



ICAR

THE INITIATIVE ON COASTAL ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

ICAR & Storm Squad Community Annual Review 2025

G-SAL Lab



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG

Our Mission

- Use research and education to provide the understanding and ideas needed to make critical decisions regarding our changing and vulnerable coasts
- Engaging stakeholders to facilitate adoption of policies and practices focused on coastal adaptation and resilience
- This transdisciplinary initiative includes the science, engineering, policy and social sciences and will examine the interactions between climate change, water systems, land use, the built environment and ecosystem functions.

Engaging With The Community

With our sponsors and partners such but not limited to NSF, Duke, and FLFPC... We were able to provide a monthly safe space for individuals who wanted to share personal experiences and major community concerns.

Thank You Sponsors & Partners

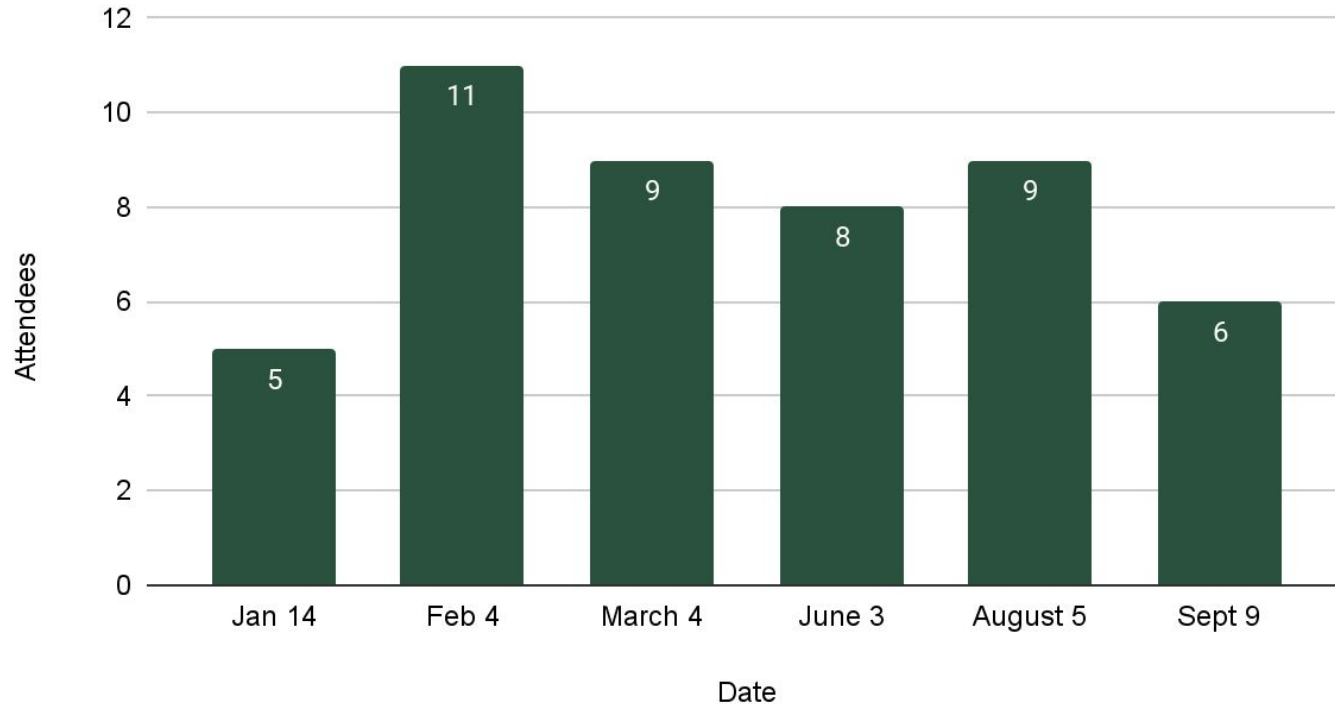


Monthly Meetings

Monthly Meetings for Storm Squad members
were held at 6:30 PM at Frank W. Pierce and
Enoch Davis Community Centers.

