



Fall Edition 2025

Sept • Oct • Nov

# *newsletter*

**CHNA**

Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter



## Falling For Crescent Heights

**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](http://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 Darleen Asselin, membership chair, at [membership2.chna@gmail.com](mailto:membership2.chna@gmail.com).

**New! Yearly Membership Subscriptions**

We're making it easier than ever to support Crescent Heights. You now have the option to set up your membership as a yearly subscription—no more remembering to renew or worrying about missing a payment.

Simply visit [crescentheightsneighborhood.com](http://crescentheightsneighborhood.com) and click the blue Membership button. Then select "Become a Member – Yearly Subscription." It's quick, easy, and one less thing on your to-do list—while keeping our neighborhood strong all year long!

**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 [lauriam5@gmail.com](mailto:lauriam5@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](mailto:crescentheights.president@gmail.com)**Special Trash Pick-Up**

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**President: Amy Kelso**[crescentheights.president@gmail.com](mailto:crescentheights.president@gmail.com)**Vice President: Bebe Ocano**[chnavicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:chnavicepresident@gmail.com)**Treasurer: John Sullivan**[chnatreasure@gmail.com](mailto:chnatreasure@gmail.com)**Secretary: Nancy Warner**[secretary.chna@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.chna@gmail.com)**Membership: Darleen Asselin**[membership2.chna@gmail.com](mailto:membership2.chna@gmail.com)**Events Director: Amy Youngs**[events.chna@gmail.com](mailto:events.chna@gmail.com)**Communications Director:****Jordan Postma**[communications.chna@gmail.com](mailto:communications.chna@gmail.com)**Past President: Salvador Valles****Leads and Chairs****Book Club: Group 1****Joanne Beckman**[ejbeckman@comcast.net](mailto:ejbeckman@comcast.net)**Group 2****Melinda Borthick & Sharon Dubble**[chreads@gmail.com](mailto:chreads@gmail.com)**Social Media Manager: Amy Kelso**[askelso41@yahoo.com](mailto:askelso41@yahoo.com)**Website Editor: Brian Merrill**[chna.website@gmail.com](mailto:chna.website@gmail.com)**Public Information Coordinator:****Laura Lorenzen**[lauriam5@gmail.com](mailto:lauriam5@gmail.com)**Newsletter Team****Editor: Thomas Paterek**[editor.chna@gmail.com](mailto:editor.chna@gmail.com)**Design Layout: Jordan Postma**[communications.chna@gmail.com](mailto:communications.chna@gmail.com)**Delivery: Bob Lehner**[delivery.chna@gmail.com](mailto:delivery.chna@gmail.com)

**Contributors:** Joanne Beckman, SharonDubble, AmyKelso, BillRichkus, Thomas Paterek,

**CHNA Merchandise**

Show off your neighborhood pride with CHNA merchandise! Visit [crescentheightsneighborhood.com](http://crescentheightsneighborhood.com) to shop flags, t-shirts and tote bags.

### We are looking for our next CHNA President!

Do you love our neighborhood and want to get more involved? Even if you're not ready to commit just yet but may be interested in the future, I'd still love to connect with you. We'll have other Board positions opening up in 2026 as well, which could be a great opportunity to shadow me and learn the ropes. I promise to provide the best training possible!

### So, what does the President do?

First, I want to give a big shoutout to our incredible CHNA Board members and committee chairs. Whenever I meet other neighborhood presidents in St. Pete and share how our board operates, I often hear, "Wow, I have to do all of that myself!"

Here's the best part: many of our core functions are already handled by other dedicated board members and volunteers. These include managing funds, recording meeting minutes, planning and executing events, running membership drives, maintaining merchandise sales, designing the newsletter, editing and selling ads, formatting mass emails, handling social media, and managing our website.

CHNA President Amy Kelso



**The President's role** is focused on leading and vision-setting.

Responsibilities include:

- Planning and leading CHNA general meetings and Board meetings 3-4 times per year
- Liaising with the City of St. Pete Neighborhood Relations Department
- Building relationships with Crescent Heights based businesses
- Provide information to distribute in a monthly email to CHNA members
- Providing general oversight of CHNA matters

If you're curious or interested, please email me at [crescentheights.president@gmail.com](mailto:crescentheights.president@gmail.com) by October 15th. The CHNA Board of Directors elections for 2026 will take place at our general meeting on November 3, 2025.

