



[www.FaubourgMarigny.org](http://www.FaubourgMarigny.org)

## *Les Amis de Marigny*

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

## NEW ZONING IS A GO

*By Arin Clar Adkins*

New Orleans has adopted a Master Plan that will guide development in the city over the next twenty years. The city wants a broad vision that incorporates the priorities and realities of a thriving forward-moving New Orleans. Interpreting the Master Plan is technically challenging at times, due to the complexity of the concepts addressed. This article hopes to provide some explanation and clarification for the process.

Three primary tenets of the Master Plan direct the vision "A Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century":

- How We Live
- How We Prosper
- Sustainable Systems

Through various goals and objectives under each category, the hope is to effectively grow in a direction that maximizes the city's potential. Careful assessment, consideration, imagination and foresight have gone into the composition of the Master Plan which was developed by the City Planning Commission. The City Council ratified the Master Plan on August 12, 2010. Utilization of the plan is already underway as it serves as a tool for city development in general.

### Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance

The City Planning Commission is in the process of developing the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO). The aim of the CZO is to correctly show how land is currently being used within the city. If a structure is zoned "residential" but is being used as "commercial" the Commission wants to know this.

Improper use does not automatically mean that the current use must cease. There are waivers available if certain conditions are met. One example may be when a parcel is zoned residential, but has been used commercial for many years. This is not an automatic waiver, but considerations will be made to determine the best option under the circumstances.

The Commission hopes "the new zoning ordinance will be easier to use, reduce the need for variances, protect our architectural and neighborhood legacy, and facilitate new, appropriate development." As a result, the Commission needs an accurate reflection of current land uses.

New Orleans is divided into zoning districts, and each district contains regulations appropriate for that particular



area. Use and development of land and structures must be consistent with the applicable zoning regulations within that particular district.

A recent City Charter Amendment states that "the Zoning Ordinance must be consistent with the Master Plan." Clearly defining the current uses of all the structures and land within the city is an important step in understanding where we are now, in order to better see where we will go.

### Zoning in the Marigny

Paul Cramer of the City Planning Commission says that his office is working with the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association to produce maps of the neighborhood. Surveys are being conducted, with emphasis on the Marigny triangle and Marigny rectangle. Through this process they are determining that the Marigny zoning is working well as is, and most of the zoning will remain the same. There have been questions regarding "medium" and "low" density designations in the triangle and rectangle. Cramer says that requests may be made for changes in the zoning, but that "medium" and "low" designations are reasonable for the area and will likely result in few zoning changes.

### What is Known

There are an estimated 150,000 parcels in the City of New Orleans and correct identification of the current land use is essential to effective development of the CZO. Currently, zoning maps of the city along with corresponding text are available to determine how a property is zoned. Citizens can go to [www.nolamasterplan.org](http://www.nolamasterplan.org) and follow the CZO link to see the Existing Land Use Map (ELUM). Thereafter, read the associated text to determine the zoning ordinances and rules for the particular district.

## Meet the Neighbors



By Lisa Tabb

Everything good rolled up into one!

That is the best way to describe *Three Muses*. During the January Meet the Neighbors, Marigny residents were able to enjoy delicious food, sip both wine and adventurous cocktails, all while listening to a great band. Some tasty favorites were the Beer & Apple Cider Braised Pork Belly and the Jumbo Lump Crap Cannelloni.

Please join us **February 8<sup>th</sup>** between 6:30-8:30 pm at *The Maison*. *The Maison* is a restaurant/bar/live music spot at 508 Frenchmen Street. Multiple bands of many genres play seven days a week. Patrons have the option of eating in the dining room or big living room areas. Then they can check out the live bands on the multiple stages or people watch off the balcony.

ZONING IS A GO continued from page 1

In addition to going online, individuals can call the Commission and make an appointment to review this information with a City Planning staff member. 504-658-7033 is the number and the address is 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 900, New Orleans, LA 70112. The hours of operation are 9:00 am – 6:00 pm Monday-Friday.

### Going Forward

The Commission wants to present a draft of the new zoning ordinance map and text in the spring. A citywide meeting is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> and district meetings are scheduled from July 12<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Yolanda Rodriguez, Executive Director of the City Planning Commission states, “when we are finished with this process, the city of New Orleans will have a new zoning ordinance that is easy to understand, predictable and consistent in its application.”

After verifying the current zoning usage, the ELUM will be revised into the Future Land Use Map (FLUM). The FLUM is an integral part of the Master Plan that will direct the allowed uses for residential, commercial, industrial and mixed-use properties for the future.

The City Planning Commission wants the citizens of New Orleans to not only give input for the CZO, but to also to be kept informed of the progress and status of the plan. Visit [www.nolamasterplan.org](http://www.nolamasterplan.org) and find the newsletter that is available each month to address new issues and new information. Additionally, people can email questions and/or comments about the plan and progress. The facts and goals, documents and calendar of events surrounding the Master Plan are also available at the website. Sign up for email circulations and receive frequent information as it becomes available, including new meeting schedules. Stay informed about the direction of the City, in order to assist with guidance beneficial to all.

## ADVERTISING

### Commercial Advertising

#### Rates 1-2 times/year

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Ads should be photo ready, or in jpg, tif or pdf format.

Classified Rates: \$5.00 per each 25 words.

All advertising must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication in the next month's issue. For information regarding advertising, contact the business manager at [ads@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:ads@faubourgmarigny.org).

## Classifieds Now Available

The newsletter is now accepting classified ads. Personals, however, are not being accepted. Contact [ads@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:ads@faubourgmarigny.org) for prices.

## About the Newsletter

**Les Amis de Marigny** is the newsletter of the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association, a 501(c) non-profit, all-volunteer organization committed to the preservation of the unique architectural and cultural heritage of our historic district, and to improving the quality of life in our diverse community. Contents, editorials and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official views of the FMIA, its Board or its members. Contents of *Les Amis de Marigny* are copyrighted. Permission to reprint any of the newsletter, including photographs and original artwork, must be obtained from the editor and/or byline columnist.

Manuscripts, photographs and articles dealing with topics of interest to the Marigny neighborhood are encouraged. The editor reserves the right to reject submissions including editorial and advertising content. Submissions must be received by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Send contributions to: FMIA Newsletter, 2401 Burgundy St., Box 10, NOLA 70117 or [editor@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:editor@faubourgmarigny.org).

The newsletter is published each month except August and January. Back issues are available online at [www.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org).

## President's Report

*By Chris Costello*

Happy New Year and Happy Carnival! I hope the New Year has been as prosperous for you as it has been for the organization and neighborhood thus far.

