Message from the President: Water, Water Everywhere!

Now we’re in the thick of summer. In Florida, that means we’re being immersed in water. The City of St. Petersburg is flush with water-related initiatives you might be interested in.

First is the St. Petersburg Toilet Rebate Program. The City will give you up to $100 if you replace your thirsty high flow toilet with an ultra low flow toilet. For more information call 727-893-7676 or ToiletRebateOffice@stpete.org.

Second is the St. Petersburg Sensible Sprinkling Program. If you are eligible:

- the City will install rain sensors for your sprinkler systems at no charge.
- a personalized sprinkler system efficiency report will be provided to you at no charge.
- You’ll receive educational materials on water conservation at no charge.

If you are interested in the Sensible Sprinkling Program, please email me at philtrochia@yahoo.com. Provide your mailing address and I will drop off an application form to you. You can also call 727-551-3177 for more information. —Phil Trocchia

Important Contact Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHNA President</th>
<th>Community Service Officer</th>
<th>Special Trash Pick-Up</th>
<th>Call Before You Dig</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phil Trocchia,</td>
<td>(727) 551-3182</td>
<td>(727)-893-7398</td>
<td>1-800-432-4770</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:president@mychna.org">president@mychna.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Police Non-Emergency</th>
<th>Crime Tip Line</th>
<th>Report Street Light Outage</th>
<th>Mayor’s Action Line</th>
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<tr>
<td>(727) 893-7780</td>
<td>(727) 892-5000</td>
<td>(location &amp; pole # needed)</td>
<td>(727) 893-7111</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1-800-228-8485</td>
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Home of the Month: 486 24th Avenue N

Visiting the home at 486 24th Ave, N, we met a delightful and interesting couple: Susan Allen and Dick Rolfes, married for over 27 years. The buttery yellow 1-story house, built in 1958, has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a remodeled kitchen, family room and a beautifully landscaped yard.

When Susan accepted the position of Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Social Studies at USFSP in 2003, they had to decide where to live. Susan and Dick knew they liked and wanted to settle on the west coast of Florida. Then they had to decide between such beach gems as Sarasota, Siesta Key or St. Petersburg.

Lucky for us, they chose our Crescent Heights neighborhood. “Crescent Heights offers a nice mix of people and kids, young and old and it’s a little cosmopolitan. Also, the location is beneficial only seven minutes to work and the interstate is close so it’s easy to travel to Clearwater to visit friends,” Susan said.

Both Susan and Dick enjoy walking to the events downtown. Recently, after attending the “May Movies in the Park” program (offered in North Straub Park on Thursday evenings), they ran into several neighbors who had also walked downtown to enjoy the evening festivities.

When Susan and Dick were looking for a home, they wanted an open floor plan with a nice flow to it. The family room is a comfortable room with wall to wall bookcases. “Being active readers, we knew this was the house for us because it had built-in book shelves in the family room,” Susan said.

The house has some unique features, such as a cedar lined closet for storage of seasonal clothing, curved ceiling molding and hardwood floors. Their home, built in 1958, has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, with a unique shower that connects the two bathrooms so each bathroom has access to the one shower, similar to a “Jack and Jill” bathroom design.

After purchasing the home, they started on their remodeling “to do” list. Susan and Dick replaced the forty-five year-old roof, windows, and had the house painted. They remodeled the kitchen a few years later. Using 16” tiles for the flooring in the kitchen and family room, they accentuated the open floor plan of their one story home. The family room also has unique cove lighting which is up-lighting from the crown modeling offering a soft brightness without the use of lamps. Their latest completed home renovation project is the new plush green lawn, which accents the outside of the house beautifully.

Dick and Susan’s interest include more than just remodeling. As well as being an Associate Professor at USFSP, Susan also enjoys hiking and birding. She has plans to become a Master Naturalist where she will complete courses necessary to educate others about the environment. Dick retired from the position of Sr. Vice President of the trust department of a bank. Dick plays Bridge a couple of times a week. His dedication to the game is evident, as he has earned the title Silver Life Master of the game.

While we were completing the interview, Simon, the Siamese cat, greeted us. He has been a member of the family for over eighteen years and seems very content with his surroundings as do the owners Susan and Dick. “We love St. Petersburg and wouldn’t want to live anywhere else.” — Nioma Brown and Anita Thompson
Making Crescent Heights a Great Place to Live

Crescent Heights is a wonderfully active neighborhood. At just about any time of the day you will see people pushing strollers, jogging, biking, dog walking, or on their way to a neighborhood grocery store or restaurant. One thing we can all do to make Crescent Heights a better neighborhood is to keep our sidewalks clear from low hanging branches, overgrown shrubs, and encroaching grass and ground covers.

Now that summer is here, plants, trees, and weeds that were so well behaved over the cooler months seem to getting more unruly than Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors. The majority of plant growth during the year takes place in late spring and summer. Yard work performed in April or May has all but disappeared behind the rampant new growth.

This summer, please give special attention to keeping your sidewalks free and clear of obstacles and obstructions. Aside from decreasing homeowner liability issues and complying with city codes, accessible sidewalks benefit you, your guests, and all the residents that make Crescent Heights a great and active neighborhood.

