

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Saturday, July 11, 2020

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VCPORA <info@vcpora.org>
Reply-To: info@vcpora.org
To: "info@vcpora.org OFFICE" <info@vcpora.org>

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Pedestrianization Update

The City of New Orleans continues to explore pedestrianization concepts for the French Quarter. These include the creation of "parklets" to support businesses through additional outdoor seating, expanding the French Market merchant area, and the conversion of some streets into permanent or temporary pedestrian malls by prohibiting vehicular access. Additionally, the city is examining a reduction of vehicular speeds, improved pedestrian crossings on North Rampart and Decatur, and the development of bicycle networks.

VCPORA supports efforts that will reduce the impact of vehicles in the French Quarter while maintaining accessibility and quality of life for its residents, businesses, and employees. We will continue to work with the City to provide feedback on these preliminary concepts and develop a process for full community engagement so that all will have a seat at the table.

These are not finalized designs; the City is gathering feedback on these concepts to inform the development of proposals that could be implemented over time. If you have not yet done so, take the City's [French Quarter Pedestrianization Survey](#) which is open until 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 12. This is open to any and all users of the French Quarter and we encourage you to share your thoughts in the additional comments section and sign up to stay updated. The results of the survey will be made available once it has been finalized.

Your comments can also be sent directly to Mayor Latoya Cantrell (mayor@nola.gov) and Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer (kristin.palmer@nola.gov).



Moving New Orleans Bikes Presentation

This past Tuesday, the City of New Orleans hosted informational public meetings on proposed transportation network projects in the French Quarter and Marigny as a part of the [Moving New Orleans Bikes](#) campaign. These projects include road and sidewalk repairs, lane reductions, curb ramps, bike lanes, crosswalks and bus stop improvements designed in accordance with the City's [Complete Streets](#) policy, which is centered around making equitable improvements for all users of the roadway. These projects are in the design phase with construction anticipated to begin later this summer.

These designs are not inclusive of some of the concepts being discussed regarding pedestrianization of the French Quarter, though will likely be addressed as those proposals are refined.

The presentation of design concepts can be found [here](#). The scope of these projects include Elysian Fields Avenue (North Peters Street to St. Claude Avenue), North Peters Street (Dumaine Street to Elysian Fields Avenue,) Decatur Street (Esplanade Avenue to Dumaine Street), Franklin Avenue (North Peters Street to St. Claude Avenue), and Royal Street (Esplanade Avenue to Franklin Avenue).

Questions about the project can be submitted via email to allison.cormier@nola.gov and via text to (504) 470-0740.



COVID-19 Restrictions

Earlier this week, Mayor LaToya Cantrell announced [a series of new restrictions](#) to the current Phase Two guidelines, limiting indoor event sizes to 25 people, requiring bars to use table service only, and eliminating bar seating at restaurants.

Restaurants and bars with an Louisiana Department of Health food permit in Orleans Parish remain at 50 percent capacity, but bar seating is now prohibited. The 25-person cap on gatherings applies to indoor functions at a private home or event space, and to restaurants holding a private event, and does not include staff. Outdoor gathering limits will remain at 100, and the City is adding stronger language about ordering, loitering and private events to the guidelines. [Phase Two guidelines](#) will otherwise remain the same for now.



COVID-19 Meal Assistance

The City of New Orleans is continuing to offer its [COVID-19 meal assistance program](#), which engages local restaurants to provide food to eligible New Orleanians experiencing food insecurity. Eligible recipients are COVID-impacted residents not receiving other federally supported food assistance, including seniors, adults with high-risk health conditions and special medical needs, COVID-positive individuals or those who are quarantined, homeless residents, and children under age 18. Eligible recipients can apply by calling 311 or going to nola.gov/311. Ineligible residents in need of food support are encouraged to call 211 to be connected to other services.

This program was made possible by The New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (NOHSEP), The Greater New Orleans Foundation, Chef's Brigade, Revolution Foods, the New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute (NOCHI), and d'livery NOLA.



NOPD 8th District Newsletter

Commander Anthony Caprera has released his June edition of "[From the Captain's Desk](#)", an 8th District NOPD Newsletter. Read it for June crime statistics, COVID-19 updates, community news, and more. Questions or feedback for the Commander can be directed by email to ajcaprera@nola.gov or by phone to (504) 658-6724.



French Quarter Road Work

Hard Rock Construction crews are continuing work on a full depth reconstruction project in the [800 block of St. Ann Street](#). The fencing around the block remains in place with the roadway closed to vehicular traffic; sidewalks are open to pedestrian traffic. The intersection of Dauphine and St. Ann streets remains closed. Flaggers are in place at Burgundy and St. Ann streets as well as at Dumaine and Dauphine streets to direct traffic. The entire project is scheduled to be completed in August 2020, weather permitting.

