



CHNA

Newsletter

Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Winter Edition 2024
December • January • February

*Light up the
New Year!*

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 are 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
Amy Kelso
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.

President: Amy Kelso (incoming 2024)
crescentheights.president@gmail.com

Vice President: Bebe Ocano
chnavicepresident@gmail.com

Treasurer: John Sullivan (incoming 2024)
chnatreasure@gmail.com

Secretary: Rob Asselin
secretary.chna@gmail.com

Membership: Ziba Mohammadi
membership.chna.ziba@gmail.com

Events Director: Amy Youngs
events.chna@gmail.com

Past President: Salvador Valles

Leads and Chairs

Traffic and Parking Lead: Jeff Craft
parkingtrafficchna@gmail.com

Book Club: Group 1
Joanne Beckman
ejbeckman@comcast.net

Group 2
Melinda Borthick & Sharon Dubble
chreads@gmail.com

Social Media Manager: Amy Kelso
askelso41@yahoo.com

Website Editor: Brian Merrill
chna.website@gmail.com

Public Information Coordinator:
 Laura Lorenzen

Newsletter Team

Editor: Sara Howe (incoming 2024)
editor.chna@gmail.com

Design Layout: Wendy Smith
partypro.wendy@gmail.com

Delivery: Bob Lehner
delivery.chna@gmail.com

Contributors: Sharon Dubble, Bill Richkus, Jennifer Vogtner, Salvador Valles, Amy Kelso, Joanne Beckman & John Ficken

CHNA Merchandise

Show off your Neighborhood Pride Merchandise details at mychna.org. Contact chnatreasure@gmail.com for merchandise sales. We accept PayPal.



FOCUSING ON CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Neuropathy Fibromyalgia
 Back Pain Knee Pain
 Sciatica Arthritis

STPAIM.COM 727-235-0435

Tropicana Field Redevelopment (Historic Gas Plant)

In my final message to the neighborhood as President, I would like to provide an update to the meeting we had with Brian Caper, Director of Economic & Workforce Development, who came to speak to the neighborhood earlier this year about the Tropicana Field Redevelopment project. The Mayor's selection of the RFP is only a first step in an approval process that will require a vote by City Council as it reviews the terms of the agreement, the community benefits, and financing proposals for the new stadium. City Council was provided the first look at the terms for the new deal at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

Having worked in city government in both finance and community development, it has been my experience that the most informative discussions about these types of deals happen early in the process during committee meetings when the community is less engaged. Because this proposal will have greater financial impacts on the City's finances and future budgets than just the \$287.5 million that is presented as the City's share of the funding for the stadium, it is important for each of us to stay informed about this project so that we can all make our own judgements about the value of subsidizing the stadium with tax dollars. For example, in addition to the \$287.5 million contribution to the stadium, the City will also issue bonds for \$130 million in infrastructure, and will act as the issuer of the bonds for the County's \$312.5 million dollar contribution.

Council member Lisset Hanewicz provided an update at our November 6th meeting regarding the recent Committee of the Whole meeting, where the Term Sheets and Bond/Financing Plan were presented. During the presentation, two council members raised concerns with the proposed financing, property tax payments, land valuation, and the impacts these terms could have on future city budgets and the City's bond rating. Other costs such as the payment of document stamps and the cap the Rays would get for traffic management/police costs during games (requiring the City to pay the excess) add costs to the City's budget. The good thing is that the proposal is still in the review process. The slides from the presentation and an outline of the future project agreements are available on the City's Committee of the Whole website. We have also added to our association website (crescentheightsneighborhood.com) the slides and terms broken down into separate sections to make finding information easier.

2024 Board of Directors

Congratulations to the 2024 board members! Amy Kelso was elected as our new president and John Sullivan as our new treasurer. Bebe Ocano returns as Vice President, Rob Asselin returns as Secretary, Amy Youngs returns as Events Director, and Ziba Mohammadi returns as Membership Director.



I want to extend a very special thank you to Bill Richkus for his service as Treasurer. Bill served four years as Treasurer and has also contributed to the newsletter each quarter with his Nature Watch column. We look forward to continuing to see Bill's contributions to the newsletter. Thank you, Bill! I also want to thank Jennifer Vogtner for her valuable service as the newsletter editor for the last two years. Jennifer has been a delight to work with and has added tremendous value to the newsletter. Sara Howe will be succeeding Jennifer as newsletter editor, Wendy Smith will continue laying out the newsletter and Brian Merrill will continue as our website administrator.

