



*Les Amis de Marigny*

*Helping to make the Marigny a better place to live, work and play*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MARCH**

General Meeting • March 24  
6:30 Potluck • 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**APRIL**

Board Meeting • April 2  
6:30 PM • Location TBA

General Meeting • April 21  
6:30 Potluck • 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**MAY**

Board Meeting • May 7  
6:30 PM • Location TBA

Sunday • May 18  
36th Annual Spring Home Tour  
and Art Market

General Meeting • May 19  
6:30 Potluck • 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR**

3rd Annual Walking Tour  
and Art Market  
October 10, 2008

24th Annual Candelight Caroling  
and Art Market  
December 14, 2008

**Meet the Neighbors**

2nd **TUESDAY** • 6:30 - 8:30 PM  
See Website for location

**NONPAC MEETINGS**

**5TH District**  
2nd **Wednesday** • 7 PM  
2372 St. Claude Avenue

**8TH District**  
2nd **Thursday** • 5:30 PM  
Omni Royal Hotel

**ST. CLAUDE AVENUE MAIN STREET MEETINGS**

4th **Wednesday**, 12 Noon  
Green Project  
Marais and Press Streets

**EVERY SATURDAY**

**UPPER 9th WARD GREEN MARKET**  
1 - 4 PM  
Holy Angels Convent  
3500 St. Claude

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** — Chris Costello

Spring is in the air and nothing gets people as excited as all the fun events that the spring season ushers in such as St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day, French Quarter Festival and Jazz Fest. And let us not forget our Spring Home and Garden Tour.

Speaking of which, we are making great progress on the event. A big thank you to the great response from our call for homes and gardens for the event. We should have the final list in a week so stay tuned for the announcement of the 2008 Homes and Gardens.

Besides the great weather, Spring transforms our neighborhood by providing the warmth and rain to begin the flowering season. Hats off to all those that have already planted flowers in front of their homes. Not only does it look beautiful it also spruces up the neighborhood for all to enjoy.

Our fund drive is on the way to help us keep our neighborhood looking good by providing the working capital to do projects in our neighborhood. We have already received donations totaling \$750 and thanks to the generous \$1 for \$1 matching gift from Julian Doerr Mutter, we have actually raised \$1,500.00! Donating is a great way to reduce your taxes but to qualify for 2007 you need to make your donation by April 15th (more on page 9)

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT - *continued from page 1, column 2*

Thank you to those that have donated to our Save Our Trees program. Without your support we could not afford to spray the trees in the park. And for those that have forgotten, the park becomes unusable due to the stings from the buckmoth caterpillars that fall from the trees. We are still \$1,100 shy for this year so make a donation today! (more page 6)

Get ready. The 1st Annual St. Claude Avenue Easter parade is coming. Come pass a good time and help the St. Claude Avenue Main Street program bring back St. Claude Avenue as a commercial corridor with goods and services we need. (see page 3 for more information).

Reinventing the Crescent will give us a presentation on their vision of our riverfront at our March General meeting on 3/24. We have extended an invitation to our friends and neighbors in the Bywater Neighborhood Association and the Bywater Civic Association to sit in on the presentation. We look forward to having them and hope to do more with them in the future.

We have an exciting springtime ahead of us. I hope you will join me so we can work together to build the neighborhood we want to live in and to be proud of. I look forward to seeing you on the street and listening to your ideas on how we can make the Marigny a better place to live, work and play.



## MEET THE NEIGHBORS UPDATE

Thank you to both Schiro's and JohnPauls for hosting our March Meet the Neighbors. Come meet your neighbors and socialize with your fellow Marigny residents at our Meet Your Neighbors night. This is the second year for this monthly social event and it keeps getting better. Our next installment will be on April 14th at DBA from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Stop by and enjoy your neighborhood and neighbors!

## Voting At General Membership Meetings

By Gary deLeaumont, Bylaws Committee

Recently I heard someone at a public commission meeting state that their neighborhood association hadn't taken a public vote at its general meeting on a zoning issue. They alluded that because there was no vote the association shouldn't support/deny the application being presented.

The reason we have a neighborhood association and elect a board is for them to represent the views of its members and non-members. This holds true for the city in the form of a city council and for the state and country in the form of a legislature.

Boards, councils etc get to hear the voices of their constituents – those that are vocal and those that are not so vocal. They can weigh the pros/cons of an issue and usually are more informed about the issue and its impact. They can review laws, history, precedents and take the information gathered at its public meetings and sort through the issues without the sometimes heightened emotional tones that occurs at some meetings. I have spoken to some individuals who didn't voice their opinion for fear of reprisals or because they didn't want to be confrontational or disagree with another's opinion. Also, many people can't attend meetings but still should be represented.

When I served on the FMIA Board in the early 90's a developer, who wanted a particular zoning issue approved by the association, bought 50 memberships hoping to influence the board. The board voted in the best interest of the neighborhood and not for the most memberships.

