

Laurel Park News



August 2010

In Your Own Backyard

Senior Friendship Center



Fitness Center

Just around the corner from the Laurel Park neighborhood is one of Sarasota's best-kept secrets: The Senior Friendship Center. The campus on Brother Geenen Way provides almost anything of interest for persons 50+ - from a center brimming with activities, classes and entertainment, to adult day services, in home

services, and caregiver support and health and dental services for people in need.

Open the door to The Friendship Center (the center building) and you're likely to be greeted with music, dancing, Wii, billiards, a photo gallery and more. Some 50 different classes are offered, including yoga, tai chi, woodcarving, tap dancing, hula, balance movement, senior exercise, acrylic painting, to name a few. The center is open to the public, and there are no membership or admission fees, though donations are asked to cover ongoing operations. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., you'll likely hear live music most mornings, bands playing daily from 1-3 p.m. - and a brand new dance floor. The Center gym includes PACE exercise equipment, and recumbent bicycles. Membership is just \$15 per month. Social Services, Medicare insurance assistance, and Seniors vs. Crime are also located at the Center.

Meals are served at noon every day for persons 60+ (reservations 24 hours in advance, please. Call 556-3214.) There is a great little snack bar called The Bistro with

See Senior Center, page 6

Melody Comes Home

When Melody Murray first saw the old-fashioned, two-story house at the corner Of Oak and Osprey, she knew she had to have it. At that moment in time, in the early 90s, she had already run her own business providing beauty treatments for thirteen years on St. Armand's Circle and Longboat Key. The notion of a day spa was not common, but that is precisely what Melody was thinking about. She needed a beautiful space with room to expand, a place where she could provide various treatments such as facials, massages and nail care, within a nurturing and peaceful environment.



Melody Murray

She had to bide her time. Although the house was available for business use, only the second floor lease was available. She needed the first floor with its welcoming porch and immediate access for clients. In 1994, that finally happened. Her practical business plan was sufficient to justify thinking about the project, but it was her passion for the house that convinced her CPA/attorney that she should take the risk.

Melody took out a loan to buy furnishings and opened with one other staff member. Soon she talked her mother into leaving retirement and join the spa as the "front desk girl." Melody's mom was instrumental in creating the friendly and welcoming atmosphere. To this day, clients from those early years still ask about her! One month after beginning the business, Melody moved into the small house next door, it

See Melody's, page 5

Dates to Remember

September 17, 7:30 PM

Movies in the Park
(movie starts at 8:00 PM)

November, time TBA

Tunes in the Park
keep an eye on:

www.historiclaurelpark.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Neighbors,

It's summertime in Laurel Park and along with steamy-hot days we've finally gotten some much-needed rain. This time of year is less hectic. Hopefully everyone will have time to stop and chat with neighbors and enjoy the "non-season" quiet.

The city will be installing new sod in Laurel Park over the next several weeks. This will be a major improvement to the park. To maintain the new grass, the city has decided that they will leave the irrigation on this summer. In other news about the park, I regret to report that a large Live Oak tree in the northwest corner of the park is diseased and will be replaced sometime this year. The LPNA will dedicate the tree to the memory of Susan Harris, our neighbor, who died in February of this year. We'll inform you when the ceremonies will be held.

You may have noticed that several mature trees around our neighborhood have declined to the point that they are falling down and being removed. The city arborist has informed us that many of the trees in our neighborhood are Laurel Oaks. This type of oak tree typically lives about 60 years. Sadly, many of ours have reached or exceeded that point. Did you know that trees reduce the heat effect caused by pavement and buildings in urban areas? Trees also conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, increase property value and moderate climate. They clean the air by sequestering carbon and by adding oxygen through photosynthesis. With this in mind, I encourage everyone with enough space to plant a tree. As the Chinese proverb goes "the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

On May 17th, the City Commission approved the text amendment defining the orientation and configuration for porches on new construction in our neighborhood. The zoning code now states that 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 depth of 6 feet and comprise a minimum of 30% of the width of the principal building's front façade (not including the garage) or 8 feet whichever is larger. In another ongoing matter, SCAT, as directed by the City and County Commissions, decided that the proposed Bus Rapid Transit would not be routed down Osprey Avenue, through Laurel Park.

On July 12th, Lieutenant Randy Boyd of the Sarasota PD spoke to the general membership about crime in our neighborhood. It was good to learn that we have a low incidence of crime. Attendees received a list of emergency telephone numbers and information about which numbers to call under various circumstances. We also received an on-line crime mapping tool from Lt. Boyd.

(<http://www.crimemapping.com/map.aspx?aid=a3e018df-bcfb-43de-bc50-384560593be0>)

Jolie McInnis has applied for a grant to host another Movie Night in the Park in September. For your viewing pleasure, we'll be showing cartoons and a "G" rated movie. Tentatively these will be followed by a "PG" movie later in the evening. We hope everyone will come and bring blankets and chairs and enjoy the warm evening.