2024 President - Amy Kelso

Amy Kelso and her husband Kevin Kelso built their home in Crescent Heights in 2015, moving from Snell Isle where they lived for 25 years. The Kelsos joined CHNA even before the home was completed, and Amy became involved immediately, helping the Traffic Committee and then serving as Membership Chairperson from 2016- 2018. Amy currently manages the association's Facebook page, helping to keep us all up to date. Kevin and Amy say they met more people and felt more at home in the first six months in Crescent Heights than in all those years on Snell Isle. Their love for this community has only grown deeper over these last eight years.



President - Amy Kelso and Treasurer - John Sullivan



Check out my new listing at
9508 Windy Ridge Rd
in Windermere Florida for
\$30,000,000

**I am dedicated to
serving you
with listings
from \$30,000
to \$30,000,000**

Are you seeking a trusted **Luxury Pro Agent** who is your neighbor?

Discover these free services

- ▶ **Free** home market analysis
- ▶ **Free** home price consultation
- ▶ **Free** agreement cancellation
- ▶ **Expert guidance** to unlock your home's potential before listing
- ▶ **Gain access** to my network of trusted contractors and lenders

*Make it
Happen!*

Call Ziba
727-410-0391
zibam@kw.com
Visit ZIBAM.US



BOOK NOOK



Book Nook

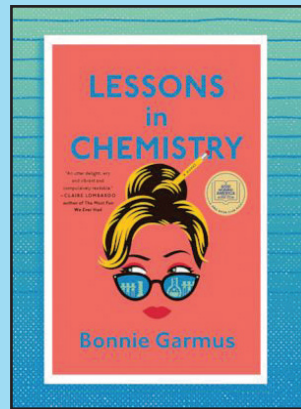
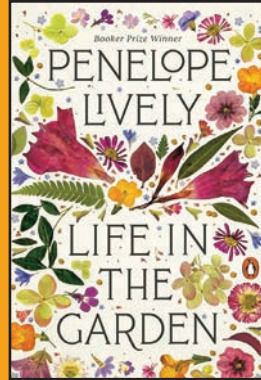
The CHNA Book Club has been wildly successful! As a result, we now have two Book Groups, each with its own distinct membership.

In December, both groups will have a celebratory potluck party with a major goal: each group selects the books to be read in 2024 from a list of suggestions submitted by its members. The discussion can be quite lively in an effort to determine the final selections!

Book Group 1 meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:00 PM
Leader: Joanne Beckman
Contact: ejbeckman@comcast.net

Life in the Garden by Penelope Lively January 2024

From the courtyards of her childhood home in Cairo to a family cottage in Somerset, to her own gardens in Oxford and London, Lively conducts an expert tour, taking us from Eden to Sissinghurst and into her own backyard, traversing the lives of writers like Virginia Woolf and Philip Larkin while imparting her own sly and spare wisdom.



Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus February 2024

It's the early 1960s, and chemist Elizabeth Zott's all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality with the exception of Calvin Evans - the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with her mind. A few years later, Elizabeth finds herself a single mother and the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, where she isn't just teaching women to cook, she's daring them to change the status quo.

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

The Pull of the Stars by Emma Donoghue January 2024

In an Ireland ravaged by war and disease, Julia Power works as a nurse in an understaffed hospital where expectant mothers who have contracted a terrible new flu are quarantined together. Two outsiders step in to help: Dr. Kathleen Lynn, a rumored rebel on the run from the police; and Birdie Sweeney, a young volunteer. Over the course of three days, these women change each other's lives in unexpected ways.



SEE WHAT'S SELLING IN A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU

Scan the code to view our NEW guide to Downtown Neighborhoods



OLD NORTHEAST
Bordering Coffee Pot Bayou, Tampa Bay, and Downtown St. Petersburg, Historic Old Northeast is the perfect blend of historic suburban charm, urban accessibility, and Sunshine City waterfront life.

