

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

January 2014

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

New Year, New Things

I first want to give a heartfelt thanks to Kurt Donley for taking on the task of being CONA's president for 2013. I know that it wasn't easy, but thank you for hanging in there and doing your best! Your work was appreciated!

I also want to thank the members of CONA! If it were not for you, CONA would not exist. Thank you all for not giving up and walking away when the times became tough. The tough times are when we need to stand together and work together until we get our desired outcome. I look forward to working with you all again in 2014!

I must say that I am so excited to be the President of CONA for 2014! I see great things happening! I am looking forward to focusing on CONA's mission statement:

- Unite existing neighborhood organizations dedicated to protecting, improving and promoting their area and to foster the formation of such organizations
- Provide training to and guidance for neighborhood leaders in marshaling resources to better their community

- Expand the pool of skilled and motivated neighborhood and community leaders

- Promote communication and cooperation between member organizations and the community at large

- Provide a forum for member organizations and act as their advocate with the City of Saint Petersburg and other local, state, and federal government agencies and officials

We have a new Mayor who has stated that he wholeheartedly supports CONA and is looking forward to working with us. That alone is exciting!

I know that we all have our differences, but we cannot let those differences hinder what CONA can truly be, UNITED we stand, DIVIDED we fall. Let's move St. Petersburg forward TOGETHER!

Lisa Wheeler-Brown
President

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, January 15, 2014

The SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.
Doors open at 6:00 PM
CONA Meeting starts at 6:30 PM

Installation of 2014 Officers
Committee Reports
Neighborhood Sharing

Feb 19 - next 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.

2014 CONA Officers and Standing Committee Chairs

Please welcome your 2014 Officers and Standing Committee Chairs.

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 - Marlene Murray
Leadership - Ingrid Comberg
Court Watch - Scott Youngblood
LD & HR - Judy Landon
Membership - Tom Lally
Nominating - Kurt Donley
Public Safety - Kurt Donley

Neighborhood Home Solutions

Since 1980, St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. now doing business as **Neighborhood Home Solutions (NHS)**, has helped thousands of families in Pinellas County and other counties in the Tampa Bay area. NHS holds the prestigious designation as a HUD APPROVED HOUSING COUNSELING AGENCY. All NHS housing counselors are certified and meet all requirements of National Industry Standards. They are professionals and experts in housing counseling and related services. They go the extra mile for their clients and provide one-on-one counseling for the service provided.

NHS counselors are here to assist those in need of the following services:

- Foreclosure Intervention Advocacy
- Homebuyer and Homeowner Education
- Financial Fitness Education
- Education to Avoid Predatory Lending
- Fraud and Identity Theft Education

Emphasis in this issue is on **Mortgage Foreclosure Intervention Advocacy**.

As part of the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program, NHS is able to provide free foreclosure counseling services to all residents of Florida. Difficult times do not discriminate so help is available to all income levels and all backgrounds.

If you are currently behind in your mortgage, you are probably being inundated with junk mail and telephone calls from people and organizations claiming they can help you. **There is no need to pay a private company for these services. Don't Delay. Contact us today. Please share this information. We are here to provide FREE HELP!**

Call 727-821-6897 or visit www.nhsfl.org.

CONA Membership list

Thank you to all our 2013 members. It is time to re-up for 2014. Please send in your 2014 Membership dues. Go online at www.conastpete.org to fill out the form and mail with your check (CONA) to PO Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-13693.

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 – Marlene Murray

No report.

Codes – (Open)

No report.

Communications – (Open)

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://conforums.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://conforums.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 – Scott Youngblood

No report.

Membership – Tom Lally

Please send in your 2014 Membership dues. Go online at www.conastpete.org to fill out the form and mail with your check (CONA) to PO Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-13693.

Nominating – Kurt Donley

No report.

Downtown Waterfront Master Plan - Will Michaels

No report.

Public Safety – Kurt Donley

No report.

Land Development & Historic Resources – Judy Landon

This is information from Derrick Kilbourne at St Petersburg Planning and Historic Preservation dept.

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.