Monthly Attendance

Monthly Meetings



Monthly Meetings



August 5th, 2025



June 3rd, 2025



March 4th, 2025



February 4th, 2025

Community Town Hall Events

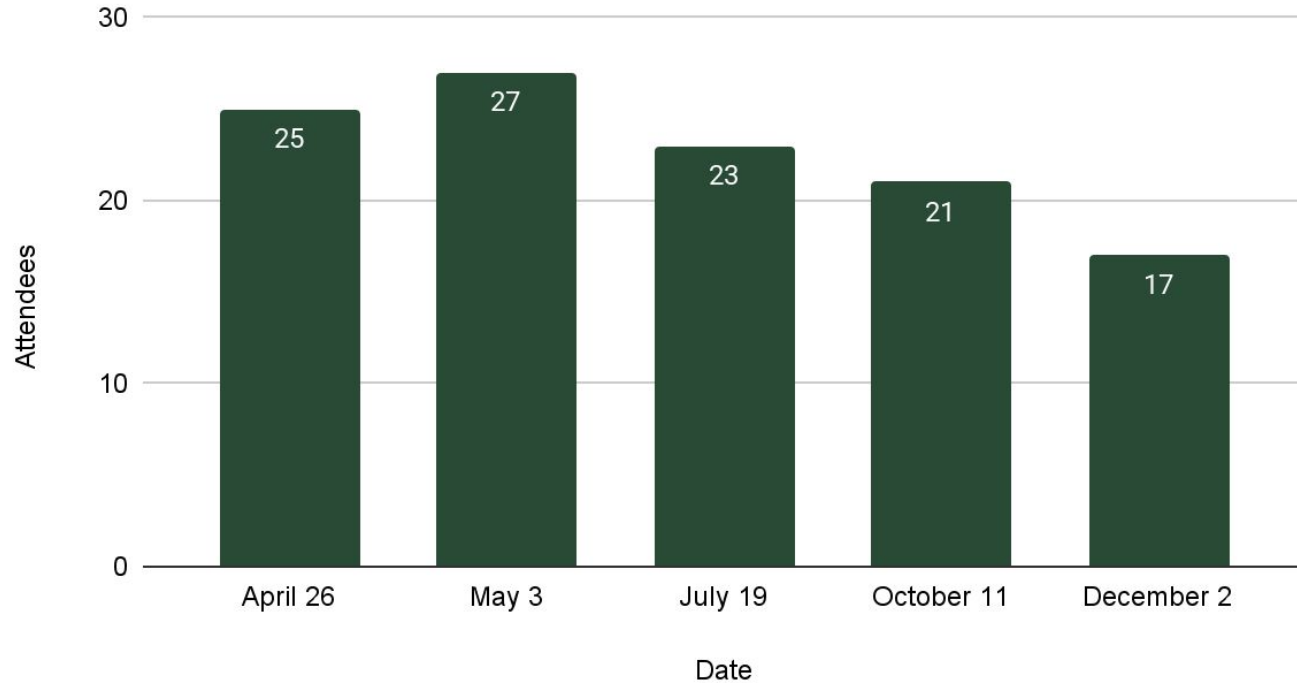
Quarterly town hall events were held in various locations in the local area. These meetings were held on Saturdays from 10 AM to 1 PM and were intended to share resources and the Storm Squad with the Community!



