

CHANNEL DISTRICT



VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 1

SPRING 2010

Stageworks Ground Breaking



More than 200 Stageworks enthusiasts joined Mayor Pam Iorio at the ground-breaking ceremony on January 27. The Mayor talked about the role that the arts can play in economic development.

Attendees formed a procession to the ground floor where each got to dig some dirt to "help lay the foundation."

Rezoning Meeting

Thursday, May 13 • 6pm
City Council Chambers, City Hall
315 East Kennedy Boulevard

The corner of Meridian and Kennedy was previously rezoned for high rise development. The owner is now requesting to downzone the property to be allowed to store automobiles outside on the property. If you would like to express your opinion to the Tampa City Council, attend the rezoning meeting.

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York Street Stormwater Goes with the Flow

Following an unusually wet winter, and with the summer rainy season on the way, our stormwater quality will advance greatly when the Channel District Stormwater Improvement project is complete in 2010.

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation flows over paved surfaces such as sidewalks and streets. Along the way, the stormwater collects debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants, and runs untreated into Tampa Bay.

Beginning in April 2010, construction crews will be installing a stormwater storage vault and drain on York Street that will help protect Tampa Bay water quality by removing sediment and trash from stormwater before it is discharged to a new outfall structure in Ybor Channel. Once the vault is complete, trees and sidewalks will be replaced. Construction is only expected to affect the Florida Aquarium entrance and the Port Authority's parking lot. Traffic will be re-routed.



Washington Street Makeover

Preconstruction activity is underway on Washington Street for upcoming improvements stipulated by the Channel District Strategic Action Plan. Crews are taking boring samples, and video surveys documenting pre-construction conditions for construction scheduled to begin in September 2010 on underground pipelines, buried electrical lines and relocated utilities. Streetscape improvements include wider sidewalks, trees and landscaping, benches, lighting, and other pedestrian amenities.

The York and Washington Street projects are budgeted a total of \$8.7 million. For questions or comments, contact India Williams, CH2MHILL Constructors, by phone at 813-874-0777, or email india.williams@ch2m.com.

Business Corner

Taverna Opa Greek Restaurant Now Open



Taverna Opa is a Greek restaurant with Mediterranean cuisine, exciting high-energy entertainment, and a waterfront view at Channelside Bay Plaza.

The restaurant offers traditional Greek dishes. Savor flaming cheese with brandy, fresh seafood, premium cut meats, grilled lamb chops, and vegetarian delights. Enjoy the sophisticated nightlife, led by a live DJ spinning a variety of Greek, Spanish, and Top 40 Hits.

Reserve complete meeting packages for up to 100 guests, with high-tech amenities. Contact Marketing/Events Director: Carolynn Smith at carolynn@tavernaopatampa.com

- Dining: Lunch - \$7-\$15, Dinner - \$17-\$35
- Indoor & outdoor seating, all waterfront views
- Full bar, belly dancers, private parties/dining

Hours:

Monday-Saturday: 11am - 3am, Sunday: 11am - 10pm

Visit them at www.tavernaopatampa.com.



Victor 1 and Yo Lounge Coming Soon

Influenced by the life and entertainment of Ibiza, Spain, the proprietors are busy planning a trendy European-style club with a taste of Spanish entertainment. Located at 223 S. 12th Street, the establishment will feature stadium seating focusing on the DJ and a VIP experience for guests.

For details, contact: roccosavage@gmail.com.

New Developments

Community Icon Moving

A blank space in the Channel District canvas soon will be filled by an exciting minimalist sculpture. The 36' high, yellow, white, and black sculpture by artist George Sugarman, will move from Ashley Street downtown to the traffic roundabout across from The Florida Aquarium.



Through the efforts of volunteers including Ironworkers Local Union #397, Florida Structural Steel, Gulf Marine and the Port Authority, the sculpture will be disassembled, repaired, moved and placed on a newly designed foundation. Work begins April 21, 2010.

The Channel District has long been acknowledged as a community of the arts, and this major sculpture will be a welcome addition to our neighborhood's visual vibrancy.

Two New Businesses Now Open in Grand Central

These businesses have generously offered to donate a portion of their income to Stageworks.

Pour House at Grand Central

Stop in for a pint of craft beer or a glass of fine wine. Enjoy the comfortable atmosphere while you relax with friends. Their knowledgeable staff is ready to talk about their comprehensive offerings.

- Craft beers: 40 on tap, 100s in bottles
- Various wines by the glass
- 100s of beers and wines by the bottle for take away

For details visit www.pourhousetampa.com.

Be Seen Dry Cleaners

Bring in your dry cleaning and enjoy a complimentary espresso or coffee available everyday. Ask them how to receive 20% off your first order.

For details visit www.beseendryclean.com.

Progress at The Port Garage

Construction is progressing at the new Port Authority Garage on Channelside Drive with anticipated completion



May 2010. Adjustments to garage lighting per citizen concern have been addressed. Exterior finishes are being applied and sidewalks poured. The public art component will be the final step for completion.

