



Laurel Park NEWS

HISTORIC LAUREL PARK
DOWNTOWN SARASOTA



FALL 2015
WINTER 2016



Change Comes with Fall Season



“The Only Thing That Is Constant Is Change.”

The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, is said to have made this quote and it certainly is true of Laurel Park. Coming to the neighborhood along with the (hopefully) cooler fall air are a lot of new faces and places in the neighborhood.

New home projects are being started and announced in Laurel Park seemingly every week. Some notable projects include:

Milano Homes plans to begin construction of the first of four new single family homes on the corner of S. Osprey and Hawkins Court in February. They hope to move two historic homes on Osprey and will demolish two buildings in poor condition in the back. The new homes, designed by Laurel Park resident, Renzo Rivolta, will be approximately 2,800 square feet with three bedrooms and baths and room for a pool. The exterior will feature wood on the first floor and stucco on the second floor. For more information see: www.milanohomessrq.com.

David Weekley Homes plans to create a townhome development project at 1938 Laurel Street (large vacant lot behind the American Momentum Bank building). The company is proposing to construct 17 townhomes, two and three stories in height, with attached one-car garages. The architectural style is leaning toward “Craftsmen style with



Milano Homes plans to begin construction of the first of four new single family homes on the corner of S. Osprey and Hawkins Court in February 2016.

Key West features.” The same company also recently announced plans to construct four new single family homes in the Craftsman style on the long vacant property at the corner of S. Osprey and Laurel Street.

Legacy Builders is also making progress on its development, The Homes of Laurel Park, on the parcel of land between Devonshire Lane and Alderman St. on the south side of Laurel Park. The main project will consist of 19 single family homes. The company is now building a model home with modern-style architecture on Alderman St. and another home in the development is under construction on the corner of Alderman St. and Rawls Ave. For more

info: www.builderssarasota.com.

But these large new projects are not the only changes in the neighborhood. Renovations of Laurel Park’s historic structures are still in vogue.

For example, Tom Gumpel and his family moved into Laurel Park in 2013 and live in a home on Laurel Street built in 1922. Tom is the Vice President for Research and Development for Panera Bread and is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. In addition to his own home, Tom recently purchased 1833 Laurel St., which is a bungalow constructed in 1925 that has sat vacant through most of the real estate crisis.

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Greetings, Neighbors!

We are all happy to have a newsletter again. Thank you, Chris! Though we try to get news out to you via emails, signs and notices on the message board by the Park, a newsletter at every home and apartment door is another good way to let you know about the neighborhood happenings.



Please circle your calendars with our important autumn dates:

The LPNA General Meeting, Tunes in the Park and the Holiday Party. Join your new neighbors and old friends in socializing and learning about the issues facing our neighborhood.

Two pending projects on our borders are reported in this issue: 1938 Laurel Street and the Woman's Exchange. Because we have a hard won opportunity to have community meetings about large projects on our borders, and there have been several on these, I thank those of you who have participated.

We are a volunteer organization (LPNA). We encourage your membership. All home owners and renters are invited to join. If you are a dog owner, for everyone's sake, we encourage you to pick up after your dog. When in the Park, please pick up toys and place them back into the sandy playground area and if you notice the grated drains blocked up on Oak and Laurel, pull out the sticks, cans & tee shirts. You are doing this for all of us.

If you would be interested in joining the Board, please contact: Kate Lowman at 362-9303. A great way to serve the community.

If you have concerns you wish to share, you can call me: Jude Levy, Pres, LPNA at 953-5025.

Thank you.

CALL BEFORE CUTTING!

Did you know a permit is required to remove or relocate any tree (other than citrus) greater than four and one-half inches in diameter at breast height? While there is no fee to remove "nuisance" species of trees such as Malalueca (punk trees) or Australian pine, you must obtain a permit prior to their removal. Only citrus trees do not require permits (excluding the Mango tree). If you plan to take down a large tree (alive or dead), call the City Arborist at 941-365-2200 ext 4345 to make an appointment. If you need to apply for a permit, come to the City Hall Annex - 2nd Floor. City Hall is at 1565 First Street.

