

# The Heights

JANUARY 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

¼ Page Ad: \$30

½ Page Ad: \$40

Full Page Ad: \$50

All rates are for 12 months in the newsletter.

Contact [pehuff@yahoo.com](mailto:pehuff@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Next meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 10

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

**Guest Speaker:** Brian Niemann, Florida Friendly  
Landscaping Extension Agent

Come early for snacks & beverages, provided by  
meeting sponsor Janet Brooks, Keller Williams Realty



Message  
from the President

# 2017

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season with family and friends. I was able to make a trip back home to New Jersey to spend time with my family and get together with some friends. I actually coordinated a reunion of sorts with friends from grade school and high school ... some of whom I hadn't seen in close to 30 years! We all had a great time reminiscing our shared childhood memories. As much as I enjoyed seeing my family and friends, I am happy to be back in St. Pete ... where the sun shines on a daily basis and the temps are above 70 degrees.

While we take the time to remember and create fond memories about 2016, we have a whole brand new year ahead of us ... a year in which we can create – or maybe, recreate – ourselves, our community and our city. Each and every

*continued on next page*

Visit [www.disstonheights.org](http://www.disstonheights.org) for more information, including meeting minutes

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*from previous page*

one of us has the opportunity to positively impact Disston Heights to make it a preferred neighborhood in which to live, raise a family, work and play in the Sunshine City.

As I reviewed many motivational quotes, I think this one can be applied not only

to individuals, but to companies, organizations and neighborhood associations: *"Don't fear failure. Fear being in the exact same place next year as you are today."* ([www.elissarobertson.paycation.com](http://www.elissarobertson.paycation.com))

So, in order to not have DHCA be in the same place next year

as we are today, I will need your help.

As I have stated in previous communications, I ask that you get involved with DHCA. Whether that involvement means attending a Monthly Meeting; joining other DHCA members for a cafe con leche

and conversation at the Saturday Morning Breakfast Social Club; or, signing up for one of our committees, myself and the DHCA Board welcome you, your families and neighbors with open arms.

Looking forward to creating sunshiny memories in 2017

– Jennifer

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Dues are annual, covering a period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (Individual: \$10, Family: \$15, Business: \$25. Please provide check or cash to our Treasurer Betsy Boynton or any Board member present during the general membership meeting or send a check or money order made out to Disston Heights Civic Association to P.O. Box 41592., St. Petersburg, FL 33743-1592.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### JANUARY 10

**DHCA Monthly Meeting:** Find information on this meeting on Page 1 of this newsletter. Bring your neighbors!

### JANUARY 21

**Saturday Morning Breakfast Social Club:** Meet your neighbors on the third Saturday of every month, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at The Burg Diner. Bring a friend! DHCA Saturday Morning Breakfast Social Club attendees are responsible for paying for their own food and beverage.

### JANUARY 30

**Crime Watch Meeting:** The DHCA will host a meeting regarding crime watches at JW Cate Recreation Center, 5801 22nd Ave N, St. Petersburg, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Game Room. Come at 6:30 p.m. for socializing time. District 3 Crime Prevention Officer Mark Williams will lead the meeting.

January 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 General Meeting!	11	12	13	14
15	16 M L King Day	17	18	19	20	21 Breakfast Social Club
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Crime Watch Meeting	31				

2017 Calendar Template © calendariabs.com

# The Heights

JANUARY 2017

## DISSTON HEIGHTS BOARD

### Know your DHCA 2017 Officers & Board of Directors

#### President

Jennifer Joern  
jennifer.joern@yahoo.com  
Home: 727-820-1380  
Cell: 727-692-4312

#### Vice President

Janet Brooks  
janet.hometeam@gmail.com  
Cell: 727-560-6332

#### Secretary

Heather Hoe  
sahmlawns@gmail.com

#### Treasurer

Betsy Boynton  
disstonbetsy@gmail.com

#### Sergeant At Arms

Gail Hebert  
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Home: 727-526-2492

#### Board Members

Communications Director  
Pam Huff  
pehuff@yahoo.com

#### CONA Liaison

Mike Copley  
Home: 727-526-2957

#### Steven Hoe

torch18774@gmail.com  
Phone: 813-401-0062

#### Board Member

Three (3) positions currently  
open/available

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and on Nextdoor!!



### Saint Petersburg Community Church

A Baptist General Conference Church

4501 30th Avenue North



**Pastor Ken Rico**

www.gracerograce.org

Worship Service at 10:00 AM Sundays





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## Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 14

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

**Guest Speaker:** Spotlight Speakers Melissa Ems (Melissa Ems Insurance Agency) and Katherine Howington (National Flood Sales Manager, Bankers Insurance Group). Melissa will educate us on the importance of having a homeowners (or renters) insurance policy. Although Disston Heights is in an "X Flood Zone," Katherine will advise why residents (and businesses) should consider flood insurance.

