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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).

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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 Darleen Asselin, membership chair, at 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. Use the QR code here to visit our website and click the blue membership button to subscribe.

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 laurialiam5@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.*

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CHNA Merchandise

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A Note from the Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association Board

The Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) held its quarterly meeting and annual election on November 3, with nearly 50 members in attendance—a strong turnout that reflects the growing engagement of our community. During the election, several key board positions were filled, ensuring continued leadership and momentum for our active neighborhood.

We're pleased to announce the newly elected officers: Vice President, Nancy Wildfier-Field; Secretary, Lindsay Ceron; Treasurer, John Sullivan; Communications Director, Jordan Postma; Events Director, Amy Young, and Membership Director, Darlene Asselin. Each of these individuals brings energy, experience, and a shared commitment to keeping Crescent Heights vibrant and connected.

However, one important position—the role of President—remained open following the election. Over the past six months, the CHNA Board has reached out to neighbors in multiple ways in hopes of finding someone willing to serve in this vital capacity. Despite these efforts, no candidates initially stepped forward.

Our outgoing president, Amy Kelso, has served diligently for the past two years and was term-limited from running again. Under Amy's leadership, CHNA has continued to grow, adding events, social gatherings, and volunteer projects that have strengthened the fabric of our neighborhood. We extend our sincere gratitude to Amy for her time, vision, and dedication.

After consulting with CONA (the Council of Neighborhood Associations), the City of St. Petersburg's Neighborhood Relations Department, and reviewing CHNA's own bylaws, the board confirmed that it could appoint a member to fill an open position if no candidate was elected. At the board's November 17 meeting, the members voted to appoint Amy Kelso to serve another one-year term as President.

The Board will also continue to recruit members for leadership roles over the next year. The position of Treasurer will become open next term, as John Sullivan is nearing the end of his term-limited service. We encourage any neighbors interested in getting involved—whether through volunteering, serving on a committee, or stepping into a leadership role—to reach out to any board member for more information.

Our neighborhood has come a long way in recent years. CHNA now represents nearly 200 households, reflecting both our community's growth and the strong sense of connection that makes Crescent Heights so special. We rely on the participation and leadership of individuals like Amy and those that volunteer to make things happen in this neighborhood.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the board members who participated in 2025 and either resigned mid-year or did not seek re-election: Ziba Mohammadi, Membership; Bebe Ocano, Vice President; Wendy Smith, Communications; and Nancy Warner, Secretary. Your voice, your ideas, and your time make a difference. Please contribute what you can when you can and get involved!

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR • by Thomas Paterek

As the year comes to a close, I've been thinking a lot about how much our neighborhood has changed and grown. Fourteen years ago, while living and working in New York City, I bought my house here in Crescent Heights without ever seeing it in person. I just knew I wanted to be in this area, but I had no idea how amazing that decision would turn out to be.

Back then, I couldn't have imagined how special this neighborhood would become. We've got everything within walking distance now - groceries, home stores, great restaurants, and bars that make for a fun night out. Crescent Heights really has it all, and it's been incredible to watch it evolve into the community it is today.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to keep growing the CHNA Newsletter into something that captures the creative and unique spirit of our neighborhood. Whether it's our annual Halloween party, Lights in the Heights, or the everyday

stories that make this place so great, I want the newsletter to keep reflecting who we are as neighbors.

Being a CHNA member helps make that happen. Your membership supports more than just this newsletter. It helps us be the voice of Crescent Heights when it comes to things like safety, beautification, and neighborhood advocacy. When you sign up, you're helping keep this community strong and making sure Crescent Heights stays one of the best places to live in St. Pete.

Here's to another year of connection, creativity, and community. Thanks for being part of what makes Crescent Heights such a great place to call home.

Cheers,

Thomas Paterek
CHNA Editor
editor.chna@gmail.com

OFFICER TIPS

Dear CHNA Community,

Below are four things to pay attention to this winter season:

1. Always lock vehicles, especially when shopping for the holidays. Ensure to cover valuables when left in a vehicle while shopping.
2. Be aware of your surroundings in parking lots. Ensure you are parked in a well lit area , also be cautious of what and who is around you or your vehicle. We tend to look at lists or our phones while walking to our vehicles. It is always better to shop with someone.
3. Keep track of your credit/debit cards. It is the time of year when we spend more, but make sure you are the one spending it. Keep track of where, when, and how much you spent.
4. If you are ordering items online, be aware of the delivery dates. Package thieves target those packages that seem to be unattended even in the daytime. Delivery services have different tracking methods. The USPS offers Informed Delivery for tracking notifications and changes.

