FAUBOURG MARIGNY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume 36, No. 7

Les Amis de Marigny

August 2008

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

www.faubourgmarigny.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

General Meeting 8/18
6:30 Pot Luck * 7:15 Meeting
2624 Burgundy St

SEPTEMBER

Board Meeting 9/3
9/3 * 7 pm * Location TBD

General Meeting 9/15
6:30 Pot Luck * 7:15 Meeting
2624 Burgundy St

OCTOBER

Board Meeting 10/1
9/3 * 7 pm * Location TBD

3rd Annual Walking Tour/
Art Market/Kids Area
10/19 * 10 am – 4 pm
Washington Square Park

General Meeting 10/20
6:30 Pot Luck * 7:15 Meeting
2624 Burgundy St

Meet the Neighbors

2nd Tuesday * 6:30 pm
Location infra vide

NONPAC MEETINGS

5th District
2nd Wednesday * 7 pm
2372 St. Claude Ave

8th District
2nd Thursday * 5:30 pm
Omni Royal Hotel

St. Claude Avenue Main Street Meetings

2372 St. Claude Ave
Call 616-7637

Upper 9th Ward Green Market

Saturdays * 1 - 4 pm
2500 St. Claude Ave

Nominations Meeting
Monday 8/18

President's Report

By Chris Costello

It has been a hot summer and while we enjoyed a break in July things for the organization have started to move full steam ahead.

We are making great strides in combating blight in our neighborhood. Thank you to Howard Allen who has been keeping track of the blighted properties in our neighborhood. There are currently over 50 properties that have been either cited or will be cited by the Historic Districts Landmarks Commission for blight. Keep up the good work Howard! (more on pg 3)

Have you ever been frustrated by the lack of repairs to our streets, sidewalks, street lights and signs? Are you concerned about crime or blight? We are looking for members to give some of their time to make our neighborhood better. We need people to step up, not sit back, and help us get things done. We have Board positions as well as committee positions to fill. Consider getting involved. (more on pg 6)

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Our 3rd Annual Home and Garden is a little over 2 months away. This event is a great opportunity for us to showcase our neighborhood with all its history and architecture. It is also a great event where one can enjoy the neighborhood we all love and live in. We are looking for volunteers to help us plan and carry out the event. Can you spare some time to help your neighborhood? (more on pg 5)

Washington Square Park needs your help. We have a great opportunity to renovate the park with the help of matching funds generously donated by Julian Doerr Mutter. Our goal is to raise $10,000 on our own for a total of $20,000 with the matching funds. Can you make a donation? Or can you help find others to donate? (more on page 4)

The New Orleans Food Co-op is moving closer to reality. They have had many exciting developments in the past month. If you have not joined please consider it. A healthy, alternative source for food is good for everyone. (More on page 5)

Our Meet the Neighbors event is getting better thanks to our new Meet the Neighbors Chair Donna Rachal. She is taking the best of what we have done and taking it to the next level. Our next event will be at Feelings. You won't want to miss it! (more on page 5)

A memorial reception for Willie Kleppinger will be held at St. Paul Luther Church on August 24th after the morning service. Ed sends his thanks for your thoughts and prayers as he, Carla and the rest of his family move past this difficult time. (more on pg 10)

St. Claude Avenue is on the move. There are many exciting events planned to help St. Claude Ave come alive again in the coming months. To make them and the redevelopment of the street a reality we all need to get involved. Take a look at what is happening and see where you can help. A healthy, safe St. Claude Ave equals a healthy, safe neighborhood. (more on pg 8)

As summer fades away it will be time to enjoy the great weather and fun that is scheduled for the fall. Take a moment to think about what you would like to see changed in the neighborhood, get involved with it and let's make our neighborhood and our city the jewel of the south.

The New New Orleans Master Plan

The City has embarked on the rewriting of the City's Master Plan. Goody Clancy, our former UNP planners, have been hired to tackle the job.

According to the New Orleans City Charter, it requires the City Planning Commission (CPC) to prepare a long-term Master Plan for the city. The CPC had been working on a Master Plan for several years and made some progress many sections of the Master Plan are antiquated. These sections will be reviewed and updated, while new sections will be created on topics such as housing and human services, infrastructure and facilities, environmental quality, and economic development.

The New Orleans Master Plan will focus on integrating and balancing the many interests and perspectives of neighborhoods, organizations and more, while defining a roadmap for the city's future. When completed, the Master Plan will:

- Provide vision, goals, policy and strategic guidance, and an action plan for the future physical development of the city.
- Guide the city to actively seek positive change and deflect negative change, rather than simply react after change has occurred.
- Provide predictability for residents, businesses, and developers.
- Help the city save money because it plans for orderly investment in services, facilities and infrastructure.
- Help New Orleans preserve the sense of place and identity that make it unique.

