

January President's Message

By Barbara McCormick Heck

Make no mistake. Times are very tough right now !! And tough times call for tough talk !!!

There is no "nice" way of stating this. The neighborhoods will have much less to work with in 2009.

I refer to city/county/state monies and services and staff. Donations for many neighborhood and city events have been reduced or dried up. Volunteers are very hard to find. People we all know are out of work or out of money or out of options. All of these things impact each of us.

Our parents and our grandparents survived terrible times - the depression, World War Two, the Korean War and the Viet Nam War, the market crash in the 80's. We can survive too.

Now, more than ever, this is the time for you and your neighborhood to pitch in and help out. Marshall your forces and prioritize your needs. With your residents' support, CONA's help and the City staff assistance, you can accomplish so much.

I am an optimist and I know we can face and surmount these challenges in 2009. We just need to work cooperatively together to do that. Please join with your friends, your neighbors and CONA to help.

- Donate – give what monies you can.
- Volunteer - lend your time and your talent.
- Solutions - look for reasonable solutions – stop whining about the problems.
- Revitalize – look for ways to wake up your neighborhood and its association.
- Recycle. Reuse. Restore.

Just remember, you are the neighborhood. You can make it better or you can do nothing and see it get worse. You can work to find solutions or you can just complain. The first way gets results and improves the neighborhood. The second way . . . does nothing and wastes valuable time.

CONA has great mentors who can assist you. We can speak at your meetings. We can work with your clean-up crews. We can help you form Crime Watch groups (with SPPD assistance). We can help you with Court Watch. We can help you with your newsletters. We can help you with just about everything. Please ask us for help. Together, we can accomplish much.

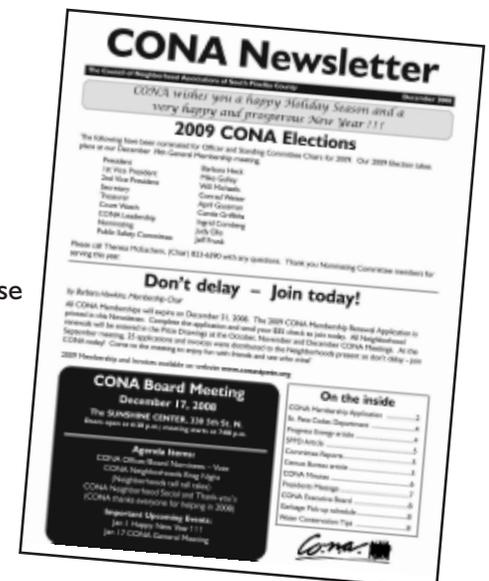
Let's get started and let's make 2009 the Year of Accomplishments in the Neighborhoods !!!

Monthly Newsletter Notice

Mike Gulley

Notice to all getting the paper form of the monthly CONA Newsletter.

We will be purging all names not specifically named as the current neighborhood association primary contacts. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter, please e-mail a request to Mike Gulley at jmgulley1@hotmail.com. We are trying to eliminate those no longer interested. Also please send a request to Mike if you would like to receive an e-mail copy instead of a hard copy. For economic reasons we would like to keep our mailing at about 200 per month. We have no limitation on e-mail and would like to be able to reach as many interested parties a possible.



Resolve to use energy wisely and reap the rewards

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For a quick and simple place to start, look around your home for energy "vampires"; those appliances and electronic devices that still consume energy even when not in use. For example, if you have appliances or electronics with digital clocks or lights that remain on even in the "off" position, then you likely have energy vampires in your home and are spending money unnecessarily.

The Department of Energy asserts that vampire energy amounts to about five percent of energy consumed in the United States and usually costs consumers more than \$3 billion each year.

"Energy vampires are everywhere in your home," said Bill Eberle, Efficiency and Innovative Technology Analyst for Progress Energy Florida. "And they are using energy 24 hours a day, which can add up quickly to five percent of your monthly energy bill." For example, a Progress Energy customer in Safety Harbor had an opportunity to save over \$175 per year by managing their energy vampires.

According to E Source, a provider of independent research, advisory, and information services to utilities, energy vampires fall into three different categories.

- **Electronic controls:** Appliances or electronics that use a remote control or electronic power switch require a sensor to remain alert all the time—ready for someone to hit the "on" button.
- **Clocks and other always-on components:** Appliances or electronics that use internal clocks or other components that remain operational even in the "off" mode will consume energy. Perhaps the most obvious example is a desktop computer, which keeps a clock and sometimes a couple of additional functions operating even when it's "off."