The street car line down N. Rampart Street/St Claude Avenue is coming closer to reality with the recent vote by the Regional Transit Authority board members to complete design work on this stretch of the streetcar line. Initial time estimates slate the completion of the project in three years. This will be a great economic boost to our commercial corridor and gets us closer to our goal of a greener, more sustainable neighborhood.

Our Main Street program has been working to make the street car line a reality and recently organized a meeting with Norfolk Southern to discuss the issue of the street car crossing at Press Street. Despite some setbacks from previous meetings with other stakeholders the meeting was very productive and reopened the dialog with them. Thank you to Main Street board member Maurice Slaughter for making contact with Norfolk Southern and getting us back on track.

Thank you to Three Muses for a great installment of Meet the Neighbors. For those that did not go you missed a great time. It is a cozy restaurant with wonderful food and atmosphere. As they put it "Three Muses brings together professionals in culinary, hospitality, and music to create a chic, unique environment committed to quality and verve." Well said! Even more exciting is that it is the type of business the Frenchmen Street Overlay was meant to foster. Congratulations to Sophia, Chris and Daniel on a job well done.

We are in full swing with our membership drive. Thank you to our members that heeded our call to pay their dues in January. We are well on way to having all our members renew before the February deadline. If you have not done so, please take a moment to help us save time and money by sending your dues in.

Krewe Du Vieux 2011 is around the corner and rolls on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. This is their silver anniversary and with their theme, *25 Years Wasted*, it will be another great parade with decadent costumes and racy floats. It is the first and quite frankly the best float parade in the city. For more information on the parade, route, sub krewes, etc., visit their web site at [www.kreweduvieux.org](http://www.kreweduvieux.org)

Thank you to all who helped make our caroling event a success. Neither the chilly weather nor the wind dampened the holiday spirit of the carolers such that hundreds came out to sing along with the Pfister Sisters and build our sense of community. A big thank to Ken Caron for co-chairing the event and to our business sponsors: Blue Nile, JohnPaul's Bar, Marigny Brasserie, Café Rose Nicaud, Loretta's Authentic Pralines, Robérts & Cake Cafe and Bakery, Farr + Huson Architects, Deveney Communication, Café Negril, The Maison and Spotted Cat.

Now that Caroling is over we are starting the planning for our home tour. We are looking for homes and volunteers to help with the planning. If you can help or open your home please contact us.

The riverfront redevelopment is in full swing and if all goes as planned it should be open in 18 months. We are pleased with the city's decision to create a passive park that best suits the needs, wants and desires of the community. We hope to fix one issue with the plans that call for the restroom facilities on the Mandeville Street Wharf to block the street view of the riverfront. We will keep you posted on the progress.

2011 is off to a great start with many great things happening in our neighborhood and city. To continue this wave of good things we all need to do our part. Everyone needs to pitch in to help continue to make our neighborhood a great place to live work and play. I hope I can count on you to give a bit back to our neighborhood that has given and continues to give us all so much.

## IN MEMORIAM

**SWINDLE Linda Marie** — A teacher, poet and community activist, she died on December 14, 2010; she was 66 years old. In the early 1980s, she resurrected the Neighborhood Watch program in the Faubourg Marigny rectangle, and served two terms as President of the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association.

**HENDERSON Russell Joseph** — A long-time resident of the Faubourg Marigny and a progressive community organizer, he died on January 3<sup>rd</sup> from kidney cancer. He taught social work at Southern University and Dillard University during the 1980s and 1990s and led or was involved with numerous political campaigns.

**MARCHETTI, Ralph III** — An FMIA Board member during the 1988-89 year, he moved to New Orleans in 1980. He passed away on December 21, 2010. Ralph was well known for the costumes he made for the dog Marigny, which she wore while riding in her K&B carriage or sitting on the bench at the tea dances.



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# NO MORE BLIGHT

*By Alexandre Vialou*

Chers amis,

Bonne Année 2011! May the blighted property next to your house be restored during this New Year. Do not lose hope that one day this eyesore will be renovated. Please contact us, be persistent and patient with us, and consider assisting us with it. The process takes time but as you can see there have already been significant improvements in our neighborhood.

While I want to be optimistic in this beginning of the year, you may have read some very depressing and tragic headlines this last month. On December 28<sup>th</sup>, eight young men and women died in an abandoned blighted building in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, a fire ravaged two historic buildings on the corner of Prytania and Josephine streets including a church in the Garden District. Finally on January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Times-Picayune reported a story about the demolition of a blighted property in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward that was the childhood home of Jazz musician Sidney Bechet. One thing in common: all of these houses were in violations of the City Housing Standard and were found guilty of Blight.

While these disasters did not occur in our neighborhood, we feel the pain of the communities living near these properties and we mourn the death of these young men

and women. We do empathize because these tragedies could have happened in our neighborhood. There are several large buildings in different stages of neglect in the Faubourg Marigny, including churches and warehouses. Illegal squatting has also been occurring in some of the most derelict blighted properties.

In the short term, our neighborhood is safer as we all continue to be vigilant. On a very cold night, if you see some squatters please call the NOPD Homeless Assistance Unit. (You may recall NOPD officer B.B. St. Roman who came to one of our General Meeting in the Fall of 2009). Her phone number is 504-658-6715.

In the long term, our neighborhood will be spared from these tragedies as

we keep committed to our preservation efforts. Many of our residents are already spending a lot of their own time and money to research the history of their homes and save from neglect properties such as the project of the Musée Rosette Rochon at 1515 Pauger Street in the Triangle and the Pierre Coulon Guesthouse at 714 Spain Street in the Rectangle.



1515 Pauger Street



714 Spain Street

There were no new Code Enforcement hearings to report. Several blighted properties should be scheduled for a hearing in March. You can contact the FMIA – Blight Committee directly at [blight@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:blight@faubourgmarigny.org)

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## News from Marigny Green

By Deborah Oppenheim



Marigny Green Committee wishes to thank everyone who supported our efforts by purchasing our first *Sexy Trees of the Marigny* Calendar which will help us provide more trees in the Faubourg Marigny. We were sold out of the calendars

by the end of December because as the tag line indicated, *“planting trees in New Orleans is hot in a good way.”* To complete our goal of planting trees in the Marigny we are asking residents who have existing 3ft by 3ft vacant street area to contact Deborah at [deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org) if they want to have a tree planted.

What if you want street trees by your house but there are no existing holes? Gather a few of your friends who will commit to a few hours of work and a Marigny rental company will discount the price of the jackhammer to drill the holes. For information, please contact Deborah at [deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org) and Marigny Green will help you with the process.

