

# CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

March 2013

CONA Newsletter Deadlines - Copy Due-25th of each month, Mailing-2nd Wednesday of month, In Hand-2nd Friday of month

## Strength in Numbers

Are you giving up? Feel like what you see, say or want doesn't matter? Don't feel safe in your own neighborhood? You are not alone. The time is right to get some stuff fixed properly. Your neighborhood is getting organized and your voice matters and deserves to be heard. CONA just had their annual Goals Retreat, it was a big hit.

I am in the process of compiling the problems and solutions discussed. We are going to send out the results in the form of a survey to tens and thousands of St Petersburg residents to help set priorities and bring in new volunteers. Neighborhood presidents, non CONA neighborhoods also (we love you too) please ensure our CONA Secretary has your meeting schedule information. We are going to forward all the survey respondent contact info to you and encourage them to RSVP and attend your next meetings.

Timing is everything, we need strength in numbers. There is going to be a lively Mayoral race and there are open City Council seats, so we have an opportunity to affect a renewed focus on fixing the broken parts of our neighborhoods, you know the place where we live...



It is a new day. Be part of the solution. Join YOUR neighborhood. Insist YOUR neighborhood is an active part of CONA.

Respectfully,  
Kurt J. Donley, President, CONA

## CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, March 20, 2013

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

### Agenda Items:

General Business – Committee Updates  
New Business  
Presentation – Universal Recycling  
Neighborhood Sharing

April 11 at 6PM – Mayor's Night Out  
April 17 – Next Regular CONA Meeting  
July 11-13 FL Neighborhoods Conference  
2013 CONA Membership Dues – Pay today

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

# CONA Goals Retreat Summary

By Tim Martin

What happens when you put 25 neighborhood leaders together in a room for four hours with two trained facilitators and ten gallons of coffee? March 2 we had just that, and the result was a lengthy list of neighborhood issues to tackle for 2013.

Led by USF St. Petersburg Leadership School graduates Chuck Terzian and Christian Haas, this year's annual Goals Retreat was held at the Carter G. Woodson museum in Midtown. Departing a bit from the format used at prior retreats, this year's event relied on the World Café method of facilitation, which established discussion tables mirroring CONA's established committees: public safety, codes, communication, fundraising, membership, land use and development, energy and environment, plus one wildcard table. Participants had thirty minutes to discuss these issues at three different tables, while committee chairs recorded the ideas that were generated.

Should we lobby to give city Codes employees the power to issue citations? How about creating a glossy map detailing all the city's neighborhoods that we can use for marketing and fundraising? How do we push the city to give neighborhoods more community police officers? Should we televise and stream CONA meetings on community access TV?

The group produced dozens of ideas like these, which will be soon sent out to neighborhood representatives in a survey format so that we can solicit input from others to develop further.

The Goals Retreat is an annual CONA tradition. Past president Will Michaels spoke at the top of the meeting and offered some historical perspective on the role of CONA in St. Petersburg. He highlighted how throughout the years CONA has championed causes to better the city, including everything from old battles to fight for public housing for the elderly and contesting telephone rate increases. In recent years CONA has fought to reduce snipe signs littering our neighborhoods, provided input on the city's Land Development Regulations, operated a first-class leadership training program, and supported numerous initiatives to celebrate diversity and combat racism – to name just a few. That legacy of service will hopefully be extended by the work put in at this year's retreat.

Special kudos goes to our current president Kurt Donely for co-facilitating and providing us with lunch from The Burg. Barbara Heck also did a heck-uva nice job organizing attendees and promoting the event. Chuck and Christian were excellent and attentive with their facilitation. The Dunkin Donuts on 34th Street and 7th Ave donated coffee and donuts. And of course big thanks to all the neighborhood reps that gave up a Saturday morning to help CONA grow. Your contribution makes all the difference.

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The 17th Annual Family Fun Day Festival will be held at the James B. Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center on 5/4/213, if you are interested in being a vendor, please call Janis Ford at 727-892-5087 or e-mail her at [janis.ford@stpete.org](mailto:janis.ford@stpete.org).

# It Starts With Us

Are you overwhelmed with all the new and old challenges that face our neighborhoods these days? Your neighborhood has challenges. Now add other ones like the Rays, the Pier, the budget cuts (City, County and Statewide) and so on. All seem to need immediate attention. Where do you start? Let's go back to the beginning – not the creation, just the beginning.

