



Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter

**Next CHNA
Neighborhood
Outings**
(see page 2 for
all these event
details)

June

“Ice Cream Social”

When:
Sun, June 26 –
1pm

Where:
The Dairy Inn
1201 Dr. MLK St

July

“Pool Party”

When:
Sun, July 24 –
3-5pm

Where:
House of
Maryls Cox at
635 27th Ave N

August

“Painting Outing”

When:
Sat, Aug 20 –
2pm

Where:
Painting With a
Twist
2527 Central Ave.

Live Oaks – A better choice for shade than Laurel Oaks

In Crescent Heights, our properties have huge old spreading oak trees in abundance, representing two native Florida species. Some are Laurel Oaks (*quercus laurifolia*) and some are Live Oaks (*quercus virginiana*). Most of us, figuring that any kind of a shade tree is a good thing under the Florida sun, have not given a lot of thought about which kind of oak is casting its welcome shadows over the backyard.

One quick way to tell which kind of oak you have: In the fall and winter, the leaves of the Laurel Oak turn yellow, drop off, and make a mess. On the other hand, the Live Oak is a true *evergreen*.

Apart from the presence or absence of drifting leaves all winter, a more important difference between the trees has caused some of us to re-consider these sources of shade we have taken for granted: the *life span* of the two types of oaks. Since much of this neighborhood was established in the 1930s and 1940s, many existing Laurel Oaks are in the last years of their life spans. Happily, the planting Live Oaks -- as an addition to our landscaping or to replace old Laurel Oaks -- will ensure years of shade for us, our children, and our grandchildren. When considering planting Live Oaks instead of Laurel Oaks, here are some points to consider:

Size: The Live Oak grows 60 to 80 feet high while the Laurel Oak grows to around 60 feet. In 1984, the “Florida Champion Live Oak” in Alachua County measured 84 feet in height, over 9 feet in diameter, and had a crown spread of 150.5 feet.

Shade Potential: The Live Oak has a spread of 60 to 120 feet, a crown spread that is quite wide in relation to its height, giving it the stability to withstand high winds and storm surges. The Laurel Oak has a canopy of 40-60 feet.

Toughness: The Live Oak is a sturdy hardwood tree (the wood weighs 55 pounds per cubic foot when air dry) with a trunk that can grow to over 6 feet in diameter. The smaller, weaker trunk and branches of a Laurel Oak tend to rot and become prone to breakage, making it more likely for limbs to break off and inflict property damage in high winds. And the Live Oak tolerates periods of drought better than the Laurel Oak.

Life Span: The Live Oak will live to over 300 years, while the expected ideal life span of a Laurel Oak is 50-70 years.

Maintenance: Because it is prone to rot and breakage, the Laurel Oak requires more pruning and maintenance and poses a higher risk of property damage in high winds.

And, from a purely picturesque point of view, Southern Live Oaks are a lovely addition to the neighborhood because they attract that romantic symbol of the relaxed Southern lifestyle: Spanish Moss (*tillandsia usneoides*). According to botanists, Spanish Moss shows a preference for the Live Oak because it emits calcium, magnesium, potassium, and phosphorus to provide the perfect nutrition.

When it’s time to add or replace shade trees, please consider the stalwart Southern Live Oak. CHNA is pleased to announce that we are currently in negotiations with a number of local nurseries and tree farms in Pinellas County to make a bulk purchase of Southern Live Oak trees at a great discount for our neighbors (planting service included)! Interested? Contact president@mychna.org to sign up to receive a tree or get more information. The more neighbors that participate will increase the discount for all. And finally, lest we forget property values, Leonard Gilman of Imperial Tree Service tells us, “Quality trees add between 5% and 20% to property values.”

By Kristen Noakes-Fry

UPCOMING NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS THIS SUMMER

Join your neighbors this Summer for one of these great events! See you around!

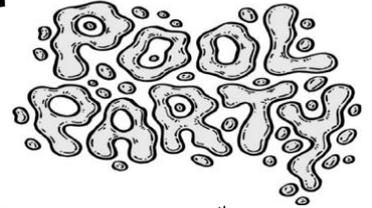
JUNE - Join us for an ice cream social at the Dairy Inn, St Petersburg's oldest ice cream parlor, on Sunday, June 26th at 1 pm. The Dairy Inn is located just a few minutes away at 1201 Dr. Martin Luther King Street N., Street. Bring the kids for some Almost Famous burgers or authentic Philly Cheesesteaks, and then enjoy dessert on us! Each person who attends will get \$2 in free Dairy Inn food. Plus there will be face painting and balloon animals! Pets are also welcome- the Dairy Inn serves up free "puppy sundaes" year-round! The Dairy Inn has always generously supported the residents of CHNA. If you haven't given them a try, now is a great time!

JULY - Come cool off and meet your great neighbors at this Summer Pool Party! Maryls Cox has kindly offered to open her back yard and host the party on Sunday, July 24th. It will take place from 3pm to 5pm and she is located at 635 27th Ave North. Please bring your own drinks and a side dish to share. CHNA will provide burgers and hotdogs. See you there.

AUGUST - St. Petersburg has been voted number one in *American Style Magazine's* list of Top 25 Arts Destinations for mid-size U.S. cities for the second year in a row! Find your inner artist at our CHNA event in August. We'll be holding a private party at Painting With a Twist, located at 2527 Central Ave. Painting With a Twist provides your paint, canvas, and brushes. Bring a bottle of wine or beverage and paint a picture along with a local artist. Mark your calendars now - this event will be held on Saturday, August 20th at 2 pm. The price is \$30 per person. If you aren't interested in painting, please still join us at 2 pm. We hope to start the event with a Q&A with our City Council representative, Leslie Curran. More details about this event will be published in the August newsletter.



Sunday, June 26th - 1pm



Sunday, July 24th - 3-5pm



Saturday, August 20th - 2pm



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727-537-0101
president@mychna.org

Jen Wright, 1st Vice President
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Jim Tomlinson, At Large
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Nancy Warner, Secretary
warner0806@aol.com

Chris Giebner,
Newsletter & Web Editor
727-420-6868 cell
newsletter@mychna.org

Julie Kornbluth, Business Relations
cafeconleche79@yahoo.com

Kristen Noakes-Fry,
Membership Director
727-258-8389 • 843-908-5873 (cell)
knfwriter@gmail.com

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.

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! 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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