

# CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

February 2007

## WE NEED YOU !!! – Help decide CONA's 2007 Goals

**Saturday, March 10**

**8:30 AM to 3 PM**

West Branch Library  
6700 8th Avenue North  
Must RSVP to attend

**522-5008 or MAOAI999@aol.com**  
*(RSVP now – seating is limited)*

We need your help. Volunteer to represent your neighborhood and help decide CONA's 2007 Goals to work on during this year. You know your neighborhood's needs and your vision for the city. Come work with other neighborhoods to decide on CONA's direction.

We have gone back to something we used to do years ago that was a lot of fun. We are all going on a retreat !!! We are doing this because we are concerned that our 90 minute meeting does not provide sufficient time to identify and prioritize our goals for this year. Will Michaels, our 2nd VP, has graciously consented to be our facilitator.

**Neighborhoods** – Each neighborhood is requested to send one volunteer. If unable to attend, we can accept your suggestions via e-mail or phone. Please RSVP your information to Conrad Weiser as soon as possible. Volunteers please bring a prioritized list of your neighborhood's goals and what your neighborhood wants to see happen in the city of St. Petersburg.

**Retreat Location** – We will be in a private meeting room at the West Branch Library (next to St. Petersburg College). Food service will be provided throughout the meeting (Continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and soft drinks). Casual, comfortable attire is recommended. Not certain how cool the A/C is, so bring a sweater just in case it gets really, really cold.

**Questions** – Please call Will Michaels or any of your CONA officers. See back page for contact info. We will be happy to explain the process and answer your questions. Thank you for supporting CONA and making our 2007 Goals Retreat a success.

**See you Saturday, March 10**  
**8:30 am - 3:00 pm**  
**RSVP TODAY!!!**

## CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, February 21, 2007

**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 – Updates  
CONA 2007 Goals Retreat  
Pennies for Pinellas – Deputy Mayor Tish Elston  
Coalition for Homeless – Councilman Jamie Bennett  
Codes Department – Sally Eichler

### Very Important Upcoming Events:

February 24 - Homelessness Summit – USF Campus  
March 10 – CONA Goals "Retreat" – West Library  
March 21 – CONA Meeting

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## CONA's Mentoring Program – New

CONA wants to help your Neighborhood Association overcome some hurdles you might face as you grow. We have a wonderful group of very knowledgeable people who are ready to help you. Over the past years, each Association has faced similar issues and found solutions appropriate to their needs. Below are just a few of the topics we cover:

<b>Neighborhood plans</b>	<b>Grant writing</b>
<b>Crime Watch</b>	<b>Codes issues</b>
<b>Annexation</b>	<b>Zoning issues</b>
<b>Traffic calming</b>	
<b>Qualifying as a 501 c (3) – tax exempt</b>	

Now, we won't be doing the project for you. However, we will give you sound advice on how to proceed. We can help you identify your options. We can provide appropriate City and business contacts. We will help you monitor your progress and we can review and proof your submissions.

Please call Tom Killian (727-343-2041) or e-mail him at [tomkillian@juno.com](mailto:tomkillian@juno.com) today to start the Mentor Program process for your neighborhood. Remember, we want you and your Association to be the very best it can be. We are one very large family and helping you is what we do best.

## SUMMIT ON HOMELESSNESS – Feb 24

On January 29th, city, county, state and federal officials announced a five point initiative designed to accelerate the county's "10-Year Plan to End Homelessness." One point of the initiative is to host St. Petersburg's Neighborhood and Business Summit on Homelessness within 45 days.

The Summit will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 8 a.m. to noon at the USF St. Petersburg Campus Activities Center. Don Shea, president of the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, Barbara Heck, president of the Council of Neighborhood Associations, and City Council Member Leslie Curran will chair the summit. The event is designed to create an opportunity for neighborhoods and businesses to provide input on addressing homeless issues in Pinellas County, and how to build relationships between social service providers and those who live and work in surrounding areas.

The summit is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. To register, please contact the City of St. Petersburg at 893-7539.

## 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](http://www.edwardwhitehospital.com)

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Contact  
Brian Dean at  
(727) 669-5747

[www.callsunshine.com](http://www.callsunshine.com)

# President's Corner

By Barbara McCormick Heck

Even with all those wonderful New Year's resolutions, are you all organized, eating healthier, exercising more, getting slimmer, etc. No ??? OK – me neither. Needless to say, December and the holiday season rushed by too fast. January has been a blur of city activity and we are into the second month of the year. Feeling a little behind? Me too. I know we all have a lot to do just living our lives. I just wanted to thank everyone for giving that extra hour or two to support CONA, to support your neighborhoods and to support our great city. We have lots and lots to do this year (see below). Thank you all for “working together for a better St. Petersburg.”

