

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

May 2011

CONA honors our three fallen police officers and the St. Petersburg Police Department

**Sergeant Thomas Baitinger
K-9 Officer Jeffrey Yaslowitz
Officer David Crawford**



CONA remembers these three officers who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting all of us. The loss of our officers is tragic and overwhelming. This devastating event has forever changed the lives of their families, friends and colleagues. It is in times such as these that we reflect upon the importance of community, family and friends. These officers will be forever missed . . . and remembered. Please attend our May meeting to pay your respects and show support for our St. Petersburg Police Department.

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, May 18, 2011

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

Agenda Items:

National Police Week – CONA honors SPPD Officers
Hurricane Preparedness
Committee and Housekeeping Reports
Election – 1st VP and 2nd VP
New Business

Upcoming Events:

May 18 - Public Budget Summit - 6 PM at Azalea Center
Jun 1 - City Team Mtg. - 5-6 PM at City Hall
Jun 15 - CONA General Membership meeting

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CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Deadline: 25th of each month
In Hand: 2nd Wednesday of month

We welcome articles, items of interest and meeting reminders. All submissions to the CONA Newsletter may be edited for clarity, taste and length.

Committee Reports/Updates

Court Watch – Donna Law

This program is designed, in part, to help the residents of the City of St. Petersburg gain a better understanding of how the court system works. Through the presence of a unified community, judges will understand that it is expected that perpetrators be held fully responsible for their actions and punished accordingly. This program shows victims and their families that their neighbors want to see justice served in their cases, and it is developing better relationships between the courts, police and citizens.

Court Watch representatives are the “watchdogs” of the community because they help victims and neighbors monitor court cases while establishing a visible presence during trials. Court Watch gives residents of St. Petersburg the opportunity to learn how the criminal justice system works, who the judges are, and what sentences are imposed.

Court Watch recruits and trains community volunteers to attend hearings and trials. These volunteers report basic information and give impressions of the performances of judges and prosecutors. Court Watchers show victims that they have community support. By making a statement to criminals that crime will not be tolerated they also support police, prosecutors, and judges who apprehend and punish those that harm others. We are looking for volunteers to participate in Court Watch. If you can help, please feel free to contact me.

Land Development & Historic Resources – Monica Abbott

On July 14, 2010, Raytheon submitted its second proposed Remedial Action Plan Addendum (RAPA) regarding necessary information for the cleanup of the contaminants of concern around Raytheon’s St. Petersburg facility to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP’s team of professional geologists and engineers are in the final stages of reviewing the RAPA and have set the following community meeting so Raytheon can present its cleanup plan to the community and to take public comments: May 10, 2011, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, Azalea Middle School (Multi-purpose Room), 7855 22nd Avenue N.

DEP’s Acting Director for the Southwest District Pamala Vazquez wrote via email that “DEP remains committed to carrying out its regulatory responsibilities including a full evaluation of Raytheon’s cleanup plan to address the contamination and overseeing a successful cleanup of soil and groundwater to state standards.”

If you have questions regarding DEP’s role in Raytheon’s contaminated groundwater assessment and cleanup, please call the neighborhood information line at (813) 632-7600, ext. 467 or mail: Pamala.Vazquez@dep.state.fl.us

The Azalea Neighborhood Class Action Lawsuit is set for five days of court hearings beginning June 10, 2011 in Tampa at the Federal Court House. Raytheon owns the property from which toxic wastes leached and leaked into the aquifer and into some wells of nearby property owners. Experts from both sides testified regarding the extent of the toxic leaching. One map of the area is known as the “Jimmy Durante” map because of the schnoz-like formation that resembled the famous fifties entertainer.

Leadership – Ingrid Comberg

CONA Leadership 2011 sessions began in January and will finish in May. The CONA Leadership program has been in operation since 1992. CONA Leadership Chair Ingrid Comberg said, “CONA Leadership believes that St. Petersburg’s most important asset is its people”. The combination of citizen participation and active neighborhoods contributes to the continued improvement of the quality of life in our city.

Classes included: Orientation & Overview Night; Effective Meetings; City Government; Our Diverse Community; Crime & Neighborhoods; Effective Communications; County Government; St. Petersburg History Bus Tour; City Services; Quasi-Judicial Hearings; and the Graduation Dinner & Ceremony. The sessions were held at various sites around the City.