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

Thank you to all who have taken the time to get involved, to learn about the issues, to attend the meetings and to talk to our city, county and state governments. You are passionate in your beliefs and have made the commitment to “make a difference.” Some of you seem more comfortable to sit on the sidelines or are afraid of the consequences of “getting involved.” We challenge you to think of the even worse consequences if you do . . . nothing. Do NOT sit around complaining about how “things used to be” or “how bad someone is.” Remember, when you point a finger at someone, there are three fingers pointing back at you (check it out). Check out these hints and start making that difference.

## **First - Learn all you can.**

- Educate yourself on the issue or challenge.
- Research thoroughly.

## **Second - Talk, talk, talk.**

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

## **Third – Focus on the project not the person.**

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

## **Fourth – Advocate.**

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

## **Fifth – Be willing to compromise.**

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

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

**Together we can !!!**

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## Your 2013 Resolution – Talk to the Mayor

Does your neighborhood have some issues or concerns or just some suggestions for City Mayor and staff? Go to Breakfast with the Mayor or Mayor's Night Out. Take advantage of these special events held throughout the year to meet and talk in person to the Mayor.

**Breakfast with the Mayor** is held the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 AM at various restaurants around the City. This popular forum is a great opportunity to talk informally with the Mayor about your concerns, enjoy a yummy breakfast and support our local host restaurants.

**Mayors Night Out** at 6 PM is the second great opportunity to get extraordinary access to all the decision makers in the City. Speak one-on-one with the Mayor and other public officials and get the services you need from City Hall. If you have a problem that spans departments and you haven't made use of this one-stop-shop, the problem is on you for not trying.

Mark your calendars and then go!!! Additional details can be found on the city website at [www.stpete.org](http://www.stpete.org)

<b>Breakfast with the Mayor</b>	7 AM (4th Wednesday of each month)
<b>Mayor's Night Out</b>	6 PM (Feb 7, Mar 14, Apr 11, Jul 18, Aug 8, Sep 5, Oct 10)

# CONA Committee Reports

## **CONA Leadership – Ingrid Comberg**

In the next month the 21st Leadership class will be attending programs on County Government, City Services and Effective Communication. Our 32 future leaders will also go from one end of our city to the other as they take a historical bus tour of St. Petersburg. In May they will celebrate the completion of their program with a Graduation Dinner and Ceremony.

## **Land Development & Historic Resources – Judy Landon**

There is an application to relocate the Henry-Bryan home, a landmarked site on Fourth Avenue Northeast, to North Kenwood neighborhood. CONA, the Downtown Neighborhood Association and St Pete Preservation are opposed to this proposed relocation, as it is historically inappropriate. Our committee will keep CONA members in the loop.

## **Membership – Tom DeMint**

Thank you to all those neighborhood associations who have paid their 2013 dues. To everyone else – this is another gentle reminder to send your \$35 dues in today. Add \$15 to that check if you want to use the CONA postage permit for bulk mailing. Application form and invoice are available at [www.conastpete.org](http://www.conastpete.org)

Starting with our March meeting we will have local businesses donate prizes for our new member's drawing and continue throughout the year! If you have a business or know someone with a business that would like to contribute to CONA and be recognized, please have them contact: Tom DeMint at 727-647-4239.

## **Codes – Robby Thompson**

Committee members are currently in talks with City Codes management on the way they do business and what could be improved to help the neighborhoods. Codes Committee meets the first Saturday of the month at Mayster's Café, 2444 Central Ave. Meetings open to CONA members.

NEW. See, Click, Fix–FREE mobile app. When you encounter a problem, such as an overgrown lot or a tree down in the right-of-way, you can take a picture of the problem with your camera phone and submit it through "See, Click, Fix". The city will be notified of the issue for a quick resolution to the problem.

Want to remain anonymous, be certain to set up your account that way when you sign on to the mobile app.

<http://www.stpete.org/mobile/seeclickfix.htm>

## **Audit Committee – Faye Jackson**

(No report)

## **Nominating – Susan Heyen**

(No report)

## **Public Safety – Lisa Wheeler-Brown**

CONA's Public Safety Committee is committed to looking after the welfare of the members of our community. Some public safety concerns include those concerns about crime and law enforcement which are both increasing in America. We have already had two homicides this year, which as of this date are still unsolved. The law enforcement factor in public safety is one of the committee's jobs necessary for keeping criminals off the streets and we are committed to working with SPPD and our community in order to make our streets safer.

