

The Newsletter of the Old Algiers Main Street Corporation

## Resources for Businesses

There are many resources that can be used to help creative service “gig” workers, temporary and contract hourly employees and small businesses during this time of crisis. The New Orleans Business Alliance has a “Gig Relief Fund” available for musicians and others who work on a gig basis. Visit [www.nolaba.org](http://www.nolaba.org) for details. The Small Business Administration has low-interest loans available. Visit [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster) for more information. Full-time employees who are laid off from their jobs temporarily or permanently are eligible for unemployment benefits and, in some cases, Medicaid and SNAP (food stamps). Information is available at [www.laworks.net/unemploymentbenefits](http://www.laworks.net/unemploymentbenefits). Find more assistance by clicking this link [Relief resources for musicians, artists and service industry workers](#).

The Main Street America website also offers helpful information to small businesses at [www.mainstreet.org/COVID10resources](http://www.mainstreet.org/COVID10resources).

## Events Cancelled

Many events locally and nationally have been cancelled for the spring. Here is a list of some of them:

- Buku Festival  
*(rescheduled for Labor Day)*
- Crescent City Classic
- French Quarter Festival  
*(rescheduled October 1-3)*
- Jazz and Heritage Festival  
*(rescheduling for fall)*
- Old Algiers Crawfish Boil

## COVID-19 Affects Local Businesses

Old Algiers businesses are being negatively impacted, much like others around the globe, as the spread of COVID-19 limits public activities. Some businesses have shut down indefinitely, but others are still operating with limited hours and service. Restaurants are serving limited menus for take-out only. See below for a list of Old Algiers businesses and their status:

- Appetite Repair Shop, 400 Vallette Street, hours vary. Check Facebook page
- Beatrix Bell Handmade Jewelry & Gifts, 337 Morgan Street. Closed
- Brothers Food Mart, 1926 Newton Street, Open 24/7 unless hours limited by local/state authorities
- Central Market, 840 Teche Street. Open regular hours
- Congregation Coffee, 240 Pelican Avenue. Hours 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Crown & Anchor Pub, 200 Pelican Avenue. Closed
- Dry Dock Café – 133 Delaronde Street. Closed
- Faubourg Market, 541 Bermuda Street. Open regular hours
- Lil McKH Jewelry. Closed
- Old Point Bar, 545 Patterson Avenue. Closed
- Rosetree Blown Glass Studio and Gallery, 446 Vallette Street. Gallery Closed
- Shucks on Teche, 825 Teche Street. Open 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Tapeh’s Water Ice, 1624 Newton Street. Open
- Tavolino Pizza, 141 Delaronde Street. Closed
- Tout de Suite Cafe, 347 Verret Street – 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed Monday

Please send updates to [info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org](mailto:info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org) and we will publish them weekly.

## OAMSC Receives Funding Support

In late 2019, OAMSC was selected as one of six grantees to receive funding from the **New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA)** Commercial Corridors program. The funds are to be used primarily for development and promotion of an online business directory to drive people to Old Algiers for a variety of retail/restaurant options, as well as creative and professional services.

“Many of the businesses in Old Algiers are micro-enterprises, with a concentration in creative industries, including art, design and music,” said Valerie Robinson, president of OAMSC. “We will highlight those as well as traditional retail and restaurant options throughout the program area with photos and features. Because it is online, we will be able to update it regularly as we expand the commercial footprint in the coming years.”

The NORA program is funded by Chase to enhance Main Street programs throughout New Orleans.

Additionally, OAMSC received funds from **Preserving Historic Algiers Community Corporation (P-HACC)**, as it distributes the proceeds of the sale of a property it owned on Brooklyn Avenue. P-HACC was created in 2006 as part of a community benefit

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## President's Notes

By Valerie Robinson

As I write this, you are likely growing more anxious by the hour with all of the news of the coronavirus pandemic known as COVID 19, which is proving to be more dangerous than we would have thought when the first case showed up in the area on March 9. None of us knows what the near-future holds, but we must keep the faith and take care of one another when needed. OAMSC maintains a list of some 500 people throughout Old Algiers and other parts of the city. Please email [info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org](mailto:info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org) with information regarding how the community can help those most vulnerable to the effects of this scourge. We will share and hopefully we will all get through it together.

Over the past few weeks, most of our lives have changed dramatically. We are all making sacrifices, but it is important to be safe. Everyone, please take care and stay well – wash your hands and take a deep breath every now and then - and we will see each other soon.

### Tricentennial Wrap-Up

During 2019, Old Algiers Main Street convened a group of volunteers to create and promote activities and events that celebrated Algiers on its Tricentennial. We engaged a variety of neighborhood associations, tourism agencies, and public officials to help, and we are grateful to all those who sponsored the programs and projects as well as those who volunteered. (You can see them on the website, [www.algierstricentennial.org](http://www.algierstricentennial.org).)



Our grand finale was on New Year's Eve, when we installed and dedicated the UNESCO marker that commemorates the site where enslaved Africans were put on shore in New Orleans. We encourage you to see it for yourself at the historic Algiers Courthouse at 225 Morgan Street.

