



Volume 39, No. 4

www.faubourgmarigny.org

April 2010

Les Amis de Marigny

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

Come Visit the Neighborhood

by Donna Wakeman

The Spring Home and Garden Tour, FMIA's major fundraiser, is scheduled this year for May 16th. It is the 38th year that the organization has showcased the Faubourg Marigny, promoting the neighborhood's architecture, culture and diversity. The self-guided tour of homes gives neighbors and visitors an opportunity to see behind the facades of some of our unique homes. Over the years, showcased homes have ranged from some of the oldest homes in New Orleans to commercial buildings re-imagined as private residences. Beautiful gardens are also included.

Reg Medellin, the chair of the Home Tour committee, has been organizing this event for the past 7 years. For him, it is a labor of love, an opportunity to make new friends and a chance to learn something new about the neighborhood he has lived in for 13 years. He explained that he looks for a variety of homes to include on the tour, from perfect single family homes to condos to apartments to homes in the process of being restored, in order to give visitors a taste of the variety that exists here. He also likes to showcase different parts of the neighborhood each year. This year the focus is on the Rectangle, that portion of the Marigny from Elysian Fields to Press Street and from the river to St. Claude Ave. There are still vacant slots on the tour, and Reg encourages people to volunteer their home or suggest that of a friend.

Reg is looking for volunteers to help on the day of the event. There are openings available for House Sitters (volunteers who will watch a house for a 2 hour shift running from 12 - 2 pm or 2 - 4 pm), volunteers to help set up that day 8-10 am, volunteers to man the ticket and merchandise table (2 hour shifts: 10 - 12 pm, 12 - 2 pm, 2 - 4 pm) and volunteers to tear down from 3:30-5:30 pm. As an additional incentive for each 2 hours of work, volunteers get free admission to the home tour.

If you can help, please contact Maureen Steffek at (504) 304-2052 or via email at hometour@faubourgmarigny.org

Several years ago, the Home Tour expanded to include an art market in Washington Square Park. The market this year features 20-25 local artists specializing in fine art, photography, jewelry, crafts, accessories, home furnishings and more. Local musicians and performing artists will entertain guests during the market hours. Additionally, the Kids Activity area will allow children a chance to enjoy the tour by participating in age appropriate fun activities. This feature of the tour highlights the effort that FMIA has put towards maintaining the park and spotlights the creativity and talents of neighborhood residents. As details are finalized, more information will be posted on the FMIA website, www.faubourgmarigny.org.

After the tour and market have closed, neighbors and visitors are encouraged to explore the great assortment of restaurants, bars and music clubs nearby. The day is an opportunity for people to experience all that the Marigny has to offer.

Day's Events

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. - Art Market
 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. - Kids Activity Area
 11:00 a.m. – Music starts featuring Miss Sophie Lee & her group
 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. - Tour tickets available in Washington Square Park
 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Home & Garden Tour

Tickets

Tickets go on sale in May. Tickets will be available in advance until May 14th for \$15 and may be purchased online at www.faubourgmarigny.org/outreach_home.htm. Kids 12 and under are free.

Tickets the day of the event are \$20

S P E C I A L E V E N T S

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION AWARDS CEREMONY Washington Square Park Tuesday, April 13th, 2:30 pm	Home Tour May 16	Calender of Events page 2
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL	APA (American Planning Association) Awards Ceremony Washington Square Park Tuesday, April 13th, 2:30 pm *****	Green Markets Saturdays 12 pm - 4 pm St. Ann's Episcopal Church 1313 Esplanade Ave. *****
General Meeting April 19 6:30 Pot Luck 7:15 Meeting St. Paul Lutheran Church 2624 Burgundy St *****	Meet the Neighbors 2 nd Tuesday April 13th 6:30-8:30 pm Tomatillos 437 Esplanade Ave. & May 11th 6:30-8:30 pm Orange Couch 2339 Royal St. *****	Once a month on Saturdays 11 am-3 pm The Renaissance Project St. Bernard & Claiborne Ave. Mother's Day May 8th *****
MAY Board Meeting May 5 7:00 pm Location TBA *****	NONPAC Meetings 5 th District 2 nd Wednesday 7 pm 2372 St. Claude Ave *** 8 th District 2 nd Thursday 5:30 pm 1001 Toulouse *****	New Orleans Food Coop Sundays 12 pm-6 pm Parking lot Holy Angels Convent St. Claude Ave. *****
Home Tour May 16 (info on page 1) *****	St. Claude Avenue Main Street Meetings Call 616-7637 *****	



President's Report

by Chris Costello

Spring is around the corner and with it comes all the fun festivals and warmer weather.

Thank you to the Downtown Irishman's Club for another fun St. Patrick's Day parade. It was a great time and great to see so many residents come out to enjoy the festivities.

We will be honored on April 13th at 2:30 pm in Washington Square Park by the American Planning Association for our work in making our neighborhood a great place to live, work and play. Specifically they are recognizing the 38 years of good planning we have put forth and the active role we have taken in both protecting and nurturing our neighborhood. This is in conjunction with the American Planning Association's annual conference which will be from April 10 – 13. Please stop by to help us celebrate.

Have you filled out your census? As important as electing new leadership, the census is the yardstick the Federal and State government use to allocate funds for education and other programs as well as determine the number of representatives we have in both governmental bodies. It is critical that everyone is counted. By forgetting even one person we are leaving money on the table and not being properly represented. I challenge everyone to make it a priority to fill out their form and send it in. Additionally, I challenge each block face in the neighborhood to make sure each property on the block fills out their form. I will give an update next newsletter on the return rates.

Congratulations to our elected officials. They have their work cut out for them, however, this does not mean that we can sit back and become complacent. It was our complacency that led to some elected officials robbing us blind because we were not involved in the process. We cannot let this happen again.

We will have several new businesses on St. Claude Avenue this month: a theatre, a coffee shop, a gallery and a pottery studio. Things are really starting to move full steam ahead for St. Claude Ave and our Main Street program. In addition to the new businesses, we are working on planting trees along the sidewalk and improving several of the facades with new paint. We need help with some of this leg work. If you can help, please contact Eva at eva@stclaudemainstreet.org.

As you may have noticed there is a lot of work going on in our neighborhood. Some is due to our No More (cont. page 3)



(from page 2) Blight program that has encouraged owners of properties that are not up to code to make them so. Other work is from new property owners who are improving their investments. Specifically, the long time dilapidated Mandeville Street Fire House has new owners, Michelle Benoit and Glen Pitre, who are renovating it for office space under the Residential District Overlay, a zoning ordinance we created working with City Planning to bring commercial properties like this back into commerce. Congratulations to them on their purchase and we look forward to working with them to make their project a success.

We are now less than one week away from April 15th. As a 501c 3 we can help reduce your tax liability while at the same time you can help out the neighborhood. Please consider making a donation. We have many programs you may donate to such as Save Our Trees program, Friends of Washington Square Park and our fund drive for our new benches and trash cans. Or if you would like donate to a specific cause please let us know.