Express Speaker is Derek Oberschall with CSC Properties, who will provide an update on a proposed Dunkin' Donuts & Baskin Robbins retail store in our neighborhood.

URBAN Restaurants Group will be meeting sponsor and provide food from one of their restaurant collections, including URBAN Comfort and URBAN BBQ.



Message  
from the President

During the month of February, we celebrate Presidents' Day, which honors the life and work of our country's first president, George Washington, in addition to commemorating past presidents, including Abraham Lincoln. We celebrate love with Valentine's Day. And, we celebrate Black History Month (or National African American History Month) by recognizing the achievements of African Americans in U.S. history.

*continued on next page*

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from previous page

Our country elected its 45th president in November. Although it is too early to know whether President



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Trump will be recognized for his achievements during future Presidents' Days, we do know it is important to love our country. A bit more locally, it is important to love our neighborhood.

We can show that love by shopping, dining and playing in Disston Heights to support local businesses. And, we can spread that love to other neighborhoods throughout the Sunshine City.

Black History Month, officially recognized by Presi-

dent Ford in 1976, grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted Harvard-trained historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Did you know St. Pete is home to the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum?

This museum, focusing on preserving the rich African American history in our city for current and future generations, is located in the heart of the Jordan Park neighborhood (2240 9th Avenue S). So

don't just look at Presidents' Day as a day off from school or work. Take advantage of the day and share some of your love for Disston Heights by spending some time at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson museum and walking one of the two African American Heritage Trails ([http://www.stpete.org/parks\\_and\\_recreation/african\\_american\\_heritage\\_trail.php](http://www.stpete.org/parks_and_recreation/african_american_heritage_trail.php).) You just might learn to love something new about the history of your Sunshine City.

— Jennifer

**FYI: Advertising dimensions**

**Business Card Ad:**  
3.75" x 2.5"

**¼ Page Ad:**  
4.97" x 3.75"

**½ Page Ad:**  
7.5" x 4.97"

**Full Page Ad:**  
10" x 7.5"

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I am a Disston Heights resident and I love our community. I have over 16 years of **LOCAL** realty experience to assist **SELLERS & BUYERS**.

Call me **TODAY**, I live in the neighborhood and I know the market!

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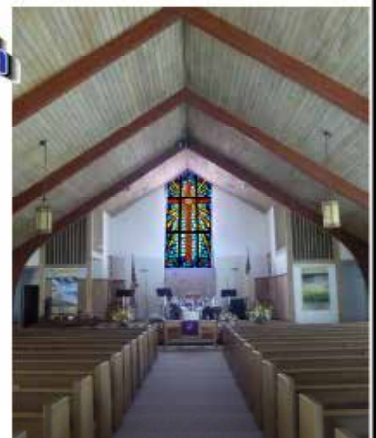
4501 30th Avenue North



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**Worship Service at 10:00 AM Sundays**







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# The Heights

MARCH 2017



**Easter Egg Hunt reminder**  
**See page 3!**

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more information.

## **Next meeting: Tuesday, March 14**

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

## **Guest Speaker: St. Petersburg Police Chief Anthony Holloway**

Chief Holloway has taught law enforcement to governmental, military, educational and community organizations throughout Florida. He began his law enforcement career with the Clearwater Police Department in 1985. Upon his retirement in 2007, he was selected as the Chief of Police for the City of Somerville, Massachusetts. In February 2010, he rejoined the Clearwater Police Department as Chief of Police, and in August 2014, he was selected as Chief of Police for the St. Petersburg Police Department.

March's meeting is sponsored by Jade Tree Wellness, which is providing Toby's Original Little Italy pizza.



*Message  
from the President*

In March, we welcome a change of season from winter to spring. Although, living in St. Pete, we really don't see much difference when transitioning from winter into spring (as it pertains to weather), it is still a good time to evaluate what type of "change" we can make that will positively impact ourselves, our families, our neighborhood and our city.

*continued on next page*

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MARCH 2017

# The Heights

*from previous page*

Did you know March is National Nutrition Month? This may be a good opportunity to establish – or re-establish your New Year's resolutions/goals – to include a healthy eating program for you and your family. Take

advantage of the beautiful spring weather and spend quality family time at The Saturday Morning Market, choosing fresh local produce and supporting local small businesses. Supporting your local small business owners

has an undeniable positive impact. For every dollar you spend locally, about 70 cents stays in our community. (For every dollar spent at a national big box store, less than 40 cents stays locally).