UNDER CONTRACT

JENNY ROCHE
727.308.3330
JROCHE@REMAX.NET
RE/MAX REALTY UNLIMITED

FOR SALE
JENNY ROCHE
727.308.3330
JROCHE@REMAX.NET
RE/MAX REALTY UNLIMITED

DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG NEIGHBORHOODS
HOMESAROUNDSTPETERSBURG.COM

SOLD

YOUR HOME. OUR PRIORITY.
"Never too busy for referrals!" - JENNY ROCHE

CLHMS

Vote-by-Mail Ballot • by Salvador Valles

Did you vote by mail in the last election? Under the new law (SB 90) passed by the legislature and signed by the governor in 2021, you need to submit a new request for a vote-by-mail ballot for the 2024 elections. According to a Tampa Bay Times article on July 22, 2023, fewer Tampa Bay residents who voted by mail in 2022 are signed up to get a mail in ballot in 2024. The new law requires that vote-by-mail requests last for two years instead of four. All existing vote-by-mail request were voided after the 2022 election. If you voted by mail in 2022 and provided the required information on your certificate envelope, your mail ballot request should have been renewed. Otherwise, your mail ballot requests will have expired on December 31, 2022.

You can check the status of your vote-by-mail ballot request or make a new mail ballot request at the following links on the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections website.

Status: www.votepinellas.gov/checkmymailballotstatus

New Request: www.votepinellas.gov/VoteByMail

In addition to the above website link to request a vote-by-mail ballot, you can also request a vote-by-mail ballot by 1) calling the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office at (727) 464-VOTE (8683), or 2) by sending an email to MailBallot@VotePinellas.gov



Mail ballot requests must include the following information:

- Name
- Residential Address
- Mailing Address, if different
- Date of Birth
- Florida DL/ID number or last 4 digits of Social Security number (this must match what the Supervisor of Elections office has on file for you)
- Daytime Phone Number



Owner/ Paramedical Esthetician
Master Permanent
Cosmetic Artist

BlushTM Beauty Center



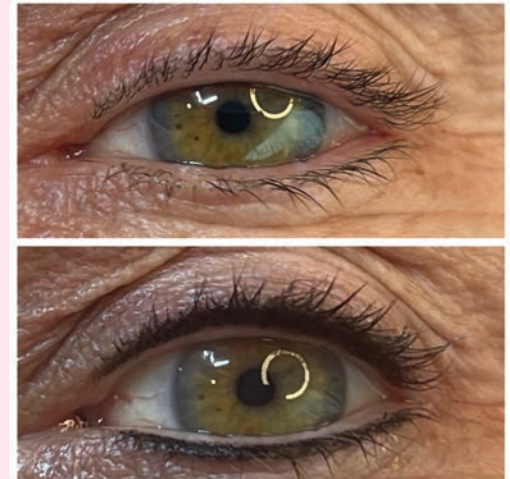
- Medical Skincare**
- Permanent Cosmetics**
- Anti-Aging Treatments**
- Eyelash & Eyebrow Services**
- Acne Treatments**
- New Facial Waxing**
- Retail Boutique**



Microneedling RF



Microblade Eyebrows



Permanent Eyeliner

 **(727)343-5772**

www.ColorMeBlush.com

2200 49th St N.
St Petersburg, FL 33710



\$50 OFF

**Any Permanent
Cosmetics
Service**

Exp 2/01/24



\$100 OFF

**Any Microneedling
Treatment**

Exp 2/01/24

Congratulations to Margaret Pruitt Happy Birthday !

Margaret Pruitt, who has lived in Crescent Heights for more than 60 years, celebrates her 102 birthday with a proclamation from City Council Member Lissett Hanewicz. To see the full proclamation visit the CHNA website.”



CHNA President Salvador Valles, Council Member Lissett Hanewicz, Margaret Pruitt and Elizabeth Caswell

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 or text 727-430-1204.

Thank you!
Art Shaul, founder & director - Safe Paws Rescue

We are pleased to introduce Sara Howe as CHNA Newsletter's new editor beginning in 2024!

Sara moved to Crescent Heights in 2022 with her husband, Griffin, and pup, Wally. She is a marketing, communications and fundraising professional who has worked in the nonprofit sector for 13 years. Originally from Indiana, Sara knew St. Pete was the place for her with its natural beauty, lively music scene and local restaurants. She looks forward to getting to know more of her neighbors, and would love to hear your story ideas at editor.chna@gmail.com.



