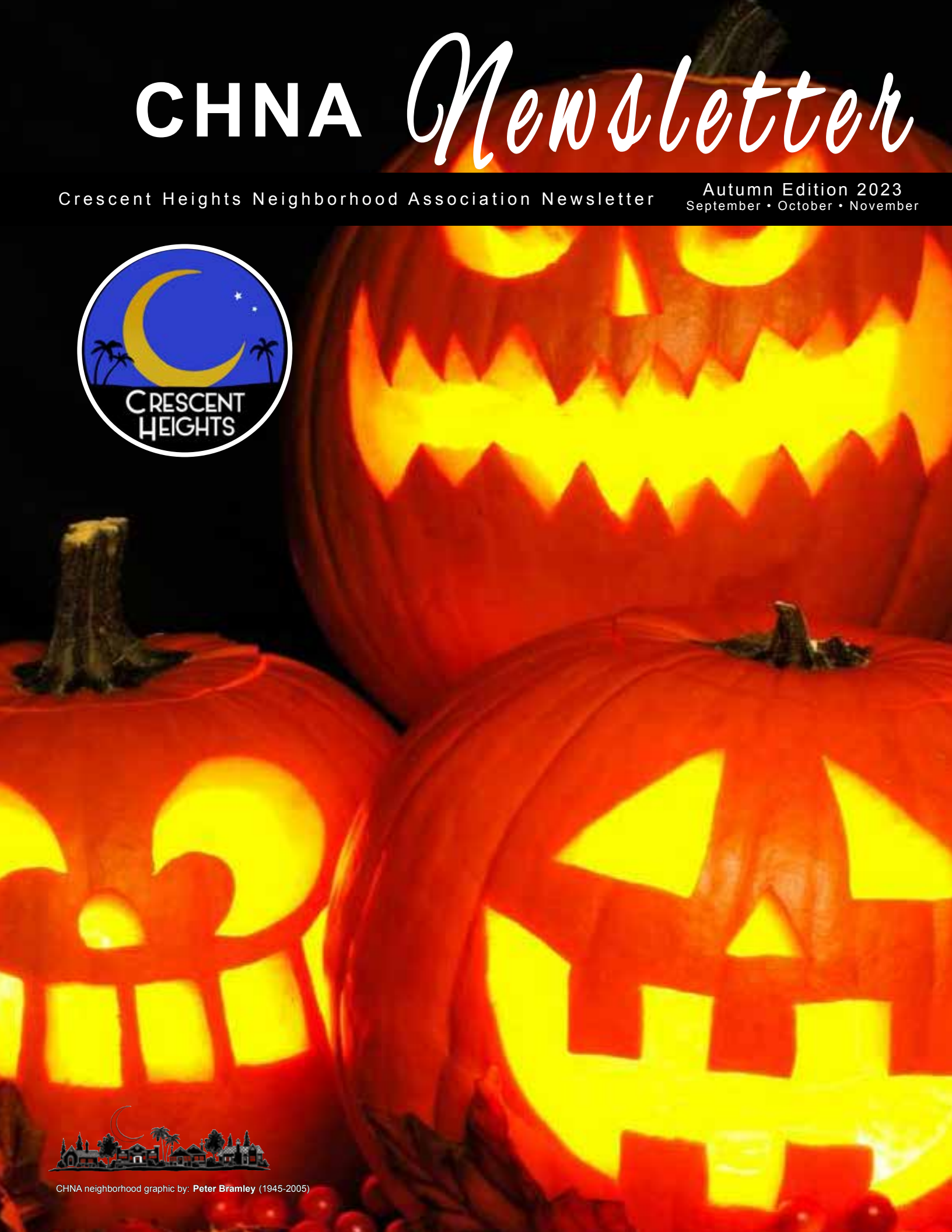


# CHNA *Newsletter*

Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Autumn Edition 2023  
September • October • November



CHNA neighborhood graphic by: Peter Bramley (1945-2005)

Are you a homeowner or renter in Crescent Heights? Wonderful! You're cordially invited to join the Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA). Membership includes invitations to porch parties and business socials, business discounts, emails with important neighborhood and city news, a vote on important neighborhood issues, and more. Help us make your neighborhood a vibrant and engaging place to live.

Membership is \$25 a calendar year. Join online at myCHNA.org (we accept PayPal), or bring cash or a check to any neighborhood meeting or event, made payable to CHNA. We accept additional donations, too!

**Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association, Inc., is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit corporation.** Donations to the organization for which no goods or services are received are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your membership contribution may or may not be tax deductible. Please consult a tax advisor regarding your specific tax situation. Updated email addresses needed for all members since 2017. Please go to mychna.org to update or add your email address to receive important updates.

