



Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter

THE GENERAL HRPNA MEETING

Thursday,
September 18th
at 7:00 P.M.

Resource Center
1001 4th St. S
St. Petersburg

www.roserpark.net

Fourth Quarter • September 2008

Quarterly President Review...

I believe the time has come when we must all join together to improve the safety and the appearance of our yards and the easement between our property lines and streets. (Note: we are officially responsible for the look and care of those areas.) The choices we make about safety and the way our properties look are critical because: (1) we want to live in a safe neighborhood; (2) we don't want to live where the neighborhood is looking forgotten and unkempt.

Several of our neighbors have taken up this challenge and I appeal to the rest of us to join them – in whatever way possible. Every Sunday morning (at 8:30 a.m.), Michael Manlowe and Brian Bailey are cleaning, chopping, grass-cutting, picking up trash, trimming bushes, etc., along 9th Ave. S and 8th Str. S. and intend to do the same on other Roser Park streets. Nick and Carolyn pick up trash as they walk their dog. Catherine and Michele do the same. I have been picking up trash as I walk Harriet. Linda Newcomb and Donna Young recently cleaned up the area in the park around the steps going up to the birdhouse sanctuary. They amassed an impressive pile of weeds, leaves and branches, and I could easily see how much better the area looked as a result of their labors. There are other neighbors I likely don't know about doing this work as well.

As for safety, we have a very active committee working to abate crime. This issue of the HRPNA newsletter contains extensive information about property protection, and about reporting suspicious or nuisance behavior and code violations. Taking responsibility for safety is all of our responsibility. Reporting violations is critically important for all of us to do — without hesitation. Already we are making progress as more and more police surveillances are taking place.

The more we are visible and active in making our neighborhood safe and looking cared for, the more all of us will feel Roser Park is where we want to live as a united yet diverse community.

Please read the newsletter carefully and get involved. Join in. Roser Park is moving forward, and I want us all to enjoy the benefits of living in a great neighborhood.

Larry Biddle, President, HRPNA



Message from CONA President Barbara Heck

FREE FORECLOSURE ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP

The City of St. Petersburg is sponsoring a *Foreclosure Assistance Workshop* at the Coliseum on Saturday, October 18th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with registration (free) beginning at 8:00 AM. There will be information sessions, lenders and banks on-site, credit counseling, utility assistance programs and affordable housing information. Representatives from Pinellas County, Clearwater and Largo will also participate in this special event.

If residents are currently in danger of foreclosure or think you may be and cannot wait until October 18th to get help, receive immediate assistance by calling one of these endorsed non-profit assistance agencies:

Tampa Bay CDC:	727-446-6222
Consumer Credit Counseling:	800 741-7040
Neighborhood Housing Services:	727 821-6897
Foreclosure Help Line:	888 995-4673

Safety Committee Report

By Michele Cardinal

Safety committee meetings are the second Thursday, quarterly. The next meeting will be January 8, 2009. If there are any safety concerns and /or issues that need to be addressed before this time, please feel free to email Michele Cardinal at hrpnasafety@gmail.com

NAT'L NIGHT OUT A HUGE SUCCESS!

The St. Petersburg Police Department showed up in-force with Chief Charles "Chuck" Harmon and Crime Prevention Officer John Harris, accompanied by Crime Watch Dog McGruff and the Canine Unit. Everyone enjoyed the burgers and soda and free neighborhood crime watch t-shirts and hats. Next year's National Night Out is August 4, 2009.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



Hurricane season is not over until November 30th. Think about putting together an emergency kit to include some recommended items:

- Water and food for a few days
- Can opener
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Local maps
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

There have been concerns with neighbors who are considered nuisances. Then there are neighbors who call the police and do not think the police are doing anything about them.

Well, neighbors, the police are doing something about it. Unfortunately, it takes time. In fact, the police really

appreciate neighbors who continue to call and follow up on nuisance neighbors because it provides them validation and justification to increase manpower in our area.

The city created the Nuisance Abatement Board in 1991. The Board can abate drug problems, prostitution or youth gang-related activities if there have been more than two instances within six months. The Board has been aggressive in closing properties in neighborhoods where these activities have occurred. Fifty-six (56) properties have been reviewed by the Board and 20 closed.

PHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER:

- Emergency 911
- Non-emergency 893-770
- Narcotics tip line..... 892-5000
- District 1 Community Officer's line..... 551-3181
- Code Compliance..... 893-7373
- Graffiti Hotline..... 893-7394 (remember: when this number is called the graffiti is immediately painted over)



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

- Fire Safety Checklist
- Install and maintain a working smoke alarm outside every sleep area and remember to change the battery at least once a year
 - Designate two escape routes from each bedroom and practice them regularly
 - Teach everyone the "stop, Drop and Roll" technique in case clothing catches on fire
 - Check all electrical devices for any damaged wiring

YOUR SAFETY COMMITTEE BLOCK CAPTAINS ARE:

- Michele Cardinal - Prospect Court
- Nick Pavonetti - 8th Street
- Jane Shaw - 8th Ave S
- Brian Bailey - 9th Ave S
- Tim Welby - 10 Ave S
- Will Engleby - 11 Ave S

Report Codes Violations

In an effort to clean up our area and make it more attractive for ourselves, visitors, and prospective new home owners, the Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Association urges you to report any code violations to the City. If you see litter or overgrowth in a yard, broken windows or anything else that seems unsightly, you can help by either reporting the violation online (www.stpete.org) where you report the address and problem with the property (they will give you a tracking number to follow up on the progress the city is making on your complaint and you can also report the problem by phoning 893-7373.



