



# CHNA Mew Stetter

Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Your Membership Builds Strong Neighborhood Bonds! Porch Parties • Neighborhood Meet-ups • Book Clubs • Block Parties







Book Club #1









Book Club #2

















#### Support Crescent Heights by becoming a CHNA member today!

Attention all homeowners and renters in Crescent Heights! Everyone who calls this wonderful neighborhood home can help sustain its natural beauty, livelihood and sense of community by becoming a member of the Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA).

For \$25 a year, you can take delight in knowing your contributions will help foster a safe, vibrant and engaging place to live for people from all walks and stages of life.

As a member, you'll receive exclusive invitations to special neighborhood events such as porch parties, family-friendly celebrations and business socials. You'll also be the first to know about important neighborhood and city news and have chances to meet local leaders and vote on critical issues that impact Crescent Heights.

Join online at crescentheightsneighborhood.com, or bring cash or check made payable to CHNA to any neighborhood meeting or event. We accept PayPal and additional donations. Questions about CHNA Membership? Contact Ziba Mohammadi, membership chair, at membership.chna.ziba@gmail.com

#### Stay in the know! Subscribe to CHNA emails.

Each month, CHNA emails subscribers important information about neighborhood news, happenings and events. If you are not currently receiving these monthly updates and would like to, please contact Laura Lorenzen at lauraliam5@gmail.com or text 813-431-0478.

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.

#### Important Contact Information

#### CHNA President Amy Kelso

crescentheights.president@gmail.com

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#### **CHNA Board of Directors**

President: Amy Kelso

crescentheights.president@gmail.com

Vice President: Bebe Ocano chnavicepresident@gmail.com

Treasurer: John Sullivan 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**

Book Club: Group 1

Joanne Beckman

ejbeckman@comcast.net

Group 2

Melinda Borthick & Sharon Dubble chreads@gmail.com

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**Public Information Coordinator:** Laura Lorenzen

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**Contributors:** Joanne Beckman, Sharon Dubble, Sara Howe, Amy Kelso, Bill Richkus and Amy Youngs, Wendy Smith, Jessica Salmond

#### **CHNA** Merchandise

Show off your neighborhood pride with CHNA merchandise! Visit crescentheightsneighborhood.com to shop flags, t-shirts and tote bags.



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

#### President's Corner • Amy Kelso

Do you often wonder why people do the things they do, good or bad? Does it make you shake your head or smile? I've been asked (mostly by those not living in Crescent Heights) why did you agree to be President? Most would smile, but some shake their head when I expressed my love for the neighborhood and our beautiful city. It's my why and I am proud to own it!

So why should you join CHNA or if you are a member already (thanks!) why should you get involved? Our purpose is for the betterment of the neighborhood. Betterment can mean many things and it is through getting to know one another at our events and meetings that we become stronger as a community. Ideas for group activities, such as our Book Clubs, spring from neighbors meeting others with common interests. Our community also includes the businesses on our perimeter within the Crescent Heights geography. When we know our neighbors and support our local businesses, we all benefit and thrive.

Nowhere was this more apparent than at our recent Cinco de Mayo block party. The idea was hatched by our Events Director Amy Youngs back in January. Instead of a summer gathering where we can often be rained out, and with many neighbors traveling in the summertime, Amy's idea was for a spring event. With the success of our Halloween and Lights in the Heights block parties, Amy thought why not go big and add a third one? Around this same time, we were approached by La Segunda and Jenny Roche for sponsorship opportunities. Southbound Tequila was all in as a new brand with a unique way to promote their product. Little Llamas, a Crescent Heights resident-owned business and located in our neighborhood, also wanted in on the festivities. We estimated 175-200 people coming and going during the three-hour event! This turnout was amazing for a firsttime event, even by Crescent Heights standards!



CHNA President Amy Kelso and Events Director Amy Youngs enjoy the neighborhood's festivities for Cinco de Mayo.

There were many activities for the kids, lots of food, margaritas for the adults and even a local Mariachi Band! Many thanks to the CHNA volunteers who helped us out that day!

Even with the event sponsorships, your CHNA dues funded about a third of the cost of our Cinco de Mayo celebration, which is typical for our other events as well. Liability Insurance alone is \$300 for the day for these block parties. We continue to be grateful for your support which allows us to continue having these events.

