

Next Board Meeting

October 4, 7 pm,
2509 Burgundy St.

Next General Meeting

October 16
6:30 Potluck, 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church,
2624 Burgundy Street



IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

Volume 46, No 8

Les Amis de Marigny

October 2017

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

“This is the third in a series of drawings to show the rich architectural inventory of Faubourg Marigny. I will be featuring drawings from my sketchbook of Bernard de Marigny’s historic neighborhood. Eventually, it will become a coloring book to teach children and adults how “to read” a building by type and style and identify its components. The

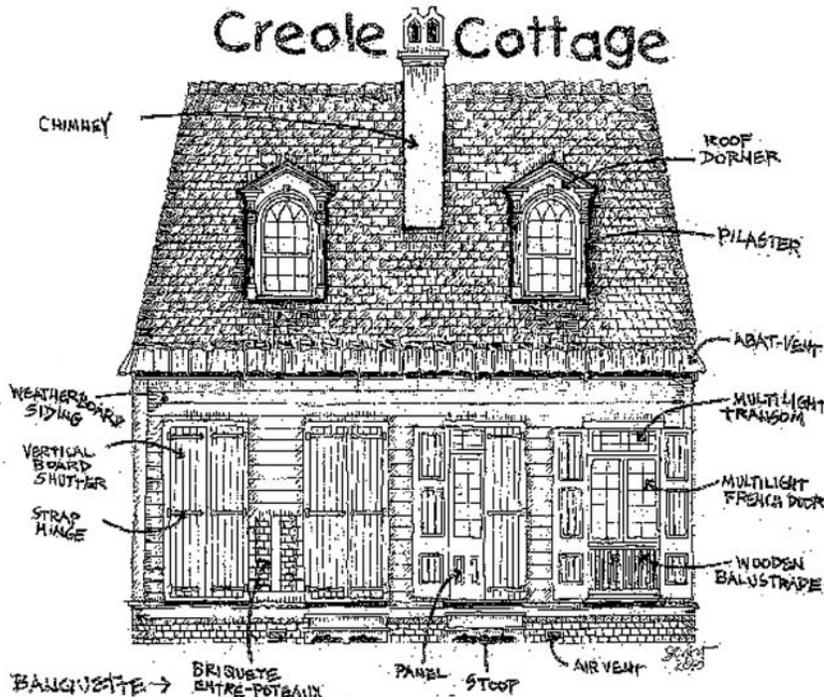
houses illustrated will represent what I consider the best examples in Marigny. It is my hope that this will aid in a better understanding of architecture and foster a love for old buildings and demonstrate the importance of historic preservation.”

— Lloyd Sensat, Sun Oak in Faubourg Marigny
January 2010



Drawings from the sketchbook of Lloyd Sensat:
Architectural types & styles found in Faubourg Marigny

Creole Cottage



Musée Rosette Rochon
1515 Pauger Street

Creole Cottage (1790-1840)

This house type was the most common urban dwelling in New Orleans during the early 1800’s. It is usually a simple square building of four rooms without a hall and sitting directly on the banquette. It may have a loggia and cabinets in the rear. An overhang or abat-vent protected the facade from sun and rain while providing the pedestrians and stoop (front steps) sitters respite from the climate. Details varied according to the style and structural system in vogue.

Musée Rosette Rochon is as Creole as you can get. It is a perfect example of a first generation Creole cottage with its briquette-entre-poteaux (brick between post) construction and abat-vent or roof overhang supported by iron bearers. It is also a nonprofit with a 501(c) 3 status dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of gens de couleur libres (free people of color). Faubourg Marigny was particularly attractive to them. Many were women. The cottage at 1515 Pauger was built circa 1815 by Rosette Rochon. She was born into slavery in Mobile, Alabama but freed by her white father in 1770. She eventually settled in New Orleans and became an entrepreneur. Records reveal that she owned many properties, businesses and slaves. She was one of the first property owners in Marigny. Many of her buildings are gone but fortunately one of her most elegant and intact cottages has survived.

Continued on page 10

October

Letter from the President

By Allen Johnson

City Council and RiverFront Overlay

As I wrote in last month's letter, we are still waiting to hear from the City Council as to when the RiverFront Overlay will be presented, and any amendments presented. We will keep everyone via this newsletter, and our FaceBook page.

Hampton Inn at Elysian Fields

The proposed Hampton Inn went in front of the Architectural Review Committee for the TENTH time.... and FINALLY got approved. It then went in front of the Historic District Landmarks Committee, and got approval, which was to be expected. In short, it is my opinion that this was not a victory, but simply a war of attrition. The developer and his team simply wore everyone down, until they took it upon themselves to improve these plan... ENOUGH. While this has been very frustrating, as we've spent a lot of time going to these hearings, and didn't get a "building you'll be proud of," like the owner promised us, i do think we did some good, as someone familiar with the process told me. We held the developer's feet the fire, and showed the ARC we were committed to making sure our neighborhood was well served. I would also like to thank the ARC staff and Commissioners. They are not responsible for designing every building, but they work extremely hard and conscientiously to do everything they can do to make sure each building is as good as it can be.

