



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

LAKE EOLA HEIGHTS HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER 4th QUARTER 2009

GARDENING FOR TRAFFIC CALMING

By Jeff Thompson, ASLA

Lake Eola Heights is certainly known for the passion of its gardeners. From the biennial "Tour of the Private Gardens of Historic Lake Eola Heights" that is the association's primary fund-raiser to its semiannual roundabout roundups, the neighborhood is never at a loss for volunteers willing to express their love of the landscape.

And it is the roundabouts and other traffic calming methods that are the focus of this article. The association partnered with the city to bring traffic calming to the neighborhood when the courthouse was being built in the 1990s. These traffic islands are not only our most effective means of slowing down traffic but they are a great landscape statement for the neighborhood.

The islands and roundabouts have become an integral part of the fabric of our neighborhood, as much as the brick streets and the Live Oak canopy.

Over the years various plants have been tried and have resulted with some great combinations. The most successful trees are the native sabal palms (*Sabal palmetto*) which just so happen to be the state trees for Florida and South Carolina. These trees are worthy of showcasing because of the sustainability they represent in Florida landscape. Being natives, there is a multitude of native fauna that makes use these palms for food and shelter. The palms will also subsist on rainfall once they are established. They are also resistant to local plant pests and will need very little fertilization. So these trees will have a net beneficial effect on the environment. Sabal palms will also thrive in the relatively small areas within the planters. They also possess enough visual weight to make most drivers slow down as they approach. A pair of these palms was recently planted in the median island on Livingston Street to help calm traffic there.

Two types of understory plants are also proving to be very successful as well; the native coontie palm (*Zamia floridana*) and bromeliads

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 p.m. Thursday November 12
at Trinity Lutheran Church
123 East Livingston Street

Bring a Neighbor!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: LAKE EOLA HORROR HEIGHTS SPOOKYTACULAR

By David Martens

In case you haven't noticed (and how could you miss!), Lake Eola Heights is becoming quite the shining spookytacular neighborhood in all of Orlando.

Halloween will be over by the time you read this, however the decorations may still be "lurking" around each and every corner. This coming meeting I would like to recommend adding a Horror Heights Halloween Decorating Contest to our list of events. We could add a slimy, slithering prize or two and watch the neighborhood goblins go for the gusto.

If you get a chance and they are still around, here are my recommendations for this year:

Supreme Spookytacular:

222 E. Concord (previous Christmas winners);
629 Harwood; 630 Harwood; 635 E. Livingston;
816 E. Livingston

More bats, spiders and such:

538 E. Summerlin; 618 Hillcrest; 206 E.
Concord; 203 E. Amelia; 635 E. Amelia; 615
Harwood; and 412 Harwood.

Check out lots of other homes with pumpkins and other scary scenery, congratulations to them as well.

Thanks to all of the hard work by the committees this quarter.

See you at the meeting on Thursday.

IT'S A BLAST!

LEHHNA is working to get its membership e-mails together. We often send out "blasts" for short notice or special interest events.

LEHHNA will not give this information out to any outside organizations or individuals and it is the intent to protect your "blast mail" by sending it blind copy (bcc). The bcc format can sometimes be denied depending on your security or spam setting.

If you have not been receiving the blasts and are interested, please e-mail LEHHNA secretary Raymond Cox at raygrecofl@bellsouth.net.

LAKE EOLA HEIGHTS HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 2007 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

List any committees you are interested in
(Garden of Month, Holiday Decorations, Traffic,
School Liaison, Roundabout Maintenance)
or comments/suggestions.

Annual dues are \$15 per household
Please make checks payable to LEHHNA
Dues may be submitted at meetings or mailed to:
LEHHNA c/o Diane Martens
229 E. Amelia St.
Orlando, FL 32801-1303

HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST

By Mimi Roberts

It's that time of year again! The holidays are upon us! Shake the dust off your decorations (or give a boost to the economy and buy some new ones) and get ready for our 2009 Lake Eola Heights Holiday Decorating Contest!

This year Commissioner Sheehan, and a few happy elves, will be strolling the streets between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Sunday, December 13, in a quest to find the best holiday decorated house in the neighborhood! First place wins a turkey, and beautiful poinsettias are the prizes for second and third places.

More information on this spectacular event will be provided at our the November 12 neighborhood meeting.

Happy Decorating!

CAROLING AT THE PANTRY

The tradition continues!

This year's Caroling at the Pantry is scheduled for Saturday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Don't have a singing voice? No problem, as we again expect to have professional carolers lead us in song! Bring family and friends to join your neighbors for this festive event!

