

THE VOICE OF CHOICE

for the former Central Park Village residents and the Central Park / Ybor Choice Neighborhood

SPRING 2013

Volume 2013
Issue 2

FULL STEAM AHEAD!

2013 started off with a bang! The Trio building at Encore is beginning to take shape and construction is on schedule to achieve a late 2013 / early 2014 grand opening. Residents have been moving into the The Ella, and the building is nearing capacity. The Central Park / Ybor Choice Neighborhood grant is underway. Residents of the Central Park / Ybor Choice Neighborhood can now start receiving many of the Social Services provided through the Choice Neighborhood Grant and our former Central Park Village Residents should be aware that case management services are back to 100%. The Tampa Housing Authority handed in applications for two more grants, The Byrne Justice Grant and the Hillsborough County Historic Preservation Matching Grant, that would help expand the efforts of Choice Neighborhoods. With the Byrne Justice Grant, the Housing Authority hopes to assist homeless individuals within the Choice Neighborhoods area. The Historic Preservation Matching Grant will help fill the gap in financing the restoration of the historic St. James Episcopal Church, which will become a community service center and eventually Tampa's African-American History Museum. During the month of April the THA held several meetings and a kick-off workshop with all of its Choice Neighborhoods partners, many of whom will be providing an expansive list of social services directly to former Central Park residents and residents from the surrounding Central Park / Ybor Choice Neighborhood. A Central Park / Ybor Choice Neighborhoods website has been created, please visit it at:

<http://www.thaft.com/Choice-Neighborhoods>



Please visit the Central Park / Ybor Choice Neighborhoods website for updates and information



The construction of the Trio building is progressing on schedule!

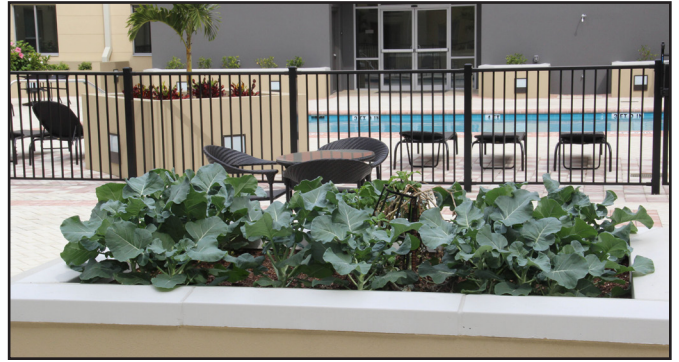


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THE ELLA GARDEN

Residents of the Ella senior building at Encore have been getting their hands dirty, planting delicious tomatoes, broccoli, peppers, cabbage and kale. As soon as the Ella opened residents got busy planting on the amenities deck of their new home. Now they are ready to enjoy greens and vegetables from their own garden. We hope they will be able to share their expertise with other Choice Neighborhood residents when the Meacham Urban Farm gets started one block away on Scott Street.



Delicious and nutritious, kale and tomatoes are growing on the deck of the Ella building.



CRITERIUM BIKE RACE

Street Cyclists from all around the world raced through the streets of the Encore on March 16, 2013 during the annual Tampa Criterium Bike Race. Racers zoomed past the Ella and leaned into sharp turns as they rounded Ray Charles Boulevard onto Central Avenue. Residents of the Ella were able to watch the action from their balconies. This was the first major public event held at the Encore District and it certainly won't be the last!

HISTORIC ST. JAMES CHURCH Through the Central Park / Ybor Choice Neighborhoods grant, the Tampa Housing Authority received funds to help restore the historic St. James Episcopal Church located on the Encore site and turn it into a community services center. The church was built in 1921 and is the oldest and only remaining original structure on the Encore site. After the grant is completed the church will then be turned into Tampa's African-American history museum. The Tampa Housing Authority and its partner, Bank of America CDC, have chosen a historic preservation architect and will shortly request proposals from contractors qualified to perform restoration of historic structures. By the end of 2014 the St. James Church will be revived and ready to welcome former and new neighbors through its doors.