- Steve Hamsness

VOTE!!
St. Pete Primary Election

When: Tue, August 27, 8am – 5pm

Vote in the August primary in order to support your preferred candidate for Mayor and our City Council seat. Voters will also be deciding on whether or not to continue with the current plan for the Pier or terminate the existing architect/engineering agreement between the City of St. Petersburg and Michael Maltzan Architecture, Inc. Visit www.votepinellas.com for more information.
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Even though the book club is taking a summer break, we’ll still be busy reading on our own this summer and will have lots of ideas to discuss when we meet again in the fall. In the meantime, some of our Book Club members thought it would be interesting to share favorite childhood books, and why they have developed life-long reading habits. The following are a few who responded.

Diane had the following reply. I don’t know when I started to read, but my father would take my siblings and me to the library every Saturday for books, starting when I was about 3 or 4 years old. We lived in a very small town and our local library consisted of one room, with a children’s section of a few shelves. But on one of those shelves I found my favorite book, now out of print, and I must have read it 100 times as a child. It was called Tommy and Julie, and it was a book about magic and wizards and fantastic creatures. I know it was probably too old for me, but I loved the story and the illustrations. It was little scary too----everything a kid wants in a book! When I had my own children, I looked for this book in our library but was never able to find it. I knew my sisters had also read it and I told them I was looking for a copy. And one year I received a copy signed by the author for my birthday! I have since re-read it several times, and it still brings back those memories of mystery and magic that made the book so appealing to me in the first place.

A more whimsical book, The Fat Cat by Jack Kent, was one of Mary’s favorites. She remembers as a young child wanting her mother to read it to her over and over. It is a Danish folk tale that is incredibly funny and yet also a bit morbid at the end. This story has the increasingly long, counting-style list of ridiculous things the Fat Cat has eaten and is delightful in its silliness. Mary’s other favorites were the well-loved Madeline books by Ludwig Bemelmans. These classic books include exciting adventures that have been loved by several generations. Many have been made into CDs and TV episodes as well. Mary has enjoyed sharing Fat Cat and Madeline with her five-year old daughter and will, no doubt, read them to her newborn twins in the coming years.

As for me, I remember enjoying the Bobsy Twins and Nancy Drew books when I was young. But the book that impressed me the most was Gone With the Wind which I read when I was about sixteen. Margaret Mitchell’s novel opened up a view of the south to me that was astonishing and set me on the path to be a life-long student of history. I loved the romance, the courage and story of Scarlett’s survival. It was the first time I became so engaged in a book that the time flew by, and it was the first time a book moved me to tears. And boy did I cry--when Melanie died, and on the march into Atlanta, and then when Rhett left Scarlett at the end. Of course, favorite quotes come to mind when I think of that novel: “Frankly, Scarlett, I don’t give a ____!” And, “I’ll think about it tomorrow.” Now that I’m remembering how much I loved the book, I may read it again this summer, or maybe just watch the movie. . .

I believe that whenever a book can cause one to cry or laugh, or feel compassion or educate, it can be life changing. And if it’s a wonderful adventure that takes you along, it is a worthwhile book indeed.

When we meet again in September we will discuss Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurty. Since this is a rather long saga, it might be a good idea to start reading this one over the summer. The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbauch is our selection for October. More details about the dates and locations of the book club’s fall meetings will appear in the September newsletter. If you have questions or want further information contact me at maucamp@verizon.net.
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SOLD
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1037 18th Avenue North
3/2/1 Car 1,297 htsqft $185,000
1420 26th Avenue North
2/2 Car 1,408 htsqft $233,500
304 21st Avenue North
3/2/2 Car 1,878 htsqft $337,500
501 29th Avenue North
2/2/1 Car 1,215 htsqft $222,000
1600 15th Street North
3/2/2 Car 1,220 htsqft $129,900
2000 59th Street North
2/1 Car 916 htsqft $134,900

Margarita Ice Cream

- 1/2 Cup Lime Juice
- 2 Tablespoons Tequila
- 3 Tablespoons orange Liqueur (Triple Sec)
- 1 1/4 Cups Powdered Sugar
- 2 Cups Heavy Cream

Pour the lime juice, tequila and orange liqueur into a bowl and stir in powdered sugar to dissolve. Add the heavy cream and then softly whip until thick and smooth but not stiff. Spoon into an airtight container to freeze overnight. This ice cream does not need softening before serving, as it will not freeze too hard and melts speedily. Enjoy.

Do Your Part: Slash Your Summer Utility Bills
It’s downright hot outside these days. Don’t despair over rising utility bills. Here are five ways to slash summer utility bills.

Make Your Thermostat Work for You.
First, program your thermostat to work for you around your family’s summer schedule-set a few degrees higher when no one is home.

Don’t Forget the Fan.
One ceiling fan alone can make a room feel much as seven degrees cooler. If you raise your thermostat by two degrees and us a ceiling fan, you can lower cooling costs by up to 14 percent.

Make your Current Windows More Efficient.
Closing the blinds and curtains during the day can also help you keep cool. When you block the sunlight you can reduce the heat coming into the home by as much as 40 percent.

Keep Cool in the Kitchen.
Your kitchen is another big source of heat inside your home. Avoid running your appliances such as the dishwasher or clothes dryer during the day. Instead, run it at night and only when fully loaded. Instead of heating up the oven, fire-up the grill to keep it cool inside. Use the microwave to whip up side dishes.

Trees Make a Big Impact.
Finally, plant a tree or two near the southwest corner of your house. Choose a deciduous tree that will shade your home in the summer and shed its leaves in the fall to allow in warm winter sunlight. Call Jane for more ideas on Cutting Costs.

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