Traditionally Artie and Dev have provided food and drinks for the event; however, due to Artie's recent surgery, we have asked Artie and Dev not to provide edibles as they usually do. They do feel they can provide beverages, so we will be looking for folks to bake cookies or make other treats to eat. This will be a way of sharing with your neighbors and also of thanking Artie and Dev for all they do for us, and of letting Artie know she is valued for herself, not just for what gives us.

HANDY PANTRY HOURS

Many of you may have noticed that the Handy Pantry has been operating on an irregular schedule. Though inconvenient, it is necessary due to recent surgery of the owner, Artie. As her recovery progresses and Dev can begin to leave her by herself, he expects to re-open with limited service of merchandise sales. The deli will re-open once Artie is well enough to return.

This interruption of their business could not happen at a more difficult economic time. Their commitment to LEHHNA has been endless. Once they are back open, let's show them how much they have been missed and appreciated by patronizing the store. The Handy Pantry is more than our neighborhood convenience store!

At press time, her recovery is going well. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Artie!



If you have a meeting sign, please place it out no later than Sunday, November 8, and take it in no later than Sunday, November 15.

LEHHNA.COM GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION

By Raymond Cox

LEHHNA.COM is the featured website on neighborhoodlink.com, a national website provider. The organization says its ratings are based on active updates and "hits."

"Worth watching" sites get a blue star and "premier" sites earn a gold star. We are now at the blue star level, but not too far from premier! Help raise LEHHNA.COM's rating! Here's how you can help:

- 20 or more discussion postings, with at least 1 in the last 90 days
- 3 or more events in the Community Calendar
- 3 or more Add-a-Pages
- 2 or more Meet Your Neighbors pages
- At least 1 Neighborhood Newsletter article in the last 90 days

LEHHNA.COM, book mark it, share it and use it! A great way to stay informed and involved! Let's raise the rating!

HALLOWEEN 2009

Neither a late time change nor record breaking warm temperatures could stop this year's trick-or-treaters. Goblins, super heroes, princesses and the like descended upon Lake Eola Heights and Mother Nature lighted the way with her magnificent moon! Little ones were not the only ones in the spirit as many Halloween parties also energized the neighborhood with costumed adults haunting the sidewalks.

Check out some photos and learn how you might add to them by visiting the article Halloween 2009 on our neighborhood website at www.lehhna.com.

YEAR-BUILT PLAQUES

Several neighbors have been waiting very patiently for the magic order number 4. That is how many plaques are pressed at a time; currently we are at 3 and holding. The purchase price fluctuates on the market price for bronze as well as any possibility for quantity discounts; currently the price is in the \$165 range (that includes one year of membership dues). If you are interested in purchasing one of these distinctive bronze plaques, please contact Raymond at raygrecofl@bellsouth.net or sign-up at the next General Membership meeting.

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

The listings for Lake Eola Heights for July 31 through October 19, 2009, as shown in the multiple listing service, are:

<u>Active Listings</u>	<u>Bed/Bath</u>	<u>Sq. Ft.</u>	<u>Current Price</u>	<u>Original Price</u>
307 E. Harwood	5/5.5	4758	1,375,000	1,695,000
632 E. Livingston	4.3.5	3517	1,290,000	1,290,000
327 N. Broadway	5/6.5	5860	1,050,000	2,900,000
809 E. Ridgewood	4.3.5	3328	699,000	1,300,000
608 E. Concord	3/2/2	2200	695,000	750,000
407 E. Amelia	4/3.5	3165	1,190,000	649,900
538 E. Broadway	5/4	3200	649,000	880,000
202 E. Amelia	4/3	2334	475,000	475,000
721 E. Amelia	3/3	2300	449,900	449,900
403 E. Amelia	4/2	1934	424,900	520,000
507 N. Hyer	4/4	2272	399,900	629,000
409 N. Ruth	3/2.5	1860	399,900	524,900
422 E. Hillcrest	6/3	2486	399,000	699,000
425 N. Ruth	5/4	3740	396,000	731,500
421 N. Ruth	3/2	2985	355,000	591,500
318 E. Amelia	4/2	1904	345,000	449,000
606 E. Livingston	3/3.5	1870	299,000	479,000
420 E. Concord	3/2	1424	275,000	275,000
1015 E. Harwood	3/2	1697	269,900	470,000
533 N. Summerlin	3/2	1042	233,500	250,000
317 E. Amelia	2/1	826	224,900	224,900
520 N. Broadway	2/2	1200	199,900	199,900
613 Hillcrest	3/3	1700	184,900	349,990
816 E. Hillcrest	3/2	1517	175,000	175,000
1000 Mount Vernon	2/2	858	164,900	215,500
613 E. Ridgewood	2/2	1200	105,000	160,000

