



The Voice of Nokomis

Newsletter of the Nokomis Area Civic Association
Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2016

Next NACA General Meeting

Monday, January 25, 6:30 pm, Nokomis Community Center
234 Nippino Trail East, Nokomis — Free! All Are Welcome!

COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHARLES HINES SARASOTA CO. NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TEAM COORDINATOR ROB WRIGHT AND SARASOTA CO. STORMWATER UTILITY MANAGER JOHN RYAN

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Bruce Dillon, NACA Pres., bkdillon@verizon.net,
941-485-9366

WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES?

Sunday of New Year's weekend was the deadline for submission of our articles for this edition of *The Voice*. I was finishing up a small plumbing chore on the back porch. It had been raining for several hours and I noted the lights had just flickered mildly, but didn't think too much about it even when Pam came out to tell me the computers had beeped when it happened.

I wasn't concerned because, after three decades' experience at the local telephone company repairing or replacing gizmos that lightning and voltage surges had damaged, I had gone the extra step and installed battery back-ups to absorb those spikes on all our major electronics. No problem....

When I sat down at my computer to work on my article, I discovered there was no internet connection. Luckily, after 30 years at the telco, I knew how to fix it. An internet hiccup, especially one that takes minutes to fix and doesn't involve talking to another country, is definitely behind the scenes.

Valerie Grey, while also operating behind the

scenes, is in a different category: she is one of NACA's and the Nokomis community's greatest assets. Valerie has contributed years of dedication to the production of *The Voice of Nokomis*. Thank you, Valerie!

**NACA QUARTERLY MEETING:
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 6:30
PM**

NACA welcomes Commissioner Charles Hines as the featured speaker at our January 25th meeting at the Nokomis Community Center on Nippino Trail in Nokomis. The evening begins with our meet-and-greet coffee-and-sweets session at 6:30 pm, with the program beginning at 7:00 pm.

Elected to the Commission in 2012, Mr. Hines is an attorney in Venice and has been practicing law for 22 years in Sarasota County. He currently serves as the Chairman of the West Coast Inland Navigation District, on the Florida Association of Counties Board of Directors, on the Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Policy Committees, on the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, on the Sarasota Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization and Tourist Development Council, and on Sheriff Tom Knight's Advisory Committee.



To see a COLOR version of the newsletter, Nokomis improvement updates, and other useful information, visit NACA's internet website, <http://naca-nokomis.com>.

His past or current community and civic-association activities include the Sertoma Club of Venice, Ringling Museum of Art, United Way of South Sarasota, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Venice Little

League. He has also coached numerous youth Bar Association, Sarasota Bar Association, and Venice-Englewood Bar Association. He lives in Nokomis with his wife, Susan, and their three children.

The evening's topics will include the County Commission's ten top priorities for 2016 and include an update on the Colonia Lane Commercial Sewer Extension and Legacy Trail Laurel Road Overpass and trail extensions. There will be time for questions from the audience.

Also presenting that evening will be **Rob Wright, Sarasota County's Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST) Coordinator**, who will give an overview of the program. The NEST program operates at the neighborhood level to improve watershed-scale resources, and no matter where you are in Sarasota County, you are in one of the county's watersheds. NEST projects focus on both education and hands-on activities like storm-drain marking; neighborhood cleanup; watershed friendly landscaping; pond-, lake-, and bay-shoreline restoration; and water-body monitor-ing. The NEST program assists participating groups with the resources needed to complete projects specifically including HOA's, with the resources needed to complete projects including neighborhood lakes.

John Ryan, Manager for the County's Stormwater Utility, will also join us with information on the Dona Bay Watershed plan. This watershed-management plan was created with the following general objectives:

1. Provide a more natural freshwater/saltwater balance in the tidal portions of Dona Bay.
2. Provide a more natural freshwater-flow pattern for the Dona Bay watershed.
3. Protect existing and future property owners from flood damage.
4. Protect existing water quality.
5. Develop potential alternative surface-water-supply options that support the other objectives of the

athletic teams.

Mr. Hines's business experience includes directorship with the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, and he is a member of the Florida

program.

The Annual NACA Board election occurs each January. The NACA board serves staggered terms of three years, with the officers serving one-year terms. We are always looking to add new energy and talent to the organization. If you have an interest in contributing your abilities and time toward strengthening our voice, please call or email me or any other board member; contact information is listed below the membership/renewal form inside the back cover of the newsletter.