Membership – Andrea Hildebran

CONA welcomes three new members: Brighton Bay Masters, Grand Central Business District and West Central Neighborhood Association. This month’s prize drawing winner was Jungle Terrace Civic Association. Congratulations on winning a \$25 gift certificate from Bowled Restaurant. We hope that you attend the next CONA meeting to win the next Membership Giveaway.

Nominating – Theresa McEachern

The positions of 'first VP' and 'second VP' are vacant. Any/all interested persons are asked to contact a member of the Nominating committee. They are: Theresa McEachern, terre66@aol.com (823-6390), Kai Warren, Kaistpete@gmail.com (821-9609), Latoya Brown, latoyadenise@yahoo.com (823-0437) and Scott Durfee, therenmen@yahoo.com (365-8568).

Public Safety – Cass Rael

In honor of National Police Week (May 15-21), CONA’s Public Safety Committee will present a special program at the May CONA meeting. It will honor the three fallen officers and thank our St. Petersburg Police Department for all they do daily to keep us safe.

PSC members met with twice with Darryl Irions, Jordan Park Management, Landex Corporation and Wildwood Heights Neighborhood Association members to discuss and finalize adding surveillance cameras at the Jordan Park site. Background checks for new residents were also discussed and explained.

PSC Committee members have attended over 26 City Team, Sector and Crime Watch meetings to listen and gather information about neighborhood concerns. Please call Cass Rael if you would like PSC members to attend your future Crime Watch meetings.

SPPD has just issued a new, updated Crime Watch Handbook that will also be available on their website. In addition, a special edition of “Man behind the Badge” is available on the SPPD web site at <http://www.stpete.org/police/publicinterest/btb.html>

City Budget Review – Travis Jarman

City is facing a \$12 million shortfall, largely caused by a projected 8% drop in property tax revenue. Residents can voice their opinions on which city services they want most at the next two public Budget Summits: May 18 at Azalea Center and June 22 at Lake Vista Center. Both start at 6PM. The mayor must submit his budg-

Committee Reports/Updates

et to City Council on July 1. For FY 2010 and FY 2011 budget information, visit city website at www.stpete.org/Budget

Codes Committee – Jim Gee

Ride Alongs: Codes Committee Goal is to have two ride alongs each month. My first was with Dr. Ed's "the Jungle". What a morning ride and experience. It was a very productive event with such a dedicated member to his community. I am looking forward to each of my opportunities.

Association Goals: It is important for our neighborhood Associations to develop a few strong Goals to their agenda for monthly review. One of those goals should include development of guidelines concerning how City Codes apply to your local. I feel that this subject probably has a high priority. Each of our Neighborhoods has the same list of Code Requirements but the solution to handling the successful outcomes may vary.

Top 10 Codes Issues: Please help your Codes Specialist on selecting 10 top Code issues through discussion and planning. He or She (Codes Specialist) may already be working 10 goals so get involved with how they made those selections. Ask questions like are each of these applicant's issues do-able. Some of these top 10 issues may involve other City Department's help and efforts. Develop a time line and a case file to work with your CS and also go over these top ten with your Association committee and other City Team Members for support.

These reviews are important for each of your team members to understand the many issues in solving these cases. You have each case and information ready to hand-off to any of your members for help. The first selection process for your Top Ten may change for your next selection process but they will go much faster. Each of your reviews and reports to your team will develop more involvement with your members. They all see the process and benefit and let your members help prioritize the next Top 10. The City Codes issues that are not do-able need to be reviewed. I would like to see them also. Be sure to have your information together on each issue as I will probably schedule a meeting to look at possible solutions from City Teams or outside solutions.

Diversity – Will Michaels

The CONA Diversity Committee last met on April 4th. We discussed follow-up to the diversity presentations made by Community Tampa Bay and the "People Advocating Change" (PACT) Group at the March CONA Board meeting; support of the Midtown Committee Block Party/Health Fair on May 14th; and the YWCA Stand Against Racism Program to be held on April 29th (The CONA Board voted to co-sponsor this event at the March meeting). Our next meeting is planned for May 2nd, 6:30 PM, at the Davis Center, 1111 18th Avenue S. The meeting will focus on the Asian Community. The meeting will be chaired by Ali Montsho, VP of Westminster Heights Neighborhood Association, and Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee. All are invited.

