

# CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

January 2007

## Happy New Year!!

By Barbara McCormick Heck

CONA is going to be great in 2008. We proved in 2007 that we are a new CONA and we can work hand in hand with city and county staff to achieve our goals. I pledge to do my very best to represent your interests in 2008. We all want the same thing – to make our wonderful city of St. Petersburg even better.

***Together, we can make this happen.***

Let's take a moment to thank some very special people who worked so hard to help us last year. I want to thank your CONA Officers, Board members and Committee Chairpersons for all their help. I also want to thank you, our CONA members and our neighborhood associations for your support and help.

***Together, we can make the difference.***

You have alerted us to a number of "hot" issues that need more than just the 90 minute discussion at a CONA meeting. Please join the committees, attend the special forums, speak at Council meetings dealing with these issues:

- Ray's proposal for Trop development and baseball stadium
- LDR's – Glitch ordinance
- CONA By-laws update
- Review CSO Program
- 2008 Goals Retreat
- Snipe Signs and Codes "Quality of Life" issues
- CONA outreach to the community

***Together, we can accomplish much.***

You hold the keys to CONA's success in 2008. Let's start talking about what is right with our City and build on that positive note. Let's talk about the process, not the person. Let's become problem solvers, not complainers. Let's take the opportunity to be heard but thoroughly research the facts first.

***Together, we can build an even better St. Petersburg . . . and we will !!!***

## CONA Board Meeting

January 16, 2007

The SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.

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

### Agenda Items:

Installation of CONA's 2008 Officers  
CONA Business – Treasurer's Report – Updates  
CONA Citizen of the Month  
President's Brag Night (delayed from December)

### Very Important Upcoming Events:

Jan 26 – Childs Park Slamm & Jamm Mega Block Party  
February 14 – Valentine's Day  
February 20 – CONA Meeting

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# CONA's 2008 Mentoring Program

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:

Neighborhood plans  
Crime Watch  
Annexation  
Traffic calming

Grant writing  
Codes issues  
Zoning issues  
Qualifying as a 501 c (3) – tax exempt

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@netzero.net](mailto:tomkillian@netzero.net) 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. CONA can help. Together, we can do anything.

## **Neighborhood Nite at Tropicana Field** **Sunday, April 13, 2008 at 1:40 PM** **Ray's vs. Baltimore**

\$7.00 per ticket (upper deck behind home plate)

or \$15.00 Family Fun Package includes Outfield seat in left field, Pepsi, hot dog and snack.

Parking: The Ray's have changed their policy on parking for 2008. All vehicles that enter their lot with 4 or more people park for free. Their standard parking fee is \$10.00 for all vehicles with 1 to 3 people. There is \$5.00 off lot parking available.

- Collect the ticket money from your association membership.
- Write a check to CONA for your tickets.
- Mail check before March 26 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 !!!**

# Street Lights

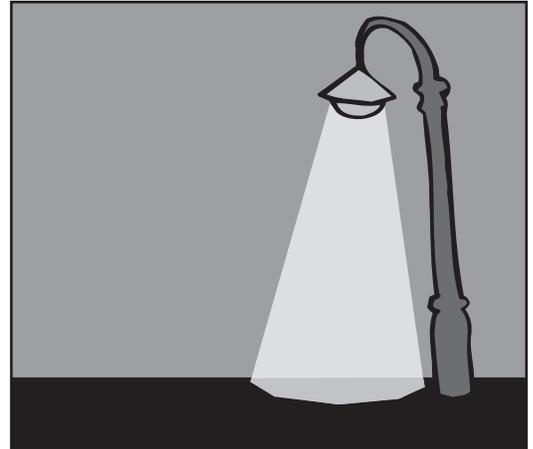
## Check your overhead street lights now.

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 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.



