



Historic Laurel Park

Downtown Sarasota | Since the early 1920s

Diverse | Artistic | Vibrant

Spring 2021

Laurel Park News

Our dedicated board continues to devote their efforts and time to the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association (LPNA). We have a number of projects in the works and others that have made great progress.

Recent accomplishments of the LPNA include:

- **711 S. Osprey Avenue request to rezone to Downtown Edge denied** – the City supported less invasive zoning.
- **Fence surrounding Ohio Place lift station** – installed with landscaping and irrigation.
- **Dog waste station** – added in the park (have a bag/leave a bag/ take a bag).
- **Kayak launch parking** – new signage to clarify area usage.

The LPNA Board and its members continue to volunteer their time to improve the quality of life in Laurel Park and keep its historic charm intact. As residents, we are well aware that development surrounds our quaint downtown neighborhood. Over the years our residents have positively affected the development by working with government to reduce the impact on our neighborhood.

To support these efforts, we encourage everyone in the neighborhood to become a member of LPNA. Simply fill out the membership form on the back of the flyer included in this issue and mail to LPNA. Alternatively, you can go to the LPNA website to download the form. Click on the "Neighborhood Association" tab at the top of the page and navigate to "Join the LPNA."

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- Holiday Decoration Contest Winners!
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Upcoming Events

Picnic in Laurel Park

- Date: Saturday, April 10
- Time: 5:00-8:00 PM

See enclosed flyer for more details!

Our Mission

- Protect residential and historic integrity
- Work with governmental agencies
- Promote communication
- Encourage safety and beautification

nextdoor

Have you downloaded the app yet?

- Get local tips
- Buy and sell items
- And more!

Sign up for Nextdoor.com, then select "Laurel Park" in Sarasota.



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LPNA

Officers

President

Matthew Arcari

Vice President

Vacancy

Treasurer

Betsy Sublette

Recorder

Vacancy

Board Members

Juliette Reynolds

Dan Bridinger

Ronald Kashden

Volunteers

Jolie McInnis

Laurel Park, Inc

A Florida Non-Profit Corporation

Address

LPNA
P.O. Box 1485
Sarasota, FL
34230

Osprey Ave Construction Update

As many have noticed, although Osprey Avenue has a rough surface between Oak Street and Brother Geenan Way, we've had full access of Osprey Avenue in Laurel Park throughout the winter. However, that doesn't mean that the City's utility department has stopped working on the replacement of water and sewer main lines. Through careful planning, the department has indeed continued the project but with a focus on underground work.

Beginning around May 12, the City's contractor will slip-line (inserting a smaller pipe inside a larger conduit) a new 12-inch water main between Brother Geenan Way and 2nd Street and "open cut" the new water main between Mound Street and Brother Geenan Way. After that is complete, they will connect the new line to the existing water mains. Two-way traffic will be maintained using flagmen and traffic control devices.



Slip-lining example

The construction will require opening up the road and there will be an open "pit" at Brother Geenan Way on the west side just north of the little micro-park. The other pit will be between 2nd Street and Fruitville Road. Once the new water main is slip-lined inside the old pipe, crews will dig at each intersection along Osprey Avenue between 2nd Street and Brother Geenan Way to connect the new main to the existing mains. They will also dig pits at each service connection so they can connect each property to the new water main. Lastly, they will open-cut the water main between PF Chang's and Brother Geenan Way.

This phase is expected to last until the end of September. As an additional benefit to the neighborhood, a reclaimed water line will be put on Oak Street. After that line is installed, the LPNA will work with the City's parks department to improve the landscaping of the Oak Street medians.

Finally, after that phase is complete, the road (including any curbing repairs) will be restored to its original condition. For more information on the Utilities project, see the following website, which is dedicated to the project (<https://www.osprey-utility-project.com>).

Also in case you're wondering about the existing closure on Osprey Avenue, south of Mound Street, the bridge (and the rest of Osprey Avenue) is expected to re-open sometime in June.

Holiday Decoration Contest Winners!



1st Place: 1710 Cherry Lane



2nd Place: 602 Oak Street

Neighborhood Tree Protection

With all of the new construction and renovation activity in the neighborhood, there have been many questions regarding tree protections. Laurel Park is blessed with a mature tree canopy, which is a real part of the neighborhood's charm – and shade really helps when walking, running or biking through the neighborhood on hot days!

We recently caught up with Donald Ullom, a City of Sarasota Arborist in the Ordinance Compliance division of Development Services, to learn a little more about Sarasota's Tree Ordinance.

What we learned is that tree protection is complicated! The City website has a Tree Protection page with lots of helpful links (<https://www.sarasotafl.gov/government/development-services/tree-protection>) and Mr. Ullom was kind enough to share some additional points of general interest and education:

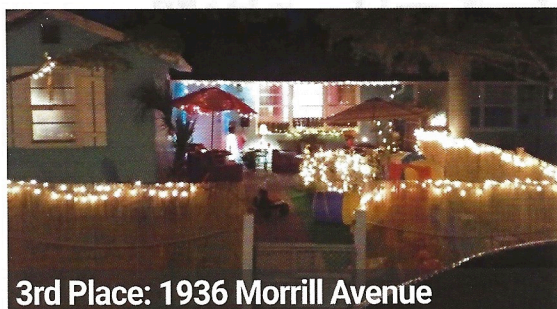
- Not all trees are trees! For a tree to be considered a "tree" it must measure 4.5 inches in diameter at a height 4.5 feet off the ground, and citrus trees are not included.
- Trees are grouped into one of three categories: grand trees, protected trees and prohibited trees. Grand trees in the City are Live Oak trees measuring more than 24 inches in diameter at a height 4.5 feet off the ground. Prohibited trees are Brazilian Peppers, Melaleuca, Chinese Tallow, Chinaberry, Australian Pine and Carrotwood. Of the prohibited Trees, the City arborists are seeing a growth in Carrotwood, which is a concern.
- When asked what Mr. Ullom and the City arborists wished everyone knew he replied "that trees are the only infrastructure that increase in value the older they get!" and also that all City residents should see the arborists as a resource, they enjoy their jobs and



are here to assist the public – please feel free to contact them. There are currently two arborists in the Development Services department, Donald Ullom and Mark Miller.

