

Laurel Park News



February 2009

Brick Street Revival

Damage Done to Rawls Bricks has Positive Outcome



Bill Hallisey and Doug Jeffcoat inspect the brick.

During the stormwater project last year, a portion of Rawls Avenue, south of Oak Street was damaged. Because this is one of the few exposed brick streets in our neighborhood, the LPNA brought this to the attention of the City of Sarasota.

Ultimately, the City decided to try a pilot street restoration project. They will be determining whether it is possible to restore this brick street by picking the bricks up, contouring and compacting the sand sub-base, and then re-laying the existing bricks (supplemented by bricks from other sources.)

This approach is an alternative to a major and costly reconstruction of the street which would entail installing new curbs, base material, drainage system, and so on. City representatives expect to return Rawls to better than its pre-construction condition.

According to Bill Hallisey (City of Sarasota Director of Public Works) and Doug Jeffcoat (General Manager-Streets and Highways), the city will also examine all its utility facilities below the street bed to ensure that they are in good repair. They will contact developers of the Devonshire Project and utility companies (Verizon, FPL, and Comcast) in an effort to determine if they have any planned facilities work so the newly laid brick street can remain undisturbed for as long as possible. In addition, the city plans to install conduit underneath the new roadbed to accommodate any unplanned future utility work. They expect the work to begin in April.

Above and beyond! To preserve both asphalt-covered and exposed brick streets in Laurel Park, Mr. Hallisey has also begun working with other City departments to draft changes to the Engineering Design Criteria Manual and the permitting process. These changes will provide guidelines for building contractors and utility companies which will preserve our brick streets until such time as we can fully restore them. When this was written, we had not learned whether brick removed (from asphalt covered streets) during construction or repairs would be returned to the roadbed or stored at a safe location.

LPNA sincerely thanks Laurel Park resident, Juli Abdulla for bringing the situation on Rawls Avenue to our attention. In addition, we thank Bill Hallisey, Doug Jeffcoat and Bob Bartolotta at the City of Sarasota for



Juli Abdulla

their support and assistance in undertaking this project and future changes to the city's procedures.

We need your brick!

Some existing brick pavers are broken or missing, and you may be able to help with this effort. Do you have street bricks lying around? The city will collect any whole, brick street pavers. Contact Suzy Hagglund for more information. (suzy.hagglund@verizon.net or 954-5599).

Suzy Hagglund

Feb. 26: Candidate Forum

Sarasota County Chambers
1660 Ringling Blvd., 6:30 PM

April 4: Tunes in the Park

April 18: Clean-Up Day

April 19: General Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In a few short months, we are all in a new mood. We are sobered by the economy and elated and/or watchful by the exciting new shift in our national administration. Change in our individual and communal lives is not only natural and expected, it is assured by the challenges ahead.

At the neighborhood level, with Neighbors Helping Neighbors we are looking to help each other; to utilize services closer to home. Extend that to using neighborhood restaurants and businesses close by when possible; walk to town and leave the car parked. Think of the merchants and service people you want to stay in business...your support really does matter.

With fewer City staff, fewer resources at every level, your willingness to pitch in – pick up carelessly thrown items, offer to help your neighbor keep up her yard, keep an eye out for suspicious activity and report it – will be appreciated.

Without significant volunteerism, Laurel Park would not be the friendly, safe and beautiful place to live in that it is! Your response to the LPNA membership drive has been enthusiastic and much appreciated.

You may be thinking about more self sufficiency now....you may be ready to go solar, consider a rain barrel or cistern, grow some herbs and tomatoes for your tossed salad. You might consider landscaping with native plants. Would you be interested in an eco-festival in the park this coming summer? Let me know.

Democracy starts at the neighborhood level so I hope you will attend the Laurel Park/Alta Vista candidate forum to be held Thursday, February 26, 6:30-8:30 PM, in the COUNTY Commission Chambers, at the Sarasota County Administration Building on Ringling. Informed, you can make better choices for City Commissioners who will represent your concerns. Hope to see you there.

Wishing you well.

Jude Levy

365-2314

the City auditor and clerk – a decided departure from her interests in psychology and spirituality. In her position, she sat through many City Commission meetings and saw what was happening to change the character of Sarasota. She joined others with the similar concerns and together they created "Save Our Sarasota" which has taken on the issue of saving the downtown space.