The City is in the process of designing a full reconstruction project of [Conti Street](#) between Bourbon and Chartres streets. Entergy Gas and Entergy Electric are upgrading their utilities in advance of the city's project to avoid conflicts during construction and potential construction delays. Their work began in the 700 block of Conti Street last month (pictured). The entire project is expected to take approximately 12 months to complete.

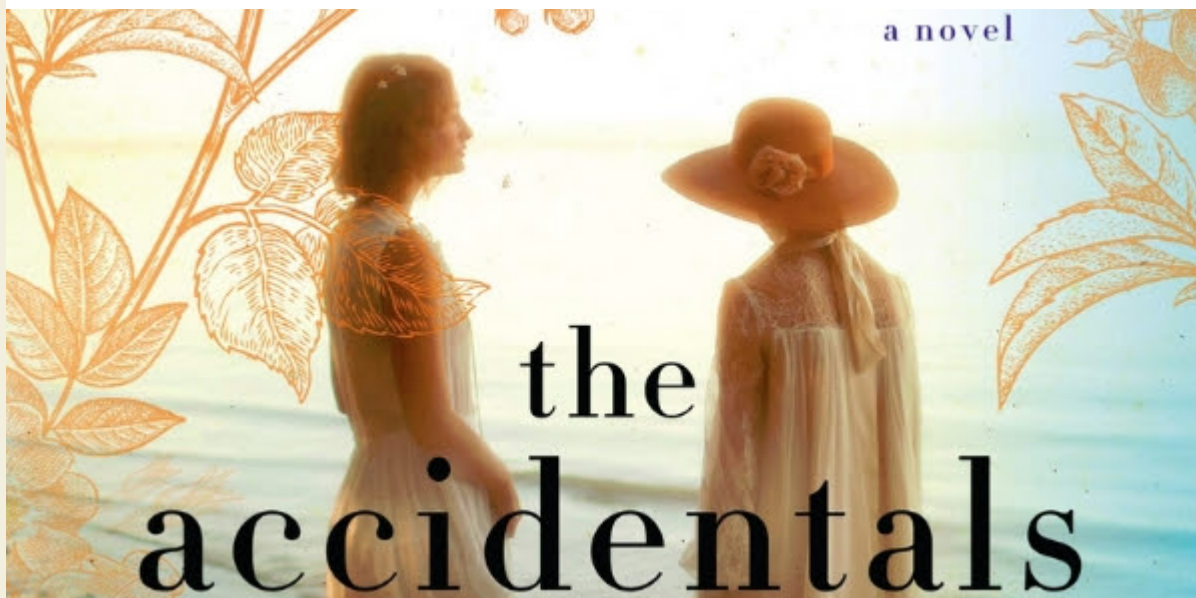
Questions about either project should be directed to RoadworkNOLA at (504) 658-7623 or roadwork@nola.gov.



Evacuees Needed

New Orleans residents are encouraged to become [NOLA Ready Evacuation Volunteers](#) during the 2020 hurricane season. The [next volunteer training](#) will be held online at 6:00 p.m. next Wednesday, July 15. An estimated 35,000 New Orleanians are unable to evacuate on their own ahead of a major storm. City-Assisted Evacuation, run by NOHSEP and the New Orleans Fire Department, provides transportation assistance as an option of last resort for these residents during a mandatory evacuation order.

Due to the unique nature of this hurricane season occurring simultaneously with the COVID-19 pandemic, organizing volunteers in 2020 will involve key medical and health considerations best informed by the strategic leadership of NOHSEP and NOMRC. NOLA Ready Evacuation Volunteers will be trained online, will undergo a background check, and will also be called upon for other public safety volunteer opportunities year-round. Due to COVID-19, all staff, volunteers, and evacuees will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and will be required to socially distance if a mandatory evacuation is necessary. See Eventbrite for [more information and registration](#).



Beauregard-Keyes House Literary Salon

New Orleans author Minrose Gwin will be participating in the next installment of the [Beauregard-Keyes House's](#) book club series Literary Salon, co-presented with [Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival](#). Gwin's 2019 novel, *The Accidentals*, will be the focus of three digital interactive discussions hosted at 6:00 p.m. on the evenings of July 15, July 30, and August 12. Capacity will be limited to 16 participants. Learn more and [reserve your spot on here](#).

VCPORA | [816 N. Rampart St. | New Orleans, LA 70116](#)
504-581-7200 | [www.vcpora.org](#)



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