

Laurel Park News



April 2010

New LPNA Board Takes Office

The Laurel Park Neighborhood Association board serves for two years, with elections taking place every other February. The newly elected LPNA board met in March to choose officers and parcel out duties. Suzy Haglund will serve as President and Carol Dutton assumed the Vice Presidency. Betsy Sublette continues as Treasurer, and the role of Secretary will be filled by Sheila Zachowski.

Profiles of the new board members and their tasks are listed below. As you will see from the list of duties, LPNA is engaged on a broad front of activities. We welcome and need involvement by others in the neighborhood in order to actually get all these tasks completed. As you read through, please consider which areas of volunteer activity you might enjoy.

Carol Butera, vice-president: Carol is serving her third year on the board, and as vice-president, will be stepping in for the president as needed. Carol did the work to get historic sign toppers for some of our neighborhood signs and will be maintaining the sign board at Laurel Park.



Carol very much enjoys the walkability of our neighborhood, including access to the water and the downtown. After purchasing property in Laurel Park five years ago, it proved impossible to save the old and neglected home on the property. Carol built a new house, but it was very much the daughter of the former structure. Nobody seeing her charming house on Laurel Street would ever guess it had not been there for the past fifty years.

Carol is also vice-president for development at Children First, a head start/early head start program serving Sarasota County. She has four children and three grandchildren.

Rene Desjardins, board member: Rene and his wife Margaret moved to Laurel Park from Punta Gorda after Rene retired as Charlotte County Assistant Superintendent of Schools. He is very interested in historic issues and brick streets and will be chair of the LPNA Historic Committee. Rene will also be researching / writing grants other than the annual *Tunes* grant and will serve as LPNA's representative to the CCNA.



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Dates to Remember

- April 17, 8:30-11:00 AM**
N'hood cleanup, Laurel Park
- April 17, 9:30-11: AM**
BRT Open House,
County Bldg. 1660 Ringling
- April 19, time TBA**
City Commission considers BRT,
1565 First Street
- April 24, 5:00-9:00 PM**
Tunes in the Park

County Explores Alternate BRT Route

Sarasota County has been working on a grant proposal for a Rapid Transit Bus which would run north/south through the City. The initial proposal had these buses (up to 156 per day), running through Laurel Park on Osprey Avenue. Laurel Park opposition to this plan was steady and vocal. It appears that these concerns were heard and the County will be presenting a new plan which goes south on Orange Avenue, east on Mound, south on US41. This will be presented at an Open House on April 17 and to the City Commission on April 19. Please plan to attend both events and let your Commissioners know that you support the alternate plan and appreciate that the City and County have worked to find a solution which meets both transportation needs and neighborhood concerns.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Neighbors,

This is my first article as president of the best neighborhood association in the best neighborhood in Sarasota. I ask your patience with me, as I have never served in this sort of role before. I am open to your comments and concerns.

I'd like to thank Jude Levy, Chris Jaensch and Deb Dart for their service to our neighborhood association over the past two years. I am pleased to be serving alongside continuing board members Kate Lowman, Kasy Kane, Betsy Sublette and Carol Butera. I welcome our new members Sheila Zachowski, Rene Desjardins and Scott Stuart.

I am deeply saddened by the death of my friend and long-time Laurel Park resident Susan Harris on March 2, 2010. Susan Harris served as a board member of the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association just last year. Her family: mother, Helga Harris, daughter, Ali Harris, and partner, Karim Ghazli still live in Laurel Park. I am proud of many Laurel Park neighbors who helped Susan and her family during her illness with dinners, rides and errands and who were present to participate in the Celebration of Susan's Life on March 28 in Laurel Park. I am happy to report that our board has agreed to honor Susan by dedicating a tree in Laurel Park. More about that in a future issue of the Laurel Park News.

My vision for Laurel Park is much the same as many past presidents, a safe, beautiful, peaceful place to live. I plan to continue my efforts to return more of our streets to exposed brick. I believe we proved our commitment to this goal with the City of Sarasota last year by our turnout restoring Rawls Avenue. Our board has begun meetings with the city that will change city processes and procedures so that construction and utility work will have less negative impact on this valuable, historic resource.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our membership drive this year. As of today, we have 116 members, more than in the past several years. I wish to remind you that membership is free and open to all residents and owners in our neighborhood (though we do appreciate and rely on your contributions.) A membership form is included in this newsletter. Please include your email address so that you can be informed about crime, cleanups, and social events.