This permit must be displayed so it can be seen from the street. Make sure your landscaper is licensed before he starts work. Badly pruned trees cost in the long run. Taking trees down without a permit can bring fines - so take a few minutes and do the right thing.

You can call the Arborist on the weekend at 941-894-2931 if you see a large tree being cut down without a visible permit. You can find more information by visiting this website: www.sarasotagov.org/Trees/TreeProtection.cfm

- Provided by SOS-Trees



Woman's Exchange Loading Dock on Rawls Avenue Looks Likely

Loading Dock Approval Likely

As of press time, it appears certain that the City will approve a loading dock for the Woman's Exchange (WEX) on Rawls Avenue, saying they do not believe it is a safety issue. The final authorization is expected soon. Unfortunately, the loading dock plan for the northern part of the building is virtually the same as originally proposed in April 2014, minus the modifications planned for the southern wing of the building. The southern wing required numerous exceptions to City zoning code and failed to gain approval at the Planning Board. Subsequently, the Woman's Exchange resubmitted their plan with only the northern loading dock, dropping the southern portion of the plan. Since it has been the loading dock itself which concerned the neighborhood from the start, as clearly stated at both Community Meetings and other venues, the failure to make any modifications to the loading dock comes as a significant disappointment.

An Expanding Business

The City will limit delivery times to business hours, require cars and trucks to turn right on Oak when leaving, and limit daily deliveries to twelve trips Monday through Saturday. Vehicles can be no larger than a single unit 24' vehicle. At all the Community Meetings, the WEX consistently stated that they only have an average of 8 trips per day. However, when the City requested that the Woman's Exchange voluntarily limit the number of trips per day, WEX proposed 16 trips. The Woman's Exchange has frequently stated that they wish to double their annual \$250,000 donation



to the arts. The Woman's Exchange is a \$3 million a year consignment business. Thus a doubling of their donations would indeed require a doubling of the business and presumably a doubling of deliveries. The twelve permitted trips daily will amount to over 3,500 car and truck trips annually on this very small road. Many residents question how these limits will be enforced.

Neighborhood Concerns

Starting with the initial Community Meeting, the neighborhood has consistently opposed the approval of a loading dock on Rawls. Primary concerns have included noise and traffic on a very small street, and traffic through the neighborhood. Residents of Spanish Oaks and the Balcony Apartments park on Rawls – these historic structures were constructed prior to any requirements for internal parking. The City claims that there will be no problem for the safety of residents and their cars on Rawls, even with over 3,500

additional car and truck trips annually. The owner of Spanish Oaks, Jim Miller, is worried that if there are problems, it is his parking that will go, not the loading dock. He also points out that this agreement is putting neighbors in the position of having to play cop, a thankless and virtually impossible task.

Other safety concerns include the lack of any additional sidewalks for the many pedestrians who use this street. There are also aesthetic issues. The loading dock compromises the view corridor for all of Cherry Lane. While some improvements were proposed for the southern part of the project which failed at the Planning Board stage, none have been proposed for the loading dock itself.

Implications for the Future

Finally, there are concerns about the future impact of this decision. If the Woman's Exchange outgrows this location, how will the loading dock be used by other businesses? For example, a restaurant could present real problems in terms of noise and odor. WEX representatives have repeatedly pointed out that a 10 story building could be built on their land if they move, implying the neighborhood should be happy with the loading dock. Neighbors have responded that they simply see the possibility of a 10 story building which includes a loading dock.

It is hard to understand the justification for causing a deterioration of living conditions on a block surrounded by high end new development. Once a final decision is released by the City, the LPNA Board and nearby neighbors will consult about next steps to take.

–By Kate Lowman

Notes From An Urban Kayaker

Seeing Sarasota from the water adds an essential perspective to life here on the coast, and there is no better and certainly no cheaper way to experience that than from a kayak. Unlike a power boat or a sailboat, there is no motor, no rigging, no complicated technology; instead you have a big piece of nearly indestructible plastic and a paddle — throw the boat in the water and off you go. Herons don't mind as you glide by. Manatees too are unthreatened by the quiet kayaker.

Finding a place to launch can be tricky. Launching from a seawall is difficult. A gentle slope into the water is best. Fortunately for the residents of Laurel Park, the city has built a deluxe, handicap accessible kayak ramp at the south end of Ohio Place, as part of the Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT) project.

