

# CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

November 2008

## Don't delay – Join today!

by Barbara Hawkins, Membership Chair

All CONA Memberships will expire on December 31, 2008. The 2009 CONA Membership Renewal Application is printed in this Newsletter. Complete the application and send your \$35 check to join today. All Neighborhood renewals will be entered in the Prize Drawings at the October, November and December

CONA Meetings. At the September meeting, 25 applications and invoices were distributed to the Neighborhoods present so don't delay - join CONA today! Come to the meeting to enjoy fun with friends and see who wins?

2009 Membership and Invoices available on website [www.conastpete.org](http://www.conastpete.org)

## SPPD offers text message tip line

Just when you thought you knew all of the numbers to contact the St. Petersburg Police Department, we added one more number for the young text messaging crowd.

We realize that most teenagers and young adults carry cell phones and use text messages to communicate with one another more frequently than a voice call, so we have created a new number for them to send a crime tip into our Communications Center.

This new service will complement our voice-only Tip Line (892-5000), which receives nearly 1,000 anonymous tips about criminal activity every year.

To send a confidential text tip to the St. Petersburg Police Department, dial 727-420-8911.

Please remember that the Tip Line and the new text messaging numbers should never be used for emergency, in progress or just-occurred calls for police service.

Always dial 911 for an emergency and use 893-7780 for all non-emergency calls for police service.

To contact a Community Service Officer about a concern in your neighborhood, please remember to call one of our community service lines: 551-3181 (south), 551-3182 (north and northeast) or 551-3183 (west).

*Bill Proffitt  
Community Service Officer  
St Petersburg Police Department*

### CONA Board Meeting

**November 19, 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 Nominations
- CONA By-laws - Vote
- CONA Committee Updates and Treasurer's Report
- Old Business and New Business
- Your 2 cents

#### Important Upcoming Events:

- Nov 19 - CONA General Meeting
- Nov 27 - Thanksgiving
- Dec 17 - CONA General Meeting

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# Pump savings into your household budget

With the rising costs of many goods and services, including electricity, you may be looking for ways to save money on your monthly bills. One way to lower your power bill is by installing a high-efficiency heat pump.

A heat pump is one of the most cost-efficient systems you can buy. In fact, it can cut your heating and cooling costs significantly if you are currently using electric resistance heat (strip heat). If your home already has a heat pump, upgrading its efficiency also will reduce your costs. And if you participate in a free Progress Energy Home Energy Check and receive a recommendation for a new heat pump, you can receive an incentive of up to \$350 to help offset the purchase of the new unit.

One of the most important things to consider when purchasing a new heat pump is its efficiency factor. ENERGY STAR-qualified heat pumps have a higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) and heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF) than standard models. That makes them about 8 percent more efficient than standard new models and about 20 percent more efficient than what you now may have in your home. Though ENERGY STAR products can be more expensive, the cost difference will be paid back over time through lower energy bills. For example, a typical home of about 1,600 square feet with a 10 SEER heat pump will cost \$844 per year to operate, where the same home with a 15 SEER heat pump will cost \$633. That's a savings of \$211 per year!

Another critical factor when purchasing equipment is to remember that sizing and installation are as important as product quality. Even the most energy-efficient heating and cooling system will not save you money if it is incorrectly installed or improperly adjusted. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the difference between the energy consumption of a well-maintained heat pump and a severely neglected one ranges from 10 percent to 25 percent.

In addition to the monetary benefits of optimizing the performance of your heating and cooling equipment, there are other advantages to becoming more energy efficient: You are helping to reduce emissions and promote cleaner air while enhancing the comfort of your home.

