



the **Banner**

Your South Seminole Heights Neighborhood Newsletter

WINTER 2009

Mailbox Placement

Several residents have received notices from the US Postal Service stating that they must relocate their mailbox curbside. These notices are usually received by new homeowners or renters, when there has been a change of residence. SSHCA has long felt that curbside mailboxes are not appropriate for our neighborhood for three important reasons:

- Greater risk of mail theft and identity theft,
- Reduced curbside parking, and
- Not esthetically pleasing in an urban community with 50 feet lots.

Tim Dose, the Tampa Post Office Manager of Customer Service Operations confirmed in writing that the Post Office cannot require mailboxes be moved curbside. The Postal Operations Manual (POM 631.41), states that even new homes or businesses built within an existing block shall receive the same type of service as the older homes or businesses.

However, once a mailbox has been moved curbside, it cannot be moved back to the house after 90 days. Unfortunately, those who have already moved their mailboxes will now probably have to live with the change.

If you receive a letter stating you must move your mailbox, please inform your carrier of this regulation, or report the problem to Mr. Dose at 813-877-0602.

Upcoming Events

January 10	Electronics-Only Collection Day 4010 W Spruce St. 9 AM - 2 PM
January 13	General Membership Meeting 7:00 pm, Common Ground Church
March 14	Bark in the Park, Al Lopez Park

General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 PM

Our General Membership Meeting is held at the **Common Ground Church** located on the corner of Clearfield Street and W. Chelsea Street.

Tampa Police will outline recent trends in the neighborhood during the CrimeWatch segment at the beginning of the meeting. The evening's regular agenda will be a community review of the Top Five Priorities for 2009 and developing an action plan. This will be a very important meeting and will help shape our neighborhood for the New Year.

Pizza, green salad, and beverages will be provided. All members are encouraged to attend and participate. Ask a neighbor to come along with you. We look forward to seeing you at this informative meeting.

Electronics-Only Collection Day

Do you have old electronics laying around the house wondering what to do with it? Take advantage of the Department of Solid Waste & Environment Program first ever Electronics-Only Collection Day, **Saturday January 10** to dispose of your old televisions and computers at **no charge**.

Back before plasma and liquid crystal display (LCD) tubes, we watched our programs on cathode ray tubes (CRT). The CRT model provided room for all switches and wires in a box behind the screen but it also stored a large amount of lead. Approximately 20% of the CRT's are comprised of lead, equivalent to four to eight pounds per unit. Even the smallest amounts of lead can be a serious issue.

For a complete list of accepted items call the Department of Solid Waste at 813-348-1111 or visit their website at www.tampagov.net/solidwaste.

Letter *from the* President

Happy New Year to You All!

It's hard to believe that 2008 is gone and another new year is here, full of opportunity and hopefully a little bit of optimism. First I want to thank you for your vote of confidence in the "old" Board of Directors who were all returned to a new two-year term of office. We have reappointed most Committee Chairs and are actively looking for volunteers to help out. Our committees include Beautification, Code Enforcement (Peer to Peer), Crime Watch, Communications, Membership, and Land Use. These are all very important and help maintain a quality of life we want in our South Seminole Heights neighborhood.



Several of you responded to our request for suggestions on what should be our top priorities for 2009. You will see an article outlining the results in this issue, and at our January meeting, everyone will be invited to help us come up with the right action plan to ensure the success of each priority. A top issue this year, and unfortunately it isn't a pretty one, will be vacant properties. I encouraged all of you who were at the October meeting to be extra vigilant by watching the goings on at vacant properties around your homes. I also encourage you to develop a plan with other neighbors to keep vacant properties mowed when possible so they look like less of a crime and vagrant target. It's not going to be a lot of fun, but we need to help "prop each other up" whenever we can during what may be a difficult year.

Our new website is up and running, and we want to thank the Hillsborough County Commission and the Frank Duckwell Foundation for the grant money provided for the site development. The new site promises to be dynamic, and will provide current information that you will find important. Please plan to visit it often at www.sshca.org.