The Master Plan content will be developed through a ***community engagement process***. The Master Plan will be organized to cover the following topics:

Vision and Principles

• The City's vision for the future and the principles that will guide city decision makers to achieve that future

How We Live

• Housing and Human Services: promoting neighborhood quality of life, affordable housing, and human services

Continued on page 7

Yours Truly in a Swamp

You Must Remember This

by
Leonard Earl Johnson

* * *

"There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes you can do these things. Among them are H. L. Hunt (you possibly know his background), a few other Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or business man from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid." -- President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a letter to his brother, dated 8 November, 1954

* * *

The View from Squalor Heights Before The Storm

L. A. Norma dropped a postcard on the kitchen table. It was from the United States Postal Service and read, "Just about anything you can do at the Post Office, you can do from your office with USPS.com."

She said, "About all you ever do at the Post Office is toss your mail in the trash can. How you going to do that on the Internet?

"Norma, that is mostly what people on the Internet do."

We sipped black coffee laced with chicory, and gazed through the kitchen dormer. We were in New Orleans. At Squalor Heights, our Faubourg Marigny garret, on the edge of the French Quarter, eating beignets and starting a new day.

* * *

Behind Squalor Heights, an historic Creole cottage has spent the past two Summers building up new additions inside its courtyard. The additions have sprouted another room, since last we looked.

"Where're all those historic saviors?" Norma asked.
L. A. Norma has not felt good about historic preservationists since the Louisiana State Museum, on Jackson Square, began hanging advertising banners, for Bell South, and other purveyors of the future, from their windows. They formed a splash of tomorrow across the entire front of the Cabildo and Presbytere -- the most historic buildings in all of Louisiana.

The banners loudly proclaimed the joys of cell phones, and such things, on the front of buildings housing Napoleon's Death Mask and an original copy of the Louisiana Purchase.

Thankfully, the State Museum has hung up the cell phone on this shameful practice, in part, because of a visit to the Museum's offices by L. A. Norma, and her Camel Cigarettes -- an old lady's weapon of mass deconstruction.

* * *

The Creole cottage's latest room formed a second story above a wing stretching back into the courtyard.

Sometimes, men in blue work clothes can be seen scurrying about the work site with clipboards and tape measures. Bankers, too, we both reckoned, when we saw them getting out of their big cars, wearing dark suits and silk ties. The blue men stayed close on their heels all the while they were there.

"Surely they are not City officials openly inspecting and approving," Norma said. "Such violations!"

Approved or not, the old cottage has grown by fits and starts, over the past two years.

"le Frog slowly boiling theory," Norma observed, in her best Los Angeles French accent. Hammers pounded out a solid rhythm, while saws answered their call with a sweet waltz.

Sometimes the project falls fallow. Once, after a lengthy hiatus, a dormer window appeared looking squarely into Squalor Heights' dormer window. After that, the project went silent for over a month. When it started up again, the window was taken down. Norma gloated.

She had phoned the Faubourg Marigny Association when she first laid eyes on the new window. In a poetic stroke of genius, she also phoned the State Museum offices, in the Cabildo, threatening them with another smoke-filled visit. Historic district "deciders," from City and State, quickly appeared.

After the intruding window was removed, and a civilized spell had passed, a tiny outbuilding -- that may have once housed slaves -- began growing towards the front. Half way to the cottage it stopped growing out and commenced

growing up. Today, it is fully flowered into a second story with budding balconies that give off the sweet aroma of corporate condos.

"Slavery may never be the same," Norma said, blowing Camel Cigarette smoke out our dormer, towards the construction site and the men in blue.

* * *

This story appeared, in a slightly different form, in June of 2005. Two months later, on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.

For more Yours Truly in a Swamp go to LEJ's old columns at www.LEJ.org

Overdue Thanks

With life so busy, we frequently do not take time to stop and thank those around us that make a difference in our lives. Normally, these people work behind the scenes to make our lives better.

Case in point is the Department of Parks & Parkways. They have been behind the scenes trimming the grass on the neutral ground and keeping the grass and plants in Washington Square Park trimmed and tailored which help keep our neighborhood and park beautiful.

Next time you see the neutral ground freshly cut or the park manicured remember it is the Department of Parks and Parkways. Give them a call and thank them. 658-3200.

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Let's Renovate Washington Square Park

We have raised just over $3,000 so far! We are making good progress. Can you help us get to our goal of $10,000. If you can, we can turn our $10,000 into $20,000 thanks to the generous $10,000 matching donation from Julian Doerr Mutter.

One of our first projects with this money will be the renovation of Washington Square Park. Help us make it a reality. 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

Donations should be made payable to FMIA and sent to:

PO BOX 700880, New Orleans LA 70177.