Our former LPNA President, Deb Dart has created a beautiful new web site about the Laurel Park Historic District: (<http://laurelparkhistorichistoricdistrict.com>.) Enjoy!

We welcome the reopening of *Melody's Centre for Authentic Beauty* at 555 S. Osprey Avenue. Stay tuned for an open house, sometime in August.

Happy summer, Suzy

Yard Sales

Everybody loves a yard sale: what better way to get rid of excess belongings and to acquire new ones at a reasonable price? However a yard sale held too often starts becoming a business and is regulated by the City of Sarasota. According to city code, residents are allowed two yard sales per year.



Two Per Year



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MOVIE NIGHT IN LAUREL PARK

Bring the gang and enjoy a
free, kid-friendly movie
Sept. 17 at 7:30
(movie begins at 8:00)
Rain date Sept. 18



MOVIES
IN THE PARK

In our beautiful Laurel Park
Don't forget your blankets/chairs and snacks
Movie, popcorn and water brought to you by
LPNA and the City of Sarasota

• • • COMING IN NOVEMBER • • •

TUNES IN THE PARK

ENJOY MUSIC, FOOD AND FRIENDS

Watch for upcoming details at
www.historiclaurelpark.org
Call to volunteer or for info:
Jolie ☎ 951-2468



Owen's Fish Camp

Owner Mark Caragiulo named his restaurant after Owen Burns, who used to come to Sarasota from Chicago for the winter and referred to his visit as “going to the fishing camp.” Those were the days when Sarasota was indeed a “sleepy fishing village.” This story, according to Mark, is from Burns’ daughter, Harriet, who is now in her nineties and occasionally graces the restaurant with her presence.

Mark, a member of the locally renowned Caragiulo family, began his career in the restaurant business at the age of fourteen working in his father’s bakery in New York. He attended Florida State restaurant school.

Mark was not especially worried about opening his restaurant during a recession: he knows people are concerned about price, so he offers reasonably priced food in an atmosphere suitable to the cracker house decor. Open for only six months, ten articles have already been written about the restaurant, surely one measure of success.

The cuisine is vintage fish shack with offerings dating back to what would have been popular in the 1940s.



Owen's Fish Camp bar and restaurant is a lively spot.

There is a focus on old southern fare – grits and low country boil – but also a nod to New England, the latter being represented by lobster rolls at \$15 for two.

Mark feels that the Florida dining experience has been homogenized with many restaurants offering the same types of foods: “It’s nice to feel like you’re somewhere with a level of service that is unusual in today’s market.” This is truly a local restaurant—one run by a local family with local history as its theme, and located in a historic building.

The building housing Owen’s Fish Camp is about one hundred years old and, according to Harriet, the old banyan tree is there through Thomas Edison. It has been a restaurant for the past twelve to fifteen years.

Because it’s not on the beaten path, Mark believes that Owen’s is not a tourist destination but is a neighborhood restaurant that caters to the locals. We’re glad he made that decision.

Nancy Richardson

Hours: Open 7 days, 4-10 p.m. and 4-11 on Fridays and Saturdays. Located at 516 Burns Lane, just south of Burns Ct. Theater.

Citrus Cafe

Located at the juncture of Orange and Pineapple Avenues, Citrus Cafe has been owned for the past ten years by Susan and Michael McCormick. The clientele are made up of regulars, known by name, who have their favorites on the menu and notice if those faves are missing. (Those in the know even check out the Friday night special menu on Facebook.)

The economic downturn is not noticeable in the charming cafe because of its “mom and pop” nature and the fact that the wait staff has remained stable. The owners do note, however, that there has been a small decrease in the number of real estate agents and investors who come to the cafe.

Due to the size and accouterments of the walk-in sized kitchen, the focus of the restaurant is fresh salads and sandwiches, although chef Michael turns out meatloaf every other Friday and the occasional quiche. (The kitchen is comprised of two convection ovens and a hot plate.) The decor is island casual

with art from Jamaica and Haiti collected by Susan. When the city removed the ornamentals surrounding the outdoor fountain, Susan added foxtail palms and container pots with mint and rosemary to add ambience. Bright yellow umbrellas add extra color to the patio area.

Michael has been a chef for thirty years, part of which time he worked at Marvista on Longboat Key so one gets more than might be expected. Currently, Michael and Susan are looking to opening another restaurant in a new location somewhere between Main St and St. Armand’s within the next year. It would have a commissary kitchen that would amplify the offerings at the Citrus Cafe, and the atmosphere would be similar to the existing cafe.

