



Sunset Park Area *Homeowners Association*

September – October 2019

President's Letter

I hope everyone had a nice Labor Day holiday and your year is going well! I wanted to start off by saying that I feel fortunate to live in one the nicest neighborhood in the city. Recently I had the pleasure of being part of a bus and boat tour of our city which is comprised of over 70 neighborhoods. I was selected to attend the Mayor's Neighborhood University, a 3 month class that educates community leaders about how our city government is structured and how it functions. Over the next few months I hope to learn more about the different interworking's and be able to apply my experience to better serve Sunset Park. Please feel free to contact me or the Mayor's office for more information about The next Mayors Neighborhood University.

On a different note, we have several events coming up that I am very excited about for the fall. On September 18th at the Sunset Park Garden Club, we have the flower hour membership party, additional information can be found in this issue. Next up is our annual Halloween Party held at the green space on the corner of Dundee St and S Westshore Blvd. Finally in November we have our annual Membership Appreciation Dinner to be held at Tate's. I hope to see you all these events. Please see the announcement for details and rsvp to the appropriate committee member.

Lastly, I want to say it's an honor to live in a community that celebrates its children. My oldest daughter Alanna started kindergarten at Mabry Elementary and Kennedy our youngest started VPK. It's going to be awhile before they graduate and become eligible for the SPAHA scholarship. We had one winner and four runner ups. They are all great contributors to our neighborhood and we should be proud that they our part of our community. I want to thank Nancy Granda for orchestrating the committee and invite you to read her article in the newsletter. I would like to see you all at our events and meeting this fall and winter. Call me or anyone of our board members to get involved.

Tony Pastore

SPAHA Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 10th

**Fendig Public Library
3909 W. Neptune St.**

Meeting Start Time - 6:45 pm

Guest Speakers:

**City Council Member
Bill Carlson**

Carlson brings to City Hall a world view, willingness to explore and expand Tampa's potential, and a recognition of what constitutes perception, reality, and where they intertwine.

SPAHA 4th Annual Halloween Block Party

**Sunday October 27th
Dundee Lake Park
2-5PM**

Additional details included inside

Tampa's Newest Toilet to Tap Proposal

By Marlin Anderson

Toilet to Tap, the idea of pumping treated sewage into the aquifer for eventual use as drinking water, was brought up in 2010 and discarded. Now it is back again.

The Water Department at the City of Tampa is now aggressively pushing a new Toilet to Tap proposal. The proposed project is in the process of being presented to Tampa City Council.

A 296-page report was produced in August 2018 entitled Tampa Augmentation Project, Water Quantity and Quality Analysis – FINAL, which explains all aspects of the proposed project.

Some key points from the report:

They plan to **inject up to 50 million of gallons of treated sewage daily into the Florida aquifer**. Under normal conditions, the City gets all of the fresh water that it needs from the Hillsborough River. If there is a severe drought, they have to buy water from Tampa Bay Water. For example, they had to do this in 2013 and in 2017.

They will **pump the treated sewage into the aquifer underneath Tampa**, at a depth of 600 to 800 feet below sea level.

Per the report, the water is supposed to percolate up to a depth of 300 to 500 ft. below sea level, and this will then be pumped into the City's reservoir to be used as a source of drinking water. However, there is in fact **no possible way to prevent the treated sewage from spreading to other parts of the aquifer**.

The report lists various microconstituents, also called Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) – which include **steroids, hormones and pharmaceuticals**. Using their proposed process, which includes ultra-violet, numerous contaminants, including the microconstituents, are **not filtered out**.

In the conclusions section of the report, they admit that they don't know if they can do anything about the microconstituents. Quote: "There is insufficient data available to make reliable predictions about the persistence or removal of most reclaimed water microconstituents."

The report anticipates that the aquifer will provide an additional level of treatment for the sewage. This is an **unproven theory** that the aquifer will magically eliminate or neutralize the various contaminants in the sewage, or if conversely the contaminants will in fact damage the aquifer.

They project the cost of construction of this system to be **\$350 million**.

They will not be using reverse osmosis (RO), which provides the highest level of purification, and which costs over twice as much to achieve as their proposed project.

Based upon all of this, we're expected to accept the City spending \$350 million to (1) roll the dice with our health and (2) roll the dice with the aquifer.

Furthermore, even though it is not allowable presently under state law, it would be much less risky to the aquifer if the treated sewage were to be directly transferred to the water department for further processing prior to introducing it into our potable water system. However, that solution will include reverse osmo-

sis, and will cost approx. 4 times as much as the proposed project.

