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*Les Amis de Marigny*

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

**Not Making Groceries**

*by Arin Adkins*

The first Schwegmann Brothers Giant Super Market was opened on the corner of Elysian Fields and St. Claude many years ago. This store brought the concept of the modern day "super market" to the city. Many more Schwegmann's supermarkets followed.



The Schwegmann family still owns that property located at 2222 St. Claude Avenue. Robert Fresh Market leases the store from the Schwegmann's, and until Hurricane Katrina, Robert operated a thriving business in that Faubourg Marigny location.

After Katrina, Robert Fresh Market owner, Marc Robert II, wanted to repair and reopen this and other damaged stores as quickly as possible, but the money to do so was not forthcoming. As a result, Robert sued its insurer, United Fire and Casualty Insurance Company, a corporation out of Iowa.

In June of 2008, the jury in this federal court case found United Fire should pay Robert over \$21 million for refusing to pay on the claims for five of the Robert Fresh Market

stores. This verdict was upheld in August, 2009 by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. That figure is now up to \$29 million with the inclusion of bad faith damages and interest.

Yet the dilapidated store continues to sit on the corner of Elysian Fields and St. Claude, becoming more and more derelict each day. Despite the victory in court, Robert and the Schwegmanns have had on-going challenges in regard to the repair process. In February of 2009, U.S. District Court Judge Carl Barbier ruled that according to the lease between Schwegmanns and Robert, the responsibility of repair fell to the Schwegmanns, whether or not insurance money was available. The lease specifically included language calling for repair to damage to begin as soon as practical. With no attempts at repair whatsoever, Judge Barbier found the lease had been breached by the owner. He went on to order the Schwegmann owners to "immediately begin restoration of the building."

A month after Judge Barbier's ruling, the Schwegmanns, as owners of the building, were cited under the nuisance property rules of the city. At a March 3, 2009 hearing the building was declared blighted and a public nuisance. The results included a \$575.00 fine in hearing costs, and a \$500.00 fine for each day the property is not within compliance.

Continued litigation between the Schwegmanns and Robert has kept any potential progress tied up. The division of insurance proceeds among the parties, and reimbursement to Robert from the Schwegmann's for lost business, are issues yet to be legally resolved. At the present time, the future of the property is uncertain. There is a strong desire among the residents of the Marigny to see a grocery store reopen there. But for now, they're having to "make groceries" elsewhere.

SPECIAL EVENTS	
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# President's Report

by Chris Costello

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p><b>MAY</b> Board Meeting May 5 7:00 pm Location TBA *****</p> <p>General Meeting May 17 6:30 Pot Luck 7:15 Meeting St. Paul Lutheran Church 2624 Burgundy St *****</p>	<p><b>Home Tour</b> May 16 10:00 am-4:30 pm Art Market &amp; Kids Activity Area 11:00 am Music starts Noon-4:00 pm Tours <a href="http://www.faubourgmarigny.org/">www.faubourgmarigny.org/</a> *****</p> <p><b>Meet the Neighbors</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday May 11th 6:30-8:30 pm Orange Couch 2339 Royal St. &amp; June 8th Desperadoes 801 Frenchmen Street *****</p> <p><b>NONPAC Meetings</b> 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 *****</p> <p><b>St. Claude Avenue Main Street Meetings</b> Call 616-7637 *****</p>	<p><b>Green Markets</b> Saturdays 12 pm - 4 pm <b>St. Ann's Episcopal Church</b> 1313 Esplanade Ave. *****</p> <p>Once a month on Saturdays 11 am-3 pm <b>The Renaissance Project</b> <b>St. Bernard</b> &amp; Claiborne Ave. Mother's Day May 8th *****</p> <p><b>New Orleans Food Coop</b> Sundays 12 pm-6 pm Parking lot Holy Angels Convent St. Claude Ave. *****</p>
<p><b>JUNE</b> Board Meeting June 2 7:00 pm Location TBA *****</p> <p>General Meeting June 6:30 Pot Luck 7:15 Meeting St. Paul Lutheran Church 2624 Burgundy St *****</p>		

Hello Spring! It has been a long time coming and if you are like me I have been outside enjoying the warm, humidity free weather. It has been great to walk through the neighborhood and see the new growth and color on the plants and trees. My favorites so far are the purple Ligustrum flowers and pink Japanese Magnolia blossoms. It reminds how lucky we are live in such a beautiful neighborhood.

Thank you to everyone who came to Washington Square Park for the presentation of our Great American Neighborhood plaque. On hand was Councilman Arnie Fielkow, representatives from the local and national American Planning Association as well as the directors of the city departments who have helped us over the past 38 years plan our neighborhood. This award would not have been possible if it was not for the work of Eugene Cizek and his students, whose original work back in the early 70s laid the ground work for what we have today. The plaque will be placed in the park in the coming months. If you have any ideas for placement let us know.

I fear we are leaving money and resources at the table. As of Monday, April 12, the Orleans Parish participation rate in the federal census is only at 40%. The state of Louisiana is at 59%. The national participation rate is at 67%. The consequence of such low participation rate is that we will not get our fair share of the federal allocation of money. We can do better. We need to do better. If you have not filled out your form please do so. Also, please inquire to make sure your neighbors and friends have filled their form. Every penny we can get counts to making our city better.

Our annual home tour will be on May 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a great community event with an art market, music and kids area all of which are free. The actual tour is one of our fundraisers for the organization and after our fight against Cold Storage we need to replenish our reserves. Please consider inviting your friends to spend a day in the Marigny. We are also looking for volunteers to help the day of the event. If you can help, please contact Reg at [regm@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:regm@faubourgmarigny.org).

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our newly inducted officials into their respective offices especially Mayor Mitch Landrieu and our District C Councilwomen Kristin Palmer. We look forward to working with you to make our neighborhood and city a better place.

