

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

February 2013

CONA Newsletter Deadlines - Copy Due-25th of each month, Mailing-2nd Wednesday of month, In Hand-2nd Friday of month

LET'S GET IT ON!

2013 is off and running. We have a big year ahead of us. We need to get organized, increase our capacity for meaningful communication and be able to act quicker to requests for help. We need to quit starting from scratch rebuilding the same wheel over and over again by building an online repository of neighborhood "How To Playbooks". On the top of that list Codes is working on a playbook for dealing with slumlords and codes issues when proper channels fail.

As you may know, we do all the heavy lifting in our committees. To that end to make your engagement time more efficient on 1st Saturdays: Communications, Public Safety and Codes are all meeting back to back at Mayster's Café 2444 Central Ave. I'm hoping other committees may take the same approach. If you have an item you want help with or think should be on an agenda please contact the respective chair directly to get that worked out.

There are going to be a lot of distractions this year between the Lens, Mayoral and City Council elections and whatever calamity becomes media fashionable. We are going to need to stay focused on issues that strengthen our neighborhoods such as: crime prevention, blight eradication, economic opportunity, and safe, beautiful places for us to come together.

Housekeeping: CONA's mission:

Unite: We need help reaching out, please make it your mission to bring a non CONA neighborhood back to the table.

Provide: Be part of the solution, join a committee, start a committee, let's work together towards our common goals.

Expand: Wow. Ingrid is kicking Ass! I'm taking the leadership class, it is awesome. Your turn next year: sign up!

Promote: Get out, go to other neighborhood's meetings, learn, teach, cross pollinate.

Act: Paramount to ensure the collective and individual needs of each of our neighborhoods our met we have to maximize our ability to communicate and work with the City. **I am on that**, but I need your help: CIVILITY.

If you have lost your faith, your patience, your confidence in the City, you have nothing to lose. Give our committees a chance!

Thanks

Kurt J Donley, President

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, February 20, 2013

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

Agenda Items:

Committee Updates
New Business
Neighborhood Sharing

March 2 - CONA Goals Retreat

March 20 at 7 PM – Next Regular CONA Meeting
July 11-13 FL Neighborhoods Conference – Save the date!

On the inside

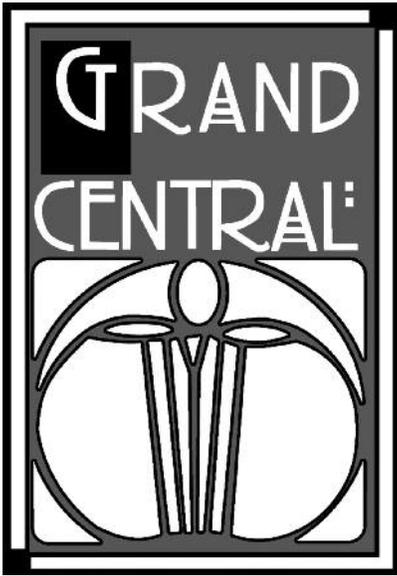
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We welcome articles, items of interest and meeting reminders. All submissions to the CONA Newsletter may be edited for clarity, taste and length.

Neighborhood Spotlight

Grand Central District

Founded in 2001, the Grand Central District is designated nationally and by the State of Florida as a Main Street



Community. It is home to many beloved local restaurants and bars, antique retailers, art galleries, unique shops, professional and personal services, health and wellness providers, and the Imagine School of St. Petersburg. The Grand Central District is pedestrian and bicycle friendly and can be easily reached via the Central Avenue Trolley, which makes several stops within the District. The Grand Central District

is comprised of the 1600-3100 blocks of Central Avenue, as well as First Avenues North and South.

The Grand Central District Association (GCDA) is a 501c3 non-profit organization made up of business owners and other volunteers working to support the District's economic

revitalization, organization and marketing in an effort to make it a retail, dining and entertainment destination for St. Petersburg visitors and residents. GCDA works closely with the business owners within the District and also hosts several promotions and events throughout the year, including St. Pete Oktoberfest, Spring Fling and the upcoming Sunshine City Festival & Chili Cookoff.

February 23rd – 11 to 4 PM.

