

Message from the CRA Chairman



Thomas Scott, Chairman
Community Redevelopment Agency

It is an honor to serve as chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency, in addition to my responsibilities to East Tampa through my work on City Council (District 5). I appreciate the collaborative efforts of this community, our city government and the private sector in helping to shape a positive future for all who live and work here.

Real progress is being made. I am confident this coalition of East Tampa residents, neighborhood and civic associations, churches, educational institutions, governments, social service agencies, private and not-for-profit businesses will continue in partnership toward a full revival; transforming East Tampa into a community of vibrant residential, business, social and cultural life.

I look forward to supporting your ongoing efforts.

Thomas Scott
Chairman, Community Redevelopment Agency
Tampa City Councilman, District 5

Clean City Creates a Cleaner Community

For the residents of East Tampa, Cal Worthington is the “go-guy” for anything “clean.” As area supervisor for the Clean City division, Worthington’s passion is working with residents to create a cleaner community. He leads a staff dedicated to graffiti removal; maintenance of major thoroughfares and residential corridors; removal and disposal of litter and illegal signs; and monitoring and managing city owned vacant lots. Last year, Worthington’s team removed over 195 tons of debris from East Tampa.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Clean City hotline at (813) 931-2133.



Clean City staff member mowing vacant lot.

2008 Meeting Schedule

January 8 • 6:30 p.m. **Y**
February 12 • 6:30 p.m.
March 11 • 10 a.m.
April 8 • 6:30 p.m.
May 13 • 10 a.m. **C**
June 10 • 6:30 p.m.
July 8 • 10 a.m.
August 12 • 6:30 p.m.
September 9 • 10 a.m.
October 14 • 6:30 p.m.
November 11 • 10 a.m.
December 9 • 6:30 p.m. **Y**

Meetings designated with a **Y** will be held at Young Middle Magnet School
1807 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd.

Meetings designated with a **C** will be held at Cyrus Greene Community Center
2101 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd.

All other meetings will be held at Ragan Park Community Center
1200 E. Lake Ave.

Kids Create a New Place to Play



In October, more than 250 volunteers came together at Highland Pines Park, located at 4505 21st Avenue to build a new playground. Highland Pines was number 760 out of 1,000 playgrounds being built around the country by KaBoom!, a national nonprofit foundation, and the Home Depot, its founding sponsor. In addition to Home Depot employees from the Tampa Bay area, volunteers included Mayor Iorio, City Parks and Recreation staff, United Way of Tampa Bay, Mayor’s Beautification Program and Tampa Bay Technical High School architectural students.

Ideas for the new playground came from the children of East Tampa. In August, about 35 children were asked to draw their dream playground. Many of their ideas were used: slides, a climbing wall, swings, benches, a see-saw, a four-square court, a hopscotch board, and a painted map of the United States. Sod and shrubbery were also planted.



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Ed Johnson, East Tampa
Development Manager

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East Tampa

Celebrating the Success of the East Tampa Community

Digest

Newsletter of the East Tampa Community
Revitalization Partnership • Winter 2008

TPD’s Environmental Crimes Unit has a Productive First Year



TPD’s Environmental Crimes Unit Detectives Jonathan Belk and Bryan Felts.

Tampa Police Department’s Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) just celebrated its first anniversary. With offices at TPD’s new District III headquarters, Environmental Crime Detectives Jonathan Belk and Bryan Felts are cleaning up neighborhoods. Working with the city departments of Clean City, Code Enforcement and Solid Waste, the ECU has ensured the removal of 91,000 pounds of debris and is achieving greater success in gaining code compliance from the residents of East Tampa. New tactics involving weekend operations and surveillances, in addition to ECU’s participation in community meetings and the distribution of informational flyers, is helping to improve the community.

And the work has just begun. Detectives Belk and Felts look forward to a continued partnership with the residents of East Tampa. To reach either officer, stop by TPD’s District III station at the intersection of 32nd Avenue and 22nd Street or call, (813) 276-3704.