### Important Contact Information

**CHNA President**

**Salvador Valles**

crescentheights.president@gmail.com

**Special Trash Pick-Up**

727-893-7398

**Call Before You Dig**

1-800-432-4770

**Meow Now - Free service**

to trap / fix feral or community cats  
727-203-5255

**Community Service**

**Officer - Luis Martinez**

727-551-3182



**Police Non-Emergency**

727-893-7780

**Crime Tip Line**

727-892-5000

**Mayor's Action Line**

727-893-7111

**Report Street Light**

**Outage**

(location & pole # needed)  
1-800-228-8485

If you have a non-emergency police concern please contact Code Compliance by phone at 727-893-7373 or online at seeclickfix.com/st-petersburg.

To report abandoned vehicles on the street, or extended parking by commercial vehicles on the street, please report the issue to the non emergency number for the St. Petersburg Police Department at 727-893-7780.

### CHNA Board of Directors

**President: Salvador Valles**

crescentheights.president@gmail.com

**Vice President: Bebe Ocano**

chnavicepresident@gmail.com

**Treasurer: Bill Richkus**

chnatreasure@gmail.com

**Secretary: Rob Asselin**

secretary.chna@gmail.com

**Membership: Ziba Mohammadi**

membership.chna.ziba@gmail.com

### Leads and Chairs

**Traffic and Parking Lead: Jeff Craft**

parkingtrafficchna@gmail.com

**CHNA Citizen Forestry Lead: Nioma Brown**

nioma@tampabay.rr.com

**Book Club Co-Leads: Group 1**

**Joanne Beckman & Sarah Hoddinott**

ejbeckman@comcast.net

**Group 2**

**Melinda Borthick & Sharon Dubble**

chreads@gmail.com

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**Website Editor: Brian Merrill**

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**Public Information Coordinator**

Laura Lorenzen

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**Contributors:** Alison Amick, Darlene Asselin, Sharon Dubble, Bill Richkus, Jim Tomlinson, Salvador Valles

### CHNA Merchandise

Show off your Neighborhood Pride Merchandise details at mychna.org. Contact [chnatreasure@gmail.com](mailto:chnatreasure@gmail.com) for merchandise sales. We accept PayPal.



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### Parking Survey

In late July we conducted a neighborhood survey regarding parking. This information is to help inform council member Lisset Hanewicz who is looking at neighborhood parking city wide to develop potential recommendations for changes to the neighborhood Residential Parking Permit (RPP) ordinance. A big thank you to everyone who responded and a very special thank you to neighbor Brian Merrell who manages our website and who helped create the online survey and to Laura Lorenzen for preparing the emails.

Sixty two percent of respondents indicated that parking is NOT a "major concern" on the street near their home, and 66% indicated that they DO NOT support implementing RPPs in the neighborhood. However 61% of those who live within one block of 4th Street N or MLK, Jr. Street N did say that parking IS a "major concern" on the street near their home. However, 56% of these same respondents still DID NOT support implementing RPPs in the neighborhood. The overwhelming concern with implementing RPPs noted by 70% of all respondents was over how guests would park. To see the full results, visit [crescentheightsneighborhood.com](http://crescentheightsneighborhood.com).

### Board Elections

A gentle reminder that elections for board positions is coming up at our November 6th meeting which will be held at Blush Tea and Coffee on MLK. If you are interested in running for a position, please reach out to me at [crescentheights.president@gmail.com](mailto:crescentheights.president@gmail.com).



The president and treasurer positions are term limited so me and Bill Richkus are not allowed to run for our current positions so these positions will not have an incumbent running. But all positions can be contested. The more candidates who run the stronger we are.

### Halloween Block Party

We are looking forward to our annual Halloween Block party scheduled for Saturday, October 28th. The block party is always a neighborhood favorite. More information will be coming soon about the event and volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in helping out with the event, please contact Amy Youngs at [amyyoungs1981@yahoo.com](mailto:amyyoungs1981@yahoo.com).

### Porch Party - Bebe Ocano - May 5th Cinco de Mayo



**HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
 2023 Neighborhood Halloween Block Party



7<sup>th</sup> Street - Between 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Ave  
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# BOOK NOOK



## Book Nook Leads:

Melinda Borthick and Sharon Dubble

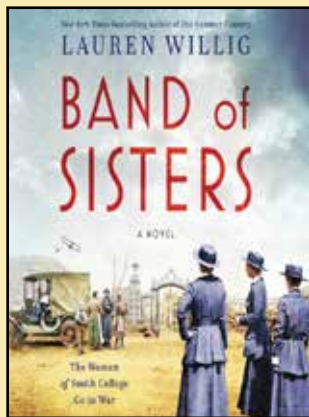
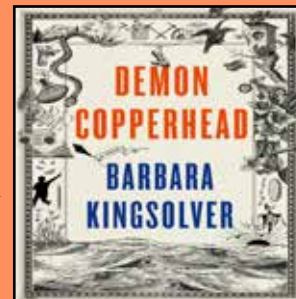
The CHNA Book Club has been wildly successful! As a result, we now have two Book Groups, each with its own distinct membership.