A Historian in our Midst • by Amy Kelso

Meet Charles Dew, Ephraim Williams Professor of American History Emeritus at Williams College in Massachusetts, and resident of Crescent Heights. This delightful gentleman is not entirely new to St. Pete, as he was born at St. Anthony's Hospital and grew up on 25th Avenue, just east of 4th Street. He left St. Petersburg to attend Woodberry Forest School in Virginia, then Williams College. He completed his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University. Recently married to Karen Chassin, Charles loves walking in our beautiful neighborhood and penning Op-Eds for the Tampa Bay Times.

Charles is proud of having received the Key to the City of St. Petersburg from then-mayor Rick Kriseman in 2016. It was awarded when Charles spoke locally on the publication of his memoir “The Making of a Racist: A Southerner Reflects on Family, History, and the Slave Trade,” which chronicles his years growing up in St. Petersburg during the Jim Crow era and what led him to become a historian of the American South. In retirement, Charles writes and speaks on the importance of bearing witness to the complex history of race in America and the value of vocal white allies in the fight for racial equity.

Charles has many stories to tell about growing up right here in our immediate area. We look forward to future contributions from Charles in our Crescent Heights newsletter.

Welcome, Charles!





LOOKING FOR AN AGENT?

Bebe Ocana
I'll help you sell your home.

727-946-0567 bebeocano@gmail.com



Pinellas County Nonprofit Assessment 2023 by Amy Kelso

Crescent Heights residents Dr. Phil Trocchia, professor of marketing at the USF Muma College of Business and director of the Customer Experience Laboratory on USF's St. Petersburg campus, and Karen Chassin, executive director emeritus of the St. Petersburg Foundation, recently unveiled the results of an extensive survey they co-authored on the state of nonprofit organizations in Pinellas County.

Nonprofit organizations play a particularly vital role in Pinellas County, where 36% of households live paycheck to paycheck. And surprisingly, nonprofit organizations employ more Florida residents than the manufacturing sector, making it an important economic driver beyond the services it provides.

The assessment gathered data from nonprofit leaders, which will help policy makers, donors, and local funders such as the Pinellas Community Foundation and the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg to support the sector's organizational and fiscal needs.

Here are a few highlights from the report. To view it in its entirety, visit stpete.foundation/survey

- More than 80% of the participating nonprofits said that their boards were “definitely” or “mostly” helpful with fundraising. Almost universally, respondents said that their boards contribute valuable financial resources through their service.
- The majority of organizations felt optimistic about their ability to grow - nearly 70%.
- However, only half the organizations met their fundraising goals over the past three years.
- The rising cost of real estate in Tampa Bay is a problem for nonprofits. From office space to warehouse capacity, to property on which to build affordable housing, organizations report that the cost to rent or purchase property is constraining their activity and capacity to fulfill missions.
- Likewise, inflationary pressure is affecting the cost of goods, services, salaries, facilities maintenance and repair, and the availability and affordability of virtually every aspect of their work.
- The top two most frequently cited challenges were talent concerns, including the ability to pay competitive wages, and the ability to keep up with ever-increasing demand for services.
- The top three needs of organizations to grow and increase their capacity were: unrestricted funding; the ability to increase staffing to meet capacity; and better marketing and communications.
- In spite of talent concerns for the future, more than 50% of organizations “strongly” or “somewhat” agreed with the statement that they are currently able to attract and retain the talent they need on their boards and on their staff.



- Climate-Controlled
- Indoor Units
- Document Shredding
- Electronic Keypad Access
- Moving & Packing Supplies
- Reservations Center 7 Days/week
- Automatic Bill Pay
- Online Payments
- Surveillance Cameras

(727) 894-3303

898 30th Ave N, St Petersburg, FL 33704

Mention this Ad for a Special Discount!