Environmental Crimes Unit’s First Year Accomplishments:

- 10,120 pounds of tire waste were removed from the area and no significant tire disposal has occurred since.
- 6,600 pounds of debris and 11 disabled vehicles were removed around schools in the area.
- 1,540 pounds of commercial asbestos tiles were removed before contamination could occur.
- 28 illegal dumping “hot spots” were identified and addressed, with only seven of these having significant recurring activity.
- 48 arrests were made and six civil citations issued.
- A food store was forced into environmental compliance, which prevented ground water contamination near a city park.
- A recycling center was contaminating a ground water source. The owner was arrested on felony littering charges and came into compliance within 30 days.

Message from the Mayor



Pam Iorio, Mayor

Recently, I joined several East Tampa residents and members from the business community on a bus tour of the seven-square mile Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). The tour, hosted by the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's Urban Enterprise Initiative Sub-Committee and the City's East Tampa Development Division, provided a chance for potential investors and business owners to experience what you already know - East Tampa is full of opportunities.

Being on the bus tour gave me an opportunity to view the improvements from a guided tour perspective. Usually I am driving to a particular event and I do not get to sit back and see the overall picture of improvement. On this tour I saw clean streets, landscaping, a new police station, new businesses and new housing. At the corner of 29th Street and Lake Avenue only newspapers were being sold.

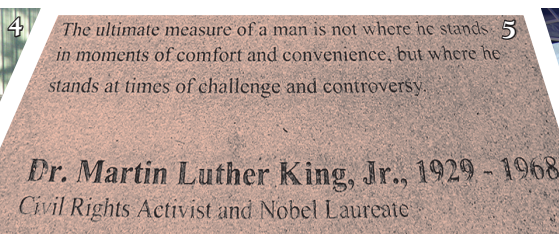
Much has changed in four years and there is still much to be accomplished. The realtors and developers who were part of the tour all expressed the sentiment that this was truly a very desirable area of Tampa for both businesses and residents.

All of the changes in the community have been accomplished through our on-going partnership with you, the residents of East Tampa, and I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to improving your neighborhood. Together, we will continue to transform East Tampa into an even better place to live.

Sincerely,

Pam Iorio

East Tampa Projects Taking Shape



B&D Supermarket owners recently completed a \$4 million investment in renovations for the store (1). TPD District III Police Station, which also houses the East Tampa Development division, is now open in the heart of East Tampa at 32nd Avenue and 22nd Street (2). In February, the City purchased Gene's Bar to help alleviate crime in the community. The bar was demolished in November (3). The City of Tampa awarded Fast Lane a \$211,471 Community Development Block Grant to acquire the property for the \$1 million building (4). Many projects in East Tampa include unique features such as quotes engraved into red granite slabs that were installed in the sidewalks as part of the Lake Avenue improvement project (5). Another unique element, East Court, was a part of the TPD DIII project and offers a gathering space for the neighborhood (6).

A Warm Welcome from the ETCRP



Evangeline Best, Chair, ETCRP

It has only been a few weeks since I was installed as your new East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership president and already, I am amazed by the people who have come forth to reconfirm their dedication to the growth and success of our community! As a life-long resident of East Tampa and someone who has been involved in our community for many, many years, I thought I knew all there is to know about East Tampa. But I have quickly come to understand, there is so much more to learn.

One thing I do know is my own passion and commitment toward East Tampa has never been stronger. With a focus on re-energizing our community, I want to continue to build upon the good works of my predecessors. My hope is that everyone in East Tampa - residents, businesses, and civic and social organizations - work side by side in a true community partnership.

On behalf of the ETCRP leadership, I pledge to keep you informed about programs and issues that may impact you, your family and our neighborhoods. Knowledge is power. And only together do we have the power to make East Tampa a remarkable place to live and work.

