

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - December 18, 2020

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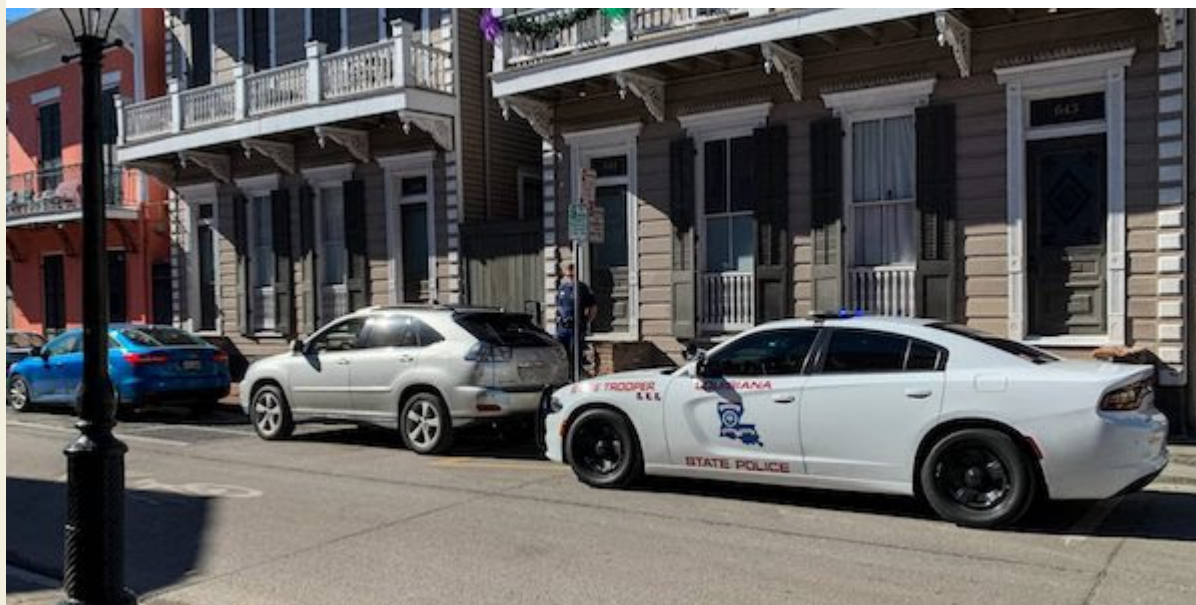
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VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, December 18, 2020

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French Quarter EDD Update

On December 5, French Quarter voters rejected the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD), or “Quarter for the Quarter,” sales tax renewal. VCPORA opposed the renewal because it lacked a binding agreement to direct the use of the funds and previous proposals from the Administration diverted too much of the revenue to a new civilian Grounds Patrol unit. We advocated waiting until the tax measure could be brought back before voters with a committed prioritization of POST-certified police officers, specifically the French Quarter Management District’s “Task Force.”

Efforts for a new ballot measure are already underway. The City Council, acting as the governing authority of the FQEDD, held a meeting on December 17 to pass the [Notice of Intent](#) for an April 24 ballot to restart the quarter-cent sales tax that will maximize POST-certified proactive patrols in the French Quarter.

A new proposal outlines how the funds will be used. The first \$2 million of yearly collections will be devoted solely to the administration and programming for patrols. Once that floor is met, additional tax revenues would be split between increasing patrols and providing funding to programs to address quality-of-life and homeless services in the district, which include the [LEAD program](#) and the Homeless Assistance Unit. Proactive patrols would be modeled on the neighborhood security district model with the employment of one full-time coordinating Sergeant and the remainder of patrol hours provided by overtime

officers. The patrol would include Bourbon Street, traffic/oversized vehicles, and quality of life enforcement.

As these efforts move forward, it is vital that voters will be able to see a final plan for the expenditure of the proposed sales tax well before the election. VCPORA will continue to provide updates on these negotiations. We also want to hear from you, our members, on your priorities for supplemental security in the neighborhood.



Quarterly Lunch & Learn

Thursday, January 7

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Windsor Court Hotel

[Buy your tickets now](#) and join VCPORA and Windsor Court Hotel for the second of our Quarterly Lunch and Learn series, *Cocktails Born in New Orleans*, featuring local wine enthusiast and food & beverage writer Tim McNally. We will be observing CDC guidelines and keeping seating very limited for the safety of our guests. Lunch includes two specialty New Orleans cocktails. Tickets are \$60 for VCPORA members and \$65 for non-members. All who recognize the unique significance of the French Quarter are invited to learn about the history of cocktails.

Cocktails Born in New Orleans will explore the Crescent City's place in the cocktail universe by tracing the history of some of our most famous spirit-based concoctions. Learn about the origin of the Pimm's Cup, Sazerac, and Hurricane, among others, and see how New Orleans continues to lead the cocktail world.

Tim McNally is a celebrated food and beverage writer who hosts daily radio shows *The Dine*, *Wine and Spirits Show* and *Appetite for Life*. He is a former board member of The New Orleans Wine and Food Experience, the Crescent City Restaurant Rebirth Project, and the Museum of the American Cocktail, as well as a contributing writer to *New Orleans Magazine*, *MyNewOrleans.com*, and *Gulf Coast Wine + Dine Online*. His latest book, *The Sazerac*, will be available for purchase.

