October - December 2007

Volume 4 issue 4

BANYANbanter

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESCENT LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Informing residents of issues and events in and around our neighborhood

Thank you, neighbors – you doubled annual membership

Membership drive? Try *over*drive!

Neighbors, you came through big time.

In July, in the *Banyan Banter*, we asked you to help us. Annual membership in our Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association was half what it was in 2006. We asked you to send in your annual dues of $15 or $20 to rebuild and strengthen our membership.

Boy, did you come through.

We have more than doubled our annual membership. That's right … *doubled*. We had 47 members. As of early September, we had 104 members. That means more than 50 of you were supportive enough to send in your annual dues.

To all of you, we say thanks for caring about our neighborhood, thanks for sending in your annual dues, thanks for wanting to keep our neighborhood strong and vibrant, with the ability to have a significant voice among the city's many neighborhoods.

We have built great momentum as a thriving neighborhood over the past couple of years, and it is because we have so many neighbors who truly care about our neighborhood.

Two final notes:

1) If you would like to renew or become a member, it's easy. Annual dues are $15 for an individual, $20 for a household or business. Just send a check made out to CLNA to CLNA, P.O. Box 76065, St. Petersburg, FL 33734.

2) Looking ahead, we'll get a jump on renewing memberships for 2008 in the first quarter 2008 *Banyan Banter*. So, come early next year, be on the lookout for a membership drive. We'll make it easy by including a self-addressed envelope.

Once again, thanks to all of you for making our neighborhood a great neighborhood!

Update on the Lake Project story and pictures on page7

Ain't no jive – thanks to you, 'hood's alive

By Carolyn Fries
President, Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association

While considering topics for this column, I began listing neighborhood accomplishments over the past year and realized I had all the content I needed right there. Thanks to the leadership and dedication of our board and active participation from our members (that means you!), Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association was able to:

1) exceed 100 paid association members for the second year in a row.

2) continue producing a quarterly, quality publication of our neighborhood newsletter, the *Banyan Banter*, with multiple guest authors from the neighborhood.

3) complete the first phase of the Healthy Lake Project and gear up for Phase II – this project, in particular, has evolved into a shining example of leadership from a core group of neighbors, who have so impressively inspired many of you and volunteers from other neighborhoods and groups to participate in a significant environmental project.

4) send four neighborhood association households to a Devil Rays Game, courtesy of City Council member Leslie Curran.

5) hold well-attended board meetings every month. We even had a non-board member attend one!

6) staff a neighborhood booth at the Spring TASCO Family Fun Day and Health & Safety Fair held in Crescent Lake Park.

7) have a representative attend the Neighborhood and Business Summit on Homelessness and publish findings in the *Banter*.

8) organize and execute the 2006 Luminary Walk, 2007 Easter Egg Hunt and begin preparation for the 2007 Fall Harvest Festival.

9) improve communication with the city regarding upcoming events scheduled for the park.

10) have multiple representatives attend City Team and Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) meetings.

11) get to know each other a little better at neighborhood porch parties.

12) get a new bulletin board installed in the park.

13) send three representatives to the 2006 Neighborhood Partnership Awards Dinner.

14) make significant progress toward a plan to utilize the remaining funds from a 1994 tax assessment for the neighborhood plan.

15) work with the city to see through the resurfacing of Crescent Lake Drive and be placed on the schedule to have speed humps installed, nearly completing the neighborhood traffic plan.

President's Perspective

It's an impressive list for a group of neighborhood volunteers, don't you agree?

As we look toward the rest of 2007 and 2008, I'm thrilled to announce that all executive board members have agreed to run again in the November 26 election in some capacity (beyond my running again as president, we're still ironing out details).

We are seeking additional members to run for leadership positions in the association. If you are interested in a neighborhood leadership position *please* contact me or another board member … we need and want your involvement, and we can be very flexible in working around your schedule and other commitments.