My door is always open.

Evangeline Best, Chair, ETCRP

2008 ETCRP Executive Board & Sub-Committee Chairs

Evangeline Best, Chair
 Leerone Benjamin Sr., Co-Chair
 Sam Kinsey, Immediate Past Chair

Sub-Committee Chairs
 Denese Meteye-James, Aesthetics and Beautification
 Ernest Coney Jr., Economic Development
 Maxine Woodside, Health, Education and Social Services
 Charles Dabney, Housing
 Carrol Josephs-Marshall, Land Use
 Ralph Johnson, Planning and Evaluation
 Rosa Cambridge, Public Safety

To learn more about the Partnership, please contact Cindy Toselli, administrative assistant, at (813) 242-3807 or by e-mail cindy.toselli@tampagov.net

Code Compliance Works for You

The City of Tampa Code Enforcement Department works for East Tampa residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week to make sure quality of life standards are met and maintained. Code Enforcement employees help to ensure properties are in compliance with city code, including such things as zoning requirements, overgrown lots and yards, inoperative vehicles, maintenance of structure, illegal signs and public nuisances.

Responding to over 300 calls each day, Code Enforcement strives for corrective action. Their goal is to make life better for all who live in this community. This summer alone, June 1 to August 31, 2007, Code Enforcement opened 1,373 cases. Of these cases, 984 have come into compliance (corrected) and 389 remain active.

If you have received a notice of violation, have difficulty coming in to compliance, or would like to register a complaint, please contact the department at (813) 274-5545 or visit them on the web at www.tampagov.net.



House at 3612 Shadowlawn was brought into code compliance.

East Tampa Sees 15 Percent Decrease in Crime

- District III leads the city in crime reduction year-to-date with a 16.9% decrease in overall crime.
- In November, District III realized a 27.7% reduction in crime, the highest individual month reduction in the last four years city-wide.
- District III is expecting to show another double digit reduction for December 2007.
- Specifically within District III, East Tampa's crime reduction year-to-date for November 2007 is 15.1% which translates to 468 less victims of Part 1 crimes (robbery, burglary, thefts, sex offenses, aggravated assault and murder).

The District attributes much of its success to its partnership with East Tampa residents as well as monitoring habitual juvenile offenders.

Primarily, the most significant reductions in East Tampa were:

- Vehicle theft down 41.3%
- Robbery down 14.4%
- Sex offenses down 32%

Burglary showed a slight increase of 2.1% and murder was up by 20%, six versus five.

Know Your Neighborhood Association

Throughout the East Tampa Community Redevelopment Area, ten neighborhood associations are actively connecting residents to each other and city services working to ensure a safe and vibrant community. If you are already involved in your neighborhood association - thank you. If you would like to become a more active participant in your area, locate your group and simply contact the association president or call the City of Tampa Neighborhood & Community Relations office, (813) 274-7835.

Neighborhood Associations	President	Contact Information
College Hill Civic Association	Heddie Sumpster	hsumpster@arts.usf.edu
East Tampa Business & Civic Association, Inc.	Marc Hamburg	firemarc@aol.com
Florence Villa/Beasley/Oak Park Civic Association	Valerie Washington	valeriedasa@aol.com
Grant Park Civic Association	Ralph Johnson	Ralphj0103@yahoo.com
Highland Pines Community Task Force	Betty Bell	bellsystem5@yahoo.com
Northeast Community Crimewatch & Civic Association, Inc.	Joel Barnum	jbarnum@tampabay.rr.com
Northview Hills Civic Association, Inc.	Frank Reddick	far9155@aol.com
Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association, Inc.	Susan Long	Swlong29@verizon.net www.oldseminoleheights.com
Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association, Inc.	Sherry Genovar-Simons	silversund@aol.com www.SESHCA.com
V.M. Ybor Neighborhood Association & Crimewatch	Christina Gesmundo	christina.gesmundo@gmail.com