



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

## *Les Amis de Marigny*

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

# 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Faubourg Marigny Home Tour

The Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association announces its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour to be held Saturday, May 20 from 12:00 am to 4:00 pm. Washington Square Park (Royal and Frenchmen Streets) is the epicenter of the Home Tour experience. From 10:00 am–4:00 pm an art market and musical performances by local talent will be featured. Tour-goers can purchase tickets from 10 am–3:00 pm on May 20 for the self-guided walking tour.

## Homes on the Tour

For this year's Faubourg Marigny Spring House Tour, nine houses will be showcased, each one representing a distinctive New Orleans house type. Many of the houses have original details along with very personal expressions and additions, all of which add to the unique character of Faubourg Marigny.

**829 Frenchman Street:** This 4-bay Creole cottage with side yard and parking, serves as the New Orleans pied-à-terre to Stanley and Andrea Sherman when they are visiting from their home in Greenville, Mississippi. The house is beautifully landscaped and furnished throughout.

**2034 Burgundy Street:** Home to New Orleans native Lisa Faatland. This 3-bay Creole shotgun with front porch and small front garden is identified with a cast iron fence, off-street parking and modern lap pool. The house is a perfect example of how one can remodel and restore an old house, developing the best of the old style along with the most exciting of contemporary styles.

### **2018-20 Burgundy Street, Sun Oak House & Gardens:**

This is a rare and unique Greek Revival galleried Creole cottage with a rusticated façade, a dogtrot, and three separate service wings. Home to Gene Cizek and his former partner Lloyd Sensat, Sun Oak has been a neighborhood icon since it was restored in 1976. The house and Father Seelos Memorial Gardens will be shown, along with a collection



2018-20 Burgundy Street,  
Sun Oak House & Gardens

of Lloyd Sensat's artwork that has been assembled from his collected works since his death in February 2011.

**2016 Burgundy Street:** Also a part of Sun Oak House and Gardens, this is the personal residence of preservation specialist Debbie McLain. Debbie moved to New Orleans after Katrina to help restore the city. Her delightful use of vivid colors and patinas, as well as her incredible art collection, have given this side of the Sun Oak complex a beautiful, fresh décor, while still paying homage to the historic nature of the house. Debbie shares the house with "Dude," an 18-year old black and white cat, "Blanket Lloyd," a recently adopted Cocker Spaniel, and "Yellow Cat", who was born underneath the house to his mother "Little Yellow White Cat" who was also born underneath the house.

## May 20th Home Tour Schedule

- 10:00 am – 4:00 pm —  
Art Market and music in the park
- 10:00 am – 4:00 pm —  
Kids Activity Area
- 10:00 am – 3:00 pm —  
Tour tickets available in Washington Square Park
- 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm —  
Home & Garden Tour

**1445 Pauger Street, Musee Rosette Rochon:** This house, owned by Don Richmond, is an important example of the first generation Creole style cottage with its highly pitched slate roof, elegant central chimneys and a wrought iron abat vent. An African French Creole woman born into slavery, Rosette Rochon was given freedom by her father, a French Military Officer. She became a prominent entrepreneur in the French Quarter and Faubourg Marigny, building several commercial and residential properties, including this Pauger Street dwelling. Don Richmond created the Musee Rosette Rochon as a nonprofit house museum and serves as its curator-owner. In 2010, he restored the property

Spring House Tour continued from page 1

with architect Gene Cizek. This interpretive museum celebrates the contributions of the African American, Creole community who played major roles in building and developing the natural and built environment of Creole Louisiana.

**1015 Esplanade Avenue, Musson House:** This 1881 two-story frame house is the home of C.J. Blanda, a long-term New Orleans resident and a major force in preservation efforts along Esplanade Avenue. It was built for Estelle Musson, Edgar Degas' cousin, and the subject of his *Portrait of Estelle*. The house is finely detailed, with interior and exterior architectural characteristics indicative of late 19<sup>th</sup> century houses on Esplanade Avenue. Mr. Blanda has beautifully restored the property, where he houses an extensive collection of French furniture.



1015 Esplanade Avenue, Musson House

**1037 Esplanade Avenue:** This is the home of Dr. William Krajcirik and Ed Athay, long-term Marigny residents who rescued this unique Havana style townhouse from ruin. Gene Cizek was the restoration architect to return the house to its original Spanish colonial design. Once a fairly common design, it is now one of the few examples left of the terraced house in New Orleans.

**639 Esplanade Avenue:** This grand late 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion is home to Brian Francher and Dan Brockhoeft. The Eclectic style of the residence includes details from the Eastlake, Italianate and Craftsman styles. The current owners recently renovated the house, including a beautiful contemporary kitchen of contextual design.



639 Esplanade Avenue

**2005 Chartres Street:** This two-bay Creole shotgun is the home of Rick Carvalho and his dog Sophie. A Bostonian transplant of Portuguese descent, Rick came to New Orleans in 1979 and never looked back. This house is one of four built for the Bonera sons by their father who lived across the street and ran a grocery store. The other three have since burnt, leaving this the only extant example. The house is filled with architectural art and furniture treasures. It contains especially fine examples of faux finishes and a beautiful garden.

## 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

#### Full Year Rates (per month)

	Full Page	1/2 Page	1/4 Page	Business Card
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 Alexandre Vialou*

Bonjour,

I like to think of the Faubourg Marigny as a unique neighborhood because of the people and businesses that reside in our historic houses. The connection between the pool of historic houses — by nature nonrenewable — and its residents — an ever changing population — has contributed to a 'savoir vivre' that makes the Faubourg Marigny what it is: diverse and always inviting. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, we have the occasion to celebrate this beautiful partnership of people and houses through our Spring Home Tour. At a time when politicians are discussing how to further market the City's historic districts as a hospitality and entertainment area, it is most important that we state out loud our passion for this neighborhood where we have decided to live. Our Spring Home Tour shows precisely our residents' own efforts to restore and bring life to many properties that were once neglected.