St. Claude Main Street is making great strides. Besides the new businesses that have or will be opening the group has embarked on two programs to beautify the street. One program is aimed at planting trees along the sidewalk and the other is to identify the most unsightly buildings and provide matching grants to the owners to improve them. They are looking for people to help them with these programs. If you can help, please contact Eva at [eva@stclaudemainstreet.org](mailto:eva@stclaudemainstreet.org).

As the next step in the beatification of the neighborhood we will be placing banners on the light poles down Elysian Fields Avenue. This has been a work in progress over the last couple of years. The first banners, which we displayed at our



last general meeting, will commemorate our award. We will only be placing banners on half of the light poles to start, with the goal of adding another, different banner to the other half and rotating them with new banners throughout the year. We are asking people to help us defray the cost of the banners and brackets. If you can help, please contact Ken at [kenc@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:kenc@faubourgmarigny.org).

The year keeps getting better for the Faubourg Marigny and New Orleans. Let us enjoy the rest of springtime and work together to create the neighborhood and city we want to live in and be proud of. Only together can we continue to make our neighborhood and by extension our city a great place to live, work and play.

*F*aubourg *M*arigny  
presented with plaque to commemorate  
*Great American Neighborhood Award*

*by Chris Costello*

It was another great day in Faubourg Marigny and in New Orleans.

Stephen Villavaso, the local American Planning Association (APA) President, and Bruce Knight, the national APA President, presented the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association with a bronze plaque commemorating the selection of the Faubourg Marigny as a Great American Neighborhood. We are the only neighborhood in Louisiana to receive this honor. Also on hand were Councilman-at-Large Arnie Feilkow, and directors and representatives of various city departments.



**Photo (from left): Councilmember Arnie Feilkow; Eugene D. Cizek (FMIA's First President); Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association President Chris Costello; APA President Bruce Knight, FAICP; and APA Louisiana Chapter President Stephen Villavaso, FAICP, celebrate the unveiling of Marigny's Great Places plaque, in Washington Square Park.**

This award recognizes the efforts of our neighborhood association to make positive change through good planning. It is the culmination of 38 years of consistent planning and preservation with smart growth and development. It has been through the hard work and dedication of many volunteers that we are where we are today.

Our work, however, was not done in a vacuum. We needed the help and support of various city departments to make our plans a reality. Much of what these departments do for our neighborhood is unseen but it has a big impact on our quality of life. This award also recognizes them for their work in not only helping the Faubourg Marigny but all neighborhoods to become better places. We thank these departments, City Planning, Historic Districts Landmarks Commission, Sanitation, Public Works and Parks & Parkways for working with us to keep our neighborhood a great place to live, work and play.

The plaque will be placed in the park in the near future. We will also create plaques to recognize the donors of the trees, benches and trashcans in the park. If you have any suggestions on placement please let us know.

## WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

### Buckmoth Caterpillars Are Gone. Termites Are Here

*by Chris Costello*

We received some upsetting news from the New Orleans Mosquito & Termite Control Board. Some of our beautiful oaks in the park are infested with termites.

The good news is that they can be treated. We will be using the funds collected to spray the trees for buck months to treat these infected trees as well as fertilize them as was reported in last month's newsletter.

Thank you to Parks and Parkways for putting in the request to have the trees inspected and to Barry Yokum, Senior Termite Specialist, from the Mosquito & Termite Control Board for having them checked so promptly.

It would be a shame to lose any tree in the park to something preventable. We are unsure of the cost to treat them so we may need your help in covering the cost. If you will like to make a donation towards the present and future fertilizations and termite inspections please send a check made payable to FMIA with "Save Our Trees" in the memo. Send to:

FMIA, Save Our Trees  
2401 Burgundy St, Box 10  
New Orleans, LA 70117.

Remember, your donation is 100% tax deductible!

## No More Blight - Join Us in Our Fight

*by Alexandre Vialou  
Blight Committee*

As of May 3rd, a newly elected mayor and city council have taken control of City Hall. Our hopes are high that the new leadership will tackle many of the issues our city faces, including blight. Approximately 60,000 homes are blighted in the city. Private citizens own most of these homes. However the city and other not-for-profit institutions are also proprietors of a significant number of blighted buildings. In our neighborhood, public landmarks such as the Saint Roch Market, the Saints Peter and Paul's Church and rectory are in an unacceptable state of neglect and abandon. I believe many residents would love to see these buildings back in use or transformed into places where our community could "live, work and play". The rehabilitation of old buildings is not new. In fact there are in our neighborhood many examples of successful renovation stories.

Where there used to be the 'Jacob Schoen & Son Inc. Funeral Homes' there is now the Michalopolous Studio -527 Elysian Fields Avenue- that occasionally hosts independently run artist performances. Where once stood a local corner grocery there is now a comfortable and aesthetic coffee shop named Orange Couch -2339 Royal Street- **(See pictures below of the before and after renovation)**



These two places are good examples of a bubbling cultural expression happening throughout the city and in our neighborhood in particular. It showcases creative people and economic opportunities that can be seized while retaining the integrity of the artistic and intellectual life that we so cherish. Another reason the re-use of old building has to be celebrated is because it saves houses and buildings from becoming 'too late to save' blighted properties.

A blighted property stalls the potential that a building has in hosting one additional family (remember that there is a record

homeless population in our city), a studio or an office. It is also a drag on the entire nearby community with its unsanitary condition and sense of insecurity. In the Faubourg Marigny there is 1 blighted property per city block on average (81 properties are currently blighted in 80 city blocks).

This ongoing transformation of our neighborhood toward a self-sustaining creative economy is a great opportunity for the Marigny and for our 'No More Blight' program in particular. This process is already very much visible in parts of the Bywater neighborhood. Art galleries on St. Claude Avenue (openings every second Saturday of the month) have sprouted in previously inhospitable houses. Let's make sure that the new administration at City Hall will encourage such re-use and lead by example in the fight against blight by fixing its own blighted properties. As usual you can contact us directly at [blight@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:blight@faubourgmarigny.org) to let us know of any properties that you would like some assistance in getting through the Code Enforcement Process.