Thank you to the following for donating to the campaign so far:

Friends of Bernard
Gene Cizek & Lloyd Sensat
Chris Costello & John Deveney

Friends of Frenchmen
Deborah Oppenheim & Rick Fifield
Mathew Schwarzman and Miriam Zarsky
Ron Petty & Reg Medellin
Brian Frye
Leigh & Jim Crawford
Stephen Fowlkes
Bobby Moffit

Friends of the Marigny
Paulo and Connie Diniz

Meet The Neighbors Night

Thank you to DBA for hosting our July Meet the Neighbors night.

Come meet your neighbors and socialize with your fellow Marigny residents at our Meet the Neighbors night. We are on our second year of monthly Meet the Neighbors night social and it keeps getting better.

We would like to thank Donna Rachal for giving her time to chair this event. She has great ideas that will make this event the must do for the month.

Our next installment will be on September 9 at Feelings (2600 Chartres) starting at 6:30 pm.

Stop by and enjoy your neighborhood and neighbors!

Natural Foods Store In The Marigny

The New Orleans Food Co-op (NOFC) is continuing to grow. They are now 455 strong. Thank you for joining and helping the Food Co-op move that much closer to its goal.

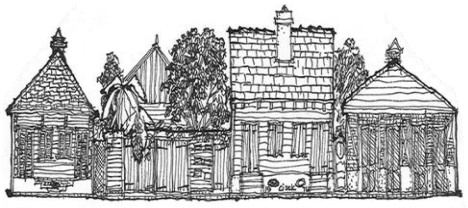
In the coming weeks there will be a membership meeting to discuss the status of the Food Co-op. Members will receive notice of the meeting with the date and time.

The Food Co-op still needs members. Take a moment to let your friends know about the Food Co-op and ask them to join. Membership applications can be downloaded from their website at www.nolafoodcoop.org.

Until the store becomes a reality, the NOFC currently operates a monthly buying club where members can place on-line orders that are delivered by a natural foods wholesaler from Arkansas. Eat Healthy, Join Today!

Beside members, NOFC is looking for volunteers to help more them forward. For more information or to volunteer visit their web site or call John Calhoun at 914-6936.

3rd Annual Walking Tour, Art Market, Music & Kid's Area



We are two months away from our 3rd Annual Walking Tour. We are in the planning stages and we need your help. As with our Home and Garden Tour we need volunteers to help plan the event as well as volunteers to help the day of the event.

The planning committees are:

Volunteer * Art Market * Walking Tour

Music * PR/Media * Photography * Site Logistics

Sales Logistics * Kids Areas * Brochure

Day of the event volunteers serve a two hour shift of their choice and help with tasks for the day.

All volunteers get a free ticket to the tour.

If you are interested in volunteering out please contact Reg Medellin at 504 220-7975.

NO MORE BLIGHT

JOIN US IN OUR FIGHT

We have made great strides in fighting blight in our neighborhood. Of the 64 properties listed, 5 have been brought out of blight status.

As part of our plan we have been helping the City cite owners of blighted properties. The City made a sweep of our neighborhood using the database of blighted properties we have been compiling. In the near future the Historic District's Landmarks Commission as well as the Environmental Health Department will be having hearings to formally cite these owners.

This is the first step in the process which will lead to the adjudication of the properties if the owners do not bring their properties out of their blight status. We will announce the dates and times of these adjudication hearings as it is it is important that we show a strong presence at these hearings. The Hearing Officers need to hear how these properties and the continued lack of their maintenance affect our neighborhood and our lives.

Status: From 8/8 HDLC Meeting

2518 Dauphine Street – Formal Citation
536 Frenchmen Street – Formal Citation

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 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 rebuilding our neighborhood and City by taking care of their property.

