
VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, February 18, 2022

1 message

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Advocacy Updates

Outdoor Live Entertainment Study

On Thursday, February 17, the City Council passed Motion [M-22-111](#), requesting the City Planning staff to formulate Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) text amendments incorporating the Phase 1 proposals outlined in its [Outdoor Live Entertainment Study](#) (see pages 73-81). The study was completed in January of 2021 and sent to the City Council, who have only just recently picked it up for further review. The recommended changes in the study include (but are not limited to) expanding the allowed number of temporary outdoor entertainment events from 8 events per year to 2-3 events per week, essentially every weekend. To mitigate adverse impacts they suggest limiting hours to 8:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9:00 p.m. Friday through Saturday. Further, they recommend a rear yard buffer equivalent to the required rear yard, or a minimum of 15 ft., whichever is greater along with a noise/sound abatement plan for mitigation and complaints. Documentation of repeated violations, verified by City Officials, may result in revocation of a temporary permit.

Erin Holmes, VCPORA Executive Director, spoke at the [City Council meeting](#) yesterday. “There must be a necessary funding capacity and political will to make sure that these regulations really work in terms of enforcement, otherwise all of these thoughtful efforts to mitigate adverse impacts will be wasted.”

The 110 page study outlines numerous potential changes that can impact the French Quarter, so it is **very important that we hear from you during this process**. We all know that, however well-intentioned the recommendations are, it will all depend on effective enforcement of the rules, which we have lacked for years.

Once City Planning writes the CZO amendments, they will go for a review by the City Planning Commission before being sent back to the City Council for further discussion and final approval, a process likely to take several months. There will be

multiple opportunities for public comment, and we will keep you informed each step.

Homer Plessy – What will happen to the Little Red School House?

Early this week we started hearing rumors about Homer Plessy School moving out of the French Quarter. Last night, a [community meeting](#) was held for parents to discuss that potential reality. A petition has been circulating to [“Save our French Quarter School”](#) and has already gained 1,200 signatures. We share the residents’ and neighbors’ concerns. Our school contributes to the viability of the French Quarter as a neighborhood and is an integral part of keeping the residential areas thriving. Keep the Plessy kids in the Quarter!



All Hail King Jumpin’ Jack Flash, and Queen Mabel!

Mardi Gras 2022 - Parades & Useful Information

Transportation Impacts

Alternatives to Driving: Residents are encouraged to consider alternative transportation options including bus, streetcar, bike or for-hire rides. Plan ahead with [RTA's Mardi Gras Guide](#).

Street Closures: In anticipation of large crowds, NOPD will limit vehicles allowed to enter the French Quarter and will close some streets to vehicles completely. Additional intermittent street closures may be required depending on crowd size. Only residents, employees, hotel guests and taxis/TNCs will be allowed to drive vehicles into the French Quarter starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 25 through 6 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2. Permitted vehicles should enter the French Quarter within the perimeter of Iberville Street, Decatur Street, Dumaine Street and Rampart Street.