THE CITY IS WASTING POTABLE (DRINKABLE) WATER ON LAWNS AND LANDSCAPING

Presently approximately 50% of all of the potable (drinkable) water that is produced by the City’s water treatment plant is being used to water our lawns and other landscaping.

I’m sure that you’ve heard of the program established years ago called the South Tampa Area Reclaimed (STAR) program, which brought reclaimed water for watering lawns for a significant portion of South Tampa. In Tampa, approximately 5,400 locations are presently set up for reclaimed water service. The downsides to the program have been (1) its high cost and (2) only approx. 50% of all residents have hooked up to the STAR lines.

But if we’re being asked to drink treated sewage instead of putting it on our lawns, perhaps we might want to revisit the STAR program. They couldn’t have come up with a better motivation to greatly increase the percentage of residents hooking up to the STAR lines.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

Send an email to all City Council members by addressing it to tampacitycouncil@tampagov.net. Let them know that they should not approve this risky and expensive project. Ask them to instead expand the STAR program as a way of using the reclaimed water.

To arrive at the answer to that question, I finally confronted all of those numbers on the annual Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notice. If you add up all of the numbers in the millage rate column, it comes to 20.34060. That’s 20.34060 divided by 1,000 = 2.034%. That percentage is modified by the fact that the public schools portion has a \$25,000 exemp-

tion limit. But let’s use 2% just to get an idea. So we would be saving roughly an additional \$500 – correct? $\$25,000 \times .02 = \500 . Right? Keep reading.

The Public Schools Are Not Affected

The proposed additional \$25,000 exemption does not apply to the public schools portion. So you have to add up the millage rate for the schools, which comes to 6.414 and then subtract this number from the 20.34060 total millage.

The Calculation

Therefore, you take 20.34060 minus 6.414 = 13.9266, divided by 1,000 = 1.39266%. Then multiply \$25,000 x 1.39266%, and you arrive at \$348. An estimator is also available online at www.3hxestimator.org/hb3/hb3.php#. Created by the Florida County Property Appraisers, you first select Hillsborough County, then start entering in your street address. The web page will recognize your partial entry and offer the full address. For my address they come up with **\$338**. But type in virtually any valid address in South Tampa for that matter and you get - \$338. Both numbers are estimates, but let’s use the lower number.

How Do We Evaluate this as a Neighborhood?

Just out of curiosity, in 2011 I emailed the Property Appraiser’s office to find out how much, as a neighborhood, does Sunset Park pay in property taxes. And then in 2018 I asked the same question again, to find out how much we paid in 2017. Here are the numbers:

2017 property taxes assessed	13,163,277
2010 property taxes assessed	<u>9,290,688</u>
Increase in 7 years	3,872,589

That is a 41.6% increase! And you know that this is only going up. For example, our total

taxes assessed for 2016 was \$12,081,521, for an increase of over \$1 million in 2017, in just a single year.

Multiply \$338 by approximately 1,300 home-steaded homes in Sunset Park equals approximately \$439,999 savings annually as a neighborhood. Compare that to the \$1 million increase in 2017 alone, with no additional services or capital projects provided to our neighborhood by the city or county government.

What to Do?

We've already heard from city and county governments how it's going to be so hard to get by without the tax dollars that will be lost by this additional exemption. But my answer to that it must be nice to get that 41.6% increase in annual income from Sunset Park alone. I'm sure a lot of employees, businesses and professionals would love to be receiving 41.6% more than they were 7 years ago. So don't feel sorry for them. Go ahead - vote to take your additional \$25,000 exemption.

Updated: Results

I sent out an email on 8/24 to get the word out regarding the City of Tampa administration proposal to **inject up to 50 million gallons of treated sewage daily into the Florida aquifer**. Next, there was the assumption that this water would be further purified by the aquifer before bubbling up closer to the surface and being pumped into the City's reservoir to become part of our drinking water. It is unknown at this time whether the aquifer will further treat the sewage or if in fact the treated sewage will (1) have a detrimental effect on our health and (2) cause irreversible damage to the aquifer. Further, there is no possible way to keep the treated sewage from spreading to other parts of the aquifer.

I heard back from numerous people who were writing emails, and some who were planning on speaking at the 8/29 workshop.

And although it wasn't reported in the news, this past Thursday night, 8/29, the **Tampa City Council voted 5-2 to remove the proposed Toilet to Tap project**, costing an estimated \$300 million, from the rate case to be presented to Council at its Water/Wastewater Master Plan Update Public Hearing on 9/5/19.

