

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

May 2007

We are less than one month away...

Information Provided by Pinellas County

The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season starts Friday, June 1, and all pre-season predictions are calling for a very busy season. Now is the time to work on completing your hurricane preparations, including assembling your disaster survival kit, finding your evacuation level and building an updated list of important phone numbers.

When you hear about these pre-season predictions, do you ever wonder how they are formulated? One of the most respected – and anticipated – predictions is prepared at Colorado State University. Noted hurricane experts Phillip Klotzbach and Dr. William Gray consider many weather conditions in such places as the tropical Pacific and the North Atlantic at different altitudes. By gathering this data and observing the activity level of past hurricane seasons, the Colorado State forecasters get an idea of just how busy a season can be.

Are they always right? Well, weather is a very complex system, and the team will make adjustments to its forecast throughout the season. Look for updated forecasts from Colorado State on May 31, Aug. 3, Sept. 4 and Oct. 2.

For more information on the program, visit hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu.

For the record, here are the names for the 2007 Hurricane Season:

Andrea	Gabrielle	Melissa	Tanya
Barry	Humberto	Noel	Van
Chantal	Ingrid	Olga	Wendy
Dean	Jerry	Pablo	
Erin	Karen	Rebekah	
Felix	Lorenzo	Sebastien	

Save money – and save your home!

Mark your calendars for June 1–12. During this 12-day period, hurricane preparation essentials, such as batteries, weather radios, generators, shuttering materials up to \$200, coolers, etc., can be bought sales tax free. Each year, the Legislature offers this tax holiday to help residents prepare for hurricane season. Many retailers prominently display exempt items throughout their stores.

Before you go shopping, take a moment to carefully consider what you need to purchase in order to complete your preparations. By doing so, you can avoid impulse buying and take the time to weigh the merits of each product.

For a downloadable list of disaster kit essentials, visit www.pinellas-county.org/emergency.

Just what the doctor ordered

One of the most important things to include in your disaster survival kit is your necessary prescription medications. But, what happens when an emergency is declared and your insurance company claims it is too early for you to get a refill?

Last year, the Legislature passed the Emergency Prescription Refill bill (Florida Statute 252.358 and 462.0275). This law requires all insurers and managed-care organizations to suspend refill-too-soon restrictions when a patient seeks a refill in a county that is:

- Currently under a hurricane warning issued by the National Weather Service
- Declared to be under a state of emergency in an executive order issued by the governor; or
- Has activated its emergency operations center and its emergency management plan

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CONA Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

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

Agenda Items:

CONA Business - Treasurer's Report - Updates
Pinellas Living Green Expo Update
Hurricane Preparation

Very Important Upcoming Events:

June 16 & 17 - Pinellas Living Green Expo (PLGE)
June 20 - CONA's Presidents Reception Meeting
July 18 - CONA's General Membership Meeting

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Helpful Hurricane Info

Continued from the front page

It also allows patients outside of these areas to get an emergency 72-hour refill if the pharmacist is unable to readily obtain refill authorization from the doctor. Please talk with your doctor and pharmacist now about how this new law can affect your prescriptions.

Make sure you are ready this hurricane season. In addition to having a supply of your medication on hand, keep a list of each one you take, including the name of the doctor who wrote the prescription, the name of the drug, dosage instruction and the name of the pharmacy where you had it filled.

Just what does your policy cover?

May is a great time to pull out your homeowner's insurance policy and review exactly what coverage you have. Four important questions you need to consider are:

- What is my deductible?
- What is my hurricane deductible?
- Do I need flood insurance?
- Do I have enough coverage to replace my home and belongings?

Some key terms you will also need to know include:

Deductible: *This is the amount a policyholder must pay per claim or loss.*

Hurricane Deductible: *This deductible is based on the value of the insured property and applies only to hurricane claims.*

Flood Insurance: *This policy will pay when flooding occurs from either storm surge or freshwater flooding. Standard homeowner's policies DO NOT cover flood damage. Check with an insurance agent to see if one is required for your home.*

Actual Cash Value: *This is the amount needed to replace or repair your property counting depreciation. So, if your roof is 15 years old, and expected to last 20, you would receive only a prorated portion of the replacement cost.*

Replacement Cost: *This is the amount needed to replace or repair your property without accounting for depreciation. In this case, the insurer would pay the amount to repair your roof with a system similar to what was damaged (for example, an asphalt shingle roof with a new asphalt shingle roof).*

Ordinance or Law Coverage: If laws or ordinances require repairs or replacements to a damaged home beyond merely replacing the structure to make it comply with current building codes, this coverage will pay for those improvements. All insurers must offer this coverage. If you decline this coverage, you must sign a waiver form, provided by your agent or carrier.

