

# Laurel Park News



January 2011

## Sarasota Egged on to Allow Backyard Chickens

In today's world, something that has been going on for at least ten years is hardly hip or trendy. And what's at issue here, chickens in your backyard, has been going on since Biblical times if not before. So why all the ruffled feathers?

*(Disclaimer; it is almost impossible to write or talk about chickens without resorting to eye-rolling puns or other word play. I tried to avoid this but finally gave in and scratched out those plans.)*

Sarasota is among dozens, if not hundreds, of cities and towns where backyard chickens have come home to roost. Or some aptly-named group wants them to. In our case it is CLUCK (Citizens Lobbying for Urban Chicken Keeping), a group that started squawking at neighborhood meetings more than a year ago. And one of their number made the unfortunate claim that backyard chickens would make Sarasota more "hip" thus lowering our elderly demographics and stopping young people from flying the coop.

Apparently CLUCK's leaders, among them Jono Miller, environmentalist and New College professor, did not anticipate that proposing backyard chickens would cause such a flap. From CCNA (Coalition of City Neighborhood Association) meetings the issue has moved up the pecking order to the city Planning Board and will be before the City Commission in January 2011.

### Four Hen Limit

A proposed amendment to the city code would allow Sarasota residents to keep no more than four hens in an enclosed backyard coop. No roosters allowed. No slaughtering of chickens. Seems pretty simple but vocal opponents

have cried fowl. In this down economy, Sarasota has reduced city staff so who would enforce this new code? And reflecting Sarasota's obsession with property values, will my next door neighbor's chicken poop reduce the value of my home? All the fresh eggs in the world will not trump property values.

### The Eggsact Details

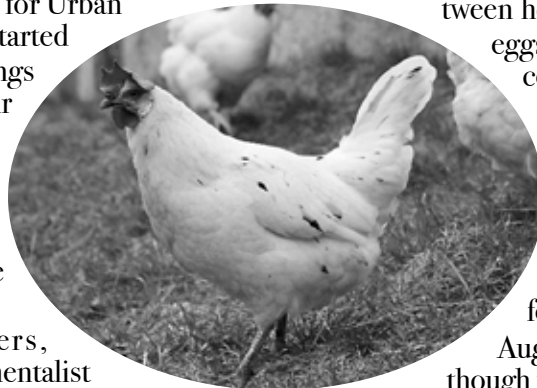
Speaking of fresh eggs, the proposed four hens will lay an average one egg a day whether or not a rooster is around. Proponents claim that fresh eggs are way better than store-bought. In fact, a *Washington Post* writer and chicken advocate conducted a formal taste test between her backyard chickens' production and eggs purchased at a supermarket. No one could tell the difference.

Nevertheless, proponents point to the salmonella egg scare earlier this year as a reason to produce your own food. Or personally know the chicken who produces your food. Backyard chickens provide "extreme foodie street cred" according to an August *New York Times* article. And even though tending backyard chickens is proven to be considerably less than cost-effective, chicken fanciers cite economic benefits when they sell eggs and save money at the grocery. Then there's the "chickens eat bugs and table scraps" argument. Well, so do some dogs I've known.

My personal favorite reason for having backyard chickens was stated by Tamar Haspel, the above-mentioned *Washington Post* writer; "They are also funny and you should never underestimate the value of livestock that makes you laugh."

Mike Taylor, Sarasota's General Manager for Planning and Development, has

*See Chickens, page 2*



### City Commission

January 18, 6:00 PM

The City Commission is expected to decide whether to allow urban chickens at its January 18 meeting at City Hall, 1565 First Street

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everybody,

Happy holidays and wags to all! This issue, my mistress has asked me to write her column. I have been panting at the prospect.

Sarasota is a very pet friendly city and I know that I am especially lucky to live here in Laurel Park.

My best friend, Anya, and I enjoy exploring the sights and smells in the neighborhood, downtown, and at Payne Park.

Our walks expose us to fresh air, new friends, wildlife and lots of exercise. All of these things are enough to get a little guy's tail wagging.

I'd like to thank *everyone* who makes time to walk their dogs around the neighborhood, but there isn't enough room in this column. I bet you all know how much safer our neighborhood is because of all of the feet and paws on our streets.

I hope that everybody will take advantage of the free biodegradable doggie bags in the dispenser located at the entrance to Laurel Park. Using the bags not only keeps our masters' shoes cleaner, it helps prevent nutrients from polluting Sarasota bay, one of my favorite places to take a swim.

I love you *unconditionally*, so please stop and pat me next time you see me.

