



Les Amis de Marigny

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2009

Board Meeting • June 3
7:00 PM • Location TBA

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

JULY 2009

Board Meeting • July 1
7:00 PM • Location TBA

NO GENERAL MEETING

AUGUST

Board Meeting • August 5
7:00 PM • Location TBA

General Meeting • August 17
6:30 Potluck • 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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
Maison Dupuy Hotel
1001 Toulouse

ST. CLAUDE AVENUE MAIN STREET MEETINGS

2372 St. Claude Avenue
Call 616.7637

EVERY SATURDAY

UPPER 9th WARD
GREEN MARKET
1 - 4 PM

Frederick Douglass High School
3820 St. Claude

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Chris Costello

The tell tale sign of summer is here: the humidity. We have been lucky to witness a long spring with nice, cool weather. Let's hope summer doesn't stay as long.

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to put on our 37th Annual Home Tour. A special thank you to Reg Medellin for organizing the event and to the home owners who graciously opened their homes. Despite the rainy weather, over 100 people took the tour. These events are intended to build our sense of community and nothing builds community better than laughing and joking under the tents as we were deluded with rain. (more on pg. 2)

St. Claude Main Street completed it first facade painting with flying colors. Thank you to the volunteers to came out to help beautify the street. We hope that this encourages other property owners to spruce up their facades. Another milestone was the completion of the MIT planning project that will provide a framework for the revitalization of the street. We will have a presentation of the plan at our next general meeting. (more on pg. 4)

We have made great strides in getting the word out about the poor planning and location for the proposed expansion of the cold storage plant. We now have the ear of the Governor and our elected representatives. Thank you to all those who answered the call to write them to let them know your opposition. From those emails we have found out where the Port is trying to get the money for this project and will be targeting those officials. Despite the misinformation the Port has been letting out, we support the cold storage industry, jobs and New Orleans Cold Storage, but this facility is too intense for our neighborhood and the health and safety risks unacceptable. If you oppose this please get involved. (more on pg. 6)

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

We are just UNDER \$1,000 from reaching our portion of the matching fund. Thank you to all those that have donated to this fund. Once we raise the rest we will have \$20,000 for projects in our neighbor. A good portion of that will go to Washington Square Park. If you can make a donation please do so. (more on pg. 8)

All our efforts for a new master plan may be jeopardized by Senate Bill 75 which will require another vote of the people before it can be implemented. This is in direct opposition to the will of the people that voted to let the City Council vote on the Master Plan. This bill is intended to derail the master plan as some developers do not like how the citizens are planning the future of their neighborhoods. Please take a moment to email our senators and representatives to let them know you are opposed to this bill. (more on pg. 5)

We are looking for office help to ease the work load of our board and committee heads. Do you have a couple of hours a week to help? The work is from simple filing to phone calls. Contact Eva Campos if you can help.

As we endure the summer months and things slow down we will still be busy with the issues that are affecting our neighborhood. If you have any questions or concerns please let us know. We are only as strong as our membership. It will take all of us sharing our ideas to help make them a reality that will keep the Marigny a great place to live, work and play.



MEET THE NEIGHBORS UPDATE

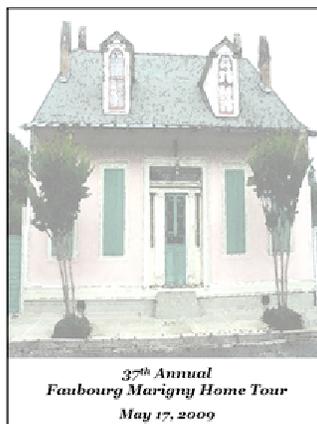
Muchas Gracias Tomatillo's for hosting our May Meet the Neighbors. Great conversation, tasty appetizers and mouth watering margaritas were a plenty. There was a great showing of new faces and many took advantage of invitation to bring their four-legged friends.

As always, it was great to see so many people come out to support our businesses and to get to know their neighbors.

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.

Our next installment will be on June 9th. Check our website for current location and time.

Stop by, support our local businesses and enjoy your neighborhood and neighbors!



37th Annual Home & Garden Tour, Art Market, Music & Kids Area

The rain could not keep people away from enjoying our annual Home tour. Despite the weather, we enjoyed another great event for our neighborhood. We have been lucky over the last 6 years to

have sunny, beautiful weather so overall we have been blessed.

We first would like to thank our homeowners for opening up their homes for this event. Without their generosity this event would not be.

Rick Fifield & Deborah Oppenheim
Alison Wells
Kim & Janet Jovanovich
Gretchen Bomboy
Kevin O'Shaughnessy & Matthew Emerson
Ed & Lolita Cherrie
Mark Stafford & Guy Woolley
Krewe du Vieux Den: Ray Kern & Lee Mullikin

We would also like to thank our volunteers. Without their time and energy this event would not be as wonderful as it is.

Alison Wells	Ava de Montagne
Beverly Cook	Bill Whiting
Bob Moffitt	Bob Stelz
Brian Frye	Carol Gniady
Charles Berg	Chris Costello
Chris Young	Cindy Hansen
Dale Burke	Dan Harris
Dexter Ford	Diane Lease
Ellen Levitov	Gary deLeaumont
Jason Patterson	Joan Guiccione
Johanna Labadie	John Bradley
John Deveney	Judith Lasko
Kay King	Leigh Crawford
Linda Belou	Lisa Suarez
Liz Tahir	Mark Malouse
Maureen Steffek	Pat Stelz
Rachel Smith	Ron Petty
Ron Segal	Roy Malone
Russ Carl	Sam Armstrong
Sheila Julien	Stacie Shime
Stacy Shimek	Tom Steffek

Our next event is our Fall Walking Tour on October 4. If you can help please contact Eva Campos.

We Need A Fundraiser - We Need Help

Like any effort, our fight against the proposed location of the Cold Storage plant, takes time and money. We need three things.

1. We are looking for people to help us fact check, stuff envelopes, make calls etc.
2. We are soliciting donations to help pay for all the signs, flyers, banners etc. All donations are 100% tax deductible. You can make donations online at our website NoColdNOLA.org or send them in to PO Box, 770080 New Orleans, LA 70177. If you wish to receive a donation letter please make sure to send us your address.
3. We need help in organizing a fundraiser to help pay for the cost of this effort.

