

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

May 2008

Congratulations to Karl Nurse New Council Member, District Six

Congratulations go out to Karl Nurse who has just been appointed to fill District Six Council seat. Karl will serve out the 18 month term vacated by Earnest Williams. This now makes four CONA members and/or CONA Leadership graduates currently sitting on the St. Petersburg City Council - Jeff Danner, Bill Dudley, Wengay Newton and Karl Nurse. Karl and his lovely wife Jody and family have resided for the past 20+ years in the Old SE neighborhood.

We thank all the other candidates who gave of their time to run for this office and we look forward to working with each of them as they continue their work within our community. Thank you Deborah Green, Cassandra Jackson, Gwendolyn Reese and Dr. David Welch.

Here are some quick facts about Karl and his background. As a Political Science graduate of USF, Karl showed early interest in government serving as a Legislative Aide in both the Florida House and the Senate. Karl is the current President of Bay Tech Label, a specialty printing company employing 35 persons.

Karl was our CONA President from 2003-2006 and has also been past President of the Old Southeast Neighborhood Association. Karl has been active in many civic activities. He has been a PSTA Board member since 2003 and was the current Vice Chair. He has spent 9+ years on both the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission. Karl is the founder and President of the highly successful Pinellas Living Green Expo (PLGE). He was a member of St. Petersburg Housing Roundtable, Neighborhood Housing Services and a current member of the Homelessness Coalition. He is a Board member of the Suncoast Sierra Club, Airport Advisory Committee, Vision 20/20, Code Enforcement Task Force and Community Alliance and St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce.

CONA welcomes our newest Council Member and we look forward to working closely with him and all our Council Members this year.

CONA Board Meeting

May 21, 2008

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 Citizen of the Month
Guest Speaker

Important Upcoming Events:

June 18 – CONA General Meeting
June 26-28 FL Neighborhoods Conference

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Third Annual Pinellas Living Green Expo wrap up



Steve Plice, Pinellas Living Green, Inc. Vice President

The third annual Pinellas Living Green Expo was held at Harborview Center in Clearwater over the weekend of May 3rd and 4th. It was another huge success, with more exhibitors, more sponsors and more people visiting than ever before. With the additional space available at Harborview, we had planned for 100 booths. By the time

the Expo opened, we had accepted 106 and turned away a dozen additional applicants because of space limitations. (We had rejected many other applications because the proposed products or services did not meet our criteria) At the end of the weekend, nearly 6,000 people had visited the Expo. We have come a long way in 23 months.



The first Expo was held in the St. Petersburg Coliseum in June 2006. In the beginning, it was a struggle to recruit exhibitors and sponsors. We were unsure, right up to opening day, if the public would actually attend an exposition focused on sustainability. The public did attend in great numbers, however, and inaugural Expo was a resounding success. We have been building on that success each year.

The idea for a sustainable living expo in Pinellas County was conceived by CONA in 2005. From the beginning, CONA had the vision of a collaboration of neighborhoods, residents, businesses, governments, nonprofits and educators working together to promote sustainable living in Pinellas County. It was an idealistic vision that drew passionate enthusiasm from a dedicated group of talented and committed people. With our growing success, the challenge will be to sustain the idealism and community collaboration.

As the Chair of the 2008 Expo, it has been a pleasure to work with dedicated and enthusiastic people who planned and implemented event. It is rare to see so many people working together so well for so long. It has been a unique and inspiring experience. When exhibitors told us that our Expo was better planned and executed than any in their experience, we knew for sure that it was all worthwhile. But the point of the Expo was not to see how well we could run an event. Our larger goal has been to foster

green businesses and more sustainable behaviors in Pinellas County. We believe we are having measurable success in this regard. Elected officials are paying more attention and promoting new policies to improve sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions here in Pinellas County. Since we began planning for the Expo, the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County and the City of Dunedin have all gone through the process to become Certified

Green Local Governments. Other Pinellas Cities are currently working toward the certification. The various cities are responsible for these achievements and deserve all the credit for their efforts. The shift in priorities that is indicated by our local governments' interest in becoming more "green" however, is an example of how attitudes and behaviors are changing in our community.

Our success at Harborview has allowed CONA to make new friends and contacts with neighborhood leaders in Clearwater. By collaborating on this project, we have built relationships that will help us work together more effectively on other countywide issues. We have also strengthened the Expo Steering Committee by including Clearwater people in the planning and decision making process.