**Sunshine City Festival and Chili Cookoff
2400 – 2500 blocks of Central Avenue**

It may have a new name but the Chili Cookoff remains the same! In addition to the 8th Annual chili competition, the event will feature live entertainment, arts & crafts vendors with a special nod towards Old Florida, food vendors and a chance auction. Come celebrate what makes living in St. Petersburg so special! The Chili competition will run from 12pm-3pm, and prizes will be awarded in multiple categories. Chili Tasting Tickets will be \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event.

For more information regarding the Grand Central District or GCDA, please contact

Lauren Ruiz, Executive Director/Main Street Manager at 727.828.7006 or gcda@grandcentraldistrict.org.

Update from the Pier & Downtown Waterfront Committee

The Pier and Downtown Waterfront Committee last met in December to review the most recent revision of the Lens Pier Design. The Committee's report was sent to the CONA Board, and subsequently to the city. The committee noted that some prior CONA recommendations for making the pier design better had been incorporated in the new revision, particularly the addition of a café at the eastern end of the Lens. We also were positive about the revised underwater marine science feature which provided for use of many of the existing pilings to build artificial reefs to attract marine life; video-enhanced microscopy of the underwater habitat; high definition sonar imaging; hydro acoustics; real-time monitoring of water composition; underwater lighting; and linkage to a marine discovery center facility on the upland. This feature has great potential for engaging our schools and the nearby Bayboro Marine Science community. It could well be the most important new pier feature in attracting tourists and getting our own residents, especially families with children, to make multiple visits to the new pier throughout the year. However, we were disappointed to see that the funding previously allocated for the underwater feature out of the available \$50 million budget had been withdrawn and that this feature is to rely upon possible grants for any implementation. In our

recent discussions about this with Mayor Foster he mentioned the possibility of using Pier contingency funds for the feature.

The committee is also tracking the proposed Downtown Waterfront Master Plan. In 2011 St. Petersburg voters approved an amendment to the City Charter requiring the City Council to "develop and approve an inclusive Downtown Waterfront Master Plan by July 1, 2015." The Council has adopted criteria for the plan's development. The plan will guide the development not only of the waterfront park system but also major facilities including the Municipal Port, Albert Whitted Airport, Al Lang Field, the Progress Energy Center for the Arts (Mahaffey), and the Municipal Marina. The City plans to hire the Urban Land Institute to develop a plan draft, and has allocated \$30k of a needed \$100k for the project. The balance is to be raised through the Chamber of Commerce.

Persons interested in joining or providing input to the committee should contact Will Michaels, Chair, at wmichaelscona@tampabay.rr.com.

Will Michaels, Chair

New Community Services Department

Neighborhood Partnership is expanding and changing its name to better reflect its new mission. Please welcome the City's new Community Services Department and Susie Ajoc, its Director.

Their mission is:

To be proactive and responsive to resident, business and neighborhood issues by coordinating city services and resources to ensure quality customer service, promote volunteerism, and encourage civic engagement and participation to enhance and sustain neighborhood and business corridor character.

There are 5 separate areas designed to handle neighborhood needs: Community Services, Neighborhood Services, Volunteer Coordination, Summer Youth Employment and Special Projects.

Community Services will handle work orders generated by the Mayor's Action Center or Community Service Reps.

Neighborhood Services will work with neighborhoods on their neighborhood plans, on CPTED, coordinate Sector Meetings (formerly City Team meetings) and help coordinate the use of city resources.

The **Volunteer Coordination** will continue to recruit and monitor volunteers, assist with organizing and re-organizing neighborhood associations and help with any emergency response programs as needed.

The **Summer Youth Employment** will oversee the City's programs and the Workforce Readiness Programs and implement the Mayor's Partner for Youth Employment Program.

Special Projects will coordinate Carefest, Paris Projects, the African-American Heritage Trail, Scrubbin' 'Da Burg, Family Fun Day and the Edwards Family Foundation Midtown Holiday Gala.