### *Public Safety Tip of the month:*

Going on vacation? Even if you're not, timer lights are good to have in your house! You can purchase them at your local Home Depot or Lowes. They are easy to install. Just plug in and set the timer! These lights have been known to deter robbers because they think that people are at home! Be safe!

## **Court Watch – (open)**

Please contact Sue Heyen, Nominating Chair, to apply for this committee.

## **Communications – Travis Jarman**

The Communications Committee will hold regular meetings at 9:30AM the 1st Saturday of each month at Mayster's Café, 2444 Central Ave. Note that the March 2nd meeting will instead be at one of the breakout tables at the CONA Goals Retreat. The current focus of the Committee is to identify the requirements of the CONA membership for communications among members, including but not limited to electronic public and private discussion groups, distribution of newsletters and other documents, and public announcements. Once the requirements are firmed up then we will look into the available tools in more detail.

## **Newsletter – Barbara Heck**

Thank you for the great articles again this month. Please continue to send your articles in Word document using Arial font and 11 point type. Deadline is the 25th of each month. In hand date is second Wednesday of the next month so our neighborhoods can be ready to discuss items of interest at the next general membership meeting.

## **Energy & Environment – Tim Martin**

The Energy and Environment committee has a number of projects in the works. Please share with us your energy or environmental concerns. Do you have ideas to help? Are you interested in joining our committee and our discussions on the energy and environmental issues facing us today? If yes, please send me an email so I can add you to our discussion list:

[ftimothymartin@yhoo.com](mailto:ftimothymartin@yhoo.com)

# R 4 U: Resources for You

## Neighborhood News Calendars

Use our local newspapers and websites to promote your meetings and events.

- Tampa Bay Times (formerly St Pete Times): E-mail your information to neighborhoodcal@gmail.com Deadline is 5 PM Friday for the next Wednesday.
- St Pete Patch: E-mail your information to William Mansell at www.stpete.patch.com
- City of St Petersburg: E-mail your information to Beth Herendeen at www.stpete.org

## 15 Ways to Use Water Wisely

1. Sweep it away – Use a broom, not the hose to clean sidewalks and driveways.
2. Slow the flow – Install a water-saving showerhead.
3. Be a drip – Drip systems pinpoint water to roots.
4. Quick shower – Keep showers under 5 minutes and use a timer.
5. Chill out – Cool drinking water in the fridge; don't run the tap.
6. Keep off the sidewalk – Water your lawn, not the pavement.
7. Use your head – Flush only when necessary.
8. Top it off – Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
9. Mulch and save – Minimize evaporation with organic mulch.
10. Double duty – Use old water from the fish tank to fertilize plants.
11. Save the rain – Store it for garden watering.
12. Hot stuff – Insulate hot water heaters and pipes to save water and energy.
13. Shower power – A bucket in the shower can save water for cleanup.
14. Stop, look and listen – Check pipes, faucets and toilets for leaks.
15. Fix your leaks – A pinhole leak wastes up to 170 gallons a day.

## Neighborhood Concerns – CONA can help.

Questions? Need help? Don't understand something? Can't find the information you need? Please contact any CONA officer with your problem and you will be put in touch with a mentor who can help your association find a solution.

## Garage Sale Leftovers?

Donate your unsold "treasures" at the end of your garage sale to the charity of your choice. Many charities will arrange pickup so you do not have to take anything to a drop off center. This is a win-win-win for everyone. Your home is now clean. The charity of your choice has new gently used "treasures" to sell and the people the charity supports are getting a helping hand.

## CONA's Citizen of the Month

Please send us your suggestions of leaders in your neighborhood who deserve special recognition for their contribution, time, and ideas to your neighborhood association. Not only is recognizing our super volunteers something we can never do enough of, it also brings new people into CONA and helps us continue to build our leadership base. So, please send in those names of the leaders who shine in your neighborhood association!

