

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - July 2, 2021

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City Hall Relocation Update

Yesterday, City Council passed two important legislative measures to slow the [proposed relocation of City Hall](#) to the Municipal Auditorium in Armstrong Park.

[Motion M-21-228](#), proposed by CM Palmer, establishes a new Interim Zoning District (IZD) over Armstrong Park that prohibits the construction of Government Offices, Public Works and Safety Facilities, Parking Lots, and Parking Structures. This IZD will be in effect for one year and is subject to renewal by City Council.

[Resolution R-21-237](#), proposed by CM Moreno and CM Galpion, states the Council's intent to request a Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance text amendment that would create a Conditional Use process for the relocation of City Hall. Such an

amendment would mandate that any relocation plans solicit robust public engagement through a Neighborhood Participation Program.

Executive Director Erin Holmes addressed City Council, noting that "VCPORA fully supports both measures and urges this body, in every way possible, to secure the allotted FEMA funding for the revival of Municipal Auditorium as a community landmark and culture-celebrating asset for all New Orleanians."

We want to thank the Save Our Souls coalition members, Tremé residents, French Quarter residents, and all other New Orleanians that showed up and spoke out in favor of these measures at yesterday's meeting. This is the power of community organizing.

While these measures will go a long way towards keeping the Cantrell administration accountable to the public for any relocation plans, the fight against this financially bloated and out-of-scale proposal is not over yet. We will keep you updated on any developments as they occur.



Photo by Brett Duke via [nola.com](https://www.nola.com)

FQEDD Update

On Thursday, July 1, the scheduled French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) meeting to levy the 0.245% sales tax had to be postponed given unresolved legal and procedural issues. This "Quarter for the Quarter" sales tax, which equates to \$0.25 for every \$100, was passed by voters in April to fund the Supplemental Police Patrol Program, aka Blue Light Patrol, for increased security in the French Quarter.

However, this does not mean there will be a break in these security services. CM Kristin Palmer has signed an extension to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Administration to continue the services utilizing funds previously collected for this purpose.

Despite months of negotiation, the Administration, the FQEDD governing authority (City Council led by CM Kristin Palmer), and the French Quarter Management District (FQMD) have not yet finalized the terms that will be spelled out in the CEA to direct the use of these funds. If the FQEDD had approved the ordinance to levy the taxes yesterday, it would have gone into effect immediately given that July 1 is the beginning of a fiscal quarter. CM Palmer, at the urging of businesses in the French Quarter, decided to postpone the remittance period until the next fiscal quarter, beginning October 1, to give businesses sufficient time to prepare their point-of-sale systems, which will need to be announced via the Department of Finance.

The FQEDD will continue working with the FQMD and the Administration to resolve any outstanding issues with the collection and administration of these funds and it is expected to revisit the ordinance to levy the renewed sales tax in the next several weeks. To review, here is the ballot language that was approved by French Quarter voters in April:

"Shall a .245% increase in the sales tax be levied within the boundaries of the French Quarter Economic Development District ("FQ EDD") to be collected on the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption and storage for use or the consumption of tangible personal property and sales of services within the boundaries of the FQ EDD for a period of five years, beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2026 (an estimated \$2.5 million reasonably expected at this time to be collected as a result of the levy per year) for the purpose of funding POST

Certified supplemental police patrols and homeless assistance services, with the initial \$2 million collected in any year dedicated to supplemental police patrols and any additional revenue to be divided between additional patrols and public safety programs (including homeless assistance), and administered by the French Quarter Management District for fiscal and operational oversight of the FQ EDD Trust Fund and services provided by such fund and subject to quarterly budget and expenditure reports to the City Council, to facilitate economic development within the FQ EDD?"



THE
DOUSSAN
TEAM



At Home in the Vieux Carré

Friday, July 23, 2021

622 Barracks

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Our next *At Home in the Vieux Carré* happy hour sponsored by [The Doussan Team](#) will be later this month at the c. 1890 double shotgun of Catherine Whitney. Join us for specialty cocktails and wine. Admission is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members, and free to those who join or renew their memberships that night. Check [our website](#) or [follow our Facebook](#) for updates.

We are also accepting volunteers to help staff this event. Not on our volunteer list yet? Email info@vcpora.org or fill out the [volunteer form](#) on our website to get involved with all the latest VCPORA advocacy, events, and programming opportunities.

Please note that in keeping with the City of New Orleans [Phase 3 reopening restrictions](#), this event will be limited capacity and masks are recommended for non-vaccinated attendees.



Vine-Ripened Memories

Saturday, July 3

1113 Chartres

noon - 1:30 p.m.

Join the Beaugard-Keyes House for [Vine-Ripened Memories](#), a lecture by Louis Costa on the foundation of the original Tomato Festival, now known as the Creole Tomato Festival. As a staple of the French Market District's summer programming for the past 35 years, the festival has explored different cultures and promoted a variety of different recipes with the tomato at the heart of each dish.