If you can help with any or all of these please email us at evac@faubourgmarigny.org.



Orchids & ONIONS

Orchids



Thanks to NOCS Committee - Eva, Chris, Deborah, Frank, Barbara, Rick, David.



Thanks to donors who helped fray the cost of NO Cold Storage.



Thanks to the Washington Square Park clean-up krewe.



Thanks to The Board for all their hard work, special meetings, and endless hours of volunteering.

ONIONS

To Dog owners who don't pick up their dog's poop.



To drivers who drive the wrong way.



To owners of buildings who do not remove graffiti.



NO MORE BLIGHT — Join Us in Our Fight

On May 11th, members of the blight committee took a stroll with representatives from Code enforcement and NORA which was organized by Councilman Carter's office. It was a very productive day out in the neighborhood. We started in the triangle and then made our way in the heat over along St Claude and then into the rectangle. We were able to show them our worst cases of blight.



After the excursion we met to discuss how we can better work together. One recommendation they agreed upon was having all hearings for our neighborhood on the same day. This will make it easier for people to come to a hearing to testify.

One result of this meeting will be that many of these blighted properties will be put on the fast track for hearings which will result in fines against the property. Our goal is to get these property owners to repair their property but if they choose not to, the City will be able to legally seize them and sell them to someone who will. We do have assistance for home owners if they qualify to repair their property.

As part of our plan to combat blight, we have been helping the City cite owners of bligh-ted properties. 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 time of these adjudication hearings as 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.

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 blight@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.

Status from Adjudication Hearings:

Deferred to August newsletter

Status of Demolition By Neglect from 5/22/09 Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC) Meeting
None

ST. CLAUDE AVENUE
MAIN STREET
 Robyn Blanpied, Manager



Yours Truly in a Swamp
*Texas to New Orleans on
 the Big Choo-Choo*



by
 Leonard Earl Johnson

Texas bluebonnets danced at our feet at the Lillian Farms Bed & Breakfast, in the Brazos River country of Texas. We were just down the road from where Texas was founded. Where Sam Houston and Stephen Fuller Austin sat with other Fathers of the Lone Star State -- without a woman's quill in the ink pot -- signing the Secession documents that thumbed the new nation's nose at Mother Mexico.

Now handsome ladies greet the morn from a landscape of cultivated wild flowers and tamed longhorns. Yes, privileged American traveler, there really is a Lillian Farms. And, yes, Louisiana, there really is a Texas!

Moist air licked at our ankles when we stepped off Amtrak, back in The Land of Dreamy Dreams. Back in Spring morphing into Summer. Back in New Orleans in time for the new hurricane season.

Sweet olive and Confederate jasmine perfumed the air around the train station. And magnolia trees hurriedly gave up their Summer fragrance. Allen Toussaint's "Southern Nights" played on someone's portable radio, and Southern dowagers danced in our head.

"Heady as the Royal Street Pharmacy's perfume counter on a Friday evening," Norma said to the young man from Los Angeles she had cajoled into carrying our bags.

We met coming out of Houston, at sunrise, in the restaurant-car of the Sunset Limited streaming towards New Orleans. We were seated together at a table with a little bouquet of red carnations placed before the car's picture window -- a proscenium for the morning oil fields.

Our handsome table mate said he was on his way to his girlfriend's commencement at Tulane University. They had both been freshmen, in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina hit.

"Ellen DeGeneres is to be the speaker," he told us. DeGeneres is a huge television star and a New Orleans native.

After The Storm he had transferred to the University of California, at Los Angeles. His girlfriend stayed at Tulane, where she is now a part of the historic Hurricane-Katrina graduation class of 2009.

"My God, has it been four years already?" Norma said, as she tipped her coffee cup: "To you, and all the children Bush's FEMA forgot."

At New Orleans Union Station the four years boarded-up entrance way to The City sported gleaming new plate glass doors, with electric eyes. And taxi drivers jumped out from behind the wheel to open their car doors.

St. Claude Main Street Happenings

It has been a busy month for Main Street. Here are the highlights:

- Colton School will be undergoing renovations and the most of the artists will be leaving at the end of July but many will be able to continue to use the space a bit longer. St Claude Avenue Main Street wants to thank all of the artists for the commitment they made to this project, and being a welcome asset to St Claude Avenue. The artists are looking for other kinds of space alternatives, and have several on the table, including forming a co-op which we hope will be in our neighborhood.
- The MIT Urban Planning students returned to present their final plan with suggestions for St. Claude Main Street. We had two presentations that were well attended and there was much input and suggestions during the discussion portion of the event. They presented a plan which has many exciting possibilities for the corridor and surrounding neighborhoods. St Claude Avenue Main Street will spend the upcoming weeks capitalizing on the interest to promote participation and representation on the Board and on the Business Advisory Committee.
- The Green Project, in conjunction with Parkway Partnerships, planted a number of Azalea bushes and Oleander & Hawthorne trees on the St. Claude Avenue neutral ground between Press & St. Ferdinand Streets. The plants were paid for out of staff tip money and private contributions and the results are quite impressive
- Main St. hosted "Paint It Up St. Claude" on Saturday May 16. In the first of what we hope will be many projects, volunteers helped Mr. T's Appliances, A-1 Catering and the vacant building in between them paint and improve their facades.
- During our MIT student presentation of their study of St. Claude Avenue, Pres Kabakoff, owner of New Orleans Healing Center at 2372 St Claude Ave discussed what could be the most important idea to create the impetus needed on St Claude - the proposed street-car line. We are in the planning stage of creating a group to represent all neighborhoods in the St Claude corridor. A planning meeting is being scheduled for June 10th followed by a presentation to Senator Mary Landrieu on June 13th. Contact St Claude Avenue Main Street office for more info. 504.616.763



Homeless Services

"Yes mam, you may smoke," our driver told Norma. "That is, if you open the window and don't tell the governor."

In Texas, we saw the skyscraper home of AIG, the con insurance operation, looming over Houston and America's economy. The American flag flew above it at half mast.

We also found the new home of Kaboom Books, formerly located across Barracks Street from Cabrini Park, "the dog park," in the French Quarter.