Additional Living Expenses (ALE): *Some insurance policies provide additional living expense coverage, such as extra costs for food, housing, telephone, transportation (to and from work or school), relocation and storage, utility installation and furniture rental for a temporary residence. The policyholder must keep receipts for expenses and submit them to the insurance company for reimbursement.*

Now is the time to also make improvements to your home enabling it to withstand hurricane force winds. Homeowners should check with their insurance agents to determine what measures would offer discounts on their hurricane insurance

premium. Typical measures include reinforcements for the roof and any covering (for garages, windows and doors).

Homeowners can find a great deal of information about their insurance policies by checking with the state's Department of Financial Services. Call (800) 342-2762 or visit www.fldfs.com.

Website of the month

The Hurricane Watch Net's Doppler Radar Sites page www.hwn.org/home/radarsites.html

Powerful weather radars have revolutionized weather forecasting since they were introduced shortly after World War II. These radars can peer deep into the heart of a hurricane to show its exact location and characteristics. The Hurricane Watch Net, an international association of short-wave radio operators, has plotted the location of radar sites in the United States, Bermuda, Mexico and Cuba. Click on any of those sites to access its current radar image, which could become important as the 2007 hurricane season heats up.

May's checklist

Carefully monitor weather forecasts daily to stay up-to-date on the latest conditions.

Now is a great time to give your survival kit a thorough review. Check to see if you have enough batteries, nonperishable food and other essentials to last a minimum of 72 hours without assistance.

If you have young children, help them put together a survival kit for themselves. Kids can pack quiet games, favorite non-perishable snacks, their own flashlight with extra batteries and other comforts. This will help them feel a little bit in control over a potentially scary situation.

Important phone numbers and websites:

Pinellas County Emergency Management:

(727) 464-3800

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency

Find your evacuation level: (727) 453-3150

pubgis.co.pinellas.fl.us/hurricane_txt

Sign up for the Community Notification Service to receive text emergency information on your cell phone: (888) 689-8905

Register for special needs transportation:

(727) 464-3800

www.pinellascounty.org/forms/special-needs.htm



Pinellas Living Green Expo



FREE Admission

Saturday, June 16
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 17
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Coliseum/Sunshine Center,
St. Petersburg

Save Money. Save The Environment.

The second annual **Pinellas Living Green Expo** is a **FREE**, fun-filled family event that helps residents make informed decisions and take action to lead more healthy and sustainable lives with less impact on the environment. This two-day event will provide information, ideas, resources, products and motivation to live more sustainably through exhibits, info sessions and an environmental film festival.

Some Expo Info Session Topics include:

- *Green Building & Energy Conservation* • *The Healthy Landscape* • *Composting*
- *Available & Affordable Green Construction for Florida* • *How to make a rain barrel*
- *Florida's Environmental History* • *Reducing Residential Pollution*

An Environmental Film Festival is also planned!

In addition to our sponsors, some of the exhibitors include:

Abike, LLC	EcoQuest International	Lucuma Designs	Sims - Corp.
Advanced Film Solutions, INC.	Efest Florida	Nature Traditions	Solar Source
BCI Associates - (Shaklee Independent Distributor)	FAS Windows & Doors	Nature's Safeway Pest Control	Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
CitizenRE Solar Power	Florida Voices For Animals	Nature's Variety	St. Petersburg Audubon Society
City Beautiful Commission	Greenblock Worldwide Corp.	Opus Foundation	The Ecuadorian Iguana
Conservation	GreenDeva	Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society	Time Insulation
Clear Choice Windows & More	Hotwire Enterprises	Real Buidling	University of South Florida
Day Light Concepts, LLC	Integrity Organics	Rethink Solar	Westenberger Tree Service
Eco-\$mart, Inc.	It's Our Nature, Inc.	Sarasota Green Marketplace	<i>and more to come...</i>
EcoInsulate	Living Organic News	Saturday Morning Market	
	Louis Graham Regeneration Center		



