

# FAUBOURG MARIGNY

IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION



Volume 39, No. 2

www.faubourgmarigny.org

February 2010

## Les Amis de Marigny

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

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

Board Meeting\*February 3  
7:00 PM\* Location TBA

General Meeting\*Feb. 22  
6:30 Pot Luck \* 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
2624 Burgundy St

\*\*\*\*\*

#### MARCH

Board Meeting \*March 3  
7:00 pm \* Location TBA

General Meeting\*March 15  
6:30 Pot Luck \* 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
2624 Burgundy St

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#### APRIL

Board Meeting April 7  
7:00 pm \* Location TBA

General Meeting \*April 19  
6:30 Pot Luck \* 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
2624 Burgundy St

#### Meet the Neighbors

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday \* 6:30 pm

February 9  
Tomatillos

437 Esplanade Ave.

&

March 9

The Marigny Brasserie  
640 Frenchmen

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NONPAC Meetings

5<sup>th</sup> District

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday \* 7 pm

2372 St. Claude Ave

\*\*\*\*\*

8<sup>th</sup> District

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday \* 5:30 pm

1001 Toulouse

\*\*\*\*\*

#### St. Claude Avenue

#### Main Street Meetings

Call 616-7637

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Upper 9<sup>th</sup> Ward

Green Market

Saturdays \* 1 - 4 pm

3820 St. Claude Ave

**BECAUSE OF MARDI GRAS** OUR FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

**HOW PROUD WE ARE OF OUR SAINTS.**

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

### DECEPTION ON THE RIVER

by Chris Costello

The Times Picayune article "Riverfront rezoning approved" mistakenly indicated that the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association (F.M.I.A) was in opposition of the park. The truth is the F.M.I.A. has consistently been supportive of the park concept and encouraged its prudent development. Our advocacy for smart development and planning has enhanced the park concept, and challenged the proposed entertainment venue because of its poor planning. We've asked that such a development have an operating budget with sustainable funding sources and plans for ongoing maintenance prior to breaking ground.

Our entire community is excited about the advancement this park represents for our city, but we want to make sure this project is not hobbled by deficiencies—which has happened to too many city projects. We want to insure the necessary components are in place for long-term success. (cont. next page)

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(from page. 1) From the beginning we have simply been asking reasonable questions about plans and budget to mitigate the negative impact on our historic area and quality of life. This project is a major investment of taxpayer dollars and we encourage all residents to educate themselves about how this development will be built, operated and maintained.

Far from "irreconcilable", the truth is that this project has evolved with numerous compromises in the cooperative endeavor agreement between the FMIA and the New Orleans Building Corporation (all documented at [www.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org).) Had any of the naysayers done their homework work and read our black-lined, footnoted agreements, it would have enlightened them on the issues and the compromises of this project.

The issues are:

1. The intensity of the use of the Mandeville Street Wharf as a concert venue and the associated impact caused by it (noise, trash, safety & security, lack of access. etc).
2. The lack of a park with ball courts and playground equipment that were promised to the community.
3. The lack of a business plan and operating budget for the park and adequate funding for its ongoing maintenance.

We had asked Councilman Carter via email for a meeting to discuss the latest revisions to the agreement so we could work out the details, but he chose not have a meeting or even respond to the email. In fact Carter has not responded to any emails regarding our concerns on this issue. It appears from his lack of engagement that Carter has no interest in his constituent's concerns or their quality of life. This lack of interest could be viewed as an attempt to appease the NOBC at the expense of the people he should represent.

As his constituents we should ask Carter for an explanation of his unjustified comments and lack of communication so we can better understand his motivation for pushing for and subsequently voting for a project that lacks the basic planning documents to guarantee its success and to mitigate our concerns. We encourage everyone to email him at [jcarter@cityofno.com](mailto:jcarter@cityofno.com).

We look forward to enjoying the riverfront park, which will be our new front yard. We simply want it to be planned, operated and maintained for visitors and residents to enjoy for decades to come.



## **FMIA 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour**

*by Reg Medellin*

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 16, 2010, noon to 4pm. Once again the annual Home Tour will feature a selection of

homes and gardens in the Historic Faubourg Marigny. The event will also feature an Art Market, Kids' Activity Tent and musical performances by local musicians.

This event is a major fund-raiser for the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association with proceeds funneled back into the community. The following are just a few areas where the proceeds are earmarked:

- \*\* Maintenance & repairs to Washington Square Park
- \*\* Monthly FMIA newsletter
- \*\* Marigny Green sponsorship
- \*\* Community Outreach projects

Volunteers are needed to assist with the following event-day functions.

Art Market  
Music  
Sales  
Kids Activity  
Home Tour Brochure

Come join the fun and help us show off how truly unique and architecturally rich we live in the Faubourg Marigny. Contact Reg Medellin, 504.940.4042, [rm.nola@cox.net](mailto:rm.nola@cox.net) or [www.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org) [Contact us link].

## **Newsletter Committee**

*by Ron Petty*

The FMIA is happy to announce that we are on the road to amassing a new staff for the Newsletter. Since Katrina our President, Chris Costello, has been single handedly doing this immense job. He had the much-appreciated help of Ron Budnich in layout who has also left. (exhausted?) They needed some relief. Chris will still be intimately involved.

We will be having a new Editor, Donna Wakeman; a new Business Manager, Sam Armstrong; and a new Layout Chair, Brenda Martin. Our stalwarts, Angela Carl for Advertising and Linda Belou for Distribution will thankfully still be with us. If you would like to be part of this exciting team, please let me know. [rp.vol@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:rp.vol@faubourgmarigny.org).

In future editions we will give you some bios of these people as well as how to get in touch with the staff. We wish them well.

## **President's Report**

*by Chris Costello*

2010 is shaping up to be a great year for us.

We enjoyed another successful event in our neighborhood: the Krewe Du Vieux parade. Thank you to Sebastian Bögershausen, Ray Kern and Lee Mullikin for working with us to ensure the parade continues to have a positive impact on (cont. next page)



(from page 2)

our neighborhood. I would also like to thank Veronica White, Direction of Sanitation, for answering our request and helping both the neighborhood and the Krewe by having her crews pick up the debris left on the parade route. It is a huge help and demonstrates that by working together the City and neighborhoods can keep our city beautiful.

