

CONA Newsletter

The Future of CONA

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, the elections are coming, the elections are coming!

Many of our neighborhoods have common needs many have specific needs. What is at stake is the quality of life for all of us. CONA has held candidate forums for all the City Council Seats. The front runners for the primary (happening as I type) all support reinstating the neighborhood grants program, strengthening Codes Enforcement and investigating the use of civil citations to reduce crime recidivism and the unintended financial drain on our economy caused by criminal records for common minor infractions—and they all have significant leads in the polls over their competitors. The two mayoral candidates appear to be split on these issues one for, one against.

CONA does not endorse candidates but we do take up issues that affect one or all of us.

During the September meeting, I would like to have an open discussion about what we need our city to do better and then communicate those needs to the people who want us to vote for them.

So Neighborhood presidents please aggregate all your city concerns and bring them or send them with your authorized representative to this very important meeting.

I look forward to seeing EVERYONE there!

Also a Public Safety note in advance of the general meeting on Saturday September 14th at

11:00am we will have a joint CONA – NAACP Public Safety Meeting, location TBD

Kurt J. Donley
President CONA
Public Safety\Criminal Justice Chairman,
Saint Petersburg NAACP



CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, October 16, 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
The Future of CONA

September 18 – Next Regular CONA Meeting

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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.

Qualities of a Good Neighborhood Leader

Be Inclusive: It is important to include all of your neighbors, and not show partiality

Cultivate Networks of Relationships: Relationships do not exist in a vacuum. One person is connected through relationship to many others. Cultivating a relationship with that person, therefore, is like connecting with the entire "network" of relationships they have already developed. Cultivating networks of relationships, then, can be about building relationships with others who have specific expertise that might also benefit your neighborhood.

Delegate: Share responsibility (either through forming committees or asking individuals to take responsibility) Do not try to do it all yourself!

Assist others to develop their leadership skills: Help people to discover skills in service to the neighborhood needs. This way once it is time (for whatever reason) you need to step down, someone else will be ready to step up to the plate to keep the neighborhood going.

Communicate: particularly with those who don't attend meetings and events. Be sure to share information both about neighborhood activities and events.

Provide a Vision: This will keep people engaged and motivated.

Know your and your neighborhood's assets and limits: Build on your strengths and don't exceed your limitations.

Be a Learner: Acknowledge both your successes and your mistakes and use them all as ways to improve your leadership skills.

Appreciate and Celebrate: Thank people for the work they do and celebrate your neighborhood achievements.

Motivate Self and Others: When times are tough or slow you have to be able to motivate yourself and others to push through.

Relate to Others: Leaders have to present themselves in a way people can relate to and be considerate of others. This means not engaging in gossip and respecting other people's privacy.

Source www.lansingneighborhoods.com

Greater Pinellas Point Civic Association (GPPCA) Youth Summit Vision, Work, Results

One night, a few months ago, while Jodi Davis was sitting with her husband Bruce, their four children in bed, they found themselves discussing the issues associated with minority youth unemployment in South Side. It doesn't take much for the Davis's to go from idea to action. Her vision: An event aimed at youth, ages 14 through 18, with "how to's" on resume writing, preparing for an interview, understanding the pitfalls of social media, handling encounters with law enforcement, and much more.

The next morning Jodi was on the phone working to line up the resources needed for the Youth Summit; Mike Jefferis (Parks & Recreation Superintendent), Sisters Standing Strong, TASCOS, Florida Central Credit Union, Operation PAR, Westminster Suncoast, BB&T, CONA, and so many more there, is no room to note them all.

The Youth Summit registered 60+ students, and took place at the South Branch Library. Local business partners

supplied both lunch and breakfast along with "goodie bags" filled with supplies and surprises. Bruce conducted a fitness seminar, and along with their two oldest girls, snow cones were provided to the delight of the attendees.

Quoting Mike Jefferis, "Jodi Davis and her team were detail orientated, hardworking, and truly committed to the success of this amazing program. Jodi was able to see her Youth Summit dream from concept to reality, in an extremely short period of time. Jodi proved that with a little hard work and dedication, big impacts can be achieved."

The results could be seen in the attitudes and skill sets of the young boys and girls as they left. Jodi is already beginning to work on the next Youth Summit, and a number of other events aimed at improving the quality of life in the South Side.

CareFest 2013 - Saturday, September 28

Volunteers are needed for various home repair projects, painting, mowing, weeding, yard work and cleanups throughout St. Petersburg neighborhoods on Saturday, September 28, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by Somebody Cares Tampa Bay under the umbrella of CareFest USA, the annual week of compassion-related activities culminates with a day of service that gives back to the community, benefitting individual homeowners, schools and non-profit organizations.