Regards,
Gary Ellsworth, President

New Year. New Website.
Check out www.sshca.org
for news, photos, events,
much more. As always, your
comments are welcomed.
Send us an email to
info@sshca.org.

Ad Rates

Business Card Size	\$25 per issue
3 x 5	\$50 per issue
Half-Page	\$100 per issue
(10% discount for full year paid)	

All ads are accepted subject to approval and available space.

SSHCA Board Directors President

Gary Ellsworth (813) 404-5222
president@sshca.org

Vice-President

Bucky Jones

Secretary

Lynor Romer

Treasurer

Dawn Dayringer

At-Large Delegates

Randolph Franz

Jeanne Lavette

Isaac Shaffer

Peer-to-Peer

(Code Enforcement Issues)

Gabrielle Ayala

peertopeer@sshca.org

Membership

Julene Mohr

membership@sshca.org

Beautification

Nanette O'Hara

beautification@sshca.org

Communications

Les Berty

info@sshca.org

Crime Watch

Valerie Holland 237-2996

crimewatch@sshca.org

Land Use Open

THE BANNER STAFF

Neysa Martin, Editor

Jay Hardwick & Lorena Rivas,

Distribution

Les Berty, Asst Layout

Contact Us

Website: www.sshca.org

E-mail: info@sshca.org

PO Box 360371 Tampa, FL 33673

Hello Neighbors

By Julene Mohr, SSHCA Membership Chair

I relocated to Tampa, Florida earlier this summer and soon met several SSHCA members. It seems there is a legacy that come with living in my house on West Wilder - volunteering to be the SSHCA Membership Chair. As such, I gladly accepted the nomination to become the new membership chair as a great way to support Seminole Heights and meet new people.

This summer, we introduced a new tradition to welcome all new members to our civic association. Once an individual or family joins SSHCA, then a member of the membership committee visits each home to deliver a SSHCA Welcome Bag. These bags are canvas tote bags with our association's emblem on the front. Inside, new members find all types of goodies including local newspapers, area magazines, health and safety flyers, hurricane publications, and recycling guidelines. The treats come in the form of local business advertisements such as gift certificates, coupons, stress balls, and magnets. Finally, I include a loaf of fresh Cuban bread! So far, the welcome bags have been a great hit with our new members and I have enjoyed the visits to each home and meeting our neighbors.

If you have any items you would like to donate for inclusion in our welcome bags, contact me, Julene Mohr at 813-532-7067 or membership@sshca.org. I look forward to meeting you or seeing you again at our next membership meeting on Tuesday, January 13. At this time, you may renew your membership or join for the first time. Renewing members will receive a SSHCA auto decal to proudly support our neighborhood.

SSCHA Top Five Priorities

Last quarter, we asked for members' thoughts about what should be the top priorities for the New Year. We received several great suggestions and were able to incorporate most of the comments into our Top Five List. Some suggestions were "block specific", but we were able to expand them to benefit the entire neighborhood, which is always our goal.

1. **Vacant Properties.** With the current economic crisis, vacant properties are at the top of the priority list. Several homes in the neighborhood are now vacant and may face foreclosure. There have been problems with vagrancy and trespassing, and fire poses a real and dangerous threat. City Code Enforcement has indicated that this is also a priority for their department, city-wide.
2. **Park Safety and Security.** The community continues to enjoy the many assets of this beautiful park along the Hillsborough River. However, there continues to be unauthorized after hour s activity.
3. **Neighborhood Involvement and Participation.** Every year we look for ways to involve more residents of our neighborhood in SSHCA projects. Greater Neighborhood Involvement and Participation was an important priority listed by several people. There are several projects each year that languish, because of lack of volunteers. We now have a new website which will help make it easier for members to communicate, and find out important information. Volunteers are needed for all committees.