Because most issues affecting our neighborhood are not black and white but many shades of grey we depend on our Board to weigh the issues and make decisions that benefit the neighborhood, not just for a few or for a short time but for everyone and for the long term.

This system has served us well as it does our City, State and Country and helped maintain the quality of life we have come to enjoy in the Marigny.

# FYI

**PLEASE NOTE:** Call the Quality of Life Officer for the 8th District, Roger Jones, 201-1520, and the Quality of Life Officer for the 5th District, Spencer Smith, 658-6557 for urgent complaints about noise or other nuisance issues.

Non-violent crime should be reported to 821-2222 and emergencies to 911.

# ST. CLAUDE AVENUE MAIN STREET



By Robyn Blanpied, Manager

The Goodchildren Carnival Club is pleased to announce its Easter Parade, taking place on Sunday, March 23 at 3 p.m. The theme is "Resurrection". The name of the club is taken from the old name for St. Claude, which was Goodchildren (Bons Enfants).

The parade route is St. Claude Avenue, from Poland Avenue to Elysian Fields. Leading the parade musically will be the pride of the neighborhood, the Frederick Douglass High School Marching Band.

Parading groups include the Goodchildren, the Krewe do Kraft, Defend New Orleans, the Krewe of Brid, the Krewe of Eris, The Royals, Kajun's Pub, Wayne's World, Bunny Hoppers, the Guardian Angels, NOLA Rising, the Bywater Neighborhood Association, St. Claude Avenue Main Street, the Green Project, the Stroller Brigade, the Bicycle Beauty Pageant, the Farmers Market. The lineup ends with the fabulous Dukes of Debris, who will clean up as we go and leave the world a better place.

Look for some super-throws from the Black Ghost (and if we're lucky, a personal appearance), the Goodchildren (whose signature throw is decorated dolls), swanky men's ties from Wayne's World, handmade throws from the Krewe do Kraft, and rubber duckies from the Stroller Brigade.

Following the parade are a variety of activities along St. Claude, with something for everyone. The HomeSpace Gallery will play host to an exhibit of brilliant photos by the Kid Camera Project - St. Roch, who may also serve as parade photographers.

There will be a pub/gallery crawl including the HiHo Lounge, Kajun's Pub, Cowpokes, Markey's Bar, the Saturn Bar, L'Art Noir Gallery, and the St. Roch Tavern, which will be hosting a crawfish boil. Several of these venues will have early and late shows, so there will be plenty to do whenever you come out.

Join us as we celebrate the revitalization of this historic street, and be sure to thank our sponsors Marigny Perks, Henry's Bakery and Deli, Mardi Gras Zone, HiHo Lounge, Saturn Bar, St. Roch Tavern, Markey's Bar, Jerry, and the Bywater Neighborhood Association. For more information, check our website at [goodchildrencarnivalclub.org](http://goodchildrencarnivalclub.org), e-mail us at [goodchildrencarnivalclub@yahoo.com](mailto:goodchildrencarnivalclub@yahoo.com), or call Miss Kathy at (504)942-8500. Bring the family and have a wonderful Easter on St. Claude!

Our Pre-Parade Party will be Good Friday at the HiHo Lounge, beginning at 7, and will feature a Jesus Christ

Superstar Karaoke fest, a raffle with some truly great prizes, the finalization of the lineup and spacing for the parade, and a chance to join up and be part of the action. Guitar Lightnin' Lee will perform a late show, beginning around 11. Admission is free for members, or \$5 for non-members.

In other Main St. news, we've seen a rash of building break-ins and vandalism, including entry into St. Roch market and Colton Jr. High. Please keep an eye on the street and report problems to the police.

We are hearing from the Recovery Office of progress with revitalization monies for the St. Claude area. This will include infrastructure needs, such as neutral ground maintenance, lighting, code enforcement and other city services. Now's the time to make up the wish list.



## NO MORE BLIGHT

We were ready on February 20th to testify about the blighted property located at 2520 Dauphine (corner of Dauphine and Franklin). Unfortunately, the owner's lawyer asked for the hearing to be deferred due to personal reasons of the owner. The new hearing date has been set for April 23th.



The hearing starts at 10:00 a.m. and is held in the Environmental Health Office located on the 8th floor of City Hall. It is important that near neighbors and residents show up to the meeting to let the Adjudication Committee know that they do not condone owners who do not take care of their property. Please make every effort to attend or send a letter to:

Wesely Taylor  
Chief of Environmental Health  
1300 Perdido Street, Suite 8E18  
New Orleans, LA 70112

We are keeping a running list of properties so if you know of a property that has visible damage and/or is vacant; please let us know so we may add them to the list. You can e-mail us at [info@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org) with the address of the property, or call us at 888-321-0812 with the same information.

