

# CHNA

AT HOME IN CRESCENT HEIGHTS

*Celebrating the  
moments, places, and  
people that shape our  
neighborhood.*

## *The Rhythm of Summer*

A season built on the little  
rituals that bring us together.

Summer Edition: 2026  
CRESCENTHEIGHTSNEIGHBORHOOD.COM

# JOIN, DONATE & SUPPORT CHNA 2026

## 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 have chances to meet local leaders and be the first to know about important neighborhood and city news that impacts 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 Darlene 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. 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 [crescentheights.president@gmail.com](mailto:crescentheights.president@gmail.com).

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

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Mayor's Action Line**  
727-893-7111

**Special Trash Pick-Up**  
727-893-7398

**Call Before You Dig**  
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**Meow Now (Friends of Strays) offers a free service to trap/fix feral or community cats)**  
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**Community Service Officer**  
Jon Schweiger  
727-551-3182

**Police Non-Emergency**  
727-893-7780

**Crime Tip Line**  
727-892-5000

**Report Street Light Outage**  
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If you have a non-emergency police concern, please contact Code Compliance by phone at 727-893-7373 or online at [seeclickfix.com/st-petersburg](http://seeclickfix.com/st-petersburg). To report abandoned vehicles on the street, or extended parking by commercial vehicles on the street, please report the issue to the non-emergency number for the St. Petersburg Police Department at 727-893-7780.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

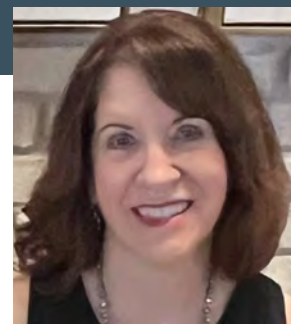
As a native Floridian who has spent most of my life in St. Petersburg, the first thing that comes to mind when I think of summer is the heat and humidity! The fact that this weather lingers well into "fall" certainly doesn't make me smile. Even as a child, I looked forward to escaping it by visiting family in Northeast Ohio during the summer months. Now that I'm retired and traveling more, summer trips only make the list if the destination is somewhere cooler than here.

When I'm in the Burg during the summer, I've noticed many locally owned restaurants offer specials, are less crowded, or both. With our winter residents gone, many small businesses struggle through the slower season, so our support is especially important this time of year. The same goes for our locally owned boutiques, coffee shops, wine bars, craft breweries, pubs, and more. Supporting local businesses year-round matters, but as life slows down a bit during the summer months, it's also a great opportunity to explore and try someplace new.

Another important summertime need is blood donation. I'm currently at 19 gallons donated over my lifetime. Summer is an especially difficult season for blood banks, so please consider donating if you're able. Food pantries also face challenges this time of year. With fewer people in town, donations decline, but the need among food-insecure families and individuals does not. Volunteer needs also increase during the summer months. I regularly volunteer with Daystar Life Center and St. Pete Free Clinic, and both organizations offer flexible online scheduling for volunteers.

As for CHNA, we could definitely use some indoor porch parties! Hosts simply provide the space, and neighbors bring food and beverages to share. We're also planning additional activities and meetups, so stay tuned. While we promote events through this newsletter, many activities are planned between editions. We also communicate through email, Facebook, Instagram, and our website, so please follow along—and invite your neighbors to join us if they haven't already!

Amy



CHNA President  
Amy Kelso

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the Crescent Heights newsletter is all about Summer Rituals. The little things we return to every year once the heat settles in, the days stretch longer, and life in the neighborhood shifts into its own summer rhythm. Summer rituals have a funny way of staying with us. Some fade out quietly, while others evolve into something new without us even realizing it.

Years ago, one of my favorite rituals was walking Kojak, our boxer, around Crescent Heights in the evenings. We'd make the same loops through the neighborhood, stopping to talk to neighbors sitting on their porches, catching up on life, hearing stories, and inevitably adding twenty minutes onto what was supposed to be a quick walk. Those walks became part of the rhythm of summer for me. With Kojak passing, somehow, somehow, that ritual has found its next chapter with Tarot, our new boxer puppy, who has officially taken over the role (with huge shoes to fill). New dog, same sidewalks, same conversations, same feeling of connection that makes this neighborhood special.

Summer rituals don't have to be big to matter. Sometimes they're as simple as realizing halfway through cooking dinner that you forgot one ingredient, then hopping over to Fresh Market to grab it before friends arrive. There's something about that little rush, the heat outside, music playing in the kitchen, and preparing to host an epic meal with people you love that feels distinctly summer to me. Other times, the best rituals are the unplanned ones. Saturday nights where you head out for a walk with no agenda and somehow end up at a great restaurant, sitting at the bar talking to strangers, and staying out later than expected because the night just feels good.

