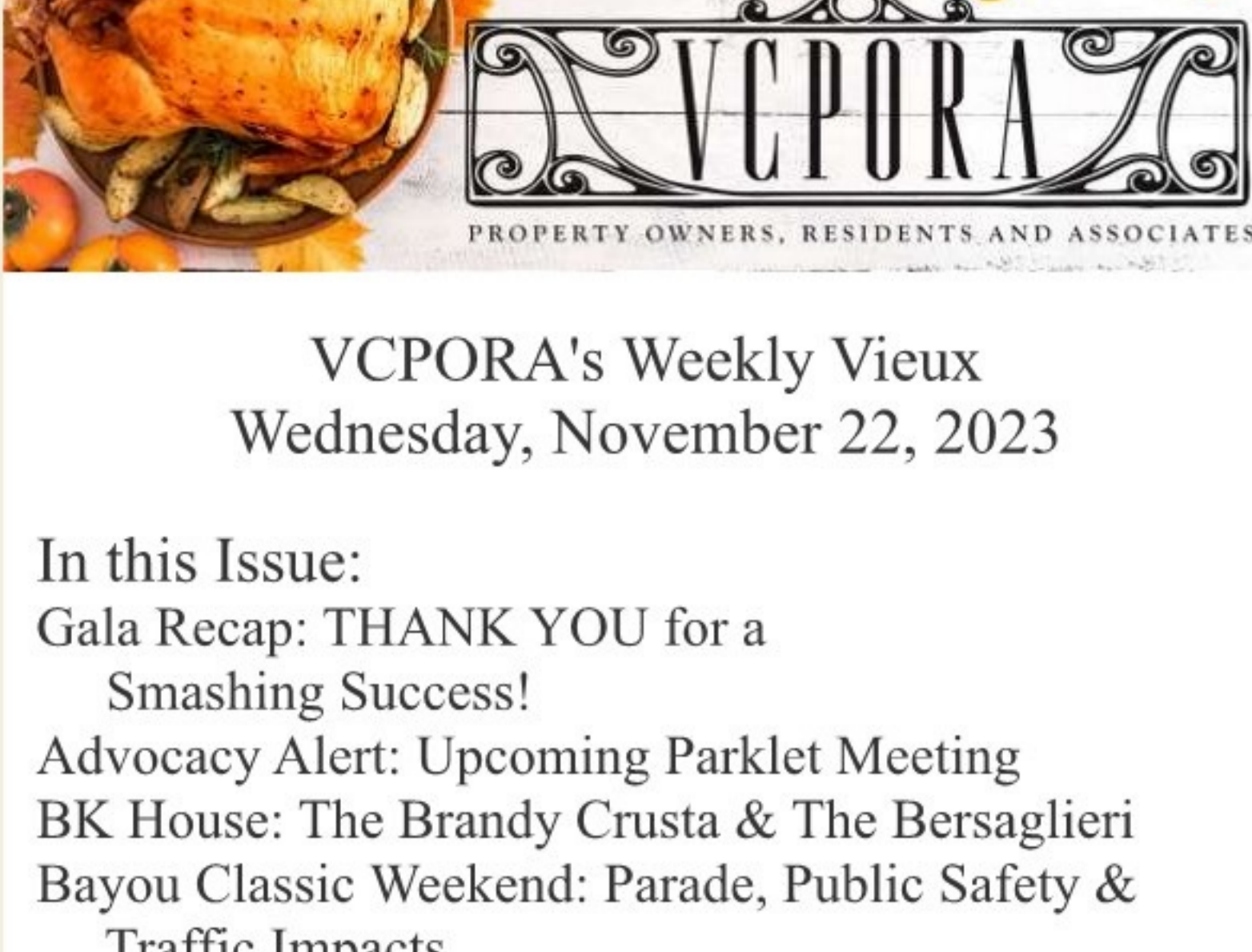


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VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Wednesday, November 22, 2023

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Gala Recap: THANK YOU for a Smashing Success!

Last Thursday was our annual Gala, "A Royal Masquerade: 85 Years around the Sun," and boy was it one for the books! We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who came and made the night so special, especially those decked out in gorgeous costumes. It was truly an exceptional evening full of support and celebration.