The area behind lift station #17 was just a weedy lot with a steep, rocky slope down to the water before the city came along. The new ramp is a great and welcome improvement, but the creek is still the same. At low tide it becomes necessary to paddle around the exposed mud flats. At low low tide, unless you want to drag your boat through the muck, which is knee deep in spots and will suck the shoes right off your feet, it is best to go home and pick another time.

Once you pass under the Mound Street bridge there is plenty of water and it is but a short paddle out past Selby Gardens and into the bay. Turn right and you can paddle through the anchorage to O'Leary's, where a cold beverage awaits. Turn left and you will have the same view

across the bay as Katherine Harris, whose house, one of the largest on the mainland, you'll be passing on your left.

Make no mistake, this is urban kayaking. All the fertilizer, pesticides, automobile fluids, and animal poop that runs off the neighborhood streets finds its way into the bayou. The water is not that bad. Being tidal the creek gets flushed out on a regular basis. It is in the sediment on the bottom

where the problem lies. At some point in pre-regulation, pre-environmental-awareness days, someone dumped something into the bayou. Car batteries, lead paint, printer's type, who knows? (I bet somebody does.) Lead levels in the sediment are high. Dredging does not seem to be an option as it would stir up the muck and send it out into the bay. It's unfortunate, but that's the world we live in.

Graffiti, folks camped under the bridge, it's all part of the urban kayaking experience. Then there is the view of the city from the water, the sun setting over Bird Key, and at night, the bioluminescence which makes the water dripping off your paddle look like liquid starlight. Snook lights at private docks create underwater aquariums where small fish get eaten by bigger fish, only to be eaten in turn, by the wily snook, right there beneath your hull.

Coastal cruising guides often advise mariners that their best source of information when navigating uncertain waters is local knowledge. The northern tributary to Hudson Bayou is uncertain water, though only a few inches deep. Here's what you do:

When heading out from the ramp into the bayou, once you pass the Hudson Oaks condos on your right, you are less likely to run aground if you keep to the left next to the mangroves until you pass under the first bridge. You'll see a huge mango tree on the left as you reach the main channel. Straight across is the end of Pomelo Avenue, where you will occasionally see folks from the Alta Vista neighborhood struggling to launch their kayaks from the sea wall. Maybe someday the city will smile on them too.

—By Alan Kranich



The State of Real Estate

There are currently 8 residential properties listed for sale in Laurel Park, not including the 19 Homes of Laurel Park or Orange Club projects.

654 Lafayette Ct.	List Price	\$250,000
1922 Oak Street	List Price	\$389,000
1828 Hawkins Ct. #8	List Price	\$515,000
512 Madison Ct.	List Price	\$550,000
1849 Laurel St.	List Price	\$579,000
537 Madison Ct.	List Price	\$675,000
1830 Hawkins Ct.	List Price	\$929,000
1855 Oak Street	List Price	\$1,025,000

There are presently 5 properties with pending sales

1720 Morrill St. #9	List Price	\$112,900
1952 Morrill St.	List Price	\$390,000
540 S. Osprey Ave.	List Price	\$425,000
1685 Laurel St. #3	List Price	\$465,000
1669 Oak Street	List Price	\$650,000

13 properties have sold since January 1, 2015

1720 Morrill St. #8	List Price	\$105,000	Sold Price	\$100,000
1720 Morrill St. #6	List Price	\$107,000	Sold Price	\$100,000
656 S. Osprey	List Price	\$264,900	Sold Price	\$239,900
422 Julia Place	List Price	\$250,000	Sold Price	\$250,000
535 S. Osprey	List Price	\$250,000	Sold Price	\$250,000
1759 Morrill Ct.	List Price	\$385,000	Sold Price	\$350,000
524 Columbia Ct.	List Price	\$425,000	Sold Price	\$405,000
1919 Laurel St.	List Price	\$439,900	Sold Price	\$424,000
1685 Laurel St. #6	List Price	\$550,000	Sold Price	\$520,000
645 Madison Ct.	List Price	\$575,000	Sold Price	\$535,000
1944 Morrill St.	List Price	\$599,900	Sold Price	\$586,000
636 Columbia Ct.	List Price	\$869,000	Sold Price	\$839,000
540 Madison Ct.	List Price	\$1,150,000	Sold Price	\$1,050,000

Information provided by Betsy Sublette, Realtor,
Premier Sotheby's International Realty.
Source: Sarasota Multiple Listing System

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This house was formerly the summer home of John Lindsey, owner of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. Tom and his family plan to renovate the historic home and polish up its old charm.

