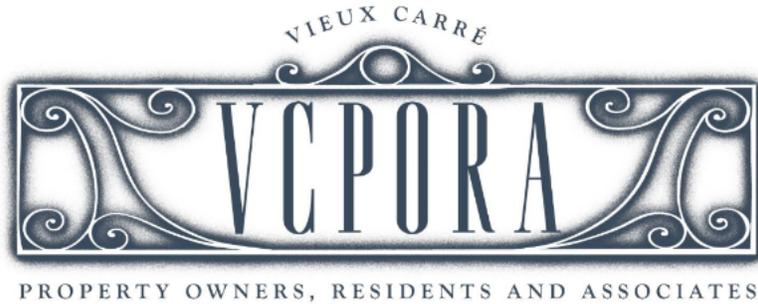

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, April 1, 2022

1 message

VCPORA <info@vcpora.org>
Reply-To: info@vcpora.org
To: "Mr. Jack Greenwood" <info@vcpora.org>

Fri, Apr 1, 2022 at 4:06 PM



VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, April 1, 2022

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#BourbonStThenandNow



At Home in the Vieux Carré 2022

We are thrilled to announce the return of our *At Home in the Vieux Carré* event series. Join us in kicking off the season this **Friday, April 8, 2022**, at **1028 Bourbon Street**. VCPORA Board member, Tony Marino, will open his Greek revival, American Townhouse on Friday, April 8, from **5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** for this event. We will have wine and a specialty cocktail. Come out to see your neighbors and bring friends. Admission is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members and FREE for those who sign up or renew their membership that night.

We are also accepting volunteers to help staff this and later events. 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 advocacy and event opportunities.



URGENT - 841 Bourbon Zoning Change

We need your help to protect the neighborhood and Vieux Carré zoning.

Please send a letter to oppose this application and please attend the April 12 public hearing!

An application has been filed to “spot zone” **841 Bourbon St. & 804-808 Dumaine**, located in the residentially zoned portion of Bourbon. The former business (Washing Well) closed prior to the pandemic and lost its grandfathered business license. By law, the property reverts to residential use.

The owners wish to lease the space as an Italian-style **gelateria**, and the **only way to reintroduce a business use is to rezone this parcel to commercial.**

VCPORA is adamantly against this zoning change, and you should be concerned, too.

What’s so bad about an ice-cream shop? A commercial zoning change is permanent... but ice cream shops aren’t. **The VCC-1 zoning designation allows a lot of other uses**, including a Standard Restaurant – which is allowed to sell alcohol by right, and does not have any limits on operational hours. They can be open all night long.

An ice cream shop can easily become a more intense use – even a bar “operating” as a restaurant – in the future.

The City Planning Commission is scheduled to review this application on **Tuesday, April 12 at 1:30 p.m. Please mark your calendar to attend.** The location is in City Council chambers at City Hall.

Additionally, by 5 pm, Monday, April 4, send written comments of opposition to

City Planning: cpcinfo@nola.gov. For the subject line, you must include: **ZD 025-22 - 841 Bourbon St. & 804-808 Dumaine Street – Public Comment.**

Any questions about this zoning application or our position may be directed to info@vcpora.org.

Sample language:

Dear City Planning Staff & Commission,

I am opposed to the spot zone of [841 Bourbon Street](#). [The French Quarter](#) is already the most mixed-use neighborhood in New Orleans and has also been losing its residential base for decades. Many former commercial buildings have been successfully converted to homes for long-term residents. When citizens contributed countless hours to the new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, they were told that if non-conforming businesses ceased operations for six months, the property would revert to residential. This spot zone would not only be the first permanent disruption to the Vieux Carré zoning maps, it could also have the effect of allowing a business to morph into a “restaurant/bar” in a residential zoning district and would set a precedent, paving the way for similar applications for more intensive businesses.

Sincerely,



Parklets – Moving from Temporary to Permanent?