March is also National Youth Art Month. St. Pete is filled with beautiful and diverse art, whether that art is found as paintings or photographs in galleries and museums or as murals on buildings. The DHCA Beautification Committee, in which we have a student member representing the youth of our community, is affecting change in our neighborhood! We are excited to be partnering with local

artists on the Ruby Lake Mural Project. Be sure to attend DHCA's Monthly Meetings for project updates.

In closing, may the "Luck of the Irish" be with all of you. Did you know this phrase isn't about luck at all? According to Urban Dictionary, "Luck of the Irish" is more about an attitude; having a positive look at a bad situation.

So, I ask each of you to think about how you can change your attitude to impact yourselves, your family, your neighborhood and your city in a positive way ... and then take ACTION!

– Jennifer



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MARCH 2017

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## EASTER EGG HUNT

Disston Heights Neighborhood Association

Saturday  
08 April, 2017  
Gladden Park  
3901 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. No.

**Games, Chalk Art,  
Bean Bag Toss,  
Face Painting,  
Hop Scotch,  
& K-9 Dogs!**

Registration 9:30 – 9:55  
Egg hunt begins at 10:00

Prizes awarded  
Age groups:  
Walking to 4 years old  
5 to 8 years old



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## CONA UPDATE

By CONA Liaison Richard McDaniel

Hello DHCA! Since this is my first article let me briefly introduce myself. My family has lived in Disston Heights since 1958, almost as long as the association has existed.

In fact, my wife Reyna and I are homeowners of the same house where my dad was raised. We have been members of DHCA since 2013 and both served on the board in 2013 and 2014. I am serving as CONA Delegate for the remainder of 2017.

Part of what I'll be doing is writing an article for "The Heights" about CONA's monthly meetings. I do not

have expertise in all the issues but will do my best to be both accurate and informative.

February's CONA meeting featured guest speaker Elizabeth Abernethy, zoning official and manager of St. Pete's Development Review Services. Abernethy's department reviewed 2007 zoning changes adopted by the city as part of Vision 2020. They propose 68 changes to update and clarify the city's Land Development Regulations. She discussed seven of these changes. For more information on LDRs and to

view the presentation please visit [www.stpete.org/LDR](http://www.stpete.org/LDR).

Bob Jeffery from the "Traditional Neighborhood Study Group" spoke next. Overall the group is happy with the city's work on LDRs. However, there are a couple of issues they would like to bring to the attention of the neighborhoods. Jeffery provided a handout for this purpose that I will send to anyone interested.

Short updates were given by audience members on the St. Pete Pier and the "Mayor's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee." There will be

a meeting March 14 on the redevelopment of Tyrone Square Mall. March CONA meeting will be a presentation by the Edwards Group of proposed Al Lang Stadium changes and upcoming referendum regarding the Tampa Bay Rowdies. 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. Members of the public are welcome. For additional information about anything in this article please email me, [rmcda@yahoo.com](mailto:rmcda@yahoo.com).

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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

*continued on next page*

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*from previous page*

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

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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.



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# The Heights

MAY 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

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Full Page Ad: \$50

All rates are for 12 months in the newsletter.

Contact [pehuff@yahoo.com](mailto:pehuff@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, May 9

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

**Express Speakers:** Chris Lampley, Eric Faerber and Scott Drouin  
with Gladden Park Recreation Center

**Spotlight Speaker:** Council Member Amy Foster, District 8

**Meeting Sponsor:** Maurie Lung, CEO of Life Adventures C & C  
Food and beverages will be provided



Message  
from the President

## HAPPY 62nd BIRTHDAY DISSTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION!

Founded on May 31, 1955, DHCA was formed with the following purpose (according to our by-laws, which can be found in the "About" section of our website):

1: To unite the tax-paying property owners, business owners and residents within the community, hereinafter described, to facilitate the cooperation, coordination and good will of property owners within said area and for the protection and promotion of their common interest, as such.

2: To advance development of economic growth, and support and urge all improvements required throughout the community.

There is one word that appears in each of these statements that stands out to me: **Community**. During our monthly meetings, our Saturday morning breakfast socials and in my previous messages, you hear me constantly stress the importance of supporting your local community.

*continued on next page*

Visit [www.disstonheights.org](http://www.disstonheights.org) for more information, including meeting minutes



MAY 2017

# The Heights

*from previous page*

It doesn't matter how you define your own community, whether it be the few blocks where you live in Disston Heights, the subdivision in which you live within Disston Heights, or the entirety of Disston Heights.