MityMo Design • PSTA
Aveda • Grady Pridgen, Inc. • Healthy Home
Mister Landscaper • Mohawk Paper
Nature's Food Patch • Precision Litho Service, Inc.
The Sembler Company • Tampa Bay Water
TradeWinds Beach Resort

www.PinellasLivingGreenExpo.org

Draft Position Statement Regarding Proposes Land Redevelopment Regulations & Related Items

Approved April 18, 2007

1. Appeal of decisions of City Commissions.

Issue: The proposed new rules limit the right of appeal to the City Council to persons or organizations that can show special harm. Under the current rules any person or organization may appeal a decision to the City Council (assuming that is the proper appellent body) by paying a fee of \$100 and showing "justification or support" for the requested relief.

Proposed CONA Position: Retain the current right of any party to file an appeal, including neighborhood associations and, in the case of historic preservation issues, St. Petersburg Preservation, Inc.

2. Site Plan Approval Duration Limit.

Issue: Under the current ordinance, City approval of a site plan is good for 18 months, after which it may be extended for one-year intervals. Typically this means that if a project is not begun in three and a half years, the developer must start over with the approval process. Under the proposed regulations approval would be good for five years, and two two-year extensions would be allowed virtually automatically. The effect is to make the project approval good for nine years. Also, projects that have current approval but have not yet started would have a five-year extension once the new ordinance goes into effect. This leads to long-standing derelict buildings or empty lots, and makes possible the demolition of affordable housing for projects that may never happen.

Proposed CONA position: Retain the current limit of 18-month approval with one-year extensions, not to exceed a period of three and one-half years. Projects approved prior to the new ordinance would be limited to three and a half years from the date of their first approval. Establish specific criteria for granting an extension, including evidence that the building is likely to be constructed within the period of extension.

3. Construction Period Approval Limit.

Note: CONA previously approved limits on the duration of a construction project, after the project actually starts. Some projects start and take years to complete. Others start and stop then start again. One recent approved development application proposed 13 years of continuous construction! Neighborhood residents have the aggravation of unreasonably long periods of construction traffic, noise, and pollution. In some cases property values of homes near the construction project will decline. The CONA approved position calls for construction projects located within or adjacent to a single-family neighborhood to be completed within a two-year period, including any demolition. Extensions may be granted for hardships beyond the developer's control. Multi-phased projects must provide for at least a year's respite in between phases.

4. Notice of a Development Project to Neighborhood Associations.

Issue: Presently neighborhood associations are notified of development projects approximately two and a half weeks before the hearing. Prescribed periods of notification may be as little as 10

days. Prior to this time the developer has had months in which to meet with City staff to discuss the proposed development and obtain City staff comment regarding the application. Frequently, by the time a neighborhood association is notified of the proposed application and hearing there is little time for the neighborhood association to research the matter and develop a considered position with its board and membership. Staff Reports on the development application are usually written without benefit of input from the affected neighborhood association beforehand.

Proposed CONA position: Affected neighborhood associations should be advised of a development project within one week after City staff receives a development application, including applications for conceptual approval. City staff will write their Staff Report on a development application only after they have solicited comment from the affected neighborhood association. Neighborhood associations will have at least 30 days to research and review a development application before meeting with City staff. In the case of development applications affecting historic properties, the same process will apply to St. Petersburg Preservation, Inc.

5. Protection for waterfront and other parkland in neighborhood areas.

Issue: Under the proposed Land Development Regulations there will be special zoning for parks only in the downtown waterfront park district. There is now no special zoning protection for parkland in the outlying neighborhood areas.

Proposed CONA position: Extend the same protection from overdevelopment on and immediately adjacent to parkland in the outlying neighborhood parks enjoyed by the downtown waterfront park area.

6. Granting of Excessive Variances

Issue: Under the current Zoning Code there has been an excess of the granting of variances. This includes variances granted by staff in addition to those granted by City Commissions. The new Land Development Regulations are designed to greatly reduce the need to grant variances. When variances are granted they should be of such importance as to require a public hearing and City Commission approval, and not simple staff approval.

Proposed CONA position: Restrict the granting of variances under the new Land Development Regulations to City Commissions after a public hearing.