## St. Petersburg's Homeless

On January 30, Mayor Baker announced his plan to accelerate Pinellas County's "Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness." Representatives from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, Catholic Charities, US Interagency Council on the Homeless, St. Pete College, Progress Energy, Downtown Partnership, City Council, CONA and other city and state agencies have come together to work on outreach efforts.

We are tapping the resources of government, business, faith-based groups, neighborhood associations and private citizens to do this. We understand there are no easy answers or quick solutions. With input and help from all, we will be able to make significant strides. Councilman Jamie Bennett will speak at our February 21st meeting and update us.

You can access online the "Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Pinellas County" at [www.pinellascounty.org/homeless-policy-group/pdf/plan\\_end\\_homelessness.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/homeless-policy-group/pdf/plan_end_homelessness.pdf).

## CONA 2007 Retreat

Goal setting is a difficult and lengthy task at best. We are very concerned that our regular 90 minute meeting does not provide sufficient time to identify and prioritize CONA's goals for this coming year. So we have gone back to something CONA used to do years ago – we are sponsoring a day long retreat !!! CONA is asking each neighborhood to send one delegate to our 2007 Goals Retreat on March 10th. Please list and prioritize your neighborhood goals and send them with your delegate. We will be discussing and consolidating everyone's goals to come up with our 2007 CONA goals. These results will be published at our March 21st meeting. Please call our Retreat facilitator Will Michaels or any officer for further information.

## Community Service Officers Program Review

Cass Rael and Carole Griffiths are co-chairmen of this review committee. All neighborhoods are asked to provide comments and to fill out a survey on the new Police Department program. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.

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## St. Petersburg Police Department Notes

At our December CONA meeting, Chief of Police Charles "Chuck" Harmon introduced our new Community Service Sergeants ( CSO ) and Community Service Officers ( CSS ). Each District has a special phone line for non-emergency calls and questions. When called, these telephone numbers give the caller instructions on how to leave a message. Chief Harmon has committed that all calls will be returned within 24 hours.

### DISTRICT 1 (SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE CITY)

Community Service Sergeant (CSS)  
Community Service Officers (CSO)

727-551-3181

Larry Hordge  
Candace Marklin  
Mary Nguyen

Lesandro Santiago  
Joe Smith

### DISTRICT 2 (NORTH AND EASTERN PORTIONS OF THE CITY)

Community Service Sergeant (CSS)  
Community Service Officers (CSO)

727-551-3182

Edward Borrelli  
Jason Deary  
Ray Merritt

Jennifer Lich  
Joe Truong

### District 3 (WESTERN PORTION OF THE CITY)

Community Service Sergeant (CSS)  
Community Service Officers (CSO)

727-551-3183

Dale Moushon  
Robert Arrison  
Samora Oliver

Patrick Patterson  
Patrick McGovern



# 2007 CONA Membership

2007 CONA Membership fees are now due. Please complete the form below and mail it to CONA, or bring it to the next meeting.

We will be using these forms to update our mailing list so be sure to include phone numbers and email addresses. Please include the names and addresses of people to whom we should be sending the CONA Newsletter.

*Please make a copy for your records. This serves as your invoice and receipt.*

## 2007 CONA Membership Application

*Time to renew you CONA membership for 2007!*

2007 dues are due January 1, 2007. Fill out this CONA Membership Application and mail it along with the Membership Fee to: C.O.N.A., P.O. Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693. Or you may bring it to the next Board Meeting.

Association Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Boundaries: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Households: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Dates & Location: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

CONA Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Rep: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Add these names to the CONA Mailing List:

Name	Address	Zip
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please include annual dues of \$35. If you would like to use the Bulk Mail Permit #, please add \$15 to your dues to help pay for the cost of the permit. Indicate below, the frequency of your mailings (monthly, quarterly, etc.), approximate mailing dates and # of pieces per mailing.

Frequency of Mailing: \_\_\_\_\_ (monthly, quarterly, etc.)

Approximate Mailing Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ # of pieces per Mailing: \_\_\_\_\_

# Penny for Pinellas

Are you aware of what the Penny for Pinellas has done for our community? The Penny is a one-cent sales tax that funds new capital projects all across Pinellas County. Ever since voters first approved the Penny in 1989, it has added value to our county with projects like the Bayside Bridge, Pinellas Trail, environmental restoration of Lake Maggiore, new fire stations, libraries, recreation centers, athletic fields and more.

