

# CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

September 2007

## Project Homeless Connect

Project Homeless Connect will be at the St. Petersburg Coliseum on Saturday, September 22 from 8:30AM to 3:30PM. It is a one-stop "customer focused" venue connecting homeless individuals with a continuum of care and consolidating available products and services, such as, medical care, legal counseling, substance abuse treatment, employment, haircuts, acupuncture, etc. and a variety of social services that can help lead to self sufficiency

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) was first initiated in San Francisco in 2004 out of a need to do something more effective to address the many issues/needs that the homeless population deals with on a day to day basis. It started as a grass roots effort that involved the community as a whole, to engage citizens, non-profits, government, churches, employers and corporations to partner together to resolve issues and provide solutions to homelessness.

While most events are held over a two or three day time period, St. Petersburg is starting out with a one day event and expects approximately 500 individuals. This program is in coordination with the federal Interagency Council on Homelessness, which provides guidance to those cities that are organizing these types of events.

Mostly the event is funded through donations and/or sponsorships. The City of St. Petersburg is providing the venue, marketing, staff time, parking, security, set up, tear down and clean up, tables, chairs, etc. Sathya Sai Baba Organization is dedicating over 100 doctors, specialists, nurses and volunteers. WorkNet Pinellas is coordinating all of the employers and their mobile employment unit. The Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless is dedicating time, staff and contacts to this effort. Veterans Affairs is a big contributor, as many homeless are our vets. Many other organizations, churches and individuals are stepping forward with their time and other meaningful donations.

**Project Homeless Connect is in dire need of more volunteers.** Our hope is that each attending person can be paired with a volunteer to better navigate all the services that will be available. So, if you haven't volunteered yet, please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Betty Moran, as soon as possible at 727-446-2358 or 727-584-7565 or e-mail her at [MoranB@usa.redcross.org](mailto:MoranB@usa.redcross.org)

### CONA Board Meeting

September 19, 2007

The SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments provided

#### Agenda Items:

Citizen of the Month Award

CONA Business – Treasurer's Report – Updates

St Pete Neighborhood Housing Services – Askia Aquil

St Pete Connect

Open Forum

#### Very Important Upcoming Events:

October 17 – General Membership

November 6 – Election for City Council, Districts 1, 3, 5, 7

### On the inside

President's Letter .....	2
Sgt Phil Quandt .....	3
Eckerd College OLLI program .....	3
Capture the Power of the Sun and Save ....	4
Water Restrictions .....	4
Upcoming CONA Elections .....	5
2008 Leadership Application available .....	5
CONA Minutes .....	6-7
National Neighborhood Day .....	7
Citizen of the Month .....	8
CONA Executive Board .....	8



# President's Letter

## **National Neighborhood Day – Sunday, September 16th**

Please join CONA and City officials and staff in our first annual celebration of National Neighborhood Day. Join us at Dell Holmes Park from 12:30PM onward for an old fashioned family picnic. This is a chance to meet old friends, make new friends and just have fun. Bring some food to share (enough for 4). I am baking brownies, what are you bringing?

This actually is a national celebration with events taking place all around the country. This is our first year participating and we hope to make this an annual event in St. Petersburg. We just need your support and attendance. Bring the kids. There is something for everyone to do. Dell Holmes Park has a great kids play area, wonderful walkways, fishing pier, Lake Maggiore and much more. Please help us make our first time ever event a big success.

## **St. Pete Homeless Connect Saturday, September 22nd**

Project Homeless Connect will be at the St. Petersburg Coliseum from 8:30AM to 3:30PM. It is a one-stop “customer focused” venue connecting homeless individuals with a variety of services such as, medical care, legal counseling, substance abuse treatment, employment and a variety of social services that can help lead to self sufficiency

Your participation is important and we hope to see the community step forward to volunteer their time and talents to ensure that this will be a successful and meaningful day and a means to a make a marked difference in the lives of those who are homeless. Thank you for volunteering.

## **City Council Elections**

CONA along with other groups has been working to have the City televise candidate forums for all residents to view. There are a number of hurdles (legal and otherwise) to this. CONA feels televising these is in the best interest of the residents of St. Petersburg. An informed voter is what we all want.