Energy & Environment – Tim Martin

The Energy and Environment committee consists of a group of 15 or so motivated volunteers that has been active all year. In the past three months we've heard from several guest speakers, including

Council member Karl Nurse, permaculture expert and green builder Bryan Roberts, and city engineer /storm water expert Carlos Freys.

Back in February we adopted a mission statement: "We are committed to a sustainable future and to improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of St. Petersburg both for now and for future generations." To that end, we intend:

- To serve as a neighborhood advocate by working with local and state government on related issues as they arise
- To commit to community service projects and campaigns
- To engage and educate citizens so that they are better informed and become more involved
- To continuously foster relationships between our neighborhoods, state and local government, and local businesses and institutions

At our March meeting we unanimously agreed to support a few policy initiatives. As a result, we drafted memos in support of two city council items:

- To facilitate group purchasing of private sector solar water heating systems
- To raise funds from the private sector that would be loaned to commercial property owners to implement building energy efficiency improvements

We also drafted a letter to express concern about a recent vote by our local state House representative, Jeff Brandes, to eliminate Pinellas County's ability to enforce a fertilizer ban during summer months. As you may recall, this partial ban on fertilizer use was passed by our city council and county commission last year, an initiative that received support from CONA at the time.

The Energy and Environment group meets the last Monday of each month. This month we're looking at how we can reduce waste in our city, and will have a speaker from the Sierra club tell us about their efforts in north Pinellas County. Our meeting location varies so contact me if you're interested in joining us – we'd love to have you.

Midtown Outreach – Vel Thompson

CONA's Midtown Outreach Committee joined with Weed and Seed, the Sanderlin Center, St. Petersburg Police Department and the US Attorney's Office for their 15th Annual Family Fun Day on May 7. There was free food, games, raffles, entertainment and fun for all. Free health screenings (cholesterol and blood pressure) and flu shots for the first 40 children were offered by Dr. Elinor Miranda and other medical professionals. In addition to CONA members, other participants included Urban League, the Boys and Girls Club, TASC0 and various neighborhood associations.

Audit – Faye Jackson

No report this month.