We have a great group of people on our neighborhood board who volunteer purely because they care about our neighborhood, and we would very much welcome more of you to join us. If you have the interest and not a lot of time, that's okay. You can still be involved, at a level that is comfortable for you.

Thank you for your continued interest in and dedication to our wonderful neighborhood, and for the opportunity to serve as your president. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events this fall, and around the lake.

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$235,000

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~ Give me a call if you have any questions. Rob Elkins 2-410-8300 ~

Home Beautiful Award

Built in 1925, Sharps keep home looking good as ever

By Doug Mason

Covington and Janice Sharp recently celebrated their 10th year as Crescent Lake residents, and they're enjoying it as much as ever. For one, they, like the rest of us, thoroughly enjoy our unique urban neighborhood and beautiful park and lake. For another, they love their home.

The Sharps, who have been active in the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association over the years, live in a 1925 Mediterranean revival-style home that sits just off the park at 719 21st Avenue.

The entry is surrounded by a patio with cracked Cuban tiles and a wrought iron gate. As you enter the arched front door, the golden oak flooring bounds down the hall.

As in many homes of this era, oak flooring was used in the main areas of the house, with pine used in the bedrooms. The sunken living room has black and red six-by-six ceramic tile flooring. The main focal point is the stucco fireplace with unique imprints. A terrazzo-colored frieze decorates the perimeter of the ceiling.

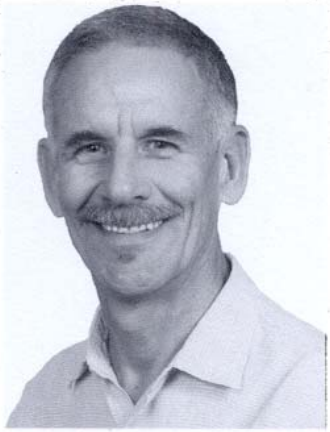
The cozy den has numerous arched windows looking onto a lush tropical landscape. A carpenter was hired to match all of the cabinets in the den to the side board and bar in the dining room. They also had the dining room table made at the same time.

Upstairs the bathroom shower ceiling was arched and completely tiled to create an open feeling. In the cubby above the stairwell, an old built-in safe still sits unused. The floors are solid heart pine.

The private backyard is well-landscaped and has a large and inviting curved brick patio covered by a large canvas awning resembling a sail. Brick steps tier down and encompass a small reflection pond.

All in all, this house is priceless to the Crescent Lake neighborhood – and with its unique style and pride of ownership, it is well-deserving of our Home Beautiful Award for the fourth quarter of 2007.

Photo by Doug Mason



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Calling amateur photographers! Now accepting photos for *Banter*

I f you like to take photos, chances are, you would like to have your photos published.

Here's your chance.

We are now actively encouraging all of you amateur photographers out there to begin taking and submitting photos to the *Banyan Banter*, your neighborhood newsletter.

So when you're walking around the park, or the neighborhood, bring your digital camera. If you see a good photo opportunity taking place at the park or in and around our neighborhood, seize the moment and start shooting away.

It could be a touching photo of a mom and her baby feeding ducks. Or of your kids swinging away on the playground. Or a cute shot of your pups romping in the dog park. Really, once you start looking around for photo opps, they're likely to start appearing just about everywhere.

Want an example?

In our third quarter issue of the *Banyan Banter*, one of our neighbors, Carolyn Fries, took a photo of two local high school cross-country teams warming up in Crescent Lake Park for one of their many runs, which start and finish at the lake. It made for a fun photo in the *Banter*, and since we're always looking for good photography to run in the *Banter*, it made for a nice addition to our newsletter. It also showed one more reason why we have a great neighborhood.

We have a favor, and a promise.

The favor is, if you take a photo, please do your best to gather basic information and perhaps a phone number of the people involved. That will help us write a good, accurate photo caption.

The promise is, we'll give all photos serious consideration for being published in the *Banter*, and we'll provide a photo credit, documenting that your photo was published in our neighborhood newsletter.

