



Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter

March 2012

NEXT GENERAL HRPNA MEETING:

Thursday,
March 29th
7:00 to 8:00 P.M.

At
All Children's
Hospital
Continuing
Education
Center
701 4th St. S.



**COME AND
ELECT
A NEW
BOARD**
*Your vote
counts!*

Quarterly President Review...

The St. Petersburg Free Clinic is an amazing place. It's been around for 40 years. The clinic provides temporary assistance to those requiring help with basic needs such as food, shelter, medical care and limited financial assistance and referral information. I think of it as a "bootstrap" for important people in our community.



At our January community meeting Debbie Skolov the clinic's director of development discussed, to the larger than usual group attending, what the Free Clinic does and how it works. Several folks were visibly moved by what they heard and wanted us to become involved with the clinic. The group decided that we should encourage our Roser Park neighbors to bring non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to our monthly porch parties for me to then deliver to the clinic. In late April (some Saturday) we will have the opportunity to tour the clinic with Debbie. Watch for more info on that later.

Recently, to my surprise on my front porch appeared a very large garbage bag. At first I was thinking who would put their garbage on my porch. After a while looked in it and saw on top many rolls of T-paper (foods stamps don't

cover the purchase of that important item – would you believe – as Debbie noted at our meeting) and food items as well. It was heavy. I had forgotten about this donation as I wasn't able to attend the Feb. porch party. I quickly delivered them to the clinic for distribution thru their pantry.

I hope we will continue this and make it a tradition at our porch parties (next one March 24th at Joe and Susan Chilberg's home). You can view the clinic's wish list at to <http://www.stpetersburgfreeclinic.org/get-involved/wish-list> and check out more information about the Free Clinic as well.

Note: Our March 29th community meeting is important. It's when we elect a new board of directors. If any of you would like to consider serving on it, give me a call for more information. We have very efficient meetings for an hour or so each month. Call me at 813-417-1225. And please attend the meeting and vote. We will also hear a report from our community policeman, Council Karl Nurse and a representative of the City's Codes Department.

Larry Biddle

President, Historic Roser Park
Neighborhood Association

**Don't miss your opportunity
to make a difference!**

**Attend the meeting to cast
your vote!**

**Or better yet,
VOLUNTEER TO BE ON THE
BOARD!**



Lets Talk Trash!

Submitted by Patti Hohman

Roser Park is indeed a beautiful and unique neighborhood but sometimes this beauty is impaired by street litter, discarded furniture and household items and unattended lawns. However, each of us can do our part to eliminate these problems.

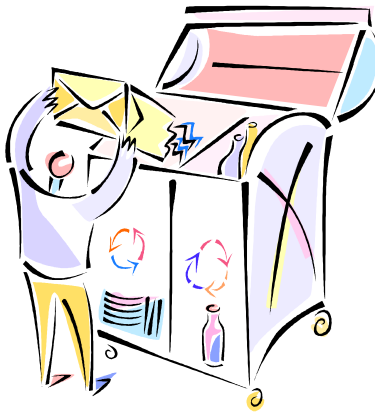
- Take 5 minutes a week to pick up any litter in front of your property.
- Take advantage of free services offered by St. Pete:

Report a Code Violation

Phone: 727 893-7373 Fax: 727 892-5558

Example: Overgrown lawns (See website for a full list of violations)

Bulk trash pickup: 727 893-7398



Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Representative

by Robert Coonrad

Given the nice presentation at the last HRPNA by the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon representative, I volunteered for the the Health Expo/Registration at the Trop on Friday, the weekend of the event. I was disappointed that only the Kenwood N.A. was listed as a group to be affiliated with, so just signed on as an individual. Got a nice T-shirt and goodie bag for volunteering. I manned, with two other volunteers, the table that revised running times from what was originally assigned and therefore altered their respective starting positions. We were to revise moves up rather than down. The diversity of the entrants and the cordiality to us as volunteers were 2 items that I was impressed by. St. Petersburg was the second event in what will be a series of events across the nation through the year that includes our "home" town of Portland, Oregon in May. The lead manager of the event told us that the B-52's entertained at the first event held in Phoenix, Arizona. The 'Burg got "Flo Rida". All in all it was a great event and put St. Pete on the map again!!

De-Construction of a Hospital

Won't all the neighbors be glad to see this project finished!??



Photos by Carolyn Pavonetti and Kai Warren

Events Meeting

by Catherine Nivens

A meeting was held in February to discuss whether, as a neighborhood, we should continue to have events and if so which events.

The meeting had a wonderful turn out and was very productive. It was decided that we will continue to have an Arts Festival and Tour of Homes, however, the format will change and have more focus on the history of Roser Park.

Three new events suggested were:

- An annual Halloween Tour of Greenwood Cemetery

- Guided tour of Historic Roser Park
- An annual yard sale

The following suggestions were presented:

- Combine the Art Festival and Tour of Homes, limiting the number of homes and artists
- Include Tour of Roser Park Park with the Art Festival &/or Tour of homes
- Include a Garden Tour.

Details of the current and proposed events will be further discussed at the Community Meeting in March.

However, due to the simplicity of having a Neighborhood wide yard sale it was decided to start now! The First Annual Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Wide Yard Sale will be Saturday, April 14th. The event will be advertised in the Tampa Bay Times, Neighborhood Times and Craigslist. Whoever would like to participate, just have your sale items in front of your respective homes and let the selling begin!