To our Patrons, we cannot thank you enough for supporting us and believing in the work we do to protect the Vieux Carré. You are the reason VCPORA can continue in its mission, year after year. We would like to specially thank our **Presenting Sponsors, Peggy and Timber Floyd**, for their incredibly generous support, along with our **Champagne Sponsor, Mrs. Ann Masson**.

A huge shout-out must go to **Latrobe's on Royal** for hosting us this year. We could not have held such an amazing party without the generosity and attention to detail of **Milli Adler and Rylan Domingue** at Latrobe's. These women, and their dedicated staff, deserve a thunderous round of applause! The food, the drinks, the gorgeous rounda – it was truly extraordinary!

This perfect location was packed with amazing performers and entertainment too, thanks to our **Entertainment Sponsor, James Hislop**. Musical talents **Mahmoud Chouki** and **Smoking Time Jazz Club** dazzled our guests and kept the party going all night. The enchanting **Bella Blue** performed, along with **Tracy's Golden Go-Go dancers**, who really made the party pop. A special thank you to our host for the night, **Tsarina Hellfire**, for keeping the party moving and to the unmistakable **Merry Antoinettes** for helping with the costume contest and being the life of the party.

To all the businesses and artists who donated to the silent auction, your generosity made the auction tables an exciting part of the evening. In particular, thank you to the amazing and talented **James Michalopoulos** and **Rodrigo Franzao**, who each so graciously donated stunning works of art this year. You helped us raise thousands of dollars which will be put back into the advocacy and community engagement we are committed to. And we cannot forget our Auctioneer, **Christian Shane Galvin**; you rocked it!

Thank you to all our generous sponsors, attendees, auction donors, and cheerleaders! The Gala Committee, led by the tireless **Lyn Gladney**, really pulled out all the stops and our legion of volunteers made sure the execution was flawless.

It was a tremendous event, and we could not be more thankful to all of you who helped make it such a success! This "Year Around the Sun" has truly been a phenomenal one.



Advocacy Alert: Upcoming Parklet Meeting

We received notification, **November 30th, at 5:00 pm, Neighborhood Participation Meeting on Thursday, November 30th, at 5:00 pm**, and encourage you to attend!

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/98908601562?pwd=TDREWFhCSVd3SmJRNtFxdldGxrdz09>
Meeting ID: 989 0860 1562
Passcode: Home
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,98908601562#,,,,*354138# US

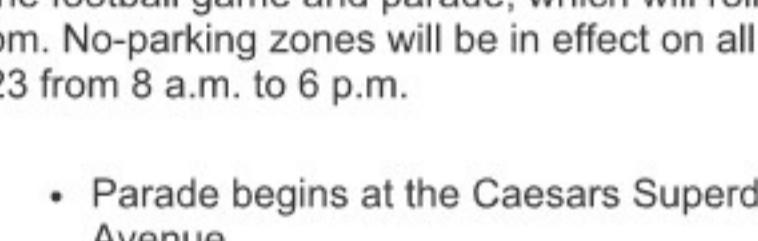
The owner of Cuban Creations Cigar Bar is applying for a text amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) that would allow his parklet to remain after the French Quarter parklet prohibition goes into full effect. Currently, the parklets have until March 2024 to continue operations. The request is a complicated process that would establish this parklet as the only legal one in the Vieux Carré because it restricts them solely to "Cigar Bars," a use that is now obsolete because of the indoor smoking ban. Cuban Creations is the only cigar bar in the neighborhood.

VCPORA supported the temporary use of outdoor seating during the pandemic, but we have adamantly opposed all parklet permanency efforts in the Quarter. During the City Council's legislative efforts, VCPORA was able to get a complete French Quarter ban on parklets written into the city code, citing a public survey which showed 3 to 1 opposition.

We intend to continue opposing this effort, not only because we firmly believe (with your support) that parklets are not beneficial to the Vieux Carré, but also that zoning changes that serve to benefit a singular interest are fundamentally antithetical to the purpose of the CZO, which was created to guide land use decision-making in a fair and predictable way.

Next Steps: After the public Zoom meeting next Thursday, this proposed text amendment will be reviewed by City Planners and presented to the full City Planning Commission (CPC), potentially some time in December. The CPC will make a recommendation to the City Council, which will have the final say afterward at a full City Council meeting early next year. We will keep you updated as this progresses.

