

# CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

September 2005

## President's Message

By Karl Nurse

This edition of the newsletter includes a summary of the questionnaire that CONA sent to candidates for City Council concerning their views on our priorities. The good news is that many candidates, incumbents and challengers alike, state that they favor additional community police officers, code enforcement officers and many favor height restrictions of some kind downtown. The bad news that the City Council finished its budget on Sept 8th and did not include any additional community police or codes officers.

During the budget votes, three members of council consistently supported our positions. Those three were: Richard Kriseman, Jay Lasita, and Jamie Bennett. Rene Flowers voted with us but was in the hospital for the final rounds of votes. We need to pass on our thanks for their efforts during the last several months. Our challenge during forums and neighborhood association meetings with candidates this fall is to get candidates to commit to vote for funding for community police and code enforcement. It does not do us much good to "Favor" neighborhood friendly stands if that does not get translated into the annual budget. The City Council can have a powerful voice in setting priorities for our City. Please ask them these questions in this election season.

CONA will sponsor two political forums during this year's election cycle. On October 19th we will partner with the League of Woman Voters to present a candidate's forum at the Sunshine Center. This forum will begin at 6:45 PM.

On October 26th, CONA will partner with the Chamber of Commerce to present a candidate's forum at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

Our neighborhoods continue to improve around town. It is the partnership among neighbors, private developers and the government that can speed or slow the improvement. The disaster in New Orleans shows how important it is to take care of the hidden infrastructure of a community whether it is levies or drainage systems. We should thank our City government in recent years for making major investments in repairing and replacing or water, sewer and street drainage systems. There is not much glory in this effort. Leadership is sometimes doing the important even if no one says thank you. Thank you.

## CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, September 21, 2005

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

### AGENDA ITEMS:

CONA SPONSORED CANDIDATE DEBATES  
LDR UPDATE

### REPORTS:

CONA PICNIC • LEADERSHIP 2006  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Featured Neighborhood:  
Euclid/St. Paul Neighborhood Association

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# Ten Council Candidates Respond to CONA Questionnaire

By Steve Plice

CONA invited all of the candidates running for City Council seats to participate in a questionnaire directed at issues we have identified as "priorities" for 2005. Ten of the eleven candidates responded. By district, the candidates who participated in the CONA questionnaire are:

**DISTRICT 2:** John Bryan and Eve Joy. **District 4:** Leslie Curran, Virginia Littrell and Kim Trombley.  
**DISTRICT 6:** Darden Rice, Maria Scruggs-Weston, and Earnest Williams.  
**District 8:** Jeff Danner and Jamie Mayo.

We thank everyone who participated in the CONA Questionnaire.

CONA does not endorse candidates running for public offices. Instead, we attempt to facilitate the dissemination of information, relying on informed citizens to make their own choices. In that spirit, the responses to the CONA questionnaire are provided below. Many of the candidates included commentary and clarifications with their answers. Because of limited space, those comments are not reproduced here. All of the comments and clarifications will be posted on the CONA website: [www.conastpete.org](http://www.conastpete.org)

## Crime & Our Quality of Life

*According to the City of St. Petersburg, FBI and FDLE web sites, St. Petersburg's crime rate is higher than Miami's. We don't seem to be able to hire enough officers to get to full strength. Morale, even with the added benefits, still seems to be critically low. Petty crime like auto/home burglary, vandalism, loose dogs, speeding, red-light running as well as more serious crime like drug-dealing and prostitution seem to flourish. CPOs are not in their neighborhoods where they could be making a critical impact. Codes Compliance is not staffed up or computer ready yet to be able to take a proactive approach to problems with yard parking, illegal signs and serial codes violators even though money was budgeted for more staff and computers.*



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### Questions:

1. Do you support adding more CPOs, giving them smaller areas and allowing them to work their areas instead of being reassigned?