Send your photos via email to crescentlakephotos@yahoo.com. Thanks for being our photographic eyes around the neighborhood, we hope you are inspired to new creative heights and we anxiously await photography submissions. In other words, snap away!

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Saving the turtles, part 2

We reported in our last issue on a young girl's effort to protect a nest of soft shell turtle eggs at our park. But we only got part of the story. Here are full details, with apologies and thanks to three more caring neighbors.

In the third quarter issue of the *Banyan Banter*, we shared a story and photo involving a young neighborhood girl, Katherine Kersten, and her efforts to save a soft shell turtle nest near the Crescent Lake Park playground. Shortly after the *Banter* was published, we discovered the story was incomplete regarding the effort and number of people involved.

Caroline and Faith Lawery, daughters of association members Tom and Lori Lawery, were at the park that day with their caregiver, Barbara Homan, and witnessed the turtle laying its eggs.

Barbara, who spends a great deal of time educating the young sisters about the lake and nature, suggested they build a protective structure and carried it through with the help of Caroline, Faith and Katherine. Katherine watched the mother turtle lay her eggs while Barbara, Caroline and Faith returned to the Lawery home to gather materials for building the structure. Barbara then constructed the barrier with the help of the girls.

By the time we came upon the scene, Barbara, Caroline and Faith had returned home and Katherine was the only one at the park. During the interview, Katherine mentioned she and some friends had built the structure but was unsure of who they were.

We apologize for not including Caroline, Faith and Barbara in the original story, and we're glad to set the record straight in this issue of the *Banter*.

We offer a big thank you to Caroline, Faith, Barbara and Katherine. We're lucky and proud to have so many action-oriented nature lovers in our neighborhood, and we encourage all of you to follow their lead and continue looking out for the welfare of all the animals that also make Crescent Lake their home.

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Lake's wildlife find food, refuge in new plantings

Volunteers still needed to continue momentum, but progress with plantings and cleanings are clearly making major impact on quality of Crescent Lake.

By Gary Crosby

Volunteers from our Crescent Lake neighborhood and community continue to generously – and passionately — give their time and effort toward the beautification and restoration project for Crescent Lake. It is impressive to see so many people care so much about the lake and its importance to our environment.

The initial lake plantings in April continue to adapt and propagate in the lake. At two workdays in July and August, all the original protective wire enclosures were removed from around the plants, allowing for continued growth and spreading of the plants.

Most recently, on Sept. 15, Florida native shoreline plants were added to the north end of the lake. Periodic Saturday morning workdays have continued and will continue to occur to promote the continued establishment of the plants, as well as for debris removal.

Plantings Provide Food, Refuge

Observations from the shoreline and up-close inspections of the planting areas confirm that the goal of creating a more diverse habitat for the lake wildlife and enhancing the visual character of the lake is occurring.

Various species of herons, ducks and birds can be seen feeding and even nesting in and around the planting masses. The lake turtles and fish are abundant.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission performed a fish identification and count survey in July. The results showed that the lake has a healthy and productive population of game fish featuring bass and bluegill.

The foliage and blooms of the water grasses and reeds, pickerel weed, canna lilies, alligator flag, water lilies and duck potato add a visual aesthetic to the lake while attracting host insects and providing a food source for the lake wildlife. Our volunteers continue monthly sampling of the lake water. Florida LAKEWATCH analyzes the samples to document water quality as it relates to the overall ecological health of the lake.

Overcoming Invasive Plants, Debris

With all the successes so far, we are working on two challenges.

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Lake Restoration Project

Continued from page 7

First is the invasive hydrilla, water lettuce and ludwigia water plants.

Second is the continual inflow from the stormwater drains of floatable debris, with the most noticeable being Styrofoam, plastic and paper.

The project team is working with the city on both issues. The application of herbicide on the unwanted water plants was delayed to allow our native plants to establish. Spraying started in July and its effect on both the wanted and unwanted plants is now being monitored to determine an appropriate defense.