## Riverfront Park Update

By Chris Costello

Thank you to Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer and Deputy Mayor Kristina Ford for updating the community at Holy Angels on January 4<sup>th</sup> on the status of the riverfront park. It is becoming more of what the community needs, reconnecting the neighborhoods with the river.

Many questions and concerns were raised which included parking, access, an operator and a funding source for the perpetual maintenance of the park. These questions and concerns were noted but there were no concrete answers. We are following up on these and will report back once we have answers.

There is a misunderstanding about our concern with the location of the bathroom facilities on the Mandeville Street Wharf. The issue is that the bathroom facilities block the connection of the neighborhood to the riverfront. With the limited views the neighborhood has of the river from our connecting streets it seems counter intuitive to place the bathrooms such that they block a precious connection and view of the riverfront. Simply moving the bathrooms 20 feet towards Marigny Street will place them in front of a warehouse that has no windows and thus no views to block. We are requesting a meeting to discuss this issue and hope the city will see the inconsistency with the rest of the plans for the park and make the appropriate correction.

## Candlelight Caroling

By Donna Wakeman

The FMIA's 37<sup>th</sup> annual Candlelight Caroling was a big success, despite the lack of candlelight. Braving a cold and windy night, which made lit candles impossible, a crowd gathered to sing carols, eat cookies and drink coffee and cordials. Washington Square Park was beautifully lit with Christmas decorations.

The art market during the day, and the caroling in the evening, were the result of hours of work on the part of many. Ken Caron organized the preliminary preparations, including maintenance, and arranging for electrical repairs in the park. He also worked with Mike and Terri Rousel, Bill Whiting, Katherine Kuroczko, John Gutekunst, and Dianne and Pickle Rube to decorate the park.

Gretchen Bomboy was responsible for the ordering and installation of the new trash cans and benches. Clive coordinated all the volunteers for the event. Jason Patterson and his son Sebastian organized the music for the caroling.

We are especially grateful for our Caroling sponsors: Farr+Huson Architects, Cake Café and Bakery, Binders, Blue Nile, Marigny Brasserie, Café Rose Nicaud, Robérts, Deveney Communication, JohnPaul's Bar, Loretta's Authentic Pralines, Café Negril, The Maison, Spotted Cat and Artist Inc.

## DUES RENEWAL

*It is time to renew your membership.*

Dues are an important part of the organization in that they help pay for the cost for the newsletter and give us the working capital to put on the events we have throughout the year.

This year we have updated our membership form to solicit input from our members. We are asking members to renew by one of two methods.

1. Fill out the membership form on the back of the newsletter.
2. Renew online at [www.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org)

The 2011 dues rates are:

- Individual - \$15
- Individual Senior (65+) - \$5
- Household (2+ individuals) - \$20
- Senior Household (2+ seniors) - \$10
- Business - \$25

You may mail your renewal to 2401 Burgundy Street, Box 10, New Orleans, LA 70117 or drop it off in the mail slot at 535 Mandeville Street. We appreciate your help and support.

# Color Me Creole

This is the **twelfth** 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 (the) 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 — February 2011

## Eastlake Double Shotgun: 1880-1905

By Eugene Cizek & Lloyd Sensat

Officially, the Victorian Age extended from 1837, when Victoria became Queen of England, to her death in 1901. We often use the "catch-all phrase" Victorian to describe the many styles which evolved during this time.

Charles Locke Eastlake, an English architect, wrote *Hints on Household Taste*. In 1872, the first edition appeared in America. It was a book on furniture design but was applied to architectural design here. He openly expressed disgust with the interpretation of his ideas on the architecture of the Americas.

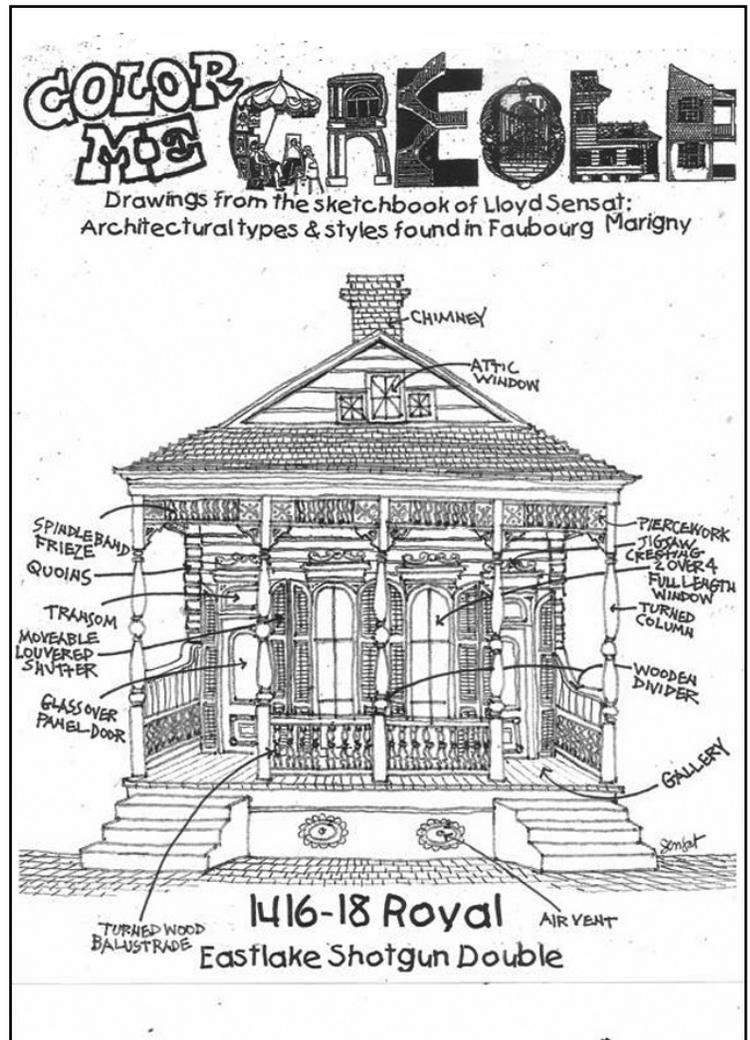
### 1416-18 Royal Street

The Eastlake Style is noted for its extravagant architectural millwork details, ornate turned columns and balusters, and stained glass windows. Such houses were the product of new steam powered milling machinery which could carve scrolls, columns and brackets. These eccentric gingerbread houses are commonly referred to as "Victorian" although this term refers to the period in which these styles evolved, one of which is Eastlake.

