

AVONDALE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

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President's Message

I hope that everyone is weathering the pandemic well with no health concerns. Please get your vaccination(s) if you have not already! I know that most of you have been diligent in being respectful of each other, distancing properly, wearing masks when appropriate, and trying to stay safe for yourselves and respecting others' health. As we move towards a more "open/normal" way of life, it is still prudent to maintain proper social distancing, wear masks when appropriate, and to get your vaccination(s). Unfortunately, our annual Spring Social has been postponed for a second straight year due to Covid. However, the ARA board is planning on a large social event in the Fall to embrace both our Spring Social concept and our Fall Picnic. This will take place on October 24 and will include activities for the kids in the neighborhood.

The largest impact on our neighborhood continues to be the ongoing construction project, the Lift Station 87. Since our last newsletter, most of the work from the bridge to Alta Vista has taken place, other than the final paving of Osprey Ave. Currently, the curbs are being installed from Bahia Vista to Irving St. and the sewer pipe is being laid on Alta Vista St. west of Osprey Ave. All of Osprey Ave. will be open to the public by mid-June and completion of the entire project later this summer. Yes, the project is behind schedule and there are many reasons for that as most construction projects seem to have (especially in Florida...).

Our hearts go out to our residents who are living on the front line of this construction, as they have endured, for a long time now, the very disruptive inconvenience of all this. The LS87 project manager, Tony Centurione, has been stellar in communicating with everyone regarding what to expect week-to-week. His updates are emailed to our residents and can be viewed on your ARA website: avondalesarasota.org. All I can say is, the end is in sight, the infrastructure will last for many years for our neighborhood, and your property values will go up. Hang in there...

Continued...

In other news, the idea of a dog park located in Luke Wood Park, has been denied by the city for two specific reasons. One is the area of this space is not sufficient, and the other is that this area is a potential pass through for the Legacy Trail connection from Payne Park and the waterfront. We tried... On a happy note, our new entrance-to-the-neighborhood sign that the ARA purchased and installed. This is located at the intersection of Lincoln Rd. And Osprey Ave. along with new landscaping.

The ARA annual business meeting held on 2/28/21 (via Zoom) was a very interesting affair with guests, our new city manager, Marlon Brown, the Lift Station project manager, Anthony Centurione, and ARA board member committee reports. All attending this meeting were able to ask questions from our guests. There were no elections this year, as the ARA by-laws specify that they should be held every even-numbered year. Anyone who would like to join the ARA board should speak with any of our board members (Mollie Cardamone, Pam Baker, Connie Reisenbeck, Georgia Salaverri, Rob Hoff, Jodie Vashistha, Carol Fournier, or myself).

The ARA board has begun delivering welcome baskets to our newest residents, offered a Food Drive (watch for another this May 4 - 6)re - bring food items or donations to Mollie Cardamone's house on 1116 Yale Ave.), and provided new vines and food for all of our Avondale planters. In addition, the ARA has purchased Avondale-logo bags which will be distributed to all our members at our Fall social event. Also discussed at this meeting was the value of new membership into the ARA and why it is so important that we work together to meet our common goals as a neighborhood. There are 14 important points that I mentioned that are vital to being a member of the ARA:

- 1) Build funds for any future legal fees needed to protect the interests of Avondale.
- 2) To better fund and increase social offerings for our neighbors (Fall picnic, Spring social, annual business meetings, etc.)
- 3) Avondale lion planter purchases, maintenance, etc.
- 4) Build funds for other city grant proposals for the future.
- 5) Purchase of new Avondale meeting signs.
- 6) Purchase of a new entrance to Avondale sign to be located at Lincoln Rd. and Osprey Ave.
- 7) Leveling of old sidewalks and repairs to damaged curbs.
- 8) Preventing new businesses from locating on the Tamiami Trail side of Avondale.
- 9) Advocate for the city to rebuild the eroded seawall at Brewer Place and Lincoln Rd.
- 10) Have the Lift Station 87 project manager post a weekly report on that large scale construction project directly affecting our neighborhood.
- 11) Explore and work with the city to consider a new dog park to be located at Luke Wood Park.
- 12) Investigate and work with the city to consider a new pedestrian lighting system in Avondale.
- 13) Work with the city to prune excessive tree overhang for better street lighting and security.
- 14) Maintain strong relationships with Sarasota City Hall.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that the ARA monthly (the first Tuesday of each month) board meetings continue to be conducted via "Zoom" out of safety concerns. Should anyone want to attend any meeting, simply notify me (dandersondrums@gmail.com) and I will make sure that you receive a link to the meeting, or, email me any concerns/ questions that we can add to the agenda. I hope to see you all, IN PERSON, before my next writing in our newsletter.

Until then, continue to be safe.

Dean Anderson

President, Avondale Residents Association





AVONDALE RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION'S

FOOD DRIVE

MAY 4, 5, 6

DROP-OFF AT RON & MOLLIE
CARDAMONE'S CARPORT
1116 YALE AVE

ACCEPTED DONATIONS

- CANNED MEAL FOODS: RAVIOLI,
SPAGHETTI, BEANS
- NUTRITION BARS
- INDIVIDUAL CUPS OF JELLO,
PUDDING, FRUIT COCKTAIL
- CEREAL: INDIVIDUAL BOXES, BUT
LARGER OK

Please make check donations out to
Meals on Wheels of Sarasota
(write "Avondale" in memo)

A New Sign for the Entrance to Avondale!