Our neighborhood is also a work in progress as the Musee Rosette Rochon (1515 Pauger Street), one of the properties in the Home Tour, can attest. This creole cottage with brick-between-post construction, beautiful windows and an abatement is a perfect example of the dedication of our residents and the importance of architectural preservation. A classic example of an early nineteenth century house, it is a living memory of the roots of our faubourg. To be successful, the renovation of our stock of properties needs to respect the guidelines of the Historic District Landmark Commission. At stake is our attention to the meticulous work that was performed and our understanding of the craftsmanship of those that built our faubourg, the reason why so many of us are here.

So invite your friends, consider volunteering and check out the vibrant diversity of housing styles in our neighborhood at this year's Spring Home Tour.

## Les Amis in the 21st Century

This newsletter, Les Amis de Marigny, has finally entered the 21st century! If you are a current member of the FMIA, you may now chose to have your copy of the newsletter delivered promptly (and early) to your email box. If you have already paid your 2012 dues, just contact treasurer@faubourgmarigny.org to let us know you want to receive future copies by email. Otherwise, mark your choice when you submit your new or renewed membership form.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: As of the April edition, only current members of the FMIA are being sent copies of the newsletter.**

## Happ'ns in the 'Hood

### Short-Term Rentals

The requested amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding transient vacation rentals have been denied by the City Planning Commission. It remains to be seen whether this issue will be pursued further.

### St Roch Market

The city put the renovation of the St. Roch Market out to bid at the beginning of April. Renovations, scheduled to start in June, are expected to take six months. Plans are for the Request For Proposal to be released for interested operators in July, with submissions due in August. An operator will be selected coinciding with the completion of the construction.

### Crime in the Neighborhood

Benny Naghi, owner of the Mardi Gras Zone, was stabbed in an early morning attack April 13<sup>th</sup> after a man entered the Marigny store and attempted to rob it at knifepoint. He was stabbed several times by the robber, and taken to the hospital. He has since been released. Flowers and well-wishes on behalf of the neighborhood were sent by the FMIA Board.

This is the second knife robbery in the neighborhood; the new Subway on St. Claude Ave. was robbed several days prior. In the instance of the MGZ, the robber was described as having wiry gray hair and fled the scene on a bicycle.

### 1815 Henriette Delille St

The former McDonogh 16 School at 1815 Henriette Delille St. (aka St. Claude Ave.) will become affordable housing for the elderly if zoning changes and conditional use requests are granted by the city. We think this is an excellent use for this building on the uptown end of the avenue.

### Residential Parking Permits

As reported in the newsletter, many streets in the Marigny triangle have been added to the residential parking district. Residents of these streets may now apply for their parking permits. For more detailed information on documentation required and cost of the permit, see page 11 of the April edition at [http://www.faubourgmarigny.org/downloads/newsletter/2012\\_04.pdf](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org/downloads/newsletter/2012_04.pdf).



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## A Brief History

*by Eugene D. Cizek, Ph.D., F.A.I.A.*

The Faubourg Marigny is the neighborhood located just downriver from the original city or Vieux Carré. It is comprised of two parts known locally as the “triangle” and the “rectangle”. The triangle is bounded on three sides by Esplanade Avenue, Elysian Fields Boulevard, and North Rampart Street/St. Claude Avenue with the Mississippi River as the southernmost edge. The rectangle has Elysian Fields to Press Streets and St. Claude Avenue to the river as its boundaries.

The term faubourg or fauxbourg comes from the French meaning “false town” and it was applied to those sections of New Orleans that were originally plantations bounding the street grid of the Vieux Carré. Beginning in 1788 these plantations began to be divided up into residential lots to provide for the increased housing needs of the growing population. With the Anglicization of New Orleans after the Louisiana Purchase the term fell out of use until local historians and preservationists revived it in the 1970’s. The Faubourg Marigny was the first to readopt the name.

The area was originally called the commons and provided a space to protect and support the early city founded in 1718. The fortifications were not built until 1760 so the land was developed by Claude Joseph Villars Dubreuil in the 1720s. Dubreuil had come to the region in 1719 and developed an extensive plantation upriver. This he gave to his sons when he transferred his residence to the commons area. Dubreuil built one of the first successful sugar plantations below the city. He constructed a grand colonial house that eventually became the home of Pierre de Marigny when he purchased the plantation. Pierre’s son, Bernard Xavier Philippe de Marigny was raised in this house, as well as their plantation in Poydras, Louisiana. It was this house that served as the quarters for Louis Phillip, future king of France. It was also home for Laussat, who served as the prefect of France for the transfer to Louisiana from Spain back to France and then through a sale to the United States of America. Pierre died in this house leaving Bernard his vast fortune and responsibilities to promote the French language and creole culture into the forthcoming century. Bernard kept the house into the early 19th century when it became quite decayed and was sold to the railroad for use as a hotel. It eventually burned and became part of the ongoing development of the faubourg. Bernard and his first wife Mary Ann Jones had lived in this great house before her early death. Bernard’s second marriage to Anna Mathilde Morales, daughter of the governor of Spanish Florida, joined

two of the greatest fortunes in the Americas and began one of our greatest families of creole legacy. Bernard and Mathilde lived in a very large but newer house near the site of the original principal house.

The Faubourg Marigny was founded in 1805 by Bernard de Marigny de Mandeville when he hired Barthelome Lafon to subdivide the land of his plantation into lots for housing for the rapidly expanding population of the city of New Orleans.

Lafon laid out a grid system that tied into that of the Vieux Carré, taking a 135° turn paralleling the river just east of Esplanade Avenue.

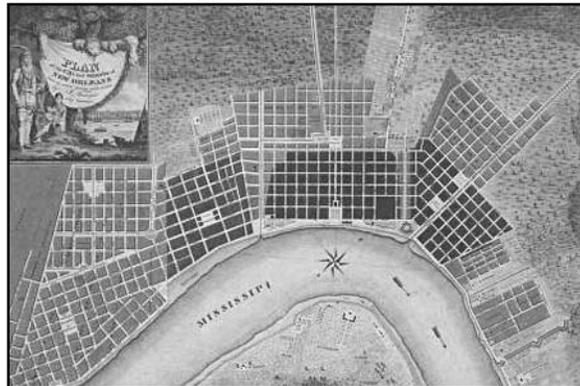
The Marigny contains a mixture of Creole cottages and Victorian doubles, with a few larger townhouses and mansions. The population of the Marigny has mirrored this diversity of structures, a mix of ethnicities and income levels bound together by a sense of “Creoleness”.