**Yes: 9 candidates**

**No: Scruggs-Weston**

2. Will you make fighting petty crime in our city a priority?

**Yes: 9 candidates**

**Undecided: Mayo**

3. Can you take the lead in drafting an illegal signs ordinance with penalties for violators such as Clearwater has?

**Yes: 5 candidates**

**Undecided: Bryan, Curran, Danner, Mayo and Joy**

4. Do you support having CPOs work more closely with Codes Compliance to address neighborhood issues?

**Yes: 8 candidates ; No: Mayo, Scruggs-Weston**

5. Will you push for more staffing, training and equipment for Codes Compliance officers?

**Yes: All candidates**

## **Vision 2020 & the LDR Rewrite**

*As we rewrite the rules for development and redevelopment in our city, it is important that our concerns are heard and included. Commercial intrusion into neighborhoods, the lack of height restrictions downtown and the lack of neighborhood seats on our Boards and Commissions are just a few areas of concern.*

### **Questions:**

1. Do you support rewriting our Land Development Regulations so that neighborhoods are protected from the impacts of commercial intrusion?

**Yes: 9 candidates; No: Mayo**

2. Do you favor a height restriction downtown?

**Yes: 7 candidates**

**Undecided: Bryan, Mayo and Williams**

3. Could you support a proposal from a Board or Commission that violates a strict interpretation of the Comprehensive Plan?

**Yes: Trombley; No: Curran, Littrell and Rice**

**Undecided: Bryan, Danner, Joy, Mayo, Scruggs-Weston and Williams**

4. Do you believe in the Special Master concept being used in Codes Compliance cases?

**Yes: Bryan, Danner, Joy and Williams**

**No: Littrell**

**Undecided: Curran, Mayo, Trombley, Rice and Scruggs-Weston.**

## **Sidewalks/Alleys/Bike Plan**

*Current city initiatives already underway include these areas. We'd like to know your philosophy on each.*

### **Questions:**

1. Should all alleys be paved?

**Yes: Joy, Littrell, Trombley, Scruggs-Weston and Williams**

**No: Danner, Mayo and Rice**

**Undecided: Bryan and Curran**

2. Are sidewalks throughout the city a priority for you?

**Yes: All candidates**

3. Do you support the Traffic Calming concept?

**Yes: 9 candidates**

**Undecided: Curran**

Announcing  
**CONA's 2005  
All-Neighborhood Block Party  
November 5, 2005**  
at Walter Fuller Park  
Hosted by  
Jungle Terrace Civic Association  
For more information, contact:  
Tom Killian 343-2041

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# LDR Update and Meeting Schedule

## **CITY DEFERS ADOPTION OF NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR 6 MONTHS**

The City of St. Petersburg is deferring application for adoption of the Land Development Regulations for a 6-month period. The purpose of this deferment is to continue work on the Downtown districts, allow the City to rewrite the INTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN and continue to address public comment.

As you know, this project is large and complex. While the community has spent many hours resolving issues and bringing the newly proposed regulations in compliance with the character of the community, there is still additional work that needs to be completed, most notably within the downtown.

Over the next several months, interested parties will participate in a series of task force meetings to develop a final strategy for the downtown zoning. When the draft regulations are finalized, they

will be presented to the public for discussion in December. Once this work is completed, the city will reinstate the adoption process commencing in January of 2006.

## **DRAFTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW**

The City is reformatting the web site that contain the LDR's drafts to better assist you with finding the information contained in the drafts. Because of the extensive amount of information and from the many suggestions we have received from the public regarding the web site we will be revamping the site to better assist you in location and comparing draft information. While this will create a down time of approximately one month, the new format and lay out of the information contained in the draft regulations will allow you to more thoroughly and easily find the information you are seeking.

We appraised your patience in this endeavor. Please look forward to next month's newsletter which will

introduce the newly revised web site and provide a roadmap for navigating through all the information.

## **THE OVERALL SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND FORUMS**

The following schedule outlines the times of anticipated upcoming meetings. Those meetings that have been set have a specific date. When a meeting has not been set, the general time period will be indicated.

You will receive additional newsletter updates in advance of each meeting to give you the specific times and locations. In addition to the public meetings listed below, committee workshops and meetings will also occur. If you are a member of a specific committee your chair will notify you if a meeting involving your committee is to take place.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC MEETINGS**

CORRIDORS  
DOWNTOWN

SEPTEMBER 14 2005  
DECEMBER 7 2005

## **DOWNTOWN-RELATED**

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS  
COMBINED MEETING WITH DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY AND  
THE DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION OF DOWNTOWN DISTRICTS BY STAFF  
DOWNTOWN PUBLIC FORUM