The shotgun house is one of the most common architectural types in the city of New Orleans with the architectural style of the time on the front facade of the house. This house type is a long thin house in which the rooms are arranged in a single file from front to back. The term "shotgun" originated from the fact that when all the doors are opened a gun can be fired through the length of the house without hitting anything. However in reality many of the doors were actually arranged diagonally so that the breezes could cool the rooms.

The shotgun double is a two family house composed of two shotgun singles under the same roof and separated by a center wall.

The Faubourg Marigny has numerous examples of wood-framed Eastlake shotguns on brick piers with weatherboard siding. This house at 1416-18 Royal is an excellent and very intact example of this exuberant style. This house would be referred to as a double shotgun. Note the original wooden divider separating the two houses. Sometime the front yard is also divided by an iron fence. During the 1850s shotguns with front galleries became popular. This house is typical Eastlake with its embellished gallery with brackets, piercework, spindle bands and full length windows covered with louvered movable shutters. Decorative carved doors and windows have ornate cornices and jigsaw cresting. The roof is gabled with a tripartite stained glass attic window. It is painted in an authentic late Victorian color scheme and is one of Faubourg Marigny's famous painted ladies.



## Orchids & Onions

### ORCHIDS

- ✿ A big thanks to all who made the Caroling such a success.
- ✿ Thank you to Marigny Green Volunteers: Betty Lilley, Jim Farr, Katherine Kuroczko, John Gutekunst, Deborah Oppenheim, and the ReUse District Volunteers, Beth Stelson, and Erin Walter
- ✿ Thanks to Sam Armstrong for the excellent job of obtaining advertising for our events and newsletter.
- ✿ Thanks to Red Dress Run for its \$5,000 donation for trash cans in Washington Square Park.

### ONIONS

- 🍷 Workers parking trucks illegally on North Rampart.
- 🍷 Owners who allow their buildings to become blighted.



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For comments — email [info@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org)

## Happ'ns in the 'Hood

**Streetscars:** See the President's Report, on page 3, for an update.

**Colton School:** At a Recovery School District meeting January 18, Superintendent Vallas reiterated that KIPP Leadership Academy, currently operating on St Claude Ave. in the Bywater, will move into Colton when it reopens. Those concerned over the lack of community input in the decision have established a website: [www.coltonschool.org](http://www.coltonschool.org).

**St Roch Market:** See St Claude Main Street, on page 11, for an update.



IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION



# MAGNOLIA Physical Therapy

Magnolia Physical Therapy is **locally owned and operated** by Lisa George and Beth Winkler-Schmit. Our Physical Therapists at Magnolia have successfully treated almost every painful musculoskeletal condition you may be experiencing. The following is far from a comprehensive list, but it should give you a pretty good idea of the types of conditions we treat:

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- Sacroiliac Joint Dysfunction
- Radiculopathy

### HIP

- Post Op Total Hip Replacement
- Femoral Fractures
- Labrum Tears
- Osteoarthritis
- Bursitis
- Piriformis Syndrome
- Groin Strain

### KNEE

- Post Op Total Knee Replacement
- Osteoarthritis
- Tendonitis
- Patellofemoral Pain Syndrome
- IT Band Syndrome
- Chondromalacia Patella

### ANKLE

- Stress Fractures
- Sprains
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Shin Splints
- Achilles Tendonitis
- Posterior Tibialis Tendonitis
- Post Op
- Bunions

### SHOULDER

- Post Op Rotator Cuff Repair
- Fixation
- Rotator Cuff Problems
- Impingement Syndrome
- Labrum Tear
- Biceps Tendonitis
- Frozen Shoulder

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IMPROVEMENT

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# Town Hall Meeting

*By Ken Caron*

On January 11, I attended the "Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Partnerships between the Neighborhoods and the NOPD" hosted by Council Members Kristen Palmer and Jackie Clarkson. It was a very well attended meeting with standing room only by residents. There were various political figures from the state and local level, the District Attorney, the Chief of Police and his staff. I personally was impressed at the spirit of cooperation among the various agencies and staff. The message was clear; everyone is working together (finally) to make this a better City. The meeting was supposed to be directed to Community Policing and some new directives the NOPD is or has instituted recently. Some, if not most will take time to produce results.

As you know I've been a big pessimist regarding crime and what I thought was the lack of concern to reduce it. I think we are turning the corner and will see much better things. Sure they're baby steps but it's moving forward. Personally I'm impressed with the Police Chief's short tenure here and am pleased thus far.

Residents were able to ask questions and voice their opinions at the meeting. The most overriding message from residents was Quality of Life issues — noise, rogue bars and nightclubs, bands on the streets, parking, etc.

Here are some things that I think are moving in the positive direction:

- **The 8<sup>th</sup> District** will now have a second Quality of Life Officer. He will support Roger Jones.
- **Mission One:** It was stated the Frenchmen Street area will benefit from Mission One. This initiative will get officers from behind their desks on weekends and on the street walking around addressing quality of life issues.
- **Parking:** It was said that additional tow trucks and drivers will be towing violators. The NOPD is also discussing with parking enforcement (Public Works) about ticketing in problem, targeted areas.
- **The New Noise Ordinance:** Although still being worked on, it will have more teeth to it than in the past. It is expected to be introduced to City Council in the next month or so.

All in all, an encouraging start in addressing the quality of life issues that plague our neighborhood.

## Backgammon, anyone?

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

Casual – Lighthearted – Fun

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

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

Questions? Call Will Hunn at 504 366-7498

# FOCUS ON BUSINESS

*By Rachel Smith*

If you go down St Claude often, you may have noticed that the distinctive sign made of welded bike parts advertising Gerken's Bike Shop has moved one block east. This neighborhood bike shop first opened in the summer of 2008 in a small rental space on St Claude. Getting your bike in and out of the front door without hitting the counter was a challenge. There wasn't enough room in there to swing the proverbial cat.

Owner John Gerken started his business after volunteering for six years at Plan B Community Bike Project and working in bike repair at the now-defunct Laid Back Tours bike shop in Mid-City. He and several other stalwarts of the New Orleans bike repair scene, Andrew, Shelley and Brian, started out in the new shop doing repairs. There was very little room to squeeze in more than a couple of used bikes and some bike accessories.

John had a vision of starting up an affordable, friendly neighborhood bike shop, and keeping it accessible to everyone. He describes talking with old-timers of New Orleans about a time when every neighborhood had its own small bike shop that made repairs and sold a few bikes.



He says the Marigny was a natural place to set up shop since so many of its residents use bicycles to get around, and he felt he knew the needs of the neighborhood after his time working at Plan B. Because St Claude connects to several other neighborhoods and recently had a bike lane added, it was the obvious choice within the Marigny.