Following Katrina, Kaboom owner, John Dillman, relocated to two locations in Houston, 3116 Houston Avenue, and 733 Studewood.

Dillman, a man noted for great knowledge of books and little patience for fools, made the move, "With optimism and regret, and with no plans of going back."

After Katrina, Dillman bought our library at Squalor Heights. It was not a large library but it was ours, and it was mostly undamaged by The Storm. (It was sold for reasons survivors everywhere will understand.) Included in our collection was the heady title, MOSES AND MONOTHEISM, by Sigmund Freud. We first read it in college, when doing time for the Illinois Board of Higher Education. It told us of three iconic philosophers coming out of the East and forming the collective monotheistic God-stories loved by Jews, Christians and Muslims. We had bought this edition from Dillman many years before The Storm.

Following September Eleventh, a discussion about religion with L. A. Norma sent us looking for this book to clarify some salient point only vaguely remembered. We did not know the title, or the author, we told Dillman. "It was about one-God and by, or about, Freud."

With no more description than that, Dillman, said: "I have two copies. One is five dollars and one is three."

We bought the five-dollar specimen. The other one had a torn page. When we found it again, in the new Kaboom of Houston, we bought it back. We were carrying it with us back to New Orleans, for no particular reason. Norma gave it to the young man from Los Angeles as a graduation gift.

Later at Squalor Heights, we watched Ellen DeGeneres on television speaking to Tulane's Katrina Class. Sitting by her side was the jovial University President, Scott Cowen. Everyone laughed when she told them the job market is huge and, "Now you know the right question to ask in that first job interview, like: 'Is it above Sea level?'"

God bless us all, and be a New Orleanian wherever you go.

More Yours Truly in a Swamp at
www.LEJ.org

From time to time we find our neighborhood the stopping point for homeless within or traveling through our City. There are seven groups that feed the homeless on a daily basis at the foot of Elysian Fields. With all the best intentions, these groups help feed them but then they are left to find shelter. This at times can be a problem when the homeless choose to sleep on someone's door step, side ally or in many cases break into vacant homes.

There are many organizations that help homeless. The City also has a Homeless Assistance Unit that can help. If you notice someone who may be in need of help please call B.B. St. Roman @ 259-9336.



OUR NEW MASTER PLAN AND ZONING ORDINANCE — UPDATE...

Members of our Master Plan committee met with the planner for our district to discuss the proposed land uses in our area. It was a great exchange of ideas and a history lesson for our planners of all the work we have done to make our neighborhood viable thru land use and zoning.

Although we impressed the need to retain our own zoning, they are looking at ways to have a common zoning for all historic districts with an underlying sub zoning for each district. We look forward to working with them to further improve our zoning.

The second draft will be coming out over the summer and if you have not had an opportunity to see the draft you can do so online at www.nolamasterplan.org or view a hard copy at the Alvar Library or the Main Library.

The first draft of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance will be out in June. There will be a meeting to go over what has been proposed in the draft. This is the real meat of the master plan so we will need to be very diligent.

We will keep you posted on the next meetings. If you are interested please make every effort to attend. If not but you have specific comments you would like us to bring to the meeting please let us know.

Eddie A. Olavarrieta., Jr, LMT

LA# 3653-01

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Edward_Olavarrieta@yahoo.com

STOP COLD STORAGE AT ESPLANADE AND GOV. NICHOLLS WHARVES

HOMES. HEALTH. HISTORY. NOT TRUCKS & TOXINS

WHERE'S THE MONEY?

The Port still needs to get the rest of the money for the expansion of the cold storage facility from the legislature. Our email campaign to the Senate Finance Committee has helped shake loose where they are trying to get the money: the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and Louisiana Recovery Authority.

We need to let the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and Louisiana Recovery Authority know that we are opposed to this location. Please email or call to let them your opinion. And get your neighbors and friends to do the same.

We all agree that this is an important economy to keep but need to ask them to restrict the money to locations that are 0.9 miles from a residential center for the safety of all residents.

Stephen Moret, Secretary of Economic Development,
allisongilmore@la.gov, 225.342.5388

Paul Rainwater, Louisiana Recovery Authority,
info@louisianarecoveryauthority.org, 225.342.1700

Senator Mary Landrieu,
senator@landrieu.senate.gov, 202.224.5824

Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association (VCPORA) Board OPPOSES COLD STORAGE

VCPORA held a membership meeting on May 27, 2009. On the agenda was the Cold Storage Plant. In a show of hands, approximately 90% of the members present favored VCPORA taking a stand against the plant at this location. The VCPORA Board voted to adopt a position of opposing the construction of a Cold Storage Plant at the Governor Nicholls Street Wharf.

We salute the Board for its work in protecting the French Quarter and its efforts to listen to and honor the wishes of its membership. We look forward to working with them to oppose this location and protect our historic districts.

SMOKE IN THE STREETS The Piety Street Wharf Fire & Cold Storage

As many of you witnessed, the 2 alarm fire at the Piety Street Wharf in Bywater which began at 5:45 am was a sobering reminder of how vulnerable residents are to accidents on the

— cont'd. in col. 2

waterfront. Luckily, the fire was contained and did not threaten any homes although the stench of the burning creosote caused many to report a burning feeling in their lungs.

This has, however, demonstrated how a plume of smoke, combined with the breeze off the river, traveled through our neighborhood and lingered. Imagine if an accident happened at the proposed cold storage plant at the Esplanade/Governor Nicholls Wharfs. Instead of just a plume of smoke, it would be infused with toxic ammonia.

We must be vigilant and strong and not compromise our health and safety by allowing the proposed cold storage plant to be located in an area that has been historically prone to accidents. This is why industrial plants are not located in dense residential areas. If people tell you that this expansion is safe, remind them of this.

Our Grass Roots Effort IS Working

"We are getting noticed" are the words we are hearing from members of the legislature all the way up to the Governor's office. THANK YOU for taking the time to express your opinion on this issue.

If you have not already done so please register your opposition with them. See our website for contact information.

If they do not answer, leave a message. Tell them you are opposed to the EXPANSION OF THE COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN THE FRENCH QUARTER.

