

## VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, May 1, 2020

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1019-15 Canal



1920's



1964

1027 Canal



1928



2010

## Hard Rock Demolitions to Begin

After over six months of debate, the owners of 1031 Canal Street are [moving forward](#) with the demolition of their collapsed project. During this time, the demolition method has shifted from an implosion back to a conventional piece-by-piece deconstruction of the failed structure. We share the entire City's frustrations with this process and are eager to see the full removal of the building and the victims returned to their families.

On **Wednesday, May 6, at 10:00 am, the Central Business District HDLC** will review the proposed demolitions of the three adjacent structures around the collapsed Hard Rock hotel. Two of these, [1019-25 Canal](#) and [1027 Canal](#), both date from the early 1900's and are contributing historic structures to the fabric of the Canal Street corridor.

In December, the City told the public the structures needed to come down to create a buffer zone to protect the rest of the block from a ripple effect the implosion could set off. Furthermore, the implosion was viewed as the safest and most expedient way to bring the structure down to grade. Now, the buildings are reportedly being removed because they will likely be irreparably damaged by falling debris and that the space is needed to accommodate the cranes that would remove the top floors.

VCPORA has consistently questioned the true need for the removal of these structures and asked for alternatives to the wrecking ball. In case you missed it, we published [this piece](#) in the Lens last month and made additional statements [yesterday](#) to local station WDSU. Though both altered decades ago with the addition of facade tiles, the level of original contributing fabric is unknown at this time. Many Canal Street buildings received these "face lifts" between the forties and sixties, but often they were simply applied as screens to the exterior. Many of these applications have been successfully removed, revealing the original architecture underneath. The City has not openly considered options for selective salvage and reuse of contributing elements at these sites and the potential for physical exploratory analysis has yet to be confirmed.

All three structures proposed for demolition are owned by the developers of the collapsed hotel project. Their removal could add a 54% increase in the developable footprint of the site if the owners sought to combine the parcels. Any potential benefits to the owners and developers of this tragedy is inexcusable.

This meeting will be held via teleconference. We encourage you to submit comments to the Commission regarding these applications. View the agenda [here](#).

[Submit Public Comments Here](#)

The meeting may be accessed using the following methods:

Live Stream of Meeting: [http://cityofno.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=2](http://cityofno.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2)



## Coronavirus Update

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

Mayor LaToya Cantrell's issued mandate remains in effect until May 15. Please continue to stay home unless you are going out for critical needs, which include visits to the grocery store, pharmacy, and doctor appointments. Health Department guidelines and directives can be found [here](#).

Drive-through testing for any symptomatic individual over the age of 18 will continue with select sites in Mid-City and New Orleans East next week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or until the allotted 250 tests have been taken. Additional testing will take place on select dates in Algiers, Lower 9th Ward, and Desire throughout the month of May. More information on drive-through testing sites can be [found here](#).



### Updates around New Orleans

The New Orleans City Council has partnered with the Mayor's Office and the City's Department of Health to launch a centralized website called "SewDat" for resources and donations for cloth face coverings. Health officials recommend everyone, regardless of symptoms, [wear face masks](#) in public to help slow the spread.

Daily [evening waste collection](#) in the French Quarter and Downtown Development District has been discontinued. [Household Materials Collection Day](#) has also been cancelled.

Short Term Rental (STR) permits that expired between March 20 and June 20 [have been extended three months](#). As a reminder, STRs are illegal in the French Quarter, except along the 200-700 block of Bourbon Street. Report illegal listings to 311 or to [str@nola.gov](mailto:str@nola.gov).

The image contains three logos at the top: the City Council of New Orleans seal, the World Central Kitchen logo (a hand holding a bowl with steam), and the Second Harvest Food Bank logo (a magnifying glass over a globe).