With current budget cuts and possibly more in the future, the City needs good stewards on City Council. With 4 seats (out of 8) up for election, this November general election is very important. Please take every opportunity to learn about the candidates and their vision for this great city of ours. The next years will be really tough. We need tough Council members.

My next request is to get out and vote. Let's prove the odds maker wrong and make this a fantastic turnout. Look around you – if only 10% of those able to vote did, that

means that one person voted and 9 did not. 20% voted means you voted and 4 did not. 25% voted means you voted and 3 did not. Encourage your family and friends to get out and vote. Volunteer to drive friends to the polls who do not have transportation. Vote absentee ballot if you will be away and encourage housebound voters to do the same.

My final request – please do not complain about those elected, if you do not vote in this our upcoming election. My first question to you will be “did you vote in November?” If you can answer yes, then talk away. If your answer is no, then walk away. We want you to make a difference. Your vote will do just that. Please vote November 6th.

## **CONA Goals**

We are making progress on these. We had quite a few diversions over the past months starting with the CPO changes, through the homeless situation up to the budget crisis/cuts and department reorganizations. We are back on track and working hard on each. Over the next few months, CONA will have various speakers at our meetings to educate us on these areas. We are working on a “report card” to tell us where we are and what we have to do to reach our goal. Right now, we still have a long way to go to reach that “A” grade.

## **Snipe Signs**

Technically they are the ones tacked onto the poles that advertise a “for-profit” business. We have morphed that name into any of those signs that seem to “pop up” in the right of way at busy corners or entrances to neighborhoods. Some are professionally printed, some are handwritten and ALL ARE ILLEGAL !!!

Travis Jarman is working closely with City staff on this project. While I would love for us all to be able to go out and pull up those signs, we would be putting ourselves in danger. Many locations are very busy. Stopping your car in the middle of a busy street to pull a sign off the median is not safe. Some signs may have jagged edges meant to cut you. That is not safe. So, with the encouragement of City staff (and Legal Dept), we are going to just report those worst locations and let the professionals remove them. They are doing that now, but need our eyes to direct them to those really bad snipe sign locations.

*Can you help us?* E-mail your list to Travis Jarman and he will let the city know. Just report only those “for-profit” signs that are in the median or right of way. If the sign is advertising a restaurant and it is in front of the restaurant, it is legal. Do not report political signs either.

# Sgt. Phil Quandt

It is with a sense of great sadness and loss that we note the passing of a good friend. Sgt. Phil Quandt died Monday, August 27th, 2007 after a very brief illness. Phil was sergeant of the District I CPOs through most of the Community Policing program and a 22 year veteran at the St. Petersburg Police Department.

Along with fellow Sgt. Tim Montanari, he created many of the policies and programs that our CPOs used to help our neighborhoods stem the tide of prostitution, drugs, burglary and other crime, bringing many areas of our city back to being the livable, lovely places their residents wanted them to be. Neighbors that needed his help with crime problems in their area met an instant friend and ally in this kind and gentle man. Phil was blessed with an irrepressible sense of humor too. The officers he served with and the neighbors he helped all treasure their own "Phil stories" He was also a leader in the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) that helped to better working conditions, wages and benefits for his fellow officers.

He is survived by his wife Robbyn, two sons, Ryan and Trevor, aged 15 and 11. Phil was 45 years old.

*May the road rise up to meet you and the wind be always at your back...*

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## Learn More About the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Eckerd College.

OLLI, The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, at Eckerd College will be holding several "Discover OLLI" programs in October. This is a great way to become acquainted with the programs and people involved in OLLI. OLLI offers a wide array of classes, workshops, interest groups, educational trips (local, regional & international), and special events. All classes are non-credit, with no tests or grades! Program catalogs and information will be available at each event.

