

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

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, 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.

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

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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."



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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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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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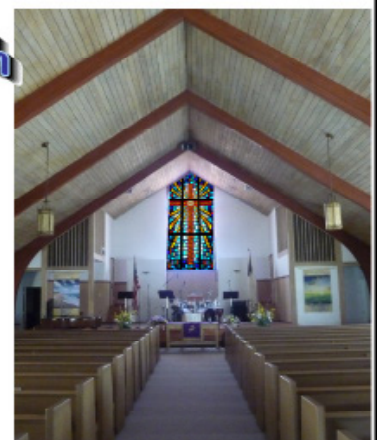
Saint Petersburg Community Church

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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