

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

September 2006

President's Message

By Karl Nurse

Is it just me getting old or has this been the dirtiest campaign season ever? The range of special interest groups that are running negative TV and mailing garbage is overwhelming. They, groups from all angles, have discovered that they can spend unlimited amounts, using "citizens for..." names to hide who is paying for the attacks, as long as they do to advocate FOR a candidate. This type of campaigning is a cancer on our democracy. Please ask candidates for the Legislature and Congress to close this loophole before everyone gives up on our democracy.

On the other hand, there are several pieces of good news this month! The County Commission is working on a program to implement "Green Cities" at the County level. This includes a commitment to build all future county buildings to the latest, best energy and water efficiency standards! Dunedin is also beginning this process. The City of St. Petersburg is beginning to implement a series of policy changes to become more energy and water efficient. It is local governments that provide the best hope of moving toward a sustainable future.

The Sheriff has offered to help fight crime in St. Petersburg. As several neighborhoods do battle with the worst of the criminals and drug dealers, it is a positive sign that additional help is on the way. Please pass on a thank-you to Sheriff Coats. We need to continue to spread crime watch and court efforts across the city.

Cona should be proud of the thousands of hours that neighborhood activists invested in the new LDR's (zoning) which will finish a seven year effort this fall. The great challenge now will be to change the culture of variance approvals. The old zoning did not fit so often that we assumed the zoning variances should be approved. IF we can change that to assuming that we must build within the new code, it will have been worth the effort.

The Pinellas Living Green Expo will be back again in 2007 and 2008. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped show the widespread interest in improving our community.

CONA Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

The SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Items:

CONA Business – Treasurer's Report

CONA Spotlight – Live Oaks Association

Sunshine Center - Ronnie Villano, Volunteer Coordinator Program

Updates – PLGE

Candidates – November election

On the inside

CONA 101-Acknowledging Good Deeds.....	2
September Ice Cream Treat	2
PLGE Expo 2007 & 2008 Plans	3
CONA Neighborhood Picnic	4
Sept Neighborhood Nite at the Trop	6
CONA Minutes	7-8
Neighborhood Spotlight	8
CONA Board.....	8



CONA 101 – Acknowledging Good Deeds

By Tom Killian

Associations, on a whole, do not do a good job of acknowledging good works done by their members or by city employees. We sometimes don't think of it or do not want to make the effort to write a letter. Writing a complimentary letter on your association stationery and addressing it to the department head of the employee can mean a raise or possible promotion. The letter goes into their file jacket.

If your CPO solves a problem that you have been having, write Chief Harmon and tell him about the good work. Write Sally Eichler if your code inspector solves a recurring problem. Write Dave Reed if your public Service Representative helps your association.

Acknowledge your members. If they win a race or receive a city award please put it in your newsletter. A Home of the Month award is an excellent way to credit people who keep their house and yard in exceptional shape. A simple thank you for people who help at events means a lot. If your association receives a gift or donation from a business for one of your events, please send a thank you note. The outgoing President of your Association, who has served multiple year terms, deserves recognition and a gift. A watch, wall clock or a store gift certificate are good gifts.

Sending a Christmas card to your newsletter advertisers is a good way to show your Association's appreciation. If you have a good mailman or newspaperman please write their superiors and tell them of the good job they are doing. Please also give them a generous tip at Christmas. If your association is fortunate enough to use a city facility for your meetings, please be generous and donate when the facility needs help. When you invite a speaker to your meeting and they do an exceptional job, please write their boss and tell them how well received the speech was.

We should take the extra time to thank people for what they do for us and for our Association. Too often, the only communication they receive is a complaint about something. Let's start thanking people more often and see what a difference that can make.

PS - Thank you for reading this column !!!

CONA September Special Dessert Night

Isla del Sol Neighborhood Association is providing a special ice cream dessert for everyone right before our September meeting. Please come early to enjoy this special treat before our 7PM meeting starts. Thank you so much Isla del Sol.

If you would like to provide a special dessert treat for CONA members, please call Tom Killian to reserve the date.





Pinellas Living Green Expo

Pinellas Living Green Plans Expo for the 2007 and 2008

Pinellas Living Green has announced plans for the 2007 and 2008 Expo events. The 2007 Expo will be at the St. Petersburg Coliseum on June 16th and 17th. The 2008 Expo will be held at the Harborview Convention Center in Clearwater. The Pinellas Living Green Steering Committee hopes to join forces with the Florida Green Building Coalition and expand the 2008 Expo into a statewide event.

The Florida Green Building Coalition holds an annual statewide "Green Trends" conference in various cities around the state. We are inviting FBGC to hold the 2008 "Green Trends" conference in Clearwater at the same time and place as the Pinellas Living Green Expo.

John Bagg has been appointed Chair for the 2007 Expo. John will be coordinating Pinellas Living Green Activities for the next year.