## A Letter from the Editor • by Thomas Paterek

Hi neighbors,

Fall has arrived in Crescent Heights, and with it comes a moment to reflect on the year behind us. It's hard to believe that just twelve months ago we were weathering the impact of Helene and Milton, two storms that tested our patience, our preparedness, and our resilience.

What stands out most from that time isn't the wind or the rain, but the way our neighbors showed up for one another. From checking in on elderly residents, to sharing generators, to lending a hand with cleanup, the heart of Crescent Heights was on full display. These moments reminded us that our true strength lies in connection.

As we step into this new season, let's carry that spirit forward. Let's look out for each other, welcome new faces warmly, and continue building the kind of neighborhood we're proud to call home. I'm thankful to be part of a neighborhood that looks out for each other and gets through even the toughest of challenges together.

Thomas Paterek

CHNA Editor CHNA Newsletter @ [editor.chna@gmail.com](mailto:editor.chna@gmail.com)





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# Harnessing the Energy of Autumn in Your Home

By Orshi Wren, Astral House Interior Design

As fall arrives, the air cools, the light softens, and life invites us to slow down. Spiritually, autumn is a season of transition, a time to prepare for rest and reflect on what we have gathered from the months before. Our homes can mirror this shift through grounding colors, softer textures, and warmer lighting that nurture comfort and clarity. Picture curling up on a linen-covered chair with chamomile tea, a wool throw across your lap, while the late afternoon sun filters gently through the window.

## The Autumn Equinox: Balancing Light and Dark Indoors

The equinox marks a perfect balance between day and night, a reminder to blend airy elements with richer, grounding pieces. Pair whitewashed oak floors with a hand-knotted rug in earthy tones, or place a light rattan chair next to a deep walnut console. Balance comes from contrast, light alongside dark, soft beside strong.

## Clearing Space for New Intentions

Fall is a time for letting go. Decluttering is not just tidiness, it is a ritual of releasing what no longer serves you. Edit shelves, clear counters, and style with intention so each space feels open to what is next. A coffee table might hold only a ceramic bowl with collected stones, or a kitchen counter might be refreshed with a single vase of seasonal greenery.

## Color Therapy for the Season

Autumn tones shape how we feel. Rust grounds us, gold evokes abundance, and forest green renews energy. Introduce them through textiles, art, or seasonal florals. In a sunny St. Pete living room, a rust velvet pillow on a cream sofa adds warmth, while a gold-toned vase filled with goldenrod or eucalyptus from the Saturday Morning Market connects your space to the season.

## Textures That Nurture the Spirit

This inward-turning season calls for tactile comfort. Wool, clay, and seagrass bring a sense of safety, especially in raw, organic forms. Handmade pieces carry soul and story, such as a seagrass basket for extra blankets, a hand-thrown clay mug for sipping cinnamon chai, or a chunky wool rug greeting your feet in the bedroom.

