



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

## Les Amis de Marigny

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

### Still Walking the Walk

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Walking Tour, Art Market, Music & Kid's Area will be held **November 6, 2011**. Come explore New Orleans' most Creole neighborhood, Faubourg Marigny, where the spirit of the Marquis Antoine Xavier Bernard Phillippe de Marigny de Mandeville still haunts the historic neighborhood he established in 1805.

The leisurely walking tour of the neighborhood will be led by neighborhood preservationists. Learn to identify the various New Orleans architectural types and styles from Creole cottages, slave quarters to Victorian shotguns. See the Creole masterpieces of Jean Louis Dolliole, a free man of color who was an entrepreneur and builder/ architect. Relive the life and times of Bernard de Marigny and the saga of the Creoles vs. the "Americans". Hear the tragic stories of the slaves and the inspiring free people of color (*gens de couleur libres*), noting that the white Creoles and the black Creoles lived side by side in Faubourg Marigny.

Highlights include: the bank robbed by Bonnie & Clyde, the location for Stella and Stanley's apartment from Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," the first Catholic school for blacks in America, the legendary Marie Laveau's father and daughter's houses, Arthur Q. Davis architect for the Superdome and the famous jazz haunts and restaurants of Frenchmen Street. Stroll through Washington Square on Dauphine St., originally named "Great Men" because of the many prominent and famous people who lived there in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The tour emphasizes history, art and architecture, landscape design and intimate anecdotes of life in the neighborhood today. Faubourg Marigny is not Disneyland, it is the real thing — experience the authentic Creole New Orleans — this is Faubourg Marigny.

Washington Square Park will host an art market, where renowned local artists will showcase and sell their work. Visitors will also enjoy live, local music while they shop the art market. A Kids Activity area has been created that will feature fun activities for kids during the Walking Tour. After shopping at the Art Market, listening to great local music and taking the tour, enjoy a leisurely stroll through the historic Marigny neighborhood and stop at one of our great restaurants, coffee shops or bars and soak in the local flavor.



625 Marigny Street

The event is on November 6 in Washington Square Park. Tickets for the tour will be available day for \$15. Tours start from Washington Square Park every 30 minutes. The Art Market, Music and Kids Area are free. Visit [faubourgmarigny.org](http://faubourgmarigny.org) for more information.

#### Schedule :

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Ticket Sales

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Art Market and Music & Kids Area

Noon – 3:30 p.m. – Walking Tour.

We are looking for volunteers. Day of the event volunteers serve a two hour shift of their choice and help with tasks for the day. They also get a free ticket to the tour. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Gretchen at

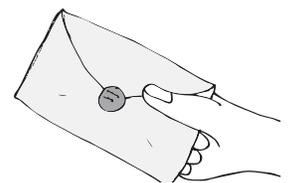
[secretary@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:secretary@faubourgmarigny.org). Be sure to clean up your front yard so we can show our best face to the world.

### The Envelope, Please.....

*By Donna Wakeman*

At the September 19, 2011 General Meeting the FMIA held its closely watched elections for the Board of Directors. There were a total of seven candidates for the four open positions. The Nominating Committee slate was comprised of Marshall Gries, Miles Swanson, and incumbents Gretchen Bomboy and Alex Vialou. Nominated from the floor at the August General Meeting were Katy Adams, who declined to run, Benny Naghi, Dwight Norton, and Nick Scramuzza.

The winners, by roughly a two-thirds majority, were Gretchen Bomboy, Marshall Gries, Miles Swanson and Alex Vialou. The turn-out for the election was substantial, with 184 members voting. The process this year was well-organized, with all voters having to show identification and signing in, and all proxy votes pre-authenticated and the



# NO MORE BLIGHT

*By Alexandre Vialou*

I was recently in Minot, North Dakota. This city of 40,000 — fourth largest in the state — suffered its worst flooding last June. Dikes (their levees) didn't hold against the sheer strength of the flow of the Souris river loaded with heavy spring rainfall, unusually high snow levels, and according to many residents with whom I spoke, a mismanagement of the river's upstream reservoirs. My assignment, with three other colleagues, was to take pictures of all 7,000 houses that were damaged.

Reconstruction efforts were visibly underway on almost every block. Yet the low-lying neighborhoods were dotted with FEMA trailers. Neighbors and communities were being torn apart. Similar to here, stories of life memories being destroyed were heartbreaking.

I saw a lot of blight and it made me think more about what is happening here in our own town. Six years after our own levees failed after hurricane Katrina, New Orleans is still plagued with a record level of derelict properties. City officials, developers and community leaders have all been trying to devise solutions to eradicate blight with no real success.

Minot is currently witnessing an extraordinary growth in the oil industry. 10,000 new exploratory fields are expected to be dug over the next decade. This is creating a tremendous demand for housing and as a result many of these blighted property are slated to be rebuilt. This upward pressure on housing prices is making the life of the displaced residents even more difficult.

Here in New Orleans, I can say with no doubt that we can empathize with them and wish them the best with their recovery.

For any comments or inquiries with respect to blight in the Faubourg Marigny, please email [blight@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:blight@faubourgmarigny.org).



Blight in Minot

# ADVERTISING

Commercial Advertising				
Rates Monthly				
	Full Page	1/2 Page	1/4 Page	Business Card
FMIA Member	\$110	\$53	\$40	\$23
Non-Member	\$113	\$58	\$43	\$28
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FMIA Member	\$90	\$45	\$30	\$18
Non-Member	\$93	\$48	\$33	\$21

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

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). Classified Rates: \$5.00 per each 25 words.

## 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. The FMIA does not warrant the legality of any business advertised in its newsletter. 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 Fall! We have been lucky to have had a couple of glimpses of the cooler weather in September but nothing beats a true, cool autumn day after the enduring summer heat.

I would like to thank all those who either voted by proxy or came out to the meeting to vote. It was an interesting election with some candidates paying for memberships, offering incentives to new members who joined or a combination of both. To add to the bizarre antics some of these new members were homeless but claimed residency in our neighborhood. The Association rose to the challenge and the Board moved to create policies to fairly identify residency and administer proxy votes as per our organizing documents. In addition, to give members ample time to vote, the Board extended the voting time such that the polls were open from 6 pm to 8 pm. It was a well-run election according to our attorney who was present to oversee the process.

We had a great turnout thanks in part to the constant misinformation some were spreading about the Association and election. Ultimately the membership saw through the shenanigans and voted for whom they believe would best represent their views and direction of the neighborhood by a wide margin. It was an affirmation from the membership that we have and are going in the right direction (See *The Envelope Please* on page 2 for actual numbers.) As part of our ongoing policy of openness and transparency members may view the sign-in sheet, voting rolls and membership list to dispel any misconceptions that the elections were not run honestly and fairly.

I would like to thank all the candidates, each of whom was willing to take on the equivalent of a second job, for what they believed to be the good of the neighborhood. The membership has spoken. Let's be better than those in Washington and get back to improving our neighborhood. We have a lot of good things happening in our neighborhood and we need to focus on them.

Speaking of which, the **Healing Center** is now open and the **Food Co-op** will follow very shortly. For any business to survive we must support it. Our goal of a walkable neighborhood with goods and services we need is a reflection of our willingness to support those businesses. This does not mean we support bad businesses (we are still capitalists) but to give news ones a try. The movement forward or backward of our neighborhood is up to us.

The **National Night Out Against Crime** will be October 11 this year. This is an important event to galvanize our neighborhood, community and City to fight crime. I encourage everyone to talk with your neighbors, put a block party together and be a part the fun.

Our **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Walking Tour** will be November 6 from 10 to 4 pm. This is a great event with music, an art market, a kids area and the walking tour. It is also a fundraiser for us.