SEPTEMBER&OCTOBER  
OCTOBER  
NOVEMBER  
DECEMBER 7 2005

## **CITY COUNCIL & PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSHOPS**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
DISTRICT REGULATIONS  
SPECIFIC USE REQUIREMENTS  
INTERPRETATIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL

JANUARY  
FEBRUARY  
MARCH  
APRIL  
MAY

## **ADOPTION PROCESS**

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY COUNCIL 1ST READING AND 1ST PUBLIC HEARING  
PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING  
CPA/BOCC PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY COUNCIL 2ND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
ADOPTION COMPLETE

JANUARY 17, 2006  
FEBRUARY 16  
MARCH 15  
APRIL 4  
JUNE 15  
AUGUST/SEPT

# 2005 CONA Membership

*Sixty-six neighborhood associations have joined CONA for the calendar year 2005. Please check the following list to make sure your neighborhood is included. Contact us with any corrections.*

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

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

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## **New Neighborhood Correspondent for the St. Petersburg Times**

Paul Swider will be taking over the Neighborhood Notebook in Sunday's Neighborhood Times and is eager to have plenty of input from neighborhood associations about their activities. Feel free to email him at [pswider@sptimes.com](mailto:pswider@sptimes.com)

Paul comes to this task as a Times freelancer writing mainly about the beaches, but also as a contractor on a new Times Web project on citizen journalism. Look for it to start Sept. 12.

Paul has an education and background in journalism in Florida and Illinois. He has covered county government, environmental issues, sports, entertainment and general assignment in St. Petersburg, Port Charlotte, Panama City and throughout the Midwest. Paul also has experience as a PR and marketing consultant in Washington, DC, and overseas. He spent several years

working on community development through communications, mostly in Africa, particularly Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa. He also built a community computer/health/business center in a remote village in Ghana. He also served as a business consultant volunteer with the Peace Corps in Bulgaria.

Paul moved back to St. Pete three years ago and is actively involved in the community. In addition to working on consulting projects, he also dabbled in politics, particularly working on the last Tampa mayoral race. He is also a 2005 graduate of Leadership St. Pete.

Paul is married and has one child. He lives in the Uptown Neighborhood. Again, Paul would very much like to have as much input from neighborhood associations as he can cultivate.

Located between MLK and 16th Streets North and 22nd and 9th Avenues North

The Euclid/St. Paul's neighborhood began as the city's most celebrated orange grove in a part of town most residents regarded as "out in the country." Co-owned by Mary Eaton, the founder of the St. Petersburg Memorial Historical Society, the 20-acre grove was bounded by MLK (then known as Euclid Blvd.) and 12th Streets and 14th and 15th Avenues.

A few homes were constructed in the neighborhood prior to the land boom. One of the oldest homes in the neighborhood, located at 12th Street and 10th Avenue, was built in 1917 as a grand mansion but was used in later years as a sanitarium. Another old home in the neighborhood, located on 19th Avenue and 11th Street, served as a bunkhouse for Eaton's orange pickers.

The grove was a prolific producer of citrus until 1921 when developer, John B. Green purchased the land and began developing it into an exclusive neighborhood of various architectural styles. Minimum dollar values and square-foot restrictions were placed on the homes constructed. The homeowner's association at the time designated that homes along 15th Avenue were to be worth at least \$6,000 (a hefty price tag for the 1920's) and contain a minimum of 6 rooms exclusive of bathrooms, closets and porches.

During St. Petersburg's land boom of the 1920's, Euclid Place, as it was originally called, continued to spread north, south and west with smaller houses to accommodate many families. In 1925, the neighborhood welcomed Euclid School. The grammar school taught several generations of neighborhood children and today serves as administrative offices for Pinellas County Schools. Euclid Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1936 adjacent to Euclid School on 10th Avenue. In 1929, St. Paul's Catholic School opened its doors to students and held mass the school gymnasium until the church was built in 1939. St. Paul's Catholic School thrives today as one of the area's best Catholic grammar schools and the church has a large and active congregation. St. Paul's celebrated its 75th Jubilee in 2004.

Today, Euclid/St. Paul's functions as a lively neighborhood with young families who choose its quiet, oak-lined streets and historic homes to raise their families. The neighborhood association is growing and hosts several social functions throughout the year to bring neighbors together. Monthly "Porch Parties" are opportunities to get to know neighbors and relax. Each spring the neighborhood holds its popular Spring Yard Sale and Neighborhood Potluck.