Here is the full version of the letter:



2023 Dear Neighbor:

We are requesting a text amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Section 21.18.C.15 to allow parklets for existing cigar bars in the VCC-2 Zoning District. According to Section 21.18.C.15, "Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, no parklet shall be permitted within the boundaries of the Vieux Carré, which for the purposes of this subsection shall be bounded by and include the downtown side of Canal Street, the river side of North Rampart Street, the uptown side of Esplanade Avenue, and the Mississippi River." We are requesting Section 21.18.C.15 to remain the same with the exception of existing cigar bars in VCC-2. The text amendment must be considered by CPC and Council.

As an interested party or someone with regards for the neighborhood, Zach Smith Consulting & Design's team would like to invite you to a virtual meeting to discuss the Text Amendment request. During this virtual meeting, you will learn more about our proposal and have time to ask questions or voice concerns regarding this request. You are welcome to send us any questions beforehand. Please contact Laura Barth at laura@zachsmitconsulting.com or 504-383-3748 so that we may send you a link to the virtual meeting.

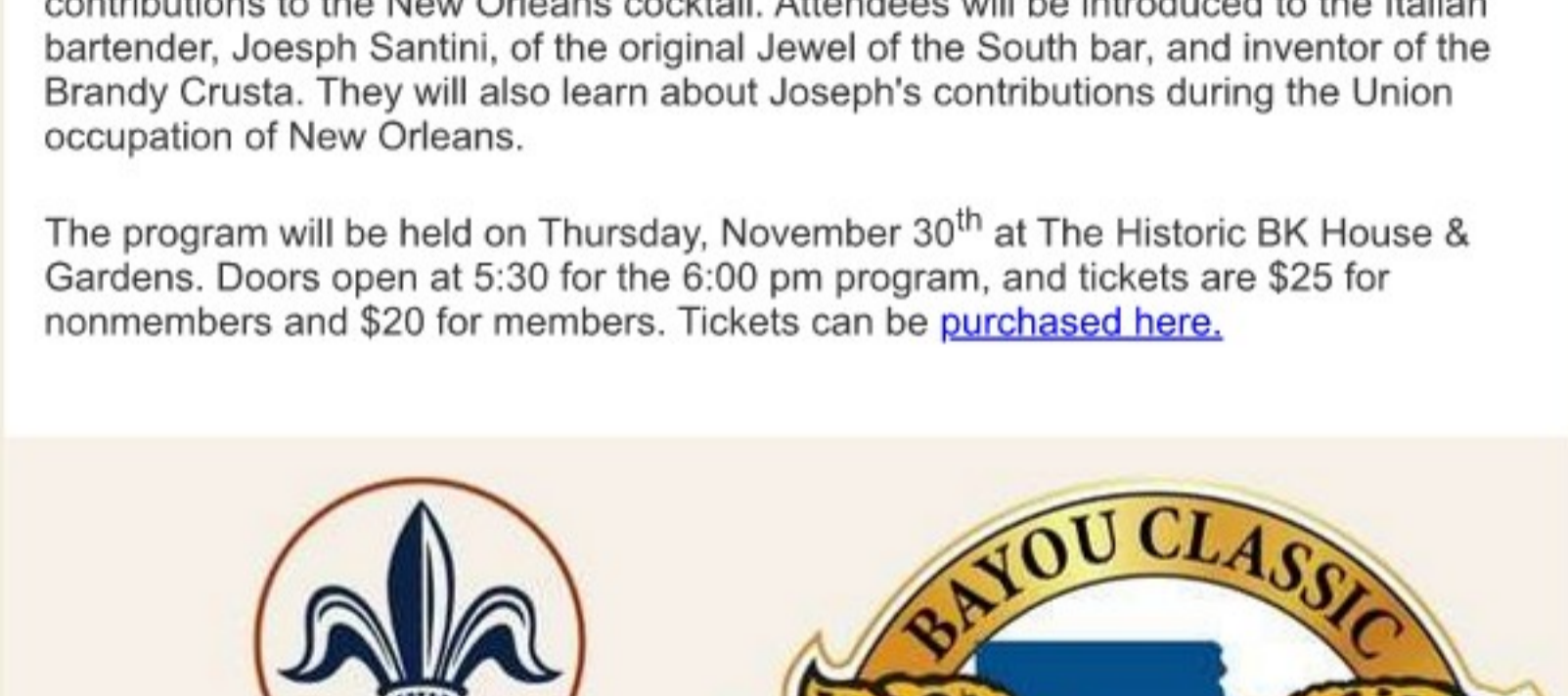
This letter is being delivered by email.