Consider inviting friends and family to have a fun day in the Marigny. We are always looking for volunteers for the day of the event so if you can help please let us know. Also around the corner is our **Candlelight Caroling** on December 11. Mark your calendars!

This will be my last President's report as we elect new executive officers every year. I have been president for the last six years taking the reins right after Katrina. It has been an amazing journey for the organization and me. It was one full of the excitement of our potential and the possibilities, the disappointments of poor enforcement and decisions by the City, accomplishments and the desire to make our slice of the world a better place to live, work and play.

We held the first public neighborhood meetings after the storm to help residents get information about city and public services. We partnered with the Department of Parks & Parkways in 2005 to keep our park open and raised over \$27,000 for repairs and maintenance including the renovation of the playground equipment. We worked with the city to improve our neighborhood and monitored closely the Riverfront Park and Street Car projects to make sure they benefited the neighborhood. We created programs such as Marigny Flowers, Marigny Releaf, Save Our Trees, Marigny Banners and No More Blight to replenish, renew, beautify and stabilize our neighborhood. We successfully secured our 501c3 non-profit status and encouraged the Port of New Orleans to move the Cold Storage plant to a better suited location. We became the first green neighborhood in the City with our Marigny Green program, added an art market and live music to our yearly events to support local artists and musicians. We also created our popular Meet the Neighbors' event to help support local businesses while at the same time helping newbies in the neighborhood to get to know their neighbors.

I am proud of what we have accomplished, honored that you placed your trust in me and thank all who made this a reality: the volunteers; my past and present board members; my friends and counterparts within other associations and organizations; the staff at City Hall especially Mayor Mitch Landrieu and staff, Councilmember Kirstin Palmer and her office, the City Planning Commission staff, the Historic Landmarks Commission staff, the NOPD 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> District Commanders, Quality of Life Officers and Community Coordinators; our State and Federal Representatives; my family and friends; and my partner whose support and encouragement has been the bedrock for my ability to help, support and give back to the neighborhood and community I proudly call home.

I believe that giving is an integral part of being human and that giving of one's own time and energy (volunteering) is a great way to help others. It has been the desire to help others, the love of this neighborhood, and the words of encouragement and the support that has helped me make it through this journey. I encourage each of you, whether it is a desire to give back or a thank you for all that we have accomplished, to take some time out of your week to show the love and support for each other and our neighborhood. In doing so we can continue to help make our neighborhood a great place to live, work and play.

The Envelope Please continued from page 1

voters of proxies having to provide identification. It was like a real election!

Since the election, there have been inferences made of improprieties in the process. Proxy votes were central to those inferences. One allegation was that proxy votes were allowed for the first time ever, even though Article VII of the association's Articles of Incorporation, revised in September, 2007, clearly state that "voting...shall be in person or by written proxy." It also seems that some confused proxy voting with absentee ballots. Per Robert's Rules of Order: "A 'proxy' is a means by which a member who expects to be absent from a meeting authorizes someone else to act in his or her place at the meeting." An absentee ballot, as many of us have experienced, is filled out and usually mailed in advance of an election.

It is to be hoped, the vast majority of the membership having spoken, that we can now focus on the proper business of the organization. There is a growing need for active participation in the organization and its committees, and all are urged to put their energy to forward progress.

## The Results

179 people signed in as attending the meeting. 184 ballots were picked up (160 in-person members and 24 proxy votes). 181 ballots were cast. The voting rolls are available for inspection by any members. Each candidate received the following votes:

- Gretchen Bomboy - 130 Votes
- Marshall Gries - 123 Votes
- Benny Naqhi - 48 Votes
- Dwight Norton - 44 Votes
- Nick Scramuzza - 47 Votes
- Miles Swanson - 153 Votes
- Alex Vialou - 157 Votes

### HOUSE SWAP NEW ORLEANS/FRANCE

A house-swap for my parents who are coming to spend Christmas with me Dec. 21 – Jan. 3 with some flexibility. They offer up their beautifully renovated former stone barn outside of historic Pont-Aven in Brittany. The time in France can happen at mutually agreeable times.

Contact Meg at 617-283-9547

## 2011 Mirliton Festival

**Saturday November 5**  
**11 am to 7 pm**

**Mickey Markey Park**  
**Piety & Royal Streets**

## Happ'ns in the 'Hood

**Esplanade/Mandeville Wharves:** The Port of New Orleans is asking to have the zoning changed for the Esplanade/Mandeville Wharves to Light Industrial. Such a change would allow them to build an industrial facility. The FMIA is opposed, wanting it to retain the current zoning for parks and open spaces and hoping for it to become a continuation of the Moon Walk.

**CVS vs The Neighbors:** Sharon Robinson, potential next door neighbor to this project, is circulating a petition against it. All those interested in lending their support should contact her at 1023 Franklin Ave.

**St Claude Streetcar:** While the streetcar line is on-track (pun intended) to run from Canal St. to Press St., the Bywater neighborhood is left out. They are pushing hard for the line to be extended to Poland Ave., and have gained support from *Transport for NOLA*, an organization whose mission is to create a world-class transportation system in the Greater New Orleans region. For more information, go to [transportfornola.org](http://transportfornola.org).

**Chili Festival:** Sean Pfister, a new resident, is interested in starting a *Chili/Bluegrass Festival* in the neighborhood to benefit the FMIA. It is tentatively slated for December 3. Anyone interested in helping out can contact him at [seanreds@me.com](mailto:seanreds@me.com).

**Master Plan:** The ink has barely dried on the Master Plan and already changes are being proposed. One, however, is in our best interests. The zoning for the Marigny in the Master Plan had been designated as medium density, changing the rectangle's current low density, and matching the triangle's current density designation. In fact, the FMIA had asked for the reverse, for the triangle to match the rectangle's low density. The change in the Master Plan, if adopted, will have the entire Marigny designated as low density. All proposed changes can be seen at <http://www.nola.gov/RESIDENTS/City-Planning/Master-Plan-Amendments-2011>.

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## Paper, Get Your Paper Here!

Or not. Are you interested in saving trees? Don't like filling your recycle bin with this monthly missive? Just plain paper-phobic? The FMIA can help.

**Members** now have the opportunity to have the newsletter delivered to their **Inbox** or their **Mailbox**. A win-win for everyone! So keep an eye on your Email Inbox as the FMIA newsletter enters the digital age.




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Menu Items Available  
Thurs - Sun  
8am - 5pm

FMIA thanks  
**Who Dat  
Coffee Cafe**  
for their continuing  
support

### German Oktoberfest

When: Saturday October 15, 2011  
1 - 4 pm

Where: Courtyard of St. Paul Lutheran Church  
(weather permitting)

2624 Burgundy Street (corner of Port Street)  
To be held in the church basement  
if there is inclement weather.

**Good German food, German music, fun and  
fellowship for the whole family.**

**The Jubilee German Band will perform from 1-3 pm**

**Come pass a good time and join the fun!**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

#### **Board Meeting**

October 5, 7 pm, Who Dat Café, 2401 Burgundy Street

#### **Meet the Neighbors**

October 11, 6:30 - 8:30 pm,  
Sweet Lorraine's, 1931 St Claude Ave.

#### **General Meeting**

October 17, 6:30 Pot Luck, 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street

### NOVEMBER

#### **Board Meeting**

November 2, 7 pm, Who Dat Café, 2401 Burgundy Street

#### **Fall Walking Tour**

November 6, see page 1 for details

#### **Meet the Neighbors**

November 8, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, TBA

#### **General Meeting**

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

### NONPAC MEETINGS

#### **5<sup>th</sup> District — 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday,**

7 pm, 901 Bartholomew Street

#### **8<sup>th</sup> District — 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**

5:30 pm, 1001 Toulouse Street

### GREEN MARKETS

#### **French Market**

Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10 am - 5 pm

#### **Sankofa Market**

Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm  
Holy Angels Complex, 3500 St. Claude Avenue  
(at the corner of Gallier Street and St Claude Avenue)

### FREE FUN

#### **St Claude Arts District**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday: see [www.scadnola.com](http://www.scadnola.com)

#### **Chess Lessons**

Thursdays, 5 pm, Alvar Library, 913 Alvar Street

#### **Nickel-A-Dance Series**

Traditional New Orleans jazz concerts at  
*The Maison*, 508 Frenchmen Street every  
Sunday in October, 4 - 7 pm. These family  
friendly concerts are FREE, dancers welcome.