It has been a great year so far. The cold weather of winter will be changing soon to the warm weather of Spring. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but working together we can tackle any challenge we face and make our dreams come true. I hope that with all the good news in 2010 so far it will inspire people to be a part of the renaissance of New Orleans. Please consider giving some of your time to make New Orleans a better place.

The Preservation Resource Center

*by Arin Adkins
With contributions from
Suzanne N. Blaum of the PRC*

"To promote the preservation, restoration and revitalization of New Orleans' historic architecture and neighborhoods." This is the mission of the Preservation Resource Center (PRC).

For over thirty-five years the PRC has been working to save neighborhoods in New Orleans. They work with communities to develop resources and programs that preserve historic homes. The PRC currently has two bricks-and-mortar programs, Operation Comeback and Rebuilding Together New Orleans. Along with the Advocacy, Education & Outreach, Preservation Easements and the Preservation in Print magazine, these programs work to achieve the mission of the PRC.

By fixing up blighted properties most would consider hopeless, Operation Comeback provides homes for first-time buyers and helps catalyze the rebirth of New Orleans' historic, flooded neighborhoods. These modest homes make excellent opportunities for first-time buyers in maximizing the value of their purchase. Other results include helping to establish homeownership, and increasing population alongside long-

time residents or future Operation Comeback renovations. The PRC website has photos and information about the houses available through Operation Comeback.

Rebuilding Together New Orleans, referred to as RTNO, has over twenty full-time staff members and more than 30 AmeriCorps members working to "improve the quality of life of low-income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly, disabled, first-responders, or single heads of household with minor children." RTNO, while an affiliate of the Rebuilding Together national program, differs in that it targets full home rebuilds due to the needs of the city. For people who already own their home and meet the specified criteria, RTNO can help rebuild and revitalize their property.

The Advocacy department advocates for federal, state and local legislation and policy that promotes the restoration and revitalization of New Orleans' neighborhoods and architecture. In working with local agencies to preserve neighborhoods' unique character, the Advocacy department monitors all properties proposed for demolition and works with agencies and neighborhoods to find alternatives to demolition.

Education/Outreach leverages the impact of all PRC programs and reaches thousands of potential investors and home buyers. This program is key in addressing the issues of vacant properties and population decline, especially during the rebuilding phase. Education is provided through workshops, tours, and events. It is marketed city-wide and includes programs for students of all ages. The goal is to empower individuals by giving them the tools they need to renovate and buy historic properties. Check the website for all of the programs, including Monthly Homebuyer Workshops, Renovators Happy Hour, Children's Education and more.

Additionally, the African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHP) spotlights the many contributions to the city's "culture, architecture and neighborhoods" which have been impacted by ethnic groups. This includes placing historic markers on the former homes of Jazz musicians, restoring jazz houses, education, lectures, tours and other events.

The PRC's Preservation Easement Program makes it possible for owners of historic buildings to gain a tax advantage by donating the façade of the property to the PRC. Once the donation is made, the PRC's right to regulate changes to the property's exterior is recorded in its title and remains in effect in perpetuity.

Preservation in Print is a most impressive newsletter that is published nine times each year. This periodical is in partnership with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Program and covers "architectural preservation and neighborhood revitalization." There are over 35,000 readers and receipt of Preservation in Print is a benefit of membership in the PRC.

The PRC is coming to the Marigny. Sarina Mohan, the Education and Outreach Coordinator is coming to the FMIA general meeting in May. She will explain further about how the PRC works to fortify New Orleans. Come prepared to ask questions and get a better understanding of this essential program.

The Preservation Resource Center is located at 923 Tchopitoulas Street. Their phone number is 504-636-3067 and their website is www.prcno.org.

* Source – www.prcno.org



New Master Plan And Zoning Ordinance Update

by Chris Costello

The City Council in conjunction with the City Planning Commission (CPC) held meetings in each of the council districts to solicit more feedback from the citizens. One lingering issue was the Citizen Participation component of the plan which is meant to ensure citizens have a voice in all planning decisions.

The next step is for the City Planning Commission to approve the plan which will then send the plan to the City Council for more public comment and a vote.

A copy of the Master Plan has been posted to the project website at www.nolamasterplan.org <<http://www.nolamasterplan.org>> You may also find copies to review at the Alvar Library.

No More Blight - Join Us in Our Fight

by Alexandre Vialou
Blight Committee

The Blight (il-)logic. First there is a building. Then, there is negligence: owners lose sight of their property and passers-by awkwardly gaze at the run-down structure powerlessly. Finally, demolition takes place. And it erases a piece of history.

Certainly change and progress are welcome, but too often buildings with a significant importance in our collective memory become simply disregarded and lost. Thanks to Lloyd Sensat's sketches, the Marigny Plantation – once one of the most impressive blighted properties of our faubourg at the corner of Elysian Fields and Decatur Street -- is finally gaining a new but posthumous recognition.

The Paris Theatre, built in 1903 (only 7 years after the first cinematography exhibition, in Paris, France) was another such landmark that once existed in our neighborhood. Originally the Elysium it became the Paris in 1965 – a well-known place to watch adult movies. It closed in 1987 and after 3 years of neglect was destroyed by a fire in 1990. Now it is a vacant lot – at 900 Elysian Fields Avenue.

Unfortunately the blight cycle is not an old story. Since August 2005, our neighborhood has lost 22 properties to demolition. Please let us know of any properties that you would like some assistance in getting through the Code Enforcement Process. Our email is blight@faubourgmarnigny.org

Results from past hearings:

02/24/2010 1718 Pauger – Guilty
03/03/2010 1800 Burgundy – Guilty
03/16/2010 1518 Pauger – Conditionally Guilty
03/17/2010 2229 Burgundy – Guilty
03/18/2010 2524 Dauphine – Conditionally Guilty

Cell Phone Numbers Go Public This Month

by Maureen Steffek

REMINDER - All cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls.

YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS

To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time.. It blocks your number for five (5) years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked. You cannot call from a different phone number.

HELP OTHERS BY PASSING THIS ON .. It takes about 20 seconds.



Meet The Neighbors Night

by Chris Costello

Thank you to Marigny Brassiere for hosting our March Meet the Neighbors night. Marigny Brasserie has been a great neighbor and partner to the neighborhood as they supply the refreshments for our Candlelight Caroling event.

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 and it keeps getting better. Our next installment will be on April 13. Check our website for current location and time.

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

WE WANT YOU

by Maureen Steffek

The pace of progress is speeding up in our city and our neighborhood. Since Katrina, a dedicated group of volunteers have worked tirelessly to protect, promote and guide our neighborhood. But the tasks are multiplying and more help is needed for the Faubourg Marigny to continue its progress.