All of the following events are open to the public:

### Discover OLLI Days: (no charge)

First Presbyterian Church  
700 Beach Drive  
St. Petersburg  
Wednesday, October 17, 2:00 – 4:00pm  
Entertainment, Refreshments & Program

Emmanuel Community Church (no charge)  
C/O Curley Road and CR 1  
Palm Harbor  
Thursday, October 11, 1:00 – 3:00pm  
Entertainment, Refreshments & Program

### OLLI Oktoberfest (\$10 in advance, \$13 at the door)

Eckerd College – Fox Hall  
4200 54th Ave. South  
St. Petersburg  
Saturday, October 27, 1:00 – 4:00pm  
Oompah Band, Food

Call 727-864-7600 to register or register on line: [www.eckerd.edu/olli](http://www.eckerd.edu/olli).



ECKERD COLLEGE

# Capture the Power of the Sun and Save

According to the University of Florida, the sun shines about two-thirds of the daylight hours each year. And, it's no secret the sun plays a big part in helping to create an ideal environment for Florida's 18 million residents and the 85 million visitors who flow south every year for some fun in the sun. But for Floridians, the sun has an even bigger role as an alternative or renewable energy source – energy that is produced indefinitely from resources like the wind, wood, waste or the sun.

Progress Energy Florida has a strong track record of nearly 20 years of capturing the power of the sun to help homes, schools and businesses throughout the company's 35-county service territory generate electricity. Environmentally sensitive energy sources, like the sun are part of the company's balanced solution to help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and result in a cleaner environment.

Now, through a new program called SolarWise for SchoolsSM, Progress Energy Florida customers can maximize one of Florida's greatest natural resources. SolarWise for Schools is a special fund that purchases solar energy systems for schools in Progress Energy Florida's service area. The use of solar energy systems – also known as photovoltaics – will provide both teachers and students with an exciting, hands-on approach to solar and renewable energy education.

Progress Energy customers can take part in SolarWise for Schools if they are enrolled in EnergyWise, the company's energy management program. Participation in EnergyWise is a smart, simple way to help manage Florida's growing energy use. EnergyWise enables Progress Energy to temporarily cycle off power to select electrical equipment in your home – such as central heating and air units, water heaters and pool pumps – during periods of peak community demand. In exchange, customers receive monthly credits on their electric bill that can total more than \$145 annually. Customers have the option to keep these credits or automatically contribute them toward SolarWise for Schools. Currently, there are 350,000 customers enrolled in EnergyWise.

Participation in SolarWise for Schools – and EnergyWise – is free and requires no upfront or out-of-pocket contributions. But, best of all, the schools will benefit by having a valuable, on-site interactive teaching tool about solar energy education for students. You'll also feel good knowing you are helping to educate future generations about renewable energy. Together, the steps we take today will ensure a bright energy future for all Floridians.

To enroll in SolarWise for Schools or EnergyWise (a prerequisite for SolarWise for Schools), call 888-282-9757. Or, you can send an email to [SolarWise\\_for\\_Schools@pgnmail.com](mailto:SolarWise_for_Schools@pgnmail.com). For additional information, visit [www.savethewatts.com](http://www.savethewatts.com)

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## \*IMPORTANT NEWS – ONCE A WEEK WATERING RESTRICTIONS ARE STILL IN EFFECT\*

The continued lack of significant rainfall has increased demand for water in the Tampa Bay region, leading the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to extend Water Shortage Order 07-02. Once a week watering restrictions have been extended by the SWFWMD until September 30, 2007, unless rescinded or extended by the SWFWMD.

This declaration requires the City of St. Petersburg to restrict watering with potable (city) water, private well water, and private connections to surface water sources (lakes, ponds, etc.) to once a week, according to the schedule below. This declaration does NOT effect reclaimed water users, although voluntary compliance with the schedule below is requested.

<b><u>Portable and Private Well/Surface Water</u></b> Addresses ending in Even Numbers (or letters A-M) Addresses ending in Odd Numbers (or letters N-Z) <b><i>Irrigation is allowed ONCE only either 5-9AM or 7-11PM</i></b>	<b><u>ONCE A WEEK ONLY</u></b> Saturday only Sunday only
<b><u>Reclaimed Water</u></b> Even Numbers Odd Numbers	<b><u>(voluntary restriction so far)</u></b> Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Wednesday, Friday, Sunday

# 2008 CONA Elections

By: Tom Killian Nominating Committee Chairman

Our 2008 Elections are fast approaching. This year with the change in our By-Laws we will be electing five Officers and five Standing Committee Chairmen. To qualify for one of these positions your association must be a member in good standing however you do not have to be your CONA representative or alternate.