## Frequently Called Numbers

<b>Mayor's Action Line</b>	<b>893-7111</b>
<b>SPPD (non-emergency)</b>	<b>893-7780</b>
<b>FL Abuse Hotline</b>	<b>800-962-2873</b>

Animal Control	582-2600
City Council	893-7117
Codes Compliance	893-7373
Community Services	892-5141
County Commission	464-3377
Sanitation	893-7334

## CONA Newsletter ad rates – (Monthly Rates)

\$15	1/8 Page—Business Card Size
\$30	1/4 Page
\$100	Full Page
\$50	1/2 Page
Insert (Prepared by Advertiser) \$ 50.00	
Insert - Work-up	Time & Material
Pre-Pay for 6-9 Months-Get 1 Month Free	

# CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - February 20, 2013

## Call to Order:

President Kurt Donley opened the meeting promptly at 7PM and asked everyone to stand for the National Anthem.

## Attendance:

**Neighborhoods:** Americana Cove, Azalea, Bartlett Park, Crossroads Area, Disston Heights, Edgemoor, Fossil Park, Grand Central District, Harris Park, Historic Kenwood, Historic Uptown, Jungle Terrace, Meadowlawn, Old Southeast, Riviera Bay, Snell Isle, Westminster Heights, Wildwood Heights.

**Others:** City Community Services, FPSU, Council Members Jeff Danner and Karl Nurse.

## General Business:

### **Treasurer's Report**

- No report given.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

• The Pledge was omitted from the January meeting by the President due to a request from certain members. The EC discussed this at length and decided to let the entire membership vote on continuing the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of our CONA meetings. Motion was made to discontinue the Pledge. After a lengthy discussion, vote was taken. Motion did not pass. The Pledge of Allegiance will continue at all CONA meetings.

### **Announcements**

• CONA Secretary Barbara Heck urged everyone to join CONA, pay their dues and also update their contact information. She then asked for a moment of silence and remembrance for Mort Sherman, Scott Swift and Phil Whysong who all recently passed away.

## Committee Updates:

### **Executive Committee Report – Kurt Donley**

• CONA President Kurt Donley discussed his upcoming attendance at the Juvenile Justice Hearing in Tallahassee supporting Wildwood NA and Council Member Newton's proposals about NOT incarcerating kids for very minor infractions.

• The "Stand Up Against Racism" Committee has requested CONA to repeat the Jim Crow event on February 27 at the Carter Woodson Museum.

### **Land Development – Judy Landon**

• YMCA project – City has vacated the parking spaces.

• Henry Bryan house – CONA EC voted to oppose the Certificate of Application to move this historic structure to a vacant lot in the Kenwood area.

### **Waterfront Master Plan – Will Michaels**

• Meeting was held at historic Pennsylvania Hotel to bring everyone up to date on this project. More information will follow.

### **2013 Goals Retreat – Tim Martin**

• The retreat is Saturday, March 2 at 9:30AM – about 1PM. Breakout groups would discuss various topics and brainstorm on the issues and the resolution. Each table would have a facilitator and take notes.

• Both a mid-morning snack and lunch will be served. Attendees are asked to RSVP to CONA Secretary to provide an accurate count for lunch.

Environmental Committee – Tim Martin

• No report at this time.

### **Public Safety Committee – Lisa Brown**

• Lisa Brown discussed the various crime issues in Midtown about reporting crime and the repercussions people face.

• Tom Tito suggested instituting a Citizens Patrol. The one in Bartlett Park has been effective.

• Barbara Heck also suggested neighborhoods send a member to the Citizen's Police Academy which is due to start in April. Information was sent to CONA Reps Forum and to NA Presidents.

### **Fund Raising Committee – Robby Thompson**

• Kurt Donley discussed the Grand Prix effort and that CONA was attempting to renegotiate a better contract than last year's 10% of sales. It was a large amount of labor for a very small payout.

• Also looking to man a group of food and beer stands placed together for better payout.

### **CONA Leadership – Ingrid Comberg**

• 32 students are participating in 2013 CONA Leadership. Now in its 21st year, CONA Leadership has over 600 graduates.

### **Communications – Travis Jarman**

• Travis Jarman stated that his committee will be meeting the 1st Saturday of each month at Mayster's Café 2444 Central Ave. along with two other Committees for back to back meetings. The March 2nd meeting will instead be one of the breakout tables at the CONA Goals Retreat. Committee needs to find out

- what are the communications requirements
- who is the audience
- what are the best communication tools to use.

### **Membership – Tom DeMint**

• Tom DeMint asked people to join his committee which will meet in the next 2-3 weeks to start a membership drive.

### **Codes – Robby Thompson**

Kurt Donley spoke in Robby Thompson's absence and dis-

cussed the various concerns.

