

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

February 2014

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

From the President

First of all I want to say thank you to all of you who came out to the January 15th General Board Meeting! It was a record turn out! I was so happy to see so many neighborhoods represented there, it lets me know that you all still believe in CONA!

The February board meeting will be held February 19th at the Sunshine Center. The doors will open at 6:30 P.M. and the meeting will start promptly at 7 P.M. Please show out in record fashion again as we still have some election business to attend to. Presidents, if you cannot attend the meeting, please make sure that your authorized representatives are there. In order to conduct this business, we must have a quorum. The two committees that we will be voting on are Public Safety and the Nominating Committee. David Roman and Kurt Donley are running for the Public Safety Chair and Marlene Murray and Kurt Donley are running for the Nominating Committee Chair.

I'm still waiting on nominations for the Citizen of the month. I know that you all must know someone

who is well deserving of this award. Please submit the names to me before our March General Board Meeting.

Please be prepared to do some neighborhood "bragging" at the February meeting! We want to hear what your neighborhoods have been up to and what great things your associations are planning!

Thank you to all of the associations who have paid their dues as of now. As a gentle reminder, please send in your \$35 dues today. Add \$15 to the check if you want to use the CONA postage permit for bulk mailing. Application forms and invoices are available at www.conastpete.org.

Remember UNITED we stand, DIVIDED we fall! Let's continue to work together to move our City forward!

Lisa Wheeler-Brown
President

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 2014

The SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.

Doors open at 6:00 PM

CONA Meeting starts at 6:30 PM

Committee Reports
Neighborhood Sharing

March 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.

Mayor's Action Center

The Mayor's Action Center is a service through which citizens may request many City of St. Petersburg related services, both by phone and online. Under the new leadership of Mayor Rick Kriseman, the Mayor's Action Center will increase its visibility in the neighborhoods of St Petersburg, while at the same time continuing to offer assistance in such areas as:

- Streetlight and sign repair
- Seawall repair
- Graffiti removal
- Tree trimming or removal (when in the right-of-way)
- Clean-up and blading (smoothing) of alleys
- Sidewalk, curb, and pothole repairs
- Street sweeping and sewer line maintenance

The staff of the Mayor's Action Center will be a liaison between citizens and the City Departments handling all these issues and many more. Call 727-893-7111 between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday for information and assistance.

Inquiries may be made online via the Action Online section of the StPete.org website. Visitors to the Action Online site can connect anonymously, or set up their own accounts that can be used to track the progress of the requests that have been submitted.

If you happen to be out enjoying all our beautiful city has to offer and see a situation that needs to be addressed by a city department, take a photo, email it to Action@StPete.org along with a description and the location/address, and let the Mayor's Action Center take action for you!

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 Herenden 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

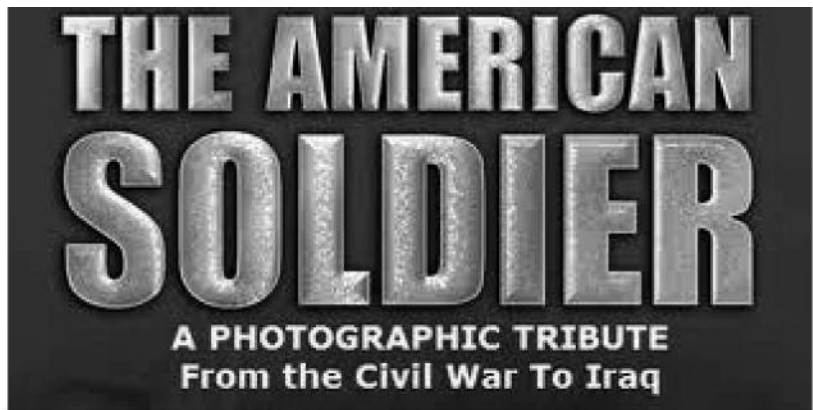
Mayor's Action Line 893-7111
SPPD (non-emergency) 893-7780
FL Abuse Hotline 800-962-2873

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

St. Petersburg
Museum of History
Where Yesterdays Come Alive Everyday



“THE AMERICAN SOLDIER EXHIBIT”

MARCH THRU END OF JUNE 2014 AT THE ST PETERSBURG MUSEUM OF HISTORY



The courage, camaraderie and human drama of U.S. servicemen and women in action is captured in 116 pictures chosen for a unique exhibition entitled:



The American Soldier – A Photographic Tribute to Soldiers and Marines.

It assembles images taken from the earliest use of photographic apparatus to today’s digital cameras, and covers Americans in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, Boxer Rebellion, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq.

This tribute is traveling the United States and is currently displayed at the LBJ Presidential Library.



