

# COMMUNITY NEWS

The Council of Neighborhood Associations

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



## CONA Upcoming Events:

All meetings are held at the Gulf Harbor's Civic Center at 4610 Floramar Terrace, New Port Richey, FL 34652. For questions please contact one of the CONA Directors.

## January Program:

January 18, 2017 9:30 AM

**Jim Moll and Dr. Whitney C. Elmore**  
**Florida Friendly Landscape**  
**Pasco County Extension Service**  
**University of Florida**

## Fostering Healthy Storm Water Ponds in Our Communities

Healthy storm water ponds have a longer life and reduced maintenance costs, add aesthetic beauty and value to homes, and you and your community can easily help keep them clean and healthy. Come join us and explore the simple steps your association can take to protect your community storm ponds and prevent potential hazards, such as blue-green algae, which can proliferate in unhealthy and neglected ponds.

## February Program:

February 15, 2017 9:30 AM

**Matthew J. Armstrong, Executive Planner/Long Range Planning**  
**Mary Helen Duke, Planner II**  
**Pasco County Planning & Development Department**

## Beautifying US 19:

Concept Plan and Suggested Color Palettes for the Medians and Green Spaces of the Pasco County US 19 Corridor. *What would you do with a million dollar grant?* Pasco County Planning and Development is looking for community input and commentary on the proposed plan. Come join the discussion. Be part of the solution! Please read inside for details of this plan.

## From CAI Suncoast Chapter:

Thursday, February 23, 2017  
 Suncoast Chapter of CAI Community Associations Day & Trade Show

## The Coliseum

535 4th Avenue North - St. Petersburg  
 9:00am - 3:00pm

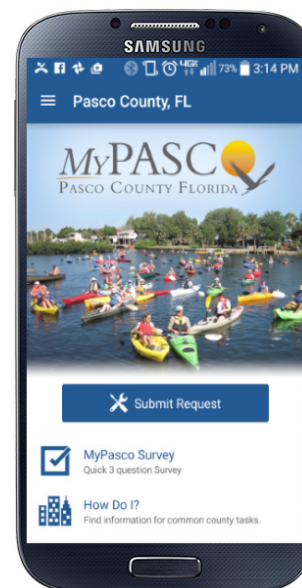
This is a **FREE** event. Please join us for complimentary seminars throughout the day & coffee and donuts that morning. Lunch will be available at the concession areas for purchase.



## CONA Board Update:

We would like to welcome to the CONA Team: Membership Chairman, Kelly Miller, and we welcome back Program Chairman, Theresa Torchin. We are excited about our new players and what they will bring to the game!

MyPASCO has a great online application for your mobile devices!! Please download this FREE app from your Google Play store or iTunes store.



## A Message from Mike Fasano

*Dear Friend,*

*Happy New Year! 2017 has finally arrived. For some we set aside 2016 with mixed emotions. Many of us experienced exciting milestones and events in our lives. Others, for many reasons, experienced loss and sadness. The important thing to remember is that with the New Year comes the opportunity to experience new things and make new memories. I hope that each and every one of you are blessed this year, and for many years to come.*

*I'm excited that this issue recounts our year-end charitable giving report. The generosity of our community is second-to-none. Since we started raising funds for non-profit organizations in late 2013 we have raised over \$253,700! Thank you for your support!*

*We also have important information for residents of Community Development Districts (CDD). During 2016 we issued refunds to CDDs, averaging between \$1,000 and \$10,000. If you are a resident of a CDD please make sure you read the information below.*

*May you and yours have a wonderful 2017!*

*Mike Fasano*

### Year-End Charitable Giving Report

The charitable giving program at the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office was created not long after Mike Fasano became tax collector in 2013 to primarily help local non-profit organizations. The periodic promotions raise both donations and a heightened awareness in the community of the services these organizations provide as well as their need for greater public support. Statewide organizations assisted through the program must have a local component through which Pasco County residents may receive services if eligible.

The first charitable promotion held at the tax collector's office was to increase

the sale of the "Biker's Care" specialty tag in October, 2013. Since that point in time the Pasco Tax Collector's Office has partnered with 36 different charities, raising over a quarter million dollars (to date \$253,700 has been raised). This figure does not include the value of donated toys, gifts, shoes, food, nor the value of volunteers recruited to help those charities that requested volunteer recruitment assistance. These non-cash donations can't be quantified. If they could the overall donation total would be even larger.

"I am so proud of the staff at all five of our offices," states Tax Collector Mike Fasano. "When I often say they are second to none I truly mean that. The fact that in addition to the many duties they perform serving our customers on a daily basis they were able to raise over a quarter million dollars for our nonprofit groups is amazing. Over the years a very generous public has demonstrated their willingness to help charities that do important work helping people in need."