We all want to live in a safe and healthy neighborhood. We are asking these neighbors to help us in the rebuilding of our neighborhood and City by taking care of their property.





## Annual Spring Home Tour & Art Market

Our Spring Home Tour is a few months away and we are almost done with securing the homes and gardens for the tour. If all goes well we will have some of the most magnificent homes and gardens on tour to date. We are still looking for people to help out the day of the event. If you are interested in helping out please contact Reg Medellin at (504) 940-4042.



## END OF FREE NEWSLETTER..

March marks the end of the free newsletter for those that have not paid their dues. So if you do not get a newsletter next month it is because we have not received your dues.

To renew simply cut out your mailing label, make any corrections to your name or address, write a contact telephone number and email address (or email addresses if you have a household membership) and return it to us with your dues by one of the methods below.

The 2008 dues rates are the same as last year which are:

Individual - \$15, Individual Senior (65+) - \$5

Household (2+ individuals) - \$20,

Senior Household (2+ seniors) - \$10

Business - \$25

You can mail your renewal to our post office box, drop it off in the mail slot at 2408 Chartres Street, 2817 Burgundy or 2101 Burgundy #1 or bring it to a general meeting. (The next one is 3/24.)

Thank you for continuing your membership and helping us make the Marigny a *great place to live, work and play.*



## WHAT? A NATURAL FOODS STORE IN THE MARIGNY?

The New Orleans Food Coop is in the process of making plans for a cooperative natural foods store. They are looking for members and volunteers. If you want to join, download a membership application from our website at [www.nolafoodcoop.org](http://www.nolafoodcoop.org), look for a food coop brochure distributed in many places throughout the City, or call John Calhoun at 914-6936.

Until that becomes a reality, the NOFC currently operates a monthly buying club through which members place online orders which are then delivered by a natural foods wholesaler from Arkansas. Eat Healthy. Join Today!

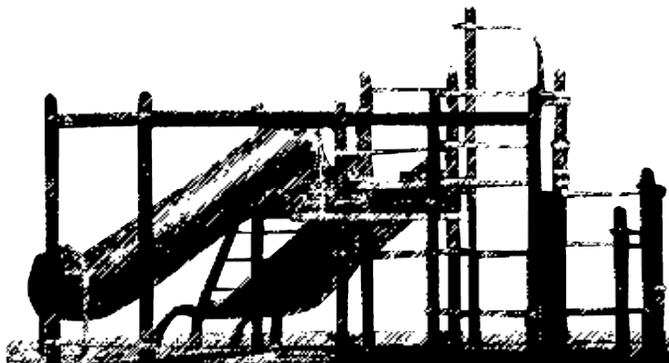
## Playground PROGRESS – We're DONE!

It has been an exhausting experience but we have done it. A newly renovated playground for the kids to enjoy. Thank you all those that were instrumental in making this happen: Calvin Rice, Jeff Becker, Robert Reddington, & Chris Costello. And thank you to the following for giving us the working capital to make this a reality:

Malcolm Willison, Wilson Bourg Lumber, Ravi Vadlamundi, Linda Swindle, Lisa Shattuck, Bettina Reutter, Sadie Gentry, David Pirner, John & Angele Crawford, Kim Pedersen & Ray Ruiz, Calvin Rice & Heidi Lee, Koch & Wilson Architects, Castle Rock Pavers, Bywater Woodworks, Dan & Karen Rabin, Dorian Bennett, Paul Hennes TV & Stereo, Russ & Angela Carl, Electric Ladyland Tattoo, American Aquatic Gardens, Monaghan Enterprises, Blankenhorn Photography, Mona's Cafe, Deveney Communication, St. Paul Lutheran Church, and Scott Agies.

We will be maintaining the fund to provide future repairs and maintenance for the equipment. Donations should be made out to FMIA with Playground in the memo field and send to FMIA, PO Box 770080, New Orleans LA 70177.

FMIA  
PO Box 770080  
New Orleans LA 70177



## FMIA Merchandise is RE-DESIGNED and AVAILABLE NOW!

Get your NEWLY DESIGNED T-shirts and women's tank tops in various colors for \$10.



...and Mugs for \$5.

You can buy them at the General Meeting or simply send an e-mail [info@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org).

# Orchids & ONIONS

## Orchids



To Glen Rheims for volunteering his services.



To Calvin Rice, Jeff Becker, Robert Reddington, and Chris Costello for all their hard work in organizing the playground renovation.



To neighbors who maintain their property to keep the Marigny looking great.

## ONIONS

To club owners that open doors on Frenchmen St. that FLOOD the neighborhood with noise.



For illegal use of signage



### LOOKING FOR GRANTS

A big thank you to Debbie McClain who has offered to help educate us on the grant writing process. We already have some leads! We are looking for help in writing the grants. If you have some experience or are interested in learning the process please let us know.