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Thank you,

Officer Jonathan Schweiger



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THE HUMAN NEED FOR CHANGE

By Orshi Wren, Crescent Heights Neighbor

Over the last decade, I have learned how to anticipate the needs of others when it comes to their homes. I have learned how to stay curious, observe closely, and immerse myself in the lives of the people who will inhabit a space. I love discovering what brings them comfort, what inspires them, and what their environment needs to support their daily rhythms.

But when it comes to my own home, that has always been a different story.

Our homes evolve just as we do. They shift with each life chapter. They change along with our aesthetic preferences and also with our emotional landscape. Some seasons call for calm and grounding. Others invite more energy, creativity, or connection. Sometimes we crave a space that offers sanctuary and a nervous system reset. Other times we feel the pull to host, to play, or to bring more delight into our daily lives.

And if you are anything like me, you have probably felt the urge to move furniture around on a whim or refresh the art on your walls for no reason other than it suddenly felt right. Many women I know do this instinctively. It is not just decorating. It is a very human need for change, for seeing our space in a new way so we can feel ourselves differently within it.

My home office tells this story well. It came to life in 2020, during that strange and uncertain period when I shifted from selling home décor and merchandise to exploring interior design more seriously. It was a very do it yourself, make it work space created during a time of job loss, fear, and reinvention.

I still remember my husband Thomas looking at the unused storage room and saying: this will be your office one day. I laughed because the idea felt unrealistic. Yet here we are. Nearly five years later, I get to design and furnish homes for wonderful clients, from meaningful renovations to brand new residences. I have built relationships with vendors whose craftsmanship I admire deeply, and I feel grateful every day to do this work.

At some point I realized my little early pandemic office no longer reflected who I had become.

So I decided to completely reimagine it.

This is the space where I spend countless hours sourcing, sketching, dreaming, and speaking with vendors. Our environment should mirror back to us where we have arrived, the growth, the resilience, and the quiet work behind the

scenes. When our space supports us, we move through the world with more clarity and confidence.

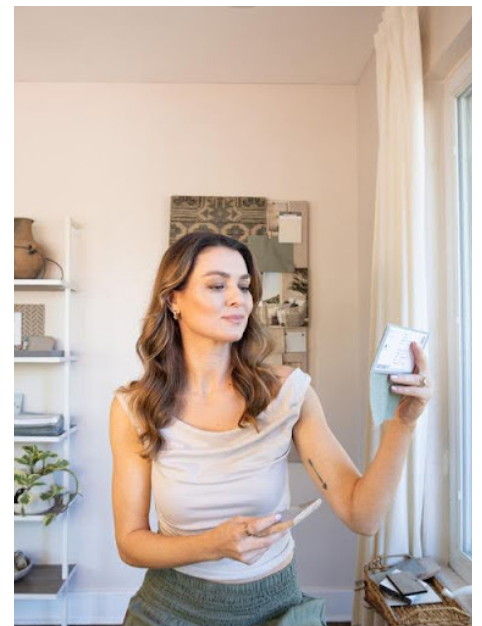
As I learned more about the psychology of design, I became acutely aware of how our surroundings influence us. Color palettes and textures matter, but clutter affects us on a biological level. I can feel my cortisol rise the moment I notice things out of place. Until my home is back in order, it is difficult for me to focus or fully relax. I know I am not alone in this.

This awareness shaped my office redesign. As much as I love the beautiful fabric swatches, wood samples, tiles, and hardware pieces gifted by the generous vendors I work with, I realized I could not have everything visible. It becomes visual noise. So this time, I am embracing closed cabinetry which offers simple and calming storage that lets me breathe. A small collection of my favorite samples will stay on display for inspiration, while the rest will stay tucked away until needed.

This entire process has reminded me that change is not only natural. It is necessary. Our homes are living reflections of who we are and who we are becoming. They do not need to be perfect. They simply need to evolve alongside us.

