



EAST TAMPA Redevelopment News

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East Tampa Development Manager

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EAST TAMPA Redevelopment News

NOVEMBER 2010

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



Pam Iorio, Mayor

Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Board

- Gwen Miller District 1 At-Large *Chair*
- Joseph Caetano District 7 *Vice-Chair*
- Mary Mulhern District 2 At-Large
- Curtis Stokes District 3 At-Large
- Yvonne Yolie Capin . . . District 4
- Thomas Scott District 5
- Charlie Miranda District 6

Meeting Location: 315 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

Time: 9 a.m.

Dates: October 28, December 9

Community Advisory Committee

- Evangeline R. Best *Chair*
- Denese Meteye-James . . . *Vice Chair*
- Sylvia Belcher-Brinson
- Curtis Brown
- Ernest Coney, Jr.
- William Dennis, III
- Tatiana Denson
- David Denson, Sr.
- 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: October 5, November 2, December 7

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@verizon.net

East Tampa Business & Civic Association
Marc Hamburg freamarc@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
Frank Reddick far9155@aol.com

Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association
Shawn Hicks president@oldseminoleheights.org

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

East Tampa - Transforming For The Better

On August 10, Mayor Iorio gave her final State of East Tampa presentation to residents and members of the East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership. Through the efforts and leadership of Mayor Iorio, the Tampa City Council, and the community, East Tampa has experienced major improvements including a 37% drop in crime since 2003, the conceptualization of a 30-year redevelopment plan, the opening of new businesses, and improvements to public parks and roadways.

During the presentation, the community presented the mayor with a two-volume scrapbook as a gift. Evangeline Best, Chairwoman of the East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership, organized 21 different entities, such as neighborhood associations and crime watch groups, to contribute to the scrapbook. "It was a labor of



L to R:
Evangeline Best,
Michele Espinoza,
Manuel Espinoza,
Mayor Pam Iorio



The community presented a two-volume scrapbook as a gift to Mayor Pam Iorio.

love," said Evangeline. "We wanted to show Mayor Iorio, from a community standpoint, what we have been doing. The presentation of the photograph that spells East Tampa was my gift to Mayor Iorio. Other contributors assembled their own pages, including news articles, mementos, and items that were not picked up by the media. We had a good time doing it, great fellowship with one another, and we learned so much from doing this project together."

The result was a unique, heartfelt compilation that tells the story of community revitalization and how so much can be accomplished through the cooperation of government, public and private groups, and interested citizens. Well done everyone!

Stimulus Dollars Provide On-the-Job Training Opportunities

A recent news conference held at the Tampa Family Health Center, currently under construction at 22nd Street and Osborne Avenue, highlighted the efforts of an on-the-job training program offered by the Corporation to Develop Communities in Tampa, a local nonprofit.

The nonprofit is training 25 low-income residents for construction jobs thanks to \$117,000 received in federal stimulus funds. Three trainees, some of whom have been out of work for several years, are helping with the new health center, a 15,000 square-foot medical clinic slated to open in November 2010. Other trainees are working with a battery recycling plant on 66nd Street.

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Youth Help Keep East Tampa Beautiful and Clean

During summer 2010, 36 East Tampa youth had jobs with the City of Tampa Clean City Division, thanks to funding provided by the East Tampa Community Redevelopment Area.

Their supervisor, Cal Worthington, has spent five years overseeing the young adults, who learn valuable experience. Working within the 7.5 miles that make up the East Tampa CRA, the participants labor along side City employees who perform roadside maintenance such as litter abatement, mowing, and edging.



Eco-awareness also is an important component of the work program, as the workers learn that we pick up approximately two million pounds of trash and debris from the East Tampa community each year. Most of this garbage is taken to the City of Tampa's McKay Bay Refuse-to-Energy Facility, where disposable bio-mass is incinerated to create electricity. The youth also toured a single stream recycling center, where all of the City's solid waste is recycled. In past years they have visited the Hillsborough County solid waste landfill in Wimauma, to learn how the fly ash refuse from the McKay Bay site becomes another form of waste that needs proper disposal.

We applaud the efforts of these youth for their initiative and contribution in keeping East Tampa neat and clean.

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

Helping Our People Excel – H.O.P.E.

The H.O.P.E. Learning Center opened in January 2010. Their name stands for "Helping Our People Excel," and is the driving force in their mission to serve, enhance, and inspire the lives of people of all ages in the East Tampa community.

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

– Pericles,
Ancient Greek Politician, General and Statesman. 495 BC–429 BC

There's truly something for everyone at H.O.P.E. and on a typical day the center serves 30 adults and 30-40 children. Adults can brush up on their skills with computer and typing classes, search for jobs, or link to ACCESS Florida to sign up for food stamps, cash assistance, or Medicaid. Kids learn teamwork by participating in community improvement projects such as painting buildings and planting shrubs, and also experience individual activities via computer,

or through classes in sewing, art, food preparation, and dog training. Oh, and there's plenty of time for play, both indoors and out, with checkers tournaments and other board games, jump rope and volleyball.