#### So what's next?

We are forming an Events Committee so that ideas and involvement from more neighbors can contribute to our Halloween and Lights in the Heights events. A few folks have already joined in, so if you are interested, too, please let me know at crescentheights.president@gmail.com or Amy Youngs at amyyoungs1981@gmail.com.

Additional social meet-ups are also in the works, such as our CHNA social at Golden Isles Brewing where 25 people shared some brews and conversation on a beautiful April afternoon.

For our next Membership meeting on June 3, there will be time to learn about other interest groups that you would like to form. Please bring your great ideas – but not before 6:30 p.m. please! Blush Tea and Coffee (another Crescent Heights-owned business) is not open on Mondays and cannot accommodate us earlier than 6:30 p.m. when refreshments are ready. We hope to see you there!

Contact Rae Madson if interested in forming a card group at; rmadson77@gmail.com



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**Book Group 1** meets on the 4th Tuesday of each

month from 7:00-9:00 PM Leader: Joanne Beckman

Contact: ejbeckman@comcast.net

No meetings during the months of June & July



Thanks to the neighborhood's great interest in CHNA's Book Club, we now have two Book Groups, each with its own distinct membership.



The Best of Enemies by Osha Gray Davidson June 2024

C. P. Ellis grew up in the poor White section of Durham, North Carolina, and as a young man joined the Ku Klux Klan. Ann Atwater, a single mother from the poor Black part of town, quit her job as a household domestic to join the civil rights fight. Rich with details about the rhythms of daily life in the mid-20th-century South, the book offers a vivid portrait of a relationship that defied all odds.



On April 23, the CHNA #1 Book Club discussed The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See. The following week, five of us drank delicious tea at the Noisy Crane Tea House on 2340 1st Ave S for a recap of the book by tea master KC as we sampled some Puer/Pu-erh/Pu'er tea mentioned in the book along with other teas.

From left around the table; Susan Allen, Joanne Beckman, Jessica Tomlinson, Maureen Camphire and Pat Wood

By Joanne Beckman

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

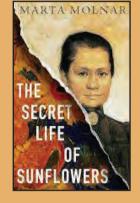
No meeting during the month of August

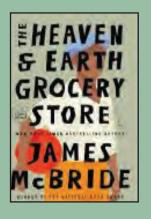
## The Secret Life of Sunflowers

by Dana Marton writing for Marta Molnar **June 2024** 

Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone. But the first surprise is that the diary isn't her grandmother's! It belonged to Johanna Bonger, Vincent Van Gogh's sister-in-law. Johanna inherited Van Gogh's paintings when they weren't worth anything and managed to introduce Van Gogh's legacy to the world. This inspiration couldn't come at a better time for Emsley...

Can she find answers to her present dilemmas in the past?





The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBrideh July 2024

The discovery of a skeleton at the bottom of a well unearthed two long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, PA. Immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. The novel depicts how much the people who live on the margins of society struggle and what they must do to survive. It is a reminder: "Against seemingly impossible odds, even in the midst of humanity's most wicked designs, love, community and action can save us."

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Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association

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#### Neighborhood Updates

#### 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 voteby-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 • Date of Birth • Daytime Phone Number Residential Address • Mailing Address, if different 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)

#### 2024 Residential Land Development Regulations Update

Following the adoption of the City of St. Petersburg's Land Development Regulations in 2007, amendments to the Residential Land Development Regulations were approved in 2017 to further ensure the goals and visions of the plan were being met. Among the approved text amendments were several zoning-district specific design regulations and the establishment of a residential Floor Area Ratio (FAR) limit for new homes within traditional neighborhoods to address concerns surrounding the scale and compatibility of new residential development. The City of St. Petersburg has now initiated an evaluation of these Land Development Regulation amendments to determine the resulting influence on the built environment and provide the opportunity to address additional feedback from residential builders and neighborhood stakeholders. Additional topics to be addressed include residential building design standards, fencing design standards and allowable materials, use of artificial turf, and parking of domestic equipment (boats, trailers) in the front yard.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