Hearing Results from March 25<sup>th</sup> to April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010:  
1729 North Rampart. Guilty. \$500 fine.  
2501 Saint Claude Avenue. Conditionally Guilty.



Upcoming Hearings (held at 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 1100):  
1518 Pauger (accessory) on 5/19/2010 at 9:15AM

2524 Dauphine Street on 06/02/2010 at 1:15PM

## Corrections

In the April No More Blight column, 1800 Burgundy Street was incorrectly listed under past hearings. The property in question is at 1800-02 North Rampart.



## Meet The Neighbors Night

*by Chris Costello*

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

Thank you to Tomatillo's for hosting our April Meet the Neighbors night. It was a great time and many took the opportunity to bring their four-legged friends to meet and greet as well.

Our next installment is May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Orange Couch from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Check our website for current location and time of future events.

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

## COLTON SCHOOL

*by Michael Pizzolatto*

In the coming months the future of Colton School and the prospects of educating children in Faubourg Marigny will be decided by the Recovery School District and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. We need residents and neighbors to become involved in this process, because the RSD and BESE Board will make decisions without our neighborhood's input if we do not stand up. Having a viable school in Faubourg Marigny is a critical step in maintaining the progress made in recent years by residents fighting against blight, crime, and government apathy.

Currently there are a group of residents organizing on this issue and we welcome as much help as possible. There are roles for everyone to play in this process. We need people to assist with outreach to existing charter schools that may be interested in Colton, people to write the RSD BESE Board to ensure they follow policy and solicit public feedback about the school, and we need to identify as many families in the neighborhood as possible so that we can include everyone in this important decision. Please contact Michael Pizzolatto, [mpizz2@hotmail.com](mailto:mpizz2@hotmail.com), if you can help in any way.

## BANNERS TO WAVE

*by Ken Caron*

The Faubourg Marigny was recently named one of the ten greatest neighborhoods in America by the American Planning Association. To celebrate this achievement, the FMIA is proud to announce that 24 5' x 2' banners will be installed on Elysian Fields. These banners will honor our neighborhood as one of the top ten places to live in the nation. If we can be successful with the banners on Elysian Fields, we would like to extend the banner program to St. Claude Avenue.

Historic  
Faubourg Marigny



2009  
Great American  
Neighborhood Award



To help pay for these banners and their installation, tax-deductible contributions would be appreciated. You may make checks payable to FMIA and send them to FMIA, 2401 Burgundy Street, Box #10, New Orleans, LA 70117. Please designate "Banner Program" on your contributions. For more information or questions, feel free to contact Ken Caron at 504-250-9353.

## Fifth District NONPAC Meeting

*by John Luckett*

Matthew Alsina, the Quality of Life Officer for the NOPD Fifth District, advised us that the NONPAC meeting for the month of April was cancelled due to the moving of the station. The District's new location is 901 Bartholomew Street, in Bywater.

## Eighth District NONPAC Meeting

*by Donna Wakeman*

Brian Frye has volunteered to be our representative at the 8th District NONPAC meetings. The meetings are held at Maison Dupuy, 1001 Toulouse Street, Renoir Room on the second Thursday of the month at 6pm. The Quality of Life Officer for the Eighth District is Roger Jones.

## Hot Flashes

FMIA has a new address! All correspondence, including membership renewals, should be addressed to 2401 Burgundy St, Box 10, New Orleans LA 70117.

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**See you at the Home Tour**

**Sunday, May 16**

**10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**WE NEED YOU**

**Volunteers Wanted for FMIA**  
 contact Maureen Steffek  
[msteffek1@hotmail.com](mailto:msteffek1@hotmail.com)  
 504-394-2052.

**reporting city issues and problems**

To report streetlight outages, call 658-2299 and follow the prompts for streetlights. You will be directly connected with Robinson Industries, the City's contracted streetlight repair vendor.

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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.

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

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Questions? Call Will Hunn at 504 366-7498

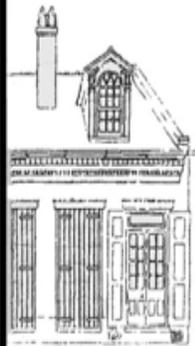
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# Color Me Creole

This is the sixth 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  
April 2010

