

The Heights

APRIL 2017



Disston Heights Civic Association celebrates 62 years

Since May 31, 1955 Disston Heights Civic Association has been there for you and your neighbors. You are invited to join us at our regular monthly meeting.

Disston Heights Civic Association

P.O. Box 41592, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-1592



Newsletter ad prices

Business Card

Ad: \$20

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All rates are for 12 months in the newsletter.

Contact pehuff@yahoo.com for more information.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 11

6:30 p.m. social hour, meeting starts at 7 p.m. sharp.
St. Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30th Ave. N

Guest Speaker: Dave Goodwin, Planning and Economic Development Director - City of St. Petersburg. The city of St. Petersburg's Economic Development Division is dedicated to supporting business retention, new business recruitment and business expansion to ensure St. Petersburg's prominent position as a vital economic engine within the Tampa Bay market.

Express Speaker: Representative(s) from Tyrone Square will provide updates on the changes that are taking place at the mall.
Meeting sponsor: TBD



Message
from the President

Happy Spring! Spring is seen as a time of growth, renewal and rejuvenation. Did you know April is National Volunteer Month? This month is dedicated to recognizing all the volunteers in our communities as well as encouraging volunteerism throughout the month.

How can we – the residents and business owners of Disston Heights – combine “growth, renewal and rejuvenation” and “volunteer/volunteerism” together in order to have a positive impact in our community? Well, there are lots of things we can do, and are already doing! For example, DHCA members, guests and friends helped a local resident clean up his yard during CareFest 2016. Today, DHCA-ers clean up garbage and debris around the many lakes

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Visit www.disstonheights.org for more information, including meeting minutes

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in our neighborhood as they want to maintain the beauty, serenity and peace that nature provides. And, we have other DHCA-ers who volunteer to keep their immediate surroundings safe by participating in Neighborhood Crime Watch initiatives.

But, we have to ask ourselves: Can we do more? Of course

we can do more!

The DHCA Board is comprised solely of volunteers who care deeply about making Disston Heights a fun, safe and desirable place to live and raise a family as well as run a business ... but we can't do it alone. We need your help! We encourage and welcome any and all DH residents and/or business owners, who also deeply care about their neigh-

borhood, to get involved.

Whether that means attending our monthly meetings to share ideas and learn what's happening in and around Disston Heights and our Sunshine City; picking up garbage that you may see while taking your evening stroll or walking your dog in the morning; keeping a watchful eye on suspicious activity in your neighborhood; or coordinat-

ing more "formal volunteer" efforts and events.

However you choose to volunteer, I am confident these good deeds will have a positive impact and make our community – your neighborhood – a great place to be!

Looking forward to "spring" – ing into action with you.

– Jennifer

DISSTON HEIGHTS BOARD

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Janet W Brooks, Realtor, GRI
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Plants, cheap and free, and more at the Green Thumb Festival

By Carolyn Edds

Spring has arrived and if you are thinking about sprucing up your yard, celebrate Arbor Day weekend by checking out the Green Thumb Festival, held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 22-23 at Walter Fuller Recreation Center.

Veteran attendees of this festival know to arrive early to get a close parking spot and to bring a wagon or cart to make it easier to tote back to your car all the plants you buy or get for free.

Many people look forward to

this annual event where you can get free mulch or free butterfly plants (limit of 500 plants given away each day), ask an arborist questions, enjoy some entertainment or attend environmental programs. More than 1,000 trees will be on sale for \$5 each.

One popular activity at this festival is the tool sharpening booth. Have a dull tool? Drop it off at this booth to get sharpened while you walk around and explore the various booths. Tool sharpening costs \$3 per tool. Many vendors will be there with all kinds of plants

as well as yard decorations. Look for the garden railroad display. Children will have the opportunity to climb a tree or attend other programs.

There will also be representatives from various city and county departments as well as organizations with information about how to conserve water while landscaping your yard, recycling, and the environment.

If you get hungry walking around the booths, head over to the food court to quench your thirst or grab something to eat.

On Saturday at noon, there will be a parade of decorated garden wagons. Decorate your wagon and enter the parade with a \$5 registration fee, if you register in advance. Registration on the day of the parade will be \$7. The best decorated wagon will earn the owner \$100. Second place wins \$75, third place wins \$50 and honorable mention earns \$25.

For more information about the parade (including a registration form) or the festival, visit <http://www.stpeteparksrec.org/green-thumb/>.

CONA UPDATE

By CONA Delegate Richard McDaniel

March's CONA meeting featured two guest speakers; Officer Crawford of the St. Petersburg Police Department and former mayor and president of the Edwards Group, Rick Baker. I'll start with the latter. Baker spoke at CONA to pitch expansion of the Tampa Bay Rowdies soccer club from second tier North American Soccer League to top tier Major League Soccer. One requirement to qualify for MLS is stadium capacity of 18,000. The Rowdies home field Al Lang Stadium seats approximately 7,000. In order to privately fund

redevelopment of the stadium to accommodate the additional seats, the Edwards Group needs to secure a 25-year lease on the property. The lease extension will be decided by St. Pete voters in a May 2 special election referendum. Much has been written on this issue over the past month in local media. Please see the following articles: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/localgovernment/former-st-petemayor-rick-baker-fields-rowdies-stadium-questions/2316791>; [https://floridapolitics.com/archives/235030-rowdies-al-lang-](https://floridapolitics.com/archives/235030-rowdies-al-lang-referendum-easy-sale-rick-baker)

[referendum-easy-sale-rick-baker](https://floridapolitics.com/archives/235030-rowdies-al-lang-referendum-easy-sale-rick-baker).

Officer Crawford discussed the Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion Program (APAD). The program provides alternatives to arrest for 11 misdemeanor crimes. APAD participants must meet program criteria to qualify and are required to complete community service hours instead of jail time. For a concise overview of the program please see: <https://mailer.nextdoor.com/agency/post/fl/st-petersburg/st-petersburg-police-department-1/adult-pre-arrest-diversion-program-41967585/>.

For statistics of APAD's first quarter see: <http://pcsoweb.com/Data/Sites/1/media/extra-pdf/fy-17-q-1-statistical-report.pdf>.

CONA is the Council of Neighborhood Associations of St. Petersburg. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Sunshine Center, 330 5th St. N. April's guest speaker is Dave Goodwin, St. Pete's Economic and Development Director. Members of the public are welcome.



Saint Petersburg Community Church

A Baptist General Conference Church

4501 30th Avenue North



Pastor Ken Rico

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