

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

April 2013

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

Spring is springing.

There is a lot going on. Crescent Lake (Peter Schorsch: peter@extensive-enterprises.com) and Twinbrooks (David Muhammad: foi7unity@yahoo.com) neighborhood associations are restarting. We need to reach out and give them our full support.

Opening Day for the Rays, Budget Season, Universal Recycling Proposals. Oh Yeah and this little election thing with two open City Council seats.

When Mayor Foster came on one of his major goals was to create a "Seamless City". It is going to be a tough job. There is a pretty substantial socio-economic divide that falls greatly upon racial and geographic boundaries. I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel uncomfortable in knowing how to discuss these racial issues that seem to keep us from having the Seamless City that we all want to live in. As the president of CONA I have to represent the needs and wants of all our neighborhoods. Sometimes these discussions can get contentious and feelings get hurt, but we must get past that and work together towards our common goals. We have an opportunity to come together and gain a common understanding and framework for discussion that can help us move forward.

I'm asking that all of you (everyone reading this) join our friends at YWCA Tampa Bay who are putting on the 5th Annual Stand Against Racism event. This year the event will feature national race expert Tim Wise who will be presenting: "Beyond Diversity: Steps for Uprooting Racism, Privilege and Institutional Inequity". Tim is a



dynamic speaker and big draw so this year the event is too big for the Carter Woodson and will be held at Eckerd College – The Wireman Chapel on Friday, April 26th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. This event is free to the public. Please find a way to attend. It could change your life and accelerate us towards that Seamless City that we all want to live in.

One last thing we all need to help out with membership, CONA only has about half the active neighborhoods working together and about 1/3 of neighborhoods in the city are no longer active. We need to band together. Strength in Numbers...

Respectfully, Kurt J. Donley, President, CONA

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, April 17, 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 – Neighborhood Sharing
Presentations: Keep Saint Petersburg Local
SEIU + City Contract Negotiations

April 24 at 7AM – Breakfast with the Mayor
May 15 – Next Regular CONA Meeting
July 11-13 FL Neighborhoods Conference
2013 CONA Membership – Don't delay – Join 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.

SPPD Tip: Credit Card Fraud

Credit card fraud costs cardholders and issuers hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Some credit card companies are displaying a photograph of the cardholder so criminals can't make face-to-face purchases with a stolen credit card.



Tips To Prevent Credit Card Fraud

- Don't carry credit cards in a wallet. In a purse, carry them in a zippered compartment. Men can carry them in a business card holder.
- When checking out at store registers, shield the credit card from people around you. Someone might be looking over your shoulder to copy your number.
- During credit card transaction, keep the card in your sight and get it back as quickly as possible. Beware of new technology that allows individuals to install card reader on their smartphones, and gather your personal data and make charges.
- Save credit card receipts to compare with billing statements.
- Open credit card billing statements promptly and reconcile accounts monthly, just as you would your checking account.
- Don't write your PIN (personal identification number) on your credit card. Doing so could aid a thief to "borrow" large amounts of cash with your card.
- Don't carry more credit or debit cards than you absolutely have to.
- Always total your charge slip before signing the credit card receipt. Don't leave blank spaces where additional amount could be added. Draw a line through blank spaces.
- Never lend your credit cards to anyone.
- Notify credit card companies in advance of any change of address.
- Don't leave credit cards or receipts lying around unattended.
- Don't give your credit card number to a telemarketer unless you are sure he or she represents a reputable company. If you have questions about a company, contact your local consumer protection office or Better Business Bureau.
- Never write your account number on a post card or on the outside of an envelope.

Reporting Credit Card Losses and Fraud

If you lose your credit or charge cards or if you realize they have been lost or stolen, immediately call the issuer(s). Many companies have toll-free numbers and 24-hour service to deal with such emergencies. By law, once you report the loss or theft, you have no further responsibility for unauthorized charges. In any event, your maximum liability under federal law is \$50.00 per card.

If you suspect fraud, you may be asked to sign a statement that you did not make the purchases(s) in question.

CASA: Domestic Violence Affects our Neighborhoods

By Linda A. Osmundson

Domestic violence? ...in my neighborhood? Not a chance. I live in a nice neighborhood. People mow their lawns and help each other. I know my neighbors. They wouldn't do that. They are good church--(synagogue, mosque) going folks. The guy next door is a great neighbor and really helpful.