Sincerely,

Suzy Hagglund

Board, continued from page 1

Rene and Margaret have been happily married for 45 years and have three grown and married children; Tom in (MA), Mike (FL) and Kate (UK). They are blessed with 6 grandchildren. Margaret is currently professor at Edison State College. After a 45 year career in education in MA and FL, Rene is busy with local activities and just plain enjoying every day. They spend the summer months in Massachusetts enjoying their son and his family and the local area where they came from.

Suzy Hagglund, president: A Laurel Park resident for five years, Suzy has



served on the LPNA board as Secretary for the last four years. The community emails which you received during that time came from Suzy. She

maintained our membership lists and helped others with social events and clean-ups. Suzy was deeply involved in the collection of data for the Laurel Park National Register Historic District and has been a key agent in working with the City on brick street preservation. In addition to her general responsibilities as President, Suzy will continue her focus on street preservation by developing our Streetscape Plan with the City. Suzy will coordinate membership activities.

Retired from a career with Verizon,

See Board, page 6



In remembrance of Susan Harris,
our friend and neighbor.
And with love to her family,
Helga, Karim, Ali, Jeffrey, Laura, and Jay.

Movies in the Park

On a very cold February night, the LPNA had its first *Movies in the Park*. With temperatures down in the 40s, attendance was down except for the toughest of tough Laurel Park residents. Bringing their own couch and a group of friends, Stephanie and Raven munched popcorn and sipped on hot chocolate.

While Bob, Teresa, Martha and Paul sat trying to keep warm, their kids played as if it were just another warm Florida evening. Lee, Sheila, Brittany and others bundled under blankets beneath the stars to watch *Honey I Shrank the Kids* and *Finding Nemo*. Thanks go to our very own Laurel Park tech and sound

man Alan Kranach: he was fabulous to set up and stay to make sure all went well for the evening.

Watching the movies on a giant screen in our park was reminiscent of the good old drive-in days. In spite of the cold, all present were enthusiastic about the event, and we hope do it again soon.

Jolie McInnis



**MOVIES
IN THE PARK**

N'hood Cleanup

Plan to meet at the park on April 17 for the n'hood clean-up, 8:30-11:00. Win a prize and get that good n'hood feeling too. A dumpster will be located at Rawls and Devonshire for your home spring cleanup. No paint or hazardous materials. For questions, call Jolie at 951-2468.

Friendly Reminder

Please remember garbage barrels and recycling bins must be taken from the curb after pick up. Code enforcement can write out violations for barrels and cans left at the curb.

Tunes in the Park

April 24th, 5-9 p.m. in Laurel Park

Beatles
Music!



Potluck
Dinner

Potluck Dinner. Bring a main dish to share.

Come enjoy a great evening with your friends, families and neighbors.

Desserts, utensils and water provided by LPNA.

Thanks to The City of Sarasota & The Laurel Park Neighborhood Association.

Shoogie Boogies, in Towles Court

Shoogie Boogies, a Towles Court photography studio with a specialty in photographing children, has expanded to include a cafe. Originally established in Monterey, CA in 2001, this second Shoogie Boogies (1919 Morrill Street) was started in 2005. Owner Kathryn Kittinger says that the original name derived from a term of endearment given her by her grandfather, and she decided to use the name in his honor.

The Shoogie Boogies property is now comprised of a photography studio, gift shop, courtyard cafe, and a garden room cafe. The studio is open by appointment. Each job takes a minimum of eight hours per client. The bricked courtyard doubles as part of the studio as well as a cafe, with tea tables, wooden fences and two bathtubs overflowing with bright blue flowers.

Unique to Shoogie Boogies is the Garden Room Cafe – an imported custom-built English cottage – in which light lunches and desserts are



Shoogie Boogie's courtyard.



served. (The structure can be purchased as can any and all other items connected with the shop and courtyard such as napkin rings, soaps, chocolates, jewelry and garden statuary.) Open hours are Monday-Saturday from 12:00 to 5:00 and Sunday brunch from 12:00 to 2:00. "Dessert under the stars" is available by reservation only from 9:00 PM to midnight on the night of the third Friday Towles Court stroll.

It has taken approximately eighteen months for Kathryn to expand from a photography studio to a gift shop and garden cafe. Clients say that she has an eye for detail which makes her a natural at arranging everything from photo shoot composition to the design of a courtyard garden.

The menu includes a variety of salads, quiches, soups and sandwiches which can be chosen in a mix and match format. Desserts can be ordered individually or on a pedestal, sliced for sharing. Both the garden and the tea room are delightful locations.

Nancy Richardson

Porch Correction Moves Forward

On March 24, the Planning Board unanimously approved LPNA's proposal to ensure that *new construction* in Laurel Park includes a usable porch. The intent behind this zoning text amendment, dating back to the 1990's Laurel Park overlay, is to promote porches in order to facilitate social interaction and build neighborhood bonds.