Paul and Mikeal'An O'Keefe have also purchased and renovated a number of structures in Laurel Park. Most recently, they renovated a triplex on the corner of Laurel St. and Julia Ave., which may not officially be old enough to be "historic" However, the property may possibly be one of a number of concrete block homes constructed by Mary Rinehart in the middle of the last century on Laurel St. and Morrill St.

For those of us who are not so happy with constant change, take comfort from the fact that many things in Historic Laurel Park will remain. The latest iteration of Tunes in the Park is coming in November. The holiday lights will soon sparkle on the street lights on Osprey Ave. And the residents, new and old, will continue to be among the friendliest in Sarasota.

— Chris Jaensch

Special thanks to Laurel Park residents, Bob and Teresa Stone, of 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 do a great job with printing our newsletters.



Phone: 941-365-8472, Ext. 23
Fax: 941-951-0677
www.historiclaurelpark.org

Newsletter Editor
Christopher Jaensch
P.O. Box 1485, Sarasota, FL 34230
Email
Chris@VisaAmerica.com
Website
www.VisaAmerica.com
Newsletter Layout & Design
Irena Yardley
msyardley@gmail.com

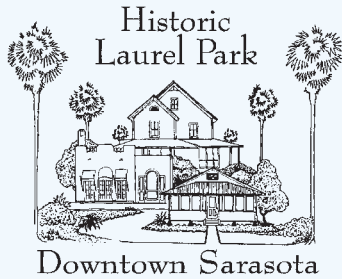
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c 941.284.8483
Betsy.Sublette@sothebysrealty.com





Yes, I Want to be a Member of the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association

Membership is open to everyone who lives in or owns property in Laurel Park. Unlike most neighborhood associations, renters are welcome to join, have a voice and vote! Membership benefits include newsletter, email updates of news and events in and around the neighborhood (including crime alerts), and opportunities to volunteer and meet your neighbors.

Membership must be renewed every year. If you do not remember signing up, please take the time to do so again.

Membership is free so sign up today!

Donations are very welcome and encouraged as they help fund neighborhood projects, newsletter, parties and website.

Name _____

Address _____ unit _____

City _____ State _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Donation ____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ other

Please make your check payable to LPNA and mail to:

LPNA, P.O. Box 1485, Sarasota, FL 34230

Interested in volunteering?

We need your help to get things done. Please check any areas of interest and we will contact you to get involved.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> City Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |

LPNA 2015 Membership List

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.