10/2: Lucien Barbarin's Magnificent Seven

10/9: Norbert Susemihl's New Orleans All-  
Stars

10/16: John Rankin and The New Orleans Swing Masters

10/23: Greg Stafford and The Jazz Hounds

10/30: Lionel Ferbos and The Palm Court Jazz Band

#### **Dearly Departed Society**

11/1/2011 details TBD — see website for developments



*If you have an event for the calendar please send it to Donna Wakeman at [editor@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:editor@faubourgmarigny.org)*

# Neighborland ? ? ? ?

*By Donna Wakeman*

Where is *Neighborland*? Well, you can find it everywhere in New Orleans and nowhere in the universe. The best place to catch a glimpse, however, is at its website, [www.neighborland.org](http://www.neighborland.org).

The purpose of *Neighborland* is to create a place that neighbors in New Orleans can come together to express their vision of their neighborhood, and to hopefully link with those who can help make that vision become reality. In their own words:

“Our goal is to help our community shape the development of their neighborhoods. Since we launched in June, we’ve chosen two of the most popular suggestions from our community, supermarkets and the extension of St Claude street car, and we’re actively working on making these ideas happen. We’ve also built a tool called Places, which allows placemakers to engage with our community during the development process. We hope that *Neighborland* will create meaningful connections between neighbors, community leaders, property owners, developers, and our local government. Whether suggesting a site for a supermarket, lobbying for access to the Bayou, or voicing an opinion about the street car, *Neighborland* is creating this tool for New Orleanians to voice their hopes, share local knowledge, and work together to make these ideas a reality.”

The process is simple, and open to all. Start by filling in the form “I want \_\_\_\_\_ in my neighborhood.” Campaign for support (votes are called “Me Toos”). Get 100 votes and the design team will sketch up your idea and work with you to get it in front of the right people. Right now, the focus is on two very popular suggestions. It seems many people across New Orleans, including Marigny residents, want a supermarket in their neighborhood, and the most popular idea is the extension of the St Claude street car to Poland Ave.

*Neighborland* was founded by Tee Parham, Dan Parham, and someone well-known to the Marigny neighborhood, Candy Chang. **Tee Parham** has built software and advised companies on technology for over 10 years. He has led development efforts on a variety of platforms and managed a consulting business since 2002. **Dan Parham** is an interaction designer and product manager. Dan was recently a Director of User Experience at Yahoo, working for the Marketplaces and Advertising Platform teams. He led the redesign of the Real Estate and Autos properties, and directed the research and design of the core Advertising Platform team. **Candy Chang** is a public installation artist, designer, and urban planner working to redefine the ways we use public space to share information important to our neighborhoods and our individual well-being. She’s a 2011 TED Senior Fellow and a 2011 Tulane University/Rockefeller Foundation Urban Innovation Challenge Fellow. Candy designed and installed the “Before I die....” mural on the corner of Burgundy and Marigny Streets.

Visit *Neighborland*. Join. Express your ideas. Support others. Help make our neighborhood and New Orleans a better place to live.



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## Orchids & Onions

### ORCHIDS

- ✿ A huge orchid to Ken for all his endless work in reconstructing FMIA's books
- ✿ Thank you to Chris and Ken for the tireless data entries regarding membership.
- ✿ Thanks to all candidates who turned in their bios for the newsletter
- ✿ Orchids to Gretchen, Ken, and Tim for drilling the holes for the garbage cans
- ✿ To Ken for spending the day at Washington Square Park working on the shed and the park maintenance
- ✿ And Gene for attending planning meetings

### ONIONS

- 🍷 To the vandals who are defacing the shed in Washington Square Park
- 🍷 Onions to the Construction Co. at Colton School for causing so many problems for the neighbors.

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Alex Vialou, President: [president@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:president@faubourgmarigny.org)  
 Donna Wakeman, Co-Vice President: [DonnaW@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:DonnaW@faubourgmarigny.org)  
 Miles Swanson, Co-Vice President: [MilesG@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:MilesG@faubourgmarigny.org)  
 Chris Costello, Treasurer: [treasurer@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:treasurer@faubourgmarigny.org)  
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## COMMITTEES

- Advertising: [ads@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:ads@faubourgmarigny.org)  
 Blight: [blight@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:blight@faubourgmarigny.org)  
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- |                    |              |                        |
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| Caroling           | Fundraising  | Special Projects       |
| Community Outreach | Education    | Volunteer              |
| Crime Prevention   | Home Tour    | Walking Tour           |
| Development        | Hospitality  | Washington Square Park |
| Frenchmen          | Membership   | Web Site               |
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For comments — email [info@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org)

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## Meet the Neighbors



Our September *Meet the Neighbors* night at **Yuki** on Frenchmen Street was a great success. The

gracious proprietress, Yuki Izakaya, set out several bowls of tantalizing complimentary appetizers: the pickled daikon (radish) was delightful, and neighbors ordered and devoured more than one Tuna Tataki and their famous Wasabi French Fries.

The softly lit glow of the bar, terrific service, and delectable menu makes this a great choice for a romantic tryst or just a calming getaway from the rest of Frenchmen Street. All those who attended remarked, "We'll be back."

Join us **October 11** at **Sweet Lorraine's**, a jazz club at 1931 St Claude Ave. Called one of the top 10 jazz clubs in the country by USA Today, this *Meet the Neighbors* will be a real treat. As always, this is a great way to meet old and new friends while exploring some of the unique and interesting businesses in our neighborhood.

## Marigny Green

*By Deborah Oppenheim*



Let's be a neighborhood that has 100% participation in the City's Weekly Curbside Recycling Program. **VOLUNTEER to canvas your Square Block** and you will help educate Marigny residents how to participate in the City's Weekly Curbside

Recycling Program. Meet your neighbors as you canvas the square block where you live. Marigny Green has clip boards, a sample canvas script, and cards for you to sign up your neighbors for the City's Curbside Recycling Program. Contact Deborah at [green@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:green@faubourgmarigny.org)

**Join the 1 Square Block Project now!**

New Orleans landfills are currently filled until 2045. This problem could have been avoided simply by recycling!

Source: [www.thegreenproject.org](http://www.thegreenproject.org)

### ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Q:** *Can I use the old blue recycle bin?*

**A:** YES

**Q:** *I don't want the city's bin and don't have a blue bin, what to do?*

**A:** You can purchase a recycle blue bin from Home Depot and/or Lowe's.

**Q:** *How can a group of neighbors use one recycle bin and be signed up with the City's recycle program?*

**A:** Just sign up and request no cart delivered <http://recycle.nola.gov/>

**Q:** *Can small businesses recycle?*

**A:** Yes, but bars, restaurants, and hotels are excluded (for now).

**Q:** *Can people who live in condos recycling?*

**A:** Four units or less can recycle and if the condo unit's address is separate from the condo's association and/or the condo owner pays in full for water and sanitation, the City's program is applicable.

**Q:** *Problems with signing up, what to do?*

**A:** Contact Deborah at [green@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:green@faubourgmarigny.org)

**Q:** *What about tenants who rent?*

**A:** Tenants can order the bins without the permission from their landlord, but the City's cart will remain with the property and/or use the blue recycle bin.

