

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

December 2005

President's Message

By Karl Nurse

THANK YOU to the neighborhood activists around town who made St. Petersburg a better place in hundreds of ways during 2005. We had a good year on a variety of fronts. The City adopted the Green Cities program and is finished auditing how many sustainable or smart practices we are doing. We should see several changes in 2006 as the city starts implementing the plan. Pinellas County government and the City of Tampa are both discussing implementing this same Green Cities program.

The December meeting will include a proposal from the Court Watch group to become a committee of CONA. I attended a meeting this week with the organizers and was very impressed. This group works with the police and state attorney's office and gets repeat offenders off the streets of our community. Details will be available at the meeting. I am hopeful that a stronger court watch system combined with a system of neighborhood associations working together on crime issues will make a real difference.

CONA is planning the biggest project we have ever attempted: Pinellas Living Green Expo is an environmental educational event for sharing ideas, resources and information with individuals and the business community that will promote sustainable living through energy efficiency, renewable energy and the conservation of water, energy and land resources. We will need many volunteers in planning and helping put on the event on the weekend of 6/17/2006. We expect to have 70 booths with information and products ranging from efficient lighting to very efficient houses. Please join in and help us, help our community.

I hope you enjoy your holidays, spend time with your family and recharge your "batteries" as we prepare for an even better 2006.

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, November 21, 2005

The **SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.**
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Presidents Night
Court Watch
Living Green Expo
CONA Elections

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CONA To Elect 2006 Officers

CONA's officers serve one year terms and a new election is held in December of each year. Nominations for CONA leadership positions are taken at the November meeting and the election is then held at the December meeting. The neighborhoods eligible to vote are the member neighborhoods listed in this newsletter. Our Bylaws provide that each member neighborhood is entitled to one vote.

This year, all of the nominated candidates, except for Treasurer, are running unopposed. Consequently, CONA members will vote for one of two candidates for Treasurer at the December meeting. Because they are unopposed, the rest of the CONA leadership team is automatically elected for 2006.

April Gausman (Harbordale) and **Annie McWilliams** (Isle del Sol) are running for Treasurer one of them will be elected at the December meeting. The rest of the 2006 leadership team is:

President.....	Karl Nurse
1st Vice President.....	Barbara Heck
2nd Vice President	Tom Killian
Secretary	Conrad Weiser

Schedule a Mini Mobile Collection Event

Neighborhood Associations can now schedule the "Haz-to-GO" trailer and host your own household electronics and chemical collection event. At the scheduled time, the trailer drives right into your neighborhood so association members can conveniently drop off unwanted hazardous waste items. All household mobile collection services are free for Pinellas County residents.

Hazardous waste items contain chemicals that need special disposal. These items include simple things like fluorescent light bulbs, household cleaners, computers, TVs, printers, cell phones and household batteries. They also include such items as pesticides, paints, paint thinners, fertilizers and automotive fluids.

With a capacity of up to 20,000 pounds, the new Haz-to-Go trailer helps reach out to neighborhood associations to host their own mini-mobile collection. This Haz-to-Go trailer was developed to complement the popular Saturday mobile collection events around the County. These events typically attract hundreds of residents in a five-hour period. In fact, county residents helped divert over one million pounds of household chemicals and electronics in 2004.

The new Haz-to-Go mobile collection trailer is now available for scheduling on Wednesdays and Saturdays for a two-hour period. To schedule a Haz-to-Go event or get more information, contact Solid Waste Operations at 464-7500

The December CONA Meeting is President's Night

CONA honors the presidents of member associations at the December meeting. In one of the year's most interesting meetings, each neighborhood association makes a few comments about what they have done during the year. The rest of us find the presentations very helpful as we borrow ideas for use in our own neighborhoods.

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The Pinellas Living Green Expo Set for June, 2006

Saving money, energy, water and environmentally sensitive land. Building a more sustainable community. This will be the largest project CONA has ever undertaken.

After considering many suggestions, we chose "Pinellas Living Green Expo" as the name for an event CONA plans to host in June 2006. Over the past month, the project has become better defined and organized. Communities across the country are organizing "green expos" as part of an effort to build a more sustainable society. A "google" of the term "living green" returns 174 million hits. It appears that many have much to say on the subject. CONA is attempting to borrow the best ideas it incorporate into the Pinellas effort.

Pinellas Living Green Expo is an educational event focusing on actions to sustain our community through efficiency and smart technology. Participants will learn how to save money, resources and our environment for future generations.

CONA has reserved the St. Petersburg Coliseum for the weekend of June 17 and 18. We are inviting vendors and contractors to show their "green" products. We are organizing seminars on issues ranging from tax credits for energy conservation to xeroscaping. There will be bus tours highlighting environmentally significant features and, perhaps, "green" architecture. We are organizing "green" children's activities that will include presentations, projects and awards.

We have invited neighborhoods from across the county to join in our efforts. And there is a very long list of other organizations that will participate at in some manner. Much of our work over the next month will involve working with these organizations to formalize how they will participate. In addition to the obvious environmental benefits, the Expo provides a unique opportunity for CONA to collaborate with a broad spectrum of organizations throughout our community. Building these relationships can only benefit everyone.