As a nonprofit involved in community service, the H.O.P.E. Learning Center has a Wish List, and here are some of the crucial ways you can help:

1 – Volunteer –the center particularly needs people who love kids and can consistently volunteer their time by teaching a class, assisting with computers, or facilitating games.

2 – Donations of Equipment, Supplies or Money – the center desperately needs to upgrade its computers and software, which are in heavy demand. Paper, art supplies, books, nearly everything supportive of the center's mission is welcomed.

Time may go by, but the H.O.P.E. Learning Center is a shining example of Pericles' ancient reflection and one which we think will stand the test of time. Visit the center at 2902 E. Lake Avenue, call them at (813) 443-4873, or visit their website at www.hopelearningcenter.biz.

Paving The Way to Complete Streets

In mid-August, construction began on the 22nd Street Enhancement project. This work, from Lake Avenue north to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, will bring a variety of improvements—landscaping, center islands, a 10' wide multi-modal trail, crosswalks, traffic signal upgrades, pedestrian lighting, and a bus stop and shelter – all of which contribute to the formation of a "complete street."

What is a complete street? According to the National Complete Streets Coalition, a complete street is "designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a complete street."

With nearby housing, schools, and other community resources, upgrading this portion of 22nd Street will go a long way to making it safer for everyone and a more pleasing neighborhood environment. The \$1.8 million project is expected to be completed in March 2011. Phase II from Lake Avenue to 23rd Avenue will begin summer 2011.



Restaurants Coming to Hillsborough Avenue



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

It was a cloudy day, with the potential for rain, but that didn't put a damper on the groundbreaking for not one, but two new East Tampa restaurants.

On August 25, Mayor Pam Iorio, Connie and Tony Leung, owners of Sanwa Growers, Inc., and others gathered for a ground breaking

to announce the Leung's plans to redevelop a vacant parcel at 2620 Hillsborough Avenue into a building to be occupied by a diner and a Chinese restaurant.

The Leungs, who are natives of Hong Kong, came to Tampa in 1980 looking for a hospitable climate for growing specialty Asian

produce. They founded Sanwa Growers, Inc. in 1981 and over the years, have expanded their operations including distribution centers in Tampa, Miami, Orlando, and Atlanta. They offer their own specialty herbs and supply restaurants, wholesale markets, and the general public with all of their produce, meat, and grocery needs.

The new restaurant offerings are a logical expansion of the Sanwa enterprises and a dream of Tony Leung's. Plans call for a 7,000 square-foot building to house the 50-seat diner, for which a tenant will be announced in the future. Yummy House, one of Tampa Bay's best authentic Chinese eateries, will seat 200 in its new space.

Based on the Yummy House food samplings at the groundbreaking, we can attest to the fact that there will be a very savory and exciting dining experience coming soon to Hillsborough Avenue.

For more information about Sanwa's restaurant plans, please contact Wes Pinkerton at (813) 234-8428.

Pepin Academy Gets First Façade Improvement Grant

The Pepin Academies, Inc., located at 3916 E. Hillsborough Avenue, will soon have a new look thanks to Tampa's Façade Grant program. The academy is the first East Tampa property to qualify for the grant which provides matching funds, limited to 50% of the project costs or up to \$50,000, to improve the appearance of properties in designated areas of Tampa's Community Redevelop Areas (CRAs). Funding can be used for exterior renovation, restoration and rehabilitation as well as landscaping improvements.

"This matching grant of \$50,000 will be leveraged against \$50,000 in funds from the The Academies Inc. Foundation, plus an additional contribution from the Pepin Family bringing the total project cost to \$150,000," said Natalie Mealey, Vice President of the Pepin Academies Board. "The new improvements will help hide air conditioning units now visible from the street and help us gain additional interior space," noted Crisha Scolaro, a Founder and Community Liaison. "We are very excited about the improved look, knowing it will contribute to making this area of East Tampa nicer. We are very grateful to Mayor Pam Iorio for this generous program."

The Pepin Academies which include Pepin Academy, Pepin Elementary School, Pepin Middle School, and Pepin Transition School, are tuition-free, public, charter schools for students from kindergarten through age 22 with learning and learning-related disabilities.

For more information about the Façade Program, contact the East Tampa Development office at (813) 242-3807.

Enhancements at Williams, Grant and Oak Parks

Times may be hard and budgets tight, but leaky roofs, worn landscaping, malfunctioning restrooms, and other improvements were recently made at three East Tampa parks thanks to an alliance of local businesses, Tampa's Parks and Recreation Department, Metropolitan Ministries, and the Tampa Bay Community and Housing Partnership.

During summer 2010, Williams Park received a new roof on the facility, new restroom toilets and faucets, and Florida-friendly plants. Games, play equipment and toys were donated to the center. Grant Park was upgraded with new sod and landscaping, and youth from Tampa's Clean City program removed litter from the grounds. Oak Park received new landscaping, pressure washing and painting of the building.

During the clean up at Williams Park, kids met Martin and Bill Gramatica, former football players with the Bucs and Cincinnati Bengals, respectively. The brothers were on hand to encourage the clean up efforts and offer community support.

These park enhancements are a fine example of the "can do" spirit in East Tampa, where both public and private entities come together to collaborate and improve the lives of others.