## Ritual Spaces: Honoring the Season

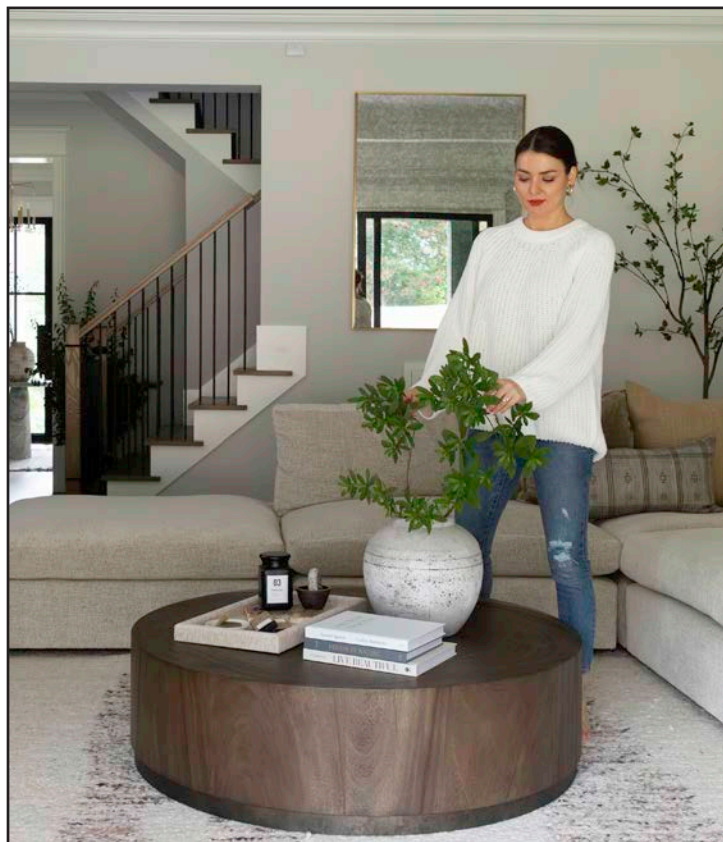
Create a small corner for daily pause, whether a reading nook, tea station, or personal altar. A candle, a seasonal botanical, and a treasured object can anchor you in autumn's slower pace. Perhaps a sunlit chair with your favorite book, a mug of rooibos with orange peel, and a dish of acorns gathered from a walk.

## Inviting the Outdoors In

Nature reflects the wisdom of change. Bring it indoors with driftwood, fallen leaves, seed pods, or a smooth stone from your garden. Display shells and coral in the entryway, or arrange gathered palm fronds and sea oats in a tall vase for a sculptural dining room statement.

## The Energy of Gathering

Autumn is a time to connect. Warm lighting, comfortable seating, and thoughtful table settings turn any meal into a celebration of belonging. Imagine hosting neighbors for Sunday supper with a linen-covered table, beeswax candles, ceramic plates, and a pot of butternut squash soup served family-style, with conversation flowing as easily as the wine.



# BOOK NOOK



The CHNA Book Club has two Book Groups, each with its own distinct membership. Participation is open to any resident of Crescent Heights. If you are interested in joining one of the book groups, please contact the email address listed below. In the event that the membership is full, you will be placed on the waiting list.

**Group 1** meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:00 pm  
Leader: Joanne Beckman - Contact: [ejbeckman88@gmail.com](mailto:ejbeckman88@gmail.com)

## *The Women*

by Kristin Hannah - Sept 23rd

This novel tells the story of a nurse as she serves in the Vietnam War and after she comes home. It depicts the courage and friendships that sustained women unprepared for the reality of war and for the hostile political climate when they returned home. Based on extensive research, this is a historical novel by a popular author of this genre.

Amazon's description: Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets and becomes one of the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost. But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

## *James*

by Percival Everett - Oct 28th

When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

While many narrative set pieces of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin, Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light.

## *Walking Across Egypt*

by Clyde Edgerton - Nov 25th

She had as much business keeping a stray dog as she had walking across Egypt—which not so incidentally is the title of her favorite hymn. She's Mattie Rigsbee, an independent, strong-minded senior citizen, who at 78, might be slowing down just a bit. When young, delinquent Wesley Benfield drops in on her life, he is even less likely a companion than the stray dog. But, of course, the dog never tasted her mouth-watering pound cake.... Wise witty, down-home and real, Walking Across Egypt is a book for everyone.

**Group 2 - The CH Bookniks**, meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm  
Co-leaders: Melinda Borthick & Darlene Asselin  
Contact: [chreads@gmail.com](mailto:chreads@gmail.com)

## *The Consequence of Anna*

by Kate Birkin & Mark Bornz - September 2025

The Consequence of Anna follows a woman whose impulsive choices unravel a web of secrets, testing the limits of love, guilt, and redemption. As her past resurfaces, Anna must confront the impact of her decisions on those she loves—and herself—before everything she's built comes crashing down. In 1930s Australia, free-spirited Anna's love for her cousin Lottie leads to a desperate act involving her own husband, unraveling lives in its wake. Set on a remote sheep station, this gripping saga explores mental illness, forbidden passion, and the tragic fallout of selfless intentions that cross moral boundaries.