List of Neighborhood Resources

Healthy Start Federal Project

727-767-4731 Kimberly Brown-Williams, Amber Tellis

Pinellas Opportunity Council

Joyce Robinson, Frances Cato

POP Program

Gwen Reese gwenreese@tampabay.rr.com

African American Heritage Association

Gwen Reese gwenreese@tampabay.rr.com

R'Club @ Fairmount Park

727-327-4587 Monica Reynolds, Patricia Clark

Fairmount Children's Initiative

727-224-2586, 727-400-9302

Amanda Dryden, Kelly Davidson, Kama Conrad

YMCA-Diabetes Prevention Program @ no cost

Danielle Mauck dmauck@stpeteeymca.org

HIPPY—advocate that parents as the first teacher

Shonyell Johnson 727-570-8841

Parent Support for Education Council

(show parents how to advocate for their children)

Robert Ellis 727-456-8409

Front Porch

Lolita Dash-Pitts 727-804-2868

Community Health Work

Lolita Dash-Pitts 727-804-2868
(inform/educates how to live a healthier life)

Juvenile Welfare Board

Delquanda Turner dturner@jwbpinellas.org
Joanna Maniscalco jmaniscalco@jwbpinellas.org

PACE Tiffany Bascomb 727-456-1566

Healthy Start Coalition

Astrid Ellis 727-507-6330

Bay Area Legal Services Lisa Brody

Operation PAR

Zanetta Sparks 727-422-8814

Rise Up St.Pete Jackie Thomas

RCS Joeavonna King 727-645-8343
(Provide families financial stabilization services)

SPC Terry Collier 727-463-6181
(Developing programs for child abuse safety)

CONA Committee Reports

CONA Leadership – Ingrid Comberg

Mayor Rick Baker, the founding father of our CONA Leadership, along with Council Members Wengay Newton and Bill Dudley welcomed the 21st Leadership class to their Orientation. 32 future leaders will attend classes on various subjects culminating in their graduation in May.

Land Development & Historic Resources – Judy Landon

The Master Plan/Maintenance Plan for Maximo Park was recently approved by the Community Preservation Commission. The acknowledged presence of Native American Mounds has greatly increased in the park over the past decades, prompting changes to the location of the active recreation areas. For instance, disk golf will still be allowed in the park, but two of the holes on a mound will be relocated. St Petersburg Preservation made recommendations to enhance the plan, and these were incorporated by the CPC. The most overarching recommendation was enhancing the maintenance of the park (the same plan as for the Pinellas Point mound).

The YMCA is keeping its head above water for the time being. We are awaiting the proposal for the City to vacate several parking spaces; if this is not approved, then the demolition application will be resubmitted. Stay tuned.

Membership – Tom DeMint

It is with great pleasure CONA's membership committee announces a successful new membership launch this year in our CONA family! Thank you to all those neighborhood associations who have paid their 2013 dues. To everyone else – this is a gentle reminder to send your \$35 dues in today. Add \$15 to that check if you want to use the CONA postage permit for bulk mailing. Application form and invoice are available at www.conastpete.org

Starting with our February meeting we will have local businesses donate prizes for our new member's drawing and continue throughout the year! If you have a business or know someone with a business that would like to contribute to CONA and be recognized, please have them contact: Tom DeMint at 727-647-4239.

Codes – Robby Thompson

Committee members are currently in talks with City Codes management on the way they do business and what could be improved to help the neighborhoods. Codes Committee meets the first Saturday of the month at Mayster's Café, 2444 Central Ave. Meetings open to CONA members.

NEW. See, Click, Fix–FREE mobile app. When you encounter a problem, such as an overgrown lot or a tree down in the right-of-way, you can take a picture of the problem with your camera phone and submit it through "See, Click, Fix". The city will be notified of the issue for a quick resolution to the problem.

<http://www.stpete.org/mobile/seeclifix.htm>

Public Safety – Lisa Wheeler-Brown

CONA's Public Safety Committee is committed to looking after the welfare of the members of our community. Some public safety concerns include those concerns about crime and law enforcement which are both increasing in America. We have already had two homicides this year, which as of this date are still unsolved. The law enforcement factor in public safety is one of the committee's jobs necessary for keeping criminals off the streets and we are committed to working with SPPD and our community in order to make our streets safer.