Over the next two years, word of mouth spread and the business grew to the point where John decided to take the plunge and buy a building big enough to allow them to expand the business. He bought the old Lucky Joy Grocery which had closed up and fallen into disrepair. After some renovations which included opening up the dividing partition of the old double shotgun, they moved in this last September. The new store on the corner of St Claude and St Ferdinand has 2000 square feet of space, which allows for quite a number of used bikes to be sold, and they can now stock many more bicycle accessories. Gerken's Bike Shop will also start renting bicycles in time for Mardi Gras, a much-needed service for the many visitors to the city.

Gerken is indeed affordable and friendly. On the several occasions when I've gotten a flat tire bumping along the rutted city streets, they have swiftly and cheerfully changed out my inner tube and got me going again for \$10. Gerken's is well-situated to serve the residents of the Marigny, Bywater and St Roch, as well as visitors to the city.

**Gerken's Bike Shop**

2803 St Claude Avenue.  
Telephone 504-373-6924

Open 11-6 every day except Tuesdays

**Julie's Little India Kitchen at**



**Schiro's**

**Community Café & Bar**

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# ST CLAUDE MAIN STREET

# CALENDER OF EVENTS

*By Eva Campos*

January has been a hectic month for the neglected St Roch Market. The high profile city-owned landmark underwent some alterations that were cause for concern among neighbors on both sides of St Claude with an equal number being concerned with the potential degradation of the building matched with misplaced excitement at the prospect of the market's impending opening. The St Claude Main Street office was contacted by people happy to see activity in the neighborhood that resulted from the filming but worried that the market was being treated as a plaything. We were nicely reminded that it is the neighborhood anchor, an icon in the corridor, and one of the last New Orleans historic public markets.

One issue of concern was the collapse of the awning which covered the St Claude entrance of the market which some blamed on the film crew. At the time of the collapse it had been noticed and noted that for the previous two months signs were being hung from the awning. It was commented on at the time that there was a danger to the integrity of the awning since signs were being hung from the awning itself and not the building. Because of this activity the collapse appears to have been an accident resulting in someone attempting to hang yet another sign. On the heels of the awning collapse a film crew began preparing the market for filming a few scenes of the movie *Contraband*. Filming took place around the St Roch Market on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and will continue in the New Orleans area through mid March.

St Claude Main Street worked with the film company during the entire process and the project was monitored by the city architect for capital projects, Rodney Dionisio. All cosmetic alterations to the St Roch Market were temporary, nothing was secured to the building and the film

crew repaired holes that were leaking into the building. All alterations were kept with the permanent, city-lead upcoming renovations to the building and we have been assured that the letters are not being returned to the building façade at the city's request and are safely stored in the building.

Ironically, the movie is set to be released in March 2012, the same time the St Roch Market is set to be open for business. The film is set in Panama and the St Roch Market was recast as a bodega. Additionally, 2400 St Claude was painted and used in some exterior scenes.

Currently, the renovation of St Roch Market is in design phase and construction is not expected to begin until the end of this year. We all hope to see the space reclaimed as a market selling local seafood and vegetables. Unfortunately at this time there is no agreement for day-to-day operations or even an operator for the space. Until then, the market, which was built in 1875 and renovated by the Works Project Administration, will sit silently on St Claude Avenue only to come alive on the screen while the neighborhood continues its vigil for a market to make groceries.

In addition to the St Roch Market being used as a set in a scene, the Schwegmann building and parking lot served a very important role in filming *Contraband* on St Claude Avenue. Margie Schwegmann Brown, owner of 2222 St Claude Avenue, allowed the crew to use the parking lot for the storage of trucks and equipment. The crew and actors used the building as a place to eat, to rest and get prepared for scenes.

St Claude Main Street hopes everyone enjoyed the two days of filming and were not too put out by the street closures. We want everyone to join us in welcoming other film crews to the neighborhood.

## FEBRUARY

### **Meet the Neighbors**

February 8, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Maison, 508 Frenchman Street

### **General Meeting**

February 21  
6:30 Pot Luck, 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
2624 Burgundy Street

## MARCH

### **Board Meeting**

March 2, 7:00-9:00 pm  
628 Frenchmen Street

### **Meet the Neighbors**

March 15, 6:30-8:30 pm  
TBA

### **General Meeting**

March 21  
6:30 Pot Luck, 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
2624 Burgundy Street

## NONPAC MEETINGS

**5<sup>th</sup> District — 2nd Wednesday**  
7 pm, 2372 St Claude Avenue

**8<sup>th</sup> District — 2nd Thursday**  
5:30 pm, 1001 Toulouse Street

## GREEN MARKETS

### **French Market**

Wednesdays & Saturdays  
10 am - 5 pm

### **Sankofa Market**

Saturdays — 10 am - 2 pm  
5500 Street Claude Avenue

## FREE FUN

### **Krewe du Vieux**

February 19, 6:30 pm  
Start Elysian Fields  
at Chartres Street

### **Nickel a Dance**

March 13, 20 & 27, 4 - 7 pm  
Maison, 508 Frenchmen Street

**If you have an event for the calendar please send it to  
Donna Wakeman at  
editor@faubourgmarigny.org**



## FMIA Board Meeting December 1, 2010 Minutes

Board: Chris Costello, Jason Patterson, Gene Cizek, Jim Farr, Deborah Oppenheim Ken Caron, and Gretchen Bomboy

Absent: Eva Campos, Donna Wakeman

Call to Order: Chris Costello, President opened the meeting at 7:25 pm.

### Announcements:

1. Approvals by email:
  - a. Motion to uninstall temporary public art pieces: yes
  - b. Motion to fix the lights and electrical outlets in WSP: yes
2. Approval of minutes from 11/3 Board and 11/15 General Meetings : Chris moved that we approved the minutes Second Gene Vote Unanimous
3. President's Report :
  - a) St. Paul Lutheran's School is having a school support dinner auction this Saturday, December 4th.
  - b) Board Participation: A system needs to be devised to help with organization of events. FMIA needs to have a Volunteer Chairperson.
  - c) The template for Committee Reports: Chris will resend the template for the Committee Reports.
4. Treasurer's Report: Eva sent the report and it was approved.
5. Committee Reports

a. Newsletters: Sam Armstrong will be working out of town and we thank him for the excellent job of obtaining advertising. Donna Wakeman, editor of the newsletter for coordinating, editing, and layout, THANK YOU. Orchids: A big thanks to Ken Caron who organized the preliminary Caroling preparations which included maintenance, electrical, and scheduled volunteers to help. Thanks to the volunteers who helped make the park nice - Mike and Terri Rousei, Bill Whiting, Katherine Kuroczko, John Gutekunst, and Dianne and Pickle Rube for the Caroling Event. Gretchen Bomboy for her commitment to preparing the physical site of Washington Square Park for Caroling. Please notice the new trash cans and benches which Gretchen ordered and helped install, thank you. Clive gets a round of applause and thank you for organizing the volunteers for Caroling.