June 26: Stakeholder Workshops

Location: Empath Suncoast Hospice South County Community Service Center - 3050 1st Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

September 4 (tentative): Development Review Commission – Workshop

September 12 (tentative): Housing, Land Use and Transportation Committee

September 18: Council of Neighborhood Associations

October 2: Development Review Commission - Public Hearing

November/December: City Council - First and Second Reading/Public Hearing

Helpful resources, including the St. Petersburg Comprehensive Plan, St. Petersburg City Code, Chapter 16, Land Development Regulations, and the Interactive Zoning and Future Land Use Map are available at:

stpete.org/residents/current\_projects/planning\_projects/2024\_ residential\_land\_development\_regulations\_update.php

To submit public comments, please contact: Corey Malyszka, Zoning Official, corey.malyszka@stpete.org Scot Bolyard, Deputy Building Official, scot.bolyard@stpete.org Brandon Evans, Planner II, brandon.evans@stpete.org





Hurricane season is June 1 to Nov. 30

The City of St. Petersburg recommends residents prepare by signing up to receive emergency notifications with Alert Pinellas (Alert St. Pete) at pinellas.gov/alert-pinellas.

Visit floodmaps.pinellas.gov or call 727-453-3150 to learn your hurricane evacuation level and flood risk.

Review Pinellas County's Hurricane Guide at pinellas.gov/ make-a-plan/hurricane-guide.

Find resources from the Florida Division of Emergency Management at floridadisaster.org.

View the latest tropical information from the National Hurricane Center nhc.noaa.gov.

Plan ahead for sandbags at stpete.org/residents/public\_ safety/sandbags.php.

For more information, visit stpeteprepares.com.





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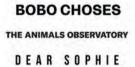
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#### Small Business Spotlight

Little Llamas Boutique

Long before our Crescent Heights neighbors Alison and Jon Brett opened Little Llamas Boutique, Alison was immersed in the world of marine biology, working to protect Florida's diverse marine wildlife. Jon, meanwhile, was providing content creation and digital marketing services for companies in the marine industry as well as competing (and repeatedly winning) notorious fly fishing tournaments.

Alison's path to entrepreneurship took a creative turn in 2010 when she was asked to pick up a camera to document a project for her employer, Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute. Her passion for photography quickly blossomed, and by 2012, she had transitioned from photographing fish for science to capturing the joy and wonder of families and children through her business, Alison Amick Photography.

In 2019, Alison launched Little Llamas Portraits, a studio nestled within the Body Electric building on 30th Ave N. She specialized in children's portraiture, capturing the authentic essence of each child through fun and stress-free candid black-and-white portraiture. Her work quickly gained national recognition, further fueling her entrepreneurial spirit.

Alison's keen eye for detail and ability to capture the unique personalities of her young subjects soon caught the attention of renowned brands like Baby Dove, Pampers, and Marriott. Working alongside elite stylists and editorial teams on these high-profile commercial projects facilitated her passion for children's fashion and sparked an idea.

St. Pete, in all its glory (and 500 pet stores) somehow lacked an outlet for parents to shop for new, quality baby and kids clothing. Alison and Jon's growing desire to create a unique shopping experience led to the opening of Little Llamas Boutique in the summer of 2023. More than just a store, Little Llamas is a reflection of their commitment to sustainability, celebrating individuality, and the joy of childhood. Their carefully curated selection of designer clothing, accessories, and toys for newborns to tweens features designer brands that prioritize ethical production, fair labor practices, and minimal environmental impact.





Each vibrant collection is handpicked, offering items you'd typically find only in fashion-forward cities like Miami or New York. Little Llamas also has plans to feature a small pre-loved section where shoppers can trade in their gently used treasures for store credit.

Alison and Jon invite you to celebrate the first anniversary of Little Llamas Boutique with a special event on June 21. The day will kick off with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, followed by a children's fashion show that's sure to delight.