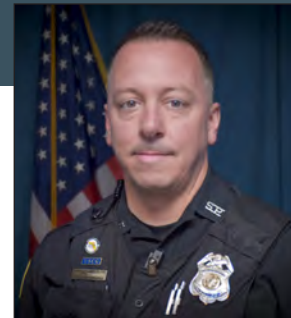
For me, rituals are what help keep me sane during the long hot Florida summer. They give shape to the season. Little anchors that slow things down and make the heat feel less oppressive and the days feel more meaningful. Morning coffee on the porch, evening walks around Crescent Lake, late dinners with friends, checking in on neighbors after a storm, these small repeated moments quietly become the memories we carry forward.

As summer settles into Crescent Heights, I hope you lean into your own rituals, old ones, new ones, or maybe something in between. Chances are, they'll become the stories you look forward to repeating year after year.

Thomas



CHNA Newsletter Editor  
Thomas Paterek



Community Service Officer  
Jon Schweiger

## SUMMER SAFETY REMINDERS FOR CRESCENT HEIGHTS

As summer arrives and more people are out enjoying everything St. Petersburg has to offer, it's a good time to revisit a few simple safety reminders for our neighborhood.

### LOCK YOUR VEHICLES AND SECURE VALUABLES

We continue to see vehicle break-ins and thefts throughout the area, many of which happen because vehicles are left unlocked or valuables are visible inside. With school out and summer activities in full swing, it's important to stay mindful when parking at home, visiting parks, or heading to the beach.

Take a moment to lock your doors, remove valuables from sight, and avoid leaving bags, electronics, or wallets inside your vehicle. A few extra seconds can go a long way in preventing crime.

### TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?

If you're planning to travel out of town this summer, make sure your home is secure before you leave. Double check doors and windows, pause package deliveries if possible, and consider having a trusted neighbor or friend periodically check on your property while you're away. It's also a good idea to leave a reliable way for someone to contact you in case of an emergency.

### BE PATIENT ON THE ROADS

Summer brings an increase in visitors across St. Petersburg and Pinellas County, which means busier roads and more traffic than usual. Give yourself extra time to get where you're going and stay alert while driving. Please be mindful of pedestrians, cyclists, golf carts, and other drivers as we all share the roadways during the busy summer season.

Stay safe, enjoy the summer, and thank you for continuing to help keep Crescent Heights a great place to live.

Officer Jonathan Schweiger

727-551-3182

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Change in Dependents  
Social Security Benefit Strategies

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



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## What Your Neighbors are Saying

"I cannot say enough good things about Leah and her team. They were knowledgeable, kind, and available every step of the way. We signed with Leah and we had an offer in less than two weeks! She and her team have helped us through every step of the process, answering our questions and putting us at ease during what could have been a stressful season. I never thought selling a home could be such a pleasant experience but they have made it one. We are so grateful and I'm leaving a review because I want more people to find them and have an experience like ours!" - Jen J.

"We had an amazing experience working with Leah and the team at Herzwurm Homes. After a few months of conversation, she guided us through any necessary prep and strategy, then listed and sold our house in just 4 days! The entire process was so quick, smooth, and completely stress-free. Leah was so easy and pleasant to work with, and she handled everything with professionalism and care. We had been through a very stressful year prior, and having this process be so simple and seamless was exactly what we needed. We are so grateful for the expertise of the Herzwurm Homes team and would absolutely recommend Leah to anyone looking to buy or sell a home." - Lesley D.



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HERZWURM HOMES

**Leah Herzwurm**

706.910.9909

leah@herzwurmhomes.com

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# MURAL QUEST

## EXPLORING ST. PETE THROUGH ART

by **Thomas Paterek**  
CHNA Newsletter Editor

If you've ever walked around St. Pete and found yourself staring up at a mural wondering who created it, what the story behind it is, or where to find more like it, a new local app is hoping to make that experience a whole lot easier.

Mural Quest, created by Crescent Heights resident Rob Asselin alongside neighbor Gary Gibbons, started from a simple idea. Visitors were constantly asking about mural tours, but there wasn't an easy way to explore the city's growing public art scene in one place.

"I loved the murals in town, but it was always hard to find information," Rob shared. "We started working on a short tour for the neighborhood, and the project just kind of grew."

What began as a neighborhood idea quickly evolved into something much bigger. After searching for an app that could help people discover murals, learn about artists, and navigate directly to the artwork itself, Rob realized nothing quite existed the way he imagined it. So he decided to build it himself.

The result is more than just a mural map. Mural Quest acts as a connection point between the public and the artists behind the work. Open the app and it shows the murals around you in real time. Pick one and the app guides you directly to the mural itself using geotags, not just a nearby address.

"You're not searching all around for the mural on that big warehouse," Rob said. "The app takes you right to it."