— SHOW YOUR OPPOSITION —

It is hard to miss the all the yard signs and banners that have been put up to show support for our efforts to move this facility to a more appropriate location. Can you put up a yard sign or banner to show your support? You can pick one at these following locations:

Marigny - United Hardware, 735 Elysian Fields
French Quarter - David's Found Objects, 1319 Decatur
Bywater - Jesse's , 3317 Dauphine. 343.1617

Or contact Eva at evac@faubourgmarigny.org

Poison Port T-shirts Are IN!

Our shirts in. They are lime green and \$10 each. If you signed up for some we will be calling you to drop them off. If you want one but have not signed up let us know how many you want.



French Quarter Marigny Historic Area Management District (FQMAHMD)

The proposed legislation (Engrossed SB 256) for the taxing district amends the French Quarter-Marigny Historic Area Management District's 2007 enabling legislation to allow the registered voters of the District to decide whether to authorize

the District to levy and have collected:

- a flat parcel fee of \$185.00 a year (approximately 50 cents a day) on each residential property in the District having 4 or fewer residential units ("Tier One Parcel"),
- a flat parcel fee of \$395.00 a year (approximately \$1 a day) on each property in the District which had a 2009 ad valorem tax bill of less than \$50,000.00 and is used for commercial, service, non-residential, or residential/commercial mixed use purposes, or as a residential property with 5 or more units ("Tier Two Parcel"), and
- a 2 1/2 mills ad valorem tax on each property in the District which had a 2009 ad valorem tax bill of \$50,000.00 or more and is used for commercial, service, non-residential, or residential/commercial mixed use purposes, or as a residential property with 5 or more units ("Tier Three Parcel").

Each time-share unit (not use period) will be an individual Tier One Parcel (\$185.00). Each condominium unit will be an individual parcel, and classified by its use (or use/2009 ad valorem tax assessment). However for parking condominiums, properties where the individual parking spaces have been sold as individual condominium units, the entire condominium property will be deemed to be a single parcel (either a Tier Two Parcel or a Tier Three Parcel); the owners of the individual parking spaces will not be assessed individually.

Use of the funds collected from the parcel fee and ad valorem tax shall be limited to a) public safety, security and crime prevention measures, b) hiring an executive director, and c) the reasonable operating and administrative expenses of the District. The fees and taxes collected may not be used to fund any other project, activity or service of the District. The public safety services provided by the District will be supplemental to, and not in lieu of, personnel, police and other services provided in the District by the City of New Orleans and its agencies and departments.

The parcel fee and ad valorem tax may only be assessed and collected if a majority of the registered voters of the District voting on the measure approve the measure. The parcel fee/tax shall expire in 2014 unless renewed by both 1) legislation and 2) a majority affirmative vote of the registered voters of the District.

Tax exempt properties are exempt from the District's parcel fee and ad valorem tax. The property of a person who qualifies under the Louisiana Special Assessment Level is exempt from the parcel fee/tax.

The geographic area subject to the parcel fee/tax will be all of the French Quarter to the centerline of Canal Street, both sides of N. Rampart from Canal Street to Esplanade Avenue and the commercial section of the Marigny Triangle.

Per the request of the Marigny's representative, the District shall endeavor to deploy the resources collected from the area below the center line of Esplanade Avenue, and from the area above the centerline of Esplanade Avenue, in a manner that is generally proportionate with the tax/parcel fee collections received from these two areas of the District.

The bill will have to go through committee and if it passes there will go to the full legislature for a vote. Please note that the residents in the district still need to vote for the taxing district.

If you have any questions please let us know.

MARIGNY GREEN

By Deborah Oppenheim

Marigny ReLight: The Compact Fluorescent Lights(CFLs) bug lights have arrived. We are taking request from FMIA members (one free bug light per member) till July 31, 2009. The bug light CFLs will only work with a covered fixture or on a porch. Photo Cell activated porch light cannot be converted to CFLs at this time. Marigny Relight is planning to sell the bug light CFLs as a fundraiser. Purchasing additional CFLs bug lights for you and your neighbors is a great way to help our neighborhood become energy efficient. The price is right, only \$2.50/CFL. Contact Deborah at deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org to reserve your free CFLs bug light and to reserve additional CFLs bug lights.



Marigny ReCycle: Rick Fifield recycles batteries and CFLs for you. Just bring them to FMIA's General Meeting.

Marigny Green is comprised of seven initiatives which include ReLeaf (tree planting), RePlant (plants and gardens), ReCycle (batteries and CFL's), ReLight (energy-efficient lighting), and Transportation (promoting safe bicycling), Enforcement, and Research and Information. Each initiative is accomplishing its goals through community outreach and networking with other existing environmental groups throughout New Orleans. We have already provided help to other neighborhood groups who are interested in being green. If you are interested in helping get the Marigny Green, please contact deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org.



The Green Project and Parkway Partners



The Green Project and Parkway Partners have made the neighborhood a little bit greener! The Green Project staff and volunteers have planted an entire block of the St. Claude neutral ground with soon-to-be-blooming azaleas, oleanders, hawthorne trees and more, from St. Ferdinand Street to Press Street. Parkway Partners provided the sign and future plans may involve a park bench. There are many more blocks of neutral ground that could use some beautification, so if anyone would like to take on a block of their own to plant and water, contact Parkway Partners or stop by The Green Project and speak to Jamie. The Green Project, located at 2831 Marais Street, is open everyday from 9am - 5pm.



by John Calhoun

The New Orleans Food Co-op continues to move forward with its plan to open a cooperative grocery store in the New Orleans Healing Center at 2732 St. Claude Ave. We currently have 505 member and are in the middle of our Member Loan Campaign. To date we have received approximately \$30,000 in loan commitments. We have been lobbying the state legislature for capital outlay to fund the build-out of our grocery store in the healing Center. We have a good chance of securing this funding and should know more by the end of the month.

Mary Landrieu has requested \$2 Million of Federal funding for the renovations to the Healing Center. The Healing Center is hosting an open house and free brunch to welcome Mary Landrieu on Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The New Orleans Food Co-op is encouraging its members to attend and show Senator Landrieu that there is strong community support for this project. This will also be an opportunity for the co-op to sign-up new members and for the community to learn more about our plans to open a grocery store and also an opportunity to find out more about the other businesses and organizations planned for the Healing Center.