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - April 20, 2011

- Mike Gulley opened our meeting by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.
- Noting that our March Minutes published in our April Newsletter had not yet been received by most members, Mike deferred calling for approval of those Minutes until our May meeting.
- Treasurer April Gausman provided her March data listing a balance of \$1,157.61
- We then heard Ingrid Comberg tell us of the work of Carole Griffiths, our CONA Citizen of the Month for April.
- Mike read the Citizen of the Month Award given to Bob Jeffrey, last month, who could not be here to receive our honor.
- Aaron Sharpe, (Pasadena Bear Creek), was here to tell us of the parades they have sponsored.
 - He awarded three prizes for the night parade held during the Festival of States. Prizes were awarded for the best of the 100 floats, First Place to Riviera Bay Civic Assoc., 2nd. Place to Historic Kenwood, and 3rd. Place was awarded to Old Southeast Neighborhood.
 - Another somewhat similar daytime parade is planned for May 21st. Sponsored by All Children's Hospital, it will feature 600 former patients of that care facility. All neighborhoods are invited to participate.
 - Other neighborhoods were invited to participate in the Bear Crook Cleanup Project scheduled for this weekend.
- The 20 individuals, from 11 member neighborhoods who staffed the CONA Refreshments stand at the Honda Grand Prix Races were identified with our appreciation for their devoted volunteer efforts.
 - The revenue to be awarded to CONA has not yet been announced.
- The President then asked Theresa McEachern, (Nominations Chair), to come forward and he announced that she has been awarded the honor "2011 Woman of Distinction" by the organization Gathering of Women.
- Theresa also spoke briefly of CONA Past President, (1999 thru 2001), Jim Biggerstaff, who passed away this week. A flower arrangement from CONA was provided to reflect our appreciation for his Leadership.
 - Ingrid Comberg, (CONA Leadership), recalled his tenure was distinguished by his attendance at all City Council Meetings.
- Mike then asked Theresa to review the variety of services and Support Groups offered to our community by the Suncoast Hospice Organization, where she has volunteered for 15 years.
 - Their meeting facilities are utilized every month by our CONA Executive Committee and are available for other neighborhood association.
 - The next fund raiser will be April 28th – "Dining Out for Aids" a program by which many local restaurants will share their proceeds on that date with Suncoast Hospice. After distribution of their flyers, Chris Lauber, Race Director for The Inaugural Partners for Life Police Appreciation Run, extended an invitation to participate in their Race Programs on May 15th.
 - He described three races, on that date, (10K, 5K, and 1 Mile), each dedicated to one of the three officers fallen in the line of duty here recently.
 - All race proceeds will go to Sun Coast Law Enforcement Charities, Inc., a 501(C) 3 not for profit organization.
 - Their races will be headquartered at North Straub Park on Beach Drive.
 - There is a "Virtual Runner" category for non-athletic contributors.
- Vel Thompson, (Midtown Outreach Comm.), invited all neighborhoods to participate in their "Midtown Block Party" scheduled for Saturday, May 14th. The Program will include displays by the Police and Fire Departments, Fun, Food, and Games, as well as Health Screenings and some Flu Shots by Dr. Eleanor Miranda. Many organization and City Departments will be supporting this event. Volunteer Program Workers are being signed up.
- We next heard from Phil Harris of the Neighborhood Partnership Office telling of plans for a CareFest scheduled for Saturday, September 24th. The Kickoff gathering, this year, will be at Vinoy Park.
 - Last year's celebration involved 3,000 volunteers from 15 different neighborhoods.
 - Data is being collected to identify where help is most urgently needed.
 - The bigger neighborhoods share the workers with smaller communities to simultaneously attack many area problems on the same day.
- Will Michaels, (CONA Diversity Comm.), reminded us of the Second Annual YWCA Stand Against Racism to be convened, on April 29th at the Woodson African-American Museum, the program from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
 - The success of this program has been lauded by our City Council.
 - Will hoped that every neighborhood in the city would send at least one representative to participate in and share this program.
 - Civility and Respect are the educational goals of this meeting.
- Mike announced that David Hoover have agreed to Chair this year's edition of our CONA Ray's Night Out, selling Ray's Baseball tickets as a vehicle for promoting membership for our member neighborhood associations while sharing our team spirit.
- Committee Reports:
 - Cass Rael provided an update on the activities of his Public Safety Committee.
 - Members of his committee have attended 26 neighborhood meetings, (Crime Watch, Mayor's Night Out, etc.), so far this year.
 - Their most recent attendance was at two meetings of the Jordan Park Housing and the Landex Corporation as the Wildwood Heights neighborhood discussed the issue of adding surveillance cameras.
 - They will participate in the CONA Memorial Program for our Fallen Police Officers at our meeting on May 18th. [Police Appreciation Week, May 15 – 21.]
 - Cass displayed the new special edition of "Man Behind The Badge", and encouraged all city residents to download it from the Police Web site: <http://www.stpete.org/police/publicinterest/btb.html>
 - It was announced that there would be a revised and updated issue of the existing Crime Watch Handbook in a joint effort with the S.P.R.D. Donna Law reported on the organizing progress of her CONA Court Watch Committee.
 - She has a well established partnership with Bill Burgess of the State's Attorney Office and with Sergeant Bill Hubbard of the S.P.R.D.
 - Donna will be heard in an hour long radio interview with Officer Johnnie Harris at 10 a.m., on April 26th over WRXC, 1590 Kc on the AM dial.
 - All of our member associations are encouraged to invite Donna to their monthly meetings to give a brief Court Watch Presentation.
 - The Committee is compiling data, via e-mail, on habitual offenders in your neighborhood. Please report to us any data that you have.
 - Monica Abbott, Chair of the LDR & Historic Preservation Comm., for brevity this evening, directed our attention to her committee report in the April CONA Newsletter.
 - She noted that the City has agreed to host an Historic Preservation Summit Meeting later this Summer
- We recognized, as a new member association, the West Central District, that meets monthly at the Bistro Restaurant.
 - They welcome as a new cultural attraction in their area the freeFall Theater.
- Latoya Brown spoke for Membership Chair Andrea Hildebran who is not here.
 - Dues have been collected from "Riviera Bay Masters", and from the "Grand Central Business District".
 - Jungle Terrace Civic Assoc. won this month's raffle drawing of 2011 renewal members.
- Theresa McEachern reported that her Nominations Committee has added three new members: Latoya Brown, Scott Durfee, and Kai Warren. The committee will submit a draft slate, at our May Meeting, for election of two officers to replace the First and Second Vice Presidents who resigned this month.

