

Main Street News

The Newsletter of the Old Algiers Main Street Corporation

FALL 2019

Algiers Tricentennial to Go Out with a Bang

With events large and small over the past months, the Algiers Tricentennial still has a few more before it ends the celebration with a bang on New Year's Eve.

Partnering with NOMTOC and Zulu, the year-long celebration kicked off with the Zulu King George Rainey's flag-raising ceremony at the historic Algiers courthouse, and a display of historical photos in the Algiers Ferry Terminal.

Later, the City of New Orleans donated one of the "300" signs for display in the ferry terminal, where it will remain until the renovations of the facility begin next year. The terminal also sports a large banner with all the Tricentennial sponsors listed.

In March, the Friends of the Ferry raised funds to refresh the murals on the levee steps between Olivier and Verret streets. Local artist Charles Gillam, one of the originals artists in the collaborative public art,

In June, a Juneteenth event was presented at Black Star Caffe to celebrate the ending of slavery in the U.S. A special program honoring Juan Malo, a Maroon who led a slave revolt in the 1800s.

Each month, the Algiers Historical Society has featured presentations focused on local history, including one with Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, a native Algerine, as the speaker.

Smaller groups have gathered to talk about history and families and how to strengthen the community. All Algiers neighborhoods have been encouraged to hold a special Tricentennial gathering, such as a block party or football party, a family day with games for the kids or a beautification project.



So, as we move into the cooler months, other Tricentennial events are scheduled:

Prosperity in Algiers

On November 9, Old Algiers Main Street will present Prosperity in Algiers: Focus on Opportunity, a Saturday morning event for those who are interested in community development, including developers, investors and entrepreneurs, property owners and neighbors. There will be a focus on opportunities in the federally designated Opportunity Zones in Old Algiers. Flozell Daniels, CEO of Foundation for Louisiana, will moderate a panel discussion about looking at Algiers, particularly the Opportunity Zones, through a lens of equity and authenticity. Register at [Eventbrite.com/Prosperity in Algiers](https://www.eventbrite.com/Prosperity-in-Algiers). Support from Entergy makes this event possible.

George Lewis Legacy with Dr. Michael White

On November 16, we will honor the legacy of George Lewis, a world-renowned jazz clarinetist in the early-mid-20th century who lived for many years in Tunisburg-McClendonville. Another celebrated clarinetist and

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historian, Dr. Michael White, will present a program featuring the music and stylings of Lewis, who had a big influence on White as he was learning his craft.

This event is made possible by New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, as well as Landry-Walker High School and individual donors. Tickets are available at [https://George Lewis Legacy](https://GeorgeLewisLegacy.com).

Algiers Holiday Bonfire

The annual bonfire on the Algiers river bature has become a don't-miss family event for many. The activities will begin at 5 p.m. next to the Algiers ferry terminal and will feature entertainment and food vendors. The culmination is the lighting of the bonfire at 8 p.m.

New Year in Old Algiers

On New Year's Eve, the Tricentennial Committee will present a blockbuster afternoon-evening event to close out the Tricentennial year.

At 3 p.m., a UNESCO Site of Memory dedication ceremony will take place at the historic Algiers Courthouse, 225 Morgan Street. The historical marker will tell about the landing of ships carrying enslaved Africans in Algiers as early as 1722.

Following this, a re-opening celebration is scheduled for the Carriage House behind the Courthouse, which has been closed since the Hubbell Library moved back into its venue after Katrina repairs. Once used as a museum of Algiers history and an event venue, the Friends of the Courthouse raised funds for recent repairs, and the City of New Orleans has agreed to the re-opening.

Soon after, seafood donated by the Louisiana Seafood Promotion Board (under the auspices of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, an Old Algiers native) will be offered in the plaza area in the rear of the courthouse, with entertainment inside the Carriage House.

By then, there will be just enough time to visit with friends, grab food or drinks and stake out your place on the levee for the fireworks over the river. Look for more details to come at Algiers-tricentennial.org



Slave Route Marker to Be Dedicated

Three hundred years ago, soon after the founding of Algiers, ships carrying enslaved Africans arrived in Algiers. As part of the Tricentennial commemoration, UNESCO had named the area a Site of Memory. A marker, similar to those already installed on the East Bank, will be dedicated as part of the year-end celebration on **New Year's Eve**.



The program will begin at **3 p.m.** with a solemn commemoration with African drums and remarks by elected officials and culture bearers. It is open to the public.



Old Algiers Main Street Corporation is dedicated to the revitalization of the historically commercial corridors of Old Algiers.

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President's Notes

By Valerie Robinson

With the Algiers Tricentennial year almost over, I am proud of the accomplishments of the volunteer committee. It's been a lot of work – and there is still a lot to do – but through the efforts of participants from various areas of Algiers, we are seeing some new pride in Algiers.

Old Algiers Main Street Corporation served as the convening organization, but there are many partner organizations including Algiers Historical Society, Algiers Point Association, Algiers Riverview Association, Algiers Economic Development Foundation, Algiers Development District, Algiers Presidents' Council, New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, UNO's Midlo Center and more.

In December, we will close out the year with a celebration that will be free and open to the public.

Special thanks to all of our sponsors: Entergy, Transdev, New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, Algiers Development District, Louisiana Seafood Promotion Board, University of New Orleans Midlo Center, Port of New Orleans, Inhab Group, Deep South Studios, Algiers Point Association, Algiers Historical Society and Supporters: Concerned Citizens for a Better Algiers and Friends: Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, Stephen Mosgrove and Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Harrison.

