

LINCOLNVILLE NEWS

Keeping you informed of what's happening in St. Augustine's historic Lincolnville.

FALL 2015 • ISSUE 3

The Lincolnville Festival

In 1979 gas prices had just reached one dollar per gallon, Jimmy Carter was President of the United States, cars were still driving on St. George street and the Lincolnville Festival began. What has become a defining event for St. Augustine's historically black neighborhood started that year as the Washington Street Festival on a chilly Labor Day weekend.

This month the Lincolnville Festival will celebrate it's 36th year, returning to the Willie Galimore Center and adjoining Eddie Vickers Park. Its revival has been spearheaded by Rev. Ron Rawls of St. Paul AME Church. A development committee has worked with Rev. Rawls over the past several months to bring the popular festival back.

The original festival was the brainchild of internationally renowned jazz musician Doug Carn who collaborated with late Lincolnville legend and famed alligator wrestler Chris Lightburn and local lawyer Olen Meredith. "We wanted to celebrate cultural heritage and develop community awareness," said Carn. "Lincolnville is full of historic Victorian architecture, like the Butler Building (on Washington St.). People didn't know."

The event was meant to be a jazz festival with the atmosphere of a block party. Washington Street was closed to traffic from Bridge to St. Francis St. and local churches set up tables with barbeque and pies and area vendors sold hand-made wares. A stage was put together in one of the empty lots and residents were treated to the talents of local performers.

In the early 90's the festival moved from the small, residential street to Eddie Vickers Field where it could accommodate increasing popularity. Other early organizers included Lorenzo Laws and Richard White who lent their talents and resources to the festival as it continued to grow. In 2010, under new organization, the event moved out of Lincolnville to the City's events field and featured national music acts like Kool & the Gang and The Blind Boys of Alabama. This last incarnation proved unsustainable and the festival declined and then stopped altogether.



Lincolnville Festival, 1986¹



The Beladi Dancers, 1988²



Doug Carn and his band, 1986³

Doug Carn is back and collaborating with the new committee to help revive the festival and recapture it's original character and appeal. The event, happening on November 14th and 15th will feature regional talents providing live music, food, drinks and activities for children. The Festival is returning to its roots in Lincolnville and is expected to draw over 2,000 guests from the surrounding areas.

In some ways the festival's original intent of raising awareness of the historic beauty of Lincolnville has come to pass. The neighborhood has been discovered and is undergoing a transformation as new residents move in, sometimes restoring the old structures but sometimes replacing them with new buildings. It is a struggle to retain the character of this historically African-American neighborhood which was founded by freed slaves in 1886.

Next year the festival will celebrate of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Lincolnville but the need to raise awareness of this unique neighborhood remains.

Where: Eddie Vickers Park (Little Links) and the Willie Galimore Center, located at 399 Riberia Street.

When: Saturday, November 14 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. and Sunday, November 15, 2015 1-6 p.m.

For More Information: Call 904-829-3918 or visit www.facebook.com/LincolnvilleFestival or www.mylincolnville.com

Legal Aid for Title Clearing

By : Clyde Taylor of Taylor & Taylor P.A.

In the last newsletter, I wrote about a problem for many of our Lincolnville families regarding their home ownership. Often, residents are descendants from families that have lived in Lincolnville for generations, but do not appear on the legal title to their property. This can occur for many reasons, but it can be fixed.

It has become clear that some of our residents are unaware if they need to worry about this and would like to find out if this issue pertains to them. Fortunately, there are two websites that Lincolnville residents can consult that may help. A good place to start is by checking with the St. Johns County Property Appraiser's Office (www.sjcpa.us) to see who has title to the property according to their records. Keep in mind, you should not rely upon this information to determine ownership, but it is a quick and easy method to alert residents of a potential problem. Select "Search the Property Records" from the dropdown menu labeled "I Want To..." at the top-left of the screen. You can search their database by name or by the property address. If you have located your property and you are not listed as the owner, then you should contact St. Johns County Legal Aid immediately.