Living here in Crescent Heights, surrounded by neighbors who value creativity, character, and connection, I am grateful to be part of a community where both people and homes are always growing. If you ever feel that familiar spark, the urge to shift, refresh, or reimagine, I am always happy to chat, share ideas, or simply connect about the spaces we all love and live in.

Here is to honoring the changes we feel, both inside our homes and within ourselves.



• Bookniks •

The Bookniks will be reading **James** by **Percival Everett** for the January meeting. James is a brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, told from the perspective of Jim, the enslaved man who embarks on a harrowing yet darkly humorous journey down the Mississippi River. When Jim learns he is about to be sold away from his family, he hides on Jackson Island, where his path eventually crosses with Huck Finn, who has escaped his abusive father. As they travel together, Jim's intelligence, agency, and compassion shine, offering a fresh and deeply moving take on the classic tale. Winner of multiple prestigious awards, including the 2024 National Book Award, James redefines an American literary classic while establishing itself as a major work of contemporary fiction.

Interested in joining a book club? Please contact Melinda Borthick at mjborthick@gmail.com to join our waitlist.

• Non-Fiction Book Club •

The CHNA Nonfiction Book Club is up and running! Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 22, to discuss **The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz** by **Erik Larson**. Our March meeting will focus on **Night** by **Elie Wiesel**, the Nobel Peace Prize winner whose memoir of his experience during the Holocaust is a powerful testament to the enduring need to remember, even when remembrance feels unbearable. The Florida Holocaust Museum here in St. Petersburg was recently chosen to house the Elie Wiesel collection, including his Nobel Prize, manuscripts, letters, and artworks.

To attend these discussions, you must contact Darlene Asselin at darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com to be added to the club mailing list (if you have not already done so). Four weeks before each meeting, Darlene will send an invitation to the discussion. You must respond to this email confirming that you can attend and will read the book. Each meeting is limited to the first 15 positive RSVPs due to space limitations. Subsequent meetings are planned for late March and May.

• The Book Club •

The Book Club, hosted by Joanne Beckman, have a great lineup planned for the coming months. In November, the club will read **Walking Across Egypt** by **Clyde Edgerton**, a wise and witty Southern novel about 78-year-old Mattie Rigsbee, whose quiet life is upended by a stray dog and a teenage delinquent. In December, members will gather for a Holiday Dinner and to select the 2026 reading list. January brings **The Frozen River** by **Ariel Lawhon**, a tense historical mystery set in 1789 Maine, where midwife Martha Ballard's meticulous diary becomes central to a scandal and a quest for justice. In February, the group will discuss **Maame** by **Jessica George**, a heartfelt coming-of-age story about a young woman in London navigating family responsibilities, cultural expectations, and her own path to independence.

Please contact Joanne at ebeckman88@gmail.com for information regarding this Book Club.

• Mahjong Club •

Mahjong, mahjong, mahjong — you're hearing about it everywhere: CBS Morning News, major newspapers, your friends across the country. Mahjong is having a moment. So what's the big deal? Mahjong is a fun, fast, tile-based game that some compare to bridge or rummy. You build a winning hand by drawing and discarding tiles in different combinations. It's been around for centuries, originated in China, and is even credited by some with keeping your brain sharp and youthful. Well now, mahjong is in the neighborhood! It's time to dust off your thinker and join the CHNA mahjong club.

Whether you're new or experienced, all levels are welcome. If you're interested, please email darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com or janet.taylor8@me.com.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Resident Spotlight: Emily Kapes, Chief Curator at The James Museum

If you have lived in Crescent Heights long enough, you have probably seen Emily Kapes walking her dog Pringle along our tree-lined streets or chatting with neighbors at one of our block parties. Emily and her husband Cory moved into their home in 2008, just before they were married. Like so many of us, they were drawn in by the neighborhood's charm, the quiet sidewalks, and the easy walk to Crescent Lake and downtown. What started as a practical choice quickly became home in the fullest sense.

