

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, June 19, 2020

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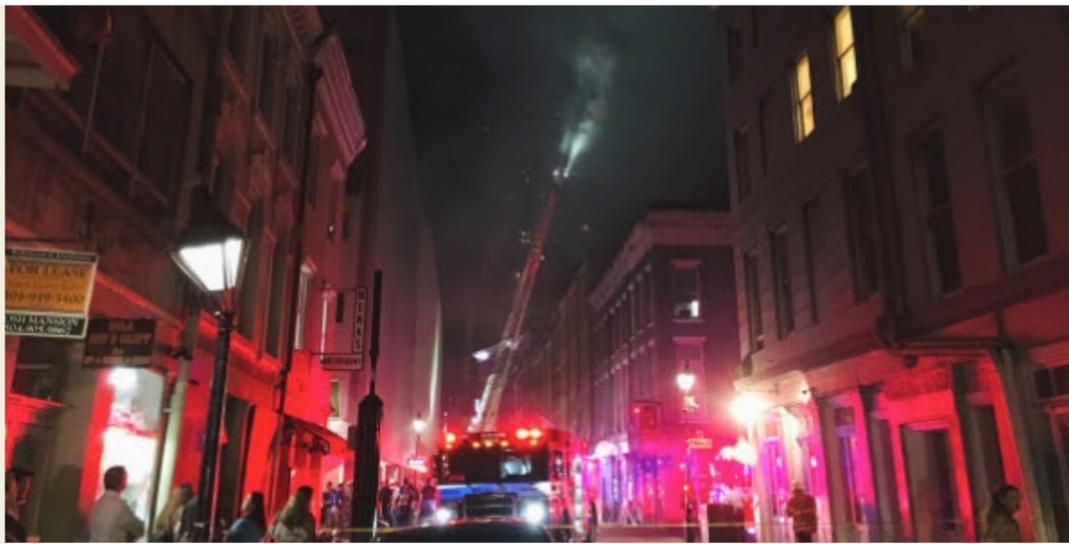


Remnants of [1019-25 Canal Street](#)'s historic facade are unveiled during demolition; the same building as photographed in early 1920s (middle) via the Vieux Carré Digital Survey.

Canal Street Demolitions Begin

Yesterday, workers began demolishing the 150-year-old [1019-25 Canal](#) and 111-year-old [1027 Canal](#). As we face the loss of two additional historic buildings on Canal Street, we reiterate that demolition is a permanent, irreversible act. These demolitions come a full nine months after the partial collapse of the Hard Rock Hotel at [1031 Canal Street](#) left three workers dead and dozens more injured.

The demolition permits were slated to undergo review by the Central Business District Historic District Landmarks Commission when New Orleans Fire Superintendent Tim McConnell issued [an emergency demolition order](#) on May 6. He cited the removal of [1019-1025 Canal](#), [1027 Canal](#), and [1022 Bienville](#) as necessary to facilitate the full removal of [1031 Canal](#). As a reminder, the two Canal Street properties are owned by LLCs registered to the same Officer/Manager of the Hard Rock property.



Fire in the French Quarter

A fire [was reported](#) at the Quarter House, 129 Chartres last night around 8:00 p.m. New Orleans Fire Department declared it a six-alarm fire, responding with 27 NOFD units carrying 80 personnel. Two firefighters were injured but are reportedly in good condition now. The Louisiana State Police, New Orleans Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, New Orleans Emergency Medical Services, and the New Orleans Police Department assisted. NOFD declared the fire under control by 2:00 a.m. this morning. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.