## Creole Service Building (1790-1860)

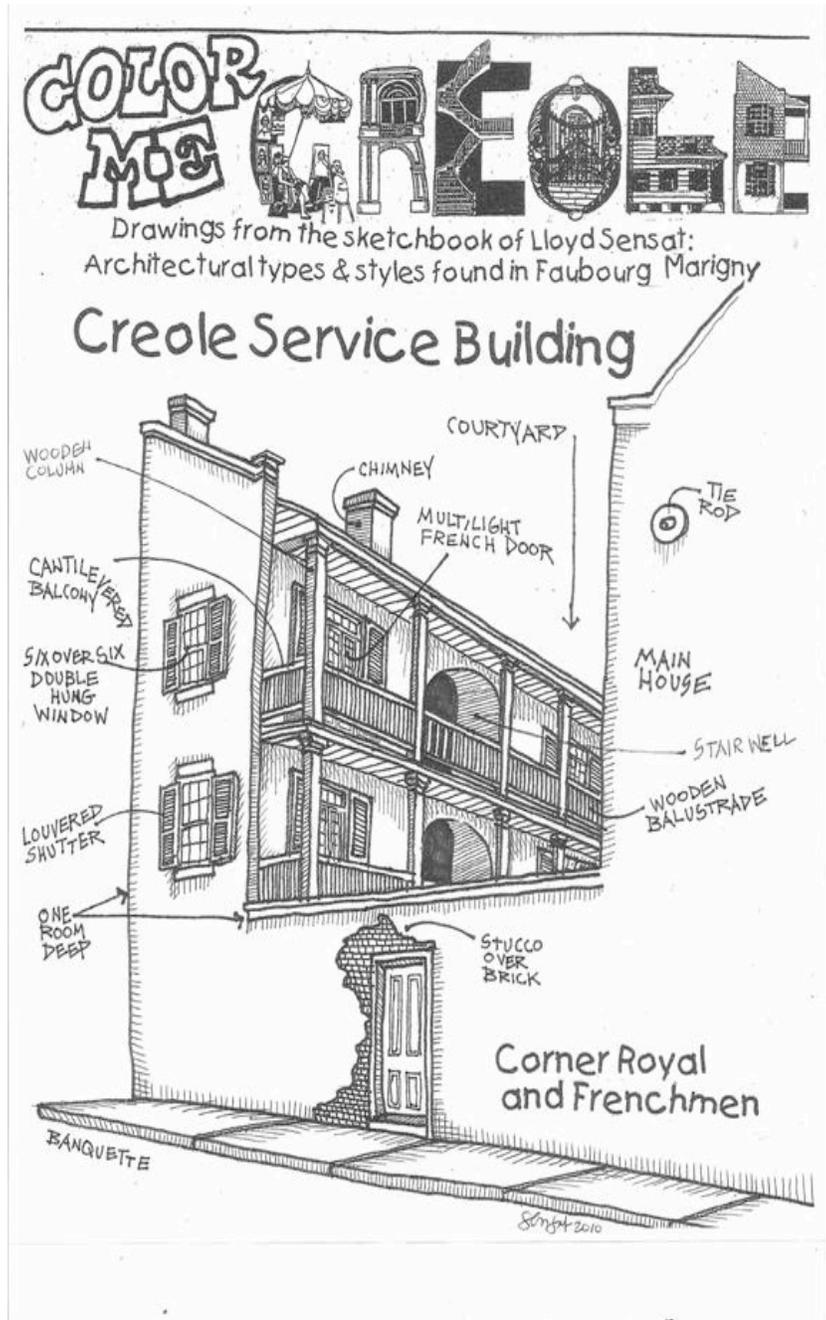
by Eugene Cizek & Lloyd Sensat

This house type was a support building for the main house. The ground floor contained the kitchen, storage rooms and the privy. The kitchen was always separated from the main house because of the heat and odors produced in cooking and the danger of fire. The upper levels were used as small bedrooms for the servants (slave quarters) or bedrooms for the boys of the family (garconniere). Service buildings were usually two stories in height but could be three or four stories. There were often more than one of these structures which also defined the patios and courtyards.

### Creole Service Building at corner Royal and Frenchmen

This Creole service building is behind the fine Creole style townhouses at 700-706 Frenchmen Street. The two identical double Creole town houses were built circa 1830s. They were owned by a succession of free people of color and eventually acquired by Julien A. Lacroix. He and his brother, Francois, were some of the wealthiest free people of color in New Orleans. In 1868 the buildings were described in Lacroix's estate auction as "two story and attic brick houses, numbers 50,52, and 54,56 Frenchmen, containing each twelve rooms and three story brick kitchens of six rooms".

This was the last home of Bernard de Marigny in New Orleans. He rented two rooms on the corner. It was here that neighbors complained to his son, Mandeville, that Bernard was sitting at his writing desk on the banquette in his night clothes. Bernard replied, "I can not see anymore, and this is after all a cashmere robe, and besides I am Bernard de Marigny!"



The service buildings here are detached and placed across the rear of the lot in the early manner. The cantilevered balconies at the second and third levels have a simple wooden balustrade and rectangular wooden columns supporting the balcony and roof overhang. A brick wall originally enclosed the flagstone-paved courtyards.



## MARIGNY GREEN

*by Deborah Oppenheim*

Marigny Green wants to thank the artists who submitted their design for the logo contest. The artists' creativity was appreciated. The winning design was a conceptual piece from Speck Green and drawn by Rick Fifield. Speck felt that using a tree motif was most appropriate for Marigny Green's logo. Her vision was to have a large oak tree (like the oaks in Washington Square Park) and in the canopy is the words MARIGNY GREEN and at the tree roots the words ORG. The concept has a dual purpose - the logo and having the words read Marigny Green's web address. Rick is working on the final piece which we will proudly display. Marigny Green is happy to have their newly designed logo which should lure volunteers to join this great committee. If you are interested, please contact Deborah at [deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org) or go on our website [www.marignygreen.org](http://www.marignygreen.org).

## NOCCA

Dear Neighborhood Community Coffee Drinkers:

In your neighborhood the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, a tuition-free state agency serving high school students who are talented in the arts, has suffered a \$1 million cut in its operating costs this fiscal year! However, rather than complain, we are doing all we can to keep providing amazing educational experiences for our young people, 99% of whom go on to college.

We need your help and *the good news is it won't cost you a penny*. If you drink Community Coffee or serve it at your business, all you have to do is clip the upc code from the container's exterior and drop it off at NOCCA. This minor task can provide NOCCA's library with resources vital to our students' and faculty's learning. Please make it a habit and help us spread the word. There is no deadline, so you can accumulate these upc symbols and bring them to NOCCA at your convenience.

Please feel free to call (504)940-2912 or email [jcooper@nocca.com](mailto:jcooper@nocca.com) if you should have any questions. Thank you in advance for your help, Neighbor, and remember, each upc code helps.

Sincerely,

Matt Hassebrock, Head Librarian

Jennifer Cooper, Library Assistant

The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Library Team  
2800 Chartres Street

## YOURS TRULY IN A SWAMP

### We Arrived in New Orleans

*by Leonard E. Johnson*

*L. A. Norma and I arrived back in New Orleans exactly on time, but on the bus not the train.*

The Mexicali Earthquake caused Amtrak's *Sunset Limited* to delay departure from Los Angeles while experts, "walked the line," looking for damages to the roadbed. None were found. But before the train got even close to Lafayette, Louisiana -- where we awaited its arrival -- it was running eight hours behind schedule. We went around the corner and booked passage on the next of five daily Greyhound buses to the Land of Dreamy Dreams, New Orleans.