The Pinellas Living Green Expo is an environmental educational event for sharing ideas, resources and information with individuals, businesses and the Pinellas County Community that will promote sustainable living through energy efficiency, renewable energy and the conservation of water, energy and land resources. The first Expo, held in June, 2006, was very successful with 75 vendors and 5,000 people attending. The hope is to build on this success and make the Expo an annual event.

We are already off to a good start. Clear Channel has indicated willingness to donate billboards to promote our event again next year. Progress Energy has committed support. The City of St. Petersburg is including a \$2,000 "co-sponsorship" grant in the 2007 City budget. Pinellas Living Green, Inc. has now been awarded tax exempt "501(c)3" status by the Internal Revenue Service. This greatly enhances the organization's ability to raise money through tax exempt donations. All of this puts the project in very good shape to organize another successful event.

Individuals and neighborhoods wishing to help with the Pinellas Living Green Expo should contact John Bagg at 866-0023.

Knowledge is powerful medicine.

As part of our commitment to community education, Edward White Hospital offers FREE seminars on a range of topics, including stroke awareness and diabetes. We also provide free Blood Pressure Screenings and more.

For more information, contact Aimee Bennett, RN, Director of Marketing at 727-328-6245.

- 2323 9th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713
- 727-323-1111 – Main
- www.edwardwhitehospital.com



Edward White Hospital
Together, performing at a higher standard.

Call before you dig

It's not just another catchy slogan. It's the law.

1-800-432-4770



Learn more about the "Call Before You Dig" law at your next homeowner's association meeting.

Contact
Brian Dean at
(727) 669-5747

www.callsunshine.com

CONA Neighborhood Picnic

Saturday October 28, 2006
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Walter Fuller Park
7891 26th Ave N

*Live Bluegrass Music by
Bluegrass Southern Style*

*All Neighborhoods are invited
to the CONA Picnic*

*Bring a Covered Dish to
share with everyone*

Raffle Prizes needed

Call Tom Killian, Program Coordinator, for information 343-2041.

Neighborhood Nite at Tropicana Field

Monday, September 25 at 7:15 PM

Ray's vs. NY Yankees

\$5.00 per ticket (upper deck behind home plate) Remember - free parking at Tropicana Field

WOW !!! Great game, great seats, great bargain AND FREE PARKING !!!

Here is a great social event for all the baseball fans in your association and it only costs \$5 a seat.

Act fast as these seats will go fast at this price.

- Collect the ticket money from your association membership.
- Write a check to CONA for your tickets.
- Mail check before September 11th to CONA Treasurer at CONA, P.O. Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693.
- Tickets will be delivered to each Association President who will distribute them to their own members.
- For further information contact Program Chair Tom Killian at 343-2041.
- **Remember – the Association that brings the most members will get introduced on the field.**



So sell lots of seats everyone !!!

RELIABLE POWER.

AND PEOPLE DEDICATED TO KEEPING IT THAT WAY.



Reliability means improving how we deliver your power. Quickly restoring power after storms. Striving to make our customer service the best it can be. And evaluating and preparing for the energy needs of future generations. The relentless pursuit of excellence. It's what we're all about. progress-energy.com

 **Progress Energy**

People. Performance. Excellence.

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - August 16, 2006

Fist Vice President Barbara M. Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., requesting cell-phone silence and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

- ◆ In her “Welcome” remarks, Barbara noted that there would be an opportunity, at the end of our agenda, for several political candidates to introduce themselves.
- ◆ Barbara corrected an error in our July meeting Minutes which was published in our August CONA Newsletter. The erroneous statement: “We are now able to cast our election ballots on-line” should correctly have read: “We are now able to request absentee ballots on-line,…”
- ◆ Treasurer Annie McWilliams reported our current balance as \$2,980.35. She also appealed for updates when our member associations elect new officers.
- ◆ Second V.P. Tom Killian reminded us of the offer of neighborhood block tickets at \$5. @ for the Rays versus Yankee Game at Tropicana Field on September 25th. This includes admission to the Baseball Museum and free parking.
- ◆ Tom also invited all of our members to attend the joint CONA Picnic, at Walter Fuller Park on October 28th. There will be raffle prizes, hot dogs and blue grass music. He asked that participants bring a covered dish to share and solicited door prize contribution.
- ◆ Susan Ajoc of Neighborhood Partnership distributed several different grant application forms noting the deadline of September 8th for the neighborhood grants and September 29th. for the Police Forfeiture grant. She explained that this year’s statewide Neighborhood Conference would be held in Fort Lauderdale, October fifth through seventh. [1200 attended last year.]
- ◆ Bobbie O’Malley, (Albert Whitted Airport), invited all to attend, (or watch on TV Channel 35), the City Council hearing, [6 PM August 17th.]. of new plans for airport development. We also were urged to see the upcoming October Air Fest.
- ◆ He featured agenda item of our meeting was a presentation by Progress Energy describing their Bartow Repowering Project at the Weedon Island Generating Plant.
 - Three representatives spoke to us and distributed a 14-page brochure of their project. Melissa Seixas, Community Relations, Jamie Hunter, Environmental Concerns, and Amy McGuire, speaking for the Gulfstream Natural Gas System, builders of the pipeline.
 - Phase I of their project completed a 691-mile undersea pipeline from Mobile Alabama to Florida’s Port Manatee. Phase II will involve a 17 mile gas line extension, buried under Tampa Bay, from their Port Manatee Terminal to the Weedon Island Power Plant.
 - The existing plant, burning #6 bunker fuel oil, with its three 300 foot smoke stacks will be replaced by a four turbine gas burning system utilizing eight low exhaust stacks of 120 ft. height. The old plant had a generating capacity of 450 megawatts; the new has 1200 megawatts of capacity while emitting much lower environmental pollutants.
 - There will be no new power lines to the plant and all construction work for the repowering project will be confined to the existing Progress Energy property.
 - The repowering project construction work will begin in December 2006. The new generators a due to be in service by June of 2009