It was a 5-2 vote against the \$300 million Toilet to Tap program. The following City Council members voted against Toilet to Tap:

- Bill Carlson
- Joseph Citro
- John Dingfelder
- Orlando Gudes
- Guido Maniscalco

The two City Council members who voted in favor of Toilet to Tap were:

- Charlie Miranda
- Luis Viera

I would like to thank everyone who sent in emails prior to the 8/29 meeting, and give special thanks to those who showed up at the meeting. At the workshop last Thursday, one council member mentioned the quantity of emails that they received on this issue, and the emails undoubtedly had an influence on their votes.

Sunset Park Garden Club Save the Date!



The Sunset Park Garden Club invites you to our "Flower Hour" happy hour. Come enjoy wine, beer and appetizers while you learn about our garden club and meet our friendly members. We are an active club with fun and educational events – we'd love to share our enthusiasm with you!

September 18, 2019

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Sunset Park Garden Clubhouse
4624 W. Browning Ave.
Tampa, FL 33629 813-765-9303

City Councilman—District 4

Bill Carlson



Bill Carlson is the Tampa City Council Member representing District 4 (South Tampa). He was elected on March 5, 2019.

He is also president of Tucker/Hall, one of Florida's leading public relations firms, where he has been a consultant to European and Latin American conglomerates, fast growing technology companies and Fortune 500 corporations.

From 1989-1994 Carlson lived in Singapore where he was a senior marketing consultant with a Singapore-based marketing consulting firm.

Carlson holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from the University of Tampa and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He also conducted MBA studies at the National University of Singapore as a Rotary International Scholar, studied Spanish in Argentina and completed the Harvard

Law School Negotiations Program.

Carlson is very active in the community and has served in a number of leadership positions at the Hillsborough Education Foundation, Leadership Tampa Bay, the Tampa Chamber, the Florida Chamber and Rotary International. He is also a graduate of Leadership Florida Class XXIII and from 2007-2009 was international president of PROI, the world's largest network of PR firms. Bill currently serves on the board of the Florida Chamber Foundation, Florida TaxWatch, Florida Museum of History, Florida House DC and the Pinellas Education Foundation.

AWARDING OF THE FIRST SUNSET PARK SCHOLARSHIP



Meet the scholarship finalists on Tuesday May 14th 7:00 p.m. Jan Platt Library. These candidates for the \$1000 scholarship will read their essay "How Have the Diverse Neighborhoods of Tampa Make Our City a Better Place to Live, Work, Play and Visit?".

Students were judged on Academic Achievement, High School Profile, Personal Statement, References and Essay. City Councilman Guido Maniscalco will join the board in recognizing the accomplishments of our candidates. You may also take this opportunity to meet informally with Councilman Maniscalco prior to the start of the meeting.

SPAHA Website:

www.spaha.org

1. Historical and demographic information.
2. Photos and videos.
3. Helpful links to governmental services.
4. News articles on Sunset Park and its residents.
5. Recent and archive newsletters.



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Community Policing

SPAHA is located in TPD District 1. The District 1 office is located at 3818 Tampa Bay Blvd. The office is staffed 24 hours/7 days each week.

Numbers you should know are:

Captain Ruben Delgado 354-6600

Maryanne Hunsberger 354-6692

Neighborhood Affairs Liaison

General information 354-6600

Needless to say, in the event of an **emergency, always call 911**. However, for non-emergency assistance, call **231-6130**.