Little Llamas Boutique is located at 2319 Dr M.L.K. Jr St N. (adjacent to Trip's Diner). Their shop is open 7 days a week, and locals can shop online / pickup in-store at littlellamaschildrensboutique.com or visit Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m and on the weekends from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The boutique also hosts its sister company, Little Llamas Portraits, and private 1:1 in-studio portrait sessions can be scheduled anytime online at littlellamasportraits.com



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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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#### Nature Watch South

#### The Good, The Bad and The Buggy • Bill Richkus

I sometimes think that the Florida Suncoast, within which Saint Petersburg lies, is home to a greater variety of insects than anywhere else in the U.S. that I've lived or visited. Not only might it excel in the number of species present, but it might also be a contender for having the greatest abundance of the least desirable species.

Step out into the yard in the evening anywhere in Crescent Heights during our warm weather and you are likely to be swarmed by the tiny but incredibly fast Asian tiger mosquito (Aedes albopictus). If one of these little gals stays still long enough (only females feed on blood), most likely when it is piercing your skin with its proboscis, you might be able to see the alternating black and white bars on its tiny legs that are the basis for its common name. One of the species' most irritating characteristics is that it is active in the daytime, particularly early morning and late afternoon. Once they've had their meal of blood, females can lay from 40 to 150 eggs about once a week for several weeks, which explains their great abundance I have friends who swear by the efficacy of some of the residential mosquito control companies, but I just can't believe company claims that their insecticide treatments are mosquito specific and of no harm to many of our beneficial insects. I think the best one can do to control mosquito abundance is to limit the places where even tiny amounts of water might be present, since mosquito larvae require water for their survival.

We have another common insect pest whose adverse impacts, unlike those of the mosquitoes, often go unsuspected and unseen. We may not know they are present until damage is of such magnitude that it causes significant financial distress. The West Indian drywood termite (Cryptotermes brevis) is pretty amazing, since it lives and thrives in wood, with no need for moisture beyond what is present in the wood itself. The result is that colonies can expand within a home's wooden structures, unseen by the homeowner until a swarm of winged juveniles suddenly appears on a window sill or piles of what appears to be sawdust (but is in fact termite feces) appear on the floor. One can tell how common this pest is by the frequent appearance of tenting covering neighbors' homes. This fumigation process is the only way to ensure the elimination of this invisible pest.

If you are a gardener, you likely dread the appearance of the beautiful but destructive lubber. This black grasshopper with a yellow or green stripe down its back is very large as an adult, up to 3 inches or so in length. Needless to say, they have to eat a lot to get to that size.



To go out in your yard and see a small shrub covered by a swarm of tens of juveniles is very distressing. All the foliage on a plant can be devoured overnight, and this critter has no major predators and is very resistant to many pesticides. So shaking them into ziplock bags is one of the only effective control mechanisms.

And how about the disturbing presence of a palmetto bug climbing your living room or bathroom wall? I find the name an amusing euphemistic term for what is simply a really large cockroach. But unlike the small cockroach species that are a sign of food or grime in a home, the poor palmetto bug generally has inadvertently gotten into your home instead of finding its way to the mulch or woodpile that is its preferred shelter.

Fortunately, our part of Florida nurtures not only bad and ugly bugs but also a great number of beneficial and beautiful insects. I manage a community garden that is located behind the St. Pete Vineyard Church, located on the corner of 50th Ave N and 10th St. N. Quite a few of the garden members are residents of Crescent Lake and Crescent Heights, and all participate in our

battles to protect our precious vegetable plants from the wide range of garden insect marauders. It was a pleasant change of pace to recently establish a pollinator garden adjacent to the veggies. With the help of Laya, a high school senior serving as a Garden Ambassador for the Keep Pinellas Beautiful organization, the garden was designed, weeded, mulched and planted with a variety of plants attractive to butterflies and beneficial pollinators.

The tall flower stalks of salvia are constantly swarmed by honey bees and bumblebees, including the large black carpenter bee, as well as a number of different butterfly species. I'm amazed at how the milkweed plants have drawn in more monarch butterflies than I have ever



seen at the garden. They are constantly feeding on the flowers, chasing each other around and laying eggs on the plant leaves. The pretty light green caterpillars do defoliate a lot of the plants but the emergence of the black and orange adults makes the damage acceptable. A pipe vine on an adjacent arbor is host to more gross appearing black caterpillars that grow into gorgeous black swallowtail butterflies. I can almost forget about mosquitoes, termites, and politics when I sit next to the pollinator garden and simply observe all the beautiful insect activity. If you would be interested in joining the garden, email me at brichkus@gmail.com.