Public Safety Tip of the month:

When it comes to public safety another area that is of concern to the committee is the safety of individuals in the home. Installing motion lights outside your home is a good idea to protect against criminal activity around your home. But did you know that installing bright lights over your stairs and other hazardous places in the home can also help to keep you and your family safe? Other measures to take for in home safety include installing safety devices such as grab bars in your shower and tub area that can aid against falls and slips. Since accidents in the bathroom happen frequently, installing grab bars and other aids can be a factor in home safety that saves the lives of you or a family member. Be Safe!

Audit Committee – Faye Jackson

(No report)

Court Watch – (open)

Please contact Sue Heyen, Nominating Chair, to apply for this committee.

Nominating – Susan Heyen

(No report)

Communications – Travis Jarman

A new Communications Committee is being formed to help find ways to improve communications between CONA member associations and to provide a forum for private, interactive discussions on topics of interest to our membership. We are also going to look into electronic polling / voting and the ability to conduct online meetings. The Committee will meet once a month on Saturday mornings, either in person or by electronic means. If you are computer savvy and would like to contribute to the Committee please contact Travis Jarman by email at cona.mail@bayway.org

Newsletter – Barbara Heck

Thank you for the great articles this month. Please continue to send me your articles in Word document using Arial font and 11 point type. Deadline is the 25th of each month. In hand date is second Wednesday of the next month so our neighborhoods can be ready to discuss items of interest at the next meeting.

Energy & Environment – Tim Martin

The Energy and Environment committee has been mostly dormant the past few months. However, a few of us met recently to complete our grant responsibilities for the Booker Creek restoration project at Campbell Park. We partnered with Eckerd College professor Alison Ormsby to erect two interpretive signs at the site. The signs were designed by Cassie Petrilla, a student of Prof. Ormsby's Environmental Education course. They offer information about some of the native plants selected and include a CONA logo at the bottom. We intend to install the signs later this month. Big thanks to both Cassie and Prof. Ormsby for their contribution.

If you're interested in joining our committee feel free to send me an email so I can add you to our discussion list: ftimothymartin@yahoo.com

Beautify Booker Creek!

Do Your Part

- Pick Up Trash
- Recycle
- Participate in Cleanup Days

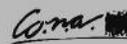
SAND CORDGRASS



DUCK POTATO

Preserve Native Plants

- Sand Cordgrass – Survives dry seasons
- Narrow Leaf Sunflower – Attracts butterflies, birds, and bees
- Duck Potato – Has strong roots and survives at different water levels



Site restoration coordinated by the Council of Neighborhood Associations and funded by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. Sign design and photographs by Cassandra Petrilla, Eckerd College student.

R 4 U: Resources for You

Neighborhood News Calendars

Use our local newspapers and websites to promote your meetings and events.

- Tampa Bay Times (formerly St Pete Times): E-mail your information to neighborhoodcal@gmail.com Deadline is 5 PM Friday for the next Wednesday.
- St Pete Patch: E-mail your information to William Mansell at www.stpete.patch.com
- City of St Petersburg: E-mail your information to Beth Herendeen at www.stpete.org

Neighborhood Concerns – CONA can help.

Questions? Need help? Don't understand something? Can't find the information you need? We have many mentors who are ready and willing to assist you with your neighborhood challenges. Please contact any CONA officer with your problem and you will be put in touch with a mentor who can help your association find a solution. If you leave a message and someone does not call you back within 24 hours, call another Officer. We just do not want our "out of office" to keep you from getting the answers/information you need.

Frequently Called Numbers

Mayor's Action Line	893-7111
SPPD (non-emergency)	893-7780
FL Abuse Hotline	800-962-2873
Animal Control	582-2600
City Council	893-7117
Codes Compliance	893-7373
Community Services	892-5141
County Commission	464-3377
Sanitation	893-7334

Garage Sale Leftovers?

Donate your unsold "treasures" at the end of your garage sale to the charity of your choice. Many charities will arrange pickup so you do not have to take anything to a drop off center. This is a win-win-win for everyone. Your home is now clean. The charity of your choice has new gently used "treasures" to sell and the people the charity supports are getting a helping hand.

CONA's Citizen of the Month

Please send us your suggestions of leaders in your neighborhood who deserve special recognition for their contribution, time, and ideas to your neighborhood association. Not only is recognizing our super volunteers something we can never do enough of, it also brings new people into CONA and helps us continue to build our leadership base. So, please send in those names of the leaders who shine in your neighborhood association!