It is apparent that the fencing that is intended to trap floating debris at the drainage culverts is either missing, in disrepair or is not effective during major rain events.

We are looking at several potential long-term solutions for both challenges. In the short term, physical removal of the vegetation and debris, along with additional herbicide spraying, is the course of action. Volunteers have been supplementing the city's efforts with the debris removal.

A Big Thank You to Volunteers

In the fall, another aspect of the project will occur.

All the stormwater drains at the roadways that drain into Crescent Lake are to be identified with signs informing the public that anything entering that drain will wind up in the lake, with some pollutants being carried ultimately into Tampa Bay.

The lake's stormwater drainage field is large, extending as far as St. Anthony's Hospital. That is a tremendous amount of roadway and property that accumulates environmentally harmful chemicals and trash that can be washed into the stromwater drains during rain events or, worst case, intentionally (and illegally) placed in the drains for disposal.

This project is succeeding through the great work of many volunteers. To all of you who have joined us for this unique, exciting and rewarding project, we extend a hearty and deeply appreciated thank you.

More work is needed to continue the success, so please do your best to join us, and to pass along word to friends and neighbors. Together, we are making a real impact on the ecological health and the aesthetic quality of Crescent Lake.

For additional information for how you can help, or for the schedule of our upcoming work days at the lake, contact Lucy Trimarco at lucyt@ij.net or 821-2133.

Want to be a leader?
You've got our support

If you want to look into building leadership skills to make a difference in our neighborhood and community, your association is here to help.

By Carolyn Fries

Thanks to the great response from the third-quarter Banyan Banter membership drive, the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association has allocated funds to sponsor two association members to attend the 2008 Council of Neighborhood Associations' (C.O.N.A.) Leadership Program.

I graduated from the 2006 program as the only representative from our neighborhood, and I thoroughly enjoyed my experience, and found it interesting, invigorating and rewarding. While our neighborhood had no representation in the 2007 program, my hope is that we will have at least one or two of you want to participate in the 2008 program.

If you have an interest but want more insight into what the program is about, feel free to email or call me at cfries@tampabay.rr.com or 823-0050. I will be glad to fill you in.

Meantime, here are some details on the program for you to consider.

The program consists of nine weeknight (6 to 9 p.m.) seminars, a Saturday Historic Bus Tour and a graduation dinner held at the St Petersburg Yacht Club.

The program begins in January with the program orientation and ends in May with the graduation dinner, meeting on average once every two weeks.

The topics covered include City Government, Crime and Neighborhoods, Effective Meetings, Our Diverse Community, Effective Communications, City Services, County Government and Quasi-Judicial Hearings.

Participants get to meet and discuss issues with the Mayor, City Council, Chief of Police, District Attorney and County Commissioners.

If you have an interest in community action and/or public service, this is an excellent opportunity to network, meet local government leaders and learn more about our government and city operations.

The program objectives are:

1. To broaden potential neighborhood leaders' understanding of the community.

2. To expand the pool of skilled neighborhood leaders.

3. To encourage the establishment of networks among neighborhood leaders.

4. To enhance the ability of neighborhoods to resolve problems on their own or in cooperation with other neighborhoods and/or institutions.

5. To introduce participants to decision-makers in our city's government and throughout our community.

Again, my hope is that one of two of you will want to participate in the program for your own career and/or personal development, and to represent our Crescent Lake neighborhood. And, again, if you think you have an interest in learning more, please do let me know.

Proposed retail project proposed to replace Sunshine City Grill

A new retail project is planned for the block between 12th Avenue North and 13th Avenue North along the 4th Street corridor, previously occupied by Sunshine City Grill.

The proposed project will include approximately 9,800 square feet of one story multi-tenant retail space fronting 4th Street. It will consist of two buildings split by the alley, with parking located in the rear.

The tenant mix has not yet been determined, but the developer hopes to attract a mix of national and regional retail and food uses.

The developer intends to demolish the existing structures located on the site in the coming months and hopes to break ground during the first quarter of 2008.