Look at the beautiful NEW Sign for the Entrance to our neighborhood!
Located on the corner of Lincoln Road & Osprey Avenue



A Note from Mollie Cardamone regarding CCNA, Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations

Dear Avondale neighbors,

I would like to tell you the story of the founding of our Avondale Residents Association and our very important role in the creation of CCNA. On Jan 28, 2021 The Observer newspaper printed a wonderful article celebrating the 30th anniversary of CCNA.....the Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations.

- A very important event occurred that sorely affected our Avondale history, it was the presentation of a 'grand 'development idea'the building of a huge shopping center across Bahia Vista St on our side of US 41 facing Midtown Plaza.....in fact it would have been the same size as Midtown Plaza.
- 1989 in Midtown Plaza there was a large Sears and Roebuck store now a Panera Bread, etc. and a Sears Automotive Center where BBT bank is and a grocery store where Winn Dixie was. The idea presented to us was the building of a large upscale shopping center that would attract shoppers from the keys and other wealthy neighborhoods. It would be on the land where Walgreens and the trailfacing green glass medical buildings are today with the beautiful residential project, Mandarin Park behind.....in total 2 city blocks wide and 2 blocks deep. Of course, we were very upset with the commercial intrusion and the potential impact of traffic, noise, etc. When the four prominent business men appeared with their plans before the city commission they claimed a large piece of vacant land that needed to be developed. We countered with an aerial that showed 23 roof tops.... homes that had been removed to create the so called 'large vacant property'. Avondale Residents Assoc was born to oppose the development and thanks to Atty Jim Toale, who lived in Avondale at the time, and with our newly formed ARA board and neighbors we successfully gained support of three city commissioners to deny the project. At the time it was very unusual for the business- leaning commission to support neighborhood desires.
- While opposing the project we felt it necessary to present an option to the city and the owners of what would be acceptable. We hired an architect to draw a plan showing how single-family homes could be developed on such a nice piece of available zoned residential property. He actually drew something very similar to what Mandarin Park is today. We presented that idea at the commission meeting as a good alternative and acceptable-to-us use. We had no opposition to the commercialization of the US 41 frontage property.
- About the role of our neighborhood in the creation of the powerful CCNA: Appearing at the city commission hearing were 3 neighborhood leaders supporting our opposition to the shopping center development. They had very serious concerns about commercial intrusion into residential areas, not wanting to see it happen in our neighborhood or theirs. They were the presidents of Gillespie Park, Laurel Park and Bay Point Park.....their influence in supporting us in convincing the commission was very significant!
- So now to the founding of CCNA: Following our very sweet victory the 4 of us met for a breakfast to discuss what we had accomplished and work on the idea of neighbors helping each other when confronted with intrusion. We met for a social breakfast (mostly congratulating ourselves and celebrating our victory) with the idea of forming a support group for neighbors supporting neighbors and the Coalition of City Neighborhoods Association was born! Over the years CCNA has grown in size and prominence and plays a significant role in the business of our city with over 40 associations as CCNA members and celebrating 30 years!

Continued...

As an aside and before we organized as ARA a group of us worked with a Manatee County Savings and loan organization to allow the demolition of some very old derelict frontage buildings and several homes to construct the beautiful architecturally significant Jack West bank building on our neighborhood face. We figured it would be a cleanup of the block with low intensity bank usage. Then years later we worked behind the scene to successfully oppose the purchase of the same block to demolish the bank building to construct a CVS across from Walgreens....definitely not low intensity commercial.

Off the subject but relevant

Speaking of Walgreens, in the late 90's our city commission denied the rezone of the land to build a retail Walgreens. The denial decision was based on many reasons (with lots of support from ARA) however, the landowner sued the city in the 2nd District Court of Appeals and won the right to rezone and build but with the caveat of hours of operation that would prevent a 24 hour pharmacy. The effort was led by our neighbor, Atty Brenda Patten. There were other issues in which our ARA was involved in but nothing more important and lasting than our being instrumental in the founding of CCNA!

Mollie C Cardamone

Former City Commissioner and Mayor 1993-2001
and Avondale resident since 1966

(Any errors of memory are mine and mine only. MCC)

In Memoriam

We lost a neighbor and friend, Barbara Keene Spurgeon, who passed away on March 9, 2021 after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. Barbara is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Winston Broaddus Spurgeon, daughter Sarah Spurgeon Whitehead and her husband Scott Whitehead, son Robert Winston Spurgeon and his wife Sybil Louise Spurgeon, granddaughters Lila Joan Spurgeon and Audrey Lanier Spurgeon.