Tampa Museum of Art A Masterpiece



The new Tampa Museum of Art in Tampa's Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park was designed by San Francisco architect Stanley Saitowitz. The building features a shimmering pierced

aluminum exterior, and state-of-the-art gallery spaces with translucent ceilings and polished concrete floors.

For details visit www.tampamuseum.org.

Streetcar Expansion Rolling Along

The 1/3-mile extension of the TecoLine Streetcar System from the Convention Center to Whiting Street is underway. Underground utilities are being relocated and laying of track commences in May. Station construction and completion are scheduled for fourth quarter 2010.

Curtis Hixon Park Open

Visit the new eight-acre park overlooking the Hillsborough River. Enjoy its great lawn with terrace seating, children's playground, public boat docks, dog park, and two fountains.

"There is no doubt we are in terrible economic times. But in the worst of times we built the best of assets for generations to come."

– Mayor Pam Iorio.

Hours:

Daily: Sunrise to 10pm



New Park Design Finalized



The new park at 12th and Washington is on its way to becoming a reality. A final meeting was held for the residents on March 17, to

present the design which was well received. A request for construction bids will go out Summer 2010.

Gasparilla Festival of the Arts 40th Anniversary

One of the nation's premier fine art and craft festivals returned to its riverside roots at the Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park on March 6th and 7th, 2010. The event was well attended with more than 300,000 coming out to enjoy artwork, live music and activities for children.

Visit them at www.gasparilla-arts.com.



Neighborhood Survey

The grocery shopping survey has been completed. We received input from 1,000 residents and 1,300 employees from the urban core (Channel District, Downtown, Ybor City). Thank you to everyone who participated, results will be published soon.

Real Estate Update

An auction was held for unsold Ventana units on November 10, 2009 which resulted in a number of sales reflected below.

Recent Channel District Sales

11/19/09	Towers of Channelside	\$142,250.	\$228.39 psf
11/23/09	The Meridian	\$140,000.	\$93.02 psf
11/25/09	Ventana	\$150,000.	\$85.76 psf
12/4/09	Grand Central	\$103,000.	\$98.10 psf
12/18/09	Ventana	\$145,000.	\$126.86 psf
12/18/09	Ventana	\$230,000.	\$131.20 psf
12/21/09	Ventana	\$276,000.	\$153.59 psf
12/23/09	Victory Lofts	\$150,000.	\$91.97 psf
12/24/09	Ventana	\$197,000.	\$136.05 psf
12/28/10	Ventana	\$385,000.	\$151.52 psf
12/28/09	Grand Central	\$196,000.	\$125.16 psf
12/31/09	Ventana	\$200,000.	\$114.35 psf
12/31/09	Ventana	\$232,000.	\$132.34 psf
12/31/09	Channelside Lofts	\$190,000.	\$152.49 psf
1/7/10	Ventana	\$187,000.	\$135.41 psf
1/10/10	Ventana	\$180,000.	\$124.31 psf
1/21/10	Victory Lofts Model 'T'	\$289,000.	\$176.22 psf
1/26/10	Ventana	\$250,679.	\$143.00 psf
1/28/10	Ventana	\$261,000.	\$145.24 psf
2/1/10	The Place	\$150,000.	\$132.28 psf
2/5/10	Grand Central	\$78,999.	\$94.05 psf
2/17/10	Ventana	\$197,483.	\$143.00 psf
2/17/10	Ventana	\$207,064.	\$143.00 psf

Important Phone Numbers

Police

District III Crime Prevention Team

Officer Jason Degagne
(813) 242-3810

Community Service Officer
Rebecca Jones
(813) 242-3867

Non-Emergency Dispatch
(813) 231-6130

Fire

Information - (813) 232-6800

Code Enforcement

(813) 274-5545

Comments or Concerns

Bob McDonough,
Urban Development Manager
(813) 274-8245
Bob.McDonough@TampaGov.net

Economic & Urban Development Department, 306 East Jackson Street, Floor 2N, Tampa, Florida 33602

Pam Iorio, Mayor

Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Board

Gwendolyn Miller, *Chairman*

Joseph Caetano

John Dingfelder

Charlie Miranda

Mary Mulhern

Linda Saul-Sena

Thomas Scott

The CRA Board meets the second Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcome.

Location: Tampa City Council
Chambers, City Hall
315 East Kennedy Boulevard

Time: 9:00am

Apr. 8, May 13, Jun. 10, Jul. 8, Aug. 12

Community Advisory Committee

Andy Joe Scaglione, *Chairman*

Alex Petrilak, *Vice-Chairman*

Mark Alma

Blake Hayden

Hunter Jones

Zelko Kirincich

Heather Shiperd

Thom Stork

Lonise White

The Community Advisory Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month. Everyone is welcome.

Location: Florida Aquarium,
701 Channelside Drive

Time: 5:30pm

Apr. 7, May 5, Jun. 2, Jul. 7, Aug. 4