

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

October 2005

President's Message

By Karl Nurse

We had another success in getting the Green Cities program passed by City Council in workshop on August 4th. Happily, This month CONA is co-sponsoring two candidates forums. One with the League of Women Voters at the regular CONA meeting. The other is with the Chamber of Commerce on the 27th. Please urge neighbors and friends to attend. It is important that we both have a reasonable crowd and that we take this opportunity to speak up for the issues that matter to neighborhoods.

Election time is a great chance to educate candidates for office about the importance of community policing, pro-active code enforcement, enforcement of the quality of life laws from noise ordinances to loose dogs and the needs to build or rebuild the sidewalks, alleys, recreational spaces and drainage systems in our neighborhoods. This is our best opportunity to communicate what is important to neighborhoods. Please do not let this pass by without your input!

We did ask that the candidate's forums be televised on the City Channel to help educate the citizens on the issues. However, we were turned down. I believe it will take candidates who commit at election time to use this powerful resource, a city run television station, as a tool of democracy, for us to change this for future elections. The greatest way to overcome the impact of special interest monies in elections is to allow debates to be widely seen so citizens can judge candidates rather than 30 second commercials or direct mail pieces.

Come check out our choices and let's win a victory for democracy!

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, October 19, 2005

The SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.
6:45 pm - 8:45 pm

Candidate Forum

6:45 - 7:15 Mayoral Candidates

7:15 - 8:45 City Council Candidates

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CONA to sponsor two separate candidate debates

By Steve Plice

The Council of Neighborhood Associations does not endorse candidates for political office. Instead, we attempt to provide information to the city's citizens and trust them to choose well when voting in City elections. Instead of attempting to tell people how to vote, CONA attempts to facilitate the flow of information between candidates and voters.

For the 2005 city election cycle, CONA has partnered with the League of Women Voters and the Chamber of Commerce to organize two separate candidate debates. These debates provide the opportunity for a direct dialogue between the candidates and the voters.

Wednesday, October 19th CONA/League of Women Voters Candidates Forum

The Sunshine Center, 330 5th St. N.

6:45 - 7:15 Mayoral Candidates

7:15 - 8:45 City Council Candidates

Questions will be written and timers will be used. CONA and the League of Women Voters will each provide a timer and 2 "ushers" to gather written questions.

Topics are not limited but suggested to include housing/redevelopment and policing/quality of live issues.

CONA/Chamber of Commerce Forum

October 27th, 5:30PM – 7:00 PM.

St. Petersburg Yacht Club

CONA LEADERSHIP 2006 Applications are Available

2006 will be the 14th year for the CONA Leadership program. This is a wonderful opportunity for residents to learn about our city. Participants learn how the city works and the meet the Mayor as well as other officials who make our city work.

The application form for the 2006 program is printed in this edition of the newsletter.

The leadership program includes eleven sessions including orientation and the graduation dinner. Generally, the meetings are on Monday evenings and the bus tour is on a Saturday.

This year, orientation is on January 9th, 2006.

For more information contact:

Ingrid Comberg
620 5th Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 821-2192

or

Greg Karpinsky
3523 16th St. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33715
(727) 865-1920

2005 CONA Membership

Seventy 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.
Crossroads Area Homeowners Association
Disston 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.
Sterning Manor-Brighton Bay Neighborhood Association
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.
Westminster Heights Neighborhood Association
Wildwood Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
Winston Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Woodlawn Oaks Neighborhood Assoc
Yacht Club Estates Civic Assoc.

Historic Kenwood BungalowFest - November 4 & 5

This tour of homes showcases the highest concentration of 1920's Craftsman Style Bungalows in Florida. Historic Kenwood is on the National Registry of Historic Places and is the celebrated front porch district of St. Petersburg. This two day event includes BungalowFest by Moonlight, an intimate wine and cheese tour hosted by a select five homes on Friday evening. Immaculate gardens and charming Bungalows will be on display Saturday for the annual BungalowFest. Tour will circulate through the brick streets under the shade of live oaks by complimentary trolley. For ticket and tour information visit:

Historickenwood.org
or contact

Craftsman House - Gallery•Cafe•Studios - 727-323-ARTS

Haunted Hike through Historic St. Petersburg Neighborhood

Euclid/ St. Paul's (ESP), St. Petersburg's most paranormal neighborhood, invites the public to a family-friendly Haunted Hike Saturday, October 29 from 7 – 9 p.m. The guided tour, which covers approximately one mile, will entertain visitors on the spooky past of one of the city's oldest neighborhoods.