When that nice guy next door is violent towards his domestic partner, the neighbors are disbelieving. In fact, since no one sees her around much, we typically think she is the problem. (We are using "he" and "she" in this context because at least 85% of victims are female. However, domestic violence occurs in gay and lesbian relationships and a few perpetrators are female in heterosexual relationships.) When police are involved, they are usually called by the neighbors, frightened by what they hear next door. If you live in an apartment, condo or neighborhood where homes are close together, you can easily hear the neighbors. If your neighborhood has big houses with bigger yards, you may never hear disturbances. Yet, domestic violence is nearly first or second most common crime in most neighborhoods. Domestic violence is an equal opportunity destroyer.

The dynamics of domestic violence are complicated and may be completely hidden. Domestic abuse is caused by the view that entitles mostly men to have power and control over their domestic partner. Use of physical or sexual violence is a tool that reinforces this entitlement. In most abusive relationships, violence is occasional. Many other controlling tactics support power and control. These tactics include coercion and threats, intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, minimizing, denying and blaming, using the children, male privilege and economic abuse. Some tactics are not obvious to the casual observer and may seem loving and supportive to an outsider. Concern about what

she wears or who she sees may seem caring and normal. That is because we don't notice the raised eyebrow that tells her she will be hurt when they get home. A controlling partner may isolate her and not allow her to talk to neighbors, go to a religious service or hold a responsible job. The powerful partner may be critical of her promotion at work or her success in school. Living a life with a partner that is kind and funny one moment, and demanding and threatening the next, is confusing and terrifying when unpredictable violence occurs. Victims may blame themselves for making small mistakes like burning the rice that seem to cause the violence.

The best course for friends and family when they suspect domestic violence is to privately express concern to the possible victim. Offer information and support. Listen. Give her resources such as CASA's 24 hour crisis line (727-895-4912). CASA offers free counseling, justice advocacy, prevention programs for children, short term housing and, of course, emergency shelter. Friends or family may also call CASA's crisis line to talk about how else they can help.

CASA's vision is a community without domestic violence so that home is a safe place. If all children could grow up in a safe, loving home, we would have safer neighborhoods, reduce teen pregnancy, gang membership, addictions and mental health problems. CASA's mission is to raise our voices against violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change. We would love to be invited to your neighborhood meeting to tell you more about how to reduce domestic violence.

Linda Osmundson is Executive Director of CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse). She may be reached at 727-895-4912; www.casa-stpete.org, PO Box 414, St Petersburg, FL 33731; info@casa-stpete.org.



CASA
Community Action Stops Abuse

CONA Committee Reports

CONA Leadership – Ingrid Comberg

The 21st Leadership class will be attending programs on Effective Meetings, Our Vision for St. Petersburg and Quasi-Judicial Hearings. 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. At the end of May they will celebrate the completion of their program with a Graduation Dinner and Ceremony.

Land Development & Historic Resources – Judy Landon

The locally-landmarked Henry Bryan House is slated for relocation and there are 3 potential parcels now identified. CONA will be asked to support a stay of demolition for the two-story building (on an alley between Janus Landing and the Bishop Hotel) that originally housed the first blacksmith shop in the area.

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. Don't delay, join today.

Codes – Robby Thompson

The CONA Goals Retreat in March replaced our regular meeting. I look forward to meeting all who are interested in Codes and how that plays a role in every neighborhood. This is one department besides Sanitation that each neighborhood needs a contact and a reliable system to maintain more uniform compliance with codes regulations. Each neighborhood has their own unique issues that they require help with. The Codes Committee will be endeavoring to meet with codes department management and staff to assist with finding the best solutions to meet those goals. Anyone interested in this committee or has a codes issue, do not hesitate to contact me, Robby at 727-510-5087, or by email at rightspindle@yahoo.com.

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>

Nominating – Susan Heyen

We are still in need of someone to be secretary for our EC Board and General Membership meetings. Please consider helping out for the rest of our year. We are also looking for members for all the CONA committees and a Chairman for the Court Watch Committee.