As we go forward, it is important that we bring the Expo back to St. Petersburg and continue to foster more sustainable behaviors here in our own City. We know that in its current form, the Expo is too big for the Coliseum. We also feel that Tropicana Field is too big for the kind of focused event that makes Pinellas Living Green a success. We are finalizing an agreement with the Saturday Morning Market to create a "Green Street" at the market each week starting in October 2008. We are also working on creating a modified version of the Expo that could work in the Coliseum or other St. Petersburg venue. While working on these St. Petersburg initiatives, we will go forward with planning the 2009 Expo at Harborview for one more year.

Very shortly, we will begin recruiting people to serve on the Steering Committee for 2009. Anyone wishing to become more involved should contact Barbara, Darden or me.

2008 CONA Membership

CONA Membership

CONA thanks all our member Associations for their support and paid membership. Please check the list below to make certain that your Association dues have been paid for 2008. If you are not on this list, please forward your \$35.00 membership dues immediately to our CONA Treasurer, April Gausman. Thank you.

2008 CONA Members

Albert Whitted Airport Advisory
Committee

Azalea Neighborhood

Bahama Shores

Bartlett Park

Bayou Highlands

Bayway Isles

Broadwater Civic

Causeway Isles

Childs Park

Coquina Key

Crescent Heights

Crescent Lake

Crossroads

Disston Heights

Downtown

Eagle Crest

Eden Isle Civic

Edgemoor

Euclid St. Paul

Fourth Street Business

Fossil Park

Garden Manor

Greater Pinellas Point

Greater Woodlawn

Harbordale

Harris Park

Historic Davista

Historic Old Northeast

Historic Roser Park

Historic Uptown

Holiday Park

Jungle Prada

Jungle Terrace

Lakewood Estates

Live Oaks

Maximo Moorings

Meadowlawn

Mel-Tan Heights

North Kenwood

Old Pasadena

Old Southeast

Placido Bayou Community

Ponce DeLeon

Riviera Bay Civic

Shore Acres

Snell Isle Property Owners

Venetian Isles

Westminster Heights

Winston Park

2008 CONA Associate Members

Albert Whitted Airport Preservation
Society

Saturday Morning Market

2008 CONA Applications are available online at www.conastpete.org

President's Message

By Barbara McCormick Heck

Are we overwhelmed yet with all the new and old challenges that face our neighborhoods these days? The Rays proposal, the "glitch" ordinance for the LDR's, the budget cuts (City, County and State-wide), the Bayway tolls issue, the Tierra Verde annexation, the Raytheon waste issues. All seem to need our immediate attention. Where do we start? Let's go back to the beginning – not the creation, just the beginning.

It all starts with us . . . yes, I mean you and you and you and you and me. We can make the difference. We are the solution.

I commend and thank those who have taken the time to get involved, to learn about the issues, to attend the meetings and to talk to our city, county and state governments. They are passionate in their beliefs and have made the commitment to "make a difference."

Many more seem more comfortable to sit on the sidelines or are afraid of the consequences of "getting involved." I challenge you to think of the even worse consequences if you do that !!! Let's not be very, very sorry later because we did not address these issues before us now.

Getting involved means different things. It can mean getting better informed. It can mean talking to neighbors. It can mean conversing via e-mail or telephone. It can mean attending meetings/rallies/seminars. It can mean interacting with others. It does imply action of your part.

What it does NOT mean is sitting around and complaining about how "things used to be" or "how bad someone is." Remember, when you point a finger at someone, there are three fingers pointing back at you (check it out). Take the hint and start making that difference.

First - Learn all you can.

Educate yourself on the issue or challenge.
Research thoroughly.

Second - Talk, talk, talk.

Talk to others – both for and against your views. This helps you to better understand the other side of the story.

Third – Focus on the project not the person.

Too many times we have focused on the person speaking and forgotten that it is the words that are important.

Fourth - Advocate.

Talk or write to those who can make a difference (City Council members, County Commissioners, State Representatives).

Fifth – Be willing to compromise.

You may learn in your discussions of an even better solution. Be open to suggestions and willing to compromise to get to a better end result.

Please join your CONA friends in "**working together for a better St. Petersburg.**" Thank you for investing your time and your efforts in being part of the solution.

Also, please pay your overdue May CONA dues to April Gausman, CONA Treasurer.

Keep energy costs down as summer heats up

When summer begins on June 20, climbing temperatures can make your home's cooling system run longer, which can push your electric bill sky high. Now is the ideal time to take control of your electric bills. Start by making sure your home's air-conditioning system is in good working order. Since cooling accounts for more about 34 percent of your total energy bill, a thorough examination can ensure your system is operating at maximum efficiency. As the seasons change, following a regular professional maintenance plan can mean even more savings long-term.