The 1998 overlay district required a front porch, deck or similar feature, and in exchange reduced the required setback for houses. However, when the overlay became our current RSM-9 zoning, the intent language was not included. Consequently, several new homes have extremely narrow porches which technically meet the square footage requirement but are not actually usable as a porch.

The language, if fully approved, will read as follows (new language is italic and deleted language has a strike through): "The main entrance on principal buildings shall include a porch, deck or similar open-air covered main entry feature. The porch deck or similar feature shall have a minimum area of ~~60 square feet~~ *depth of 6 feet and com-*

prise a minimum of 30% of the width of the principal building's front facade (not including the garage) or 8 feet whichever is larger."

This correction has been discussed in previous newsletters and was approved at a general meeting of the LPNA in November 2009. The City Commission must still approve the change, but no date has yet been set for that



Board, continued from page 2

Suzy is married to Paul, has a beautiful grown daughter Leisa (who lives in Denver), and has a Pug – Einstein – with whom she is madly in love. She enjoys walks, reading and gardening.

Kasy Kane, board member: Starting her fifth year on the board, Kasy continues to be responsible for the holiday party and two annual clean-ups. These are both labor intensive activities needing volunteers, so be sure to let Kasy know if you would like to assist with either one. Kasy will also help with newsletter advertising.



Kasy moved to Laurel Park when she married Joe Kane in 2006. (You are likely to see Joe walking their yellow lab, Lucy.) Between them, they have two sons, three daughters and two grandchildren. Their career as therapists in private practice can be intense work. To balance daily life, they love to bike and kayak the beautiful waters of Florida and to travel. The next venture is Sedona and the Grand Canyon.

Jude Levy, past president: Jude Levy, a Laurel Park resident on Cherry Lane for seven years, spent the last two as LPNA president. A renter, Jude brought special sensibilities to the board and was always concerned about how to make it a more inclusive organization. The Environmental Fair was Jude's brainchild, as was the shift to annual renewals in January, a move which has helped generate our largest ever membership (we think). She worked actively to protect Laurel Park's interests on many fronts. Prior to joining the board, Jude set the LPNA on the path to historic district designation, chairing the committee charged with exploring the idea.



Now that she has completed those responsibilities Jude will be taking a sabbatical in California. We eagerly await her return.

Kate Lowman, board member: Beginning her seventh year as an LPNA board member, Kate is currently in charge of the newsletter and grant writing for *Tunes in the Park*. Over the years, she has



served as president and is generally involved in political and development issues that affect the neighborhood. Most recently this has centered on the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) issue.

Kate also serves as chair for the CCNA (Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations.) Married to Tom Carter, she spends much of her time on photography and looks forward to the annual big travel trip with Tom.

Scott Stuart, board member: Scott is a new addition to Laurel Park and to the LPNA, but as a Riverview High grad and Sarasota native, he has deep roots in Sarasota. Scott and his wife Stacey live on Hawkins Court. He holds a BS from Florida State University.



Scott has been a small business owner for the past four years and currently runs a commercial cleaning company. He is a member of the downtown Kiwanis Club and the Sarasota Tiger Bay Club.

Scott will be in charge of communications, including email updates and has agreed to take over the web site. He has also taken on crime watch duties.

Betsy Sublette, treasurer: Betsy will continue to serve as treasurer, a post she has filled for six years. Betsy also compiles the real estate data for the newsletter.



While Betsy works in real estate as an agent for Signature Sotheby's International Realty, in real life Betsy is an avid gardener and would really spend every minute of the day in this pursuit if possible. You will often see her walking with her coterie of small dogs. Betsy refurbished an old bungalow on Oak which has been featured in multiple magazines and been a stop on local historic tours.

Sheila Zachowski, secretary: Having moved here in 2009, Sheila feels as if her new home in Laurel Park was meant to be. She loves being downtown with less driving, more walking, and friendly people. Sheila, and her daughters Hannah and Kat, list some of their favorite places as Island Park, Taste of Asia, Whiteberrys and the downtown YMCA.

Sheila brings her twenty years of experience owning and managing a small business to the LPNA Board.



Owen's FISH CAMP



At Owen's 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.



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LPNA Members 2010

The LPNA renews its memberships at the beginning of each new year. Many thanks to our new and renewing members, listed below. If you have not yet joined or renewed, please send in the attached membership form. We appreciate contributions, but it is not required.