**Still accepting  
applications for Exhibitors!**

**Save the Date! May 3-4, 2008**

**New Location for 2008 - Harborview Center, Clearwater**

**[www.pinellaslivinggreenexpo.org](http://www.pinellaslivinggreenexpo.org)**

**Click on Media to Download flyers and ads to use for your newsletters and neighborhood association meetings.**

**Help us make this a great event!**



## 2008 CONA Membership

2008 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.***

### 2008 CONA Membership Application

*Time to renew your CONA membership for 2008!*

2008 dues are due January 1, 2008. Fill out this CONA Membership Application and mail it along with the Membership Fee to: CONA, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Proper insulation increases savings and comfort

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In most homes, one of the leading causes of wasted energy is inadequate insulation and air leaks. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), heating and cooling costs account for 30 to 40 percent of the energy used in the average American home. Having proper insulation can mean significant savings on these costs – around \$100 per year. The right amount of insulation also helps maintain consistent temperatures so your home stays more comfortable throughout. In addition, the DOE asserts walls, ceilings, and floors will be warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Plus, insulation can also help keep noise levels down providing a sound absorber or barrier.

Typically homes older than 15 years old are less likely to have adequate insulation.

A free Home Energy Check from Progress Energy Florida is one way to determine if your home has proper wall and attic insulation.

Insulation is given what is called a recommended R-value. An R-value signifies the ability of a material to resist heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the heat flow resistance will be. For example, it is more difficult for heat to pass through R-19 insulation than it is to pass through R-11 insulation.

The R-value of thermal insulation is determined by the type of material, thickness and density. Some materials are naturally better insulators than others. For example, a six-inch batt – or square – of fiberglass insulation has an R-value of 19, while an eight-inch concrete block has an R-value of 1.04.

Many homes in Florida are built with concrete block walls which are porous and not efficient insulators. While you may be familiar with ceiling and wall insulation, there are options to increase insulation for homes with concrete block walls. Injected wall foam, for example, helps fill the spaces in these blocks, keeping your home insulated and energy bills low.

Adding more insulation in your home can help increase the R-value and the resistance to heat flow. And you may also be eligible for incentives from Progress Energy Florida if you've completed a Home Energy Check. Once a recommendation is made regarding an insulation upgrade, you'll also receive a list of participating contractors to help with the installation. The level you choose will determine the available incentives from Progress Energy Florida. These may include:

- Wall insulation incentive of 20 cents per square foot, up to a maximum of \$300 per home.
- If your ceiling insulation is less than R-12:
  - Progress Energy Florida pays \$75 for upgrading to R-19, plus 5 cents per square foot
  - Progress Energy pays \$100 if the final insulation level is equal to or greater than R-30, plus 7 cents per square foot above 1,500 square feet
- If your ceiling insulation is between R-12 and R-15:
  - Progress Energy pays \$75 if the final insulation level is equal to or greater than R-30, plus 7 cents per square footage above 1,500 square feet

To schedule a free Home Energy Check and get started on your insulation upgrade, call 1-888-302-8348 or visit [www.savethewatts.com](http://www.savethewatts.com).

LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT



# CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - December 19, 2007

- President Barbara Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- We heard first an apology that former Mayor David Fischer could not be with us this evening, but a promise to make our planned award to him at our January meeting.
  - She recognized several incumbent city Council members as well as newly elected members: Leslie Curran, Bill Dudley, Herb Polson, Wengay Newton, and (later), Bill Foster.
- Barbara also applauded the winners of the Annual Neighborhood Awards.
- Upon introducing our Treasurer, Keith Locke, she also led us in applause for his recently completed application for our CONA 501(C)3 tax status which task he performed "Pro Bono".
  - Keith reported a current CONA balance of \$1,564.29.
- Police Chief Chuck Harmon then provided a brief review of his department during the year since he announced their new Community Service Program (CSO) in December of last year. [He distributed copies of his report.]
  - They have consistently responded to CSO calls within 24 hours.
  - They have received 55,000 calls for CSO service.
  - The CSO teams have freed to 911 response officers to increase their uncommitted patrol work by 300%.
  - The 911 responders have, in fact, filed over 500 Community Action Forms documenting their involvement in performing CSO activities.
  - The CSO Teams have attended over 800 neighborhood meetings this year.
  - Questioned from the floor, (W. Newton), about homicide statistics, the Chief promised that a full crime report would be submitted to the City Council in January.
- Barbara then introduced Mike Dove, formerly head of the Neighborhood Partnership Office, and current Director Susan Ajoc, and Todd Yost, Director of Codes Enforcement.
- Tom Killian, Chair of our CONA Nominations Committee then described the procedures to be followed in this evening's Officer and Executive elections.
  - He explained that the first phase would address the election of unopposed candidates.
  - Moved, (W. Newton- Westminster Heights), to accept, by acclamation, all unopposed candidates. [Motion Approved]
  - Tom then explained that each of the challenging candidates would be afforded a 5-minute opportunity to expound their qualifications.
  - Incumbent President Barbara Heck spoke followed by Cathy Wilson.
  - Following alphabetic order, Travis Jarman a candidate for Chair of the CONA Audit Committee spoke followed by Keith Locke, retiring Treasurer.
  - Seeking the Chair of our CONA Public Safety Committee, Jeff Frank submitted his qualifications followed by Scott Swift.
  - Chairman Tom Killian then called for collection of the ballots, promising report of the election results toward the end of our program.
  - Tom also expressed the hope that all candidates who were not elected will continue their support for and involvement with our CONA Executive Team.
- President Barbara Heck then introduced V.P. Dr. Will Michaels, Chair of our CONA Historic Preservation and Land Development Committee.
  - Will referred to a handout distributed by his committee, (currently viewed on our CONA Website), that lists 3 CONA recommendations to City Council regarding the upcoming "Workshop" devoted to preparation of an RFP, (Request For Proposal), that the city will offer to developers interested in our current Tropicana Dome Site.
- 1) That there be a public participation process regarding future use of the Tropicana site before completing the Request for Proposal (RFP) process.
- 2) That perspective developers have at least 120 days to respond to the Request for Proposal.
- 3) That the City Council reviews the appropriateness of public records for economic development projects of this type.
  - Current Council planning indicates a City Council Workshop, (closed to public comment), regarding the proposed RFP on January 10th. The Mayor would then be expected to issue the finalized RFP on January 18th. Development contractors would be required to submit their proposals by March 18th.
  - Councilman Jamie Bennett has promised to try to arrange for a CONA Position to be heard at the December 20th City Council Meeting.
  - The Ray's concept is two fold: A) To redevelop the Tropicana site, B) To redevelop the Al Lang Field site into a new 34,000-seat stadium.
  - A November 16th St. Pete. Times article condemned the numerous discussions, over the last year, between The Rays and City Staffers, which have not been publicly revealed.
  - The involvement by the Rays of a "Preferred Developer" has afforded that contractor an advantage in the proposed RFP process.
  - City staffer Dave Goodwin conceded that earlier some other development RFPs have afforded longer durations for respondents.
  - Moved, (M. Sherman- Crossroads), to add another recommendation to the RFP Proposal consideration: "To insist on consideration of the enormity of the parking problem this development project will pose." [Approved]
  - Moved, (K. Locke- Disston), that CONA offer their support for the Ray's project only if the new facility continues to bear the historic name "Al Lang Field". [Failed]
  - It was noted that insisting on the old name could deprive the city/team of "Naming Rights" that might be worth \$10M annually over a 10 year span! It might be possible to have a mixed name such as the current "Progress Energy Park: Home of Al Lang Stadium" and still secure funding for naming rights.
  - Will reiterated that our intent at the workshop deals with the definition of specifications and contractual terms envisioned rather than plan details.
  - A question from the floor challenged the validity of our insistence that private discussions with contractors were illegitimate.
  - It was clarified that the motion does not say the private discussions and any related agreements were illegal, but whether they were needed for a project of this type. And whether the public has been given all the information required to make an informed vote on the Ray's proposal.
- City Councilman Bill Foster, offered several germane comments re the RFP, after explaining that his concluding tenure on Council, [he will not be voting on these issues], allowed him to speak.
  - The Council will ask the residents to define what they hope for in the development of the Tropicana and Al Lang sites.
  - The Hines Developer cannot be expected to be aware of the unique character of our historic city as they develop their plans.
  - CONA should have a hand in the development of the RFP.
  - "It's your canvass"!
- Karl Nurse, (former CONA Pres.), recalled that work on the evolution of the LDRs (Land Development Regulations), clearly indicated the need to proceed at a sober pace and to involve diverse opinions whenever possible. His appeal regarding

Tropicana: "Slow the train a little bit."

