

What Do I Get for \$20 Dues?

(2011 Review)

A Group of Seasoned, Hearty, Diligent VOLUNTEERS Creating Our Quality Neighborhood: FUN, BEAUTIFUL AND SAFE in which to LIVE and PLAY.

Mountains of Thanks to each Officer, Board Member and Bob Miller's database and web site upgrades, for all the EXTRA EFFORT in 2011 in the transition due to Tom Killian's retirement and our NEW Newsletter format.

GRANT of \$4,998 by Tampa Bay Estuary Program was awarded to JTCA for our "3rd Annual Parks CleanUp" around Jungle Lake in Walter Fuller Park, Abercrombie Park shoreline, and Pinellas Trail drainage areas. **Tom Killian** and **Dr. Ed Carlson** spearheaded the Grant, coached by Pasadena Bear Creek presidents **Tonilynn and Aaron Sharpe** – thank you for encouraging us.

Naimoli Complex Batter's Eyes (billboard-like structures) are being painted at request of JTCA.

City Crews from 2 other parks trimmed all trees in Walter Fuller Park, and opened up around Jungle Lake to enhance enjoyment. Short trunks sticking up will re-grow into thick bushes. Valuable trees were "uncovered" and two Red Cedar trees, two blueberry bushes, and Elderberry bush were discovered. Fingers into the lake are posted with "Staff Only" signs to keep as wildlife sanctuaries. Thank you, Jim DeBee, Wes, Patrick, Sonny, John, Earl and Al. JTCA will help maintain this with our grant.

Dr. Ed presented to Codes Hearing Officer who certified a Partial Lien on the Little League property for creating large runoff areas without a permit and no stormwater retention areas.

With **Tom Killian, Leisure Services, Neighborhood Transportation, and SPPD, JTCA** stimulated marking parking spaces on 80th St. No. from 28th to 34th Aves. Safety Feature: no marked places 26-28th Aves to allow adults and children crossing from Walter Fuller Center and play grounds. We gained **90 Parking Places**. A NEW Center Line narrows traffic lanes. This further slows and calms traffic. These spaces should eliminate parking within the park – illegal but characteristic of events at Naimoli Complex, sponsored by **St. Petersburg Baseball Commission. SPBC volunteers** will direct overflow parking to east parking lot, along streets, Walter Fuller Center and Swim Pool parking. They will rope off the park areas prone to parking. Another continuing improvement in our neighborhood!

PARC letter: Dear Administrator **Ms LeGros**, Thank you for keeping staff and visitors attentive to parking on paved surface, not grass. **Jungle Terrace Civic Association** asked the City to paint lines indicating parking IS allowed on the East side of 75th Ave. Since parking was not designated, people did not know they could park there. This gains **21 parking places** for **PARC's** main facility. **JTCA** appreciates **PARC** being a good neighbor for many

decades!

Enlarging the **Storm Drain**, beginning at Boca Ciega Bay to Jungle Lake, continues on schedule.

The Families of each **St. Pete Police Officer** killed in January received a letter from JTCA expressing our neighborhood's APPRECIATION and VALUE of each Officer as Husband, Dad, and Peace Officer.

4th Annual Parks CleanUP was a huge success. 28 Volunteers. **Roland Martens** led the Abercrombie Park team, **Tom Killian** led the Pinellas Trail team; **Dr. Ed Carlson** led a large group in Walter Fuller Park, creating 47 large brush piles the City cleaned away, in addition bags and bags of trash picked up. City Staff led by **Jim DeBee** plus **Wes** and **Patrick** utilized 2 mules to assist us and a boat to clean up Jungle Lake.

Dr. Ed led **Valley Crest** crew of 5 removing 87 palm trees, trimming 30, and leaving over 100 palm trees on the Pinellas Trail from 22nd Ave N to Tyrone Blvd. overpass. Thanks to the **City** for letting us use the Brush Site to offload the cut trees.

JTCA provided over **305 Volunteer hours** on our Tampa Bay Estuary Program grant.

City and County crews are spraying vines and invasive plants as they re-emerge. **Monica Abbott** 4/14/11 went by the Pinellas Trail by 22nd Ave and Mall. County crews were spraying along the trail. In May, **Eileen Dardis** and **Dr. Ed** invested time on the Trail detail spraying vines and invasives that were missed or grew after the county crew.