If you are interested in joining the New Orleans Food Co-op or want to help with our lobbying efforts or are already a member and would like to make a loan, please visit our website at www.nolafoodcoop.org



by Greta Gladney

GOING HOME TO FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Our first Saturday market at Frederick Douglass High School in the Pauline Street courtyard behind the school was on 5/23/2009. The school is located at 3820 St. Claude Avenue three blocks down from our former Holy Angels location.

Renaissance Project's mission is to improve quality of life in New Orleans' neighborhoods through programs and advocacy in food access, economic development, education, and arts and cultural events. Over the last few months, we have considered how the Market aligns with our vision of a good quality of life in the 9th ward.

Before the storm, we held financial literacy programs and worked to establish theater management and culinary arts programs at Douglass. Our assistant market manager, Chris Burton, graduated as salutatorian from Douglass in 2005 and is glad to return to help his alma mater. Now we have the opportunity to continue that work.

We'll set up the market in a shady courtyard outside the auditorium to combat the summer heat. In the fall we can use their parking lot in the sunshine. The school accommodates our market office.

We'll work closely with the school nurse and host family meals and nutrition education in the cafeteria. This summer we will work with ten Douglass interns to plan our fall Regrowing Communities Gardening Convening, Douglass Memorial Ethnobotanical Garden in the Lower Ninth Ward, and the Douglass garden and greenhouse. For two and a half years, Holy Angels and the Marianites have been gracious hosts to our many programs.

There was literally, 'no other place to work or gather in the Ninth Ward immediately after the storm. Now it's time for Renaissance Project to pack up and return home to Frederick Douglass High School.

These are exciting times!

VENDOR HIGHLIGHTS

Mauthe Dairy: Creamline milk, Creole cream cheese, mozzarella and feta.

Kansas Family Farm: Broccoli, Green, Onions, Cauliflower, Cabbage from Plaquemines Parish.

Helen Krieger: Fresh herbs, rosemary, mint, dill, lavender, and Kombucha.

LaLouisiane: Whole wheat bran, 7-grain, sugar-free sliced bread, and olive bread

April Montgomery: Tupperware Sale, 40% off containers and gadgets, king cake candles.

Timmy Perriloux: Greens, turnips, mustards, kale.



WE ARE ALMOST THERE!

Only \$800 dollars more to go! Thank you to the generous donations over the last month.

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The money we raise will be used in part to renovate our park. New benches, working drinking fountains, a working gate at Dauphine and Frenchmen are on the list. In addition to raising money from the membership we are soliciting money from grant giving sources.

Help us make it a reality. Any and all donations are appreciated and TAX DEDUCTIBLE. To recognize different levels of donations we have come up with the following levels:

- | | |
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| \$500 - \$999 | Friends of Mandeville |
| \$250 - \$499 | Friends of Elysian Fields |
| \$100 - \$249 | Friends of Frenchmen |
| \$10 - \$99 | Friends of the Marigny |

Donations should be made payable to FMIA with the words matching fund on the memo line and sent to PO BOX 770080, New Orleans LA 70177. Thanks!

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FMIA BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 6, 2009

MEETINGS

FMIA General and Board Meetings are open to the public. Committees and committee meetings are also open to anyone who is interested.

BOARD MEETINGS are the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Location TBA (see 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.

Size	3 - 10 Times/yr.	1 - 2 Times/yr.
Full Page	\$90	\$110
Half Page	\$45	\$55
Quarter Page	\$30	\$40
Back Quarter Page	\$45	\$55
Business Card	\$18	\$25

If we can be of any assistance with your ad, please send a request for info to the website at www.faubourgmarigny.org. We will handle your request as quickly as possible.

OPENING

1. Approvals by email - None
2. Approval of minutes from 4/1 Board and 4/18 General Meeting

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Reinventing the Crescent:** ARC recommendation was to Reinventing the Crescent that their plans need to have access every two blocks. The money needs to be spent on this.
2. **Visibility of Marigny Banners:** Caitlin Owens created a working draft. Each image would have the word "live" and incorporate a different bright color and each banner would be a different background color.
 Suggestions:
 - Faubourg Marigny bigger and bolder – different color
 - Template logo the same font
 - Each banner would have one word such as "live" with an image
 - Suggested using green for live yellow work red for play
 - Suggested images of houses that would include: Creole cottage, Victorian shotgun, townhouse or craftsman house
 - Historic Faubourg Marigny since 1805 with one word "live" and a photograph then www... and the next one would say "work", and the next "play".



- Investigating the cost
 - Reg, Gene and Chris will take pictures to research the appropriate pixel needed
3. **Riverfront Alliance** - Deferred
 4. **AIDS Memorial:** A check of \$ 2249 for perpetual maintenance of the AIDS Memorial in Washington Square Park for the Andy Kruzich Memorial AIDS Fund. The Board discussed what to do 1) we will give it back or 2) create a separate account that has interest. MOTION: Gene moved to create an interest bearing account to hold money for maintenance for the Aids Memorial. Gene also moved that we find out how much is in this endowment and what portion represents the Andy Kruzich fund, and does this include the sale of benches and memorial bricks Second: Chris Discussion: Ron will write a letter
 5. **Historic Markers:** Gene is working on the historical markers wording. He suggested a walking tour could be created around the 3 historical markers if each marker was appropriate to the area placed.
 6. **Board Member responsibilities:** Ron said he would Chair the Committee. He will correspond by e-mail to the Board. The Board will respect the deadline given by the Chairperson.
 7. **Office Space/Mandeville Fire House:** FMIA is looking for an office space preferable on St. Claude Ave. We have been told that the Mandeville Fire House is up for auction. There has been talk about a community center. Gretchen will follow up. FMIA is purchasing lateral files to begin the arduous task of organizing and cataloging all paperwork.
 8. **Art in Washington Square Park Guidelines:** The street car is a temporary installation in Washington Square Park. It was a YLC fundraiser. Deveney owns the street car and they would like to keep it there. Motion: Ron - I move to extend it for another 6 months until a more suitable location be established. Second Gretchen Vote: 7 yes, one abstention. Discussion: Art in Washington Square Park is temporary. FMIA has established guidelines for art in Washington Square Park. Chris has received the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) for Park and Parkways.
 9. **VCC Special Meeting re Cold Storage** at Esplanade and Gov. Nicholas Wharfs.
 - Well attended excellent meeting
 - Majority in opposition of this location
 - We have a lot of support
 - We need to refocus
 - No public officials attended
 - Pictures are helpful
 - Meeting at 11 am on Friday, May 8th at Deveney for strategy planning
 10. **Text Amendment to Frenchmen Overlay** – 2106 Chartres St.: CPC and City Council denied their request to be included in the Frenchmen Street Overlay. Chris had to talk to Lazzia because neighbors are complaining about the illegal live music. He

asked them to follow the law.