7. Size of City Commissions

Issue: Presently City Commissions have 7 members and 3 alternates. The proposed regulations call for 5 members and require 3 votes for approval. This reduces the number of persons making decisions on variances and other issues and makes it more difficult to establish commissions that are representative of the community as a whole.

Proposed CONA position: Retain City commissions at their current membership of 7 members and 3 alternates.

President's Letter

By Barbara McCormick Heck

To tax or not – that is the question

I am writing this on May 1st without knowledge of what our friends in Tallahassee will decide about insurance rates, tax cuts and other related issues. We all need to be very aware of what is happening and why. We need to understand that any tax cut will also have some effect on our daily life beyond our pocketbooks.

Things (and you and I can only guess at what these “things” are) will be reduced, delayed or eliminated entirely. No one can really say with 100 % accuracy what will have to be trimmed, but trimmed these “things” will be. I lived in California before, during and after Prop 13 was voted into effect. Lots of “things” were trimmed, delayed or eliminated entirely and residents soon found out what a tax cut truly meant to their services right in their own neighborhoods and own backyards.

We need to be prepared for what is ahead. We need to understand that no tax cut can be made without a counterbalancing cut or reduction in the services provided by that funding. We can forge ahead in these difficult times. This is when the neighborhoods can really shine AND really make a difference. We will need to be extra creative when working on our projects to find ways to literally fund them with “no funds available.”

We can do this. Our parents and grandparents and great grandparents lived through a terrible depression and wars and economy downturns. They survived. We are built of that same wonderful stock. We have a tough job ahead as does every city government in Florida, but we are all more than up to the task.

Let's come together neighbor to neighbor and neighborhood to neighborhood to make 2007 a great year in spite of these “challenges.” Please join your CONA friends in “working together for a better St. Petersburg.”

Mark your Calendars – A very important June meeting

To honor our CONA heritage, we will be having a special President's Night June 20th.

We are inviting all our past CONA Presidents and city officials to join us for a Social Night We want to share our history with all our newer members. Let's see what has changed in the neighborhoods and what “challenges” we still face.

PS – Please pay your overdue CONA dues now to Keith Locke, Treasurer.

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CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - April 18, 2007

President Barbara Heck called the regular business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She explained that a flurry of events had necessitated extensive revisions to our agenda for this evening.