I am working to connect the many FMIA members who want to volunteer with the events and activities they find (cont. page 5)



(from page 4)

most interesting. No matter how much or how little time you can offer, we can use your assistance.

Our newsletter has a new Editor who is looking for reporters and proofreaders and our Business Manager is seeking help with advertising and distribution. Experience is not necessary, if you are interested, let us know.

The home tour, one of our most important fund raisers, is Sunday, May 16. We will need many volunteers that day to work at Washington Square Park as well as in the homes. But we also need help now getting all the activities like the artists' booths, musicians and the children's activity center organized.

Many committees are managed by long term volunteers who could use a new pair of hands. Our community is only as strong and vibrant as our commitment to keeping it that way. We all benefit from the work of community volunteers. And the satisfaction of knowing you make a difference is wonderful.

Please contact me at msteffek1@hotmail.com or 504-304-2052 to let me know the activities and events you are interested in working on. I look forward to helping you help your community.

Buckmoth Caterpillars are Coming We are Ready

by Chris Costello



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.

We instituted a 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 the precious leaves they need to help make them healthy again. To date we have not lost one tree due to the storm.

We received great news that Parks & Parkways has selected our park to be sprayed as part of the city contract. This is a great sign that the Department of Parks & Parkways is receiving more funding to beautify our city and that our city is beginning to work correctly.

Although the trees are being sprayed for buck moths we still need to fertilize them. We will also have the trees checked for termites and treated as needed.

We would like to thank those who have generously donated to this fund and unless otherwise advised we will use the funds collected thus far for fertilization and termite inspection and treatment.

If you will like to make a donation towards the fertilization and termite inspection please send a check made payable to FMIA with "Save Our Trees" in the memo.

Send to:

FMIA, Save Our Trees
535 Mandeville Street
New Orleans, LA 70177.

Remember, your donation is 100% tax deductible!

Fifth District NONPAC Meeting

by John Luckett

Major Kelly was out ill; the meeting was called by her lieutenant with the announcement that the District was working with an ATF Federal unit on firearms related issues. As you may know, the Federal penalties are much more severe than the State penalties.

Quality of Life Mathew Alsina reviewed actions he has taken regarding complaints since the last meeting.

There was a discussion about gutter punks and vandalism around the area between Mandeville and Elysian Fields and Decatur and Royal. The President of the Spice Factory condos reported that gutter punks had recently thrown a brick through a window on the Decatur side, narrowly missing a child sleeping beneath it. Also a resident reported that there had been 8 or nine car mirrors broken in the 2200 and 2300 blocks of Chartres since mid-December, resulting in over \$3,000 in property damage. A resident reported that he had observed two gutter punks breaking a mirror and then running around the corner and up Marigny toward Decatur.

Fred Radke spoke up about various web sites that graffiti taggers bragged about causing property damage here, and all over the country. He also stated that there are web sites listing how to contact taggers in cities, including New Orleans. He said that he is again becoming active, and residents could contact him regarding graffiti at 504-486-9694.

Officer Lacabe gave a report on the drug arrests in the area, and said that his task force is actively pursuing a number of investigations.

Some time early April the Fifth District will be moving to 901 Bartholomey Street, at Burgundy.



New Orleans Food Coop

by Mac Lemann

We are in the midst of a membership campaign that involves having a table at community events and visiting neighborhood associations such as your own. We were very grateful for the opportunity to present our project to you all and especially to those who joined our group based on our visit. The biggest event on the horizon for us will be the NOLA Veggie Fest (w.nolaveggiefest.com/) for which we are the lead sponsor. We are also working to organize a live auction as well as a bicycle fashion show at the Crescent City Farmers Market.

In the coming months we will be conducting a national search for the General Manager who will be running our store. We will be keeping an eye out, though, for great local candidates.

It is a very exciting time for the NOFC and we could really use the investment and effort of the people in the Faubourg Marigny if we are going to be successful in our goal of operating a store that provides healthy, affordable groceries in your neighborhood.

If you are interested in investing in our co-op or helping out with any of our upcoming events please email us at: info@nolafoodcoop.org. See you at the store!!

Field Sports Not Allowed in Washington Square Park

by Chris Costello

We were recently notified by Parks & Parkways that the soccer goals have been removed in compliance with the following municipal code. Sec.106-168. Baseball, football and racquettes - Prohibited in Parks: The playing of baseball, football and racquettes and the practicing of such games on the neutral grounds or parks of the city is hereby prohibited except as permitted by sections 106-169 and 106-170. These types of sports are allowed only in NORD parks. It is understandable why these types of sports are relegated to actual fields dedicated to them instead of pedestrian parks. More importantly, this highlights the importance of securing these types of sports fields in our new riverfront park, a point we have been trying to impress on the designers of the park.

We need this type of space so we can recreate and exercise. Our riverfront park should contain the facilities we need to live not the facilities the designers feel will make it pretty for visitors.

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DINING OUT



Tomatillo's Tapas & Spirits

by Linda Feinberg

Tomatillo's Tapas & Spirits is the city's new destination spot for delicious New Orleans-inspired Latin Tapas and Spirits. Tomatillo's new Chef, Ric Gonzalez, has prepared an eclectic, tantalizing Tapas menu featuring specialties like Jumbo BBQ Shrimp & Grits, Lamb Chop Lollipops, Stuffed Spanish Peppers, Sauteed Mussels in a Tomato-Cream Salsa with Fried Shoestring Potatoes, Char-Grilled Tenderloin served with a Chimichurri Salsa, and Chorizo Sausage & Peppers, just to name a few! And don't worry, you'll still find your Tomatillo's Tex-Mex favorites on the menu! With spacious indoor dining and one of the area's largest outdoor (and dog-friendly!) dining courtyards, Tomatillo's is the place to be for lunch, dinner, daily Happy Hour, or Sunday Brunch.
[www.TomatillosNOLA.com](http://www.tomatillosnola.com) <<http://www.tomatillosnola.com/>>

Come for our Meet the Neighbors on April 13th at 6:30 pm.

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Backgammon, anyone?

The New Orleans Backgammon Club meets in the Marigny for a friendly tournament every Wednesday. Several FMIA members are regulars. Come and enjoy. Beginners are welcome.

Casual - Lighthearted - Fun

6:30PM, Wednesdays at Flora's Cafe (Royal & Franklin)

FREE ENTRY (regularly \$5) when you mention this ad.*

Questions? Call Will Hunn at 504 366-7498

NolaBackgammon.org

* Your first tournament.

Orchids & Onions

ORCHIDS-

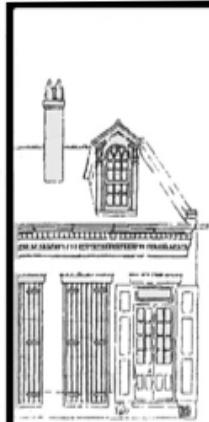
To Maureen Steffek as our Volunteer Chairperson.