What matters is that you have a vested interest in the betterment of your community ... our community. Why? I think Founding Father John Dickinson, in his pre-Revolutionary War song "The Liberty Song," sums it up best: "Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."



Used under Creative Commons/ Jessica Diamond/ <https://i1lic.kr/p/53K6h5>

As we approach summer break (no meetings will be held in July and August), I encourage you to stay involved in your community ... in our community of Dis-

ton Heights.

So, to help in those efforts, I will be organizing cleanup events at our local lakes for July and August. These family friendly events will be a great

way for DHCA to come together for the betterment of our community as we want Disston Heights to continue to be a desirable place to live, raise a family and conduct business.

In closing, we will be learning about our greater community – the City of St. Petersburg – as we welcome Spotlight Speaker, Council Member Amy Foster. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, first-hand, the exciting things that our happening in our Sunshine City.

I hope to see you at our May meeting. And, yes, there will be birthday cake!

– Jennifer

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and on Nextdoor!!

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I am a Disston Heights resident and I love our community. I have over 16 years of **LOCAL** realty experience to assist **SELLERS & BUYERS**.

**Call me TODAY, I live in the neighborhood and I know the market!**

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# The Heights

MAY 2017

## CONA UPDATE

By CONA Delegate Richard McDaniel

April's CONA meeting featured two guest speakers; John Norris from the city's Stormwater, Pavement and Traffic Operations (SPTO) Department and Sharon Wright from the city's Office of Sustainability (OS).

Norris gave an overview of the department and staff. They are essentially a maintenance department that is complaint driven. Their webpage states they "maintain ... the city's drainage, sidewalks, roadways and traffic signal systems." They also work on alleys, sign replacement, bridges, seawalls, mowing, hand ditch digging and more.

Norris says SPTO is the department that gets things done in St. Pete. They recently completed improvements at Sirmons Lake here in Disston Heights. Norris reminded the audience to help keep our inland and coastal waters clean by not blowing leaves and lawn debris



Sirmons Lake in Disston Heights (Photo by Pam Huff)

into the street. This adds nutrients and pollutes our waterways. It's also against city ordinance and can result in a \$500 fine.

Wright spoke about St. Petersburg's participation in the STAR Communities system.

STAR stands for Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating Communities. According to the OS website, STAR is "the nation's

first framework and rating system for evaluating community sustainability."

This data-driven approach assesses a city's commitment to sustainability by looking at "economic, social and environmental goals and measures."

St. Pete received three out of a possible five stars, scoring high marks for education, arts and

community.

However, the city received low scores for equity and empowerment, which includes civic engagement and civil and human rights. For more information please visit <http://www.stpete.org/sustainability/>.

Lisa Frank from the Florida Consumer Action Network spoke briefly about the "Complete Streets for St. Pete" program. You can find information about making our streets safer for pedestrians and bicyclists at <http://www.fcan.org/Complete%20Streets/>.

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. May guest speaker is Chief Anthony Holloway from the St. Petersburg Police Department. Members of the public are welcome.

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Phone: 813-401-0062

Gloria Paine

CONA Delegate  
Richard McDaniel  
[rmcda@yahoo.com](mailto:rmcda@yahoo.com)



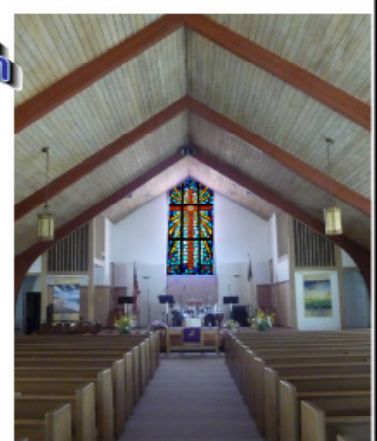
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JUNE 2017



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All rates are for 12 months in the newsletter. Contact [pehuff@yahoo.com](mailto:pehuff@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, June 13

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

**Express Speaker:** Elaine Carr, Voter Education  
Office of SoE, Pinellas County

**Spotlight Speaker:** Cathy Salustri, Author, "Backroads of Paradise"

**Meeting Sponsor:** John and Jennifer Wagner, Tri State Mechanical Inc. Food and beverages will be provided



Message  
from the President

## SUMMERTIME IS HERE

"Summer summer summertime ... time to sit back and unwind" (DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince, 1991). "Summertime ... and the livin' is easy" (Billie Holiday, 1936). "School's out ... for summer" (Alice Cooper, 1972). These are three of my most favorite summertime songs because they all capture something a little bit different about this season ... whether it be in their lyrics, their music or the feeling each song provides.

