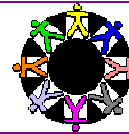


CONA COMMENTS



SARASOTA'S ONLY COUNTY-WIDE ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
SINCE 1961

WWW.CONASARASOTA.HOMESTEAD.COM

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Learn what election results mean for Sarasota County neighborhoods at November 12, 2007 CONA meeting

Kelly Kirschner, Sarasota City Commissioner; **Sue Lang**, newly elected Venice Councilwoman; and **Bill Zoller**, of CSG, will discuss the implications and meaning of the November 6 County and municipal elections at CONA's Nov. 12 meeting at 7 PM at the Waldemere Fire House in Sarasota. We can discuss the campaigns and the community attitude about the future; after all, three county commissioners will be up for re-election in November 08, and the CSG "Voter Approval Required to Move the Urban Services Boundary" amendment will be coming up before long as well.

CONA, the Sarasota County Council of Neighborhood Associations, is a county-wide coalition of fifty-four neighborhood and condominium associations and individuals organized around making Sarasota County more neighborhood friendly. Members of the public and the media, as well as CONA members are invited to attend. ###



Sensible growth CONA board member Sue Lang and fellow Venice city commissioners Ed Martin and Ernie Zavodnyik elected in landslide victory over fast growth incumbents.

Election: Growth control, election reform issues & candidates win big, surtax extension approved

There were big wins for the citizens and neighborhoods of Sarasota County on November 6. There was a record turnout of voters for a special election. The Super Majority Amendments for both the City of Sarasota and the County passed overwhelmingly; three sustainable-growth candidates for Venice City Council swept three fast-growth incumbents out of office by 2-1 margins (CONA board member Sue Lang was one of the winners); election reforms were adopted in the City of Sarasota; and the 1%, \$1,400,000,000 Infrastructure Surtax passed by a large margin.

The super majority city and county growth control amendment victories were especially important to Sarasota County neighborhoods. They will provide neighborhood and condominium associations concerned about major growth votes a greater voice in the land use approval process. With these new laws in place, there must be more debate and more agreement among elected officials before the existing comprehensive plan is changed to allow more density or intensity. ###

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Visit CONA's web site for more neighborhood news www.conasarasota.homestead.com	



President's Corner... By Ann Kaplan

Power to the people of Sarasota County— Where it belongs

Joining CONA gives your neighborhood or condo association a stronger voice

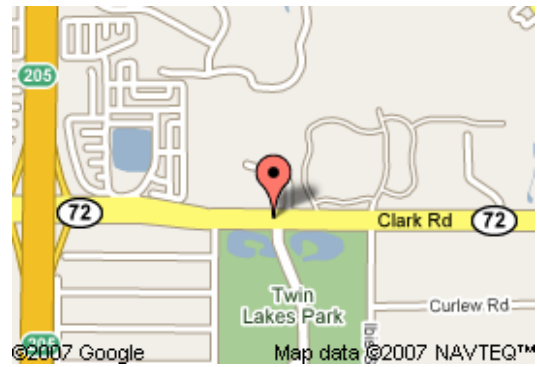
The U.S. Constitution, The Florida Constitution and the Sarasota County Charter all begin with the words "We the people." Special interests and their political cronies sometimes want to forget that fact. We saw that in the super majority election when special interests unsuccessfully tried to persuade the electorate that these growth control measures were a "power grab." After the November 6 election the voice of the people is getting louder and stronger in Sarasota County and just a little of that power is reverting to them as it should under the law.

Having candidates (like those elected in Venice) and referendums (such as the super majority growth control initiatives) to vote for that reflect our values and priorities is like a breath of fresh air and renewed hope. And we responded by voting for them in record breaking numbers with great success!

Membership in CONA is another way to get your neighborhood's needs heard and acted upon. Just as was proven at the ballot box, there is the most strength in numbers. That is one of the big reasons to join CONA. We have 60 home owner associations and neighborhood groups from all over the county as current members for 2007. Those associations represent about 35,000 families. Every association that joins CONA helps themselves and helps increase our clout.

Another important reason to join CONA is the experience and knowledge that we offer to you about how to get your neighborhood needs met. Our board of directors has hundreds of years of practice in solving most of the problems or concerns you may encounter and we are here to successfully guide our members through the complex maze of local government. It's very comforting to know that you have strong allies in the CONA family of neighborhoods. So if you hear special interests or their political supporters say something unflattering about CONA—you know it's because CONA is helping to keep power in the people as our constitutions require and to give you a greater voice in county and city government.

Please help CONA help you by joining or renewing your membership in 2008! Power to the People: let's keep it going strong. ###



January CONA meetings at 6700 Clarke Road

CONA moves to Twin Lakes Park beginning with January 14th meeting

I-75 to Clarke Road, East to Twin Lakes Park Admin Building

Changes by the County have forced CONA to move future meetings starting in January 2008 to the Twin Lakes Park. Meetings will still begin at 7 PM and will be held on the second Monday of each Month. ###

NOTICE: CONA director and officer elections at December 10th CONA meeting, 7 PM Waldemere Firehouse, Sarasota.

Joining CONA or renewing your CONA membership is simple

- **Go to our CONA website** and download membership form & mail it in with a check
www.conasarasota.homestead.com/joinCONA.html
- OR
- **Email us** to answer any questions and to request a membership form Conasarasota@comcast.net

REASONS TO JOIN CONA

1. Receive CONA support when your neighborhood is threatened by incompatible development.
2. Network with other associations and solve problems through CONA.
3. Give your association a county-wide voice.
4. Hear, meet and question candidates for public office at CONA
5. Attend interesting, informative monthly CONA membership meetings (second Monday of each month 7:00 PM).