To FMIA interns. AmeriCorp Team Gold for all the hard work collecting and recording data.

ONIONS-

To those who deface property with their graffiti and tags.

To dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets.



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Some Hot Flashes

Washington Square Park - Bobby Moffit reports that the gate at Frenchmen and Dauphine has been repaired. Because the mortar at the base has to dry, it may be a few days before the gate is fully operable. Editor's note: Contributions have enabled the FMIA to make this and other repairs. Thank you.

Roberts Fresh Market - Darren Naquin (of Roberts) responded to our request on the Roberts vs. Schwegmann trial. He reports that due to a family death the Schwegmann's have requested a postponement. The judge granted this request til September or October. The FMIA regrets this delay. We will keep you posted



Color Me Creole

This is the **fifth** 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 to be 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
Feb. 2010

Creole Town House (1790-1840)

By Eugene Cizek & Lloyd Sensat

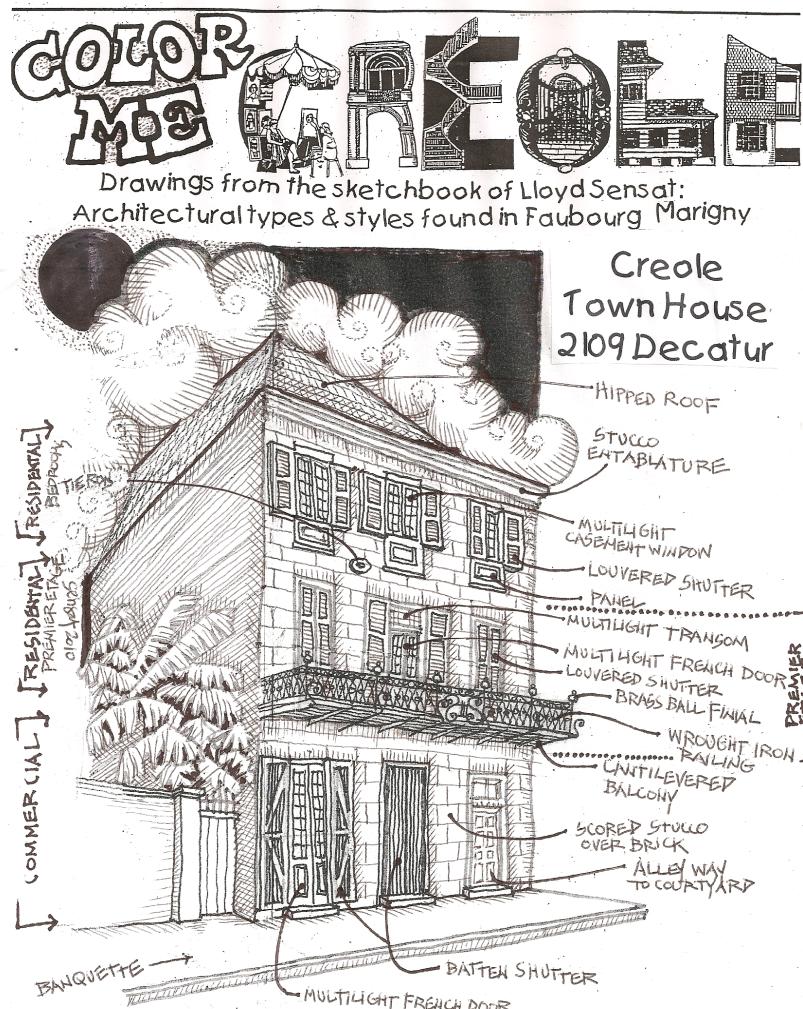
The Creole townhouse has an enclosed, narrow pedestrian passageway which is smaller than the broad carriage way of the Porte-Cochere house. This interior-exterior alley runs the length of the house, opens to the rear courtyard and is secured with a door or gate. At the end of the alley one finds the large, curving staircase that interconnects all of the floors. The components of this house type include the alley rather than an interior hall, french doors with transom or fanlight, long multi-hung windows on the upper levels, rear loggia, balconies and a courtyard. The patio or courtyard is created by the main front building and interconnected slave quarters, kitchens and privies. Sometimes there are more than one courtyard, each serving a different function. By the 19th century cast iron galleries became popular, often replacing original wrought iron balconies. Both Creole town houses and portecochere houses can be two, three or four story buildings. As early as 1819, Benjamin Henry Latrobe was lamenting the demise of the Creole town house.

Creole Town House at 2109 Decatur

By Eugene Cizek & Lloyd Sensat

The brothers Francois and Julien Adolphe Lacroix, both free men of color, were some of the wealthiest men in New Orleans. Also some of the largest property owners in Faubourg Marigny.

Julien Lacroix was a grocer by trade, who lived above his store at the corner of Frenchman and Decatur Streets. He built 2109 Decatur Street in the 1840's as rental property. The building is a quintessential example of a Creole town house. It is a three bay, three story building of brick construction with stucco and scoring to look like stone. A cantilevered balcony on the second level has some of the finest wrought iron balconies in Faubourg Marigny. The entrance is the characteristic narrow passageway which leads to a rear enclosed stair loggia with a magnificent spiral stairway winding upward with no visible supports. The loggia opens to the courtyard with a three-story service wing to the left with balconies at the second and third level. A previous owner, W. A. Groves, a noted antique dealer and collector, installed the marble floors on the ground level which came from the old St. Charles Hotel. All of the doors and windows have Greek key surrounds. The second floor or "premier etage" has its original pocket doors. Despite years of neglect and abuse, the building is very intact and is being restored by realtor Richard "Dick" Kirshner. The drawing shows the building in its restored condition.



MARIGNY GREEN

by Deborah Oppenheim



AmeriCorps NCCC Team Gold 7

From left to right starting with the back row:

Zach Neumann, Patrick Noonan
Amber Franklin, Erin Flynn, Jon Snyder, Samir Chandra
Aliyah Bixby, Amy Mahler

Marigny Green was pleased to have AmeriCorps NCCC Team Gold 7 work with FMIA to collect data in our neighborhood. Two teams were working on photographing the buildings on every intersection in the Marigny. Another team recorded graffiti that was on all street signs in the Marigny. It is great seeing such an energetic group of young adults giving to New Orleans and our Marigny community. As they walked the neighborhood collecting data, they said that a lot of residents were friendly and helpful. Marigny Green/FMIA wants to thank Team Gold 7 for all its hard work.

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS REMINDS RESIDENTS THAT 311 CALL CENTER HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED

RESIDENTS SHOULD DIAL 658-4000 FOR ASSISTANCE

New Orleans, LA -- The City of New Orleans reminds residents that the 3-1-1 Call Center that handled citizen complaints and requests for service was discontinued effective January 1, 2010 following budget cuts made by the City Council.

Residents should call (504) 658-4000 for inquiries that normally would have been addressed through 3-1-1, such as street light outages, potholes, clogged drains, information regarding property taxes and parking tickets, and to register for the City Assisted Evacuation Plan (CAEP) for assistance in the event of an emergency.