**Lakes are the SoUL
of our City**

SoUL (Save Our Urban Lakes) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to demonstrate and educate the public on the proven benefits of guiding volunteers on the enhancement and improvement of urban lakes. These benefits include restoring habitat wetlands and reducing litter and trash. **SoUL** conducts frequent cleanups and planting projects at several lakes in St. Petersburg. Join us for our next Crescent Lake clean up on Saturday December 16. We meet at 9am at the **Tasco parking lot (1320 5th St North, St Pete, 33701)**. Go to soulinc.org/get-involved for more information and upcoming cleanup dates.

by John Ficken



JTS TAX SERVICE

860 24th Ave North

727-824-5601 Cell 813-361-4328

Email: Msswess@earthlink.net

Owned and Operated by Stephanie Pitts

What's New in 2023

- Tax credit up to 7500 for a new electric plug-in or fuel cell vehicle
- Credit up to 4000 on a previously owned qualified electric vehicle
- Tax credit up to 1200 for energy efficient home improvements

Alert: Look for Form 1099-K which shows gross payments for services thru Paypal Venmo Cash App Zelle Amazon ebay and Etsy (includes ticket resellers)

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

FIRST SIGHT
eye care

YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD
EYE DOCTOR



Dr. Amanda Geary



Come Visit Us!

727-592-2000

2126 1st Ave S,
St. Pete, FL 33712

the art of eyecare

I think it is wonderful that our neighborhood has such a wide variety of habitats that we wind up sharing our yards with all kinds of wildlife. Living in proximity to all these creatures means that, inevitably, we will have encounters with them. The most common encounters are simply crossing paths. Walk along any street in the neighborhood and you will see blue jays and mockingbirds flitting amongst the trees and across the roads. Look up and you will likely see both mourning doves and ring-necked doves perched on the power lines, frequently cooing their little hearts out. I have even been surprised on a few occasions to see a dove rising from the ground with white and black color on its wings: a white-winged dove! On the ground, one can see untold numbers of squirrels going about their business on one side of the street before rushing to do the same on the other side. Right now, with acorns falling from our backyard oak tree, the squirrels are scouring the patio and lawn, then driving us crazy by attempting to bury their precious acorns in our plant pots and vegetable planters, devastating lots of our plants.

Less often encountered are those non-human residents that are nocturnal. Our security camera in the backyard has captured roof (aka fruit) rats scurrying along the top of our fence, and a fat possum carefully balancing itself as it walks the same fence. The appearance of raccoons as well as possums in many backyards is a fairly frequent phenomenon, as people ponder where they may be spending their daylight hours (in the attic?). The occasional appearance of a coyote on a Crescent Heights street is invariably reported with great trepidation on NextDoor, where neighbors are warned to keep their pets close.

I seem to recall there was one account of a cat being attacked our own street, 29th Ave. And I really do wonder where a full grown coyote can hide out during the day in or near our neighborhood.



Encounters more intimate than simply crossing paths are common. How often have you seen postings of someone finding a baby squirrel or flightless young bird in their yard, with a plea as to where to report it or what to do with it? St. Petersburg Audubon Society has information on what to do and who you can contact to deal with a found creature in distress at stpeteaudubon.org/help-injured-wildlife. I was stunned several years ago when my neighbor Deana said she had found a baby flying squirrel in her backyard; who knew flying squirrels resided in Crescent Heights! Some creature encounters are those you may want to avoid. Seeing the normally nocturnal raccoon or possum wandering in your yard during the daytime should make one wary. Even a squirrel that approaches you rather than scampering away might induce some caution. Animals that may be ill or injured in some way can exhibit such unusual behavior and could represent a threat of harm.

Sharon and I have had several humorous close encounters with some wild residents of our backyard. Recently I was clearing leaves from our patio when something fell on my head from the pergola, which is covered with a thick mass of jasmine vines. Assuming it was a piece of vegetation, I glanced at the ground where it fell to see a beautiful small snake, about 8 inches long, its light-colored body covered with black and brown splotches. I recognized it as a juvenile black racer snake, my recognition based on one of the more interesting posts to be found on NextDoor.

I've frequently seen adult black racers in the yard, with only fleeting glimpses as their almost iridescent black bodies zoomed past me.



The real hilarity arises when one of us spots an anole that has somehow found its way into the house. Neither Sharon nor I want to harm one of these cute little lizards. What a circus to see two adults climbing on furniture, or crouching on knees with a magazine or cushion, attempting to herd one of these incredibly fast little guys to an open door. Their rapid but intermittent movements make them difficult to herd, so our efforts are sometimes thwarted. One anole escaped behind the big screen TV, only to be seen later that evening, perched atop the remote on the end table, eyeing Sharon suspiciously. We did eventually get this critter out the front door.