- **Direct-current (DC) power:** Anything that relies on DC power, including a laptop charger, cordless phone, iPod charger, electric toothbrush, etc., will have a power transformer that draws electricity all the time when left plugged in. In fact, if you leave your cell phone charger plugged into the wall, it's still consuming power even if the battery is fully charged or the phone is disconnected from the charger.

So, how do you eliminate the vampires and start saving money? The U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following steps.

1. Start by unplugging appliances directly from wall outlets when not in use. Instead of turning your electronic devices off one at a time, make the job easier by plugging all of your electronics into a power strip or two and "switch off" the power strip after you have finished using the item(s). Don't worry; this will not harm your electronics.
2. If you are not going to be using your computer for a while and don't want to shut it down, simply turn off your monitor. Screen savers do not reduce the amount of energy used.
3. If you are planning to buy a new appliance like a refrigerator or dishwasher, make sure you look for one that EnergyStar®-certified. They use less energy, sometimes half as much, to perform their normal duties. The ENERGY STAR® is a blue sticker that can be found directly on the appliance itself or the box it comes in. You can also check the yellow Energy Guide Label that shows how much energy the appliance will use and compare it with others.

To find additional ways to use energy more wisely, schedule a free Home Energy Check with one of Progress Energy Florida's energy advisors. The company offers its customers a free evaluation of your home to analyze its overall energy use and provides a customized report with specific recommendations that can help you save energy and money on your monthly power bill. For more information about a Home Energy Check, visit savethewatts.com or call 1.877.364.9003.

LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT



Holiday Garbage Pick-up

City of St. Petersburg Garbage Pick-up Holiday Schedule

Holidays will sometimes change your scheduled garbage pick-up day. Here is the schedule for January and February 2009.

Monday, Jan 19th (Dr. Martin Luther King Day) and
Monday, Feb 16th (Presidents' Day)

- Monday collection will be on Tuesday
- Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday
- Thursday and Friday collections will remain the same.

You can also access this information at www.stpete.org/garbage.htm

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU Is Presently Testing Applicants for Jobs in the Tampa Bay Area

Opportunities for employment are presently being offered by the U.S. Census Bureau in preparation of the 2010 Census.

There are both part-time and full-time jobs in the Tampa Bay Area as well as throughout the State of Florida.

Individuals will be compensated for participating in training, if selected for employment.

Mileage is reimbursed and wages are paid weekly.

Applicants must take and pass a basic skills test. Testing sites are located throughout the Tampa Bay area at various times and dates for convenience purposes.

For additional information and to schedule a test, please call the toll free number at 1-866-861-2010 or contact Regina A. Martin-Tuthill at RMartinTuthill@aol.com.



Ingrid's
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497 7th Ave N
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Next to Historic Round Lake
Open 12 - 7 daily



FREE Admission/Parking

Saturday, May 2
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 3
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Harborview Center, 300 Cleveland Street
Downtown Clearwater

Save Money.
Save the Environment.

The fourth annual **Pinellas Living Green Expo** is a **FREE**, fun-filled family event that helps residents make informed decisions and take action to lead more healthy and sustainable lives with less impact on the environment. This two-day event will provide information, ideas, resources, products and motivation to live more sustainably through exhibits and info sessions.

Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities still available.

www.PinellasLivingGreenExpo.org

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - December 17, 2008

■ President Barbara Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

■ The President announced that there were no candidates in opposition to the proposed slate of CONA Officers for 2009. She noted that Membership has been established as a Standing Committee therefore Chair Barbara Hawkins has been added to the slate of Officers for 2009.

- Moved, (M. Sherman, Crossroads), to approve the proposed slate of Officers for 2009. [President- Barbara Heck, 1st V.P. - Mike Gulley, 2nd V.P. Will Michaels, Secretary- Conrad Weiser, Treasurer- April Gausman, Court Watch- Carole Griffiths, CONA Leadership- Ingrid Comberg, Membership- Barbara Hawkins, Nominating- Judy Ellis, Public Safety- Jeff Frank]. The motion was approved unanimously.
- The Installation of our Officers for 2009 will be at our January meeting, (12/21/09), officiated by City Councilman Herb Polson, with many of our City Staff invited to attend.

■ Our President announced that a CONA Goals for 2009 Retreat will be scheduled for early next year.

- It is hoped that V.P. Will Michaels will Chair this program.
- The present and anticipated reductions of the City Budget compels CONA and its member associations to clearly identify the priorities we all hold for the city programs which we know may be reduced or eliminated.

■ Treasurer April Gausman reported a current balance for the CONA account of \$1,556.77 exclusive of the funding for CONA Leadership.

