

Main Street News

The Newsletter of the Old Algiers Main Street Corporation



Can you believe it's been 300 years? Algiers Tricentennial Celebration Planned for 2019

Because the Algiers story is often left out of the New Orleans historical narrative - being as it was, and is, separated by the Mississippi River - Old Algiers will celebrate its Tricentennial in 2019, the year the land was granted by the French crown to Jean Baptiste Sieur de Bienville, founder of New Orleans.

While the tract of land was large - some 12 miles by 4 miles - the area settled first was close to the bend in the river in the area today called Old Algiers.

Inhabited by Native Americans before the French chose to build a port city on the land claimed for the French crown, the unspoiled atmosphere on high ground was an attractive site with a river and marsh teeming with wildlife, which provided food and opportunities for trade. On the fertile alluvial soil on the bank of the Mississippi, the Native Americans were also able to grow crops that helped sustain them, long before the first plantation was established.

In the 1800s, there were several plantations, including eccentric philanthropist John McDonough's, for whom McDonoghville is named. The maritime industry provided jobs for immigrants who came after the Civil War, and by the early 20th century, musicians, some of whom became jazz legends, were living in Algiers and plying their trade in saloons, dance halls and on riverboats. A naval base served the country in World War I and World War II, and the famous Beat generation writer and artist William Burroughs lived in a house on Wagner Street, which is immortalized in Jack Kerouac's seminal book, *On the Road*.

There are many stories to tell and the planning committee is hoping to tell them throughout 2019. The group also will share plans for reinvigorating the pride that Algerines feel about their "place" in the city and drive reinvestment on our neighborhoods so that Old Algiers can become everything it can be while creating opportunity for all.

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Harriet Tubman School Returns to Old Algiers Campus

This school year, Harriet Tubman Charter School returned to the neighborhood and its original campus on General Meyer Avenue at Behrman Avenue with another 400 students on its roster. The school now serves nearly 1000 students in grades PreK-8, with 600 on the Tubman campus.



The K-2 Montessori program remains for one more year at the O. Perry Walker campus as plans are finalized for a new facility on the Federal City site. (The Pre-K students are on the old Clara's Little Lambs campus).

Originally constructed in 1917, it is only one of two remaining Craftsman-style school buildings in Orleans Parish. In 2016, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places under its original name, Adolph Meyer Elementary School. ps.gov/nr/feature/places/15001013.htm.

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Short-Term Rentals May Get New Rules

While the New Orleans City Council passed an ordinance in 2016 to legalize the already-rampant practice of renting spare rooms and entire homes, known as Short-Term Rentals (STRs), the legislation has created problems particularly in historic neighborhoods. Upon taking office in May, the New Orleans City Council began the process of tightening up the ordinance.

Arguments mostly have centered on the number of STRs, which have created a crisis for affordable housing for long-term tenants, and the lack of supervision for whole-home rentals whose visitors sometimes disrupt the quality of life in residential neighborhoods.

The CPC recommends eliminating the current "temporary" rentals category, which allows people to rent out their properties for up to 90 days a year on online platforms such as Airbnb. It also recommends replacing "accessory" rentals with two categories of rentals that requires that that an owner/operator be onsite during the rental period. Commercial rentals will also be more tightly regulated if the City Council agrees with the CPC's report. The date for a Council vote has not been set.

For additional information about the recommendations, visit nola.gov/city-planning.

Algiers Tricentennial Celebration continued from page 1

Planning Underway

The Algiers Tricentennial committee is a self-appointed, voluntary group of people who have come together to share history and create opportunities for celebration.

Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer and State Senator Troy Carter are serving as co-chairs of the Honorary Tricentennial Committee. Other honorary committee members include Judge Ernestine “Teena” Anderson, Rep. Gary Carter, Mohawk Hunters Big Chief Tyrone Casby Sr., Sr. Clarita Bourque and local activist Malik Rahim. Others are still being confirmed.

The planning committee currently includes the following: Rob Booms, Tyrone Casby Sr., Bob Cataliotti, Ann Cobb, Kelsey Foster, David Giglio, Linetta Gilbert, Monisha Jackson, Christine Jordan, Adelee LeGrand, Karen Lombard Johnson, Karri Maggio, Alicia Oliver, Valerie Robinson, Cathy Smith and Laura Thompson.

Email info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org for information and look for more soon at oldalgiersmainstreet.org.

What's Happening

WEDNESDAYS ON THE POINT A free concert series, is held with live music next to the Algiers Point Ferry Landing every Wednesday through October 24, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. There are beverage and food vendors along with local arts and businesses. Outside refreshments are not allowed. Visit www.algierseconomic.com for details.

AUTHOR'S NIGHT is held the third Tuesday of each month at the Hubbell Library, 715 Pelican Avenue, at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to hear from local authors, who will discuss their books. Refreshments are provided.

ALGIERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY meetings are held the third Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Algiers Regional Library. Visit algiershistoricalsociety.org for membership information and programs.

FOLK ART FESTIVAL The seventh annual Algiers Folk Art Festival is set for November 3 at the Folk Art Museum, 217 LeBoeuf Street from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Little Freddie King, Bruce “Sunpie” Barnes will perform along with other musicians. Regional folk art will be on display and for sale throughout the day. More information at www.neworleans.com/event/algiers-folk-art

OLD ALGIERS MAIN STREET CORPORATION ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Thursday, December 6, at the Pride of Algiers Masonic Lodge, 922 Teche Street, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. The meeting will feature election of the board slate, community updates, entertainment and refreshments. Open to the public. More details will be posted to the OAMSC Web site: oldalgiersmainstreet.org.