- The Committee solicits e-mail or phone nominations for their slate.
- Jeremiah Rohr spoke for Tim Martin of our Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee.
 - He moved that CONA provide a letter of support, to our City Council, considering establishment of a “Sunshine City Solar Purchasing Cooperative”. This program will make solar water heating systems more affordable for our residents. [Motion Approved]
 - Jeremiah also moved that CONA provide written support, to our City Council considering passing a “Voluntary Energy Efficiency Ordinance”. State/federal funding of this program is contingent on local support.
 - Cass Rael moved that the vote on CONA support of the Voluntary Efficiency Ordinance be tabled until more detailed information of the planned ordinance can be provided for our members. [Table Motion Approved].
 - We were assured that additional information about the proposed ordinance will be posted on our Rep’s Forum Listserv before our May 18th meeting.
- Jim Gee, Chair of our CONA Codes Committee reported on his meeting with Gary Bush of City Codes Enforcement. With a cutback and overworked staff of only 22 inspectors they have narrowed the focus of their investigations.
 - Jim appealed for an opportunity to “Ride Along” in some neighborhoods in order to become familiar with the Codes problems being pressed by our member associations.
 - We were also reminded of the advantages neighborhoods can enjoy by having formal “Goals” or Neighborhood Plans” that can be

incorporated in City grant proposals. Significant funding is available under the Neighborhood Partnership Office for grants to support even multiyear programs for neighborhood improvements.

- Will Michaels noted that the next meeting of his CONA Diversity Committee will be at 6:30 P.M., on May second at the Enoch Davis Center. Focusing on the Asian Community, the meeting will be chaired by Ali Montsho.
- City Councilman Wengay Newton briefly addressed our meeting. He spoke of the Red Light Camera Program and of Homeless Ordinances.
 - His Colleague, Councilman Bill Dudley, in his short address, also spoke of the traffic light cameras, noting that the majority of the violation penalties collected do not go to the city but rather the state! Council will decide Thursday at 3 p.m.
- Barbara Heck expressed concern for the continued, timely publication of our CONA Newsletter in light of the resignation of our former Editor. She proposed to assemble an Editorial Board that would assume responsibility for the publication of the Newsletter based on commitment to a 25th of the prior month deadline to ensure “In hand” delivery before our Board Meetings.
 - Moved, (Barbara Heck- Snell Isle), that a temporary committee be appointed to relieve the President of any Editorial responsibility for publication of our monthly CONA Newsletter. [Motion Approved].

Our meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.
Conrad Weiser, Secretary

Progress Energy: Take Mom’s energy - saving advice to heart

Children everywhere understand that mother knows best. While majority of Mom’s lessons may have appeared to focus on your childhood years, some of the same words of wisdom dispensed decades ago can still pay dividends today – often in unexpected ways.

For instance, you may not have realized when you were in school that Mom could have earned an A+ in energy-efficiency acumen. This Mother’s Day, examine what Mom was really saying way back when to realize immediate energy savings.

“Turn off the lights when you leave a room.”

This simple piece of motherly energy efficiency advice is also one of the easiest and most effective. Turning off the lights whenever you leave a room can lead to noticeable energy savings. Consider that the average home contains 45 light bulbs. Now take into account that cutting back on four hours of daily use of just four, 60-watt bulbs (the number often contained in a ceiling fan light fixture) could reduce your energy costs by more than \$40 over the course of a year. The more lights you stop using, the more you could potentially save.

“Don’t cool the neighborhood!”

Keeping the door closed to help your home retain cooler air is a no-brainer. However, you may be unknowingly paying to lower the temperature in portions of your home you don’t even use.

If your air ducts aren’t properly sealed, the cool air escaping into your steamy attic could be driving up your energy bill. Seal your ducts and you could save up to \$200 per year in energy costs. Still not convinced? Have Progress Energy inspect your ducts. If the company recommends a duct test, it will pay half of the cost of the test, which typically runs about \$60. If work is needed, you could qualify for a utility rebate of up to \$150 toward the repairs.

“Don’t touch the thermostat.”