Patricia Agnew	Greg DiBona	Jason Isil	Blaz & Debbie Lucas	Michael Ortiz
Bob Bahm & Jan Baker	& Barbara Southard	& Kate Spinner	Shannon Lugannani	Mary Powers
Don & Cathy Baillie	Michael Edelstein	Chris & Rebeca Jaensch	- Word of Mouth (friend)	Parlane Reid
Walter Baldwin	& Ada Perez	Jodi John	Don McEachesn, Jr.	& Carol Butera
Tom & Margaret Ballard	Mike &	Dyland	Gilbert McElroy	Betsy Roberts
Lisa Bernstein	Stephanie Fischer	& Michelle Johnson	& Dorothy Taylor	Laura Roberts
Carol Bradley	Robert & Stacy Fletcher	Baird Juckett	Mary Jane	Floradell Scarborough
Dan Bridinger	G.M.N. Corp	& Sara Malone	McGinty-Underwood	John & Janice Shelton
Erika Brigham	Karim Ghazli	Joe & Kasy Kane	Brian & Jolie McInnis	Ronald Sobotka
John Buhsmer	Albert & Yvonne Hafner	Ron Kashden	Ellen McKeefe	& Cynthia Collins
Charles Burks/Cherry	Paul & Martha Hafner	& Kelly Franklin	Bob & Ann Madden	Malcolm Stevenson
Lane Studios	Diana Hamilton	Allan Kathnelson	Michele Mancini	Mark & Lisa Stuart
Susan Campbell (friend)	Zach Hanna	& Dr. Judith Robertson	Rachel Mann	Betsy Sublette
Tom Carter &	& Mae Barker	Marwan	Judith Merkt	Alan
Kate Lowman	Dan Harris	& Monika Khammash	Peter & Ginger Mermin	& Susan Tannenbaum
Leon & Alice Celestino	Helga Harris	Alan Kranich	Jim Miller/	Veronica Tarnowksi
Bill & Ellen Cornelius	Jeffrey Harris	Jeannie Kruidenier	Spanish Oaks	Arthur Thompson
John & Deborah Dart	Billy Hasson	Susan Lachat	Sheril Miller	& Anne Marie Tardif
Mary G. Davenport, PhD	& Jules Reynolds	Michael	Carl & Bonnie Mittelstadt	Lee Tuck
Patricia Deal	Daniel Herriges	& Anne-Marie Lang	Elizabeth Neupert	Stephen Turner
JoAnn DeMartini	Steven & Joan Higbee	Ellen LaToree	Ann Newland	Bob Wernick
Rene &	Tricia Hopkins	Jude Levy	Jodi Nofs	& Alice Sundstrom
Margaret Desjardins	Christine Horn	Jim Lingley	Jack & Nancy Notestein	Teal White
Pamela Diamond	Jeneva Hospodarsky	& Linda Sargent	Jeff & Mikeal'an O'Keefe	Cheri Wisener
	Melisse Hypponen		Greg & Katherine Orenic	

LPNA Resources

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS:

President: Jude Levy

Vice President: Chris Jaensch

Treasurer: Betsy Sublette

Recorder: Ginger Mermin

Board Members: Dan Bridinger, Kasy Kane,
Marwan Khammash, Kate Lowman.

THE BULLETIN BOARD:

The LPNA manages the bulletin board located at the entrance of Laurel Park. On the board you will find the most current:

- LPNA Meeting Minutes
- Laurel Park News (you can remove the news-letter to read it but please return it when finished)
- Meeting and event announcements
- Important phone numbers
- Miscellaneous classifieds!

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PRESERVING A LAUREL PARK COTTAGE

After more than a year of effort, Debbe and John Dart received a required permission that will allow them to renovate and expand their historic cottage at 550 Ohio Place. The Darts have planned for some time to add a substantial addition to the rear of the cottage that would connect to the original structure by a “hyphen.” The two-story addition was designed to feature a roof pitch, window and door sizing and other architectural components that matched the historic cottage. The Darts were asking to use FEMA’s exemption for historically designated structures because it would preserve the cottage at the front of the property and maintain the visual integrity of that section of Ohio Place, which still contains all historic structures. If they had been forced to demolish the cottage, the replacement would have to be elevated off of the ground and would have affected the cohesiveness that now exists on the block. Officials with the City of Sarasota originally refused the Dart’s request, stating that it did not meet all ten of the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation. So, the Darts were forced to appeal this decision to the City of Sarasota Historic Preservation Advisory Board. After a two-hour appeal hearing in October, the Historic Preservation Advisory Board reversed the City’s denial with a unanimous vote, 6 - 0. The Darts now intend to proceed with their plan to save the cottage and use the substantial



improvement exemption to make the addition in the rear. As many of the historic homes in Laurel Park face demolition due to the fact that they are too small and outdated for today’s living standards, it is worthwhile to keep in mind that there are alternatives to demolition and replacement. Often an addition can achieve a similar goal while maintaining the historic character of the home and the neighborhood. Hopefully next time, the City of Sarasota will make the process less burdensome for the homeowners.



LAUREL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FALL CALENDAR

LPNA GENERAL MEETING

Tue., NOV 3, 6-8pm • Friendship Center
(Brother Geenen Way).

Tunes In The Park

Sat., NOV 21, 5-9 pm • In the Park – music,
dancing, good food and friends.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Sun., DEC 6, 5-7 pm • In the Park’s gazebo:
decorate tree, music, sandwiches & drinks provided.