We are in the process of securing quotes for additional benches and new trashcans for Washington Square Park. We hope to have them installed by the spring. In order to offset the cost we are looking for sponsors. For their contribution, sponsors will have their name listed on a permanent plaque in the park. In addition to funding the benches and trashcans we are again collecting donations for our Save Our Trees program to rid the trees of the stinging buck moth caterpillars. Please consider making a donation to either endeavor (now tax deductible!) to help us keep our trees healthy and our park beautiful. (from page 8)

We are just weeks away from changing the leadership in our great city. This will be an historic occasion and I urge everyone to make his/her voices heard. Please do your part by either voting early (by absentee ballot or at the Registrar's Office) or on Election Day February 6<sup>th</sup> and encouraging your neighbors and friends to do the same. A democracy only works when all make their voices heard (more on page 3)

The Marigny is closer to having a riverfront park but we are working hard to make sure it is planned right. Currently we are working to reveal the deficiencies and issues with the planning which include the lack of a business plan, operating budget and a steady funding source for its basic operation and maintenance. We support the park, which will be the new front door to our neighborhood, we simply want to make sure it is planned and funded correctly so it will be a success and not negatively impact our neighborhood. We are working to secure protections for the neighborhood to offset the negative impact of the proposed entertainment venue as well as guarantee the park contains the recreation courts and playground equipment we were promised. (more on page 1)

The city is getting closer to having a new Master Plan. The City Planning Commission recently voted on the amendments to the plan which have only strengthened the document and with this step completed they will be able to vote on it soon. We support the new master plan and new zoning ordinance as it better protects our neighborhood while at the same time allowing neighborhood friendly businesses and development to come in. (more on page 8)

We are seeing many successes with the Main Street program. Several buildings have been completely renovated and three new businesses will open on the street in the coming months. The Main Street program has also been working with Operation Clean Sweep to combat graffiti. They are looking for volunteers to help make the street better. If you can be of service please give them a call. (more on page 6)

2010 is indeed shaping up to be a great year for us. So much of what is happening is because of the love and dedication all of us have for our neighborhood. This good work takes manpower, each of us doing our part to make it possible to live in a great neighborhood. Volunteering is a great way to show

your love for the place you call home. We can have a city that we are proud of but each of us must get involved. We have a great neighborhood but the Marigny will only be a great place to live, work and play if we continue to work at it.

## Make Your Voice Heard

*by Chris Costello*

On February 6, 2010 the eyes of the nation and the world will be fixated on New Orleans. It will either be the day we as New Orleanians changed for the better or changed for the worse. We understand all too well how a lack of leadership affects our lives. We live with it every day. We deserve better and on February 6<sup>th</sup> we have the opportunity to change for the better. Good government starts at the top with good leadership. It is our job to pick the right leadership.

Our system of government is simple: the majority rules and this only works if everyone makes their voices heard by voting. By not going to vote you allow others to decide how you will live. If we really want a better city and life that truly represents who we are then every eligible person needs to vote.

Voting is easy. You can vote early by either absentee ballot or in person or you can vote the day of the election. The choice is yours but you should not choose not to vote. It skews the system.

Below is the information for early and day of voting. Make it a priority and make a point to encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. We can change this city for the better but we all need to make our voices heard.

For information, call the Registrar of Voters at 504-658-8300.

### How to Vote Absentee by Mail

Absentee ballots may only be obtained from the Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Office. You may request a ballot by mail or by fax. **Absentee ballots must be received by the Registrar of Voters by the close of the business day the day prior to the scheduled election, which is February 5<sup>th</sup>.** You may download an Absentee Ballot request form at [http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/Portals/0/elections/pdf/request\\_absentee\\_ballot.pdf](http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/Portals/0/elections/pdf/request_absentee_ballot.pdf).

The request must include the voter's name, address of registration, date of birth, Social Security number, the mailing address, the reason the person is unable to vote in person and, most important, the voter's signature as it appears on the rolls.

If you have registered to vote by mail and have not voted in a prior election, you must vote in person, either during an early voting period or on a regular election day in order to be eligible to cast an absentee ballot by mail. (cont. next page)



(Cont. from page )3)

Handicapped and housebound citizens can apply for regular absentee voting by contacting the Registrar of Voters Office and requesting the forms for the Housebound Program be sent by mail. The forms must be signed by a doctor and returned to the Registrar's Office in City Hall.

Citizens that return a ballot by fax waive their right to privacy.

Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters  
City Hall, Rm. 1W23  
1300 Perdido St.  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: 1-504-658-8300  
Fax: 1-504-658-8316

### **Early Voting in Person**

**Early voting in Person is available 1/23 through 1/30, excluding Sunday.** This is an option for those who know they will be out of town on election day or for personal reasons they do not wish to visit their polling site. Early voting in person is available at the Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Office in City Hall at 1300 Perdido Street, Rm. 1W23 from 8:30 am to 6 pm.

You must bring a Louisiana Driver's License, Louisiana Special ID or other official picture ID when you vote early in person. If you do not have a picture be prepared to bring other proof of residency such as a utility bill and be prepared to fill out an affidavit.

### **Voting on Election Day**

POLLS WILL BE OPEN 6:00 AM UNTIL 8:00 PM.

Triangle Residents vote at Engine House #09 (449 Esplanade Ave.)

Rectangle Residents (to upriver side of Franklin) vote at St. Paul Lutheran Church (2624 Burgundy St.)

Rectangle Residents (downriver side of Franklin, lakeside of Burgundy) vote at Drew Elementary School (3819 St. Claude Ave.)

Rectangle Residents (downriver side of Franklin, riverside of Burgundy) vote at St. Paul Lutheran Church (2624 Burgundy St.)

Voters that are in line to vote at 8:00 pm will be allowed to cast their ballots.

Voters must provide one of the following: A Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana identification card or any other generally recognized picture ID. If you do not have a picture ID, then you may present any other identification card plus further information such as a utility bill and a completed Voter Identification Affidavit.

Only one person at a time is allowed in the voting booth. If you are unable to read, an election official may assist you. If you are unable to vote without assistance because of a physical handicap, you must bring a physician's certificate with you or have one on file.

Disabled voters may go to the front of the line at their polling place.