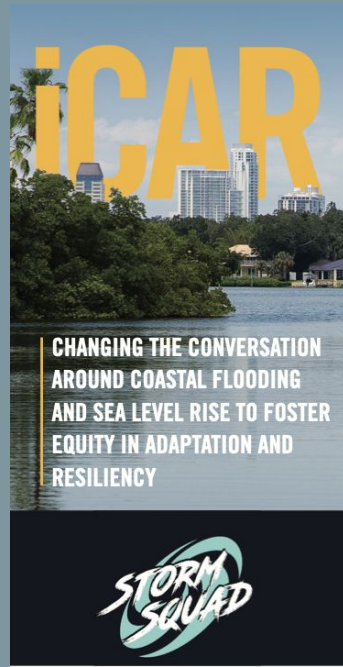
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Town Hall Attendance

Town Hall Events



April Town Hall Event



**CHANGING THE CONVERSATION
AROUND COASTAL FLOODING
AND SEA LEVEL RISE TO FOSTER
EQUITY IN ADAPTATION AND
RESILIENCY**

STORM SQUAD TOWNHALL MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 FROM 10AM – 1PM



MT. ZION HUMAN SERVICES
945 20th St S, St. Petersburg, FL, 33712

FREE ADMISSION & LUNCH

- ▶ Find out more about your flood risk
- ▶ Hear about resources available to help you
- ▶ Tell us what you need to prepare
- ▶ Give us feedback on the Flood App

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD OPPORTUNITY TO WIN HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS ITEMS

LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING:
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FOR INFO:
STORMSQUAD.ORG



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April 26th Event Summary

- Event held at Mount Zion Human Services (945 20th St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712)
- 25 people in attendance
- iCAR survey distributed at sign-in
- Dr. Barnali Dixon provided a Storm Squad update and reviewed flood data from last year's storms
- Flood reporting app details were shared; attendees added the app to their phones as requested
- Mary Burrell, Pinellas County Emergency Management, shared disaster resources, preparation tactics, and timelines for hurricane season
- There was an open discussion for community questions, concerns, and challenges to hurricane preparedness and recovery
- Resource tabling and brief presentations by: Bay Area Legal Services, Small Business Administration, First Contact, and Endeavors
- The event concluded with door prizes of hurricane preparedness supplies

April 26th Agenda



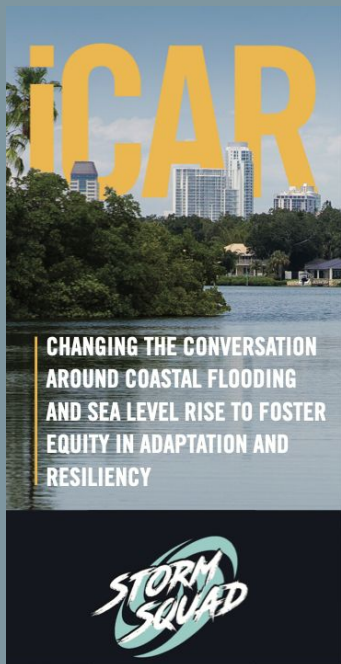
Storm Squad Town Hall
April 26, 2025 from 10 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Time	Agenda
10:00	Registration
10:10 - 10:15	Welcome
10:15-10:45	Promoting Resilience with Storm Squad <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Barnali Dixon, Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR), University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus
10:45-11:15	Hurricane Season 2025 Looking Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mary Burrell, Whole Community Engagement Program Lead, Pinellas County Emergency Management
11:15 – 11:45	Listening Session: What was learned from Hurricane Helene & Hurricane Milton? What were your challenges?
11:45-12:00	Community Resources
12:00-12:30	Lunch & Networking
12:30-12:45	Door Prizes and Closing



April 26th
Event Photos

May Town Hall Event - Inaugural Event in Lealman



**CHANGING THE CONVERSATION
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STORM SQUAD TOWNHALL MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 3 FROM 10AM – 1PM



LEALMAN AND ASIAN NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY CENTER
4255 56th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33714

FREE ADMISSION & LUNCH

- ▶ Find out more about your flood risk
- ▶ Hear about resources available to help you
- ▶ Tell us what you need to prepare
- ▶ Give us feedback on the Flood App