Even on sidewalk, manners do matter

Just like rules exist for driving, same is true for sidewalks. Did you know pedestrians always have right of way? Read on for more on sidewalk etiquette.

By Carolyn Fries

The perimeter sidewalk of our lovely Crescent Lake Park is utilized by fitness, leisure and dog walkers, runners, parents with strollers, rollerbladers, skateboarders and bicyclists.

It's only natural that every now and again we'll have an unpleasant exchange between these diverse groups. On a recent afternoon, a neighborhood resident, who frequently rollerblades around the park, asked me about rules regarding sidewalk use based on an interaction with a pedestrian during an outing.

In response to the question, I called and left a message on the District II police line (551-3182) requesting information on the "Rules of the Sidewalk." St Petersburg Police Officer Joe Truong returned my message that same evening. He shared with me the law and his personal thoughts on the subject.

By law, sidewalks are for *pedestrians*. This includes anyone moving on foot, such as walkers, runners, parents with strollers and dog walkers. It is against the law for bicycles to be ridden on the sidewalk. In contrast to the law, it is a generally accepted practice for children to ride bicycles on sidewalks in the interest of safety. That said, children should be taught that they must be courteous and yield the right of way to pedestrians on the sidewalk.

■ Rollerbladers and skateboarders using sidewalks must also yield right of way to pedestrians, even if it means moving off the concrete surface on occasion.

■ The majority of pedestrians figure it is easier for them to move to the side and allow the wheeled traveler to pass, particularly if a nicely phrased "Excuse me, please" is involved. *It is the pedestrians' right, however, to expect bicyclists, rollerbladers and skateboarders to move off the sidewalk when passing or approaching them.* The pedestrian cannot be expected to move when approached by the wheeled traveler.

■ For the safety of all those involved, dog walkers should be watchful of fast-moving pedestrians and wheeled travelers when allowing their dogs to go on extended leash near the sidewalk.

In short, we should all be courteous to others using the sidewalk and remember that the pedestrian *always* has the right of way on a contiguous sidewalk.

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Summary of CLNA's July 23 General Meeting

For those of you unable to join us, below is a recap of the July 23 general meeting for the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association.

Attending the meeting were 24 neighbors and interested parties, including City Council representative Leslie Curran; Tom Gajentan, who works in codes enforcement for the city; and St. Petersburg police officer Ray Merritt.

We extend a special thank you to Leslie, Tom and Ray – and to all of the neighbors in attendance.

We hope that more neighbors are able to join us at our next general meeting, scheduled for Monday, Nov. 26, at the Huggins-Stengel Clubhouse at 1320 5th Street North.

Recap of CLNA July 23 General Meeting

1. Healthy Lake Project
Received an update from Jim Bays. Most plants are doing well, and support from volunteers and the city has been excellent. Will schedule additional workdays and will alert neighbors via email, as the lake project hinges on neighborhood volunteers.

2. Pedestrian Safety
Heard from Derrick Calandra, a resident of Old Northeast who is coordinating the efforts of surrounding neighborhoods. He plans to maintain contact with the Department of Transportation, who he says does not see 4th Street as a priority for improving the safety of crossing for pedestrians. Derrick said his goal is to have a DOT official participate in a public meeting in the fall to discuss the matter with local residents and business people.

3. Code Enforcement/Community Policing.
Tom Gajentan of the city's Codes Department went over common codes infractions and answered questions. Also heard from Officer Ray Merritt, who provided an update on recent neighborhood incidents, all of which he characterized as minor in nature.

4. Lake Project/Observation Area
Leslie Curran advised of the potential availability of funds for our neighborhood lake project from the Weeki Wachee Fund. Members of the board are looking into gathering more information on this possible funding source.

A motion was made by Carol Henderson to proceed with an amendment to our neighborhood plan to reallocate funds for this project. Motion was seconded by Phil Celli. The vote was unanimous in support of the motion.