"Our magic carpet made of woe leaves in less than an hour," L. A. Norma said, puffing on a fresh Camel and dispatching us up Lee Street to Don's Downtown, *The Original Cajun Restaurant*, for gumbo to go. "Best gumbo around, but a word to the wise," she added through a blast of cigarette smoke, "tell them not to plop a big scoop of potato salad in your gumbo." Potato salad in gumbo is a culinary oddity found in the *Land of Boudin*. Usually, New Orleanians do not like it.

*Poste des Opelousas, then Church Landing, then. . .*

We were returning from the Catfish Festival in Washington, Louisiana. Formerly *Festival du Courtableau* (first land grant in the area was to Jacques Courtableau), their annual Spring festival is held in a Creole village established in 1720, when Louisiana was a young French colony. At that time the French-Canadian Diaspora had not occurred and George Washington was not yet born. So why the name?

Why it is today named Washington, a name jarringly not French, was not explainable by anyone we talked to, but we suspect it had to do with pro-Union politics. An interesting, often forgotten fact of Louisiana history is that not all supported the Confederacy. The first president of what grew up to be Louisiana State University, for example, later returned North and became Abraham Lincoln's ferocious General William Tecumseh Sherman. L. S. U.'s antecedent was established by the state legislature in 1853. It was located above Washington, at the present day site of Pineville and was named *Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy*. Sherman was its first president. It moved to Baton Rouge in 1925. So what's in a name; Jacques Courtableau got his replaced with a catfish!

The catfish we had were fried, salty, and heart-stoppingly good, but the smoked giant pork chops at another stand could have inspired a religion. It also snowed! Not much. Just a few tiny pellets of soft sleet that could only pass for snow in a state where snowballs get confused with snowmen.

"If you don't look up you will miss it," Norma said, undulating across the outdoor dance floor, lost in the embrace of Zydeco.

"Music better'n the day God first made Zyd," she added, grinning and smoking.

We saw the soft snow/sleet evaporating as it fell through the air. "A hard Winter's last gasp," we said, heading for the caramel popcorn table.

\*\*\*\*\*

We had not been on a Greyhound bus since the first heady days after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when we decamped to Lafayette to await the receding waters in New Orleans. In those days, if Amtrickle trickled in more than two hours late we caught the bus. Then Bush was running America's trains, and you bought your ticket and took your chances. No one could tell you when the train would arrive, even when you stood cell-phone in hand in front of the arriving train. Now, praise good government, the trains are running on time. Except this day!

"It's Global Warming," Norma said.

During our evacuation, the bus between Lafayette and New Orleans buzzed with post Hurricane news, faith, hope, fear. Everyone talked about houses lost. Lives lost. And personal pot holes on the Road Home. One bus driver told us he lost his home in New Orleans East, but thought he could rebuild it. He always began each trip announcing on the public address system: "There will be no smoking on this bus. That means no cigarettes, no cigars, no Maryanna, and no crack cocaine." And there never was, to the best of my knowledge. But a pint of liqueur commonly poked its charming neck up from passing hip pockets.

On one trip, a very black man with very gold teeth and earrings said, "No road home for me." He was living, "Back in Opelousas," where he grew up. He told us, "The Ville Platte Smoke Meat Festival is the best eatin' festival around."

Years later, in front of the University Medical Center (formerly Charity Hospital), we saw him again. He said, "That Road Home money done come through for me after all. I'm back in New Orleans."

Great news," we said. We also told him about the smoked pork chop at the Washington Catfish Festival. And how "The Ville Platte Smoke Meat Festival, indeed, turned out to be the best eatin' festival we ever ate at." He laughed and said, "How lucky we are."

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A black-and-white United Cab dropped us at the rue Royal and Frenchmen Street gates to Washington Square Park for the ceremonial unveiling of the American Planners Association plaque recognizing Faubourg Marigny as a "Great Place in America." The A. P. A. was holding its convention at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The plaque recognizes Faubourg Marigny's "Strong civic engagement, successful preservation efforts, and recent revitalization of Marigny as an arts and entertainment destination."

The A. P. A. also sponsored something titled the *Dutch Dialogues*, which brought together Dutch and American experts on water management. Their topics of discussion were the drainage canals from the lakefront to the French Quarter; the area in and around Bayou St. John; and new uses for City Park and the neighborhoods and environments between London Avenue and the Orleans drainage canals. Hope. The jury is still out on much of this.

Jazz Fest is going on out at the racetrack, and the lovely Confederate jasmine is in bloom all over Town. This year its spicy sweet smell is tainted with oil from a patch the size of Jamaica sloshing onto our protective marshlands, and America's seafood estuary. Eat up before . . .

"We smile because we are lucky," the black man with the gold said. Life in Louisiana is a dapple-lighted Monet painting set to a Bobby Charles soundtrack. We smile because we are free. And because June 25-26 will bring another Smoke Meat Festival in Ville Platte, and another reason to ride *The Sunset Limited*.

"Life is short," Norma says, "If you can't dance on the edge of your grave when can you?"

\*\*\*\*\*

For more L. E. J. go to [www.LEJ.org](http://www.LEJ.org)

## Orchids & Onions

### ORCHIDS-



To Brian Frye who volunteered to be our representative at the 8th District NONPAC meetings



To Parks and Parkways for requesting to have the trees in Washington Square Park inspected for termites, and to Barry Yokum, Senior Termite Specialist, from the Mosquito & Termite Control Board for checking them so promptly.



To Alex Vialou and Howard Allen for all their work on blight.



Welcome to the Shadow Box Theater 2400 St. Claude,



Thank you to the Newsletter Committee.



To NOCCA for their new wing.



To lovely spring planting in the neighborhood.

### ONIONS-



To whoever is destroying the palms in Washington Square Park.



To people who park cars illegally, blocking fire hydrants and driveways.



