

Storefront Rehabilitation Funds to be Available



A typical storefront before renovation.



The same storefront after renovation.

This Spring, commercial and retail property owners in some of Tampa’s community redevelopment areas, including East Tampa, may be eligible for matching grants to cover the cost of improvements up to \$50,000 for adding awnings, windows, lights, signs, landscaping, and putting a new coat of paint on the building’s exterior. To qualify for the storefront grant program, a property’s taxes and insurance must be current and there must be no outstanding liens or code violations. For more information, contact the East Tampa Development office, (813) 242-3807.

Spotlight Shines on East Tampa During FRA Annual Conference

Developers, planners, and builders from throughout the state toured Tampa Bay area redevelopment projects including projects in East Tampa during the Florida Redevelopment Association’s annual conference. Tampa’s Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Tampa hosted this event which promotes revitalization of communities by providing a forum for FRA members to share information and experiences about redevelopment.

The three-hour bus tour through East Tampa showcased our community’s TIF-funded projects including a visit to Belmont Heights Estates Hope VI development, historic infill housing, Meridian Pointe and Park Terrace affordable rental developments, and Fast Lane Clothing manufacturing, DACCO and Chloe Coney Urban Enterprise Center.

Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration



The staff of the CH2MHill engineering firm donated 96 bicycles for area schoolchildren.

The East Tampa community held it’s first annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration on December 12, 2008. The event took place at the East Court plaza at Tampa Police District III. Approximately 400 East Tampa residents, dignitaries, city officials, school princiapls, teachers and students were in attendance. Nine area schools participated in art display, poem reading, singing and dancing on this festive occasion. CH2MHILL donated 96 bicycles and East Tampa business owners donated \$1500. The planning of this event was made possible by the Aesthetics & Beautification sub-committee who began the planning stages in October. The local schools worked together with the committee to create criterias for children to be chosen to win a bicycle.

From Brown to Green USF Students Propose New Projects for East Tampa Brownfield Sites

Graduate students in USF’s Environmental Science and Policy Capstone Seminar, taught by Professor Robert Brinkmann, developed project proposals this fall to create jobs and improve health in East Tampa, using brownfields and sustainability as themes. Brownfields are properties which may have been contaminated with a low risk hazardous substance, such as petroleum products, and need to be cleaned up before they can be redeveloped.

On Thursday, December 4, students presented their final project ideas – ranging from renewable energy in buildings, a green education center, rainwater harvesting, an East Tampa Greenway, and turning Brownfields into art parks – to an audience of city officials and community business owners. Lorna Alston, an Economic Development Specialist with the

City of Tampa’s East Tampa Development Department, started their semester off with a tour of East Tampa and the Brownfield properties. Students also had a listening session with residents and community leaders to hear their concerns, and learned that health and economic development were foremost in their minds.

Students were clearly enthusiastic about the new sustainability movement, and recommended projects they felt would increase “green” building and practices, as well as train “green collar” workers, in order to distinguish East Tampa in the Tampa Bay area. For more information about this project, contact Robert Brinkmann, Chair, Department of Geography, at the USF Tampa campus, phone (813) 974-4939, email: rbrinkmn@cas.usf.edu

Neighborhood Connection

Ten neighborhood associations in East Tampa are actively working to ensure a safe and vibrant community. Contact your neighborhood leader and get involved today.

College Hill Civic Association

Carla Grant/cmiller67@verizon.net

East Tampa Business & Civic Association

Marc Hamburg/flreamarc@aol.com

Florence Villa/Beasely/Oak Park Civic Association

Valerie Washington/valeriedasa@aol.com

Grant Park Civic Association

Ralph Johnson/Ralphj0103@yahoo.com

Highland Pines Community Task Force

Betty Bell/bellssystem5@verizon.net

Northeast Community Crimewatch & Civic Assoc.

Joel Barnum/jbarnum@tampabay.rr.com

Northview Hills Civic Association

Frank Reddick/far9155@aol.com

Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association

Jeff Harmon/Jharmon@tampabay.rr.com

Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association

Sherry Genovar-Simons/silversund@aol.com

V.M. Ybor Neighborhood Association

Kate Pagan-Tighe/kate.pagan@vmybor.org



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