**Book Group 1** meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:00 PM  
Co-leaders: Joanne Beckman & Sarah Hoddinott  
Contact: [ejbeckman@comcast.net](mailto:ejbeckman@comcast.net)

### *Demon Copperhead*

by Barbara Kingsolver  
September 2023

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, a story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses.



### *Band of Sisters*

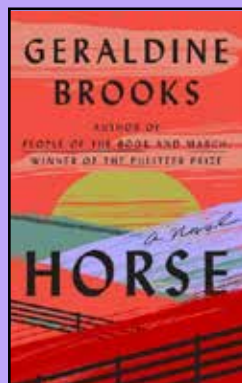
by Lauren Willig  
October 2023

1917. Despite constant shelling from the Germans, French bureaucracy, and the threat of being ousted by the British army, the Smith College Relief Unit volunteers bring welcome aid and hope to the region. But can they survive their own differences?

### *Horse*

by Geraldine Brooks  
November 2023

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred, Lexington, Horse is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

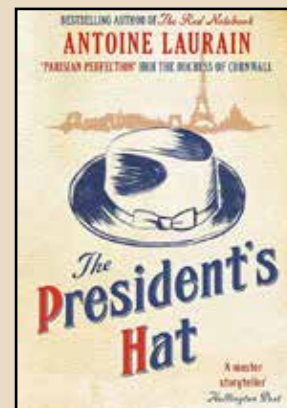


**Book Group 2** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Co-leaders: Melinda Borthick & Sharon Dubble  
Contact: [chreads@gmail.com](mailto:chreads@gmail.com)

### *The President's Hat*

by Antoine Laurain  
September 2023

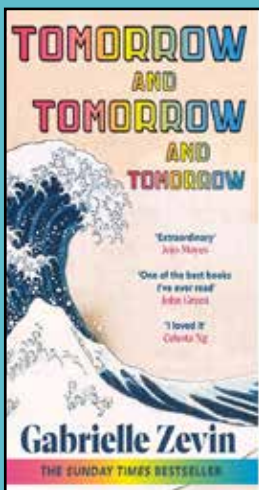
In 1986, French president François Mitterrand accidentally leaves his hat in an elegant restaurant, which is subsequently found by four temporary caretakers. This prize-winning novel is a charming fable that takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride through French life during the Mitterrand years.



### *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*

by Gabrielle Zevin  
October 2023

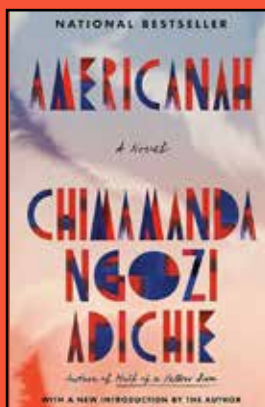
Sam and Sadie – two college friends, often in love, but never lovers – become creative partners in a dazzling and intricately imagined world of video game design. Their success brings fame, tragedy, and ultimately, a kind of immortality.



### *Americanah*

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
November 2023

A young Nigerian woman immigrates to the United States to attend university. The novel traces Ifemelu's life in both countries, threaded by her love story with high school classmate, Obinze.





I was recently asked to write a short article about my connection to Crescent Heights and our home. Good grief! How does one write a “short” article about one’s last forty four years of life at our home in Crescent Heights. Perhaps sharing a brief history of my childhood will help one to understand my deep-abiding connection to our marriage, home, and community. Father was raised on a Native American Reservation in NY and when we four boys were old enough to walk, we were taught the ways of the woods, Creation, and the Creator. During 1950 we moved to St. Petersburg. The first year here our home burned to the ground. We lost everything but our lives. It would be the Red Cross, Moose Lodge, Coast Guard, (where Father was employed), and kind neighbors that helped with used temporary housing, clothing, and food. Six months later an auto crash took our Mother and baby brother. We would never be the same again. I was four years of age at the time. It was impossible for me to sleep in the house without recurring physiological trauma of being trapped in the car and loss of family. Consequently, I lived in a lean-to in the woods where Meadowlawn Jr. High School is now. During 1953 the north city limit was 54th Ave N. All points north were woods. Food was oranges, tangerines, grapefruits, mulberries, avocados, finger bananas, papaya, mangoes, fish, and bird eggs. At age six I enrolled for school at 54th Avenue Elementary School. Mr. Waters the principal insisted that I wear shoes and provided me with my first pair. I went to work at Seller’s Nursery .25 cents an hour, three hours every day after school, four hours on Saturday. At age eight I bought a bicycle and delivered newspapers. I began to view other people’s homes and how they lived. Seller’s Nursery, and paper route customers were good to me. During cold rainy days, I would stop at Al’s Gulf gas station and go sit in the corner of his office on the floor to warm up. Sometimes he would say, “Kid, you look cold” and give me a free cup of hot chocolate. Toppings Sandwich shop would sometimes state “Kid, you look hungry, sit here and I’ll make you a sandwich”. By age sixteen in 1967 I enlisted in The U.S. Merchant Marine and volunteered for hazardous duty. 10% extra pay, double pay when in the war zone. My goal was to one day marry, have a real family, and home. Returned to St. Petersburg during 1974, and was hired by the St. Petersburg Fire Department, all college tuition was paid for paramedic training. From the first, most patients were treated according to protocol...and all if as though one was a family member. Assigned to #4 fire station Crescent Heights, Woodlawn, and parts of old NE were primary responses. Patients were nearby neighbors and all injuries and tragedies were experienced by me as well. One day I discovered 602-24th Ave N. home was for sale and in 1978 closed for \$42,800. During those days all avenues and streets were brick, some had sidewalks, and all the homes were of 1920’s- 1950’s vintage.