In late October, Euclid/St. Paul's becomes the "Spookiest Neighborhood in St. Petersburg." The annual "Haunted Hike" will take place on Saturday, October 29th. The association will have a potluck and costume contest for Euclid/St. Paul's residents and pets before the Hike begins. Last year the hike raised \$650 for the association and was featured on Channel 10's 'Tampa Bay Live' TV show.

Association meetings are held monthly at St. Paul's Catholic School on the first Thursday. Association dues are \$15 a year and membership is open to all residents and businesses. The newsletter is published nine times a year and is delivered to all households. The newsletter has gone from costing the association \$200 a month to making about \$100 a month profit from ad revenue. We have an email list that is used to inform residents of breaking news and events, particularly Crimewatch issues. The association is also active in the City Team. The Euclid/St. Paul's web site address is [www.espna.org](http://www.espna.org).

We've been busy in 2004-2005! Other recent projects and activities include:

- Sponsored 2 Families at Christmas 2004 through the YMCA – raise funds at meetings by small donation into 'jug'. This year association members voted to raise funds for ASAP.
- Partnered with Tampa Bay Watch to mark all drains in the neighborhood
- The association is logging volunteer hours, both as they pertain to grants, and to report our activities to our neighborhood. Hours can be submitted on website.
- Two association board members graduated from the 2005 CONA Leadership class.
- 2005 Tree Grant was received and completed.
- 2005 Police Forfeiture Grant was received and completed; used to purchase 'Crimewatch' t-shirts. Weekly Crimewatch bike rides began this June.
- Application completed for 2006 Lighting Grant.
- Developed line of ESP logo products – 50% of profits go to the Lighting Fund.
- Added voluntary contribution line on membership sign-up, for general fund or Lighting Fund.

"It was fun growing up here," said long-time Euclid resident Jennie Sierkese Kleinfeld in 1983 to The Evening Independent. "There was a settled population of well-established people."

Our neighborhood feels the same now with a strong group of residents who are committed to its progress and preservation.

Minutes continued from back page

- The city has called for a meeting of their planning staff with area neighborhood leaders and as many as 10 real estate developers.
- There is a September 13th meeting scheduled by the Planning Commission, hopefully to conclude approval of the evolved LDRs.
- Steve called our attention to the fact that our City Comprehensive Plan limits issuing building permits only if city water is available as needed, but the Tampa Bay Water Authority has we can pump all we want.
- ◆ The focus of our meeting then turned to the upcoming hearings on the City Budget.
- The CONA initiative has been to increase the Police Department budget to provide for more officers and to relieve the Community Police Officers, (CPO), from other duty assignments.
- There will be budget hearings at City Hall on August 25th and September 8th. Member participation is encouraged of all neighborhoods.
- We were urged to press the Police/Budget issue before all city candidates who may be invited to the various neighborhood candidate forums.
- Moved, (O'Malley-Shore Acres), CONA will convey to all announced city candidates a listing of our 2005 Priorities, encouraging each to address these issues in their public appearances. [Approved]
- ◆ Hoping to avoid schedule conflicts for candidates invited to attend neighborhood forums, the President directed Conrad to establish a page on our website where the schedule for neighborhood candidates will be posted.
- ◆ Karl noted that discussions with The Chamber Of Commerce have tentatively agreed upon a joint candidate's forum on October 26th, at a site yet to be selected. It was hoped that television coverage could be included.
- ◆ It was suggested that the October CONA meeting might also include another candidate forum.
- To limit the duration of the forum, during our meeting, it was proposed to invite only the City Council candidates. It was further proposed that their

presentations be limited to addressing the issues of our CONA Priorities.