One of Rob's favorite parts of the project is the curated neighborhood tours, which allow users to experience different styles of public art throughout St. Pete. The app highlights everything from SHINE Festival murals to independent commissioned works, giving newer and lesser-known artists more visibility alongside established names.



And for Rob, that artist connection is really the heart of the project.

"The life of an artist is a challenge," he explained. "Murals are a great way to get your talent shown, but only if people can find the mural, and then find a way to connect with the artist."

The app is just launching this summer and already gaining traction locally, including being featured in the Downtown Guide. While still intentionally hyper-local and focused specifically on St. Pete, Rob hopes it becomes another pathway for people to discover local artists and their work in a more meaningful way.

As with many creative projects, there were moments of uncertainty along the way. But encouragement from the artist community kept him moving forward.

"Several of the artists I was discussing the project with gave me so much encouragement," Rob said. "Every week I'd get a call from one of them, and they probably don't realize how much that helped me power through to the end."

For a city known for its murals, Mural Quest feels less like an app and more like an invitation to slow down, wander a little differently, and discover the stories painted across St. Pete's walls.



## Mural Quest

### *Walk St. Pete differently...*

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# CHNA CLUBS

## THE BOOK CLUB

Contact Joanne at [ebeckman88@gmail.com](mailto:ebeckman88@gmail.com) to join

### JUNE: MAP OF THE WORLD BY JANE HAMILTON

The Goodwins, Howard, Alice, and their little girls, Emma and Claire, live on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. Although suspiciously regarded by their neighbors as “that hippie couple” because of their well-educated, urban background, Howard and Alice believe they have found a source of emotional strength in the farm, he tending the barn while Alice works as a nurse in the local elementary school.

But their peaceful life is shattered one day when a neighbor's two-year-old daughter drowns in the Goodwins' pond while under Alice's care. Tormented by the accident, Alice descends even further into darkness when she is accused of sexually abusing a student at the elementary school. Soon, Alice is arrested, incarcerated, and as good as convicted in the eyes of a suspicious community. As a child, Alice designed her own map of the world to find her bearings. Now, as an adult, she must find her way again, through a maze of lies, doubt and ill will.

## BOOKNIKS

Contact Melinda at [mjborthick@gmail.com](mailto:mjborthick@gmail.com) to join

### JUNE: DREAM COUNT BY CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

### JULY: WHAT ARE YOU GOING THROUGH BY SIGRID NUNEZ

### AUGUST: THE DIRECTOR BY DANIEL KEHLMAN

*Bookniks keeps a waitlist and if you are interested, please contact Melinda at the email above.*

## NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

Contact Darlene at [darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com](mailto:darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com) to join

*The nonfiction book club is on hiatus for the summer but looking for suggestions for its next season's list, starting in September.*

*To join or recommend a nonfiction book, email [Darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com](mailto:Darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com)*

## NEW FICTION BOOK CLUB

Contact Dana at [danaelizabethwood@gmail.com](mailto:danaelizabethwood@gmail.com) to join

Attention readers: A third fiction book club is in the works! We're big on books in Crescent Heights, and that means our reading clubs - particularly those dedicated to fiction - are maxed-out at the moment.

If you're on the waitlist for either book club, and still have a strong interest in fiction, CHNA member Dana Wood Schoenbeck will be spearheading a third club in this category.

A writer herself, Dana was thinking that she may want to hone-in on the thriller genre. Depending on the population this third fiction book club attracts, she may further drill down to thrillers by female authors. (Think: Lucy Foley; Sally Hepworth, Ruth Ware and St. Pete's own Lisa Unger). Dana is open to all input on genre, and welcomes a co-leader for this new venture.

## MAHJONG CLUB

Contact Darlene at [darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com](mailto:darlene.j.asselin@gmail.com) to join

Mahjong Club will be meeting the 3rd Monday of every month through the summer at Roberts Rec Center from 12:45 - 3PM.

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Data Courtesy of StellarMLS.



# CHOOSING HOW TO INVEST IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

by **Lisset Hanewicz**  
City Council Chair

Over the past several years, and especially after Hurricanes Helene and Milton forced the shutdown of the Northeast Sewer Treatment Plant, we were reminded how infrastructure quietly supports our day-to-day lives. Most of this infrastructure is buried underground. It's easy to overlook - until something goes wrong.

Our drinking water system delivers safe water to our homes, schools, and businesses. Our wastewater system protects public health and our environment. Our stormwater system helps move rainwater into the bay to reduce flooding.

However, many of the pipes, pumps, and facilities that power these systems are aging and vulnerable requiring significant investment after years of deferred maintenance. We are also facing broader resiliency challenges from rising sea levels and storms. These challenges require investment sooner rather than later.

As a result, the City is considering issuing a General Obligation (G.O.) bond to fast-track these resilience projects.

