

FAUBOURG MARIGNY

IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION



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Les Amis de Marigny

October 2006

Helping to make Marigny a better place to live and work

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President's Report

By Chris Costello

The fall brings relief with cool weather and the passing of our hurricane season. It is a great time to be in New Orleans. This fall will be different, however, in that we will have the opportunity like no other to shape our neighborhood and guide the future of the Marigny for decades to come.

This Saturday starts the public input phase of the Unified New Orleans Plan process with Planning District meetings throughout the city. The meeting for our district, District 7, will be from 9:00 to 11:00 am at Desire Street Ministries. We are excited that Clancy Goody has stepped in to be our District Planner and are looking forward to working with them through this process. (Acorn, the previous planner for our district, has been removed from the position due to a conflict of interest, though it may appeal this action.) Please make sure to be a part of history and attend at least one if not all the meetings for our district. Our planners, district and neighborhood, need our insight, ideas and experience so they can develop a plan that uniquely fits our neighborhood. If you need a ride or can share a ride to any of the planning meetings please let us know.

Questions? Need Info?

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Another exciting opportunity for us to shape the Marigny was announced this week. St. Claude Avenue was named as one of the 4 Urban Main Street Districts in New Orleans. This is a great accomplishment as we were one of 4 chosen out of 11 applications. This program will allow us to revitalize our commercial corridor and attract new businesses and services to St. Claude Avenue. A big thanks to the organizations, business and residents that supported the application especially the Renaissance Project who took the lead in putting it all together and to all those that helped put the application together especially Diane Lease, Dan Harris, and Will Riehm. We are going to need everyone to get involved to make this a success. If you can help let us know.

2006 ends our year long celebration of our Bicentennial. To commemorate our milestone and highlight the father of our faubourg, Bernard Marigny we have organized a walking tour and art market for Sunday, November 12th from Noon to 4 p.m. Come and join your neighbors and friends of the Marigny in the celebration and consider bringing a few friends along to enjoy the celebration and grab a bit or drink at one of our great restaurants, bars or coffee shops. They need our support.

The recent spate of crime in our neighborhood has many people wondering what is being done? We have invited the 5th and 8th Police Department to our General meeting to give us an update on the crime in our neighborhood and advise us on how to protect ourselves as we go about our daily lives. Please make a point to invite your neighbors. We must all get involved if we want a safer city.

Finally, I am honored to have again been voted in as president. It is a great compliment to know that you have confidence in me and I am very humbled. I look forward to a very productive year for our organization and am excited to work with our very capable Board to continue our charge of making the Marigny a great place to live, work and play.

General Meeting – Monday, 10/16 6:30pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church

This month's meeting will be attended by representatives of the 5th and 8th district police departments. The topic will be crime in the Marigny. Please come and join this important discussion.

Meetings start with a potluck with business items starting promptly at 7:15. Bringing food is not required, of course, but if you would like to, please bring a meat dish if your last name begins with A-E, a vegetable dish if your last name begins with F-G, bread/pasta/rice (N-R), or dessert (S-Z).

No time to cook? Grab something from one of our local business. Thanks!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS ELECTED

The FMIA Board introduces the following new members who were elected at the last general meeting:

Leigh Crawford -- A former resident of Winchester, Virginia, Leigh came to the Marigny last year having bought Elysian Fields Inn with her husband Jim.

Marshall Greiss – A familiar face at recent general meetings, Marshall is a ten year resident of the Marigny and was, until recently, head of the Juvenile Division of the St. Tammany Parish Public Defender's Office.

Simon Hand – Simon moved to the neighborhood two years ago and has been editing the newsletter since early 2006.

Chris Costello was also re-elected to the board, where he will continue his tireless and highly effective work as president.



Finally, **Gene Cizek** will fill the position of Past President on the board, having been elected by the other past presidents. Gene is also familiar to members, having brought his architecture expertise to the organization since its inception almost 35 years ago.

New Officers

The Board’s new officers, having been elected at this month’s board meeting, are:

Chris Costello -- President

Reg Medellin – Vice President

Deborah Oppenheim – Recording Secretary

Leigh Crawford – Corresponding Secretary

Bob Reddington – Treasurer



We Got It!