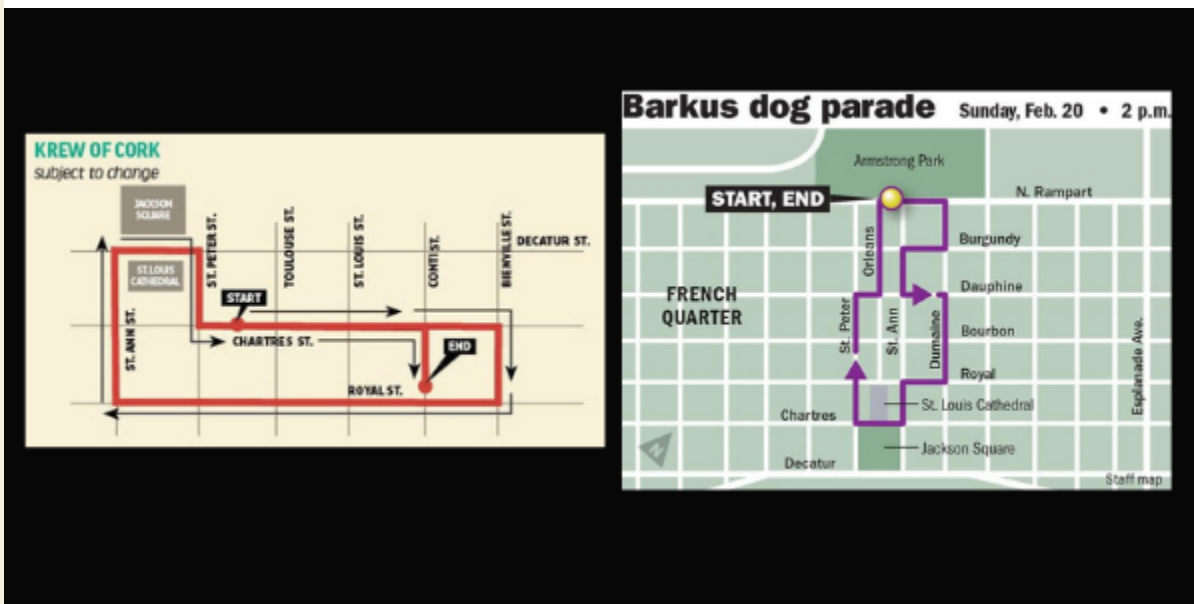
Vehicles will not be allowed on the following streets from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. overnight Friday, Feb. 18 through Sunday, Feb. 20, Wednesday, Feb. 23 and Thursday, Feb. 24. These streets will be closed to vehicles 24/7 beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 25 through 5 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2:

- Bourbon Street from Canal Street to Dumaine Street
- 700-800 blocks of St. Ann Street, Orleans Avenue, St. Peter Street, Toulouse Street, St. Louis Street, Conti Street, Bienville Street and Iberville Street

Parking restrictions in the French Quarter and Central Business District will be in place from 12 p.m. to 6 a.m. beginning Friday, Feb. 18 through Sunday, Feb. 20 and Wednesday, Feb. 23 through Wednesday, March 2:

- 700-800 blocks of St. Ann Street, Orleans Avenue, St. Peter Street, Toulouse Street, St. Louis Street, Conti Street, Bienville Street and Iberville Street
- Bourbon Street from St. Ann Street to Dumaine Street

Additional or intermittent road closures and parking restrictions may be added at the discretion of NOPD or other law enforcement agencies.



Mardi Gras 2022 - Parades & Useful Information (continued)

French Quarter Parades this weekend: Krewe of Cork & Mystic Krewe of Barkus

Today, the wine-themed **Krewe Of Cork** will sashay through the neighborhood, beginning at **3:00 p.m.** at **The Court of Two Sisters** and ending at **Royal Sonesta**. The Krewe's focus is on wine, food and fun. Throws include hand-decorated corks and themed beads. More information on this Krewe can be found on [their website](#).

Then, on Sunday, everyone's favorite **pup-parade** struts to the theme of "Barkingham Palace: Barkus is Going for the Crown." The parade begins in **Armstrong Park at 2:00 p.m.** and follows a 15-block route through the French Quarter with a royal toast at Good Friends' Bar on Dauphine and St. Ann streets. Find out more [here](#).