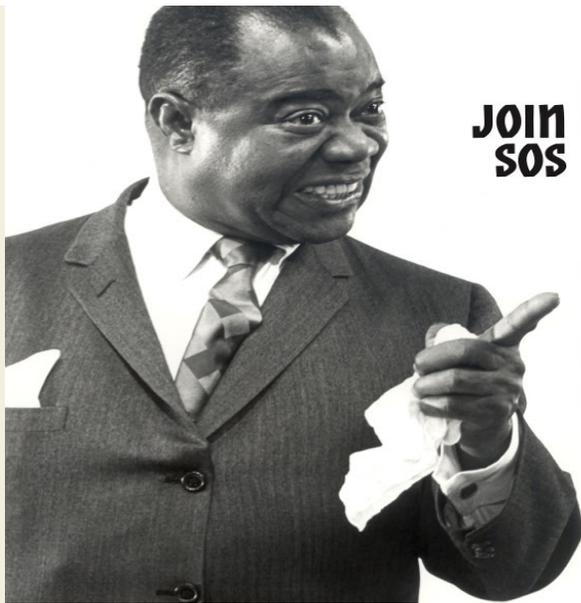
Also on **April 12**, as directed by Council motion [M-22-1](#), the City Planning Commission will take up recommendations for the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) to make the temporary parklet program a permanent fixture in New Orleans. Again, we urge you to send comments to the CPC staff before the meeting on April 12, 2022. You can do so by emailing City planning at cpcinfo@nola.gov by **5 p.m. on April 4th, 2022.**

Nine Reasons to end the Parklet Program:

1. **They were temporary:** The COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrated the need for creative measures to assist small businesses and to allow expanded and socially distanced alternatives for New Orleanians' dining options.
2. **They are no longer necessary:** Currently, there are hundreds of dining options in the French Quarter and our growing visitor numbers show that street life is back.
3. **Increased commercial activity in residential areas:** Many outdoor dining establishments are located in residential areas, some in grandfathered spaces where such commercial uses are otherwise no longer allowed. Any parklet in a residential zoning district represents an expansion of a non-conforming use which is prohibited by the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO).
4. **Noise impacts:** Outdoor dining and drinking establishments have shown, in the French Quarter, to significantly increase the noise impacts on adjacent residential uses.
5. **Privatization of Public Space:** Outdoor dining involves a privatization of public space, such as sidewalks or streets. That is space, which is shared by many users for residential parking, loading and unloading, and passenger zones, has now been specifically designated for the private usage of a sole business entity.
6. **Inequitable:** The parklet program does not address the inherent inequity that not all businesses have frontage on a parking lane. Those establishments that abut a vehicular lane are not eligible for the program.
7. **Public Safety & ADA Accessibility:** Crowding and safety become an issue when establishments take over the narrow and crowded sidewalk that separates a business from its adjacent parklet dining area. In some situations this may make a difficult situation worse, with a variety of potentially negative effects for pedestrians, diners, and businesses – particularly when alcohol is being consumed by the vast majority! This is especially problematic for ADA accessibility.
8. **Aesthetic Considerations:** They are unattractive. The existing parklets bear little resemblance to anything that could contribute to the historic “tout ensemble” of the French Quarter. Even if their designs were improved, the parklets will still mask and obscure our carefully preserved architecture. Vieux Carré property owners are held to the highest standards by the Vieux Carré Commission, which will have no authority on the installation of the parklets. Furthermore, the City has not reached out to the VCC or HDLC to weigh in on any designs!
9. **No history of city enforcement:** There is little to no enforcement of the current parklet regulations. Some have been in operation for two years without a valid permit. Some have introduced exterior speakers and furniture/equipment on the sidewalk, including tents, which are specifically prohibited. There has been no effort to enforce any of these built-in regulations and nothing to suggest there will be in the future.

Parklets by the Numbers in New Orleans:

- Currently, approximately 40 parklet permits have been issued in the city.
- Eight were issued in the French Quarter and nine are currently operating.
- Two operate in the French Quarter without licenses.
- 65% of French Quarter parklets are in residentially zoned areas.
- There is only one other parklet in a residential zone operating outside of the French Quarter.