- He discussed snipe signs, foreclosure registry and that CONA is working with Codes management on all these issues.
- CONA wants to draft a playbook “What to do when the proper channels fail”.

### **New Business / Neighborhood Sharing:**

#### **Council Member Jeff Danner**

- County Commission to set date in 2014 for Referendum on Transportation. That gives us about 21 months to finish up the Transportation Plan.

#### **Council Chair Karl Nurse**

- Rehab Incentive Program aimed at areas in Bartlett Park, Campbell Park, Melrose-Mercy would allow about 78 homes to be redone. They would get about 20 cents on the dollar rebate. The Permitting Office would handle the processing.
- New Idea. Change the image of our neighborhoods. Start a “Surprising Neighborhoods of St. Pete” tour. Possibly 21 tours on various weekends with maybe 100+ people walking around and learning about the City.
  - Trudy Barker suggested asking for real estate Agents assistance in these areas.
  - Paul Dickens offered to mentor and help any neighborhoods. The Kenwood tours have been very successful and the fall one is in the planning stages if anyone would like to see how it is done.
  - Barbara Heck also suggested asking businesses in the area to do a special discount, sale, lunch/dinner special for the tour.
- Phil Harris and Rhonda Abbott, past City employees now work for United Way and have encouraged groups to work on various homes. They are now up to 25 homes at about \$15,000 each.

#### **Grand Central**

- Bob Jeffrey announced their annual Chili Cook-off coming up. He also announced the Central Ave. Council meeting Feb 26 at Hospice to work on projects along Central Ave.

#### **Historic Uptown**

- April Gausman announced their March 2nd Neighborhood Yard Sale.

#### **Riviera Bay**

- David Hoover announced their March 2-3 Neighborhood Yard Sale.

### **Presentations:**

#### **SEIU – City Contract Negotiations**

- Rick Smith discussed the background of these negotiations affecting 20,000 workers in Florida. Labor is the biggest part of the budget. All members working in St. Pete must also live in the city. Because the workers live in the City, they have the same concerns we do on a variety of subjects:
  - Community gardens for vacant lots
  - Mass transit incentives for workers to use buses instead of cars
  - Recycling – do not sub-contract this out to a company, use the City to do this.
  - Tool “library” for the neighborhoods – tools for use by many
  - \$500 bonus to workers, but can only be spent at local businesses
- Here are some of the items discussed.
  - \$1.8M deficit. Cut overtime expenses. Set up Committees to find changes. Average raise increase is 1.8%.
  - Reintroduce the Step Plan on April 1st. \$90k cost for 2014 fiscal year.
  - Expecting massive retirements in next 8 years as people age out.
  - Check their website for more information.

#### **Twitter / Crime Reports.com**

- Kurt Donley reported on his SPPD meeting, Twitter use and Crime Reports.com
  - Crime Reports.com – Briefly explained the background on how the info is edited and discussed our concerns for more timely and full information. Explained how the daily report is scrubbed.
  - Stated that each NA President could get more in depth details from their CSO’s.
  - Discussed the restart of the reverse 911 phone line and the time delay in receiving calls.
  - Explained how Twitter works and how it would soon become the best tool for real time information for us.

President Kurt Donley adjourned the meeting at 8:50PM.

## **CONA Remembers...**

**Mort Sherman, 1936 – 2013.** Mort was a dear member of our CONA community for many, many years. He kept us on our toes, making certain we followed Roberts Rules of Order at our meetings. He was a community organizer who established and actively led the Crossroads Area Neighborhood Association. For more than 20 years, he served as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mort will be missed. .

## CONA 2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### President

Kurt Donley - Grand Central  
331-7373 - kurtndonley@msn.com

### 1st Vice President

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

### 2nd Vice President

Rashid Ali Montsho - Westminster Heights  
803-795-8630 - rmontsho@tampabay.rr.com

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer

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

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Audit

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

### CONA Leadership

Ingrid Comberg - Disston Heights  
894-3048

### Court Watch

open

### Land Development & Historic Resources

Judy Landon – Harris Park  
528-3735 – judylandon55@gmail.com

### Membership

Tom DeMint – Edgemoor  
647-4239 – TJD1@aol.com

### Nominating

Sue Heyen - Historic Kenwood  
251-2224 - mimsue@tampabay.rr.com

### Public Safety

Lisa Brown - Wildwood  
244-9018 - lisab0725@gmail.com

### Immediate Past President

Mike Gulley - Coquina Key  
244-8374 - jmichael.gulley@gmail.com

## OTHER CONA COMMITTEES

### Codes Committee

Robby Thompson - Westminster Heights  
510-5087 - rightspindle@yahoo.com

### Communications

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

### Energy & Environment Committee

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

### Newsletter Coordinator

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

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Copy Due 25th of each month  
Mailing 2nd Wednesday of month  
In Hand 2nd Friday of month