In 1968 Harold Katner, the director of the New Orleans city planning commission had Bernard Lemann

Ph.D. of the Tulane school of architecture carry out the first historic architectural surveys of the city as part of the New Orleans community renewal plan. This survey confirmed the historic character of the neighborhood and stated that due to its proximity to the French Quarter and the central business district that its future was suitable for mixed use, high rises, or historic preservation.

In 1970 after the defeat of the riverfront expressway project and the construction of the eight story Christopher Inn on Washington Square in Faubourg Marigny, the New Orleans city planning commission asked professor Eugene D. Cizek, to study the Marigny triangle for the development of an historic zoning district as a means to foster revitalization and preservation of the area. Cizek purchased an early creole cottage (circa 1807) in Faubourg Marigny and in the spring of 1971 he and his students from the Tulane University School of Architecture began a study of the historic Marigny zoning and developed a program to implement it. This proposal was voted into law by the New Orleans city council in 1971. The historic Marigny zoning laws have served as a model for other districts in New Orleans and across the country. The implementation of the historic Marigny zoning district led to the creation of the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association in 1972. In 1974 Dr. Cizek and his students from Tulane were asked to study the rectangle for historic Marigny zoning, which was passed into

Continued on page 5



1815 map of New Orleans



A Brief History continued from page 4

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

law in 1974. Also in that year the Faubourg Marigny was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

By the late 1970's a group of citizens, which included Cizek, had developed a proposal for the state legislature to enact a new law for the creation of historic districts around the state of Louisiana. These were the first historic districts established in Louisiana since the creation of the Vieux Carré commission in 1937.

In 1978 Mayor Moon Landrieu set up an historic district study committee for the Faubourg Marigny and the Esplanade Ridge with Cizek as its chair. The recommendations of the committee were approved and the Faubourg Marigny and Esplanade Ridge historic districts were established with Cizek being the representative for the Marigny.

While the Marigny was spared the worst effects of hurricane Katrina the area still faces threats from commercial development on its edges. In 2010 the Faubourg Marigny was designated by the American Planning Association as one of the 10 great places to live in America.

**Next: Who's Who in the 'Hood – Famous People in the Marigny.**

### May 2012

#### **Board Meeting**

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

#### **Meet the Neighbors**

May 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, at **Marigny Brasserie**  
on the corner of Frenchmen and Royal

#### **General Meeting**

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

### June 2012

#### **Board Meeting**

June 6, 7 pm,  
Who Dat Café, 2401 Burgundy Street

#### **Meet the Neighbors**

June 12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm,  
Venue TBD

#### **General Meeting**

June 18, 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,**  
6 pm, 4015 Burgundy St.

**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

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



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# Not In Our Zone

*By Donna Wakeman*

As you all may be aware, State Senator Ed Murray has sponsored several bills, all of which in some form create a new taxing district referred to as a Hospitality Zone or District. The board of the district would be comprised overwhelmingly of hospitality businesses and tourism bureaus. Revenue would come from increased taxes on businesses designated by the board and parking revenue. This revenue would be used to improve infrastructure in the 'zone' and to provide advertising monies to market New

Orleans as a destination. These various bills define the zone as being comprised of the Warehouse and Central Business Districts, the French Quarter and the Marigny Triangle. This legislation is supported by Mayor Landrieu. Some version of these bills were presented at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Senate Local and Municipal Affairs Committee.

The FMIA has stated that it unequivocally opposes any legislation that splits the neighborhood. Additionally, it is against legislation designed to market a historic and residential neighborhood (the Marigny) as a hospitality and entertainment destination. Finally, the FMIA opposes the Marigny's inclusion in any taxing district in which the neighborhood does not have substantial representation.

It is very important that your voice be heard on this proposed legislation. We urge you to contact your state senator, Jean Morrell, and other New Orleans senators as well as Mayor Landrieu regarding the various bills on this subject being introduced; Senate Bills 573, 588, 598 and 608.

## Contact Info

### Senator Jean-Paul Morrell – District 3

E-mail: morrelljp@legis.la.gov  
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(225) 342-2040  
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Suite 404, New Orleans, LA 70122  
Phone: (504) 284-4794  
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### Senator Edwin R. Murray - District 4

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(225) 342-2040  
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Phone: (504) 945-0042  
Toll Free Number: (866) 406-6278

### Senator Karen Carter Peterson - District 5

E-mail: petersonk@legis.la.gov  
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(225) 342-2040  
District Office: 1010 Common St., Suite 2510,  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 568-8346  
Fax: (504) 568-8405

### Mayor Mitch Landrieu

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## Urban Revival

Join us for the May 21<sup>st</sup> General Meeting where **Professor Gene Cizek, Tulane School of Architecture**, will present *Urban Revival, New Construction in Urban Settings From the Levee to Chartres Street and from Esplanade to Poland Avenue*.

The students will explain their overall master plan as well as their individual projects. The design has been developed in conjunction with the newly approved guidelines developed by the Historic District Landmark Commission. This will provide the neighborhood with an excellent opportunity to discuss the future of our community.

**Don't miss this important presentation at the next General Meeting!**

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Alexandre 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: [MilesS@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:MilesS@faubourgmarigny.org)
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- Gretchen Bomboy, Corresponding Secretary: [secretary@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:secretary@faubourgmarigny.org)
- Marshall Greis, Recording Secretary: [MarshallG@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:MarshallG@faubourgmarigny.org)
- Gene Cizek, Past President: [GeneC@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:GeneC@faubourgmarigny.org)
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  - Blight: [blight@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:blight@faubourgmarigny.org)
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  - Newsletter: [editor@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:editor@faubourgmarigny.org)
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| Caroling           | Fundraising  | Special Projects       |
| Community Outreach | Education    | Volunteer              |
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For comments — email [info@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org)



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Sunday, 5/13/12 11 am – 3 pm

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## In My Opinion

*By William Carter*

We live in an awesome neighborhood in a great city. However, our city has historically been burdened by crime and quality of life issues. Our police alone cannot reduce crime in our neighborhood. We all must be proactive in assisting the police in making our streets safer and more appealing to new neighbors and shoppers. We can do this by being informed, improving our neighborhood's appearance, and participating in our community.