2016 proved to be one of the most successful of the past three and half years. \$95,381.51 was raised during the past twelve months alone. This past year the Pasco Tax Collector's Office held fund-raising efforts on behalf of Kiddy-Up Ranch, AFIRE of Pasco, PACE Center for Girls, the Alzheimer's Family Organization, ASAP of Pasco, Two Good Soles Shoes and Socks Drive, Moffitt Cancer Center, One Community Now's Hunger Walk, Take Stock in Children, AAA Traffic Safety Foundation, Florida Breast Cancer Foundation, Farm Share, the Volunteer Way, Be a Santa to a Senior, Toys For Tots and the Pasco Sheriff's K-9 Association.

Looking forward into 2017 the Pasco Tax Collector's Office will be adding some new charities to its giving program. These include: Restored Hope of Dade City, NAMI of Pasco, CARES, Nourish to Flourish, Smile Faith Foundation, Blanket Tampa Bay and the Good Samaritan Clinic. Additionally, certain organizations including the Farm Share Holiday Food Giveaway, the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation and the holiday season

### CONA Officers:

**President, Dominick Scannavino**  
813-433-2020  
dscannavino@mgmt-assoc.com

**Vice President, Government Chairman, Ron Hubbs**  
727-863-0392  
rbhubbs75@gmail.com

**Secretary, Sally Hanlon**  
727-843-9209  
sann3339@gmail.com

**Treasurer, Helen Kelley**  
727-478-4909  
hkelley@creative-mgmt.com

### CONA Directors:

**Program Committee:**  
**Chairman, Theresa Torchin**  
727-376-0865  
tatorchin@yahoo.com

**Co-Chairman, John Ford**  
516-749-2322 (c)  
JohnInTrinityWest@gmail.com

**Government Committee:**  
**Co-Chairman, Ernie Reed**  
727-364-5907  
Lizr2545@yahoo.com

**Hugh C. Townsend**  
727-372-6615  
dorfender@earthlink.net

**Membership Committee:**  
**Chairman, Kelly Miller**  
727-255-0946 (c)  
kelly@getinvolvedchca.com

**CONA website:**  
[www.conapasco.org](http://www.conapasco.org)

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### PASCO COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

Call Pasco County Animal Services Department to ADOPT:  
Land O' Lakes: (813) 929-1212  
New Port Richey: (727) 834-3216  
Dade City: (352) 521-5194  
See the newest pets available on Pasco TV at 7:15 a.m. / p.m.  
Verizon 42 / Bighthouse 643

charities will all be featured in 2017.

Organizations that would like to be considered for the Pasco Tax Collector's Office charitable giving program, or for more information about the program in general, please contact Greg Giordano, Assistant Tax Collector, at 727-847-8179 or email [ggiordano@pascotaxes.com](mailto:ggiordano@pascotaxes.com)

### Community Development Districts - Excess Fee Distribution

A Community Development District (CDD) is a statutorily allowed entity, which is created by a local government (county or municipality), to manage and control the development of a community. The CDD, which is under the control of the developer for the first six years of its existence, can make decisions regarding everything from water management to transportation to land conservation. By the end of the 6 year period the developer of the community must transition control of the CDD to the residents who reside within its boundaries. A CDD may also have a Homeowners Association (HOA), which primarily deals with deed restriction issues. The two generally operate independently of one another.

In many instances the CDD is fully responsible for not only levying fees on the residents (for the provision of services), but also the collection of the same. Many CDDs in Florida find themselves in financial straits because they do not have the legal support of a governmental entity backing up their fee collection efforts. A viable solution for CDDs to deal with collection problems has been to partner with county tax collector offices.

The tax collector has the same enforcement power it has over other properties on the tax rolls. This virtually guarantees that the district's fees will be paid. This is realized by the tax office's ability to sell tax certificates when property taxes are in default. The enforcement action that can be taken on behalf of a CDD is only one benefit of the partnership. Since all parcels within the district are on the tax roll, owners are able to claim up to the 4% discount available to those who

pay their taxes prior to the final due date (the discount is determined by predetermined payment dates). Additionally, the district has the potential to receive a portion of any excess fees collected by the tax office.

CDDs that have inter-local agreements with the tax collector will receive their proportionate share of excess fees for non-ad valorem collections at the end of the fiscal year. The tax collector's office sends the CDD a check for excess fees, as well as suggestions for the CDD to get the word out to the property owners regarding the availability of the refund for distribution to the residents. Excess fees have historically run between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

It has come to this office's attention that not all CDDs are refunding the excess fees to the property owners who paid them, nor are they disclosing what they are doing with the refunds that are issued. If you live in a community that has not issued you a refund, or given you a proper accounting of the fees you pay, then you are encouraged to contact your CDD and your management company and demand answers. It should be up to the property owners to decide what to do with the refunds. Because the refunds can be substantial they may help fund needed projects or improvements the home owners association may determine are necessary. In any event, it should be the property owners, not the developers, who decide how best to use the money.

For a complete list of excess fee refunds in 2016 please click on this link: <http://www.pascotaxes.com/faqs/dollars-returned-to-your-cdd/>

### For More Information...

For more information about any services provided by the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office please visit [www.pascotaxes.com](http://www.pascotaxes.com) or contact the Tax Collector's Call Center Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM at (352)-521-4338, (813) 235-6076 or (727) 847-8032.