If you have not already heard our application for the Urban Main Street Program was accepted. This is a great opportunity for our neighborhood and will help us revitalize St. Claude Avenue to be a thriving commercial corridor with businesses and services we need.

Our Main Street District involves nine blocks of St. Claude Avenue from Elysian Fields to Press Street and will offer businesses on St. Claude Avenue grants to do façade improvements and money to do street improvements such as new street lights, landscaping etc. For more information on the

Main Street Program visit
<http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/lmsintro.htm>.

Now that we have made it over the hurdle of the application process we will need to start organizing our Main Street committees which will steer our program. The committees are:

- Organization Design
- Promotion Economic Development

We will need the help of many volunteers for these committees to make this program successful. If you can help please call 888-312-0812 or email info@faubourgmarigny.org.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

If you have visited Washington Square Park with or without kids you surely have noticed the rusting, broken playground equipment. It’s useful life is sadly almost up.



The Friends of Washington Square Park as part of their effort to maintain the park has had an eye on replacing the equipment but the cost was way out of reach. Luckily, we have had two neighbors, Jeff Becker and Scott Agies, step up and take the lead on applying for a grant though KABOOM!.

KaBOOM! is a national nonprofit organization working to create a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. KaBOOM! brings together parents, community leaders and corporate partners to facilitate the group planning, design and assembly of new community playgrounds.

If accepted we will have to do some heavy lifting such as removal of the old playground,



prep of the site for the new playground and helping with the assembly of the new playground. If you are interested in helping out, please contact email Jeff Becker (jeff.becker@earthlink.net) or call Scott at 427-6619.

For more information on KABOOM! visit <http://www.kaboom.org/>

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progress of current community projects and establish the direction for future initiatives. Each district's planning team will present the status of projects to date and answer questions that the district residents may have. Each district meeting will last for approximately two hours.

We are District 7 which includes Bywater, Desire Area and Development, Florida Area and Development, and St Roch neighborhoods. Our planning meeting will be from 9 – 11 a.m. at Desire Street Ministries - 3600 Desire Parkway at Higgins. All members of the community are encouraged to participate in this important process.

For more information about the UNOP visit <http://www.unifiedneworleansplan.com/home2> or call 877 527 3284.

Later district planning meetings will take place on Nov. 16 or 17 and Jan. 6 or 7.

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Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) Update

The UNOP will kick off its first round of district-level planning this Saturday, October 14. Each district will hold an individual meeting with their respective planning team. In these district meetings, local and displaced residents from each planning district will meet to assess the



Reader's Letter

So, everyone has a storm story; finally I have a contribution.

Just when I was beginning to feel left out, my roofers finally showed up. Actually, these very young Spanish men were unceremoniously dumped in front of my house, along with roofing materials.



There was a lot of finger-pointing and arm-waving, but no one spoke the other's language. The "boss" roared off to another job site, and would not return until 5:00PM. I was worried; but the sun was shining and I was going to be late to the doctor's office, so off I went.

A brief, but heavy rain fell while I left the doctor's office. "Surely they would have taken some precautions. Surely they wouldn't leave any holes uncovered. Surely, they are professionals, aren't they...?"

The outside of the roof looked wonderful, but when I entered my house and saw that rain was pouring in through three completely collapsed ceilings, leaving minor water damage in 5 other ceilings...

After a brief, private crying spasm, I called my husband the lawyer, and the owner of the roofing company.

Let it be said that there is no better use for "legalese" than to right the wrongs in our lives. All was made right, after much ado about quality of workmanship, etc., who's paying for what and why, and why the paint had to match precisely.

So, that's it, and now I feel a part of the victims of the Storm, the City and illegal and immoral contractors.

I know that I am in good company, and would love to hear your stories.

Have courage,

Patty



Orchids & Onions

ORCHIDS

✿ To Wilson Bourg Lumber, United Hardware and Sal's Plumbing for donating the supplies and service that help us keep Washington Square Park open.

✿ To Councilmember Carter for his continued support of our issues, neighborhood and organization.

✿ To all those that have moved into or opened a business in our neighborhood.