## **Meeting The Candidates**

*by Donna Wakeman*

All the candidates for local office were invited to speak at the General Meeting on January 18, 2010, and many of them accepted the invitation. Kristin Gisleson Palmer and Nathaniel Jones, candidates for City Council District C, presented their vision of the job and how they would represent Faubourg Marigny. Janis Lemle, candidate for the first citywide Property Tax Assessor position, explained how her experiences with the existing system prompted her to run for this office and detailed some of the changes she would make. Richard Exnicios and Tracey Flemings-Davillier, two of the three candidates for Juvenile Court Judge, outlined their credentials and experience. The only candidate for Civil District Court Judge to attend, Paula Brown, detailed her education, experience and background qualified her for the position. Unfortunately, none of the candidates for council-at-large attended.

The 'meet and greet' was an excellent opportunity to hear the candidates, ask questions, and become more informed about the platforms and backgrounds of the individuals running for these offices. All Faubourg Marigny residents are urged to vote on Saturday, February 6th, as those elected will shape and direct the city's future over the next four years

## **Fifth District NONPAC Meeting**

*by John Luckett*

The meeting was called to order by Major Kelly at 7 PM. The Major said the narcotic squad was out making arrests so there would be no narcotic report.

Quality of Life Officer Alsina reported on his activities during the month; a number of abandoned cars had been tagged and some removed. Also he followed up on various issues concerning illegal truck parking and blight complaints.

The New Orleans Police Homeless Assistance Unit gave a report on the homeless in the area. As of Sunday, Jan. 17, the nightly feeding the homeless at the floodwall will end. They are looking for a new location. If anyone needs to contact them concerning homeless persons, they can be contacted at either of two numbers: 504-259-9336, or 504-717-1529. (Cont. next page)



(cont. from page 4) Due to Mardi Gras, there will be no meeting in February .

(Editor's note: It is reported that they have moved to the Mission in the CBD.)



## **NO MORE BLIGHT - Join Us in Our Fight**

*by Alexandre Vialou  
Blight Committee*

After two months' hiatus, hearings at Code Enforcement are scheduled to resume towards the end of February. We certainly hope that this unwelcome pause will not affect the pace of recovery that this agency has created throughout our city, and our neighborhood in particular.

According to the latest report by the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, 9,000 blighted properties have been renovated or demolished in 2009. In 2010, Code Enforcement is planning to schedule 12,200 hearings (up from 10,566 in 2009). Moreover, special efforts will be dedicated towards two of our major thoroughways: Elysian Fields Ave and Saint Claude Avenue.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, our efforts are paying off with many compliant homeowners renovating their properties

without being fined by the city. It is important nonetheless to keep the pressure on. There are currently 13 properties in our neighborhood already under Code Enforcement's hearing process.

You can help us monitor abandoned or blighted properties in our neighborhood by sending us pictures showing evidence of neglect. Our e-mail address is [blight@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:blight@faubourgmarigny.org). You can also find out the status of a property by contacting us at the same email (or directly at the Code Enforcement website: [www.cityofno.com/Portals/CodeEnforcement/portal.asp](http://www.cityofno.com/Portals/CodeEnforcement/portal.asp)).

If you have renovated a blighted property in our historic district and want to share your experience with us, we would like to hear from you.

This month, I would like to thank especially Mary Cunningham, Director of Constituent Services at the Office of James Carter, our District C Councilmember. She is always letting us know in a timely manner the schedule of upcoming hearings. I'd also

like to thank Andrew Holbein, Code Enforcement employee of the city of New Orleans, who has always been available to answer any of our questions regarding the process.

## **Washington Square Park**

*by Robert Moffett*

Work should commence on the gate at Washington Square at Frenchman and Dauphine within the next couple of weeks. I am looking for volunteers to pick up trash and empty the trash cans in the park. My email address [rkmoffett2003@yahoo.com](mailto:rkmoffett2003@yahoo.com) or you can call me at 945-4627.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.



## **Meet The Neighbors Night**

*by Chris Costello*

Thank you to Mimi's for hosting our January Meet the Neighbors night. Over 50 people came out and enjoyed great conversation as well as sampled the excellent cuisine from the restaurant.

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 February 9. See the Newsletter or check our website. Stop by, support our local businesses and enjoy your neighborhood and neighbors!

## **Dining Out**

*by Donna Wakeman*

### **SCHIRO'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ & BAR**

2483 Royal St.  
Faubourg Marigny  
944-666

My renter, Laura, and I went to Schiro's this past Monday for our fourth try at red beans and rice. Previous attempts had been met with failure, as they had been sold out. This time we arrived at 5:45pm and got the last two servings. We both agreed they were the best either of us has had in New Orleans, although Laura would have preferred hers to be spicier (but, hey, she's from Texas). The accompanying smoked sausage is excellent and plentiful, and the ratio of red beans to rice strikes the right balance. (cont. next page)



(cont. from page 5) The French bread is lightly buttered and toasted just right. All in all, an outstanding bargain, and well worth the effort required to bet there in time.

On one of our previous attempts at red beans and rice, we tried entrees from the 'Julie's Little India Kitchen' side of the menu. Much to my surprise, the tikka masala was excellent, as was Laura's vindaloo. While an odd match to the standard neighborhood café menu, the foot was the best Indian food I've yet had in New Orleans.

Schiro's atmosphere is friendly, laid back and lived-in, with the charming quality of funk that is so our town. It has a real

neighborhood feel, with the bar always populated and tables nearly full with local. The waiter/bartender has a friendly, welcoming manner and helps put the 'community' in 'community café and bar'.

Schiro's is open Monday through Saturday, 11:00-9:30. No reservations are taken, so get there early for the popular specials. They also have a small grocery that sells liquor, with an good sized wine selection and an associated laundromat. Oh, and I almost forgot to mention the bed and breakfast on the upper floors.

## Marigny Green

### MARIGNY GREEN MEETS GREEN LIGHT'S AMERICORPS NCCC

*by Deborah Oppenheim*

Marigny Green is a program with Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association to provide resources and information to Marigny residents. Marigny Green invited Green Light New Orleans AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) group for an exchange and brainstorming session.

