

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

December 2007

CONA congratulates our 2007 Mayor's Awards Winners

Association President of the Year
Best Neighborhood Website
Best Neighborhood Newsletter
Youth Effort of the Year
Best Neighborhood Project and Beautification
Neighborhood of the Year
Neighborly Neighbor
Robert L. Gilder Award
Michael R. Dove Award

Mariella Stevens (Live Oaks NA)
Bayou Highlands
Broadwater Breeze (Broadwater NA)
Zachary Cornett (Fossil Park)
Crescent Lake Restoration
Grand Central District
Harry Peters (Pasadena Bear Creek)
Cliff Footlick (Parks Dept)
Barbara Heck (CONA President)

2007 marked the 11th Annual Mayor's Neighborhood Awards Program which recognized the talents and accomplishments of our neighborhoods. At a dinner ceremony at the Mahaffey, Mayor Rick Baker, Deputy Mayor David Metz and Neighborhood Partnership Director Susan Ajoc recognized all the associations and announced the runners-up and the winners of each of these awards. CONA congratulates each winner and thanks all the neighborhoods who submitted entries. CONA also congratulates the following associations/persons who received Honorable Mention:

Association President of the Year: Carole Griffiths (Disston), David Hoover (Riviera Bay Civic), Charlotte Hughes (Causeway), Mary Alice Lange (Historic Old Northeast), Wengay Newton (Westminster Heights), Christine Page (Euclid/St Paul), Barry Rothstein (Downtown Business Assoc) and Terry Smith (Euclid Heights)

Neighborhood of the Year: Dist 1-Pasadena Vista, Dist 2-Barclay Estates, Dist 3 Edgemoor, Dist 4-Downtown Business Assoc, Dist 5-Bahama Shores, Dist 6-Coquina Key and Dist 7-Childs Park

Neighborly Neighbor: Tim and Kathy Bara (Euclid/St Paul), Stephen and Kathy Crow (Riviera Bay Civic), Carolyn Gulley (Coquina Key), Mary Scott (Jungle Terrace), Jennifer Travis (Central Oak Park) and Geoff Voight (Crescent Lake)

Best Neighborhood Website: Euclid Heights, Greater Pinellas Point, Historic Old Northeast, Jungle Terrace and Live Oaks

Best Neighborhood Newsletter: News in a Nutshell (Central Oak Park), Coquina Key News-The Friendly Island (Coquina Key), Banyan Banter (Crescent Lake), The Heights (Disston Heights), Euclid Heights News (Euclid Heights, Euclid/St Paul's Newsletter (Euclid/St Paul), No Bones About It (Fossil Park), Growing Together (Live Oaks), Family/Friends/Community (Methodist Town), On the Riviera (Riviera Bay Civic), Shore Acres Newsletter (Shore Acres), Venetian Isle News (Venetian Isles) and Westminster Heights News (Westminster Heights)

Youth Effort of the Year: Shelby Stevens (Live Oaks)

Best Neighborhood Project: Bartlett Park Public Safety Initiative; Bayou Highlands Neighborhood Park, Disston Heights Annual Day in the Park, Downtown Business Assoc Annual Sunrise Sale, Euclid Heights Neighborhood Traffic Plan, Pinellas Point Project HOT (Help Our Troops), Historic Old Northeast Old Fashioned 4th of July Parade, Riviera Bay Civic Police and Fire Appreciation Picnic, Methodist Town Halloween Block Party and Yacht Club Estates 79th St Median Landscaping and Lighting

Robert L. Gilder Award: Advocate Award to City staff person who has shown exemplary actions for the neighborhoods.

Michael R. Dove Award: Advocate Award for collaboration and initiative in working for neighborhood issues.