### Troy Carter Walking the "Beat"

Our Councilman will be doing a casual walk through our neighborhood on Monday March 24th. It is my understanding that he wants to do this kind of walk in all neighborhoods of his district and he decided to start with ours. Starting at 5pm on Monday, we will begin on Royal and Frenchmen, from there we will be turning left on Burgundy street, then on to Pauger to Kelerec. From there we will proceed to Chartres and then back to Frenchmen. He would like to answer any and all questions/concerns we may have. This is a good opportunity to speak with him and show him how important our neighborhood is. All of our neighbors are wonderful people and he should see our support for the best neighborhood in the city. Wouldn't you agree?

I hope you are able to walk with us or meet us on Frenchmen after our walk. Please let your neighbors know about this so that everyone will be informed.

Angele Crawford

## — PROJECTS —

**Holy Trinity** – There has been interest in converting the building to a sound recording studio. The potential buyers are investigating the feasibility of the project.

**807 Esplanade** – The property came before the HDLC to obtain a C of A to repair the outside and make some minor additions. The HDLC Commissioners approved the application with the proviso that they continue to work with the HDLC Staff. In its current conception, the building will be converted to 5 "suites" for use by people in the film industry.

**623 Frenchmen** – The owners have received permission from the HDLC to remove the delapidated balcony and there are plans to replace it with a gallery. In addition to the gallery, the property will be repaired to bring it out of its blight status.



### NPN is hosting a meeting for the Citizen Participation Process

Concerned citizens from across New Orleans have come together to gain support for the idea of a formalized citizen participation process for the city. NPN is hosting meetings to inform people of what is going on and get people involved.

Formalized Citizen Participation means that city government is bound by law to listen to the people. Come to the meeting to find out what this looks like in other cities, and brainstorm some ways to implement it in New Orleans.

Tuesday, March 25  
6:30 pm  
Desire St Ministries  
3600 Desire Parkway

\*Refreshments provided\*

If you have any questions, please call 940-2207

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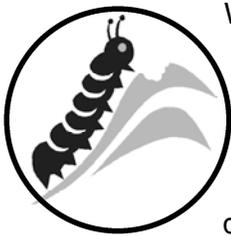
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# Save Our Trees!

The Oak trees in the park and in the neighborhood for that matter have shed their leaves and the branches are now covered with new spring-green leaves. These new leaves will provide us with cool shade once they mature but for the buck moth caterpillars they are succulent morsels to gorge on.

Last year we successfully raised the funds to spray the beautiful oak trees in Washington Square Park which allowed everyone to enjoy the park all spring long without fear of being stung by the caterpillars. We are asking people to either adopt a tree by donating the money to pay for the yearly buckmoth spraying and fertilizing or make a donation towards the spraying and fertilization of a tree. The cost is \$55 per tree, \$30 for half a tree.



Please send a check made payable to FMIA with "Save Our Trees" in the memo. Send to:

FMIA, Save Our Trees  
P.O. Box 770080  
New Orleans, LA 70177

Remember, you donation is 100% tax deductible!



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## Habitat ReStore

2830 Royal Street 943.2240

Wed—Sat 9:30 - 5:00

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# DEFERRED

## Mardi Gras Zone Applies for Zoning Change

The City Planning Commission deferred the vote on the proposed zoning change to determine if all the proper permits were obtained for the expansion from the mardi gras bead/supply store to a grocery store/deli. The vote was deferred two weeks to March 25th. There will be no public comment at this meeting.

The Mardi Gras Zone applied for the zoning change because the business does not meet the criteria for a State liquor license. Specifically, it is not zoned correctly (i.e., it is zoned as HMR-2 residential). The organization sent a letter to the State to oppose the application as it breaks the law by not meeting the requirements. As an organization we cannot support applications that break the law.

As was stated in the February newsletter and at the January and February General meetings, the Board was seeking guidance on this issue from the membership and residents, especially those that live close to the business and will be affected the most by a 24 hour liquor outlet. We would like to thank those that took the time to write letters to voice their opinion on this matter.

The Board reviewed the history and zoning ordinances pertaining to the property as well as read the staff report and the letters submitted to City Planning from residents. And after weighing all the facts, the Board voted unanimously to oppose the zoning change to protect our neighborhood from the problems a 24 hour package liquor outlet inherently poses.

We look forward to helping Mardi Gras Zone come under compliance with the City Ordinances so they may continue to provide the neighborhood with an alternative place to make groceries.

# Getting it **SOLD** in any market!



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527 Sixth



131 N Murat



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1024 Port



931 Montegut



4200 Dauphine



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**Announcing the  
Opening of**

**NOLA  
Aikido Dojo**



NOLA Aikido Dojo (studio), a new wellness center in the Bywater, is now welcoming students who wish to come explore Aikido, a martial art of non-violence. Aikido is a meditative, healing martial art, whose benefits include self-defense, mindfulness, fitness, balance, flexibility, and strength, among others. It is a movement practice for women and men of all ages. Our dojo is a supportive place, an oasis in our troubled city and world. Like our diverse and beautiful Bywater/Marigny/St. Claude/St. Roch neighborhoods, our dojo intends to be a place which bridges the gaps and barriers that separate us from ourselves and from each other. All are welcome!