The day was perfect for a guided walking tour of the Faubourg Marigny with Rick Fifield and ten AmeriCorps NCCC members. After lunch, Deborah asked the team to share their observations and comments about sustainable issues in the Marigny. They felt the Marigny was friendly and vibrant, peaceful walk and bike neighborhood, a mixture of residential and businesses and lovely historic architecture. The exchange was to educate the AmeriCorps group about Marigny Green. In return, the team brainstorm ideas from a youth perspective on how to get more people engaged with Marigny Green. I appreciated their energy enthusiasm, insights, and a plethora of suggestions to help accomplish Marigny Green's goal of providing resources and information with resident's involvement in 'living green' in our neighborhood. For more information and to get involved contact Deborah at [deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org).



AmeriCorps is the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency who mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time residential program of men and women ages 18-24 who partner with non-profits to complete service projects

throughout the United States. The program requires a ten (10) months commitment and members are assigned to one of Americorps campus for intensive training before their community service.

I want to say thank you to Andreas Hoffman, Executive Director of Green Light New Orleans for making this education exchange happen. Marigny Green has partnered with Green Light New Orleans, an environmental non-profit that has installed free energy efficient light bulbs in over 7500 homes in New Orleans. For more information contact Green Light New Orleans [www.greenlightneworleas.org](http://www.greenlightneworleas.org).

ST. CLAUDE AVENUE  
MAIN STREET



*by Eva Campos*

In January, the RTA has held a meeting regarding the proposed streetcar line on St Claude Avenue, Rampart St and Elysian Fields Avenue. Although the project has not yet been approved we have begun discussions on the planning and design of the proposed project. The RTA is planning for the streetcar to be operated in the street. At the meeting it was requested that consideration be given to widen the neutral ground on Rampart Street to the original width and the historic lights be relocated to allow for the streetcar to be run on the neutral ground. (cont. next page)



( from page 6)

A meeting was held on January 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the renovation of Colton School. There have been no significant changes to the plans. The items discussed were the façade of the building, the new theatre space on the third floor, the new gym, parking for teachers and staff, service to the building when it is operating, traffic, etc. The next meeting will be held in the summer.

Our Stay Local map is almost complete. We will be putting the finishing touches on it in February and it will be ready to roll out in the spring.

Beginning in 2010 St Claude Main Street will be producing a newsletter to be distributed through the neighborhood. Look for the January and February issue in coffee shops and businesses along St Claude Ave.

SCMS is continuing to reach out to surrounding neighborhoods and we are proud to announce Peggy Williams from Bunny Friend will be volunteering to help out with some of the many duties here at the office.

Our new board member Maurice and I are working to find a preferred bank to offer financial services to the people of St Claude Main Street. We are talking to a number of local banks and will have information to give to our members soon.

## Green Project Reuse District

*by Beth Stelson*

Creating an appreciation and a culture of creative reuse is at the heart of The Green Project's mission. As a nonprofit building supply retail store, we save an estimated 1.8 million pounds of quality materials from entering the landfills every year by reselling these materials back to the community at an affordable price. Our paint recycling program has prevented about 300,000 gallons of paint from leaching into the ground water and the Mississippi River through our recycling process and by practicing proper paint disposal. Recycle for the Arts, a program of The Green Project, continues to supply reused art materials to art professionals while our community workshops help individuals to integrate reclaimed materials into their lives.

But The Green Project is not the only organization in this part of town that recognized the value of reclaimed materials. While we may be the only organization of this kind that focuses on an environmental mission, the Preservation Resource Center's Salvage Store is right next door and Habitat for Humanity's Restore is just a short stroll down Press Street. We are three nonprofits with distinct and separate missions, but we recognize that our service to the community in providing a marketplace for reclaimed materials distinctly overlaps. With this recognition (and as a source of inspiration), The Green Project, the Preservation Resource Center, and Habitat for Humanity's Restore have come together to partner with St. Claude Avenue Main Street and local businesses to create a Reuse District to span the neighborhoods on both sides of St. Claude Avenue.

The Reuse District will function similarly to an arts district and will help New Orleans to recognize the value in these

materials. By pooling our resources, we will host events centered around reuse, create a referral service within our businesses to help our customers find what they need, and make our organizations, businesses, and missions

accessible to all of New Orleans. We hope to invite as many businesses and organizations in the area that use reclaimed materials as possible to join us to expand the Reuse District.

While many shoppers want to consume responsibly, economically, and decrease the environmental impact of consumerism, the awareness and availability of reclaimed materials is still limited. By creating a Reuse District, we hope to change the culture of consumerism to focus on the materials and products that we already have and the accessibility of them to all people.

If you have any questions or want to become involved with the Reuse District, please contact Beth Stelson at [communication@thegreeproject.org](mailto:communication@thegreeproject.org).

## Love Thy Neighborhood As Thy Self

*by Chris Costello*

We rightly spend as much time as we can loving ourselves by taking the time to give our minds and bodies what they need. Our neighborhood, like ourselves, needs this same type of attention to grow and prosper.

Finding the time to volunteer to help can be hard but without the support of the volunteers our neighborhood would not be what it is today. Volunteering does not have to be hours in meetings. It can be enjoying the outside by helping pick up the park, planting a tree or helping identify water leaks or broken street lights while walking your dog.

(cont. next page)



(from page. 7).

Consider some may want to help out. We have many volunteer opportunities from large to small. If you can help in this area please contact Ron Petty at 504 909-1523.

## **DUES RENEWAL : Help Us Get A Leg Up On The New Year**

*by Chris Costello*

A new year is upon us! This means Mardi Gras is around the corner and it is time to renew your membership dues.

Dues are an important part of the organization in that they offset the cost for the newsletter and provide us with the working capital to put on the events we have throughout the year, as well as underwriting projects such our Blight program.

We are always looking for ways to save money and time so that our limited resources can go further. One way is to have members pay their dues by January so we do not have to incur the expense of stamped return envelopes and extra newsletter postage. We are asking members to renew before January by one of two methods.

1. If you have no changes to your contact information that includes your telephone number and email address, simply cut out your mailing label and return it to us with your dues by one of the methods below.

2. If you have changes to your contact information which includes your telephone number and email address, simply cut out your mailing label, annotate your corrections/additions on the mailing label and return it us with your dues by one of the methods below.

