

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

September 2010

President's Message: Curbside Recycling at Last!

A long-time CONA goal has finally been accomplished thanks in large part to Mayor Foster and the City Council: Curbside Recycling. Curbside recycling was approved by unanimous vote of the City Council on September 2nd. For a small fee of \$33 per year residents may soon elect to receive once a week curbside recycling service to include newspapers, cardboard, aluminum cans, and plastic and glass bottles. The fee will be locked in for two years.

It will not be necessary to sort these items. They may all be tossed into a new 18 gallon bin provided at no additional charge and placed at the curb on pickup day. If for some reason a resident does not wish the service they do not need to receive it or pay for it. But think of the convenience! No longer necessary to accumulate bags and bags of bottles and cans in the back yard and stacks of newspapers in the garage. No longer necessary to drive the recyclables to the drop-off center. Nevertheless, City drop-off centers will also continue to be available free of charge.

The County had originally planned to provide the service at their cost. However, the proposed county service has been delayed for at least two years. The company selected to provide the service, Waste Services, will also provide recyclables to the Louise Graham Regeneration Center, a local not for profit charity that recycles paper while providing related jobs for the developmentally challenged.

Without recycling we will eventually run out of space to bury waste and more incinerators will be needed to burn it. This leads to pollution, is a waste of those resources that may be used again, and unnecessary use of limited natural resources.

The CONA Board has voted twice in the last two years and at least four times in the last ten years advocating curbside recycling. Many letters have been exchanged with city and county officials regarding this and many conversations held. Along with our Mayor and City Council, neighborhoods can also take some pride and credit for this accomplishment.

The service begins October 1st. To sign up call 727-572-6800. Select Residential Accounts, new service.

First Public Safety Workshop

On August 28th another CONA objective was accomplished—the first ever joint CONA-Police Department Public Safety Workshop. Thanks to all the Neighborhood Association Presidents and Crime Watch Coordinators and their representatives who turned out for this important event. The theme of the day was “what can be done to further improve neighborhood association and crime watch group crime prevention efforts”. We were pleased to have both Mayor Foster and Police Chief Chuck Harmon as speakers. Both were present for the entire workshop. A report on recommendations and ideas coming out of the small group sessions is being prepared. A special thanks to Steve Corsetti and all the members of the CONA Public Safety Committee and Major Phillip Beahm and the Police Department for making this effort a great success.

Please contact me if you have any suggestions or concerns you think I can help with. I am always available to meet with neighborhood association presidents.

Will Michaels
wmichaelscona@tampabay.rr.com | 727-420-9195

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, September 15, 2010

The **SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.**
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Items:

- Open Forum with Mayor Bill Foster
- Mirror Lake Park Improvement Project - Raul Quintana
- Senior Watch - Jay Morgan
- Committee Reports
- Recognition of Elected Officials
- Candidate Introductions
- Open Neighborhood Forum

Important Upcoming Events:

- Sep 16, 6PM, City Council Hearing on Future Land Use Map
- Sep 27, 5:30PM, Police Sector 1 Meeting, Coquina Key Ctr.
- Sep 28, 5:30PM, Police Sector 3 Meeting, Main Library
- Oct 4, 5:30PM, Police Sector 2 Meeting, Fossil Park
- Oct. 7, 6:30 PM, NAACP Forum on School Dropouts, Bethel Church
- Oct 20, 7PM, Regular CONA Board Meeting, Sunshine Ctr.

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CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Deadline: 25th of each month

In Hand: 2nd Wednesday of month

Coordinator: Mike Gulley 244-8374,

Layout: Mo Eppley - meppley@gmail.com

CONA LEADERSHIP 2011

The Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) announces CONA Leadership Classes for 2011

CONA Leadership 2011 sessions are being organized and applications for the classes, held under the umbrella of the Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas (CONA), are being accepted.

CONA Leadership will celebrate its 20th Anniversary in 2012 and has seen nearly 600 past, current and future community leaders graduate over the years.

The classes will start on Monday, January 10, 2011 with Orientation & Overview Night;

Jan. 31 – Effective Meetings;

Feb. 14 - City Government;

Feb. 28 – Our Diverse Community;

March 14 – Crime & Neighborhoods;

March 28 – Effective Communications;

April 11 – County Government;

April 25 – City Services;

May 10 – Quasi Judicial Hearings;

May 19 – Graduation Dinner & Ceremony.

The sessions are held at various sites around the City.

In March on a Saturday to be determined, the Leadership Class will take the famous City of St. Petersburg History Tour with Dr. Ray Arsenault, USF Professor, historian and author of, St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream.

