

# “IT’S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS”

At December’s East Tampa Tree Lighting Ceremony there were parents and teachers, fire fighters and police officers (and even a police horse!), a marching band and a color guard, dignitaries galore and, last but not least, good ol’ St. Nick. But as Mayor Bob Buckhorn reminded the

overflow crowd braving chilly temperatures at the Cyrus Greene Community Center, the annual event is “all about the kids.” And kids there were aplenty. In addition to the hundreds of children in attendance, the event, once again organized by Denese Meteye James, featured the Middleton Band and Orchestra, and the Lomax children’s chorus. Middleton Senior Tatiana Larry sang the National Anthem, while the James Elementary dance team and drumline provided additional entertainment. This year’s guest speaker was former NBA star, George Tinsley, Sr.

But as the Mayor said, the real stars of the 7th annual event –the stars of the future–were the kids.





# Tampa's Façade Grant Program Wins Planning Commission Award

The City of Tampa CRA Façade Improvement Grant Program has been given an award by the Hillsborough County Planning Commission. The award recognizes the program's success in distributing, to date, 46 façade improvement grants across the four CRA Districts.

The Façade Grant Program was developed in 2009 by the Economic Development Subcommittee of the East Tampa Community Advisory Committee, Chaired at the time by Ernest Coney, Jr. The proposed program was so well received that it was expanded to three additional CRAs. The program assists owners in upgrading the appearance of their building. The grant provides up to 50% of exterior improvement costs, up to \$50,000, to be matched by the property owner.

The purpose of the grant is twofold: to assist small businesses in upgrading the exterior of their facilities thereby making them aesthetically pleasing and more inviting to customers; and, secondly, to enhance the surrounding neighborhood, making it a better place in which to live, work and play. As Coney says, "People feel safer when it's an inviting entrance."

The ultimate goal is to remove "areas of transition" as you travel from one neighborhood to the next, Coney adds. The hope is, "some day people will view the entire city of Tampa as a great place to live and work." The Façade Grant Program remains a positive step in that direction.

## Buccaneer Linen Service Façade Grant Improvement

If you have not driven past Buccaneer Linen Service since 2012 you would be in for a big surprise. In large part owing to the City of Tampa's Façade Grant Program, Buccaneer owners Terri and Frank Giardina have transformed the building housing their successful East Tampa business at 3608 N. 34th Street.

The City's Façade Program enabled the Giardinias to demolish the old dilapidated overhang and to upgrade the building with fresh paint, attractive landscaping, new fencing, exterior lighting as well as new garage doors for their receiving bays.

*Before*



The importance of the façade upgrade can not be emphasized enough due to the fact that Buccaneer Linen sits in the heart of a largely residential neighborhood, and is directly across the street from the high-profile and handsomely designed NFL YET Community Center.

*After*



As Frank Giardina says, referring both to his East Tampa business's prospects and to additional neighborhood improvements owing to the City's Façade Grant Program, "The future is bright."

## Small Business Development Center at Hillsborough County

Satellite Office Update

Small business education and opportunities continue to strengthen in East Tampa. Since 2010, the SBDC at Hillsborough County and the East Tampa Redevelopment Office have partnered to provide business technical assistance and outreach to East Tampa business owners. A business consultant is available at the East Tampa Redevelopment

Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is also available to meet at the owner's place of business. Topics include business plan creation, marketing, cash flow, enterprise zone incentives, minority business certification and small business registration and many more!

Lynn Schultz, Special Projects Coordinator, at the East Tampa SBIC

satellite office, reported the following activities from October 2012 through September 2013:

- 540 points of assistance were provided to business owners.
- 28 businesses were started as a result of business technical assistance provided based on surveys conducted.

• 68 new jobs were created and/or retained as a result of business technical assistance provided based on surveys conducted.

**For additional information or to schedule a FREE business consultation, call (813) 204-9267.**



*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.*

*I have a dream today!*

*I have a dream that one day little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.*

*I have a dream today!*

*-The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
August 28, 1963*



## Enterprise Zone ▾ Did you know East Tampa is an Enterprise Zone?

An Enterprise Zone is a state-designated geographical area targeted for economic revitalization. Tax incentives are offered to businesses and people in the zone to encourage economic development and investment.

New and existing businesses, or any property owner who builds new or renovates, and is in the zone boundaries, may qualify for various incentives such as job tax credits, business equipment sales tax refund, property tax credit, building materials sales tax refund, and more.

**Find out more by contacting the Enterprise Zone Coordinators:**

Ed Johnson - (813) 242-3806  
Ed.Johnson@tampagov.net

Lynn Schultz - (813) 277-1394  
schultzl@hillsboroughcounty.org

# BOB BUCKHORN MAYOR

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Essie Sims, Jr. .... Chairperson  
Richedean Hills-Ackbar ..... Vice Chairperson

Ernest Coney, Jr.  
Jason Dickens  
Kim Headland  
Carrol Josephs-Marshall  
Deborah Lawson

Denese Meteye-James  
Richard Muhammad  
Gary Onzy  
Karen Peoples  
Darrell Starling

**Meeting Location:** Economic Development Office  
TPD III, 3808 N. 22nd Street, Tampa

Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Dates: April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7

## COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) BOARD

Frank Reddick.....District 5 Chairperson  
Mike Suarez.....District 1 Vice Chairperson  
Yvonne Yolie Capin .....District 3 At-Large  
Harry Cohen .....District 4  
Charlie Miranda .....District 6  
Lisa J. Montelione.....District 7  
Mary Mulhern .....District 2 At-Large

**Meeting Location:** 315 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

Time: 9 a.m.  
Dates: April 9, May 14, June 11, July 23



### EAST TAMPA REDEVELOPMENT NEWS

3808 North 22nd Street  
Tampa, Florida 33610  
(813) 242-3807

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US POSTAGE  
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TAMPA FL  
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### YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION

Sixteen neighborhood associations in East Tampa are actively working to ensure a safe and vibrant community. Contact your neighborhood leader and get involved today. For more information, contact the neighborhood president directly by email.

#### COLLEGE HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Cynthia Few • fblckbeauty3@yahoo.com

#### EAST TAMPA BUSINESS & CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Dianne Hart • dhartconsulting@yahoo.com

#### EASTERN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Sam Mobley • smobley15@tampabay.rr.com

#### FLORENCE VILLA/BEASLEY/OAK PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Barbara McGill • bmcgill1@tampabay.rr.com

#### GRANT PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND WATCH GROUP

Desmond Key • deskey@msn.com

#### HAMPTON TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Wesley Warren • independentww@yahoo.com

#### HIGHLAND PINES COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

Betty Bell • Bellsystem5@verizon.net

#### LIVE OAKS SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Michael Dove, Interim President • dovetampa@yahoo.com

#### NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CRIMEWATCH & CIVIC ASSOC.

Joel Barnum • jbar1952@verizon.net

#### NORTHVIEW HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Freddie Hires, Interim President • ladyrj56@yahoo.com

#### OLD SEMINOLE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Debi Johnson • djintampa@gmail.com

#### RAINBOW HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION & CRIMEWATCH

Frankie Jones • frankiedjones30@gmail.com

#### SOUTHEAST SEMINOLE HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Stan Lasater • stan@ads4hr.com

#### V.M. YBOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Kelly Bailey KellyBailey@vmybor.org

#### WOODLAND TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Ruth Fleming • lflemmingjr@tampabay.rr.com

#### YBOR HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Felecia Romano • felecia@yborheights.org