CareFest activities are part of St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster's I C.A.N. initiative (Involved Citizens Active in Neighborhoods), to help disseminate and support effective, efficient volunteer efforts throughout the city and throughout the year. The city's Community Services Department is spearheading the day of service in St. Petersburg. To learn more, visit www.carefestusa.com and click on "Get Involved," "Search for a Project," then "St. Petersburg."

For volunteer information, contact Aubri Shauger-Haley, Community Services, 727-892-5141, or Chris Cahall, CareFest St. Pete Co-Chair, 727-743-5695. Volunteers and groups can also receive information via e-mail to ICAN@stpete.org.

Neighborhood groups, churches, school clubs, teams and businesses are invited to participate in a variety of one-day projects. On September 28, CareFest St. Pete 2013 starts and ends at Lake Vista Park with check-in and light morning refreshments at 7:30 a.m., followed by projects conducted from 8 a.m. to Noon. Once finished at their project site, participants are invited back to Lake Vista Park for volunteer recognition, lunch and entertainment between noon and 1:30 p.m. The event wraps up with CareFest organizers and the mayor presenting certificates to all volunteer groups.

Last September, more than 70 projects were completed thanks to more than 1,249 volunteers and 68 groups who participated in CareFest St. Pete 2012 -- representing the religious, business and collegiate communities and service agencies. Volunteer roles may include cleaning up right-of-way areas, installing community signs, building wheelchair ramps, and painting, handling minor home repair projects, yard and garden work.

CHRONIC NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Our city's current nuisance ordinances are based on state statutes and primarily focus on prostitution, drugs, graffiti, and gang activity. However can we can cast a bigger net and strengthen the response to repeat offenders similar to what West Palm Beach and Madeira Beach have done.

Criteria that has worked in other cities include:

- Police responding to more than 3 nuisance calls within 30 days;
- Police responding to more than 7 nuisance calls within 6 months;
- Failure to correct code violations in the time ordered by the court.

Prostitution, drugs, graffiti, and gang activity are violations considered to be nuisances, that list can be expanded to include:

Repeated violent crimes, animal cruelty, noise, loitering, criminal mischief, breach of the peace, and disorderly conduct.

We need to give SPPD and the Codes Compliance Department the tools necessary to correct the problems our members come to the neighborhood associations to get relief from. Lets discuss this amongst other things at the September Meeting. Judy Ellis at Lakewood Estates believes and I agree that there is scarcely a neighborhood, member or not, that would not benefit from being able to control anti-social activity this way. Judy cannot be at the September meeting, but would like someone to initiate the discussion that will get this thing launched, now is the time, as the city gets ready for changes.

Be That Someone!

Kurt Donley on behalf of Judy Ellis, Lakewood Estates.

CONA Committee Reports

Audit – Faye Jackson

No Report

Communications Committee – Travis Jarman

Your Communications Committee is pleased to announce the immediate availability of a 'direct to your inbox' public email news subscription service. Any member of the public (and CONA members, too) can sign up to receive copies of new CONA News Bulletins and Announcements without having to make a separate visit to our Forums website. Provide your name and email address at the link below - you can unsubscribe from the mailing list at any time with just a click.

Your email address will be kept private and will not be sold or used for other purposes. Visit the link below to register: <http://conaforums.org/email>

Subscribe now so you won't miss the latest news from CONA, and feel free to pass this information on to others who may be interested.

CONA Leadership – Ingrid Comberg

No Report

Codes – Robert Thompson

The Exec Committee is monitoring the Snipe Sign issue using the newest format for reporting -- seeclickfix.com on your smartphone! Go here to see an actual report: seeclickfix.com/issues/693713-other

Fundraising: We are working on a plan to dine out and get a percentage of your check donated to CONA. The details have not yet been finalized. But the prospect of eating and donating at the same time is tantalizing.

In other news, the Westminster Heights neighborhood has a new website developed by Jack Coletti of Lakewood Estates. We would like to thank Jack. Site is <http://westminsterheights.net/>

Court Watch – (Open)

CONA is looking for a Chairperson and Committee members. Please contact Sue Heyen at mimsue@tampabay.rr.com or 727-251-2224.

Energy & Environment – Tim Martin

No Report.

Membership – Tom DeMint

No Report

Nominating – Sue Heyen

We are still in need of committee members. Please help. If interested, please contact Sue Heyen at mimsue@tampabay.rr.com or 727-251-2224.

Pier & Waterfront Parks Special Committee – Will Michaels

The Committee has completed its draft recommendations for the Downtown Waterfront Master Plan (DWMP). They are available on the CONA Forum, and were also presented and distributed at the August CONA Board meeting.