Sixteen years later, their routines have become part of the familiar rhythm of the neighborhood. They walk Pringle around the blocks near their house, join friends for seasonal gatherings, and go all-in on holiday decorating. Emily and Cory have a Christmas tradition that has turned into something of a neighborhood favorite. Each year, they add one new lighted animal to their outdoor display. The collection has grown steadily since 2008 and has become a cheerful marker of time in Crescent Heights. Halloween is another highlight. Their pumpkin display has become a small tradition for anyone strolling past in October.

When it comes to local favorites, Emily may not claim any hidden secrets, but she knows where she likes to go. Blush Coffee and Tea on MLK is a regular stop, along with St. PetersBARK for Pringle. She is also excited about St. Pete Running Company opening nearby, another sign of how the area keeps growing while holding onto its neighborhood feel.

Outside Crescent Heights, Emily has a role that many art lovers in the area admire. She is the Chief Curator at The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art. Her days are full and rarely look the same. She spends her time thinking about artists to feature, writing gallery content, planning future exhibitions, and shaping how visitors experience the museum. On nice days, she rides her bike to work from Crescent Heights, which feels like a perfect extension of the lifestyle she enjoys here.

Some projects stand out more than others. Planning the museum's galleries and helping open the museum eight years ago was a major undertaking and remains one of the most meaningful chapters of her career. More recently, her 2023 exhibition, "From Far East to West: The Chinese American Frontier," left a lasting impact on her. The research, collaboration, and storytelling behind the show made it special, particularly her work with the Tampa Bay Chinese American Association, who helped translate her research into Mandarin. A shortened version of the exhibition is still available online for anyone curious to explore it.

Emily is already looking ahead to the future. She is managing an upcoming fashion exhibition set to debut in 2027 that will highlight contemporary Native American designers. It is another project that reflects her passion for thoughtful storytelling and her commitment to shining a light on artists whose work deepens our understanding of history and culture. Emily brings a quiet creativity and a steady sense of pride to both her professional world and the neighborhood she calls home. Crescent Heights is lucky to have her.

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Happy Holidays, Neighbors!

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NATURE WATCH SOUTH

Backyard Racers • by Bill Richkus

I usually select a topic for my Nature Watch South article that is appropriate for the season in which the Newsletter is being published, thus the purple martin migration piece in the fall edition. But occasionally an unexpected interaction with one of the creatures with which we share our neighborhood preempts selection of a seasonal topic, in this case a visit by a black racer snake.

Renovations made to our home on 29th Ave N in 2017 included the construction of a paver-lined patio with an overhead pergola. We planted vining jasmine at three corner pillars of the pergola, and over eight years the jasmine has encased the pillars in a mass of vines and created a thick green roof over the patio. The ceiling of jasmine creates a wonderful shaded outdoor seating area and an incredibly fragrant environment when the jasmine is blooming. The sliding glass doors of our dining area create an illusion of being outdoors even though one is sitting inside. From the dining table, we are able to watch the comings and goings of a wide variety of critters that visit the patio, from brown thrashers to anoles to an occasional possum, and, of course, the ever-present squirrels. Thus it was several mornings ago when, seated at the table, I saw movement over near our grill. Glancing in that direction I was delighted to see a black racer snake emerge from beneath the grill and move toward the sliding doors.

It is fascinating to watch a snake move. Black racers use serpentine locomotion: the snake creates a series of S-shaped curves with its body and pushes off on the substrate over which they are moving. Their belly scales directional structure allows them to get a grip on the ground in one direction, helping the snake to propel itself forward efficiently. What I found fascinating was that the serpentine posture of the snake remained the same as it moved continuously forward, almost like it was following some kind of track laid out on the pavers. While this snake was moving leisurely, I have in the past startled a black racer in the yard that scooted away at incredible speed! It turns out that the black racer is one of the fastest snakes in North America, with a top speed of 8 to 10 miles per hour, comparable to that of a human jogger. But the visiting snake on the patio was in no hurry and glided slowly toward our glass door and then to the side of the house and out of sight. While this snake was about three feet long (they can grow to about five feet), it was very slender and a beautiful shade of dark black.

