

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

August 2007

League of Women Voters and CONA to Hold St. Petersburg City Council Candidates' Forum

District 1- General Election Nov 6

- Robert A. "Bob" Kersteen
- Herbert E. Polson

District 3- Primary Face-Off Sep 11, top 2 advance to Nov 6 general election

- William H. Dudley
- Cliff Gephart
- Cathy Harrelson
- John E. "Ed" Montanari

District 5- Primary Face-Off Sep 11, top 2 advance to Nov 6 general election

- James S. Bennett
- Chris Kelly
- Debra Johnson Woodard

District 7- General Election Nov 6

- Gershom Faulkner
- Wengay M. Newton Sr.

**Primary - Sept 11 - Districts 3 & 5
General - Nov 6 - All Districts -
City Wide Vote**

OOPS!

Correction to information about City Council Elections from last month's newsletter: Only a mayoral candidate can win a primary with 51% to fend off a general election, NOT city council candidates. Mayoral candidates are elected citywide in primaries and in the general. City council elections are district only for the primary election (Sep 11), THEN citywide in the general for all voters (Nov 6). Ok, clear as mud? We thought so. We did say the election system is confusing, but didn't mean to make it more so! - DR, newsletter editor

CONA Board Meeting

August July 15, 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:

Citizen of the Month Award
City Council Candidates Forum

Very Important Upcoming Events:

September 16 – National Neighborhood Day
September 19 – CONA's General Meeting

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Update on the Codes Compliance Assistance Department

Thanks to all of the neighborhood associations, their officers and members for the support over the years. The Codes Department has always been committed to provide high quality, effective code enforcement services, and, as you know, we currently face the challenge of budget reductions that have become necessary as a result of recent legislative tax reform. While responding to this challenge, we are making every effort to insure that all areas of the City continue to experience a prompt response when code violations are reported by the community. We will also continue to provide the specialized approaches, tailored to suit each neighborhood, that have been successful in the past. The Childs Park and Midtown initiative areas will continue to have our support.

We are implementing a plan to redistrict and reassign our remaining 23 codes investigators and 3 field supervisors. The plan provides 23 districts (down from 26) and takes into consideration the work load history in our neighborhoods. Both the names of the investigators and their assigned districts is being finalized and on August 7, 2007 a district map and list will be available in our office or on our web site at www.stpete.org/codes.

Neighborhoods who have been working closely with their assigned investigators will probably have already been contacted about possible changes to their assigned investigator. I encourage anyone who has questions, or would like to invite one of our representatives to a meeting, to contact one of our field supervisors at (727) 893-7373. This phone is answered Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In closing, we look forward to continuing to assist our neighborhoods.

Dave Metz
Deputy Mayor, Neighborhood Services

Remember to use Action Online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to report code violations on the web at the www.stpete.org/codes. On the same web page, **Search Our Database** to check the status of any violation case by selecting the "Search Our Database" magnifying glass icon.

Eckerd College Lifelong Learning Program Expands to Downtown St. Petersburg

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Eckerd College will begin offering classes this fall at First Presbyterian Church on Beach Drive. The main purpose of OLLI is to provide personal enrichment opportunities for older adults by offering a variety of non-credit, affordable and intellectually stimulating classes, trips and interest groups. Through OLLI everyone has the chance to rediscover the joys of exercising your brain! OLLI is a membership organization available to anyone 50 or older, but encourages participation from lifelong learners of all ages.

OLLI classes cover the waterfront including the arts, history, science and technology, local and international cultures, contemporary topics, health and well-being and more. Classes vary widely in length from an informal one time two hour discussion to a class that may meet for an hour and a half once a week for six weeks. Instructors are chosen for their subject matter expertise, passion for their topic, and their love of teaching.

OLLI also offers local, regional and international study travel trips. For example OLLI groups traveled to Italy and Greece on separate tours this summer. Another group is going to journey to the annual hot air balloon festival in New Mexico this fall. Local trips include architectural tours, industrial tours, and jaunts to places of historical and cultural interest.

OLLI programs are also held on Eckerd's St. Petersburg campus, in Palm Harbor and in Largo. Stay tuned for announcements about introductory activities at First Presbyterian Church and our other locations that will acquaint you with all that OLLI has to offer. Information on current programs is listed on the OLLI website: www.eckerd.edu/olli. You may also call 727-864-7600 to be put on the mailing list for upcoming events and catalogs.