Currently the walls of the St. James Church are being shored with structural braces to prevent the building from collapsing.



The historic 1921 St. James Church sits in the middle of the new Ray Charles Boulevard

CLASSES & EVENTS

PERRY HARVEY PARK COMMUNITY DESIGN MEETING - July 16th, 6 P.M. at the Ella Building, 1210 E. Ray Charles Blvd., Tampa, FL 33602

PARENTING CLASSES - every Thursday 10 a.m. at 1390 W. Green Street

ANGER MANAGEMENT CLASSES - every Thursday 11 a.m. at 1390 W. Green Street

RESIDENT NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

ALICIA DORSEY moved to Philadelphia, PA a year after relocation from Central Park Village to be with her sons. While in Philadelphia, she has done her best to stay up to date on the progress of the Encore. She hopes to move back to the Encore District soon. Alicia and her oldest son have been very active in the Philadelphia community and started a local television show called "Red Hen Exploring Our Conditions". The show explores current events and issues around the Philadelphia area. You may remember that Alicia also writes poetry and she wrote a poem describing her work, here is an excerpt:

"Red Hen Explores diversity, accountability. Expanding the Mold

to include Feminity Equality Disability. Stop Masking our Reality. Promoting Community Responsibility, looking in the mirror pointing the finger at me being the change i want to see. soo many caught up in technology, ignoring outdated laws of our society, until whipped in their knees paying the cost to be free.

EDUCATION STARTS AT HOME.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE VILLAGE

THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

THE LATCH KEY

ME LOOKIN OUT FOR YOU

& YOU LOOKING OUT FOR ME..."



Alicia Dorsey films a segment for her local Philadelphia current events television show.

Some of our former CPV residents attended a Spring Festival for seniors on 03/28/13 at Al Lopez Park. Ms. **Cora Malone** and her son **Curtis Malone** (*pictured right*) attended as well as Ms. **Mary Williams** and Ms. **Ruth Dewberry** (*pictured far right*).



Equila Melton completed a 16 hour security class to renew her security guard license.

Tacoma Smith completed Food Industry Series Part I and II through the Small Business Development Center At Hillsborough County Economic Development Department (SBDC) as well as earning a certificate of Ordination Missionary License through Exciting New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church Inc.

Danny Miller is getting ready to move into the Ella.

Cynthia Janice Littles-Smith (*pictured right*) passed away May 13, 2013 and her funeral was held May 23rd. **Mary Francis Collins** passed away on May 18, 2013. Our thoughts and prayers are with the many family members, friends and neighbors that they have left behind.



Dear former Central Park Village residents and Central Park / Ybor neighbors:

Summer Greetings! I hope Spring was an enjoyable season for everyone! We are extremely excited to be getting underway with implementing the Central Park/Ybor Transformation Plan and with all of the activity going on at the Encore site. The Ella is nearing full occupancy and we are so happy to welcome back fellow residents and new alike. Construction on the second building, the Trio has begun to take shape and we are right on schedule with that. In March the Tampa Criterium Bike Race was held at the Encore site. It was phenomenal to have been able to attract such a world class caliber event and our Ella residents enjoyed a front row seat many of them from the comfort of their own balconies. We definitely look forward to the opportunity to once again host this event next year.



I also want to extend a warm welcome to our Central Park / Ybor neighbors and implementation partners. I look forward to all the exciting opportunities and events coming up in the next 5 years. I want to thank you for working with us as we transform the Central Park / Ybor neighborhood into a vibrant, sustainable neighborhood of choice.

Please enjoy a safe and exciting summer!

*Jerome D. Ryans
President / CEO*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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NEWSLETTER

*let us know if you would like to receive this newsletter by email, contact Amanda Brown at 813-341-9101 ext. 2620 or amanda.brown@thafl.com