**Q:** *What can I recycle?*

**A:** 1) Paper products such as office paper, newspapers, color inserts, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, paperboard boxes (including cereal boxes), 12 pack soft drink boxes, telephone books, shredded paper  
2) Plastic containers coded #1 through #7 (water, soda, juice bottles, etc.), plastic pots from nurseries  
3) Small metal cans 4) Cardboard



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# PAWS

The Plaquemines parish animal welfare society, known to many as P.A.W.S., is thrilled to announce the opening of its state-of-the-art facility. Located at 455 F. Edward Herbert Blvd. in Belle Chasse, the grand opening was Saturday September 10 at 10:00 am. The public was treated to an exciting ribbon cutting ceremony, and tour of this very special facility.

P.A.W.S. was founded in 2003 by Robin Pannagl and Laura Hutchinson. Prior to that time the City's animal control program did not offer adoptions of any kind. If an animal was picked up, it had five days to be claimed. If nobody claimed the animal by that time, it was euthanized.

Robin and Laura knew better. They began claiming as many animals as they could from animal control and started promoting pet adoptions. Their first official site was in a strip-mall and they later moved to a warehouse with office space.

Earlier this year the new facility was completed and P.A.W.S. has been settling in. Tammy Gagliano is the Vice President. Tammy explains that Plaquemines Parish Animal Control actually occupies part of the space, while P.A.W.S. occupies the other. Tammy says that to her knowledge, this is unique in that a public agency and a private not-for-profit/no-kill shelter do not usually cohabitate.

When an animal is taken by animal control, it is held for five days to be claimed. If not claimed, it is taken over to P.A.W.S. where it waits in "healthy hold" for seven days. During this time the staff determines whether the animal is gentle and healthy enough to be adopted. If so, the animal is then spayed/neutered, gets all its shots and is also microchipped. After this, the animal is ready and available for adoption.

Tammy states that the cost to adopt a dog is \$100.00, with cats being \$25.00 and kittens \$35.00. Adoptive "parents" will fill out an application, meet certain eligibility requirements, and have a driver's license or identification. Tammy explained that although the new facility is state-of-the-art and provides a comfortable and safe environment, all animals deserve a true home and to be beloved pets.

P.A.W.S. hosted an adoption drive on September 17 in City Bark. People are encouraged to check the website for upcoming adoption events. Tammy says these events are great fun because the dogs run and play and get the opportunity to "really show their personalities." Those interested in adoption should bring their driver's license and cash or check for \$100.00. The application process will likely be completed on-site, resulting in taking your new pet directly home.

The excitement continues for P.A.W.S. as their Second Annual Gala was September 30 at Generations Hall. Angela Hill was the Mistress of Ceremonies and many of New Orleans top restaurants provided delicious food. Rocken Braughs played the music, and an auction allowed for additional fundraising.

P.A.W.S. website is [www.paws4life.org](http://www.paws4life.org) and their phone number is 504-392-1601. Tammy Gagliano says that if you are looking for a particular type of dog, they very well may have it. Photos of adoptable pets are regularly posted and updated. She says P.A.W.S. has pure breeds, mixed breeds, big dogs, small dogs, puppies, and let's not forget our feline companions. As the Marigny is a neighborhood that obviously loves our four-legged friends, let's keep P.A.W.S. mission in mind and help support the wonderful work they do!

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## Get The Lead Out

*By Claudia S. Copeland, Ph.D.*

Lead is a dangerous, toxic metal that has contaminated the soil of the Marigny and Bywater neighborhoods. Even very small amounts of lead can be detrimental to cognitive and neurological development in children, leading to the very real possibility that a population of children growing up in neighborhoods with lead-contaminated soil will perform more poorly in school than their peers in clean environments, have lower IQs, and suffer from higher rates of emotional and behavioral problems. In New Orleans, high lead levels have been associated with lower LEAP scores, according to a 2009 study by S. Zahran et al. In fact, this study found that lead exposure was an even more powerful predictor of student performance than class size.



The neurobehavioral effects of lead poisoning are not simply confined to young children. In elementary-aged children, high lead levels have been associated with disruptive behavior, hyperactivity, distractibility, impulsivity, disorganization, non-persistence, and inability to follow simple instructions. In older teenagers, such levels have been associated with an increased risk of dropping out of high school, increased reaction times and slower finger tapping,

reading disabilities, lower class standing, increased absenteeism, lower vocabulary and grammatical-reasoning scores, and an increase in juvenile delinquency. It stands to reason that high rates of lead poisoning can lead to higher rates of poverty, disempowerment, and crime in lead-contaminated communities.

Previously, it has been thought that blood lead levels under 10 ug/dl in children could be considered "safe." This is the threshold that New Orleans uses to define lead poisoning, in terms of a need for intervention. Unfortunately, lead levels above just 5 ug/dl have been associated with lowered IQs, indicating that lead can exert neurotoxic effects even at these low levels. (A note to parents: the IQ deficits are small at these levels—around 5 points — so there is no need to panic or leave the city if your child has a lead level in this range, but you should implement preventative measures to lower your child's blood lead level.) Unfortunately, simply playing in Marigny/Bywater soil can be enough to result in levels of 5 ug/dl or higher. Parents can lower their children's lead levels through several practical measures: not allowing children to eat or put their fingers in their mouths until they have washed their hands after playing outdoors, mopping floors regularly, and ensuring that children have good nutrition. However, measures like not allowing toddlers to put their fingers in their mouths are easier said than done, and many Marigny/Bywater parents have experienced difficulty and frustration in trying to lower their children's blood lead levels here. As a community, we can also take action to prevent lead poisoning—through better environmental practices that will help to limit further soil contamination.

Soil lead levels in the Marigny and Bywater are among the highest in the city. (Many other neighborhoods that flooded during Katrina were inadvertently "remediated" by relatively less lead-contaminated silt brought in with the flood waters.) The main sources of lead contamination in residential urban settings have been leaded gasoline (outlawed in 1986) and lead-containing paint (outlawed in 1978, with peak use in the 1920s and a sharp decline in the 1940s). Whereas leaded gasoline contributes more to soil lead contamination in urban settings in general, soil lead levels in the Marigny/Bywater are exceptionally high, in relatively low-traffic areas. Our neighborhoods are also exceptional in the level of renovation activity taking place here. Neglected for years, most of our beautiful homes require(d)

removal of lots of old, peeling paint. The unsafe removal of this old, lead-containing paint during renovation appears to be a major culprit for our lead-contaminated soils. Dry power sanding without the use of properly filtered vacuums is the least safe method of paint removal, in terms of soil contamination.

When lead paint is removed by dry sanding, it forms a cloud of toxic lead dust that blows and settles into the soil. The fine dust becomes a part of the soil. Unlike more complex molecules, lead is an element; it does not break down under natural conditions. Moreover, it is very heavy, and relatively insoluble in water. Therefore, it will not blow away or wash away with the rain. It will remain where it falls for years. The only practical way to remediate lead-contaminated soils is to remove them or cover them with a layer of clean soil. (Fortunately, the same qualities that make lead so persistent in the environment also make this method of remediation a practical one.)

While many of us are concerned about lead toxicity, people do need to paint their houses, and if the old paint is peeling or degrading, it will need to be removed. Fortunately, less harmful alternatives to dry sanding do exist. The key is to produce as little dust as possible. Wet hand scraping results in large chips of paint being removed, which can be gathered in a tarp spread on the ground underneath the wall being worked on. Another alternative is wet sanding with a special sander equipped with a lead (HEPA) filter vacuum attachment, which vacuums the sand into a bag as the sanding takes place. Power-washing is NOT recommended. Though it is wet, it scatters the paint particles. The basic idea behind safer lead paint removal is to allow the old paint to be recovered, for example by laying down a tarp before work begins and then gathering up the tarp, which should contain all or most of the paint chips, or by collecting wet-sanded dust in a vacuum bag. (Normal household vacuums or shop vacs should not be used, as they will actually release lead dust into the air. HEPA vacuums, with their special lead filters, are required for lead dust cleanup.)