- Mort Sherman summarized the public issues: A). Do we really want to tear down the Tropicana Dome? B). Do we really want to build a new waterfront stadium? He noted that the Rays hope to use some of the Tropicana redevelopment revenues to finance their new ball park as well as sharing some of the tax revenues that the redeveloped Tropicana site will generate.
  - Moved, (D. Shafer- Old Southeast), to delete the #3 item of our CONA recommendations, [...review of public record requirements]. [Failed]
  - After several vigorous objections insisting on strict ethical conformity, the motion was defeated.
- A question from Bobby O'Malley, (Albert Whitted), urged Councilman Foster to recall the importance our voters attached to preserving historic features when supporting the retention of the Albert Whitted Airfield.
  - Bill agreed that in a plebiscite, the public might well decide to retain Al Lang Field as a waterfront park area.
  - Another objected to spending money for a team with such a poor record!
  - Will Michaels affirmed that CONA currently has not taken a position, (pro or con), on the proposed development project. We are only insisting that the public be given a meaningful voice in the matter, that the process be fair to all concerned, and that the public have full information before voting.
  - The President called for a vote on the main motion as amended. [Approved]
- Barbara Heck urged that all of our member neighborhoods plan to schedule presentations by the Rays to familiarize their residents with these complex proposals and to answer, first hand, their most troubled concerns.
- We then enjoyed the recalled perspectives of four former CONA Presidents:
  - Barbara Ellis recalled the struggles to bring a Baseball team to St. Petersburg in 1998. She found CONA progress in helping to

heal the riots that had earlier disturbed our community.

- Jim Biggerstaff recalled being a neighborhood spokesman before City Council. The CONA cooperation with City Hall has grown ever since.
- Karen Mullen had fond recollections of attending CONA in 1992 under then President Jon Clark. She recalled the pioneering work of Bob Guildler and his "Paint St. Pete. Proud" program. Elected CONA President in 1994, Karen worked with a very diverse Board, cooperating with Mike Dove and Susan Ajoc to develop the Neighborhood Partnership Office.
- Karl Nurse, acknowledging his "Combative" reputation, (a reflection of childhood hardships), spoke warmly of working with Julie Weston to develop our city's first example of a Neighborhood Plan. He lamented the reduced news coverage, in recent years, of City Hall activity. [The Times no longer publishes the vote counts of City Council.] His motto: "Work at whatever level in which you can make a difference."
- Tom Killian reported the results of our voting: For President- Barbara Heck, For Audit Committee Chair- Keith Locke, For Chairman of the CONA Public Safety Committee- Jeff Frank
  - Also elected by motion of acclamation, (unchallenged), were our new Officers First Vice President Darden Rice, Second Vice President Will Michaels, Secretary Conrad Weiser, and Treasurer April Gausman.
- Our President's closing appeal: "We need your help."

Our meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

# WE'RE LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT.

## INTRODUCING A **BALANCED SOLUTION** FOR THE FUTURE.

At Progress Energy, we're using innovative and environmentally responsible solutions to meet our area's growing energy needs. We are expanding our energy-efficiency programs to help you save energy and money.

We are supporting advanced technologies like solar power and plants fueled by vegetation waste. We are investing in existing power plants to

ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY  
STATE-OF-THE-ART PLANTS



ensure their safe, efficient operation while assessing the need for new plants and better ways to get electricity to you. The result is clean, reliable, affordable power – for today and tomorrow. To learn more

about our bright thinking,  
visit [progress-energy.com](http://progress-energy.com).





**2008 Officers and  
Executive Board Members**

**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 - MAOA1999@aol.com

**Treasurer**

April Gausman  
Historic Uptown  
244-1896 - april@realestatebyapril.com

**Audit Committee**

Keith Locke  
Disston Heights  
644-2195 - rkeith1084@yahoo.com

**CourtWatch Committee**

Ingrid Comberg - 821-2192

**Public Safety Committee**

Jeff Franks

**CONA Leadership**

Ingrid Comberg - 821-2192  
Mary Darling - ladymerry@verizon.net

**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:*  
560-2479 - Darden.Rice@hotmail.com

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

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## CONA's Citizen of the Month

Please send us your suggestions of leaders in your neighborhood who deserve special recognition for their contribution, time, and ideas to your neighborhood association. Not only is recognizing our super volunteers something we can never do enough of, it also brings new people into CONA and helps us continue to build our leadership base. So, please send in those names of the leaders who shine in your neighborhood association!