*Come give this gentle, yet powerful,  
and beautiful martial art a try.*

The first three classes are free. All you need to bring are some loose-fitting clothes. If you choose to join, regular monthly dues are \$60 (\$45 for students and seniors. There are no contracts.

Classes are currently held:

- Monday, Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-10 a.m.
  - Saturdays 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- at the NOLA Aikido/Bywater Yoga studio  
900 Louisa St. (corner with Burgundy).

Children's classes will be forming soon! Please call or email if you have kids who might be interested or know someone else who does. Aikido is great for kids because it is gentle, and teaches respect, discipline, and interpersonal skills, while also providing a fun way to stay in shape and develop on many levels at once.

The dojo (studio) and instructor, Robert Brian Levy, 2nd degree black-belt, may be contacted by calling (504) 208-4861, emailing dojo@nolaaikido.com, and via our website: www.nolaaikido.com which contains further information about us and this "art of peace".

**HELP US RAISE \$20,000 FOR  
PROJECTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

We are making head way to our goal of raising \$20,000 for projects in our neighborhood which we could not have done without the dollar for dollar matching donation from Julian Doerr Mutter. Thank you Julian!

To date we have raised \$1,500.00! Thank you to those that have generously donated to the campaign. We hope their leadership in donating to this fund will encourage others to make the commitment to donate so we may have the resources to make our neighborhood better.

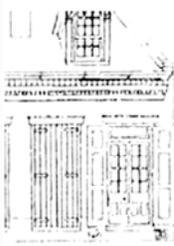
We are looking for ways to maximize this opportunity. One way is to see if your company has a matching fund policy for donations their employees make. Would you mind asking? All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Any and all donations are appreciated and accepted. But to make it easier, and to recognize different levels of donations, we have come up with the following levels:

- \$1000+ Friends of Bernard
- \$500 - \$999 Friends of Mandeville
- \$250 - \$499 Friends of Elysian Fields
- \$100 - \$249 Friends of Frenchmen
- \$50 - \$99 Friends of the Marigny

One of our first projects will be the renovation of Washington Square Park. Help us make it a reality. Donations should be made payable to FMIA and sent to PO BOX 700880, New Orleans LA 70177.





**French Quarter Realty**  
**1041 Esplanade Avenue**  
**New Orleans, LA 70116 USA**



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Broker Associate and Property Management

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# UPPER NINTH WARD FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays 1-4 pm

HOLY ANGEL'S PARKING LOT 3500 ST. CLAUDE AVENUE

We have chosen to promote healthy eating habits and exercise among young and old so this year we are having both an Easter Egg Hunt, with old fashioned dyed boiled eggs, and a Bicycle Beauty Pageant. Yes, there was a complaint or two that we're not doing candy for Easter. And those folks can buy pralines from Wayne.

What's a bicycle beauty pageant? It's Darlene Wolnik's idea that she donated to us because of the creative folks living in the neighborhoods along St. Claude and the preponderance of children in our two public schools. Three judges, Pesto Paul Arceneaux, Kathy Connolly, and Ze' De Luz, who are each stylish in their own right and know how to ride bikes, will select 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners across three categories: 0-7 years, 8-18, and 19-103. Is everyone covered? The bike has to be in working condition and decorated. So the two criteria are functionality and 'bling.' No motorized vehicles because that would be cheating. We want to celebrate cycling as an excellent form of exercise, and reward cyclists for good taste and their commitment to good health. It will be great see how folks are styling riding around town as we look forward to the implementation of the approved bike lane on St. Claude Ave. all the way down to Jackson Barracks in Lower 9. This year we break with tradition, buying Paaz egg decorating kits at the



supermarket, and use vegetables, fruits, and flowers to color our eggs. On Thursday evening, in Reggie Lawson's kitchen, we will prepare for next Saturday's Easter Egg hunt by dyeing 15 dozen eggs. We will post full instructions on [dnmc.org](http://dnmc.org) on Monday.

### VENDOR HIGHLIGHTS

**Dona Blanca:** Kathia brings chorizo, and fresh cheese. Stock up on her beef and vegetarian tamales.

**Champagne Dreams:** Gourmet salad dressings Try her barbecue sauce, pestos, and cashew nut butter.

**Crescent Creams:** Wayne Brown brings many creamy praline varieties including pina colada, and nipples of Venus.

**Gill Farm:** Linda Higginbotham returns to market with tomatoes, sweet potatoes, strawberries, onions, broccoli, eggs, squash, greens, eggplants, peanuts and beans from Handen, Louisiana

**House of Bread:** Assortment of baked breads prepared with freshly milled flour.

**Kathy's Flowers:** Potted herbs, tomatoes, peppers, citrus trees, bougainvillea, and assorted bedding plants.

**Latino Farmers Coop:** Luiz Alvarado brings produce from the Zeringue Farm in Hahnville. Greens, cauliflower, parsley and Vidalia onions.