Roser Park Art Festival

November 8th and 9th

The artists are ready - the bands are booked! Are YOU ready? We need more volunteers than ever. Please call Catherine at 822-7582, or email nivensc@gmail.com with your availability. We have transportation from the Bayfront garage (a golfcart which needs a driver), our neighborhood tent, host homes, the Roser Park Dog Stand and a raffle. WE WILL NEED MANPOWER. Please join us for a fun weekend.

Also - MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Artists Appreciation/PorchParty, Saturday, November 8th - 5:00 pm. at Deb Camfferman's.



The View From My Porch

by Ron Motyka

Right now I'm looking at a rather ugly view of a royal palm stump in the park. Many residents and visitors to our park have commented on the appearance of the park this summer. Beds weren't mulched, weeded, and vines took over many of the areas. In speaking with parks, we understand that their budget has been cut. Also, Chan (our park's supervisor) tells me that they aren't fully staffed. Normally Mike Lockhart (main park worker) has three guys with him to take care of not just our park but thirty-seven other parks as well. Right now he is down to one person.



But, back to that ugly stump that so many have complained about. The good news is that it should be removed by forestry in the next couple of weeks. Unfortunately, the city can't get a stump grinder in to get the whole stump out so they will just have to cut it even at the soil line. If you are like me, you may wonder why they didn't do that in the first place. I questioned why the royal palm had to come out in the first place and was told it was for safety. The soil under the palm had eroded and the palm was in danger of falling. Because they can't get the old root ball out, we won't be able to put a replacement palm in its place. The good news is that they believe they have fixed the problem that caused those huge holes to open up in the park in that section. If you look at the creek wall you will notice that one of the pipes is now draining out the ground water into the creek.

It is not just our park that isn't looking its best lately either. Many commented on the weeds growing in the streets and sidewalks throughout our neighborhood. Why doesn't the City send the street sweeper through the historic areas more

than once or twice a year? The new walls (mine is the exception) have overgrowth hanging all the way down to the street. And just how long is that temporary Jersey barrier going to be stuck in front of Deb's wall. I thought that one of the benefits of going with the block construction of the rusticated walls vs the stamped and then pressed in place panels was the fact we could do simple repairs in the interim. Since I remember it being there during the last Art Festival let's hope that it will be gone before this year's Art Festival in November.



ART FESTIVAL SPECIAL CLEANUP

The Park's Committee is having a park cleanup on Saturday, November 1st beginning at 10:00. But Jane Shaw has graciously agreed to do our volunteer breakfast that morning before the park cleanup at 9:00 am. We promise to let everyone finish by noon. Remember we will have special dumpsters that weekend for all debris.

Our next park's committee meeting is at the home of Linda Clark on Sunday, September 28th at 4:00.

PORCH PARTY UPDATE

At Kathy Rodman's June porch party, the neighbors surprised Ron Motyka with a champagne toast at nine to celebrate his retirement from teaching (1975 -2008). Wonderful food, company, drink, what more could you ask for? Carolyn Pavonetti had designed a retirement card with Ron's picture on it puttering around in the garden (very appropriate). It was signed by the guests in attendance and presented to him. For once, Ron was speechless.

Beck and Michael Baugh's July Porch Party rocked the neighborhood, literally. The dancing fireman, live band, buffet with meat carvers and pasta makers

added to the festivities. Much excitement all night long, even after Michael collapsed from exhaustion. As Michael and Beck said on their invitations, "see how the entertainers entertain." And they did.

Very few people want to follow July's porch party. However, Michele and Catherine were up to the task. They showed off their new home improvements. Their outdoor deck nearly doubles their entertainment space and they have done some very interesting container gardening in their back yard. Next year, they will once again host the March porch party with green beer and leprechaun games! Can't wait.

September's Porch Party is hosted by David and Larry on Saturday, September 20th. See you there!

UPCOMING PORCH PARTIES

October will be at Brian and Dexter's home, November at Kris Caskey's (2 parties in Nov.), and the December event we will be announced closer to the month.

If you are interested in hosting a porch party in 2009, see Ron at the next porch party to sign up. Three of next year's spots have already been requested.



Meeting Location:

Resource Center
1001 Fourth St. S.
St. Petersburg, FL

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, contact Carolyn Pavonetti via email: carolyn@pavonetti.com

HRPNA Newsletter Committee
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