Classes fill up fast and the application deadline is November 15, 2010.

Go to www.ConastPete.org to download an application.



CONA PUBLIC SAFETY

The efforts of a number of people resulted in the joint CONA/ St Petersburg Police Department Public Safety Workshop on Saturday August 28, 2010. CONA's Public Safety Committee, after several months of planning with Major Phil Beahn, the commander of district three, presented a very informative event.

Presentations by Lt. Scott MacDonald, Sgt Edward Borelli, Officers Johnny Harris and Chip Wells were well received by CONA representatives, Crime Watch Coordinators, Business crime Watch members, Mayor Bill Foster, Chief Chuck Harmon and CONA President Will Michaels.

Following the presentations, attendees participated in round table discussions addressing three questions.

1. What had worked for your Crime Watch Group?

2. What have you tried that has not worked?

3. What does your crime watch group need help with? The discussions were lively and the responses were indicative of various needs and perceptions.

I expect a re-cap of the responses and follow up shortly as the CONA Public Safety Committee works towards a review and direction of these suggestions. Thank you to all who participated.

Steve Corsetti
CONA PSC CHAIRMAN

CONA Citizen of the Month

July - Dr. Raymond Arsenault

CONA honors you for your many contributions to our community.

We herewith recognize our Historian and a Dear Friend, Author of works which have had a profound impact on both our City and the society of our great Nation.

We are grateful for your participation in our Academic Community as Professor of Southern History at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg.

Your early involvement and Past Presidency of the American Civil Liberties Union testifies to your personal devotion to the Cause of Civil Rights in this country.

Your work in Historic Preservation in St. Petersburg has significantly contributed to saving treasured structures of our city's past.

CONA is further indebted to you for your support of the CONA Leadership Program, particularly through your support of our annual historic neighborhoods tour.



Historian Ray Arsenault receives CONA Citizen of the Month Award at July meeting.

CONA LEADERSHIP ALUMNI

Dear CONA Leadership Alumnus,

In less than a year, the CONA Leadership program will celebrate its 20th Anniversary – Nearly 600 past, current and future community leaders have graduated from CONA Leadership, including **YOU.**

In recognition of the cumulative community spirit alive in our alumni, Mayor Bill Foster cordially invites you to attend the first ever CONA Leadership Alumni Reunion. Together let's celebrate and build the CONA Leadership Alumni Association.

Just think what we can do when we dream, plan and build together!



Mayor Bill Foster
St. Petersburg, FL

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
6-8:30 P.M.
CITY HALL**

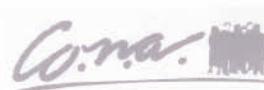
**RSVP: Tom Killian @
tomjkillian@verizon.net or
phone him @ 727-343-2041
(Include your name & phone #)**

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Nominate your Favorite St. Pete Building or Preservationist for the 2010 Preservation Awards

Awards to be held on October 19th at the historic Mirror Lake Lyceum

St. Petersburg Preservation's awards program offers recognition to the people, associations, and businesses that help renovate, reuse, and save the landmarks that make our city special. The deadline for nominations for the 2010 awards is September 24. The awards ceremony will be held on October 19th at the Mirror Lake Lyceum.

Whether you actually own a historic building or just appreciate the work and care another has taken to preserve a part of our community's history, we encourage you to submit a nomination. The process is simple: just complete a short nomination form and mail or e-mail it to St. Petersburg Preservation. Awards are available in the following categories:

- Residential and Commercial Restoration
- Residential and Commercial Rehabilitation
- Compatible Use
- Adaptive Reuse
- Residential and Commercial Stewardship
- Preservationist of the Year

Detailed descriptions of the award categories, nomination forms, and ceremony information can be found at the SPP website. (Click on the Preservation Awards link near the bottom right corner of the home page.)

www.stpetepreservation.org

We hope to have you join us for the awards ceremony on October 19th. More details to follow!

THE BLOCKER RESIDENCE



A site plan application, currently before the DRC, proposing to build 12 condos on this location, threatens the Blocker residence with either demolition or removal. The Blocker Residence is one of four remaining historic structures located in the 100 block of 4th Avenue Northeast, two of which, Bay Gables and the Henry Bryan House, are designated local landmarks. This excellent collection of early 20th century residential architecture provides the visual context for understanding St. Petersburg's unique history. The Blocker Residence is a prime example of early twentieth century residential development for the upper middle class, and the adaptive use of the city's housing stock to meet the needs of community organizations during the historic period. The structure is a critical piece of the visual landscape of the 4th Avenue historic corridor, stretching from 4th Street North to Beach Drive North. The loss of this significant structure would negatively impact all the historic resources contained in the corridor.