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

**Return Service Requested**

Presort Std  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Permit #1084  
St. Petersburg, FL

## Strict Water Restrictions start March 13

The lack of rainfall has caused SWFTMUD to impose strict regulations that will be closely monitored. Once a week watering restrictions start March 13 for everyone. In addition, all fountains now have a 4 hour max restriction. According to Bob Powell (Pinellas County's Water Manager) "It's going to be much more restrictive than our normal situation. Inspectors will not be allowed to issue a warning. *We will begin with a citation right away.*"

For those using reclaimed water, SWFTMUD states the following:

**Reclaimed water** remains subject to voluntary watering hours, unless restricted by the local government or utility.

If you are planting or renovating your yard, check with the experts first. Consider using native plants and plants that are water-wise, drought tolerant. Cut down on your lawn area. Mulch your planter beds to retain moisture. Check your sprinklers' effectiveness. Consider installing rain barrels. There are many things you can do to conserve water and have a lovely yard too.



## 2013 CONA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**ANNUAL DUES** Due by December 28, 2012      **\$ 35.00**  
CONA's Bulk Mail Permit      **add \$15.00**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
    # Mailings/Year \_\_\_\_\_  
    # Newsletters/Mailing (200 Min) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Another Neighborhood\* **add \$35.00**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED**      **\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail to:** CONA, P. O. Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693

Association Name \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Election Date \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting date/time \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_

Boundaries \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

President Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

CONA Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

CONA Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Crime Watch Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



## Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

### Cell Phone Safety Tips

It is currently estimated in the United States that there are 327,577,529 cellular phones in use. When people use cellular phones while driving motor vehicles, particularly when dialing a number or texting, they are often distracted and traffic accidents occur. Many communities have considered passing local ordinances / laws prohibiting the use of a cellular telephone while driving a motor vehicle.

The following are a series of safety tips for cell phone users:

- **Get to know your cell phone** and its features such as speed dial and redial. Carefully read your instruction manual and learn to take advantage of features most phones offer including automatic redial and memory dial - most phones can store up to 99 numbers in memory dial. Also, work to memorize the phone keypad so you can use the speed dial function without taking your attention off the road.
- **Use hands free devices.** A number of hands free cell phone accessories are readily available today. Whether you choose an installed mounted device for your phone or a speaker phone accessory, take advantage of these devices if available to you.
- **Position your phone within easy reach.** Make sure you place your cell phone within easy reach and where you can reach it without removing your eyes from the road. If you get an incoming call at an inconvenient time, let your voice mail answer it for you.
- **Suspend conversation during hazardous conditions or situations.** Let the person you are speaking to know you are driving; if necessary, suspend the call in heavy traffic or hazardous weather conditions. Rain, sleet, snow and ice can be hazardous. But so is heavy traffic. As a driver, your first responsibility is to pay attention to the road.
- **Pay attention to the road.** Do not text, take notes, or look up phone numbers while driving. If you are reading an address book or business card while driving a car, or writing a "to do" list, then you are not watching where you are going. It's common sense. Don't get caught in a dangerous situation because you are reading or writing and not paying attention to the road or nearby vehicles.
- **Dial sensibly and assess the traffic;** if possible, place calls when you are not moving or before pulling into traffic. Try to plan your calls before you begin your trip, or attempt to coincide your calls with times that you may be stopped (i.e. at a stop sign, red light or otherwise stationary).
- **Do not engage in distracting conversations.** Stressful or emotional conversations and driving do not mix - they are distracting and even dangerous when you are behind the wheel. Make people you are talking with aware you are driving and if necessary, suspend phone conversations, which have the potential to divert your attention from the road.
- **Use your phone to call for help.** Your cellular phone is one of the greatest tools you can own to protect yourself and your family in dangerous situations - with your phone at your side, help is only three numbers away. Dial 9-1-1 in the case of fire, traffic accident, road hazard, or medical emergencies. Remember, it is a free call on your cell phone!