When looking for crime information, remember that the Marigny is in two police districts. The Eighth District is upriver of Franklin Avenue and the Fifth District is downriver.

The city's website, nola.gov, provides information although sometimes out-dated. More updated information can be found on both the 8th and 5th Districts' social media websites. The 5th District is on Facebook at "New Orleans Police Department 5th District" and on Twitter at @NOPD5thDistrict. "New Orleans Police 8th District" is on Facebook. On these NOPD sites are alerts, contact information and also "Hot Sheets" that can be filled out to inform the police of any trouble areas. There are other sources such as crimemapping.com, projectnola.com, and if you live in the upper Marigny the "Lower Quarter Citizens against Crime" on Google Groups. Always read the newspaper and the FMIA newsletter too.

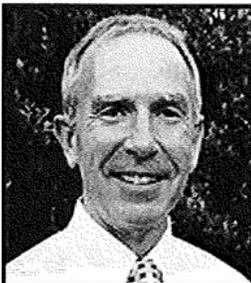
Investing in our neighborhood also reduces crime. The "broken windows" crime theory is supported by many organizations, including our mayor and the NOPD. Simply put, bad guys feel more comfortable and apathy worsens in neglected neighborhoods. Blight should be reported to the FMIA and the city. Vandalism and graffiti should be reported to the police and repaired promptly. One can leave anonymous messages at crimestoppersno.org or (504) 822-1111. Operation Clean Sweep is a good resource for graffiti removal. If each resident and store owner in the Marigny removes trash and maintains just the front of their homes,

then that demonstrates to others that we enjoy living here and we do not welcome criminals.

In addition to making our neighborhood look loved, there are other things to help deter crime. Consider getting a crime camera to assist police (projectNOLA has some information on this). Make sure your street has good visibility. Report broken street lights to the city, and keep a porch light on at night. Even though plants grow so beautifully well here, untrimmed plants will obstruct visibility and provide good shadows for hiding thieves. Lastly, do not make yourself a victim. Always lock your house and car, and do not leave anything valuable in sight.

Neighbors that know and respect each other may be one of the strongest ways to prevent crimes. Greet folks as you sit on your stoop or go for a walk. Socialize with your neighbors by going to the yearly "Night Out against Crime" festivities and the monthly FMIA's "Meet the Neighbors" gathering. Each police district hosts a monthly New Orleans Neighborhoods Police Anti-crime Council (NONPACC) community meeting. NONPACC meetings allow us to meet the police that serve our area, meet people from our surrounding neighborhoods, and learn about crime fighting strategies and upcoming events. Each police district also hosts community crime walks to spread the message that the citizens and police work together.

Oftentimes it is not that crime takes over a neighborhood. It is that the neighborhood was given up through neglect. We can deter me and help police by being informed and maintaining our neighborhood. We need to be visible to show criminals that we occupy our neighborhood and not they. Always, if there is anything that causes you concern, please contact your police district, City Councilwoman Kristin Palmer, or the FMIA.



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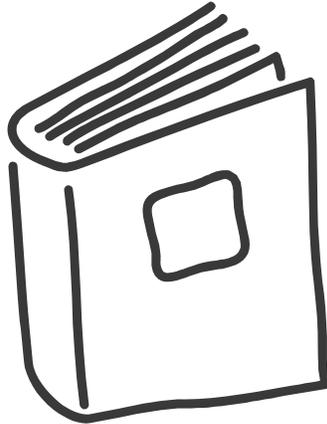
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## World Book Night

World Book Night U.S. arrived in the Marigny on April 23, thanks to neighbors and local book stores. The mission of the project is to seek out light or non-readers in local communities. For those who signed up as volunteers, 20 free books were provided for distribution.

A special acknowledgement goes to Donna Wakeman and Lisa Suarez. They supplemented the World Book Night donation of 'The Things They Carried' by Tim O'Brien to provide an entire classroom at one of our neighborhood high schools, KIPP Renaissance, with enough copies for their summer reading.



## Meet the Neighbors



Our April Meet the Neighbors at **Kajun's Pub** on St. Claude was loads

of fun. Lisa & her partner Joanne bathed us in their special brand of hospitality, complete with boiled crawfish and a spontaneous karaoke performance of "Life is a Cabaret" that left everybody speechless. It's easy to see why this little gem, off the beaten path, has such a cult following of locals and tourists alike.

Join us for the next MTN on Tuesday, May 8th at the **Marigny Brasserie** on the corner of Frenchmen and Royal.

## NONPAC Meetings

**5<sup>th</sup> District Report** No Report

**8<sup>th</sup> District Report**

With the 8<sup>th</sup> District assuming responsibility for the majority of the Marigny, it is more urgent than ever that someone volunteer to attend and report on its NONPAC meetings. Anyone interested please contact [editor@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:editor@faubourgmarigny.org).

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IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

# St. Claude Main Street

Hello, friends and neighbors. I am excited to contribute this regular column in the FMIA newsletter on behalf of St. Claude Main Street (SCMS). We are a nonprofit organization, made up of community members, whose mission is to encourage St. Claude's revitalization through cultural and economic development initiatives, thoughtful preservation of historic assets, and the involvement of neighborhood partners. SCMS works within the larger St. Claude Cultural District, including the neighborhoods of St. Roch, Bunny Friend, Bywater, and the Faubourg Marigny, with specific focus on the development of St. Claude Avenue from Elysian Fields to Poland Ave.

The excitement on and around St. Claude Avenue is palpable. Take a quick bike ride along any part of the corridor and you can see that things are changing almost every day. From the St. Roch Market and the Colton School, to new small business, restaurants, galleries and theaters, we can all share in St. Claude Avenue's rebirth. The FMIA was gracious enough to offer this column to update the community, and I'll highlight some of the recent developments here.

## St. Claude Night Market on May 12th.

St. Claude comes alive at night, so come out and celebrate at the next Night Market on Saturday, May 12th from 6-10pm at the 2700 block of St. Claude.

This night market features entertainment and more than 25 local vendors including artisans, designers and culinary innovators from our downtown neighborhoods. This event is also the kick off of "Good Ideas for Good Cities," organized by GOOD magazine and Neighborland. Shop. Eat. Enjoy the evening and the energy on St. Claude.