The meeting will take place: **Thursday, November 30th at 5:00 pm virtually via ZOOM.**

If you are unable to attend and would like to receive info about the meeting, please feel free to contact me. If you have any additional questions or comments, please reach me at my email address below and include "VCC-2 Text Amendment" in the subject line. I hope to see you at the meeting on Thursday, November 30th at 5:00pm on ZOOM.

Sincerely,
Laura Barth (laura@zachsmitconsulting.com) | Permit Liaison | Zach Smith Consulting & Design | 504-383-3748

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/98908601562?pwd=TDREWFhCSVd3SmJRNtFxdldGxrdz09>
Meeting ID: 989 0860 1562
Passcode: Home
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,98908601562#,,,,*354138# US (Washington DC)
+13052241968,,98908601562#,,,,*354138# US

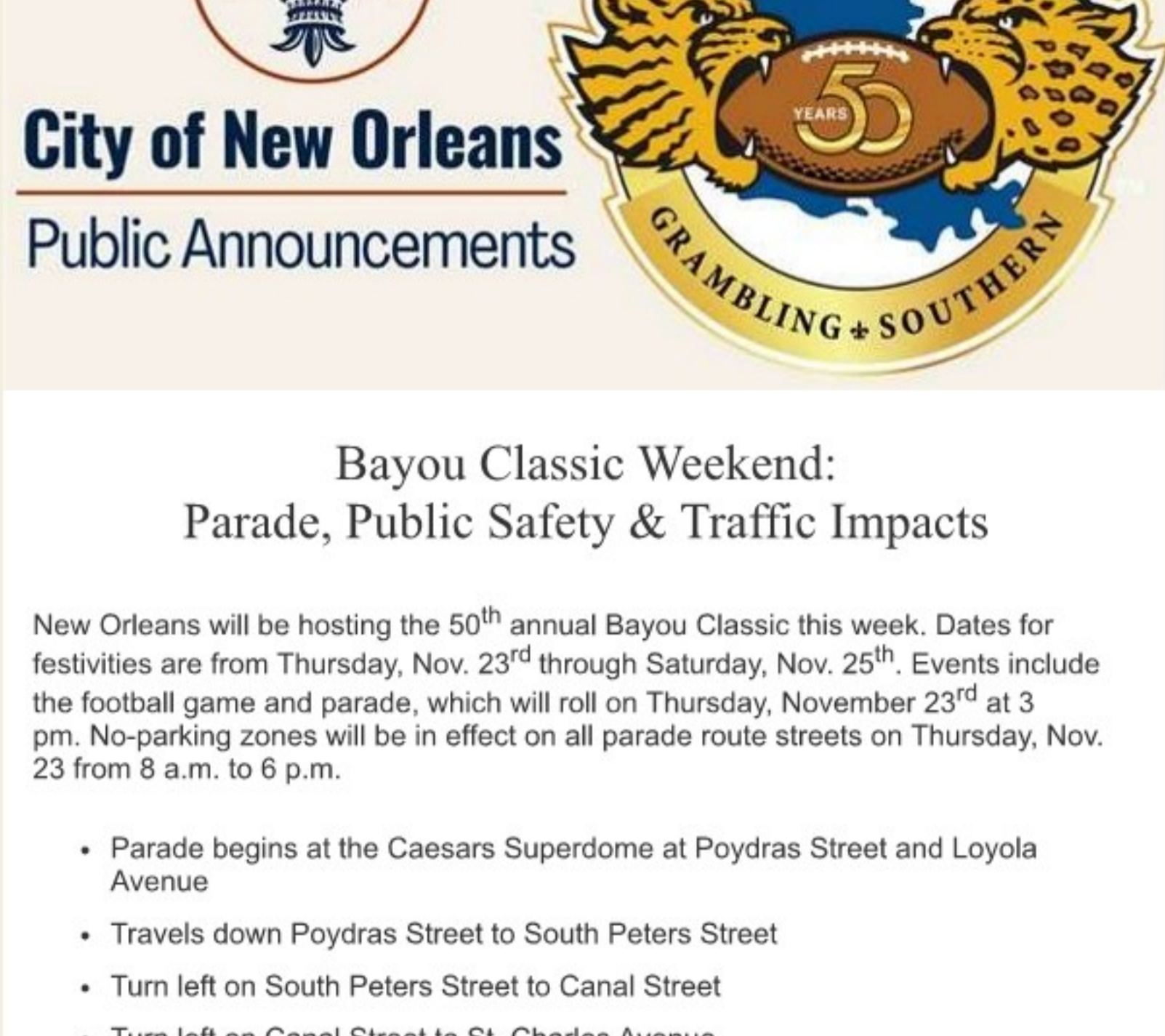


At the BK House: The Brandy Crusta & The Bersaglieri with Charles Marsala

A fascinating history presentation & cocktail tasting!
Thursday, November 30th at 6pm

This lecture, with cocktail tasting, delves into the world of Italian immigrants and their contributions to the New Orleans cocktail. Attendees will be introduced to the Italian bartender, Joseph Santini, of the original Jewel of the South bar, and inventor of the Brandy Crusta. They will also learn about Joseph's contributions during the Union occupation of New Orleans.

The program will be held on Thursday, November 30th at The Historic BK House & Gardens. Doors open at 5:30 for the 6:00 pm program, and tickets are \$25 for nonmembers and \$20 for members. Tickets can be [purchased here](#).



Bayou Classic Weekend: Parade, Public Safety & Traffic Impacts

New Orleans will be hosting the 50th annual Bayou Classic this week. Dates for festivities are from Thursday, Nov. 23rd through Saturday, Nov. 25th. Events include the football game and parade, which will roll on Thursday, November 23rd at 3 pm. No-parking zones will be in effect on all parade route streets on Thursday, Nov. 23 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Parade begins at the Caesars Superdome at Poydras Street and Loyola Avenue
- Travels down Poydras Street to South Peters Street
- Turn left on South Peters Street to Canal Street
- Turn left on Canal Street to St. Charles Avenue
- Turn left on St. Charles Avenue to Poydras Street