## DRIVE-THRU FOOD PANTRY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK, WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN AND PROJECT ISAIAH**

**Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer** is providing a drive-thru food pantry for **families and individuals affected by COVID-19.**

DATE	TUESDAY May 5 and 12	THURSDAY May 7 and 14	FRIDAY May 1 and 15	SATURDAY May 2, 9 and 16
TIME	9:00AM- 12:00PM	9:00AM- 12:00PM	9:00AM- 12:00PM	9:00AM- 12:00PM
LOCATION	Connect Church of Algiers 1110 Kabel Dr. (enter behind the church on Hyman Place) New Orleans, LA 70131	Holy Angels 3500 St. Claude Ave. New Orleans, LA 70117	All Saints Catholic Church 1441 Teche St. (Enter at Brooklyn Ave. and Ptolemy St.) New Orleans, LA 70114	Holy Angels 3500 St. Claude Ave. New Orleans, LA 70117

To make a donation, please contact [help@secondharvest.org](mailto:help@secondharvest.org)

*Special thanks to Culture Aid NOLA, Bywater Bakery, Luna Libre and Folgers Coffee*



## Food

Visit one of the [free food sites](#) in New Orleans, where food and supplies are provided to hospitality workers, gig economy workers, musicians, artists, and anyone in need.

Call 211 for information on daily food pantries and meal distribution operations. Call 311 if you are a senior and/or home bound due to special medical needs and would like to sign up for the Hands On Senior Meal Program.

Councilmembers will continue to partner with Second Harvest Food Bank to offer free non-perishables to families impacted by the coronavirus across the city. See [this Facebook post](#) for more information on food pantry dates and times and be sure to follow the [City Council page](#) for updates on future dates.

[NOLA Tree Project](#) is delivering hot meals to seniors and homebound residents Mondays through Fridays from 1:30 - 2:30 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.



## Resources - Volunteers are needed

Want to help distribute food to families and individuals impacted by COVID19? Sign up to volunteer with [Culture Aid Nola](#), [Hands On New Orleans](#), [Second Harvest Food Bank](#), [NOLA Tree Project](#) to help take care of our community. If you would like to volunteer at one of the District C food pantries, email [tiffany.bradley@nola.gov](mailto:tiffany.bradley@nola.gov) or call (504) 658-1030 Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can also make a donation to help sustain the food distribution relief efforts through [Second Harvest Food Bank here](#).

Do you have a medical or behavioral health background? The City of New Orleans is seeking licensed volunteers to help with the COVID-19 response. Register to [volunteer here](#).

Get involved with [Sew Dat](#) and volunteer to make face coverings for essential employees and food bank volunteers.

NOLA Ready has compiled a list of 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](#). Finally, the [Mutual Aid Facebook group](#) offers a chance for residents to share resources with each other.



## Just for Fun

Listen to [11 Great Podcasts for Historic Preservation Fans](#).

## 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).



## Mother's Day

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, VCPORA will not be able to host our 23rd annual **Mother's Day Concert** in Cabrini Park on Sunday, May 10. We are instead looking at rescheduling to a later date and will provide updates as we know more about the possibility of hosting this popular event.

Note that local floral shoppe **Tommy's Flowers at 624 Dumaine** will be open for Mother's Day

bouquet deliveries and pick-up orders. To place an order, simply call George or Nancy at (504) 522-6563 three to four days before Mother's Day during regular business hours, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



## Census 2020

At the time of this writing, [less than 25%](#) of households in the Quarter have responded to the Census. Help change that by celebrating **National Census Virtual Empowerment Weekend** and taking a few minutes this weekend to complete the census online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or by calling 1 (844) 330-2020. Census participation is private, easy, and very important!

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives; to redraw boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts; and to help determine the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal spending on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs. Participate to make sure the Quarter gets counted!



## #FQThenandNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on Cabildo Alley and the Jackson House. Head over to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to check it out. This weekly series showcases historic pictures, current pictures, and fun facts about our favorite French Quarter locales. Follow #FQThenAndNow the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) so you don't miss any upcoming posts from this series.

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