

Avondale News Bytes

FEBRUARY 2017

WINTER ISSUE

Did You Know?

Bob Fournier was born in Chile sometime before the Great Depression and recalls fondly a life well lived. He recently shared some highlights with us during a visit to his Brewer Place home.



Bob's father, an electrical engineer, left Maine before the stock market crash of '29 and headed to a job in the gold mines of Alaska. When a new opportunity beckoned, Bob's dad moved to Chile to work in the world's largest underground copper mine, El Teniente. This century-old mine is 44 miles south of Santiago in the town of Sewell, 7,500 feet above sea level in the barren slopes of the Andes Cordillera.

Bob was born in Sewell, often referred to as "The City of Stairs" because the terrain was too steep for wheeled vehicles. His most vivid memories of Sewell are from a 2009 trip he and wife Carol took to visit Bob's birthplace. Part of the mine is now a museum and the Sewell Mining Town is a UNESCO world heritage site.



A move to Mexico followed where Bob spent his school years at a private school run by a German group. Spanish and German quickly became second nature during his eleven years in Mexico. So much so that when his family moved back to Maine, Bob had difficulty with the English language!

A degree in Electrical Engineering (following in his father's footsteps) from the University of Maine and a stint in the Army stationed in Alaska during the Korean War followed. The Army Signal Corp had Bob keeping an eye on Russian activity along the Alaskan coast. After his discharge, Bob spent time in New York City but couldn't resist the call of New England and moved to Manchester, New Hampshire. Here he began a long, fulfilling career at Public Service Company of N.H.. Meanwhile, a beautiful young lady fresh out of business college applied for a job working for Bob. Needless to say she landed the job and a couple of years later, became Mrs. Carol Fournier. Carol went on to enjoy a rewarding career in banking while Bob retired from Public Service.

Bob soon realized retirement wasn't for him and began his own company brokering high voltage electrical equipment. Nearly 20 years after his first retirement, Bob sold the company and he and Carol now divide their time between homes in Maine and in Avondale.



When asked what brought them to Sarasota, Bob said family and the weather of course! The couple love traveling the globe and especially enjoy train travel. Bob was an avid fly fisherman and an upland grouse hunter.

Carol serves on the Avondale Board and enjoys tennis and gardening. She told us "the three best things to come from Chile are wine, lapis lazuli and Bob." Not necessarily in that order!

President's Message

Hello Avondale Residents,

Now that 2017 is upon us, I have selected the following quotes to inspire us this year.

- "Whatever you do or dream you can do — begin it. Boldness has genius and power and magic in it". – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, writer and statesman.
- I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something. – Neil Gaiman
- "It is difficult to live in the present, ridiculous to live in the future and impossible to live in the past. Nothing is as far away as one minute ago." – Jim Bishop
- Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man. – Benjamin Franklin
- "The beginning is the most important part of the work" – Plato, philosopher
- Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier.' – Alfred Lord Tennyson
- "Something is going to come out of this. Something new. This can end you up in a whole new place—a better place, a much more open place". – Pema Chodron, author
- "New Year – a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours." – Alex Morritt
- Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word. – Goran Persson



Jean Ruff, ARA President

This and That



Ladies, do you know about the Avondale Bunco Squad?

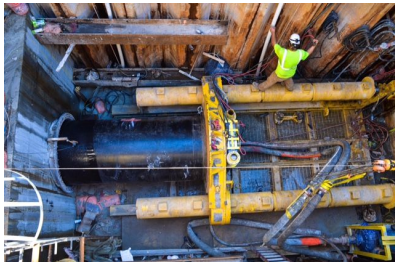
Bunco began as a confidence game similar to three card monte. Originally from 19th century England, the game was imported to San Francisco as a gambling activity in 1855, where it gave its name to gambling parlors or Bunco parlors. Often associated with a speakeasy during Prohibition, law enforcement raiding these parlors became known as “Bunco Squads.” Today Bunco is enjoying a resurgence in popularity as a family game.

We meet bimonthly to enjoy this easy-to-learn dice game and the company of our neighbors. Join us and learn how you too can be a big winner like our ARA President Jean Ruff. Our next Bunco game is scheduled for 7 pm on March 27. Contact bemmequeen@gmail.com for more information.

Good News

Microtunneling clears Hudson Bayou and Osprey Bridge

The Lift Station 87 microtunnel boring machine has successfully passed beneath both Hudson Bayou and the Osprey Bridge. Microtunneling is a specialized trenchless construction technique for installing pipelines under waterways, wetlands and roadways.



Once microtunneling under the Bayou is completed, the boring machine will be placed in a 30-foot deep shaft on the Lift Station 87 site and be guided to the shaft at Osprey and Mound.

The new lift station in Luke Wood Park at Mound Street will replace the existing lift station at Pomelo Avenue. For more information on the project, go to the website, www.liftstation87.com/

Editor's Note

Please send your pictures and ideas for articles to bemmequeen@gmail.com. Let's put your family in our next issue! Avondale Residents Association (ARA) board meetings are open to all Avondale residents and are announced via email. Please contact ARA secretary Rob Hoff robhoff@mac.com if you would like to be added to our email list.

For current information about our neighborhood, see our Twitter account: @avondalesrq, our Website: <http://www.avondalesarasota.org/> and yes, we even have a FB page! Go to <https://www.facebook.com/Avondale-Residents-Association-194252147624025/>.

Thanks, Belinda Emme Queen

Mark your Calendar

Through March 5.....Circus Sarasota - www.circusarts.org
March 5 - March 11.....37th Annual Sarasota Jazz Fest - www.jazzclubsarasota.org
April 21 - 23.....Suncoast Boat Show - Marina Jack's

Visit these websites for more about all the cool, fun and interesting things happening in paradise

<https://www.visitsarasota.org>
<https://escape-to-sarasota.com>

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

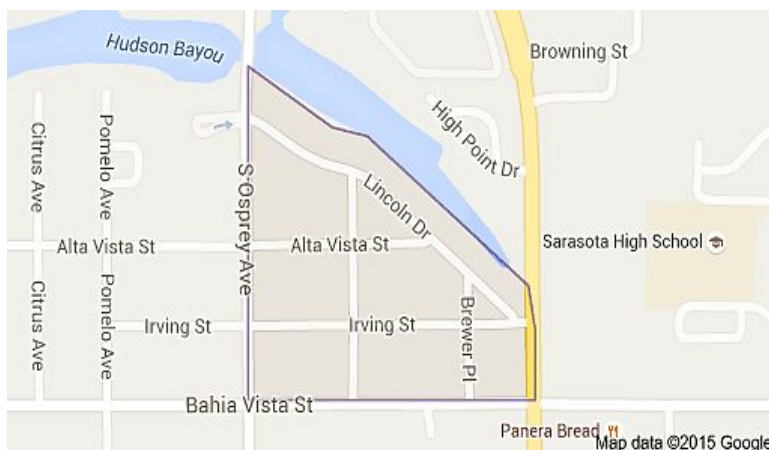
Utilities

- 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



Avondale - On the Map

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