## Second Saturday Events.

We are lucky to have the dedicated and talented group of visual and performing artists who host exhibitions and events monthly along the corridor. Most events are centered at the 4000 block of St. Claude in the Bywater and at St. Roch Avenue, but many more are spread out along the corridor, so hop on your bike or grab a pedicab to check them all out. More information is at [www.SCADNOLA.com](http://www.SCADNOLA.com).

## New Businesses.

SCMS serves as a matchmaker, working to connect property owners with new businesses, and prospective businesses with available property. If you're looking to develop a business on St. Claude, we can help you identify opportunities.

## St. Roch Market.

One of our most important assets along the corridor, the St. Roch Market, is on its way back into commerce. As the city completes its initial remediation work, a contractor will be chosen and is expected to begin work this summer so that an operator can open the market at year's end. For more information, visit [www.strochproject.org](http://www.strochproject.org).

We hope you'll join us and stay up to date through our facebook page. See you on St. Claude!

Jonathan Rhodes  
St. Claude Main Street, President



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## Open Letter to Our Councilperson

Dear Kristin Palmer:

First of all, we'd like to thank you for speaking up at the Town Hall meeting. It's been eight years since we, along with scores of our neighbors, participated in the original Riverfront Vision Charettes; and, although there is much to like about current park plans — for instance, the park is more reflective of the stated desires of residents (rather than the ambitions of developers) — we are still not getting straight answers to the crucial questions of park management and usage.

The question of usage particularly for the Mandeville Wharf has become even more pressing in light of our experience of grossly over-amplified music this weekend during the Final Four. There was continual concert music from the riverfront venue — a good distance from our home on Franklin Ave. This noise constituted an unwelcome intrusion into our home, not just something we happened to encounter out and about on the street. Given greater proximity, a music venue at the Mandeville wharf would pose a horrible nuisance for residents.

A lack of enforcement currently means anything goes here. And since there are already all manner of zoning violations: un-permitted entertainment venues, illegal short-term rentals and b&b's, etc., we are very concerned that the newly proposed state legislation creating a "Hospitality Zone" would guarantee that all of Faubourg Marigny, an overwhelmingly residential historic neighborhood, would suffer increased quality-of-life abuse (and even less inclination to enforce existing laws) under the rubric of making tourists feel perfectly welcome to party non-stop on our doorsteps.

We appreciate that you have taken the lead with the noise ordinance, and we ask that you extend its provisions to cover music events in general. If Algiers residents are complaining about noise from the riverfront, this situation is at critical mass. As citizens we should freely enjoy the right to make our own music (or silence) choices. We are sure that you (or any of our elected officials) would find it unacceptable to have someone else's music choices imposed upon you in your own home. We would hope that you would find it unacceptable for your constituents as well.

Below is a link to a review from the NY Times which presents this issue very concretely. It adds some of the socio-economic and psychological effects of noise pollution to the body of studies that catalogue its other well-known harmful health effects. We hope it will receive your attention.

Sincerely,  
Diane Lease & Dan Harris,  
726 Franklin Avenue

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/22/books/excerpt-the-unwanted-sound-of-everything-we-want.html>

## Wanna Hang Out?

Do you like to go to coffee houses, restaurants, and other public places? Do you want to get some exercise and spend time in the sun? Wanna meet fun people and get to know neighbors in the 'hood? Then do I have a job for you! Needed: **Volunteer to distribute the FMIA newsletter** to various locations in the Marigny and the Bywater. Contact [editor@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:editor@faubourgmarigny.org) if interested.

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# FMIA Board Meeting Minutes April 4, 2012

**Members Present:**

Alex Vialou, Jason Patterson, Jim Farr, Gene Cizek, Miles Swanson, Marshall Gries, Donna Wakeman, Chris Costello,

**Members Absent:** Gretchen Bomboy

**Guests:** Organization:

(1) Ellie Tinto-Portier No/Aids Task Force

(2) Carol Allen VCPORA

Meeting called to order (time): 7:08 p.m. by: Alex Vialou

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Read? No, distributed by e-mail Approved? Yes

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**COMMUNITY REQUESTS/PRESENTATIONS**

1. ELLIE TINTO-POITIER – Ms. Tinto-Poitier is the Community Health Center (CHC) Project Manager for the No/Aids Task Force. She is in the preliminary stage of assessing community health service needs. The project envisions expanding current No/Aids Task Force services, and to extend those services to non-infected individuals as well.

Because Ryan White funding, which is an important part of the No/Aids Task Force budget, may not be renewed by congress CHCs are much better structure for providing long term community health care. CHCs are funded through the Department of Health and Human Services and funding is less precarious.

Becoming a Community Health Center would be a quantum leap in services for the No/Aids Task Force. As a CHC, the organization would provide health care services for everyone: young, old, seropositive, or not. The Center would even include dental services.

The first step in becoming a CHC is a needs assessment. Ms. Tinto-Poitier asked if the FMIA would share its membership list for purposes of surveying the neighborhood, or if the FMIA could arrange for a link to its website where members could take the survey. The type of information sought would include: where do you go for your health care, how do you get there, how far you travel, are you satisfied with your current system, etc.

The focus is on zip codes 70112, 70113, 70116, 70117, and 70119, which are areas of higher need and a higher level of poverty.

2. CAROL ALLEN - A member of the VCPORA, Ms. Allen was invited to speak about the "Hear the Music, Stop the Noise" (HMSN) initiative. The FMIA was concerned about joining or endorsing the initiative after hearing HMSN founder Stewart Smith's public comments about wanting to shut down certain French Quarter clubs. The FMIA is not trying to close down any establishments, which should always be a last resort. There was concern that joining the HMSN initiative could send out the wrong message to Faubourg businesses.

There was a general discussion with Ms. Allen about the HMSN initiative. Much misinformation has circulated about HMSN on both sides. The discussion was helpful in clarifying the issues.

Cmbr. Palmer originally wanted the HMSN initiative to include areas outside the French Quarter in order to establish a set of citywide rules. Several neighborhood associations immediately joined the initiative: Maple Street, French Quarter Citizens, the Lower Garden District Neighborhood Association, and VCPORA. Other neighborhood associations including the FMIA were asked to join the initiative.

