



Neighborhoods Strong

A Publication of the Council of Neighborhood Associations - Fall 2014

Great Neighborhoods Make Great Cities

As mayor, I promised a strong commitment to the neighborhoods of the Sunshine City. I recognize the importance of our neighborhoods, which provide the essential core of what makes any city great. I have said it many times, "great neighborhoods make great cities." If you love where you live, others will come.

There are many parts that make neighborhoods attractive. All of our neighborhoods should provide opportunities for recreation, make residents feel safe, have access to all our city services, and be recognized for their unique attributes. Many of our neighborhoods already have those characteristics and are known locally, regionally, and even nationally.

Unfortunately, many of our neighborhoods are not as strong, and I am committed to improving them. That is why I have focused on providing the necessary resources to improve those

neighborhoods where people do not feel safe, or where the housing stock contains blighted and boarded houses, or where we need to "fine tune" the attractiveness and identity of them.

My budget contains new and expanded resources for doing just that.

But the most important thing for each of you – neighborhood and business associations, CONA members, and you personally – is to be an active participant. Great neighborhoods are created by the great people who care about them. Where there are strong organizations, we see less crime, more participation in social activities, more attention to issues that need to be addressed and more success in creating a "vibe". Neighborhoods that are active are more social, safer, tend to have higher property values, and attract more people who want to live there. We need you as our partner. The City needs your eyes and ears. CONA can help spread



that message and serve as a resource for new neighborhoods and new ideas.

Join your neighborhood or business association, join crime watch, participate in social events, and report issues as soon as you see them. Join us in being creative and help make us a city of Great Neighborhoods.

Join CONA today.

CONA Leadership 2015 Registration Underway

Registration is underway for the CONA Leadership Class of 2015. In its 23rd year, the CONA Leadership Program was established to provide a base of knowledgeable and talented individuals to serve in leadership roles in their neighborhoods and community.

November 15th is the deadline to apply and thirty individuals will comprise the class beginning January 12th. Classes cover topics such as city and county governments, diversity, effective meetings, media communications, the

police department, and a mock quasi-judicial hearing. Classes take place on Mondays from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at locations throughout the city.

During the course of the program, students will meet many of the people who shape our local government, as well as influential community leaders. Participants will learn of important resources to achieve neighborhood goals, address issues effectively, and becoming successful advocates for their communities.

Tuition for the program is \$125 and tuition is often paid or subsidized by neighborhood associations.

For an application, stpetecon.org and click on the **CONA Leadership** tab. Phone calls for info should be directed to Ingrid Comberg at 894-3048 or Tom Killian at 343-2041.

Register Today!

Strengthen your Neighborhood

Advocate for a Healthy Neighborhood – Results-Based How to Guide is Dr. Ed Carlson's recently published book, rich with ideas and inspiration to strengthen our neighborhoods, seven contributors, including three Mayors, Director of Neighborhoods, CONA President and more!

With 42 years of neighborhood advocacy in Jungle Terrace Civic Association, Dr. Ed has tackled significant neighborhood issues like taking on major developers and land owners to stop unwanted development, as well as converting an abandoned airport into Walter Fuller Park – a crowned jewel in our city's park system.

In 1985 he worked to create an Arbor Day celebration in his neighborhood that has grown into the Green Thumb Festival, drawing over 40,000 attendees and giving the gift of a wonderful plant and gardening festival to the citizens of St. Petersburg.

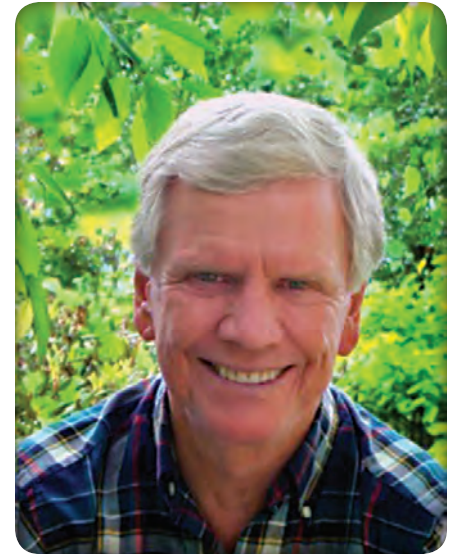
Admitting that volunteer neighborhood associations are unique, he states, "Rarely do neighborhood associations have lots and lots of members, lots and

lots of volunteers, and lots and lots of money. The Hearty Few get the jobs done." He coined the phrase, "Volunteer Time is Precious" and believes in recognizing volunteers.

Dr. Ed believes in the strength of an association's board to make critical decisions for a neighborhood. He espouses the benefit of leadership continuity in a neighborhood association in working with the City's leadership. He doesn't present an issue without simultaneously presenting several options for resolution.