Juneteenth

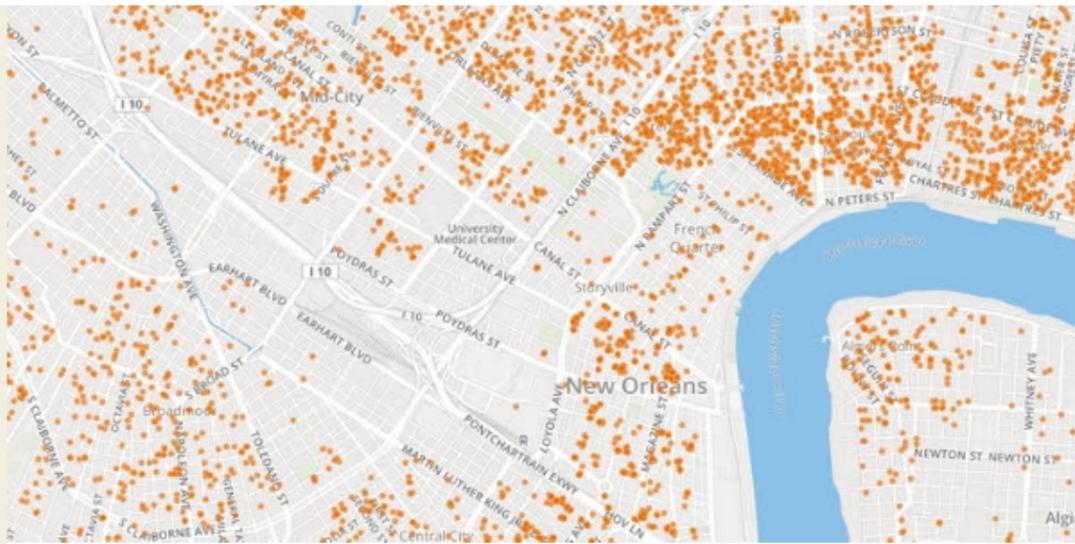
Today is Juneteenth, a day that commemorates the abolition of slavery in America. Although President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation became official January 1, 1863, it was not until June 19, 1865 that Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved people were now free. Below are a few ways in which greater New Orleans is observing Juneteenth.

[New Orleans School of Ballet](#) will offer free Juneteenth Celebration performances on Friday evening and Saturday morning in Audubon Park. All donations will go to the [New Orleans Peoples' Assembly](#) and to benefit the work of the residents of Gordon Plaza.

[The Whitney Plantation](#) reopens today. Whitney Plantation Museum is the only historic former plantation site in Louisiana with an exclusive focus on the lives of enslaved people. Schedule your [tour online](#).

Tulane University's Newcomb Art Museum will host an online panel discussion on the "[Representation, Legacy, and the Movement for Black Lives](#)". The conversation will be streamed free via [Facebook](#) and [Vimeo](#).

See more event suggestions at [WWL](#) and [New Orleans and Company](#). You can also celebrate Juneteenth by supporting local [black-owned businesses](#).



Short Term Rental Update

Governor John Bel Edwards recently signed House Bill 292, now [Act 184](#), which brings short-term rentals under the hotel definition throughout most of Louisiana. Although this act does not currently affect Orleans Parish, this act does allow convention and visitors bureaus and tourist commissions in other parishes to collect occupancy tax from short-term rentals. Act 184 goes into effect on July 1, 2020.

Meanwhile, Airbnb is [ending its legal battle](#) with New York City over sharing host information. Complying with these regulations will allow NYC authorities to more effectively crack down on illegal STR operations and respond to quality of life complaints.

Both of these updates suggest that New Orleans does have the power to both regulate and tax short term rentals, which have [rapidly replaced housing stock](#) and [skirted local regulation](#).



Eviction Ban Lifted

The statewide eviction ban was [lifted](#) earlier this week. Courts can now hear eviction notices deferred by the ban, which Governor John Bel used to aid the hundreds of thousands of Louisianians left jobless by the COVID-19 shutdown. [Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative](#) has released a guide to renter's rights in response. [Southeast Louisiana Legal Services](#) also has information on the legal rights of tenants during the COVID-19 crisis.



NOLA READY
THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Emergency Alert System

Air Quality Alert - Orange

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has raised the New Orleans [Air Quality Index](#) to Orange today, June 19 through 4:00 a.m. Saturday, June 20. Increased ozone levels in the air could cause health effects for sensitive groups like children, the elderly, and people with respiratory diseases. Residents who venture outside today are advised to take more breaks and do less intense activities and to watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath.



Census 2020

Did you know that each Census response amounts to \$2,291 allocated to [your district](#)? At the time of this writing, less than 30% of households in the Quarter have responded to the Census. Help change that by taking a few minutes this weekend to complete the census online at 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 the 427 Burgundy. 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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