## WHAT IS A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND?

A G.O. bond is a financing tool that must be approved by voters. If approved, the City would borrow approximately \$600 million to fund major capital projects and repay the debt over 30 years through a dedicated property tax millage that would appear as a separate line item on property tax bills.

In this case, the proposed G.O. bond would help fund the acceleration of the St. Pete Agile Resilience (SPAR) program, our City's comprehensive, long-term plan to strengthen critical water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

The G.O. bond approach spreads the cost of these critical upgrades across the broader tax base of property owners instead of placing the burden primarily on utility ratepayers. It also gives residents a direct voice in deciding whether to accelerate these improvements.

## WHAT'S THE OTHER OPTION?

Even if voters do not approve the G.O. bond, SPAR projects need to be funded. The alternative mechanism is funding the projects entirely through utility rates. However, this mechanism is more costly and less efficient.

According to estimates prepared by the City's Finance Department, the assessed tax on the property bill related to the issuance of the G.O. bond would be less for 89% of property owners than if the same projects were financed through utility rates. The cost paid through property taxes would be tied to the taxable assessed value of the property and increases with the value of the property. For more details, please see the included chart.

## WHAT ARE THE OTHER BENEFITS?

Beyond distributing costs more equitably, the G.O. bond model provides several additional advantages. Because G.O. bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the City, they are the most secure financing mechanism available and therefore come with lower borrowing costs. This means we can complete more resiliency projects for every dollar borrowed.

A G.O. bond also supports generational equity - future residents and property owners who will benefit from these long-lasting infrastructure improvements will help pay for them over the next 30 years. And importantly, the City would borrow funds only as they are needed, ensuring that debt aligns with project timelines and avoids unnecessary interest costs.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

City Administration and City Council are currently developing a resolution that would call a G.O. bond referendum during the November 2026 municipal general election and provide ballot language for that referendum. Our residents deserve clear and transparent information to make an informed decision.

In the coming months, the City will continue providing information about SPAR projects and the impacts of a potential G.O. bond to help residents better understand the process through which that resolution is being developed. If City Council approves that resolution, state law will limit the City's ability to communicate to residents about that referendum (and any other ballot question). The City is planning to provide a variety of educational materials about SPAR and the proposed G.O. bond within the scope of those legal limits.

Many residents have expressed a desire for St. Petersburg to speed up investment in the infrastructure that keeps our neighborhoods safe, healthy, and resilient. I agree. The question we are facing is not whether these improvements are necessary. The question is how we choose to fund them. As this conversation continues, I remain committed to ensuring that residents understand the facts, the costs, and the long-term implications of this decision for our City. At the end of the day, if the City decides to go forward with a G.O. bond referendum, it will be up to the voters to decide in November whether they would support such a measure.

*Council Chair Lisset Hanewicz represents District 4 on the St. Petersburg City Council.*

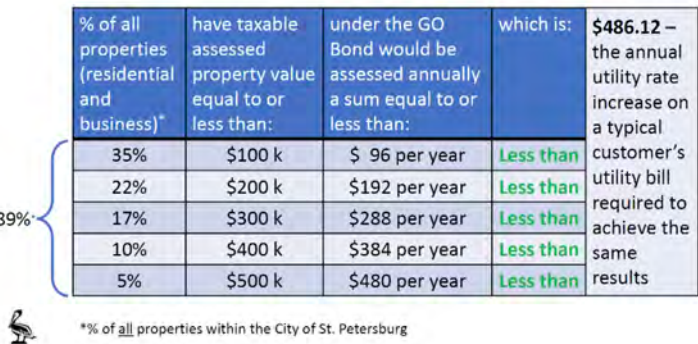


Chart from April 23, 2026 Budget, Finance, and Taxation Committee meeting demonstrating estimated G.O. bond payments by property value versus the anticipated annual utility rate increase on a typical customer's utility bill required to complete the same projects.

# RESIDENT PROFILE

## JORDAN POSTMA

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CRESCENT HEIGHTS, AND WHAT'S KEPT YOU HERE?

My little family of three, plus one sweet Golden Retriever named Honey, has lived in Crescent Heights for about a year and a half now. When we moved in, we had no idea how much of what we were looking for was already here: a strong sense of community, a welcoming and friendly environment, and a place that truly feels like somewhere we want to raise our child. There are families next door (on each side of us) that our kiddo loves, neighbors who are great friends, and a sense of connection that's hard to find. That's what's kept us here, and we have no plans of leaving. Talk about hitting the jackpot.