The DWMP is intended to provide the first integrated vision for the city's entire downtown waterfront and its many uses. This includes first and foremost the Downtown Waterfront Parks, but also facilities such as the Pier, Albert Whitted Airport, the Port, Mahaffey Theater, etc. The plan will include guiding principles for future decision making, and will be used as guidance in considering future public and private development proposals and significant physical changes to the character of the downtown waterfront; updating of individual park and facility master plans; and future proposed waterfront capital improvement projects.

The City has contracted with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to prepare an initial report. ULI will utilize an Advisory Services Team of national experts to meet with a panel of community persons to obtain their ideas, concerns, and recommendations. The team has been tasked with reviewing a host of issues such as Spa Beach upland uses; improved connection of the waterfront to Mirror Lake and Williams Park; live performance spaces; future use of Al Lang Stadium; possible extension of Beach Drive to the south; etc. There will be a public forum September 9th at the USF Student Activity Center, 200 Sixth Avenue South (6:30PM). The Team will conduct interviews of selected community persons in late September. The actual plan will be drafted by a consultant who is yet to be named. There will be further opportunities for public input but they are not yet scheduled.

For more information contact Will Michaels at wmichaelscona@tampabay.rr.com.

CONA Committee Reports Continued

Public Safety – Lisa Brown

No Report.

Land Development & Historic Resources – Judy Landon

Still a busy time for historic preservation: 1) The Bishop Hotel is now an historic landmark 2) On 8/1, Council directed staff to initiate the landmarking process for the entire block of Janus Landing. No date has yet been set to go to the CPC. 3) The public hearing for the Endicott Building will probably be deferred. 4) The proposed revisions to the historic preservation regulations are still at the legal department. 5) The Washington-Harden grocery and the Moure Buildings on the 9th block of 22nd St S were landmarked on 8/16. Congratulations to these owners who sought landmark status,

Moving on to land use, the Central Avenue Revitalization Plan (CARP) was passed last September by Council, and now the means to implement part of the plan are going to the PVC on 9/3 at 4 pm with 1st reading by Council on 9/5. The public hearing will probably be in December, because County approval is necessary. Although the entire plan runs between 1st Ave N and 1st Ave S between Tampa Bay and Boca Ciega Bay, the current proposals cover the area between 19th St and Pasadena Ave. Higher densities than present, with an activity center overlay, are being proposed. If you would like to read the proposal, go to stpete.org/ldr, select PVC on the blue bar at the far left, then click on current agenda where there will be a link to the report.

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 newly 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	



SPPD Tip: Vacation Crime Prevention Tips

INTRODUCTION

Crime Prevention is defined as the anticipation, recognition, and appraisal of a crime risk, and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it. You can have a significant effect upon the security of your residence by taking a few moments to assess its weaknesses and a few more moments to take simple actions (many of which cost nothing but your time or a bit of physical exertion) to eliminate or strengthen those weaknesses. Whether you own your residence or are a tenant (either in the traditional sense or as a student residing in University residence hall or apartment housing) does not materially affect your ability to take action to prevent crime; if you rent, however, you must seek permission from the owner or agent for the property where you reside to make any permanent changes to those premises.

GENERAL GOOD PRACTICE

Experience has demonstrated three basic concepts repeatedly:

1. The appearance that an occupant is present and is attentive to the condition of the property is, in itself, a potent deterrent to would-be criminals, and
2. Physical security equipment is absolutely worthless unless used, and
3. The component in any security system most likely to fail is the human one.

Keeping your residence neat and clean, in good repair, and giving the appearance of being home (i.e. being in and out and active inside) is the first fundamental step toward preventing crime there. The second fundamental step toward home crime prevention is to be a good neighbor. Get to know your neighbors and their habits to the extent that you can recognize deviations from normal behavior (and they can do the same for you). Call the police when you observe a stranger behaving in a suspicious manner (loitering and observing, approaching multiple residences without apparent business, or removing property from a neighbor's residence). A cooperative neighborhood can increase everyone's collective home security with very little individual effort or time. A third fundamental step is to take prompt action to address maintenance problems affecting your security; report burnt-out lights, uncollected trash, graffiti, broken windows, defective security systems and other conditions which detract from the secure appearance of your resi-

dence promptly to the appropriate authorities for correction. Finally, make an effort to cooperate with and support your law enforcement provider. Introduce yourself to the officers who patrol your neighborhood; participate in organized security meetings and programs such as Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, or Neighborhoods Say Thanks; and ensure that your address is prominently marked on your home, apartment, or room.