Another way to make your home more energy efficient is by installing a high-efficiency heat pump. Because of its name, most people don't realize that, in addition to being one of the most cost-efficient heating systems you can buy, an electric heat pump functions as a central air conditioner when it's hot outside.

What makes a heat pump so efficient? It transfers heat where you want it – from inside your home to the outdoors for cooling, and from the outside to inside for heating. In contrast, conventional furnaces have to generate hot air. Moving heat is far more efficient than producing it.

When you replace your electric strip heat or older heat pump with a new high-efficiency heat pump, you may be eligible for an incentive from Progress Energy Florida. The amount of your rebate, which is credited to your electric bill, depends on the type of system you replace and the type of heat pump you purchase.

What's more, you'll continue saving money

each month. That's because a heat pump with a SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) of 14 or higher and an HSPF (Heating System Performance Factor) of 7.8 or higher can significantly lower the heating and cooling portion of your electric bill. (See the sidebar for more information about SEER ratings and rebates from Progress Energy.) There's a lot to consider when buying a heat pump – from choosing a contractor to evaluating energy efficiency and other features. But one thing is certain, you can enjoy year-round comfort and savings.

As summer nears, you also may want to consider a free Home Energy Check from Progress Energy for an energy evaluation of your home. In addition to surveying your cooling and heating system, a Home Energy Check will evaluate your home's insulation, duct work, water heating, and overall efficiency. You'll then be given recommendations on cost-effective, energy-saving measures you can implement.

For your convenience, Progress Energy offers several Home Energy Check options: online, mail-in, over the phone or a walk-through in your home. Regardless of which option you choose, a Home Energy Check is one of the most important steps to understanding your energy consumption and identifying ways to save on your power bill.

For more information about Progress Energy Home Energy Check and heat pump rebates visit www.savethewatts.com or call 1.888.302.8348. Get your home ready for the long summer months – and get ready to enjoy some cool savings.

Knowledge is power

What is a SEER rating?

A Season Energy Efficiency Ratio, or SEER, indicates the performance efficiency of a heating and cooling unit. The higher the SEER rating, the more efficient the unit, which generally results in lower operating costs and energy bills. When you upgrade your home's heating and air-conditioning system, you may be eligible for a rebate from Progress Energy Florida. Here are a few ways you can benefit:

Rebates* for replacing a less-efficient heat pump:

- \$100 for a minimum 14 SEER with 7.8 HSPF**
- \$150 for a minimum 15 SEER with 8.0 HSPF

Rebates for replacing strip heat:

- \$250 for a minimum 14 SEER with 7.8 HSPF
- \$350 for a minimum 15 SEER with 8.0 HSPF

Rebate for installing a new air-conditioning system in homes with non-electric heat†:

- \$50 for a minimum 14 SEER air-conditioning unit

* A Home Energy Check within two years of the initiation of work is a prerequisite to qualify for the incentive. Rebate is valid for Progress Energy customers only. Other requirements could apply. Contact Progress Energy for more details.

** Heating Seasonal Performance Factor.

† Residence must maintain the same heating source type.

LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT



Progress Energy Florida art contest promotes energy efficiency

Florida residents can now share their artistic vision of the state's natural beauty while helping to secure its energy future by advocating energy efficiency. Believing in the power of art, Progress Energy Florida is seeking original artwork that depicts the natural beauty of the state as part of its premier "Drawn to Nature" art contest. The winning artwork will be featured on eco-friendly bags offered to customers who participate in the company's energy efficiency programs.

In order to educate and involve both youth and adults, the contest is divided into two categories: one for elementary students in grades 3 – 5 and one for adults ages 18 years and older. Entrants must reside in one of Progress Energy Florida's 35 service-territory counties. Two adult winners and three student winners will be selected. The top adult prize is \$2,000; the top student prize is a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond. In addition, the student winners' teachers will receive equivalent cash prizes to use for classroom art materials. The top adult and student winners also will have their artwork featured on the bags.

Energy efficiency is a key part of Progress Energy Florida's long-term strategy to meet customers' growing energy needs, which are expected to increase more than 25 percent during the next decade.

"We know that the cleanest and greenest kilowatt is the one we do not use. It is part of our job to make sure our customers know and understand the importance of energy efficiency," states John Masiello, director of Demand Side Management and Alternative Energy Strategy. "The 'Drawn to Nature' art contest is an innovative way to help our customers understand how energy efficiency benefits the environment."