Einstein



*Einstein Hagglund*

## N'hood-Wide Yard Sale?

Some residents have expressed interest in holding a n'hood-wide yard sale. Sales would take place in individual yards, but we could advertise as a n'hood. If you are interested in participating as a seller or in helping as a volunteer, please contact Jolie McInnis (951-2468) or Kate Lowman (362-9303). We will proceed if there is sufficient interest.



### Dates to Remember

February 15: Laurel Park General Meeting, Senior Center 6:30 PM

April 9: Tunes in the Park 5-9:00 PM

April or May: Movie in the Park  
Watch for announcements

## *Chickens*, continued from Page 1

researched urban chickens and provided the Planning Board and City Commissioners with his conclusions and observations. Taylor says there are illegal chickens in many Sarasota backyards and have been for some time. But "no one has made a peep," he deadpanned. He believes that until CLUCK called attention to the issue, many Sarasota neighborhoods ignored domestic fowl play. The chickens are still hiding out in plain sight and unless they fly the coop (literally) and cross the road, no one objects.

Google "backyard chicken" and you will get more than 700,000 hits. 100,000 copies of *Backyard Poultry* magazine are sold regularly. There are dozens of "chick lit" how-to books that would probably make a real farmer laugh until someone said, "It's no yolk."

### The Backyard Chicken Movement

From Portland, Oregon, to South Portland, Maine; from Calgary, Alberta, to Tallahassee, and pretty much everywhere in between, people are flocking to the backyard chicken movement. Communities large and small have figured out how to do this with minimal bureaucracy and a sense of humor. Letters-to-the-editors at the *Sarasota Herald Tribune* were split about 50-50, pro and con. Sarasota City Commissioners will look at the Planning Board's 3-2 negative vote and decide whether or not an amendment should allow backyard chickens. There's no budget for permitting or enforcement so perhaps the best course is to just leave things eggactly as they are.

Sarasota is at the epicenter of the housing crisis and will likely be rocked by economic uncertainties for some time. It seems to me that a few chickens in the backyard are not a big deal in the greater scheme of things. Besides if you lose your job tomorrow, you can still make an omelette.

*Ellen McKeefe*

# Jack and Nancy Notestein

Jack and Nancy Notestein first rented their present home on Columbia Court in 1974, not long after arriving from California. Jack, a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Sarasotan, had gone to the San Francisco Bay Area in the fall of 1968 to pursue his interests in art and especially music. Living at first with his older brother in Berkeley, Jack experienced an inspiring new world of ideas and people. As an experienced bassist, he had the opportunity to audition for and join an established Bay Area rock group named "Frumious Bandersnatch". The same age as Jack, they composed and performed original music with bookings for Filmore West and Avalon Ballroom as well as clubs and concert halls throughout Northern California. When he met Miss Nancy Brown, a year younger than he, they became close friends, discovering they had similar interests and enjoyed being together. Inspired by the area's natural beauty they often hiked the redwood trails of Muir Woods or would picnic on Mt. Tamalpias, a coastal peak north of San Francisco.

## Return to Sarasota

Within six months they decided to marry and when the band broke-up a year or so later, Jack was determined to stay employed and took a steady job as a mail carrier. Although fast paced and easily learned, the 23 year old was neither challenged nor inspired, and in late 1972 they decided to visit Sarasota. Once here, a friend told them about a house on Columbia Court that was available to rent. The owner, Mrs. Henry Wolfe, had years ago with her late husband, a professional photographer, been friends of John and Mabel Ringling. They may have been the original owners of the house, built in the early 1920's by developer Owen Burns who built homes with similar architectural style and floor plans but with different roof lines and window details.

Nancy's first job in a health food store led her to work at "The Wildflower," one of the first natural foods restaurants on Siesta Key. A few years later, she was one of only 6 specially trained servers to open "Billy Bowlegs Banana Patch" - curiously named for a famous Seminole chief. Unique for Sarasota at the time, it was part of the new Hyatt Hotel and quickly gained a national reputation in small, well-traveled circles as a gourmet destination. Ahead of its time, it was later redesigned as "The Boat-house," With her outgoing nature and bright smile, Nancy changed course and excelled as a top-of-the-line cosmetics consultant. After many years in retail sales, she decided computer training would help her find different work. For the last 14 years she's been with the Sarasota County Property Appraisers office.