### WHAT DOES A TYPICAL SUMMER DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

A typical summer day usually starts with a family walk through the neighborhood, maybe stopping by a local coffee shop or grabbing ice cream because the boys in my family definitely have a sweet tooth. We almost always run into neighbors along the way, which usually turns into a quick chat or the kids jumping into sidewalk chalk, scooter races (most likely ending with skinned elbows and tears, but always worth it), or just playing together outside. We love ending the day on our front porch (fan on high), listening to the birds and soaking in how peaceful the neighborhood feels, especially at Golden Hour.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY SUMMER RITUALS OR ROUTINES YOU FIND YOURSELF COMING BACK TO EACH YEAR?

We love anything we can walk or bike to. On weekends, that usually means checking out a local market, heading to the pier for splash pad and playground time, or spending time at North Shore Park for dolphin spotting and a little hammocking. And no matter what, we always come back to our front porch. It's become our favorite place to unwind and just enjoy the fresh air, watching the variety of birds, the occasional egret wandering by, neighbors walking their dogs, and even the neighborhood cats making their rounds.

### SIMPLE SUMMER PLEASURE YOU LOOK FORWARD TO?

There's something really special about those long summer evenings in St. Pete, the kind where you take a spontaneous, and maybe a little sweaty, bike ride toward the water to catch one of those incredible skies over the Pier. It's simple, but it never gets old. It's therapeutic and serene for us, something that I feel is harder to find these days.

### WHAT ARE YOUR GO-TO WAYS TO STAY COOL DURING THE HOTTER MONTHS?

Portable fans and lots of cold treats from Mayday or Wildflower on repeat.



### WHAT'S YOUR VERSION OF A PERFECT "STAYCATION" DAY IN CRESCENT HEIGHTS?

It starts with a walk to Trips Diner for breakfast or a coffee from Neighborhood Joe or Blush. Along the way, there's always something new to notice... a hidden alley, a unique home, a little detail that makes me fall in love with the neighborhood all over again. My favorite moments are the spontaneous neighbor chats or the impromptu playdate with another kiddo in the neighborhood. Add in a dip in the pool, and end the night on our back deck grilling fresh fish (sometimes caught by our awesome neighbor) with a glass of wine, and that's our version of a perfect staycation. I mean how does it get any better?

### WHAT'S SOMETHING ABOUT SUMMER IN CRESCENT HEIGHTS THAT PEOPLE MIGHT NOT NOTICE AT FIRST?

How alive the neighborhood feels. It's hearing kids playing and laughing two streets over, neighbors stopping to talk, bikes and scooters going by, and puppy happy hour (which is what I call when all the pups are out for their evening walks).

There is this quiet connection built through so many unspoken things too like the little libraries tucked throughout the neighborhood and Sami the Snake's long colorful row of painted rocks that grow a little more each time we pass by. It's in the way neighbors show up for each other, whether volunteering for a neighborhood event or on a more personal level, like watering a plant while someone is out of town, dropping off a meal, or just knowing you have support if you ever need it. It's all of these small, everyday moments that build over the summer, and before you know it, you realize you're part of something really special.

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**Mon - Sat: 8am - 4pm**  
**Sunday: 9am - 3pm**

# NATURE WATCH SOUTH

## NATURE IS RIFE WITH MARVELS!

by **Bill Richkus**

Crescent Heights Neighbor

Our world is full of organisms with life cycles that are nearly inconceivable. For example, a fungus exists that attacks the brain of an ant, causing the ant to climb a grass stalk and die at its top, with its decomposing carcass releasing fungus spores to infect other ants! Migrations of many creatures are similarly astounding. American eels live for decades in freshwaters throughout the continent, migrate en masse to the middle of the Atlantic Ocean to spawn and die, with their larvae then finding their way back into the freshwaters to repeat the life cycle. I'm not sure if we have any American eels within the Tampa Bay area, but we do have another creature here that has a similarly wondrous life cycle: the monarch butterfly! They are the only butterflies in the world to make a long, two-way migration of thousands of miles every year.

I would guess that nearly everyone has, at one time or another, seen pictures of the wintering masses of eastern monarchs in the evergreen mountain forests of Mexico (western monarchs overwinter in California). On TV, the internet and in publications, the images of millions of these colorful butterflies clinging together on green branches makes for an enchanting sight. Videos of the masses of butterflies fluttering through the spaces between trees and branches are delightful. Accompanying these images there is almost always a brief mention of this being the overwintering location for butterflies that have migrated south from North America. From such brief descriptions, one might imagine that the butterflies are doing the same kind of migration as do birds: travel south in the fall to winter where it is warm, then migrate north for the summer where it is warm and suitable for reproduction. But, of course, a monarch's life is not that simple. In fact, it is so complex as to make it almost unbelievable.

Think about how such a delicate creature, that weighs barely half a gram and lives for only one to nine months, could accomplish such a feat! The answer is, of course, that it can't. While the butterflies lounging around in the Mexican forests in winter did make a southern migration from many northerly locations (these would be the ones that lived the longest), they don't have the energy or the life span to make a reverse migration to the area in which they may have originated. However, they do maintain sufficient energy to fly north to southern US, where they are able to deposit eggs on milkweed plants. The resultant caterpillars hatch and eventually metamorphose into adult monarchs, some of whom, in turn, fly further north.