CONA Board Meeting

December 19, 2007

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

Agenda Items:

- Holiday Social honoring David Fischer and our past CONA Presidents
- 2008 Election of Officers and Board

Very Important Upcoming Events:

- Jan 15 – CONA General Meeting & Elections
- Jan 26 – Childs Park Slamm & Jamm Mega Block Party
- Feb 20 - Mike Kalt, Sr VP of Rays Operations

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Help Our Troops (HOT) Drive is huge success!

St. Pete's H.O.T. drive this holiday season was a huge success. With the leadership of Jodi Bennett (Greater Pinellas Point and founder of H.O.T.) and coordinators Lynn Hawkins (Historic Kenwood) and Janis Upham (Riviera Bay), we were able to **send over 150 boxes to deployed men & women in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

Thanks go out to several neighborhood associations, local fire departments, USF St. Pete, Army ROTC, Mac Dill AFB and several local schools and churches who all helped us accomplish this.

It feels great to have been able to do something to brighten the holidays for American soldiers who won't get to spend those holidays with their family. We will continue this effort throughout 2008 and hope to see continued support through out the city.

We always need donations and are always looking for a deployed soldier of a local loved one to adopt. Whether it is your immediate family, a friend or a friend of a friend, please contact Lynn Hawkins or any other H.O.T. coordinator and we will add that person to our list to receive letters of encouragement, food, books and personal hygiene products. Thanks for your help with our H.O.T. project.



Sunshine Center celebrates 30 Years

Just 30 years ago this is what we saw in downtown St. Petersburg:

- The Vinoy Hotel boarded up and looking deserted
- Elimination of the famous green benches stirred heated debate
- Only three museums downtown
- The quest for a Major League Baseball franchise began
- St. Petersburg looked to future development of reclaimed/recycled wastewater for irrigation
- Mirror Lake Shuffleboard players enjoying their place in the sun as they have since 1920
- And, after years of planning, the Sunshine Senior Center building was finally erected in 1977.

During its 30 years of serving the community, the Sunshine Center has proven to be a center of excellence for older adults. The Sunshine Center is committed to continuing its mission of providing services, programs and activities which enhance the dignity and support the independence and encourage the involvement of older adults.

To celebrate this milestone, "friends" of the Sunshine Center are collecting fond memories of what happened in their "Just 30 Years Ago" Project. Portions of these interviews along with photographs will be on view at the Sunshine Center during a special March 2008 showing. An accompanying exhibition magazine will be available and these interviews also will be shown on Channel 35. The final tribute will be their March 15th Gala.

Your assistance with this special "Just 30 Years Ago" Project is requested. Please contact Sally Marvin, Sunshine Center Supervisor (727-893-7190) or Ethel Haskins, Project Facilitator (727-324-8999) for further information.

Join us December 19th at our CONA Presidents' Night honoring former Mayor David Fischer and previous CONA Presidents

Traditionally, past December meetings have been President's night where our neighborhood Presidents say a few words about their associations. This year we are breaking slightly with that tradition.

This year our Presidents will be past CONA Presidents speaking about their challenges during their terms in office. It will be very interesting to hear about the issues they tackled and how they relate to the challenges we face today. Please come early to meet informally with our past CONA Presidents.

We will also be honoring former Mayor David Fischer who was a big proponent of neighborhoods and a moving force behind Neighborhood Partnership concept. Come and listen and borrow ideas for use in your own neighborhood.

President's Letter

As 2007 comes to a close, it is tradition for CONA's President to reflect on this past year and to provide a forward glimpse into what 2008 holds. CONA and the neighborhoods were faced with many challenges in 2007. To all our credit, we overcame each of them.