ONIONS

🧅 To those that do not pick up after their dogs.

🧅 To those that trash our neighborhood by not putting trash where it belongs.



Marigny Bi-Centennial T-Shirts

We now have Bi-Centennial t-shirts and women's tank tops in various colors for \$15.

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There are also bi-centennial coffee mugs for \$5.

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Three Nickel-A-Dance Concerts Remaining . . .

Nickel-A-Dance is at Cafe Brasil, on Sunday afternoons, from 4-7 p.m., AND IT'S STILL FREE!

October 22 - Chris Clifton & His All-Stars

October 29 - Lionel Ferbos & the Palm Court Jazz
Band

LAGNIAPPE SHOW

November 5 - Mark Braud's New Orleans Jazz Giants

Meetings

FMIA General and Board meetings are open to the public. Committees and committee meetings are also open to anyone who is interested or would like to help.

Board meetings are the first Wednesday of each month. The next board meeting will be on November 1, 7:00 p.m., location TBA (see FMIA website).

General meetings are the third Monday of each month at 7:00p.m at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street. (There are no general meetings in July and December.)

The next general meeting will be Monday, October 16.

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Lend A Hand?

Interested in a better neighborhood? A better City? Want to meet some amazing people? Consider joining a committee or being on the Board. We encourage those who want to make a difference to consider serving on the Board or on a committee.

Now more than ever we need people to help us move our neighborhood forward through the recovery. If you can help, please contact a current Board Member or email info@faubourgmarigny.org.

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liked to establish a working relationship with BellSouth. Information finally given to FMIA is that the digital loop carrier runs on electricity and the backup is natural gas.

4. Retaining Legal Council for Zoning Issues – Many enforcements issues have not been resolved. FMIA members have been diligently corresponding with the various city departments and **Councilperson Carter** without results. Decision was made by the Board to have Chris contact a lawyer.

5. 2100 Burgundy (Fred Morgan, owner) –The never ending saga of 2100 Burgundy continues. A suggestion was made to invite the 8th district, Mike Centennio, Ed Horan, and **Councilman James Carter** to a general meeting. It was noted that there is a law if a property becomes a nuisance, action can be taken. Another suggestion was to contact environmental law at Tulane and Loyola. because of their interest in helping neighborhoods. A suggestion was made to contact Gretchen Bomboy for information regarding the nuisance law.

FMIA BOARD MEETING– September 6, 2006

Brian Frye called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. Attended: Reg Medellion, Rob Reddington, Dave Seymour, Gary deLaumont, Simon Hand, Polly Brown, Gene Cizek, Deborah Oppenheim
Chris Costello was absent.

Old Business

1. **Approval of minutes** from 8/2 Board Meeting and 8/21 General Meeting Minutes - Yes

2. **October Walking Tour** - Lloyd has agreed to do this. Discussion and more information are needed for the date, details of the event, tour guides and volunteers.

3. **Bellsouth and the Digital Loop Carriers, 2601 Burgundy** - Richard Bourke 915 Franklin Ave. rbourke@thejusticecenter.org neighbor came to talk to group. The project was rejected by HDLC. The owner of the property is Mr. Brignack. Mr. Wayne Stern is a contact for Bellsouth. A letter is needed in opposition of the project indicating that Marigny is a historic neighborhood, the location is residentially zoned and the site is an inappropriate location. Questions for BellSouth are: is the generator quiet, decibel rating, manpower at location, hours and future designs. BellSouth has not been forthcoming with their intentions and FMIA would have

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6. Projects

508 Frenchmen - What can be said accept there is no enforcement and Ray's Boom Boom is operating illegally.

. 801 Frenchmen (Santa Fe) Chef Robert had a discussion with a neighbor and said he wants to be a good neighborhood DEQ came out and had a friendly conversation about the complaint. They have commercial pick up for trash with the containers lined up on the sidewalk and not cleaned. Brian will call again. Brian called Records about leasing sidewalk space. There are many businesses not leasing the sidewalks making it difficult for residents to walk. Brian called Public Works about the sidewalk space and they said that they the direction is for pro business. Once again it is an enforcement issue. Who do we call? This needs to be **discussed with Councilperson Carter**. Brian has the e-mail address of the foot patrol officer. **Councilperson Carter** has appointed a new Preservation Council or Committee for District C.

