



# Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter

**Next CHNA  
Neighborhood  
Outing**

**“May  
Porch  
Party”**

**When:  
Friday, May 13  
7:00-9:00pm**

**What:**  
Please bring an  
appetizer to share  
and your own  
beverages. Meet  
your neighbors  
and enjoy the start  
to the weekend.

**Where:**  
At the home of  
Marty Hallas  
located at 726 27<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue North  
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**CHNA Flags** are still  
available for sale - you  
are probably starting to  
see them crop up around  
the neighborhood on  
houses and businesses.  
Please support CHNA  
by purchasing a flag for  
\$40. These are high  
quality flags and the  
neighborhood is NOT  
making a profit on this -  
we are doing this purely  
to encourage spirit and  
solidarity. We want to be  
the best neighborhood!  
You can purchase at an  
upcoming event, or buy  
online at  
[www.mychna.org](http://www.mychna.org).

## ***Neighborhood News & Upcoming Events***

**STAY TUNED FOR THESE PROPOSED UPCOMING CHNA EVENTS -**

**May** (Porch Party with Marty Hallas), **June** (Ice Cream Social @ The Dairy Inn), **July** (Marlys Cox Porch/Pool Party), **August** (Painting with a Twist), **September** (Florida friendly landscaping), **October** (Halloween block party), **November** (Elections, porch party), **December** (Porch party, Luminary walk, Holiday decoration contest)

**SAVE OUR BANYAN TREE EFFORT CONTINUES** - Many of you know that the historic banyan tree in Crescent Lake Park is in poor health. In an effort to restore the neighborhood icon to its former glory, it has become necessary to erect a fence around the banyan tree to help the tree recover and return to good health. While the great tree – estimated to be more than 100 years old -- has provided many people with a place to play, it has suffered in the process. And without taking major steps to help preserve the tree, its days would be numbered. Since the fence was put up, city officials and arborists have seen some improvement in the tree’s health, despite record cold temperatures in January and December 2010. While the tree is still recovering, its improvement has been a good sign that our effort is helping. The next step in our effort involves the current chain link fence. Since the fence is only temporary, it will have to be removed. That poses a danger to the tree, as those who have evaluated the tree believe that the tree is now at the stage where it can no longer withstand the rigors of serving as a place to play.

In the meantime, the city, which has been a great partner in this effort, is working with our neighborhood to give us time find a solution for a permanent fence. As a result, the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association is looking into ways to have a permanent and visually appealing fence installed. If any of you have any suggestions or ideas, or have contacts in the construction industry who would consider providing in-kind services – such as fence materials -- please keep this effort in mind and consider helping us save the banyan tree.

Feel free to send an email to Mike Flanagan at [mflanagan\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:mflanagan_2000@yahoo.com). We would love to hear from you.

**MOVIES IN THE PARK**- Music Starts at 7 pm - Movies Start at Dark. North Straub Park (Beach Dr. between 4th & 5th Ave. NE). Come early and purchase food and drink from some of Saturday Morning Market's most popular vendors or enjoy your own picnic while listening to music before the movie. Rent a chair for a few dollars or bring your own blanket or seat! Convenient parking available at Baywalk garage or in the Pier parking lots. <http://www.carriejadus.com/MoviesinMay.htm>.

**May 12** - *City Slickers* (1991) starring Billy Crystal as a New Yorker turned cowboy & Jack Palance as "Curly" in a performance that earned him the Academy Award for best supporting actor.

**May 19** - *Some Like It Hot* (1959) starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis & Jack Lemon. Film won Golden Globe for best comedy.

**May 26** - *North by Northwest* (1959), a classic Hitchcock thriller starring Cary Grant & Eva Marie Saint as the beautiful blonde trying to get him out of trouble. Don't forget to look for Hitchcock in the opening scene!

## **ESSAY - "Writing it Down" by Kristen Noakes-Fry**

I have kept diaries for decades. Unlike my father, who used the same diaries from the same manufacturer for decades, I somehow have ended up using diaries in many sizes and styles, depending on what I can locate, often at the last minute. I like dated diaries with one page a day – allows me to keep my entries brief, but not too brief. If I want to go on at length, I'll write in a more free-form journal or even in a computer file for as many pages as I like. But the handwritten diary has been my discipline over the years, every day.

Sorting through boxes of books from my most recent move, I have come across my daily diaries/journals for the past decade. Label-maker in hand, I set out to impose some order and consistency, labeling the ones that do not have the year imprinted on the spine, challenging since about half of them are spiral-bound. As I work, every little while on a whim I flip through pages at random to see what I was doing on this very day earlier in the decade – kind of a "this day in history" exercise.

As I flip through the pages, some notations bring a smile, some a sigh, some a spark of recognition – and some I skim over as routine lists of restaurants, trips to the home center, and purchases. In all cases, they spark a memory, evoke visual images of where we were living at the time, our interests, our friends, our jobs, our ups and our downs. As I look at the different inks, size and speed of writing, type of pen, I'm carried back to those past times for a moment. And, no matter how trivial the subject matter, I'm so grateful that I recorded the impressions of the day.