On March 13, 2007, voters will be asked whether they want to renew the Penny for another ten years. It's important to remember that this is not a new tax – it is a renewal of a one-cent sales tax paid by all who spend money in the County, including tourists and other visitors who contribute approximately one third of the Penny revenue. The Penny for Pinellas funds these projects without relying on higher property taxes to make Pinellas County a better place to live, work and visit.

A renewal of the Penny would provide funding for some exciting future projects like a new expressway linking US 19 to I-275, public safety and emergency preparedness enhancements, expanded bicycle and pedestrian trails, Pier improvements and more. Please visit [www.stpete.org/penny](http://www.stpete.org/penny) to find out more information about past and future projects and see what our citizens have to say about the Penny.

If someone would like to have a speaker come to your association meeting, please call Budget and Management at 893-7436. **And please don't forget to vote on March 13, 2007.**

## CONA – check your overhead street lights now.

There are 30,000 overhead street lights in St. Petersburg. Some may be burned out. Some may incorrectly stay on 24hrs. The City of St. Petersburg pays for these lights whether they function or not. CONA is requesting each Neighborhood Association patrol their streets and report outages immediately to **PROGRESS ENERGY**. Let's help bring down unnecessary costs for all of us.

Here is how you report the non-working street light:

1. Phone Progress Energy at 1-800-228-8485
2. Give street address of light's location  
(do NOT give pole number)
3. Write down date and time you placed call for your records (and ours)
4. Progress Energy has 3-5 business days to fix light  
(wiring above ground)
5. Wiring underground problem in cable – Progress Energy has 30 business days to fix light.

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# CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

## The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - December 20, 2006

President Barbara Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

- The President then recognized our distinguished guests: Of City Council- Leslie Curran and Herbert Polson, Deputy Mayor David Metz, and Julie Weston, the Director of Development Services.
- Barbara provided a brief résumé of her family's historic roots in our city.
- Focusing on two murders of homeless men, last night, Police Major Michael Puetz made a presentation of the situation as currently available to the public. He also responded to several questions from the floor.
  - City Councilman Herb Polson added some crime information regarding attacks on the Pinellas Trail.
- At that point, Mayor Rick Baker arrived to officiate for the installation of the new slate of CONA officers for 2007. The Mayor spoke of our many community resources and cited our CONA Leadership Program for his praise.
  - The Mayor, joined on the stage by the City Council Members and the Deputy Mayor, proceeded to administer the oath of office to the new CONA Officers: President Barbara Heck, First V.P. Elect Darden Rice, [Second V.P. Will Michaels could not be present.], Treasurer Keith Locke, and Secretary Conrad Weiser.
- Our retiring President, (2000-2006), Karl Nurse was then awarded a plaque as Citizen of The Year, and then a framed charcoal portrait.
  - Karl responded with a brief recounting of his experiences as our President. A round of applause for the retiring Board Members followed.
- Treasurer Keith Locke gave the current balance, as of Dec. 31 as \$2,109.79.
- We next heard of plans for a CONA Goal Setting session, Saturday, March 10th, at the West Branch Library from 9 AM till 3 PM. All neighborhood associations will be invited to bring their own issues of concern.
- Cass Rael and Carole Griffiths, co chairs of the CONA Police Relations Committee, invited CONA members interested in serving with them to gather after our meeting tonight.
- Cathy Wilson, Chair of our CONA By-laws Review Committee told of their work to date. The text has grown to an 8-page document that will be available for all member associations to study and consider for implementation. [Ingrid Comberg, Theresa McEachern and Cass Rael are the other current members of the committee.] They have compared with many types of by-laws.
  - Several comments were offered pertaining to the need for our by-laws to incorporate wording appropriate for achieving 501(C) 3 not for profit status.
- Karl Nurse offered a brief eulogy for Naturalist Kathy Durham who passed away recently. There will be a Memorial Service, Saturday, at Boyd Hill Park.
- Our attention was next directed to Julie Weston, Director of Development Services. She distributed a 24-page information packet. She encouraged all residents to freely contact any of her 80 member staff to seek clarification on issues of zoning or development. She solicited invitations to speak with neighborhood associations.
  - Among the major areas addressed in her presentation were: Various types of Permit Applications, Rezoning, Special Exceptions, and Variances.
  - She described the dock permit responsibilities shared with the county.
  - We heard of other review departments- The Environmental Development Commission, (EDC), The Board of Adjustment, the Planning Commission and its ancillary Historic Preservation Commission.
  - We heard about the various notification requirements required to publicize proposed board actions.
  - In questions from the floor, it was suggested that names of all staff and board members be posted on the city's web site, perhaps even a downloadable copy of her hand out for today. We learned that streaming videos of public commission hearings are being planned.
- Councilman Polson urged us all to checkout the city's rebuilt web site.
- Karl Nurse urged Julie's Department to be more proactive in stressing the need for water conservation with the prospect of severe shortages looming.
- Cathy Wilson pointed out that our CONA Leadership Classes cover all of the issues that Julie discussed this evening. There was an impressive show of hands from first- this year's class, then a display of the many alumni present.
- Mentioning the drive to preserve our Penny for Pinellas Sales Tax, Barbara noted that Deputy Mayor Tish Elston would speak to us about this in February. .
- Our meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