3. Renew online at [www.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org)

The 2010 dues rates are:

Individual - \$15  
Individual Senior (65+) - \$5  
Household (2+ individuals) - \$20,  
Senior Household (2+ seniors) - \$10

Business - \$25

You can mail your renewal to our post office box (listed below), drop it off in the mail slot at 535 Mandeville St, 2020 Burgundy St or bring it to a general meeting. (The next one is 11/16.) We appreciate your support.

FMIA  
535 Mandeville St  
New Orleans LA 70117

## **Caterpillars Are Coming**

*by Chris Costello*



You might have noticed all the buckmoths fluttering around mid December. They are coming and unless we take action our park could be overrun with them.

Over the last 4 years we have successfully raised the funds to spray the beautiful trees in Washington Square Park which has allowed everyone to enjoy the park all spring long without fear of being stung by the caterpillars. In anticipation to their next visit we are starting the fund drive to raise the money to spray the trees yearly.

We created the Save Our Trees program after Katrina to help the oaks in Washington Square Park recover from damage they suffered from the storm and rid them of the buck moth caterpillars that eat their precious leaves they need to help make them healthy again. With over 40 trees in our park, the cost for spraying which includes fertilizing them to keep them healthy is expensive but what they give back in cool shade and beauty is well worth it.

The trees look great but still need our help. We are asking people to either adopt a tree by donating the money to pay for the yearly buck moth spraying and fertilizing or make a donation towards the spraying and fertilization of a tree. The cost to adopt a tree is \$55 but any and all donations are most appreciated.

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

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

Remember, you donation is 100% tax deductible!

## **Our New Master Plan And Zoning Ordinance Update**

*by Chris Costello*

At their December meeting the City Planning Commission (CPC) voted unanimously to delay consideration of the Master to accommodate requests from the public for more time to review the document and recommend amendments. At the January 12 the CPC considered the submitted amendments. A reformatted and shortened version of the Master Plan has been posted to the project website at [www.nolamasterplan.org](http://www.nolamasterplan.org). CPC will consider adoption on January 26, 2010.



## *Yours Truly in a Swamp*

Remembering K. L. J., and Eric Hoffer  
 Reprinted from *Les Amis de Marigny*,  
 New Orleans, January 2010  
 by Leonard Earl Johnson

\* \* \*

In April of last year, this space published a remembrance of Eric Hoffer, the West Coast longshoreman, author and confidant of American presidents. My late Brother, Kay Lewis Johnson, told me how much he liked the story. He thought it spoke well of the troubled and fabled Sixties, when he and I were young.

My Brother was a conservative Republican and a retired Air Force colonel. I was nothing of the sort. Yet we were both fans of Eric Hoffer. And of each other.

Kay Lewis Johnson passed away the Sunday before Christmas from brain cancer. He was 68. This one s for you, Brother.

I met Eric Hoffer in San Francisco, a few years after President Kennedy's 1963 murder in Dallas. The Nation was still young then, but ageing fast. The generation before had won the Second World War and now wanted, like Napoleon, to police the World for the greater good of things and reason increasingly unclear to we the young.

By the time I reached California, America was up to its eyeballs in the Vietnam War. Much of America's youth was in open defiance of our elders -- who were, after all, trying to kill us. And San Francisco had become the sex, drugs and rock'n roll magnet of that tune-in, turn-on, drop-out era The Sixties!

They were a time of fables. Eric Hoffer was a living one. He was a son of immigrants, and a longshoreman who wrote books. These were the days when philosopher poets walked among us. He was a self-educated, hard-headed realist who wrote, he said, as a way of experiencing Life. More than once I found him sitting on the waterfront at the foot of Market Street, talking about Schopenhauer and America's China trade. His audience would be another longshoreman or some beguiled tourist.

His tenth book was titled, *THE TRUE BELIEVER*. It Was enormously popular and wildly praised by college professors, whom we also suspected of being in the conspiracy to kill us.

*TRUE BELIEVER* was promoted by no lesser "true believers" than Lyndon B. Johnson and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Ike passed out copies of the book to his buddies. When Hoffer heard about this, he said, "It proved to me that this is the kind of book any child can read."

Hoffer was already a minor celebrity in literary circles when L. B. J. heard of him. The gentlemanly Eric Sevareid, one of television's first talking heads, had him on several P. B. S. and C. B. S. specials airing in prime time for an amazing number of hours of intelligent television. They talked of great ideas, without

dancing contests or homey makeovers. They talked about work, war and hardhat politics.



Brothers K. L. J. and L. E. J.  
 2005 & 1945

During those conversations Hoffer commented that he thought well of Lyndon Johnson and his escalating war in Vietnam. Lyndon Johnson -- smarting inside the White House over draft-age youths dancing not only in San Francisco but right under his own windows, when they should be in Asia making his war -- did not let the TV set cool before he booked Hoffer in for a five minute photo shoot that stretched into an hour-long, jaw-and-gum-flap session.

Reporters leaned in close to hear Hoffer, the New York born German-American Jew, and L. B. J., the Texas-American President, finding out that they shared a ten gallon hat full of good ideas.

Alas, the world came to see those ideas differently.

We saw the early part of those days on college television sets in Carbondale, Illinois. The vertical hold button on ours was tricky. After a debatable eight freshman years the university president booted me out and San Francisco welcomed me in.

☆☆☆

In San Francisco, Hoffer ate his breakfast in a Polk Street cafe where I came to work as a cook, and philosophize with the geezers. Our ages were roughly 70 and 25.

Hoffer mused that his visit with "the man," L. B. J., in "the house," the White House, might have put his soul in exploitation.

Probably it had, I reckoned. It was a time of exploitation.

"Dance lithely," he said, "they all are."

In 1982, Ronald Reagan (also, not a friend of youthful dancing) presented Hoffer with the Presidential Medal of Honor -- no small achievement for two elderly would-be Union men.

Hoffer died the next year, at age 80.

