

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

July 2008

Bartlett Park Neighborhood Representation Vote – July 16th

Recently a new organization named the “Buena Vista Neighborhood Association” has applied for CONA membership. This organization wishes to represent much of the same area represented since 1991 by the Bartlett Park Neighborhood Association.

The **Bartlett Park Neighborhood Association** was established and incorporated in 1991 with the following boundaries:

- 4th Street South to Dr. MLK and from 11th Avenue South to 22nd Avenue South

The **Buena Vista Neighborhood Association** wants to represent much of the same area:

- 4th Street South to Dr. MLK and from 12th Avenue South to 18th Avenue South

Since there is an existing Association that covers the boundaries in question, your Executive Board normally would turn down this request and send it back to the neighborhood itself to decide if they want to split apart. However, our 2008 CONA By-Laws do not address the situation where an applicant for CONA membership has overlapping or identical boundaries to an existing CONA Association member.

We have no history to guide us either. Neighborhoods have divided in the past, but usually they do not substantially duplicate/represent residents of the same

geographic area. In the past, CONA has recognized only one association as representing and speaking for a neighborhood, and that one association has been entitled to one vote on the CONA Board (General Membership).

Our current CONA By-laws require that the Executive Board approve (or not) new association applications and then forward them to the full Board (General Membership) for final approval. Your CONA Executive Board approved the Buena Vista application by majority vote. It is now in order to bring this question forward to all the CONA membership for a full vote at our July 16th CONA meeting.

Representatives from both groups will be at the July 16th CONA meeting. After discussion, a ballot vote will be taken. If a majority votes to ratify the Executive Board’s approval, then Buena Vista will become a member of the CONA Board. Note that this will not change the neighborhood boundaries of Bartlett Park as they are recognized by the City of St. Petersburg. However, due to overlapping boundaries such approval will give some residents of Bartlett Park / Buena Vista two votes on the CONA Board.

Please attend the July meeting, listen to the issues, and then vote. Thank you.

CONA Board Meeting

July 16, 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 Committee Updates – Treasurer’s Report
- CONA Citizen of the Month
- Public Safety Committee
- Bartlett Park Representation Vote
- Candidates Introduction
- Neighborhood Reps - Open Forum

Important Upcoming Events:

- August 20 CONA Meeting
- August 26 Primary - Vote
- September 17 CONA Meeting

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President's Message

By Barbara McCormick Heck

What do we do best ??? We find solutions !!!

CONA was formed to help all our neighborhoods. Lately, we seemed to be focusing on what is wrong, not on finding solutions. It has become too easy to complain, to blog on websites, to talk on the phone, to send text messages, to stand around outside after meetings talking about what is not being done or how someone else could do it better. Why aren't we spending that same amount of time and energy figuring out ways to make things better, working on ways to resolve or solve neighborhood problems?

We know that working on a solution requires a time commitment. It requires that you become and stay informed. It requires that you attend CONA/Committee/Council/Commission meetings. It requires that you seek out informed experts, not just the loudest voices in the room. Complaining takes less time, but it does NOT fix the problem. Working on a solution does.

And working on a solution is the right thing to do. Tell us what your neighborhood needs and how CONA can assist you in that task. Call, write or e-mail your CONA Committee Chairs. Tell us how we can better assist your Neighborhood. Join us as we work with other neighborhoods with similar issues. Remember this:

• Problem + (Input and Ideas and Ingenuity) = **Solution**

CONA information expands

To provide more timely and detailed information for ongoing issues, CONA is making changes to our CONA meeting format, our CONA Newsletter, our Listbot posting and our CONA website. Please provide your feedback on these changes. We will also be reserving the last 15 minutes of each General Membership meeting for an Open Forum style of discussion on any neighborhood topic.

Go out and make a difference

Now it is up to you to read the summaries, to stay informed, and to ask questions if you need help, or more information or do not understand something. Contact information (phone and e-mail addresses) for CONA Officers and Committee Chairs is always listed in our Newsletter and on our CONA Website. We are there to assist you. Please call for help. It is up to each neighborhood to get involved. You now have the tools to make the changes you want. Now let's go out there and make a difference.