The St. Johns County Clerk also has a free and useful website (<http://doris.clk.co.st-johns.fl.us/LandmarkWebSJC>) where you can view deeds transferring the property rights from one person to another. Select "Online Records Search" from the "Recording" pop-up menu to access their database. The Clerk's website is more difficult to navigate and may require assistance to find the information you need. While neither of these sources provide final answers, they are an easy resource to help identify potential title problems for our residents.

Residents may also consult with St. Johns County Legal Aid, whose office is committed to helping residents that cannot afford traditional legal services. They are willing to help residents with clouded titles so they may be recognized as the legal owners of the property they've lived in for decades. If you or someone you know needs legal assistance, go to Legal Aid between 8:30am-5:00pm Monday through Friday. No need for an appointment—just go in and complete an application.

St. Johns County Legal Aid Location and Contact Info:
222 San Marco Ave., Ste. A
(904) 827-9921

◆ ◆ ◆ LETTER FROM THE LCRA STEERING COMMITTEE ◆ ◆ ◆

Change Is Inevitable. How We Respond Is Not.

By : Nick Noloboff

Greetings Neighbors.

As the newest member of the Lincolnville Community Redevelopment Area (LCRA) Steering Committee, I am glad to have the chance to introduce myself to you all, and want to invite you to share with me your thoughts on redevelopment and community issues in Lincolnville. Here are some of my own.

Having grown up in Saint Augustine, I have a long perspective on the changes to our town over the past 40 years. Like many residents, I've seen its population growth, development, and burgeoning popularity put intense pressure on downtown neighborhoods, especially Lincolnville, which encompasses the distinct sense of place that people love most about Saint Augustine. How Lincolnville anticipates and responds to this growth is the work of the LCRA Steering Committee, the City, and you.



With the input of neighbors, the Steering Committee is able to direct the changes in Lincolnville in a positive direction. This process will take years, and to be sure, will include difficult choices on how we move forward. Please take a look at the Lincolnville Redevelopment Plan on the City's website and consider how the proposed changes will affect our neighborhood. Some of the issues at hand are the residential character of Lincolnville, protection and accessibility of the natural environment, infrastructure improvements (sidewalks are currently in the queue), Lincolnville's unique African American history and Civil Rights heritage, the aesthetic and architectural gems throughout Lincolnville, and the preservation of Lincolnville's many historic churches and public spaces. To me—and I'm sure to many of you—good decisions on these issues are essential to the future of the neighborhood we all call home.

The LCRA will be directly funded by your tax dollars for 20 years, so it's vital that you engage the Steering Committee and the City on the issues you care about. And with 20 years, you'll have plenty of chances! I would also encourage everyone to consider Lincolnville in the broader context of Saint Augustine. Just beyond Lincolnville are major organizations like Flagler College, and the downtown tourism and hospitality industries, which have an impact on Lincolnville, but may also serve as partners at certain points in the redevelopment process. Open communication with them is important as we go forward.

On a daily basis, I am reminded how fortunate we are to live in such a great neighborhood, and want to see it thrive in the years ahead. Please share your thoughts on how we can make that happen at our monthly meetings at the Galimore Center, or wherever we may meet around the neighborhood.

*Sincerely,
Nick Noloboff*

Community Bulletin Board

MUSEUMS IN LINCOLNVILLE

ACCORD Civil Rights Museum



Dr. Hayling at Museum Opening¹

The ACCORD Freedom Trail marker located at 79 Bridge Street is the location of the newly opened Civil Rights Museum. The museum officially opened on July 2, 2014, marking the passage of the Civil Rights Act. This site was the first medical office in St. Augustine to not have racially segregated waiting rooms, as well as the dental practice of Dr. Robert B. Hayling, a local leader of the Civil Rights Movement. Today, the museum houses displays, articles, and artifacts to share the stories of the local 1960s Civil Rights Movement. The museum is open by appointment only. Please contact Liz Duncan at (904) 347-1328 to schedule your appointment.