Be a part of the Renaissance: Join the Board or a Committee

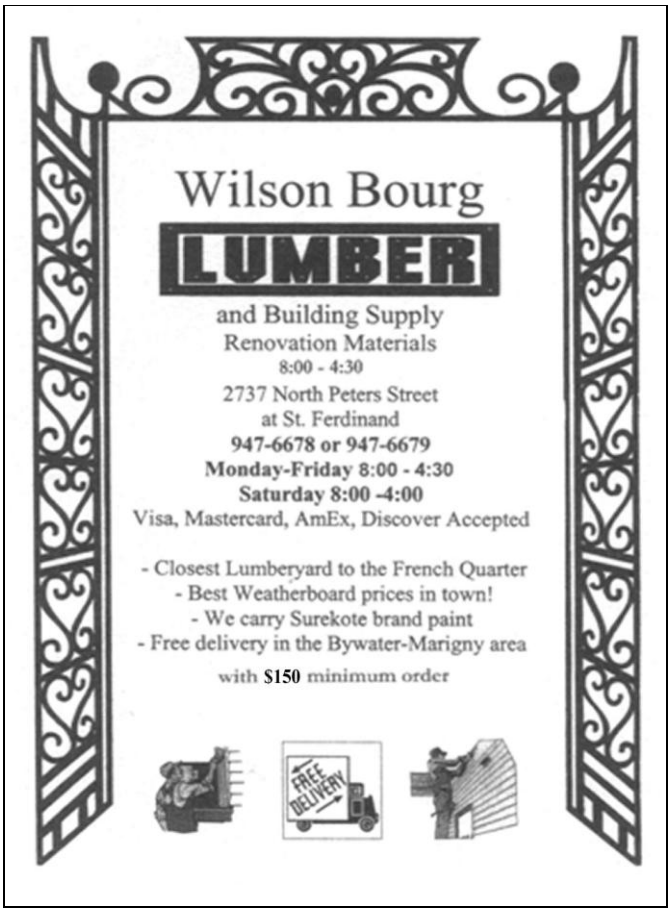
It is that time of year again and as we wind down the 2007-8 year we diligently prepare for the next. Our accomplishments over the last year are the result of the work of many people who dedicated their time to work on projects that make our neighborhood a better place.

We are looking for more people with new ideas to dedicate some of their time so that we can continue to protect our neighborhood and reach a little bit further towards our goal of making the Marigny a great place to live, work and play.

The Board consists of 8 members chosen by the membership. Four are elected every year, and one Past President is chosen by the Past Presidents Council. Board members are responsible for attending a board meeting once a month, taking on several duties that help move the organization forward and helping out with programs and tasks as needed. Board members spend an average of 3 – 7 hours a week. If you are interested please contact Gary deLeaumont at 352-8517. Our Nominations meeting is on 8/18.

Committee members are responsible for attending at least one committee meeting, working on projects in the respective areas and promoting the neighborhood. Depending on the committee, members could spend as little as 1 hour a week but your time commitment is up to you. We have many volunteer opportunities such as committee chairs, event coordinators and

helpers of the former two. If you can help in this area please contact Chris Costello at 710-8789.



The New New Orleans Master Plan
(continued from page 2)

• Parks and Recreation: maintaining and expanding park and recreation opportunities
• Historic Preservation: preserving New Orleans' historic neighborhoods

How We Prosper
• Economic Development (including Tourism): creating economic opportunities for all New Orleanians

• Arts and Culture: supporting artists, cultural institutions and cultural visitors to maintain the city's cultural uniqueness

Sustainable Systems
• Environmental Quality and Sustainability (including Natural Hazards and Energy): "greening" and protecting the future city
• Community Facilities and Infrastructure: maintaining and expanding infrastructure and facilities to serve the whole city
• Transportation: promoting a multifaceted and efficient system of transportation choices

Future Vision
• Future Land Use: identifying the general type and density of land uses desired in the future
• Stewardship and Citizen Participation: reviewing the plan regularly and ensuring citizen participation in land use and development decisions.

Each of the Master Plan elements will include an implementation and action plan identifying WHAT should be done, HOW it should be done, WHO should do it, WHEN it should be done, and WHERE the funding could come from.

Along with the new Master Plan, an updated Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) will be developed to compliment the new Master Plan. The purpose of the CZO is to translate the Master Plan's policies into user-friendly land use and development regulations. The process of developing the new CZO will include the following steps:

• Technical review of the current zoning ordinance
  -Interviews and observation of zoning activities in city offices
  -Identification of internal conflicts and difficulties in interpretation and application
  -Evaluation of zoning concepts and completeness
  -Evaluation of ordinance structure
• Identification of potential zoning early action items
• Reorganization of the existing ordinance to make it understandable
• Develop approaches and recommendations responding to master plan issues and directions
• Develop scenarios of existing and proposed residential, commercial and industrial development to illustrate existing and proposed zoning
• Prepare a draft ordinance and zoning map

Throughout this process, there will be public meetings for New Orleanians to express their concerns, interests and ideas about zoning issues. Goody Clancy as well as the CPC encourages all

citizens to get involved. The public meetings will start in September.

In addition to the meetings, a survey will be given to a sample group for public opinion on matters relevant to the Master Plan/CZO Project. Please respond if you receive a mailing or phone call about this project.

You can get the latest information about the project including meeting dates and times, draft versions of the Master plan and CZO and submit input by visiting www.nolamasterplan.org.

St. Claude Avenue Main Street

By Robyn Blanpied, Main Street Manager

Proposed Plan: A Food Market District

St. Claude Avenue's St. Roch Market is the centerpiece of the City's Revitalization Plan for the St. Claude/St. Roch/Marigny/Bywater area. To take advantage of the City's investment in St. Roch Market, St. Claude Ave. Main Street is proposing the redevelopment of the area as a Food Market district.