An even greater challenge arises when one of the tiny cricket frogs manages to get into the house. These little guys, about a half inch in size, can jump about 10 inches and have nearly 360-degree vision, meaning that they can see danger coming from any direction. They are also very delicate in structure, and thus susceptible to physical damage. Alas, our success with re-wilding invading cricket frogs has not been great. But it is important to us to make every effort to avoid doing harm to all the wonderful wildlife neighbors that enhance our lives in Crescent Heights!



You are *exceptional*.
Your real estate agent should be too.



What Our Clients Are Saying

“What can we say! Leah exceeded all our expectations and more. We would consider ourselves real estate veterans in terms of houses bought and sold as we’ve had MANY. Leah was by far the most creative, energetic and professional agent we have ever worked with. Her attention to detail, her approach to showcasing the home and her delivery via social media channels/ neighborhood canvassing are clearly difference makers. In addition, her communicative approach to the process of keeping us informed and abreast of every issue during each phase of the process was truly exceptional.

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.

435+
families helped

\$195M+
career volume closed



HERZWORM HOMES

Leah Herzworm

706.910.9909

leah@herzwurmhomes.com

@herzwurm_homes

Herzwurm Homes is a team of real estate agents affiliated with Compass, a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws.



Locally Roasted Coffee
 100+ Loose Leaf Teas
 Locally Crafted Beer
 Great Selection of Wine
 Try our NEW Lunch!

Follow us to stay up to date with
 our upcoming changes
 @blushteaandcoffeestpete

2382 Dr M.L.K. Jr St N, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Mon: CLOSED Fri: 7am-7pm
 Tues: 7am-5pm Sat: 8am-7pm
 Wed: 7am-5pm Sun: 8am-3pm
 Thurs: 7am-5pm Bar Hours: 3pm-7pm (Friday & Sat)

Small Business Spotlight: Lori Bishop, Owner of Blush Tea and Coffee • by Amy Kelso

In 2016, after more than 20 years working for corporate America, Crescent Heights resident Lori Bishop felt ready for a change. Lori loved coffee and coffee bars. One of her daughters loved tea shops. Struggling to find an establishment that could satisfy both, they decided to create their own unique business.

It is said that a goal without a plan is a dream, and plan Lori did to make her dream a reality. Lori had always enjoyed throwing parties and entertaining, but she had never owned a business, didn't know how to work an espresso machine, and knew little about tea. She began her research by going to coffee bars and observing their operations. She traveled to her hometown of Portland, Oregon, to learn about tea, and while there, she met her first distributor. Lori also enrolled in the St. Pete Chamber of Commerce's Entrepreneurial Academy®, took business classes, and worked on the business plan and design for her shop. She surrounded herself with knowledgeable associates and friends who mentored her along the way. In the meantime, Lori kept working at her corporate job. Upon retiring, she found the perfect space at MLK and 23rd Ave N., and Blush Tea and Coffee became a reality.

The location is exactly what Lori wanted: a site with several outstanding neighborhoods nearby, including her own. Lori feels it is important to be neighborly and for Blush to be a safe space where all are welcome. She is also a supporter of community art, with a rotation of local artists' work on display

in the shop. Only a year after opening, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and Lori realized her business would need to pivot. Lori organized outdoor markets in the space in front of Blush and the neighboring business, Designers' Consigner. Local artisans were invited to sell their merchandise for only a small \$25 fee, which was paid directly to a local musician invited to play at the market. In addition, all donated products were raffled off with proceeds benefiting Reach St. Pete, a nonprofit that provides free resources aiming to serve those experiencing homelessness, low-income, and at-risk situations. Lori continues to organize support for Reach St. Pete, including an upcoming Toy Drive.

Earlier in 2023, Blush Tea and Coffee expanded into the space available next door and added a craft beer and wine bar to their offerings. A lunch menu with homemade soups and sandwiches was added as well. Lori credits her kitchen manager and staff with great ideas and says, "Young people can teach you a lot!"

Visit Blush Tea and Coffee Tuesday through Sunday for breakfast, lunch, craft beer and wine, and of course, tea and locally-sourced coffee. Please consult their socials or blushteaandcoffee.com for current hours and monthly specials. Everything is homemade and of high quality, served in a welcoming, lovely space.