To help sponsor this world-class exhibit contact:

**Scott Macksam,
Maj (R) USA
Smacksam99@gmail.com
Cell: 813 504 3092**



CONA Committee Reports

Communications – 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://conafortums.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://conafortums.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

Energy & Environment – Tim Martin

Campbell Park/Booker Creek Cleanup, Feb 22

Join us on Saturday, Feb 22 from 9am-noon for another cleanup day along Booker Creek in Campbell Park. A few years ago CONA was awarded a \$5,000 grant to plant native plants along the creek there. We're now partnering with the Suncoast Sierra Club and are going back to do some weeding, trash removal, and other general site maintenance. We can use your help. The city will provide tools and trash bags. Bring gloves and waders if you're interested in getting in the creek (that's not a requirement though!). Refreshments will be provided.

Hope to see you there!

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.

Land Development & Historic Resources – Judy Landon

There are three items under Historic Preservation this month:

1) North Ward School (327-11th Ave N) is being sponsored by Historic Old Northeast and St Petersburg Preservation. It is going before the Community Planning and Preservation Commission (CPPC) on 2/11/14, then to Council for its first hearing on 2/20/14. It will have its public hearing on 3/6/14.

2) City staff is working on an African-American Heritage Trail to be located at 22nd Street South and on 9th Avenue South. This is made possible with a \$50,000 grant from the Florida Department of State. The city intends on installing interpretive markers. The deadline for final completion of the project is this June. City staff will be looking to do more projects like this in the future

3) The new Historic Preservation ordinance will go before the CPPC within the next few months.

The St Petersburg Times is applying for a change to the Future Land Use Map for two parcels at their printing facility – one on 34th St at 13th Ave, and one behind a consignment shop at 17th Ave. The current designation is industrial, and the applicant wishes to change that to Community Commercial Suburban. Staff is recommending denial, unless the two parcels can be connected (preferably by bringing in the consignment shop as a co-applicant). The Planning and Visioning Commission approved the change for both parcels. This went before Council on 1/23/14 and if approved will go to the County before the Pinellas Planning Council on 2/12 and the Community Planning Authority on 3/18.

Mobile Food Trucks are back, again. This issue has already been before the Development Review Commission, and will go before Council within the next few months.

The Downtown Waterfront Master Plan final report by the Urban Land Institute will have been released by the time this newsletter goes out. The deadline for the Request for Qualifications has passed. There will be a Selection Committee weighing the merits of the qualified consultants, to come up with a ranked short list for Council. Council will approve the ranking on 3/6, and will negotiate with the top-ranked firm to produce a contract to go before Council 4/6.

The above information came from Derek Kilbourne of Historic Preservation, who is always helpful and very knowledgeable. Contact him at 893-7872 if you need further information.

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 _____

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - January 15, 2014

The meeting was divided into two distinctive parts.

FIRST PART started at 6:37 PM

I. Ballots were passed out. There were 18 voting representatives in attendance, a quorum. After the voting ended, Sue Heyen and Travis Jarman counted the votes.

II. The neighborhoods' expectations for CONA were shared. Lisa Wheeler- Brown ("Lisa") asked what could be done to make CONA stronger.

- A. Tom Lally of Greater Pinellas Point Civic Association stated that CONA should do something exciting. It should send the City a priority list.
- B. Judy Ellis noted that the Tampa Bay Times was erratic in reporting the neighborhood meetings.
- C. Lisa Ledbetter (Police Department) has announced that the forfeiture grants will start again this year.
- D. Lisa said that Executive Committee members have committed to go to one neighborhood association meeting per month, as liaisons to associations which used to be CONA members.
- E. Scott Willis of Northeast Park Neighborhood Association stated that topics of interest bring people to meetings. Scott wants help from CONA with park improvements. He wants neighborhood grants to return.
- F. Bahama Shores (Will Michaels) is concerned about flood insurance, and Bahama Shores blight along 62nd Ave N (Skyway Mall).
- G. Tom Tito of Bartlett Park believes that CONA should focus on grants and informing the neighborhoods of these opportunities.

III. Lisa reminded those in attendance to sign up for CONA Forums. Travis Jarman will be bringing a tutorial to the next meeting. The forum site is admin@conforums.org.

IV. CONA needs a volunteer to put together its newsletter. The Executive Committee looked into ways to bring in funding. Comments on newsletter problems and solutions came from the floor:

- A. Snell Isle is looking into sending its newsletter by attachment to an email.
- B. Ingrid Comberg informed the attendees that the newsletter should include information on the neighborhood associations, not just what can be read elsewhere. CONA needs a committee of three putting together tidbits to give to the newsletter editor.

