

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

December 2013

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

Thank You for a Great Year!

Wow what a difference a year makes. We went from a steady decline in membership and having the perception of possibly being an old white man's club to gaining members especially in underserved neighborhoods and having our first black president. No not me, I am proud to announce that I shall be succeeded by my dear friend Lisa Wheeler Brown who with all her national and state recognition is certainly coming into her own. I'm so proud and fortunate to have Lisa as a friend. She has a tough task ahead of her, to continue the work and progress we made making CONA inclusive and supportive for all neighborhoods and bring back the ones that felt uncomfortable with issues of the new neighborhoods being taken up. I'm sure she is up for the task; Lisa is army tough, though she will need our continued full support.

Looking back at some moments I'm particularly proud of: The amazing solidarity and unanimous vote for CONA to support raising awareness for the unintended consequences of the New Jim Crow Laws which have devastated many of our neighborhoods. That was a night I will remember forever. I was also very heart warmed by the September meeting when we all grouped together up front and had a frank discussion about what we needed the city to do better in the future. Once again we came together unanimously behind some very progressive ideas. Ideas that carried the City Elections. For the most part Rick Kriseman, Karl Nurse, Amy Foster and Darden Rice ran on our platform, one of strong neighborhoods, community policing and combatting the effects of institutional racism in St Pete and they won. St Petersburg's new city government is probably the most progressive in the history of Florida. I can't wait to see what they accomplish.

On that note with the new government comes new opportunities, I chose to narrow my focus to Public Safety as our chair, a role that I also fill with the NAACP and to some degree with St Pete Together and the Sustainability Council. I figure I can be more efficient and accomplish more good for our neighbor-

hoods with the new government during their honeymoon period if I narrow my focus to these important issues. To that end I am writing this last President's letter while in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. I am meeting with city officials and planners to discuss the steps they took to transform their city from being crime ridden with a large racial divide to what they have become. A safe, beautiful city without slums or a large socio-economic divide between races despite having a 46% ethnic minority population. Amsterdam has been rated year after year as the best City in the world to raise children. I figure we can use some of that here...

Some folks I want to call out a special thanks to: Barbara Heck - Secretary, Newsletter Coordinator, Friend, Big Sister, she did so much behind the scenes work (she is in Terminator mode trying to get this from me right now). Tim and Ali my vice presidents. April our retiring Treasurer. Robby always entertaining, Judy, whom I think wants to save every building ever made in St Pete, Will for his continued stewardship of our Waterfront, Faye always a calming influence, Sue Heyen for stepping up and of course Ingrid. The groups that we have partnered with Lenice Emanuel and the YWCA: Stand up Against Racism, Pastor Sykes and the NAACP, Lou Brown and St Pete Together, Rick Smith and Aaron Dietrich with Peoples Budget Review, Karen Coale and Rachel Garafalo with the League of Women Voters, Julia Hathaway with the Sierra Club, Brother John and the Child's Park Stop the Violence Coalition, Jodi Davis for all those GPP events she involves us in and Gypsy Gallardo with PowerBroker for extending our reach. Lastly, thank you Conrad, sleep well kind soul.

Oh, our next meeting will be a Pot Luck Social, though I have been assured we will still have the chocolate chip cookies. So bring a plate and warm heart.

I look forward to seeing you all! Thank you again, it was a pleasure working for you.

Kurt J. Donley, President CONA

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, December 18, 2013

The SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.
Doors open at 6:30 PM
CONA Meeting starts at 7 PM

Pot Luck Holiday Social - Bring a dish to share!
New Business - Neighborhood Sharing

Jan 15 - CONA Meeting and Installation of 2014 Officers

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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 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - November 21, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements from President

Explained CONA'S bylaws regarding elections
Explained how to make nominations and what committees are elected positions.

Committee Reports:

CONA Leadership: Ingrid reminded that CONA Leadership starts in January and she has applications.

CONA Newsletter: Barbara Heck thanked all the officers and chairpersons of Committee's for all their hard work and help they have given her in coordinating the CONA Newsletter.

New Business:

The president reported on a decision the City Council make to take \$4.5 million from the Neighborhoods and Parks and Recreation Plans to fund the new police station. He asked that CONA join with the Peoples Budget Review Board to send a letter, stating that there are better ways to get those funds.

A motion was made and 2nd to Co-sign the letter from Peoples Budget Review. The motion was passed by the Executive Committee.