Monica Abbott writes, "I drove the outer lane of the Tyrone Mall and have to say again ...the CleanUP is amazing. I could see people walking on the trail and it was so clean. It is wonderful to be on 22nd Ave and be able to see approaching foot or bike traffic and not just be shocked to alert with the flashing lights. Thank you so much for this. What an ongoing pleasure and improvement!"

Mr. Bill Bilodeau, past President of the **Native Plant Society** experienced Jungle Lake for the first time. Bill thrilled to the diversity of native plant life. "This deserves a photo essay!" Bill led a plant identification walk for the JTCA Board. He developed a list of 5 native plants we can plant on the fingers and around the lake for wildlife and flowery show. Then Bill came to WF Center to play Pickleball.

Mini-CleanUP, Saturday March 26 @ 9am, Walter Fuller Center, to complete our big CleanUP. Please volunteer 2-3 hours. Our Park is looking Fabulous – the Crown Jewel of St. Pete's 150 Parks.

Dr. Ed enjoyed breakfast with **Mayor Foster**, and asked what we can do for him. We discussed his requests regarding Tyrone Mazda (told him they are good neighbors) and St. Pete Baseball Commission's excellent care of Naimoli Complex. Professional baseball team from **Korea** is here for 6 weeks. Teams from **Canada, Denmark and Australia** are coming to play. **Italy and Jamaica** are eagerly in the talking stages of coming. We discussed the city converting the Sunset Hotel on Central Ave. and Park St. into a dormitory for the baseball teams. The Mayor

explored the possibility of lighting one field at Naimoli Complex.

JTCA was represented at a **Codes Hearing**, then wrote a letter to Permits in the Building Dept. and to Stormwater Management in Engineering about not allowing "exceptions" to stormwater management requirements on the Azalea Little League property which contributes to flooding in our area.

Stormwater Drain Project: anticipates crossing Park Street February 21 to March 21. The road signs are up. After connecting Park Street to 28th Avenue, the contractor will go back to finish up on 27th Avenue. Once that is complete, they will be going up 28th Avenue with the construction towards Jungle Lake. Prior to starting on 28th Avenue, the contractor will provide notices to the residents along 28th Avenue.

Dr. Ed had breakfast with **Mayor Bill Foster** and asked "What can Jungle Terrace do for you, Mayor?" Our surprised Mayor discussed 3 major issues on his mind – including lighting one Naimoli field, and a dormitory.

St. Pete Baseball Commission is doing a better job using the 91 street parking places and keeping vehicles out of the park, after several interventions by JTCA with the City.

Professional teams from Korea, Canada, Denmark, and Australia have played at Naimoli Complex. Italy and Jamaica are eager to come.

The Family of St. Petersburg Police Officer Dave Crawford, murdered by a teenager, received a letter from JTCA expressing our neighborhood's APPRECIATION and VALUE of Officer Crawford as Dad, Family Member and Peace Officer.

Storm Drain construction has successfully crossed Park Street and will continue along 28th Avenue into Walter Fuller Park to Jungle Lake. After connecting to 28th Avenue, the contractor expects to go back to finish up paving on 27th Avenue.

Enjoy Remote Control Aircraft in Walter Fuller Park each day at sunrise – fly them or watch them. See Story.

CAREFEST: Volunteers contributed 47.5 hours trimming, removing, planting the Volunteers Celebration Garden, then carefully spreading a dump truck load of mini-pine bark nuggets under and around all the plants. Beautiful!

GRANTS: Eileen and **Ed** submitted 3 Grant Applications: City for Art "Entwined"; Tampa Bay Estuary for Jungle Lake and Pinellas Trail, and Police Forfeiture Grant.

Tom Killian repaired and repainted SIGN at Park and 38th Ave. N. Thank You, Tom!

IRS is happy with JTCA after a thorough scrutiny that we are operating properly. Thanks **Tom** and **Jill** and **Ed**.