Pending Sales

420 E. Amelia	3/2/5	2448	395,000	575,000
336 Hillman Ave.	4/4	2436	260,000	336,000
609 N. Broadway #3	3/3.5	1800	219,900	325,000
416 E. Concord	2/2	1992	219,000	379,900
809 E. Livingston #3	2/1	803	110,000	259,500
317 E. Amelia #4	2/1	838	85,000	219,000

Residential Sales

			<u>List</u>	<u>Sold</u>
323 N. Broadway	4/4/2	4320	2,900,000	900,000
723 E. Ridgewood	3/2.5	2162	485,000	307,000
519 E. Amelia	4/2	1956	579,900	292,900
206 E. Amelia	2/2.5	1931	399,000	265,000
611 N. Broadway #4	3/3.5	1800	425,000	240,000
508 N. Hyer	3/2	1360	275,000	224,500
803 E. Hillcrest	2/1	690	299,900	190,000

Average days on market: 390

Sandy Fredrick
CHARLES RUTENBERG REALTY
 "Lake Eola Heights Specialist"
407-810-5069

GARDEN TOUR TAKING SHAPE FOR SPRING 2010

By Janet Walker

The 2010 Private Gardens of Historic Lake Eola Heights tour is taking shape for our spring date of Sunday, April 18, 2010, from noon to 5 p.m. Our guests will be in for a treat because they will be visiting nine never-before-seen gardens. And this year also includes the special event celebrating the 100th birthday of David and Diane Martens' home which includes a downstairs tour and a birthday cake.

Please reserve April 18 on your calendar for the Garden Tour. Again we will be having the Florida Youth Symphony orchestra, the Plein-Air Society outdoor painters, as well as orchids, bromeliads, herbs and garden ornaments for sale.

Now is the time to think about helping on that day. If you love plants and people, this would be great fun.

Also, we would like to have as many people as possible pre-sell Tour Tickets. Details will be in the February LEHNA newsletter. Start talking up the tour with your friends! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, call Janet Walker at 407.648.5394.

BIGGEST ROUNDABOUT ROUNDUP AND GREENUP ORLANDO TO DATE!

The October weather could not have been nicer for more than 30 neighbors, students and city staff who volunteered to "clean and green up" Lake Eola Heights.

Under the direction of Jan Rahill from GreenUp Orlando and with help from her staff Tommy, Antonio and other city employees, neighbors and students cleaned, weeded, pruned, planted, fertilized and watered the five roundabouts, the Livingston Street island and the Howard playing field.

This was by far the most industrious project to date! More than 15 students from Ivey Lane and

Hankins Community Centers, along with city staff members Curtis and Jennifer, enthusiastically cleaned up the Howard field. These students exemplify good student citizenship with their volunteerism. Hats off to all of these volunteers!

GARDENERS JOIN FORCES

The Trinity Garden group has joined with the Lake Eola Group to form the Lake Eola Heights-Trinity Garden Club. Meetings are held at Trinity Lutheran Church on the third Thursday of the month at 7: p.m.

Our agenda is similar to a traditional garden club with programs on horticulture, design and conservation. Please join us at our next meeting on Nov. 19, when we will be making a Thanksgiving centerpiece.

For more information, or to find out what to bring to make an arrangement, please call Claire at 407.426.8759. Hope to see you there.

GARDENING FOR TRAFFIC CALMING

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(Neoregelia spectabilis).

The coontie palm was the source of arrow root which was an important food starch for Florida's indigenous people. As the settlers came here in the mid-1800s the plants were over-harvested and their numbers seriously depleted. However, the commercial nursery industry is propagating the plants in large numbers and they are again becoming a common sight in Central Florida landscapes. Coonties have all the advantages of the sabal palms (low maintenance, water usage, etc.) with the added bonus of bolstering the numbers of a wonderful native shrub.

The bromeliads added to the one roundabout during this past roundup reflect a little neighborhood heritage as well. Mulford Foster was one of the last century's great botanists and naturalists, exploring the flora of Central and South America. It was Foster who introduced the tabebuia tree to Orange County. His passion was bromeliads and he named and introduced many different species. Foster also had a nursery called Tropical Arts in the 1930s and 1940s where the 7-11 is on the corner of Magnolia and Colonial. The bromeliads planted in the roundabouts were collected many years ago from a home that was being torn down in the neighborhood and undoubtedly originated from Foster's nursery. These plants have flourished and can be seen in many other gardens in downtown Orlando.

So next time you are passing (and hopefully slowing down at) one of our roundabouts or medians, be sure to appreciate what these beautiful little oasis represent ... and thanks to all the volunteers and our partners in the City who make them possible.

Happy Gardening!



GARDENS OF THE MONTH

August	309 Concord Street
September	5 Broadway Court
October	300 Harwood Street

You can see all of the current year's recipients in the Gardens of the Month section at www.lehna.com, or better yet, take a stroll and enjoy all of the lovely front yard gardens in the neighborhood!