Callers will receive a recorded message and a prompt to help them reach the department they wish to contact. The below message will be heard by each caller:

Thank you for calling the City of New Orleans. Please listen to the available prompts and your call will be answered by a department representative.

Press #1 for Public Works (street lights, potholes, clogged drains, missing street signs and traffic signal outages)

Press #2 for Housing / Code Enforcement (status of a hearing, report a blighted structure)

Press #3 for Environmental Health (vacant lot with high grass)

Press #4 for Department of Revenue (property taxes, sales taxes, occupational licenses, sanitation fee removal)

Press #5 for Department of Parks & Parkways (City tree trim requests or downed trees)

Press #6 for Emergency Preparedness (house elevation, hazardous mitigation, City Assisted Evacuation Plan, Department of Homeland Security)

Press #0 for all other Departments / Agencies

YOURS TRULY IN A SWAMP Easter After Forty Days of Lent

by Leonard E. Johnson

On Ash Wednesday, all over Louisiana, Carnival lifted its joyous mantle, leaving Lent's ashen smudge in its place. At New Orleans Saint Louis Cathedral, business suits stood cheek-by-jowl with crimson capes and smeared-lipstick ladies awaiting priests dressed in the vestments of Sorrow and poised to put The Sign of The Cross on their foreheads, with thumbs dipped in the ashes of last year's Palm Sunday palms.



L.E.J. as the late
Ernie K-Doe

Outside, a soft rain washed The City.

I have many doubts about theological things, but none whatsoever about this ceremony.

To ashes we shall return.

Lent is the strangest holiday in all the Christian calendar. Also the longest. Should you need reason to be suspicious of religion's political powers, consider this fact:

Carnival's pleasurable length shortens. Lent's, by Canon Law, never does.

Mardi Gras 2011 will fall on March 8, making Carnival 2011 almost three weeks longer than 2010.

Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is the last day of Carnival's ever-changing season of joy. Next day, Ash Wednesday, is the first day of Lent's never-changing season of suffering.

The Catholic Calendar, by which we measure all this, is not too accurate, what with the date of Easter changing with the moon! (cont. page 11)



(from page 10) Easter is the end of Lent. It is also a ceremony about Spring. Borrowed from religions that came before Christianity. It may be the oldest human celebration, and it is calculated (or miscalculated), again by Canon Law, with instruments created with faith in suffering and suspicion of pleasure.

Suffering is not to be monkeyed with in theological calculations. Carnival's pleasures, however, are reducible, by God (or His agents with their inaccurate stopwatches).

Lenten fasting repairs Winter's damage and Carnival's excess, and prepares us for Spring's rebirth. Like the jazz man says, "Blow the roof off the sucker ..."

It has been a good Lent this year, with sunny mornings and a warm place in the kitchen to read Internet newspapers and sip coffee.

The live oaks outside our dormer windows are a soft young green. Live oaks don't dump their leaves till Spring's new buds arrive (as followers of JFK conspiracies know). Then they change from old dark green to young soft green almost overnight. Today soft-green rules Big Swamp City, and we old alligators lie on the banks in whatever sun we can find dreaming of Easter baskets and Spring.

(A version of this story first appeared in 2004)

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For more of L. E. J.'s *Yours Truly in a Swamp* go to
www.LEJ.org

FMIA Board Meeting February 3, 2010 Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Maureen Steffek, Dr. Dusty, Brenda Laura, Glen and Michelle Pitre, and Kathy Connolly

Chris called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm

Announcements:

1. Meet the Neighbors: Is scheduled at Marigny Brassiere March 9th 6:30 8:30 pm.

Administration

1. Approvals by email: approval of money for District C Candidate Forum-yes; Arnica support on non-conforming use decision- yes; Arnica support on neighborhood groups right to sue for enforcement- yes

2. Approval of minutes from 2/3 Board & 2/22 General meetings: Chris moved that we approve the 2/3 Board Meeting minutes and the 2/22 General Meeting will be deferred to the next Board Meeting for approval. Gretchen Second Vote: Unanimous

President's Report: There is a time limit for the funds for the riverfront and we do not want the money to be lost. We are addressing this issue. Chris announced that (1) Cassandra Howard, an intern, is working on re-drawing Washington Square park, 2) Cassandra and Ian Daniels are working on a walking tour brochure of the rectangle and triangle that was created by Gene Cizek and Lloyd Sensat and collecting information to create a welcome packet. Chris discussed

and is investigating the need for insurance that would encompass everything for all our events.

3. Treasurer's Report : Eva will email her oral report and answer any questions asked by the Board.

4. Committee reports:

a. Newsletter: Report: The procedure for the minutes is 1) The Recording Secretary after the meeting will send to the Board a transcript of the meeting only for information 2) The Recording Secretary edits the transcript 3) The Recording Secretary sends an edited version of the minutes for editing of content to the Board. Within 3-4 days, the Board sends their edited comments to the Recording Secretary. 4) The Recording Secretary makes the necessary corrections and sends that version to the Editor who corrects the minutes for syntax and grammar. 5) The Editor resends the minutes to the Recording Secretary for the final corrections and 6) The Final draft of the minutes is sent to the Board's approval. Ron Petty, the Newsletter Committee liaison gave his report. He said that there are issues with the newsletter that has to be ironed out. It was reiterated that the Newsletter should not have anything written that is personnel or subjective. The Newsletter Committee stressed that deadlines are important. The Newsletter Committee wanted a policy that all Board members edited the final draft. Ken moved that we deferred this request to the next meeting. Second Gretchen Vote Unanimous. Chris moved that we accept the policy when it is written and will be distributed to the Board and printed in the September Newsletter. Second: Ken Vote Unanimous

Orchids: Welcomed Maureen Steffek as our Volunteer Chairperson, Thank you to FMIA interns, Thank you AmeriCorps Team Gold 7 for all the hard work collecting and recording data, Thank you to Sam Armstrong for all the new ads for the Newsletter.

b. Volunteer Chair: 304-2052 Maureen Steffek, Volunteer Chairperson is focusing on getting people for the various committees such as Home Tour, Washington Square Park, and the Newsletter. There are endless jobs and FMIA needs people to do them. She would appreciate any information from members who have worked with the volunteers. Maureen feels that connection is necessary so that volunteers are appreciated.

c. Membership: We need to have a new form and a policy for membership renewal.

d. Washington Square Park: Donations are accepted for the new benches and trash cans. Washington Square Park will be sprayed for buck moths. Please consider donating to help the cost of spraying for buck moths.

e. Marigny Green: Deborah presented to the Board Marigny Green's logo contest competition. The logo will be reproduced on all Marigny Green's literature and merchandise. The deadline for submission is March 24th at midnight and work can be submitted electronically to deboraho@faubourgmariigny.org and/or mail P.O. Box 770080 NOLA 7011. AmeriCorps NCCC Team Gold 7 worked with FMIA to collect data in our neighborhood. Marigny Green and FMIA want to thank AmeriCorps NCCC Team Gold 7 for all their hard work.