11. **Complaint 2120 N Rampart:** A neighbor has made a complaint about noise, trash, and the trailer parked on the street. They have been parking the trailer at times on Frenchmen St. The zoning, HMC2 does not allowed manufacturing. This is an illegal use. A letter will be written to the owner of the building.
12. **Complaint 911 St. Ferdinand St.:** A neighbor has made a complaint about the business. The property is being used for making shutters. Chris will investigate the zoning and talk to the business.
13. **Smitty's:** The new Smitty's is on Dauphine and Franklin which was the Nighthawk. All the neighbors are complaining about the noise, parking, trash, and opened door. Chris told "Frank" about the complaints. They are currently using the Nighthawks licenses and have applied for their licenses. Chris sent him all the information he needs to do to work with the neighbors.
14. **Master Plan:** Chris is trying to set a meeting with Goody Clancy. Chris will reiterate that we have our zoning. Issues: 1) Triangle zoned differently than the rectangle; 2) We need to keep the commercial zoning on St. Claude, North Rampart, to McShane and Elysian Fields; 3) The RDO works with the neighborhood. Existing businesses would be grandfathered in; 4) Liquor license should go with the operator not the building.

Faubourg Marigny is a great example how a decayed neighborhood 25 years ago was brought back through preservation and concerted effort of many of our FMIA members. We are all different neighborhoods and the zoning should be specific for each neighborhood. Every historic district should have its own zoning. There will be lots of meetings and good attendance is needed.
15. **Yearly Events:** Ron has volunteered to Chair this Committee, thank you Ron.
16. **1137 Esplanade:** We went to meeting at HRI offices and we were the only group to show up. All groups were invited. We gave our suggestions for the facade. FMIA attended the next public meeting. This project still has to go to HDLC and City Planning.
17. **PRC Sellabration May 30** 8am – 1pm: Gretchen has designed the board for the PRC. She has a job and is unable to attend. Volunteers are needed.
18. **609 St. Ferdinand** – Jeff Becker: Zoning Change-deferred.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Board:** Ron is chairing the search committee for Board Members.
2. **Elysian Fields, Royal and Frenchmen Sts:** There are no street lights. It is extremely dark and dangerous. Eva will contact Mary Cunningham, of Councilperson Carter's office.
3. **2427 Burgundy,** Daniel Berman: It is a mixed use



facility. They need to sprinkle the entire building. They want to renovate the residential first and then the commercial part. The commercial area would be gallery and work spaces. The question, does it fit under the RDO? Zoning said they need a waiver from BZA. They need to follow the process.

4. **Main Street:** Main Street program is looking for Board Members because they are expanding the Board. They are having a facade paint party on May 16th at 9:30 am and volunteers are needed. They are adopting the suggestions from the MIT plan.
5. **HDLC agenda:** 2511 Decatur St. A proposal for restoration and construction of a camelback addition.
6. A request for a **memorial tree** for Washington Square Park: The Board agreed that the donor could replace a missing tree. A plaque to honor the deceased is acceptable.
7. **Missing Plaques in Washington Square Park:** Gene, the Chairperson will research the missing plaques.
8. Debbie McClain said: A **vet** wants to **spade/ neuter feral cats for free in the Marigny**. The charge to spade/neuter pets of Marigny owners would be discounted. They will set up a small surgery office. They are looking for 1-2 rooms. This will be sent on to the e-mail list.
9. **French Quarter/Marigny Taxing District:** The Taxing District will focus on safety and security for the French Quarter and Frenchmen Street. Chris was adamant that it had to include all of the Marigny Triangle. Crime is a problem. Safety and security are important to our quality of life.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Brian has been working on the new software to create the financial records which will include all pertinent information.
2. **Marigny Green:** Deborah is working on obtaining CFL for the FMIA residents.
3. **Blight:** There is a big problem at adjudication hearing. The Hearing Judges are volunteers and they get overwhelmed. They have a meeting on Monday to do a sweep of the neighborhood. Howard needs to get an updated list. We need to do a better job and resend letters to the tax mailing addresses regarding blighted houses. Gretchen has offered to attend meetings when she is available. PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP record the blight in the neighborhood. It is always changing.
4. **Zoning:** No status
5. **Enforcement** - deferred
6. **Crime** - deferred
7. **Grants:** Chris talked to Mimi Loftus, a grant writer.
8. **Home Tour:** The poster is out and music is scheduled from 11 – 4pm.

FINISH

1. **Orchids:** NOCS Committee - Eva, Chris, Deborah, Frank, Barbara, Rick, David; donors who helped pay the cost of no Cold Storage; the Washington Square Park clean-up krewe; The Board for all their hard work, special meetings, and endless hours of volunteering.
2. **Onions:** Dog owners who don't pick up their dog's poop; drivers who drive the wrong way; owners of buildings who do not remove graffiti
3. **Next Board Meeting** – June 3 Ron/Reg
4. **Next General Meeting** : May 18th COLD STORAGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Meet the Neighbors:** Next Tuesday, May 12th 6:30 – 8:30 at Tomatillo's.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES (if there is time):

1. Marigny Advertising/Brochure
2. T-shirt ideas
3. Crime Collaborative
4. 5th District Staffing
5. Policy for emails that deal with Crime Alerts and Forwarding Information
6. Conflict of Interest committee
7. Email response regarding Crime Alert

The meeting ended at 10:45pm

FMIA SPECIAL MEETING

May 21, 2009

Chris Costello opened the meeting at 8:55pm.

Attendance: Gene Cizek, Eva Campos, Brian Frye, Deborah Oppenheim and Chris Costello.

1. **2429-31 Dauphine**, owner Peter Reynaud : Scheduled for HDLC May 22, 2009.