■ Old Business: None proposed.

■ New Business:

- Jason Diviki urged that CONA appoint an Energy Management Committee to promote energy and water conservation practices in our city.
- Membership Chair Barbara Hawkins announced prize drawings for early enrollment among the 24 associations who have prepaid for 2009.

■ President Heck acknowledged, among our guest Susan

Ajoc of Neighborhood Partnership and City Council members Wengay Newton, Karl Nurse, and Bill Dudley.

- Councilman Dudley offered some encouragement for neighborhood officers to take advantage of the CONA Leadership classes held from January through May.
- Councilman Nurse offered some insights of proposed city statutes in the area of codes violations and water use restrictions. He noted the risk that the declining flow of the Allaphia River, (our primary source of potable water), may run dry this coming spring.
- Barbara Heck recounted some of the restrictions and excess fees she encountered during the drought of the 1970's in California.
- Barbara and Chris Claus, (of City Water Management), have promised a stream of newsletter articles that our member associations can use in their newsletters and websites, to educate our citizens about this serious threat and remedies we can implement.

■ Barbara then opened the floor to reports, by neighborhood officers, of the achievements they accomplished in 2008. The following representatives spoke:

- Jeff Frank- spoke for Live Oaks
- Cass Rael Sr.- spoke for North Kenwood
- Judy Ellis- spoke for Lakewood Estates
- Mort Sherman- spoke for Crossroads Area
- Barbara Hawkins- spoke for Greater Pinellas Point
- Marilyn Olson- spoke for Downtown
- David Hoover- spoke for Riviera Bay Civic
- Karl Nurse, (after excusing the other councilmen present), spoke of the challenge to restrict, (by Council), the construction of a cell phone tower.
- Kai Warren- spoke for Roser Park
- Councilman Bill Dudley- Spoke of the flooding issues resolved in his district.
- Cass Rael- offered an account of the very successful KaBoom Playground Project with hopes that more will follow in other city neighborhoods.
- Tom Killian- spoke for Jungle Terrace

Our meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

HAPPY NEW YEAR! TIME TO JOIN CONA FOR 2009

Start the New Year with a resolution to renew your CONA Membership for 2009. The application form is printed in this Newsletter. Please mail the application and your check or bring them to the Meeting on January 21. We had fun drawing for prizes at the meetings in October, November and December. Our special thanks to Westshore Pizza Southside and the Rays for graciously donating prizes.

In case you are wondering about your renewal, the paid 2009 Members are listed below.

Airport Association

Americana Cove

Azalea Homes

Bahama Shores

Bayway Isles

Broadwater Civic

Crossroads

Disston Heights

Downtown Neighborhood

Eagle Crest Civic

Fossil Park

Greater Pinellas Point

Harbordale

Highland Oaks

Historic Old Northeast

Historic Uptown

Jungle Terrace Civic

Lakewood Estates

Live Oaks

Magnolia Heights

North Kenwood

Riviera Bay Civic

Shore Acres Civic

Snell Isle

Tropical Shores

Venetian Isles

Please join us at the Meeting on January 21...

Barbara Hawkins, Membership

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.

We are supporting advanced technologies like solar power and plants fueled by vegetation waste. We are investing in existing power plants to

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY
STATE-OF-THE-ART PLANTS



ensure their safe, efficient operation while assessing the need for new plants and better ways to get electricity to you. The result is clean, reliable, affordable power – for today and tomorrow. To learn more

about our bright thinking,
visit progress-energy.com.





**2009 Officers and
Executive Board Members**

President

Barbara Heck - Snell Isle
894-6020 - barbara@theheckhouse.com

First Vice President

Mike Gulley - Coquina Key
244-8374 - jmgulley1@hotmail.com

Second Vice President

Will Michaels - Bahama Shores
420-9195 - wmichaels2@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary

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

Treasurer

April Gausman - Historic Uptown
244-1896 - april@realestatebyapril.com

CONA Leadership

Ingrid Comberg - Historic Uptown
821-2192

CourtWatch Committee

Carole Griffiths - Disston Heights
522-7206 - cgriff6721@aol.com

Membership

Barbara Hawkins
866-1747 - be.hawkins@verizon.net

Nominating Committee

Judy Ellis - Lakewood Estates

Public Safety Committee

Jeff Frank - Live Oaks
322-0488 - kirstenjeffinn@yahoo.com

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 (NEW):
25th of each month

Mailing:
2nd Wednesday of month

Layout Editor: Mo Eppley 686-2146
Coordinator: Mike Gulley 244-8374

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

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