Contact information:
Jim Frasier, Director Continuing Education, Eckerd College
727-865-7155, Cell: 813-453-2828, Email: frasierje@eckerd.edu

IMPORTANT NEWS – ONCE A WEEK WATERING RESTRICTIONS ARE STILL IN EFFECT

The continued lack of significant rainfall has increased demand for water in the Tampa Bay region, leading the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to extend Water Shortage Order 07-02. Once a week watering restrictions have been extended by the SWFWMD until September 30, 2007, unless rescinded or extended by the SWFWMD.

This declaration requires the City of St. Petersburg to restrict watering with potable (city) water, private well water, and private connections to surface water sources (lakes, ponds, etc.) to once a week, according to the schedule below. This declaration does NOT effect reclaimed water users, although voluntary compliance with the schedule below is requested.

Water Restrictions in Effect until September 30, 2007

<u>Portable and Private Well/Surface Water</u>	<u>ONCE A WEEK ONLY</u>
Addresses ending in Even Numbers (or letters A-M) Addresses ending in Odd Numbers (or letters N-Z) <i>Irrigation is allowed ONCE only either 5-9AM or 7-11PM</i>	Saturday only Sunday only
<u>Reclaimed Water</u>	<u>(voluntary restriction so far)</u>
Even Numbers Odd Numbers	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Wednesday, Friday, Sunday

For more information on current water restrictions call our automated Water Watch Info Line at 892-5300.

Failure to comply with current water restrictions is a municipal ordinance violation and deemed a Class II offense subject to a \$175 fine plus court costs. Court costs range from \$13 for uncontested violations to \$58 for contested violations. St. Petersburg initially issues warnings to residents violating outdoor watering restrictions. A second violation is subject to the fine plus court costs. Subsequent violations will be subject to fines and fees assessed by the court up to a maximum fine of \$500 plus court costs.

Other Water Conservation Restrictions:

- Hand watering of landscape plants is not restricted; however, an automatic shutoff device must be installed on your hose and used at all times.
- Hand watering of lawn / turf is restricted to one day a week during designated hours on assigned day (see chart above).
- Micro-irrigation of non-lawn landscape material is not currently restricted.

Obtaining a Variance from St. Petersburg's

Variations may be granted pursuant to Section 27-47 of St. Petersburg City Code

Temporary Variance for New Plantings:

If the watering of newly-installed turf and plants requires alteration from the watering restrictions, a temporary (30-day) variance is necessary. This variance must be obtained from the St. Petersburg Water Resources Department and requires that appropriate documentation accompany the customer's request.

To obtain a 30-day variance to irrigate new sod and landscape plants call 892-5020 or email WRDCustomerService@stpete.org. Please speak slowly on the phone line and provide your name, complete address and phone number. Only one variance is allowed within a six month period. No extensions will be granted.

Other Variances from St. Petersburg Watering Restrictions

Requests for other types of variances must be made in writing to the Watering Restrictions Office, Water Resources Department, 1635 Third Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713. Please include a telephone number where you can be reached during the day to allow staff to discuss your request, if needed.

Hand watering landscape plants is not restricted.

An automatic shutoff device should be used when hand watering.

NOTE: During dry seasons and periods of drought, mandatory restrictions on the use of reclaimed water may be authorized by the Mayor and City Council, pursuant to Section 27-146 of City Code.

* Large commercial properties, multi-family buildings, schools and other government buildings using reclaimed water for irrigation are requested to limit watering to three days per week. Golf courses, cemeteries and athletic or recreational facilities are asked to submit irrigation plans demonstrating compliance with best management practices.

To obtain a copy St. Petersburg's Landscape Plant Guide for Yards with Reclaimed Water of call 727-892-5018 or email WRDCustomerService@stpete.org. This publication is designed to assist reclaimed water customers in the selection of suitable plants and provides recommendations for efficient use of this resource. Please leave your name, address and phone number.

Thank you for doing your part to save our valuable water resources. We encourage all residents to be water efficient. Check for leaks, replace or retrofit fixtures to be more water efficient, install a rain sensor on your sprinkler system, and follow outdoor water restrictions. For more information on how we can assist you in conserving water, contact the water conservation office at 727-892-5688 or email WRDCustomerService@stpete.org. Please leave your name, address and phone number.

President's Letter

By Barbara McCormick Heck

Meet your City Council Candidates and be certain to VOTE !!!

You have the opportunity to make a difference in city government this election. Take the time to thoroughly learn about each of the candidates for City Council seats in Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7. Meet them, talk to them, listen to them as they answer your questions. But most important of all, get out there and VOTE for them !!!