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May 3rd Event Summary

- Event held at the Lealman and Asian Neighborhood Family Center
- 27 people in attendance
- iCAR survey was distributed at sign-in (Vietnamese translation available as needed)
- Dr. Barnali Dixon introduced Storm Squad, reviewed community data and data-sharing needs.
- Flood App link was shared and added to attendees phones at request
- Flood-level activity with translated tablets as needed
- Mary Burrell, Pinellas County Emergency Management, reviewed disaster resources and demonstrated a hurricane kit
- Resource tabling by: Bay Area Legal Services, Seniors in Service, First Contact, PCEM
- The event concluded with a raffle of hurricane preparedness items

May 3rd Event Agenda



Storm Squad Town Hall
May 3, 2025 from 10 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Time	Agenda
10:00	Registration
10:10 - 10:15	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Erica Hall
10:15 - 11:00	Promoting Equitable Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Barnali Dixon, Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR), University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus Flooding Game What is the Storm Squad?
10:45-11:15	Listening Session: What was learned from Hurricane Helene & Hurricane Milton? What were your challenges?
11:15 – 11:45	Hurricane Season: Now What? Mary Burrell, Whole Community Program Engagement Lead
11:45-12:00	Lunch & Networking
12:00-12:30	Community Resources
12:30-12:45	Door Prizes and Closing



May 3rd Event Photos

July Town Hall Event



**CHANGING THE CONVERSATION
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STORM SQUAD TOWNHALL MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 19 FROM 10AM – 1PM

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF ST. PETE
2401 5th St. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33705

FREE ADMISSION & LUNCH

- ▶ Learn about Disaster Preparation and Resource AvailabilityHear about resources available to help you
 - CRIS and Flood App
 - Special-need Shelter Registration
 - Overview of Disaster Assistance Programs and Appeal Process
 - Income-based Free Disaster-related legal information from Bay Area Legal Services
- ▶ Share your major concerns from last year's storms (Helene and Milton)
- ▶ Learn about upcoming neighborhood-level initiatives

**THE FIRST 20 ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE \$15 PUBLIX GIFT CARD
FREE WATERPROOF DOCUMENT HOLDER (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
OPPORTUNITY TO WIN AN EMERGENCY WEATHER RADIO AND HURRICANE KITS FROM THE RAFFLE DRAWING
SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD FOR THE MOST ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED COMMITTEE MEMBER: WHO
RECRUITS THE MOST TOWN HALL ATTENDEES!**



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July 19th Event Summary

- Event held at the Islamic Society of St. Pete
- 23 people in attendance
- iCAR survey distributed at sign-in
- Dr. Barnali Dixon provided a Storm Squad update and reviewed flood data
- Flood reporting app details were shared; attendees added the app to their phones as requested
- Resource tabling and brief presentations by: Endeavors, Bay Area Legal Services, City of St. Pete Code Enforcement, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), and Pinellas County Emergency Management
- Mary Burrell, Pinellas County Emergency Management, reviewed county emergency resources, evacuation zones, emergency alerts, and key hurricane kit items
- Open discussion for community questions, concerns, challenges, and potential solutions for hurricane preparedness
- The event concluded with a raffle of disaster preparedness items and a closing drum session to support attendee mental health during ongoing recovery discussions

July 19th Event Agenda



Storm Squad Town Hall
July 19, 2025 from 10 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Time	Agenda
10:00	Registration
10:10 - 10:15	Welcome
10:15-10:30	Promoting Resilience with Storm Squad using CRIS and Flood App <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Barnali Dixon, Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR), University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus
10:30-10:40	Community Resources
10:40-11:15	Hurricane Preparation/Special Needs Evacuation Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mary Burrell, Whole Community Engagement Program Lead, Pinellas County Emergency Management
11:15 – 11:25	Disaster-related Legal Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jason Susalla and John Lawless, Bay Area Legal Services
11:25-12:00	Listening Session: What was learned from Hurricane Helene & Hurricane Milton? What were your challenges?
12:00-12:30	Lunch & Networking
12:30-12:45	Door Prizes and Closing Drum Circle



July 19th Event Photos

October Town Hall Event



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STORM SQUAD TOWNHALL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCT. 11 FROM 10AM – 1PM