St. Roch Market

The St. Claude area offers the advantages of access by highway (I-10, 610), wharf and potentially rail, as well as a stock of warehouses and storefronts. It also provides customer access outside of congested traffic routes for suppliers and customers. It may be possible to use the Zip Code designation to apply for grants and relocation allowances, and designation as a Cultural Products and Arts District will open access to tax credits for commercial building improvements.

A Food District will draw customers from Marigny and the French Quarter, as well as Bywater, Treme and Gentilly. The presence of this upscale populace with disposable income is an overlooked asset to the redevelopment of the St. Claude Ave. area. Demographic use of zip code 70117 tends to mask the presence of this customer base.

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Clustering of food supplies, ranging from restaurant/industrial supplies to artisan food products and locally grown produce/seafood will revitalize the St. Claude Ave. corridor and generate a new tourism attraction adjacent to the French Quarter.

The main targets for business recruitment are the restaurant/food distribution businesses. In the region, they are currently scattered in Kenner, Metairie and Harahan. Rents in these areas have risen post-Katrina and access has decreased due to traffic congestion.

Rising transportation costs may offer an incentive to consolidate operations near transit hubs, particularly rail and water.

Availability of small and medium retail space makes opening a micro/small business affordable while keeping the flexibility to respond to customer demands. Large food suppliers that service restaurants on a daily basis provide a consistent flow of customers with a daily need for the freshest and most unique food products available.

Project : Spiff Up St. Claude

As part of the Main St. Program, there is money earmarked for façade improvement grants. The usual procedure is a 50-50 split between the business owner and the Main Street, but few merchants have the time and resources to take advantage of this offer. Therefore, we are trying to be creative in finding ways to involve people in Main St. and benefit our local merchants. We hope to get the most "bang for our modest bucks" and at the same time give a boost to Main Street's presence on St. Claude.

St. Claude is going to be the center of attention in November, when Prospect 1 Biennial and the 1st New Orleans Fringe Theatre Festival will make St. Claude Ave. New Orleans's Main St. "Art"ery. Prospect 1 is an international Art Exhibition that will be showcasing local and international artists in a variety of venues in the City from October 31st to December 15th. Some of the biggest venues will be here on St. Claude in Colton Jr. High, the Universal Furniture Building and Barrister's Gallery. The Fringe Festival is an international phenomenon that started in Edinburgh, Scotland and grew to dozens of sites around the U.S. and the world. In a perfect match with New Orleans, the Fringe Festival showcases performance art which doesn't fit the standard theater mold. Their New Orleans motto is "Fearless performers, Fearless audiences."

Along with these two major arts events, St. Claude will be the site of the opening of the new UNO Faculty art gallery next to Whitney Bank; Main Street will reprise the "Chalk it Up" sidewalk art competition during the Fringe's family friendly day (13 November) when the Good Children Social Aid & Pleasure Society will invite the performers to join in parading on St. Claude Ave.

Because we will receive so much attention on the Avenue this November, St. Claude Ave. Main Street would like to help some small merchants improve their facades through a volunteer paint program.

Main Street will use its façade funds to purchase materials such as paint, and use volunteer help to paint and improve facades. This will reduce the amount of cash merchants need to front and build bonds amongst merchants while improving the appearance of the streetscape before our "debut." We hope to launch our 1st "Spiffer" the week of September 22nd.

To donate to the "Spiff it Up, or to volunteer, call Robyn @ (504) 616-7637.

New St. Claude Business!

Welcome to Gelvin's Bike Shop on the corner of Port St. and St. Claude!!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

2624 Burgundy St.
New Orleans, LA 70117
504-947-1773
web site: splno.com
e-mail: sptigers@bellsouth.net

Mr. Charles Schiller
Principal

Early School through 8th Grade

Announcements

The New Orleans International Children's Film Festival

The New Orleans Film Society and Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival (LAICFF) present the first New Orleans International Children's Film Festival, August 16 and 17, in the theater loft atop the Savvy Gourmet, 4523 Magazine St. From more information visit www.neworleansfilmfest.com or call (504) 309-6633.

Memorial Reception for Willie Kleppinger

There will be a memorial reception for Willie Kleppinger on August 24, 2008 at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The memorial will be in the ground floor of the church building. The memorial will start after morning services (~11:45 am) and go to 2 p.m. There is a wonderful photo memorial at www.rubystain.org that captures Willie's Life, "a life, well lived."

Orchids & Onions

ORCHIDS

- To Parks & Parkways for keeping our green spaces beautiful.
- To the Historic Districts Landmarks Commission Commissioners and staff for their work in helping us protect our neighborhood.
- To Russel Deroche for keeping our membership list up-to-date and printing all our labels.
- To Jim Crawford for picking up our mail.

ONIONS

- To politicians who betray the public's trust.
- To those that do not pick up after their dogs.
- To those that trash our neighborhood by not putting trash where it belongs.