# Re-Fest

# FRIENDS OF THE FAUBOURG ST. ROCH PROJECT

*by Beth Stelson*

*by Drew Lang*

On Saturday, May 15, 2010 The ReUse District will host ReFest, an all-day festival promoting creative reuse in New Orleans. From 10am to 5pm, members of The ReUse District will host workshops with reused materials. Workshops include a reuse carpentry workshop at The Green Project, a mural workshop at Trouser House, a book art workshop at Beth's Books, reused t-shirt printing workshop with Dr. Bob at Build Source, and a bike repair and bike art workshop at R.U.B.A.R.B. Elysian Fleas Market will open from 11am to 5pm. From 5pm to 6:30pm, Charitable Film Network will lead a film screening on "The Story of Stuff" followed by a panel discussion with representatives from The Green Project, Rebuilding Together New Orleans, and Trouser House held at The Green Project. From 7:30 to 10pm, the Habitat for Humanity Restore will open up its loading dock as a music venue for local musicians, which will include Mohican Scouts. From 9:30pm to 2am, Mimi's in the Marigny, Hi-Ho Lounge, Saturn Bar, and The Mother-In-Law Lounge will give discounts to all customers who bring in a reusable cup at each destination.

ReFest represents the launching of The ReUse District. The ReUse District is a collaboration between reuse nonprofits, businesses, and community organizations who aim to increase the appreciation and accessibility of reused materials in the 7th Ward, Bywater, Marigny, St. Claude, and St. Roch neighborhoods of New Orleans. The ReUse District currently has 21 members and is spearheaded by The Green Project, Habitat for Humanity Restore, Marigny Green, Preservation Resource Center, Rebuilding Together New Orleans, and St. Claude Main Street. Functioning similarly to an "arts district," The ReUse District is the first of its kind in the nation. Member organizations range from reused building supply stores to used clothing stores to an urban farm constructed entirely of reclaimed materials. The ReUse District firmly believes that just because New Orleans does not have a municipal recycling program does not mean that neighborhoods, organizations, and individuals cannot recycle in their own way through reuse. For more information about ReFest and the ReUse District, please contact Beth Stelson, [communication@thegreenproject.org](mailto:communication@thegreenproject.org) / (401) 965-4362 or Marissa Allweiss, [mallweiss@prcno.org](mailto:mallweiss@prcno.org) / (504) 460-1126.

I realize it's been a long time since you last heard from us. Though quiet in our communications these past several months, we've continued to actively pursue our initiatives on the ground. I'm pleased to report that thanks to the hard work of our board, staff, and FSRP supporters, as well as the generosity of our donors, we are now strongly positioned to make a lasting impact in St. Roch.

There will be much news to report in the months ahead, but I want to first introduce you to our new Executive Director, Darren Alberti. As part of the wave of young professionals that have descended upon New Orleans post-Katrina, Darren moved to New Orleans in August 2008 to serve an 11-month AmeriCorps term with Rebuilding Together New Orleans. As a House Captain for Rebuilding Together, he performed home repairs and managed volunteers in some of the city's hardest hit neighborhoods, and spent considerable time working in St. Roch. Most recently, he worked as a research analyst with Greater New Orleans, Inc., an economic development agency serving the 10-parish Greater New Orleans region. Deeply committed to FSRP's mission, Darren will be our point person on the ground working to see that all of our initiatives are realized. He can be reached at 650.743.7007 or [dalberti@strochproject.com](mailto:dalberti@strochproject.com).

"It is both humbling and exciting to join the Faubourg St. Roch Project at this stage of its development," Darren remarked recently and asked that I convey to FSRP friends. "To see how much has come before me – all the time, energy, and passion that have carried the organization this far – is a source of great inspiration. To those who have already invested so much in this organization and the St. Roch neighborhood, I promise to do everything I can to build upon your collective efforts, and work to see that both FSRP and the St. Roch neighborhood reach their full potential." Before moving to New Orleans, Darren graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. with an undergraduate degree in American Studies and specific concentration in twentieth century American race relations. He was also a defensive back for the school's Division 1-AA football team.

This letter is the first in a regular series of updates reporting the status of our work in St. Roch, so expect to hear from us again soon.

Until Then,  
Drew Lang  
Founder and Board President  
Faubourg St. Roch Project



# Give a T.O.S.S.

by Donna Wakeman

There is a movement afoot, led locally by NOLA T.O.S.S. (Throw Out Street Spam), to address the problem of ugly plastic signs on telephone poles and neutral grounds blighting the cityscape. This problem is not unique to New Orleans, and is a growing problem nationwide.



The thousands of plastic ads we see across town for contractors, windshield replacement, tree stump removal, dating services, "We Buy Houses," etc., are in fact illegal. The New Orleans City Code (Section 66-284-a) states that "it shall be unlawful for any person or organization to erect or post upon any public street, right-of-way, roadway, neutral ground, tree, utility post or any other public property any sign bearing advertising of any nature whatsoever, including political advertising, commercial advertising or advertising of a noncommercial nature."

There are a few minor exceptions for posting on neutral grounds: It's OK for real estate agents to post signs for open houses the day of the open house, campaign workers can put up candidate signs the day of an election, and people can post garage sale signs the day before the sale.

The law permits the city's Office of Safety and Permits to fine businesses that post illegal signs \$25 per sign up to \$500 (Section 66-284-f). But the city doesn't have the staff to enforce this law; in effect it has left it to citizens to remove them. This is explicitly permitted by the City Code, which states: "It shall be lawful for any person to remove and properly dispose of any sign or other advertisement erected in violation of this section" (Section 66-284-d).

Removing illegal signs is pretty easy, and NOLA T.O.S.S. offers advice as to how to go about it at <http://twangster.livejournal.com/910.html>. This posting also provides other pertinent information regarding what not to remove. We obviously have larger and more important problems than illegally posted signs. However, this is one issue that's easily

taken care of if enough people address it. NOLA T.O.S.S. urges us to do what we can to remove street spam, even if it's just on our own street. If we clear a street or neighborhood, sleazy businesses will be reluctant to post street spam there, since they'll be throwing away money. NOLA T.O.S.S. makes several excellent arguments as to why removing such signs is worthwhile, including the fact that street spam makes a neighborhood look like it is in decline, which promotes crime and leads people to abandon the area or to stay away.