The deadline to enter the Progress Energy Florida "Drawn to Nature" contest is May 30, 2008. Winners will be announced in July. Contest rules and entry forms can be found at www.savethewatts.com.

Need a speaker for your meeting?

Progress Energy Florida makes it easy for your group to learn about energy efficiency with the company's new Speakers Bureau. The company has experts who can come to your next meeting and share ways to help you save money on your energy bill by making your home more energy efficient.

Progress Energy also has speakers who can address any energy concerns your group may have, including growth in our state, meeting Florida's energy future, alternative and renewable energies and more.

For more information or to schedule a speaker, contact Lola M. Stein at 727-820-4720 or lola.stein@pgnmail.com.

Operation Safe Summer

Every year when school ends and summer begins, we experience an increase in crimes committed by youth and young adults. Two years ago, Chief of Police Charles "Chuck" Harmon created a new initiative to deal with this issue, calling it "Operation Safe Summer."

This initiative will begin in late May this year and extend throughout the summer school break. Major Donnie Williams, Youth Resources Division, will oversee the program again, using a select cadre of officers from within the Department, including many School Resource Officers who already know many of the young adults in our community. Their mission is to reduce the number of property crimes, such as auto burglary and auto theft, using a variety of traditional and non-traditional strategies. For instance, these officers will work active crime trends to catch perpetrators and track known offenders on probation, but they also will partner with social agencies to divert kids off the street and into summer work programs.

You can help us reduce youth related crimes too, by remembering a few simple crime prevention tips: always lock your car, never leave it with the engine running and the air conditioning on because it is too hot out, use anti-theft devices, and never leave loose change or valuables in plain sight inside a vehicle, especially electronic items such as cell phones, MP3 players, and GPS devices.

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - April 16, 2008

- n President Barbara M. Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag.
 - n Confirmation of the recommendations of our CONA Committee studying the proposals of the Tampa Bay Rays will be a highlight of our meeting.
 - n We then heard a call for a show of hands to identify the members of our current CONA Leadership Class followed by a show of hands of the CONA Leadership Alumni present, [which included 3 sitting members of City Council].
 - n Treasurer April Gausman reported a current CONA balance of \$1,801.46, [exclusive of the CONA Leadership account].
 - A list of 47 paid up member neighborhoods was distributed.
 - n The President then read the plaque awarded to Winnie Foster as our CONA Citizen of The Month.
 - n There was a call for neighborhood events announcements.
 - North Kenwood Picnic on Booker Creek (Saturday)
 - Edgemoor Jai Alai Dedication (Saturday)
 - Riviera Bay Civic Canal Work Party at Sunlit Cove Ramp (Saturday)
 - n Mark Johnson, speaking for The Saturday Morning Market provided a PowerPoint album of their current activities in contrast with similar open markets in other cities.
 - We saw data on the markets growth, in recent years, and projections for future growth clearly suggesting a need to consider other locations.
 - Comparisons were drawn with open air markets contrasted with those housed in a hall. Some markets are open for business every day.
 - Our market place will become a hub of community spirit, evolving into a visitor's "Destination" of itself.
 - Currently our Market includes 110 stalls embracing 250 vendors during a Saturday sales volume of \$100,000.
 - Mr. Johnson reviewed, in some detail, other local sites being considered.
 - He will welcome opportunities to provide this presentation to other neighborhood group meetings.
 - n Speaking for Will Michaels, Chair of the CONA Historic Preservation Committee, Marylyn Olson explained the work of the CONA Study Group, [11 member neighborhoods divided into 3 study subjects].
 - The recommendations of their 12 page study report were approved by our CONA Executive Board and are submitted for your confirmation tonight.
 - The three discreet study subjects were: A) The Ray's proposal for a new waterfront stadium, B) The proposals to redevelop the Tropicana Dome Site, C) Proposed financing arrangements.
- Additional copies of their study report were distributed.
- n The prominent conclusions of their report included:
 - A) Do not build a new waterfront stadium at Al Lang Field.
 - B) Collect more data, for public dissemination, of alternate development sites and financial proposals.
 - C) Prepare a new development Request for Proposal, (RFP), reflecting more alternatives.
 - D) Defer a public referendum on the Ray's proposal until the public can be better informed to consider these long term issues for our city.
 - Moved, (C. Wilson- Greater Woodlawn), to approve the recommendations of the CONA study concerning the Ray's proposals.
 - There was some opposition, insisting that the Ray's plans would bring significant cash flow to our city and lead to many new jobs.
 - Moved, (M. Sherman- Crossroads), that the third "Draft Recommendation" be altered to delete the text following the words "Some future date...." in order to discourage consideration of the other sites suggested.
 - There was much discussion of the need to consider alternate sites.
 - Amendment Motion, (Sherman), [Approved]
 - Among the discussion issues was the 6 month announced delay in pending environmental impact reports due on the stadium proposal.
 - Many insisted that much more public information is needed to fairly judge the Ray's proposals.
 - Stadium supporters insist that the Ray's proposals will benefit the entire community not just the ball team and baseball fans.
 - There was some objection to the recommendation to defer a public referendum at this time,
 - It was suggested that we vote in each of the committee's recommendations individually.
 - Moved, (M.Gulley- Coquina Key), to close debate and move the question.
 - Cloture motion, (Gulley), [Failed]
 - Moved, (R. Montsho- Westminster Heights), to partition the confirmation of the original motion to approve.
 - Partition motion, (Montsho), [Failed]
 - Motion, (Wilson), to approve recommendations of CONA Study Committee, as amended, (Sherman), [Approved]
- n It was pointed out that our CONA vote, this evening, is a non-binding referendum,
 - n The Open Forum Phase of our meeting followed-
 - The Northeast Garden Stroll will be May 4th.
 - The Greater Pinellas Point Picnic will be June 7th.