Before joining or endorsing the initiative, board members wanted to know: would the FMIA have a voice in the HMSN process, would we be able to participate in the decision making process, would we have a vote on any proposals? Ms. Allen did not have answers to specific questions but she confirmed that all participating neighborhoods would have input into the process.

Members pointed out that the Faubourg Marigny is not like the French Quarter which has a long linear commercial district (Bourbon Street) with unique noise issues. The Faubourg Marigny's noise issues are somewhat different and French Quarter solutions may not be appropriate for the Marigny.

There was discussion about the recent speaker placement ordinance. Ms. Allen indicated that the Mayor's Office wanted to avoid writing an entirely new noise ordinance but preferred a piecemeal approach to fixing the current ordinance. The first issue addressed was speaker placement. The speaker rules are relatively easy to enforce; one only needs a set of eyes and a tape measure.

Ms. Allen appreciated the board members' questions and thanked the FMIA for an opportunity to explain the initiative. No decision was made on the part of the Marigny.

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. APPROVALS BY E-MAIL: None.

2. MINUTES: Donna Wakeman moved to approve last month's minutes. Jim Farr seconded motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Alex Vialou encouraged all FMIA members to take a more comprehensive view of the future of the Faubourg Marigny. He suggested that a written "Vision" for the Faubourg could be helpful in steering our course in the coming years. The neighborhood is facing many issues in the immediate future: the Riverfront Park, the development of two Elysian Fields parking lots (multi-story developments with commercial and parking floors), Sean Cummings' Elisis Lofts proposal, the streetcar, and the possibility of eliminating I-10 through downtown New Orleans. Because these challenges come at us one at a time it is easy to lose the big picture by focusing on each individual project. If we lose our overall perspective, we risk losing our neighborhood.

It is important to remember that the neighborhood supports development, but needs a control mechanism to keep development appropriate for the neighborhood. All members and neighbors should be included in the process of developing an overall "vision".

Gene Cizek reminded the board that his students already have a project on paper for riverfront development. It could be incorporated into our long term vision. Prior studies such as "Vision 2001" and other research is also available.

Gene will arrange for a presentation to the general membership at the May 21st meeting covering the St. Claude corridor, the Faubourg Marigny, and the Riverfront.

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Continued on page 13



## FMIA Board Meeting Minutes April 4, 2012 — *continued*

### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Chris Costello distributed the profit & loss statement, balance sheet, and check detail reports. The monthly balance sheet will be available on the FMIA website and in the upcoming newsletter. It was brought to the board's attention that in lieu of the standard donation of \$1,000 to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, last year we instead purchased an ice machine which cost approximately \$800. Chris moved to make this year's donation \$1,000 plus an additional \$200 that was saved last year. Motion seconded by Gene Cizek. All members voted in favor of making a \$1,200 donation to St. Paul's.

### 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Newsletter/Communications: Donna Wakeman reported that the net expenses for the newsletter are \$1,039 for the year to date. This month the newsletter will be e-mailed for the first time. Donna asked that the invoice for website maintenance be approved. Chris Costello moved to approve payment of the invoice, Marshall Gries seconded. All members voted in favor.

There was general discussion concerning whether e-blasts with news updates should be limited to members or if they should be sent to everyone with an e-mail address on file. Miles Swanson moved to include all current addressees. Jim Farr seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. E-blasts with neighborhood updates will now be sent to all members and non-members with e-mail addresses on file. Recipients will have the option to unsubscribe.

The issue of whether or not to improve/update the FMIA website will be brought before the General Meeting in May. Donna Wakeman will discuss the issues and options.

b) Marigny Green: Deborah Oppenheim submitted a request to the board to discuss several Marigny Green issues. First, she requested that all members who have not finished canvassing their block for the recycle program to please complete the task. She also expressed an interest in being able to add pictures and information to the newsletter and website. Currently, updates need to go through specified officers in order to control access. Deb is certain that the more people learn about Marigny Green, the more people will want to become involved. Deborah also enquired whether or not it would be possible to have the articles that she writes for the newsletter also be published on the website.

Deborah has recently spoken to Andreas Hoffman of Green Light New Orleans who will be sending information regarding a new small business CFL program. Once Deb receives the information she will present it to the membership.

c) Washington Park: ASPCA - Paws on Parade. The ASPCA would like to use the park to display one of their "art dogs". They will contact us when they are ready.

Proposals for bicycle racks at the Park must be accompanied by a drawing showing the proposed locations. Marshall Gries to forward Washington Park map to Miles. Miles Swanson to follow up.

d) Noise: Miles Swanson spoke to Jennifer O'Brian, manager of Mimi's, but has been unsuccessful in contacting the owners. Ms. O'Brian is aware of the noise issue. Once all parties are contacted a meeting will be scheduled.

e) Blight: Alex Vialou reported that an ABO request made by the Friendly Touch bar at 1017 Touro St. was denied by the State. The building has been blighted for years and the owners have been unwilling to do the necessary repairs. The FMIA opposed the license. Ace Hardware: After being listed on the city's Demolition by Neglect list, the Ace Hardware at 735 Elysian Fields has commenced repairs.

f) Spring Home Tour: Gene Cizek has arranged for at least eight houses to be on the upcoming May 20th Faubourg Marigny spring home tour. This year all homes will be in the triangle and many have not been on the tour before. Gene will now turn his attention to the publicity, refreshments, etc.

g) Marigny French Festival / Fête Française: Marshall Gries gave a report on the first organizational meeting for the fall Festival. The meeting took place on March 30th at Café Sentiments, above Feelings restaurant. Over a dozen people have now expressed an interest in being part of the organization of the event.

President Alex Vialou emphasized the importance of including the French Consulate which is currently organizing a "French Week" following our Festival. Alex suggested obtaining a list of French enterprises in the city and providing them with display space at the Fest. It would provide them an opportunity to advertise their businesses and also to introduce them to the Faubourg Marigny. There may be potential sponsors among these businesses.

Jim Farr encouraged us to include Frenchmen St. merchants and restaurants in the Fest. He raised the possibility of, at some point, closing off part of the street (Frenchmen) as other festivals do.