C. Euclid/St Paul sends quarterly postcards on events with a lead to their website, where the newsletter may be found.

D. Ali Mantsho, Tom Lally, and Judy Landon will serve on a task force focusing on funding for the CONA Newsletter. Ali is looking into a city wide CONA newsletter, including information on all neighborhoods, with ads. CONA has permission to place newsletters at the libraries. Ali will also be asking businesses if we can distribute newsletters at their establishments.

V. Robby Thompson brought a motion at the Executive Committee that Codes should be a standing committee, and renamed Codes and Sanitation. The proposed amendment will be included in the next newsletter.

VI. Lisa wishes to bring back the Citizen of the Month.

VII. The results of the vote were brought in and are as follows:

Lisa Wheeler-Brown	President	Yes
Mike Gulley	First Vice-President	Yes
Ali Montsho	Second Vice-President	Yes
Faye Jackson	Treasurer	Yes
Judy Landon	Secretary	Yes
Judy Landon	Land Use & Historic Pres.	Yes
Marlene Murray	Audit	Yes
Ingrid Comberg	Leadership	Yes
Scott Youngblood	Court Watch	Yes
Tom Lally	Membership	Yes
Kurt Donley	Public Safety	No
Kurt Donley	Nominating	No

Kurt Donley contested the results because there was no one else running for the Public Safety and Nominating Committees. He did not believe that a no vote was acceptable under those circumstances. Kurt wondered if everyone who voted was qualified to do so. Marlene Murray, a parliamentarian, said that CONA could vote on these positions, again, in February.

A motion was made to open up nominations to fill the Public Safety and Nominating Committees. Along with Kurt Donley, David Roman volunteered for the Public Safety Committee and Maureen Murray volunteered for the Nominating Committee. There was a move to vote for the 2 standing committee chairs until next month. This passed. The vote will be a secret ballot. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES continued

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - January 15, 2014

SECOND PART began at 8:05 PM.

Elected officials at the meeting were acknowledged: Councilman Carl Nurse, Mayor Kriseman, Councilwoman Darden Rice.

There was a prayer, and then the officers and chairs were sworn in by Mayor Kriseman.

The Mayor, followed by Mike Dove, spoke for several minutes about the neighborhoods.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

Is My Child Too Young For Crime Prevention?

Ofc. Chip Wells, St. Petersburg Police Department

It is never too early to start teaching children basic safety skills. Each day, we face opportunities where we as parents can use them to teach our children. I like to refer to them as "educational opportunities". These "educational opportunities" could be something you and your children observe together when you are at their school, the park or just sitting at home enjoying your favorite television show. At the moment you observe this "educational opportunity," stop and explain to your child what you are observing. Once it is finished, ask them to explain what they saw and what they think about it. Ask them what they would do in that situation. The answer they give will allow you to explain the positives or a "better" solution to the problem with an explanation why.

Children learn information in a number of ways. The more we as parents use all the senses; eventually we understand how our children learn best. Here are some things you can start teaching your child at a young age:

- Never answer the telephone. Do you really want an unknown person hearing the voice of your child or asking them questions? Use the words, "let it ring, let it ring, let it ring" moving your head side to side. Children like to learn through sounds, hand signs and any other examples that make it a fun learning environment.
- When someone knocks, a child should never go to the door without an adult. A person could try to get them to open it. A better suggestion is to have the child stay in another room, so if the adult feels they need to open the door, the unknown person would not see the age of the child or know they live there
- Teach them what an emergency is and when and how they should dial 9-1-1. Explain how we never dial this number unless we have an emergency and need the police and/or fire departments or an ambulance. Show them where on the telephone the numbers are. If you have a play telephone, have them practice on it.
- Teach them to keep the doors shut and locked. This will become an action they do without having to think about it. You can make it fun when explaining the reason and say to them, let's practice. "Keep the door shut and locked" while clapping your hands to make the sound of the door shutting and then using a turning motion with your hand to demonstrate turning the deadbolt lock. After a few repetitions, use your front door and as the child shut and locks the door, say "shut" as they shut it and "lock" as they lock it. Applaud their effort for positive reinforcement.
- Teach children to always ask for permission before they go anywhere. It is difficult to make a child understand "strangers" when the majority of perpetrators are people known to them.

A child's brain is always learning. Although life can have areas of gray, to a child they are black and white. We must continue to educate, lead by example, and communicate openly about all areas of safety. By starting at a young age, our children will always know they can ask you questions and you will provide them answers.

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit

Marlene Murray
murrayx2@verizon.net

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 - Greater Pinellas Point
867-6419 - TLally57@aol.com

Nominating

Open

Public Safety

Open

Immediate Past President

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

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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 Kudos . . .

Congratulations to Will Michaels of Bahama Shores neighborhood association, who was appointed by Mayor Rick Kriseman as the Commissioner on the Community Planning and Preservation Commission!