It may seem like a good idea to lower the thermostat a few degrees to compensate for the sweltering summer heat, but turn it down too much and you could be hot under the collar when your energy bill

arrives. Simply altering the thermostat’s setting by a couple of degrees can greatly affect the price paid to cool your home. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees in the warmer months and 68-70 degrees when it’s cold outside and you could save about \$300 in annual energy costs. Take the guesswork out of setting and maintaining the ideal temperature by opting for a digital or programmable thermostat as opposed to the old-fashioned mercury, dial-type version.

“Don’t waste water.”

This isn’t just an environmental issue. Wasting water can also drain your pocketbook. When heated water goes down the drain unnecessarily, you’re also trickling away the energy used to warm it. This applies to the shower, the washing machine and any other ways warm water is used throughout your home.

Wash your clothes with cold water instead of warm and save 50 cents per load. Take your energy-efficient approach a step further by turning your water heater down from 140 to 120 degrees and you could save an additional \$85 per year.

“If you’re not using it, turn it off.”

This is always worthwhile advice. Turn off the computer when you’re not using it and only turn on the fan if you’re in the room. Customers who follow these simple steps can see significant annual savings on their energy bills for very little effort.

Want to learn more ways to save energy and money? Turn to the pros at Progress Energy. Through the company’s no-cost Home Energy Check, which can be performed online, over the phone or in person, a highly trained Energy Advisor will identify opportunities for energy savings in your home. A Home Energy Check is also a prerequisite to all company rebates toward energy-efficient home improvements.

To sign up for a no-cost Home Energy Check or to learn more than 100 energy-saving tips, visit savethewatts.com or call 1-877-364-9003.

While you’re at it, be sure to give Mom a call to thank her for her thoughtful – and thrifty – advice.

Come get involved...

CONA has a number of projects and committees that need your support and involvement...

- **Diversity**---As we are going to press, CONA and the YWCA are co-hosting the “Standing Against Racism” event April 29 at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum. Our own Will Michaels – Chairman CONA Diversity Committee was joined by many speakers of varied backgrounds.
- **Unite our neighborhoods** --- On May 7, CONA's Midtown Outreach Committee is partnering with Weed and Seed, Sanderlin Center, Police Dept. and US Attorney's Office for a Family Fun Day. This is done with the mission of fostering more neighborhoods within CONA. Vel Thompson and Lisa Brown are chairing this committee.
- **Attend Rays Games** --- Keep watching for announcements on a Rays Night/Day in the very near future. Dave Hoover has graciously agreed to help put together a package that will entice CONA participation.

CONA's mission is to:

- Unite existing neighborhood organizations and to foster the formation of such organizations
- Provide training to and guidance for neighborhood leaders
- Expand the pool of skilled and motivated neighborhood and community leaders
- Promote communication between member organizations and the community at large
- Act as neighborhood advocates with city, county, state, and federal government agencies.

While the Diversity Committee, Midtown Outreach Committee, and Events Committee help build, unite and foster good will among neighborhoods, we do have a number of active committees whose purpose is to advocate for the neighborhoods. While we should seek to build good relations with our various governmental bodies, we are a neighborhood advocacy group. We should work through our various advocacy committees - Codes, under Jim Gee, Public Safety, under Cass Rael, Court Watch, under Donna Law, Land Development and Historic Resources, under Monica Abbott, and Energy and Environment, under Tim Martin to make the City the way we (neighborhoods) want it. Come get involved in these committees. Together there is very little we can't solve. At a minimum, contact these chairs to see if there is an effective way to solve the individual challenge you have.

This group as well as the remainder of the Executive Committee and Special Committees work tirelessly to make this City a better place to live. And remember they are all volunteers and, like all our neighborhood volunteers, they work for free, for the love of community.

See you around the Berg, at one of our events or at the next General Board Meeting Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at the Sunshine, when our major focus will be to honor members of the St Petersburg Police Department.

Mike Gulley, President

SP Times' Howard Troxler comments on recent legislation

Read St. Pete Time's Columnist Howard Troxler's comments on recent legislation passed on March 24, 2011 to allow direct receipt of monies into newly formed Leadership Funds.
<http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/appeal-to-people-of-florida-to-stop-direct-bribery-of-legislature/1165734>

City of St. Petersburg Garbage Pick-up Holiday Schedule

Holidays will sometimes change your scheduled garbage pick-up day. Here is the schedule for May and June, 2011.