- Turn right on Poydras Street to Loyola Avenue

The city urges citizens to be patient with the closures and festivities and the city has announced the following street closures and no parking areas. So please be aware of these closures this weekend.

French Quarter Exterior Closure
Friday, Nov. 24 and Saturday, Nov. 25, 5 p.m. – 5 a.m.

All streets leading into the French Quarter from Canal Street, Decatur Street, North Rampart Street and Dumaine Street will be closed to vehicular traffic with the exception of:

- Residents
- Hotel guests
- Anyone going to a restaurant or other event
- Taxi cabs, limousines, and small buses will be allowed to enter
- No large trucks, buses, etc.
- Vehicles will be made aware that they will not be able to cross Bourbon Street

French Quarter Interior Closure
Friday, Nov. 24 and Saturday, Nov. 25, 5 p.m. – 5 a.m.

All streets leading to Bourbon Street at Royal Street (river side) and Dauphine Street (lake side) will be closed to all vehicular traffic.

- No vehicles will be allowed to cross Bourbon Street
- Only emergency vehicles needing to access Bourbon Street or any parts of the Interior Closure will be allowed to enter

No Parking for French Quarter - FRIDAY, 11/24 AND SATURDAY, 11/25, 12 p.m. – 6 a.m. daily

700 – 800 blocks of the following streets:

- Iberville Street
- Bienville Street
- Conti Street
- St. Louis Street
- Toulouse Street
- St. Peter Street
- Orleans Street
- St. Ann Street

Additional No Parking for Bayou Classic, FRIDAY, 11/24 AND SATURDAY, 11/25, Hours: 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. daily

- Canal Street – both sides from Claiborne Avenue to Convention Center Boulevard



WE ARE Thankful FOR YOU!
The VCPORA will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th.

VCPORA is a nonprofit organization that advocates for the preservation and protection of the Vieux Carré as an international historic treasure, a major cultural and economic asset, and a living residential neighborhood that is valued and respected by all.

Your generosity **today** helps preservationists and advocates create strategic and powerful campaigns to defend and elevate the French Quarter and surrounding neighborhoods **tomorrow!**

[Donate](#)

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504-581-7200 | www.vcpora.org

Do not want to receive email updates? [Unsubscribe here](#)