Living without Ferries

With ferry service from Algiers Point to Canal Street out of service for the past six or more weeks, local businesses are suffering. While we do not have control over the ferry service, we do have control over our local spending. Make an extra effort to shop in the community or ask a friend to meet you for a coffee, adult beverage, or a meal in one of the area's cafes and bars. We hope a resolution be announced soon, but it can't be soon enough for our local small businesses and for those who depend on the ferry to get to and from work downtown and in the French Quarter.

Small Business Saturday

Speaking of shopping local, November 30 is "Shop Small" Day, a special effort by American Express to support local small businesses. There will be some specials in some of the shops, and Old Algiers Main Street Corporation will distribute Shop Small giveaways to the locations in Old Algiers that want to participate.

Be sure to check out local businesses before going outside the area for your gifts this year. (Maybe we will have ferry service back by then).

Vote on November 16

There is an important election on November 16. While some incumbents were unopposed, and other races were decided in the primary, the Governor's race remains. It is important that everyone casts their votes on Saturday, November 16.



While you are waiting for the election returns, join us at Landry-Walker High School for a concert by Dr. Michael White, who will perform the music of George Lewis, a famous early jazz musician who lived in Algiers (Tunisburg) for a time. He had a unique style much appreciated by Dr. White. A silent auction will be held prior to the concert, so come out and support the Algiers Tricentennial. Tickets are on sale at Eventbrite.com/George-Lewis-Legacy or through the website at <https://Algier-tricentennial.org>.

Congrats to Algiers Historical Society for 20 Years

The Algiers Historical Society is celebrating 20 years of sharing stories of New Orleans and Louisiana history. Founded by Kevin Herridge, a transplant from England, the organization holds monthly meetings at the Algiers Regional Library. Don Costello, the current president, has been a member of the Tricentennial Committee and has placed focus on Algiers history during 2019. AHS has also maintains a display of historical artifacts inside the library. For more information and to become a member, visit <https://algiershistoricalsociety.org>.



Merchandise for Sale

We still have Tricentennial T shirts and flags. We are dropping the price for both: flags, which have sold for \$40, are on sale for \$25, and T-shirts, regularly \$12, are on sale for \$7. Not all sizes are available. A limited number of posters are for sale for \$50. **These items are all collectors' items, since there won't be another Tricentennial!**

Business Spotlight

Tapeh's Serves Up Treats and Opportunity for Community Youth

Move over snowballs: Tapeh's Water Ice has found its niche now that the flavored frozen treat has been introduced to New Orleanians at its first location in Old Algiers. Tapeh's opened in March 2019 to "fill a void in the market", according to Derrick Martin, who owns the business with partner Thomas Tapeh.

Located at 1624 Newton Street, the building once housed a Church's Fried Chicken, and later, other short-lived "take-out" stores. The structure had been abandoned for many years before Martin and Tapeh purchased and renovated it for retail food service. Because there are few prepared food outlets in the area, they decided to add other snacks and comfort foods. Freshly made hamburgers, chicken fingers, French fries and more are all part of the menu.

As executive director of the Algiers Economic Development Foundation, Martin knows a thing or two about creating businesses, and Tapeh, a former NFL and NFC champion who moved to Algiers after his retirement, likes to invest in businesses that serve the community. They each brought their own skill set to the table as they planned the new venture.

And while the duo certainly wants the business to be successful – they hope to open additional stores in the future -- they are just as keen on providing jobs and training opportunities to youth who live in the Old Algiers community.



"We both have a passion for mentoring young men and giving something back to the community," Martin said. They are counting on the young people to make sure that the snacks are well prepared and the frozen water ice cold and tasty. It may just be a recipe for success!



All Saints Celebrates 100 Years

All Saints Catholic Church, located at 1441 Teche Street, celebrated its 100th anniversary on November 1. The church was founded in 1919 for African American Catholics in Algiers and has been served by the Josephite Order for its entire history. Many Algiers families have worshipped there for several generations.

According to its website, "believing that true evangelization requires sound religious instruction", All Saints School opened five years later under the leadership of the Sisters of the Holy Family. It operated next door to the church until 2005, when it was closed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Rev. Peter C. Weiss, S.S.J., is the pastor of the church, where mass is celebrated Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m., at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sunday.

What's Happening in Algiers

November

Author Night – Hubbell Library will host its monthly Author Night on **November 5** and monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. 725 Pelican Ave., 6:30 p.m.

Small Business Saturday – This annual event will be **November 30** at shops in Algiers and throughout the city. Beatrix Bell will offer free refreshments in her eponymous jewelry and gift shop at 800 Patterson Ave. Rosetree Glass will offer “Blow Your Own”, an opportunity to try your hand at glassblowing and create your own holiday ornament.

Tree Sale – Friends of Hubbell Library will hold its annual fresh-cut holiday tree, garland and gifts sale on **Saturday, November 30** at the library at 725 Pelican Ave. Proceeds benefit the library.

Algiers Historical Society – The monthly meeting will be held **November 16, 10 a.m., at the Algiers Regional Library**. Deb Burst will be the speaker. There will be no meeting in December.

December

Algiers Point Association – The APA's holiday party will be held on **December 8 at Compass Point**. Visit <https://algierspoint.org> for details.

If you have items to submit, please send to info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org. Email updates are sent monthly. If you want to join the email list, send name and email to info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org.



Event Venue, Wedding Planning, Bed-and-Breakfast

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Old Algiers Main Street Corporation

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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 & 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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