Red Dress Run for \$5,000 donations for Trash Cans in Washington Square Park.

Onions: Owners who allow their buildings to become blighted  
HELPFUL TIP: Please clean your storm drains

b. Blight - Alex/Brad: Contrary to Greater New Orleans, there is no reduction of blight in the Marigny and it does not reflect what is going on here. However, there is some progress and Alex is reporting how we are doing this and monitoring all the blight in the hood. The city is not touching occupied blighted property. 7% of our lots are blighted versus the city average of 25%. We have a goal to go to zero and to use market forces and resources from code enforcements. It is our impression that some owners try to fix their homes but not able to accomplish the necessary repairs. These houses become blighted. Alex's proposal prevents that from happening. Alex wants to ask the Board, businesses, and non-profits to help the Blight Committee by giving money/time to do simple tasks such as painting, yard work, and trash. It is possible the neighbors next to an elderly resident would also be interested. Alex will present 3-4 houses that would fit the criteria. Gretchen recommended that we talk to PRC and Rebuild to return to the Marigny. Chris moved that we approve the planning to move forward of blight remediation program proposed by Alex. Vote: Unanimous

- c. Caroling: The Art Market, Music, and Kid's Tent is 10 am to 4 pm. The Caroling begins at 6 pm. John Paul has donated cordials to be sold at the Caroling Event. Permits have been applied for and secured.
- d. Membership: January is renewal time for membership.
- e. Washington Square Park: Lights were fixed in the park.
- f. Marigny Green: Chris moved that we purchased 25 more calendars.

Vote: Unanimous

### Old Business:

#### Projects

- a. Re-inventing the Crescent: Kristina Ford closed on the agreement with the Port and notice was given to the contractor. They are aware of the inappropriate location of the bathrooms and will probably be moved.
- b. Parking Permits in the Marigny: No Status
- c. Washington Square Park trashcans: Kudos to Gretchen - the trash cans are here and are fabulous. The freight charges are expensive. It was mentioned that we pass the bucket for donations to help defray the cost. Chris moved that we investigate the cost for the additional needed trash cans and benches. Vote: Unanimous
- d. Historic Markers: It is just as expensive to repair as to get a new one and could move the markers accordingly for the appropriate places.
- e. Colton School: Meeting at Byrdie's Coffee House at 6 pm.

### Issues:

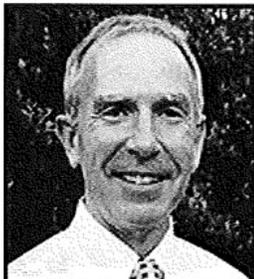
- a. Lazziza's: They asked for a continuance and will come to the ABO Hearing on 12/21/10.
- b. Mardi Gras Zone: Stop work order was given to stop work on the illegal laundromat. A letter was sent with the other grievances.
- c. 2300 Block of Royal: No status
- d. The John: Chris received a letter in the mail regarding the live music and loitering. There will be a meeting with the neighbors.
- e. Tattoo Business: Officer Jones said that both the cars have registration. We will send a letter to reiterate that the cars have not moved for months and have no batteries.
- f. Desperado's Events: According to Officer Jones, he spoke to them about the complaints and having music which is not allowed.

### New Business:

#### Projects

- a. Meet the Authors Night: FAB Wants to use have three events and a quarterly Meet the Neighbors to promote authors and will do all the necessary legwork. Chris moved that we accept his proposal with a caveat that the subject of the book is appropriate for the venue and the host business approves of the book signing Vote Unanimous
- b. Segways in Washington Square Park: We received word that the Segways go through the park which is not allowed. A letter will be sent. Another concern is the bikes that are locked on the poles. We really appreciate the green business (bicycles) but would appreciate they follow the laws of the street.
- c. Race Against Crime (Walk the Beat): Chris moved that we contribute a \$100 to each District Vote Unanimous
- d. Healing Center: A complaint that the colors on the building create an orange hue in the neighbor's house. Our involvement is to get everyone together to find a resolution.
- e. Postcard: An informational flyer with the tile, Did you Know with pertinent information sent to everyone in the neighborhood is being explored. They will be no newsletter in January but a postcard with general information will be sent to the members.

Adjournment: 9:34 pm.



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## FMIA Board Meeting January 5, 2011 Minutes

Chris Costello, President call the meeting to order at 7:10pm  
Board members Present: Gretchen Bomboy, Ken Caron, Eva Campos, Jason Patterson, Donna Wakeman, Deborah Oppenheim  
Board Members Absent: Gene Cizek  
Guests:

### Community Requests:

Patricia and David Forsyth: They discussed their family's property at 936 St. Roch.