As it moved, its head was slightly elevated, letting me see the white color beneath the head. I have had another amusing interaction with this snake species in our yard last year. I was outside under the pergola one day when I felt something drop from the jasmine roof onto the top of my head. I thought nothing of it since lots of leaves and twigs drop down from the jasmine. But when I shook my head, a small snake, about five inches long, fell to the ground. With very pretty mottled colors, I was puzzled as to what species it might be, not being familiar with Florida snakes. But then I recalled seeing a picture posted on NextDoor by someone thinking a similar snake might be a pigmy rattlesnake. More knowledgeable posters indicated it was merely a juvenile black racer. It turns out black racers don't actually turn black until they are a year or more old and close to two feet long. So I have evidence that not only are black racers present in our yard, but that they are breeding here or nearby.

Clearly these snakes find our yard to be a desirable habitat, so I was curious about what foods they might find here. It turns out black racers have quite diverse culinary tastes. They will eat insects, lizards, slugs, mice, and anything else that moves but is small enough to ingest. They also have a fondness for bird eggs, so can be nest raiders. The fact that they eat lizards caught my attention. Every time I step out onto the patio I see anywhere from five to fifteen anoles scampering around, so clearly our black racers have a great hunting ground here. The attractiveness of our patio for the black racer was confirmed several days after my initial sighting, when what I believe might be the same snake emerged again from under the grill and glided across the patio, unaware that he was brightening my day. Random wildlife encounters are wonderful for elevating anyone's spirit!

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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.

The Old Northeast can trace its beginnings back to 1909 when Perry South began developing subdivisions and building elegant new homes in the northeast section of the growing young town. With their brick streets, alleyways, herringbone sidewalks, granite curbs, tree-lined streets, and lush landscapes, these subdivisions (with names like Bayshore, Terraces, North Shore, and Granada Park) quickly became St. Pete's most desirable and stylish neighborhoods. By the 1920s, these brick streets were lined with homes of varying sizes and styles including Mediterranean Revival, Craftsman Bungalows, Tudor Revival, California Mission, Prairie, and Frame Vernacular. In addition to the beautiful homes, 1920s also saw the opening of the Venetian Park Hotel 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).

Historic Old Northeast is defined by 4th Street N, 10th Avenue N, 11th Ave N, and the eastern corner of Bayou Drive.

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 the historic place as well as the National Register of Historic Places. Thanks in part to these efforts, a significant number of homes continue to be original and eclectic homes, many of which do the original block sidewalks, and many of the early Live Oaks, Maples, Palms, and Magnolias. HONNA is also active in the early Live Oaks, Maples, Palms, and Magnolias. HONNA is also active in the early Live Oaks, Maples, Palms, and Magnolias. HONNA is also active in the early Live Oaks, Maples, Palms, and Magnolias.



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HOLIDAY MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

by Jim Tomlinson

Our family consisting of Mother, Father, and 3 boys arrived in St. Petersburg during 1950. I was 3 years of age at this time. This was a time before I-275, shopping malls, central heat, AC, TV, internet, smart phones, ordering from Amazon, nor many other 21st century conveniences existed.

For us, soon after the Thanksgiving holidays our family would start preparing for the Christmas holidays by allowing each of us boys to select \$5.00 worth from the Sears catalog. There wasn't any attempt to convey that Santa would "bring it." We would have to earn it.

Flannel sheets were put on the bunk beds, storm windows installed on the jalousie windows, fuel oil would be ordered for the hallway furnace, and split oak wood would be purchased from the wood lot at the south east corner of 9th St. and 30th Ave N. that is now occupied by Rutland Storage. This wood would be for the pot belly parlor stove.

At some point Father would take us boys into the local woods to cut a sand pine sapling for a Christmas tree. By the third week of December our family would drive around the city to see Christmas lights. The Pier approach Australian Pines were decorated and Doc Webb's home in the Allendale neighborhood was a special place to view.

By age 4 we three boys would be orphaned and holidays would be much different going forward. Christmas was conducted at the Moose Lodge until age 8 and at this time I delivered newspapers for the Evening Independent. My customers were very good to me during the holidays and it was during these times that I became aware that the community was my extended family. I would deliver newspapers until age 16, graduate High School 1967 and volunteer for the U.S. Army for the next 4 years serving in Vietnam. Holidays didn't exist for me then.

Returning home during 1972, working various jobs until being hired by the St. Petersburg Fire Rescue Department and would serve as a paramedic firefighter for the next 25 years. Most of this career would be served at the #4 fire station serving the Crescent Heights and surrounding neighborhoods.