Continue on Page 7

Bark in the Park 2009

By Lisa Hickman

Mark your calendars for a tail-wagging good time on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at Al Lopez Park. This is a fun event for the whole family, especially your four-legged family members. There will be demonstrations to see, arts and crafts tables to browse, and plenty of sponsor/vendor booths to shop. Want to enter Fido into the pet costume contest? Does your furry family member know any silly dog tricks? Prizes will be awarded. Or maybe you stand a chance to win the pet/owner look-alike contest? If your pooch isn't the competitive type, be sure to catch the dog treat hunt for dogs.

Want to make difference for thousands of animals in desperate need? You can join the neighborhood "pack" and help collect donations for the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. Last year's event raised over \$84,000 which goes towards providing shelter, food, spray/neuter services and medical care for the thousands of animals helped by HSTB each year.

Continue on Page 6.

Beautification Update

By Nanette O'Hara, SSHCA Beautification Chairperson

Congratulations to Michelle and Scott Morrison of 213 W. Haya, winners of our Fall 2008 Beautification Banner. They lovingly restored their classic bungalow, which is located in a very visible part of our neighborhood and we certainly appreciate their efforts. It's great to see another of our wonderful bungalows get a new life. Please take a stroll by this beautiful home and admire their efforts!

Don't forget - you can nominate a home for a beautification award by email at nholland2@verizon.net or phone 238-6763. I also need volunteer judges for the award program so let me know if you are interested.

In other Beautification news, we had 15 residents come out to pick up litter on a chilly morning in Rivercrest Park and Greenway during the recent Mayor's "Rollin on the River" Cleanup in November. The neighborhood folks were joined by students from Leto High School and a team from HDR Consulting. Altogether, we had about 40 eager trashbashers working to cleanup the river shoreline. Once again, drinking straws, disposable cigarette lighters, pens, and assorted plastic items comprised the majority of the litter. Unusual items found this year included two brand new coffee makers, minus the glass bowls, and a wooden ship model made from part of a telephone pole!

After working hard, we were treated to a delicious "dog and burger" cookout prepared by my husband , Rick O'Hara. Thanks Rick to you and all the residents who came out to help - you all were terrific!



**Fall 2008 Beautification Banner Winner
Scott and Michelle Morrison, 213 W. Haya**

Yogo Studio Opens in the Neighborhood *by Elizabeth Mitchell*

Step into an environment of peace and well being. Golden, rust and aqua walls, purple, pink and teal mats, art items with a spiritual resonance, calming positive music - settle down on one of the mats, breathe deeply, and consciously soon your yoga class will begin. You have discovered Jai Dee Yoga Studio, located at 5803 N. Florida Ave (east side between Hillsborough and Sligh Avenue).

Jai Dee is the embodiment of owner Gwen Hanner to create a yoga and wellness center in her own neighborhood - Seminole Heights. Gwen is a psychotherapist, working in the Tampa Bay area for the last 22 years. Her goal was to open a studio where teachers could offer classes at different hours, thus providing a place of many options for both teachers and students. Check out the class times on our website www.jaideeyoga.com or call us at 813-231-2300. There are at least a dozen classes a week, the earliest starting at 8 AM and the latest at 7:30 PM. Classes are Monday through Sunday. Tai Chi and Mediation classes are also available.

The beginner and the experienced work towards perfecting the same pose, or asana. We offer introductory and advanced version of each asana so in one class, both adepts and novices find a satisfying practice. Come to Jai Dee and experience the life enhancing benefits of yoga for yourself.

Major Brands Private Labels

TIRE WORLD • COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

Always A Solid Value And Spectacular Savings

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">COUPON REQUIRED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oil Change</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Includes: Up To 5 Quarts Oil & New Filter</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large;">\$15.95</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Reg. \$19.95 Save \$4.00. Not valid with any other offer.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">EXPIRES 3/15/09</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">COUPON REQUIRED</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large;">\$50.00 OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Any Set Of 4 New Tires</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Not valid with any other offer.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">EXPIRES 3/15/09</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">COUPON REQUIRED</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large;">15% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Any Service</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Not valid with any other offer.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">EXPIRES 3/15/09</p>
--	---	--