**Porteras Panetteria:** Southern Italian gourmet products from old family recipes.



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## DISTRICT C TOWN HALL MEETING

SPONSORED BY  
COUNCILMEMBER JAMES CARTER

Please join councilmember carter & city department leaders for an evening of information and interaction about our community.

Wednesday, March 26, 2008 @ 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
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## FMIA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

February 13, 2008

Approvals by email –  
None

### OLD BUSINESS (Active)

A. Approval of minutes from 1/9 Board Meeting & 1/21 General Meeting Approved by consensus

### B. Projects –

- a. Mardi Gras Zone Rezoning - Spoke with Paul Cramer about March 11 CPC meeting. There are several issues with the zoning changing from HMR2 to HMC1. Mardi Gras is acting as a commercial entity now so to change its zoning would be a Spot Zone. Ron Petty made the suggestion that we need to make sure we have good communication about this and should put an article in the newsletter.
- b. Holy Trinity – Conditional Use for Recording Studio – Received an e-mail from Noreen that they are basically still working on the concept. They have talked with CPC about zoning concerns and PRC about restoration. They are planning on attending the March Board Meeting with more information.

C. **ReLeaf Marigny** – We have approached the National Landscapers Association to help us develop a master plan for the neighborhood. Details are being worked out.

D. **Meet the Neighbors** – The last one was at Cutter's. The next one will be at Schiro's – upstairs in the parlor on March 11th at 6:30 pm. We need new Chairperson.

Benny: offered to host one at the Mardi Gras Zone. Chris explained the idea behind the event was to help the bars which lend themselves for social gathering. We can look at other formats for promoting other businesses. It was tried at a coffee shop but they did not have a good turnout. Benny: What was the focus? Chris: 1) after the storm, bring people into the bar when it was a slow day and 2) neighbors get together to meet each other 4) crime prevention 5) trying to engage young people  
Benny: building own community. Chris: bar or coffee shop to get people out. Eric: Mixture crowd at a bar and a good place for social.

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## 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 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Location TBA (see [www.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org))

**GENERAL MEETINGS** are the 3rd Monday of each month and begin with a potluck at 6:30 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street. The meeting starts at 7:15 PM. (There are NO general meetings in July and December.)

## ADS AND ARTICLES

Ads and articles for the monthly newsletters are due by the Friday following the Board Meeting.

## TO ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER..

Member rates listed below are "per month" charges and dependent on the number of times you place an advertisement. Non-members pay an extra \$3 per month.

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E. **Playground Equipment** – Spoke with the installer. He has been out with the flu. All the parts and pieces have been sandblasted and will finish when he can get over the flu. We discussed inviting City Council for a ceremony .

F. **Visibility of Marigny:** Banners – Marshall we need to have designs for the next meeting.

G. **Historic Markers** – Waiting for more quotes.

H. **Blighted/Vacant Property** – Howard - Call from Elliot Perkins HDLC, There is a hearing on James Thorick who owns 7 houses in Marigny many of which are blighted. Hearing is Feb 20 at 11:00 am. Need people to come to the hearing and testify . What is the status of the two burned out houses on 823 and 825 Franklin? Need to pass out complaints forms to get some action on those houses. MOTION: Chris made a motion that the James Thorick hearing will be mentioned in the newsletter and e-mail that there is a hearing - Second: Deborah Vote: Yes

I. **Issues:**

a. 525 Frenchmen – Yuki - No Status – They have applied for a class B license. Ron: They have been advertising upstairs entertainment.

b. 2705-7 Decatur – Illegal Demolition. Benny: started working on Decatur St. and fixed two of them and is the progress of fixing the one that was torn down . Benny said his time frame is that he will be finished in 8 months.

c. 2706 Royal – Permitting issues. Situation needs to be corrected. It is not a non-conforming use because of the 6 month rule. They were a bead store and now a grocery store. DO they have the proper occupational license? Benny: Yes

d. 2106 Chartres - Jericho's Hookah Bar and Caf<sup>e</sup>. We got letter from the State in response to our letter. There is a hearing in BR about their liquor license. They can have a class A (restaurant) but need to go through the process if they want something different.

J. **Insurance Policy** –working on that Chris

K. **Office Space** – Met with Joe and looked at the space – front parlor of St. Roch. Hope to have it in good working order soon. The space is large enough for Board Meetings. \$150.00 Joe found a copy machine and if it works he will donate it.