- May - no change in schedule
- June - no change in schedule

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

Neighborhood Times Contact Info

Carly Hart is the reporter to contact to get neighborhood news and items of interest into the paper. Her contact information has recently changed so please correct your records to:

Carly Hart, P.O. Box 3235, St. Petersburg, FL 33731; Phone: 727-564-8366; Email: onewritersink@yahoo.com

St. Petersburg Police Department Crime Prevention Programs

By Officer Mark Williams

The Crime Prevention Unit of the St. Petersburg Police Department provides various services to the community free of charge. Our focus is on community relations and education and we are available to conduct training in any of these areas.

To request training simply contact your District Crime Prevention Officer to set up an appointment.

District I	Officer J. Harris	727-893-7559	john.harris@stpete.org
District II	Officer G. Lopez	727-893-4055	gabriel.lopez@stpete.org
District III	Officer M. Williams	727-893-4935	mark.williams@stpete.org

Programs:

- Neighborhood Crime Watch Program (Neighborhood Watch, Apartment Watch, City Watch, Marine Watch)
- Business Watch Program
- Citizens On Patrol Program
- Convenience Store Security Act Program
- Crime Reports.Com Program
- CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)
- Personal Safety Programs (Home Safety, Robbery Safety, Sexual Assaults, Auto Theft, Frauds/Scams, Assault/Battery, Identity Theft, Domestic Violence, Operation Identification, Property Theft, etc....)
- Auto Theft Rally Program
- Drug Safety Program
- Home Security Assessments
- Crime Prevention Programs for School/College
- Fraud and Scams Program
- Crime Prevention Training
- How to Report Suspicious Activity and Crime Program
- Proper use of "911" Program

Amanda Newton – 2010 SPPD Officer of the Year

Congratulations to Officer Amanda Newton - SPPD's 2010 Officer of the Year. Officer Newton is currently assigned to Career Offender Tracking and Apprehension. This recently created program was modeled after a program Officer Newton created that targets teen automobile thieves. This new program now tracks the city's worst chronic offenders. CONA congratulations Officer Amanda Newton.





**CONA 2011 Executive
Committee Members**

President

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

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Secretary

Conrad Weiser - Americana Cove
522-5008 - conrad33702@verizon.net

Treasurer

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

Audit Committee

Faye Jackson - Highland Oaks
327-9844 - lfjx@msn.com

CONA Leadership Committee

Ingrid Comberg - Historic Uptown
894-3048

Court Watch Committee

Donna Law - Central Oak Park
lawholdingsin1@yahoo.com

**Land Development & Historic
Resources Committee**

Monica Abbott - Jungle Terrace
rabbott100@aol.com

Membership Committee

Andrea Hildebran - Bartlett Park
643-7189 hildebran@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

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

Public Safety Committee

Cass Rael - North Kenwood
744-9560 - cvraelsr@hotmail.com

Immediate Past President

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

OTHER CONA COMMITTEES

City Budget Review Committee

Travis Jarman - Bayway Isles
cona.mail@bayway.org

Codes Committee

Jim Gee - Coquina Key
599-9159 - smallworldjag@gmail.com

Energy & Environment Committee

Tim Martin - Historic Kenwood
251-9979 - ftimothymartin@yahoo.com

Diversity Committee

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

Midtown Outreach Committee

Vel Thompson - Lakewood Estates
864-4597 - velthompson2@aol.com

Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control:	582-2600
City Council:	893-7117
Codes Compliance:	893-7373
County Commission:	464-3377
Mayor's Action Line:	893-7111
Neighborhood Partnership Office:	892-5141
Sanitation:	893-7334
SPPD:	893-7780
(non-emergency)	

Florida Abuse Hotline: 800-962-2873

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

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CONA's May Citizen of the Month

Lisa Wheeler-Brown

CONA will honor Lisa Wheeler-Brown as our Citizen of the Month for May. On September 6, 2008 Lisa's son Cabretti Jalil Wheeler was killed. Since the murder of her son, Lisa has become a local advocate for a safer community. She created a foundation in her son's name and spoke out publicly after the death of Paris Whitehead-Hamilton, killed in a drive-by shooting in 2009. Lisa has worked tirelessly with St. Petersburg Police Department to bring those responsible to justice and to help others in similar circumstances. Lisa speaks to various school and neighborhood groups and encourages everyone to report crime and wrong doing immediately. CONA thanks Lisa Wheeler-Brown for all that she has done to make St. Petersburg a safer city!