Nancy Richardson

Hours: 11-3 on Mondays through Saturdays and for dinner on Fridays from 5-8:30. Located at the junction of Orange and Pineapple



Melody's, continued from page 1

which shares a common driveway. Previously used for storage by the owner, Melody convinced him to let her move in. She lived there five years before buying the house across Oak from Melody's.

She already loved the neighborhood and believed it would be two dreams coming true to live and work in such a quaint area. During the year it took to gut and renovate that house, Melody lived with various friends and clients. She finally moved into her new home in 1998, and says it is still a work in progress.

A Temporary Absence

Meanwhile the business flourished and expanded, ultimately having thirteen employees. By 2007, Melody was feeling that too much of her time was being spent on administrative tasks and she was not able to connect directly with her clients as much as she wanted. She was also concerned that the economy could not sustain its boom.

A friend was opening a salon at Lakewood Ranch and offered to share the space. This gave Melody the opportunity to reconnect with clients and think about what new direction she wanted to take the business in. The house at the corner of Oak and Osprey was then rented to other businesses.

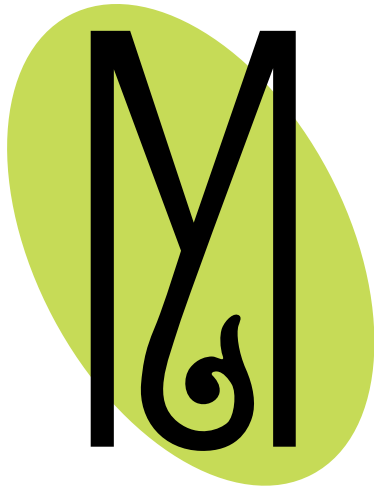
Laurel Park is fortunate that her final decision was to return to us with a similar, but modified, day spa. There is

a total of five staff members and the emphasis is on natural beauty: how to stay vibrant and attractive without the intervention of surgeon's knives or chemical injections. Melody envisions the spa as a "safe and supportive place for women," a place where women come to be nurtured," but she doesn't want to leave the men out. "We have a fairly large percentage of male clients who appreciate a place where they may escape the daily grind and experience healthy skin and body rejuvenation."

Melody's provides a range of services including facials, massages, manicures, body waxing and Footals, a proprietary foot treatment exclusive to Melody's. It is a facial for the feet and includes many of the steps you would find in a traditional pedicure and then some. Women will also be able to learn how to apply makeup or have it applied for a special event. "Most women teach themselves to put on makeup and sometimes get really frustrated. They want a natural look, but it doesn't work out, so they just end up using nothing. We can help show them how a light touch, using appropriate colors for their specific coloring, can make a big difference."

The house has been given its own makeover and is looking beautiful. Laurel Park is happy to welcome back Melody and her husband Tim Murray. They have kept two of our houses looking beautiful, provide an active business for the neighborhood, and are neighbors we are all grateful to have.

Kate Lowman



MELODY'S

CENTRE FOR AUTHENTIC BEAUTY

MELODY'S IS BACK!

My staff and I are delighted to call Laurel Park our "Business Home" once again. In the 2 ½ years since we last occupied Senator Humphries' former house, we have embraced many new, effective and naturally derived treatments for your skin, body and nails!

Because of the technological advances made over these past few years in natural rejuvenation, options other than medical are now available to help reverse the signs of aging, improve your skin's health as well as improving your overall feeling of well-being. The 21st century has arrived!

We look forward to welcoming our old friends as well as meeting new ones.

555 S. Osprey Ave ~ 941-952-1010 ~ www.melodys.us

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR LAUREL PARK RESIDENTS: RESERVE YOUR APPOINTMENT FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7-11TH AND RECEIVE 15% OFF ANY SERVICE!

Senior Center, continued from page 1

yummy treats – including fresh baked muffin tops most mornings. Lunch at the center frequently includes musical entertainment, and the spirit of friendship here makes it an ideal place to meet new people and have fun.

1000 Volunteers

More than 1,000 volunteers give their time and energy as part of Senior Friendship Centers’ family of “people helping people.” If you’d like to learn how volunteering can make a difference in your own life and the lives of others stop by the Volunteer Services Office at the Center.

Next door, to the west, is The Brother William Geenen Living Room, providing supervised adult day services for older adults in a supportive and compassionate environment. Licensed by the State of Florida, the adult day services enable caregivers to have time for themselves - to work or relax or take care of their own needs. The Caregiver Resource Center offers education and support groups for people on the caregiving journey.

To the east, just across from Sarasota Ford, is the Ruben Center for Healthy Aging, home to SFC



medical and dental clinics. More than 50 volunteer physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and clinic aides give their time to help people who are low income and uninsured. They are a lifesaver to many, particularly in this economy.