To join the effort to remove bandit signs in New Orleans and receive occasional updates on the topic, email [rolatoss@gmail.com](mailto:rolatoss@gmail.com).

## FMIA Board Meeting April 7, 2010 Minutes

Call to Order 7:10pm

Board members Present: Gretchen Bomboy, Ken Caron, Ron Petty, Chris Costello, Reg Medellin, Deborah Oppenheim, Brian Frye, Eva Campos, Gene Cizek  
Board Members Absent: None

### Announcements:

1. Meet the Neighbors: April 14<sup>th</sup> at Tomatillo's at 6:30 – 8:30. Thank you, Tomatillo's, for rescheduling (Meet the Neighbors was originally scheduled at Tomatillo's February 9<sup>th</sup> 2010 and the conflict was the Lombardi Parade). Mark your calendar for May 11, 2010 at the Orange Couch, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.
2. Community Issues  
**Guest:** Michael Pizzolatto ([mpizzola@tulane.edu](mailto:mpizzola@tulane.edu) 504-862-3347 (w))  
Michael has been attending the meetings regarding Colton School. Discussion included construction ideas, design, and physical site. There are many questions such as who would run the school, who are the students, and are the needs of the residents being met through community input. Paul Vallas, Superintendent of Recovery School District (RSD) agreed to meet with the neighborhood parents but all meetings were cancelled. Without any input, the received information was that Colton would become a KIP School (Knowledge is Power School). The way it transpired, there was no process. There are procedures that were not followed. The residents wanted to have their input to the type of school suitable for the neighborhood. Michael's plan is to go door to door and survey the school needs of the neighborhood. It was suggested that they work with the BESE Board, write their own RFP for a Charter operator, and have a neighborhood zone.  
Q: Are you cc(copying) people with your correspondence? A: No, not yet. Q: Michael asked to have an email address affiliated with FMIA. A: The Board will have to vote on this. Q: Funding? A: Michael had an idea about the proposed security district allocating a percentage for after school programs. He said that research has shown that activities for students help reduce crime. Q: What is your time line for the RFP? A:

Michael wants the RFP ready for early summer. Michael asked if FMIA could identify families for their outreach. Michael accepted the request to serve as Chairperson for FMIA's Education Committee. He will have constant communication with FMIA regarding information and meetings. Chris suggested that an article for the newsletter be written.

**Guest:** Michelle Benoit & Glen Pitre (film makers) purchased the Mandeville Firehouse. They presented a written copy of their ideas. The bottom floor is under the RDO. They want the entire building for offices, incubator space for other film makers, and their offices. They calculated about 8 people in the big downstairs room and 12 people on the second floor. They have asked FMIA to support their request. They are going for the historic tax credit and will keep the integrity of the building. Q: What did the neighbors say? A: So far, they are heroes. They have already fixed the roof of the building. Q: Will you get the neighbors' written support? A: Yes Q: Will you sign a CEA that will include conditional use verbiage, quality of life issues such as noise, parking, density, hours of operation (7am – 10 pm) bike and scooter parking? A: Yes, they agreed.

**Administration:**

1. Approvals by email: 'Proof' for Faubourg Marigny Great Places Bronze Plaque - Yes
2. Chris moved to approve 3/3 Board Minutes, 2/22 General Meeting Minutes and the 3/15 General Meeting Minutes Second: Gene Discussion: There will be changes and corrections for the 3/3 Board Meeting Minutes and Chris moved to work with the editor to make the changes. Second: Gretchen Vote: Unanimous.
3. President's Report: 1) Chris has certain responsibilities that are outlined in FMIA's Bylaws. Chris said that he is always available for the non-written responsibilities of listening and mediating. 2) Received a letter from NOCCA that they are having a ribbon cutting ceremony April 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:40 pm for the new wing of their school. Chris will attend. This could be an interesting topic for the Newsletter Committee. 3) RTA meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm at 800 Iberville. Thank you Eva for wearing two hats - representing St. Claude Main Street and FMIA.
4. Treasurer's Report: Eva has to go through all bank reports to get everything ready for April 15<sup>th</sup>. She will send the treasurer's reports when all is resolved.
5. Committee Reports:
  - a. **Newsletter:** 1) Hot topic: A reporter wants to analyze the information on Robérts. Ron moved that we have Arin, the reporter, do the research and an article with a caveat that it might not be printed and has to be approved by our legal counsel and the Board. Second: Gretchen Vote: Yeas 7 Nays 2. 2) We accept the Newsletter Committee deadlines and proposals. Chris moved that we accept this. Second: Gretchen Discussion: If the committee can make changes they will. They will try to be as flexible as possible. The new proposed policy was discussed. Chris wants to amend the Newsletter Committee policy and send it back to the Committee. Chris moved 'Corrections' to policy be published in the next newsletter. Second: Gene Vote: Unanimous
  - b. **Orchids:** Kudos to Alex Vialou and Howard Allen for all their work on blight. Welcome to the Shadow Box Theater 2400 St. Claude, Thank you to the Newsletter

- c. Committee, NOCCA for their new wing, lovely spring planting in the neighborhood
- c. **Onions:** Owners who neglect their property, blighted buildings in our neighborhood, cars that travel the wrong way
- d. **Home Tour:** Reg presented the Budget for the Home Tour. Chris moved to approve the budget. Second: Gretchen Discussion: Having music for the Home Tour was discussed. An opinion was expressed that during the Home Tour, people buy tickets and leave. Therefore, the band does not have an audience. The question was asked, can we really afford a large budget for musicians? Reg felt that we need music and will reduce the amount spent for music. We have a policy that if it rains, the musicians are only paid for one hour. Vote: Unanimous
- e. **Blight:** Alex Vialou gave an excellent report on blight. He will not be able to attend the blight hearings due to work and needs volunteers to go to the meetings. Please contact Maureen Steffek to volunteer. HDLC: 1) 630 Port St. requested to replace windows with vinyl windows. FMIA defers to HDLC 2) 2412 No. Rampart The owner wants to demolish this burned out building. Gene moved that we vote against the demolition of the building and that the façade be kept, stabilized and maintained, and the property cleaned up. Second Gretchen Vote: 7 yeas 1 abstain 3) 1732 Pauger –This request is for new construction, single family house and has gone back to the ARC for design issues.
- f. **Fundraising:** Brian is chairing this needed Fundraiser Committee. He presented the idea of a silent auction. The unique concept that Brian presented was to have local recognized artist paint an original painting which would have a high value. At the silent auction, the highest bidder would house the painting for one year and the painting would be returned to FMIA for the next year's silent auction.

