

The Banner

Fall 2009



General Membership Meeting, Tuesday October 13, 2009

Our General Membership Meeting is **Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 PM**. We meet at the Common Ground Church located at 4207 N. Boulevard.

Our special guest speakers are **Phil Compton** from the Sierra Club and Friends of Hillsborough River, and **Ed Turanchik** from *ConnectUs*. Phil will talk about the current condition of the our river and what we can do to help in it's continued recovery. Ed will present information on High Speed Rail opportunities, using funds already allocated for such projects. There will be opportunity for everyone to renew their Association membership, and all new and renewing members will be entered in a drawing for one of two **FOUR-TICKET PACKAGES TO BUSCH GARDENS!** The drawing will take place at the end of the meeting.

Please be sure to attend this meeting and invite a neighbor to come along with you! All residents of South Seminole Heights are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

LAST EDITION OF THE BANNER

This is the final edition of The Banner. There has been a steep drop in ad revenue in recent months, and more importantly, we cannot find someone to continue as Coordinator. We will continue to provide up-to-date information at our website, www.sshca.org. PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE. We will send updates to members and non-members but cannot do so without a correct email address. Please send your information to info@sshca.org, with your name and email address.

For members who do have access to email, we will mail a quarterly events sheet. Please let us know if you will need these updates by mail. Send your request to SSHCA, PO Box 360371, Tampa Florida 33673. Include your name and complete address.

We want to thank the many volunteers who have made The Banner possible for the past fourteen years, especially the distributors who walk door to door, making sure every household receives a newsletter. Our dedicated staff has included: Neysa Martin - Layout and Edit, Les Berty - Ad Layout, Dawn Dayringer - Edit, Jay and Lorena Hardwick - Distribution Coordinators, and our distributors - Brian Lemoi, Steve and Alice Ericson, Gina Carnesecchi, Elizabeth Mitchell, Joann Harvey, Randy Stribling, Bucky and Ed Lombard, Rick and Lisa Hickman, Irina Bengter, Bill Denham, Paul Barnett, Doris and Larry Gagner, Sarah Howard, Jeff Long, Dan Hildebrand, Jocelyn and Philip Myers, Mickey Abrahams, Jeanne Lavette, Les Berty, Joelle Castille, Staci Backouskas, Martha and Isaac Shaffer, Peter deGolian, Tony Perilla, Sylvia Espinola, and Gabrielle Ayala.

Thank you again for all your support and contributions. Be sure to check our website www.sshca.org for upcoming events, news, and information.

**The Porch Parties
are back! See In-
side for details!**

www.sshca.org

Letter President

from the

Building a Community

Greetings Neighbors!

There is certainly much to make us discouraged. Seminole Heights and surrounding neighborhoods have seen a spike in crime, including some senseless horrible homicides. Property values are sliding and it seems more and more homes are becoming vacant every month. Everyone has friends who have lost jobs, cannot find jobs, or are now under-employed. There is a new way to spell tax; it is f-e-e. When you renew your car tags or driver license, you will find that one out. Health care is expensive, eating out is expensive, and so on and so on...



I saw the Seminole Heights movie last week, again for about the fifteenth time. That is the movie produced last year by our neighbor Suzanne Pruier and the Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association. It struck me how our neighborhood pulled together during the Great Depression, helping others less fortunate and sharing what little they all had. People celebrated in simple ways, at local establishments, theatres, "the springs", and arcade and of course, the River. The neighborhood truly had a sense of community and spirit, and is one of the remarkable parts of our past.

So what does it mean to build a community? How do we get through these difficult times that we face? We all have the challenge and opportunity to become more involved in our neighborhood and in our City. We can get up, get out and volunteer. Sure, I would hope it would be with our very own Civic Association, but it does not have to be. It can be at your place of worship, at our library, Meals On Wheels, or Francis House, all in our neighborhood. We can help an elderly neighbor with lawn work, visit shut-ins, read to or mentor our youth. We can get involved in planning our neighborhood future, attend City Council meetings, and speak up for what we feel is important.

Our City now operates with about 10% fewer employees than a couple of years ago. I am not inviting a debate on this issue but certainly this does impact how quickly things can get done. So rather than report that illegal sign to Code Enforcement, why not pull it down and dispose of it? Why not mow the yard at that vacant property, rather than wait for the City to do it? Why not work as a community to make our neighborhood better?

This will be the last issue of The Banner for awhile. We want to thank the many dedicated volunteers who have written, edited, folded, printed, and delivered our quarterly publication for the past fourteen years. A steep decline in ad revenue and the absence of a coordinator to ensure everything gets done makes it impossible to continue after this issue. We will continue to keep you informed of all our events on our website at www.sshca.org. For members who do not have internet access, we will continue to provide you with a quarterly mailing highlighting events.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at our October Membership Meeting.