President's Update – CONA ongoing business:

- **Rays Proposal:** CONA Committee Report submitted a well researched and very detailed report that was accepted by CONA Membership. The full report is on the CONA website at www.conastpete.org. Please review if you have any questions as to the position CONA took on this proposal. CONA will continue to speak and write to Council and Commission members reiterating CONA's position on this proposal.
- **Crime:** CONA Public Safety Committee is asking that you return your CONA questionnaire. Please contact the Committee with your concerns and challenges so that we can work with you and quickly bring those issues forward to SPPD.
- **Budget:** As we go to press, the City has not provided a final proposed budget for us to review.

CONA hopes that working to find a solution and making a difference in all your neighborhoods **is what you and we do best !!!**



CONA wants your Neighborhood to join our Membership. We want to know "What is happening in the Neighborhood?" Please join us to share the news from your area, discuss the issues, and note the activities and projects.

We will be calling you soon to personally extend this invitation. Please consider joining CONA now. RSVP by sending your \$35 check and application form to:
CONA P. O. Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693.

Barbara Hawkins, *Membership Chair*

Carefest Needs Volunteers



Want to make a difference in someone's life? Carefest 2008 is for you. What is Carefest? Somebody Cares Tampa Bay hosts a week of compassion-related activities culminating with a day of service, Saturday, September 20th, when volunteers mobilize to meet the practical needs of their neighbors in Tampa Bay. The City of St. Petersburg Neighborhood Partnership Department is facilitating the day of service and is working with various other departments such as Midtown Economic Development, Parks, Codes Compliance Assistance & N-Team, Sanitation, and Marketing to identify potential projects for the volunteers to embrace.

Carefest 2008 is a collaboration of churches, ministries, agencies, neighborhood associations, businesses, individuals and families with a goal of lifting up our community. Here's your chance to serve others by painting homes, mowing and cleaning up yards, giving away food, visiting the sick, volunteering at your chosen non-profit and so much more. To get involved, please call St. Petersburg Carefest Volunteer Coordinator Teketa Marshall at 892-5088 or Carefest Coordinator Philip Harris (Neighborhood Partnership) at 893-4110.



Keep Homes Safe When Traveling this Summer

St. Petersburg Police Department Column

Don't invite burglars into your home while you are away this summer.

If you plan to travel, create the illusion that you are home by using timers to turn on and off your inside lights, television or radio. Remember, lights left on all day and night are a sure sign that no one is home.

Leave shades, blinds and curtains in their normal positions. Call the post office and newspaper to stop delivery during your absence.

Make sure your yard is clean, grass is mowed and shrubbery pruned before you leave. Arrange for someone to cut the grass while you are out of town.

Burglars hate bright lights. Install outside lights with a timer or photoelectric sensor. Motion detector lights are especially effective.

Keep a list of your valuables in a safe place. Record the serial numbers of your electronic items, especially digital cameras, laptop computers, electronic games. Take photographs of jewelry, since these items are difficult to identify after a crime.

Lastly, tell a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home and report any suspicious activity in the neighborhood to the police by calling 727-893-7780. Enjoy a safe and crime-free summer!

Water Restrictions Extended

SWFTMD (South West Florida Water Management District) has extended water restrictions through **September 30th, 2008**. This applies to water from public and private water utilities as well as the use of all wells and surface water sources (ponds, rivers, etc.).

The following is a schedule of the restrictions for the City of St. Petersburg :

Potable Water, Private Well and Surface Water

Saturday	Even house numbers
Sunday	Odd house numbers

A word to the EnergyWiseSM

With costs for just about everything on the rise, today's consumers are looking for more ways to manage household budgets. Now, there's a way to reduce your monthly expenses without having to clip coupons, drive less, or shorten vacation plans. It's called EnergyWise.

When you enroll in EnergyWise from Progress Energy Florida, you can save more than \$145 annually on your electric bill. EnergyWise is free, smart and easy.

Progress Energy will install – at no charge – a small device at your home. The device is connected to select electric equipment such as your water heater or your central heating and cooling system. This device makes it possible for Progress Energy to temporarily reduce energy consumption if the community experiences an unusually high power demand. If that happens, Progress Energy can send a signal to selected appliances of more than 400,000 EnergyWise participants throughout our service territory to cycle power off and on to reduce overall energy demand. This minimizes the impact to any one customer.

Designed with the customer's comfort in mind, the cycles are limited in duration and to certain times of the day. Most participants never even notice a cycle. Many often say they forget they are part of the program – until they see the savings on their bill. Participation is completely voluntary – and there is no penalty if you want to discontinue the program.

