

*"Your link to a better neighborhood"*

Clearwater

Neighborhoods

Coalition

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# NEWSLETTER

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Volume 28

Issue 6

June 2, 2008

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Next Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition Meeting

**Monday—June 2nd, 2008**

7:00 PM– 8:30PM

**>>Salvation Army– Joy Center<<**

**1521 Druid Road East**

Property on the corner SE corner of Highland and Druid. The one story building in the SE corner of property.

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## THE PURPOSE OF THE COALITION

The Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition has been part of the community since 1981, and its ongoing purpose is to provide a forum for neighborhood associations to voice their concerns about neighborhood issues and to use our combined resources to address those issues effectively.

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### **City to Stage Healthy Bingo Contest for Older Adults– ends 6/11/2008**

**Location:** Participating Recreation and Wellness Centers

**Contact:** Betsy Clement (727) 562-4664

**Description:** CLEARWATER, Fla. – The city of Clearwater's Office on Aging will promote health and fitness for the city's older adults with a fun and creative contest called "Better Body Bingo."

**Event Classification:** Parks & Recreation, Adult/Seniors

**Location:** Participating Recreation and Wellness Centers

**Contact:** Betsy Clement (727) 562-4664

**Description:** CLEARWATER, Fla. – The city of Clearwater's Office on Aging will promote health and fitness for the city's older adults with a fun and creative contest called "Better Body Bingo."

**Reader's can sign up for newsletter access by going to [www.clearwatercoalition.com](http://www.clearwatercoalition.com) and that they can be notified automatically by sending an email to [clearwater@newpobox.com](mailto:clearwater@newpobox.com) with their name, email address and affiliation, requesting they be added to the CNC listserv or call Dave Campbell at (727) 725-1276**

*A neighborhood is not simply a multitude of homes, it is a place that as a whole we identify as home.*

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P.O. Box 8204, Clearwater, FL 33758-8204

Web Page: [www.clearwatercoalition.com](http://www.clearwatercoalition.com)

Email: [Clearwater@newpobox.com](mailto:Clearwater@newpobox.com)

**Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2008**

Meeting called to order by President, Shelley Kuroghlian at 7:08 PM.

Members present: Norma Carlough, Windsor Park; Ron Delp, Clearwater Beach; JoAnna Siskin, Skycrest; Russell Gabel, Hillcrest; Ed Hooper, Clearview Lake Estates; Bill Jonson, Countryside Northridge; Shelley Kuroghlian, Spring Lake; Greg Mathis, Bayview Heights; Herb McLachlan, Sand Key Civic; Gina Mc Pherson & David Muzzio, Island Estates; Ric Ortega, Sunset-Highland; Julie Thompson, Glen Oaks; Duke Tieman, South Greenwood; Doug Williams, Northwood West and Jonathan Wade, North Greenwood; Guests present: John Doran, City Council & Rhonda Sanborn, Clearwater / St. Petersburg CVB.

**President's Report**

City of Clearwater is partnering with "Let There Be Kids" to build a playground at Ross Norton Recreation Complex on June 14th. This will be one of 4 playgrounds built around the world on the same day. Volunteers are needed contact Parks and Recreation for information.

Members of the Coalition participated in the clean-up of the East Gateway. Tons of trash was removed by the volunteers. We recommended that Neighborhood Services consider giving an award to one of the businesses in that area that has beautified their property as an example to other property owners to do the same.

**Secretary Report**

Motion by Ric Ortega 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Williams to approve minutes as submitted. Approved. Shelley Kuroghlian asked that members please print copies of the agenda each month from the website to save printing costs.

**Treasurer's Report**

Doug Williams presented the balance sheet and updated the members on new payments:

	CNC	Foundation
Balance	\$1,751.66	\$697.69

Shelley encouraged all members, who haven't done so, to send their dues for 2008. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Bill Jonson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JoAnna Siskin. Approved

**COORDINATOR REPORTS**

**Community Development Board**

Norma Carlough reported on the proposal to increase the density for hotels in the City of Clearwater. This was passed by the City Council with a 10% reduction. She indicated that this is good for the tourist industry and badly needed on the beach. David Muzzio thanked the Council for leaving the density on Island Estates at the current level. JoAnna read correspondence received from the CDB indicating the public hearings that will come before the board this month. Ron Delp indicated that detailed information regarding the hearings can be found on the city website under meeting. We are notifying members so that we may take positions on the issues, should we choose to do so.

**Membership Committee**

Each member was asked to bring another neighborhood to the meeting. Shelley again asked members to do this next month. Norma Carlough asked if we have contacted individuals that used to be members but have not paid this year. She encouraged people to phone them. A discussion was had regarding CNC meeting for the summer months. The membership agreed to suspend meetings for the months of July and August. Bill Jonson raised concern regarding the budget meetings in August and questioned if we should have a meeting in that month. It was agreed that Julie Thompson would represent the CNC at the budget meetings and that no August meeting of the CNC would be held.