Old business:

Projects

a. Reinventing the Crescent: No status

b. RDO: The Committee (Rick, Gretchen, and Chris) met to discuss the RDO. They will identify every building in the Marigny.

c. APA: The Conference is April 10th -13th. As a recipient of APA's Great American Neighborhood, FMIA is being presented a bronze plaque on Friday, April 9th in Washington Square Park. FMIA will have a walking tour for the participants that will include three open houses and a mobile workshop. This is a great opportunity to showcase our neighborhood. (cont. page 12)



(from page 11)

d. PRC Sellabration Saturday, March 20th 10am to 2pm 923 Tchoupitoulas St. PRC Sellabration will feature exhibitions by historic New Orleans neighborhoods. Representing Faubourg Marigny is FMIA's vice present, Reg Medellin.

e. Visibility of Marigny: No Status

f. Banners: Ken will talk with the city regarding protocol.

g. Welcome Sign: Gretchen has the artist working on a simple sign. We want a sign that could be moved.

h. Riverfront Alliance: No Status

i. AIDS Memorial: No Status

j. Historic markers: Gene is trying to get a quote. He said that they can grind off the letters and laminate the new letters. Brian could help him.

k. Board Member responsibilities: No Status

l. Master Plan: No Status

m. Marigny Advertising/Brochure/T-shirt ideas: No Status

n. Crime Collaborative: No Status

o. 5th District Staffing: No Status

p. Policy for emails that deal with Crime Alerts and Forwarding Information No Status

q. Office Space: No status

r. Art in WSP Guidelines: Brian will work with Deborah.

s. Block Captains: No Status

t. Business Directory: Gretchen has mailed Chris and Eva the information

New business:

Projects

a. Mandeville Firehouse: Glen and Michelle Pitre bought the Mandeville Firehouse at city auction. It was used as a NORD facility. It was vacant after Katrina and is in terrible condition. They are beginning construction with a new roof. Their plan is to have a home office and studio space (incubator) for film makers. Some of the space would be for short term storage production, flex space for young film makers to have editing facility and an address. There is a great room that could be used for meetings. The Pitre's are trying to find something that keeps the integrity of the building. The building is zoned HMR3. They are asking to change the zoning to have the entire building commercial with a kitchen area for lunch. The concerns include, noise, parking, 18 wheelers, and impact to the neighborhood. Chris moved that we accept the concept that they have proposed and they would enter into a neighborhood agreement (CEA) and conditional use to address the neighbors concerns. Second Ron Vote Unanimous

b. 2414 St. Claude: Dr. Dusty and Brenda Laura has leased the Old St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. Dr. Dusty said that it is a concrete building without any architectural value. Their concept is to have a pet business. It would include retail pet supplies, prescription foods and medicines and grooming. Dr. Dusty would have surgery once a week. His practice is strictly house calls. Q: Are you boarding pets? A: No 2) Q: What about animal waste and noise? A: This will not be a problem. They have containers and will contract their trash. The backyard will not be used for the animals. They might have onsite adoption. Q: Will you make improvement to the building? A: They want to have commercial doors, eliminate the aluminum awning and remove the boards from the building. Q: Signage: A: The retail business will need signage but not the Dr. Dusty. Q: Deliveries? A: One truck once a week and other 3 x a week. Q: Surgery? A: Surgery is 9-10 am once a week. Q: Hours of operation? A: The retail store

will be open 7 days a week. It will bring foot traffic to the neighborhood. Chris moved that we accept the concept that they discussed and that the backyard is not used for the animals, no dumpster, no boarding, disposal death policy of the animal, and pet care Second: Deborah Vote: Unanimous

c. Good Children: Kathy Connolly, 949-1773 Good Children Social Aid and Pleasure Club asked for a \$1000 donation for their Sunday April 4th Easter parade.. Q: Do you have any donations A: Fringe \$100 , Sisters of Holy Angels \$200, and Councilperson Fielkow \$100. They need donations for their rally. The drawing is on Good Friday. They need St. Claude Main Street banner. Chris moved that we give Good Children \$250 Second Gretchen Discussion: We support the community Vote: Unanimous

d. 1807 N. Rampart. The owner who is from New York wants a French bistro with a courtyard setting that will have a fence around the building. He wants to have a holding bar larger than the allowed use. There is an issue which are neighbors. They are concerned about quality of life issues and noise. We will not support a larger holding bar and the concerns of the neighbors must be addressed. When he is in town the owner will meet with Chris.

e. St. Peter and Paul: Gene discussed that CANO (Jean Nathan) and other art groups are looking at St. Peter and Paul for their site. The church is interested in selling the building. There is a possibility of development money.

1.Issues

a. 2300 block of Royal Street: A Marigny resident complained that the Orange Couch is having NOCA music students perform once a month and the resident felt that the problem is small it might become bigger. The other complaint was that the Praline Connection has 18 wheelers and other trucks stopping in the street and blocking traffic. Chris moved that we send a friendly letter explaining the zoning to the Orange Couch. Second Ken Vote: Unanimous. Chris moved that we send a letter to the Praline Connection that we received a complaint that their trucks are blocking Royal Street and Mandeville St. Second Gene Vote: Unanimous

Other:

a. Response to Mr. Stephen Chestnut: We have made the correction and please accept our apology for leaving out the word 'judge'. As a neighborhood organization we do not support any political candidate and have instituted a better check and balance policy and will be more diligent in implementing this policy in the future.

b. April 25 – May 31 Chris will be out of town. Chris will work with Reg before he leaves.

c. We are so happy to have Brian Frye back on the Board. Chris moved that we accept Brian Frye as a Board Member. Second Gretchen Vote: Unanimous Brian will work on fundraising and will work with Deborah on art in Washington Square Park.

Adjournment Chris moved to adjourned at 11:10pm

General Meeting FMIA February 22, 2010 Minutes

Chris Costello, President opened the meeting at 7:15pm. He welcomed everyone to the General Meeting. A special welcome to all the new people.

Announcements:

1. Derrick Shepard: dmorrison33@cox.net City Planning is tomorrow February 23rd at 1:30 pm. People are asked to voice their opinion and this is a message from the NO Committee to Reopen Charity. (cont. page 13)



(from page 12)

2. **Madeline:** The Global Lens film series began in 2003 to support unique cinema from around the world. The Global Lens has partnered with NOCCA (www.nocca.com) and Silence is Violence to debut 10 new international films for free at Lupin Hall on NOCCA's campus. This is a great opportunity to see international films in the Marigny.
3. Meet the Neighbors was cancelled last month due to the Saints parade. This is an opportunity to meet new residents in a social setting. We will see you on March 9th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Marigny Brassiere.
4. T-shirts and mugs are for sale and are great spring presents.
5. APA Conference will be held in New Orleans on April 9 – 13th. FMIA will be present an award at the April 10th event. We are in the planning process. We will have an award ceremony, walking and home tour. If you are interested in helping or want to volunteer, please contact Chris at president@faubourgmarigny.org.

