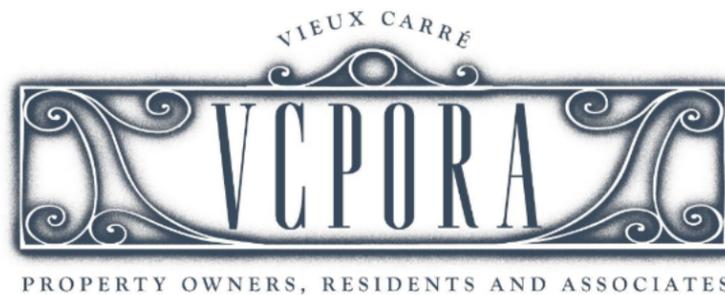


Weekly Vieux - May 8, 2020

1 message

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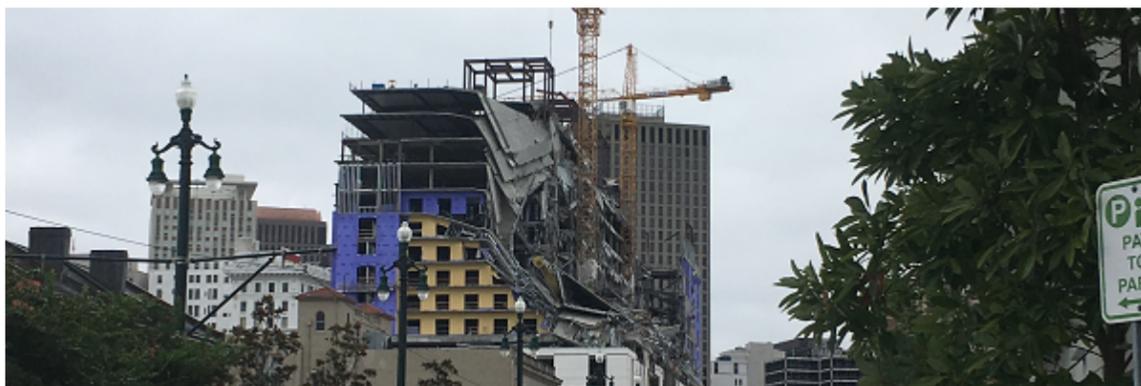
Fri, May 8, 2020 at 5:59 PM



VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, May 8, 2020

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Hard Rock Demolition Moves Forward

Nearly seven months have passed since the Hard Rock hotel project collapsed. After five demolition proposals have been considered, the owners of 1031 Canal Street will finally move forward with the removal of the failed structure. The conventional, "piece by piece" demolition process could provide [additional insight](#) into the cause of this disaster, which killed three workers and injured many others.

This past Wednesday, the Central Business District HDLC was scheduled to review the demolition proposals for three buildings adjacent to the failed Hard Rock hotel project at [1031 Canal Street](#). We were prepared to implore the commissioners and City to exhaust all alternatives to the full demolition of [1019-1025 Canal](#) and [1027 Canal](#), as their removal will forever change the historic Canal Street corridor and set a damaging precedent for the nature of demolitions in this city. This is a position we have maintained since first learning about the demolition permits in December.

However, this past Tuesday afternoon, NOFD Superintendent Tim McConnell issued an [Emergency Order](#) to demolish the three structures citing the urgent need for immediate action with hurricane season rapidly approaching.

We fully support the critical need for action but are disappointed that the City has not taken the opportunity to explore preservation opportunities such as deconstruction and salvaging of the historic facades to be later used on site. The CBDHDLC has the legal authority to require these types of provisions when granting approval for demolitions and these measures could have already been implemented leading up to a final demolition solution.

Our historically and culturally significant architecture is a beloved and vital resource. As we continue to advocate for the Canal Street corridor, it is imperative that the developers not be rewarded in the form of an increased development footprint. Future redevelopment of the site must be appropriately scaled for its historic context and contribute to a future sustainable economy for New Orleans.

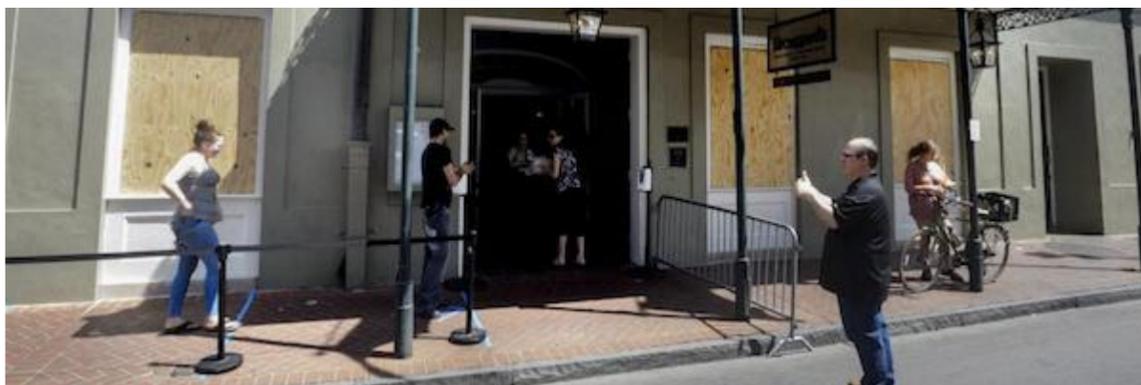


Photo of Zeid Ammari outside Broussard's via [NOLA.com](https://www.nola.com) | [New Orleans Advocate](https://www.nola.com)

Helping Hands: Creole Cuisine Restaurant Concepts & Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group

Greetings everyone,

For many, the COVID crisis has given us much needed time to reflect and count our blessings. We are fortunate to live in a place where love, laughter, and nurturing are part of the DNA. Most notably, the city is lucky to have restauranteurs who care enough to make sure that those who serve are being served.