CONA Newsletter ad rates – (Monthly Rates)

\$15	1/8 Page–Business Card Size
\$30	1/4 Page
\$100	Full Page
\$50	1/2 Page
Insert (Prepared by Advertiser) \$ 50.00	
Insert - Work-up Time & Material	
Pre-Pay for 6-9 Months-Get 1 Month Free	

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - January 16, 2013

- Incoming President Kurt Donley opened the meeting at 7:05PM and Askia Muhammad Aquil gave the opening prayer.
- President Donley asked for a motion to approve Barbara Heck as CONA Secretary so we could proceed with the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor Bill Foster was asked to come forward and give the oath of office to the 2013 CONA Officers which he did and added a few of his own remarks. President Donley asked members going forward to act civilly with each other and with neighbors. He committed that "my time is your time" and that he will be attending meetings and answering questions.
- Service Awards were presented to outgoing CONA President Mike Gully and retiring CONA Secretary Conrad Weiser who received a standing ovation for his decade of service as recording Secretary.
- Susie Ajoc, Community Service Director, was recognized, but had nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer's Report:

- April Gausman reported an ending balance on 12/31/12 of \$3,820.42
- Recent memberships – Kenwood, Lakewood Estates, Coquina Key, Fossil Park

General Business:

- The Diversity Committee is disbanded.
- CONA will host a table at the MLK Breakfast Monday, January 21st at the Coliseum. Additional attendees were invited to join others at the CONA table. Tickets are \$25 each, but some scholarships are available.
- 2013 Goals Retreat is being planned for possibly February. Tim Martin is in charge.

Committee Reports:

Communication Task Force

- CONA President has formed this committee with Travis Jarman as Chair. The will look at what we need to do to more effectively communicate with our neighborhoods.
- Facebook, Twitter, electronic voting will all be reviewed.

Public Safety – Lisa Brown, Chair.

- Residential concern about the possible revamping of commercial property at 1300 block of MLK South into a bikini bar. Possible work without permits – calling Codes to check.
- Real time reporting–meeting with Mayor Foster and Chief Harmon. Suggested expanding the use of Reverse 911. It is a little slow and cannot solve immediate problem.
- Suggested using Twitter feed to dispense real time emergency situations. Chief Harmon will look at expanding

that, training the dispatchers to use it and setting up the appropriate accounts.

Land Development & Historic Resources – Judy Landon

- Maximo Park proposed Master Plan going before City Council on Friday, January 18th.
 - St. Pete Preservation President Will Michaels spoke that it was a great park, recreation, tremendous historic resources that go back 5,000 years.
 - There is an article in the Jan/Feb 2013 NE Journal.
 - An archeologist wants to expand the entire area into an archeology site.
 - It is nominated for the National Registry of Historic Sites. A master plan is under development.
 - Should be part of the Heritage Tourism Program with an artificial Indian mound to explain the historical significance.
- Conflict is recreation use versus archeological use. Priority should be given to archeological resources. Compare with plan for Pinellas Point Mound. Add the missing points to the management plan.
- Vice President Ali Montsho expressed concern that disc golf should be stopped. Will Michaels responded that the plan allows for this recreational use at the site but does provide good protection.
- All this is under the Parks and Recreation Department guidance.
- Motion made for CONA to endorse the St. Pete Preservation recommendation for the master plan and maintenance. Motion passed unanimously.

Additional Discussions:

MLK Day of Service-Kurt Steinmann

- Need volunteers to help with a Making Urban Landscapes Cleaner and Healthier Project at 62nd Ave S. Kurt reported that 100 yards of mulch and bromeliads would be delivered at the site. Work will be on Sunday starting at 1PM. Bring tools and wear appropriate clothing. A time capsule will also be buried at the garden.

Snipe Signs

- Jungle Terrace Association has seen an increase in the number of snipe signs. They have sent a letter with photos to both the Mayor and City Council members asking for increased enforcement through Codes and the Police Department.
- A graduated penalty for repeat violations was discussed.
- Ali Montsho stated that his City Councilman pulls out signs in his neighborhood.
- Travis Jarman gave an explanation about the changes Todd Yost was able to make in the City Codes Department and what is covered in the City Ordinance that was passed.