202 W. Hillsborough Ave. Tampa tireworld.biz 813-238-3102

Hillsborough River: So much more than a Waterway

By Dr. Mare Uranowski, resident of South Seminole Heights

For my son, Alex, who is compelled to cast a line with a hook on the end of it into any body of water that he encounters, living within sight of the Hillsborough River is a dream. For many of us property owners, we enjoy the view and the breezes and the value that the river adds to our home investment. On any given weekend in warmer weather, the river is virtually a highway for boaters and occasionally we get to enjoy a short waterskiing show from brave souls out there. This river represents a diverse array of functions for most of us, but for many residents of Tampa at large, it's just "there", notwithstanding it is the city's principal potable water supply!

Recently, I had the opportunity to represent our neighborhood association on a Stakeholders' Tour of Hillsborough River aboard Lowry Park's river boat. The tour was sponsored by the Mayor's Beautification Committee and also by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The purpose was to educate local business and residential community about the river and our impact on it.

Did you know that the lower Hillsborough River is part of the watershed for draining nearly 1600 acres of Tampa? A watershed, according to the Southwest Florida Water Management District "is an area of land that water flows across as it moves toward a common body of water". The lower Hillsborough watershed's northern boundary is Busch Boulevard, since the runoff north of there drains primarily into sinkholes, which feed into the springs. The western boundary runs along the city limits, the eastern boundary is a little past 22nd Street and the southern boundary ends at the bay. This means that, as Chuck Walter from Tampa's Dept of Stormwater put it, anything that is deposited onto our city streets within those boundaries will eventually wind up in the river via the approximately 600 stormwater outfalls draining into it.

Wow, I thought, that is a considerable impact! What is the city and SWFMD doing about this?

To read the complete the article, go to our website www.sshca.org.

New Detective Hammers Unlicensed Contractors

By Valeria Holland, SSHCA Crimewatch Coordinator

As a result of rising complaints from citizens who have become the victims of unlicensed contractors, the Tampa Police Department has created a new detective position to focus on contractor fraud. This detective, along with the help of two civilian investigators, is cracking down on these unscrupulous contractors. So far, dozens of unlicensed contractors in the area have been arrested. A portion of the City's permitting fees pay for this newly created position.

Contractor Fraud Facts for Tampa Bay Area

- Most victims are over the age of 50.
- The average amount of money lost by a victim is between \$10,000 and \$20,000.
- Fines start at \$500 and so far the detective is averaging about 35 calls a week.
- Contracting without a license is a 1st degree misdemeanor. A second conviction is a 3rd degree felony. Contracting without a license is a 3rd degree felony during a declared emergency. Advertising as a contractor without a license is a 1st degree misdemeanor.
- Approximately 35% of "permitted" contractor work is done by unlicensed contractors. This hurts the contracting industry and is dangerous to the property owners.

Note from the Editor

Thank you to all who submitted articles for this issue of the Banner. Your support is always appreciated. Unfortunately, due to limited resources, we were unable to fit all of them in this issue. I look forward to including them in the next issue. In the meantime, check out our website at www.sshca.org where you find the latest news, events and photos.

in the Spotlight

Bark in Park Continued

Bark in the Park will be at **Al Lopez Park, 4810 N. Himes Avenue, Tampa Florida, Saturday March 14, 2009**. Registration, demonstrations, sponsor/vendors open at 8:30 AM. One mile walk begins at 10 AM. Pet costume contest immediately after the walk. Activities will continue until 12 Noon.

To sign up with our pack, Hounds of the Heights, contact President Gary Ellsworth at 813-404-5222 or tampa.gary@verizon.net.

The Humane Society of Tampa Bay is a non-profit organization that has been offering shelter to homeless animals since 1912, and they couldn't do it without your help.

More information about this event can be found at www.humanesocietytampa.org/special-events or www.firstgiving.com/hstb.

Myers Printing

Through the Woods Fine Wood Floors, Inc.

Custom Installation
&
Historic Rehabilitation

"How refreshing to find a contractor with such a wealth of experience, who conducts his business in such a professional manner. I recommend them with enthusiasm and confidence."

