

## VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - April 10, 2020

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## VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, April 10, 2020

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## A Message from the VCPORA President

Greetings members and friends,

I hope this message finds you well during these times. VCPORA's board and staff are here to help if you find yourselves in need. Please help us out and do wellness check-ins with your family, friends and neighbors. Let us know if there's a need. We'll do our best to help.

In the coming weeks, we would like to spotlight businesses and organizations that are making sure their staff and those they serve are taken care of. Not only do we hope to spread good cheer, we hope to showcase the French Quarter as a neighborhood that cares.

First up: **Homer A. Plessy Community School.**

We're blessed to have Homer Plessy as our neighborhood school. During these times, the administration and staff are making sure that their students are well taken care of. They know that strong bodies make strong minds. So, they've started a pantry for Plessy's families. All it takes is signing up. The staff conducts weekly shopping trips and delivers staples to their families. Morgan Fry, the school's social worker, says delivering food gives her an opportunity to check in with Plessy's families. But most of all, she loves being able to see the students.

To top things off, each Plessy family is eligible to receive one of 10,000 Google Chromebooks supplied by NOLA Public Schools for area students. We are fortunate to have educators who care enough to go over and above to ensure that no student or family is left behind. Kudos to our friends at Homer A. Plessy Community School for a job well done!

Be safe,

VCPORA Board President



## Coronavirus Update

### Text COVIDNOLA to 888-777 for NOLAReady Updates

Governor John Bel Edwards and Mayor LaToya Cantrell are enforcing the “stay at home” order, limiting non-essential activity and social gatherings. All residents must stay home except for essential needs such as groceries, medicine, or to go to an essential job. Report all illegal gatherings to [NOLA 311](#).

Drive-through COVID-19 testing provided by the City of New Orleans will cease after today. Symptomatic residents are encouraged to test at alternative locations including but not limited to [Crescent Care](#), [Ochsner Urgent Care – Mid-City](#), [Alario Center](#), or at home with [Ready Responders](#). To find the testing site nearest you, visit [Corona Testing Locations](#).



### Updates around New Orleans

Health officials now recommend everyone, regardless of symptoms, wear cloth face masks in public to help slow the spread. Do not purchase N95 or surgical masks – those are needed for first responder workers. Instead, use cloth to cover your mouth and nose. The New Orleans City Council has partnered with the Mayor's Office and the City's Department of Health to launch a centralized website for resources and donations for cloth face coverings called "[SewDat](#)."

[The RTA](#) will suspend overnight service effective April 12. Streetcars and buses will now run between 4:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Lyft has donated \$5,000 in free rides to and from food distribution sites in Orleans Parish. Promocode [CV19NOLAPS20](#) will be valid from 9:00 a.m. - noon on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The City of New Orleans recycling drop-off events on April 11, April 25, and May 9 have been [cancelled](#).



### Food

[Councilmember Kristin Palmer](#) will continue to partner with [Second Harvest Food Bank](#) to offer free non-perishables to hospitality workers impacted by the coronavirus. We are proud to have volunteered our time to these "Food Pantry" events alongside other organizations including [Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association](#), [Louisiana Landmarks Society](#), [Evacuteer](#), [Culture Aid NOLA](#), and others. The food pantry will be open April 16 and 23 from 9:00 a.m. - noon at Connect Church of Algiers, [1110 Kabel Drive](#), and again on April 11, 14, 21, and 28 from 9:00 a.m. - noon at Holy Angels, [3500 St. Claude Avenue](#).



Councilmember Palmer has also partnered with NOLA Tree Project to deliver hot meals to seniors and homebound residents Mondays through Fridays from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Additionally, the NOLA Tree Project will be distributing free hot meals for pick up at [1509 Filmore Avenue](#). **If you are elderly or know someone in need of delivery, please contact Connie Udo at [connie@nolatreeproject.org](mailto:connie@nolatreeproject.org) or call (504) 415-8434.**

[Homer A. Plessy Community School](#) is still giving away meals to schoolchildren from 9:00 a.m. - noon every Monday and Wednesday.

[Palm & Pine](#) restaurant is providing free meals until 7:00 p.m. on Mondays to service industry workers that have been laid off or lost wages.

[Manolito Bar](#) is giving out a limited number of free meals to impacted service industry workers. Call (504) 603-2740 or email [info@manolitonola.com](mailto:info@manolitonola.com) to schedule a pickup time.

[TopBox Foods](#) is providing direct home deliveries of fresh produce to New Orleans families on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays through April 30. SNAP benefits may apply.



### Resources

[Sazerac House](#) New Orleans is offering one case (12 bottles) of Diesel 190 high proof spirits per applicable Louisiana based organization: first responders, health care, government, law enforcement, 501(c)(3) organizations, etc. Diesel 190 can be used as a cleaning agent, as well as turned into hand sanitizer. Interested parties are asked to fill out [this online form](#).