AT
2131 4th St N, St. Petersburg, FL 33704



EINSTEIN BAGELS

**NOW
OPEN**

2131 4TH ST N ST
PETERSBURG FL 33704



Zombie Halloween Block Party



See all the Halloween photos on our website;
Block party photos by: John Ficken

Neighborhood decoration photos by:
Joanne Beckman

Neighborhood Events:

Lights in the Heights Holiday Party

Saturday, Dec 9, 2023 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Mark your calendars!!

8th Street, between 25th Ave N & 26th Ave N
Ugliest Sweater Contest - Holiday Crafts
Grazing Table, Hot Chocolate Bar, Smores
BYOB & Dessert to share
Special Visit from SANTA! • Reindeer Food

Donations for St. Pete Free Clinic
stpetersburgfreeclinic.org/support-program-needs/

Holiday House Decorating Contest
Judging will take place on Thursday, Dec 7th
Winner will be announced at 6:30 p.m. during
Lights in the Heights
Sponsored by: Leah Herzwurm, 706-910-9909
herzwurmhomes.com

Porch Parties and Family Events

Details will be announced in upcoming emails
Interested in hosting a Porch Party? Contact
Amy Youngs at 813-300-4504 for information.

Events Around Town:

Vintage Marche'

Saturday, December 2, 2023
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, December 3, 2023
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
2906 34th St. So.

Snowfest St. Pete

December 2, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
North Straub Park

Santa in the Park

Dec 9-10, Dec 15-23, 6 - 9 p.m.
North Straub Park

Christmas Movies in the Park

Home Alone 2
December 9, Sat, 6 p.m.
Crescent Lake Park

Imagine Museum - Sunset Market

Sunday Dec 1 and Dec 15, 5 pm
1901 Central Ave

Chase the Dreidel - 5K

Sunday Dec 1 and Dec 15, 2023
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
300 58th St. N
Check out this race! <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/FL/SaintPetersburg/ChasetheDreidel>

Rise Up St. Pete Concert Series

Beginning December 1st
Spa Beach, 615 2nd Ave NE
riseupstpete.com

Enchant St. Petersburg

Through December 31st
Tropicana Field, 1 Tropicana Dr.
enchantchristmas.com

Holiday Pops

December 16th, Sat, 2-6 p.m.
Duke Energy Center for the Arts
Mahaffey Theater, 400 1st St S

Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet

December 30th, Sat, 12-4 p.m.
Bill Edwards Foundation for the Arts,
400 1st St S

New Year's Eve at St. Pete Pier

Family-friendly activities and fireworks
December 31; 6 p.m.- Midnight
The Pier, 600 2nd Ave NE

GASPAR! The Musical

January 7th, Sunday, 3 p.m.
Palladium Theater St. Petersburg,
253 5th Ave N

St. Pete Comic Con 2024

Jan 6-7, 2024
The Coliseum, 535 4th Ave N

Sunshine Comedy Festival 2024

Jan 11-14, 2024
Coastal Creative, 2201 1st Ave S

St. Pete Bacon and BBQ Festival 2024

Jan 13-14, 2024
Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Dr NE

St. Petersburg Power and Sailboat Show

Jan 18-21, 2024
Duke Energy Center for the Arts - Mahaffey
Theater, 400 1st St S

St Petersburg Fine Art Festival

Feb 10-11, 2024
South Straub Park, 198 Bayshore Dr NE

St. Petersburg Seafood & Music Festival

Feb 23-25, 2024
Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Dr NE

Cirque du Soleil: Bazaar

February 23rd, Sun, 1:00-5:30 p.m.
Tropicana Field, 1 Tropicana Dr.

Listening Room Festival 2024

Feb 28-Mar 4, 2024
Palladium Theater St. Petersburg,
253 5th Ave N

Lights in the Heights
December 9, 2023

6pm - 9pm
8th Street - Between 25th & 26th Ave

Thank You to Our Neighbor and Sponsor

Leah Herzwurm
Top 1% of Pinellas County REALTORS®
leah@herzwurmhomes.com
@herzwurm_homes
herzwurmhomes.com
706.910.9909