National Neighborhood Day – Sunday, September 16th

Please join all your neighbors for a good old fashioned picnic at Del Holmes Park on Sunday, September 16th. CONA is working closely with Neighborhood Partnership and City Staff to put together a fun-filled program for everyone to enjoy. Please mark your calendars and bring the entire family. Come help celebrate National Neighborhood Day with fun, food, games and prizes. What could be better than that?

Bartlett Park, Papa John's and the St. Pete Times

CONA and the Bartlett Park Association would like to provide additional details not included in the St. Pete Times – Neighborhood Times July 24th article. Bartlett Park thanks Papa John's for all the help over these past months. Papa John's has long been a supporter of many of Bartlett Park's Association and Crime Watch activities. While residents know Papa John's currently does not deliver in the Bartlett Park/Old SE area, residents are excited that Papa John's decision is being reviewed and hope it will most likely change in early 2008.

Here are some statistics that really count. Bartlett Park's Crime Watch has become a model for many neighborhoods to follow. Due to their efforts, the calls for assistance have increased almost three-fold. This information greatly aids the Police Department in rapidly solving crimes throughout St. Petersburg. Crime is not increasing – it is just being reported and solved faster.

There are approximately 121 neighborhood associations in South Pinellas County. We are delighted when a major corporation takes the time to come in and assist local neighborhood associations

such as Papa John's has done in the Bartlett Park area. We wish this article had chosen to highlight the very positive things happening in such a great neighborhood and encourage other corporate sponsors to get involved in our neighborhoods.

Hurricanes – PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE (repeated again)

Neighborhoods, work on a neighbor to neighbor plan in your areas. The first two to three days after a hurricane, you may be on our own until help can arrive. You will need to rely on neighbors and they will rely on you. Be prepared, be safe and be ready for whatever my come your way.

Summer's end – a look back and a positive look forward

These first seven months have been filled with challenges for CONA and each of us individually – Police Department changes, homelessness concerns, skyrocketing insurance costs and taxes, budget cuts, service cuts, employee lay-offs, weakening housing market. I could go on and on.

As summer winds down and we move slowly towards autumn, please take a moment to smell the (insert your favorite fragrant flower here). We are a community and we will prevail. We are going to do what we do best – be good neighbors. St. Petersburg was originally built by its wonderful neighborhoods working together to make it a city. We all have differing ideas, backgrounds, life experiences. But that is what makes us and this city so very special.

The next months will certainly be very challenging for the neighborhoods. Together we can do most anything, accomplish most anything, become most anything. We just need to do it together.



Historic Kenwood's BungalowFest 2007 highlights a neighborhood on the rebound

St. Petersburg, FL – The Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association (HKNA) will hold its 10th annual BungalowFest Friday night and Saturday, November 2-3, 2007 in central St. Petersburg. On Friday night, there will be a tour by moonlight of five homes from 7-9 p.m. On Saturday, 15 homes and gardens will be on display from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The tour is a two-hour walk or trolleys will take visitors on the 2-mile loop.

By day or night, BungalowFest is unique among home tours. The tour features homes that are completely restored and some that are currently under renovation. "The goal of the tour is to showcase the amazing homes and residents Historic Kenwood," said Jim Longstreth, HKNA president. "In the past few years, we've seen BungalowFest attendance grow to more than 1,500."

The tour begins at Historic Kenwood's Seminole Park – 2900 3rd Avenue North, St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$10 a day or \$15 for both days. For more information, please visit our web site at www.historickenwood.org or call the Craftsman House at 727-323-2787.

About Historic Kenwood

The beginnings of Historic Kenwood may be traced to 1912, the year Charles R. Hall, one of the city's early developers, filed the first plat within its modern boundaries. The housing in Historic Kenwood is typical of St. Petersburg development from the 1920s through the 1950s. While many styles are evident among the 1,100 homes, from Frame Vernacular to Minimal Traditional, Colonial, Mediterranean and Ranch, bungalows of some sort (typically Craftsman) constitute more than 50 percent of the architecture. That is the largest concentration of bungalows in Florida.

St. Petersburg High School (1926), listed on the National Register of Historic Places, sits in the heart of Historic Kenwood along 5th Avenue North.

As was the case with many inner city areas, the neighborhood fell into neglect beginning in the 1950s. In the early 1990s urban pioneers began a neighborhood revival in Historic Kenwood, which continues full steam today, during which many beautiful restorations to these historic homes have been made. These efforts reached a milestone when Historic Kenwood received its historic status from the National Register on August 4, 2003. In 2007, Historic Kenwood was named a finalist in the Neighborhood USA contest.