L. **Yearly Agenda** – No Status

M. **Donation from Julian Doerr** – Leigh and Chris met with Julian - We have a signed agreement from Julian and in the newsletter making the call for donations for projects in the neighborhood to be matched by Julian.

N. **RiverfrontAlliance** – CPC meeting - Sean talked about the transfer. Port sold the land to the New Orleans Building Corp. It was to be used as public open space and now turned into a concert venue. Neighborhood never agreed to this. Chris asked CPC to put a proviso that the property could not be used for commercial use – solely public open space. The Staff recommended that any project that is built must go through CPC again and City Council. and this meeting is premature.

**OLD BUSINESS (In-active)**

A. **Bellsouth** and the Digital Loop Carriers, 2601 Burgundy – No new information

B. **Issues:**

a. 2100 Burgundy (Fred Morgan)

C. **Projects:**

a. 801 Frenchmen No Status

b. 839 Elysian Fields – Status? Project on Hold per owner

c. Mandeville Fire Station – No Status

d. 1017 Touro (Friendly Touch Bar) No Status

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Next Board Meeting** Leigh's ? March 5th

B. **St. Paul Lutheran Donation Motion:** Donation \$500  
Second Gene: VOTE: Consensus

C. **Grant Writer** – Mimi 's fee is \$600 per grant. Debbie is a grant writer and is interested in helping the organization. We want to meet with her to lead us in the right direction. She can meet on weekends or weekdays after 7pm. Motion: A standing Committee called Grant Committee – researching and procuring the grants  
Stephen Vote: unanimous. .Gene will be Committee Head - All interested let Gene know.

D. **AIDS Memorial Susan Levingston:** Aids Memorial 504-443-3090 (Brief history - Founder of NO Aids Monument 1996 - They held a competition for the monument. It is metal with multi cultural glass faces. Brian Borello former New Orleanian did the metal casting and Mitchel Gaudet did the glass casting. The original location was on the neutral ground at the foot of Esplanade Ave near the Mint. They have been working on this for twelve years. Pieces of the monument are complete. They feel Washington Sq. Park would be perfect for them because the sculpture needs more security.

**QUESTIONS:** What does it look like? 6ft tall at the point – looks like the Olympic symbols 21 ft long shaped in an ark – 3 ft deep - needs to be on a base. It is a humble piece, discreet, celebratory, and personal.

The sculpture needs to be on the perimeter. Could be illuminated at night. Showed student work for the placement and landscaping. Would like feedback and has to be affordable and easy maintained.

Ron: 1) thought the original site was the best 2) opposed to WaSP park 3) who maintains it if it is broken? A: They have extras panels . They want low maintenance – sturdy powder coat on the metal.

Stephen: Would the Memorial take up space?

Benny: Why not a new site for the area with more security and cameras. A: they need a City owned site.

**DISCUSSION:** Is this the best place for this memorial? 1) layout of the park is not historic 1976 2) we do not live in a City that functions - then others will come - takes away for people's ability to use the park 3) The best design goes into the main square plus at the bandstand area 4) it can also be a target due to the nature of the memorial 5) it is grand - 21 ft 6) the park has very little now and notice that the benches are destroyed. 7) misplaced football could damage the glass? 8) an a political statement attached to it 9) maybe not for tourist but for the neighborhood? 9) maybe on the Riverfront? 10) City allows it to go there – insured by the city and who maintains it?



11) don't want Washington Square Park become a memorial park – there is a precedent 12) the design was for the site on Esplanade. It is an awkward monument The Committee really wanted it in Woldenberg Park and the cost was too much.

Stephen: Thinks the Park is ok. It started in 1996, vibrant part of community – lots of people at that time - we will think of in the heart of the neighborhood. Successful Gay Fest took place there. Reflective thing could be real nice - A special case and note about our concerns.

Chris: wants to keep it a park not a place for monuments. Ron –It is a park - Riverfront, maybe partner with NO AIDS Task Force Elysian Fields Leigh: out of scale of the Park

Chris:The recommendation is to tell them our concerns and look at the Riverfront. Stephen – would like to know about their motivation. It is really a special place for WaSp Park. Leigh: Who is responsible for their upkeep? Gene: Needs to be maintained.

Overall: We have many concerns. We could suggest other locations , public areas on the river, raise more money to get a design that could work for the park -

Chris: Who would hold the money for perpetual care? A: NO/AIDS depends on State money. last on the list. Trying to fit something in retro fit – use the pieces and less intrusive RON: group is asking for directions - in the park or not in the park?

MOTION: Rework the design, funds to maintain the monument, decree that it is the only monument and look at a more appropriate place like the riverfront and take it to the membership Second: Leigh

VOTE: unanimous

E. **USPS Meter** - bulk mailing – Post Office cancelled since we did not use for 2 yrs yet they did not open up bulk mail for over a year. Now we are 501(c)3 we can get better rates - Brian will apply.