Built in 1905 for Hattie Dean and AT Blocker this Lovely Queen Anne homes is noted as one of:

... the better class of buildings, toward which St. Petersburg has steadily tended during the past several years, there is, perhaps, no better example in the city than the new residence of Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Blocker, on North Fourth avenue, which is now nearly ready for occupancy. It is a 10-room house, built on the best architectural plans, outside and in and of finest material and workmanship throughout. With all modern conveniences, on a splendid site in one of the most desirable sections of the city, it is one of South Florida's finest homes. Advertisement noting the near completion of the residence, 1905. St. Petersburg Times.

A.T. Blocker supported the City's growth through service as City Councilman in 1904-05 and as Mayor in 1910-11, offices which carried a one-year term at the time. His brother, John Blocker, sold his dairy interests in 1906, and acted as a real estate agent and developer until his death in 1928. He platted several subdivisions during the 1910s including the Cromwell Heights subdivision and J.C. Blocker's first and second additions.

The City Code sets forth criteria for the designation of local landmarks. we believe the Blocker residence is significant at the local level in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Commerce, Social History, and Architecture and meets at least three criteria set forth in the ordinance (16.30.070.2.5 (D)):

1. Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state or nation.
3. It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the city, state, or nation.
6. It has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.

Although the Blocker Residence has endured alterations, the majority of the changes occurred during the historic period prior to 1960. These historically important additions retain their architectural integrity and should in no way be considered subordinate to the importance of the original structure. Additionally, many of the original architectural details such as the windows, the porch columns, the shingle siding, and interior finishes remain intact. The Blocker Residence



Figure 8. Katherine Dean, Hattie Dean Blocker, and unidentified guest and driver in front of the Blocker Residence, ca. 1905. Courtesy of St. Petersburg Museum of History.

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - August 18, 2010

- Our meeting was opened by First Vice President Mike Gulley, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag.
- Second Vice President Cathy Wilson presented our CONA Citizen of the Month award to George Henderson of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute.
 - An editorial oversight of our newsletter neglected to mention the July award to USF Professor Ray Arsenault.
- Treasurer April Gausman's report for the end of July \$1,630.56, was read by Cathy Wilson.
 - She also reminded us of the free city activities guide "At Your Leisure".
- Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch provided a PowerPoint presentation focused on the Bay Area Traffic Planning Studies.
 - The slides included data based on allocating "Penny for Pinellas" tax revenue in the development plans extending over a 25 year period.
 - "Transit Oriented Development" is the expression of how these proposals, for roadways, high speed rail, busses, and bicycle trails are to be integrated.
 - The February issue of Forbes Magazine described the Tampa Bay traffic congestion as worst in the nation.
 - Hillsborough has committed a 1 cent sales tax toward TBARTA development. The Pinellas Planning includes collaboration of representatives from PSTA, MPO and TBARTA.
 - Pinellas County is conducting a survey/poll of our greatest transportation needs. All residents are encouraged to post their concepts, (poll closes September 6th) at www.pinellascounty.org/TTF.
 - Federal Grant planning a high-speed rail terminal at the Tampa Airport. That rail line will not extend directly to Pinellas County.
 - In all likelihood, PSTA will seek an increase in property taxes. [Not all Pinellas communities contribute.]
- We next enjoyed a presentation from Nancy Preis, CFO of the St. Petersburg Opera Company. Established at the Palladium Theater 5 years ago, they have operated "In the black" for the last 4 years.
 - Their Artistic Director is Mark Sforzini from the Florida Symphony Orchestra.
 - "A Little Night Music", (Sondheim), will be their first production this season.
 - Their Principles are all young, emerging artists.
- Maureen Stafford, Chair LDR and Historic Preservation Committee, introduced the contending speakers to debate support or opposition to the pending proposal to make a fourth Amendment to our Florida Constitution.
 - Winning the coin toss, Ward J. Friszolowski, AIA, Executive Vice President, Harvard Jolly, Inc. Former Mayor St. Pete Beach, spoke first in opposition to Amendment 4.
 - The opposition includes 17 Florida Editorial Boards, 1000 Friends of Florida, American Planning Association, and the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Similar legislation was approved in St. Petersburg Beach and later defeated.
 - It requires an expensive public referendum for issues previously decided by the local elected government leaders.
 - Developer's initiatives are significantly inhibited.
 - The approval procedure will invoke numerous law suites.
 - Supporting passager of Amendment 4 was George Neimann, Regional Coordinator, Hometown Democracy
 - The Amendment 4 issue will appear on all Florida voters' November ballots.
 - The public referendum requirement will only be imposed major projects impacting the whole community.
 - Waivers of existing development rules are too often afforded well connected, (generous), developers. [Hillsborough- 95% approval]
 - The "Comprehensive Plan" is intended to be long term, virtually static.
 - A comment from the floor pointed out that the enabling legislation for Amendment 4 has not been compiled. Lacking that, the outcome of the Amendment 4 issue is at best uncertain!
- Maureen Stafford then refocused our discussions on the proposal for a revision of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map put forward at an earlier CONA meeting by City Councilman Karl Nurse. City Council will have a second reading on this proposal at their September 2nd meeting.
 - Maureen moved for Board consideration the following motion earlier approved by our CONA Executive Committee: "That CONA not support the current proposal for a Comprehensive Land Use Plan/Map. That Council allow more time for public debate on this subject and that further Council action on this Map be postponed until after Amendment 4 has been decided." [Motion approved]
- Maureen also announced the establishment of a new CONA Committee: The Midtown Land Development Review (LDR) Committee chaired by Bell Swanson.
- We then heard from Steve Corsetti, Chairman of our CONA Public Safety Committee. His principle focus was the upcoming, (August 28th), Crime Watch Workshop jointly sponsored by CONA and the St. Petersburg Police Department.