DHCA is on summer break! Although we won't be meeting in July and August, it's important we stay connected with our

*continued on Page 4*



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Visit [www.disstonheights.org](http://www.disstonheights.org) for more information, including meeting minutes

**By Carolyn Edds**  
a Little Free Library Steward

Want to know where to find a library? Check out the map at <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/> (or see above).



Sometimes you'll find books on CD at these libraries. Finished reading the book? Find another Little Free Library along the way to drop off the book and pick up a new one. Leave a note in a guest book, letting the steward know they had a visitor from warm, sunny Florida!





# The Heights

JUNE 2017

## CONA UPDATE

By CONA Delegate Richard McDaniel

May's CONA meeting featured several guest speakers. Chief Anthony Holloway of the St. Petersburg Police Department (SPPD) talked mostly about auto burglaries. This issue was the subject of an April 26 series in the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Holloway said there had been 17 cars stolen since the *Times* series. Thirteen stolen cars had the keys left inside the car and two were left running. Locking car doors reduces auto burglaries. These are usually crimes of opportunity. Most thieves will not break windows but move on in search of an unlocked car. Home burglaries are down for the year.

Eliana Aguilar from the

Florida Dept. of Health discussed the Community Resource Bus.

The CRB is sponsored by SPPD and rotates between the three police districts in the city. The bus provides free health screenings, safety information, giveaways and activities. For more information contact [Eliana.Aguilar@flhealth.gov](mailto:Eliana.Aguilar@flhealth.gov).

Mayor Rick Kriseman provided several updates. The pier is on budget and will be built.

Foundational work begins soon. New police station is on budget. The city has spent \$51 million on repairing the sewage system which includes manhole upgrades. Kriseman cannot promise there will be

no more sewage dumps but they are doing everything within their power to make the necessary fixes.

No news on the Tampa Bay Rays stadium search, but there will be no millage rate increase to fund a new stadium. The mayor will recommend that City Council approves spending 78 percent of Penny for Pinellas funds on infrastructure. St. Pete stands to lose \$5 million annually if the property tax exemption is approved in 2018.

If this money is lost, millage rates will have to increase or city services will be cut. The city hosts Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Open House on June 19, 6 p.m. at the Palladium. More information at [www.stpete.org/budget](http://www.stpete.org/budget).

[stpete.org/budget](http://stpete.org/budget).

Robin Reed from the Neighborhood Review Committee discussed their recommendations on St. Pete's proposed changes to Land Development Regulations. To receive a handout of their recommendations email [rmcda@yahoo.com](mailto:rmcda@yahoo.com).

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. June guest speaker is Cheryl Stacks, Transportation Manager with St. Petersburg, who will be discussing the Complete Streets program. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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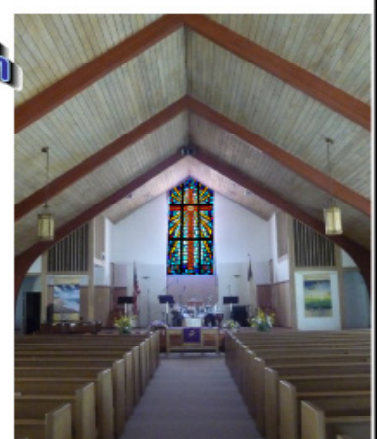
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from Page 1

neighborhoods and to our community. We will continue to host the Saturday Morning Breakfast Socials during our summer break (June 17, July 15 and Aug. 19); and, after we fuel up with some good eats and cafe con leche at The Burg Diner, we will make our way to one of our local lakes for a cleanup event. Additional information will be posted on our Facebook page the closer we get to these dates.

Be sure to mark Aug. 12 on your calendar as the Second Annual DHCA Presidential Porch Party will be taking place at my house from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Everyone who attended last year's party had a great time ... so much so I had to refill my pool as the kids had a great time swimming and splashing!

So, be sure to bring your favorite dish and/or beverage, your swimsuits, good conversation and ideas for how we can continue to improve DHCA to meet the needs of you: our residents and business owners.

— Jennifer

## Welcome new Disston Heights neighbors

- Karen and Doug Coggeshall  
4037 36 th Ave. N
- Rob McGuire  
3850 13th Ave. N #202
- Andrew Wilson  
2632 45th Way N



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SEPTEMBER 2017



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All rates are for 12 months in the newsletter. Contact [pehuff@yahoo.com](mailto:pehuff@yahoo.com) for more information.

Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month 6:30 p.m. social hour, meeting starts at 7 p.m. sharp. St. Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30th Ave. N

**September meeting was canceled due to Hurricane Irma**



Message  
from the President

## Welcome back from Summer Break!

During the summer break, DHCA-ers attended Saturday Morning Breakfast Socials, participated in Community Lake Clean Up events and had a “swimming-ly” fun time at the Presidential Porch Party.

There are so many exciting things happening in Disston Heights – as well as the city of St. Pete – these upcoming months. On Sept. 30, we will be helping a neighbor in need for Carefest 2017. In October, DHCA will be hosting a City Candidate Forum for the mayoral and City Council candidates running in the November election. I encourage you to invite your neighbors and friends as the candidates will be in the “home stretch” of their campaigns. October also brings the SHINE St. Petersburg Mural Festival (Oct. 5-14) to our Sunshine City. Did you know? DHCA’s Beautification Committee is working with local artists and the city to bring a mural to Disston Heights. Stay tuned for more information.



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*continued on Page 3*

Visit [www.disstonheights.org](http://www.disstonheights.org) for more information, including meeting minutes



## St. Petersburg voters asked to approve Vinoy improvement project in November referendum

*Voters will be asked to sign off on adding a privately funded one-story parking garage behind the hotel*

*By Kyle Parks, B2 Communications*

The historic Vinoy Renaissance Resort and Golf Club is seeking St. Petersburg voters' approval in November for a privately funded one-story parking garage, part of a larger multi-year \$50-million-plus redevelopment project at the hotel. The improvements do not involve taxpayer funding, will not alter the hotel's footprint or St. Petersburg's waterfront parks system, and will add approximately 270 new parking spaces.

The parking garage is needed to better accommodate people who stay at the Vinoy and attend the many events there, in turn minimizing the need for people to park in surrounding areas like Beach Drive and the Historic Old Northeast neighborhood.

The proposed garage will be one-story and located immediately behind the hotel. Eight existing tennis courts will be replaced on top of the new parking garage.

Voters are asked to vote yes on the referendum question in the Nov. 7 election. As a historic part of downtown St. Petersburg, approximately 2.4 acres of The Vinoy property are subject to deed restrictions and re-



*Aerial view; The new parking proposal does not involve any taxpayer money and will not impact St. Petersburg's waterfront park system, or alter the footprint or historic architecture of The Vinoy.*

quire approval from the City's residents for construction.

The voter approval process was put in place during a 1984 agreement when The Vinoy helped complete the city's waterfront park system by trading its waterfront property for some of the area immediately behind the hotel. Voters approved similar improvements to The Vinoy in referendums in 1997 and 2007.

"We think voters will be pleased to support the idea of additional parking at The Vinoy, because it does not involve taxpayer dollars, does not alter the footprint of the hotel, and does not impact our waterfront parks system," said Barbara Readey, General Manager at The Vinoy Renaissance Resort and Golf Club.

The entire redevelopment project is privately funded by the hotel owner,

FelCor Lodging Trust. The project includes updates and expansions to the spa, fitness center, golf course clubhouse, tennis courts, public restaurant facilities and parking garage. Paul's Landing, the new 200-seat marina-front restaurant, will be open to the public and includes indoor and outdoor seating as well as a large grass event space.

The Vinoy referendum has received positive reception across the city from residents and businesses. As an example, WFLA News Channel 8 spoke to Chuck Prather, owner of The Birchwood on Beach Drive.

"There is so much volume of traffic that happens here, not just on the weekends anymore, but all week long," Prather said. "To have an extra almost 300 parking spaces right in

*continued on Page 4*

# The Heights

SEPTEMBER 2017

from Page 1

I have one word for November: VOTE!

DHCA will continue hosting the Saturday Morning Breakfast Socials as well as our Community Lake Clean Up events through the end of the year. And, of course, there will be the Holiday Pot-Luck Presidential Porch Party in December.

Whether you decide to attend an upcoming Monthly Meeting, a Breakfast Social, participate in Carefest or a Lake Clean Up event, I hope to see you soon.

Please remember to tell your friends and neighbors about the good things DHCA is doing in our community ... and bring them with you!

— Jennifer

## Welcome new Disston Heights neighbors

- Jeffrey and Susan Phillips, 4907 14th Ave. N
- Deacon Robert DePugh and Christ Lutheran Church, 3451 30th Ave. N



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Gloria Paine



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A Baptist General Conference Church

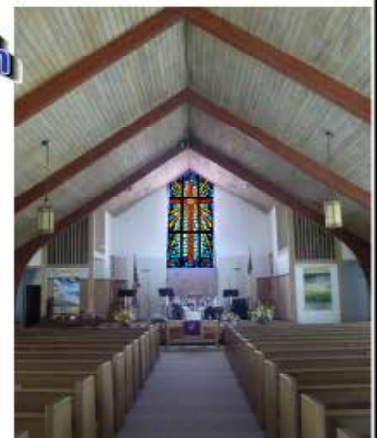
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Pastor Ken Rico

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SEPTEMBER 2017

# The Heights

from Page 2

the heart of downtown is fabulous.”