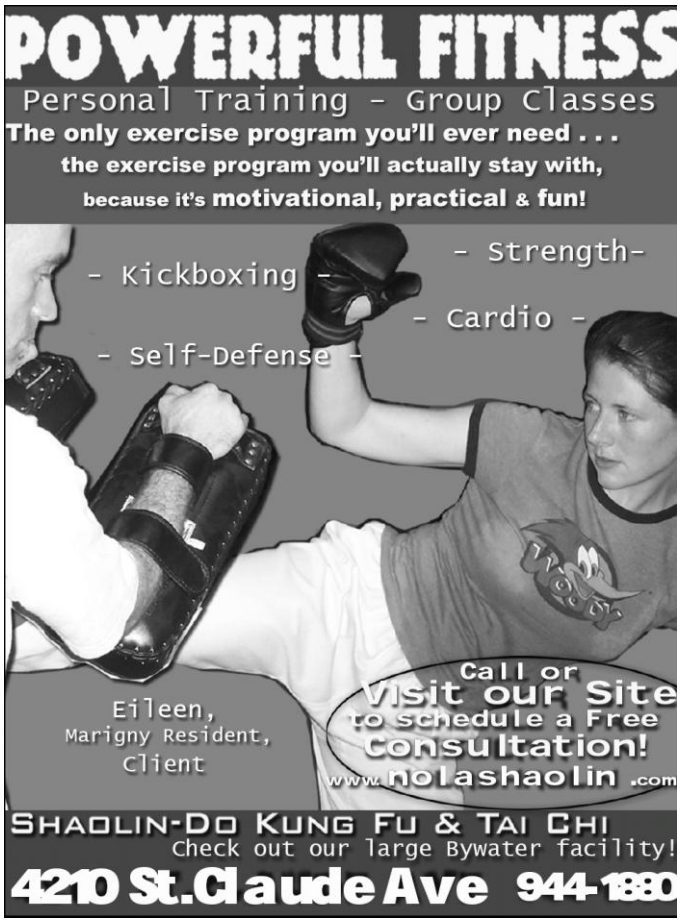
Marigny T-Shirts

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

. . . and Mugs

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

Interested? Email info@faubourgmarigny.org.



FMIA 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 at 7:00 p.m. Location TBA (see FMIA website).

General meetings are the third Monday of each month and begin with a potluck at 6:30 p.m at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street. The meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. (There are no general meetings in July and December.)

See website for pot luck assignments.

Board Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2008

Chris called the meeting to order. Ron, Reg Brian, Stephen, and Deborah attended the meeting.

Approvals by e-mail:
Send letter re: Reinventing the Crescent to membership: YES

OLD BUSINESS:
A. Approval of minutes from 5/2 Board meeting
B. Projects: Reinventing the Crescent
C. Releaf Marigny: No status
D. Meet the Neighbors – MIMI 6:30 June 10
E. Visibility of Marigny Banners: No status
F. Historic Markers : Contacted Nelson Belou
G. Blighted/Vacant Property : Met with Howard and 7-8 houses were taken off the blighted list.
H. Issues.
a. 2106 Chartres: Jericho/Lazziza. The building was Judy's Closet and has been closed for many years. They are on record with the State ATC that they would be operating as a restaurant. A complaint has been filed against Jerricho's for not complying with their given license. They are operating illegally as a bar with amplified music, live bands, karaoke and hookah's. The immediate neighbors are suffering due to the noise, smoke, and inappropriate activities that are occurring on the street. The neighbor who operated a B & B business said it has affected her business. Now, she has no business due to the noise. The noise begins around 10pm and continues to get louder throughout the night and into the morning hours. The owner stated that she cannot have a conversation in house due to the loudness of the music. On May 30, 2008 Officer Jones and the Health Inspector went into the restaurant and advise the proprietor of the rules they were breaking. James Michalopules, the next store neighbor was represented by his CEO, Heidi, who discussed the same issues. Motion: To write a letter to the STATE ATC to have Jerricho's Lazziza permit pulled for failure to live up to the conditions outlined by the State. Second: Ron VOTE: Unanimous