Anyone interested in working on the festival or knowing people who would be interested is encouraged to contact Marshall Gries at [marshallg@faubourg-marigny.org](mailto:marshallg@faubourg-marigny.org).

### OLD BUSINESS

#### PROJECTS:

a) City Planning Commission (CPC): Alex Vialou, Gretchen Bomboy, and Marshall Gries attended a meeting at the City Planning Commission regarding several outstanding issues that affect the Marigny. Paul Cramer (city planner) confirmed that the CPC understood our opposition to both the proposed 501 Elysian Fields project and any loosening of the regulations for short term vacation rentals.

Mr. Cramer inquired about the FMIA's position regarding zoning density in the Triangle which is currently zoned at a higher density than in the Rectangle. The FMIA's position is that both the Triangle and Rectangle should be the same lower HMR-3 density.

There was a discussion about removing the spot zoning from certain properties within the Marigny and allowing the RDO to provide the exceptions to current zoning. Mr. Cramer asked that the FMIA survey residents to ensure that that is, in fact, their position.

b) Security: No report.

c) Sound: Ongoing.

d) Sound: Ongoing.

e) Mimi's: See d) Noise, above.

f) Parking No report.

g) Historic Markers: Ongoing.

h) CANO: Zoning issues will be discussed with Paul Cramer of the City Planning Commission.

i) Colton School: Construction complaints continue. Residents are communicating directly with Cmbr. Palmer's office. There was a brief discussion about changes in the size/footprint of the building which will now accommodate 800 students. However, enrollment is not likely to be at capacity for some time.

j) Sound Ordinance: See presentation 2), above.

k) Bicycle Safety PSA: See c), Washington Park, above.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### PROJECTS:

a) Goodchildren Social Aid and Pleasure Club: The club did not obtain a permit to hold its Easter parade this year. The FMIA donation offer will be withdrawn.

b) Riverfront Alliance: Neighbor Ken Caron will be our representative on the riverfront advisory board. This 10 member board, organized through the Office of Neighborhood Engagement, will include a representative from the Bywater, Marigny, and French Quarter. The board will provide input on riverfront development. However, the majority of members will be appointed by the City, giving them ultimate control over decisions. Members voiced the concern that a minority voice on the board only gives the illusion of neighborhood participation. It is important for board members of all the represented riverside neighborhoods to meet to discuss the organization.

c) Love Your Block: The Mayor's Office is promoting a new program for the beautification of city neighborhoods. New Orleans resident groups (5 or more unrelated neighbors on a block) can apply for a grant of \$500 from Home Depot for a beautification project. Projects can include, for example, park improvements, landscaping, graffiti removal, litter abatement, etc.

The project must be in Orleans Parish, be sustainable, and must be completed within 30 days.

Applications are online at [nola.gov](http://nola.gov) or can be picked up at City Hall, 1300 Perdido, Room 8W03.

d) Frenchmen: Nothing new.

e) Noise: See Administration #2, above.

Further discussion was tabled due to time constraints. Remaining issues will be addressed by e-mail.

ORCHIDS & ONIONS: No Suggestions.

#### MOTIONS:

1) Motion to approve last month's minutes.

Moved: Donna Wakeman Seconded: Jim Farr Vote: Approved 8-0

2) Motion to make donation of \$1,200 to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Moved: Chris Costello Seconded: Gene Cizek Vote: Approved 8-0

3) Motion to pay invoice for FMIA website maintenance.

Moved: Chris Costello Seconded: Marshall Gries Vote: Approved 8-0

4) Motion to include members and non-members in e-mail blasts.

Moved: Miles Swanson Seconded: Jim Farr Vote: Approved 8-0

Meeting Adjourned Time: 9:40 p.m.



IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

# FMIA General Meeting Minutes April 16, 2012

## WELCOME / INTRODUCTION

President Alex Vialou welcomed all to the April 16th General Meeting of the FMIA. No guest presentations were scheduled for the April Meeting.

## New Faces / New Members:

Five new Marigny neighbors introduced themselves:

Gary Zaccariah & Laura Tennyson – 730 Mandeville St., Seth - 2308 Dauphine St., Clifton Webb - 2324 Burgundy St., Mike Ebbs – 2801 N. Rampart, M K Webber - 2019 Chartres St.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPEAKERS

### Announcements:

FMIA President Alex Vialou took a moment to thank new neighbors for attending the meeting and emphasized the importance of having a strong and diverse association. He reminded attendees that all members and neighbors are free to come and speak at board meetings. They only need to schedule a date.

Meet the Neighbors took place at the Cajun Pub on St. Claude Avenue and, as usual, a good time was had by all. A big thank you to the Cajun Pub.

Alex reminded everyone that membership fees are now overdue and should be sent as soon as possible.

Beni Naghi, owner of Mardi Gras Zone, was recently stabbed during an attempted robbery at his store. He was taken to the hospital and he is now recovering. There was also an armed robbery at the new Subway restaurant on St. Claude Avenue. Alex noted that it is unfortunate that these occasional incidents create a sense of insecurity in the neighborhood. One neighbor commented that it was because of the level of business related activity in the neighborhood that she feels safer. Condolences go to Beni and his family.

Guests: None.

## UPDATES / COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committees:

Marigny Green: Deborah Oppenheimer reiterated the importance of recycling. She still has cards for those who wish to sign up for recycling and asked for volunteers to canvass their blocks. Of the ninety-three blocks in the Marigny approximately 20% have signed up for recycling. She reminded members that it isn't necessary for every household to have a container/box. All neighbors can sign up for recycling but neighbors can share containers. If the recycle containers are too big, the recycle company will also collect the old blue bins for those who still have one. Note, the older style blue bins are still available at Lowe's or Home Depot. So: Sign up for a container, share a container with a neighbor, use an old blue bin, or buy new blue bin. Deborah reminded everyone that glass can be recycled at Target.

Note: Large garbage bins can still be exchanged for medium or small bins. Many households only need a small container and they fit better in alleys. The phone number to call to exchange one's bin is on the side of the bin. It may take more than one call and take a little time, but the company will eventually swap out the old bin.