Where Winn Dixie is now was A&P grocery, Ace Hardware was Swanson’s Grocery, Tripp’s was Lang’s Ice Cream, then Country Kitchen, Dave’s Restaurant, now Tripp’s, 30th Ave and 4th Street was a travel campground, now Fresh Market, a boxing club is now Trader Joe’s, Holiday Apts. on 4th Street is now a strip store, and across from our home was Crescent Lake Apts. now Town Homes. In 1979 I married Eva and our home became more complete with her, our growing family, and the subsequent four children. I retired in 2000 and over the years have reflected on all my blessings of our marriage, family, community, and opportunity. On cold rainy nights I snuggle a little closer to Eva and whisper how fortunate we are, we have shelter, we are sleeping on a bed with clean sheets, relatively safe, we have each other, health, food in the cupboards, and even have a refrigerator full of food, and are debt free. 602 isn’t just a place to get mail, park our vehicles, or considered a financial investment, it’s HOME, a sanctuary of many positive memories. Crescent Heights isn’t just a neighborhood, rather it’s considered our extended family, including the mail delivery person, sanitation truck operator, and the water meter reader. These written words will never adequately describe my gratitude for family, home, and community. All are blessings that a four-year-old child couldn’t imagine, yet was able to overcome and rewrite one’s life script. I thank all for contributing to who I am today and wish all peace, health, and happiness.

Jim and Eva Tomlinson



Jim’s wife Eva and daughter Jessica feed their pet duck





Jim on his paper route



Jim at home



Jim and his brother



Jim with his mom



Jim's parents



Jim and his little helper



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## Brimmer House Fire Update, by Chris Brimmer

### Hello neighbors.

Just a short note from the Brimmer family with an update after our house fire. At 3:30 am on May 1st, I was awake working in the back of my house under deadline at the home we have lived in since 2002. We are a family of four. After hearing some noises towards the front of our home, I thought it was a bit early to be our oldest son, Harrison, who always gets up first. No, the noises turned out to be the crackling of nearly 100-year-old wood on our front porch. On fire. Seriously on fire. We ran out the back to our neighbor screaming to us from the front "Is anyone in there!?" repeatedly. God, Buddha, or aliens somehow decided it was not our time to go. By the time the alarms went off, it was almost too late, and I will forever wonder how lucky we were I was awake.

Directly following the fire, we were immediately humbled by the amount of support from family, friends, and most notably our Crescent Heights neighbors. We have tried to send thank you notes to each and every one of you. A big thank you to Sal + Dean for organizing all your donations, Bebe for quickly finding us a beautiful rental only 2 blocks away, and our direct neighbor Tim for all the hospitality he has shown us. The Donald children even opened up a lemonade stand and sent us the proceeds!

Our rebuild is about to start after a couple of months of cleanup and demo. The insurance agent with State Farm has really stepped up so far and we are beyond grateful. Paul Davis Restoration has also impressed us, with a return move-in set for June 2024. There is a lot to rebuild, and it will be like having a brand-new home.

We are still seeking rental accommodations to carry us from Jan to May 2024 (or until the house is finished). We are looking to stay as close as possible.

In gratitude,  
Chris + Jen,  
Harrison (11)  
Benjamin (9)



## Seniors Helping Senior Dogs

Safe Paws Rescue is looking for people over 60 who live independently and would like the companionship of a pet but whose finances won't stretch to pet ownership. A healthy, older dog could join a senior as a permanent foster home. Safe Paws Rescue would retain ownership and pay for food and vet visits. This arrangement is a "win-win" for dogs not likely to be adopted due to their age and for seniors who want to enjoy the companionship of a pet. This could include any size dog.