B. 25 Dauphine – Old Harbor Restaurant now called Nighthawks is open and appears to be operating without the proper licenses.
C. 525 Frenchmen: No status
D. 2705-07 Decatur :No status
I. Insurance Policy: Talking to various insurance companies.
J. Office Space: We need office space on St. Claude Ave.
K. Yearly Agenda: In process
L. Riverfront Alliance: No status
M. Grant Writer : Stephen will connect with Debbie to work with her.
N. T-Shirt Idea: No status
O. Marigny Advertising: Steve of the Cake Cafe sent the Magazine St. brochure. This is something to consider.
P. 5th District Police Staffing: A letter will be written.
Q. RDO changes: No status
R. Board Member Responsibilities: Ron and Chris will meet.
S. Grant writing Seminar Report: Stephen Fowlkes attended a 4 1/2 days Grant writing seminar. Stephen worked on a mock grant for Washington Square Park. The seminar gave the structure on how to write a proposal, evaluation, sustainability, and budget. The seminar gave information on money sources. Stephen learned from the seminar 1) It is very important to have a fundraising plan and probably raise 40-50% in cash and in-kind donations. 2) In all cases, they would expect to have a landscaper, architect and that cost would be included into the budget. 3) The Introduction of the grant has to set the stage with the WOW statements 4) FMIA would have an agreement with the Parks and Parkways either through a lease and/or Community Benefit Agreement.
MOTION: Stephen to move forward for the planning part of the grant for Washington Square Park.
Second: Reg Vote Unanimous
T. Enforcement issues: We are representing neighbors and it is important that there is enforcement for businesses that are operating without the proper licenses and permits.
U. Visitor Observer Policy: Stephen drafted a policy for visitor/observer attendance at FMIA meetings. Ron suggested that at all meetings to have as protocol a sign in sheet.

Old Business (in-active)
A. Issues:
a. 2100 Burgundy: Fred Morgan
B. Projects:
a. Mandeville Fire Station: No status
C. Aids Memorial for WSP : NO status
New Business
D. Next Board Meeting?
E. Blue Mail Boxes: Daisy Comeaux, District Communication Coordinator US Postal Service, is the liaison between the customers and the Post Office daisy.c.comeaux@ysos.gov Daisy informed the Board that all blue mail boxes were picked up after the storm. There were no blue mail boxes in 70117 and 70116. Daisy said that they survey the amount of mail picked up from the houses in an area. From that information, the Post Office will determine if there is a need to have a blue mail box. She also said that fifty pieces of mail is needed per day to keep the mail box. Unfortunately, most residents do not put out their mail because of the problems with stolen mail. The blue mail is symbolic of a vital neighborhood The blue mail box in the neighborhood tells that there is a presence in the neighborhood and help people to know that people are there. We thank Ron Petty for his diligence and persistence in this matter and now we have a mail box on Chartres Street near NOCCA and another on Royal at Esplanade. They need to rely on the residents to tell them where they were before. A big Thank you to Daisy and Ron.

F. Food Coop – Pres Kabacoff, Healing Center www.neworleanshealingcenter.org came to talk to the Board specifically about the Food Coop. Pres said: He has wanted to do something major on St. Claude St. He heard about the Food Coop and since both were struggling to get money they could team up. Pres was relying on promised state money and the Coop group needed to raise 1.5 million. They presently have raised about $ 70,000. Recently, Mayor Nagin mentioned that the Food Coop Group could move into the St. Roch Market. The Food Coop Group then told Pres that they

wanted to explore their opportunities. The Food Coop was to be the anchor of the Healing Center. Another local grocer has contacted Pres about the possibility of putting a New York style grocery in the location. Chris: How can the organization help you get the money? A: Seventeen neighborhoods were picked and St. Claude/St. Roch was one of the neighborhoods.
Chris: FMIA would support writing a letter actively pursuing money for the Healing Center/Coop and St. Roch Market as a green market. VOTE: By Acclamation

D. Issues: None

E. Projects: None

F. Go through committee reports

Submitted by Deborah Oppenheim

General Meeting Minutes - June 16, 2008

Chris welcomed everyone to the June Meeting. It is the wrap meeting for the fiscal year. There is no July meeting. FMIA's elects 4 members to the Board and if you are interested please contact Chris Costello or any Board Member by the August meeting. Please note, you can volunteer for any Committee of your interest my contacting the Board.

ANOUNCEMENTS:

1) Home Tour: Reg Medellin, Home Tour Chairperson did an outstanding job. His leadership and creativity made it so enjoyable to be part of the Home Tour. The Committee Chairs and all the volunteers want to share in a big thank you to Reg for all of his hard work. It was an exceptional Home Tour.

1a) We are sorry that Rick Fifield was left out of the thank you list for volunteering for the Home Tour, thank you Rick. We want to thank Parks and Parkways for giving Washington Square Park lots of attention before our Home Tour.

2) Membership Meeting at 7:30 2817 Burgundy

3) Bike Lanes on St. Claude Ave: A thank you to Regional Planning Commission for the bike lanes on St. Claude Ave. As a neighborhood, if we want more bike lanes we need to ask. Input is needed.

4) St. Claude Main St.: Urban Revitalization Elysian Fields to Press St. Colton School will operate as a temporary Arts Work space. They will teach different types of arts. The Fringe Festival, a performing arts festival will take place in Nov. in connection with Prospect 1. The Taco Truck Festival will be involved with the Fringe Festival.