Another alternative that may be surprising is to simply leave the old paint alone. If you have lead paint on your house, but the paint is in good condition, it is safest to simply paint over the old paint. Special paints called encapsulants can seal the lead paint to the surface, which will prevent it from chipping off. If the lead paint is encapsulated, it will not produce lead dust, and is not dangerous.

Of all of the methods of paint removal, it is dry power sanding that produces the most lead dust, and is most dangerous. In September 2001, the New Orleans City Council unanimously passed an ordinance banning dry-sanding of lead-based paint. However, enforcement of this ban has been spotty and disorganized. Recently, city officials such as health commissioner Karen DeSalvo have been sympathetic and active in addressing the problem of lead contamination, including by remediating the soil in contaminated parks. However, while remediation of parks and yards where children play is a welcome and necessary step towards creating a lead-free Marigny, these efforts will be undermined if power sanding of lead paint continues to disperse new lead dust to the soil.

*Dr. Copeland holds a Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology from Tulane University.*



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## Take It Down

*By Sean Vissar & Marissa Allweiss*

A program of the Preservation Resource Center, Rebuilding Together New Orleans (RTNO) has partnered with National Trust for Historic Preservation, City of New Orleans, Mercy Corps, The Louisiana Land Trust, and FEMA, in order to expand and further the efforts of its Deconstruction and Salvage Program. Established in 2008, RTNO's Deconstruction and Salvage Program has been embraced as a community tool supporting an environmentally conscientious alternative to conventional demolition throughout the city. RTNO utilizes this groundbreaking program to help save, recycle and reuse historic architectural and structural materials from hundreds of blighted homes and buildings left in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



As its primary focus, RTNO's Deconstruction and Salvage Program strives to reduce the amount of construction and demolition waste entering the region's landfills by maximizing the reuse of building materials obtained through deconstruction. Deconstruction is the methodical and strategic dismantling of a structure by hand. Through careful deconstruction, structural and historically significant architectural elements can be preserved and reinserted back into the city's current housing stock. Not only does RTNO strive to reuse salvaged and deconstructed items in its home renovation program



for homeowners who are elderly, disabled, or single heads of households, but these reclaimed items are also available to the public for resale at the Preservation Salvage Store.

The revenue generated from material sales funds RTNO's operational expenses, thus creating an earned income strategy for the organization.

In providing affordable, salvaged building materials to the New Orleans community, RTNO's Deconstruction and Salvage Program, along with the Preservation Salvage Store, protects and maintains this quintessential component of New Orleans' cultural identity. Many of these reclaimed items are out of production and/or are no longer manufactured. As one Preservation Salvage Store customer

states, "I try and use older and more authentic material whenever I can, because the quality is so much more supreme in comparison to newly manufactured items. I live in an old house that was built in the 1860s. It just seems



right to put the old material, like your store offers, back into an old house such as mine. And, because a lot of the older material, no matter what it is, has more character and beauty than anything you're going to find today."

The benefits resulting from deconstruction and selective salvage don't just apply to the aesthetic appeal and historical interest of the items gathered, but they also pertain to the environment and the local economy. Through deconstruction, reuse is a viable option for renovating and rebuilding, and also minimizes the need for manufacturing virgin materials. As a result, reusing deconstructed and salvaged items reduces air, water and land pollution, limits the need for new natural resources, such as timber, petroleum, fibers, and other materials. Furthermore, as a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization, RTNO provides receipts to property owners for all deconstructed materials salvaged or donated.

Playing a crucial role in reducing blighted properties in New Orleans, the Deconstruction and Salvage Program, to date, has performed salvage and deconstruction on 202 properties across the metropolitan area, saving over 869 cubic yards (equivalent to 29 thirty-yard dumpsters) of materials from being discarded.

With the dedication and compassion of only three full-time staff members, five Louisiana Delta Service Corps members, and three AmeriCorps VISTAS, the Deconstruction and Salvage Program has created a positive impact within the community and will continue to progress as each item is salvaged and diverted from landfill.

To learn more about RTNO's Deconstruction and Salvage Program and the services provided visit <http://www.rtno.org/get-involved/deconstruction>.

*Sean Vissar is the Deconstruction and Salvage Program Manager. Marissa Allweiss is the PR/Information Officer at the Preservation Salvage Store.*

## FMIA General Meeting Minutes June 20, 2011

This meeting was held in the triangle at Christopher Inn in deference to our triangle neighbors.

Ken Caron called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

### Speakers:

1. Our first speaker was Wesley Bayas from ONE, the Office of Neighborhood Engagement. This has been developed to help the City to connect with the neighborhoods in a better way. Wesley is the liaison to Marigny.

This office was started with the Mayor's Task Force who were not getting any help from the city. The budget meetings showed the city that the neighborhoods were involved. His job is to facilitate information, previously there was a lacking. They are to come to the people, not just stay in City Hall. They are also to help neighborhoods connect with each other. Serve NOLA is a volunteer activity, Fight the Blight focuses on one neighborhood at a time. There will be one-on-one meetings. They wish to reform city government, whose processes are not good, they are re-grouping to try to create a better process. Second Line Special Events Task Force is to protect the neighborhoods. They are putting a process in place which will work better in the future. Mr. Bayas is the case manager to handle problems. He is involved with Blight as well. He will intercede with Code Enforcement.

2. Our second speaker was Pres Kabakoff who wanted to speak to us regarding the Healing Center on St. Claude Ave. After Katrina he saw a need for bringing things together. Mr. Blakeley had seven target zones, one of which was the St. Roch corridor. Pres saw that the largest need was the Universal Furniture building. He knew that a traditional shopping center would flop there and the idea for the Healing Center was born. This project makes this corner on St. Roch the most important corner on St. Claude Ave. Since the streetcar was removed the area has steadily deteriorated. This development should revitalize the whole section. It will become the community's center. Pres has worked with our Councilperson Palmer on proceeding with development plans for the St. Roch Market. The two projects will create a hub of activity with sidewalk dining and pedestrian traffic. Their second focus was the healing services. There will be exercise, yoga, massage, and a co-op grocery selling natural foods. The third focus will be programs and products good for both sides of the street. Across from the Healing Center is 40% vacant. They encouraged our government to focus on returning the streetcar to St. Claude. NORA will be focusing on blight on the entire street which is a work in progress. Pres said they went for sustainability, looking at the body- mind and spirit, the neighborhood and their pocketbook. Financing was a mixture of state, federal and city to get to the \$13,000,000.00. Their colors were chosen to enhance artists to come to the botanical, fitness club, yoga and grocery. Opening in August will be a vegetarian restaurant and juice bar, a women's collective, and Café Istanbul, Chuck Perkins, performance Hall. There will be yoga, pilates, dance, and offices for alternative healing arts, and Maple Street bookstore, a street university with four classrooms, art gallery, cultural office, green offices for entrepreneurs. There is a community credit union, a police substation and on the roof a spiritual Center, with an organic garden by Future Proof. Guardian Angels will be their security force. August 28 is the date they are aiming for.