The referendum has also earned the support and endorsement of Mayor Rick Kriseman, City Council, mayoral candidate Rick Baker, and a number of community and business groups such as St. Petersburg Preservation, Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association, the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, the St. Petersburg Downtown Neighborhood Association and the board of directors of the St. Petersburg Downtown Business Association.

“Hotel ownership is committed to the long-term health of The Vinoy



View from 7th Ave NE and Bay Shore Dr NE; The proposed parking garage and courts are planned to be the same height as the current garage and raised courts. The streetscaping ensures that the courts are nicely shielded from the street.

and ensuring it continues to be an iconic part of downtown St. Petersburg,” said Debra Feldman, Vice President Capital Transactions at FelCor Lodging Trust, owner of The Vinoy. “We look forward to answer-

ing residents’ questions about the project and continuing to ensure that The Vinoy is a good neighbor.”

To learn more or to submit questions visit: [www.VinoyImprovements.com](http://www.VinoyImprovements.com)

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### Disston Heights Civic Association

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



Find DHCA Board info online  
[www.disstonheights.org/dhca-board.html](http://www.disstonheights.org/dhca-board.html)

## Newsletter ad prices

### Business Card

Ad: \$20

¼ Page Ad: \$30

½ Page Ad: \$40

Full Page Ad: \$50

All rates are for 12 months in the newsletter.  
Contact [pehuff@yahoo.com](mailto:pehuff@yahoo.com) for more information.

## CANDIDATE FORUM, Oct. 10

Please note: The standard meeting agenda has been amended in order to provide as much time as possible to the candidates.

6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Socializing / Networking

7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.: City Council Candidate Forum

7:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Mayoral Candidate Forum



Both forums will be moderated by Mitch Perry, Reporter at Extensive Enterprises Media.

All DHCA events are family friendly!

St. Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30th Ave. N



Message  
from the President

At the time I wrote my letter for the September issue of The Heights, Hurricane Irma was bearing down on Florida with an “as yet to be determined” location for landfall. Well, as we all learned and experienced, firsthand and up close, she was a “very determined” force of nature who had a mind all her own. Some of us evacuated only to come home – after waiting on long lines for gas – to houses and/or businesses without power. Some of us were left with lots of debris in our yards, not having any idea on how to begin to clean it up as Irma took toll on us, mentally and physically. We were hot. We were stressed. We were frustrated.

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Visit [www.disstonheights.org](http://www.disstonheights.org) for more information, including meeting minutes

OCTOBER 2017

# The Heights

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Disston Plaza Publix Construction Project Information Meeting

**WHAT:** Representatives from Sembler Florida, Gulf Coast Consulting and Publix Super Markets, Inc. will address the upcoming construction project that will be taking place at the Disston Plaza Publix. **Please be advised seating is limited.** Maximum seating capacity is 40 plus an additional 10 SRO positions.

**WHEN:** OCT. 11, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Sembler Co., 5858 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg (Media Room, 2nd Floor)

### DHCA Saturday Morning Breakfast Social Club then Lake Cleanup

**WHAT:** We meet on the third Saturday of every month, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at The Burg Diner. Come for the duration; or, come for a few minutes to grab a coffee and gab with DHCA residents. DHCA Saturday Morning Breakfast Social Club attendees are responsible for paying for their own food and beverage.

Afterward, join us for a local lake cleanup.

**WHEN:** OCT. 21, 8 a.m.

**WHERE:** The Burg Diner, 2950 49th St. N

## Connect with us on Facebook

facebook.com/Disston-Heights-Civic-Association

and on Nextdoor!!



**Home Team St Pete**

St Pete, The Beaches, & Beyond!

**KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY – St Pete / Seminole**

I am a Disston Heights resident and I love our community. I have over 16 years of **LOCAL** realty experience to assist **SELLERS & BUYERS**.

Call me **TODAY**, I live in the neighborhood and I know the market!