Retirement Brings New Pursuits

Jude retired in 2004 and thus had more time to devote to interests she didn't know she had. After seeing the documentary, "Condemned" about the deplorable conditions at Janie Poe public housing, she spearheaded a community-wide task force with Valerie Buchand, the president of the residents' association there. (Both are now on the board of the Sarasota Housing Authority.) She campaigned for Kelly Kirchner. She became the president of LPNA last April, a position that she enjoys because of her love of the neighborhood and the people she works with.

Retirement has been a time for Jude to learn new things that she otherwise wouldn't have had time for. She has traveled to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cuba, and Tanzania, and plans to go to Greece in the fall.

Jude feels grateful for all the places she has lived, the people she has known, and the opportunities to learn new things. She is surprised by the plethora of her new interests and wants to be surprised by what the future will bring.

Nancy Richardson

Jude's Story



Jude Levy

Jude Levy's first visit to Sarasota was in 1972. She immediately fell in love with the city and learned about the natural aspects of its tropical lure. The following year she began working in student affairs at New College and, in 1977, received a masters in Rehabilitation Counseling. She had already completed a B.A. in Philosophy from Mary Washington College.

Jude, however, developed wanderlust and lived for different periods in Aspen, Portland, Santa Fe, Seattle, and in the San Francisco Bay area of California. She studied at a seminary in Berkeley, CA for a year, after which she decided not to become an Episcopalian priest.

Cherry Lane

Returning to Sarasota, she moved into Cherry Lane Studios in 2003, where she lives today.

Her interest in politics developed while working in the office of Billy Robinson,

Diana in the Park



*Always on guard
Photo: Tom Carter*

After many years at St. Armands, Laurel Park's newest resident decided she wanted to move downtown. Thanks to persistent efforts on the part of Jolie McInnis, Diana has moved into, quite literally, Laurel Park. She is accompanied by her dog and a nest of birds. Diana was the Roman goddess for wild nature and forests, but she was later associated with hunting, and as a protector of women, with chastity, marriage and childbirth.

Recently, St. Armands business owners invested much money and effort into cleaning old and obtaining new statues to grace St. Armands Circle. Having done that, a number of statues became surplus City property in search of a new home, and the City invited neighborhoods to apply for them. Jolie's quick action got us Diana and another smaller statue with two faces.

Things quickly became more complicated. Laurel Park and several other neighborhoods spent months working with the City to develop a legal agreement covering responsibility for the statues. The neighborhoods pointed out that since the statues were City property located on City land, citizen liability should be limited. Finally, an agreeable solution was reached which will require the neighborhoods to perform gentle cleaning on a regular basis.

Laurel Park applied for and received a grant to help cover our share of the moving costs, as did San Remo and the Gardens of Ringling Park.

We are indebted to City employee Michele Mician for all her hard work in making these various moving parts fit together and helping everyone to work as a team. Thanks also to Jolie and Suzy Hagglund who upgraded the landscaping adjacent to Diana in January.



*Diana and her faithful companion
Photo: Tom Carter*

Holiday Lights in Laurel Park



Osprey Avenue

Once again, Osprey Avenue glowed with lights over the holiday season. As they have been doing for the past decade, the McInnis family was decorating the neighborhood for everyone.

Brian, Jolie, and their two sons, Brian and Andrew, have made it a family project to buy, place and take down those lights. Now that the kids are heading off into the big world, they may need some assistance to continue this project.

Meanwhile, many thanks to the McInnis family for all the pleasure they have given us.



Under the Gazebo

Sunday, December 14 was a perfect Florida "holiday tree lighting" night, with clear skies and balmy weather. Carol Bradley was the first neighbor to arrive at the park, bearing goodies and ready to celebrate. When a new neighbor and volunteer, Lauri Jenkins, asked Carol how long she had been in Laurel Park, Carol replied "all my life!"

Gradually, small groups of two, three and four congregated until we had around fifty folks. The tables filled with families, friends and neighbors, and people munched on sandwiches and heavenly desserts

such as brownies, raspberry white chocolate cheese cake and star fruit. A fresh green salad rounded out the menu. LPNA provided sandwiches and drinks, and the rest came as offerings from the neighbors.

A youngster's mom arrived pulling a wagon filled with sparkling silver garlands. Her little boy promptly dove into decorating the gazebo. Several children began decorating the tree with ornaments in between bites of chocolate or a quick jaunt in a toy car.