For more information and an application, contact Safe Paws Rescue at [safepaw.florida@gmail.com](mailto:safepaw.florida@gmail.com) or text 727-430-1204. Thank you  
Art Shaul

## Daystar's Back To School Drive

For years Tom and Maureen Camphire have supported Daystar's Back To School Drive with donations of backpacks, lunchboxes and healthy snacks for the kids. This year neighbors rallied together to add to Tom and Maureen's donation. Thank you to all of the Crescent Heights neighbors who participated!







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- Unemployment Income is Now Taxable

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call me

**Crescent Lake Cleanups**

Do you want to help our precious Crescent Lake, meet some really cool people, and make a difference to your community? Of course you do. Please join us for our awesome monthly Crescent Lake clean ups. We meet at the **Tasco parking lot (1320 5th St North, St Pete, 33701)** at 9am on the following Saturdays in 2023: August 26, September 30, October 28, November 18 and December 16.

by John Ficken



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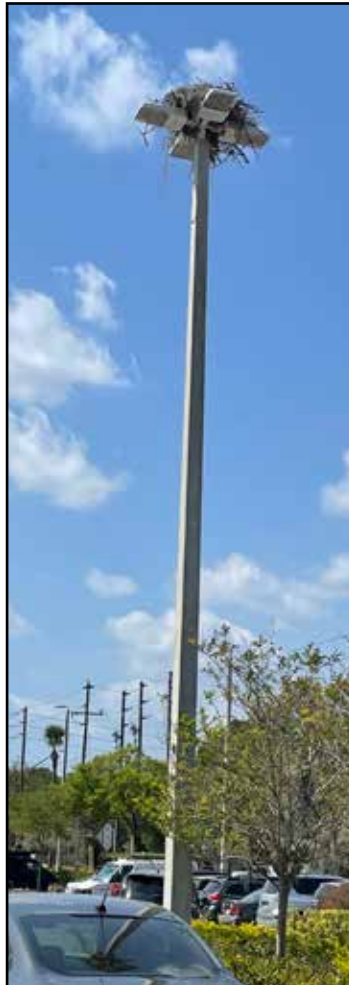
*the art of eyecare*



Many different types of wildlife have adapted to living in urban environments such as ours. Most do so not by choice but more because their natural habitat has been taken over by humans. I'm sure we are all amused at the antics and attitudes of the numerous white ibises that stroll across our lawns and streets, unconcerned about cars, pedestrians, and dogs on leashes. I've even watched individual ibis and egrets that appeared to use pedestrian crossing signals to safely cross some of our busy roads, and white egrets blissfully gliding along above cars on MLK. This type of adaptive behavior is exhibited by feathered friends just visiting our environs. To truly become urbanized, one might expect some wildlife to establish urban homes. And this is the basis for my osprey story.

Osprey are known as "fish hawks" because their primary prey is, of course, fish. In the 1970s, osprey populations were in significant decline due to the widespread use of DDT for mosquito control. DDT accumulated in the fish they consumed and caused their eggshells to become thin and fragile, resulting in reproductive failure. At one point ospreys were placed on the endangered species list. But after DDT was banned, ospreys made a tremendous recovery and are now very common all along the Atlantic coast and in Florida. Given this high abundance, it was not too surprising to me to see and hear ospreys in and around our neighborhood, close to but not right on the water. I assumed they were passing by, perhaps traveling between Crescent Lake and Coffee Pot Bayou in their foraging.

As I shopped at either of the Publix stores near the intersection of 4th St and 38th Ave or at the Winn Dixie on MLK, I invariably heard the cheerful chirps of ospreys. I noticed that the chirping was generally more intense in the spring, the breeding season, and, given its persistence, I started to pay more attention and scan the area. It turns out that our urban ospreys have forgone any nice nesting platforms folks might have built for them over at Coffee Pot and decided that the very tall light poles around the parking lots at our local grocery stores make the perfect nesting sites.



Osprey nest in Publix parking lot



As I write this in late March, the osprey pair at the "small" Publix are incubating eggs in their nest atop the same light pole on which they've nested for at least the last four years, at the 38th St end of the parking lot. I've watched this osprey pair conduct courtship behavior over the parking lot, gently grasping each other's talons while in the air, one upside down beneath the other, before alighting on another light pole, where more intimate behavior occurred. Now, while one sits on the nest, its mate frequently stands guard on an adjacent utility pole a short distance away; the male and female take turns incubating. After hatching, both parents will forage and bring fish back to the nest, caring for the young for about two months before they take to the air to move to foraging areas. I would suggest readers scan for osprey nests before parking; being beneath a nest of healthy young ospreys, gorging on fish, can result in less-than-desirable deposits raining down from above. I guess that's the price we pay for sharing our urban environment with its prior occupants.