5. New Business
Phil Celli reported on information recently received that bathroom facilities are being proposed for Crescent Lake Park, with a discussion on the pros and cons. It was determined a poll of all neighborhood residents should be taken. Based on those results, a determination of neighborhood association involvement will be made.

6. Luminary Walk
Reminded residents of the date, Dec. 9, and solicited volunteers.

7. Membership
Held a drawing for two tickets in the city of St Petersburg suite at a Tampa Bay Devil Rays game. Eligible participants were all paid association members as of July 23. Winners were Chris and Juli Steinocher.

8. Treasurer's Report
The balance as of July 18, 2007 is $1,599.70.

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Our 'hood's a happenin' place this fall

Your neighborhood's got four great events lined up. So c'mon, join the fun, rustle up a neighbor or two, invite family and friends, visit with other good folks who call Crescent Lake home. Share the pride in our beautiful Crescent Lake neighborhood and enjoy our events – all organized by fellow neighbors to celebrate our wonderful neighborhood.

Sure, we're biased, but we think we've got the best neighborhood in town. What we've got going on this autumn is one of many reasons we believe that's true. Here's the rundown:

- **Harvest Festival, Saturday, October 27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 8th Street North between 20th and 21st Avenues North.** A popular event and fun way to get in the Halloween spirit, we'll serve up hot dogs and lemonade, and ask neighbors to bring a dish to share. As always, we'll have fun games, a friendly Halloween costume contest and ever-popular urban hay rides for young and old alike. Yikes!

- **Holiday Porch Party, Sunday, Nov. 18, 12:30 p.m. Rich & Nancy Wall's Home, 1947 8th Street North.** It's Florida, it's Sunday … are you ready for some football?! Rich and Nancy welcome you to their home for the Bucs-Falcons showdown and to hang inside or out to enjoy a fall Sunday with neighbors over food, refreshments … and did we mention football? Bring your own beer and a dish, sandwich tray, wings, chips and dip to share; we'll provide water, soda, plates and such. Will be plenty for all. Go Bucs!

- **Neighborhood Meeting/Board Election & Social, Monday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m., Huggins-Stengel Clubhouse, 1320 5th Street North.** Stay in the know as we'll have updates on neighborhood activities and the annual election for our CLNA board (Want to make a difference? There's room on the board!). We'll keep it short as possible and make time for a holiday social. Please join us!

Holiday Luminary Walk, Sunday, Dec. 9, 6 to 8 p.m., Crescent Lake Park. With candle fires circling the lake, musical performers playing holiday tunes, a special visit by Santa and of course more urban hayrides, this has become one of the best holiday events in St. Pete. Happy holidays, Crescent Lake neighbors!

Thank you for supporting our advertisers.

A vision for city planning

The recently approved Vision 2020 plan lays out principles for how St. Pete intends to re-shape existing development to transform into an even more livable city.

By Andrew Smith

The livability of our Crescent Lake neighborhood stems from a number of obvious assets: our beautiful lake and park, interesting and diverse residents, and proximity to downtown St. Pete, our world-renown beaches and the Interstate.

But it also includes improvements provided by the city and significant investments from commercial and residential developers.

Significantly, this progress is not a one-time spurt that may not occur again for several years.

Rather, it is a direct consequence of a new direction in city planning that is designed to make our and other city neighborhoods better places to live. The plan also provides for beautification and for greater efficiency of businesses and transportation.

The plan in question, called Vision 2020, was adopted by city leaders and several hundred volunteer citizen delegates in 2001.

Vision 2020 is not a piece of city legislation. It is a published set of principles upon which future city direction, especially with respect to land development, is encouraged to closely adhere to.

After release of the Vision 2020 document, a series of steps was envisioned, through further public hearings, state agency review and legislative action, to adopt the principles into the St. Petersburg Land Development Regulations.

On Aug. 9, the steps were completed with approval by the City Council of the revised Land Development Regulations. It became effective on Sept. 10.