(cont. next page)



(cont. from page 9)

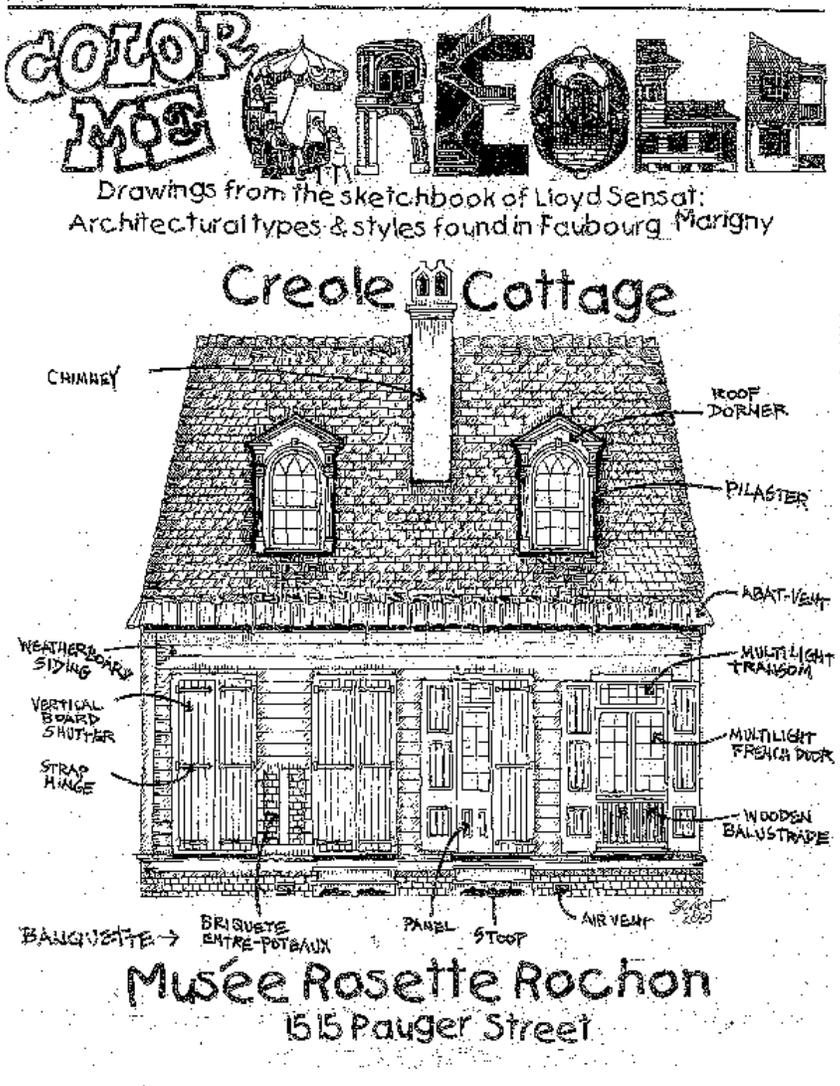
To my knowledge, Hoffer never retracted his support for the war in Vietnam, even after it had clearly failed. He said at the time of his publicly announced retirement from wharf and his newspaper column, "I knew when to catch the train, but it is harder to know when to get off."

We now approach Hoffer's years of then, and we got off the train at New Orleans. It was what our ticket said to do. Hey, Eric, you self-reliant old cuss, you think we are the one who put us here? Copyright, 2010, Leonard Earl Johnson

For more of L. E. J.'s *Yours Truly in a Swamp* go to [www.LEJ.org](http://www.LEJ.org)

## Color Me Creole

This is the **third** in a series of drawings to show the rich architectural inventory of Faubourg Marigny. I will be featuring



drawings from my sketchbook of Bernard de Marigny's historic neighborhood. Eventually, it will become a coloring book to teach children and adults how "to read" a building by type and style and identify its components. The houses illustrated will represent what I consider the best examples in Marigny. It is my hope that this will aid in a better understanding of architecture and foster a love for old buildings and demonstrate the importance of historic preservation.

*Lloyd Sensat*  
Sun Oak in Faubourg Marigny  
Jan 2010

### Creole Cottage (1790-1840)

This house type was the most common urban dwelling in New Orleans during the early 1800's. It is usually a simple square building of four rooms without a hall and sitting directly on the banquette. It may have a loggia and cabinets in the rear. An overhang or abat-vent protected the facade from sun and rain while providing the pedestrians and stoop (front steps) sitters respite from the climate. Details varied according to the style and structural system in vogue.

**Musée Rosette Rochon**  
at 1515 Pauger Street  
Faubourg Marigny, New Orleans, La.

By Eugene Cizek & Lloyd Sensat

(cont. next page)



(from page 10)

**Musee Rosette Rochon** is as Creole as you can get. It is a perfect example of a first generation Creole cottage with its briquette-entre-poteaux (brick between post) construction and abat-vent or roof overhang supported by iron bearers. It is also a nonprofit with a 501(c) 3 status dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of gens de couleur libres (free people of color). Faubourg Marigny was particularly attractive to them. Many were women. The cottage at 1515 Pauger was built circa 1815 by Rosette Rochon. She was born into slavery in Mobile, Alabama but freed by her white father in 1770. She eventually settled in New Orleans and became an entrepreneur. Records reveal that she owned many properties, businesses and slaves. She was one of the first property owners in Marigny. Many of her buildings are gone but fortunately one of her most elegant and intact cottages has survived. The building was in shambles in 1984 when Don Richmond purchased it. With Eugene Cizek as his architectural adviser the building is being authentically restored. Gene's preservation studies students at Tulane University produced Historic American Building Survey (HABS) drawings of the building which won a prestigious Peterson Prize. In addition, interior design students at Louisiana State University led by Leon Steele prepared designs for period specific furnishings. To assist with repairs caused by hurricane Katrina, the museum has received a grant from the Historic Building Recovery Grant Program. A recent grant from the French Heritage Society provided funds to repair the foundations of the cottage and begin restoration of the interior plaster and millwork. Though still in the process of restoration the house provides a rich insight into the understanding of Creole architecture, furniture, decorative arts and culture. To arrange a tour or donate funds to help complete the restoration of this architectural gem, call Don Richmond at (504) 947-7673 and visit the web site at <http://www.rosetterochon.com>

### Letter to the Editor

Dear FMIA-

I wanted to let you all know that Millie the Chiuaua has been found. She was found under a house near St. Claude and Montegut after someone called to say they spotted a little dog. It had been a full week since she was lost and she was skin and bones. My friends took her immediately to the vet and she has been gaining weight and doing better each day. She is expected to make a full recovery.