Going back to the diary is sort of like having a friend who reminds you of some little shared experience. "Remember the time..." and you both laugh, reminded, remembering. Grounded. In the flow of life. Friends with a past, present, & future. On this date in January 2007, I find, "While we were at lunch, dogs pulled down a pile of bowls from my sailing-ship dishes – broke 5 out of 8. I had dreamed that these would be our dishes someday when we lived on a big boat – feel sad, kind of empty." The same date the next year, in 2008, "On the road at 11:45. A few minutes later, realized that Roger had not packed any winter clothes, relying on the summer wardrobe he keeps stowed in the motor home. Turned around and went back. I ran into the house & loaded my arms with jackets and shirts & sprinted back out again."

My label-maker clicks and the pages rustle. The project proceeds smoothly until I encounter a shock. As I flip further into a couple of the books, I find many pages that are totally blank – in one book, almost all the pages are blank. How could they be blank? Did nothing happen? How could I do that to myself? Had I misplaced the diary for a few weeks? Left it behind when I went on a trip? I know that I probably was filled with lazy good intentions that when I had a minute, I could easily "catch up" -- but somehow I never did. Unfortunately, in life's mysteries, the page not written is right up there with "the road not taken." Gone. I feel cheated, insulted, robbed of my memories. Wish I'd written a few words, even just "Furnace quit" or "Lunch at diner" or "Slept in" or "Seem to be getting over cold." It doesn't have to be great prose – it just has to be something.

My husband is gone now, my partner in memories, after 30 years of conversation and adventures – better/worse, sickness/health, richer/poorer, all swept away by the cruel actions of cancer and death. Now there's nobody to say, "Honey, remember the time..." But the diaries remember. They have "the words that stay." I can flip to a page and have the conversation, even though it is one-sided. That's why the blank pages upset me so much, make me feel cheated of my memories by my unthinking, careless former self, airily saying, "That's all right – we'll remember." But we don't. As we get older, we are more responsible for creating and keeping our own memories.

I have read a statistic that only a wee fraction of a percentage of the population can remember what they did on any and every specified date in their lives. The rest of us normal folks only think we have wonderfully vivid powers of recall. Of course, we all share culturally specific memories, such as (depending on how old we are), the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Bobby Kennedy, the Challenger explosion, the death of Princess Diana, the World Trade Center disaster on 9/11. We remember where we were, who told us, the surroundings, the TV coverage, our feelings, our thoughts, the meaning we assigned to the event. And we have the personally specific moments, such as when we received certain academic degrees and certifications, had spiritual awakenings, experienced the births, marriages, and deaths of loved ones, met our soul-mates, etc. But there's a lot more to life than the cultural and personal headlines. Recording the events of daily life in a diary is more than a discipline, it is a gift to oneself.

## **JTS TAX SERVICE Of Pinellas County 860 24th Ave North**

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**Remember to relax and let me do your taxes**

**The April 16 Easter Egg  
Hunt in the park was a  
great success! Thank you  
to all those who participated!  
The kids had a great time.**



*Forbes Ad*

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### 2011 CHNA Board

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## ***USEFUL NUMBERS TO KEEP HANDY***

**Emergency – 911    Non-emergency - 727-893-7780**

**Community Service Officer - 727-551-3182**

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

**Call Before You Dig - 800-432-4770**

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

**Trash & Brush Collection/Recycling - 727-893-7398**

**Progress Energy (Report Street Light Outage)**

800-228-8485 (location and pole #)

**Senate District 16 - Jack Latvala- (727) 556-6500**

**House of Representatives District 52 - Jeff Brandes - (727) 552-2573**

**Congressional District 10 - Bill Young - (727) 893-3191**

**County Commissioner District 7 - Kenneth T. Welch - (727) 464-3377**

**City council District 4 - Leslie Curran - (727) 893-7117**

## ***Advertising in the CHNA Newsletter***

The Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter is published monthly, except August and December, and is distributed to each of the nearly 600 homes in Crescent Heights and to neighborhood businesses. Advertising helps offset printing costs for the newsletter. Advertising space is made available each month; deadline for all ads is the 25th of each month prior to the publication. All ads should be camera-ready or in electronic format. Payment is due at time of ad placement. If you are interested in advertising or need rates, please email you needs to [newsletter@mychna.org](mailto:newsletter@mychna.org).

**Join the Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association TODAY! Help support the neighborhood and efforts to make this a great place to live. Cost is just \$20 a year (Jan-Dec). Sign up for membership online and pay with PayPal at [www.myCHNA.org](http://www.myCHNA.org)! Or fill out this membership form and mail or bring to the next monthly meeting.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee is \$20 payable to CHNA. Bring to meeting or mail to CHNA, PO Box 76051, St. Pete, FL 33734

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