We are looking for dedicated individuals who can donate their time and talents to help CONA grow and prosper.

The positions available are

**President**

**2nd. Vice-President**

**Treasurer**

**1st. Vice-President**

**Secretary**

The Standing Committees are **CONA Leadership, Court Watch, Audit, Nominating and Public Safety**. The Nominating Committee presents the slate of candidates at the November board meeting. Nominations from the floor are accepted. Nominations are closed at the end of the November meeting. The vote is taken at the December board meeting. The results are announced at the end of the meeting. The newly elected board is sworn in at the beginning of the January 2008 board meeting.

If you would like to enter your name or recommend someone for any of the ten positions or find out more about the responsibilities of each position please contact: Tom Killian 343-2041, Theresa McEachem 823-6390, Mary Darling 865-1621.

**2008 CONA Leadership applications are now**

**available on the website. You may download a PDF from the home page.**

**[www.conastpete.org](http://www.conastpete.org)**

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# CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - July 18, 2007

- President Barbara Heck welcomed our members and guests to this Candidates Forum for St. Petersburg's City Council jointly sponsored with the League of Women Voters, calling our meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Our President then introduced Pat Richardson, President of our area League of Women Voters. Mrs. Richardson reminded us of the dates for our Primary and General elections, [September 11th and November 6th].
  - Noting that many voter roles have been purged, all were urged to contact the Supervisor of Elections to confirm their voting eligibility prior to going to the polls.
    - Residents were invited to sign-up for the League of Women Voters' e-mail list to receive information about upcoming LWV sponsored events. Please make your request to: [lwwspa@verizon.net](mailto:lwwspa@verizon.net)
- Pat then introduced Tom Killian, CONA Mentoring Chairman, and Keith Locke, CONA Treasurer, the Official Timers for our debate this evening.
- Next, she introduced our Moderator for this Forum, Public Defender Bob Dillinger of the Sixth Judicial District. Mr. Dillinger began by citing the protocols that will be observed this evening.
  - There must be no cheering, or jeering.
  - Please withhold applause until the conclusion of each segment.
  - Each candidate will have 1 minute for their personal introduction, a 1 minutes response to each of the questions posed by the Moderator, and at the close of their segment, a 1 minute conclusion to wrap up their appeals.
  - The Moderator will read questions, submitted on 3 x 5" cards from the floor, to be responded to by each of the candidates.
  - Mr. Dillinger noted that Council Candidate, Cliff Gephart, (District 3), was unable to attend our Forum this evening.
  - Attorney Dillinger then offered a brief perspective on the organization and responsibilities of our St. Petersburg City Council.
- The first segment of our program proposed debate by 3 Council Candidates for District 3:- Cathy Harrelson, William H. Dudley, and John Montanari followed by responses from the three candidates contending for the Council Seat of District 5- James Bennett, (Incumbent), Chris Kelly, and Debra Johnson Woodard. :All six candidates will be on the Primary Election Ballot.
  - The first question posed to the six candidates in the first segment of our program was: "Will you attend the St. Pete. Pride Parade next year?"
  - The second question: "In the face of pending state tax revenue reductions, would you favor increased fees for city services or a plan to dramatically reduce the services provided by the city?"
  - Third question: "Do you support proposals to introduce curbside pickup for recyclable materials?"
  - A fourth question for all candidates: "How do you think our city can best meet the needs of our Homeless Population?"
  - The next question proposed: "Do you support the proposed Constitutional Amendment to revise our Florida Tax Structure?"
  - The sixth question raised; "What is your perspective on the efforts to preserve our historic structures and heritage?"
  - The seventh question: "Should Law Enforcement, in St. Petersburg, be turned over to the Pinellas Sheriff's Department?"
  - An eighth question: "Should land development projects approved, under our "Old LDRs", but not yet under construction, be required to meet the restrictions of the newly approved LDRs?"
  - A final question for the first segment candidates: "What is your position with regard to the "Free Speech Zones" that have been setup, temporarily in our city?"
- The first segment concluded with a minute closing statement from each of the six candidates.
- The second segment of our Candidates Forum brought together two candidates at the General Election for City Council District 1- Herbert Polson, (Incumbent), and Robert Kersteen, (former Councilman). They were followed by the two contenders, at the General Election, for the City Council Seat of District 7- Gershom Faulkner, and Wengay Newton Sr.
- Again, each candidate was invited to give a 1 minute introduction
- As in the first segment, our Moderator then read printed questions from the audience that were

responded to be each of the candidates in rotation.