I want to send a special thank you to all of the wonderful neighbors in the Marigny. I loved my neighborhood before, but after having walked the streets and talking to so many people, I have a new appreciation for this very special community. The night she was lost people whom I had never met walked around calling for Millie and others got in their cars to drive around and look. So many people offered support and encouragement and it allowed us to hold on to some hope- which paid off with a happy ending!!

We'll plan to get down all the yellow signs we put up. Many many thanks to everyone in the Marigny. What a wonderful place.

Sincerely,

Arin Adkins  
Dauphine & Franklin  
On Tue, Jan 26, 2010 at 10:00 AM

## Orchids & Onions

### ORCHIDS

-  Thanks to Robert Rachal, our attorney
-  Thanks to the Caroling volunteers
-  Thanks to the office volunteers
-  Thanks to the Krewe du Vieux for having the best parade in our neighborhood

### ONIONS

-  To the owners who do work without a permit
-  To businesses who keep their doors open and play music loudly..

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*Jim O'Neil*

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## 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

## FMIA Board Meeting Minutes January 6, 2010

Board members Present: Eva Campos, Chris Costello, Deborah Oppenheim Ken Caron, Gretchen Bomboy, and Reg Medellin  
Board Members Absent: Gene Cizek, Ron Petty

**Guests:** Ray Kern, Krewe du Vieux The theme is *All Fired Up* and the Ball Site is at 527 Elysian Fields and Dr. John is King. We are pleased that Krewe du Vieux begins and ends their parade in our neighborhood. Tickets to the ball are on their website.

### Announcements:

1. Meet the Neighbors: January 12, 2010 6:30pm to 8:30 pm at MiMi's.
2. Community Issues: None

### Administration

1. Approvals by email: To have a District C Debate: The vote was 6 yeas and 1 no
2. Approval of minutes from 11/4 & 12/3 Board & 11/16 General meetings Chris moved that they are accepted Second Ken Vote Unanimous
3. Treasurer's Report: Eva presented the Treasurer's Report. Eva created all of FMIA's financial documents using the Quick Book Program.

### Committee reports:

a. Caroling: Ken felt that this year the setting was intimate and comfortable. Ken discussed his perspective for next year, which involved more business involvement, upgrading the Caroling book, relocation of the pot of gold and access, possibility of food, and getting the City to fix the drainage. Kudos to all who were involved in helping make this incredible and enjoyable event, THANK YOU!

b. Marigny Green: The agreement to recycle the batteries with LEI will be signed. Unfortunately, we found out that Radio Shack did not recycle the batteries. Marigny Green/Recycle is committed to the importance of recycling batteries. Deborah did research and found a company in Hammond, LA that will recycle the batteries for \$100 per 55 lbs., which involves shipping. Marigny Green urges everyone to use rechargeable batteries when applicable.

c. Newsletter: Orchids: Robert Rachal, our attorney, Caroling volunteers, office volunteers, Krewe du Vieux for having the best parade in our neighborhood Onions: owners who do work without a permit, businesses who keep their doors open and play music loudly

d.. Washington Square Park/Benches / Trash Cans: We received a quote for benches and trash cans. The benches will be similar to the newest benches in the park. They need to be elevated off the surface and create a concrete base that is convex so water will roll off. We will move forward with purchasing some of the benches and cans. Chris moved that the two (2) 8ft benches are on the Royal St. side be moved to the playground area and in return putting two (2) 6ft benches in their place. Second: Eva Vote: Unanimous Chris moved that we accept the quote for the trashcans and benches for the park and we will solicit donors to purchase the benches and the cans. Second: Ken Vote: Unanimous

### Old business:

#### Projects

a. Reinventing the Crescent/Riverfront Park: The Ordinance is coming up for a vote and Councilperson James Carter said he would sign. We have worked endless hours trying to make the CEA work. Why is it so difficult to understand that we are residents of an historic neighborhood who have dreamt about having access to the river and a park, but have been denied that access? WHY, because we will have a commercial venue in an open-aired warehouse. The riverfront area in the Marigny will not have a playground, sport and community area but a commercial venue. We have asked why there are no business, maintenance and parking plans, noise considerations, or security to make the commercial venue work. It is disheartening that NOBC has not addressed the issues presented to them. We are always willing to talk and work with NOBC because we want our park and not a commercial venue. Chris moved that we do not sign their agreement. Second Gretchen Vote Unanimous

b. RDO for 2300 Chartres Street: Deferred

c. Walgreens: We have asked Walgreens to live up to the agreement and we will facilitate by entering into a good faith agreement. The more formal good neighbor agreement will include landscaping and drainage.

### Issues

a. 508 Frenchmen St: We received an Email from the new owners and their new name is Mason. Chris will make contact with the new owners.

b. Marie's Bar: Gretchen talked to the owners. Marie has not had live music recently.

### New business:

#### Projects

a. Nominations for Board Member: Chris and Ken will talk to a potential nominee and will report to the Board.

b. APA Bronze Plaque: Chris moved that we purchase the APA Bronze Plaque with the understanding that the local APA will pay half of the cost. Second: Ken Vote: Unanimous

c. APA Presentation: APA conference is coming April 11-13<sup>th</sup>. We need to put on a presentation for the planners that deal with our neighborhood. (cont. on next page)



(from page 13)

Events:

- a. PRC requested that 1) meet with us to talk about the issues that we are facing 2) to participate in the Great Neighborhood Celebration, and 3) Pick a shotgun of the month that is nominated from our neighborhood. Chris moves that we do all of them Second Reg Vote Unanimous
- b. District C Debate: Yes, we will have the debate for District C. The time and date will be announced when verified.
- c. Spotlight Light Event, Irvin Mayfield Playhouse: Deborah moved that we get more information and consider at a later date. Second: Gretchen Vote: Unanimous

**Unresolved issues (if there is time):**

Projects

- a. Visibility of Marigny:
  - Banners – Images
  - Welcome Sign
  - Historic markers - Gene
- b. Riverfront Alliance
- c. AIDS Memorial
- d. Board Member responsibilities
- e. Master Plan
- f. Marigny Advertising/Brochure/T-shirt ideas
- g. Crime Collaborative.
- h. 5<sup>th</sup> District Staffing
- i. Policy for emails that deal with Crime Alerts and Forwarding Information
- j. Office Space
- k. Art in WSP Guidelines / CEA with Park & Parkways
- l. Block Captains
- m. Business Directory
- n. Homeless Services
- o. Infill Development

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.