3. Our next speaker was Chuck Perkins, a native of New Orleans, co-owner of Café Istanbul and his partner Suleyman Aydin. They have a 25 year friendship. The name, Café Istanbul is the only connection to Frenchmen Street. Chuck is president of the Creative Alliance of N.O. and was involved in CANO. They have no plans for a "club," and it will be about art and performances. The current Creative Economy has been all talk and no do. They will have excellent sound control, a base trap, and a dancer's stage 24 feet wide and 12 feet deep. There are modules that can be added to grow the stage to 16 feet deep. There is a ton of sand inside the stage so it will not sound hollow. The modules can also become a runway for models. There is a wainscot from panels that were wrapped around the building and they are filled with sound proofing and sound panels above it. There is gallery space on a balcony above the seating area. Terry Scott will be the theater manager. They will be able to do film screenings as well and have live music. Hours are planned to be 2:00 - 3:00 A.M. They said they will have Fringe Festival shows as well. A main issue brought up by members was the noise when the shows are closing. They have to go through three sets of doors to contain sound. They will not be using the parking lot at all for performance overflow. They need to clarify the CitiBusiness allegations. There are 80 parking spots on their lots. Jule Lang said she respects Chuck and has known him a while.

Strategy needs to be worked out regarding exiting the performances. The entrance is via the parking lot and not the front of the building after it closes. There was some civil disobedience here which we will not cover.

4. Our Fourth speaker was Kirk Farrelly, a civil engineer speaking for CVS. Their options are open, no decisions have been made. They have met with the HDLC and they are open to suggestions. The plans Kirk submitted were the same as we saw earlier. They totally disregarded everything we discussed at our Board meeting, such as keeping the corners intact with buildings. The crowd asked ... Why are you even coming here, we already have a drug store? Why have you not talked to the neighbors, who are very upset? One lady asked why Troy Carter, previous councilperson for District C, is doing exactly what he helped us prevent in the past. It was suggested that they look at Franklin and Claiborne. CVS says the Frankie and Johnnie's building will not work for them. The crowd reiterated that they were not listening to them and they want Frankie and Johnnie's building to stay. The issue of crime in the area and near Hank's Seafood seems to be a crime infested hole that is not being addressed by NOPD. WE need to establish a task force to see what can be done to protect the neighbors who are living with this problem caused by Hank's Seafood.

### Information:

Ken Caron presented the redistricting maps regarding the proposed new council boundary lines. District C will have to change as the population is no longer balanced. The census figures is what rules. Plan 4 was the only one that did not split Marigny into separate parts. We need strong action with the council to protect our interests.

Thanks to Wasabi for a nice "Meet the Neighbors" event.

### Announcements:

1. No General meeting or newsletter in July.
2. Food Co-Op...please join, it is the lack of members that is holding up the loans. If you want a store, sign up, you can pay \$5.00 a month if needed.
3. Alex on Blight reported that we have three houses in Marigny going for Sheriff sale.
4. We announced that we finally have an audit in progress after finally getting our computer back.
5. There is a group starting a movement for a charter school for the Colton location called Homer A. Plessy Community School. Check for a meeting at coltonschool.org
6. The noise ordinance is available on the city's website for comments.
7. Gene Cizek announced that the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Cultural Center looks like a reality. They will save the Saints Peter and Paul Church property on Burgundy Street. This will be through the National Performance Network and it is the only way to save this church.

Adjourned at ?



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## FMIA Board Meeting Minutes September 7, 2011

Board members Present: Jason Patterson, Gene Cizek, Gretchen Bomboy, Chris Costello, Ken Caron, Deborah Oppenheim, Donna Wakeman

Board Members Absent: Jim Farr and Alex Vialou

Guests: Marc Robert II, Marc Robert III, Margie Schwegmann Brown, Lori Mafouse, Jim Huger, Ben Montgomery and Liam Grace

Chris Costello called the Board Meeting to order at 7:14pm.

Announcements:

### Community Requests:

- Marc Robert II and Marc Robert III who operated the Robert's at 2222 St Claude before Katrina came to the Board Meeting to discuss that they are fully intending to reopen the store. Marc II said that Schwegmann's has delayed their opening through legal maneuvers. This will be the 8th reschedule. He wants to move back to the property. He is prepared to go to trial scheduled for January 23, 2012. Q: We heard that there is a magistrate that requested plans. A: In Judge Carl Barbier's courtroom the case against the property owner's insurance company was moved back to state court. There is 3 million in his insurance policy to rebuild. Judge Robie pulled everyone together and they would try give us a cool white box to operate in. Marc Robert II said all negotiations have fallen apart with the Schwegmann's clan. Q: It is our understanding that the property is owned by Schwegmann's? A: Yes replied Marc Robert II. Q: Is the ownership still contained within that group? A: Marc Robert II said Yes, and there are a lot of legal games going on. Since Katrina he has built three stores from the ground up in their same locations and one new store. He mentioned that he wants to be the operator but there are roadblocks. Q: What are the roadblocks? A: The responsibility lies with the landlord regardless with or without insurance. Robert's also has insurance. There will be a trial and a verdict and appeals. The magistrate is trying to make it happen. Q: The lease states that the landlord will deliver a building and they (Robert's) will come in with their money to restore the interior.

Q: We all want a grocery store and will it be what was there before the storm? A: He thinks it would be better to tear down the building. Q: Do you feel that the magistrate would be ok with a new building? A: We were not getting there because they (Schwegmann's) do not agree. Q: Who is responsible for the maintenance and security? A: When the building is put back by the landlord, if Robert's is the operator, they are responsible but he said the landlord is refusing to do the work which is in the lease. People are jumping the wall and there are many problems. Q: With the new regulations, could the city come in and auction the place off? How is this suit getting around the law? A: Like a daily fine of \$500 and Schwegmann had to come up \$30,000 in fines. The city will put pressure on them. Marc Robert II said to please contact them at any time and would appreciate the support of FMIA.

- 2121 Chartres St: Ben Montgomery, Liam Grace, and Jim Huger. Jim Huger said he is in the parking lot and real estate business. His local company is Premier Parking and is not a big company. Ben does project development. Originally looking at 2121 Chartres as a parking lot and decided that the economics did not work. He looked into the hostel idea and could be a very viable project. They searched around the world via the internet and found various hostel operators. The reality with today economic times, hostels are cleaning up their act and why not stay at a hostel. Hostels are becoming mainstream in the USA. Hostel is a budget orientated social interaction accommodation. It usually draws from the European clientele. His idea is that the Hostel would have retail space, café and bistro. The Hostel would have dorm rooms, community bathrooms, single and double rooms and some with private bathrooms, a total of 240 beds. It would cater to the foreign traveler; require reservations, credit card, and student ID, and passport if applicable. It would not be run as a drop in center and/or homeless shelter. Q: does the city and state have requirements? A: Not that he is aware of. Q: Site plan? A: There are multi buildings and will maintain the existing façade, probably the face of the Hostel. Take off the roof and create an inner courtyard. The rooms will wrap around the courtyard. There is a warehouse on Chartres that is next to the Spotted Cat and could be a driveway and goes through the site to Elysian Fields. There would be 30-40 spaces from Frenchmen to Elysian Fields. Jim knows that there will be peaks and valleys. Q: Hours? A: Will leave that with the professional operator. Q: Do you have stats on gender because it would be wise to double up on ladies restrooms. A: No. Q: Alcohol. A: Liquor at the bistro. Q: Is the Bistro open to the public? A: Depends. The bistro could be in the interior of the Hostel. Q: Access to the rooms? A: Restrictive access to the rooms. Q: Would your restaurant become a nightclub? A: Has to support itself as a hostel. Q: Age? A: There is an age requirement. These are very preliminary plans. They are first trying to renovate the building. Q: What is your idea for retail? A: Depends who they can get as tenants. Q: Developers always want to go higher and there are parking problems. A: Retail is a throw to us. Find someone who wants to pay rent to make it work. Q: Services? A: The back alley has a cavernous area. Deliveries could come there. Q: They are talking about Frenchmen St. becoming a pedestrian mall on weekends. A: They are using the existing shell of the building. It is ultimate adaptive reuse. If we put this together it would be a great value. This is an opportunity and wants to be part of the business. Q: What will be the cost of the rooms? A: \$25-35 per night.