## Myths and Mistakes

Pasco County Recycling Update  
January 2017

1. **MISTAKE:** "Throw dirty cardboard and paper into your recycling." Contamination can be a major problem with paper products. When paper fiber products are recycled, they are ground up with water. When oil from pizza or food waste gets into the stream, it works about as well as...oil and water.
2. **MYTH:** Pasco doesn't recycle glossy paper." In fact, Pasco's recycling program accepts glossy paper of all kinds, including magazines, catalogs, wrapping paper, and junk mail.
3. **MYTH:** "Glass is glass. It's all recyclable." Not all glass is created equal. Window glass, light bulbs, glass tabletops, glass cookware, and mirror glass are NOT suitable for our recycling programs. They are made with different chemicals than the clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars we DO take.
4. **MISTAKE:** "Recycling is smelly." Recycling (excluding paper products) should always be given a quick rinse before being put out to recycle. It'll keep your container smell-free and cut down on contamination.
5. **MYTH:** "Don't bother to ask." We at Pasco's Recycling and Education department are happy to answer any recycling questions you may have. Don't hesitate to call or send us an email. Be a smart recycler!







## **US 19 Landscaped Medians FDOT Grant Project**

Mary Helen Duke PLanner II, Pasco County Planning & Development

Pasco County was awarded a FDOT Highway Landscape Beautification grant for US 19. The project extends from the Hernando County line to the Pinellas County line, excluding the incorporated areas of New Port Richey and Port Richey. Project length is approximately 20 miles with approximately 9.2 miles of sodded medians. US 19 is a major arterial roadway that runs north and south through the western section of Pasco County and is a vital link in “The Harbors” Redevelopment/Infill area. The provision of gateway and landscape features within the US 19 medians, and particularly at primary north and south gateways, as well as at secondary gateways (near east/west roadway intersections) provide the first impression experienced by travelers who visit or pass through the west side of the county. Pasco County plans to enter into a roadway maintenance agreement with the recently formed Gulf Coast Highway Roadway Maintenance Organization, Inc. to maintain the landscape medians on US 19 in perpetuity. Florida friendly, drought tolerant, non-invasive plants and trees with a “beach” feel will make up the plant palette. Citizens may participate in selecting the plant palette by attending planned community meetings.

The Pasco Tourism Development Council plans to expend \$200,000 in 2017 on gateway monument features at/near the north and south county lines. The total anticipated project cost (gateways and landscaping) is \$3.5 million. The initial \$1 million FDOT grant will fund planning and development of construction specifications for the entire length of the project, as well as landscaping for Phase I gateways and medians, which will be determined in a series of community meetings to be held in the Spring of 2017. Budget constraints necessitate the prioritization of which medians and secondary gateways are landscaped in each phase. As other funding sources are secured, other phases will be landscaped. It is anticipated the landscape and gateway project may take three years to complete.

Where possible, landscaping on roadsides that assist with pedestrian safety to decrease mid-block crossings will be incorporated. According to a Dateline NBC study, part of US 19 in Florida is the most dangerous road in the United States. A Highway Patrol test period beginning in 1998 and ending in 2003, as mandated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, showed the stretch of US 19 from Pasco County to Pinellas County to average approximately 52 deaths a year, or 262 deaths in the five-year duration of the study. 100 of these deaths were pedestrian related, making US 19 the worst road to walk on in these two counties.

Mary Helen Duke, AICP  
Planner II  
Planning & Development Department  
Pasco County Board of County Commissioners  
8731 Citizens Drive, Suite 320  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
727-847-2411 x 7615  
[www.pascocountyfl.net](http://www.pascocountyfl.net)



“Pasco County—Florida’s Premier County”

2017 Pasco Pre-Session Legislative Delegation Meeting  
~~Opportunity to address delegation prior to session~~  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 3, 2017

LAND O’LAKES, FL ---- The Pasco County Legislative Delegation will hold its annual PreSession meeting on Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 at Sunlake High School. There will be a tour for the delegation of the school’s aeronautics academy at 11:00 a.m. followed by a delegation meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This meeting is an opportunity for citizens, elected officials, city and local government officials, and other civic organization leaders to address the delegation before the beginning of the 2017 Legislative Session.

Public testimony during the Pasco County Legislative Delegation Meeting is welcome. Anyone wishing to address the delegation needs to complete a Speaker Request Form. The form is available at: <http://bit.ly/2gVEmxW>.

Completed requests received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16th, 2017 will be considered for the agenda. Additional Speaker Request Forms will be available at the meeting. Speaking requests received after the deadline may be considered, should time remain available on the agenda.

All speakers should bring seven (7) copies of all handout materials for distribution to the delegation members.

Pasco Pre-Session Legislative Delegation Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 18th, 2017

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Sunlake High School Gymnasium

3023 Sunlake Blvd

Land O Lakes, FL 34638

For more information, contact Jonathan Till at [jonathan.till@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:jonathan.till@myfloridahouse.gov) or 813.780.0667.

Contact: Ralph Lair, Government Affairs Officer

Office: 352.521.5116

[rlair@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:rlair@pascocountyfl.net)

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