The evening was topped off with the arrival of more neighbors and jolly singing of carols and holiday songs: the harmonic sounds wafted through the night air.

We hope you all come back again next year, or if you weren't able to attend, please join us in 2009!

A sincere thank you to all the volunteers that made this delightful evening possible. A special thanks to my husband Joe and to Jolie, who we could not do without.

Kasy Kane

Sarasota City Election Season

March 10, 2009 is the next Sarasota City election. Laurel Park residents will help to choose two City Commissioners and will also be voting on a charter amendment which would expand the City Commission to seven members, including an elected mayor. Please join us at the joint Laurel Park / Alta Vista Candidate Forum to help decide who deserves your vote.

Nine Candidates

Nine candidates are competing for the two at-large City Commission seats. Those seats are currently held by Lou Ann Palmer (who will retire) and Ken Shelin (who is running.) Ultimately, the two highest vote getters will win the seats. The candidates are:

Suzanne Atwell
Jay Berman.
Paul Caragiulo
Rick Farmer
Robin Harrington
Ray McKinon
Ken Shelin
Pete Theisen
Terry Turner

**Laurel Park / Alta Vista
Candidate Forum
Thursday, February 26,
6:30 PM
County Commission Chambers
1660 Ringling Blvd.**

Each voter may cast two votes. In order to win, a candidate must receive 50% plus one of the number of voters participating in the election. Theoretically, two candidates could win in March, but with so many people running, it is likely that a run-off election will be held in April. You will find some additional information about all the candidates at the city election page (www.sarasotagov.com). In addition, a google search will turn up web sites for most candidates.

Charter Amendment

Voters will also be deciding an important charter amendment which

would increase the number of City Commissioners from five to seven, one of which would be an elected mayor. Currently, we have three district Commissioners (each elected by a third of the City) and two at-large Commissioners (elected by the entire City.) This new proposal would shift that balance to four at-large Commissioners (one of whom would be the mayor) and the current three district Commissioners.

This charter amendment is quite controversial.

Additional information

For additional information, please see the web sites of the proponents of the measure (Elected Mayor Now) and the opponents (The Citizens Voice.)

- Elected Mayor Now (www.electedmayornow.com)
- The Citizens Voice (voteno2seven.net)

See you at the COUNTY Commission Chambers for the forum!

Kate Lowman



*Hawkins Court
Before and After*



Road Repair

A Laurel Park resident has taken brick street restoration into his own hands – literally. Leon Celestino of Hawkins Court moved to Laurel Park from Vermont last year. He was perplexed by the asphalt patch in front of his home and wanted to make repairs. Leon needed brick street pavers to restore his portion of Hawkins Court to its original pavement. Nearby neighbors contributed some brick and Jude Levy put Leon in touch with Bill Hallisey, City of Sarasota Director of Public Works, who supplied the rest. Photos show Hawkins Court before restoration and after. Thanks Leon!

Suzy Hagglund

**Join the
Great American
Clean-up
April 18
8:30 AM in the park**



LPNA's Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program

Post an ad! Offer your services!

Do you need extra income? Do you baby sit or iron? Can you run errands? Would you enjoy cooking for a neighbor or house painting? Are you a handy person? Do editing? Tutoring? House cleaning? Window washing? Would you or your son or daughter like to pet walk, pet sit? Do you paint portraits or wash cars or give tuba lessons?

If you have a skill or talent you wish to offer neighbors as a volunteer, for a fee, or to barter, Laurel Park Neighborhood Association would like to help you.

You may be a mother with young children at home that can offer mending or ironing for short periods, or a resident wanting to help other residents with their errands or yard work.

Once a month the board will email an updated list of services to members and post the list on the website and on the bulletin board at the park.

It's Simple to Participate

- You must be a current member of LPNA (membership is not fee based, but a donation helps pay for the events and services the association provides).
- Fill out a service form and submit it to LPNA as directed on the form.

PLEASE NOTIFY LPNA if you stop offering the service so the list can be kept up to date.

The LPNA only acts as the publicist and takes no responsibility for the services rendered.

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**Laurel Park's Neighbors Helping Neighbors
AD Form**

_____ I am a current member of the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association.
(If not, please fill out a membership form and attach it to your ad form.)

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Age if under 18 _____

Email Address: _____

Is this a voluntary _____ or a paid service _____

Type of service you are offering:

Briefly describe the service: _____

Contact Phone number:

Contact Email Address:

The LPNA will only act as the publicist and will accept no responsibility for the services rendered.

