

Avondale News Bytes

JUNE 16, 2015

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

Did You Know?



Beginnings - Avondale Heights

In 1913 Oscar and Alice Burton joined real estate developer and future Sarasota Mayor Arthur B. Edwards in selling the land south of Hudson Bayou to the Sarasota Improvement Company.

In 1915 the area was recorded as Avondale Heights Subdivision. To promote development, a modern bungalow valued at

\$1,500 was to be given away. The same ad offered 75 choice lots for \$250, with an easy payment plan of \$50 down and monthly payments of \$10.

In 1923 Irving Bacheller, Edward Brewer and Fred Woolley purchased the lots. They replatted the land as Avondale, enlarged the lots and widened the streets in an effort to make the area more upscale.

To attract wealthy residents, Bacheller-Brewer marketed the remaining estate-size lots along Hudson Bayou with a model home designed by Thomas Reed Martin, a well known Sarasota and Chicago architect. The Mediterranean Revival style model home at 1903 Lincoln Drive was constructed in 1926, and sold in 1929. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992, the house features a two-story core flanked by one-story wings.



Today the neighborhood boasts of some Colonial Revival style homes dating from the 1930s. And, while a few homes from the 1950s and 1960s remain, many are being extensively renovated or replaced by newer houses. The photo at right shows 1903 Lincoln Avenue today.

President's message

Hello Neighbors,

It is with great pleasure that we begin a neighborhood newsletter. Our goal is to share information and enhance the sense of community within Avondale.



The Avondale Residents Association (ARA) Board consists of Jean Ruff, (at left) vice president and acting official, Julie Guirguis, treasurer, Rob Hoff, secretary, while Mollie Cardamone, Carol Fournier, Bob Kimbro and Pam Baker serve in a general capacity as directors.

Board meetings are open to all Avondale residents and are announced via email. Please contact Rob Hoff at robhoff@mac.com if you would like to be added to our email list. In addition to notice of ARA Board meetings, residents who submit their email to Rob will be given important notifications and security alerts.

ARA dues are \$20 yearly and are used for the newsletter, handouts, our annual picnic and neighborhood enhancement. Our neighborhood picnic is scheduled for October 25th with more information to follow. Dues can be paid at the picnic or submitted to Julie Guirguis at 1940 Alta Vista Street. All members of ARA will receive future newsletters via email. To contribute suggestions and content for our newsletters, please contact Emme Queen at bemmequeen@gmail.com.

Jean Ruff, (acting official and vice president) a 3-year Avondale resident writes, "Avondale is a beautiful neighborhood that we can all be proud of. It has a charm that has drawn us all to the area. The beauty lies with homeowners who want to make this a happy and safe place for all. Whenever I am out, I see people walking their dogs, working in their yards, taking bike rides and strolling the oak-covered streets. It is a place I love and am happy to call home."

Like a Good Neighbor

George Reid is a wonderful Avondale asset! He took it upon himself to clean and paint the Avondale sign on the corner of Lincoln and Osprey Avenues. The sign was in disrepair and the City could not refurbish it until October when funding was available.



George and his wife Nancy have been Avondale residents for thirty five years. George acted as our Board treasurer for many years and served as the "hamburger flipper" at our neighborhood picnics. Many thanks for a job well done. We really appreciate having you as a part of Avondale. Please give kudos to George when you see him.

Spotlight on

Mollie Cardamone

If you've lived in Avondale for a while, Mollie Cardamone comes to mind as the grand dame of the neighborhood. Always involved when it means working for community betterment, Mollie is tireless in her efforts to affect positive change. To learn more about our civic dynamo I asked her to share some of her story.



As a child, Mollie moved with her family from West Virginia to Irving Street in Sarasota where she attended Southside School and Sarasota High School. After graduating from Florida State University, Mollie taught in Sarasota schools for a number of years. Mollie and her husband owned and operated Children's World on Bahia Vista Street for 37 years. They have two sons (both Eagle Scouts) and two grandchildren.

Q How did you choose to live in Avondale and how did you become involved in local politics?

A We moved to Avondale in 1966 to be close to our store and near my parent's home, as well as close to local schools.

I was a founder of Avondale Residents Association when our neighborhood was engaged in a successful battle against a huge commercial encroachment. Avondale later became a founding member of the CCNA (Coalition of City Neighborhoods). I was elected to the city commission and served 8 years, 2 of them as Mayor!

Q What are you passionate about and what would surprise us about you?

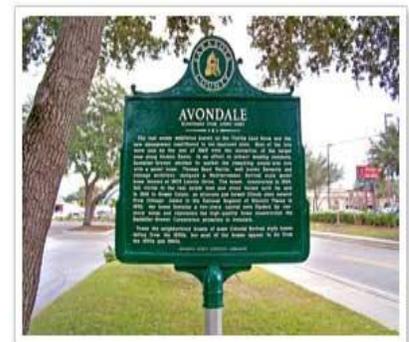
A I am passionate about a lot of things.....education, neighborhood preservation, good government and a sound economy! I love my friends and family, fly fishing, traveling, reading (2 and sometimes 3 books at a time) cooking and playing bridge!

You may be surprised to learn that over several years my husband and I, with very little help, built our own vacation house on a lake in a North Carolina wilderness area....no power, no phone! We enjoyed it for 24 years, now we go to our little log cabin in north Georgia.

This and That

In 2011 the Sarasota County Historical Commission recognized Avondale's historical significance with the dedication of a Historical Marker, located at the Gateway Bank, 1100 South Tamiami Trail.

The marker text recounts the early development of Avondale and the 1915 recording of the area as Avondale Heights.



Mark your Calendar

June 27 – July 5.....Suncoast Offshore Racing Festival
October 25.....Avondale Picnic

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency Services

- Police, Fire, Medical Emergencies: 911
- Police Department - non-emergency: 941-316-1199
- Fire Department – non-emergency: 941-861-5000

Building and Property

- Building Inspections: 941-954-4126
- Code Compliance: 941-954-4125

City Hall: 941-365-2200

Utilities

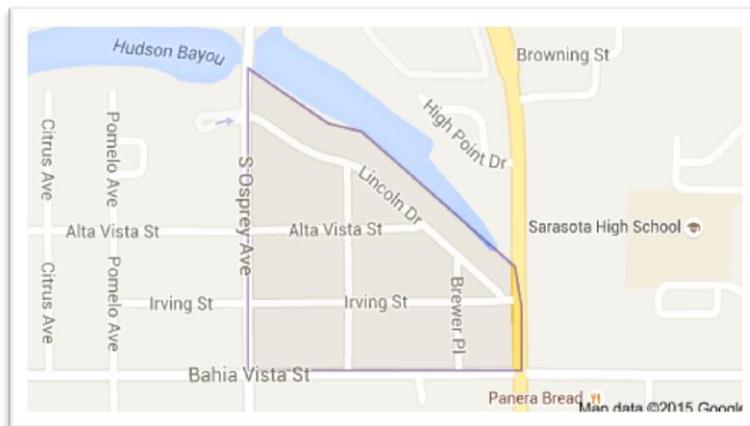
- Customer Service: 941-955-2325
- Water and Sewer Repairs: 941-955-4838
- Garbage pickup: 941-365-7651
- Recycling: 941-497-8088

Sarasota County Animal Services: 941-861-9501

Schools:

- Southside Elementary School: 941-361-6420
- Brookside Middle School: 941-361-6472
- Sarasota Middle School: 941-361-6464
- Sarasota High School: 941-955-0181
- Pine View School: 941-486-2001

Avondale - On the Map



North of Bahia Vista, South of Hudson Bayou, East of Osprey Ave, West of the Trail