Thanks to all who attended!

Catherine

The Roser Park Odyssey

by Sue and Matt

Perhaps odyssey is a bit over-the-top, but it took us ten years to become Roser Parkers. In 2001, our daughter, Sara, and her then fiancé, Trey McDonald, bought an 'as is' house in Roser Park, 822 8th Avenue South. Matt and I had already been drawn to St. Pete in the two years that they rented a house on 10th Avenue North. The city was just the right size. As a New Yorker, I was accustomed to city life, but hated the traffic, the crowded streets and stores, and the snow. St. Pete has the culture without the stress. When Sara and Trey told us they had bought a house in Roser Park, we were a bit perplexed. In our two years of visiting, we had never seen this neighborhood. (I've since discovered that many longtime St. Pete residents hadn't either!)

We knew that the house needed lots of work, but really didn't wrap our minds around how much until our first visit after they moved in. The kitchen floor was plywood, painted a lovely bright aqua, and had a huge hole with a grating over it. The guest bedroom had a huge shelving unit across an entire wall populated by a variety of wood and some unusual objects. The room was bubblegum pink. The backyard was owned by an enormous bougainvillea that reminded me of the plants in Little Shop of Horrors. The siding was a dingy white vinyl, but the 'bones' were great and it was set on a hill, with an incredible front porch with elephantine pillars. I loved it immediately. Little did I know that it would take over seven years of Sara and Trey's lives and all of our 'holidays' in St. Pete.

The second time we visited, the guest

bedroom was unrecognizable. It had become a Moroccan retreat, sans shelving unit. Everything was scrubbed clean, and the yard was getting tamer. In the ensuing years, a privacy fence was added, the roof was replaced, the kitchen floor was put in, a closet to house the new air handler for the new heating and air conditioning system was built by Trey and his dad, and we all painted, painted, painted. Matt became a professional sander, and he completely tamed the bougainvillea, which eventually lost its battle and was removed. The wounds it inflicted on his arms and chest with its thorns are still remembered, at least by me.

Eventually, with lots of their money and even more sweat equity, termite damaged wood floors were replaced, as were windows (thanks to Trey's perseverance and skill), insulation was added, and real built-ins were built in. The outside now sports clapboard and shingles that are historically accurate, and the landscaping, with the able guidance of Michael Manlowe, is Florida natural and xeriscaped.

The renovation would not have been possible without Kai Warren's generosity and knowledge of historic homes. He lent them his tools, patience, and time. For example, in addition to teaching Trey and Sara how to replace the windows, he helped Trey repair the retaining wall, replace the water line, and prepare for hurricanes. He also patiently taught Sara how to install a kitchen sink and countertops, and how to rip wood using a table saw.

Unfortunately, as soon as the house became a home rather than a work in progress, it was put on the market.



While all of this activity was going on, Matt and I were welcomed with open arms by this wonderful community. We were made to feel part of Roser Park from the outset, honorary neighbors. We learned about porch parties and progressive New Year's Eve parties, tours of homes and art shows. I was becoming quite sad about the prospect of not having Roser Park, the house, and the people here in my life any longer, when the bottom dropped out of the real estate market. I was ambivalent, but felt relieved. Well, to make a ten year long story short, today (2/28/12) Matt and I became Roser Park homeowners. When we drove up to the house this afternoon, I realized I may always think of it as Sara and Trey's house. Some of the neighbors we'd grown to love have moved away, but the people who have moved in are so like the ones who left. It's kind of like Brigadoon, an enclave of people who are diverse but alike in many ways.

So, we came here via a rather circuitous route. Until now, I never really got to know a neighborhood and its people before living there, but I have to say this is the way to do it, and I have to thank Sara and Trey for the introduction and all of you for the warm welcome before we even lived here.

Joe's car is representing Roser Park in this year's 2012 Grand Prix Illuminated Night Parade, Thursday, March 22nd at 7:30 p.m. We hope neighbors will volunteer to walk with our banners along side Joe's car (he's likely to have a cute flapper in the passenger seat, too). If you want to join in, call Larry at 813-417-1225. Likely a wine thing will take place after, don't you know.



Joe Chilberg in his homemade 1965 Shelby Cobra Kit Car

Attention Neighbors!

Anyone who is interested in hosting a neighborhood porch party . . .

Contact Larry Biddle:
larry@planningworksonline.com
to sign up!



Meeting Location:
All Children's Hospital Continuing
Education Center
701 4th St. S.

E-Mail:

Larry Biddle, President
larry@planningworksonline.com

Newsletter Submissions:
Carolyn Pavonetti
carolyn@pavonetti.com

We're on the Web!

www.roserpark.net

Non-emergency police	893-7780
Community Police Contact – District 1.....	551-3181
Auto theft unit.....	893-7080
Narcotics tip line	892-5000
City Code enforcement	893-7373
Mayor's Hotline	893-7111
County Animal control	582-2600

City of St Petersburg – service request: <http://www.stpete.org/action.htm>

This newsletter is published quarterly. If you would like to submit an article or ad, contact Carolyn Pavonetti via email: carolyn@pavonetti.com



HRPNA Newsletter Committee
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