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CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - July 18, 2007

- President Barbara Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag.
- Barbara welcomed all, recognizing our Past President Karl Nurse.
- Calling Journalist Jon Wilson to the platform, Barbara presented him with a plaque honoring Mr. Wilson as our CONA Citizen of The Month.
 - She briefly recalled his career, and his service with area newspapers, especially acknowledging his even handed reporting based on meticulous research of the subjects he covered.
- Keith Locke presented his Treasurer's Report noting a current balance of \$2,226.99.
 - Keith turned over his records for the first six months, (January through June, 2007), to Scott Swift a member of our Audit Committee.
 - Keith also presented to our President two checks contributed to our CONA Leadership Program, (with a current season residue of \$35.34). [Progress Energy contributed \$1,000., and Bright House Networks gave \$250.]
- We were reminded that there would be a City Council discussion of LDR issues tomorrow night at 6 PM. [See CONA Listbot for latest information.]
- Jeff Baker, a representative of Progress Energy then made a slide presentation promoting their new program "Save The Watts". We heard details of 39 plans to improve efficiency and reduce energy costs.
 - Demand Management is their underlying strategy to cope with population growth yet avoiding any increase of their climate threatening "Carbon Footprint".
 - They offer several efficiency inspection programs that further subsidize repairs identified.
 - Subsidized home insulation installations are limited to selected certified contractors.
 - Subsidized window replacements require installation of all windows.
 - "Home Advantage" reward initiatives are offered to "Green Builder Contractors".
 - Another program rewards participating clients by avoiding peak load demands on their system.
 - A new program, focused on low-income families, will embrace an entire neighborhood in seeking to identify homes that need efficiency improvements that will be offered on a subsidized basis.
 - Though rebates for air-conditioning units are offered, this program does not include kitchen appliances.
 - The audience was invited to take home a compact fluorescent lightbulb.
- Cathy Wilson, Chair of our By-laws Committee distributed copies of their most recent approved version,

- urging all to keep abreast of subsequent changes by referring to our CONA web site: www.conastpete.org
- Cass Rael Jr., (Co-chair of our Public Safety Committee), provided insight of a new CONA initiative, to be headed by Scott Swift of Bartlett Park, that will encourage establishment of Neighborhood Crime Watch Groups in areas that do not currently have a functional group.
- Cass went on to invite all to share in the National Night Out observations, especially the large event staged annually in his North Kenwood Neighborhood. [August 7th at 6:30 PM. Refreshments by Ed. White Hospital. Join us at Booker Creek Park, 13th Avenue N., and 24th Street.]
- Live Oaks Neighborhood Association extended a similar invitation.

We then began the Open Forum Segment of the evening's agenda-

- Wengay Newton Sr. reminded us that the Police Department Review, contracted for by Matrix is now available as public information.
- Barbara Heck introduced St. Pete Times Journalist Cristina Silva who will be reporting on neighborhood activities, as did her predecessor Jon Wilson.
- Susan Ajoc, Director of the city's Neighborhood Partnership Program provided an update of activities of her department:
 - Ballots and voting for this year's neighborhood awards will be mailed shortly.
 - Matching grants will be available again this year though the awards will be limited.
 - No grants requiring on-going city maintenance will be considered.
 - The grant deadlines will be extended this year.
 - There will be some new categories of grant offerings this year.
 - Susan's staff is conducting a poll to collect data on city neighborhood groups, their leaders and addresses, [especially e-mail addresses for rapid contacts], and to establish the level of activity currently observed in each organization, (e.g. zealous, dormant, or in between?).
 - Those neighborhood associations that have recognized Neighborhood Plans, will be candidates for a new program of city coordinated Problem Solving Teams that will integrate the efforts of city staff from several departments.
- Barbara Heck announced some details of the Candidate's Forum that will be the principle feature of our August 15th CONA Meeting.

- The League of Women Voters has agreed to organize and manage the forum
- All candidates will be e-mail invited to attend including those not challenged in the primary election.
- Cass Rael Sr. reported on the successes of the 34th Street Business Organization, encouraging other CONA members to attend their meetings at the main library, on first Tuesdays at 5 PM.
- Barbara told us of a new sister organization, modeled closely on CONA, in upper Pinellas County, the Coalition of North County Neighborhoods (CNCN).
- Judy Ellis brought an issue before us from her Board at Lakewood Estates. They are urging City Council to establish some ordinances that will restrict the use of gas powered leaf blowers, their noise and their pollution.
 - Moved, (J. Ellis), CONA urges our City Council to consider some restriction of the use of gas powered leaf blowers within our community. [Approved]
- Moved, (Locke), that \$500. from the Alumni Support Society Endowment Fund, [the Class Fund], be transferred to the 2008 Program to support initial