The lifespan of the summer monarchs is on the order of only three to five weeks, thus the urgency to reproduce. Successive generation of monarchs colonize habitats further and further north. They also increase in numbers throughout their range. Those reaching



northern US and Canada are likely four or five generations removed from the overwintering butterflies.

But the monarchs emerging from their chrysalides in late summer and fall are biologically and behaviorally different from the summer cohorts. They won't mate or lay eggs, and begin to store increasing amounts of fat in their abdomen. This fat not only fuels their southern flight of one to three thousand miles but must last until the spring when they begin their northern migration. No one knows how these tiny creatures can find their way south to the same geographical location from which their Mexican great, great, great grandparents had emigrated!

Monarchs migrating northward travel at a daily rate of about 25–50 miles per day, but with numerous stops along the way. One tagged monarch was documented to have traveled 265 miles in a single day (obviously having had a strong tailwind!). But monarchs have one incredible constraint on the successful completion of their life cycle: milkweed! While adult monarchs feed on nectar from a wide range of flowering plants, shrubs and trees, their larvae can only survive by eating foliage of milkweeds of the genus *Asclepias*. Without milkweed there would be no monarchs! But while nearly all native milkweeds are suitable for allowing the monarchs to complete their life cycle, one is a serious impediment.

Tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) is used heavily by monarchs, and caterpillars grow fat and happy while consuming it. Unfortunately, butterflies emerging from caterpillars that have grown on this plant stop migrating and become sedentary, disrupting the natural migration pattern. Which chemicals within tropical milkweed are responsible for altering the butterflies' behavior is still unknown. This non-native milkweed can be found everywhere in the United States and Canada, grown as an ornamental. It is a frost-tender annual in colder areas but a perennial in warm zones. The result is that it can negatively impact migrating cohorts of monarchs throughout the year.

The eastern monarch population has dropped by about 85–88% since the mid-1990s, when an estimated ~380 million butterflies overwintered in Mexico. While there was a significant increase in overwintering monarchs last winter, the numbers were still well below the numbers in the 1900s. Conservation groups consider the monarch's status as still imperiled. You can do your part to help the monarchs: plant native milkweeds and cut down any tropical milkweed that you may find. The extinction of the gorgeous monarch butterfly would be a terrible loss to society.

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# MEET SUNNY OF CRESCENT HEIGHTS

by **Thomas Paterek**, Newsletter Editor  
**Joe Myers**, Owner

If you've spent time walking around Crescent Heights, there's a good chance you may have already spotted Sunny out on one of her neighborhood adventures.

Sunny, a 2.5-year-old rescue from Pet Pal Animal Shelter in St. Petersburg, is a mix of pit bull and Catahoula Leopard Dog, and like many of the dogs that make this neighborhood feel so connected, she has become part of the daily rhythm of Crescent Heights life.

You'll often find her walking around Crescent Lake Park in the early mornings before the Florida heat settles in. While some dogs love the beach or charging through sprinklers, Sunny prefers to stay dry and keep things simple. She enjoys soaking up the sun on the back deck, cooling off by her favorite AC vent, and most of all, playing fetch.

There isn't a snack Sunny doesn't enjoy, but her real love is tennis balls. Sunny is a true ball player. Her perfect day involves heading to the open field at Crescent Lake with her Chuck It and spending as much time as possible chasing down tennis balls across the grass.

Around the house, Sunny is happiest when she's close to her family, especially hanging around with Joe's 11-year-old daughter. She's become one of those familiar neighborhood dogs that helps make Crescent Heights feel welcoming and alive.



Like many local pups, Sunny also has a memorable Crescent Heights story. During an early morning run around the lake, she unexpectedly came face to face with the neighborhood coyote. Everyone involved, including the coyote, was startled. Since then, Sunny keeps a close eye on her surroundings during walks.

One of the best parts about living in Crescent Heights is getting to know the dogs that make up the neighborhood just as much as the people do. So next time you're out for a walk around the lake or through the neighborhood streets, keep an eye out for Sunny and say hello. There's a good chance she'll either be headed toward Crescent Lake or looking for her next tennis ball.