When you participate, you'll see a credit on your Progress Energy bill whenever your monthly electric usage is above 600 kWh. The savings are automatic for as long as you are enrolled in the program. And, if you have a pool pump, you can also have it connected for maximum savings.

To see if you qualify for EnergyWise, call 866-712-3416 weekdays from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. or on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about EnergyWise visit savethewatts.com or e-mail EnergyWise@pgnmail.com.

WATTS up?

Wonder why energy usage is increasing? Many factors contribute to increased energy use – including home size and items within the home that require electricity. For example, in Florida, the average new home is **54 percent** larger today than in 1970 and **12 percent** larger than in 1990. Even the size of the average television is larger. Homes today also have more appliances and larger electronics that require more electricity.

All of these changes in technology affecting our everyday lives have become more energy intensive, whether we recognize it or not. In the past 30-plus years, Progress Energy Florida has seen a **42 percent** increase in average energy use per customer per year – from 9700 kWh/year in 1975 to 13,800 kWh/year in 2007. A **kilowatt-hour** (symbolized kWh) is a unit of energy equivalent to one kilowatt (1 kW) of power expended for one hour (1 h) of time. Listed below is the average energy use for common things found in many homes today.

- One 100-watt light bulb on for ten hours is 1 kWh
- A typical laptop has a demand of 45-50 watts – [when used?] for one hour = 0.05 kWh
- A 50" LCD flat screen TV on for 1 hour = 0.25 kWh
- A 50" plasma flat screen for 1 hour = .47 kWh

While most of us can't do without our computers or televisions, there are ways to limit energy use that can add up to potential savings. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends turning off your monitor if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes. If you don't plan to use it for more than two hours, turn off both the CPU and the monitor. Other tips include:

- Consider a laptop if you're in the market for a new computer – they use less energy than a regular computer.
- Plug your desktop computer, lights, radio, etc into a power strip and turn off the power strip when not in use.
- Set your computer to the "sleep" mode and you'll save energy.

For more ways to reduce energy use in your household, visit savethewatts.com.

LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT



Development Services:

Accessory Units (e.g., garage apartments) Now Permitted in 53 of the City's Neighborhoods

The City's new NT-1 (Neighborhood Traditional-1) and NT-2 zoning districts permit accessory dwelling units, such as garage apartments, subject to compliance with standards regulating lot size, building setbacks, parking and design. Areas of the City with NT-1 and NT-2 zoning, shown on the attached map, include the following 53 neighborhoods:

Allendale Terrace	Euclid Heights	Lake Euclid	Perkins
Azalea Homes	Euclid-St. Paul	Lake Maggiore Shores	Ponce De Leon
Bartlett Park	Five Points	Lake Pasadena	Ridgecrest
Big Bayou	Fossil Park	Lakewood Terrace	The Allendale
Campbell Park	Fruitland Heights	Live Oak	Thirteenth Street Hts
Casler Heights	Greater Woodlawn	Magnolia Heights	Thirty-First Street
Central Oak Park	Harbordale	Melrose Mercy/Pine Acres	Twinbrooks
Childs Park	Harris Park	Mel-Tan Heights	West Lake Estates
Crescent Heights	Highland Grove	North East Park	Westminster Heights
Crescent Lake	Highland Oaks	North Kenwood	Wildwood Heights
Cromwell Heights	Historic Kenwood	Norwood Heights	Woodlawn Oaks
Disston Heights	Historic Old Northeast	Oakwood Gardens	
Driftwood	Historic Roser Park	Old Southeast	
Edgemoor	Historic Uptown	Palmetto Park	

Key features of the accessory dwelling unit regulations include the following:

- Only one accessory unit is permitted for each single family home.
- The lot containing the single family home and accessory unit must be at least 5,800 sq. ft. in size, and the floor area for an accessory unit cannot be less than 375 sq. ft. or greater than 750 sq. ft.
- The building containing an accessory unit must comply with the architectural standards for the NT-1 or NT-2 zoning district and be compatible with the style of the building containing the principal use, including the paint scheme.
- The accessory unit cannot be used as a transient accommodation use, e.g., overnight or weekend lodging, and cannot be sold off or legally separated from the principal use.
- Paved off-street parking space(s) must be provided.

While the new accessory dwelling unit regulations create investment opportunities in the neighborhood's noted, and will undoubtedly increase the pool of available workforce units in the City, there is no requirement that a property owner construct an accessory unit or rent it to anyone if they do. In many instances, an accessory unit will be made available to a family member.