- **December and January** saw an overhaul of the Police Department AND the increase in homeless population in St. Pete.
- **January** saw changes in city staff as Mike Dove retired and is replaced by Dave Metz.
- **February** saw CONA co-sponsor the Summit on Homelessness (Feb 24) and start an update of CONA By-Laws.
- **March** saw CONA Goals Retreat produces 5 major goals. CONA's Review of the Community Service Officers program provided good feedback to the Police Department on improvements to their new CSO Program. Codes Compliance concerns were discussed.
- **April** – CONA meets with City staff and officials to discuss what the impending tax cuts from Tallahassee would potentially mean to staff and services. CONA and St. Pete Preservation meet with Mayor to obtain commitments regarding “landmarking” of historically significant sites, funding of non-profit organization to promote historic preservation of these historic sites and expanding greenspace in the waterfront area.
- **May** was very busy. CONA worked on finalizing the LDR's and Hurricane Preparation. CONA Board participated in the first Bartlett Park Cleanup. CONA's Leadership Graduation Dinner celebrated its 15th year anniversary. The Fuel Development's Westin proposal was defeated. CONA worked with our north county neighborhoods to block Brooker Creek Preserve development. CONA participates in Mirror Lake area preservation planning.
- **June** – June 16-17th saw the best attended Pinellas Living Green Expo ever. CONA lobbies City staff as severe budget and service cuts loom. CONA and Bahama Shores successfully appeal the Westminster Shores project.
- **July** – Budget cuts are a reality and CONA speaks to Council. CONA's mentoring of north county neighborhoods results in formation of CNCN.
- **August** – CONA sponsors City Council Candidates Forum and lobbies the City unsuccessfully to televise a Sep/Oct Forum. Various city departments are realigned as staff including Bob Jeffrey, John Hixenbough and others leave.
- **September** – CONA co-sponsor's first National Neighborhoods Day. CONA takes Papa John's to task about no delivery to Bartlett Park. Project Homeless Connect announced. Codes announces a new director and realigns the department. CONA works with Codes Dept to set up Snipe Signs Task Force – one that quickly becomes very successful.
- **October** – CONA co-sponsors the annual Crime Watch Coordinators Meeting with Police Dept – a first. CONA continues to work on LDR changes and increases the Snipe Signs initiative.
- **November** – Progress Energy places neighborhood spotlight on Childs Park. Tampa Bay Rays present proposal for Al Lang stadium and Tropicana Field development. CONA joins Childs Park and 10 other groups ready to produce a Slamm & Jamm Mega Block Party on January 26th.
- **December** – Pinellas Hope opens to help homeless. CONA continues working on LDR's Glitch ordinance. CONA works to develop a centralized database for newsletter editors.
- **Ongoing** – CONA continues to mentor our neighborhood associations and crime watch groups. CONA continues to assist with the formation of new associations (34th St Business District). CONA works to restart and revitalize old non-active associations.

Even with all these “diversions” and challenges, CONA has made great strides toward our CONA 2007 goals of Crime/Policing/Public Safety; Homeless issues; Affordable housing; Improvement of CONA's effectiveness; Improvement of neighborhood networking. But we are not finished yet.

2008 will allow us to complete these goals, expand CONA's current projects and take on new projects as directed by our neighborhoods. Here are projects that need priority.

- Glitch Ordinance to amend the LDR's
- Finalize tax exempt status
- Neighborhoods Open Forum workshop
- Monitor Tampa Bay Rays proposal
- CONA By-Laws update
- Re-review CSO Program in Q I
- 2008 Goal setting Retreat

Other projects we want to add to CONA's list include

- Codes “Quality of Life” issues (noise, unkempt yards, etc.)
- Review the Snipe Patrol Project
- Expand outreach to the community
- Expand the Childs Park initiative to other target neighborhoods
- Present special Monthly Programs on your City Departments (Codes, Budget, Police, Neighborhood Partnership, etc.)

None of us could have foreseen the breadth of challenges we would face in 2007, but we all (your officers and our CONA neighborhoods) were up to the challenge. Thank you for your activism, your thoughts and also your complaints. Most of all, thank you for your continued help. Together, we can do this. Together, we can . . . and we did !!!



2008 CONA Membership

2008 CONA Membership fees are now due. Please complete the form below and mail it to CONA, or bring it to the next meeting.