Public Safety – Lisa Wheeler-Brown

Do you know that you can report a crime online? It is very user friendly and you will get a temporary report number after you click on the submit button. The types of crimes that you can report online are:

- Vehicle burglary, Criminal mischief, Theft, Lost property, Identity theft and Harassing phone calls

Once your report is submitted, it will be reviewed by law enforcement personnel. If more information is needed, you will be contacted by email. Check it out at www.stpete.org/police

Public Safety Tip of the Month

Have you signed up for Twitter Alert yet? If not, what are you waiting for? SPPD has been continuously using “twitter” to keep residents informed of what’s going on in our city and it is working! Want stay informed and get your tweets? It is very easy. Just create a twitter account, sign in and follow @stpetepd! \Be Safe!

Communications – Travis Jarman

The Communications Committee is continuing to gather requirements for Communications between and among CONA members and the public, and will begin evaluating various electronic tools in May. If you would like to contribute to the project please contact Committee Chairman Travis Jarman by email at cona.mail@bayway.org, or join us at our next regularly scheduled meeting at 9:30 AM on Saturday, May 4th at Mayster’s Café.

Newsletter – Barbara Heck

Thank you for the great articles. Please continue to send your articles in a Word document using Arial font and 11 point type. Deadline is the 25th of each month. In hand date is the second Wednesday of the 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

Audit Committee – Faye Jackson

(No report)

Court Watch – (open)

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

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

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

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

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

2013 CONA Membership list

Thank you to all those neighborhood associations who have paid their 2013 dues. Dues paid as of 3/20/13.

Azalea, Bahama Shores	Fossil Park	Mobel Americana
Bartlett Park	Garden Manor	Northeast Terraces
Bayway Isles	Greater Pinellas Point (GPPCA)	Old Southeast
Broadwater Civic Coquina Key	Harris Park	Riviera Bay Civic
Crescent Heights	Highland Oaks	Roser Park
Crossroads Area	Historic Kenwood	Snell Isle (SIPOA)
Disston Heights	Historic Old Northeast (HONNA)	St. Pete Preservation
Downtown Neighborhood Assoc. (DNA)	Historic Uptown	Uptown
Eagle Crest	Jungle Terrace Civic	Westminster Heights
Edgemoor	Lakewood Estates Civic	Wildwood Heights
Euclid/St. Paul	Maximo Moorings	
	Meadowlawn	

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

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - March 20, 2013

Call to Order:

President Kurt Donley opened the meeting and asked everyone to stand for the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

Neighborhoods: Bartlett Park, Bayway Isles, Broadwater, Coquina Key, Crossroads, Disston Heights, Downtown Neighborhood Association, Greater Pinellas Point, Harris Park, Highland Oaks, Historic Kenwood, Old Southeast, Riviera Bay, Tropical Shores, Westminster Heights

General Business:

President Donley presented a legislative update detailing his recent trip to Tallahassee to lobby for passage of three bills that are currently in committee. These bills deal with various Juvenile Justice issues. Given the environment in Tallahassee at this time, it is unlikely that any of these bills will pass out of committee.

Committee Updates:

Public Safety – Kurt Donley

April 3, The Suncoast Center at Greater Pinellas Point there will be a meeting about "The New Jim Crow".

Codes – Robby Thompson

- Trying to set up a meeting with Gary Bush.
- CONA will not participate in the Fund raising at the Honda Grand Prix this year, but will consider doing it next year.

Waterfront Master Plan – Will Michaels

• Mike Gulley reported for Will Michaels. CONA Waterfront/Pier Committee is closely watching and attending the St Pete Chamber of Commerce's Water Front Task Force. The Chamber, in conjunction with the City is in the process of raising \$125,000 to fund the Urban Land Institute's study that will be the basis for the Master Plan. For those interested, the task force meets the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 8 AM in the Chamber's offices. We need to pass the Waterfront Master Plan by 2015.

- The first general membership meeting of Sustainable Urban Agriculture Group will be held April 1 at 7 pm at the Coquina Key Community Center. Karl Nurse will be the speaker. CONA helped form this group.

Land Development and Historic Resources - Judy Landon

- The locally-landmarked Henry Bryan House is slated for relocation and there are 3 potential parcels now identified.
- Demolition is planned for a two-story building that originally housed the first blacksmith shop in the area. It is

located in an alley between Janus Landing and the Bishop Hotel. It has the potential for historic landmark designation and there is an existing 30-day stay in place.

o Motion: CONA was asked to request a stay of demolition from the city council until owners present permit plans that are acceptable for DCI zoning, so that adequate research can be conducted to determine if this facility is worthy of historic designation.

o Moved: Judy Landon, Seconded: Mike Gulley. Vote: Passed.