We would sponsor a family and invite them to our home for a Christmas meal and to help decorate our tree. Over the years and many 911 dispatches I would experience the range of every kind of joy and tragedy one can imagine with my extended family of nearby residents...especially more so during Christmas holidays. During this era I would buy the home at 602-24 th Ave N., later marry, we would raise a family and the Christmas holiday became

once again more meaningful. Our children were taught the Christian belief that the month of December being the Advent with Christmas being the birth of Jesus Christ. Our children would receive some gifts, but taught that to gift to others was more important.

Of course, we would drive to the woods of what is now the Spring Hill development and cut a sand pine tree for us to decorate in our home, the tree to represent the winter solstice, life, and hope for all of humanity. Additionally, gather pine cones to be decorated and gifted to friends. Under the tree a manger and small village was displayed.

Eva baked all through the holidays providing us with treats and wonderful meals.

Our children are all grown now and we gather as a family at Banner Lake, NC. to visit a tree farm to cut a Fraser Fir for their Christmas. Here at home Eve and I still decorate a real tree, store bought Fraser Fir, and attend a church function highlighted with singing "Silent Night" by candle light.

Memories of empathy, compassion, and gratitude of my extended family community have contributed to the current Christmas holidays becoming the most meaningful of all my childhood and adult memories. It is with our family's heartfelt wish and hope to extend wishes for health, happiness, and peace to our neighbors, neighborhood, and community.

May this be the most meaningful Christmas for them yet.



You are *exceptional*.

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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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THE BODY ELECTRIC

Q&A with Co-Owner Jenny Miller

The Body Electric Yoga Company opened its doors in 2013. The building at 30th Ave N. and 7th Street sits in an otherwise residential neighborhood, at the border of Crescent Heights and Five Points. It is remarkable for its age -100 years old in 2026 - and history. We sat down with co-owner Jenny Miller to learn more about the landmark and what goes on inside.

Q: How did The Body Electric Yoga Company come to be?

A: I had completed a yoga teacher training and had begun picking up classes at a few local studios. My career in IT was coming to an end, and I started wondering if I could open a studio of my own. I met Katelyn Grady, who would become my partner, and found that we had some of the same ideas about yoga, what we liked about the existing yoga scene and what we thought could be better. She had some entrepreneurial experience and drive, and I had some marketing and web background, so we started scheming and dreaming.

Q: Tell us about the location.

A: We searched for a spot for two years. We wanted something with multiple rooms, some parking, and magical vibes, obviously. And we wanted something we could afford, which was essentially nothing. A friend saw this building on the market and we fell for it instantly. We love old stuff. We met Bob Ponath. His family had owned this property for a long time. He made it possible for us to open. We did the necessary demo and build out ourselves. We did everything with about \$15k, because no one would lend us any money.

The building started life as an ice house. It's been through several incarnations since then. We brought it down to its bones, because the bones are sublime. One of our rooms used to function as storage and loading dock for blocks of ice. You can still see remnants of the cork that used to insulate the brick walls inside. We were able to buy the building finally last year, again with Bob's support, and we're so happy. That was a big goal.

Q: What makes The Body Electric different?

A: I can tell you what we care about. This place is built on respect. Respect for our clients, respect in our staff, respect for the practice and community. We believe that yoga is for everybody, and that means meeting you where you're at. We're not going to talk down to you. Nothing's expected of you other than to show up and respect the space, the people around you. Yoga's not a performance and it's not dogma. It's not some set-in-stone scripture, not esoteric. It's meant to be practiced and changed as people's needs change. Like a language.

So, our thing is to create an elevated kind of space and a down-to-earth practice. You walk in here, and you can let the outside world slide off your shoulders. It's your time. Maybe you take a super hard, hot class, or maybe you take a meditation class, but it's all to get better at presence, noticing, seeing clearly. It's about connecting, with your inner, perfect self. People lose sight of it. But in yoga, we talk about original perfection. The work isn't to add stuff, but to reveal, and move stuff out of the way of that light you were born with it. So there's that, and also we just love St. Pete, getting out there and having fun. We like to be everywhere, do everything. Being a part of the fabric of this town really drives us and is so gratifying. The more people practicing yoga, anywhere, the better our world gets. We believe that.