As always, our goal is to have you out the door and headed for home by 8:30 pm, invigorated by all the interesting new knowledge you have gained, chatting with the neighbor you brought along to their first NACA meeting about their idea for a NEST project. □

NOKOMIS REVITALIZATION NEWS

*Bruce Dillon, NACA Pres., bkdillon@verizon.net,
941-485-9366*

NOKOMIS REVITALIZATION PLAN UPDATES APPROVED BY COUNTY COMMISSION

The Nokomis Revitalization Plan is the result of over 30 public meetings from 2005–2008 seeking input for a community vision for the US 41 corridor from Collins Rd. on the North to the Venice city limits on the South, and for the Colonia Ln. corridor from US 41 to Ravenna St. Among the outcomes of the public meetings is the identification of types of businesses and services that the community would like to see, as well as identification of those not wanted.

This past October, the Sarasota County Commission approved updates to the Nokomis Revitalization Plan intended to assist our landowners to revitalize their properties within the appropriate zoning-district standards with a minimum of expense and time. The goal is to provide incentives for owners to invest in their properties to improve the appearance

of the community, and provide businesses and services for our residents. The Plan is optional for landowners and not a requirement. The Revitalization Plan and a brief presentation created for the Sarasota County Planning Commission can be viewed on the NACA website.

NEW COLONIA LANE BUSINESS HAS DEEP COMMUNITY ROOTS

January 8th is the beginning of a new chapter for the Deakin family with the opening of David and Robyn's Venice Lighting store. The new store is located at 508 Colonia Lane East in Nokomis. It is an offshoot of Bob's Electric, a firm started by Bob Deakin, David's grandfather, and now owned by David's father, Larry, which has been serving customers in the area for more than 50 years.

The newly renovated storefront will offer high-quality lights and fans, with installation and service from Bob's Electric. To celebrate the store's opening, they are offering a **10% discount to customers who bring in their NACA newsletter**. For more information, call (941)484-4205.

ALBEE ROAD GATEWAY-HOTEL PROJECT PLANS MOVING FORWARD

Casey Key Hospitality LLC closed on the purchase of 4.6 acres on US 41 at Albee Road, with plans to build a 100-room Hilton Home2 Suites hotel expected to open in December 2016. Hilton Home2 Suites offers kitchenette-equipped rooms that are larger than those in standard hotels. Close to the beach, the site is expected to draw extended-stay visitors.

TWO DIFFERING VISIONS: NACA BOARD OPPOSES WA WA GAS-STATION PROPOSAL

The property across Albee Road on the northwest corner of the intersection also recently changed hands. Development approval for a five-story, 100-room hotel has also been in place for years. The property owner recently met with the NACA Board to discuss the possibility of constructing a Wa Wa gas station and store. The proposal also includes installing a cell-phone tower. The community's expectations are well documented, gathered at dozens of outreach meetings over several years. The NACA Board does not support the Wa Wa proposal, but will continue to work with the new owner to help them embrace and deliver the community's expectations. □

FROM THE DESK OF JOHN ASK....

NACA Government Affairs Liaison

LAUREL ROAD AND MISSION VALLEY PAVING

As has been previously communicated, 2016 will bring the resurfacing of Laurel Rd. from Albee Farm Rd. to Tamiami Trail, and Mission Valley Blvd. from Laurel Rd. to Mackintosh. A longer left-turn lane will be created at the stoplight at Mission Valley Blvd., too. NACA requested, through former NACA Board Member and now Sarasota County Commissioner Alan Maio, that the cost of adding a bike lane to Mission Valley Blvd. be determined. Those of us who routinely drive this busy route know of the daily hazards encountered between bicyclists and motorists on this narrow road with deep ditches and 21 curb cuts for streets and driveways. Since the right of way already exists on the surface, it seems like a fairly simple and inexpensive project; it's not.

Expenses and challenges include the variety of sizes and effectiveness of the storm-water culverts under the 21 drives and streets. It would be at County expense to replace these to conform to current standards and to construct the aprons for each opening. Next would be installing and covering the storm-water culverts for the 1.1-mile stretch of road before applying the final road surface. Finally, since over an acre of impervious surface is being created, a site must be obtained to create a storm-

water pond. Bottom line: it's likely that what seemed to be a simple improvement that could correlate with the resurfacing of the road is in the ballpark of a million dollars!

HONORÉ AVENUE AND SR 681 UPDATES

Traveling on SR 681 is going to be changing in the very near future with the addition of two stoplights. One stoplight will be located east of the Legacy Trail overpass to accommodate the new Taylor Morrison development of over 300 homes, which will be opening around the beginning of February with furnished models. Further down the road will be development of the adjacent 40 acres of commercial land owned by the Benderson Corporation. The second stoplight will accommodate Honoré Ave., scheduled to open in a couple of months. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will make the final determination of the exact date of the activation of these stoplights; both are ready to be turned on.