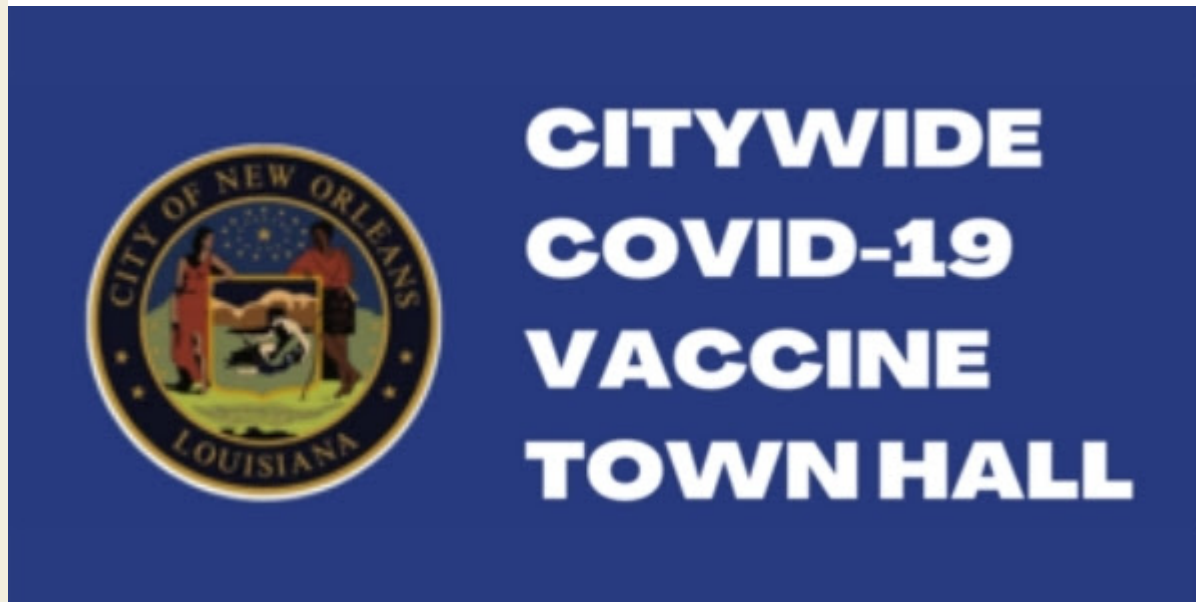


Virtual Holiday Cocktails with Kristin

Monday, December 21

6:00 p.m., ZOOM Call
Meeting ID: [966 3317 8784](#)
Passcode: 807703
Call-in Number: +1 (646) 558-8656

Councilmember Palmer is hosting her final virtual meeting of 2020 to provide an update on current projects happening in District C. There will be an open forum for about 30 minutes to allow community members to ask any questions. Participants are encouraged to prepare their favorite holiday cocktail and wear festive attire. For more information, see [Councilmember Palmer's Facebook](#).



Citywide COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall

Monday, December 21
1:00 - 2:00 p.m., WebEx Call
Meeting ID: [146 803 9832](#)
Call-in Number: +1 (415) 655-0001

The City of New Orleans is hosting a virtual town hall next week to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine. Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Dr. Jennifer Avegno, and Dr. Eric Griggs will be on hand to answer questions about the time table, distribution plan, eligibility, and more. Questions can be submitted in advance to (504) 470-0740. For more information, see [the City's website](#).



Beading Classes at BK House

Saturday, December 19
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
1113 Chartres

Join members of the Black Masking Tradition in the courtyard of the Beauregard-Keyes House as they teach beading techniques while sharing the history of this unique New Orleanian cultural practice. All beading materials will be provided. In addition to the classes being held outside, guests will be asked to socially distance and required to wear a mask. An additional workshop will be held on January 9. Open to all participants ages 10 to adult. Tickets can be [found here](#).



Caroling at the Old U.S. Mint

Sunday, December 20

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

400 Esplanade

Caroling in Jackson Square, presented by Patio Planters of the Vieux Carre since 1946, will take place outside the Old U.S. Mint this year. Song books and candles will be provided as usual. Masks, safety protocols, and mindful distancing will be strictly enforced in accordance with State and City guidelines. A lottery will be conducted from within membership with a maximum of two per household for each member drawn. Those who are unable to attend are encouraged to stream the sing-a-long virtually on the [Patio Planters Facebook](#). Inquiries may also be sent to admin@patioplanters.net.



Greenway Supernova

December 9 – 20

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

[3200 Lafitte Avenue](#)

The Friends of Lafitte Greenway has teamed up with NORD and LUNA Fete to host a free outdoor light-based art exhibit and fundraiser in December. This is the first program featuring their newest open-air covered community space, the Greenway Plaza.

The exhibition concludes this weekend with showings 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Masked visitors will be allowed to spread out at safe social distances and enjoy 10 public works of outdoor art. See the [Lafitte Greenway](#) website for more details.



#FQThenAndNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on 1026 Conti. 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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