

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT A COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO III



#### Friends and Constituents,

As we move into another week of our state and city stay at home order, I want to share additional and updated resources available across New Orleans.

Remember, you can always contact my office with any questions. You can also follow my Facebook and Twitter pages for all up-to-date information: @cmgiarrusso.

Stay home. Stay safe.

Best,

Joe

### MOBILE COVID-19 TESTING SITES

LCMC Health, the New Orleans Health Department, and Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) will be conducting a mobile testing campaign for COVID-19 across the metro area over the coming weeks.



The mobile campaign will bring walk-up testing to neighborhoods that have been heavily affected by COVID-19, with the goal of identifying early cases. You are eligible for testing if you're: 18 years or older; have been recently exposed to COVID, or have recently shown symptoms of the virus.

#### First Grace Methodist at Comiskey Park

- 600 S. Jefferson Davis Pkwy
- 8 a.m. 3 p.m. or until the daily 250 test maximum is reached
- Monday, May 4 Wednesday, May 6

For more information or to find more locations, please visitready.nola.gov/mobile-testing.

# FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESOURCES

There are so many people in need during this time. Fortunately, Second Harvest Food Bank has partnered with several community organizations and Council offices to host food banks across the city. We held our first food pantry on April 20 in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank and Rep. Mandie Landry, serving nearly 225 cars and 30,000 pounds of food.



## May 4 Food Bank

Drive-through food bank for all residents, in partnership with Second Harvest and District A Councilmember Joe Giarrusso.

Monday, May 4 | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Notre Dame Seminary Graduate School 2901 S. Carrollton Ave

For more information or questions, contact Claire.Byun@nola.gov or 504.883.1724.

The next District A food bank is**Monday, May 4,** beginning at 9 a.m. at Notre Dame Seminary, 2901 S. Carrollton Ave.

There are several other food and meal distribution resources throughout the week. For a full calendar of events, click here.

### SEWDAT FACE MASKS

Are you in need of a non-medical face mask? Are you looking to donate homemade face masks to essential workers and non-profits? City Council, in partnership with the Mayor's Office and the New Orleans Health Department, recently launched Sew Dat NOLA a centralized website to help coordinate these donations.



Citizens, non-profits, and businesses can donate cloth face coverings to essential employees and volunteers. The website provides resources on how to make your own face mask, as well as how to purchase locally-made masks. To donate, purchase, or request cloth face coverings, visit sewdat.com.

### **SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD**

#### UPDATES

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO), as mandated by the State Legislature, must submit quarterly reports to City Council. The annual report of SWBNO is also coming due. I understand SWB staff is limited during this public health crisis, but it's imperative basic and important information still be made publicly available. My office



continues to receive emails almost daily concerning erroneous bills and questions on SWB construction projects.

For the upcoming reports, we are limiting both the topics and questions. This upcoming report will focus on four crucial topics:

- 1. Hurricane preparedness
- 2. Employees/Staffing
- 3. Finances
- 4. COVID-19 procedures

We have developed specific questions involving those topics. These questions were sent to SWBNO leadership this week, in preparation for a **May 27** Public Works Committee meeting. You can read the letter <u>here</u>. As always, if you receive an abnormally high bill, please contact my office at 504-658-1010 or Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov.

## **REMAINING ACTIVE**

As we move into our seventh week of quarantine, and our seventh week without school, I know it can be difficult to keep kids entertained. All public playgrounds remain closed, recreation facilities are still shuttered, and there's only so much to watch on Netflix.



Something for Everyone

Did you know you can access free streaming movies, online homework help, Books and audiobooks, virtual storytimes, genealogy resources, download music, online language learning, magazines and newspapers, and so much more from any place at any time? All of this is available, just FOR YOU.

Luckily, the New Orleans Public Library has resources to help

combat everyday boredom during this time. Check out nolalibrary.org for more information.

## VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council will continue to meet regularly during the COVID-19 crisis. In order to abide by Gov. John Bel Edwards' stay at home order, the Council is meeting



virtually. Please also remember that land use issues will not be under consideration by the Council for the time being.

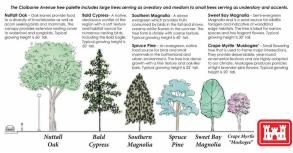
Because of unprecedented logistical challenges, only written public comments will be allowed. At the start of every meeting, the full agenda will be read, followed by a 30-minute break to allow for written comments. You can provide public comment on any agenda item.

The next full City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2020. For more information about submitting public comment, please visit **council.nola.gov.** 

## SOUTH CLAIBORNE GREENSPACE RESTORATION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently awarded a contract to restore green infrastructure previously removed for the construction of SELA underground drainage improvements on South

#### **Claiborne Avenue: Tree Palette**



Claiborne Avenue. The project will stretch from Leonidas to Pine streets and include 98 new trees. In addition, select areas will receive bio-retention features incorporating a drainage soil layer, allowing stormwater to permeate and be stored for uptake by trees and other vegetation.

This project is expected to last 3-6 months with Tarpon Construction as the general contractor.

We want to see your sidewalk chalk art! Email me photos of your family's creations, or tag me in your social media posts. Let's all help make our digital world a little bit brighter.



As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (504) 658-1010 or email me at **Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov**.



New Orleans City Council Councilmember Joseph I. Giarrusso, District A