We will be using these forms to update our mailing list so be sure to include phone numbers and email addresses. Please include the names and addresses of people to whom we should be sending the CONA Newsletter.

Please make a copy for your records. This serves as your invoice and receipt.

2008 CONA Membership Application

Time to renew your CONA membership for 2008!

2008 dues are due January 1, 2008. Fill out this CONA Membership Application and mail it along with the Membership Fee to: CONA, P.O. Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693. Or you may bring it to the next Board Meeting.

Association Name: _____

Boundaries: _____

of Households: _____ # of Members: _____

Meeting Dates & Location: _____

President: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

CONA Representative: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Alternative Rep: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Add these names to the CONA Mailing List:

Name	Address	Zip
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please include annual dues of \$35. If you would like to use the Bulk Mail Permit #, please add \$15 to your dues to help pay for the cost of the permit. Indicate below, the frequency of your mailings (monthly, quarterly, etc.), approximate mailing dates and # of pieces per mailing.

Frequency of Mailing: _____ (monthly, quarterly, etc.)

Approximate Mailing Dates: _____ # of pieces per Mailing: _____

2008 CONA Elections

By: Tom Killian Nominating Committee Chairman

The following people have submitted their names for Officer and Standing Committee Chairs for our 2008 Elections.

Our 2008 Election takes place at our December 19th. board meeting. All associations who have their dues paid for 2007 will get one vote. The following positions have two challengers and will be voted upon.

(Candidates listed alphabetically)

President - Barbara Heck OR Cathy Wilson
Audit Committee - Travis Jarman OR Keith Locke
Public Safety Committee - Jeff Frank OR Scott Swift

All candidates who ran unopposed will be introduced to the membership. Please come to our meeting and exercise your right to vote.

If any CONA member has questions about the election or needs information on any of the positions please call me or my committee members.

Tom Killian	343-2041 (Chair)
Theresa McEachern	823-6390
Mary Darling	865-1621

Attention

CONA Newsletter Library

CONA currently has under development a resource for community newsletter editors.....a newsletter library. The Library will be an open forum, open source central repository of pre-prepared articles organized on a variety of subjects of widespread community interest. These articles will be made available through the CONA website for use by newsletter editors, at their option, for publication in their local community newsletters free of charge. CONA expects to initiate the library during the first quarter, CY2008. More to follow!

CONA's Feb 20th Meeting – Update on Rays Project

Mike Kalt, Sr. VP of Rays Operations, will present the Rays Baseball proposal for a new waterfront ballpark at Al Lang Field and the redevelopment of the Tropicana Field site. Visit their website at www.majorleaguedowntown.com for full details of this project. Study the project and then be ready with all your questions at our February 20th CONA meeting.

WE'RE LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT.

INTRODUCING A **BALANCED SOLUTION** FOR THE FUTURE.

At Progress Energy, we're using innovative and environmentally responsible solutions to meet our area's growing energy needs. We are expanding our energy-efficiency programs to help you save energy and money.

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CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - November 28, 2007