CAMPBELL PARK RECREATION CENTER
601 14th St. S • St. Petersburg, FL 33705

FREE ADMISSION & LUNCH

- ▶ Learn about Disaster Preparation and Resource Availability
- ▶ Hear about resources available to help you:
 - CRIS and Flood App
 - Short and Long Term Disaster Recovery Resources
 - Disaster Assistance Programs and Appeal Process
 - Income-based Free Disaster-related Legal Assistance
 - Rebuilding and Repairing after Disaster
 - Ready Pinellas Planning App
 - And more!
- ▶ Share your major concerns from Debby, Helene and Milton
- ▶ Learn about upcoming neighborhood-level initiatives

**THE FIRST 20 ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE \$15 PUBLIX GIFT CARD
FREE WATERPROOF DOCUMENT HOLDER (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
OPPORTUNITY TO WIN AN EMERGENCY WEATHER RADIO**

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD FOR THE MOST ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED COMMITTEE MEMBER:
WHO RECRUITS THE MOST TOWN HALL ATTENDEES!**



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October 11th Event Summary

- Event held at the Campbell Park Recreation Center
- 21 people in attendance
- Surveys distributed at sign-in
- Dr. Barnali Dixon reviewed community maps/data and shared the Flood App; attendees added the app to their phones as requested
- Resource tabling by: Pinellas County Consumer Protection, City of St. Petersburg Planning & Development Services, and Pinellas County Emergency Management
- Mary Burrell reviewed county emergency resources, evacuation zones, and how to receive emergency alerts
- Kelly Milner shared a disaster recovery initiative connecting VOADs, nonprofits, and community partners to support recovery assistance
- Jason Susalla and John Lawless reviewed Bay Area Legal Services' free civil legal aid for low- and middle-income Floridians
- Hannah J. Rebholz and Anna Marie Fiallos shared local planning, development, and consumer protection initiatives
- Bob Lasher provided public transportation updates and resources, including new bus routes and services across Pinellas County
- The event concluded with an open discussion of resident questions, concerns, and preparedness needs for future disasters

October 11th Event Agenda



Storm Squad Town Hall
October 11, 2025 from 10 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Time	Agenda
10:00	Registration and Survey
10:10 - 10:15	Welcome
10:15-10:35	Promoting Resilience with Storm Squad using CRIS and Flood App <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Barnali Dixon, Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR), University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus
10:35-10:50	Overview of Alert Pinellas and Ready Pinellas App <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mary Burrell, Pinellas County Emergency Management
10:50-11:05	Long Term Disaster Recovery Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kelly Milner, Director of Pinellas and Hillsborough United in Recovery
11:05-11:20	Disaster Assistance Programs and Appeal Process <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jason Susalla and John Lawless, Bay Area Legal Services
11:20-11:55	Building and Repairing after Disaster <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hannah J. Rebholz, St. Petersburg Planning and Development Services- Anna Marie Fiallos, Pinellas County Department of Justice and Consumer Services
11:55-12:10	Transportation in Times of Disaster <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bob Lasher, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
12:10-12:45	Lunch & Listening Session
12:45-1:00	Door Prizes and Closing Remarks



October 11th Event Photos

Annual Community Appreciation Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held on December 2nd from 6 PM to 7:30 PM at the Enoch Davis Recreation Center.

December 2nd Event Summary

- 17 people in attendance
- Survey distributed at sign-in
- An annual review of the Storm Squad was presented
- Attendees participated in a Flood-related activity
- Networking and listening session for community connection and feedback
- “Looking Ahead” discussion on trainings and topics to cover next year
- The event concluded with awards and a raffle of door prizes

December 2nd Event Agenda



Community Appreciation Dinner



Time	Activities
6:00	Registration & Survey
6:05–6:15	Celebrating this Past Year of the Storm Squad
6:15–6:30	Flood-Related Games
6:30–6:50	Dinner
6:50–7:00	Networking & Listening Session
7:00–7:15	Looking Ahead: Trainings & Topics to Cover in the Next Year
7:15–7:30	Awards & Closing Remarks