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We cannot say enough good things about Leah and her team. We strongly recommend her to anyone looking to buy/sell a home in the Tampa Bay area as she will give 100%!”

- Cheryl H.

“From the day I met Leah, I was impressed with her professionalism. She had already handled 3 houses with our family and they were all just as happy as we were. She prepared me for the steps of the process and put me at ease with her plan to handle all of the arrangements. There was a major windstorm while the house was under contract and she helped negotiate the minor repairs that needed to be accomplished after the storm. I believe her greatest strength is her honesty and integrity. Even though I live on the East coast of Florida, I would ask her to handle my sale in the future, if ever needed.”

- Charles E.

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## Interview with Maureen Camphire - Co-Founder of the CHNA Book Club by Sharon Dubble

In 2011, Maureen and Tom Camphire moved from Jacksonville to St. Petersburg and settled into a house in Crescent Heights. They were pleased to discover that there was an active neighborhood association (CHNA) that published a newsletter and sponsored several neighborhood activities. So it was that they found themselves at a neighborhood Porch Party where Maureen met fellow neighbor, Kristen Noakes-Fry. As they talked, Maureen confessed that she missed her book club in Jacksonville and Kristen suggested that they start one here in Crescent Heights.

Thus, in 2012 the CHNA Book Club was inaugurated and, over time, became a dynamic gathering of readers and book lovers. Some years later, Kristen retired and moved to another area of the county. Although Maureen missed her co-leader, she willingly accepted responsibility for the leadership of the Book Club until finally stepping down this year. In tribute to Maureen's vision and guidance, current and past members of the Book Club organized a surprise party in May...and even arranged for Kristen to attend! Recently, Melinda Borthick and I sat down with Maureen to discuss the evolution of the CHNA Book Club.

### **Describe the early formative years.**

Initially, it was difficult to recruit members. Although we posted a regular article in each newsletter, the group remained small, with only 5-6 members during the first several years. Gradually, interest was kindled by "word of mouth" in the neighborhood and the group expanded to 8-10 people, including some "snowbirds."

From the beginning, the major purpose of the club was to read and discuss a variety of books. Each member recommended a book for discussion and took turns hosting the group. The individual who selected the book was responsible for developing a few discussion questions. The leader was responsible for coordinating and communicating details, submitting information to the CHNA newsletter, and facilitating the discussion. This format has basically continued with a few organizational tweaks: the group now meets once a month on a set day, there is a summer break during July and August, and the group uses the December meeting as a social event to choose all the book selections for the coming year. The first December socials were held at the Melting Pot restaurant on 4th Street but are now pot-luck gatherings in a member's home.

### **What major challenges did you encounter during your ten years of leadership?**

An enduring challenge is to skillfully facilitate the discussion in a way that maintains focus on the book and allows all members to contribute to the conversation. We want to encourage differing perspectives, interpretations, and points of view. A good facilitator ensures that all voices are respected and that all personal expressions remain confidential within the group.



Maureen with Kristen Noakes-Fry

The COVID pandemic presented a direct challenge to the continuation of the book club. Finding ways to proceed produced a number of comic moments as members tried to navigate Skype and then Zoom! We also experimented with meeting in Crescent Lake Park with masks and chairs six feet apart. Paradoxically, the lack of opportunities for social connection in the wider community due to COVID led to a burgeoning interest in the CHNA Book Club, particularly as new people moved into the community during the pandemic. By the time we were emerging from the strictures of COVID, the book club had become wildly successful and we were now faced with the challenge of having too many members!

### **What do you see as the most significant benefits of the CHNA Book Club?**

Maureen's response to this question can be succinctly stated as bullet points:

- Developing friendships around a shared interest
- Building community
- Broadening your mind and expanding your knowledge through deep discussion

Maureen noted that, regardless of the books selected, universal themes arise through discussion that often lead to personal reflections and help us to see connections to our own lives and those of others.

### **How do you see the future of the CHNA Book Club?**

I think it continues to change for the better! When the membership became too large, we made the difficult decision to start a second group in order to make discussion more manageable and, most importantly, to allow new members to join. Melinda Borthick and Sharon Dubble volunteered to be co-leaders of "Book Group 2" which began meeting in September 2022. Maureen thinks it is very possible that a third group may be formed as interest continues to grow.

The membership is also becoming a bit more diverse, reflecting the changing population of the Crescent Heights neighborhood. We are attracting some younger participants who bring suggestions for different styles of writing and add new perspectives to the discussions. And, for the first time, we have a couple of male members...and hope for more!