Vision 2020 is additionally significant because it is only about the fourth or fifth time in the history of St. Petersburg, a period that covers more than 120 years, that a major new direction in city planning has been undertaken.

The most recent effort was the Conceptual Plan of 1974, a plan intended to improve the construction of suburban style homes being built near the southern, northern and western borders of the city.

Prior to that, the Harold Bartholomew Plan of the 1940s provided for school building and continuation of the road grid system intended to accommodate the rapidly growing population. Earlier initiatives were made primarily in the context of St. Petersburg's emergence as a Florida resort city.

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These occasional but important changes have been made whenever it has been collectively realized that the existing plan was no longer adequate, and potentially had even become counter-productive, to the best long-term interests of the city.

In the case of Vision 2020, the primary impetus for change was the realization that there existed virtually no more land in St. Petersburg that had not been developed.

As a result, Vision 2020 focused on “redevelopment” of land, where land currently used would be used for revised or additional purposes. Additionally, any changes would contain beautification and pedestrian-friendly or neighborhood-friendly aspects whenever possible.

At its highest level, Vision 2020 divides the environs of St. Petersburg into three entities.

These entities are Neighborhoods, Centers (locations of work, shopping, entertainment and play) and Corridors (connections between neighborhoods and centers that include roads, industrial parks and recreational parks). Then, Vision 2020 principles were applied to develop recommendations to improve each of the three entities.

Neighborhood recommendations include improved buffering from surrounding commercial interests, making public buildings like schools a greater focus of civic life, making recreational parks more accessible, and protecting and reinforcing the “unique character of each neighborhood.”

There are some differences in Vision 2020 standards depending on whether the neighborhood is recognized as traditional (houses close to street, with alleys in back, emphasis on community, and some businesses within walking distance) or suburban (wider yards with driveways, less community emphasis, local businesses likely to be in small strip malls).

The recommendations for improving centers begin by reckoning that there are currently three centers in St. Petersburg: downtown, the Tyrone Mall area and the Gateway/Carillon area in the north.

Downtown was deemed to have developed in recent years fairly consistently with the objectives of Vision 2020, but further improvement could be obtained by more mixed use projects (like parking garages with first-floor retail establishments), waterfront park enhancement and a variety of available transportation options.

According to city officials, the Tyrone Mall center was thought to be most out of touch with the direction of Vision 2020, with its large street-facing parking lots and inaccessibility to pedestrians, but over time it could potentially be made more consistent with Vision 2020 by building sidewalks from the public street edge, “infilling” with residential development and expanding offerings beyond strictly retail.

The Gateway/Carillon area is now closer to Vision 2020 than the Tyrone area, but further Vision 2020-friendly enhancements might include access to pedestrians and bicyclists.
Since the Vision 2020 document was issued, zoning for a fourth center has been approved, in the far southern part of the city, along 34th Street South.

Vision 2020 provides for corridor improvement by putting businesses closer to the street, often with parking in the back, with street-paralleling sidewalks and curbs in front.

Where possible, there should be sidewalks connecting established neighborhoods to these businesses.

New multi-use, street-side structures might have retail on the street level and apartments or condominiums on upper levels. Landscaping near the streets might be improved, and in some cases added to the streets via a median strip.

In the just-approved and revised Land Development Regulations, industrial land is no longer referred to as corridors, but the goals of Vision 2020 are effected by zoning under “Industrial Traditional” or “Industrial Suburban” rules, depending on location.

Likewise, the new regulations do not refer to recreational corridors, but Vision 2020 principles are seen in simple ways like more aesthetic retention-pond design and in giving pedestrians more options, including greater utilization of the Pinellas Trail.

The approval process for commercial and residential developers is not appreciably different under the new Land Development Regulations, but the standards of what constitutes an appropriate project will change.