Newsletter/Communications Committee: Donna Wakeman reminded everyone that annual membership fees are overdue. Those who indicated that they would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail should have received them by now. Friday e-blasts provide updates, meetings notices, etc. To sign up to receive the e-blasts, simply go to the website: [www.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org) and click on "Join our e-mail list" and provide your coordinates.

Jim Farr expressed his appreciation for the recent article on the Faubourg Marigny and Bernard de Marigny which was written by William Hyland for the newsletter. As well as providing interesting information about the Faubourg it also served to dispel some of the myths about Bernard de Marigny.

Home Tour: Gene Cizek has arranged for nine homes in the Marigny Triangle for the Spring Home Tour. There are two and possibly three on Explanade Avenue this year and an interesting variety of homes on Burgundy Street. Many homes on this year's Home Tour have never before been on the tour. The tour date is May 20th, 2012. Volunteers are needed to man the booths and sit in the homes as docents. Members can volunteer at [information@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:information@faubourgmarigny.org), [secretary@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:secretary@faubourgmarigny.org) or [volunteer@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:volunteer@faubourgmarigny.org). Volunteers can opt for either a morning or afternoon shift and volunteers will receive a free pass to visit all the homes on the Tour.

Washington Park: The ASPCA's art (Poodle) is being scheduled for display in Washington Park. Arranging for bike rack(s) is underway and is much needed. Note: While NORD administers most parks in New Orleans, it does not administer Washington Park. FMIA maintains Washington Park.

Parking: A request for proposal ("RFP") has gone out for the development of the two parking lots at Elysian Fields and the River. These two parking lots will eventually be developed into multi-story buildings potentially housing retail space as well as parking.

There was a quick review of the Marigny Triangle's option to implement a residential parking district. Various blocks within the Triangle have elected to have permitted parking on a block face by block face basis. Signs should be installed by the end of May. These Triangle restrictions will tend to push traffic down river and will put pressure on the Rectangle to create a similar residential parking district. On permitted blocks, each household (per electric meter) receives one permit and one visitor pass. Following an initial \$40 processing fee the annual fee is \$15. Enforcement is spotty but it is being enforced.

There was a general discussion about long term plans for parking. As parking becomes more difficult, there will be an increased need for a comprehensive solution, including public transport, local shopping, etc. Internal block parking or pocket parking was discussed as a possible option.

St. Claude Corridor businesses are also working on parking issues as well as trying to get businesses to move to the corridor. The FMIA could assist these efforts by letting them know what is needed and wanted in the neighborhood and then facilitate moving those businesses to the neighborhood. A well supplied neighborhood reduces the need for cars. Each time an existing service provider converts to an entertainment venue residents become more dependent on transportation. For those interested in the parking issues, contact [donnaw@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:donnaw@faubourgmarigny.org).

Zoning Committee: It was suggested that a Zoning Committee be formed. The City asked the FMIA to actively review the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance

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IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

# FMIA General Meeting Minutes April 16, 2012 — *continued*

(CZO). We currently have the Residential Diversity Overlay (RDO) which applies to non-commercial areas in the Marigny. However, the issue of spot zoning (historically non-conforming use) is back under the new CZO proposals. President Alex Vialou asked the question: Should spot zoning be eliminated? Not all members or neighbors may agree with the board's position on this issue (eliminating spot zoning from the CZO) and are encouraged to participate or volunteer for the new committee.

Gene Cizek encouraged everyone to attend the May 21st General Meeting. His architecture students will give a presentation on proposed riverfront development. This is the sixth project for this area of the City. Eventually, Gene hopes to put up a display in the New Orleans Healing Center. The presentation will focus on the riverfront and Marigny areas and complies with all zoning restrictions and HDLC regulations.

Fête Marigny: Marshall Gries gave a progress report on the FMIA's autumn fundraising festival. There have been two organizational meetings so far. Committees have been formed and volunteers have started to choose their committees. Meetings are every other Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Café Sentiments, above Feelings Restaurant. The next meeting will be Friday, March 27th where the focus will be on prioritizing and selecting our choices for artists/entertainment/food/drink/etc. Anyone interested in volunteering or participating on some level should contact Marshall Gries at [marshallg@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:marshallg@faubourgmarigny.org). No other committee reports.

### MEMBER DISCUSSION / TOPICS

Hospitality Zone:

Senators Ed Murray and J.P. Morrell and Representative Helena Moreno have introduced a related series of bills in the legislature which would create a Hospitality Zone which would include the power to levy additional taxes within the Zone. These co-authored bills are solely for the benefit of the large hospitality interests in the downtown area. The Convention Center is contributing \$30 million in an effort to clean up the French Quarter and CBD in

anticipation of next year's Super Bowl. Along with the \$30 million will come the new "hospitality zone".

The Hospitality Zone would include only the Marigny Triangle (Esplanade to Elysian Fields, St. Claude Ave. to the river). The Tremé, the Vieux Carré, CBD and Warehouse District would all be included in the Zone. The bulk of the money will most likely go to the French Quarter. While the majority of the money will come from hotels, the tax could also be levied on food, drinks, and other tourist related business within the Zone. Unfortunately, the bills are drafted very vaguely. Revenues will be used predominantly for advertising and promotion of New Orleans as a tourist destination. Proponents of the Zone say it would be a source of recurring revenue for infrastructure improvements within the Zone.

There will 17 voting members: 15 from large tourist interests, 1 from the Vieux Carré, and 1 which will represent the Faubourg Marigny, Tremé, and Warehouse District. Further, it appears that the Zone can be enlarged or shrunk, as determined by the Mayor's Office.

In the ensuing discussion, everyone was reminded that tourists do not come to New Orleans for the CBD, they come here for the food, music, and historic neighborhoods. Unfortunately, the Governing Board of the Zone is comprised almost exclusively of large tourist interests. There is no seat for Zone residents, neighborhood associations or ordinary citizens. In addition, the Faubourg Marigny would be split again: Triangle included, Rectangle excluded. Worse yet, the process has been expedited through the legislature without community input. This issue is, again, an issue that fundamentally affects our ability to run our own affairs at a local level.

What to do? VCPORA has additional information on their website. You can read more at [info@vcpora.org](mailto:info@vcpora.org). Individuals who oppose the proposed Zone should send a message to their respective representatives.

Simone Fuentes (???) introduced herself and asked registered democrats to vote for her as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49.

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