Dec 2nd Event Photos

Community Outreach

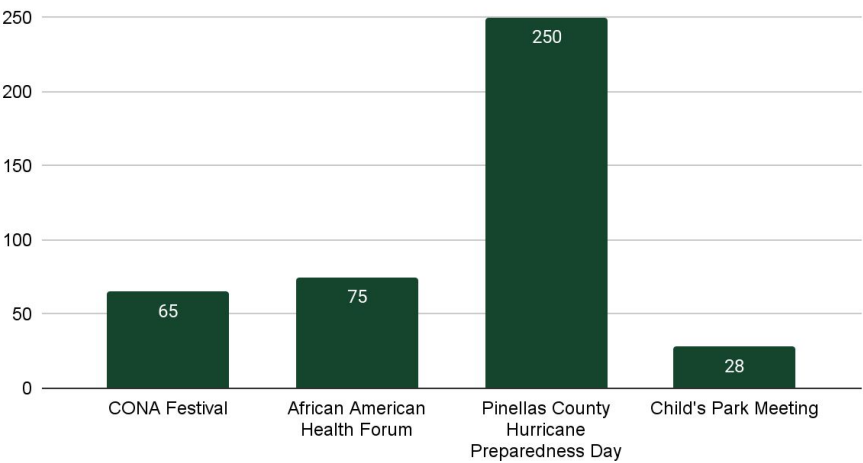
We also attended outreach events hosted at different sites throughout the community over the course of the year!



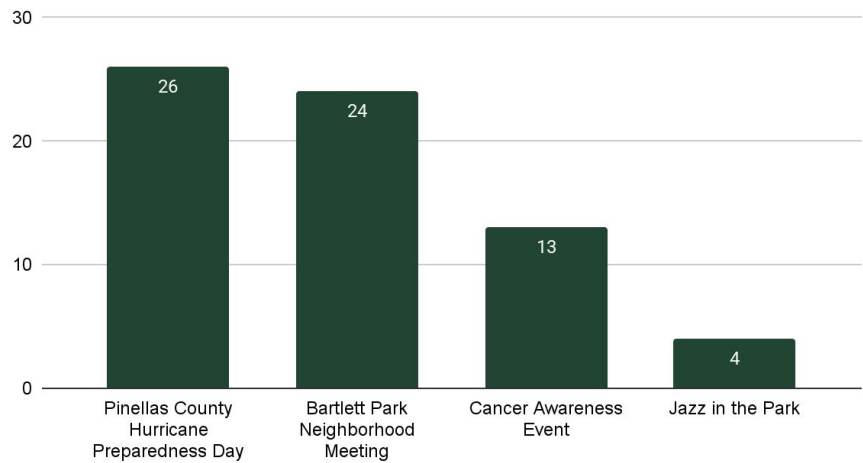
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Outreach Data