The President reminded all that the December meeting is a covered dish so bring one to share.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Heyen, CONA Secretary

2014 CONA Officers and Standing Committee Chairs

Please welcome your 2014 Officers and Standing Committee Chairs. Because the slate is unopposed, they will be "received by acclamation" at our December meeting.

CONA Officers

President - Lisa Wheeler-Brown
1st Vice President - Michael Gulley
2nd Vice President - R. Ali Montsho
Secretary - Judy Landon
Treasurer - Faye Jackson

Standing Committee Chairs

Audit - (Open)
Leadership - Ingrid Comberg
Court Watch - Scott Youngblood
LD & HR - (Open)
Membership - Tom Lally
Nominating - Kurt Donley
Public Safety - Kurt Donley

2013 CONA Membership list

Thank you to those neighborhoods which have paid their 2013 dues as of 12/15/13.

Airport Advisory Committee	Eagle Crest	Meadowlawn
Azalea	Eden Isle	Mel-Tan
Bahama Shores	Edgemoor	MLK District
Bartlett Park	Euclid/St. Paul	Mobel Americana
Bayway Isles	Fossil Park	Northeast Park
Broadwater Civic	Garden Manor	Northeast Terraces
Causeway Isles	Grand Central District	Old Southeast
Central Oak Park	Greater Pinellas Point (GPPCA)	Perry Bayview
Child's Park	Harris Park	Ponce de Leon
Coquina Key	Highland Oaks	Riviera Bay Civic
Crescent Lake	Historic Kenwood	Roser Park
Crescent Heights	Historic Old Northeast (HONNA)	Snell Isle (SIPOA)
Crossroads Area	Historic Uptown	St. Pete Preservation
Disston Heights	Jungle Terrace Civic	Tropical Shores
Downtown Neighborhood Assoc (DNA)	Lakewood Estates Civic	Westminster Heights
	Maximo Moorings Civic	Wildwood Heights

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 forms and invoices are available at www.conastpete.org

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	

CONA Committee Reports

Audit – Faye Jackson

No report.

Codes – Robert Thompson

In Codes this month, we can begin to take a look at how the City of Madeira Beach, Florida has constructed the framework for their so called Chronic Nuisance Ordinance.

In Florida, state statute outlines powers allowed to be kept in ordinance relating to the reach of municipalities. All of this is described in full at Florida Statutes, Title XII, Municipalities chapter 166. And more specifically at 166.021 entitled “Powers”. These statutes are as provided by the State Senate but follow similarly in the Florida Constitution.

In the framework @ www.madeirabeachfl.gov Madeira Beach constructs the ordinance so as to attach “special assessments” which converts really to taxing when issuing ordinance citations. They make these assessments equal or above in rank to all other levies against a property so as to assure they follow the property when or if it changes hands or ownership. The levying authority is found at F.S 197.3632 for municipalities.

The framework outlines what the city of Madeira Beach considers is a chronic nuisance by writing that it consumes more of city services and is a threat to general social welfare and further specifies 33 different articles that can be considered a nuisance. They describe when it becomes a “chronic” nuisance and the procedure to declare the property as such to invoke the provisions of their ordinance.

Next month, we will look further at the constructs and delve into the procedures to correct.

Communications Committee – Travis Jarman

The new CONA Forums are up! If you haven't yet registered for the Forums you are missing out on much of CONA's communications with our membership. Sign up now at the link below:

- <http://conaforums.org/register>

We are also pleased to announce the immediate availability of a supplemental ‘direct to your inbox’ email news subscription service. This enhancement to CONA Forums means that you can sign up to receive copies of new CONA News Bulletins and Announcements without having to make a separate visit to our Forums website. You can sign up at the link below – and you can unsubscribe from the mailing list at any time with just a click. This subscription is open to the public and CONA membership is not required.

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

Welcome to another outstanding group of future community leaders who have signed up for our 22nd Neighborhood Leadership Program. Our classes start in January and are held twice a month with graduation in May

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

Attention all CONA members: CONA would like to thank you for your loyal commitment to your neighborhood and our city. As our city develops and adjusts to the many current and upcoming changes, it is more important now than ever to not only renew your membership, but encourage others to join CONA. Together we can be the change we would like to see. To renew your membership online, simply visit www.conastpete.org and click on the membership invoice. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tom DeMint via e-mail at tjd1@aol.com or by phone at 727-647-4239.