#### #1 Team in St. Petersburg - 1st Quarter 2024 Over \$25 Million Closed Serving 18 Families









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Mon: CLOSED Fri: 7am-7pm Tues: 7am-5pm Wed: 7am-5pm

Sat: 8am-7pm Sun: 8am-3pm

Thurs: 7am-5pm Bar Hours: 3pm-7pm (Friday & Sat)

# CHNA

#### Calendar of Events

#### Neighborhood Events:

#### **CHNA Neighborhood Meeting**

Monday, June 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Blush Tea and Coffee 2382 Dr. M.L.K. Ir. St. N.

#### Guest speakers:

Officer Martinez report, Trica Smith from the St Pete Library System

#### Save the Dates for Upcoming Neighborhood **Events**

Oct. 26: CHNA Halloween Block Party

Nov. 4: CHNA General Membership meeting at Blush Tea and Coffee

Dec. 7: CHNA Lights in the Heights

#### Interested in hosting a Porch Party?

Contact Amy Youngs, CHNA events director, at events.chna@gmail.com or 813-300-4504.

Contact Rae Madson if interested in forming a card group at; rmadson77@gmail.com

#### Join the CHNA Events Committee!

Want to help make our neighborhood events extra special? To learn how or to get involved, please contact Amy Youngs, CHNA events director, at events.chna@gmail.com or 813-300-4504.

#### What's Up Around Town:

#### Reimagining Nature: Dalí's Floral **Fantasies**

Now through Oct. 20 The Dalí Museum 1 Dalí Blvd. thedali.org

#### **American Stage Presents:**

Hedwig and the Angry Inch Now-June 16 American Stage at 163 Third St. N and Jannus Live at 200 1st Ave N STE 206 americanstage.org/shows/hedwig-at-jannus

#### 2024 St. Pete Pride Kickoff Block Party

2300 & 2400 Blocks of Central Ave stpetepride.org

#### Tampa Bay Rays Pride Game

June 8 Tropicana Field 1 Tropicana Field Drive mlb.com/rays/tickets/specials/themes/ pride

#### The PWRTRC 2024 Juneteenth Music **Festival**

June 15

Albert Whitted Park 480 Bayshore Drive https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thepwrtrc-2024-juneteenth-literacy-musicfestival-tickets-869462474667?aff=odcleo eventsincollection

#### Tampa Bay Rays Dog Day

June 30 Tropicana Field 1 Tropicana Field Drive mlb.com/rays/tickets/specials/themes/ dog-day-june

#### 2024 St. Pete Pride Parade Festival,

presented by CAN Community Health June 22 North & South Straub Parks stpetepride.org

#### The Fourth at the St. Pete Pier

Spa Beach Park & Family Park on the St. Pete Pier 600 2nd Ave NE stpetepier.org/event/the-fourth-st-pete-pier/

#### National Day of the Cowboy & Cowgirl

July 27 The James Museum 150 Central Avenue thejamesmuseum.org/eventarchive/ cowbyday-2024/

#### 13th Annual Great St. Pete Cupcake Contest

Aug. 24 Morean Arts Center 420 22nd St S moreanartscenter.org/cupcakes/



Fill a Truck, Feed a Family Support Daystar Life Center

Saturday, June 8 • 9-11 a.m.

When the final school bell rings and summer vacation begins, many local students will no longer have access to extra meals during typical school hours. Join CHNA as we collect essential pantry items that may otherwise go unused or become expired for school-aged children. You can drop off donations and help fill Daystar's truck on Saturday, June 8, from 9-11 a.m. near the Little Free Library on the corner of 25th Ave. N. and 7th St. N.

We hope to see you there!

La Segunda

# Baking History Day

A Taste of Ybor City in St Pete



La Segunda Bakery & Cafe is a family-owned and-operated business that has been a staple of Ybor City and Tampa Bay extending over 100 years and four generations. Baking history since 1915, La Segunda has built a legacy around original Ybor City culture and mastered the art of blending Cuban, Italian, and Spanish tradition and recipes through their high-quality breads, sandwiches, desserts, and coffee.



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