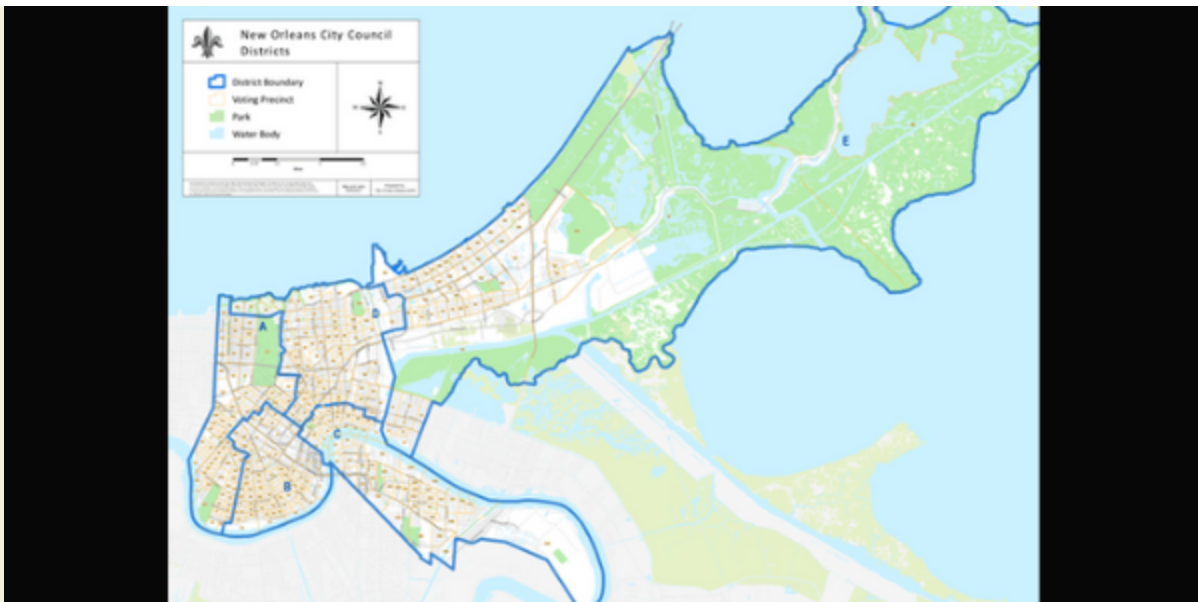


Mardi Gras 2022 - Parades & Useful Information (continued)

Mark's Favorite Classic Punch for Grown Folks

Our friend and neighbor Mark Schettler, general manager at [Bar Tonique](#), has shared this [delicious carnival libation](#). "The last few years Mardi Gras has been more than a little chilly, so here's my personal favorite party punch. While it's best served warm, it absolutely works at any temperature. The recipe is based on a hundreds-of-years-old rhyme for making punch in the colonial era. Just like New Orleans, this predates the United States of America itself. The rhyme is, 'One, sour / two, sweet/ three, strong/ four, weak/ five for spice, because it's nice.'"

Get the ingredient list and directions [here](#).



Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Meetings

City of New Orleans Tour Guide Ordinance Update Community Meeting

After hearing of potential revisions to the tour guide regulations last month, including a reduction in group sizes for both the sidewalk and the cemetery tours, VCPORA reached out to the City to request a larger public meeting involving all stakeholders, which includes residents. Subsequently, a public zoom will be held on Wednesday, March 9, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. hosted by the Department of Property Management and Ground Transportation Bureau.

More information including zoom access can be found [here](#).

As a reminder, here are the current walking tour guide rules and regulations ([M.C.S., Ord. No. 21187, § 2, 7-17-03](#))

- Tour guides shall not be allowed to use voice amplifiers on walking tours.
- During a tour narration, tour groups shall maintain a distance of 50 feet from another tour group.
- Tour groups shall be limited to 28 patrons per tour.
- No solicitation by tour guides or tour companies is permitted on the streets in the city.
- All tour groups shall be disbanded by 10:00 p.m. nightly. Garden District tours shall be concluded by 6:00 p.m. nightly.

Accessory Dwelling Unit Community Meeting

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) will be considered at the March 22, 2022, City Planning Commission (CPC) meeting. An ADU, is a small residential unit built on the same lot as a single-family or two-family home, which may be attached or detached to the home. ADUs provide complete, legal living quarters, including a kitchen and bathroom. A Zoom meeting hosted by City Planning staff and Mayor Cantrell's administration on March 7 to share their policy goals and answer questions about ADU regulations being considered.

