

Redevelopment News

AUGUST 2011



Transforming East Tampa into a vibrant residential and business community with recreational, social, and cultural life.

Message From Mayor Bob Buckhorn



Greetings East Tampa! I want to personally thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your mayor. Economic development investments in East Tampa contribute to the advancement of the entire

city and help us to grow as one united community. I know I can count on your continued support to help me make that possible.

As you know, I am committed to strong neighborhoods, quality public safety and robust economic growth. East Tampa has made great progress over the past several years, and I plan to continue

working to create economic opportunities that will further strengthen and grow this community. East Tampa is ready to attract new businesses and I want to make sure we are ready to take advantage of those opportunities. Currently, I am working to streamline the regulatory and permitting process to ensure that we are known as a city that is open for business.

Business expansion and job creation enhance the City's efforts to make neighborhoods more livable and sustainable. Major arteries in East Tampa, such as Columbus Drive, Nebraska Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Hillsborough Avenue represent critical urban infill development opportunities and deserve the City's attention. We will work together with business and neighborhood leaders to identify strategic opportunity

corridors and maximize beautification, infrastructure improvement, and new development potential.

Public safety is a top priority and I am committed to tackling crime before it happens. Neighborhood Watch programs are key to reducing the crime rate. Working with Tampa Police Department, East Tampa continues to strengthen its neighborhood groups and making a difference in the crime rate in East Tampa.

We are all partners, working together to see East Tampa and the entire city grow and prosper. I look forward to working with you to continue to build a thriving and safe East Tampa community.

Sincerely,
Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

Get Your Tax Credits!

Available through City of Tampa's Enterprise Zone.

To learn more, contact Lynn Schultz at 813-914-4028.

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First Façade Grant Complete at Pepin Academies

Over 40 people attended the June 1st ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of an East Tampa Façade Grant at the Pepin Academies, Inc., 3916 E. Hillsborough Avenue. Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn and Tom Pepin joined other Tampa dignitaries to commemorate the occasion.



L to R: Crisha Scolaro, Chloe Coney, Tom Pepin, Mayor Bob Buckhorn, Ernest Coney

"The Pepin family has made a difference in the lives of Tampa's students," noted Mayor Bob Buckhorn. "The city's participation through the façade grant is just a small contribution to public infrastructure."

As the first East Tampa property to qualify for a façade grant, the school was awarded \$50,000, which they leveraged against \$50,000 in funds from The Academies Inc. Foundation, and a contribution from the Pepin Family, to achieve the \$150,000 project. The improvements included landscaping, upgraded front wall and an improved bus stop.

Tampa's Façade Grant program helps to improve the appearance of properties in designated areas of Tampa's Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs).

For more information about The Pepin Academies, Inc., contact Crisha Scolaro at 813-236-1755. For information about Tampa's Façade Grant program, visit http://www.tampagov.net/dept_economic_and_urban_development/

Progress of 22nd Street Improvements

Improvements to 22nd Street, between 23rd and 26th Avenues, are anticipated to start in September. "Final plans have been reviewed by the Florida Department of Transportation, advertising for construction was posted in late July and we should award the job in August," said Christine Bruno, Project Manager with the Contract Administration Department, City of Tampa. "This section will be enhanced with better signals, cross walks, a sidewalk on the east side of the road and a trail on the west side, drainage and roadway repaving."

Evangeline Best - Tampa Police Department's 2011 Citizen of the Year

On April 29, 2011, Evangeline Best was honored by the Tampa Police Department for her work in East Tampa. Evangeline was surprised by the recognition and felt, "...it was an unexpected shot in the arm of encouragement for the work we all try to do in our community. We have 13 neighborhoods in East Tampa, and on the day of the award, about 50 neighborhood leaders, family, board members attended the ceremony. What an honor, and the incredible support from all meant so much."



Yummy House Grand Opening



L to R: Ed Johnson, Evangeline Best, Mayor Bob Buckhorn, Tony Leung, Connie Leung, John Zhao, Tommy Tang

A festive occasion marked the ribbon cutting for the new Yummy House Chinese Bistro, June 28th at 10:30 a.m.

Lively, colorful lions danced in the parking lot, firecrackers popped and banged, and dignitaries gathered at the opening. Mayor Buckhorn thanked the crowd for "...believing in East Tampa and changing lives by employing local residents and investing in community redevelopment."

Following the ribbon cutting, the crowd entered the new restaurant to view the colorful decor and sample delicious menu offerings.

Yummy House Hours

Open 7 Days a Week: Lunch – 11 am-3 pm , Dinner 5pm-10pm
Reservations are accepted.

Double Take. Two Façades Under Construction

Two side-by-side properties on Hillsborough Avenue are getting a much needed face lift thanks to the Façade Grant program. In early April the McDill Columbus Property Partnership II, LLP, was awarded two grants for \$35,828 and \$50,000 respectively, for two buildings located at 1242 and 1262 E. Hillsborough Avenue.



The strip center at 1242 E. Hillsborough is easily recognized by signage for “The Speaker Exchange” an automotive speaker store

in the first floor retail. The upper floor of the two story building has been renovated into flexible office and conference room space available for lease.

Next door at 1262 (formerly known as the Trailer Depot), the single-story masonry structure is undergoing extensive renovation to include retail, display, and office space.

The construction and façade improvements will unify both buildings through the incorporation of mansard roofing and paint colors.