Committee Reports:

1. **Blight:** Blight Committee reported: There are two reasons why we care about blight. An adjacent blighted property brings a lot of inconvenience but a restored blighted property will help increase the value of all properties. The Times Picayune said that there are 60,000 blighted homes in the city. Restoring blighted building will give more livable housing and it will reduce pressure on rental prices. One of the roles of the Blight Committee is to monitor code enforcement hearings. We thank Howard for attending the hearings. We are giving a packet to each blighted property containing the city's housing requirements and a list of nonprofit contractors who can help with renovation. The Blight Committee wants to help and educate people. An FMIA member said, "For 12 years the three properties next store were in terrible shape. The Blight Committee worked with the owner and within the last year these three properties are now being fixed. We want to thank the Blight Committee for its good work." Any information please contact blight@faubourgmarigny.org. Please take a minute to thank the Blight Committee for all their excellent work.
2. **Colton School:** Work has begun on Colton School. Michael Pizzolatto is spearheading a group to get a great school in our neighborhood. He has been in touch with Superintendent Vallas. Michael wants everyone to get involved in having a strong education program in our neighborhood. Announcements with important dates will be sent out.
3. **Marigny Green:** Marigny Green now has its own identify www.marignygreen.org and/or just type in Marigny Green. Marigny Green Committee is working on revamping the website with current information. Marigny Green needs a logo and the Committee is sponsoring a logo contest. Interested? Submit a drawing that can be reproduced for black and white and/or color – size 5' x 7" that will be reproduced on all Marigny Green's literature and merchandise. The deadline for submission is March 24th by midnight. To submit your work electronically go to deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org and/or mail to P.O. Box 77080 NOLA 70177. Deborah said Marigny Green will recycle alkaline batteries by bringing them to the General Meeting. FMIA/Marigny Green has contracted with a private company to recycle alkaline batteries. Marigny Green also recycles CFLs and at FMIA's General Meetings. Marigny Green Committee is open to all and we would like to encourage everyone to get involved in 'greening' our community. If you have an extra hour to help with Marigny Green, please contact Deborah at deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org.
4. **Home Tour:** May 16th is the Annual Home Tour. The focus is the rectangle. Reg, Home Tour Coordinator, said the Committee is looking for condos, apartments, gardens, and homes. Volunteers are needed for the planning stage and event day. Please contact hometour@faubourgmarigny.org
5. **Newsletter Committee:** We welcome Donna Wakeman, Editor and Sam Armstrong, Business Manager to FMIA's Newsletter Committee. Thank you both for volunteering.
6. **Washington Square Park:** "Save our Trees" is the slogan. It is time to spray for buck moth caterpillars. Donations are needed. Chris said, "As part of its stewardship of Washington Square Park, FMIA contracts for the treatment of the trees for buck moth caterpillars. As anyone living around oak trees knows all too well, these insects are a significant nuisance to humans and very damaging to trees. To quote from Wikipedia, "The larvae typically emerge in a single generation in the spring. The larvae are covered in hollow spines that are attached to a poison sack. The poison can cause symptoms ranging from itching and burning sensations to nausea." Just spraying the trees in the park is not enough to control the buck moth caterpillar population as untreated trees allow the mature buck moths to infest nearby trees. **We are asking residents to have their trees sprayed at the same time and have worked out a special price with the contractor of \$80 per tree.** Treatment of the oaks in Washington Square is paid for from the "Save Our Trees" fund, and they are always looking for donations. Send checks to PO Box 770080, New Orleans LA 70177.

We are launching the program to get new trash cans and benches in Washington Square Park. Plaques will be placed on the receptacles. This is a small fundraiser and we are a 501 (c) 3 and donations are tax deductible. The cost per trash can is \$650 and per bench is \$1300. We appreciated any donation and for more information contact Chris at president@faubourgmarigny.org.

7. Gary said if you did not get a newsletter please let him know. He will track down the problem.
8. Dues: Please pay your dues – we have a credit card machine and of course checks are accepted. You can also pay on our website.
9. Safety and Security: Chris said, "We have tried many ideas such as neighborhood watch, a loose knit security district, and Block captains. With the new administration, they will be changes with the Police Department. We want to work with the City to see what they will do with."
10. St. Claude Ave: MIT students come to New Orleans and they created a plan called *St. Claude in Common*. They talked to everyone and came up with real tangible ideas to bring back St. Claude. The plan received an award. St. Claude Main St. needs your help to move the St. Claude in Common plan forward. Please contact Chris at president@faubourgmarigny.org for more information.

Questions:

Q: What is a taxing district?

A: The idea is to have a Taxing District and you will be billed on your property tax bill. The cost is about \$100 per year. We will revisit this.

Q: Will everyone pay the same?

A: Everyone will be taxed the same. It goes to a vote. This would only be in the Faubourg Marigny. This is the better way so everyone pays equally. We will revisit this.

Q: Are the Guardian Angels still in town?

A: Yes, they are located in the FQ and they have a low profile.

Comment: Security cameras have eyes on the street at all time.

(cont. page 14)



(from page 13)

Speaker:

Ashley: Hollygrove Market and Farm www.HollygroveMarket.org (HM&F) 504-483-7037 is a community-owned, non-profit store and training farm that sells locally-grown and organic produce. They are currently operating as a 'buyers club'. In the spring, a retail store will open. HM&F is located behind the post office in the Carrollton area. HM&F is selling a box of fresh seasonal organic and conventional produce at 1313 St. Ann's on Saturday from 1 – 5pm. They are also working with the French Market to have vendors provide food for a healthy lifestyle. More information contact Ashley ashley@hollygrovemarket.com

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

General Meeting FMIA March 15, 2010 Minutes

Chris Costello, President, opened the meeting at 7:18 pm. He introduced himself and welcomed all members and new Marigny neighbors to the meeting.

A special announcement to introduce St. Paul's Lutheran Church's new pastor, Kevin Kieschnick [in attendance], was made. A special installation ceremony is to be performed Saturday, March 20, 2010 and all Marigny residents are invited to attend.