**Old business:**

1. Projects
  - a. Reinventing the Crescent: An article in the Times Picayune indicated that they have extended the bidding period and will go into the next Mayor's term. It has been delayed.
  - b. RDO: AmeriCorps volunteers have taken pictures of buildings and recorded data. FMIA has repeatedly thanked the group for all their hard work.
  - c. APA Presentation: Chris, Gene, Gretchen, Lloyd and Rick have been working on the program for the APA. There will be a Mobile Workshop, walking and house tours on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Award Ceremony will be in Washington Square Park on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm and everyone is invited.
  - d. 1807 N Rampart: Applicant has withdrawn the application.
  - e. Peter & Paul Church: FYI, Gene said that CANO, New Orleans Ballet, National Network
  - f. are interested in having a non-profit in New Orleans. They have looked at many available buildings and have toured Peter and Paul Church which is a Henry Howard building. The group has met with the Archdiocese.
2. Issues
  - a. 2300 Block of Royal: Letters sent

**New business:**

1. Projects
2. Issues

- a. 2600 St. Claude: CVS Pharmacy wants to tear down the block to build a pharmacy. Chris will send a letter.
- 3. Events: None
- 4. Other
- a. Protocols: Chris said this is very important external and internally. Chris will call each of the Board to discuss what they are doing.
- b. Stay Local Brochure: The question is do we want to purchase extra brochures of Stay Local? Chris moved that we do not purchase any of the brochures. Second: Ken Discussion: The brochure does not include all of the Marigny's businesses. Vote: Unanimous
- c. Florida Ave. Ground Breaking Ceremony Monday, 4/12/10 10:00 am, 4500 Florida Ave.
- d. P.O.Box: Chris moved that we switch the PO Box from Alvar Post Office to the Who Dat at 2401 Burgundy St., Box 10, NOLA 70117 and pay \$50 for the rental. Second: Gretchen Discussion: It is in our neighborhood. Vote: Unanimous
- e. Colton School: We support that selecting the operator for the school is an open process. Chris moved that we create an email address, [education@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:education@faubourgmarigny.org) and we identify FMIA's families, and encourage RSD to have an open process. Second: Gretchen Discussion: We should not alienate any operator Vote: 6 yeas 2 against
- f. Mandeville Firehouse: The question is do we support their concept? We would have to have a CEA. If the building is sold it will remain low density, conditional use, and this is not a spot zone. Discussion: This will be under the RDO. They can only rent to allowed usage under the RDO. Chris moved that we support the concept as outlined for the Mandeville Firehouse with the following caveats: noise, density, parking, conditional use, hours of operation, and limit what is there. Second: Reg Vote: Unanimous

**Unresolved issues**

- 1. Projects
- a. Visibility of Marigny: Banners: Ken said that there are 21 poles and it would cost \$75 per pole for hardware and labor. We need to investigate more. We have the paper work from the city to place the banners on poles. Chris moved that we enter into the agreement with the city. Second Gene Vote: Unanimous
- b. Riverfront Alliance
- c. AIDS Memorial
- d. Historic markers: Gene
- e. Board Member responsibilities
- f. Master Plan
- g. Marigny Advertising/Brochure/T-shirt ideas
- h. Crime Collaborative.
- i. 5<sup>th</sup> District Staffing.
- j. Policy for emails that deal with Crime Alerts and Forwarding Information
- k. Office Space
- l. Art in WSP Guidelines / CEA with Park & Parkways
- m. Block Captains
- n. Business Directory
- o. Homeless Services
- p. Infill Development

**Adjournment 11:00 pm**



BOARD MEMBERS	
<p>Chris Costello President <a href="mailto:president@faubourgmarigny.org">president@faubourgmarigny.org</a></p> <p>Reg Medellin Vice President <a href="mailto:vicepresident@faubourgmarigny.org">vicepresident@faubourgmarigny.org</a></p> <p>Eva Campos Treasurer <a href="mailto:treasurer@faubourgmarigny.org">treasurer@faubourgmarigny.org</a></p> <p>Gretchen Bombay Corresponding Secretary <a href="mailto:secretary@faubourgmarigny.org">secretary@faubourgmarigny.org</a></p> <p>Deborah Oppenheim Recording Secretary <a href="mailto:Deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org">Deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org</a></p> <p>Gene Cizek Past President <a href="mailto:GeneC@faubourgmarigny.org">GeneC@faubourgmarigny.org</a></p> <p>Ken Caron <a href="mailto:KenC@faubourgmarigny.org">KenC@faubourgmarigny.org</a></p> <p>Ron Petty <a href="mailto:RonP@faubourgmarigny.org">RonP@faubourgmarigny.org</a></p> <p>Brian Frye <a href="mailto:BrianF@faubourgmarigny.org">BrianF@faubourgmarigny.org</a></p>	
COMMITTEES	
<p>Advertising Blight Caroling Community Outreach Crime Prevention Frenchmen Fundraising Education Home Tour Hospitality</p>	<p>Marigny Green Membership Neighborhood Development Newsletter Special Projects Volunteer Walking Tour Washington Square Park Web Site</p>
<p>For comments email <a href="mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org">info@faubourgmarigny.org</a>.</p>	

**General Meeting, Monday, 5/17/2010**

**Meet the Neighbors Night, Tuesday, 5/11/2010**

### 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.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org)

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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).