ESP is located between 9th and 22nd Avenues and 16th and MLK Streets North.

Tours will leave the intersection of 13th Street and 13th Avenue North every 15 minutes.

Tour guides will take visitors on a walking tour down ESP's creepy alleys and brick-paved streets to old homes where costumed characters will tell stories of the people who once lived in them. Stories include:

- The Mad Gardener of Jackson Street
- Al Capone's Personal Family Mortician
- The Mansion with Bones in its Walls

This is the second year ESP has offered the Haunted Hike and expects to double last year's attendance of 300.

Ticket proceeds will benefit the ESP Neighborhood Association and ASAP Emergency Homeless Shelters.

The Hike is sponsored by Alice June Graphics and Policy Resource Group, LLC.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and may be purchased at www.espn.org or at the intersection 13th Avenue and 13th Street North the night of the tour. Children under 12 are free if accompanied by a paying adult. Refreshments will be sold. For more information, please call Wendy Wesley at 727-823-0393 or visit www.espn.org.

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Wendy Wesley

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www.callsunshine.com



CONA LEADERSHIP 2006

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County, Inc.

Application Form

Neighborhood Leadership Program 2006

Completed applications and tuition must be received by November 30, 2005

1. Personal Information

Name _____ E-Mail Address _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Additional Phone/Fax _____ Cell Phone _____

Neighborhood _____

2. Employment Information

Present Employer _____ Position _____

Address _____ Phone _____

3. Community or Neighborhood Involvement

- A. On what neighborhood boards, committees or groups have you been or are you currently active and what have you accomplished in these activities that you think is important? How much personal time do you devote each week to your neighborhood or civic activities?

- B. On what neighborhood boards, committees or groups would you like to become active in the future? Why?

C. What do you consider the single greatest issue facing our neighborhoods today? Suggest some possible approaches for dealing with the issues:

4. Education/Training

5. Special Skills

6. General Information

- You may attach additional pages to complete the questions
- Tuition for the program is \$60.00 for residents of St. Petersburg
- There will be a \$9.00 fee to cover the luncheon buffet, soft drink, tax, gratuity and gratuity for the bus driver during the historic tour. Your check, made payable to **C.O.N.A. Leadership Program**, must be enclosed with the completed application
- Participants **must** attend all classes including the historic bus tour as well as complete all assignments, projects or requirements in order to graduate

Completed applications and tuition should be sent to:

Ingrid Comberg
620 5th Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 821-2192

or

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St. Petersburg, FL 33715
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Minutes continued from back page

- ◆ Ms. Jill Silberman representing the Coquina Arms Complex invited our members to post available housing opportunities in their neighborhoods, for printing in the Coquina Arms Newsletter in advance of a pending conversion of their 1009 rental units into condominiums.
- ◆ Karl then recognized Maria Scruggs-Weston, a candidate for City Council of District 6. She offered an interesting presentation of her qualifications.
- ◆ Karl reminded us of the upcoming forum for Mayoral and City Council candidates that will be jointly sponsored by CONA and the League of Women Voters. [6:45 PM, Oct. 19, '05, The Sunshine Service Center.]
- ◆ We next enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation by architect Tim Clemmens, speaking for the Downtown Neighborhood Association.
 - His slide series described the perspective of his neighborhood in seeking to refine the current Land Development Regulations (LDRs).
 - They favor dividing the area of their neighborhood into several smaller zones. [[Their current area is 5th Ave. N. to 5th Ave. S., from Dr. M. L. King Jr. to Tampa Bay.]
 - They currently have 6,000 residents though the city projects 20,000.
 - They urge a FAR of 5 for all but the central core of their neighborhood which they favor having an FAR of 6.
 - They favor a height limitation of 400 ft. in the core district.
 - They propose developer "Credits" based on a percentage of project units that would qualify as "Affordable Housing".
 - Responding to a question, Tim acknowledged that his group typically opposes vacancy of streets or alleys by the city. They would favor giving more regulatory control to the Planning Commission and to City Council rather than the EDC.
 - Tim noted that recent city planning workshops have involved many builders but few neighborhood association representatives.
 - We learned of a new website that illustrates the concepts favored by his Downtown Neighborhood:
www.stpetedna.org.

