

Weekly Vieux - November 8, 2019

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VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, November 8, 2019

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Willie's Chicken Shack Appeal Deferred

Last week, we announced that we were challenging the legal operation of Willie's Chicken Shack at [601 Chartres Street](#) per the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO). This location was permitted as a "Standard Restaurant" by Safety and Permits, despite the fact that it meets many of the defining characteristics of a "Fast Food Restaurant," which are not permitted in the Vieux Carré.

Our initial call to action generated a groundswell of support. We want to thank everybody who wrote a letter to the City Planning Commission. Residential and organizational input is critical to this campaign and helps send a definitive message to the City that fast food and formula retail is NOT in keeping with the neighborhood character of the Vieux Carré.

Unfortunately, due to a quorum issue with the Board of Zoning Adjustments, we have requested a deferral of [BZA Docket 104-19](#) from the November 11 meeting to **Monday, December 9**. We apologize for any inconvenience.

However, the deferral also means that the deadline for written comment has been extended. If you have not already done so, please [send a letter of support to the City Planning Commission](#), and please consider attending the BZA meeting on Monday, December 9. We will send out reminders and updates as we approach the hearing date.



Loans Available for Businesses Impacted by the Hard Rock Collapse

Mayor LaToya Cantrell announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will offer low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses economically impacted by the Hard Rock Hotel collapse and related evacuation and street closures. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

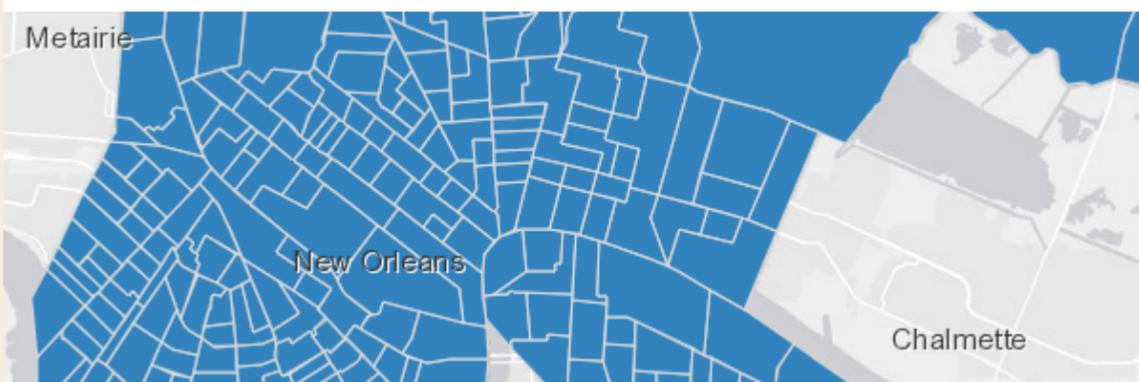
Eligibility is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4 percent for small businesses and 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship. [Click here](#) for more information on this opportunity.



Ride New Orleans Calls for Better Rider Experience Downtown

Transit advocacy organization [Ride New Orleans](#) has called for a Better Rider Experience Downtown (BRED). The campaign, originally aimed at the transit hub at Elk Place/Canal/S Rampart, has shifted focus to Duncan Plaza, which has become the RTA's interim transit hub following the Hard Rock Hotel's collapse.

"RTA staff has indicated the change may be in place well into next year at a minimum. That creates a number of new issues for the RTA, but it doesn't mean that riders don't need shelters, signage/wayfinding tools, and a more dignified transit experience any less! The BRED campaign is focused on getting transit riders necessities for Duncan Plaza," writes Ride organizer Courtney Jackson. Supporters can help [sign the petition](#) so that transit riders can have a comfortable, easy, and dignified transit experience.



Vote!

Tomorrow, November 8, is the last day to early vote in the State of Louisiana's

Gubernatorial Election. Voters can also participate on the regularly scheduled election date of November 16. To view a sample ballot, find your polling location, or to discover more information on the November 16 election, explore the Secretary of State's [GeauxVote portal](#).



Patio Planters White Elephant

Saturday, November 10

[721 St. Philip Street](#)

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join our friends, the [Patio Planters of the Vieux Carre](#) for their Annual [White Elephant Sale & Auction](#) tomorrow at [Homer A. Plessy Community School](#) at corner of Royal and St. Philip Streets. Some of the best French Quarter shops, restaurants, hotels, and art galleries donate gift certificates and specialty items for this event.

Admission is free and open to the public. Gates open at 10:00 am for the sale, auction begins at noon. The White Elephant Sale & Auction is the primary fundraiser for Caroling in Jackson Square, a New Orleans holiday tradition since 1946. For over 70 years, this event has been hosted and sponsored by Patio Planters and remains free and open to all who wish to participate.



Improv Conference New Orleans Panels

Friday, November 10

400 Esplanade

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

As a part of [Improv Conference New Orleans](#), the [New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint](#) will host a series of [free panels](#) this Saturday. Topics include *Improvisation and Identity: Exploring Race beyond Fixed Categories*, *Foodways and Resilience: Improvising after Disaster*, *Where Improvisation Lives: Urban Planning & Improvisation*, and *Drum Improv: Organized Chaos?* Although the events are free and open to the public, seating is on a limited first-come first-serve basis and [pre-registration](#) is highly encourage.



**CONGO
SQUARE**
RHYTHMS FESTIVAL

Congo Square Rhythms Festival & Treme Gumbo Festival

Saturday, November 16 - Sunday, November 17

[701 N. Rampart Street](#)

10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

This fall, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation will present two of its popular festivals on one weekend - [Congo Square Rhythms Festival](#) and [Treme Creole Gumbo Festival](#). There will be two stages of music created from the African diaspora: jazz, funk, contemporary and traditional brass band, gospel and rhythm & blues.

There will also be two food courts, each featuring varieties of gumbo, red beans and rice, crabmeat beignets, deep fried bell peppers, jambalaya, poboys, fresh produce, seafood, and more. Finally, two art markets will offer arts, crafts, jewelry, and hand-made items. Admission is free and open to the public.



Quarterly Care Workshop

Thursday, November 21

[507 Barracks Street](#)

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Later this month, [the Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) and Bob Holmes will host [Quarterly Care Workshop: Graffiti](#) outside [507 Barracks Street](#). This workshop covers VCC-approved methods for removing graffiti from your historic structures. This event is free for [VCCF members](#) and \$10 for non-members. Space is limited, so [R.S.V.P.](#) is required for admission. to reserve a spot.

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