Nominating – Sue Heyen

The slate for CONA's 2014 Officer and Board Members was presented at the November meeting. Since there was no opposition to any office, the slate will be approved by acclamation at the December CONA meeting and those Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons will be installed in January.

Downtown Waterfront Master Plan Committee – Will Michaels

First Night & First Airline Centennial Celebration December 31, 2013: “First Night/First Flight”

Programs: This year's First Night Celebration will have as its theme the Centennial of the World's First Airline. On New Year's Day, 1914, the World's First Airline was launched in St. Petersburg. The airline was called the St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line and flew trips twice daily between St. Petersburg and Tampa. First Night will celebrate both the New Year and the Centennial in a variety of ways. Festivities will begin with First Kids venue at 4PM. Kids can do hat and mask making—aviators' caps and goggles should be at the top of the list. There will also be a Second Time Arounders' Musical Petting Zoo and Art in Flight projects from the Morean Center for Clay, and from Creative Clay. First Kids will finish with the “Procession of Flight” soaring down to the waterfront at 7PM, led by the Mount Zion Drumline and Color Guard for the Bubble Stomp and the First Fireworks. There will be Luminous Flight sculptural lanterns, glass etching, and flight based clay creations at Williams Park. Plan to

join the Dragon Procession to the Waterfront at 10PM. While you are making your art you can listen to a mix of rock, pop, and experimental music.

New Year's Day, 2014: Re-enactment of the First Flight. On New Year's Day there will be a reenactment of the First Flight of the First Airline using the reproduction of the first airliner, the Benoist 2014, built by Kermit Weeks of Fantasy of Flight. The flight will takeoff from the Yacht Basin near the History Museum in St. Petersburg at 10AM and land at the seaplane basin at Peter O. Knight Airport in Tampa. The Mayors of St. Petersburg and Tampa will participate along with other special guests. The public is invited. Ceremonies will get underway at 9AM.

Public Safety – Lisa Brown

As 2013 come to a close, I am looking forward to 2014! There is still a lot of work to do and together we can do it! Make a resolution for 2014 to become more active, encourage someone else to become more involved and let's make St Petersburg a safer place for us all! Merry Christmas and Have a Happy New Year!

Land Development & Historic Resources – Judy Landon

The Central Ave Revitalization Plan is being reworded to address comments the City has received from the County. This Plan is tentatively scheduled to go before Council on December 19th. City staff will be holding meetings with affected neighborhood associations, first with the neighborhood Presidents and then the general membership.

The Old Southeast and Uptown revised neighborhood plans will go before Council on the evening of December 19th.

The boat ramps at Crisp Park and on Coffee Pot Bayou do

not meet safety and engineering standards, therefore the City pursued a Florida Boating Improvement Grant to replace them. The grant has been awarded, and work will begin first at Crisp Park early next year. Coffee Pot Bayou improvements will also commence later.

The following are updates from Derrick Kilbourne, St Petersburg Planning and Historic Preservation Department.

The new historic preservation (and archaeological) regulations have been determined to require the approval of the Community Preservation Commission rather than the Development Review Commission. (This was based upon the judicial opinion in the case of the Detroit Hotel). The City has now clarified its code. The new regulations should go before CPC in January, then to the Pinellas Planning Council, and on to Council.

The City staff wants to hold off on the Janus Landing designation until after the new regulations are in place. They will hold a general meeting for owners prior to the designation going to Council.

There is a new ordinance which combines the Community Preservation Commission and the Planning and Visioning, which will go before Council 12/5 and 12/19. If passed, it will go into effect in February. The new name will be the Community Planning and Preservation Commission (CPPC).

The Downtown Waterfront Master Plan will not go before Council this year. The City is holding off for the benefit of the new mayor and Council.

Derrick has set up his department's own page on the City website. Just go to www.stpete.org/LDR choose "Current Projects", and select the project in which you have an interest. as the Grayl's Hotel, and will not be demolished.

CONA 101 – Tips to help your Association be even more successful in 2014

Reach out to the Community. Get your neighborhood involved and plan your meetings to get residents involved. Try different events and programs. Discuss government impacts or current issues. How about problem solving or fund raising events? Make your events family friendly events. Have a child friendly space available while parents attend meeting. Remember, good communication is the "key" to increasing attendance.

Keep the momentum going. Here are just a few ways to keep residents engaged and improving their neighborhood. Start ongoing events & multi-month projects. Make these multi-generational events. Get kids, parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins involved. Look for special youth and community service projects.