After ten years as leader of the CHNA Book Club, Maureen decided it was time to step down. Joanne Beckman and Sarah Hoddinott agreed to take over as co-leaders of "Book Group 1," while Maureen remains an active member. She says that, without the responsibilities of leadership, she can now participate with even greater enjoyment!



Since its founding in 1924, the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club has been a major part of the growth of shuffleboard. The club started with four courts and 426 members, and in over ninety years, most of the notable players, amateur and professional, have played on its courts. In 2024 they celebrate their 100th year anniversary.

This year, the St Petersburg Shuffleboard Club is hosting the **40th International Shuffleboard World Championship**. Players from 6 countries are participating in this event including - Austria, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom and the USA.

Saturday 10/22 to Friday 10/27.  
559 Mirror Lake Drive N. St. Petersburg  
[stpeteshuffle.com](http://stpeteshuffle.com)  
727-822-2083  
Admission is free to watch



### 3 Mistakes to Avoid When Photographing Your Kids • By Alison Amick, Little Llamas Portraits

**Mistake #1:** Not changing your perspective. What do I mean by that? Well, most of the time it's easy for us to pull out our phone and snap a cute picture of our kids. Well, what happens is you are always at the same angle – higher than your child. Instead, get down to their level. Sit, kneel, lay down...whatever it is, mix it up. Try something new. Picture this: Your littles are jumping on a trampoline. You would normally just snap from your height. However, if you get down much lower and snap a photo it adds interest to your picture, and also, your low perspective is making them seem like they are bouncing higher!

**Mistake #2:** Keeping your littles still. Parents all know that kids need to move, they need to run, they need to get their wiggles out. Now what on God's green earth would make us think that our kids will be happy when we ask them to "Susie, stand right here so I can take a picture". LMAO. Kids need to run, jump, move, be silly! Instead, ask "Susie, can you show me how your dress spins?" or "Susie, can you show me a silly face? An angry face? A laughing really hard face?

A princess face?" All of these will cater to children's needs to be active or silly! Boys, I will ask to jump three times in one spot. They are moving but in the location you want them to be, right? Winning!

**Mistake #3:** Last but certainly not least, the dreaded cheese face. Oh, the cheese face...It's so bad. Usually grimacing looking like they want to be anywhere but where they are. Even if they are having a blast! So, Mom, let them have fun. Capture that. Or, act a fool yourself to try to get a genuine smile! (Toot noises usually will do this).

**About Little Llamas:** Alison Amick is the founder of Little Llamas Portraits, a children's photography company based in St. Petersburg, Florida. After 10+ years as a professional family photographer, Alison recognized the need for a more fun experience for kids and families as they capture the most important years of their lives. Little Llamas is stress-free for everyone and captures the little one's true personality in 10 minutes or less. Learn more by visiting [www.littlellamasportraits.com/](http://www.littlellamasportraits.com/).

# A Message From Our Councilwoman Lisset Hanewicz

## CareFest is Back this Fall!

The celebration of volunteering and giving back to the community returns this Fall. Beginning Friday, September 1, through Tuesday, October 31, CareFest is a community outreach program that helps homeowners in need with minor home repairs, yard work, and painting through in-kind donations and volunteers.

## Ways to Participate

**Sign-up to Volunteer:** If you, or a group, are interested in volunteering for a CareFest community service project, please complete the sign-up form at [stpete.org/ICAN](http://stpete.org/ICAN)

**Adopt a Project:** Visit [carefestusa.com](http://carefestusa.com) to adopt a local project or submit a project.

**Organize a Neighborhood Cleanup:** Neighborhood leaders can contact the Neighborhood Relations Department at [Ivan.Fountain@stpete.org](mailto:Ivan.Fountain@stpete.org) or 727-892-5141 for more information and to schedule.

**Host a Donation Drive:** Collect items to donate to local nonprofit organizations. Contact the Neighborhood Relations Department at [ICAN@stpete.org](mailto:ICAN@stpete.org) or 727-892-5141 for more information.

The City will also hold the annual CareFest Day of Community Service on Saturday, September 30, from 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM at the City on a Hill Church (4265 13th Avenue North).

Help the City track your impact by reporting to the Neighborhood Relations Department with your neighborhood plans to help the community during St. Pete CareFest by emailing [ICAN@stpete.org](mailto:ICAN@stpete.org).

## Year-Round Volunteer Opportunities

Although CareFest ends October 31, St. Pete residents are encouraged to give back to their community all year. The City's Involved Citizens Active in Neighborhoods (ICAN) program partners with City departments and local nonprofit organizations to guide residents interested in volunteering. ICAN promotes City initiatives while offering residents access to volunteer opportunities through community partners. For more information and to view the volunteer sign-up form, please visit: <https://www.stpete.org/residents/community/volunteer.php>.