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# OPENING OUR DOORS TO A NEW TRADITION

## INAUGURAL CRESCENT HEIGHTS HOME TOUR

**by Jordan Postma**

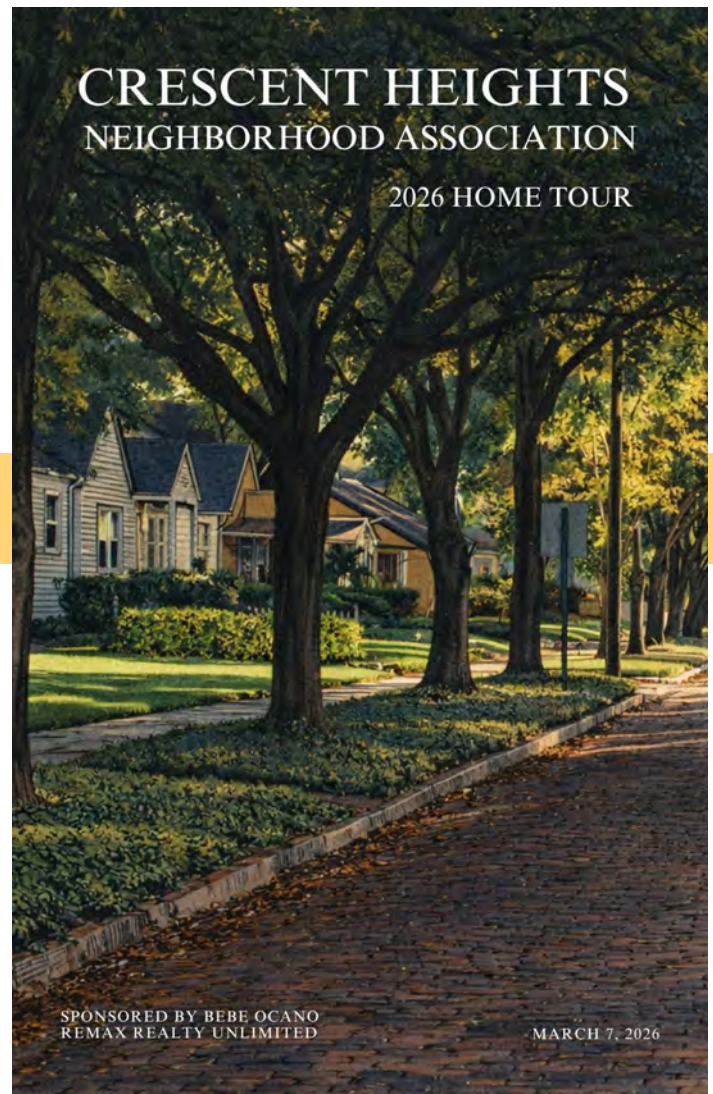
Communications & Events Director

The Inaugural Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association's Home Tour was a wonderful celebration of the history, architecture, and community spirit that make our neighborhood so special. On March 7, neighbors and guests spent the afternoon exploring five unique Crescent Heights homes, each offering its own story, architectural character, and glimpse into the rich history of our neighborhood.

This year's tour highlighted a beautiful mix of homes and restoration projects throughout Crescent Heights. Guests visited thoughtfully preserved Craftsman bungalows, Depression-era architecture, lovingly restored historic residences, and even the beautifully reimaged "Church House" on 28th Avenue North, a former Lutheran church turned private residence that many attendees described as one of the most memorable stops on the tour.

One of the most special aspects of the tour was hearing directly from homeowners about the history of their properties and the care taken to preserve the character of these homes while adapting them for modern living. Stories ranged from original wood craftsmanship and historic renovations to fascinating connections to St. Petersburg history, including ties to the Mueller pasta family and one of the women builders active in St. Petersburg during the 1930s.

The event also served as a reminder of the incredible architectural diversity found within Crescent Heights. As highlighted in the tour booklet, the neighborhood developed primarily over a forty-year period and features a variety of architectural styles including Craftsman, Minimal Traditional, and Postwar homes. Walking from house to house gave attendees a deeper appreciation for the charm, craftsmanship, and history woven throughout our tree-lined streets.



We had 37 groups sign waivers, representing a total of 69 individuals touring the homes throughout the afternoon. The event created a wonderful opportunity for neighbors to connect, meet new residents, and celebrate the unique identity of Crescent Heights together.

A huge thank you goes out to our generous homeowners for opening their homes to the neighborhood, to all of the volunteers who helped the day run smoothly, and to Bebe Ocano with RE/MAX Realty Unlimited for sponsoring this year's event. The success of the Home Tour would not have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of the community.

Based on the positive turnout and feedback we received, we would absolutely love to explore bringing the Crescent Heights Home Tour back again next year. Events like these are such a meaningful way to celebrate not only the history of our homes, but also the strong sense of community that continues to make Crescent Heights such a special place to live.

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Host a Summer

# PORCH PARTY



One of the best parts of Crescent Heights?  
The neighbors.

This summer, we'd love to encourage more neighbors to host casual porch parties throughout the neighborhood—whether it's coffee and donuts, happy hour drinks, popsicles for the kids, or wine at sunset.

Interested in hosting one?