Where do you find members? Do not let geographical boundaries limit your search for members or projects. Expand your age limit. Young adults and seniors can become *great* and very helpful members. Remember to network, network, network. You can find members through family, friends, associates, church, sports, etc. Network – go meet your neighbor.

Plan for continuity. You have worked very hard for your neighborhood. Now it is time to turn it over. Build on the passions of your members. Mentor and praise them. Increase their responsibilities. Continue your outreach . . . and start all over again ! ! !

Florida-Friendly Landscape (FFL) Program for Community Associations

Is your community association interested in learning how to improve plant health, create attractive, low maintenance and functional landscapes, protect the environment and possibly save money?

The specialists with the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program provide a free on-site landscape evaluation, a detailed recommendation report with fact sheets based on research results, and presentations at association meetings. Sponsored by Pinellas County, Tampa Bay Water, the St. Petersburg Water Conservation Office, and the University of Florida/IFAS Extension, the FFL Program evaluates the following landscape elements:

- Overall design, selection and placement of plants
- Problem plants, such as diseased trees and invasive plants
- Irrigation system design and operation
- Nutritional deficiencies and the application of fertilizers
- Pest and disease issues and pesticide use on the property
- Pruning practices



Utilizing the resultant recommendations, communities can improve existing or write new lawn, irrigation, stormwater pond, and landscape maintenance contracts that incorporate water quality and water conservation best management practices.

To get started with this popular Program, please contact Doris Heitzmann at 727-582-2422 or dheitzmann@pinellascounty.org Making of St. Petersburg, will moderate.

REBATES UP TO
\$100



St. Petersburg Toilet Rebate Program

- Rebates of up to **\$100** for each high flow toilet replaced by a low flow model using 1.6 gallons per flush or less.
- Open to St. Petersburg single family, multi-family, and commercial water customers.

Make Every Drop Count!

Call today to learn how to qualify for the Program

727-893-7676



Available for a limited time; restrictions and specific procedures apply.

Any toilet purchased before ~~05/05~~ eligible for a rebate. Customers must call to check eligibility and receive an application prior to toilet purchase.

This program is cooperatively funded by the City of St. Petersburg and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.



Dive into the Water Wise eSplash!

Since 2011, St. Petersburg's electronic newsletter **Water Wise eSplash** has kept subscribers up-to-date on watering restrictions, public presentations, water conservation programs, and educational and outreach events. Short articles provide tips on drought tolerant plants, new conservation practices and technologies, environmental protection practices, and other timely topics.



**st.petersburg
water resources**



Tips for a Happy and Safe Holiday



During the year-end holidays, people are often busy, excited and sometimes a little bit careless.

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even for a few minutes.
- Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store gifts before you go away on a holiday trip.
- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house or apartment appears to be occupied.
- If you take a holiday trip away from your home, have some interior lights activated by an automatic timer. Have a neighbor or family member watch your house, pick up the mail and newspaper and park his or her motor vehicle in your driveway from time to time.
- Participate in Operation Identification and mark your valuables with a unique identification number.
- Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used, if contributions are tax deductible, etc. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with an identification number and record new serial numbers.
- Test your smoke detectors.
- Use only fire resistant ornaments on a holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good working order. Don't leave the lights on overnight or when you are away from home.
- If you have house guests, advise them of your security precautions and make sure they follow them.
- Avoid leaving boxes from purchases (especially TV's, VCR's, computer, etc.) out on the curb for trash pickup.

Shopping

- Shop before dark if possible. Possibly coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Lock your packages and gifts in your vehicle's trunk. Keep your vehicle's doors locked and windows closed.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible.
- To discourage purse-snatchers, don't overburden yourself with packages. Have your purchases delivered whenever practical.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated. They should never go into a parking lot alone.

**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 - lfjx@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 Gully - Coquina Key
244-8374 - jmichael.gully@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
barbara@theheckhouse.com

CONA Newsletter Deadlines

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**

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Dear Neighbors,

I am writing to thank you, both for your activism and involvement during the recent election and for your patience as we begin the transition from one administration to another. Because of a dedicated transition team and the support Mayor Bill Foster and his team have provided, I am confident that the transfer of power on January 2 will be seamless.

As I stated throughout the campaign, the Council of Neighborhood Associations and neighborhoods throughout St. Petersburg deserve a responsive City Hall. My administration will be committed to working closely with CONA to improve all aspects of life in St. Petersburg.

I look forward to visiting you soon and wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Mayor-elect Rick Kriseman