2014 CONA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ANNUAL DUES \$35 -

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

Association Name _____
Annual Election Date _____
Meeting Time & Date _____
Meeting Location _____
Boundaries _____

Households _____ **# Residents** _____ **# Members** _____
Website _____

President Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

CONA Representative _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

CONA Alternate _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Bulk Mail Permit (Optional) – Annual Fee \$15
Mailings per Year _____
Newsletters per Mailing (200 Minimum) _____

Crime Watch Contact _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Have you completed a **Neighborhood Plan**? _____
Have you completed / implemented a **Traffic Calming Plan**? _____
List your neighborhood issues that need help from CONA _____

Discover St. Pete's Hidden History

St. Petersburg Preservation's guided walking tours take guests on a detailed tour of downtown St. Petersburg and beyond. Participants see the jewels of St. Pete's past while learning about the founding of St. Petersburg and its historic architecture. You are sure to have fun with our experienced tour leaders including SPP President Peter Belmont, former St. Petersburg Times journalist Jon Wilson, preservationist Emily Elwyn and others!

Our regular tour season extends from October to April with approximately 2 hour tours offered on Saturday mornings starting at 10 A.M. You can also typically catch a 1 hour lunch time tour on the first Friday of the month during the tour season. With the warmth of the summer months, evening tours are offered on special tour dates. Please check our calendar for tour dates or send a message to us at info@stpetepreservation.org asking to be put on our email list which includes notices of upcoming tours.

We are happy to offer a variety of unique tours, including the Original Downtown Historic Walking Tour (first Saturday of the month during the tour season), the Waterfront Tour (second Saturdays), a Historic Neighborhood Tour (third Saturdays), and the Westward Ho to Historic Kenwood Tour (fourth Saturdays). And yes, if there is a fifth Saturday in the

month, we will be there with another special or new tour!

The Downtown tour on the first Saturday of the month starts next to the historic Detroit Hotel and in front of Cafe del Mar at 243 Central Ave. The starting location for the Waterfront Tour on the second Saturday is in front of the Saturday Morning Market on 1st Street & 2d Ave. S. (in the grassy area just north of the Market music stage). The starting spot for the third Saturday Historic Neighborhood Tour varies, depending on the neighborhood visited (check our calendar for details). The Historic Kenwood Tour on the fourth Saturday starts at Craftsman House, 2955 Central Ave.

Tours are free to members, for others, a \$5 donation is requested, which may be applied toward membership if you join that day. Reservations are not required. For information on upcoming tours and to verify starting location or other details, call the SPP event line at (727) 824-7802 or check out the SPP calendar at www.stpetepreservation.org/calendar.

If you have a group, St. Petersburg Preservation will be happy to schedule a tour tailored to your group. Just call (727) 824-7802 and leave us a message or send an email to info@stpetepreservation.org.

Upcoming Tours

Saturday, January 18 - 10am - 12pm

Saturday Morning Historic Walking Tour – North by Old NE
Meet at 243 Central Avenue

Saturday, January 25 - 10am - 12pm

Saturday Morning Historic Walking Tour – Westward Ho to Historic Kenwood
Meet at Craftsman House Gallery - 2955 Central Avenue

Saturday, Feb 1 - 10am - 12pm

Saturday Morning Historic Walking Tour – The Original Downtown Walking Tour
Meet at 243 Cafe del Mar - Central Avenue

Go to www.stpetepreservation.org for more information.

Riskiest Places to Use Your Credit Card

Even if you use the utmost caution, you can still be a victim of credit card fraud. Credit card companies and banks are more and more often putting the onus of catching phony or incorrect credit card charges on the consumer.

The most important thing is to check your billing statement, of course. And there are organizations like Creditcards.com that offer tips on how to keep your cards safe as well. Here, we take a look at 10 of the riskiest places you might use your card, according to Creditcards.com, and what you can do to avoid the dangers.

Non-Bank Owned ATM's

Encryption at these ATM's is often not as good as at bank ATM's, meaning some locations are just not as safe. These ATM's also are more likely to be hacked. And in some cases, people have put up devices that look like ATM's but don't give out cash. Instead, they are just card-skimming devices aimed at stealing your credit card or debit card information.