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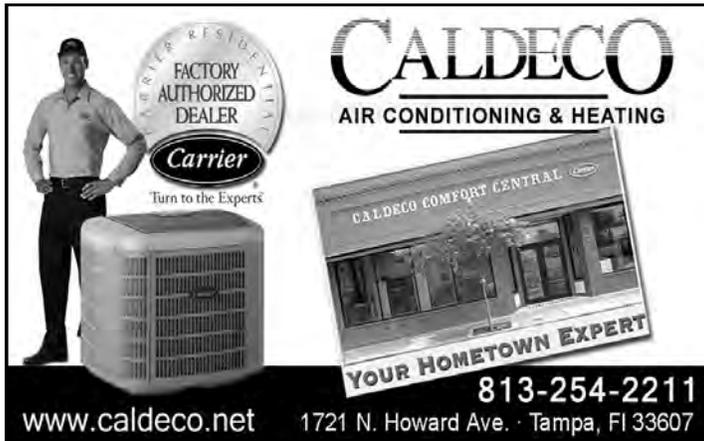
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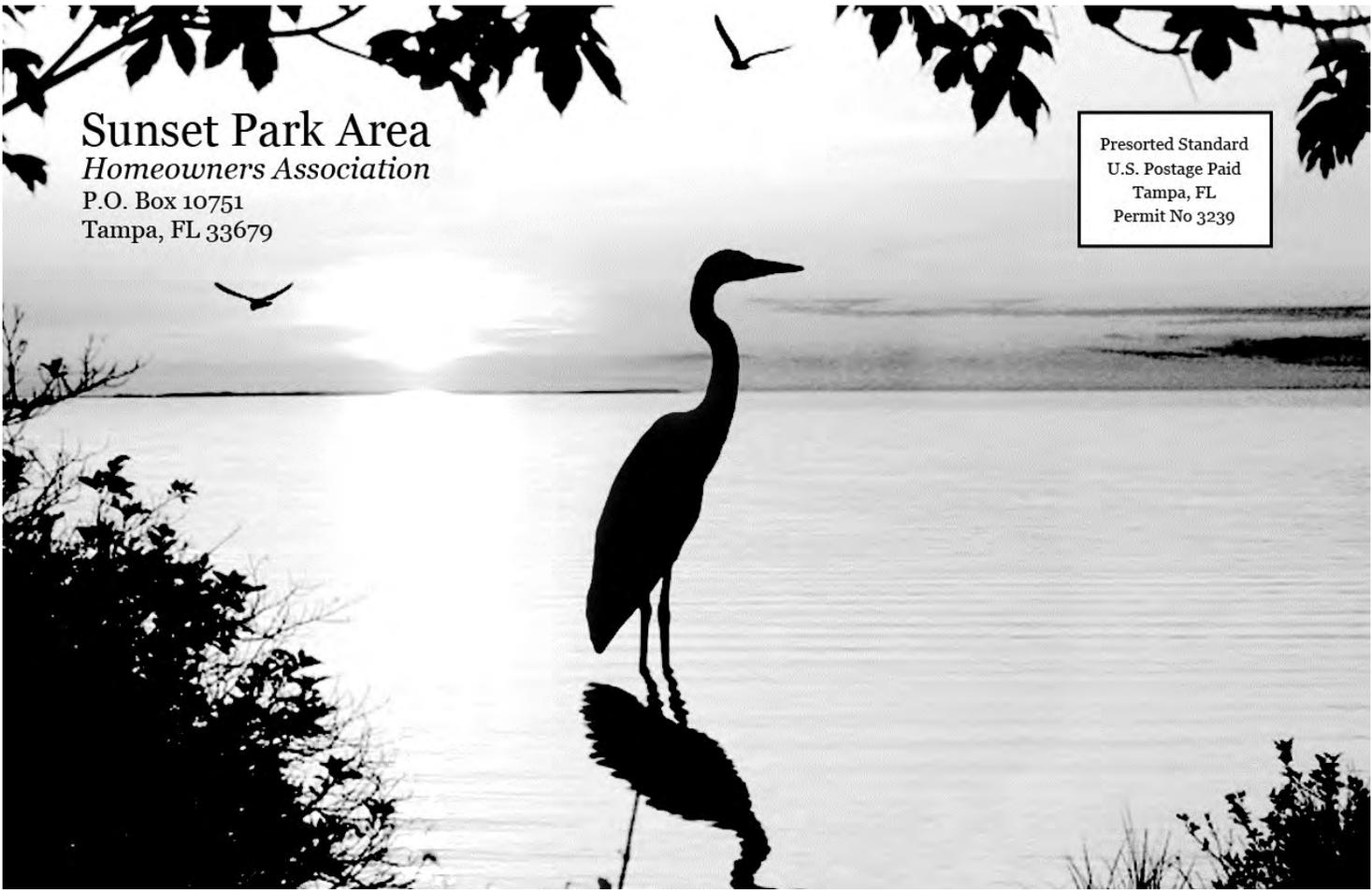
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Sunset Park Representatives			
Mayor Jane Castor	274-8251	County Commissioner Sandy Murman	272-5470
City Councilman Bill Carlson	274-8134	State Representative Jackie Toledo	281-5549
City Councilman Guido Maniscalco	274-7071	State Senator Janet Cruz	408-281-5507

Important Phone Numbers			
Police - non-emergency	231-6130	Lawn Watering Complaints	274-8036
City of Tampa Information Line	274-8211	Solid Waste	348-1111
Recycling Dept.	348-6504	Code Enforcement	274-5545
Special Waste Pickup	348-6507	Stormwater drains - clogged	622-1901
Manhattan Brush Site	348-1127	Zoning information	274-3100
Potholes or sinkholes	274-3101	Mosquito Control	635-5400
TPD Neighborhood Watch	354-6692	Street light outage (TECO)	223-0800
Tree Hotline	258-8733	Animal Control	744-5660