

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Council of Neighborhood Associations

The Voice of Condo, Civic, and Homeowner Associations of Pasco County



“It’s it’s here!! The time has come for the CONA Appreciation Breakfast.” Thursday, December 14, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Set your coordinates to the Heritage Springs Country Club, 11345 Robert Trent Jones Pkwy Trinity, FL 34655



Holiday Parade in Downtown New Port Richey Saturday December 9, 2017 Parade Time - 6:00 PM

The 41st Annual Holiday Street Parade sponsored by Pit Boss Bar-B-Q will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. (**Roads close at 5:00 p.m.)

December 9, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Pasco County Public Works Building located at 7536 State Street (on the West Pasco Government Center campus) in New Port Richey.

“Removing household hazardous waste and electronics from the solid waste stream helps protect the environment and improves Pasco County residents’ quality of life,” said Pasco County Utilities Inspector Alicia Hacker. “This mobile collection is an inexpensive, convenient way to properly dispose of hazardous waste.” The event is free to Pasco County residents; however; there is a \$5.00 charge for televisions, computer monitors, computer towers and laptops. There’s a \$10.00 charge for televisions 36 inches or larger.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CONA programs are held at the Gulf Harbor’s Civic Center at 4610 Floramar Terrace, New Port Richey, FL 34652 & begin at 9:30 am.

Jan 17, 2018: “Reducing Eyesores”: Helping Financially Challenged Homeowners Make Necessary Repairs”. Our guest speaker will be Jonathan “Paige” Bramlett, Community Development Interim Director Pasco County.

PASCO COUNTY:
WPCC - HOLIDAY STREET PARADE
www.westpasco.com



Household Hazardous Waste and E-waste Collection ~Mobile drop-off for Pasco County residents on Saturday, December 9~

PASCO COUNTY, FL ----
Pasco County Utilities is providing Pasco County residents the opportunity to properly dispose of household hazardous waste and unwanted electronics at a mobile collection event on Saturday,

For a full list of household hazardous waste items that can be dropped off during the collection event, follow this link: <http://bit.ly/2mx7K0h>.

For more information on household

hazardous waste in Pasco County, follow this link: <http://bit.ly/2getW9g>.

For more information on Keep Pasco Beautiful go to the following link: <http://keepascobeautiful.org/>

“STUFF THE BUS” -- 8000 lbs. of food raised!

Pasco County Public Transportation (PCPT) is pleased to announce the results of the 2017 ‘Stuff the Bus’ holiday food drive. Our community donated more than 8,000 pounds of food and more than 100 turkeys, hams and chickens for The Volunteer Way Food Pantry.

IF YOU MISSED THE MEETING!

Check out “Earl Million’s Program Recap” on the CONA website, www.conapasco.org. **Hover over Programs to locate.

Can Your Community Association Stop Bullying and Harassment in Their Tracks?

By Donna DiMaggio Berger, Esq. /
Published December 2017



Bullying in any form cannot be condoned in schools, workplaces, or communities. While a newly filed bill by Rep. Emily Slosberg (HB 123) has the laudable goal of protecting Florida’s senior citizens from being bullied, just how feasible is it in a community association context? From some of the board and membership meetings I’ve attended over the years, it is not at all easy to spot who is the bully and who is the bullied, and the reality is that sometimes the bully becomes the bullied and vice versa.

HB 123, if passed, would create a new law known as the “Stand Up for

Seniors Act.” The law appears to apply only to “55 and over” communities in Florida.

What Behavior Would This Law Address?

Bullying under the Act would be defined as “intimidation or harassment that causes a reasonable person to fear for his or her physical safety or property” and may consist of physical actions, including gestures; cyberbullying; oral, electronic, or written communication; or any threat of retaliation for reporting of such acts. Bullying can take place in person or can be done through the use of technology such as email, texts, or the internet, which is known as cyberbullying.

Harassment is defined by the bill as any racist, threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture; use of data or computer software; or written, verbal, or physical conduct that has the effect of substantially interfering with or disrupting a member’s opportunities, peaceful enjoyment of his or her home, or the association common areas or association benefits. A person who wrongfully reports an act of harassment in bad faith would be committing harassment.

What is Required of Associations Under This Proposal?

- “55 and Over” associations would have to adopt and review at least every 3 years a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment.
- The association’s policy must ensure that association members do not subject others to fear or intimidation, and the policy must apply to all members.
- The association’s anti-bullying, anti-harassment policy must contain the following:
 - A statement prohibiting bullying and harassment.
 - Definitions of bullying and harassment that conform to those set

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forth in the law.

- A description of the type of behavior expected from each association member.
- A requirement that the association investigate any reported act of bullying or harassment.
- A list of penalties for people who

bully and harass or who wrongfully accuse others of bullying and harassment.

- A procedure for receiving reports of an alleged act of bullying or harassment, including allowing a person to anonymously report such an act. A disciplinary action, though, could not be based solely on an anonymous report.
- A procedure for a prompt investigation of a report of bullying or harassment.

• After the association completes its required investigation of a report of bullying or harassment, the association must submit its findings to the Ombudsman, who will then either send a written warning to the member upon the first offense; require the member to complete an anger management treatment program upon a finding of a second offense; or impose a \$100 penalty upon a finding of a third or subsequent offense.

• Is HB 123 Helpful or Just Window Dressing?

HB 123 contains a glaring omission inasmuch as it regulates the behavior of “association members” but does not seek to address the behavior of abusive tenants, guests, visitors, and other residents. Even more troubling is the obligation being placed on volunteer boards to regulate civility inside their communities. A board’s role in a community association is to enforce the covenants. Absent a clear violation of those documents, most boards are not well suited to exercise almost entirely subjective judgment to determine who is the perpetrator and who is the victim in many disputes. Lastly, requiring associations to spend limited resources on investigations, some of which may result in inconclusive findings or findings that the complaint was unsubstantiated, creates a quagmire.

Bullies are pernicious, and we have never been as exposed to them as we are today in various forms around the world. Progress has to start somewhere, but I am not convinced that residential senior communities in the Sunshine State should be required to take the lead in this fight. Perhaps our government officials should be the pioneers in this anti-bullying and anti-harassment crusade by setting an example of civility?



Pull-Apart Christmas Tree Recipe

BY LAUREN MIYASHIRO

Oh cheesy tree, oh cheesy tree!

TOTAL TIME: 0:40
PREP: 0:20
COOK: 0:20
LEVEL: EASY
YIELD: 8 SERVINGS



*Watch the video,
How to make this dish!*

<http://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a50528/pull-apart-christmas-tree-recipe/>

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. refrigerated pizza dough
- Egg wash (1 egg whisked with 1 tbsp water)
- 7 mozzarella sticks
- 1/4 c. melted butter
- 1/2 c. finely grated Parmesan
- 1 tbsp. Thinly sliced basil
- 1 tbsp. chopped parsley
- 1 tbsp. chopped rosemary Marjoram, warmed (for serving)

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Cut mozzarella sticks into 1” pieces. On a floured surface, divide pizza dough into two pieces. Stretch and roll each piece of dough into a long rectangle, then cut dough into 2” squares (you’ll need 33 total). Wrap a dough square around each pieces of mozzarella, forming a tightly sealed ball. Place balls seam-side down on the baking sheet in the shape of a Christmas tree (they should be touching). Brush egg wash on dough balls and bake until golden 15-20 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, whisk together melted butter, Parmesan and herbs. Brush on baked pizza dough balls. Serve warm with marinara for dipping.

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