## CARING FOR YOUR HEAT PUMP

Maintaining your heat pump is as essential as selecting the correct size. For optimal performance and life span, the U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following:

- Avoid manually lowering a heat pump's thermostat drastically at night. Most heat pumps are designed to accommodate only a 2-degree increase in thermostat setting. Anything over two degrees prompts the less efficient back-up heat strip to engage, resulting in much higher energy consumption.
- Operate the system on the thermostat's "auto" fan setting. Continuous indoor fan operation can degrade heat-pump performance unless a high-efficiency, variable-speed fan motor is used.
- Clean or change filters once a month, and maintain the system according to manufacturer's instructions. Filter and coil maintenance have a dramatic impact on system performance and service life. Dirty filters, coils, and fans reduce airflow through the system, which can decrease system performance and lead to compressor damage if it continues for an extended period.
- Clean and lubricate the fan motor annually; this ensures sufficient air flow. The fan speed should be checked at the same time. Incorrect pulley settings, loose fan belts or incorrect motor speeds can all contribute to poor performance.
- Have a professional technician service your heat pump at least once a year.

To start pumping savings into your household budget, call Progress Energy today at 1.888.302.8348 to schedule a free Home Energy Check. For more information and energy-saving tips, visit [www.savethewatts.com](http://www.savethewatts.com).

LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT



# Land Development & Historic Resources Committee Report

*Will Michaels, Committee Chair*

The Land Development & Historic Resources Committee recently met to review pending issues and in particular to discuss recommendations for the Pier Visioning Sessions. The Committee's recommendations have been sent out over the CONA email systems. Hopefully everyone will attend one of the two sessions coming up on Oct. 20th and 21st, 6-9PM, at the Coliseum. The Committee also discussed the recent City Council Workshop discussions on bringing the Al Lang and the Mahaffey/Dali waterfront sites under Park zoning as previously recommended by CONA. A majority of the Council appear to be in agreement that Al Lang should come under Park zoning. An actual Council decision will be made at a future regular Council session. This should limit future buildings on that site to not more than 75 feet, keeping any future permitted construction uses in scale with the character of the downtown waterfront park.

A more detailed report will be sent out over email. The Committee also discussed the historic resources being impacted by a proposed hotel on the 100 block of 4th Ave. NE. Two local landmarks (The Henry-Bryan and the Chateau France/Bay Gables) are being affected as well as a contributing structure (Morrison Hotel) to the Downtown National Historic District. The developer wants to relocate the Henry-Bryan and demolish the Chateau France and Morrison Hotel. The City Community Preservation Commission rejected the proposed site for relocation of the Henry-Bryan as being inappropriate. The matter is now under appeal and negotiations are in progress. Our Committee also continues to monitor the "Glitch" amendments to the Land Development Regulations and possible alternative sites for relocation of the stadium.

## CONA Public Safety Committee Report

*Jeff Frank, Committee Chair*

CONA Public Safety Committee will be issuing their report on the Questionnaire on Crime at the next board of director meeting Nov. 19. Look for the new How TO guide by the end of the year. The committee is always looking for new members. Time involved varies but meeting usually occur at least twice a month. One of next years goals is to improve the support of Crime Watch and community policing. Any one interested in joining PSC or with any other comments please e-mail or give me a call. Contact info is listed in the CONA newsletter.

## New Water Restrictions now through June 30, 2009

The SWFWMD has decided to tighten the watering restrictions for Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas counties at the request of Tampa Bay Water, the area's wholesale water provider. These additional measures go into effect one day after SWFWMD publishes their public notice on Nov 13-14. Restrictions last until June 30, 2009, unless modified or rescinded by the SWFWMD.

## No more warnings - Citations will now be issued

The main actions - we will no longer be sending warnings to violators, but have to go directly to citations that carry fines. All lawn renovations not scheduled prior to the Orders effective date shall be postponed. Other non-essential lawn and landscape uses shall be eliminated. Also, hand watering and micro-irrigation are now limited to 6 p.m. until 8 a.m.. Aesthetic fountains and waterfalls (including stormwater features) are limited to four hours of operation a day.



