteer Coordinator by emailing VolunteerCoordinator@AgingInNeneland. org, or call (850) 901-7818. I'm quite sure that you will be glad that you did.

News and Notes

Nene Fest Events 2025 Two Days

5K Race and Fun Run: Saturday, April 26, 2025. Details on page 7.

Music Festival, Booths, Grill: Sunday, April 27, 2025. Details on page 6.



Membership reminder

The Indianhead-Lehigh Neighborhood Association (IHLNA) encourages residents of Indianhead and Lehigh to join the association by contributing voluntary dues to support neighborhood activities and advocacy which help maintain and enhance the character and spirit of our community as a well-maintained, safe and friendly neighborhood. The suggested membership donation is \$10, or \$5 for 20+ year residents. For details, see



<u>ihlna.org/membership</u>.



Final Friday Gatherings

What: Potluck gathering once a month

When: Last Friday evening of the month

Where: Various hosts at their homes

Come together with neighbors at the Nene Final Friday parties! From September through May, on the last Friday of each month, a different neighbor hosts a casual get-together at their home. These gatherings typically feature a potluck dinner and music, creating a relaxed atmosphere to unwind, reconnect with friends, meet new neighbors, and celebrate our diverse community.

Want to host a Nene Final Friday or find out where the next one will be? Email Molly Jameson at mcjam88@gmail.com. Details about upcoming gatherings are also shared on the Indianhead-Lehigh Community Facebook page and through the neighborhood email list each month.