Regards,
Gary Ellsworth, President

SSHCA Board Directors

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president@sshca.org

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Land-Use

Open

THE BANNER STAFF

Neysa Martin, Editor
Jay & Lorena Hardwick,
Distribution Coordinators
Les Berty, Ad Layout

The Summer 2009 Beautification Banner Goes to...

Nanette O'Hara, Beautification Chairperson

Congratulations to Charlotte and Vernon Henderson whose home at 4401 N. Clearfield Avenue won the Summer 2009 Beautification Banner Award. Charlotte and Vernon have lived in their immaculately maintained home for an astonishing 31 years - and have no plans to leave anytime soon!

Vernon grew up in Seminole Heights and he and Charlotte lived in an apartment nearby when one day in 1977 they happened upon the house on the corner of Chelsea and Clearfield. They knew right away that this was where they wanted to live and not long after they bought the 1950 block home from its original owner.

They raised their son Chuck there. He is now a history teacher at Hillsborough High School, joining Dad Vernon, a longtime football coach for the Terriers.

Although the house has changed color several times (the current yellow paint scheme is Charlotte's favorite color) what has remained constant is the excellent, loving care they have given their home.

If you see them working in their yard, which they frequently do, please stop and let them know how much you appreciate their efforts. They have helped to enhance our neighborhood!

If you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their renovation, remodeling or home maintenance efforts, nominate them for a Beautification Banner by sending the address of the property to beautification@sshca.org. All owner-occupied homes in South Seminole Heights are eligible (excluding homes currently for sale).



Summer 2009 Beautification Banner Award
Charlotte and Vernon Henderson
4401 N Clearfield Avenue

Friends of Library Plans First Fundraiser

Nanette O'Hara

The newly formed Friends of the Seminole Heights Library group is hosting its first fundraiser Monday, October 19 from 7 to 9 PM at Ella's Restaurant, a new neighborhood eatery at 5119 N. Nebraska Avenue.

Called "A Literary Affair", this event will feature local authors signing and selling their books, a book-themed poetry contest, and a raffle with great items donated by area businesses. The menu will showcase a variety of tasty treats from Seminole Heights' newest restaurant. Tickets are \$15 with a \$5 discount for existing Friends of the Library members. A special \$20 ticket includes admission to the event and a one-year membership in the Friends of Library group. Stay tuned for more information on our inaugural event!

Thank You Larry Gagner

Gary Ellsworth, SSHCA President

We want to give a special thank you to member Larry Gagner who recently repaired the broken plexiglass on the Community Bulletin Board in Rivercrest Park. Tampa Parks and Recreation installed this board last year, at our request. It was vandalized in only a few short months. Larry replaced the damaged material with a tougher product, which will hopefully deter future damages. Larry and his wife, Doris have been active members for many years, and walk regularly in the park. Thank you Larry for your generosity!

Around Town

I biked downtown... How do I get back?

Contributing Author Jim Hartnett, Tampa Heights Civic Association

We now have a bicycle lane, albeit risky to traverse south into downtown Tampa, using Highland Avenue and Tampa Street, but how do we get home, swim upstream? It is an epic experience making the reverse trip on the same streets with traffic barreling head-on towards you. Our friends of Tampa Heights have informed us that adding bicycle lanes to Florida Avenue (northbound) from downtown Tampa to Hillsborough Avenue has scored very high on the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Long Range Plan. Out of approximately 350 projects that the MPO ranked in the latest version of the updated plan, the Florida Avenue bike lanes ranked 13th. One of the criteria for the scoring is neighborhood support, which is currently 3 out of 5 points for the project. There is no reason why this should not receive 5 out of 5 if there is enough support from our neighborhoods. Please contact the MPO today and let them know the importance of these bike lanes.

For more information, contact Gena Torres, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning at torresg@plancom.org or Ramond Chiamonte, Executive Director at rayc@plancom.org.



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Nail Gallery, Inc.

The Porch Parties are Back!

Mark your calendars, our Fall Porch Parties are back! Can you think of a better way to spend the cool evenings but sitting on a porch with food, drink and good friends and neighbors? Here in South Seminole Heights we know how to do a porch party right!



- October 16** Bucky and Ed's House
200 South Avenue
- November 13** Dawn's House 315 W Emma St.
- December 4** Steve and Michael's House
419 W. Louisiana Avenue

Everyone is invited and asked to bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage. Our hosts will provide ice, plates, and utensils. All Porch Parties will begin at 7:30 PM.

If you would like to host a porch party, let us know. Send an email to info@sshca.org. Include your name, address, and when you would like to host one.



Cappys Pizza

Seminole Heights
4910 N. Florida Ave.