- Karl again interjected that these LDR issues will be resolved in the next few months. Our inputs are important because the impacts of these crucial votes will persist for decades to come.
- ◆ We heard two representatives of Snell Isle Property Owner's Assoc. warn that proposed high rise construction on their waterfront are at risk of damage due to aerodynamic interaction when built too close together.
- ◆ Chris Page provided an exposition of this month's Featured Neighborhood: The Euclid/St. Paul Neighborhood Association.
- ◆ Tom Killian, (Jungle Terrace), provided an update on the preparations for our joint CONA/Jungle Terrace picnic planned for November 5.
 - More door prizes are needed to attract the hoped for attendance of 400.
- ◆ Steve Pllice, Chair of our Nominations Committee reported on their activities.
 - The President and the Secretary will run for reelection.
- ◆ We were reminded of the coming Air Show at Albert Whitted Field Oct. 8-9th.
- ◆ Karl reported on the meeting of the CONA Executive Committee with the Mayor and Vice Mayor on September 20th.
 - All vacancies for Codes Inspectors have been filled and each now has a wireless laptop for their field use.
 - The Bike Trails marker/painting is currently 8 months behind due contractor delays.
 - The city anticipates budget shortfalls as gas prices rise.
 - The Police Chief will resume his public forums after the elections.
 - The Sheriff has contracted to perform sex offender tracking in our city.
- ◆ City Council Candidate Jeff Danner announced a fund raising meeting Sept. 24th.
- ◆ North Kenwood Neighborhood Assoc. will have a candidate's forum with refreshments at Ed. White Hospital, 7:30 PM, October 10th.
- ◆ Dave Hoover, (Riviera Bay), reported that neighborhood picnic banners can be purchased cheaply at the Wagon Wheel Flea Market.

Our meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Minutes by Conrad Weiser, Secretary

Neighborhood Blog on the St. Petersburg Times website

By Steve Pllice

The St. Petersburg Times has created space for neighborhood associations to post notices and discuss issues on their newly formed community BLOG site. (BLOG is a shortened version of weblog. It allows everyone to post comments that can be seen by everyone else visiting the weblog site. **Check out <http://www.itsyourtimes.com>**

Click on the "neighborhoods" topic on the right hand side of the page. The Times is asking each neighborhood association to designate an official representative who will be able to post notices and initiated topics for BLOG discussions.

Currently, the BLOG is asking for comments community policing. Go to the website and post your comments. You can be assured that our elected leaders will be reading these comments.



2005 Officers

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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 - September, 21, 2005 Minutes by Conrad Weiser, Secretary

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

- ◆ The August CONA Minutes were approved.
- ◆ It was noted that the September Newsletter did not include Brighton Bay, Crossroads or Westminster neighborhoods in the list of paid members.
- ◆ Though gratefully our Treasurer, Libby Steele has been released from the hospital after a prolonged stay, we will not have a Treasurer's Report until our next meeting.
- ◆ We then heard a presentation by Will Michaels of the Bahama Shores Homeowner's Association.
 - The Westminster Retirement Institution is seeking approval to construct six new structures along the shoreline that will vary from 5 to 7 stories in height, in an area of existing single-family homes.
 - Though non-compliant with current redevelopment ordinances, the Board of Adjustment has approved the plans. The neighborhood plans to appeal that decision in Circuit Court.
 - The building plans are projected to extend over a span of 13 years.
 - Definitions of certain critical words in the development application have been variously interpreted by city staffers: "Perimeter", and "Voluntary Destruction"
 - Moved, (Plice), CONA supports the efforts of the Bahama Shores Homeowner's Association to bar the construction of several 5 to 7 story structures in their neighborhood by the Westminster Retirement facility. [Approved]. .
- ◆ Steve Plice, (Jungle Terrace), provided some background of the situation developing on a property owned by the Catholic Diocese at 66th. Street and 9 Avenue North. The Sembler Company has proposed building a shopping center on a portion of the church owned property. Some aspects of these plans have been challenged by the adjoining Eagle Crest and Crossroads neighborhoods. The Diocese has agreed to hire a mediator in an effort to amicably resolve the conflicts between the neighborhoods and the developer.
 - Karl Nurse emphasized the advantage of early discussions between neighborhood associations and developers preparing to submit construction permit applications.
- ◆ Karl then recognized Paul Swider, newly assigned reporter of the Neighborhood News feature of the St. Petersburg Times. He told us of a very traveled background and of new developments at the Times.
 - He described the new "Blogs" feature and urged that our members participate in this public forum media.

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