Peter Reynaud said:

- Purchased a small double and previous owner(s) renovated an attic bedroom and bathroom without ventilation and natural light. He wants to build a shed dormer for height, light and ventilation.
- The other side of the double is a small apartment. They made a small bathroom and bedroom with ventilation and natural light. He wants to add a window which would be adjacent to another property's window. HDLC suggested reducing the size of the window.
- He also said that when they made the bedroom and bathroom on the 2429 side, the portion of the chimney was removed. He felt it was dangerous to the building and neighbors. He had a structural engineer look at the chimney and they concurred. HDLC sent an inspector and felt that the chimney could be braced.
- Gretchen moved to defer until more plans are



received which would include a second floor plan and a complex section. Chris second. Discussion: Peter invited everyone to see the building. FMIA asked Peter to not go to HDLC until plans are viewed. VOTE: Unanimous. Peter was called and he agreed to the Board's decision.

2. **HDLC: 2505 Dectaur St:** Proposed for restoration and camelback. Chris moves that we accept the ARC recommendations. Second: Gene. Vote Unanimous
3. **1137 Esplanade:** Chris moves that we accept the ARC recommendations. Second: Gene VOTE: Unanimous
4. **May 30 Celebration with PRC** at 701 Magazine 8AM – 1PM We need volunteers for this event. We discussed asking Gary, Bobby, Bill Whiting, Dan and Diane, and Russ. Brian is checking his schedule and Reg previously volunteered.
5. **Eva's work:** There would be no set hours and she would assist Chris. Previously it was agreed to \$10 per hr. This is not a permanent position. Chris moves that no more than \$1000 for office assistant and will renegotiate after 100 hours. Second: Deborah. Discussion: A contract would be needed. Eva said that she will keep track of her work and hours and asked to be paid weekly. She would receive a 1099. Vote: 5 yes and one abstention
6. **Alcohol Legislation: Senate Bill 136** (State Law) Senator Jackson from Shreveport wants to allow restaurants after food is served to become a bar with music. ABO Murphy Painter has been enforcing the law that restaurants are restaurants and bars are bars. Deborah moves that we opposed SB 136. Second: Gene VOTE: Unanimous

LAGNIAPPE: FMIA has been nominated as one of the great American Neighborhoods. There is a lot of paperwork which Chris and Gene are tackling. If we are chosen, it is a Big Honor and a Big Event.

Meeting ended at 10:20pm

FMIA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 29, 2009

Chris Costello opened the meeting at 7:20pm. He welcomed everyone to the General Meeting.

1. **37th Annual Home and Garden Tour:** Chris said, "It takes a lot of man hours and manpower. We all had a great time despite the weather. Thanks to all the Coordinators especially Reg Medellin our Home Tour Chairperson. We give thanks to the Coordinators: Deborah Oppenheim, Eva Campos, Gretchen Bomboy, Rick Fifield, Angela and Russ Carl, Ron Petty, Jim and Nancy O'Neil, Judith Lasko, and Brian Frye for all your hard work. We also give a heartfelt

thanks to the home owners for opening their homes. FMIA wants to thank all the volunteers who helped with our Home Tour fundraiser. Jim O'Neil was put to task and the day of the event he was repairing some of the benches.

Reg reiterated his appreciation to everyone who helped and it is a collaborative effort of time and effort; thanks for the participation.

It is an endless task of putting together the Home Tour. Reg Medellin for the past 6 years has volunteered to Chair the Home Tour. It is an overwhelming amount of coordination and involvement. FMIA wants to say, THANK YOU.

Nancy complimented Eva on the brochure. Nancy thought it was awesome and really interesting. She also said that Rick's descriptions were really wonderful. Deborah complimented Reg on the poster.

2. **Matching Fund:** Julian Doerr has agreed to a matching fund for renovations of Washington Square Park. We are really close to the price. We need benches, finials, a gate, and other ideas. Please think what is needed in Washington Square Park and e-mail FMIA with your ideas. Bobby Moffitt will be the overseer for the renovations.

3. **Dues:** Please contact Gary if you have received a letter that you have not renewed your membership.

- 4 **Walking Tour:** Lloyd and Gene are working on the Walking Tour for the rectangle scheduled for October. Interested, please take the time and volunteer and contact evac@faubourgmarigny.org

5. FMIA welcomed Pasteur Kieschnick who was visiting St. Paul Lutheran.

6. **T-shirts and Mugs:** Need a new FMIA T-shirt and FMIA mug? Please see Gary.

7. **Banners:** FMIA will install banners on the light post on Elysian Fields. Two designers who live in the Marigny are helping us with the design.

8. **Meet the Neighbors** on May 12th at Tomatillo's Restaurant: The complimentary food, outdoor patio, pet friendly environment was an event enjoyed by all. It is a great way to get to know people in the neighborhood and have a good time. Thanks to Donna, she scheduled another fun Meet the Neighbors.

9. **Blight:** Howard, Blight Chairperson, Our Results: 1) Having Schwegman attend to their building. It took 3+ hrs at the meeting and they were finally sited. They

have painted the building and put out planters. Everyone wants the building back into commerce. 2) Thorick's property on Dauphine will be taken away from him. He brought that property through a tax sale. 3) We walked with NORA and Mary Cunningham of Councilperson Carter's office around the neighborhood showing them the problems of blight. 4) When a property is brought up for Code Enforcement or Demolition by Neglect we asked that this is scheduled for the same day.

10. **Cold Storage:** We had made great headway with this. The VCC meeting on May 22, 2009 was well attended. The Port was not prepared. An example regarding trucks: The Port's calculation was based on the Jourdan Rd. facility. A question was, "Should the number of trucks be figured out on the capacity of the new facility?" Chris said that we learned it takes 3 days to load a ship. Does this mean more trucks? To the credit of the audience the questions asked were excellent. FMIA had a lot of printed materials such as The Port's Fibs vs. Facts, NOCS violations, and Why It is Not a Done Deal. The Piety Wharf fire was a perfect example of why this plant is in the wrong location. Many residents complained about headaches, smoke, and smell because of the creosote. This is not good for any residents' health. It was still burning at the time of the General Meeting.

