

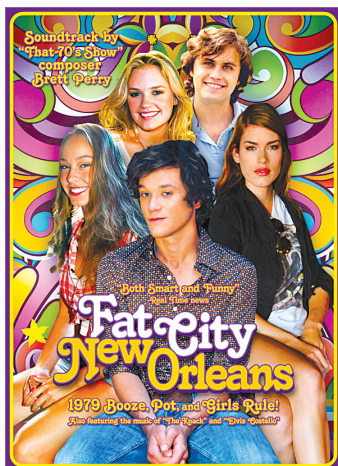
WHAT
HAPPENED

There were 50 bars and restaurants in Fat City in 1975.

Fat City popped up seemingly overnight in the 1970s.

To the chagrin of those in the parish who want to redevelop the district, its remnants and memory linger on. The area near Lakeside Mall was Jefferson Parish's answer to the French Quarter. The wall-to-wall entertainment district,

named after a sno-ball stand at the corner of Severn Avenue and 17th Street, had 50 lounges and bars by 1975 including the Playboy Club, Don Quixote, the Court Jester, the Golden Coin, the Red Caboose, Sancho Panza, Poets, Rizzo's, the Quarter Note, the Spanish Galleon, Bobby McGee's, the Front Page and Mary M's. The district at first was restrained, with high-end clubs and live music. But with the arrival of disco, Fat City began attracting a young crowd at a time when the drinking age was 18.



A 2011 independent film depicting the clubs and discos in Fat City was poorly received.

Street after street of apartments in the district helped to keep Fat City hopping at all hours.

Gradually, drugs, strip clubs and massage parlors moved in and Jefferson Parish began looking for ways to restrain and scale back the pervasive problems in Fat City. In 1985, the parish prohibited any new bars from opening.

Since then, numerous efforts have tried to revamp and revive the prime real estate off Veterans Boulevard, but there is still resistance to those who recall the good old days in Fat City.

The most successful of those efforts occurred in 2010 when the parish passed an ordinance that required bars and restaurants to close at midnight on weekdays and 1 a.m. on the weekend.

A disco and restaurant, Crash Landing, with a plane on top of the club, became a teen-focused club before it was closed.



Sancho Panza opened in about 1972 and featured live music until 5 a.m.



Huki Lau had Chinese food and Polynesian décor and was open for about six years in the 1970s.