SECURITY AND CONVENIENCE

Security and convenience are mutually exclusive; you can't change one without affecting the other. Security is never convenient, and convenience usually degrades security. Only you can decide what is the appropriate mix of security and convenience for you. Some of these decisions are "no-brainers"; whether to have a lock on your entrance door, for instance. Others are less obvious, and many are counter-intuitive. You have to THINK about security, and security needs to be one of your personal priorities. In University Housing and some rental properties, at least some of these choices have been made for you, and there are consequences should you avoid or defeat the security procedures and devices which have been installed for your and other occupants' protection. In a private residence, you and your family can choose to have as much or as little security as you are comfortable with. In any setting, choosing inappropriately can be very costly in terms not only of assets, but in personal injury. We urge you to give security careful consideration and ensure you make an informed decision.

ASSESSING YOUR HOME'S VULNERABILITY

In order to "harden your home", you have to learn to "think like a thief". Consider how a criminal might attack you, your home, or your belongings, and eliminate as many of the opportunities or vulnerable points as you can. When you've done your best, ask a trusted friend to try the same thing. When you've addressed any new deficiencies your friend points out, then consider asking the police department's crime prevention unit to provide a home security survey.

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - August 21, 2013

Meeting called to order by President Kurt Donley at 6:30 pm

The President then turned the meeting over to the League of Women Voters for the Candidates Forum, Districts 4 and 8. The moderator announced the candidates and explained the rules.

Candidate Forum ended at 7:40 p.m. and the president introduced City Councilman Steve Kornell who announced that the Broadwater Association has a chance to purchase part of the Rahall lands. Money will be available from the Weekie Watchee funds. Please call Steve with any questions or comments. Steve also announced that Mr. Shimshoni, who is infamous in the city, has gotten himself in trouble with the government over lead based paint violations.

Brian Sircusa from UPARC spoke about their benefit to "Help make a Difference in Someone's Life" that will be held at the Coliseum on September 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Will Michaels spoke on the development of the "Waterfront Master Plan" for our downtown water front and parks. He gave out handouts for all to take.

Judy Landon made announcements on:

1. If there is a change in the President of your Neighborhood please let Susie Ajoc at the city know.
2. The Bishop Hotel is now a National Landmark. Also various other buildings are approved for landmark status.

The President announced that we are in need of a Membership Chair. Anyone interested please let him know.

Also, the Sustainability Council will meet on August 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Scott Youngblood, the new representative, replacing Barbara Heck, for the Snell Isle Association introduced himself and was welcomed.

Meeting adjourned by President at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sue Heyen, Secretary

Metropolitan Planning Organizational Meeting

On behalf of CONA, Robby Thompson attended the August 22nd meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Eric Trull, a speaker from Tampabay Bike Share - Tampabikeshare.com - gave a brief presentation on this coming project. He stated the company is expected to start in Tampa downtown and at the University of South Florida campus. He further stated he has approached the City of St. Petersburg with a proposal for two outlets downtown. He expects to expand to the beaches all the way to Clearwater. He had on display a new bicycle featuring built-in electronics for payment and theft prevention. There is a solar panel at the rear and a generator on the front hub to keep it charged. The bike also is chainless and features a driveshaft for propulsion. Participants will be able to set up an account on a smart phone and pay hourly, daily, monthly or yearly. This concept is the same as the systems in Chicago, New York and Washington. Eric can be reached at eric@tampabikeshare.com.

Hello, US Postal Service! Anyone Home?

There was a near riot at the main post office on August 19th, when at 9:15 a.m., with a dozen people in on line, only one single, solitary woman was 'manning' the desks. Not only was no one else around, not only did no one come out to help when summoned, but an attempt to call the postmaster's office to ask for help went unanswered. The phone rang steadily for more than a minute or two but was never answered, and never went to voice mail. One of the more irate customers demanded to see a supervisor, and reminded all the weary people standing on line that they have to speak up, but the post office seems intent on its own self-destruction and nothing the public says or does is likely to have any effect. Perhaps we can be consoled by the fact that at one of the branch post offices in Berkeley, California, not far from the university, the average time to be served is so long they now have chairs, like a waiting room, with numbers, like at the deli. Forty minutes is not unheard of.

CONA 2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President

Kurt Donley - Grand Central
331-7373 - kurtdonley@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

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

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Travis Jarman – Bayway Isles
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Energy & Environment Committee

Tim Martin - Historic Kenwood
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Newsletter Coordinator

Judy Ellis - Lakewood Estates
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CONA Newsletter Deadlines

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



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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 *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 (Remaining date - Oct 10).

General Election: November 5! DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!