Jack became interested in horticulture soon after returning to Sarasota. He learned from experts at local garden centers and later at Selby Botanical Gardens, first as grounds supervisor and later as Display House manager. This was a great opportunity to learn from and make friends with botanists and plant specialists from around the world. For 2 years he worked with the West Coast Heritage Foundation to restore trails and areas of interest at Spanish Pointe - a new park in Osprey, Florida with historic significance as a coastal settlement site for people of pre-Columbian times to present day.

## Landscape Design

Jack later started a landscape design business by consulting with clients, drawing plans and coordinating contractors. Several commercial projects came his way but most were custom residences, many of which had challenging, coastal environments. The last 15 years have given him a unique experience working for an established interiorscape company. As customer service manager, designer and later as the buyer and special projects builder, he acquired a wide range of specialized horticultural skills, resources and design/build techniques. The recent recession presented an urgent need to downsize the once profitable business and Jack was among those laid-off. "This is an opportunity for change and I'll now have time to re-focus on old talents or learn something new", says Jack. Both he and Nancy feel good about choosing to stay in this little house over the years, now overgrown with collected plants and never without a cat or two.

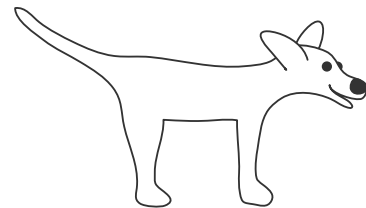


*Jack and Nancy Notestein*

**We love dogs!**

**BUT.....**

**Please be responsible  
and  
pick up after yours.**



## LPNA Requests Right to Speak

At the Planning Board on January 5, LPNA formally requested that Laurel Park be allowed to participate in development decisions on our borders. At present we can speak about projects on our southern border, but not on the east, west, or northern boundaries. This request, if granted, would not affect a developer's right to build, but would ensure that neighbors would know about proposed projects and have the opportunity to express concerns.

Suzy Hagglund presented the following statement, approved by the LPNA board: *When the City of Sarasota rezoned the downtown area, Laurel Park residents lost their ability to participate in development decisions on our borders. The LPNA formally requests that the City of Sarasota provide a 500 foot buffer around the neighborhood (RSM-9) where new development will follow the traditional process of neighborhood meetings, Planning Board and City Commission hearings. Projects*

*smaller than 5000 square feet (as currently delineated by city code) would be approved administratively. This ensures that Laurel Park residents receive the same protections currently offered other non-downtown neighborhoods and previously enjoyed by Laurel Park as well.*

Correcting this problem will require action by the City Commission and a Comprehensive Plan change, a process which takes time.

In the past, when the neighborhood could participate in development decisions, many positive changes were the result. Just one example: Michael Saunders agreed to place three story townhouses on her very large project at Laurel and Rawls. That project is still on the books. Ms. Saunders also agreed to change traffic circulation patterns to reduce impact on the neighborhood.

Following the Planning Board meeting, the LPNA Board will pursue support for this position with the City Commission.

Thanks go to JOLIE McINNIS for her work organizing Tunes in the Park.

## Holiday Spirit

Once again Laurel Park residents gathered to celebrate the holiday in Laurel Park. In spite of the last year's theft of our tree, LPNA purchased a new tree which has been enjoyed by all and remained in place.

The holiday event, organized by Kasy Kane, provided food, music, and the opportunity for tree trimming. Many delicious desserts and fruit items were supplied by residents. Many thanks to Kasy and her husband Joe for their efforts.



*Peter and Ginger Mermen, Carol Bolt, and Jean Lagunoff. Greg DiBona in front.*

*Kate Lowman*

## P.F. Chang's Planned for Osprey



If the project is approved by the City, Laurel Park will have a new P.F. Chang's Restaurant on our southern border. Developer Dr. Mark Kauffman plans to replace the building at the corner of Mound and Osprey with a new structure. Parking areas in the remainder of the land (which extends up to the dry-cleaner and the Laurel Park border) will be reconfigured. The office building and assisted living facility will remain.

Initial plans called for a rezone of the land to Downtown Edge (five stories/25 units per acre.) However, at the request of residents, Dr. Kauffman agreed to instead choose Downtown Neighborhood Edge (three stories/18 units per acre.) The project team will submit a site plan to the city as part of the rezone request, so the neighborhood will have the opportunity to see and comment on all the details.


A well-attended neighborhood meeting was held on December 7 at City Hall. Residents expressed concerns about the impact of traffic on the neighborhood generally and also asked specifically about the protections on the border of Laurel Park. This is the area to the south of Ohio Place. Residents requested a substantial vegetative buffer and also a wall to prevent light and noise from intruding into Ohio Place.