Return the form to:

Deborah Dart
By email: deborah.dart@dagdart.com
By fax: 365-8906
By snail mail: c/o LPNA, P.O. Box 1485,
Sarasota, FL 34230
By foot: Drop in my mailbox at 542 Ohio Place

www.historiclaurelpark.org

LPNA General Meeting

April 19, 2009

3:00-5:00 PM

Meeting in the Park!

LPNA will provide refreshments. Please bring chairs or blankets to sit on.

Tunes in the Park

April 4, 2009

5:00 PM

LPNA will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a potluck, your friends, and come prepared to dance.

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2009 • Membership • 2009

In an effort to simplify life for the volunteers who make up LPNA, we are **shifting to an annual renewal due at the beginning of the calendar year.** (*Anyone who renewed from September to December 2008 will be considered a member for 2009.*) If your name is NOT listed below, then it is time to renew.

Your membership makes possible this newsletter and our numerous social events. We appreciate your support.

LAUREL PARK MEMBERSHIPS

(as of Feb 5, 2009)

Pat Agnew
 Judy & Barry Alexander
 Eugenia Athan
 Margaret & Tom Ballard
 Wilson Barrera
 Sally & Roger Betts
 Carol Bradley
 Gerald Callaio/Thomas Witmer
 Susan Campbell
 Kate Lowman & Tom Carter
 Alice & Leon Celestino
 Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
 DeeDee Cousins
 Deb and John Dart
 Mare Dunphy
 Patrick Dailey
 JoAnn Demartini
 Pamela Diamond
 Carol Butera-Dutton & Tim Dutton
 Bruce E. Franklin
 Chris Horn
 Suzy & Paul Hagglund
 Chris Horn
 Melisse Hypponen
 Martha Isana
 Laurie Jenkins
 Jodi John
 Cari Johnson
 Kasy & Joe Kane
 Regina & John Kearney

Alan Kranich
 Susan Lachat
 Jean Lagunoff
 Anne-Marie & Michael Lang
 Jude Levy
 Carter and Teza Lord
 Linda Sargent & James Lingley
 Nancy & Stephen Long
 Debbie & Blaz Lucas
 Marge McKeever
 Michele Mancini
 Rachel Maney
 James Miller
 Krystina Muller
 Elizabeth Neupert
 Nancy & Jack Notestein
 Manuela Ocana de la Cruz &
 Roimal Gonzales
 Mikealan & Jeff O'Keefe
 Katherine & Greg Orenic
 Thomas Poaps
 Nancy Richardson
 Terry Rowe
 Nina Royal & Harold Lipsett
 Evelyn & Michael Shade
 Betsy Sublette
 Susan and Alan Tannenbaum
 Veronica Tarnowski
 Ginnie Whittington
 Jessica Winters



Support Your Neighborhood

Become a Member
or Friend of the LPNA!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

OWN _____ RENT _____

Contribution
 \$25 _____ \$35 _____ \$50 _____
 Other _____

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

**We will miss our friend,
 Ken Wingate,
 our neighbor and a former
 LPNA board member.**

The State of Real Estate

by Betsy Sublette

There have been no properties sold since the most recent newsletter was published, but there are three pending sales:

602 Ohio Place	List Price \$624,900
320 Ohio Place	List Price \$399,000
1866 Hawkins Ct.	List Price \$359,000

Below are properties that have seen a price adjustment since the last issue of the newsletter:

507 Madison	\$424,000 to \$394,000
526 S. Osprey	\$449,000 to \$399,000
1828 Hawkins Ct.	\$475,500 to 425,500
1829 Laurel St.	\$499,500 to \$449,500
1841 Oak Street	\$749,000 to \$699,000
1709 Devonshire	\$875,000 to \$795,000
1860 Hawkins Ct.	\$895,000 to \$850,000
1718 Cherry Lane	\$950,000 to \$785,000
527 Madison	\$499,000 to \$399,000
1919 Laurel	\$353,000 to \$347,500
643 Ohio Place	\$300,000 to \$269,900

Currently there are 21 residences listed for sale in Laurel Park.

*Information Provided by Betsy Sublette, Realtor
Sky-Sotheby's International Realty
Source: Sarasota Multiple Listing System*

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.



President: Jude Levy
Vice President: Chris Jaensch
Treasurer: Betsy Sublette
Secretary: Suzy Hagglund

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and
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