Two of our French Quarter restauranteurs have given new meaning to standing by your man. Creole Cuisine Restaurant Concepts and Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group are standing by their men and women during this unprecedented time. Both companies are giving their employees virtual arms to cling to and something warm to come to everyday. They're supplying hot meals to team members and their families to help reduce the anxiety of unemployment and the angst of the pandemic's devastation.

In an open letter to the community, Creole Cuisine's CEO, Marv Ammari, notes that Katrina and the BP oil spill have given us the resilience to come out of this crisis. He encourages us to look forward to returning stronger in honor of those we've lost and the essential workers who are pulling us through. The Brennans are supporting those who are standing tall by bringing meals to the emergency medical workers who have found themselves on the frontline of this war.

Please join me in saluting these French Quarter heroes who are showing us how much they love us by giving all the love they can.

Stay healthy. Stay safe. Stay home.

With warm regards,

Amy F. Stelly
VCPORA Board President

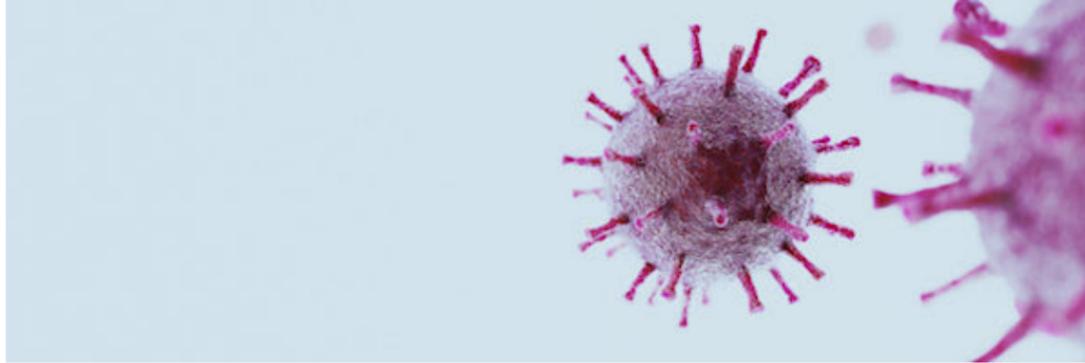


Coronavirus Update

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 Algiers 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 throughout the month of May. More information on drive-through testing sites can be [found here](#).



Updates around New Orleans

Ochsner Health is looking for 18 years or older residents of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes to participate in a [free COVID-19 screening](#). Participants do not need to have symptoms and do not need insurance.

ReadyNOLA has updated their website with a [Safe Reopening page](#), which covers the transition away from self-isolation back to a full reopening of New Orleans.

City Council passed a resolution [endorsing Medicare for All](#) and emergency COVID-19 relief at yesterday's regular session meeting.

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.



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 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

Want to help distribute food to families and individuals impacted by COVID-19? 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 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.

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

Share them with us at info@vcpora.org and erinholmes@vcpora.org.



Officer Mark Hall Sr., 1967 – 2020

NOPD 8th District Officer Mark Hall Sr. passed away April 30, 2020, after contracting COVID-19 while on duty. Officer Hall was a U.S. Navy veteran and had served with the New Orleans Police Department for 35 years. He was 53. To read more on Officer Hall, read [his memorium on WDSU](#).



#FQThenandNow

VCPOA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on 1201 Chartres. 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.



St. Ann Street Construction Continues

On Monday, April 20, Hard Rock Construction, LLC closed the intersection of Dauphine and St. Ann streets for approximately three weeks to accommodate utility upgrades that have been added to the [St. Ann Full Depth Reconstruction Project](#). Last month, the project was halted indefinitely due to high water levels in the Mississippi River and the proximity of the project area to the Mississippi River levees. The project will resume in this block once the water levels drop below 15 feet at the Carrollton Gauge, which is predicted to happen in May.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed in July 2020, weather permitting. The fencing around the 800 block of St. Ann Street remains in place with the roadway closed to vehicular traffic; sidewalks are open to pedestrian traffic.



NOPD 8th District Welcomes New Commander

On Friday, May 1, 2020, Captain Anthony Caprera was [promoted and assumed command](#) of the New Orleans Police Department's 8th District. Captain Caprera has spent the last 9 years as the Lieutenant over the 8th District's Investigative Unit, and is excited about his new role as Captain and working closely with the community. Lieutenant Bradley Rhodes will assume the position of assistant-commander of the district and commander of the District Investigative Unit. Both are 40-year veterans of the New Orleans Police Department.

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