NOLA Ready has compiled a list of opportunities for those wishing to donate their [time](#) or [resources](#). There are also resources for residents to help with [food and supplies](#), [housing & legal assistance](#), [workers](#), [utilities](#), and [mental health support](#). Businesses can also find resources for [financial support](#), [unemployment insurance](#), [technical assistance](#), and [industry supports](#).

You can find additional financial resources at the [CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers](#), the [Louisiana Department of Health](#), The U.S. Small Business Administration's [Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program](#), the [USBG Foundation Bartender Emergency Assistance](#), and the [Louisiana Workforce Commission Rapid Response Unit](#).

The [Mutual Aid Facebook group](#) offers a chance for residents to share resources with each other.

[WorkNOLA](#) has list of job offerings at this time.

Residential evictions have been suspended until April 24. However, if you have lost your job, been furloughed, or lost hours due to coronavirus impacts, you may be eligible for rental assistance. For more information, [click here](#).



### How You Can Help

Support local businesses! In addition to [take-out and delivery-only restaurants](#), many essential services in the Quarter are still open, including the Postal Emporium, Mary's Ace Hardware, Matassa's Market, Rouses, Lost Sock Laundromat, Quarter Grocery, Verti Marte, and Quarter Master, to name a few. Several even feature free delivery. Be sure to contact the establishments beforehand, as COVID-19 may have affected hours.

[NOLA Ready](#) has information on how medical and behavioral health volunteers can assist with clinical and non-clinical tasks.

[Hands On New Orleans](#) needs volunteers to help deliver meals, collect food supplies, or provide virtual services. Volunteers must meet eligibility requirements.

[Second Harvest Food Bank](#) needs volunteers to collect food from restaurants, help with community kitchens, and repackage donated food.

**Are there more resources that you are looking for or do you have some additional ideas?**

Share them with us at [info@vcpora.org](mailto:info@vcpora.org) and [erinholmes@vcpora.org](mailto:erinholmes@vcpora.org).



## Hard Rock Update

After COVID-19 regulations forced residents to stay inside and most businesses to close up shop, New Orleanians were left wondering how plans to demolish the failed Hard Rock Hotel would move forward. Late last month, the Advocate [reported](#) that the Administration and the project developers remain at an impasse regarding the type of demolition planned for the structure, which collapsed six months ago this Sunday. The City has been pushing for an implosion, citing safety reasons, while the developers insist on conducting a traditional piece-by-piece demolition to avoid the additional insurance costs needed to cover potential damages resulting from a full implosion.

In an [opinion piece](#) in The Lens, VCPORA pressed the City to answer our months-long questions about the demolition method. We still question how the removal of three adjacent structures is absolutely necessary to facilitate the full demolition. We caution that the expanded footprint would create a significant developable bonus for the company that allowed this tragedy to occur in the first place.

Just a day later, a damning [report](#) issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited “willful” and “serious” safety violations on the part of contractors associated with the failed Hard Rock project, including citations against 11 companies. It remains unclear what impact these violations will have on the stalled removal of the building collapse or the removal of the victim’s remains.

1031 Canal Development LLC missed the deadline yesterday to submit a detailed demolition plan to the City for review per an order by the Civil District Court. Mayor Cantrell’s office released the following statement in response: “The City is deeply disappointed, but not surprised, by the failure of 1031 Canal to comply with the Court’s requirement that they submit a detailed plan for the demolition of the Hard Rock site, stamped by a licensed engineer. This failure further delays efforts to recover the remains of the victims, demolish the building safely, and reopen the economic heart of our City.”

We remain deeply concerned about the current status of the removal of this tragic eyesore and the future of Canal Street and the core of New Orleans.



## #FQThenandNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series. This weekly post showcases historic pictures, current pictures, and fun facts about our favorite French Quarter locales. Head over to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to check out this week’s post on the 700 block of Dumaine. Follow #FQThenAndNow the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) so you don’t miss any upcoming pics from this series.





## The French Quarter During Quarantine

French Quarter Journal writers are currently compiling their quarantining experiences in a blog titled [Hunkering Down](#). Check it out for short videos, diary entries, and photos of the French Quarter.

Photographer Annie Flanningan also recently shared her experiences of the Crescent City during COVID-19 lockdown in the New York Times photo essay [Portraits From New Orleans: A Close-Knit City Keeping a Safe Distance](#). See if you can spot some French Quarter locals.



## Happy Easter from the French Quarter!

We love the festive touches Sherry Cannon, VCPORA board member, always adds to her beautiful creole cottage. Please have a wonderful holiday weekend!

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