- Of the 224 Crime Watch Coordinators, 32 have registered to attend. Of our 54 CONA Member Neighborhoods, 34 plan to attend, (some duplications).
- Police Chief Chuck Harmon is soliciting CONA support for several initiatives:
 - He seeks improved attendance, from our neighborhoods, at the recently established Police Sector Meetings, bringing together the assigned Police Officers, City Staff Supervisors, and area neighborhood residents. [It is mandated that public complaints submitted at these meetings must be administratively responded to promptly.]
 - It was agreed that the Police Schedule for these Sector Meetings will be published on our CONA e-mail media.
 - He stresses the importance of CONA Court Watch efforts to reverse the too frequent release of arrested criminals.....discouraging our Police efforts.
 - He seeks our cooperation in molding a more favorable public perception of our Police Crime

Fighting Programs.

- We heard a common complaint that criminal activity is too often simply displaced to another area rather than being arrested and suppressed.
- The City has requested CONA endorsement of grant to fund a project to refurbish the façade of the Public Library Building.
 - Moved, by Mike Gulley, to offer CONA endorsement of the city's grant application for the Library Façade Project. [Motion Approved]
- Mike Gulley then invited six current candidates, seeking election at the August 24th polls, to briefly introduce themselves with a short verbal résumé of their experience and qualifications.

Our meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary



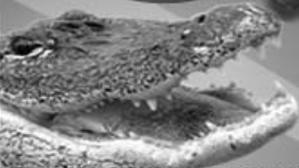
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**2010 Executive
Committee Members**

President

Will Michaels - Bahama Shores
420-9195 - wmichaelscona@tampabay.rr.com

First Vice President & Audit Committee Chair

Mike Gulley - Coquina Key
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Second Vice President

Cathy Wilson - Greater Woodlawn
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Secretary

Conrad Weiser - Edgemoor
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Treasurer

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

CONA Leadership

Ingrid Comberg - Historic Uptown
894-3048

CourtWatch Committee

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

Membership

Barbara Hawkins - Greater Pinellas Point
642-5035 - be.hawkins@verizon.net

**Land Development & Historic
Resources Committee**

Maureen Stafford - Historic Old NE
488-8154 - MJS Petersburg@aol.com

Nominating Committee

Judy Ellis - Lakewood Estates
864-3957 - jellis5610@tampabay.rr.com

Public Safety Committee

Steve Corsetti - Riveria Bay
576-1506 - tranquilitysouth@verizon.net

OTHER CONA COMMITTEES

City Budget Review Committee

Mike Gulley - Coquina Key
244-8374 - jmgulley1@hotmail.com

Code Enforcement Committee

Cathy Wilson - Greater Woodlawn
455-9546 - catgwna@knology.net
Kai Warren - Historic Roser Park
821-9609 - kaistpete@gmail.com

Energy & Environment Committee

Jason Diviki - jdiviki@hotmail.com

CONA Board Meetings

3rd Wed of each month

CONA Executive Committee Meetings

2nd Wed of each month

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

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

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