The Living Green Expo is the largest and most ambitious project CONA has undertaken in recent memory. Success will depend on our ability organize, coordinated and communicate with the large numbers of volunteers that will be necessary. We will need all the help we can get.

Steve Plice has been appointed "Event Chair". He will be responsible for the overall organization, management and implementation of the project. Karl Nurse will serve as "Recruitment Chair", working with sponsors, partners and vendors. Shelly Schwartz is "Program Chair", developing the seminars, tours and content of the expo. Mo Eppley will serve as "Marketing Chair", managing a website, developing brochures, graphics and other marketing materials. Barbara Heck will chair the "Children's Activities" Committee.

This entire project is still in the formative stage. We continue to solicit ideas, suggestions and volunteers. We will talk about the project in some detail at our December CONA meeting and we hope everyone will consider helping in some fashion.

CONA Picnic 2005 at Walter Fuller Park

CONA partnered with the Jungle Terrace Civic Association to hold a citywide neighborhood picnic at Walter Fuller Park. Tom Killian did an amazing job of organizing the event. There was an impressive spread of food, activities and prizes. Bob Miller's Bluegrass Band, Mountain Memories, was a great hit.

Most City Council Members, the Mayor and many friends from the City Staff joined neighborhoods and families from all parts of the City of a perfect afternoon in one of the city's great parks.



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2005 CONA Membership

Seventy-two neighborhood associations have joined CONA for the calendar year 2005. This is an impressive record membership for CONA. Many thanks to St Petersburg's vibrant and active neighborhood associations. Tom Killian has done an outstanding job as membership chair for this year's.

Albert Whitted Airport Advisory Comm.
Asian Family And Community Center,
Americana Cove
Azalea Neighborhood Association, Inc
Bahama Shores Homeowners Association
Barclay Estates Homeowner's Association
Bartlett Park Neighborhood Association
Bayou Highlands Neighborhood Association
Bayway Isles Home Owner's Club, Inc.
Broadwater Civic Association
Causeway Isles Neighborhood Assoc.
Central Oak Park
Coquina Key Property Owner's Assoc
Crescent Heights Neighborhood Assoc
Crescent Lake Neighborhood Assoc.
Crossroads Area Homeowners Association
Disston Heights Civic Association
Downtown Neighborhood Association
Driftwood Property Owner's Association, Inc
Eagle Crest Civic Association
Edgemoor Neighborhood Association
Euclid Heights Neighborhood Association
Euclid/St. Paul Neighborhood Association
Fossil Park Neighborhood Association
Fourth Street Business Association
Garden Manor Neighborhood Association
Grand Central Business District
Greater Pinellas Point Civic Association
Greater Woodlawn Neighborhood Assoc.
Harbordale Neighborhood Association
Harris Park Neighborhood Association
Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Assoc.
Historic Old Northeast
Historic Park Street Neighborhood Assoc.
Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Historic Uptown Neighborhood Association

Holiday Park Home Owner's Association
Isle del Sol Home Owner's Association
Jungle Prada Neighborhood Association
Jungle Terrace Civic Association
Lake Euclid Neighborhood Association
Lakewood Estates Civic Association
Lakewood Terrace Neighborhood Assoc.
Magnolia Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
Mangrove Bayou Neighborhood Assoc.
Maximo Moorings Civic Association
Meadowlawn Neighborhood Association
Mel-Tan Heights Neighborhood Assoc
Municipal Bayside Marina
North Kenwood Neighborhood Assoc.
Northeast Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Old Pasadena Neighborhood Association
Old Southeast Neighborhood Association-
Placido Bayou Community Assoc.
Ponce De Leon Neighborhood Assoc.
Riviera Bay Civic Association
Riviera Bay Subdiv.Home Owner's Assoc.
Sterning Manor-Brighton Bay Neighborhood
Association
Shore Acres Civic Association, Inc
Snell Isle Property Owner's Assoc.
34th. Street Business Association
Tropical Shores Neighborhood Assoc.
Twin Brooks Neighborhood Association
Tyrone Landings Neighborhood Association
Venetian Isles Home Owner's Assoc.
Westminster Heights Neighborhood Association
Wildwood Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
Winston Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Woodlawn Oaks Neighborhood Assoc
Yacht Club Estates Civic Assoc.