- The name or phone number on the sign is now the person legally responsible for the sign.
- Robo-calling having big effect on the multi-sign people (“we buy junk cars”)
- City has collected \$80,000 in fines of the \$140,000 in fines issued.
- While once a priority, snipe signs no longer seem to be a priority for Codes.
- Ask both Codes and SPPD to send representatives to the CONA meeting.

Leadership – Ingrid Comberg

The 21st Leadership class has 32 students (the most ever). This year a new class, Vision for St. Petersburg, has been added. January 28th is the first class with Mayor Foster, City staff and City Council members.

New Business and Neighborhood Sharing:

Redistricting

- City committee meets at 4PM every Tuesday at City Hall.
- Potential redistricting changes to Broadwater and Bahama Shores neighborhoods.
- Possible increase of minority districts to 3 where we now have 2

Historic Kenwood – Bill Heyen

- Booker Creek cleanup behind Ed White Hospital Crossroads Neighborhood
- 18 acres of the Archdiocese property in process of development. Area is on 66th Street between 9th and 14th Avenues North. Proposal is for two buildings (one story and a two story) of about 51,000 sq. ft. and a 200 spaces parking lot. Last 1 acre will be a bank. Ground breaking in April. This is an acceptable development for Crossroads.

CREED (Creating Racial Equality & Ending Disparities)

Amber briefly discussed this community action group formed to address and improve racial and ethnic equity in healthcare and health outcomes. Flyers were available at the back table. Next meeting is February 11 at 6PM at All Children’s Education Center.

Water Management – Chris Klaus

- Brief discussion of watering restrictions.
- Great changes to the current toilet replacement program. New pilot project will provide a FREE low-flow toilet to pre-qualified single family residential water customers in St. Petersburg. No wait for a rebate which took up to 4 months.
- Ali Montsho asked the question – how does this (replacing high flow with low flow toilets) benefit neighborhood when usage goes down but costs go up with a rate increase?
- Water conservation is the least costly alternative to getting more water for everyone. Average homeowner can save over 700 gallons per low-flow toilet.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.



CONA Remembers...

Scott Swift, 1947–Jan 22, 2013

Scott was a very passionate neighborhood activist, a triathlete, a talented musician and Bartlett Park resident. After a 2 year battle with cancer, Scott passed away peacefully at Hospice Woodside. He will be missed.

Phil Whysong, 1941–Dec 28, 2012

Phil served as North Kenwood Neighborhood Association President approximately 7 years and worked very, very hard to raise funds for the creation of Brooker Creek Park adjacent to Ed White Hospital. Phil’s years of advocacy with the city and amazing fundraising efforts helped his dream of a park come true. Brooker Creek Park has a nature walk, two piers, two bridges, a fantastic playground, picnic shelters, other picnic tables, benches and a fountain. Phil also sat on the Board of Trustees at Ed White Hospital. Phil was in the US Army and served in Vietnam. Phil gave generously of his time over the years as he helped his neighborhood, the Ed White Hospital and CONA. He will be greatly missed.

CONA 2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President

Kurt Donley - Grand Central
331-7373 - kurtdonley@msn.com

1st Vice President

Tim Martin - Historic Kenwood
251-9979 - ftimothymartin@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President

Ali Montsho Westminster Heights
rmontsho@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit

Faye Jackson - Highland Oaks
327-9844 - lfax@msn.com

CONA Leadership

Ingrid Comberg - Disston Heights
894-3048

Court Watch

open

Land Development & Historic Resources

Judy Landon - Harris Park
judylandon55@gmail.com

Membership

Tom DeMint
422-1279 - tjdl@aol.com

Nominating

Sue Heyen - Historic Kenwood
251-2224 - mimsue@tampabay.rr.com

Public Safety

Lisa Brown - Wildwood
244-9018 - lisab0725@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Mike Gulley - Coquina Key
244-8374 - jmichael.gulley@gmail.com

OTHER CONA COMMITTEES

Codes Committee

Robby Thompson
510-5087 - rightspindle@yahoo.com

Communications

Travis Jarman - Bayway Isles
cona.mail@bayway.org

Energy & Environment Committee

Tim Martin - Historic Kenwood
251-9979 - ftimothymartin@yahoo.com

Newsletter Coordinator

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

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Mailing 2nd Wednesday of month
In Hand 2nd Friday of month



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

Return Service Requested

Presort Std
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit #1084
St. Petersburg, FL

Your 2013 Resolution – Talk to the Mayor

Does your neighborhood have some issues or concerns or just some suggestions for City Mayor and staff? Go to Breakfast with the Mayor or Mayor's Night Out. Take advantage of these special events held throughout the year to meet and talk in person to the Mayor.