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ernest and Patricia Agnew | Manuela Ocana Delacruz | Brian and Jolie McInnis |
| Barry and Judy Alexander | Lyndsay Gordon | Ellen McKeefe |
| Brittany Arnett | Al and Yvonne Haffner | Marge McKeever |
| Eugenia Athan | Paul and Martha Hafner | Janet McLaughlin |
| Barry and Carol Babson | Paul and Suzy Hagglund | Ed Midler |
| Thomas and Margaret Ballard | Helga Harris | Jim and Helen Miller |
| Wilson Barrera | Jeffrey Harris | Hannerle Moore |
| Roger and Sally Betts | Billy Hasson and Juliette Reynolds | Krystina Muller |
| Carol Bolt | Ann and Lyle Hepburn | Melody and Tim Murray |
| Charing Bostic | Chris Horn | Lance Nelson |
| Carol Bradley | Melisse Hypponen | Betty Neupert |
| Erika Brigham | Martha Isana | Jim and Karen Noffsinger |
| Chuck Burks | Bert and Amanda Issenberg | Jack and Nancy Notestein |
| Martin Burzynski and Annie Lannigan | Chris and Rebeca Jaensch | Mikeal'an and Jeff O'Keefe |
| Carol Butera | Laurie Jenkins | Katherine and Greg Orenic |
| Susan Campbell | Jodi John | Susie Petrecca |
| Tom Carter and Kate Lowman | Cari Johnson | Thomas Poaps |
| Leon and Alice Celestino | Baird Juckett and Sarah Malone | Victoria and Michael Popowick |
| Ed and Rosemary Chase | Joe and Kasy Kane | Kathryn Price |
| Carol Christie and Cecily Deex | Marla and Peter Katz | Nancy Richardson |
| Coastal Behavioral and Healthcare Inc. | John and Jean Kearney | Kristina Rogers |
| Nancy Collins | Laurel Keidel | Laurie Rosin |
| DeeDee Cousins | Marwan and Monika Khammash | Terry Rowe |
| Angelina Craig | Valeria King | Nina Royal |
| Mary Craig | Dennis and Jill Kowal | Jim and Bessy Shulte |
| Patrick Dailey | Alan Kranach | Senior Friendship Center |
| Kyle Daniels | Susan Lachat | Ev and Mike Shade |
| John and Deborah Dart | Jean Lagunoff | Fiona Shaw |
| Mary Davenport | Dan and Sarah Lamar | Sara Sinaiko |
| Joann DeMartini | Michael and Ann-Marie Lang | Barbara Southard and Greg DiBona |
| Rene and Margaret DesJardins | Jude Levy | Bob and Teresa Stone |
| Pamela Diamond | Cynthia Licata | Scott and Stacey Stuart |
| Tenile Dixon | James Lingley and Linda Sargent | Betsy Sublette |
| Mare Dunphy | Tamara Lloyd | Harper Sublette |
| Tim Dutton | Sierra Logan | Alan and Susan Tannenbaum |
| Violet Finger | Steve and Nancy Long | Vern Tarnowski |
| Bob and Stacy Fletcher | Carter and Teza Lord | Cornelia Ucello |
| Bruce Franklin | Blaz and Deborah Lucas | Ginny Whittington |
| Karim Ghazli and Susan Harris | Alan Luke | Jessica Winters |
| Roimel Gonzales and | Michele Mancini | Jerry Callaio and Tom Witmer |
| | Richard Maney | Ed and Sheila Zachowski |
| | Rachel Mann | |



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

The State of Real Estate

by Betsy Sublette

There are currently 14 residential homes listed for sale in Laurel Park. One property has sold since the last newsletter was published in January, 2010.

1860 Hawkins Court List Price \$440,000
Sold Price \$440,000

Currently, there are 6 sales pending:

635 Ohio Place List Price \$199,900
1919 Laurel Street List Price \$259,900
1638 Dolphin Street List Price \$389,000
1631 Laurel Street List Price \$479,000
1944 Morrill Street List Price \$599,000
1718 Cherry Lane List Price \$749,000

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

1676 Oak Street \$219,000 to \$199,000
636 Columbia Court \$289,000 to \$275,000
1841 Laurel Street \$339,900 to \$289,900
1829 Laurel Street \$449,000 to \$424,900
1833 Morrill Street \$625,000 to \$599,000
1855 Oak Street \$829,000 to \$775,000
329 S. Osprey Ave. \$839,900 to \$790,000
1876 Oak Street \$1,199,000 to \$999,000
555 S. Osprey Ave. \$1,300,000 to \$1,170,000
1871 Laurel Street \$1,495,000 to \$1,395,000

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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and
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Treasurer: Betsy Sublette
Secretary: Sheila Zachowski

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