Pioneers in innovative programming for older adults for nearly four decades, the Friendship Centers lead the way in finding solutions to improve our lives, our communities and our world for all generations. The mission is “empowering individuals, families and communities through healthy and supportive aging services, activities, education and volunteerism.”

Founded in Sarasota 1973 by Brother William Geenen, CSC, this non-profit (501c3) organization is non-sectarian, and relies largely on the support of the communities we serve, along with federal, state, and foundation grant funding. Today, Senior Friendship Centers services are available in Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Lee, Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

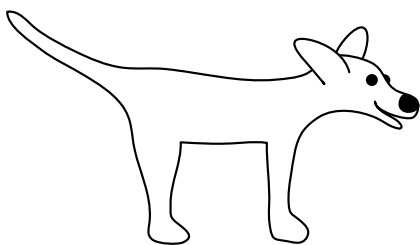
For more information, check the web at: www.friendshipcenters.org, or stop by the center to see for yourself why they say: “Friendship is Our Middle Name.”

Peg Palmer

We love dogs!

BUT.....

**Please be responsible:
leash and clean up after your dog.**



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Lieutenant Boyd New SPD Liaison

Laurel Park residents recently had the opportunity to meet our new police liaison, Lieutenant Randy Boyd, at the general meeting held July 12. Born in Sarasota, both he and his wife graduated from Sarasota High School. Boyd has spent over 19 years with the Sarasota Police Department and has held many positions within the police department, starting as a patrol officer. Over the years, he has worked in the Criminal Investigations Division and the FBI Violent Crime Task Force, and has also served as a TAC Officer, Field Training Officer, Training Officer and Training Sergeant.

Lieutenant Boyd reassured the group that Laurel Park has been relatively quiet with respect to crime. He encouraged everyone to take care of one another. "Be nosy neighbors and ask questions," he told the group. "If you see something that makes you uncomfortable, call the non-emergency number. If nobody comes, call again. If you get scared, call 911."

He observed that a handful of people cause most of the problems and stressed the need for neighborhood vigilance when you observe out of the ordinary activities.

The emergency 911 number should be used for immediate urgent need. There are a number of other non-emergency numbers that can be used to report suspicious activity. The first three (two non-emergency numbers and one narcotics tip line) are recordings. You can leave a message on an answering machine. You will be completely anonymous unless you choose to leave contact data.

Non-Emergency: 316-1199
316-1201

Narcotics Tip Line: 954-7050

If you want to speak with a person about a non-emergency issue, you can call the front desk at the police station. Lieutenant Boyd noted that often the best approach (if you want to speak with a live person) is to actually go to the station and speak with the the front desk officer.

Front Desk Officer: 954-7025

If you wish to send information directly to Lieutenant Boyd, you can send an email to laurelparkupdate@gmail.com and we will forward it to him. LPNA Board member Scott Stuart manages the email updates and is also our contact person for the Sarasota Police Department.

LPNA Members 2010

Many thanks to our new and renewing members (since the last newsletter), 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.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Chuck Burks | Deborah Miller |
| Cheri Carlson | Daria Mohr |
| Ed & Rosemary Chase | Peter Underwood & |
| Al & Yvonne Hafner | Mary Jane McGinty |
| Buffie Hutcherson | Nikki Coffey |
| Priscilla Liscombe | |



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 19 residential homes listed for sale in Laurel Park. Five properties have sold since the last newsletter was published in April, 2010.

635 Ohio Place	List Price \$199,900
	Sold Price \$177,000
652 Ohio Place	List Price \$185,000
	Sold Price \$185,000
1841 Laurel	List Price \$289,900
	Sold Price \$232,000
1944 Morrill	List Price \$599,000
	Sold Price \$545,000
1876 Oak St.	List Price \$775,000
	Sold Price \$610,000

Currently there are three sales pending:

1638 Dolphin	List Price \$389,000
1829 Laurel	List Price \$424,000
1631 Laurel	List Price \$479,000

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

1919 Laurel Street	\$259,900 to \$199,900
1910 Laurel Street	\$239,900 to \$231,900
640 Madison Court	\$290,000 to \$250,000
642 Madison Court	\$355,000 to \$250,000
636 Columbia Court	\$275,000 to \$260,000
610 Madison Court	\$480,000 to \$400,000
1660 Oak Street	\$635,000 to \$585,000
1855 Oak Street	\$775,000 to \$690,000
1705 Devonshire	\$775,000 to \$695,000
1709 Devonshire	\$759,000 to \$695,000
1718 Cherry Lane	\$749,000 to \$699,000
329 S. Osprey Avenue	\$790,000 to \$740,000
1871 Laurel Street	\$1,395,000 to \$1,375,000

*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.



President: Suzy Hagglund
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Treasurer: Betsy Sublette
Secretary: Sheila Zachowski

**Newsletter Editor
and
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Kate Lowman
P.O. Box 2162
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