*Ingrid's*  
**Ice Cream Parlor**  
497 7th Ave N  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
Next to Historic Round Lake  
Open 12 - 7 daily

# CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - October 15, 2008

- President Barbara Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.
- Councilman Herb Polson then briefly addressed our meeting, thanking CONA for supporting the recently approved city ordinance that excludes vendors from our city street median strips.....any time or any place. The Police Department is now enforcing this law.
- Councilman Karl Nurse also spoke to announce successful adoption of a measure he and CONA have long advocated: broadcasting, on our city television channel, of public candidates' debates such as those moderated by the League of Women Voters.
- Travis Jarman, Chair of our CONA By-laws Committee announced distribution, tonight, of their second draft, (labeled revision 4), which will be discussed, and hopefully Board approved at our November meeting, (10/19/08).
- Kathleen Ford, speaking for Preserve Our Waterfront and Wallets, (POWW), spoke of two Charter Amendments that her organization is promoting for the November 2009 plebiscite.
  - The first amendment would preclude the city from building, within our waterfront park zone, any structure that would violate the current zoning development regulations that apply to that area.
  - The second amendment would mandate a public plebiscite (vote) to approve construction of any new waterfront stadium.
  - 16,000 petition signatures will be needed to assure inclusion of these two charter questions on the November 2009 ballot.
  - Alternately, City Council approval of these amendment issues, for the 2009 ballot, would eliminate the need for the above 16,000 public approval signature, but Karl Nurse's motion, to that end, at Council, was not approved.
  - We were reminded that Penny-for-Pinellas funds can be used to construct waterfront facilities, but they may not be used for any subsequent maintenance.
  - POWW recruited volunteers to collect charter amendment petitions at city polling places on November 4th.
- Kai Warren, (Historic Roser Park), announced a major playground project has been scheduled for December 6, following an award, from the playground equipment manufacturer KaBoom, of an equipment package worth over \$100,000.
  - The city will provide the real estate, (Fairfield Ave. & 37th Street S.), and the site development, but the project calls for over 200 volunteers, (12/6/08), to assemble the pieces of equipment shipped in "Knocked down".
  - Project plans call for feeding 200-250 volunteers for breakfast, (7:30 AM), and lunch. Food donations as well as servers are being solicited.
  - Many city departments and workers will be involved.
  - All CONA neighborhoods are urged to participate.
- Next on our program we heard brief introductions from two current candidates:
  - Neil Brickfield candidate for County Commissioner Dist. 1, At Large
  - Robert Angus Williams candidate for 6th Circuit Judge, Group 8
- We then heard reports from the Chairmen of our CONA Standing Committees.
  - Membership Committee Chair Barbara Hawkins noted our campaign from this point forward is for 2009 Membership Dues.
  - Our Audit Committee did not have a report scheduled for this meeting.
  - The Court Watch Committee reported on the successful prosecution and incarceration of a chronic felon from Bartlett Park. They shared some information on how to research records prior to making a Court Watch appearance with our committee.
- CONA Leadership was discussed by Ingrid Comberg, (Historic Uptown), urging those present to take home our class application forms.
- Theresa McEachern, (Harbordale), our Nominating Committee Chair noted that nominations will be open until the close of our November meeting, (11/19/08). She noted that any neighborhood member is eligible for election to the CONA Board, not just appointed representatives.
- Jeff Frank, (Live Oaks), spoke for our Public Safety Committee. Their Manual for Neighborhood Crime Watch Committees will soon be ready for distribution.
  - We are cooperating in the development of a new format for the crime stats published in the St. Petersburg Times.
  - The Times recently reported on the increase in the crime; a clear indication that this is not a time to be reducing public safety budgets.
- Keith Locke, (Disston Heights), reported that local workers in the Acorn voter registration project are currently under investigation by the Supervisor of Elections.
- Our Treasurer's Report was given by April Gausman, indicating a current balance of \$1,645.20 with the Leadership account at \$448.77.
- Chris Claus, (Water Conservation Department), reminded us that lawn watering is still restricted to one day per week. She would welcome invitations to speak at neighborhood meetings.
- Mike Gulley, our First Vice President, provided details of our planned Candidates Forum that CONA will jointly host with the League of Women Voters in here in the Sunshine Center on October 29th, at 6:30 PM.
  - Candidate presentations will be limited to one minute.
  - Written questions from the audience will be collected.
  - There will be a demonstration of the new voting machines in the lobby.
  - State, County, and School Board candidates have been invited.
  - Refreshments will be provided.
- We then had an open forum of old or new business.
  - Question was asked of the Judge Candidate about handling home foreclosures
  - Members were urged to suggest new or old business items in advance of our meeting to facilitate including such issues in our meeting agenda posted on our CONA Listbot and usually updated the day prior to meeting.
  - CONA neighborhoods endorsed the recently enacted ordinance forbidding vendor from standing on city street traffic medians.
  - We learned that a newly ordered city vehicle for the collection of recyclable trash materials will be ready service at all major city sponsored events in early 2009.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