JTCA Newsletter **3,000 copies** goes to all 2,700 JT properties + 250 to Publix, CVS, Walgreen's, etc, thanks to **Linda Dominick** and **Ideal Publishing**. 50

copies to JTCA to send to new property owners with Gift Annual Membership and invitation to our meeting. Thank you **KC Jones** and **Jill Silverstein** for coordinating this outreach.

REPAVING: 2 blocks of 34th Ave and 35 Ave repaved thanks to Board Member **Roland Marten** and our PSR **Susan Fuchs!**

For over 10 Days, there are two Abandoned TIMES boxes in street. PSR **Debbie Larson** had these removed.

PARKING ISSUE over 4 months. **CSO Detty** stopped by Cobham and had "the talk" with them. Not a single person parking on grass now! Even the Codes violation did not solve the problem. Thank you **Officer Mitch**.

74th St Elementary School – **Dr. Ed** met **Michael Frederick** on report by Principal to evaluate parents speeding leaving school drop off without stopping as enter 72nd Street N. See Story.

Storm Drain is crossing 80th Street. Progress through the park will be faster with no road and curbing to tear up, haul away, and replace.

Mayor's Weekly Report "In the next year, two more master storm drain projects are planned: the Jungle Lake N.E. Basin Drainage Improvements (30th Ave. N. from 78th to 75th Streets). . . YEA!

Blinking lights at 6:30 AM in WFP as 9 men laid sod to complete restoration and rehabilitation of highly eroded areas. Rubble was placed to stabilize, then topsoil, then 2" of mulch, then sod carefully and tightly laid on the re-established curve. Thank you **Jim DeBee** for organizing this, and thanks to **Wes, Patrick, Sonny, Earl** and **others** for an artful and caring installation. The restored areas extend from both sides of the South Shelter, the West Shelter and Drain, the Storm Drain by old BMX area, and 30th Ave North entrance to park and 100 feet of bank that eroded dirt onto sidewalk and into street. This is a MAJOR improvement to our park!

From 28 years ago I remember the rusty fence, overgrown 15' high, sandspur fields where soccer is now, snakes and rats, and PARC abandoned nursery. I took photos and got neighbors to sign a petition for the City to clean up. Since then the gradual changes in the Park have been major over a quarter of a century.

NEW Storm Drains are ready to cross 80th St. into WFP. The lake will be 3.5 inches higher. A "weir" controls water exit to the bay. A weir slot allows the lake to lower slowly in small rains for better water quality processes to take place before going to the bay. Large rains overflow the top of the weir to prevent flooding surrounding streets. A "skimmer" plate is mounted in front of the weir to hold back floating vegetation, trash, debris, floating oils, to keep them from discharging to the bay. A large gap between the plate and the weir allows water to freely flow under the plate and out through the weir. Maintenance around the outfall removes the debris that accumulates.

Susan Fuchs, Public Service Rep, toured our area with me to review areas in need of various attention: potholes, sign issues, graffiti, utility box issues, trees over road or obscuring signs, etc. that need attention. (This is NOT Codes)

Misty Cladas, TBEP, visited Walter Fuller Park,

Pinellas Trail, and Abercrombie Park to see our great results from their grant. She was highly pleased with all 3 parks! **Eileen Dardis**, JTCA Secretary is applying for a TBEP Grant to finish the Pinellas Trail trimming, removal of invasive plants on the fingers of Jungle Lake and plant native plants for food for wildlife in conjunction with Florida Native Plant Society.

Orange tape around WFP trees caused major excitement they were marked for removal. I met on site with City Arborists Mike Vineyard and William Olive. This is a "municipal tree inventory program", to evaluate the health, environment and economic benefits of the current urban forest in parks and along right-of-ways.

Tennis Courts received new fencing, and a new backboard. Yes, the fence is black when all other fence in the park is green. This has been made know to Parks Dept. and they will call us before park projects and use green fence in WFP per previous agreements.

Parks Director **Phil Whitehouse** met with me in WFP to review 7 areas, including a small entrance garden from 30th Avenue, the only unsightly entry to the park. We met with engineer **Dan Saunders** regarding the Storm Drain Project for 30th Avenue coming next year; with **Soccer** about adding a light for security; **Joe Kubicki**, Transportation and **Cheryl Stacks**, bicycle director about Bike Path (see story). JTCA's appreciation was expressed to Phil for having the 5 Batter's Eyes painted dark green on both sides.