Barbara and Winston spent a wonderful life together raising their children, traveling extensively, and starting many business ventures. They owned and operated several businesses over the years, including Williamsburg Publishing Company, Sarasota Bay Explorers, Tarpon Bay Explorers, and LeBarge Tropical Cruises. In their time together, they enjoyed making homes in Williamsburg and Seaford, Virginia, Sanibel, Sarasota, Key Largo and Anna Maria Island, Florida, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Highlands, North Carolina.. Barbara had a flair for decorating, flower arranging, setting a beautiful table, and entertaining with style. She was an avid cook and took pleasure in making wonderful meals for family and friends. Our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

Welcome to Our New Neighbors!

Paula Miller and Jim Doyle

Paula and Jim bought the new home at 1920 Alta Vista in March 2020 just as the pandemic was starting to impact Sarasota and the country. They both have long term roots in Sarasota although they most recently took a six-year detour to Sedona, Arizona. Paula spent much of her childhood here but also lived in Cleveland, NYC, Louisville and Portland Oregon. Jim moved here in 1991 from Rochester New York. Now they plan split their time between Sarasota and their home in Portland, Maine.

The two have a blended family with four children and two grandchildren. At the moment two of the children are living in Europe but this summer Paula's daughter (plus husband and grandchildren) are moving back to the states which given the travel restrictions of the last year is very exciting.

Paula retired after selling the mobile home parks she owned in 2011. Jim has spent almost 50 years in the broadcasting business. He's been a partner in both radio and TV stations . Late last year he left the day-to-day operation of the sales training and consulting business he started in 1991. Jim also continues to work to find long term solutions to the chronic homeless issues in Sarasota.

They love the friendliness of everyone they have met in the Avondale neighborhood. And they are grateful to their realtor, Lisa Rooks Morris for suggesting they look at their new home. They could not be more thrilled.



Rob, Allie, Pierce & Landon Jordan

Prior to settling in Sarasota, we were living in Lucca, Italy. While we absolutely loved living there, we had always planned on moving back to the US when the boys became school-aged. Between the beautiful beaches, year-round outdoor activities, charming downtown and impressive arts and culture scene, Sarasota was always at the top of our list. For years we had researched where exactly we wanted to live in Sarasota, but it wasn't until we arrived that we discovered Avondale. While many neighborhoods west of the trail offer proximity to the bay, beach, downtown, Southside village and Southside Elementary, Avondale's sidewalks, serenity and white picket fences seemed like the perfect location to raise our sons: Pierce and Landon. Pierce is 4 going on 40. He loves Star Wars, strawberries and meeting new people. He is very excited to attend kindergarten at Southside Elementary in August. His little brother, Landon, turned 3 in September, and his most beloved activity is riding his new Buzz Lightyear bike around the neighborhood. He is fiercely loyal to his Teddy bear, and he loves any four-legged creature that crosses his path. Both Pierce and Landon were born in Boston, just like their father, Rob. Growing up, Rob played many different sports and went to the University of New Hampshire to play football and baseball. After college, he began a long career in Finance and Financial Sales, but college football remains a passion and our TV seems to only play ESPN from September to January. My name is Allison, but I usually go by Allie. I was born in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia, went to college in Texas, but spent most of my adult life in Boston, where Rob and I met. We enjoy going out to dinner, exploring our new hometown and daydreaming about exciting travels around the world. We have had the opportunity to meet some of our neighbors, and I have been overwhelmed by how welcoming everyone has been. Many thanks to Dean, Medora, Jodie and the Avondale Residents Association for rolling out the red carpet for us. We couldn't be happier to be here and look forward to meeting all of our neighbors in the months and years ahead.



Neighborhood Happenings!



*A special thank you to Dean Anderson
for adding succulents to our planters.
They are a wonderful addition!*

*We have **NEW Avondale Bags!**
These will be distributed to all active
members at the Fall Picnic and used
for Welcome Gifts for our
New Neighbors. A **BIG Thank You** to
Medora Sheehan and Carol Fournier
who have distributed gift bags as
new neighbors move into Avondale.*



Thankful for Avondale!

Despite many of our neighbors having to endure the challenges of the Lift Station construction, let's remember many of the reasons we love our neighborhood: Proximity to Downtown, The Bayfront, Selby Gardens and so much more...the heart of Sarasota is just footsteps away.

Our canopy! Yes, the beautiful trees that line our streets bring a sense of grace and serenity to our neighborhood.

Architecture – Avondale is filled with a variety of beautiful architecture. From Florida Bungalows, to Mediterranean and Contemporary, the diversity of the architecture of our homes adds to the beauty of the neighborhood.

Sidewalks! Our sidewalks allow for easy walking, meeting neighbors, and friends along the way.

An active, productive and voluntary Homeowners Association. Members by choice, The Avondale Residents Association is devoted to enhancing our neighborhood and helping others in our community. Friendly people, the homeowners of Avondale actually know each other and stay in touch with their neighbors giving us a greater sense of community.

And so much more....

So as we continue to experience the challenges of construction and noise due to the Lift Station Project, let's remember how fortunate we are to live in such a special neighborhood.

Don't Forget! Donate to the Food Drive!

Fall Social Event

OCT. 24

HAPPY SPRING + SUMMER!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...