Outreach Flyer Distribution



Email Sign-Ups



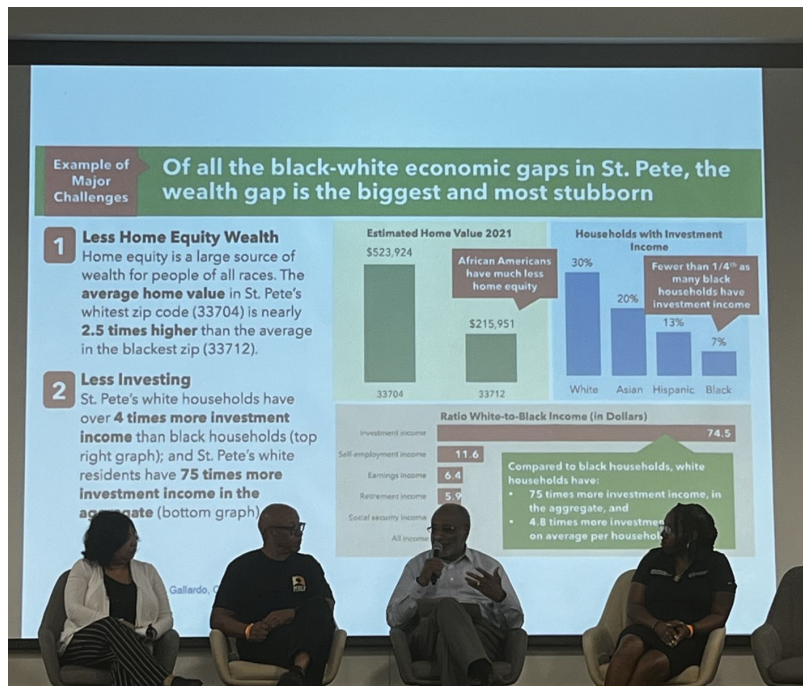
CONA CommUNITY Festival



- Held on March 8th at 1 PM at Azalea Park
- Approximately 65 flyers were distributed!



African American Health Forum



- Held on April 12th from 8 AM to 3 PM at the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg building.
- 75 Flyers were distributed at the event and Dr. Barnali Dixon spoke on the Climate and Health panel.

Pinellas County Hurricane Preparedness Day

- Held on May 31st at 10 AM at the Willis S. Johns Recreation Center in Fossil Park.
- 26 new sign ups were collected and 250 flyers were distributed at the event!



Bay Area Dream Defenders Books & Breakfast

DREAM DEFENDERS **BAY AREA DREAM DEFENDERS BOOKS & BREAKFAST**

Thousands in our communities suffered unimaginable losses after the back to back hurricanes last year. The continued destruction of our environment will make future natural disasters worse.

Let's prepare together to keep our communities safe. Please join us with our partner organization, Storm Squad, to discuss:

[Local Challenges](#) [Evacuation Plans](#) [Supply Checklists](#)

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

bit.ly/may2025bnb-rfp

BREAKFAST & CHILDCARE PROVIDED

**MAY 31ST 2025 CHILDS PARK
11AM-1PM REC CENTER**

4301 13th Ave South, St Pete, FL 33711

BAY AREA DREAM DEFENDERS BOOKS AND BREAKFAST

This month we are joined by the Storm Squad, a neighborhood based initiative to help promote equitable resilience and make sure needs of the most vulnerable communities are met. The Storm Squad's mission is to cultivate local neighborhood-based leadership to promote the ethos of "neighbors helping neighbors" and build bridges between communities and decision-makers such as emergency officials.

Enabling neighborhood-level leaders to promote equitable resilience before, during and after climate-related disasters!

Learn more at stormsquad.org

STORM SQUAD



- Held on May 31st at 11 AM at Child's Park Rec Center.
- Dr. Barnali Dixon attended and reviewed the Storm Squad, community data and the flood app.

Bartlett Park Neighborhood Meeting

- Held on June 14th at 10 AM at 1600 MLK St South
- The Storm Squad collaborated with the Bartlett Park Neighborhood to share the mission of the Storm Squad and the upcoming events.
- Attendees had an opportunity to complete the iCAR Food Security, Health and Disaster Preparation survey.
- 24 Attendees were present



Cancer Awareness Event

- Held on Sept 13th at 9 AM at the Child's Park Rec Center.
- 13 new sign ups were collected at the event!



Jazz in the Park

- Held on Oct 19th at 2 PM at Child's Park Lake
- Attended in partnership with the One Community Grocery Co-op
- 4 Sign-ups were collected!



Food Sovereignty Farmers Market

- Held on November 8th at 10 AM at the USF Botanical Gardens
- Attended in Partnership with the Florida Food Policy Council!



Child's Park Neighborhood Meeting

- Attended the Monthly Child's Park Neighborhood Meeting on December 16th, 2025.
- Distributed 28 flyers and 14 Storm kits.



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