## *We The Animals*

Justin Torres - October

Three brothers navigate a chaotic childhood, filled with playful mischief, family conflict, and the intense love between their Puerto Rican father and white mother. Their volatile relationship creates both unity and heartbreak, shaping the brothers' lives in unpredictable ways. This novel reinvents the coming-of-age story, capturing both the deep bonds of family and the alienation that comes with growing up.

## *Be Ready When Luck Happens*

by Ina Garten - November

In "Be Ready When the Luck Happens," Ina Garten shares her journey from a challenging childhood and unfulfilling government job to becoming the beloved Barefoot Contessa. She candidly discusses personal challenges, career shifts, and the pivotal moments that shaped her culinary success.



## Fall Reminders from Community Service Officer, Jon Schweiger

As the weather begins to shift and we move into the fall months, it's a good time to take a moment and think about a few things that can help keep our neighborhood safe and prepared. Here are three key areas every neighbor should be paying attention to this season.

### 1. Be Hurricane Ready

As we all know, hurricane season is still active until November. It's important not to let your guard down. Make sure you have a plan in place for your household. Know your evacuation zone, stock up on essential supplies, and don't wait until a storm is on the radar to prepare. The city typically offers free sandbags at the start of the season, take advantage of that resource early. If you have new neighbors, especially those unfamiliar with Florida weather, check in with them and help them feel supported. A little bit of neighborly connection can go a long way in an emergency.

### 2. Lock Your Vehicles and Secure Valuables

We've seen an uptick in vehicle break-ins lately, and many could be avoided by simply locking the doors and removing valuables. This is especially true for work trucks and contractor vehicles parked at homes. These vehicles are often targeted because wallets, tools, and backpacks are left inside during jobs. If you're having work done at your home, remind the crew to lock up and stay aware. Preventing theft is a shared responsibility.

### 3. Watch for Package Theft

As we approach the holiday season, package theft tends to increase. With more online shopping and deliveries, it's crucial to stay alert. Sign up for USPS Informed Delivery so you know what's on its way to your home. If you're expecting a package and won't be home, consider rescheduling the delivery or asking a trusted neighbor to pick it up for you. Being proactive can help prevent theft and keep your deliveries secure.

Let's continue to look out for one another this season. Stay safe, stay prepared, and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

## New Non-Fiction Book Club

A new non-fiction book club has been formed which will meet 4 times per year. The group leader for this, at least initially, will be Darlene Asselin. The first book will be *Revenge of the Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell. Future book selection, hosting, club leadership, membership and rules will be discussed at the first meeting.

October 22nd - 520 25th Ave N.

Please RSVP to [Darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com](mailto:Darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com)

## Do You Play Mah Jong?

A new Mah Jong Club has been formed which will meet once per month on the third Tuesday from 2-4 PM. The group leaders will be Darlene Asselin (973)270-8792 and Jan Taylor (615) 992-1999 who will offer lessons for new players. Play is limited to first 8 players who RSVP to group leaders.

First game will be September 16th, at 602 29th Ave N.

Mah Jong cards will be provided for the first game.

## New! Yearly Membership Subscriptions

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Simply visit [crescentheightsneighborhood.com](http://crescentheightsneighborhood.com) and click the blue Membership button. Then select "Become a Member – Yearly Subscription." It's quick, easy, and one less thing on your to-do list—while keeping our neighborhood strong all year long!



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## Nature Watch South

### On to the Migration • by Bill Richkus

Decreasing daylength in the fall is what triggers the urge to migrate in many of the creatures with which we share our environment. Here in Crescent Heights, we wait in great anticipation each year for the arrival of what is probably our favorite snow-bird migrant, the glorious white pelican. But some amazing migrations are undertaken by smaller, less charismatic critters, and even some summer residents in Florida migrate further south for the winter despite our pleasant winter climate. Take for example the purple martin.

You may have noticed the gourd nesting boxes installed near the Crescent Lake dog park this year. John Ficken had a story in the last newsletter describing this St. Pete Audubon-sponsored project. It certainly didn't take long for the nesting site to be found and occupied by a group of purple martins, sleek, iridescent swallows. During morning walks around the lake, we would hear loud chirping and chattering from the gourds as the parents brought food back to the ravenous young. Before humans settled in North America, purple martins used cavities found in dead trees or cliffs for nesting. But purple martins changed their nesting habits as a result of human actions. It appears that Native Americans discovered that martins could be lured to nest close to their villages to help control insect pests by hanging up gourds with holes cut into them. Over multiple generations, purple martins slowly abandoned their natural nesting behaviors and switched to human-provided housing. Currently nearly all purple martins in eastern North America use human-built structures for nesting.