### Administration

- Approvals by email: None
- Approval of minutes: done via email 8/10 BM and 8/15 GM: Motion to move to approve Vote: Unanimous Gretchen will resend minutes of 6/20/11 to the Board for approval.
- President's Report: 1) Chris met with Jim Huger who is interested in the development of 2121 Chartres for an upscale hostel. 2) Lisa Suarez, 511 Marigny – essentially what she was asking for in the provisos was to keep her fence as is and have trees planted. The fence would be replaced with a double sided wooden fence. Lisa said she got a call the day before from City Planning of what they want to do. She felt that this is not enough notice. She wanted to let Councilperson Palmer and CPC know that as residents we should be kept in the loop. She is ok with the provisos.

### Meetings:

- Upcoming Meetings: Sellabration, September 17th 9-3pm, Gretchen would be glad to do it. This event is to introduce people to the neighborhood. Each neighborhood coordinates with a real estate agent and has houses that are for sale in the area.
- Treasurer's Report: Ken said the computer and programs were a disaster. There were no inputs into the computer since March. Ken spent much time finding and recreating the files that were deleted. He was able to find and restore many FMIA files (forensic research) will turn that information over to the lawyer. Bills are up to speed. Ken got the CPA audit review and will share with everyone. There has been poor accounting and some are errors

Continued on page 14

**Julie's Little India  
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## FMIA Board Meeting Minutes September 7, 2011 — *continued*

and some entries were not done. We have a big receivable from Julian Mutter. The Food Coop was voted to lend them \$6000 loan but the loan must be a secure loan. The Food Coop said that they could secure \$3000 because of the SCC works. We are waiting for information in writing. Ken is working on a backup system for FMIA's computer. Quicken offers \$10 back up. Carbonite can do it all. Ken can pay tomorrow. So move to have bills paid, tomorrow, 9/8/11. Vote: Unanimous. Ken and Chris thanks

### 5. Committee Reports:

- a. Newsletter: Orchids: a huge orchid to Ken for all his endless work in reconstructing FMIA's books. Thank you to Chris and Ken for the tireless data entries regarding membership. Thanks to all candidates who turned in their bios for the newsletter, Gretchen, Ken, and Tim for drilling the holes for the garbage cans; Ken for spending the day at Washington Square Park working on the shed and the park maintenance; Gene for attending planning meetings. The Newsletter still needs an Ad Chairperson. Donna asked Gene if he could be the ad chairperson. Katy Adams has declined to run for the Board. A recap of the voting verification policy will be in the Newsletter. Our attorney suggested adding the following: a copy of the occupational license and the documents that person represents the company such as a LLC, Occupational license (their name); Secretary of State (provide documents and list who the owners); Sole Prop, your name and your Corporation- should have an officer or a letter from the LLC. The new Email Blast is ready with this newsletter and will be provided for members who have signed up. If you are a member, you can choose to have either an email newsletter or postal newsletter. Onions: The vandals re the shed in Washington Square Park; The Construction Co. re Colton School for causing so many problems for the neighbors.
- b. Marigny Green : Deborah asked about Marigny Green website. Deborah reiterated the 1 square block canvas project for recycle.
- c. Art in the Park : No status
- d. Blight: Alex 616 Port has been added to the blighted list.
- e. Membership: Voting Verification is completed. The Proxy Policy has been ironed out and will be sent to the Email list and in the Newsletter. If a members wants to vote by proxy contact us and/or send an email and the member will receive the form. Gretchen moved that the Proxy Policy is accepted. Vote: Unanimous. Chris and Ken have input the membership into FMIA's computer. This membership list will be the most accurate list.
- f. Bylaws: Moved to Committee.

### Old business:

#### Projects

- a. Parking Permits in the Marigny: Ken has given all the paperwork to City Hall, Public Works and waiting for Public Works to respond.
- b. Washington Square Park, Trashcans: Thanks again to Tim, Ken, and Gretchen for installing the reminding trashcans.
- c. Historic Markers: Gene is working on it with Bill Hyland. The idea is to have one marker with English and French and the other with English and Spanish. Alex can assist with the French.
- d. Land Use Survey: No status
- e. Café Istanbul Theater ABO: Chris met with Nicole and Robin (attorney for Healing Center) to go over the CBA. The residents said that the parking lights are horrible. The issue is that the neighbors asked the Healing Center

to mitigate the noise. HMC2 zoning is specific for buildings that are on main arteries. Café Istanbul has put the entrance in the back towards North Rampart Street. The residents want this exit/entrance to close at a certain time. At night there is a roll gate in the Healing Center that separates the Café Istanbul from the rest of the building. This is in negotiation between residents and the Healing Center. However, we need to make sure that the parameters are clearly spelled out. i.e. complaints, time period etc. The Healing Center has requested a Zoning change. CPC went with the staff recommendation, HMC2, police sub station permitted and amusement is conditional with provisos. We moved to write a letter to make sure that the parameters are clearly spelled out i.e. the issues from the residents. Vote Unanimous

- f. CANO meeting: Gene said this is a reality and the biggest problem is that they don't want to start the project and sign the lease until they have their secured monies. They have interest from many very large foundations.
  - g. Colton School: NO status
  - h. 511 Marigny: Have learned that the Spice Factory is having problems. Negotiations are still happening. The zoning change went through with CPC and City Council.
  - j. Lead in Washington Square Park: No status
  - k. Standing-to-Sue Issue for Neighborhood Organizations: No status
  - l. Sound Ordinance: Please read the Website for information.
  - m. PRC SELLabration Saturday Sept. 17th from 9:00 to 3:00 at PRC.
  - n. Replacement Banners and New Banners: Ken has given the proposed art work for consideration.
  - o. New Banners for St. Claude: No status
  - p. Neighborland: No status
  - q. Bicycle Safety PSA: No status
  - r. Night Out Against Crime: No status
  - s. Movies in the Park: Have not heard back from them
  - t. Food Loan: Have not heard back from them
  - u. Lloyd Sensat Donations: No status
- Issues

### New business:

1. 2121 Chartres: The idea for the Hostel sounds like they are looking in the right direction. It is an untapped market. Chris moved that we support their concept but we have to scrutinize the details. Vote Unanimous
2. B & B Text Changes; 2326 Chartres and 2801 Dauphine: The owner - tried to get a B & B license. Chartres St. has 3 units and 2801 Dauphine is a commercial space and upstairs apt. There are specific B & B rules such as one legal B & B per face block. The owner wanted to do short term rentals. She went to the city and talked to Paul Cramer and he sent her to us. The owner wants to come to the October Board Meeting to talk to us to do a text amendment. Motion to ask Councilperson Palmer to institute a moratorium on new B & B's. Vote: 5 yeas and 1 abstain.

Issues: 1. Master Plan CZO: CPC added things we did not request. We reiterate our requests to Paul Cramer such as the Marigny should be put back to low density. We are asking people to join the ad hoc Committee.

