



Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, Inc.

February 2007

Chris Wenzel
President

Jeff LaHurd
Vice President

Martha Horton
Secretary

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Kafi Benz
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President's Message - Chris Wenzel



My best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year!

I have great news for a very exciting beginning to 2007. For the past two years, we have been working on relocating two buildings from Siesta Key to locations on the mainland; out of the harm's way in the path of development. After much work, worry and conversation, I am very pleased to announce that within a week or so, the buildings will move to their new locations. I have had several building moving experiences in the past and this project should prove just as exciting.

Two buildings will be moved; a small, wood framed cottage and the adjacent barn. The vernacular style buildings date to the 1920s and are presently located on the Southern end of Siesta Key. The barn is an extended A-frame design with a large loft and will go to the new county park being developed on the corner of Bee Ridge Road and Honore Avenue. The cottage will go to a private owner, Debra Lambert, within the City limits of Sarasota. Debra plans to use the cottage as an art studio. Her property borders on abandoned railroad right-of-way property and the cottage will be sited within that context; similar to its original.

Both buildings will require new foundations. The cottage will be placed on modern pier style foundations rather than the original concrete pier blocks allowing the structure to be tied down for wind resistance and stability. The barn will utilize a masonry stem wall style of continuous cement block about eight inches above the ground. The original floor slabs will be replicated in concrete using a shell aggregate. I always get excited about projects like these. Especially when we have found a way to save the buildings granting them an extended life!



President's Message *continued...*

The 17th annual Homes Tour will showcase several homes on Grove Street and others in a nearby neighborhood. In the past, we have selected homes in various locations throughout town and only recently have we focused on a walking tour within a neighborhood setting. Everyone seems to like the approach and this year we have a wonderful collection of homes on Grove Street to showcase.

The Alliance has been active in support of the **Save Riverview High** campaign. The school is a wonderful example of Paul Rudolph's work executed in the Sarasota School of Architecture style that we so much appreciate as part of our unique Sarasota identity. I just wrote a letter of support to the National Trust for Historic Preservation requesting that the school be placed on their "11 most endangered Historic Places" list. Please help us support saving the building as a most valuable asset to our unique local heritage by contacting your elected officials at Sarasota County, the Sarasota County School Board and by writing the Sarasota Herald Tribune. For more information on Riverview visit the blog spot that was created by the Save Riverview Committee at www.saveriverview.blogspot.com

My special thanks to those who volunteer their valuable time in support of our efforts. Without you, we would not have our active and fun group. All my best to everyone!

Chris

It's Time to Nominate and Elect New Board Members !

At our Annual Meeting, on April 12, 2007, we will be electing several new board members to fill positions vacated by directors unable to serve again due to Bylaw restrictions.

Our board consists of like-minded artists, architects, historians, writers, businesspeople, landscape designers, engineers, interior decorators, nurses, realtors, and preservationists who diligently work to make Sarasota a better place to live. If you would like to be considered for one of the open positions, please let us know by leaving a message at 953-8727. A member of the nominating committee will return your call as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you and assure you, you'll have an enjoyable time and make new friends, while working to save Sarasota's invaluable historic assets.

Join us.....

Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference

When Scottish immigrants arrived by boat in 1885 to settle the new town of Sarasota, they found post-Civil War pioneers from north and south already here. They, too, had been lured by this land of opportunity. By the early 1900s, rail service began to compete with wagon and boat for more frequent and reliable transportation in and out of these previously isolated communities. Paved roads and the Tin Can Tourists followed.

With the arrival in the 1910s of such well-known personages as Mrs. Potter Palmer, the John and Charles Ringlings and the Edson Keiths, the northern press reported on their Sarasota connections and thereby heightened awareness, especially in the mid-West, of the Sarasota region. Although politically disenfranchised, the women who came from urban areas and organized Woman's Clubs built on the opportunities already here by bringing in and supporting the local development of a cultural life they had known "back home."

Two World War II army air bases in the county introduced thousands of military personnel to a "paradise" to which many returned after the war. By the early 1950s, the confluence of artists, writers, musicians and architects who had discovered the Sarasota area in the late 1930s had blossomed into virtual colonies. Seasonal residents, retirees, and all who provided the commercial, professional and leisure support services came also. The challenge now is to preserve that which has made the region so attractive and unique while meeting the needs of a rapidly expanding and increasingly diverse population.

Join members of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation as they celebrate Sarasota's rich historical and architectural legacy at their annual conference May 17 – 19, 2007. For additional information contact the Trust at (850) 224-8128.

What's Happening?

MARCH 4 – Historic home tour

Join us and make our 17th annual event a success!

See more details on page 4 of this newsletter

APRIL 12 – Annual members meeting

Jeff La Hurd will provide his unique perspective on life in Sarasota during the roaring 20's.

MAY 17-19 – Florida Trust Annual Conference

Tours, workshops, and lectures to please all!

Are We Reaching You ?

Do you have an email address? If you are receiving a printed copy of this newsletter and have an email address, we'd like to put you on our advance notice list! Please send your email address to Kim Noyes at kimberlynoyes@comcast.net (Subject: ALLIANCE)

SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, March 31, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Gillespie Park Neighborhood invites you to their 1st Annual Gillespie Park Founder's Day Celebration and Rib Fest.