- The President recognized several prominent guests: Pinellas Commissioner Ken Welch, City Council Members, Leslie Curran and Herb Polson, and Bob Jeffrey of Historic Preservation and Mike Connors of City Engineering.
- Treasurer Keith Locke reported a current balance of \$2,564.05. He also noted that a new fund was being organized, as a 501(C) 3 tax exempt vehicle, by alumni of the CONA Leadership Class
- We then witnessed the Citizen of The Month award to Bob Jeffrey, a plaque honoring his long efforts to preserve our historic character as a community.
- Pinellas Commissioner, Ken Welch, (District 7), then presented an update of county measures to address the growing issue of homelessness.
 - A joint plan was evolved last year to end homelessness over the next decade. Many municipal and county agencies participated.
 - Funding for homeless issues was \$10.4M last year, more than twice that of 2006. Of that, \$2.7M was earmarked for housing vouchers for homeless.
 - Pinellas established a \$10M trust fund to develop affordable housing.
- The Commissioner then described the yet to be reconciled proposed property tax reductions, \$50M in the Florida Senate, and \$150M in the Florida House. These reductions will likely handicap many programs supporting the homeless. We were urged to contact our Governor and our Tallahassee Representatives, (phone, FAX, or e-mail), spare these reductions.
- The Commissioners will hold a hearing, tomorrow inviting comments on the current homeless issues.
 - Evening hearings on next year's budget have been scheduled. Please come and voice your priorities for County spending plans.
 - Commissioner Welch introduced several of the county staff currently working with him on the homeless issues, Mo Freaney, Diana Carro, and Sarah Snyder.
- A question from the floor asked with what priority does the county apply to the homeless issues. The commissioner reiterated the current homeless program budgets as evidence of their priority. He urged all residents to attend the upcoming budget hearings to express their own priorities.
- Commissioner Welch then proposed an alternate funding concept that could fully underwrite the current homeless programs threatened by the property tax reduction legislation. He suggested a 1% Food and Beverage Tax, (as seen in Miami). [Small "Mom & Pop" restaurants would be excluded.] He urged all to support this tax legislation when it is proposed.
 - Citing other funding options would be improved efficiencies in current programs, noting the work of the Boley Center showing improvements.
 - Improved data base tracking of homeless clients, (a measure endorsed by the Homeless Coalition), promises significant improvements of efficiency as well as reducing the influx of less deserving out-of-state applicants.
- We were reminded that Penny For Pinellas might fund some homeless facility construction, but it cannot ever be used to supplement operating costs.
- The Commissioner agreed that the many conspicuous inequities of our current property tax legislation call for dramatic revisions in the current code.
 - Concern was expressed that court prosecution of vagrants might again be suspended if an influx of applicants fill up current and planned bed facilities.
 - A recent judgment is pressing for limitation of jail inmates to the design capacity, (3,300 for Pinellas).
 - Some social estimates place the number of chronic homeless at 20%.
 - We were reminded that the genesis of our current homeless problem, locally and nationally, was seen in the widespread closing of state mental institutions which dumped their undedicated patients on our streets
 - A significant cache of funds, generated by the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust, is currently being withheld by the government.
 - Leslie Curran, of City Council, noted that local ordinances have forced the closing of many small motels that were formerly helpful in easing the homeless situation.
 - Keith Locke requested permission to speak for CONA when attending the County Budget Hearings. That representation was granted.
 - Our next major presentation was by Mike Connors of the city Development Services Department.
 - St. Petersburg has less taxable property than the four other major cities of our state.
 - The St. Petersburg millage rate has been reduced in 14 of the last 17 years.
 - City payroll has 57 less workers now than 6 years ago. In that same period, the city's insurance premium rose 262% and fuel costs rose 238%.
 - We have a current storm reserve fund of \$27M.
 - The Senate Tax Reduction Proposal projects a 5% loss of tax revenue, but the house version proposed anticipates a 22% revenue reduction.
 - One plan proposed would eliminate all school taxes but derive alternate revenues from a comprehensive 1% Sales Tax. An alternative would allow each county to drop school taxes and replace with a 1.5% Sales Tax.
 - It is anticipated that so called "Best use" appraisals will be dropped.
 - Another basis may be affordable housing rent income prospects.
 - It was noted that the Governor has proposed doubling the Homestead Tax Exemption.
 - We were reminded that sales tax revenues are an uncomfortably fluctuating revenue stream with which to support our Education budgets.
 - Mr. Connors then sketched the grim prospect of cutbacks in many city departments if the prospect of a \$14M. reduction of property tax revenues is enacted.
 - By contrast, it was noted that less than half of our city revenues are derived from property taxes.
 - Our President reminded us that adequately funded Public Safety Programs have always been a primary concern of CONA.
 - With the start of another season of Neighborhood Partnership Grants, Barbara urged our members to seek the assistance of Tom Killian who heads our team of neighborhood grant mentors.
 - Will Michaels, (our 2nd V.P.), distributed a package that outlined the CONA Goals & Measurable Objectives that were evolved at our recent CONA Goals Retreat.
 - Will then offered a series of resolutions that seek to correct short comings in new proposals being urged for the Land Development Regulations, (LDR's).
 - 1) The opportunity for neighborhoods to appeal permit approvals should not be limited to individuals subject to "Special Harm" or

only those with "Standing", (living within 200 feet of site).

- 2) Period to implement approved site plans should be maintained at the current 3-1/2 year maximum, (including any extensions), to start development. Criteria should be developed for granting an extension
- 3) Developments approved prior to the implementation of the new LDR's should start within 3-1/2 years of the original approval date.
- 4) Affected neighborhood associations should be advised of a development application within a week after the City receives the application, including applications for conceptual approval. Associations should have at least 30 days to review the application before meeting with the City Staff. The City Staff will write their Staff Report only after receiving inputs from neighborhood associations, (and in the case of historic properties, from St. Petersburg Preservation, Inc.). Special park zone codes should be available throughout the city just like the waterfront park provisions.
- 5) One goal of the newly approved LDR's was to all but eliminate permit code waivers. The new provision to allow staff workers to approve waivers should not be needed Better to preserve the less waiver authority for more formal commission hearings.
- 6) Restrict the granting of variances under the new regulations to city commissions after a public hearing.
- 7) Retain city commissions at their current membership of 7 members and 3 alternates.
 - Moved, (K. Nurse), to approve the CONA positions in the draft distributed at the meeting. It was noted that approved variances may be appealed to City Council and/or the Courts.
 - In discussion, it was urged that such issues should be carried back to our member neighborhood associations for evaluation prior to voting here.
 - By rebuttal, one claimed authorization to vote for his neighborhood as their elected representative.
 - Another insisted pending Council hearings preclude a full month of voting delay by CONA.
 - It was suggested that city staffers are too easily pressured to approve to allow them full waiver authority.