**ISSUES:**

A. **Smoking Law** - Gil Berman from Hookah Cafe – licensing and overlay - Wanted to see what is up? He wanted to talk about the Hookah Cafe. Gil said it is more like a restaurant than a bar.and has implement with that, transitioning and changing clientele .1) Smoking Ban - State Health Dept visiting them – no hookah smoking and suggested to get the ban amended for establishments for smokers. Trying to get a coalition of businesses that would attached the petition. Juan La Fonta is a State Legislator that could be contacted. It is a Hot Potato Issue. Set up a meeting with him. This is something that Chris is helping him and not the Board. 2) Overlay - Gil heard that Carter is moving on getting enforcement. We spoke with Councilman Carter that we need enforcement.. Carter is funding an initiative - DJ's shut down, sound meters and 8th District Police are being trained with sound meters. 3) Hookah's has live bands. On Friday nights they have a DJ's but cut out Sat nights . It is taking time. Chris said the Overlay is not to have another Bourbon Street. It is an Incubator for new groups. Gil said it is too much enforcement at once.

Gene: Comment - thank you for the time and effort spent to work with this – few owners have come to us - it should be taken into consideration that they are trying. Not pleased how the City has handled Frenchmen St. Chris: thank you for coming and working with us.

C. **Projects:** None

D. Go through **committee reports:**

Treasurer – Closed Capital One now have Whitney and ING accounts. Brian will email report.

Newsletter – Orchids/Onions

Orchid: Krewe du Vieux, Glen Rheims for volunteering his services

Onion: Not picking up their trash, Frenchmen St. bars – noise

Meeting ended: 9:18 pm

**General Meeting 2/18**

Meeting Begins 7:13pm

**Speaker:** Councilman James Carter

Councilman Carter opened with questions, and apologized for not being at the previous meeting.

Gary asked about blighted property. Carter said he would run a report on adjudicated property.

Howard spoke about blighted property at 2524 Dauphine. Meeting at City Hall at the HDLC office, Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 8am. If you cannot make the meeting, use the address in the newsletter to write a letter to Wesley.

Carter said the fines are stiff enough.

A question was asked about The Mardi Gras Zone getting a liquor license. Carter said the process takes a few months and is handled by a variety of city organizations.

Traffic light out at Franklin and St. Claude. Carter asked to email his office regarding this.

Carter: March 1, 411 N. Rampart to honor the Mayor at St. Jude Community Center.

Discussion on the proposed zoning change for The Mardi Gras Zone.

Chris opened the floor for The Mardi Gras Zone and laid out the ground rules.

The **Mardi Gras Zone has applied for a zoning change** from HMR2 to HMC1 to allow them to obtain a package liquor license. The Mardi Gras Zone is a 24 hour retail store that sells mardi gras beads and supplies, groceries and contains a deli. By changing their zoning they will be allowed to sell packaged liquor 24 hours a day.

Chris opened the floor for comments in favor and opposition to the zoning change.



*Those in favor of the change in general referenced the following as reasons for the change:*

The convenience of having the store sell liquor, Benny is a nice guy, the store provides a service to the community, and there are bars that sell alcohol just blocks away.

*Those in opposition of the change in general referenced the following as reasons for the change:*

24 hours package liquor outlets are not good for the neighborhood, the business already affects the quality of life of the neighbors with noise, trash and parking problems adding 24 hour package liquor sales would only aggravate the problems, 24 hour package liquor outlets serve a transient population that do not live in the neighborhood, 24 hour package liquor outlets invite crime into the neighborhood.

The CPC meeting is on March 11, 2008 at 1pm. If you cannot make the meeting send a letter to CPC and the City Council stating your opinion on this matter. The newsletter contains the addresses.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Home Tour** – Meeting on Wednesday, February 20, at 7pm at 2119 Decatur.
- **Playground renovation** - End of this week, playground equipment should be finished.
- **T-shirts & Mug** \$10 / \$5
- **Blight Complaint Forms** – Please fill these out and send to the City. The more complaints they get on a property will move the property up on the list.
- **Meet the Neighbors**, Schiros 3/11 6:30 pm
- **School facilities planning meeting** - February 19th (Dr King Charter School 1617 Caffin Ave.) - What do we want for Colton? Adult Education, Trade School for teenagers, Community Center
- **Sent newsletter Saturday, should arrive Tuesday.**
- **Ethics Reform** - Please write your city constituents.
- **Reinventing the Crescent** – They will make a presentation at our March meeting.
- **St. Claude Main Street Program update:** Held an event in November and started the Good Children's carnival club. An Easter Parade is planned. The purpose is to bring people onto St. Claude Avenue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm

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Home Tour –

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**General Meeting, Monday, 3/24**

**March General Meeting, Monday, 4/21**

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