By late June, the Crescent Lake youngsters had fledged, and the entire colony left the nesting area. At about the same time, a friend who volunteers at a Cape Cod Audubon sanctuary reported to me that their own purple martins had arrived and had just begun nesting. Breeding colonies of purple martins can be found throughout North American, from southern Canada to Florida and Texas, with most of the population present east of the Rocky Mountains. With this extended range, breeding seasons thus can extend from spring to summer. What is then truly remarkable is that the vast majority of the purple martins, regardless of where or when they were bred, all migrate across the southern United States across Mexico to South America, wintering in Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil.

Staging in preparation for the southern migration begins as early as July and extends to early September. Wintering doesn't last long, with many birds returning to the southern states as early as late December and January. In staging areas for the southern migration, the migrants can form colossal flocks, in many cases so large that they appear on Doppler radar. These late summer aggregations sometimes number in the hundreds of thousands of birds and, unfortunately, that can create conflicts with people. In recent years, Nashville, Tennessee, became a favorite place for east coast purple martins to congregate before heading to South America.

In 2020, the martins selected the Schermerhorn Symphony Center as the perfect place to gather. While the swallows' massive flocks are awe-inspiring, the accumulation of feces from tens of thousands of birds over several weeks created considerable discomfort. The symphony cut down about 30 elm trees from their plaza to dissuade the birds from returning. However, about 10 heavily trimmed city-owned trees were spared after conservation experts and city officials got involved. Alas, after having displaced the birds for a year or two and following new growth on the trimmed trees, the martins found the Symphony location irresistible and returned again in huge numbers. I've not followed the story so don't know the current status of the symphony-bird conflict, but it is illustrative of how we humans adversely impact our native fauna. Incidents of this type are very unfortunate, since they create additional stress on wildlife populations that are already impacted by numerous other factors. According to data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), purple martin populations declined significantly between 1966 and 2015, falling by over 50% in the eastern United States and by nearly 35% in the central United States. Besides migration displacement, other factors contributing to their decline may include increased competition for nesting boxes by starlings and house sparrows, the use of pesticides reducing their insect food source and extreme weather events along migration routes.

If you examine the gourd nest boxes at Crescent Lake, you will see that the openings are designed to allow the sleek purple martins to squeeze into the interior while preventing the more rotund sparrows and starlings from occupying the nest sites. Nest box designs like this help to limit one of the factors impacting the martin population. Given that nearly all martins are produced in man-made nesting structures, encouraging individuals and organizations to install plentiful purple martin housing is a sure way to help the population. So we should thank John Ficken and his colleagues for doing their bit in protecting and enhancing purple martin populations, and we should look forward to more gourds and more chirping Crescent Lake fledglings in the future.



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The Old Northeast can trace its beginnings back to 1889 when Perry Stettin began developing subdivisions and building elegant new homes in the northeast section of the growing young town. With their brick streets, alleys, and terraces, these subdivisions (both named like Bayshore, North Shore, and Granada Terrace) quickly became St. Pete's most desirable and stylish neighborhoods. By the 1920s, these brick streets were filled with homes of varying sizes and styles including Mediterranean Revival, Craftsman Bungalow, Tudor Revival, California Mission, Prairie, and Frame Vernacular. In addition to the beautiful homes, 1920s also saw the opening of the Sunken Gardens and the Market building for the nursery and gardens now known as Sunken Gardens.

Today, Historic Old Northeast remains one of the most style and desirable neighborhoods in St. Pete. It also boasts one of the most influential and active Neighborhood Associations (HONNA) in St. Pete. Founded in 1974, HONNA was instrumental in earning Local Historic District Designation for several subdivisions within the entire neighborhood as well as achieving a landmark subdivision designation as a Historic Place. Thanks in part to these efforts, a significant number of homes endure as original and eclectic homes, many of the original brick sidewalks and many of the early Live Oaks, Maples, Palms, and Magnolias. HONNA is also active in creating and maintaining a robust festival of community for its residents from the annual Candlelight Tour of Homes to the annual Candlelight Tour of Homes.