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- Her presentation was supplemented by information packages distributed to the folks attending. Amanda promised to provide additional copies of these brochures if requested by our neighborhood associations.
[Please call her at: 453-7394]
- She described the new program as an outreach, by Steve Pratt, the County Administrator, to assure that even residents in the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County will have easy access to all of the services provided by county government, noting that many of the county wide services are funded, via municipal governments, by all taxpayers and are available to everybody, (e.g. 911 Communications Center, Health Services, Animal Control, our PSTA Bus System, and County Roads).
- We were urged to visit the county web site: www.pinellascounty.org
- We were reminded of the educational interest of Heritage Village.
- Citizen's University is a country program of leadership education focused on the many functions and department of county government.
- A new county task force, headed by Anthony Jones, is searching for solutions to the problem of inadequate "Affordable Housing" faced by increasing numbers of displaced residents.
[Current average=\$173,000.] The commissioners acknowledge a responsibility to those displaced.
- Amanda promised to rectify situations in which phone calls to county divisions did not bring a timely and useful response.
- The county will participate in extending the Pinellas Trail to South St. Pete., to Tampa, and to the Pasco County line on the north.
- The country has established "Focus Groups", (see web site), that pursue long-range plans as did St. Petersburg's "Vision 20/20 Project".
- ◆ Karl Nurse offered appreciation for the services of our Secretary- Conrad Weiser and Vice Presidents- Theresa McEachern, and Steve Plice while announcing that Treasurer Libby Steele is retiring.
- ◆ Noting the significant impact on our downtown skyline threatened by new proposals for the LDRs, Urban Designer Bob Jeffrey will address our January meeting to review current development proposals.
- ◆ V.P. Steve Plice then took the floor to provide an update on a major CONA project: A Green Cities Expo.
 - Though the venue may be rotated annually, cur

rent tentative plans are to rent the Coliseum at a cost of \$8,000. for May 12-14, 2006

- Several major contributors/exhibitors have been contacted including, Home Depot, Progress Energy and the Sierra Club.
- With the active support of Mayor Baker and Councilman Kriseman, city participation, (e.g. displays and speakers), is assured.
- An immediate need is for a diversely representative Steering Committee and the formulation of a budget. Volunteers- please call Steve: 344-3120
- The many "Green Tax Deductions" effective in 2006 will prompt the appearance of C.P.A. speakers at our Expo.
- The impact of conservation technologies will draw architects as speakers.
- Moved, (Heck), that CONA will sponsor a Green Cities Expo in 2006 [Approved- unanimously]
- An involvement with the Solar Energy Decathlon was suggested for the Expo. A tie in with the nationally observed "Earth Day" was also urged.
- ◆ Steve Plice then reported on the Nominations Committee he chairs, noting that the November Newsletter failed to include Eileen O` Sullivan on the committee. Following three calls for nominations from the floor, the Chairman announced closing of the nominations, leaving the slate of CONA officers, for 2006, that will be voted upon at our December meeting.
 - President- Karl Nurse
 - 1st V.P.- Barbara Heck
 - 2nd. V.P.- Tom Killian
 - Secretary- Conrad Weiser
 - Treasurer- April Gausman, or Annie McWilliams
- ◆ Greg Karpinsky, Co-chair of this year's CONA Leadership Program gave a brief history of St. Petersburg noting the impact that motivated and coordinated volunteer workers have contributed to the development of our city.
 - Applications should be submitted by December 15th., the class, (max 35), will begin on January ninth, 2006
- ◆ Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Association was our featured CONA Member for November. Residents Ron Motyka, and Michael Manlowe gave a presentation of the history of their neighborhood; they enumerated several of the problems that they have overcome, and cited various progressive steps that they have developed to improve the quality of life in their area of our city.

Minutes by Conrad Weiser, Secretary



2005 Officers

President

Karl Nurse
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First Vice President

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Treasurer

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Frequently Called Numbers

Neighborhood Partnership Office:
892-5141
Mayor's Action Line: 893-7111
Codes Office: 893-7373

CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Deadline: 30th of each month.
Publication: 2nd Wednesday of month.
Mailing: 2nd Friday of month.

Editor: Steve Plice 344-3120

CONA Board of Director's Meeting Minutes The Sunshine Multi-Service Center November 16, 2005 Minutes by Conrad Weiser

- ◆ President Karl Nurse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. First time attendees are invited to introduce themselves.
- ◆ President Karl Nurse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. First time attendees are invited to introduce themselves.
- ◆ Karl then introduced Jeff Danner, newly elected City Councilman recognizing Jeff's long participation in CONA and other community activities.
- ◆ After explaining the delay in publishing our November Newsletter, Karl applauded our Editors, Steve Plice and Mo Eppley for their publications and Internet web site in behalf of CONA.
- ◆ Karl also spoke proudly of the impact the CONA Priorities promoted for 2005 have played in the November elections for city government. They were clearly adapted as core issues by most of the candidates.
 - It was recalled that some members of City Council objected to the publication of how they voted on some issues as reported in our newsletter.
 - It was hoped that City Council might select the Police Department for their annual audit subject department since CONA has been urging a management review of the department and its staffing problems.
- ◆ Karl announced that we would promulgate a new series of priorities for 2006 at our January meeting.
 - He promised that CONA would seek to diversify its membership to closely compare with the ethnic diversity of the established neighborhood organizations within our city.
- ◆ Our focus then turned to Green Cities, one of our CONA goals, which has won widespread acceptance.
 - All city departments have been tasked with developing conservation plans.
 - The goal of improved efficiency can be seen rippling through neighborhood plans as well as county government. Tampa is expected to apply for Green Certification. The Sierra Club is promoting the concept throughout Florida.
- ◆ Amanda Lampley, Manager of the Southeast Pinellas County Connection Center, [also President of the Childs Park Neighborhood Association], then offered a detailed presentation explaining the functions of the newly established County Connection Centers.

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