Related, the stoplight at Laurel Rd. and Honoré is also ready to be activated when the new segment opens. The opening of the Honoré Ave. segment will provide area residents with another north-south option in addition to I-75 and Tamiami Trail. Honoré Ave. now extends from Bradenton on the north to Center Rd. in Venice on the south, with the portion below Laurel Rd. being called Pinebrook.



I-75 AND LAUREL ROAD INTERCHANGE

LANDSCAPING PLAN

2016 will bring what is called a "heavy landscape plan" to our community Laurel Road gateway. This project is the result of NACA partnering with the City of Venice in working with Sarasota County Commissioners and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in investing in the appearance of our community via substantial "Florida Friendly" beautification similar to what can be currently seen at interchanges in Naples, Fort Myers, and Palmetto. You never get a second chance to make a first impression, and to many, this I-75 exchange provides the first impression of our area. Some of you may recall that a few years ago NACA worked with FDOT in installing substantial landscaping on SR 681 and Tamiami Trail, and extending it all through Nokomis to Venice. This landscaping has thrived and is looking better every year! □

NACA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - \$5 PER YEAR OR \$20 FOR 5 YEARS

Please include any information that does not appear on your check on the application below. Make check payable to "NACA."

U.S. checks only, please!!! Remember the Bonus Offer: one free year of dues (includes a year's subscription to the newsletter) for every NEW member you sponsor. Your name must appear on their application to receive credit.

Date _____ Amount Paid _____ Check one: New Member Renewal Number of Adults in Household _____
PLEASE PRINT!!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Homeowners' Assoc. _____ Name of sponsoring NACA member if applicable _____

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NACA MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER

Have you paid your 2016 dues yet? The number after your name on the label is the year through which you are paid. If you have questions, please contact our Treasurer, Victor Bagnardi.

We welcome your membership and encourage you to invite your neighbors to join, too. There is great "strength in numbers." We need you! Please report any changes of address or other corrections to your mailing or membership information to Victor at

vbagnardi@verizon.net or by mail. No phone calls please.

Send your check payable to "NACA" for \$5 per year or \$20 for five years per household (U.S. checks only please!) and application below to:

NACA Treasurer
P. O. Box 453
Nokomis, FL 34274-0453

NACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Bruce Dillon, President..... bkdillon@verizon.net, 485-9366
- Robert Merrill, Vice President.....terbobmer@aol.com, 966-1036
- Bill Cantrell, Secretary..... billcantrell@verizon.net
- Victor Bagnardi, Treasurer vbagnardi@verizon.net
- Patrick McCarthy, Waterways patnok1@gmail.com, 488-3784
- John Ask, Government Liaison..... john@floridahometeam.net, 486-0012

WATERWAYS REPORT

Patrick E. McCarthy, NACA Waterways Chair

The day after Christmas was as busy on our waterways as the 4th of July! We were truly blessed with chamber-of-commerce weather this past holiday season.

The only issue currently working that I am aware of is the replacement/repair of several channel

markers and regulatory signage. Status is unknown at this time.

**HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENTS**
**Please send any changes in your email
address to our**

Standing Watch, a statewide boater-advocacy organization, has renewed their efforts by creating a new website (<http://standingwatch.net/>) and Facebook page. I would ask those of you that boat to support this effort by joining Standing Watch. Membership information can be found on their website, along with the latest information on

regulations that may affect you and your enjoyment of our waterways.

Be Safe out there and Sea you on the water. □



Nokomis Area Civic Association
P. O. Box 453
Nokomis, FL 34274-0453

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

BECOME A NACA MEMBER

Bill Cantrell, NACA Secretary

Happy New Year 2016 to our Nokomis Community!!

We have a very exciting year planned and would like to ask for your participation of membership or renewal of membership...for only \$5 per year or \$20 for 5 years. Your membership helps defer Newsletter and Quarterly Meeting costs. Please use the membership-application form above and mail in your check today.

Your NACA Board wants to thank you for your

NACA ADOPT-A-PARK CLEAN-UP

Nokomis Community Center & Park

8:30 AM, Saturday, January 30

Patrick McCarthy, 724-1609

Adopt-a-Park Team Leader

hosted by NACA & Friends of Nokomis Parks

support. Please plan to join us at the NACA General Meeting on the 25th! □

NACA GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 6:30 PM

Nokomis Community Center, 234 Nippino Trail East, Nokomis

COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHARLES HINES
Sarasota County Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship
Team Coordinator Rob Wright and
Sarasota County Stormwater Utility Manager John Ryan