MEET PRINGLE

The Beagle Bulldog Boss of 7th Street

If you have walked around Crescent Heights, you have probably seen or heard Pringle. She is a twelve year old Beagle and French Bulldog mix who joined Emily's family in 2020 after being bullied by another dog in her previous home. What started as a rescue quickly turned into the perfect fit.

At home, Pringle is a champion lounge. The sofa is her kingdom, and she has a signature move where she sticks out her paw whenever she believes a treat is in order. She also fully believes she owns her stretch of 7th Street. Emily and Pringle bike the neighborhood together, which only boosts her confidence as the unofficial mayor of the block.

Pringle is also known for her impressive food heists. She has stolen a key lime pie, a Thanksgiving ham, a tub of tzatziki, a Carrabba's lasagna, and more. If food is left unsupervised, Pringle considers it fair game. When she wants attention, her ears flare out like little wings.

Her favorite things are car rides and loudly chewing Himalayan cheese sticks. She can be vocal when approached, but it comes from a place of caution. She has been attacked by other dogs before, so she barks first and warms up slowly. Underneath that tough introduction is a very sweet, timid dog who just wants belly rubs.

Pringle brings a lot of personality to the neighborhood. She is quirky, dramatic, and completely herself. And like many of our pets in Crescent Heights, she adds a little joy and character to the place we call home.



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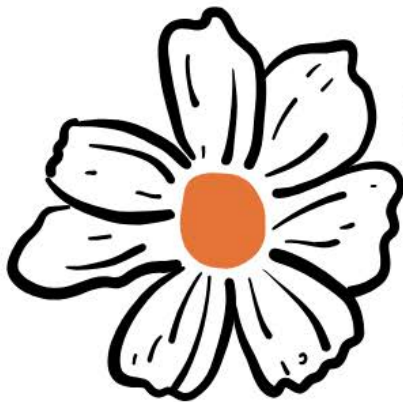
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CHNA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

• Neighborhood Events •

Happy Hour & Cookie Exchange hosted by Jen & Sam

Sunday, December 14, 2025 from 4:00pm - 6:00 PM

Location: The Church House, 801 28th Ave N

Bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share. Boxes and clamshells will be provided for neighbors to take an assortment of cookies home for the holidays. Bring a bottle of wine or favorite beverage to share. Appetizers and light bites will be provided.

New Year's Eve Porch Party hosted by Jane & Gary

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location: Jane & Gary's House, 800 29th Ave N

Ring in 2026 with your neighbors! The fun starts at 6:00 PM and goes until... well, whenever the good times end! Please bring a sweet or savory dish to share and whatever you'd like to drink.

10th Annual Chili Cookoff and Cornbread Competition hosted by Kevin Mort

Saturday, January 17 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Location: Kevin's House, 777 26th Ave N

Join us for this annual tradition. Bring your best chili and/or cornbread to compete for \$20 cash prize for both winners. If you don't have chili or cornbread, feel free to bring something else to share. BYOB. Cornbread competition judge needed. Please reach out if interested.

Bake Off with Crescent Lake Neighborhood Assoc.

Saturday, February 14

Details to follow

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 or 813-300-4504.

• What's Up Around Town •

Get Fit: Cardio Kickboxing

First Tuesday of the Month, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Campbell Park, 601 14th St. S

Saturday Morning Market

Every Saturday of the month, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Al Lang Stadium

Holiday Movie in the Park - The Santa Claus

Saturday, December 13

Activities start at 6:30 PM, Movie starts at 7:00 PM

Pinellas Pinoneer Settlement

St. Pete Holiday Festival

Sunday, December 21 at 12:00 PM

Albert Whitted Park

Downtown St. Pete Lighted Boat Parade

Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 PM

St. Petersburg Municipal Marina

St. Pete Indie Flea

Sunday, January 4 at 12:00 PM

Campbell Park Skate Park

The 9th Annual Fit City 5K & 1-Mile Walk

Friday, February 6 at 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Vinoy Park

Localtopia 2026: "A Community Celebration of All Things Local"

Saturday, February 14 at 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Williams Park

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Freshly-baked holiday cookies are available for purchase 12/10-12/14, while supplies last.

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