Minutes continued from previous page

- There was a round of applause for Tom Killian and his successful campaign to sell neighborhood association tickets for the Ray's Baseball Game.
- Mort Sherman pointed out that Crossroads and Azalea are proactively seeking pollution data from the Raytheon site.
- The Green Thumb Festival at Walter Fuller Park will be April 26th & 27th.
- The Childs Park Slamm & Jamm Phase II will be June 25th
- Councilman Wengay Newton invited all to an upcoming Crime Prevention Meeting in Childs Park.
- Council's Leslie Curran reminded us that the Saturday art Market at Williams Park will conclude at the end of April.
- Our Pinellas Living Green Expo will be open at the Harbor View Center in Clearwater on May 3rd & 4th. Car pool.....and save on gas and pollution!
- Past President Karl Nurse was recognized as a candidate for City Council.

Our meeting concluded at 8:45 p.m.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

City of St. Petersburg Garbage Pick-up Holiday Schedule

Holidays will sometimes change your scheduled garbage pick-up day.

Here is the schedule for the week of Memorial Day, 2008.

May 26th Memorial Day

- Monday collection will be on Tuesday.
- Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday.
- Thursday and Friday collections remain the same.

Brush Sites will be closed only on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

You can also access this information at www.stpete.org/garbage.htm

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
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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.





**2008 Officers and
Executive Board Members**

President

Barbara Heck - Snell Isle
894-6020 - barbara@theheckhouse.com

First Vice President

Darden Rice - Old Southeast
560-2479 - Darden.Rice@mac.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@earthlink.net

CONA Leadership

Ingrid Comberg - Historic Uptown
821-2192

CourtWatch Committee

Carole Griffiths - Disston Heights
522-7206 - cgriff6721@aol.com

Nominating Committee

Thereasa McEachem - Harbordale
823-6390 - terre66@aol.com

Public Safety Committee

Jeff Frank - Live Oaks
kirstenjeffinn@yahoo.com

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@mac.com

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CONA's Citizen of the Month for May Gypsy Gallardo

Many of our community leaders are not elected officials, but organizers who are the linchpins that bring people together around important issues. As CONA has reached out to work with other organizations across the city, we have had the opportunity to meet many such organizers and bridge builders in the community. One such leader is Gypsy Gallardo, founder and editor of The Power Broker Magazine. Gallardo chairs the NAACP's statewide economic development committee. She is also the co-chair of PACT (People Advocating Change Together), a countywide antiviolence and education advocacy organization.

A Harvard graduate, Gallardo came to St. Petersburg in 1997. She has been heavily involved in urban revitalization, political advocacy, media diversity and business development. Her Power Broker Magazine reaches 10,000 African-American households in Tampa Bay every month.

Gallardo connects the diverse elements of the African-American community to work for their common interests. And, through the monthly Power Broker Magazine, she's brought together black-owned businesses from around Tampa Bay for events, networking and a business directory.

Her latest accomplishment with PACT was to help organize an event that brought a thousand people to the Prayer for Peace on May 1st when 49 congregations joined the community in collective prayer at Gibbs High School.

Thank you, Gypsy, for all of your hard work in such important issues to our entire community.