2. Howard does not want any shouting or accusations at the next General Meeting.

Meeting is adjourned 9:37 pm



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## FMIA General Meeting Minutes September 19, 2011

Chris opened the meeting at 7:17pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Colton Building: Re fundraiser for Homer A. Plessy Community School – Donations for the silent auction would be greatly appreciated. [plessyschool.org](http://plessyschool.org) or e-mail [info@plessyschool.org](mailto:info@plessyschool.org) Sat, Oct 15th 2011, 7-10pm at 527 Elysian Fields, NOLA. Tickets are \$25
2. Meet the Neighbors: Thanks to Yukie's for the fabulous Meet the Neighbors.
3. CVS: Sharon, an immediate neighbor, discussed the proposed CVS on St. Claude, ¼ of the block Franklin to Port and all the way thru. She said that there are other drugstores in the neighborhood. The design is the same cookie cutter design as used in Metairie and nothing that enhances the neighborhood. The ARC rejected their proposal and there is another meeting tomorrow, Tuesday September 20th. Concerns: Traffic/Parking: Does not have an entrance point on St. Claude. Traffic and parking will be a concern. Residents: Presently, no residents have been contacted. Liquor: They want to sell alcoholic. Quality of life: Security and lighting, maintenance, quality of life are issues. Sharon lives next to the store and they would be completely exposed. CVS plans to eliminate the shotgun house which they said they would preserve. ARC said they should incorporate that shotgun. The neighbors on Port said that drugs, illicit sex occur on Franklin (near Hanks place). The residents would like to see the police department take an activity role in this problem. CVS had a store and sold their store. There is no evidence of their commitment to the neighborhood. Q: What does it include? A: Frankie and Johnny's (furniture store), 2 doubles were knocked down (empty lot), the shotgun, Hank's seafood and the HANO scatter site. Statement: They are not being cognizant of the erosion of the residential neighborhood. Frankie and Johnny's could be an adaptive reuse. We are watching and waiting to see what they will do.
4. Marigny Green: Deborah applauded the 17 volunteers who helped with the 1 Square Block Recycle Canvas Project. There are 92 blocks in the Marigny and the volunteers have only canvassed 17 blocks. There are 75 blocks left to canvas. Enjoy being outside as you canvas your square block. It is good for the neighborhood, the city, and the earth. Contact Deborah at [green@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:green@faubourgmarigny.org)
5. Sean Pfister 678-237-5434 - moved here in January. He wants to have a Chili Fest. Chili festivals are worldwide. The idea is to work with local restaurants and have a Chili Contest Festival. He is talking to Lori Burger at the Food Coop and the Healing Center. It is in the early planning stages. The tentative date is December 3rd. They are discussing having a fun run, health and wellness and cultural event, live music (blue grass). Contact Sean, [seanreds@me.com](mailto:seanreds@me.com). Q: Where located? A: At the Healing Center inside/ outside, invite artists, considering street closure and will work directly with the neighbors and the community. Sean said proceeds will go to the FMIA.
6. Megan Burns: 504-875-4268, [www.sankofafarmersmarket.org](http://www.sankofafarmersmarket.org) Sanfoka Farmers Market has moved to Holy Angels, 3500 St. Claude Ave. They moved to the upper 9th ward to reach a larger population. They have an urban garden and selling that food too. This is a slow season and winter stuff will come mid-October. Sankofa invites everyone to make fresh groceries every Saturday. They accept cash, credit, and EBT.
7. 5th /8th Districts: Sergeant Williams and Sergeant Franklin (658-5590) discussed changing Night Against Change to Tuesday, October 11th. If they want to have a party, turn your name in ASAP. A show of hands indicated that 4-6 are interested in having a party.

### Topics:

1. Update on the Healing Center: Chris led a round of applause to the Healing Center. It has been an incredible process and he thanked Sally and Pres for having the Healing Center in the Marigny. We encourage everyone to go to the Healing Center and join. The Food Coop will soon be open – [www.nofc.org](http://www.nofc.org) for information.
2. Update on the Master Plan: The city embarked on an ambitious task creating a land use plan and comprehensive zoning ordinance and we are moving to make sure that the Marigny is protected. LAND USE: This is very important—how land to be used – especially density. This is a road map for how the land can be used. CZO -commercial, residential and different types. Lucky for us, we worked on these 4 years ago. Historic Marigny Zoning was in 1972 triangle and 1974 for the rectangle. It is important to have good zoning in order to have a viable neighborhood. This dictates the quality of life and zoning is important. We are working with the city to improve what is good and what we already have to make sure to keep what is good. We hope to be pleased with the end results and always watching and listening to the will of the residents. Issues: The Mandeville/Espanade

Wharf - they want to change the zoning to Light Industrial. We want it to continue to be open space and park use and want the Moon Walk to continue. If it changes to LI, it would allow them to build an industrial facility. Please come to the CZO Thursday, September 9/22/11, 5:30- 8:30 at the Baptist Church, Franklin Ave. This is a very important meeting and we encourage all to attend. Q: Would these changes have anything with the proposed CVS? A: No, the zoning does allow them on St. Claude but not behind.

3. Candidates: Regina Bartholomew Judge and Ellen Hazeur, civil district court Judge, Division B;
4. New to the Marigny is Laura Brenner, Community Development Assistant for LINCNew Orleans [lincneworleans@gmail.com](mailto:lincneworleans@gmail.com) 504-656-4025. She said she moved to the neighborhood a couple of weeks ago. She went to church and when she returned, her car was gone. She went to the police and they said her car was towed because it was too close of the corner. She said there were no signs etc. She went to the city's website and there is no information for new people to the city. She is requesting that FMIA help new residents with information. Chris said we will share our collective knowledge of the parking laws: 1) 15ft from fire hydrant (they have a lot of neighborhoods that have a dotted line and indication) we would need to petition the public works to change those lines. 2) Do not park on the corner. 3) On Franklin Ave heading towards the river there is no left turn onto St. Claude. 4) Do not park on a bus zone even if the bus route has changed and the same for handicap signs 5) Watch for the schools zones even if there are no schools.
5. Handicap Parking: To receive a handicap sticker, you must go to City Hall to the DVM and have a doctor's note to receive a Handicap parking.
6. Parking: Ken was instrumental in getting parking zones for the Triangle. They are now saying we have to wait for the signs. To get this quickly we could buy them.
7. Walking Tour: Tour guides will take people around and it will be in the rectangle. October 16th, noon-4pm. We have an art market, children's area, and an educational tour of the rectangle. PLEASE VOLUNTEER now.
8. Caroling Event: This is an annual event in December, we have caroling in Washington Square Park.
9. Parking stickers for the rectangle: The city wants to do everything cookie cutter which cannot work for the Marigny rectangle. We need to reach out to the new person and get a committee to interface with Public Works and get the residents' input.
10. 700 Marigny - a member asked: What are the parking rules for this area? The employees are parking on the street and they won't let them park in the parking lot at the Charter Center. The neighbor said that they have lots of parking and have another parking lot down on Elysian Fields. This needs to be addressed. Please note that the city is committed to transforming the parking structure on Elysian Fields with commercial on the bottom floor.
11. 511 Marigny Building: It is now closed to artists. Artists are looking for good studio space for artists. Light industrial buildings are preferred.
12. Riverfront Park: The opening date is for Sept 2012. Our area could be ready earlier but they won't open the park in stages. Issue: We are working on more access points. Everything is dictated by money and last we heard they spent 13 million on designs that are not being used and simple math subtracted 13 million from the 30 million dollar budget and not enough money is left.
13. Streetcar: Q: Any word for the streetcar to go over the tracks? A: Chris said the railroad does not want to have a grade crossing. They are saying it is a safety issue. With modern technology this could work. The streetcar was there till the 50's when they took the street car away. There is a lot of politics. The good part that the RTA will put the streetcar to Press St. For more information go to [www.transporatfornola.org](http://www.transporatfornola.org). Or contact Alexandra Norton. They are working with the Bywater Association.
14. Election results: Thanks to the Committee that counted the votes. The new Board is Alex Vialou, Miles Swanson, Gretchen Bomboy, Marshal Gries. For those who were not elected, we hope you will make a positive contribution to the neighborhood. We invite you to join a committee and get involve.

### Board Election Results:

We had 179 people signed in as attending the General Meeting. There were 184 ballots picked up ( 160 in-person members and 24 proxy votes). We had 181 ballots cast. Each candidate received the following votes:

Gretchen Bomboy ....	130
Marshall Gries.....	123
Miles Swanson .....	153
Alex Vialou .....	157
Benny Naghi .....	48
Dwight Norton.....	44
Nick Scramuzza .....	47

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