This signature event will celebrate the great heritage and sense of community within the historic Gillespie Park neighborhood. With a variety of activities, live music and locally prepared foods, Gillespie Park invites the Sarasota community to join neighborhood residents in a day of fun. For further information, call 650-0007.

Arts Day

Arts Day is a gift from the Sarasota arts, cultural, and historic community to everyone. On Main Street, from the bay front to Lemon Avenue, the area was alive with performances and exhibits. The Alliance exhibit was located just west of Lemon Avenue, on the south side of the street. The display showcased our activities, and volunteers were on hand to answer questions and sell our books, tiles, and postcards.

Thanks to Kathy Vaughn, Chris Fitzgibbons, Lorrie Muldowney, Martha Horton, Kafi Benz, Chris Wenzel and Debbie Bowis for volunteering. Special thanks to our Chairs, Joyce Waterbury and Betsy Meyer

Sarasota Reading Festival

The 2006 Reading Festival was one of our most successful events to date. Thanks to volunteers: Don Smally, Chris Wenzel, Chris Fitzgibbons, Ronnie Crain, Pat Bonarek, Sandra Baker, Joyce Waterbury, and our faithful Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Vaughn, our exhibit was beautifully displayed and received. Scores of people visited our table, bought items, and learned about our programs and activities.

A good time was definitely had by all. If you would like to join the fun, volunteer to help at our next event by leaving a message at 953-8727, and Kathy will return your call.

Moving the Crocker Church and Bidwell House

Betsy Meyer

I love houses, especially old ones that stand in the path of progress and are endangered by overzealous developers. Some people rescue stray kittens but I revel in rescuing houses that need to be relocated so that these builders can get on with their projects.

It is so satisfying to watch a house as it is gently loaded onto steel beams supported by tiny donut tires that seem incapable of supporting the weight of a building. There is always a moment of high drama during the road trip, a porch that droops a little too low or a traffic light that extends a bit too far into the intersection. I suppose that anything can happen and am grateful when a house arrives at its new location...intact.

Moving houses in Sarasota is expensive and complicated. Mapping out routes and calculating the length of time it will take to get a structure from point "A" to point "B" is determined by the movers. Two o'clock in the morning is a typical starting time since the roads must be clear by six A.M. for morning commuters.

Recently, I received a call from Arnie Berns on behalf of the Sarasota County Historical Society, asking for permission to move the Crocker Church and Luke Bidwell house across property I own in order to facilitate their relocation to Pioneer Park. Arnie was amazed at how quickly I said yes. He didn't know that I am an "old house junkie" who loves the excitement of seeing house movers in action. Saving houses from the wrecking ball is noble and should be encouraged whenever possible.

EDITORS NOTE: Moving a historic house is a preservationist's last resort because of the accompanying loss of historic fabric.

17th Annual Historic Homes Tour

The Alliance is making plans to host our 2007 Homes Tour event March 4th. Several homes are located along Grove Street in the Grove Heights Subdivision.

Grove Heights Subdivision was established in April, 1925 as a plat of the original Curry, Christie & Cobb Grove Park Subdivision. Curry, Christie, and Cobb was a real estate interest and sales company active in Sarasota during the early 1920s. J.M. Christie, a pharmacist, managed Badger Pharmacy in downtown Sarasota and played baseball to a semi-professional degree at the time. His association is reflected with J. Paul Cobb, brother of illustrious ballplayer Ty Cobb and professional baseball player. One of the homes on the tour is associated with Ty Cobb's wife Ella Cobb. The original land development was part of the Nolan plan for expansion of Sarasota as well as part of the original Sarasota Heights.

The Homes scheduled for the tour include various styles of architecture from Spanish eclectic to cross-gabled Spanish bungalow to vernacular bungalow and represent the growth period of Sarasota in the mid 1920s to late 1930s. Convenient parking will be available on-street as well as parking lots adjacent to South Tamiami Trail. At the conclusion of the 11 am to 5 pm event, the Alliance will host a member and volunteer reception at the Home of John and Robin Leteourneau, 1936 Grove Street. Please join us for our most active and popular event of the year. A beautiful spring day is scheduled!



Passing Comment.....Parting Shot

The Dairy Queen on Washington Boulevard, long time landmark of refreshments, has been demolished. The Marquee says it all; "Thank You Sarasota". Of interesting note is another disappearing icon of a bygone era; the phone booth.





Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, Inc.

P. O. Box 1754
Sarasota, FL 34230

Dear Alliance Member:

We have a great list of upcoming events listed in this newsletter, and we know that you'll want to be a part of each and every one of them.

If you haven't already mailed in your dues payment, please take this opportunity to drop your membership check in the mail today! If you've already paid your dues, we thank you.

If you are receiving printed copies of your newsletter, and you have an email address, please forward the email address to Kim Noyes at kimberlynoyes@comcast.net (Subject: ALLIANCE) and you'll begin receiving your newsletters and notices of special events at top speed!

**Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, Inc.
2007 Membership Dues**

Name: _____

Amount Paid: _____

- | | |
|----------|---------------------|
| \$20.00 | Individual |
| \$30.00 | Family |
| \$50.00 | Non-Profit or Donor |
| \$100.00 | Sustaining |
| \$200.00 | Corporate |

If you would like to volunteer for tours, membership drives or mailings, please let us know – we'd love to have you!

Thank you

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