**Janet W Brooks, Realtor, GRI**

**727-560-6332**

Janet.HomeTeam@gmail.com



### Saint Petersburg Community Church

A Baptist General Conference Church  
4501 30th Avenue North



**Pastor Ken Rico**

[www.gracerograce.org](http://www.gracerograce.org)  
Worship Service at 10:00 AM Sundays





# The Heights

OCTOBER 2017

from Page 1

BUT! We pulled together as a community!! For those who evacuated, neighbors provided updates on their houses. Neighbors helped neighbors clean up the debris in their yards. Those with power offered a respite from the heat and a warm shower to those without power. Lost pets were reunited with their owners ... to lots of tail wags and tears (of happiness). My heart truly swells with pride and gratitude in watching – and personally experiencing – our community come together.

As October is upon us, I for one am looking forward to seeing the temperature dip below 90F as that will make our Community Lake Cleanup events that much “cooler” ... in temperature and in being one of the “coolest” community events in St. Pete!

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming DHCA meetings, socials and events. It is “community” that keeps us strong and makes us stronger every day. So ... remember to bring a neighbor or two or three to the next DHCA event!

## Caring for Charlene: Carefest 2017

On Sept. 30, DHCAers ranging in age from 5 to 75 participated in Caring for Charlene, the project we adopted for Carefest 2017.



Charlene Smith, an elderly widow and cancer survivor, who is a 45-plus year resident of Disston Heights, needed assistance in painting her screened-in porch and picking up old decking from a pool that was removed many years ago.

Although “Hurricane Irma fatigue” had not yet completely dissipated, DHCA volunteers put their own personal cleanup and repair jobs aside to help a neighbor in need.

This is an EXCELLENT example of our community pulling together! And, it is also an EXCELLENT example of showing the children of our community what it means to help others.

THANK YOU DHCA VOLUNTEERS!!

– Jennifer



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FOR ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL  
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ELECTION DAY  
NOVEMBER 7, 2017



3530-49<sup>th</sup> Street North  
St. Petersburg (Disston Plaza Area)  
727-527-1177

[www.rlwilliams.com](http://www.rlwilliams.com)

Burial • Cremation • Pre-Planning  
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# The Heights

NOVEMBER 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.

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**Next meeting:** Tuesday, Nov. 14

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

**Express Speaker:** Crime Prevention Officer Mark Williams

**Spotlight Speakers:** LocalShops1 - manager of sales & marketing,  
Heather Joie

LS1 Partner - Michele Northrup, Intensity Academy Gourmet Sauces

**Meeting Sponsor:** Kim Harr, owner, Harr & Assoc. Insurance



Message  
from the President

Now that election season is over, regardless of whether your candidates won or not, we should take a moment to reflect on how lucky we are, and how thankful we should be, as citizens of the United States of America, that we are allowed to vote for our leaders ... whether they be our country, state, city or neighborhood leaders.

I am truly thankful and appreciate your support and encouragement, over this past year, as the President of DHCA. But, it's not about me or the DHCA Board ... it's about YOU! I am thankful for your involvement in making Disston Heights a great place to live, to raise a family, to work or to own a business. Whether you participate in a DHCA Community Lake Clean Up event or attend the Monthly Meetings, it's your positive energy and enthusiasm that helps to make DH a desirable neighborhood. THANK YOU!

So, as we approach Thanksgiving, please take a moment to be thankful. Be thankful for your family, your friends, your neighbors ... and Disston Heights!  
Happy Thanksgiving!

– Jennifer

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NOVEMBER 2017

# The Heights

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**WHEN:** NOV. 18, 8 a.m.

**WHERE:** The Burg Diner,  
2950 49th St. N

### DHCA December Holiday Pot Luck & Presidential Porch Party

**WHAT:** Please join DHCA, neighbors and friends in kicking off the Holiday Season with a Presidential Pot-Luck Porch Party & Holiday Open House. Bring your favorite dish! Bring your favorite beverage! The festivities will begin at 5pm and the house will be open for Holiday Cheer until 9p.m.

**WHEN:** DEC. 2, 5 p.m.

**WHERE:**  
5027 18th Ave. N

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and on Nextdoor!!



### Home Team St Pete

St Pete, The Beaches, & Beyond!

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A Baptist General Conference Church

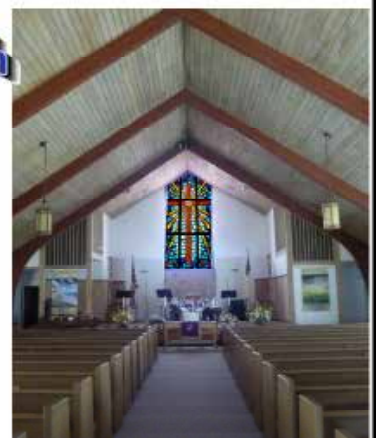
4501 30th Avenue North



**Pastor Ken Rico**

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