Proud Bungalow Owner

813.232.3985

Visit www.ThroughtheWoods.us

Sherry's Yester**DAZE** Vintage Clothing & Antiques

5207 N. Florida Ave., Tampa, Florida 33603
Phone: (813) 231-2020



Women's, Men's &
Children's Clothing,
Accessories & Jewelry
from Victorian to
Funky 70's

Mid-Century Modern,
Traditional & Antique
Furnishings, Decor Items
& Collectibles

Tues. - Sat. 11 am to 6 pm Sun. 12 noon to 6 pm
E-Mail: yesterdaze@tampabay.rr.com

Cappys Pizza

Seminole Heights
4910 N. Florida Ave.

813-238-1516

Sun-Thurs 5-9 pm
Fri-Sat 5-10 pm

Happy at Home Pet Care

Lori Diaz
234-1372

15 Years Professional Pet Care In Tampa
Licensed & Bonded

Committed To Your Pet's Well-Being

Jai dee
YOGA AND WELLNESS STUDIO

Photo Contest Winner Revealed

By Nanette O'Hara

Congratulations to Vickie Rosbach, who won our first SSHCA Photo Contest, with a creative fisheye image of the docks along the Hillsborough River in Rivercrest Park. Vickie's photo was chosen as the overall winner by residents attending the October General Membership Meeting. The other two finalist were a photo of Mauricio's Bakery by Colleen Hazelhurst and a picture of a classic Seminole Heights bungalow by Nanette O'Hara. In all, 33 photos were entered in the contest.

Vickie received a \$25 gift card from Ritz Camera and an award certificate for winning the contest.

Vickie was so excited about photos of our neighborhoods as a result of the contest, she created a beautiful 2009 calendar of photos she has taken, including her prize-winning park photo, Broward Elementary School, Hillsborough Avenue Bridge, and our prized bungalows. She is selling the calendars at cost to neighborhood residents for just \$12. To order yours, email Vickie at thanksgiving1st@verizon.net.

Top Five Continued

4. **Business Development on Commercial Corridors.** SSHCA was instrumental in the development of new Form Based Code Regulations, which will be reviewed by Tampa City Council in 2009. All property owners were invited to participate and were notified by mail from the City in 2008, and several people from our neighborhood helped with the project. Our commercial corridors have long been a blemish on the greater Seminole Heights community and we want to support and encourage those businesses that provide neighborhood supporting services.
5. **Beautification Projects and Community Green Spaces.** Again this past November, we participated in the Mayor's River Clean-Up and will be scheduling additional clean-up projects in mid year. With more volunteers, we can assist those in need with alleyway cleaning and help spruce up common areas in the neighborhood. The Beautification Committee continues to recognize individual homeowners with beautification banner awards.

The top five priorities happen to fall exactly into the five standing committees of the Civic Association. The focus of our January Membership Meeting will be putting the priorities into action. We look forward to seeing you there.



**2008 SSHCA Photo Contest Winner
Vickie Rosbach**

It's Your Neighborhood

Join Today!

This Quarter

New Membership is only \$9. Two Person Household is \$15.

Annual Membership is renewed each year in October and is \$12. Two person household is \$20. Business Membership is \$35 and is renewable every 12 months. Business Membership is open to any business that has an interest in South Seminole Heights and in promoting the purpose of SSHCA. Business Members do not have to be located specifically in South Seminole Heights.

South Seminole Heights Civic Association Membership Winter 2009

Name(s) _____

Company Name (if Business) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Special Interests and abilities _____

Please send to SSHCA PO Box 360371, Tampa, FL 33673-0371 Attention: Membership or bring to the next membership meeting

I can assist on a committee (Please check)

Crime Watch _____

Peer-to-Peer _____

(Code Enforcement) _____

Membership _____

Beautification _____

Newsletter _____

(Publication or Distribution)

Transportation Issues _____

Grants _____

Special Events _____

SSHCA, Inc.

PO Box 360371

Tampa, FL 33673