Contact Jordan Postma at  
communications.chna@gmail.com

# A FRESH SUMMER TRADITION

## SOIL-TO-FORK FUN AT 15TH ST FARM

by **Darlene Asselin**

CHNA Membership Director

If you missed our recent neighborhood gathering, you missed a spectacular night! Fifty-seven of our **CHNA neighbors** took over **15th St Farm** on Thursday, May 14th, for a soil-to-fork dinner that was the perfect mix of community vibes and culinary magic. It's safe to say the event was a total hit—the food was incredible, and the company was even better.

### MORE THAN JUST A FARM

While we were busy enjoying our shared “culinary delight,” we also got a firsthand look at the amazing work being done right in our backyard. 15th St Farm isn't just a garden; it's a nonprofit urban oasis dedicated to building community by facilitating learning and connection through healthy, organic food, education as they partner with public schools to help students build their own vegetable garden, and community support by providing nutrient-dense meals to expectant mothers in our community. This is just a short list of some of the many things the Farm does.

### START YOUR OWN SUMMER TRADITION

Looking to spice up your St. Pete summer? Adding a visit to the Farm to your routine is a fantastic way to start a new tradition. Since their federal USDA grants recently expired, supporting them is a great way to give back while having a blast. You can jump into their mission by:

**Joining an Event:** They offer everything from yoga classes and cooking experiences to tasting events and volunteer opportunities.

**Shopping Local:** Their organic garden items are available for sale to individuals.

**Taking a Tour:** Grab some friends and book a tour of their beautiful urban grounds.

Check out their full calendar and see how you can get involved at [www.15thstfarm.com](http://www.15thstfarm.com).

Let's keep this neighborhood tradition growing!





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SUMMER  
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# CRESCENT HEIGHTS Kids Club



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## WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO:



### BIRTHDAY FAIRY VISITS

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delivered to your child's  
door on their birthday!



### SEASONAL EVENTS + ACTIVITIES

Fun gatherings and  
memorable moments  
throughout the year.



### NEIGHBOR-HOSTED GATHERINGS

Opportunities for  
families to host and  
connect close to home.



### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Building friendships  
and a strong sense of  
belonging together.



Questions?

EMAIL US: [COMMUNICATIONS.CHNA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS.CHNA@GMAIL.COM)

*Little neighbors,  
big community.* 

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CRESCENT HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# CHNA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

**Crescent Heights Summer Meet Up**  
Additional details to come.

**Crescent Heights Kids Kickoff Event**  
**COMING THIS SUMMER!**  
Additional details to come.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Halloween Block Party**  
**Saturday, October 24, 5:00 - 7:00 PM**  
Join us for our annual CHNA Halloween Block Party!  
More details to come. It's sure to be a ghoul-y good time!

**CHNA General Membership Meeting**  
**Monday, November 2nd**  
**6:00 PM Social Time, 6:30 PM Meeting**  
Blush Tea & Coffee, 2382 Dr. MLK Street N

**Lights in the Heights**  
**Saturday, December 5, 5:00 - 8:00 PM**  
Lights in the Heights is December 5th, sure to be one of our most magical nights of the year! Stay tuned for more details.

**Interested in hosting a Porch Party?**  
Contact Jordan Postma, CHNA Events Director, at [communications.chna@gmail.com](mailto:communications.chna@gmail.com) or 334-559-4086.

## WHAT'S UP AROUND TOWN

**Tampa Bay Rays**  
(ongoing)  
Tropicana Field, 1 Tropicana Drive

**Tampa Bay Rowdies**  
(ongoing)  
Al Lang Stadium, 230 1st Street SE

**Art After Dark**  
Thursday, June 18. 5:00 - 8:00 PM  
The Dali, 1 Dali Boulevard

**Saturday Morning Market**  
Every Saturday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Al Lang Stadium, 230 1st Street S

**Sweet Friend Foundation's "We've Got Your Back"**  
Backpack and School Supply Drive  
Saturday, June 27, 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Golden Isles Brewing Co.  
3000 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Street N

**Historic Downtown St. Pete Trolley Tour**  
Saturday, July 4, 9:00 - 11:00 AM (Recurring)  
St. Petersburg Museum of History  
335 2nd Avenue NE

**The Fourth at the St. Pete Pier**  
Saturday, July 4, 4:00 - 10:00 PM  
St. Pete Pier, 600 2nd Avenue NE

**PickleBall 101 | Get Fit St. Pete**  
Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 - 7:00 PM (Recurring)  
Bartlett Park Sports Complex, 2000 7th Street S

**37th Annual Cool Art Show by PAVA**  
Saturday, July 18, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
St. Petersburg Coliseum, 535 4th Avenue N

**15th Annual Great St. Pete Cupcake Contest**  
Saturday, August 29, 12:00 - 3:00 PM  
Morean Center for Clay, 420 22nd Street S