- President Barbara Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. inviting any first time visitors to introduce themselves.
- We then heard the Treasurer's Report by Keith Locke, stating a current balance of \$1,661.70.
 - Keith reported that he has almost completed the IRS Form 1023 making application for 501(C) 3 corporate status. He is awaiting a copy of our Articles of Incorporation to complete the form.
 - He distributed a number of applications for our CONA Leadership Class, which must be delivered to Ingrid Comberg by Friday, December first.
- The President reminded us of a Neighborhood Partnership Awards Meeting at the Mahaffey Theater on December 4th at 6 PM. Each neighborhood association has been invited to send 3 representatives to this program that will include a light buffet and opportunities to network with many of the City Hall and Partnership staff.
- Lynn Hawkins gave an update of the HOT, (Help Our Troops), gift-gathering program for our military service people in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Cass Rael Sr, (Public Safety Comm.), noted the schedule error, in the St. Pete. Times, wrongly listing the Childs Park Slamm & Jamm Party as December 8th. The correct date for this major event will be January 26th.
- We then entered a discussion of the announcement by the Rays of plans to build a new ball field on the Al Lang site and to replace the Tropicana Field structure a major new real estate development.
 - It was urged that our Historic Preservation Committee pursue an extensive review of the Ray's proposal and offer our CONA members insight and perhaps recommendations for dealing with these projects.
 - We were especially invited to consider the extensive data posted on a new web site: www.majorleaguedowntown.com
- Barbara Hawkins invited all to share, (bring a covered dish), in the Christmas Party of Greater Pinellas Point that will be at the Blessed Trinity Church, 1600 54th Avenue South, on December 11th.
- We learned that a Saturday Artist Market has been established at downtown Williams Park. Leslie Curran, of City Council, is Chair of this new program.
- Tom Killian, (Nominations Chair), gave a review of our December CONA elections that will select 5 Officers and 5 Standing Committee Chairmen, He read the slate of candidates that they have compiled to date:
 - For President- Barbara Heck and Cathy Wilson
 - For First Vice President- Darden Rice
 - For Second Vice President- Will Michaels
 - For Treasurer- Keith Locke
 - For Secretary- Conrad Weiser
 - For Audit Committee- Travis Jarman and Scott Swift
 - For Public Safety Committee- Jeff Frank
 - For The Leadership Class- Ingrid Comberg
 - For Court Watch- Carole Griffiths
 - For Nominations Committee- Theresa McEachern
- Tom then explained that at our December Elections Meeting, each of the challenged candidates would be invited to offer a 5-minute appeal for their election. Each of the unchallenged candidates will be invited to offer a one-minute resumé of their experience.
- The Chairman then opened the nominations from the floor.
 - April Gausman submitted her nomination for Treasurer
 - Keith Locke withdrew his candidacy for Treasurer, he then submitted his nomination for the Audit Committee
 - Scott Swift withdrew his candidacy for the Audit Committee and then submitted his nomination for the Public Safety Committee.
 - Ingrid Comberg submitted a nomination of Keith Locke for Treasurer.
 - Keith Locke again declined candidacy for Treasurer.
- With no further nominations from the floor, the Chairman then declared the nominations closed.
 - Motion, (T. Killian), to reinstate the voting privileges of member associations who have been delinquent in attendance but are dues paid. [Heck as Chair--- Motion Approved]
- The Citizen of The Month plaque was awarded to our Secretary, Conrad Weiser.
- Melvin Philpot, Program Development Coordinator of Progress Energy provided a PowerPoint presentation of their energy saving promotion currently being implemented in Childs Park.
 - Progress Energy currently has an array of 39 different programs focused on reducing energy costs largely through education.
 - Reduction in power consumption is the necessary alternative to building more power plants that typically require 10 years to construct.
 - The Childs Park Project was selected on the basis of economic data provided by the Department of Consumer Affairs.
 - It is anticipated that their free inspections in Childs Park will result in an average annual cost saving of \$150. to each household.
 - The Energy Saver Program will focus on Bartlett Park in the second quarter of 2008.
 - Mort Sherman, (Cross Roads), reminded Mr. Philpot of the need to recycle the compact fluorescent lamps, (CFL) being widely promoted in order to avoid mercury pollution from these burned out bulbs.
 - Asked about the "Save The Watts Program", Mr. Philpot explained that this is a much broader program than the efficiency concerns focused on in the Childs Park Project.
 - CONA will urge Progress Energy to schedule other St. Petersburg neighborhoods as Childs and Bartlett Park are completed.
- Cass Rael Sr. reported on our CONA involvement with the Slamm & Jamm Program slated for January 26th.
- We then heard a presentation by Karen Bolin from the Florida Department of Financial Services. She provided details of a state program called "My Safe Florida Home" (MSFH).
 - This is a 3-year program, initiated in 2006, that focuses on inspections of wind resistant construction.
 - The program currently has a \$250 M budget to fund for home, (site built only- no mobiles), inspections and subsidized, (50%), constructive repairs to achieve targeted wind resistance. [Max grant is \$5,000.]
 - Eligibility is based on wind zone 3 risks.
 - Condos Town Houses and homes valued over \$300 K are not eligible.
 - Initial applications numbered at 190,000, though the target is to inspect 400,000 homes.
 - Applying for inspection is the first step. The Wind Inspection takes about an hour. The analysis results are mailed in 4 to 6 weeks.
 - Many home insurers will grant a 16% premium reduction for homes that have had this state run inspection.
 - The homeowner decides which repairs are most needed & affordable within each suggested category of improvements.
 - Grant subsidized repairs must be done by MSFH certified contractors, (using certified materials), not the homeowners.
 - MSFH is anxious to provide speakers to describe the program.
- www.blueprintforsafety.org is a parallel program that offers instructions for homeowners seeking wind protection.
- Our President recognized John Miolla, President of CNCN, The Council of North County Neighborhoods of Pinellas County, a new organization similar to CONA that we are working with.
- Barbara announced the Open Forum phase of our meeting.
 - Moved, (K. Locke), to direct the By-laws Committee to again review our by-laws document.
 - The President responded that that review has already been scheduled.
- We heard a review of our December Meeting Agenda including Officer Elections and the award for former Mayor David Fischer.
- The Open Forum suggested a need for another annual CONA Goals Meeting to define our goals for the next 12 to 18 months.
- Darden Rice volunteered to chair a CONA committee that will focus on promoting affordable housing in St. Pete and Pinellas County.
- Barbara offered a brief update on progress of Pinellas Hope, promising to post more available data on our website.