- If protected trees must be removed from a building site in order to accommodate construction within the "buildable" portion of the site, the City arborists can assess the age and health of the trees, and mitigation may be required. Mitigation for tree removal can come in the form of new plantings on site or, if that is not feasible, then payment into a tree mitigation fund.
- If a property owner has a tree that is within 3 feet of a structure on their property, or if a property owner's insurance provider will not extend coverage based on the location of a tree, then a tree may be removed (with a permit) but mitigation may be required.

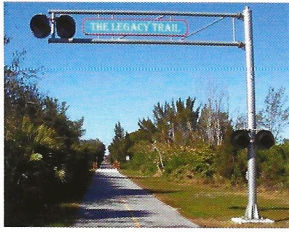
The City website and Ordinance have extensive information on Tree Protection, but please do feel free to reach out to Mr. Ullom or Mr. Miller. Speaking from firsthand experience, they are extremely knowledgeable and helpful!



3rd Place: 1936 Morrill Avenue

Honorable Mentions:

- Jolie and Brian McInnis, 1742 Laurel Street
- Buffie Hutchinson and Cheri Carllson, 1736 Oak Street
- Ali and Jeffrey Harris, 1756 Oak Street



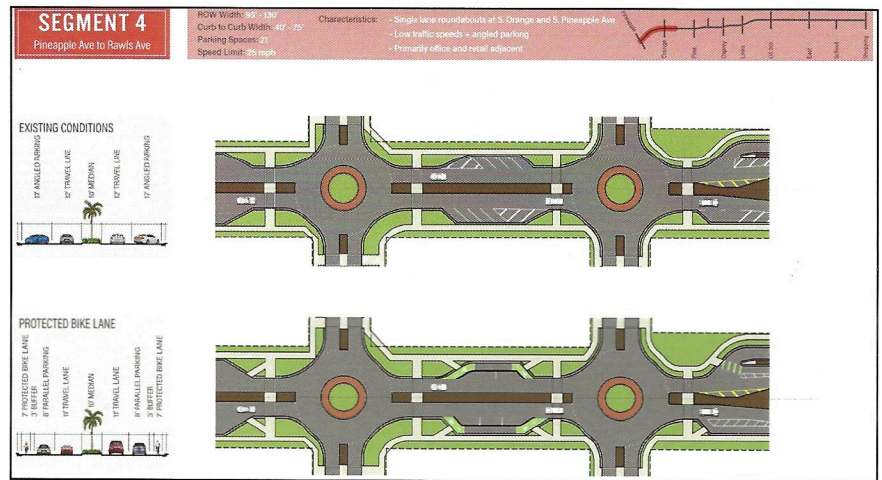
Legacy Trail & Bikeway

As you've probably heard, the Legacy Trail is coming to Payne Park. When completed, you'll have a continuous recreational trail all the way down to Venice. With over 350,000 people using the Legacy Trail, the City of Sarasota is making preparations to accommodate the anticipated influx of bikers. One of the key proposed changes involves alternations to Ringling Boulevard.

The City reached out to the LPNA, since Laurel Park is the neighborhood adjacent to both Payne Park and Ringling Boulevard as well as being one of the City's leading neighborhoods, to present their plans to increase bike lanes on Ringling Boulevard. Both Dan Ohrenstein (Assistant City Engineer) and Nancy Kelly (Neighborhood Planner) gave a presentation to the LPNA Board regarding the proposed changes. They wanted to both inform the neighborhood of upcoming changes as well as to elicit our opinion of the design.

The proposal includes the following:

- Create bike lanes on each side of Ringling. This will leave a lane in each direction for cars and maintain most of the existing turn lanes. Some of the existing parking spaces on Ringling will also be repurposed for the bike lanes.
- The changes will be done in two phases. The 1st phase will be predominantly striping. The expected completion is the Fall/Winter 2021 with a cost of approximately \$900,000 (which has already been budgeted for). The 2nd phase, which is a long-term project, will include planting island separation as well as utilities improvements. That phase has not been scheduled and its cost is still to be determined. The City will be seeking additional grants for phase 2.



Ringling Trail Concept Plan

After listening to the presentation, the board was keen on the plan for a number of reasons:

1. It is the City's expectation that bikers on the trail will continue from Payne Park into downtown. Ringling Boulevard is the least traveled direct route between Payne Park and the waterfront, and thus the safest for bike lanes.
2. Ringling Boulevard's current configuration is a mixture of four lanes narrowing to two lanes. The proposal will make the road more consistent.
3. The proposal will not direct people into Laurel Park, which will help maintain the neighborhood feel and cohesion that we all desire.

As an aside, this outreach is another example of the important role that the LPNA plays within the City. We provide both a strong voice for the neighborhood within the City government as well as a conduit for the City to inform the residents.

For more information:

- On the Legacy Trail, visit <https://www.friendsofthelegacytrail.org/>
- On the Ringling Blvd project, visit <https://www.sarasotafl.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=6652>