- The first question read to our second segment debaters was: “Our debate, tonight, will not be shown on our city TV channel, (channel 15). Do you think it should be?”
- Second question: “What is your position on the proposed Florida Constitution Revision focused on property taxation?”
- A third question: “How do you feel that the city can fund for the threatened cuts in social services following proposed tax reductions?”
- The next question: “What is your perspective on the goals of historic preservation in our city?”
- The fifth question: Should the city contract with the Pinellas Sheriff’s Department to manage Law

Enforcement in St. Petersburg?”

- Item 6: “What steps can be taken to improve Race Relations in our city?”
- Question 7: “Will you attend the St. Pete. Pride Parade next year?”
- A recurring question: “What measures do you think should be taken to resolve the Homeless Population problem in St. Petersburg?”
- As in the first segment, our Moderator called for 1-minute summations from each of the four candidates.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

# National Neighborhood Day!

**Celebrate St. Petersburg’s great neighborhoods with a traditional afternoon picnic.**

**Welcome new neighbors and re-kindle old friendships.**

**WHEN: Sunday, September 16, 2007  
12:30pm - until**

**WHERE: Dell Homes Park on Lake Maggiore  
2741 22nd Street South, St. Pete**

**Bring something to share!**

**For more information, contact Neighborhood Partnership 892-5141**



**2007 Officers and  
Executive Board Members**

**President**

Barbara Heck  
Snell Isle  
894-6020 - bg@racerrex.com

**First Vice President**

Darden Rice  
Old Southeast  
560-2479 - Darden.Rice@hotmail.com

**Second Vice President**

Will Michaels  
Bahama Shores  
420-9195 -  
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**Secretary**

Conrad Weiser  
Edgemoor  
522-5008 - MAOA1999@aol.com

**Treasurer**

Keith Locke  
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644-2195 - rkeith1084@yahoo.com

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travis.jarman@bayway.org

**CourtWatch Committee**

Ingrid Comberg - 821-2192

**Public Safety Committee**

Carole Griffiths  
522-7206 - cgriff6721@aol.com

Cass Rael, Sr. - cvraelsr@hotmail.com

**CONA Leadership**

Ingrid Comberg - 821-2192  
Mary Darling - ladymerry@verizon.net

**Frequently Called Numbers**

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

**SPPD Community Service Numbers:**

District: 1 551-3181  
District 2 551-3182  
District 3 551-3183

**CONA Newsletter Deadlines**

**Copy Deadline:**  
30th of each month.

**Publication:**  
2nd Monday of month.

**Mailing:**  
2nd Wednesday of month.

**Editor:**  
Darden Rice - 822-6241

**The Council of Neighborhood  
Associations of South Pinellas County  
P.O. Box 13693  
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693**

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## **CONA's Citizen of the Month**

### **September Citizen of the Month**

# **Will Michaels**

Because it has been the busy season of LDRs and historical preservation issues, it is fitting this month that we depart from our usual custom, and honor one of our current board members, Will Michaels. We thank Will for his long time dedication and service for historical preservation and working to protect the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Will Michaels is the retired executive director of St. Petersburg Museum of History and currently sits on its board of directors. He is also the President of St. Pete Preservation, Inc. In these roles, Will has also worked closely with City staff and neighborhoods to finalize the LDR's and he played a vigilant role in the adoption of new rules. Michaels is also an honored professor at USF. Will is respected for his style of being a neighborhood activist always willing to work hard to find a compromise solution.

CONA is made up of many issue specialists and mavens who help guide us, but Will also helps build the organization. Will has been a guiding hand in developing the CONA organization through goal setting, objectives, and priorities, and that is what helps strengthen us in the long run to achieve a group better able to protect our neighborhoods and accomplish successes.