More information, including how to sign up, can be found [here](#).

Redistricting Process Public Hearings and Informational Meetings

The New Orleans City Council has announced the beginning of the redistricting process to ensure that all five Council districts are substantially equal in population based on the 2020 census. Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district to elect a Councilmember.

Upcoming Redistricting Meetings:

February 22, 2022: City Council Virtual Public Hearing #2 - Review Draft Maps

March 3, 2022, 5:00 pm: District Virtual Public Meeting #1 - Review Draft Maps

March 3, 2022, 7:00 pm: District Virtual Public Meeting #2 - Review Draft Maps

March 4, 2022, 5:00 pm: District Virtual Public Meeting #3 - Review Draft Maps

March 4, 2022, 7:00 pm: District Virtual Public Meeting #4 - Review Draft Maps

March 5, 2022, 1:00 pm: District Virtual Public Meeting #5 - Review Draft Maps

March 16, 2022: City Council Virtual Public Hearing #3 – Approve Final Maps

Read more about the New Orleans City Council redistricting process [here](#).

Access the Redistricting Engagement Portal [here](#).



French Quarter Fest Returns

The [French Quarter Festival](#), presented by Chevron, makes its official return to the stage April 21-24.

FQF invites you to reconnect with the flavors of regional cuisine from more than 50 local restaurants, dance to the beat of 265+ Louisiana acts on 20 stages, and enjoy special events that celebrate this unique city. Artists range from legends like [Little Freddie King](#) to emerging artists such as [Trombone Shorty Academy's youth ensemble](#). Debuts include [Rickie Lee Jones](#), [Loose Cattle](#) (led by Tony Award®-winner [Michael Cerveris](#)), [The Lilli Lewis Project](#), [Da Truth Brass Band](#), Gumbeaux Juice Feat. an All Star Lineup, [Electric Yat Quartet](#), [Notel Motel](#) + more.

The festival will operate from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. each day of the event.

You can find more information [here](#).



Helpful Resources

Safety

The NOPD 8th District *Non-Emergency* Line **(504) 658-6080**.

Watch the weekly NOPD 8th District MAX Meetings [here](#).

Download the French Quarter Task Force "Blue Light Patrol" App [here](#).

Quality of Life

Quality of life complaints regarding construction, sanitation, illegal business operations, sound, and all other factors can be made by dialing 311 or [here](#).

Filming in the French Quarter

Questions and concerns regarding filming in the Vieux Carré can be sent to:

Carroll Morton
Director, Film New Orleans
(504) 658-4341 (office)
(504) 240-9504 (mobile)
cgmorton@nola.gov

Isabella Renner
Production Manager
(504) 658-4355 (office)
(504) 295-7734 (mobile)
isabella.renner@nola.gov

5G in the French Quarter

For information regarding 5G installation in the Vieux Carré, please see our website [here](#).

Questions and concerns regarding 5G can be sent to:

mayorcantrell@nola.gov
Ramsey.Green@nola.gov
Jonathan.Rhodes@nola.gov
bdblock@nola.gov
erinholmes@vcpora.org

Vieux Carré Resources

Apply for a permit or find an existing permit [here](#).

Find Vieux Carré Commission Design Guidelines [here](#).

VCC and VCCAC meeting schedules and past meeting materials can be found [here](#).

City Council and additional City Council Committee meeting schedules can be found [here](#).

Historic Research Tools

[Vieux Carré Virtual Library](#)
[The Collins C. Diboll Vieux Carré Digital Survey](#)
[Louisiana Digital Library](#)



VCPORA is a nonprofit organization that advocates for the preservation and protection of the Vieux Carré as an international historic treasure, a major cultural and economic asset, and a living residential neighborhood that is valued and respected by all.

Your generosity **today** helps preservationists and advocates create strategic and powerful campaigns to defend and elevate the French Quarter and surrounding neighborhoods **tomorrow!**

[Donate](#)

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