Crescent Lake neighbors might reflect on some recent local changes in the context of Vision 2020, with Outback Steakhouse and Pappas Restaurant having city sidewalk access and parking in the rear, with the Crescent Lake City Homes on 14th Avenue being an infill to an existing neighborhood, and with the under-construction Salon Lofts on 11th Avenue having a salon on the first floor and residential units above.

The entire Vision 2020 document can be found at http://www.stpeteldr.org.

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Upcoming Board Meeting/Elections
November 26, 7p.m.
Huggins - Stengel Clubhouse

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Advertising in the Banyan Banter is an effective and inexpensive way to reach hundreds of local potential customers.
The newsletter is delivered quarterly to all residents of Crescent Lake (nearly 600 households).

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1/4 page	$30/issue	$100/year

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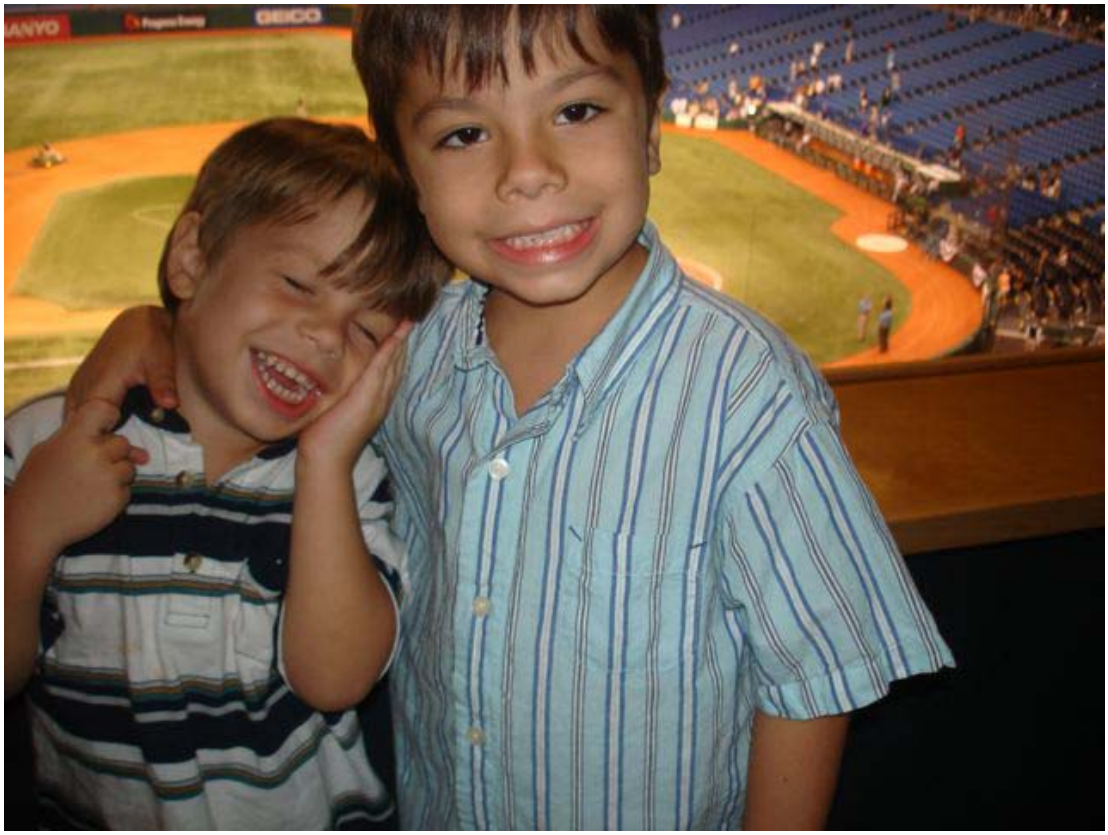

Photo by Chris Steinocher

Brody and Clay enjoying Rays!

As part of the our drive to increase memberships in our neighborhood association, we gave away seats in the city's suite at a recent Devil Rays game to Chris Steinocher, and it's clear that his two sons, Brody (left) and Clay, had a fun time at the ol' ballgame.