Neighborhood Sharing

Neighborhoods were asked to share their meeting schedules

Bartlett Park

- Meetings are 2nd Thursday of the month at the Frank W. Pierce Center.
- Ongoing training is held for citizens' patrol participants. People from other neighborhoods are welcome. There is also a community policing center at 642 2nd Ave S that people can drop information off at.

Coquina Key

- Meetings are 4th Wed at the Coquina Key Community Center at 7:30.

Downtown Neighborhood Association

- Next meeting is April at the Sunshine Center.
- Issues are enforcement of a noise ordinance and Williams Park.

Greater Pinellas Point

- Meetings are 4th Tuesday of every month at 7 PM at the blessed Trinity Church. The next meeting will include presentations by the Audubon Society and by city planners covering the redevelopment along 34th St. S.

Highland Oaks

- Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sanderlin Center.

SPAN (South Pinellas Area Neighborhoods)

- For the last year a coalition of neighborhood leaders from Lakewood Estates, Greater Pinellas Point, Broadwater, Maximo, Bahama Shores, Coquina Key and Bayway Isles have been working together to develop a vision for improving the Marina District (34th St S corridor from 30th Ave South to the Skyway). With the assistance of city Council member Steve Kornell and the support of Mayor Bill Foster the group has kicked off a formal redevelopment project for this stretch of highway. We have a city planner assigned and have begun to collect input from various constituents about how the redevelopment should proceed.

- Everyone is invited to attend the kickoff meeting on April 23, 2013 at 7 PM at the SPC Allstate Center, 3200 34th Street South.

Westminster Heights

- Meetings are the 3rd Sat at 10 AM at the Willis Johns Recreation Center. There is a meeting on April 2 with the Fossil Park Neighborhood Association that will have a presentation by an expert from Dolin's Garden Center who will provide gardening information.

- A Community Police Officer is needed. This request is being passed through CONA to the police department.

Old Southeast

- Plant Swap at Chattaways, Saturday, April 13, 8-11 AM.

Tropical Shores

- Next Meeting is April 13

Riviera Bay

- Please cheer them on as they participate in the illuminated night parade March 21 during the Grand Prix celebrations.

Historic Kenwood

- Next meeting is April 4 and will include a presentation about the Arts District.

- For details on the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt please visit their website at www.historickenwood.org

Broadwater

- Board of Directors meeting April 25 at the Research Center at 7 PM.

Crossroads Area

- Meetings are the 2nd Tues at St. Pete College Library at 7 PM. Last meeting included the Police Chief and an official from the Grand Prix.

Disston Heights

- Meetings are the 2nd Tue of Month at St. Pete Community Church, 30th Ave N and 45 St. N at 7 PM. Holding a children's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23 at Gladden Park.

Harris Park

- Next meeting is a BBQ on April 20th. Neighbors will be hanging invitations on doors. They will be running a survey about what the residents want the home owner's association to be doing as part of a campaign to increase membership.

New Business

City Councilmen Wengay Newton amplified Kurt's earlier comments about the lobbying trip to Tallahassee. The business meeting was adjourned.

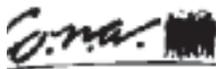
Presentations

Darden Rice, Immediate Past President of the League of Women Voters of St. Petersburg (LOWVSPA) presented "The People's Trash", a sneak Preview of a report to be released in April. LOWVSPA hired an expert to take a look at the facts surrounding recycling in a 10-page report. Key points are about Universal curbside recycling (UCR):

1. It is the "norm", not mandatory recycling
2. Recovers more tons than subscription based recycling
3. Can be cost effective
4. Creates revenue
5. Creates employment
6. Considered to be "the right thing to do"
7. Wanted by the public

The report also will include a comparative analysis with similar FL municipalities, their fees, recycling trends and environmental benefits. It will estimate over \$700k in revenue to the city but does not cover the loss of revenue to the county for the removal of fuel such as paper out of the incineration process, which currently generates millions per month in electricity that is sold by the county.

Meeting Adjourned



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

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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. Mark your calendars and then go !!! Additional details can be found on the city website at www.stpete.org

Mayors Night Out at 6 PM is a 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. Mayor's Night Out starts at 6 PM (Apr 11, Jul 18, Aug 8, Sep 5, Oct 10).

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.