St. Petersburg's new land development regulations (LDRs), including the NT-1 and NT-2 zoning districts, were adopted by the City Council in August 2007 and became effective on September 10, 2007. The specific regulations pertaining to accessory units can be found at the following address on the Development Services Department's web site: www.stpete.org/development/LDRproposed2.htm.

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - June 18, 2008

- President Barbara Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.
- Kia Warren, speaking for our Nominations Committee introduced Mike Gulley, (Coquina Key), as their candidate for CONA First Vice President.
- Moved, (Warren), to elect Mike Gulley as First Vice President. [Approved]
- There was then a call for a show of hands by the CONA Leadership Alumni.
- City Councilman Bill Dudley was welcomed and offered a few comments.
- Several current candidates for election in the August 26th primaries were invited to briefly introduce themselves:
 - Grant Smith- for Pinellas County School Board
 - Max Linn- for Congressional District 10
 - Frank Gregoire- for County Property Appraiser
 - Rene Flowers- for County Commissioner
 - Mary Hansell- for Circuit Judge Group 6
- The Chair then welcomed Leslie Curran, of City Council, who offered a few remarks.
- Kia Warren, (Roser Park), invited all to attend an 11 a.m. Saturday, (6/21/08). celebration of the Booker Creek Trail joining several downtown neighborhoods as it extends toward Tampa Bay.
- Tom Tito, (Bartlett Park), appealed for attendance at an earlier program, (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.), Saturday, to assist in cleanup of Salt Creek in Bartlett Park. Many organizations and several neighborhoods are participating in fulfillment of grants from Swftmd and Tampa Bay Estuary.
- Our President urged all members with newsletters to promote participation in the August 26th Primary Election.....too often with a very, very poor turnout for a primary..
- We were reminded that the current issue of City Life Magazine includes an article about our CONA organization.
- Teresa Hilliard of the Neighborhood Partnership Office provided an update on this year's Partnership Grant Program.
 - September 5th is the deadline for grant applications.
 - There will be a final Applicant's Workshop, Tuesday 6/24 in the City Hall Annex, 400 Second Avenue North.
 - Neighborhood Support, (i.e. identified volunteers and contributors), is a primary criteria of the grant program.
 - Despite city funding reductions, grants are being considered as large as \$25,000.
 - CONA can offer mentor assistance for grant preparations.
- Pinellas County Commissioner was our next speaker.
 - We saw a map of the representation districts for Pinellas County.
 - The County was only recently involved in the discussions about a new stadium for the Rays. They have requested that we extend and share the tourist "Bed Tax" in support of a new stadium. The Pinellas Tourism Development Council will meet to address this issue on August fifth. If denied, the Rays will be compelled to revise their proposals.
 - Citing Pinellas green concerns, the Commissioner spoke of the Booker Creek Preserve and the new Eagle Lake Park.
 - Candidate filing is July 28th to be on the Primary Ballot of August 26th.
- Commissioner Morroni was asked to comment on Pinellas Hope, the tent city of homeless in mid-county.
- The County has contributed \$750,000. thus far, but Catholic Charities has asked for a million dollar additional funding. The Commissioners feel their must be a greater sharing of the support between St. Petersburg, charitable groups, and other supporting agencies.
- The Project has succeeded in placing some 30% of their clients in stable employment situations.
- It was questioned why the County is reducing their staff budgets though they have large, (\$115.M) reserves.
 - The commissioner responded that a reserve of 16% of the operating budget is deemed necessary to meet hurricane damage contingencies.
 - The revenue reductions mandated by our Constitutional Amendment #1 will be shared equally, (10%), by all Pinellas Agencies. The Sheriff, having the largest agency budget, suffered the largest loss (reduction).
 - The prospects are for an even greater revenue loss in 2009!
- Barbara Heck cited our involvement with C.N.C.N. our up county counterpart. The Commissioner thanked her for our CONA support of so many county programs.
- We then heard from Chief Robert Ballou of St. Petersburg's Fire Rescue Emergency Management.
 - CONA is represented by Barbara Heck on the city's Emergency Management Program Advisory Group.
 - All neighborhood associations are encouraged to schedule similar storm preparedness meetings and to include such precautions in their newsletters.
 - Recovery measures after storm devastation was a theme of this year's programs.
 - We viewed two videos illustrating the threats of hurricane winds and tidal surge.
 - We were reminded that Evacuation Levels are determined solely by terrain elevation above sea level.
 - We were continued to be urged to evacuate to a family or friend's home, and to use public storm shelters only as a last resort. Personal space will be severely limited but adequate shelter capacity has been established.
 - Departure 25 hours prior to a storm is inadequate. It would require 57 hours to evacuate the entire peninsula!
 - All residents not planning to evacuate are encouraged to develop a program of 5 day self-sufficiency following a major storm.
- The Chief offered several comments on Department provisions for evacuation of resident with "Special Needs", [those needing medical support- oxygen, dialysis gear or other ongoing medical procedures].
 - There is a state mandate to rescue and evacuate these residents.
 - The city storm shelter at John Hopkins Middle School has been designated for special needs evacuees and will be staffed with medical personal and support equipment. Pre-registration is essential.
 - Provisions can also be made to evacuate certain cases to local nursing homes or hospitals.
 - "Care Giver" family members will also be accommodated at the Special Needs Shelter to provide support and to avoid dividing a household into several shelters.
 - Any local resident without transportation can register with