- A question and answer period followed in which many environmental concerns were voiced from the audience and responded to by the three representatives. They solicited the opportunity to address our member's monthly meetings to present their repowering project information to area residents.
- ◆ V.P. Tom Killian next presented two award plaques to Melissa Seixas. The first was our appreciation for the \$1,000 contribution to the CONA Leadership Program in which Melissa was a 2005 Graduate and a Mentor this year.
- ◆ The second plague was awarded to Progress Energy for their Platinum Sponsorship, [\$6,000.], of the Pinellas Living Green Expo held this year.
- ◆ Our agenda then switched to hearing two-minute presentations from a variety of local candidates seeking election to various government positions.

[Names and office sought follow.]

- Sheldon Schwartz School Board District 7
 - Ray Tampa School Board District 7
 - Charles Gerdes State Representative District 53
 - Robert Michael Circuit Judge, Group 45
 - Nancy Bostock School Board District 2
 - Pat Siracusa Circuit Judge Group 32
 - Jack Day Circuit Judge Group 45
 - Glenn Martin Circuit Judge Group 9
 - George H. Brown County Judge Group 16
- ◆ Judy Landon, (Harris Park), announced her neighborhood association will hold a Candidates Forum on September 18th at the Kiwanis Park, 38th Avenue N. and 21st. Street. She invited other neighborhood associations to join with them as a joint candidate's forum
 - ◆ Returning to our normal agenda, Barbara announced that our September meeting would feature desert refreshments compliments of our Isla del Sol Owner's Association.
 - ◆ Cathy Wilson, our Nominations Committee Chair called for nominations to the First & Second V.P., The Treasurer, and the Secretary, noting our by-law progression of our current First V.P. (Barbara Heck), to fill the Presidency. We were asked to make our nominations to Kathy or her helpers- Cheryl Greenwood or Will Michaels.
 - ◆ Greg Karpinski, (Magnolia Heights), urged, again, that our members support the concepts of "Neighborhood Plans" and our city's Comprehensive Plan" when developers seek to impose new, high density projects in our neighborhoods. He referred us to a web site that promotes this policy preserving our neighborhoods: www.FloridaHometownDemocracy.com.
 - ◆ Treasurer Annie McWilliams reported that our bank account for the 2006 Living Green Expo is reflecting a positive surplus that will carry forward to our Expo for 2007.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Conrad Weiser, Secretary



2006 Officers

President

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

First Vice President

Barbara Heck
Snell Isle
894-6020
bg@racerrex.com

Second Vice President

Tom Killian
Jungle Terrace
343-2041
tomkillian@juno.com

Secretary

Conrad Weiser
Edgemoor
522-5008
MAOAI999@aol.com

Treasurer

Annie McWilliams
Isla Del Sol
906-4042
annie01@tampabay.rr.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 Monday of month.

Mailing:
2nd Wednesday of month.

Editor:
Barbara Heck - 894-6020

Layout:
Mo Eppley - mo@mitymo.com

Neighborhood Spotlight

Live Oaks Neighborhood Association – Growing Together
By Mariella Stevens, President

Live Oaks Neighborhood Association was incorporated in 2005, but has been existing and active since 2001. The neighborhood boundaries are from the North side of Central to South side of Fifth Avenue, West side of 49th Street to East side of 58th Street, which includes 750 homes. Perhaps you have seen the signs, benches and murals painted along Burlington's coverts. This was accomplished by a grant received from the City together with many neighbors volunteering their time to complete the projects. We are presently working on traffic calming, crime watch throughout the neighborhood and the possibility of a park. Live Oaks Neighborhood Association meets on the first Tuesday of each month, excluding December, at 6:30 p.m. with our CPO to review the crime states, and 7:00 p.m. for the general meeting. During daylight savings time, meetings are held at the Triangle, which is outside in the neighborhood (52nd Street and Burlington) and at St. Luke's United Methodist Church during the winter or rainy months.

Nomination Committee

Your inputs are solicited:

- Volunteer to serve on Nominations Committee.
- Nominate a candidate for our slate of officers.
- Offer your name as a candidate for office

Nominating Committee Chair

Cathy Wilson

823-0863 or catgwna@tampabay.rr.com



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

Forwarding Service Requested

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