Flea Markets

Flea market merchants are often transient and can be difficult to locate if there is a problem with charges. It's especially true for vendors who don't have online credit card terminals and instead make carbon copies of your credit card. That doesn't mean those vendors are necessarily fraudulent, but it makes the transaction less secure. The credit card company might have trouble doing a charge back. If you're going to the flea market, take cash. It's also easier to negotiate that way.

Small shops/cafes in foreign countries

These smaller merchants have a significantly higher percentage of credit card fraud as reported by large banks and credit card companies. Many of these transactions end up being written off by the banks because the merchants simply can't be located. There's just a higher chance of fraud when you get outside of the mainstream, so when in doubt, use cash.

Non-secure online checkout

General common sense. Any safe, reputable e-commerce site is going to have a secure checkout page. If that little lock logo doesn't appear, it should be a red flag. You can almost be sure it's not legitimate, and even if it is, you're opening yourself to that transaction being seen by others.

WI FI Hotspots and Public Computers

If you're going to be making online transactions over an unsecured wireless connection like in cafes, parks and other hot spots, data can be compromised or seen while in transit, even if you're on a secure page while you're checking out. The same goes for public computers like in libraries. It's not advisable to ever transmit personal data when you're on a public connection environment, especially on non-secure wireless.

Recurring Bills/Subscriptions

Instead of using automatic billing, ask to be billed on a one-time bill by bill basis instead. When you use your credit card for purchases that involve weekly, monthly or annual billings, you can encounter the headache of over-billings, continued billing once a subscription has ended, etc. Some less-than honest merchants will use automatic billing in hopes you'll forget and won't check your credit card statement.

Purchases on smart phones

Purchases on smart phones can also be less than secure. If your smart phone connects to a public WI FI signal, you're going to be much less secure. Someone else can potentially see the transaction, or malware can be placed on your device that can potentially transmit your personal information.

Unsolicited Email Offers

Unless you've signed up for solicitations from particular companies, be wary. Check the URL in the e-mail. If it looks suspect, don't click on it. You can always contact the company through their official Web site to confirm the legitimacy of the offer.

Strange or Foreign Domain Extensions

If you're going to be shopping online, it's best to stay with sites that use a .com extension, and be sure they have a secure checkout. With extensions for countries outside the U.S. — like .ru for Russia — use caution and make sure the company you're purchasing from is actually located in the country depicted in the domain extension.

- Suspect Swipe Terminals - If there's something that looks suspicious at an ATM or a gas pump credit card swipe terminal — like a separate stand-alone device for you to swipe your card through — or something looks like it's been added onto the terminal, think twice about using it. More often than not, those types of add-ons are put there by criminals so they can steal your credit card information.

**CONA 2014 EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

President

Lisa Wheeler-Brown - Wildwood
565-7756 - lisa@conastpete.org

1st Vice President

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

2nd Vice President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit

Marlene Murray

CONA Leadership

Ingrid Comberg - Disston Heights
894-3048

Court Watch

Scott Youngblood

Land Development & Historic Resources

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

Membership

Tom Lally

Nominating

Kurt Donley - Gulfport Marina District
331-7373 - kurtdonley@msn.com

Public Safety

Kurt Donley - Gulfport Marina District
331-7373 - kurtdonley@msn.com

Immediate Past President

Kurt Donley - Gulfport Marina District
331-7373 - kurtdonley@msn.com

OTHER CONA COMMITTEES

Codes Committee

open

Communications

open

Energy & Environment Committee

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

CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Due 25th of each month
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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

CONA Remembers . . .

Gary Bush, 1950 – 2013. Gary was our City Codes Director and worked with many of our neighborhood associations over the years. He was in ill health these past years. Gary will be missed.

CONA thanks . . .

Mo Eppley and MityMo Design. Thank you for teaching us and guiding us and doing an exceptional job “fitting” in all our articles and extra items. You are a dream to work with and always have a smile even when we are being “difficult”.

Rose and Advanced Printing and Graphics. Thank you for finding ways to meet all our printing deadlines and making our newsletter look great.