

WEST TAMPA

Community News

October 2020 - West Tampa Newsletter

REY PARK AND

TAMPA, FL. - COMMUNITY CENTER MAKEOVER SUCCESS

In the heart of Old

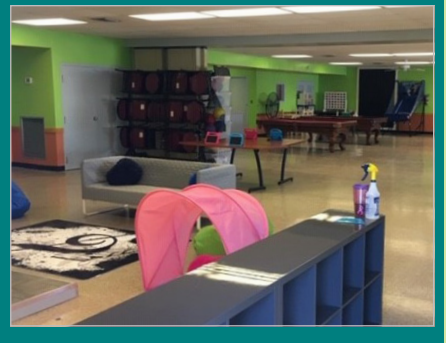
West Tampa, Rey Park Center has long been a place where young residents can go to study and mingle with friends after school. With the help of staff members and volunteers, young people from ages 4 to 17 can receive homework help, participate in team sports and fitness activities, explore the arts, play games, and develop lifelong friendships.

Two organizations and volunteers recently stepped in to renovate the Rey Park Center to ensure that it continues to be a welcoming destination and safe space for young people. Republic Services volunteers in partnership with Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay (RTTB) provided improvements including a new performance stage, updated gym, game areas, workstations with 10 new computers, new appliances, an art studio, a repainted interior and a face lift to the outdoor concession stand. The community center now also includes a sensory space for autistic children and activities in brail for a long-time participant who is vision impaired. Republic Services provided a \$50,000 grant and RTTB provided \$30,000 to complete the renovations.

In addition to its after-school program, Rey Park Center offers a summer lunch program to children in Old West Tampa. For current information about programs and hours of operation, contact Rey Park Center by phone at 813-259-1673. The center is located at 2301 N. Howard Avenue in Tampa.



rebuildingtogethertb
Rey Park



Stay Informed

To stay informed with COVID-19 developments in our area:

Text **TAMPAREADY** or **TAMPALISTA** to 888-777 for emergency alerts. Text **TAMPABIZ** to 888-777 for business resources and updates.

Tampa's COVID-19 Recovery Hotline is available **Mon-Friday from 9am-4pm** and **Saturday from 10am-4pm**. Call 1 (833) **TPA-INFO** (872-4636).

Please note: If you receive a "message failed" response when texting to 888-777, contact your mobile carrier to resolve the issue.

For more information, visit www.tampagov.net/covid19

City of Tampa's Solid Waste Enhanced Environmental Program (S.W.E.E.P.)

Did you use the time during the COVID lockdown this past spring to replace a carpet but not sure now how to get rid of the old one? What about that old mini refrigerator that is just taking up closet space? The City of Tampa's Solid Waste Enhanced Environmental Program (S.W.E.E.P.) may be the solution.

Through its S.W.E.E.P., The City of Tampa Department of Solid Waste & Environmental Program management will pick up many bulky items for proper disposal. Throughout the year, there are 40 individual weeklong neighborhood clean-ups offered by the City of Tampa. Household appliances, furniture, mattresses, barbecue grills, toilets, carpet, flat glass that is duct taped or wrapped, up to four tires without rims, yard waste and railroad ties are among the items that will be picked up for no additional charge. To learn when these items can be picked up in your neighborhood, see the schedule online at: https://www.tampagov.net/sites/default/files/solid-waste/files/sweep_schedule_2020_0.pdf.

To participate in S.W.E.E.P. during the designated week for your area:

- Items must be placed curbside, on the right of way in front of your residence, no later than Sunday night at 8 p.m. the week of your S.W.E.E.P. collection.
- S.W.E.E.P. crews will not return later in the week to areas that have already been cleared.
- The earliest that items may be placed curbside is 5 days before the first day of your area's scheduled S.W.E.E.P. collection.
- To avoid additional disposal costs for excessively large debris, S.W.E.E.P. piles should not exceed 10 cubic yards.
- To prevent injury and damage to equipment, property, and personnel, please avoid placing items under low hanging tree limbs, or on or near electrical/phone lines, water meters and utility boxes.
- Flat glass items, such as mirrors, window glass, and tabletop panes must be duct taped or wrapped to prevent it from breaking.
- Items placed in front of vacant homes or lots will be treated as illegal dumping and will be investigated by Code Enforcement for resolution.
- Please do not approach the truck at any time, especially when an employee is operating the truck.
- For safety reasons, S.W.E.E.P. items blocked by vehicles or other items will not be collected.

For additional details about S.W.E.E.P., please visit the City of Tampa's website at <https://www.tampagov.net/solid-waste/programs/sweep>.



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA

What is a Community Redevelopment Area?

A Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) is designed to preserve and improve the livability and economic health of a targeted neighborhood by supporting beneficial projects and/or programs. Geographic areas that qualify to be designated as CRAs have features such as blighted or slum conditions, as defined by Florida's Community Redevelopment Act of 1969 (the Act). The Act is a powerful tool that Tampa and municipalities throughout Florida use to help persistently struggling commercial districts and neighborhoods.

What is the purpose of creating a Community Redevelopment Area?

A CRA formally recognizes that a designated neighborhood or area deserves dedicated resources to improve living conditions and to promote economic revitalization. A CRA is a long-term, 30-year commitment guided by a plan that identifies overall redevelopment goals and the types of projects planned to support those goals. Examples of traditional projects may include streetscapes and roadway improvements, building renovations, flood control initiatives, water and sewer improvements, neighborhood parks and sidewalks. The plan may also include redevelopment incentives such as grants and loans for such things as façade improvements, sprinkler system upgrades, signs, and structural improvements. The redevelopment plan is a living document that can be updated to meet the changing needs within the CRA; however, the boundaries of the area cannot be changed without starting the process from the beginning.

How is a CRA created?

The Act outlines the process for creating a CRA. First, a field study is conducted to document the slum/blight conditions in the area. If legally sufficient documentation is produced, the local government approves a resolution declaring that the area is appropriate for redevelopment under the Act. From there, the local government works with the community's residents and stakeholders to create a CRA Plan for adoption by the local government.

Are there any special funding sources associated with a CRA?

Yes. The Act allows for the creation of a Tax Increment Financing ("TIF") district within a CRA. When a CRA/TIF is created, the Property Appraiser "freezes" the value of the property in the CRA at its current level (often called the "base value"). Thereafter, increases in property taxes collected above the base year amount ("increment") are deposited in a trust fund and invested in CRA Plan initiatives. Increment revenues must be spent within the CRA in which they are generated.

Who governs CRA's and TIF expenditures?

A Community Redevelopment Agency, as provided in the Act, governs community redevelopment areas. In Tampa, City Council serves as the Community Redevelopment Agency. The Council and Agency are separate and distinct governments with different functions and powers. The primary functions of the Agency are to oversee the implementation of CRA Plans and to administer TIF expenditures.

Are community members involved in the redevelopment process?

Yes. The Agency appoints community advisory committees to serve each redevelopment area. The committees meet regularly with city staff and other stakeholders to help prioritize redevelopment initiatives. Committee recommendations are then presented to the Agency for consideration. For additional information, please contact City of Tampa Economic and Urban Development, 306 East Jackson Street, Tampa, Florida 33602, (813) 274-8325, tampagov.net/CRA.



CAC Members - Community Advisory Committee

Joseph W. J. Robinson P.E., Chair	West Tampa Community Development Corporation, Inc.
Walter Smith II, Vice Chair	West Tampa Community Council
Benjamin Buckley	North Hyde Park Civic Association
Dedrick "Dee" Jackson	West Tampa Alliance
Delphine Jones	West Riverfront Crime Watch Group
Marvin Knight	At-Large
Kenneth C. Perry	At-Large
Carlos Ramirez	North Hyde Park Alliance
Jeffrey Rhodes	At-Large
Anthony Serrano	West Tampa Chamber of Commerce
Tina Young	Project LINK, Inc.
Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson	Old West Tampa Neighborhood Association & Crimewatch

MAYOR



JANE CASTOR

Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board

Orlando Gudes Chairman of the CRA, District 5

Joseph Citro.....	District 1	Bill Carlson	District 4
Charlie Miranda	District 2	Guido Maniscalco.....	District 6
John Dingfelder.....	District 3	Luis Viera	District 7



306 E. Jackson Street, Tampa, Florida 33602
(813) 274-7427

Jesus Nino, Urban Development Manager

Lift Up Local Supports Restaurants and Retailers With Expanded Outdoor Operations

Local businesses that are reopening responsibly amid COVID-19 are getting help from Phase 3 of the City of Tampa's Lift Up Local Program.

To encourage safer social distancing among diners and shoppers, Lift Up Local allows restaurants and retail establishments greater flexibility to use outdoor spaces for regular operations. The program re-expands the use of public and private sidewalks while Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's Executive Order limiting restaurant capacity to 50 percent of approved occupancy remains in effect. Safety and accessibility requirements still apply.

Under Phase 3 of the Lift Up Local Program:

- Restaurant and retail establishments can expand their outdoor capacity into parking lots, with property management approval
- Parklets are allowed, with permission from the Mobility Department
- Tents of up to 600 square feet are allowed by obtaining a Fast Pass Permit at no charge

For more information, including the full guidebook and resources for business owners, visit www.tampagov.net/LiftUpLocal.