

# EAST TAMPA

*Your Community, Your Home*

November 2018 – Redevelopment News



## NOW OPEN

Nestled on the corner of N. Nebraska Avenue and E. Osborne Avenue is one of Seminole Heights' newest gems – the Nebraska Mini-Mart (NMM). Co-owners Ty Rodriguez; local award-winning chef, Ferrell Alvarez; and Chon Nguyen, opened the retro-style eatery in August 2018. Housed in what long-time residents remember as a local beverage drive-thru, the unassuming landmark sat abandoned until it sparked the attention of the restaurateurs. Armed with a vision and funding made available through a City of Tampa grant, the trio got to work!

“Having the support of investors is one thing,” said Rodriguez, “but having the support of the City of Tampa in pursuing an opportunity to become a staple in the Seminole Heights community is an honor that would have been far more challenging had it not been for the City’s grant.”

The Mini-Mart is an eclectic, casual dining spot offering quirky, street-style food and beverage creations along with beer and wine. Diners have the option of eating indoors or relaxing at outdoor tables or on the lush, green lawn. Featuring shuffle board and Bocci ball, the NMM has something for everyone!



# FACADE GRANT



Since 2009, the East Tampa CRA has been teaming up with property owners to enhance the exteriors of their buildings and help East Tampa shine. **The CRA Façade Improvement Grant Program**, which provides matching grants to businesses renovating and restoring their properties, has provided 23 grants worth \$740,023 to local businesses.

One of those recipients is Davin Joseph, a former football player with the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The real estate investor transformed the distressed property at 3411 N. 29th Street into a modern office building for his growing real estate company – The Kong Group.

"I was looking for a place to call home," he said. "This was an opportunity to build a relationship with my community. Now a couple of years later, I can see the neighborhood come up around that building. I hope more people see the opportunity to invest in here and make it a thriving community. I want to continue to invest in the area. I look forward to building my business out of that place."

## URBAN 360° by DOMAIN HOMES

In March, the Tampa City Council approved home builder, Domain Homes, to provide affordable new homes in the East Tampa CRA. Domain's Urban 360 initiative is projected to build 75 new homes for income-eligible, first-time home buyers. As part of the economic revitalization efforts occurring within East Tampa, Domain Homes will also collaborate with Habitat for Humanity to build an additional 10 homes for eligible families. The homebuilders are enhancing East Tampa by encouraging economic investment, expanding home ownership opportunities and strengthening the sense of community within the CRA.

A recently opened model home center, located at 815 East Palm Avenue, will allow buyers to see the design, quality and technology that will go into each home, as well as to explore various options for floor plans, finishes and upgrades.



## SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

For over forty years, the Florida SBDC Network, the state's principal provider of business assistance, has nourished a statewide partnership between higher education and economic development to provide existing and emerging small and medium-sized business owners with management and knowledge resources that enable overall growth, increased profitability, and economic prosperity for Florida's economy.

Services and resources are available for all stages of business development and across all industries through the Florida SBDC at Hillsborough County including: Business Plan and Marketing Tools, Financial Technical Assistance, Market and Industry Research and Small Business and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SBE/MBE/WBE) certification programs.

**For additional information or to schedule a no-cost business consultation, stop by the Entrepreneur Collaborative Center, 2101 E. Palm. Avenue or call (813) 204-9267.**



# The MPO's Garden Steps Project

As an active community partner in the Hillsborough County MPO's 'Garden Steps' project, the City of Tampa is proud to announce that the project has been selected as one of fifty finalists by the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge - a two-year competition whose goal is to "support communities in their collaborative effort to become healthier."

The 'Garden Steps' project works to positively impact the community by adding community gardens in areas where access to healthy foods, such as fruits and vegetables, may be limited. The project also emphasizes pedestrian, bicycle and transit access throughout the garden network.

As a member of the HealthyCommunity50, the 'Garden Steps' project will receive a \$10,000 grant for implementing a program that it hopes will serve as a model for the other 26 Florida MPOs and result in being among the projects chosen to receive a portion of the \$1.5 million prize money.

"We will continue to work toward our vision of establishing a successful, permanent garden - one that is resilient and sustainable and serves as a positive symbol and resource for the community," said MPO Executive Planner, Michele Ogilvie.



Michele Ogilvie, MPO Executive Planner

## MESSAGE FROM THE EAST TAMPA CAC CHAIR

The East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership (ETCRP) welcomes resident, Natasha Goodley, as the new Chair of the CAC. Originally from South Carolina, Natasha relocated to the Bay Area in 2002 to attend school and after living in northern Hillsborough County for several years, she decided to hang up her hat and call East Tampa home.

Natasha hopes to increase economic growth within the CRA and as CAC Chair, she wants to ensure that the areas TIF (Tax Increment Financing) funds have an impact.

East Tampa is a vibrant, historic area with a rich culture and a growing sense of pride. The Partnership works closely with the City of Tampa and neighborhood civic groups to improve and enrich the quality of life for residents by focusing on several key areas, including housing, economic development, education and community unification.





## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION

Fourteen 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 · fblckbeauty3@yahoo.com

### EAST TAMPA BUSINESS & CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Dianne Hart · dhartconsulting@yahoo.com

### FLORENCE VILLA/BEASLEY/OAK PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Barbara McGill · bmcgill1@tampabay.rr.com

### GRANT PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND WATCH GROUP

Desmond Key · deskey@msn.com

### HAMPTON TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Joe Fortson · hamptonterraceneighborhoodassoc@yahoo.com

### HIGHLAND PINES COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

Betty Bell · bellsystem5@yahoo.com

### JACKSON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION & CRIMEWATCH

Fran Tate · jhnw2014@gmail.com

### NORTH YBOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Andrew Clarke · northybor@gmail.com

### NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CRIMEWATCH & CIVIC ASSOC.

Joel Barnum · jbar1952@gmail.com

### NORTHVIEW HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Rosalie Jones, Interim President · ladyrj56@yahoo.com

### OLD SEMINOLE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Tim Keeports · tim.keeports@gmail.com

### RAINBOW HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION & CRIMEWATCH

Frankie Jones · frankiedjones30@gmail.com

### SOUTHEAST SEMINOLE HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Stan Lasater · stantampa@outlook.com

### V.M. YBOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Cal Eustaquio · info@vmybor.org

## BOB BUCKHORN, MAYOR

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Natasha Goodley ..... Chairperson  
Evangeline R. Best ..... Vice Chairperson

Ricky J. Bell  
Nathaniel Burkes  
Chantel Griffin-Stampfer  
Orlando Gudes

Terrell Denise Mathis  
Jasmine Mattear  
Kim Headland  
James Cameron Hypes

Meeting Location: City of Tampa Economic Development  
Office  
3808 N. 22nd Street, Tampa, FL 33610  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Dates: 1st Tuesday of every month

### COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD

Guido Maniscalco..... Chairman, District 6  
Harry Cohen..... Vice Chairman, District 4  
Mike Suarez ..... District 1 At-Large  
Charlie Miranda ..... District 2 At-Large  
Yvonne Yolie Capin ..... District 3 At-Large  
Frank Reddick ..... District 5  
Luis Viera ..... District 7

Meeting Location: City of Tampa City Hall  
315 E. Kennedy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33602  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Dates: 2nd Thursday of each month