JTCA has applied for a City **ART Grant** (see story), and a Police Forfeiture Grant.

More good news. The **Stormwater Drain** project from Boca Ciega Bay to Jungle Lake (construction) is planned to be complete by December 31, 2011. Grass sod will be placed for final refinement and restoration. Thank you for your patience EVERYONE while this huge project was being accomplished.

Decorative Street Light Poles around WFP -- thanks to **Yaro Markewycz** and **Dr. Ed** and **Dave Reed** with City, over 20 broken base cover plates were replaced with new ones.

Dr. Ed met with **Councilman Herb Polson** to get GPS Locator Safety Markers at Centers and Shelters in Walter Fuller Park, like on the Pinellas Trail. Police Non Emergency number on them. Slogan "Go to Shelter/ Center to Call Help!" Councilman Polson drafted a new business item for City Council for 4 large parks to receive GPS Safety Markers. He brought this to Council the end of November.

New City Councilman, Charlie Gerdes, carved out 2 hours to meet with Dr. Ed. They toured 3 parks and our JT Neighborhood so Charlie has a clear sense of who we are, our quality of life, and the expanse of our neighborhood

Thanks to Secretary **Eileen Dardis**, JTCA again received a **Tampa Bay Estuary Program** Grant for 2012. See story in this issue.

Thank you also **Eileen** for another highly successful JTCA "Dumpster Day".

Three Orange Safety Vests were procured for working on Pinellas Trail and near roads.

JTCA Volunteers Garden Granite Marker is finally in place with the discount and help of Sumner Granite and Bronze. Reads "Volunteers Garden . . . by . . . Jungle Terrace Civic Association." Gopher Tortoise was installed in Garden by light pole. Bronze statue of boy in swim trunks "Swim Time" down hill by the lake – donated by JTCA on a matching private grant.

Two major parking issues have been resolved with the help of **Officer Detty** on one and Codes Inspector on the another. Thank you gentlemen.

Tom Killian upgraded JTCA Wood Signs, changing lettering from yellow to white, on 30th Ave. N., and on signs located at 66 Way N. and at 68 St. N.

And the not so good news. St. Pete Police Forfeiture Grant: State statute states "funds acquired from forfeited property may not be used to supplant the budget of an agency." BUT, **70%** of the money went to City functions! **7%** to 6 Neighborhoods, and 5 Neighborhood valid applications were refused, including JTCA for NSSP electric bike. Visit www.NSSP.us to see what SPPD deemed "low impact".

Bronze Statue **Swim Time Boy** – "Attempted Grand Theft", Nov 25, Friday after Thanksgiving, broken loose from base and rebar rods. SPPD Officer (who lives next to Abercrombie) investigated and filed "Attempted Grand Theft" Case No. 2011-073955. Put Police Non-emergency 893-7780 in your Speed Dial.

Phil Whitehouse, City Parks Director, writes: "It was a pleasure to attend and even more special to receive the recognition from your organization. I especially thank for recognizing the field staff that we all know do the work. I've said many times that other Civic Associations would do well to copy many of the things that Jungle Terrace does. You are well attended, active and more importantly to me, work with the City, realizing we are all on the same side. Your efforts are most appreciated. Thank you."

Donuts and Coffee in the Park + Kids Art in the Park were a big hit. People enjoyed stopping to visit and to view. They all encouraged a repeat of both next year. **Fray's Donut House**, 4419 66th Street No. donated the donuts, coffee, cups, cream and sugar. A NEW Fray's is moving in on Tyrone Blvd, just west of 38th Ave. The building was a donut shop years ago, then a sandwich shop, then a check cashing store, and now full circle to a donut shop again.

NSSP "Neighborhood Scout and Safety Patrol". Black NSSP polo shirt, black business cards with Police, Action Line, and Graffiti phone numbers. NSSP Team: 17 Scouts already!!

Enjoy a Healthy, Fun, and Powerful 2012!

BEST \$20 INVESTMENT you can ever make!

DONATE additional \$\$ as your HELP to keep us the BEST!~!~!