### Administration

1. Approvals by email: None
  - a. Motion to send letter of support to NORA for PRC project: Sent
  - b. Motion to send intent letter for 8th Ward Community Center: Sent
  - c. Linda Swindle donation to American Cancer Society: Sent
  - d. Flowers to Gary deLeaumont's mom: Sent
2. Approval of minutes from 12/1 Board meeting: Chris moved to approved the minutes with the corrections Vote: Unanimous
3. President's Report: FQMAHD: Chris has been the Marigny's representative for FQMAHD. Jim moved that Chris continues to be the Marigny's representative. Cards and Flowers: Don Richmond who runs the African American Museum is in the Hospital and Gretchen will send him a card. Russ Henderson passed away and a card will be sent. Linda Swindle funeral is Saturday, January 8th and Chris and Eva have helped with the funeral arrangements.
  - a. Meetings: Riverfront Meeting: The Bywater wanted to have a meeting with Kristin Ford on January 4, 2011 which had to be a public meeting. FMIA was listed as a co-host. Allen Eskew conducted the meeting. Many questions were asked such as: 1) Access in the Marigny and grade access? A: There is a grade level access in the Bywater 2) What are the plans for the park A: All the bells and whistle have been eliminated. It will be a passive park. 3) The "skate board access ramp" has been redesigned. 4) We were told that the bathroom location can be moved to a more appropriate location. The structure for the bathroom is a 12ft x 20ft structure in the view of Mandeville St. and they said it can't be moved. Eskew said it would be only 12ft high and on the back side of the bathroom would be a projection screen for movies. This is the Marigny's only open view of the river and reconnection to the river. Chris moved that we write a letter to Kristina Ford reiterating why we would like the bathrooms moved to a more appropriate location and questioning the projection screen. Vote: Unanimous
  - b. Upcoming Meetings: We have asked St. Roch Market to keeps us continuously updated. Chris and Eva, St. Claude Main Street will have a meeting with Norfolk Southern. Crime: St. Roch neighborhood has been really targeted. Councilperson Kristen Palmer has organized a meeting with the 5th District and a Town Hall meeting to discuss the crime spree TBA.
  - c. Dissemination of Information: With all the information received through emails and mail, what do we need and what do we not need? Chris and Gretchen are working on getting the needed information to the right source.
4. Treasurer's Report: Eva submitted the Financial Reports. Chris wants to have Eva add a year to date total to the Profit and Loss Report.
5. Newsletter Report: 1) We are in compliance with everything in the newsletter. The Board discussed another option for advertising in the newsletter. Chris moved that we charge \$125 for the inside back cover of the newsletter for a member's legal business. The inside front cover may not be sold. Vote: Unanimous 2) Notice from a subscription service and have a request for our newsletter. The service wants to know how much for the newsletter. Chris moved that subscription service can have a membership and they are non-voting members. Vote: Unanimous 3) Advertisements sales need to be increased. 4) Eva, Donna, Sam and will stream line the advertisements information flow. 5) Postcard: Donna submitted an example of the postcard which will be sent out in January. There is no January newsletter. 6) Donna has found a printer for the postcards and will print 275 copies at \$52.00.

Orchids: Jason Patterson and his son Sebastian for help with organizing the music. Huge thanks to our sponsors: Jim Farr, Cake Café, Binders, John Paul's, Loretta's Pralines, and Artist Inc.; A thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Caroling; Thank you to Marigny Green Volunteers: Betty Lilley, Jim Farr, Katherine Kuroczko, John Gutekunst, Deborah

- Oppenheim, and the ReUse District Volunteers, Beth Stelson, and Erin Walter  
Onions: Workers parking trucks illegally on North Rampart
6. Blight: No report
  7. Caroling: It was very cold and windy day for the Art Market. New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Fest had their Gumbo Fest the same weekend and the possibility of not having the art market in the future was discussed.
  8. Membership: It is time to pay dues. We have a new membership application.
  9. Marigny Green: Deborah said that the Sexy Trees of the Marigny calendar was a successful and all calendars were sold. If a member has an existing street hole and interested in having a tree planted, contact Deborah deborah@faubourgmarigny.org.

### Old business:

#### Projects

- a. Parking Permits in the Marigny: Ken, Deborah, Gene, and Chris met with Councilperson Kristin Palmer to discuss parking and Frenchmen Street. We have contacted Robert Mendoza and are waiting for him to follow up with our request for a meeting.
  - b. Washington Square Park Trashcans: Gretchen has the two tops and they need to be secured.
  - c. Historic Markers: No Status
  - d. Colton School: Chris will attend a meeting with the Colton group
- Issues
- a. Lazziza's: Lazziza's alcohol license was revoked permanently because they violated their agreement.
  - b. 2300 Block of Royal: No status
  - c. The John: No status
  - d. Tattoo Business: No Status
  - e. Desperado's: No status
  - f. Segways in Washington Square Park: Ann McDonald of Park and Parkways said the segways are not allowed in Washington Square Park.
  - g. Washington Square Park: The electrical repair is almost complete. Thanks to Ken Caron for making this happen. FMIA allocated monies for electricity and Park and Parkways covered some of the cost.

#### Other

### New business:

#### Projects

- a. Master Plan/ Land Use: Clive is gathering information to solidify the need for low density in the triangle and rectangle.
- b. Healing Center: Does zoning allow the Healing Center to have a bar and if so, it will be a conditional use.
- c. CANO meeting: We have signed to be a partner with them.
- d. 2121 Chartres: Potential developers are asking for a letter of support for the concept of a grocery store at 2121 Chartres. The question is What is the best use for this property? Chris moved that we inform the developers in a letter what are the concerns of the community such as parking, trash, truck delivery, flow of traffic and suggest that they prepare answers to the concerns. Vote: Unanimous
- e. Buck moth: This year, Park and Parkways will spray the park.

#### Issues

- a. Washington Square Park: The Palm Tree destroyer is back destroying our palm trees. She is between 25-30 years old and currently has pink hair. Please call 8th District if you see her destroying the palm trees.
- b. Crime Issues: There is a crime spree. The 5th District is having big problems. The 5th District is the largest district. The residents have complained that they are not getting critical information to protect themselves. FMIA will send a letter to the 5th District with the complaints.
- c. Enforcement: It is time to contact the State if City Hall does not work on enforcement.
- d. 926 St. Roch: Chris moved that we write a letter to say we are sorry but we can't involve ourselves in family matters. Vote: Unanimous

### Events

#### Other

Healthy Neighborhoods New Orleans: Focus on diabetes with African Americans in our neighborhood. Gretchen will send a letter

**Adjournment: Moved to adjourn 10:31pm**

## FMIA General Meeting January 17, 2011 Minutes

Chris Costello, President opened the meeting at 7:15pm and welcomed everyone on this special day honoring Martin Luther King. Chris expressed good wishes for the New Year. Chris feels that the words of MLK resonate with the city of New Orleans and that we can accomplish the impossible. As a neighborhood organization, we have participated in baby steps for the past 39 years and we were honored with the Great American Neighborhood Award. As a neighborhood organization, we will continue to take the steps to continue to make the Marigny a great place to live, work and play.

Chris welcomed new faces to our first General Meeting of 2011 – Carol, Donna and Daryl and Tony.

### Announcements:

- 1) Meet the Neighbors: This is a social event on the second Tuesday of each month. Three Muses hosted Meet the Neighbors on January 10th. He commended them on a very smart business and on following the Frenchmen St. Overlay. The next one is at Maison on Feb 8th.
- 2) T-Shirts and Mugs: please see Gary to purchase a FMIA T-shirt and mug.
- 3) Colton School: 1423 St. Phillips, Tuesday January 18th at 6pm. We have been told that FEMA was building a school and the neighborhood would have the option to find an operator. Instead, RSD has decided without the community to have a KIPP School at Colton. Parents vocalized their frustration with RSD for not giving them a choice. There are other KIPP schools in the downtown community and parents want to have more school options.
- 4) January is dues renewal.
- 5) Lower Mid- City, Derrick Shepard: dmorrison33@cox.net There is a City Council meeting this Wednesday at 2pm in the Council Chambers, the Housing and Human Needs Committee of New Orleans chaired by Councilperson Stacey Head. Mr. Shepard said that the Outbanks Bar was shut down and demolished. They are fighting for a fair appraisal. Mr. Shepard said the plaintiff is the Board of Supervisors of LSU and their group feels that the State is setting low appraisal values.
- 6) Officers: Sergeant Williams informed the group that Officer Frank Robertson will be having another Quality of Life Officer who will work with Officer Jones. The 5th District Crime Walk is scheduled for January 26th at 5pm. The route will be on FMIA's website. Another program by the NOPD called Mission One is having senior officers on weekends out of the office and on the streets. The program can be more successful if the police get out of their cars and do something as they are moving about.