- It was noted that even approved waivers are still subject to appeal and challenge.
- Moving the question, Karl's motion was approved.
- Scott Swift, President of Bartlett Park, then made a presentation about, and an invitation to participate in, their upcoming annual neighborhood Cleanup Day, Saturday, May 19th from 10 a.m. Many city departments will be involved with fun for volunteers.
- Tim Baker, President of the Downtown Neighborhood Assoc. introduced a resolution urging the City Council to include the Al Lang Baseball Field under the protection of a new zoning category: Waterfront Parks. This code limits new construction to 75 feet with an FAR of 0.2.
 - He noted that the Devil Rays plan to leave in 2008
 - Though some in error believe that any new construction on our waterfront requires a public referendum, the city itself can enter into construction there without a vote.
 - Tim urged us to insist that City Council include this important parcel of our diminishing waterfront under this new zone category.
 - Moved, (T. Baker),

Whereas the Devil Rays baseball team will be vacating Al Lang Field at Progress Energy Park after the spring training session of 2008, leaving the future of that facility in doubt, and

Whereas the City of St. Petersburg is in the process of creating a new Downtown Waterfront Park zoning district that will recognize the special status of our waterfront parks by placing limits on development, and

Whereas baseball has been played at Al Lang Field for some 90 years,

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of Neighborhood Associations hereby petitions the City Council of St. Petersburg to include Progress Energy Park (bounded by 1st Street, Tampa Bay, 1st Avenue S and 4th Avenue S) in the new Downtown Waterfront Park zoning district, and Be it further resolved that CONA petitions the City Council and the Mayor to retain the Al Lang property as a park/recreation site.

[Motion approved]

Our meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.
Conrad Weiser, Secretary

Invitation to All Neighborhoods

*"Play Day in the Park at the Point"
At Lake Vista Park*

*Saturday, June 9th
11:00am - 3:00pm*

**Greater Pinellas Point Neighborhood is having a
"Play Day in the Park"
Saturday June 9th
11:00am - 3:00pm**



Mark
your
Calendar!





Bring a
dish to
share

**Lake Vista Park opens the entire facility to
Greater Pinellas Point for the day!**





FREE Food & Fun for All !!

Events		
Live Band—all day	Inflatable Fun !!	Health Screening
Dance Contests—begin 1:15	Police K-9 Unit—2:00	Mobile Unit
Softball Game -12:00	Fire Engine	Special Guest
Tennis Instruction—11:00	Pool open to Members	appearances !

Games & Prizes!



**2007 Officers and
Executive Board Members**

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Patricia Guaveia

Frequently Called Numbers

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

SPPD Community Service Numbers:

District 1 551-3181
District 2 551-3182
District 3 551-3183

CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Deadline:
30th of each month.

Publication:
2nd Monday of month.

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2nd Wednesday of month.

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Darden Rice - 822-6241

**The Council of Neighborhood
Associations of South Pinellas County
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CONA's Citizen of the Month

May Citizen of the Month

Cass Rael, Sr.

This month we salute Cass Rael, Sr., who has served the community as a dedicated and effective advocate for the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods and all St. Pete citizens.

Just a few of the groups that Cass have led have been:

President - North Kenwood
Vice President - 3 years - North Kenwood
Crime Watch
Court Watch
Nuisance Abatement Board
County Board - Drug Paraphernalia

Cass is also a graduate of CONA Leadership and currently serves on the executive board. He is a moving force in our community, ready to work with all people, get the facts out, and see results. Cass's accomplishments have greatly contributed to bridging collective efforts between citizens, the police, and city hall for a safer St. Petersburg. Cass, we thank you for your continuing dedication.