Dr. Ed will speak at the November 19th CONA meeting. His book is a must-read guide to being an effective neighborhood and neighborhood association, a critical element, as we all know, of a healthy city. If you're not a CONA member, join now!

Dr. Ed Carlson's book can be purchased at corehealth.us/resources/self-assist-physical-books/ for \$20 plus shipping.



**Dr. Ed Carlson of
Jungle Terrace Civic Assoc.**

**Meet Dr. Ed Carlson
at CONA's regular
meeting on Nov. 19th.**

**Join CONA and
receive a free
copy of his book!**

Join our Neighborhood Coalition



Increase the effectiveness of your neighborhood association through involvement and membership in CONA. CONA is an action group uniting neighborhood organizations, promoting effectiveness of groups and the marshalling of resources.

CONA dues are \$35 annually. Member organizations can have an additional benefit of using CONA's bulk mail

permit (great for membership mailings) for an added \$15. And organizations are encouraged to sponsor another neighborhood's joining CONA by paying \$35 for their dues.

For membership information for your organization, email Membership Chairman Tom Lally at tlally57@aol.com or visit stpetecon.org.

Neighborhoods Strong

President's Letter By Lisa Wheeler-Brown

It is so exciting to have the CONA Newsletter back! A very heartfelt thank you to Kathy Murphy Posey of Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Association for volunteering to be the editor of our newsletter!

I would like to thank all of the associations that have continued their membership with CONA and to thank all the new ones who have joined. We invite you to use the newsletter as a vehicle to let others know what is going on in your neighborhood by sharing your events or just to brag!

This is truly an exciting time for CONA; we have established an excellent working relationship with our city's Mayor and Police Chief and with the department heads that provide the services that all of us depend on to keep our neighborhoods safe and clean.

What can CONA do for you?



CONA President Lisa Wheeler-Brown with St. Petersburg Chief of Police Anthony Holloway at the Sept. 17th meeting of CONA.

Photo by David Roman, Euclid St. Paul's Neighborhood Assoc.

See Click Fix Makes Issue Reporting Easy



Reporting neighborhood issues like illegal snipe signs or flooded streets became easier with the adoption of SeeClickFix (SCF) by the City of St. Petersburg. Residents can now report neighborhood issues via a smart phone or online at the seeclickfix.com/st-petersburg. And SCF allows issue reporting anonymously or not.

SCF also allows browsing of all issues in your neighborhood or city letting you check on the status of a report made. Since its adoption by the city in August, over 4300 users, watch areas, reports, comments and issues have been logged in St. Pete. After making a report, you'll receive a reply that your report has been forwarded to the appropriate city department to address your issue and then a follow up from the department regarding resolution.

One user reported trash dumped in an alley and received a comment back two days later from the Sanitation Department that it had been picked up.

She replied that more trash had shown up. Sanitation returned and picked it up and then replied that they had reported the location as a chronic dump site to the police department's environmental detective as well – all done through an app on a phone.

Visit seeclickfix.com/st-petersburg and use this valuable tool in improving the quality of neighborhoods. If phoning in is your preferred method of communications, call the Mayor's Action Center at 893-7111.

“Neighborhoods turn around and stay strong only when they are organized. They are the best voice to hold local government accountable.”

Councilman Karl Nurse



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Stay in Touch with CONA

Staying connected to CONA is easy via CONA's website stpetecona.org and our discussion board at CONA Forums conaforums.org

CONA is also offering a new 'direct to your inbox' email subscription service. By signing up to receive this service, you'll be emailed CONA news messages and announcements, without having to make a separate visit to the CONA Forums site. You won't be inundated with messages as

there are generally only several per month and this is a one-way service so no back-and-forth discussions. Each message includes an unsubscribe link. Not limited to CONA members only, everyone can take advantage of this valuable resource. Signing up is easy, just click on this link or visit this web address to sign up for email service. conaforums.org/email

Coming Up @ CONA

Oct. 15th – David Flintom, Director of the Mayor's Action Center, will speak on the adoption of SeeClickFix by the City to report neighborhood code violations and issues online, as well as activities of the Mayor's Action Center

Nov. 19th – Dr. Ed Carlson, author of Advocate for a Healthy Neighborhood: RESULTS-Based How-to Guide and Jungle Terrace Civic Association activist will speak. Also CONA Nominating Committee will report the 2015 officer and committee chair nominees.

Dec. 17th – Annual CONA elections.

CONA meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at the Sunshine Center, 330 Fifth Street North in Downtown St. Petersburg. Doors open at 6:30 pm with refreshments and networking; meeting begins at 7 p.m. Neighborhood sharing and committee reports are monthly agenda items – bring your neighborhood actions or find out how other neighborhoods handled a similar problem. Info from CONA members lets your neighborhood cut right to the chase. Meetings are open to member organizations and all South Pinellas County neighborhood association leaders.

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