### Ferry Service Set to Improve

It's a five-minute ferry ride between Downtown New Orleans and Old Algiers; however, for the past six months, the service has been so unreliable – or non-existent – that people cannot depend on it for work or leisure. It has created hardships for hospitality and health care workers as well as other hourly employees, and it has impacted local businesses that are missing out on the foot traffic from people who travel from Downtown to Algiers Point.

The RTA board is finally making progress: LabMar now has a contract to operate ferry service, and there is an agreement for repairs/rebuilding the \$10 million ferry boats constructed by Metal Shark. The boats have not been able to pass a U.S. Coast Guard inspection since they were delivered in 2018.

Now the community needs to stay focused on getting and retaining reliable service on a long-term basis. Jim Goodwin, the current President of the Algiers Point Association, attends meetings. Read the latest notes from the Operations and Administration Committee at the RTA on the right.

### Ferry Service Update

*(Editor's Note: Ferry service may be interrupted due to COVID-19.)*

Algiers Point Association President Jim Goodwin attended the March 12 Operations and Administration Committee of the Regional Transit Authority and submitted this report regarding the Algiers/Canal Street Ferry:

- The RTA Project Team had consulted with Algiers stakeholders and, as a result, will research providing ramps for the rail overpass bridge access at the East Bank terminal and covered walkways from the terminal to the barge boarding staging area; some on the RTA board expressed support for these enhancements.

The updates to my additional concerns presented at the Questions/Comments period are provided, below:

- Status of Labmar contract execution - a one year contract has been executed, and assumption of ferry operations will transfer to Labmar on 3/15;
- Status of Labmar continuation of Margaret Lab service - the contract was extended 120 days;
- Status of the barge at the Algiers Point terminal - the Armiger was repaired and operable, but almost as soon as it started running, the barge began taking on water so that the gangway could not align properly to load or unload passengers from the vessel - only the Margaret Lab can operate with the current barge condition, but repairs are pending (Note: the Project Team for the Westbank Terminal Remediation is reviewing the alternative of replacing, rather than repairing, the barge);
- Status of Metal Shark negotiations for RTA1/2 repairs (and definition of scope, i.e. the punchlist) - a contract for repairs has been signed, the RTA is awaiting FTA approval to move the boats to the yard for repairs;
- Status of Armiger, Jefferson and Levy - an update was due on Friday, 13-March, but has not been transmitted (Note Armiger status, above);
- Need for ferry performance stats to be able to quantify impact upon customers - the need was acknowledged, and performance measurement will be implemented, but no start date was provided, due to current unreliability (I stated this was the reason such stats were needed, i.e. the impact on service could not be assessed without such quantification.)

The RTA Ops members also expressed appreciation for the participation and engagement by the neighborhood organizations.



## Business Spotlight:

# Shucks on Teche Opens as Restaurant and Oyster Bar

A new restaurant has taken over the space that for many years housed John's Seafood at 825 Teche Street. In January, Christopher Carter and his sister China Carter-Smith Thomas introduced Shucks on Teche, an oyster bar, Cajun and soul food restaurant.



Christopher says he decided to open the restaurant at this location because his family's history is deeply rooted in the Old Algiers neighborhood. "It's the community both my sister (co-owner, China) and I were raised, and it's also where we feel most at home," he said.

Chris' food and cooking experience consists mostly of passed down recipes from his family. He mentions that the highlight of running the restaurant is the joy he receives from explaining how to eat crawfish to tourists and watching their delight as they eat the first one. This occurs about once a week, he said.

Shucks on Teche is open on Tuesday through Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information you can contact them at (504)766-0145 or visit their Instagram page @shucksonteche.

If you would like your business to be featured in a coming newsletter, please email [info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org](mailto:info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org).



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## OAMSC Receives Funding *continued from page 1*

agreement when property that housed the original Mardi Gras World was to be developed into a series of high-rise apartments, condos and retail spaces from Opelousas Avenue to Mardi Gras Boulevard along Brooklyn Avenue. Because the development did not happen, due to the financial hardships of 2008-2010, P-HACC was not funded as planned, but received a house at 912-914 Brooklyn Ave. The house, which needed extensive maintenance and repair, was sold in 2019, with the approximate \$167,000 benefiting the community through these grants.

OAMSC was one of nine non-profit organizations operating in the McDonogh area that was awarded funds. Others include Concerned Citizens of Algiers, Confetti Kids, Folk Art Zone, Free Li'l Pantry, Hubbell Library, Rebuilding Together New Orleans (RTNO), Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL) and Ujaama.

OAMSC used some funding for its Tricentennial events, and some is being used for design, printing and installation of light-pole banners on the Newton-Teche corridor, coming in April-May, and additional community programming in 2020.



## Jugs Social Club

1905 Newton Street

New Orleans, LA 70114

*Home of the Krewe of NOMTOC!*



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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 & 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 74018 NOLA 70174 or pay online at [www.oldalgiersmainstreet.org](http://www.oldalgiersmainstreet.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed:  \$25 individual / family  \$50 business  
 \$100 business with newsletter ad (4 per year)

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

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

### 2019 Board of Directors

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