# Water Restrictions in Effect

## January 16 – July 31, 2007

The continued lack of significant rainfall has increased demand for water in the Tampa Bay region, leading the Southwest Florida Water Management District to declare a Water Shortage. The City of St. Petersburg has restricted watering with potable (city) water, private well water and private connections to surface water sources (lakes, ponds, etc.). Here are the restrictions, days and times for watering and fines that can be assessed for watering violations. Check your sprinkler system/timer now and make the necessary adjustments.

### Portable and Private Well/Surface Water

Addresses ending in Even Numbers (or letters A-M)  
Addresses ending in Odd Numbers (or letters N-Z)  
*Irrigation is allowed ONCE only either 5-9AM or 7-11PM*

### ONCE A WEEK ONLY

Saturday only  
Sunday only

### Reclaimed Water

Even Numbers  
Odd Numbers

### (voluntary restriction so far)

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
Wednesday, Friday, Sunday

**Fines are severe – Class II offense \$175 fine + Court costs. Subsequent violations can increase fines up to \$500 + Court costs. Please help by following these restrictions.**

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## CONA thanks our Orientation Dinner Sponsors

CONA would like to thank the following companies who donated food, monies and services to make our CONA Leadership Orientation Dinner even more delightful. Without their generous support, this night would not have been such a huge success. As you visit these companies, please thank them again for their continued support.

- **St Petersburg Times**
- **Chick-Fil-A** at 4241 4th St N
- **Sweetbay Supermarket** at 1794 22nd Ave S
- **Papa Johns Pizza** at 2390 4th St N
- **Pizza Hut** at 4001 4th St N
- **Sweetbay Supermarket** at 955 62nd Ave S
- **Riviera Bay Civic Association**

*Thank You!!!*

## Association Announcements in St. Pete Times – Deadlines

We are happy to run your announcements on Wednesdays as available space allows. All neighborhood/civic/property owner association news, announcements and meeting notices have been moved from the Sunday Neighborhood Times to the Wednesday edition of the Neighborhood Times. This change took effect last October (due to the re-design that was rolled out).

All neighborhood information to run in the Wednesday edition of the Neighborhood Times must be received by end of business (5 p.m.) the previous Friday. Please send your information in the body of an e-mail rather than as an attachment. E-mail me at [SPTimeslistings@yahoo.com](mailto:SPTimeslistings@yahoo.com).

This will help ensure that we receive your information quickly and that your attachments aren't getting snagged by the firewall. We are always looking for news of activity in your neighborhoods. I will try to attend CONA meetings as I am able to address your group's concerns. Thanks.

Lorrie Lykins,  
St. Petersburg Times Neighborhood Notebook



## 2007 Officers

### **President**

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

### **First Vice President**

Darden Rice  
Old Southeast  
560-2479  
Darden.Rice@hotmail.com

### **Second Vice President**

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

### **Secretary**

Conrad Weiser  
Edgemoor  
522-5008  
MAOAI999@aol.com

### **Treasurer**

Keith Locke  
Disston Heights  
644-2195  
rkeith1084@yahoo.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

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Associations of South Pinellas County  
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# CONA's Citizen of the Month

## CONA's February Citizen of the Month

### Tom Killian

CONA wishes to honor Tom Killian. As President of Jungle Terrace and later as Vice President of CONA, Tom worked tirelessly on many projects. He started the CONA Mentor Program for the Associations. He is a great repository of useful information. He works very hard with all the neighborhoods helping with projects ranging from By-laws, to Crime Watch to Traffic Calming to Fundraisers. He provides invaluable assistance to our CONA Leadership classes. He even ran for a City Council seat. He is the sole caregiver for his very disabled aunt. Through the years, Tom has been an inspiration to all who know and work with him.

CONA Officers, Board Members and Associations salute you.  
February 2007