Lincolnvile Museum Cultural Center

The Lincolnvile Museum and Cultural Center at 102 MLK Ave. seeks to preserve and showcase the rich African-American history of St. Augustine. It is located in the heart of Lincolnvile and housed in the Excelsior Building, the former site of St. Augustine's only African American high school. The museum features an exhibit entitled "The Journey", which tells the story of St. Augustine's 450 years of rich multicultural history and enduring people. There is also a photo gallery of the many residents from the science, business, education, religious and political institutions when the community was segregated. The museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-5pm.



OBELISKS IN LINCOLNVILLE

St. Paul School of Excellence

Students from the St. Paul School of Excellence collaborated with the Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church to decorate an obelisk in commemoration of St. Augustine's 450th anniversary. The obelisk reflects anti-bullying-themed artwork and will be placed in front of St. Paul's AME Church on Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue.



Students and Ponte Vedra Methodist Church Children's Minister, Jennifer Smith, gather around the obelisk²

Compassionate St. Augustine, Obelisk 450 Art



Compassionate St. Augustine's Obelisk Art 450 Tour is a temporary, international public art initiative that pays tribute to the 450th anniversary of the Nation's Oldest City. Artists were encouraged to interpret their site's story line and four foundational values: freedom, democracy, human rights, and compassion. There is one obelisk stationed in Lincolnvile in front of the Lincolnvile Museum and Cultural Center (former Excelsior High School). This obelisk artwork was created by Debi James of Crescent Beach and entitled "Hand Jive", which is composed of hand-made mosaic tiles. To learn more about the Compassionate St. Augustine's Obelisk Art 450 initiative, visit www.compassionstaugustine.org.

LINCOLNVILLE CRA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice of Meeting Date Change

The Lincolnvile Community Redevelopment Area (LCRA) Steering Committee will be moving its regular meeting date next year. Effective January 2016, the LCRA Steering Committee will meet on the first Monday of every month at 7pm in the Willie Galimore Center at 399 Riberia Street. The LCRA Steering Committee will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm for November and December 2015.

LCRA Logo Competition

The LCRA will soon launch a competition to design its official logo. This competition will be open to the community with the goal to produce a unique design that captures the spirit of Lincolnvile. If you are interested in participating, contact Erin Minnigan (contact info below), for a logo form, or simply submit a design of what Lincolnvile means to you.

Lincolnvile CRA Information

THE LINCOLNVILLE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Lincolnvile Redevelopment Plan guides the actions of the Community Redevelopment Agency, as it outlines the overall goals for the neighborhood's improvement, as well as the specific redevelopment projects and programs. You can find the Lincolnvile CRA Plan online at the City of St. Augustine's website: www.staugustinegovernment.com, under "My Government", "City Boards", and then "Lincolnvile CRA Steering Committee"

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Theresa Segal (Chair)
Brian Thompson (V-Chair)
Tony Smith
Clyde Taylor
Nicholas Noloboff

MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and take place on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the Willie Galimore Center, 399 Riberia Street

CONTACT US

To contact the Lincolnvile CRA, please call or email Erin Minnigan at: 904-209-4283 or eminnigan@citystaug.com

City of St. Augustine
Lincolnville Community Redevelopment Agency

FIX-IT-UP GRANT PROGRAM

The City of St. Augustine Community Redevelopment Agency has designated a new grant program to help residents in the Lincolnville Area with essential home repairs. The Fix-it-up grant will provide up to \$7,000 to homeowners that qualify for emergency repair services for sub-standard housing. The program is funded by the CRA for eligible households. Eligibility review and construction services are provided by the St. Johns County Housing Partnership, Inc.

GRANT BASICS

The Fix-It-Up Grant Program is awarded in amounts of up to \$7,000 per home. The home must be within the boundaries of the Lincolnville CRA. Applicants will have to meet all eligibility requirements administered by St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc. Available funds will be prioritized for life and safety essential repairs.

APPLICANTS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CITY BEFORE ANY PROJECT IS STARTED.

St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc. will evaluate the application after inspection of the home, prioritize the repairs needed and perform the work as an independent contractor. Existing materials will be replaced with similar materials to preserve the architectural integrity of the structure whenever possible.

For application information, call St. Johns Housing Partnership at (904) 824-0902



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