“We are just a couple of months from completion,” noted Maynard Fernandez of McDill Columbus. “We will have 96 parking spaces for both buildings and offer very reasonable rental rates.”

For information on the buildings or leasing office, retail or display space, contact Maynard Fernandez at 813-877-8339.

Summer Jobs for East Tampa Youth

This summer, ten East Tampa teens have a job with the City of Tampa Clean City division. “Education, training, and issue awareness are key qualities we hope to instill in these young people, as they experience the true meaning of public service,” noted Cal Worthington, who supervises the young adults who work alongside city employees performing highway maintenance.

On Monday, June 20th, the teens were welcomed by Ed Johnson, East Tampa Development Manager, at a special new employee orientation.

For more information about Tampa’s Clean City Division, contact Cal Worthington at 813-239-4328 or visit www.tampagov.net/dept_clean_city.



Enjoy a Tasty Meal at The Open Cafe

There’s something for everyone at The Open Cafe which opened in February in the Eddie Newkirk Life Center, 3222 North 34th Street. It is run by the St. John Cathedral through the auspices of Bishop Eddie Newkirk.

“Our goal is to provide employment and on-the-job training for those who may have had a hard time being employed,” said Florence Gainer, church administrator.

Chef Reggie (Reginald Bell) is a cordon bleu trained chef with 28 years of experience. His signature dish is the Cajun burger.

Restaurant hours are Monday – Friday, 6:30 am to 5:30 pm; Saturday 7:00 am to 12:00 noon; and Sunday 12:30 to 6:00 pm. Since the restaurant is housed in a banquet hall, it may be closed for special events. Call The Open Café at 813-248-3322 or Florence Gainer at 813-310-2820 for catering information.

CDC and EnviroFocus Provide Job Opportunities

Employment opportunities in East Tampa received a boost last February when Tampa City Council approved a \$36,000 jobs training grant to be executed through a partnership between EnviroFocus Technologies and the nonprofit Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc. (CDC).

Through the partnership, 20 East Tampa residents will be recruited and screened by the CDC for internships at EnviroFocus. Once working, EnviroFocus will provide on-the-job training to prepare each intern for a permanent position at the company.

“We’ve recruited three new interns for EnviroFocus,” said Ernest Coney, Interim CEO of the CDC. “Everything is progressing well. In the next few months, we will be holding job fairs and placing notices in newspapers and on radio to recruit additional intern

positions. The people recruited and placed so far were unemployed for over six months, so this program is a great public/private effort to get people back to work.”

The grant monies provide the CDC with \$600 for recruitment and processing; and EnviroFocus \$1,200 to conduct on-the-job training, for each internship position.

EnviroFocus, located at 1901 N. 66th Street, provides recycling and processing of lead from batteries and other lead-bearing materials.

If you are interested in applying for the CDC/EnviroFocus internship partnership, come in person to the CDC, at the Chloe Coney Urban Enterprise Center, 1907 E. Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to complete an application. For additional information, please call 813-231-4362.



EAST TAMPA Redevelopment News

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Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board

Frank Reddick District 5 *Chair*
Mary Mulhern District 2 At-Large *Vice-Chair*
Mike Suarez. District 1
Yvonne Yolie Capin . . . District 3 At-Large
Harry Cohen District 4
Charlie Miranda District 6
Lisa J. Montelione District 7

Meeting Location: 315 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

Time: 9 a.m.

Dates: July 21, August 18, September 8

Community Advisory Committee

Evangeline R. Best *Chair*
Denese Meteye-James. . . *Vice Chair*
Curtis Brown
Ernest Coney, Jr.
William Dennis, III
Tatiana Denson
David Denson, Sr.
Billie Griffin
Richedean Hills-Ackbar
Elizabeth Nelson
Essie Sims, Jr.
Jeraldine Williams-Shaw

Meeting Location: Economic Development Office
TPD III, 3808 N. 22nd Street, Tampa

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Dates: July 5, August 2, September 6

Community Advisory Elections

On September 13th the ETCRP will hold elections for 6 Community Advisory Committee positions. Meeting will be held at 6:30 pm, Ragan Park Community Center, 1200 E. Lake Ave.

Your Neighborhood Connection

Twelve neighborhood associations in East Tampa are actively working to ensure a safe and vibrant community. Contact your neighborhood leader and get involved today. For more information, contact the neighborhood president directly by email.

College Hill Civic Association

Cynthia Few fbckbeauty3@yahoo.com

East Tampa Business & Civic Association

Marc Hamburg fireamarc@aol.com

Eastern Heights Neighborhood Association

Sam Mobley smsam1@verizon.net

Florence Villa/Beasley/Oak Park Civic Association

Barbara McGill bmcgill1@tampabay.rr.com

Grant Park Civic Association and Watch Group

Ralph Johnson Ralphj0103@yahoo.com

Highland Pines Community Task Force

Betty Bell Bellsystem5@verizon.net

Northeast Community Crimewatch & Civic Assoc.

Joel Barnum jbar1952@verizon.net

North View Hills Civic Association

Rosalee Jones ladyrj56@yahoo.com

Gloria Taylor glotay23@verizon.net

Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association

Evan St. Ives astives1@tampabay.rr.com

Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association

Sherry Genovar-Simmons genovar.simmons@seshca.com

V.M. Ybor Neighborhood Association

Kimberly Headland rkheadland@verizon.net

Woodland Terrace Neighborhood Association

Ruth Fleming 1flemingjr@tampabay.rr.com