Breakfast with the Mayor is held the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 AM at various restaurants around the City. This popular forum is a great opportunity to talk informally with the Mayor about your concerns, enjoy a yummy breakfast and support our local host restaurants.

Mayors Night Out at 6 PM is the second great opportunity to get extraordinary access to all the decision makers in the City. Speak one-on-one with the Mayor and other public officials and get the services you need from City Hall. If you have a problem that spans departments and you haven't made use of this one-stop-shop, the problem is on you for not trying.

Mark your calendars and then go!!! Additional details can be found on the city website at www.stpete.org

Breakfast with the Mayor 7 AM (4th Wednesday of each month)
Mayor's Night Out 6 PM (Feb 7, Mar 14, Apr 11, Jul 18, Aug 8, Sep 5, Oct 10)

Fall in love with energy efficiency

Roses are red, violets are blue, saving energy is sweet, and can lower bills too! At Progress Energy Florida, we love our customers and we love energy efficiency. Therefore, during this month of love, there is no better way to express our love than to share some energy-saving tips with you. Your heart may skip a beat with the savings you'll reap. So, please, let us call you SWEETHEART.

Set your thermostat at 70 degrees or lower during cooler months. Adhering to the adjustments year-round, which includes keeping your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher in warmer months, could save more than \$300 in energy costs.

Wash your clothes with cold water whenever possible. This move could save between \$30 and \$40 a year.

Eliminate the "cold spot" from your fireplace. Close the flue and install glass doors to keep in the warm air.

Equip your home with solar products. Consider installing a solar pool heating system, or solar water heater. A solar water heater can save you up to 85 percent on the water-heating portion of your bill; plus, you may qualify for a Progress Energy rebate of \$550.

Turn off the lights in unoccupied rooms. A single 60-watt light bulb left on 12 hours per day for one year uses 263 kilowatts of energy, totaling \$23 per year.

Heat your home with the sun's help. Leave window shades or blinds open during the daytime to let the sun's light, and heat, into your home.

Exchange your standard bulbs with compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. CFL bulbs last up to 10 times longer while providing the same amount of light. On average, one CFL bulb will pay for itself in about six months and will save around \$40 or more over the lifetime of the bulb.

Aadjust your water heater. Dropping the temperature from 140 to 120 degrees could save up to \$85 a year. A setting of 120 degrees is sufficient for most household needs.

Reduce your pool pump's operating hours to the minimum necessary, generally three hours per day in the winter, for pool cleanliness. Follow this guideline to reduce your pool's annual electric consumption by up to 60 percent – and extend the pump's life in the process.

Turn off your electronics with a power strip. Your TV, along with other electronics, is constantly using power when plugged in, often referred to as standby power. Most electronic devices still consume electricity when switched off or to a low-power mode. By using a power strip you can easily flip the switch to the "off" position when they are not in use, saving time and money. Don't worry; this should not harm your electronics.

Follow these tips and the energy savings may tickle you pink. To find out how to spread the love of energy savings throughout your home, contact Progress Energy Florida for a free Home Energy Check. The check provides customized energy-saving advice and determines your eligibility for valuable rebates toward energy-efficient home improvements. The service can be performed over the phone, online or in person, where an Energy Advisor is on hand to address specific questions in your home. A Home Energy Check is a prerequisite for all Progress Energy rebates for energy-efficient home improvements.

To sign up for a free Home Energy Check, call 1.877.364.9003 or visit progress-energy.com/save to view more than 100 energy-saving tips.

SPPD: ATM Safety and Security Recommendations

In recent years, there has been significant growth in the number of automated teller machines (ATM's). These ATM's may be in financial institutions, shopping malls, convenience stores, or free-standing, etc.