5) 8th Satchmo Club Strut – August 1st. 6:00pm – 2:00 am. See you on Frenchmen Street.

6) Historic Markers: One post was placed in front of the fire station and the other two are on Franklin

Ave/North Rampart spilt thanks to Gary deLeaumont and Nelson Belou Construction Co. We will see the historic markers really soon.

7) Coordinators for Home Tour meeting Wednesday, June 18 6:00pm at Reg's house and bring your notes.

8) Meet the Neighbors will be at DBA on July 8, 2008 at 6:30.

9) T-shirts and mugs are for sale.

SPEAKERS:

1) **Alliance for Affordable Entergy** www.all4energy.org 504-208-9761 John Atkeison and Kim Coates came to meeting to speak about affordable Entergy. His e-mail is john@atkeison.org. Alliance for Affordable Entergy is a 22 year old nonprofit. Alliance for Affordable Entergy promotes clean energy and climate programs. Everyone is invited to the Utility Committee meeting Wed., July 25 1-4 at City Hall and the focus is to set a process for people to become energy smart. This segues into Getting the Marigny Green.

2**) John Marshall Program Manager of NORA (** New Orleans Redevelopment Authority) JTMarshall@cityofno.com 504-658-4400 and Bill Rousell billr@brightmomentsnola.com

- Since the storm NORA has changed and is being as transparent as possible
- Joe Williams, the director has a staff of 20
- Mission: "To be efficient, transparent, and responsive to manage the redevelopment of residential and commercial properties and neighborhoods to create a vibrant 21st Century City that is respectful of our unique culture and heritage."
- John Marshall was available June 20,2008 2-3 to answer questions, call 658-4414 direct line at work.
- NORA - recovery zone projects, sale of blighted and adjudicated properties, road home properities, neighborhood revitalization, and obtain a clear title
- Code Enforcement implement in July 1st date July 1st by ORDA (Office of Recovery)
- Dr. Blakley office

DEFINITIONS

Blighted: a legal judgment issued after a city code enforcement hearing

Abandoned: Unoccupied unsecured and unused

Adjudicated: Declared delinquent for un-paid taxes and health and safety liens. Offered at a tax sale but un-purchased

Road Home: Estimated 5000-7000 properties that are in the midst of being acquired by the State.

La. Land Trust (LLT) entity created by the state to receive Road Home properties, LLT currently has 25000 properties

NORA TODAY

Legal capacity

- trained 12 consulting attorneys to assist with expropriation
- 350 cases in progress

Disposition Programs: Lot Next Door and Small Entrepreneur Training Program

- Lot Next Door: living next door to a property has the first right or refusal. It applies to LLT properties and NORA owned properties. Qualifications: Must have homestead exemption for their own property, current on taxes, immediate to the right or left of the property, and must hold land for at least 5yrs or pay penalty. Parcels will be appraised and the interested party has 60 days to take it or pass. The property would go back to RFT if declined. The new owner has 9 months to bring the property into housing.
- Small Entrepreneur : Properties to go back to the neighborhood; groupings that you might like to look at but want people to bid on lot by lot.
- Green/Fencing Credit: pay $10,000 and give $10,000 for greening and fencing

Resources

- Soft Second Mortgages Money 50 -60 thousand earning less than 40,000 AMI

(Average Medium Income) It is special - you pay down your bank note and the SS is silent and if one continues paying their note ,it might be forgiven.

- Alternative Housing Pilot Program

NORA I-MAP

- Instant geographic information system GIS
- Real-time information on priority properties
- www.noraworks.org/search.htm (click search for priority properties)

Q: A couple of properties in our neighborhood are owned by HANO? A: These are scattered sites and not sure about them but will find out.

Q: How to obtain Fair Market Price? A: By an appraisal

Q: What is to stop the big developers and give them a deal for xx amount? A: Not under our current policy will be sold by a neighborhood base process RFP. They might be a situation that this is appropriate.

Q: Enforcement is an on-going problem. How are you going to enforce? A: Our principal rule is to work the 270 day rule after the conveyance of transference. They are planning for this.

Q: How are you working with the adjudication judges? A: New Code Enforcement was they start the new hearings in July and use the new penalties as a new stick.

Q: We have serial derelict landlords in our neighborhood. What do with this RFP process when deadbeats are bidding? This will be done.

Q: Succession problems? A: This is a difficult situation.

Meeting ended at 8:15pm

Submitted by Deborah Oppenheim

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General Meeting, Monday 8/18
Meet the Neighbors Night, Tuesday 9/9

Please Pay Your Dues

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:
Name _____
_____
Address _____
_____
Phone _____
Email _____
4. Willing to volunteer? ___ Yes ___ No

Make checks payable to *F.M.I.A.* and send to:
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