### Committee Reports:

**Blight:** Alex said that the new blight director, Mr. J. Hebert is working with the Marigny to help eliminate blight. **Old Business:** 2700 Dauphine Street has been purchased by Carol Ross. Welcome to the neighborhood and thank you purchasing this property. February 17th is the date scheduled for the expropriation of Robert's on Elysian Fields. The city has not sited boarded up buildings such as St. Peter and Paul and 2304 Royal St. because they are at not risk. The question to discuss is should we pursue boarded up buildings? If so, there is not a mechanism to do this. It will take research to find out what are the laws and how are they appropriate.

**Marigny Green:** The Sexy Tree Calendar of the Marigny was a huge success. Deborah thanks the group for their support. Just in case you want a calendar, it is possible by purchase on-line by going to lulu.com and type in Sexy Trees of the Marigny. If you have an existing hole and want a tree planted, contact Deborah at deboraho@faubourgmarigny.org. Another option for planting trees is having holes made. This is feasible but it involves equipment, and approvals from Department of Streets and the City of New Orleans. Marigny Green has collected the maximum weight of alkaline batteries allocated by a contract with a recycling business in Hammond, La.

**Caroling Event:** Caroling was a great event even with the crazy weather problems. Big thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event possible. A shout out to our coordinators who worked so hard to make this event possible—Ken, Gretchen, Chris, Jason, and Deborah and another thanks you to the businesses that helped sponsor the event. Chris reiterated to the group that FMIA has been the steward of Washington Square Park since 2005. The problem was that the city was going to close the park and we stepped in and took the responsibility for the park. Recently we repaired all the lights in Washington Square Park; thanks Ken Caron and Parks and Parkway for their hard work. Another improvement to the park is the eight trash cans made possible from a donation from the Red Dress Run. We still need four more trash cans and six benches to finish that project. Donations are always welcomed. There is a possibility that the city will spray for Buck moths this year. However we found out that the oak trees have termites. There is a company that we are talking to that will treat the oak trees for free. It was asked if the company could spray Elysian Fields. Chris will look into this.

**St. Roch Market:** The construction one might see at the St. Roch Market is from a movie production company. We hope that some of the improvements will be permanent. The City won't renovate the market until they have an operator. The City is writing up the RFP for an operator which will be posted.

**Healing Center** is moving ahead. The City is putting together a loan for healthy foods. The food coop has a manager who has just moved here; welcome. They are talking about an opening date of May 1st. They have an opportunity to borrow some money from banks but they need more members 600. If you want to join please go to the website [nolafoodcoop.org](http://nolafoodcoop.org).

**Riverfront Update:** It is under construction. What the new administration had to do was to look at the entire project. They stripped all the bells and whistles and it will be a passive park. What held up the project was a safety study before the Port would sign the agreement with the City. This was not done before the new administration came into office. The Riverfront Park will be a reality and the construction should take about 18 months. There is one issue – at Mandeville Street, the view from the street will be looking at the bathroom building. We have addressed this issue and waiting to hear from them. They are working out the bugs with the railroad. They told us that the Frenchmen Corporation will do the maintenance on the park. The funding will come from the parking lots on Elysian Fields. We hope to have a Community Benefit Agreement. There are times that the Mandeville Wharf would be the overflow for French Quarter Fest and other local festivals. The Mandeville space is designated for the community. The dog park will be in the Bywater. The ramp will start at Elysian Fields and slowly go up towards Marigny and winds into the space. The ramp needs to be ADA compliant. The public belt railroad does not want grade crossing in the Marigny for safety reasons. However, they will be a grade crossing in the Bywater. We will continue to be vigilant.

**Quality of Life Update:** This is a big issue for us. We are making some headway and having the city enforce the laws. The ABO Board revoked the liquor license at 2106 Chartres, Lazazzia. The neighborhood tried to work with the operator and they choose not to follow the laws. This business was not a good neighbor. Another business in the Marigny was having an illegal night club on the second floor which has been shut down by the city. The abandon vehicles in the 800 block of Frenchmen Street in front of the Tattoo Parlor have been towed. They are laws on the books to protect all. The Mayor has said he is committed to enforcement. It is obvious that city departments do not have the tools to communicate with each other. We have been informed that the city is looking at a particular issue and will map out the weak links throughout the entire city. It will go through a new system and not fall through the cracks. The police have decibel meters for noise and levels are allocated for different areas. If there is a problem either call 311 or the District and/or an email the Quality of Life Officers at [rjones@nola.gov](mailto:rjones@nola.gov) and [mlasina@cityno.gov](mailto:mlasina@cityno.gov). Please make sure to report the time, what is happening and document everything. Quality of life issues are for nuisances. Call Crime Stoppers for activities involving drugs, squatters, and firearms. The police know that the problems are late at night and they will have police officers dedicated for night detail. Mission one is taking senior officers out of the office on the weekends and putting them on the streets. We are the eyes and ears on the street to help the police. Feb 8th will be the next Town Hall Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

### Did You Know That . . .

In 1847 the *Institution Catholique des Orphelins Indigent*, a school for "colored orphans of the Faubourg Marigny," was opened. Marie Couvent, a free woman of color, left funds to create the school in her will. It was the first free school in the US for the education of African-American children. Located at the corner of Touro and Dauphine, the site is today the home of St. Gerard Majella Alternative School.

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IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

Mardi Gras Zone is proud to be the Marigny's only full service, local supermarket.

Originally a bead supply outlet, the grocery store started as a response to the lack of available markets in the wake of Katrina. Mardi Gras Zone always strives to serve our community and we value our symbiotic relationship.

We carry a wide selection of International, organic and healthy groceries, pet food, beads, party supplies, and more.

World class BRICK OVEN PIZZA and 100% Cajun local produce coming soon.

We love being IN and OF the Marigny, are proud to be as unique and real as our customers, and thank y'all for your patronage.

*Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

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