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by Nancy Wildfeir-Field • Research Team: Darlene Asselin, Sarah Wines, Elise Reagan, Michele Sobota

Books help you learn, escape, imagine and grow. Books entertain; they make you laugh; they make you cry. They transport you to faraway places. They provide hours of pleasure, comfort, distraction ... and sometimes, discomfort too. For many of us, we have a love affair with books.

One of my goals, when I left full time work and we moved, was to read more. My first step was to join the Crescent Heights book club – resulting in some wonderful friendships, as well as an even deeper appreciation of books through rich conversation, and exposure to authors and stories I would not normally have chosen for myself. Early on, I also discovered the Little Library network, a place to both borrow and share good reads. I tend to check them pretty regularly when walking or biking by. I can't help myself. They have been a source of some of my favorite books, which I often pass on to friends before they make their way back to a Little Library. And I love the fact that I now have a place to donate my books, to share good reads with others who may also appreciate them.

Prompted by our love of books, members of the Bookniks book club undertook a survey of the Little Libraries in Crescent Heights. Booknik members started the process by mapping the Little Libraries in our neighborhood, and interviewing some of the owners. A big thank you to the team, but an even bigger thank you to our six Little Library hosts, who make our community richer through their contributions.

Our Little Library owners have a number of qualities in common. They love books and see their little libraries as a way to give back to the community. They actively manage, organize, stock and care for these little community treasures. Tip: Remember to spread out your donations.

## **Bob's Free Library – 847 29th Ave N**

Owners: Robert Lehner and Nancy Warner

About eight years ago, Bob Lehner designed and built his Little Library, sourcing basic designs online, and then customizing it to match their house. He and his wife Nancy both love to read and thought the library might encourage others to read. For Bob, it was a fun outlet for his creativity and his woodworking skills. Nancy checks the stock weekly and enjoys seeing neighbors' approach and select or leave a book or two. They take any books that are in good condition. Occasionally, if a book is not moving, Nancy may "rehome" it. In the meantime, the books remain safe and dry thanks to the venting system Bob used to prevent dampness and pesky mustiness that often seeps into our books. Bob would enjoy helping others build and erect their own "Little Library." Don't be shy to contact him.

## **Mandie's Little Free Library – 630 25th Ave N (Charter 79224)**

Owner: Mandie

This is by far the largest Little Library, with three large structures –

one for adult books, one for children and a craft's center (including an ever-changing jigsaw puzzle collection). Mandie inherited the boxes, built by neighbors in 2018; they were relocated to their current corner location in February 2024. Mandie wants her libraries to be appealing; they were safely stored during Milton, and refurbished and repainted with new colors, post Milton. She's also decorates them for various holidays. Mondays are big donation days, she says. People donate a lot of fiction, self-help and travel books. Other sources of library "material" come from Schoolteachers and the Buy Nothing FB group. She's also bought some games and kids' books herself, to fill in when needed. If too many donations arrive at one time, she'll pull out some books, and then slowly restock the library as space opens up. If books don't move, she'll share them with other free libraries or goodwill. Mandie cleans and organizes the libraries twice a day when she is in town; others in the neighborhood help with it too. She sees a lot of the same people, of all ages, and enjoys talking to neighbors who visit the boxes. She's rewarded sometimes with thank you cards.

## **Ellie's Free Library – 719 27th Ave N**

Owner: Ellie

Ellie's son-in-law, who's a builder, designed and built her the little library as a surprise Christmas gift a few years ago. He mirrored her house in design. While she stocked it at the beginning, ... others do it now! Ellie said her little library is "extremely active"; it's never empty, and books are regularly changing. People stop by walking their dogs and some people drive up to take and/or supply books. When she encounters visitors, she typically gets thanked. She "polices" the box once every two days, making sure the books and box are clean and tidy. She typically sees a wide array of books: cookbooks, children books, fiction / nonfiction and sometimes political. If it ever gets cramped (i.e. someone dropping off 10 books), she will take a few out to "feed" the box when needed. The little library will be getting a "rehab" soon, including resealing and paint touch ups.