What is happening next? It is not a done deal. They are trying to get their money - House Bill 1 Finance Committee. Please contact your Representatives and Senators. Write or call the members on the Finance Committee. Chris will send out an e-mail with the information.

11. **Master Plan:** Gene, Rick and Chris met with Goody Clancy who had our land use incorrect - we had already done the work in 1999 land use plan, but we need to correct the compromises to straighten out our zoning. Gene said that they have very well intention people working on this. But, the young planners do not know our full history. During our Walking Tour, we had them on a buggy to introduce the neighborhood and educate them on our history. Before the tour, they thought we were two different neighborhoods. We need to worry more about the zoning. Gene mentioned that the PRC gave out an award to Dr. Blakely for all the work he has done, and everyone was shocked.

12. **French Quarter Marigny Area Management District:**

- Was a response to the reduction in trash services
- It was sold to the legislature at a rebate from the taxes collected in the tourist areas. They included Frenchmen St. Luckily Nathan Chapman, who repre-

sented VCPORA at this time, said the Marigny needed to have representation. Chris was invited to this meeting late Chris wanted the entire triangle.

- Do improvements in this area.
- The state said no rebate - they did get \$50,000
- The next year, they asked for 1 million and got it - Jindal vetoed it.
- Now they want a taxing district. They partnered up with the MOM group.
- The rates for the taxing district - single family or up to 4 units or condo = \$180; commercial, or five or more units = \$385; and hotels will pay a millage.
- Why aren't we getting the level of service that we are paying for? What is the baseline service?
- If the Marigny is included, the entire triangle must be included. Monies collected in that area must be used in the area collected such as the Marigny.
- Met today: Frenchmen St. is not for this.
- Two different taxing districts were discussed - one for the Triangle, and one for the FQ.
- Patrol Services: It was in the rectangle (like the Bears) for visibility. We do not have a police presence in the rectangle. We are frustrated with the 5th District. We have a bigger issue here - we should demand the services we need. Should we take this on? Jason Patterson at Snug Harbor has an employee in the security business. Will discuss at the next meeting. More information needed like the legislation and the sunset clause.

13. Kim brought up the **traffic heading towards the Lake**. Gary said - "left turn" traffic enforcement is needed. Maybe we need to invite 5th District and Traffic Enforcement to the next meeting.

14. **Speakers:** New Orleans Food Co-op will be back at the Healing Center. John Calhoun and Julian Mutter came to speak to the membership.

John Calhoun: www.nolafoodcoop.org The food coop is back at the Healing Center. He wants everyone to get behind the concept. It is a citywide effort and each participant would own part of the food co-op. The store will focus on local and regional food plus other food items. They have 501 people that have invested \$100 each. They have a set up budget of 1.5 million to open a 55,000 sq. ft. space and hire a general manager. The food co-op has hired national experts to do their numbers and planning which is very solid. They need to raise money in the open. They have raised \$100,000 so far. The good news is that the Office of Recovery has \$7 million for fresh food retail. It is likely they might get some of the money. The food coop is asking for loans from members. They have a goal of \$200,000. They need members too. Chris helped set up a meeting with Senator JP Morrell to ask for the discretionary funds for the build out. Please write a letter

to your Senator in support of their request. It is a grocery store that would be owned by our community.

Julian Mutter said: He had experienced a food co-op while traveling. It would be great for our city and our neighborhood. Julian said he is passionate about this. The food co-op would keep the prices low because it answers to the members. He wants to make a loan to the co-op. It would enhance the vitality of the Marigny. The professional they brought it know their stuff. Please consider it.

15. **Business Owners on Franklin Ave:** They want to change it to be like Frenchmen Street. They are talking about having an entertainment overlay.
16. **Election of new Board Members:** If you are interested in getting involved please contact Chris. July - there is no meeting; August is the nomination meeting, and elections are in September.
17. **New Members and neighbors welcome:** Jessie, Craig

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm



*Have a Safe & Fun
4th on the River*

SEE YOU IN AUGUST!

BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Costello, President
president@faubourgmarigny.org
 Reg Medellin, Vice President
vicepresident@faubourgmarigny.org
 Brian Frye, Treasurer
treasurer@faubourgmarigny.org
 Ron Petty, Corresponding Secretary
secretary@faubourgmarigny.org
 Deborah Oppenheim, Recording Secretary
deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org
 Gene Cizek, Past President
genec@faubourgmarigny.org
 Gretchen Bomboy
gretchenb@faubourgmarigny.org
 Eva Campos
evac@faubourgmarigny.org

COMMITTEES

Advertising – Angela Carll
advertising@faubourgmarigny.org
 Art – Deborah Oppenheim
art@faubourgmarigny.org
 Blight – Howard Allen
blight@faubourgmarigny.org
 Bylaws – Gary deLeaumont
bylaws@faubourgmarigny.org
 Caroling – Kellye Soto
caroling@faubourgmarigny.org
 Community Outreach –
outreach@faubourgmarigny.org
 Crime Prevention
crimeprevention@faubourgmarigny.org
 Education – Deborah Oppenheim
education@faubourgmarigny.org
 Frenchmen Street -
frenchmen@faubourgmarigny.org
 Fundraising –
fundraising@faubourgmarigny.org
 Hospitality – Gary deLeaumont
hospitality@faubourgmarigny.org
 Marigny Green – Deborah Oppenheim
green@faubourgmarigny.org
 Membership – Gary deLeaumont
membership@faubourgmarigny.org
 Neighborhood Development –
development@faubourgmarigny.org
 Newsletter Editor - Ron Budenich
newsletter@faubourgmarigny.org
 Special Projects – Gary deLeaumont
projects@faubourgmarigny.org
 Washington Square Park – Chris Costello
washingtonpk@faubourgmarigny.org
 Website – Chris Costello
website@faubourgmarigny.org
 Volunteer - Eva Campos
volunteer@faubourgmarigny.org



General Meeting • Monday, June 15

NO JULY GENERAL MEETING

DELIVER BY 6/13/09

NEXT GENERAL MEETING • Monday, August 17

PAY YOUR DUES

F.M.I.A. Membership Form

1. Membership Status: New Renewal

2. Membership Type:
 Individual (I) - \$15.00 Business - \$25.00
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3. Contact Information:

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