**Parks and Recreation**

Jonathan Wade, Vice Chairman of Parks and Recreation stated that work is continuing on the soccer fields near Bright House Field. Shelley Kuroghlian noted that 25 new trees have been planted in Crest Lake Park to replace the stands of willows that were creating a hazardous condition. JoAnna Siskin noted that not only did the action

make the park beautiful but made it safe. Bill Jonson asked if Morningside Rec center is being closed. John Doran stated that it is on the list of possible cuts. JoAnna Siskin stated that police officers were transferred from specialty teams within the CPD with the intent to bolster patrols. She questioned why a Sgt. and three officers that were supposed to help support patrol were sent to the beach to police the beachwalk. She felt that the crime statistics for the beach do not support that decision when compared to the crime rate in the districts from which they were removed. Norma Carlough said that at a time when the number of people at the beach is declining (snowbirds and tourists) it did not make sense. John Doran spoke about the merchants concerns on the beach when young adults congregate on the wall and there is a need to call the police. He stated that the promenade cannot be patrolled by cars. After discussions with the Council and the City Manager, the Police Department made the decision to add the additional officers. Norma Carlough suggested that the CNC take a position on removing police from "neighborhoods" and placing them on the beach. She questioned the defense of the beach at the expense of other neighborhoods. In a St. Petersburg Times article on the Gateway, Chief Klein expressed concern regarding the CPD's ability to "clean up" the East Gateway, given the reduction in personnel due to budget cuts. Shelley Kuroghlian felt that the community would be better served if the officers were placed in high crime neighborhoods where serious issues such as drug sales and prostitution could be dealt with. Ron Delp noted that tourism is a big part of our economy and that tourists need to be protected as well. A suggestion was made to get a representative from the City to help us understand the statistics that would support this decision. Motion made by Ric Ortega 2<sup>nd</sup> by JoAnna Siskin to send a letter to the appropriate person in the CPD outlining our concerns asking for a response to help us understand the decision. Approved.

#### Chamber of Commerce

Doug Williams indicated that the Chamber is still in the redevelopment stage and is conducting a search for a new president.

#### Environment / Downtown Development

Doug Williams updated the members on Pinellas Living Green which was held on May 3rd. approximately 7,000 people and 107 vendors attended the event. It was very successful. Doug served as exhibit chairman and Ric Ortega served on the Steering Committee. Both did an excellent job. The event will be held next year the first weekend in May.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT

David Muzzio stated that someone from the City came out and cut the grass at the properties on Island Estates that are in foreclosure and have placed fish in the pools to eliminate the algae and insects. He thanked the city.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Shelley asked the members if they reviewed the presentation on the website for Code Enforcement and if there are any changes. She asked that members email Russ Gable with their input. The goal that the CNC has is to partner in a positive way with the city to gain productivity so that they can cover increasing problems due to the declining economy.

Jonathan Wade thanked Ed Hooper for his efforts to obtain funding for the Willa Carson Center in North Greenwood

Shelley Kuroghlian asked the members to support the addition of two police officers in the East Gateway as part of the 5 Year Plan. If approved, she will represent the CNC at the CRA meeting on 5/13. Approved.

#### NEW BUSINESS

None

### SPEAKERS

#### Clearwater / St. Petersburg Convention & Visitors Bureau (Visit St. Pete / Clearwater)

Rhonda Sanborn addressed the group regarding the economic impact of tourism on the community (\$7 Billion and 42,000 jobs) there were 51,000 room nights used by tourists from around the world last year. She asked that Clearwater residents embrace these visitors, learn more about the venues in our community and help them when they ask for directions, etc. Tourists have a choice and we want to make them feel welcome so that they will choose Clearwater for their next vacation.

Doug Williams made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joanna Siskin. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnna Siskin, Secretary

### SUMMER READING KICK\_OFF 6-09-08

**Location:** Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osceola Ave.

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Contact:** 727-562-4970, ext. 5236

**Description:** Register for our summer reading program and receive a free book. Meet Arthur of television's Arthur's World.

**Event Classification:** Library, Youth, Family



*Your VOICE is important to the Coalition.*

*We need to hear your concerns as well as suggestions and ideas for solutions on the issues that affect your neighborhoods.*



**Change in Association Officers Notification** Please forward names of new officers for your association to JoAnna Siskin, CNC Secretary at [siskinj@aol.com](mailto:siskinj@aol.com).

Please send comments, opinions, and suggestions regarding the **Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition** to P.O. Box 8204, Clearwater, FL 33758-8204 **or please contact an officer.**

#### 2008 Officers

Shelley Kuroghlian	President	727-736-0154	Spring Lake
Ric Ortega	Vice President	727-938-2835	Sunset-Highland
JoAnna Siskin	Secretary	727-442-0096	Skycrest
Doug Williams	Treasurer	727-725-3345	Northwood West

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