**FMIA General Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2010 7:30 PM**

Chris Costello, President called the meeting to order at 7:20pm. Chris said, "It was over 50 years ago that Martin Luther King had a dream. He dreamed of a day when all men would be equal. His dream is closer to reality today part from his hard work but more from the millions of people who shared this dream of living in a place where all are equal and making it happen by getting involved. Because of this we are much closer to realizing that dream than they were 50 years ago. We all have dreams. Some are personal and some are selfless. But to make the truly significant ones happen we must get others to share them. To borrow those 4 words from Dr. King, *I have a dream*, I have a dream that New Orleans will be a better place for its citizens, especially our children. I have a dream that city government will put its citizens first and work towards making New Orleans a better place for them. I have a dream that the nooses of corruption, nepotism and the old boy's network that has strangled New Orleans for too long will be let go. I know that there are many of you who share these dreams and there are even more outside these four walls so I know they will be realized one day.

But we need to start now. And we can do that by electing leaders who share our collective dreams. It will take time and we might not see it in our lifetime but we are not doing this for ourselves but for our children and our children's children.

Today we have several candidates who will tell us how they will change New Orleans through their office into a place where it puts it citizens first and a place where our dreams can come true."

Chris welcomed the America Corp NCCC Team from Green Light, two speakers Jess and Lyndsey from Green Light, Craig Lewis, Krewe du Vieux, Melissa (from the US Census) and the candidates to our first meeting of the new year.

**Speakers (Candidates)**

Chris informed the membership that the candidates would speak for 3 minutes and answer the following two (2) questions:

- 1) What will you do to root out corruption and inefficiencies in your office?
- 2) What do you plan to do in your office to improve it and make New Orleans a better place for its citizens?

The Candidates who participated were:

1. Nathaniel Jones candidate for District C
2. Richard Exnicios candidate for Juvenile Court Judge
3. Tracy Davillier candidate for Juvenile Court Judge programs
4. Paula Brown candidate for Civil District Judge
5. Stephen Chesnut candidate for Civil District
6. Janis Lemle candidate for Assessor
7. Kristin Gisleson Palmer candidate for District C

**Krewe du Vieux**

January 30 starts at 6:30 and the theme is *All Fired Up*. Please observe the no parking signs the day of the event. For more information view their website [www.kreweduvieux.org](http://www.kreweduvieux.org)

**Craig Lewis (Homeless)**

Craig spoke about feeding the homeless at the floodwall at North Peters St. He understood that there were problems. Since January, the homeless are now fed at the New Orleans Mission. There are problems that many homeless people are unable to get to the New Orleans Mission and are not being fed.

**Green Light**

Jess Bloomer, Project Coordinator of Green Light New Orleans was our speaker. Green Light is an environmentally focused non-profit that has installed free energy efficient light bulbs in over 7, 500 homes in New Orleans. As a non-profit, Green Light relies on donations and sponsorships. If you can afford the cost of the energy light bulbs, a new donation program called **Buy Green and Give Green** is a way to help you and your community. By donating the cost of the energy light bulbs, it is possible for Green Light to impact two households. Green Light has a variety of energy bulbs for every type of light bulb.

Please call Jess 504-324-2429 or [www.greenlightneworleans.org](http://www.greenlightneworleans.org) for more information. Green Light New Orleans is offering a new way for small business owners to save money. One's business could see large savings simply by upgrading their lighting while helping your environment. For more information call 504-342-4966 or e-mail: [smallbusiness@greenlightneworleans.org](mailto:smallbusiness@greenlightneworleans.org). (cont. next page)



(from page 14)

**Announcements:**

1. Tuesday, January 19th 6:30 pm at St. Paul Lutheran a meeting re Colton School
2. Melissa: US Census has available temporary jobs to work in the neighborhood. They pay \$20 per hour, plus mileage. The meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> for 4:30pm. For more information please contact Jessie A. Isidore, Jr. jaisidore@cityofno.com
3. Meet the Neighbors Night: MiMi's hosted on January 12<sup>th</sup> a lively meet and greet seeing and meeting new neighbors. Thanks to MiMi's for hosting our January Meet and Greet event.
4. Membership Dues: It is time to renew your dues either by check, cash, or credit card. We are very accommodating and appreciative of our FMIA members. THANK you to all who have paid their dues early and on time.
5. Home Tour: Our fabulous Home Tour Coordinator is on record for beginning the new year with this announcement: HOME TOUR is scheduled for May 16, 2010 and we are looking for houses. Please contact Reg vicepresident@faubourgmarigny.org
6. Newsletter Committee: Ron Petty has been working on staffing the Newsletter. Please let Ron know if you are interested in writing for our newsletter and interested in getting involved please contact Ron at Rp.vol@cox.net
7. Blight: Thank you Alex for working on the total inventory of houses that are in need of renovation in our neighborhood. Howard went to four hearings. He is also taking inventory of buildings on St. Claude Ave. Thank you Howard.
8. Riverfront park: Councilperson James Carter moved the project forward without our protection. We know we are supposed to get a park and that is what we have always supported. We also know there is no business plan, no playground and equipment, noise issues, a commercial venue, no maintenance plan and questionable access. This is our front yard and we would like the project done properly. Where do we go from here? Please contact our elected officials and tell them what you want.

**It is Mardi Gras season and to avoid conflicts, we have rescheduled the General Meeting to Monday, February 22, 2010.**

Meeting ended at 9pm.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Chris Costello  
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president@faubourgmarigny.org

Reg Medellin  
Vice President  
vicepresident@faubourgmarigny.org

Eva Campos  
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Neighborhood Development  
Newsletter  
Special Projects  
Volunteer  
Walking Tour  
Washington Square Park  
Web Site

For comments email info@faubourgmarigny.org.



**General Meeting, Monday 2/22**  
**Meet the Neighbors Night, Tuesday 2/9**

Address Service Requested.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Willing to volunteer?  Yes  No

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The deadline is the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month. To advertise in the **Les Amis de Marigny** please contact [newsletter@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:newsletter@faubourgmarigny.org).