Fire Rescue for timely evacuation to a public shelter.

- One city storm shelter, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, has been designated to accommodate residents with caged pets. There will be city Animal Control Staff on hand to assist. Pre-registration is essential.
- It was suggested that we learn the GPS Coordinates of our home, to call for help, since street signs could disappear in a severe storm.
- It was recommended to gather a month's supply of needed medications as well as written record of usage and dosage.
- The Chief assured us that the recent budget cuts have not reduced staff of our City Fire Rescue, an organization distinct from the county E.M.S. operations.
- Cathy Harrelson, speaking for The Sierra Club, urged CONA support of their campaign to discourage the use of lawn fertilizers that ultimately provide algae bloom nutrients in our coastal waters giving rise to threats of "Red Tide".
- Jeff Frank, Chair of our CONA Public Safety Committee, described their current poll of our neighborhood's perception of crime.
 - He briefly reviewed the survey form currently listed on our web site and on our CONA Listbot e-mail network.
 - In question is the public reaction to crime statistics that have been published recently.
 - We hope to receive a wide sampling of these survey forms from many neighborhood associations in the city as well as from individuals.
 - The survey questions were carefully worded to avoid "Leading" the replies.
 - A summary of the survey data will be presented at a CONA meeting as well as being forwarded to City Government and our Police Department.

Our meeting adjointed at 9:00 p.m.
Conrad Weiser, Secretary

New Feature

CONA Committee Reports

This is our new monthly feature to provide a brief summary for CONA members on CONA Committee progress. Please direct your questions to the appropriate Committee Chair.

- **Audit** – Six month audit scheduled for July.
- **Court Watch** – No update at this time.
- **Leadership** – 12th Leadership class begins January 2009. Looking for volunteers.
- **Membership** – Please pay your 2008 dues.
- **Nominations** – Nominations for 2009 Officers and Committee Chairs open October 2008.
- **Public Safety** – Please complete and submit your Crime Questionnaire.

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.





**2008 Officers and
Executive Board Members**

President

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

First Vice President

Mike Gulley - Coquina Key
244-8374 - jmgulley1@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

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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

Membership

Barbara Hawkins
866-1747 - be.hawkins@verizon.net

Nominating Committee

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

Public Safety Committee

Jeff Frank - Live Oaks
322-0488 - 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 (NEW):
25th of each month

Mailing:
2nd Wednesday of month

Layout Editor: Mo Eppley 686-2146
Coordinator: Mike Gulley 244-8374

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

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CONA Citizens of the Month for July Sheila Lopez and Frank Murphy

CONA is very grateful to Sheila Lopez, Director of Project Hope, and Frank Murphy, President of Catholic Charities, for the wonderful contributions both have made to the Pinellas Hope Project. The continued success of this massive project was a direct result of their untiring work. Pinellas Hope was built on the three "C's" of Community, Commitment and Compassion. We honor them and all the volunteers who worked to make Pinellas Hope a success. Thank you.

Rays forego November referendum; announce support for expanded effort

Matt Silvernman announced the Rays will forego the November referendum. He also gave support for an expanded coalition of community leaders who will study ways to ensure community support for a long-term commitment to the Tampa Bay Rays and Major League Baseball.

This new group, to be chaired by Progress Energy President Jeff Lyash, will take the lead in studying and reporting back to the community on a wide array of issues related to this goal.

CONA looks forward to assisting in this process.