Announcements:

1. **Downtown Irishman's Parade** will be marching on Royal Street in the Marigny, Wednesday, March 17, 2010, 7 pm. All Marigny neighbors encouraged to attend and show support.
2. **Master Plan** Meeting planned on Thursday, March 18, 2010, 6 pm-8 pm at Alice Harte Elementary Charter School, 5300 Berkley Dr. [Westbank]. Now is the time to have your voices heard; the public is encouraged to attend.
3. **Meet the Neighbors** was held on March 9th at the Marigny Brassiere. This gathering is a great way to meet neighbors in a social setting -- no business meeting is held. April Meet the Neighbors location to be announced.
4. **FMIA annual dues** are now due. Payments can be made at today's meeting or paid online at website www.faubourgmarnigny.org/members
5. **FMIA T-Shirts** [\$10.00] and mugs [\$5.00] for sale - check out membership desk.
6. Derrick Sheppard with the Lower Mid-City group, **New Orleans Committee to Reopen Charity**, stated that the group is taking Mayor Nagin and city officials to civil district court [Friday, March 19, 2010, 9 a.m.] in an attempt to halt any further development of a new Charity hospital. All concerned citizens are encouraged to attend court hearing.

Committee Reports:

1. **Blight:** Blight committee member, Howard Allen, announced that there would be an adjudication meeting at City Hall, Thursday March 18, 2010 on a Marigny property [1518 Pauger].

All neighbors are encouraged to attend and give testimony. Howard also reported that he is constantly updating the Marigny Blighted Property listing. FMIA/Blight committee compiled a listing of blighted properties in the Marigny as defined by the City code enforcement agency. With the support and assistance of the City, the FMIA monitors the status and progress of these properties and attempts to assist and inform property owners in how they may better follow the city's housing codes. FMIA will continue to send email announcements to its membership regarding upcoming Blight meetings on Marigny properties. To assist in these efforts to control blight the membership is encouraged to complete a "Blight Compliant Form" at membership desk or website and bring to next FMIA meeting or forward to FMIA any information regarding any blighted property.

2. **Marigny Green:** Reminder that Marigny Green information can be accessed directly at website www.marignygreen.org. The committee is also in the process of selecting a Marigny Green logo so any ideas are welcome and can be submitted no later than March 24, 2010 at website or by sending to FMIA address P.O. Box 77080, NOLA. The committee is also working on updating website with current information on all its programs including: ReLeaf, RePlant, ReCycle, ReLight. Any questions or information inquiries should directed to Deborah at deborah@faubourgmarnigny.org.
3. **Home Tour:** Mark your calendars, Sunday, May 16, 2010 for the 38th Annual Faubourg Marigny Home Tour. Reg Medellin, committee chairman, stated the event is a major fundraiser for the FMIA and encourages residents to spread the word. This year's event is especially important because it will follow the official award ceremony in Washington Square Park on April 11, 2010 naming the Faubourg Marigny a 2009 Best U.S. Neighborhood destination by the American Planning Commission. Volunteers are being sought to help out with the home tour and will be given a free pass to the tour with a 2-hour commitment on event day. If interested in volunteering please contact hometour@faubourgmarnigny.org.
4. **Washington Square Park:** FMIA "Save Our Trees" project is raising money to fertilize and spray the Park oaks and other trees for buck moth caterpillars. All neighboring properties or any owners interested in having their trees sprayed should contact FMIA office for price of spraying -- approximately \$80 per tree. Donation forms were distributed to membership for contributions to these efforts. Donate on line or send checks to FMIA, POB 770080, New Orleans, LA 70177.
5. **Volunteers:** Maureen Stiffick is the new volunteer contact/committee who is seeking volunteers to help out in the various projects the FMIA sponsors. Office work, committee projects, newsletter duties (just to name a few) are all volunteer efforts. Maureen encouraged everyone to donate an hour or two each month -- great way to meet some of your neighbors.
6. **Newsletter:** The new Newsletter staff was announced: Donna Wakeman, Editor; Sam Armstrong, Business Manager and Ron Petty, FMIA board liaison.
(cont. page 15).

(from page 14) Brenda Martin is doing Layout and Linda Belou is handling Distribution. A big thanks to all these members who volunteered to work on the newsletter. The staff is currently in a transition stage and has begun addressing some problems - particularly distribution. Any interested members are welcome to assist with the reporting of newsworthy events or the newsletter itself.

Topics:

1. **Roberts Fresh Market.** Chris mentioned that a meeting was being held this coming week regarding the status of the Roberts grocery market. The grocery store [St. Claude and Elysian Fields] has been in legal litigation with the Schwemann property owners over insurance and renovation construction issues post-Katrina.
2. **American Planning Assolciation.** All Marigny residents are urged to attend the official April 11, 2010 ceremony to announce the Faubourg Marigny 2009 Best Neighborhood designation by the APA. Gene Cizek wrote an informative in-depth article in last month's newsletter that Chris encouraged the membership to read. Chris will send out email announcements giving more information on this event.
3. **Census.** It's important that ALL residents fill out, complete and mail the forms. It's especially important for New Orleans residents in the wake of Katrina to be counted in this census. Chris mentioned that it was critical because the government allocates billions of dollars of funds based on the census reporting for planning and community services in Louisiana and New Orleans. Call FMIA (888) 312-0812 if any resident has a questions or inquiry.

Speakers:

John Calhoun, **New Orleans Food Coop** [NOFC] emphasized that the Coop would supply "healthy-affordable" food to the neighborhood. John wanted to announce they are still seeking new members to join the Coop. At this juncture they have about 660 people who have joined but have a goal to reach 1,500 members that would allow them to secure adequate funds to open. He stated that it will cost approximately \$1.5 million to open the Coop and even though some of the funding is coming from the developer they still need more funding from members and investors. The renovations on the Coop property at St. Roch and St. Claude [NO Healing Center] are scheduled to be completed by year end 2010. John wanted to stress to the membership that the Coop is owned by its membership, that all funds are pumped back into the community via promoting local and regional food production, creating jobs and keeping capital investment local. Additional information can be seen at www.nolafoodcoop.org.

Projects:

1. The FMIA is working with new owners for a planned French bistro type restaurant at 1807 N. Rampart.
2. **Riverfront.** A meeting including state officials was held at the Healing Center . There are many strings attached. Funding deadlines are a big issue. The New Orleans Building Corp (NOBC) put bids out for Park development. Newly elected officials, city council et al have been notified of FMIA concerns regarding Park development.
3. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



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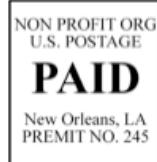
Advertising	Marigny Green
Blight	Membership
Caroling	Neighborhood
Community Outreach	Development
Crime Prevention	Newsletter
Frenchmen	Special Projects
Fundraising	Volunteer
Education	Walking Tour
Home Tour	Washington Square Park
Hospitality	Web Site

For comments email info@faubourgmargny.org.



ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 770080 * New Orleans * LA* 70177



**General Meeting - Monday, 4/19/2010
Meet the Neighbors Night - Tuesday, 4/13/2010**

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 _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

4. Willing to volunteer? Yes No

Make checks payable to *F.M.I.A* and send to:
F.M.I.A., P.O. Box 770080, New Orleans, LA 70177
www.faubourgmariigny.org

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The deadline is the 7th of each month. To advertise in the **Les Amis de Marigny** please contact newsletter@faubourgmariigny.org.