813-238-1516

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



Chelsea Nightclub of Tampa



1502 N. Florida Ave
Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 228-0139

Nikki Ternon
ternon@hotmail.com

JoinNow

Membership Update

Julene Mohr, Membership Chairperson

It is time for our SSHCA quarterly membership meeting and it is also the time when annual SSHCA dues need to be paid. **Annual dues are \$12.00 for one-member household and \$20.00 for two-person household.** Business membership is \$35.00 annually.

Choosing to join or renew your SSHCA membership allows you to expand your influence in our neighborhood. We thank you for your membership in the past and hope that you will renew your annual membership today. If you have not been a member in the past, we encourage you to join. Membership is a great way to meet your neighbors and get actively involved in your local community!

Please take this time to join SSHCA or renew your membership today by completing the membership form in this newsletter. Renewal forms and

dues may be returned by mail to SSHCA, PO Box 360371, Tampa Florida 33673. Or, you may bring it to the General Membership Meeting on October 13 at 7:00PM. **All renewing members who submit a complete membership form and dues will have their names entered into a drawing to receive one of two sets of four Busch Gardens tickets!**

We thank you for helping make our civic association one of the strongest in Tampa! If you have a neighbor or business to refer for SSHCA membership, please contact Julene Mohr, SSHCA Membership Chairperson at membership@sshca.org or 813.532.7067. We look forward to seeing you on October 13.

Join me in welcoming our Summer New and Renewing Members: Stephanno's Pizzeria, Ryan & Shannon Zimmerman, Susan Long, Jeremy & Christy Chandler and Nicholas & Andrea Nieto.

SSHCA Members Trained for Neighborhood Mobile Crime Watch

Nine members of our Association were recently trained for Mobile Neighborhood Crime Watch. They will be watching our for suspicious activity while bicycling, jogging, dog walking and by private vehicle. You may recognize them by their grey VOLUNTEER NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH shirts.

One of the best ways to deter criminal activity is by neighbors being aware of suspicious activity, and reporting it to the police. The role of Crime Watch Volunteers is to observe and report.

We can all do our part as well, by reporting suspicious people to TPD at the non-emergency number, 231-6130. Juveniles roaming the neighborhood during school hours should also be reported.

Our new Mobile Crime Watch volunteers are; Valerie Holland, Crime Watch Chair, Les Berty, Ed Lombard, Bucky Jones, Lynor Romer, Gary Ellsworth, Nanette O'Hara, Tony Perilla and Randolph Franz.

Upcoming Events

- Oct 13** General Membership Meeting
7:00 PM Common Ground Church
- Oct 16** Porch Party
Ed and Bucky's House
200 South Avenue
7:30 PM
- Oct 19** "A Literary Affair" - Friends of the Library First Fundraiser
Ella's Restaurant
5119 N. Nebraska Avenue
7:00 PM
- Oct 31** Halloween
- Nov 13** Porch Party Dawn's House
315 W Emma St
- Nov 21** Mayor's Hillsborough River Clean-up 9AM Rivercrest Park
- Dec 4** Porch Party
Steve and Michael's House
419 S Louisiana Avenue

SSHCA Membership Application / Renewal Form

Name (1) _____

Name (2) _____

Business Name (if applicable) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

Email 1 _____

Email 2 _____

Please check membership status:

New to South Seminole Heights (Moved to SSH in ____ MM/YY)

New to Civic Association (Resided in SSH in ____ MM/YY)

Renewal / Previous Member (Joined SSHCA in ____ MM/YY)

Please check to volunteer on a SSHCA Committee:

Beautification

Land Use

Communications

Membership

Crime Watch

Peer to Peer

Please check or list special interest/abilities/events below:

Homeowner Beautification Awards

Membership Meeting Refreshments

Porch Party Hosting

Concerts in the Park

National Night Out

Rivercrest Park Beautification

Crime Watch Update

New Development Code Enforcement

Spring Egg Hunt

Grant Writing

Newsletter Distribution

Transportation Issues

Land Use Monitoring

Newsletter Publication

Welcome Bag Assembly

Mayor's River Clean Up

Paint Your Heart Out Tampa

Welcome Bag Delivery

Other Special Interests/Abilities/Events: _____

Please check appropriate annual dues:

One Member Household \$12 October-September

TwoMember Household \$20 October-September

Business Membership \$35 Annually

Please mail form to SSHCA, PO Box 360371 Tampa, FL 33673 or bring to next membership meeting.

Make sure you get up-to-date neighborhood information! Send us your e-mail address.

Send to: info@sshca.org

We do not share your information with any other organization

If you wish to receive future quarterly updates by mail, send us your name and address.

Mail to: SSHCA PO Box 360371 Tampa, FL 33673