JOIN
SOS

Movement for
PEACE & CULTURE
at Louis Armstrong Park

SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD at 3PM

SPEAKERS • MUSIC • FUN



Save our Soul Coalition – Movement for Peace & Culture

The Save Our Soul (SOS) Coalition will be hosting our Peace & Culture event at Louis Armstrong Park on Sunday, **April 3rd, 2022**. Come out and get updates from SOS about where we are in the process of preserving the past and planning for the future of the Municipal Auditorium and Louis Armstrong Park. SOS is an alliance of more than 30 neighborhood (including VCPORA), community, arts, education and social justice organizations and advocates united to protect the sacred spaces of New Orleans.



Re-Imagine the Claiborne Corridor

Join us this **Saturday, April 3, 2022**, for a community discussion on the *Re-Imagining of the Claiborne Corridor* and the future of New Orleans!

The event will feature speakers including Rep. Royce Duplessis and Congressman Troy Carter. Refreshments will also be provided

The event is being held in person at the **Treme Market Branch, 800 N. Claiborne Ave.**, from **9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** It will also be available on [Zoom](#).

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



A Spring Concert at the Beauregard-Keyes House

Celebrate spring with us on **Sunday, April 3** and hear the sweet sounds of Bon Bon Vivant! Immerse yourself in their upbeat repertoire while enjoying your drinks in the blooming BK House courtyard.

Doors open at **5:30pm** with the performance starting at **6pm**.

Limited tickets are available, make sure to reserve your seats before ticket sales end later this week. You can purchase tickets [here](#).

This is a **Bring Your Own Beverage** event! We suggest bringing extra cups and bottle openers with you. Complimentary refreshments will also be available.

Find more information [here](#).



Nola Voices for Ukraine: a Celebration of Ukrainian Culture

Sunday, April 3rd, 2022

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Marigny Opera House

725 St Ferdinand Street, New Orleans, LA 70117

Our friends at the historic [Marigny Opera House](#) are helping the relief efforts in Ukraine by hosting a not-to-be-missed benefit concert this Sunday! Opera singer Bogdan Mynka accompanied by Ellis MacClean & Riley English will be singing hauntingly beautiful Ukrainian folk songs. Plus a cabaret by Bremner Duthie with Harry Mayronne, Stoo Odom & David Symons. Poetry by Mark Yakich and a performance by the Trumpet Mafia.



#BourbonStThenAndNow

We're back with another [#BourbonStThenandNow](#) - where we take a look at the passage of time on the world's most famous entertainment strip - Bourbon Street. We care deeply about the preservation of all French Quarter buildings and places of importance, particularly when they fall into disrepair. According to the VCC, "when maintenance is not performed regularly, the condition can worsen to the point that other materials or systems are affected and the condition reaches a point of Demolition by Neglect." With that being said...

Today we're taking a look at [735 Bourbon Street](#), a c. 1856 2-story porte-cochère townhouse with a unique configuration of openings on the ground floor including a grand recessed entrance in the Greek Revival style and an adjacent carriageway entrance in a French style. The current "Demo-by-Neglect" citations against this property include but are not limited to: gallery, trim, and paint damage and deterioration, missing ironwork details, and graffiti. The first picture shows the building in 1962 when it housed Lucky Pierre's (seemingly for many decades until it closed in the late 2010s). The second and third pictures show the building's condition in 2022. We hope that the owners of this building can quickly address these issues to bring this fascinating townhouse back into good standing.

Stay tuned for a new episode of [#BourbonStThenandNow](#) and DM us if there is a specific house you'd like for us to look at - it might just end up in the series!

Till then, have a wonderful week!

Visit the [Vieux Carré Virtual Library](#) to see more historic images.

Don't forget to give us a follow on [Instagram](#) and a like on [Facebook](#) to see more [#BourbonStThenAndNow](#) facts and pictures from this series!



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

See a public works issue or have quality of life complaints regarding construction, sanitation, illegal business operations, sound, and all other factors? **You can report these by dialing 311 or by submitting violations [here](#)**. It is **imperative** that we *continuously* report quality of life issues so as to provide further support in future cases and it will furthermore help to keep the reports on the authorities' radar.

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](#)

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



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