- organizational efforts.
 - Moved, (T. Jarmin), to table the motion to transfer Leadership Funds until the next regular meeting of the CONA Board of Directors. [Approved]
 - It was promised that the details of this proposed transfer would be described on our CONA Listbot.
- We were reminded of the famously successful annual Bungalow Fest celebrated annually in our Historic Kenwood Neighborhood.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

Police Department Forfeiture Fund Award Program

The St. Petersburg Police Department is pleased to announce its fourteenth Annual Forfeiture Fund Award Program. This program is funded by proceeds obtained through the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act. The Act provides for the expenditure of a percentage of the forfeited proceeds for:

1. Crime Prevention
2. Neighborhood Safety
3. Drug Abuse Education
4. Drug Prevention, or
5. School Resource Officer Program

Important dates:

August 1, 2007 - Applications available

August 16, 2007 - Meeting to discuss award program and application form/procedure.

September 28, 2007 - Applications due at Police Department by 5:00 PM.

Grant applications are available at the following locations:

1. Police Department Information Desk
2. Mayor's Action Center at City Hall
3. City Hall at the Mall - Tyrone Mall
4. Police Community Resource Centers located at:
 - (a) Bartlett Park, 642 22 Avenue South, 826-9774
 - (b) Maximo Plaza, 4815 34th Street South, 866-7177
 - (c) Skyway Shopping Center, 1060 62 Avenue South, 864-3116
 - (d) Tangerine Resource Center - 1786 - 22nd Street South

The application package is also available on the City's Web Site www.stpete.org or the Police Department Web Site www.stpete.org/police/.

The purpose of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act donation of funds is to provide support to neighborhood agencies and organizations engaged in projects that seek to improve neighborhood safety, promote crime prevention, drug prevention, drug education and/or the delivery of drug treatment services. This is accomplished by offering funding to neighborhood groups, associations, or organizations which have developed specific projects to address these areas of concern.

In 2006, 29 applicants were approved and awarded a total of \$54,614.00.

Applications must be received by the Police Department by 5:00 P.M., September 28, 2007. Applications received after 5:00 PM will not be considered for funding.

The Funding Approval Committee, comprised of members of the Police Department and the Community/Police Council, will meet to review applications that meet the minimum eligibility criteria as outlined in the application. Generally, it is anticipated that grants will not exceed \$2,000.00 per organization.

A meeting will be held for all applicants to discuss the award program, the application form and procedure and for a question and answer period. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 175 - 5th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida at 6:00 PM on Thursday, August 16, 2007. All applicants are encouraged to attend prior to submitting an application.

For further information call the Police Department Legal Division at 892-5427 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.



**2007 Officers and
Executive Board Members**

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CONA-CSO

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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.

Mailing:
2nd Wednesday of month.

Editor:
Darden Rice - 822-6241

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

August Citizen of the Month

Peter Belmont

Just recently, Peter Belmont was among the first in St. Petersburg to set up photovoltaic panels on an existing residence that is connected to the grid. On the roof in his downtown St. Pete town home are twelve 200-watt panels that will collect energy from the sun and convert it to electric power to run the household.

Peter grew up in St. Petersburg and is both an Eckerd College and a Florida State University Law school alum. He got his first start in city issues as a young man in 1974 by fighting the way I-275 plowed through south side neighborhoods. The highway was built over what were then older, but poorer St. Pete neighborhoods, some of which took decades to recover from the intrusion of having a highway bulldozed through the middle of historic neighborhoods like Jordan Park and Roser Park.

Peter is also known and highly respected throughout the state as a committed, intelligent and knowledgeable environmental advocate. He has been involved in a wide range of legal cases that have addressed wetlands protection, wetland mitigation, cement plants, phosphate mining operations, seaports, subdivisions, dairy farms, highways and bridges, wildlife habitat, and comprehensive growth management plans.

In St. Pete, Peter has also been a strong supporter of historical preservation, such as the early fight to save the Vinoy, and has lent his legal expertise when needed to help fight to protect our older homes and buildings. He was a key player in both fending off the first round of the Westin hotel development on 5th Ave N from the North Shore National Historic District and in lobbying for the preservation of the Garden cafeteria, which features 1940s era murals by a leading WPA artist.

CONA thanks Peter Belmont for his passion and generosity to make our community better, not just for us but for posterity, and for using his heart and mind to protect the things that are sacred about our community's heritage.