Our meeting closed at 8:30 PM

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

Making spirits bright

This time of year stockings are being stuffed, bells are ringing and red kettles are swinging – all for countless good causes. But did you ever think the money you save on your energy bill could bring goodwill to others? Now it can through a new program called SolarWise for SchoolsSM from Progress Energy Florida.

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 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 dependence on fossil fuels and result in a cleaner environment.

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.

By participating in SolarWise for Schools, Progress Energy Florida customers can maximize one of Florida's greatest natural resources. And best of all, you'll make the holidays – and every day – a little brighter.

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. For additional information, visit www.savethewatts.com.

LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT





**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
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wmichaels2@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary

Conrad Weiser
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522-5008 - MAOA1999@aol.com

Treasurer

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Audit Committee

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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 December Citizen of the Month

David Fischer

We have all benefited both directly and indirectly from David Fischer's service to St. Petersburg. CONA has been especially fortunate to have then Mayor David Fischer support and fund and staff the Neighborhood Partnership.

An Evanston, Illinois native, David J. Fischer has been a St. Petersburg resident since 1960. With a degree in Business from Duke University in 1955, Fischer served as an Air Force pilot from 1956 to 1958. His community involvement has included Chairman of the Environmental Development Commission, President of the St. Petersburg Area chamber of Commerce, Co-Chairman of the Community Alliance, Treasurer of both the United Way and Operation PAR, and President of the Bayfront Center Foundation. He also is a member of the Board of Trustees for Eckerd College and former chairman, and served as Lakewood High School Parent Council President.

Mayor Fischer was presented with the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce Outstanding contributions to the Community Award in 1986, and received the Leadership St. Petersburg Alumni Association Leadership Award in 1979. He completed four terms as an elected official. He served on the City Council from 1975 to 1979 and was Vice Mayor from 1978 to 1979. He was elected Mayor in 1991 for a two year term, re-elected as the city's first 'strong mayor' and then served a subsequent term. He is currently the Executive Director for the Tampa Bay Community Foundation.

This is CONA's opportunity to express our gratitude and our deep appreciation to David Fischer. The CONA Officers, Board Members and Associations salute you and honor you as our December CONA Citizen of the Month.