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West Tampa, Work, Play, Stay.

Who:

Our mission at the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce is to provide leadership and business opportunities that foster growth and quality of life while preserving the historical values of the West Tampa Community. The leaders of this community have personal and business interests in the area and work very hard to improve all aspects of work and play for everyone in the area.

What:

West Tampa is a very special location for many reasons. The historical architecture and neighborhood design is a model which cities around the country are trying to emulate today. Since West Tampa is in the process of becoming a designated National Historic District, with many buildings already designated as such, preserving the layout and enforcing new architecture requirements should be possible.

One of the most overlooked aspects of West Tampa's natural beauty is the Hillsborough River. Access to the river is very limited, which prohibits visitors or locals who do not live on the river from discovering and enjoying all it has to offer. Alligators, Manatees, Sea Rays, Ducks, Dolphins and many other animals can be seen on a daily basis along this beautiful treasure.

Location, location, location. We have all heard that expression before and it has never been truer than for us here in West Tampa. In the absolute middle of it all West Tampa is the shortest point between anything in Tampa. In the middle of downtown Tampa and Westshore, in the middle of Gandy and Busch, in the middle of Tampa International Airport and Ybor City. Where do you want to go? Start from here! I won't take long at all.

Visit a couple of countries. West Tampa has incredible diversity. If you've ever wanted to taste South America & the Caribbean you don't have to go outside of West Tampa. Boliche Boulevard (Columbus Drive) has restaurants with a little bit of everything from almost everywhere. This cultural diversity is just one more thing that makes West Tampa special.

When:

West Tampa was established in 1895 by Hugh MacFarlane as a cigar town as you can see with the numerous Cigar factories that line the area. Many steps have been taken to preserve these beautiful buildings and keep them as focal points for renovation. The accompanying shotgun style houses also bring a rich historical quality to the area.

Where:

Our borders according to the West Tampa Economic Development Plan are Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the North, Kennedy to the South, Himes to the West and the Hillsborough River to the East. For the purpose of our Chamber our North border is Hillsborough Ave. and our East border is North Boulevard. Within the immediate vicinity of that outline is St. Joseph's Hospitals, The University of Tampa, Raymond James Stadium as well as the future home of the new Tampa Bay Buccaneers training facility.

Why:

One of the main reasons to join a chamber of commerce is to take an active role in the direction and outcome of the community you live and work in. Sometimes it really does take only one person to make a difference. You will get to meet and network with many community leaders and have your concerns heard and addressed. You will also get a chance to learn about things on the horizon so that you can plan for them.

How:

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at Higgins Hall at 12PM. Please contact Bob Garcia at 813-253-2056 or visit us on the web at www.westtampachamber.com for any questions or more information.

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