# November President's Message

By Barbara McCormick Heck

## Thank you for your support

Thank you one and all for your support, your help and your criticisms too this past year !!! CONA and the neighborhoods have listened to your suggestions and we have accomplished much. You should be very proud of the way CONA was able to partner with the various city and county staff to bring your dreams forward and to make them happen.

We realize that we still have a ways to go and, in some cases, a giant ways to go before we reach the goal we have set out for ourselves. But reach it we will. CONA will always continue to find solutions and make a difference for all our neighborhoods!

## CONA's presence is felt county-wide

Over the past months, CONA has worked cooperatively with a number of different groups to bring the neighborhood voice forward – very dramatically too. Your President and your officers sit on many Boards and attend many meetings representing the neighborhood viewpoint.

## Here are just a few of them:

- ABC-Coalition Board, Affordable Housing, AWAPS, Citizen Police Council, Florida Neighborhood Conference, KaBoom

Playground Committee, Low Income Housing, Neighborhood Grant Committee, Pinellas Living Green Expo Board, St. Petersburg Preservation Board, Weed and Seed

## We continue to meet regularly with various city/county/state officials on a variety of subjects:

- Codes, Court Watch, Crime Watch, Gang Task Force, Curbside recycling, Event recycling, Pier visioning, Land Development Regulations (LDR's) and Glitch ordinances, Median restriction, Brooker Creek Preserve, Height limits for downtown parks, Green issues, Environmental issues, Water issues and many others.

## We believe !!!

The Rays showed us that great things can be accomplished if you just believe and work hard. Yes, it does take a strong belief, hard work and a community to change things. Together. . . we can do anything.

2009 will be a challenge economically, but I know each neighborhood is up to the task. CONA will help you find extraordinary ways to fund, build and maintain your special neighborhood projects. CONA will help you find the volunteers who will work on these special projects. Finally, CONA will continue to partner with City and County personnel to make each of your projects a success.

# 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 - 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**

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

**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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**Neighborhood Concerns – CONA can help.** We have many mentors who are ready and willing to assist you with your neighborhood challenges. Please contact Tom Killian or any officer with your problem and you will be put in touch with a mentor who can help your association find a solution.

**Questions?** Need help? Don't understand something? Can't find the information you need? Call any CONA Officer or Committee Chair with your question. If you leave a message and someone does not call you back within 24 hours, call another Officer or call me. We just do not want our "out of office" to keep you from getting the answers/information you need.

## **All Pinellas County Candidates get a chance to get their views known.**

The candidate forum co-hosted by the League of Women's Voters and CONA October 29, 2008, was a great success. Candidates for Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Sheriff, Circuit Judge, Florida House, Pinellas County Commission, and Pinellas County School Board were invited to participate. Candidates Pam Dubov, Ben Friedlander, Jim Coates, Randall Jones, Susan Gardner, Robert Angus Williams, Deborah Clark, Jack Kilingsworth, Ross Johnson, Bill Heller, D55 write in, Neil Brickfield, Paul Matton, Nancy Bostock, Renee Flowers, Janet Clark, Jennifer Crockett, and Nina Hayden answered questions submitted by the audience.

Thanks to the candidates, League of Women Voters participants Chaired by Mary Bergland, and CONA Participants facilitated by Barbara Heck for making an informative evening. And certainly thanks to all the interested citizens that made the evening worthwhile. Despite the competition from The Ray's game 5 conclusion and unseasonably cold weather a significant number of residents came to find out how the candidates stood on the issues.

Again Kudos to all that made the evening a success!