## **Other Crescent Heights Little Libraries**

- **527 28th Ave N – Charter 71060**  
Mixed books for adults and kids
- **868 24th Ave N – Charter 105398**
- **445 26th Ave N – Charter 105397**  
The Erin Woolums Meza Library

## **Want to Start One?**

If you'd like to create your own Free Little Library, talk to your neighbors and visit [littlefreelibrary.org/faqs](http://littlefreelibrary.org/faqs). "Official" libraries must be registered to join the global network, but St. Petersburg does not require a separate city permit if placed on private property. Be sure to check local guidelines for placement and size.

In Crescent Heights, our Little Libraries are more than book boxes — they're symbols of sharing, creativity, and community.



You are *exceptional*.

Your real estate agent should be too.



## What Our Clients Are Saying

"I had the pleasure of working with Leah and her team on the selling and buying side. I met Leah at a showing and was immediately impressed by her knowledge and professionalism. She has an energy that makes you want to work with her. I was very nervous about the selling process as I had never done it before. Leah made me feel comfortable and at ease. She has great connections and was able to sell my home in less than a day. She made the selling process easy and not overwhelming. She provided regular check-ins and updates. Leah then helped me find my next home. Again, she has great relationships in St. Petersburg. She was able to negotiate a great deal. She then provided the most amazing recommendations for various home services. I trust Leah and her team implicitly. Leah wants the best for her clients and that shows. She is not pushy and not looking for a sale. She wants her clients to be happy. I would recommend her to anyone looking to buy or sell in the Tampa Bay Area." - **Ashley R.**

"Leah, Amanda, and Merris were all an absolute pleasure to work with. Throughout the whole process they were very professional, responsive, patient, and knowledgeable. Beyond all those great qualities, what stands out the most is how caring they are. We always felt like they had our backs and truly wanted the best for us. Moving can be very overwhelming, but they went above and beyond to make it as seamless as possible! They were great negotiators and maximized our profit. My husband and I cannot recommend Leah and her powerhouse team enough!" - **Michaela K.**

"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 and 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.**

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**Leah Herzworm**

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# Remembering Margaret Pruitt, a Crescent Heights Fixture

by Elisabeth Nevins

On March 17, 2025, Crescent Heights lost what I believe to have been its longest-tenured and oldest resident, Margaret W. Pruitt. I can't make those claims with complete confidence, but I can tell you that she was, without question, one of the most wonderful people ever to have been a part of our amazing neighborhood.

When she died, Margaret was 103 years old, and she had lived on 22nd Avenue for about 65 of those years. Although her physical limitations put a halt to some of her lifelong habits in the past couple of years, Margaret had been a fixture at Crescent Lake Park for decades. As she would often tell people who asked about the secret to her longevity, she walked around the lake every day except Sundays, which she devoted to her beloved First United Methodist Church. And, she would say, an ever-present twinkle in her eye, the real secret to living so long was just to keep breathing.

To the folks who knew her from the lake or the neighborhood or the church, Margaret was an unfailingly funny, generous, and kind friend. To me, she was a life-changing influence.

A few years ago, we decided we needed a new way to define and describe our relationship—so much more than next-door neighbors, so dear as friends. Finally, she proclaimed decisively that we were sisters. Never mind that she was born in the same year as my grandfather (1921); as she put it, we viewed the world in the same way, as only sisters could. Margaret's wonderful life and influence even was manifest in her last moments. She was receiving round-the-clock assistance in the last few weeks of her life. On her last night, the caregiver who had just arrived to start work called her 20-month-old daughter to say goodnight. As the room filled with the sounds of a little girl babbling happily, making those joyful noises that only toddlers can make—"Night-night mama, bye-bye mama"—and as I was holding her hand, Margaret passed away. It was an acutely beautiful experience.

We are so fortunate, I think, to live in a neighborhood where we have the opportunity to encounter and grow to love our neighbors. There will never be another like Margaret Pruitt, but Crescent Heights was made the better for her having been a member of this community. I hope you will join me in making sure her legacy of friendship and camaraderie—and exercise around the lake—persist.