Following the presentation, attendees will enjoy a tasting of tomato-inspired refreshments including Bloody Marys provided by Beattie's Distillers. Tickets for this lecture can be found on [Eventbrite](#). Donations to support this programming can be made on [the BK House website](#).



Fireworks on the River

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Mississippi Riverfront

9:00 p.m.

The annual "[Go 4th on the River](#)" fireworks display will take place along the Mississippi Riverfront this Sunday evening. In anticipation of crowds, the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the New Orleans Police Department, New Orleans Fire Department, and Emergency Medical Services will be present in the French Quarter. Parking restrictions and street closures will be in effect as early as noon this Sunday. See [this press release](#) for specific restrictions.



NOPD Captain Meet and Greet

Friday, July 9

1130 N Rampart

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Newly appointed NOPD 8th District Captain Jeff Walls will be hosting a meet and greet at St. Mark's Church next Friday. Community members are encouraged to attend in order to introduce themselves and discuss neighborhood issues.



The Built Environment of New Orleans

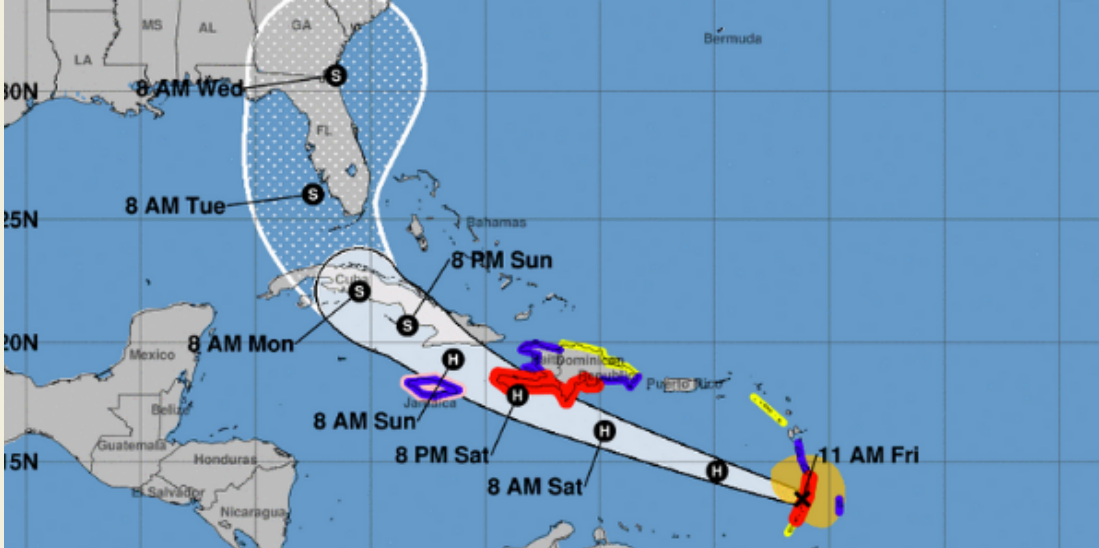
Saturday, July 17

1113 Chartres

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

Join us for the third installment in the [The Built Environment of New Orleans](#) lecture series with third-generation metal worker Darryl Reeves, who will showcase how to blacksmith as well as lecture on the craft. Space for this event is limited and attendees must [register in advance on Eventbrite](#). The lecture will also be live-streamed to the Beauregard-Keyes House [Facebook page](#).

This event marks the third in a lecture series collaboration by [the Beauregard-Keyes House](#) and VCPORA celebrating the craftsmanship and artistry of the master builders responsible for the architecture of New Orleans. Be on the lookout for additional installments highlighting trades such as masonry and carpentry.



Hurricane Elsa

[Hurricane Elsa](#) is predicted to enter the Gulf of Mexico early next week. Although current projections indicate Elsa will make landfall in Florida, changes in track could bring impacts to Louisiana. Residents are encouraged to prepare for hurricane season by [reviewing emergency plans](#), gathering emergency supplies, and staying informed. Register for alerts by texting NOLAREADY to 77295 or registering on [the NOLA Ready website](#). Please remember to use 911 for life-threatening emergencies only and for non-emergency services, please call (504) 821-2222 or 311.



RTA Introduces New Fare Structure

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) introduced a new temporary fare structure that includes reduced fares and new passes for different age groups. Month-long Jazzy Passes are now \$45. Seniors (65+) now qualify for \$14 Jazzy Passes and \$0.80 Senior Day Passes. Youth (K-12) now qualify for \$18 Jazzy Passes, \$1 Youth Day Passes, and \$0.50 single ride fares.

These new passes will be available for purchase effectively immediately on the [GoMobile app](#), in person at the RTA's Canal Street facility located at [2817 Canal St.](#) between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., as well as at the fare box with cash. A fare change study is being conducted by the RTA with the intention of making recommendations for permanent changes early next year. For more information, see [the RTA website](#).

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