A robbery of a person using an ATM is the most serious concern related to their presence. A would-be robber will obviously know an individual using an ATM will usually leave the machine with cash money in their possession after withdrawal of funds. In addition, if an individual is the victim of an ATM robbery, other personal property such as wallets, purses, credit cards and jewelry will often be taken.

According to the Bank Administration Institute, the most dangerous hours for ATM crimes are from 7:00 p.m. until midnight, when approximately 40% of ATM-related crimes occur.

The following are a number of ATM safety and security tips.

Selecting an ATM

- Do not select an ATM at the corner of a building. Corners create a blind area in close proximity to the customer's transaction. Select an ATM located near the center of a building. An ATM further from the corner reduces the element of surprise by an assailant and increases effective reaction time by the user.
- Identify an ATM with maximum natural surveillance and visibility from the surrounding area. This will create a perceived notion of detection by a criminal and increases the potential for witnesses.
- Select an ATM at a location void of barriers blocking the line of sight of the ATM. This includes shrubbery, landscaping, signs and decorative partitions or dividers. Barriers provide hiding areas for would-be assailants.
- Select an ATM that is in a well-lighted location.
- Whenever possible, select an ATM that is monitored or patrolled by a security officer.
- Select an ATM with a wide-angle transaction camera and/or a continuous transaction surveillance camera. Consult the bank or location management for this information.
- Solicit prior criminal activity statistics from law enforcement for the ATM site and surrounding neighborhood.
- Avoid ATM locations with large perimeter parking lots and numerous ingress and egress points.

Approaching the ATM

- At a drive-up ATM, keep all windows closed, except the one you are using, and all vehicle doors locked. Keep the vehicle running and be watchful of the vehicle's front, rear and sides. If someone approaches your vehicle on foot, cancel the transaction and leave.
- If you drive to the ATM and then exit your vehicle to use the ATM, lock all of the vehicle doors after you exit it. Then, keep your keys handy so you can re-enter your vehicle quickly after completing your transaction.
- When approaching the ATM, be alert for anything suspicious, especially two or more people in a nearby vehicle, particularly if no one else is at the ATM, or someone appears to be "hanging" around the area.
- Never approach an ATM if the lights at the site are not working.
- Particularly after dark, take a companion along to the ATM, if at all possible, and park close to the ATM in a well lighted area.
- Avoid using ATM's with obscuring bushes around them, again, particularly after dark.

Using the ATM

- When waiting in line to use the ATM, wait well behind the person(s) ahead of you, and do not approach the ATM until they complete their transaction.
- When you are using the ATM and someone is closer to you than you would like them to be, ask them politely and tactfully to step back a few steps. If they do not do so, cancel your transaction and wait in your locked vehicle or other safe location until that person leaves, or possibly go to another ATM.
- Before you approach the ATM, have your card ready, know your code and if anything such as a deposit slip needs to be filled out, have it completed. If making a deposit and you do not have a deposit envelope, obtain one from the storage section of the ATM and fill it out in your locked vehicle or other safe locations before you return to the ATM.
- Protect your Personal Identification Number (PIN). Memorize your PIN. Do not write your PIN on your ATM card or carry your PIN in your wallet or purse.
- Select a PIN that is different from other numbers that may be noted in your wallet or purse, such as your address, birth date, telephone or social security number.
- When using the ATM ensure that the card reader has not been altered (skimming devices are placed over existing card readers to capture personal information), stand directly in front of the keyboard, blocking the view of others. Do not enter the PIN if anyone else can see the screen.
- Never accept offers of assistance with the ATM from strangers. If you are having problems, contact your financial institution.
- When your ATM transaction is completed, immediately take your property, card, receipt, money, etc., put them in your pocket, wallet or purse and leave immediately.
- Never stand and count your money. You can count it later. If your transaction is inaccurate, you cannot discuss it with the machine. Thus, there is no need to count your money at the ATM and risk exposing yourself to a would-be criminal.
- ATM robberies often occur after the patron has completed their transaction. Always have your head up and be aware of your surroundings when you leave an ATM. If you feel or sense someone is following you, walk or drive to the nearest open business or where there are a lot of people and call the police. Never tell your access code or PIN to anyone! Never lend your ATM card to anyone; treat it like cash or a credit card.