Margaret celebrating her 102nd birthday with City Council Member Lissett Hanewicz and Elisabeth Nevins



# ST. PETE NIGHT

## CRESCENT HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Saturday, Oct 18 | Kickoff: 7:30 PM

**You're Invited! Cheer on the Rowdies at their home match against the Hartford Athletics with your CHNA neighbors!**

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT OUR CHNA FACEBOOK EVENTS PAGE

## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

# 2025 CHNA HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, Oct 25, 2025 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM

7th Street between 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Ave N

Get ready for a spooktacular night with your neighbors!  
Join us for costume contests, delicious food & drinks, creepy crafts, ghostly games, the mystical Mehler Maze, and chillingly good cold treats from Frozen Stiffs.

Mark your calendars and bring your best costumes – there's fun for all ages!

To make the magic happen, we need volunteers and supplies. Please reach out if you'd like to help. Your support makes this neighborhood tradition possible!





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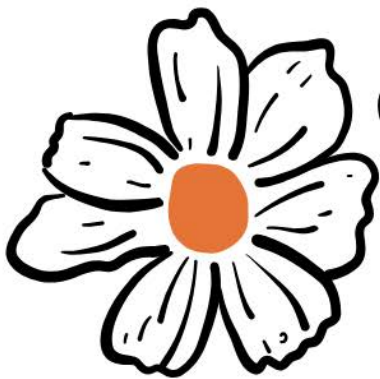
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## • Neighborhood Events •

### **Rowdies: St. Pete Night with CHNA**

Saturday, October 18th, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Visit our Facebook page events section to purchase tickets or send us a message.

### **Annual Halloween Block Party**

Saturday, October 25th, 2025 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

8th Street between 25th Ave N and 26th Ave N

### **CHNA General Membership Meeting**

Monday, November 3rd, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Blush Tea & Coffee

2382 Dr M.L.K. Jr St N

Stay informed about neighborhood developments and share your ideas with fellow residents. This meeting will also include our Board Elections — a great opportunity to get involved and help guide the future of Crescent Heights. We're also pleased to welcome Claude Tankersly, Head of Public Works for the City, as our guest speaker. Don't miss this chance to hear important updates, ask questions, and connect with your neighbors.

### **Monthly Community Night at Outcast Brewing**

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM

1776 11th Ave N

Connect with your neighbors and receive 10% off!

### **Lights in the Heights Holiday Party**

Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm

Location: 8th Street between 25th Ave N and 26th Ave N.

### **CHNA Centennial Home Celebration Tour**

Saturday, March 7th, 2026 at 5:00 pm

CHNA will be hosting a Centennial Home Celebration, Saturday, March 7, 2026 (time TBD). If you would like to learn more about the event and allow us to feature your 100 year old home in either a walking tour or interior home tour with a historical timeline of owners, fun facts, etc. please contact Amy Youngs at amyyoungs1981@yahoo.com by Friday, October 24th.

### **Interested in hosting a Porch Party?**

Contact Amy Youngs, CHNA events director, at [events.chna@gmail.com](mailto:events.chna@gmail.com) or 813-300-4504.

## • What's Up Around Town •

### **Get Fit: Yoga in the Park**

First Saturday of the Month, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  
Crescent Lake Park

### **Tampa Bay Job & Career Fair presented by Tampa Bay Times**

Monday, September 8th, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
535 4th Ave N

### **Saturday Morning Market**

Every Saturday in October, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Al Lang Stadium

### **St. Pete Pier: Fall Festival**

Dates still to be announced.

### **St. Pete Pier: Pumpkin Patch**

Dates still to be announced.

### **Halloween on Central**

Sunday, October 26th 12:00 - 5:00 PM  
New Kids Zone! Boo-levard of Play

### **TSA St. Pete Trunk-or-Treat**

Tuesday, October 28th at 6:00 PM  
The Salvation Army - St. Pete Citadel  
3800 9th Ave N

### **12th Annual Walk for All Children**

Saturday, November 8th at 7:30 AM  
501 6th Ave S

### **8th Annual Coffee Pot Turkey Trot**

**Thanksgiving Day 5K**  
Thursday, November 27th at 7:45 AM  
North Shore Elementary School

### **Shopapalooza Festival**

Saturday, November 29th 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Vinoy Park  
701 Bayshore Drive NE



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

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