## Utility Assistance Program

Participating in the Utility Assistance Program is another great way to give back year-round. The program allows St. Pete utility customers to make easy, automatic donations through their utility bills to help others experiencing financial hardships. As of FY 2022, the City received around \$14,000 from 370 donors participating in the utility assistance program. The assistance program has three donation options:

1. Round up your monthly bill to the nearest dollar and donate the difference.
2. One-time donations of any amount.
3. Monthly donations of any amount.

Donated funds are distributed through a network of social service agencies, and donations may be tax-deductible. Learn more, and sign up for the Utility Assistance Program at [stpete.org/utility\\_assistance\\_program](http://stpete.org/utility_assistance_program).

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas!

Lisset Hanewicz  
Council Member, District 4  
Email: [Lisset.Hanewicz@stpete.org](mailto:Lisset.Hanewicz@stpete.org)  
Legislative Aide: [Jayne.Ohlman@stpete.org](mailto:Jayne.Ohlman@stpete.org)  
Phone: (727) 893-7232



### Neighborhood Events:

#### Annual Halloween Block Party

Saturday, October 28, 2022  
5:00pm to 7:00pm  
7th St between 25th Ave N and 26th Ave N  
Sponsored by: Jenny Roche, 813-767-9772  
[www.homesaroundstpetersburg.com](http://www.homesaroundstpetersburg.com)

#### Neighborhood Meeting and Board Elections

Monday, November 6, 2023  
6:30pm – 8:00 pm  
Location: Blush Tea and Coffee  
2382 Dr. MLK Jr St

#### Lights in the Heights Holiday Party

Saturday, December 9, 2022  
5:00pm to 9:00pm  
8th Street, between 25th Ave N & 26th Ave N  
Mark your calendars!! More details to come.  
Sponsored by: Leah Herzwurm, 706-910-9909  
[herzwurmhomes.com](http://herzwurmhomes.com)

**Porch Parties and Family Events:** TBA  
details will be announced in upcoming emails. Interested in hosting a Porch Party? Contact Amy Youngs for information at 813-300-4504

### Events Around Town:

#### Bucs Beach Bash

Live music, contests, kidszone, watch party  
Sept 8-10, Tradewinds, St. Pete Beach  
[tradewindsresort.com/offers/beachbash](http://tradewindsresort.com/offers/beachbash)

#### One Step Closer 5K

To benefit Celma Mastry Ovarian Cancer Foundation  
Saturday, Sept 9th; 7:30am - 10am  
Albert Whitted Park

#### Ringo Starr & His All-Starr Band

Tuesday, September 26th; 7pm  
The Sound at Coachman Park

#### Inaugural Oktoberfest Beer Festival

Saturday October 14th; 11am - 5pm  
Albert Whitted Park

#### 40th International Shuffleboard

**World Championship**  
Saturday 10/22 to Friday 10/27.  
559 Mirror Lake Drive N.  
[stpeteshuffle.com](http://stpeteshuffle.com), 727-822-2083  
Admission free to watch

#### The Indie Flea

Every 1st Sunday, November thru April;  
12 - 4pm  
SPACE, 855 28th Street S.  
[theindieflea.com](http://theindieflea.com)

#### Coastal Comedy Night with Sam Miller

November 17th; 7 - 10:30pm  
Coastal Creative, 2201 1st Ave S  
[coastalcreativetv.com/events](http://coastalcreativetv.com/events)

### Calida Kitchen and Wine - Travel-Inspired Cuisine is Just Around the Corner

This past summer, a new 25-seat restaurant opened on the corner of 29th Ave N and MLK. Calida is a cozy new neighborhood spot and the brainchild of Dayna Bennett and Chef Ian Florence. The name Calida is an amalgam of California and Florida, Dayna and Ian's respective home states. Dayna explains, "We looked it up and it means most beautiful in Greek, warm in Spanish, fiery in Latin. So it was perfect!"

The menu, wine and decor are based on Dayna and Ian's many travels around the world, and Chef Ian sources all the products himself, centering on fresh local ingredients and using them in world cuisine-inspired flavors. "We didn't want it to feel like your typical restaurant, we wanted it to feel more like having a dinner party at a friend's house," says Dayna. "Or like you stumbled into an amazing little hole in the wall while traveling...Our favorite places around the world have always been small, family-run spaces. We also really wanted a neighborhood spot and we absolutely love the neighborhood we are in!"



Chef Ian Florence and Dayna Bennett

Calida is currently open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Upcoming plans include holding seasonal Sunday wine dinners towards the end of this year, and Wednesday seatings in 2024.

For reservations, please email  
[info@calidastpete.com](mailto:info@calidastpete.com)

by Jennifer Ingrassia  
Photos by Dante Ingrassia



Calida dining room