Event Venue, Wedding Planning, Bed-and-Breakfast

137 Eliza Street in Historic Algiers Point
504-366-1768

<https://compasspointevents.com>



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Business Spotlight

Hair Care and More at Headcase

In early 2018, Felicia Cary and Kayla Bentley opened a hair salon in Old Algiers that caters to just about anyone with hair. The Headcase Hair and Lash Salon is located at 833 Opelousas Avenue.

Felicia made the decision to open the business in Old Algiers because she had been living in the neighborhood for a few years and desperately wanted more time in it.

“I was working long hours across the city and missed all the fun of this special community”, she said.

She also realized that there was a need for these types of services in the neighborhood. “There are a lot of heads of hair over here and very few places to care for them,” she said.

Felicia and Kayla have both spent more than 15 years in the industry in different roles. Felicia has worked in several respected salons (Toni & Guy and Paris

Parker Aveda being the most notable). She completed specialty training in cutting, style, chemical straightening, texturing and color.

Kayla has operated her own small salons in Metairie and New Orleans and has spent the most of her career focused on hair care for natural hair and different hair extension techniques. She later received specialty training in lace-front units, and she recently received her lash extension certification. She said she is “obsessed with lashes and all their possibilities.” Her services include individual lash extensions by using faux mink lashes, customized to flatter the eye.

Headcase caters to a wide range of customers – women, men and children. They work with all hair textures; straight, thick, thin, curly, natural, or chemically straightened. They even sell Aveda hair care products along with a skin and body



line. “We do it all,” Felicia said.

They love having clients stop in after their hair service just to show what a great hair day they are having. They also love to see clients come from other parts of the city and from across the lake to see the adorable neighborhood that they have been bragging about for so long.

For more information, visit the Website: headcase.mysalononline.com or email headcasenola@gmail.com.

Old Algiers Riverfront Development Under Review

Earlier this month, the New Orleans City Council passed a motion, introduced by Councilmember Kristin Palmer, to enact an Interim Zoning District along the Algiers riverfront from Mardi Gras Boulevard around the Point to Hendee Street at Federal City.

Palmer said she is concerned about the lack of community input before the Riverfront Overlay District was voted in as part of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO). The motion passed by the Council identifies design restrictions placed on properties within the Algiers Riverfront Interim Zoning District (IZD), including a 40’ maximum height limit for new developments. The IZD will be in effect for six months, allowing time for the City Planning Commission to study the affected areas and produce a report with recommendations for changes to the CZO.

Most of the parcels within the IZD are currently zoned MU-2, which allows for new buildings to be 85 feet tall and seven stories and includes height and density bonuses for developers meeting certain criteria.

During the IZD study period, the Planning Commission will schedule public meetings to gather input from the community and property owners.

Algiers Ferry Terminal Slated for Upgrade

While the Canal Street Ferry Terminal awaits a new design and bidding process, the Regional Transit Authority has received a federal grant for \$2.4 million to upgrade the Algiers Ferry Terminal.

The grant will be matched with \$600,000 of RTA’s funding, which will pay for a wider boarding barge to accommodate two new catamaran-style passenger boats, and improvements to terminal safety and security.

Upgrades include security cameras, standby generator, new roof, floors and a fresh paint job, as well as new heating and air conditioning and a covered ramp for disabled passengers. New signage and lighting and a mobile ticket office for special events are also planned. Construction is expected to be complete by 2020.





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Old Algiers Main Street Corporation

Join the OAMSC Team!

With your support, OAMSC can continue to offer programs that benefit the businesses and communities of Old Algiers. For as little as \$25 a year become a member today and join us as we revitalize Old Algiers!

Member Benefits:

- Programs and services to enhance business and the community
- Quarterly newsletter with info and articles of interest to the community
- Access to resources that help you enhance the business climate in your neighborhood
- Invitations to special events and annual membership meeting
- A voice in the decisions that affect all of Old Algiers
- An opportunity to serve on committees and task forces

Send this form with your check to:

OAMSC, P.O. Box 740181, NOLA 70174

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Enclosed: \$25 individual \$35 family
 \$50 business \$100 business with newsletter ad

Old Algiers Main Street is a 501c3 organization. Membership donations are tax-deductible to the extent the law provides.

Harriet Tubman School Returns continued from page 1

The staff of Harriet Tubman Charter School is excited about welcoming so many more families to the school this year, and they are “especially thrilled” to return to their historic Tubman building, according to Principal Julie Lause. They have been off-site for five years as the building underwent a \$20 million renovation funded through a FEMA settlement.

Crescent City Schools took over the Harriet Tubman campus in 2011, and in one year the administration raised the school grade of F to a grade of C. Each year they have increased the percentage of students who are scoring basic and mastery on state tests, and this year the school made a grade of A for growth.

“We are so proud of our scholars, and our school,” said Lause.

Anyone in the neighborhood who would like a tour of the newly renovated building can email her at jlause@cresecentcityschools.org.

“We are happy to walk neighbors, alumni, and friends around,” she said.

Editor’s note: Old Algiers Main Street Corporation spearheaded the 2014 expansion of the Old Algiers Cultural District, which allowed developers to utilize state historic tax credits for the renovation project. The state approved the expansion, and the boundaries now more closely mirror the Old Algiers Main Street Corporation program area and includes Tubman Charter School.