The project will receive a Planning Board and City Commission hearing. LPNA will notify residents when those dates are established.

# Owens's FISH CAMP

At Owens we dish up fresh local fish and serve it in a quaint and cozy atmosphere that is reminiscent of Old Sarasota, free of pretension and loaded with fun... delicious selections from our vintage seafood menu will leave you hooked and coming back for more.



**941.951.OWEN**  
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**516 BURNS LANE • SARASOTA, FL 34236**

# 2011 • LPNA Membership Drive • 2011

With the arrival of the New Year, it is time to renew your membership in the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association. You do not need to contribute financially to become a member, but we greatly appreciate your support. Your dollars help put on Tunes and Movies in the Park, our Holiday party, publish this newsletter and pursue other activities.

## Laurel Park Improvements

Two woofs up and a howl for the bipeds who live in the Laurel Park neighborhood. Those two-legged creatures have shown me that they love the park almost as much as I do.

Although the humans cannot scratch, sniff and run, they can sure dig almost as well as I, Anya the Boston Terrier. In September, a dedicated group of Laurel Park workers trimmed, mulched and weeded the West side of Laurel Park. In November, a



Joe Kane at work

smaller but equally determined group of workers planted 5 sea grapes and mulched the East side of Laurel Park.

Together with pressure washing the gazebo and the new sod and plants installed by the City of Sarasota Public Works employees, the park is looking beautiful. Now get my leash and let's go play.

Anya



## Let's Talk Trash

Hello humans. My mistress, Jolie, and I enjoy quiet strolls daily around our neighborhood. Trash has always interested me, and I have observed that new rules are in effect.

The city picks up garbage, recycling, household and yard waste on Tuesdays. You will be able to sleep later if you place your barrels and bins at the curb the night before, or no later than 6:00 a.m on Tuesday morning. Please retrieve bins by Tuesday evening and store behind the front façade of your home.

Your green garbage bin on wheels is for *trash only*. Recyclable items should be placed in recycling bins. Blue bin recyclable materials include: aluminum cans, foil, and food trays without residue; steel/tin cans; glass bottles and jars of all colors; metal jar lids; plastic containers marked on the bottom with a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7, and polycoated paper cartons (milk and juice cartons and boxes). Green bin recyclable materials include: newspapers, flattened cardboard, junk mail, magazines, telephone directories, white or colored paper, brown paper bags, cereal boxes, pizza boxes, and paper of just about any type that is not contaminated by food, metal, glue, etc.

It's better to place yard waste (leaves, branches, etc) at the curb in garbage cans. If you use a plastic bag, it will be left behind. So let's talk trash, but remember, keep it clean!

Kelcy



## Support Your Neighborhood

Become a Member   
or Friend  of the LPNA!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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**Contribution**  
\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL FORM AND CONTRIBUTION TO:**  
LPNA  
P.O. BOX 1485  
SARASOTA, FL 34230

## The State of Real Estate

There are currently 7 residential properties listed for sale in Laurel Park. Four properties have sold since the last newsletter was published in August, 2010.

1919 Laurel Street	List Price	\$199,900
	Sold Price	\$125,000
1638 Dolphin Street	List Price	\$389,000
	Sold Price	\$215,000
1829 Laurel Street	List Price	\$425,000
	Sold Price	\$400,000
1631 Laurel Street	List Price	\$479,000
	Sold Price	\$435,000

Currently there are five sales pending:

1816 Morrill Street	List Price	\$100,000
640 Madison Court	List Price	\$120,000
642 Madison Court	List Price	\$120,000
610 Madison Court	List Price	\$209,000
1718 Cherry Lane	List Price	\$649,000

Below are properties that have seen a price reduction since the most recent newsletter:

1842 Hawkins Court	\$250,000 to \$160,000
1855 Oak Street	\$690,000 to \$650,000
329 S. Osprey Ave.	\$740,000 to \$715,000
1871 Laurel Street	\$1,375,000 to \$1,350,000

*Information Provided by Betsy Sublette, Realtor, Signature Sotheby's International Realty  
Source: Sarasota Multiple Listing Service*

Special thanks to Laurel Park residents Bob and Teresa Stone, who own Minuteman Press on the corner of Fruitville Road and Lime Avenue. They are registered with the City as an authorized Neighborhood Association Newsletter printer and they always do a great job with printing our newsletters.



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Rebeca Jaensch

## Downtown's Neighborhood Pub

**Smoke-Free Indoors**  
**Outdoor Beer Garden**

For events & specials go to:  
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