No Status

New Business

B. **Next Board Meeting** October 4th at 825 Frenchmen sponsored by Brian Frye.

C. **Bylaws** - Vote was approved but it was inappropriate to have voting by envelope.

D. **Report on 2005-6** - Audited by Ron Petty and he suggested that better documentation is needed. This must be discussed next board meeting.

E. **2006-7 Budget** –was approved

F. **Washington Square Park** A brief discussion about the status of Washington Square Park and issues discussed were included maintenance, trash cans, and clean-up. Deborah had some ideas and Gary felt this needed to be handled by the WSP Committee.

G. **Unified Planning Process** – Acorn –Questions by the board: do we have to accept what is offered, can we asked for someone else, will they pay for someone else, if the National Group different from the Local Group. A suggestion was to have an in-depth interview. It was noted that the French Quarter group was having weekly meetings to keep track of what is happening. It is strange that nothing is ever mentioned about the Marigny. A motion was made to be asked to take out of that group if necessary.

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H. Visibility of Marigny – Polly suggested that a PRESS RELEASE stating that there is a Marigny neighborhood to avoid the confusion that we are the Bywater. There are no signs stating you are in the Marigny. If signs can be made, where to put the signs - St. Claude, Elysian Fields Poland main intersections?

I. 2328 Royal – This was stopped by HDLC because of an Illegal Demolition. The owner is upset about the Stop Work Order. Residents are complaining about the large dumpster in front of 2328 Royal. This is enforcement was again. Owner is upset about the Stop Work Order .If we write a letter we becomes the police. Who are the dumpster police and Brian will find out.

J. Neighborhoods' Planning Network Membership – www.unifiedneworleans.org Malcom Willson attended the NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING Network Coalition for all neighborhoods. It was noted that the political officials do recognize this group. Do we need to become a member? More information is needed.

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K. Projects

2710 Dauphine, Michael Olivas – Demolish Building, Dividing Lot (one would be sub standard) - why sub standard ? Need more information.

L. Committee Reports:

Treasurer – How are we doing? ok

Newsletter – Orchids/Onions, Questions, Ideas? Baptist Sq. Park – Orchid Onions who complain about Washington Sq. Park and not help Polly Dave Gary Orchids for being on the board

Newsletter – needs to be mailed the Wed before the general meeting.

Education Outreach – Discuss Ideas next time

Sept 16 Beach Sweep – and it is International Clean Up Day - volunteers are needed. Please talk to neighbors to clean up storm drain in front of their own houses. This is Metro Wide and lunch is provided by Outback Steakhouse in Metairie.

NO AIDS WALK Sept. 17- If interested in helping call Gary who is the security police 944-4279.

St. Paul's Church approved \$500 donation

Meeting ended at 9:30pm.

Submitted by
Deborah Oppenheim



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September 18, 2006 General Meeting FMIA

Chris Costello opened the meeting at 7:15pm.

Announcements:

1. Shirts – great colors \$15 and mugs \$5 each
2. HELP - Volunteers are needed to deliver flyers, newsletters. It is not necessary to be on a committee to volunteer. Everyone likes to be involved and a sign up sheet is available with a list of assignments.
3. CRIME: 5th and 8th district captains will be invited to a general meeting with a focus on knowing how the process works. It is a big problem and is spreading. The Gambit story did help put the issue on the radar.

At the NOPAC Meeting it was emphasized the need to call the police if you see people acting suspiciously.

If the police do come out convince them to make the report and make sure to get the report or the

report number. The emergency number is 821 - 2222.

PLEASE CALL so the STATS reflect the problems that are occurring.

4. NEWSLETTER: apologize to Gary, Polly, Dave for misprint – They deserved an orchid and not an onion.

5. Invitations - INVITE your neighbors to the next general meeting and use the invitations that Polly Brown has made.

6. PROBLEMS with a pile of debris? The number to call is 311 at city hall. You must call about your home. This is not for sewerage and water board leaks.

7. BEACH SWEEP CLEAN-UP needs to be ongoing. –Please clean the storm drain on your block and encourage others neighbors to take another block.

8. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION are being formatted and will be submitted to the State.

9. DISTRICT 97th - CANDIDATES for September 30th election. Brian Egana - was Legislative Aide to Councilman Oliver Thomas for nine years and one of his main issues of concern is Crime. JP Morrell District 97th - CRIME is a main issue. The police are faced with a series of obstacles such as losing 5 vet officers a month, police salary , Tulane and Broad – criminal system does not work, and accountability.

10. SM IRON WORKS building Dauphine and Mandeville - Charles Hazouri purchased the building and is a resident of the Marigny. He just wanted to inform FMIA that he purchased the building and will following the process HDLC.

11. MAIN STREET PROGRAM - Diane, Dan, Will and Chris worked on this project, thank you. The Program brings back a main street with grant money for façade improvements, lighting, matching funding sources. St. Claude Street is one of the finalists.



BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|---|--|
| Chris Costello President | ccostello@deveney.com 710-8789 (c) |
| Reg Medellin Vice President | rm.nola@cox.net 940-4042 (c) |
| Robert Reddington Treasurer | robert.Reddington@cox.com 417-3342 |
| Leigh Crawford Corresponding Secretary | leigh19@cox.net 919-5617 (c), 948-9420 (h) |
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| Gene Cizek Past President | ecizek@tulane.edu 250-6630 (c) |
| Brian Frye | brian.frye@cox.com 309-6183 (h), 417-4555 (c) |
| Marshall Greis | mggjcs@cs.com 945-8944(h) |
| Simon Hand | simonjhand@gmail.com 982-5854 (h) |

COMMITTEES

| | |
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| Advertising – Blight – Will Riehm | whriehm@bellsouth.net 415-1270 |
| Bylaws – Gary deLeaumont | 944-4279 |
| Caroling – Kellye Deel | kellyedeel@msn.com 615-9467 |
| Community Outreach – Marshall Greis | |
| Education – Deborah Oppenheim | |
| Frenchman - Deborah Oppenheim | |
| Home Tour – Reg Medellin & Deborah Oppenheim | |
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| Membership – Gary deLeaumont | |
| Neighborhood Development – Brian Frye | |
| HDLC – Rick Fifield | opprik@gmail.com 319-3221 |
| Newsletter Editor - Simon Hand | |
| Special Projects – Gary deLeaumont | |
| Washington Square Park – Chris Costello | |
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New Business

Welcome new members and returning members: Stephanie Pedro, Chris Beck, Charlie Hazouri and Dr. Lisa Hawk, Nelson and Linda Belou, Michael, Danielle and Gabriel Pizzolatto, Sue Hall, Adam Steg, Kate Beck.

12. ELECTIONS: Recognize the past board Gary deLaumont, Reg Medellin, Rob Reddington, Dave Seymour, Polly Brown, Chris Costello, and Deborah Oppenheim

13. NEW BOARD MEMBERS – Leigh Crawford, Simon Hand, Marshal Gris, Chris Costello and Gene Cizek is past president. Gretchen Bomboy made the motion. Unanimously accepted

14. BUDGET - A thank you to Ron Petty for auditing the books. Motion to approve the Budget was accepted unanimously.

15. BICENTENNIAL WALKING TOUR and ART MARKET - Sunday November 12, 2006 11- 4 Lloyd Sensat is our Walking Tour Coordinator . Interested tour guides please contact Lloyd (250-6681) and miscellaneous helpers contact Chris Costello and/or Deborah Oppenheim. Unified Planning process -13 planning districts. The residents of Marigny choose three choices and in turn they picked for us –our district planner is Acorn Housing National Planner and our neighborhood planner is EDAW. Chris Costello is meeting with them.

Meeting ended at 8:15

Submitted by
Deborah Oppenheim



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Our District 7 Planning Meeting is on Saturday, 10/14. Details inside.

F.M.I.A. Membership Form

1. Membership Status: New Renewal

2. Membership Type: Individual (I) - \$15.00 Business - \$25.00 Household (H) - \$20.00 Over 65 - \$5.00

3. Contact Information:

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4. Willing to volunteer? Yes No

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