- ◆ Susan Ajoc of the Neighborhood Partnership Office spoke briefly, noting the deadline for matching grant applications will be September 2nd. She urged our members to attend the state Neighborhood's Conference in Lakeland from October 20th through the 22nd.
- ◆ District 6 City Council candidate Jeff Danner was introduced.
- ◆ Ingrid Comberg, (Asian FACE), reported on a conference focused on sexual predators and offenders at the RCPI campus of St. Petersburg College.
  - Employing only CPOs and a few civilians for tracking, our S.P.D. checks on predators once each month and offenders only once annually.
  - The Pinellas Sheriff has offered to subcontract the task of tracking all sexual predators/offenders in the city beyond their regular responsibilities.
  - Moved, (Comberg), CONA supports contracting with the Sheriff to track the sexual predators/offenders within our city. [Approved]
  - Our President agreed to urge the Mayor to do this at an upcoming meeting in the Mayor's office.
- ◆ We all then enjoyed a presentation, (with refreshments to follow), by President Barbara Heck of The Snell Isle Property Owners Association, Inc. Karl expressed our appreciation to Tom Killian and Libby Steele, (currently hospitalized we were all sorry to hear), for their recruiting/solicitation efforts that have resulted in our current membership of over 60.
- ◆ Ingrid mentioned the need for a city codes staff person designated to address the issue of "Overgrowth". Karl agreed to mention the problem to the Mayor.
- ◆ A workshop for applicants to the Police Forfeiture Grant Program has been scheduled for August 18th at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.
- ◆ There will be an Open House celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Sunrise Community Resource Center on September 9th from 11a.m. to 2 p.m.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



## Neighborhood Nite at Tropicana Field

By Tom Killian

CONA Membership Chairman Tom Killian congratulates Phil Whysong President of the N. Kenwood Association. N. Kenwood had 59 members in attendance, the most of any Association in our city. For bringing the most members Phil was introduced and honored on the playing field. Eleven Neighborhoods attended the festivities with a total of 151 people attending. We had good seats behind home plate, upper deck. Tickets were \$3.00 each. Please plan to attend our 2006 Spring Tropicana Field game.



## 2005 Officers

### President

Karl Nurse  
Old Southeast  
572-9311 Ext. 24  
karl@baytechlabel.com

### First Vice President

Steve Plice  
Jungle Terrace  
344-3120  
Steveplice@verizon.net

### Second Vice President

Theresa McEachern  
Harbordale  
823-6390  
terre66@aol.com

### Secretary

Conrad Weiser  
Edgemoor  
522-5008  
MAOA1999@aol.com

### Treasurer

Libby Steele  
Lakewood Estates  
867-6916  
MPH56@aol.com

### Frequently Called Numbers

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

### CONA Newsletter Deadlines

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

Editor: Steve Plice 344-3120

## CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - August 17, 2005

Minutes by Conrad Weiser

President Karl Nurse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- ◆ Karl opened the meeting with a review of victories for our CONA causes achieved since our last meeting. (1) The Wal-Mart Gandy project has been abandoned after the protest of our cooperating neighborhood associations before the E.D.C. and at the City Council hearing.
- ◆ (2) With widespread support from city government, St. Petersburg has won designation as a Green City confirming the commitment of our community to preservation of our environment.
- ◆ Vice President Steve Plice explained the activities of our Nominations Committee now seeking candidates for the CONA Executive Board. Our November meeting will include a report from the Nominations Committee as well as a final opportunity to hear of nominations from the floor. The December meeting will include the election of our Executive Board who will be sworn into office at our January meeting.
- ◆ Steve also provided an update on the zoning issue currently being considered for the 63-acre church owned property along 66th Street at Ninth Avenue North. The Sembler Company seeks to develop an 18-acre portion of the property contingent on revising the current residential zoning. To "Commercial General", a change opposed by the contiguous neighborhood associations and, in support, by CONA. [Steve noted that the City Comprehensive Plan already identifies an excess of property zoned as Commercial General. Adding the 66th Street property will serve to further inhibit commercial development in the city at sites where it might be more welcome.]
  - There will be a Zoning Board hearing at City Hall on September 13th. to consider the Sembler zone change application. Neighborhood representatives are urged to attend and voice their objections.
  - Moved, (McEachern-Harbordale), to accept the July Minutes. [Approved]
- ◆ Karl then launched a discussion of our evolving Land Development Regulations, (LDRs), as an outgrowth of the CONA Vision 2020 Project.
  - The most prominent issue, (currently being disputed by the Downtown Neighborhood Assoc.) are the proposed relaxed height restrictions.
  - FAA restrictions have been a limiting factor, near the airport, for 75 years.
  - Proposed relaxation of zone rules will allow (1) Higher structures, and (2) mixed uses that could allow an enormous high rise units directly adjoining existing single family residences.

*Continued on page 7*

The Council of Neighborhood  
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