Short Term Rentals

As many of you know, STR's are now legal in our neighborhood, much to the chagrin of many of us. As of now, we have not had many illegal STR's from the Marigny go through adjudication, but that will changing soon. I know that for a fact, because there is an illegal STR in my building. Not only does the owner not have a permit, but the owner is violating our building's By Laws regarding the prohibition of STR's. I have composed all information, such as telling when my neighbor's customers arrived and left, photos, and screenshots of the AirBnB listing. Wish us luck!!

Also, the issue of STR's is about to become another large issue in the City Council. The Alliance for Neighborhood Prosperity (ANP) has stated that they will go to the City Council in December to ask for more lenient rules, namely 1) the end of the prohibition in the French Quarter,

Continued on page 13

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

All advertising must be received by the 15th of each month for publication in the next month's issue. For information regarding advertising, contact us at secretary@faubourgmarigny.org.

Classifieds Now Available

The newsletter is now accepting classified ads. Personals, however, are not being accepted. Contact 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 7th 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.

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FMIA District C Candidates Forum

By Allen Johnson

On September 18, 2017, the FMIA was fortunate to have both District C incumbent Councilmember Nadine Ramsey and former Councilmember Kristin Gilson Palmer, candidates in the October 14 election, participate in our Candidates' Forum. For almost an hour and a half, both candidates took questions both composed by the FMIA Board and submitted by the audience.

The discussion began with the statement that because of the district's boundaries, it is almost assured that our representative will come from the West Bank. Therefore, both candidates were asked which projects in our neighborhood they had worked on. Mrs. Palmer noted a

number of projects, including St. Roch Market, the Dog Park at Crescent Park, Second Vine Wine and Colton School, with Councilmember Ramsey saying there were many projects, but the most memorable is the conversion of St Peter & St Paul's to a hotel.



Kristin Gisleson Palmer and Councilmember Nadine Ramsey

On the subject of a potential Cruise Ship Terminal in the Bywater, both candidates noted that there are no current plans, however, their approaches differed, with Ramsey emphasizing that she would work closely with the Port and the City to ensure that all traffic controls and signage would be put in place to lessen the impact on the neighborhoods, while Palmer stated that Poland Avenue is a wrong location for a Cruise Ship Terminal, and that she would hope another location is found for it.

Speaking of the Port of New Orleans, the wharves at Gov. Nicholls that the city is obtaining in exchange for the Public Belt railroad, Palmer stated that while it will obviously be at beautiful promenade, connecting Crescent Park and the Moonwalk, she wasn't sure what was planned to replace the wharves' income. She assured us she would make sure the neighborhood groups would be "at the table" in the decision-making process. Ramsey

also assured us she would involve us in the process, and believed that it would be used for music events, such as French Quarter Fest, in order to redirect it out of the neighborhoods.

The one topic that seemed to creep its way into every subject was Short Term Rentals. Whether it was affordable housing, tourism or zoning, STR's seemed to always pop up. This became a particularly hot topic when it was reported that the Alliance for Neighborhood Prosperity (ANP), a pro-STR group supported by AirBnB, VRBO and HomeAway will push for a December expansion of STR's by trying to rescind a moratorium of STR's in the

French Quarter, an expansion of occupancy days for Whole Home Rentals from 90 to 180+ days, and increases in occupancy limits. Ramsey believes that changes will be made, but that it is too soon in the process, since the program just began this Spring, but she does believe that there should be limits on STR's. She believes that we should wait at least a year before any adjustments are made. Palmer stated that she will push to retain a moratorium on STR's in

the French Quarter, and requiring a Homestead exemption, thus getting rid of Whole Home rentals and out of state investors stockpiling properties.

On the topic of the River Front Overlay, a subject that we found so important that we sued the city to assure that they would follow the law, Palmer stated that she wanted to keep the current height limits, and would do away with the one size fits all approach when discussing the Bywater and Marini. Ramsey believes that in order for a building to go to 75 feet, it should have increased Affordable Housing requirements.

The most "testy" part of the evening pertained to Frenchmen Street. Both candidates were asked

whether they preferred enforcing the laws regarding the number of Cocktail Licenses (2 per block face), and forcing the other venues to sell more food than alcohol, thus being classified as Restaurants, or changing the rules to allow the venues as they have been currently operating,

Continued on page 6

St Peter & Paul Renovation Update

By Nathalie Jordi

Hi Neighbors,

Just wanted to give an update on what we've been working on this past month at 2317 Burgundy, our renovation of the former Catholic school/church campus into a hotel on Burgundy St between Marigny & Mandeville. Over the past few months, we've mostly focused on the school building, but we are now starting to turn our attention to the rectory and convent.

Accomplished

- Completion of north wall and enclosures for chiller, generator, dumpster and transformer
- Structural framing of school 1st and 2nd floor guest rooms
- Window repair and reinstallation at school 2nd and 3rd floors (they look fantastic)
- Mechanical, plumbing and electrical at school 1st floor
- Elevator shaft built
- Repair of termite-damaged beams in school (substantial!)



UPCOMING

- Structural framing of school 3rd and 4th floor guest rooms
- Masonry cleaning and repointing (this will go on until next summer)
- Foundation repair at rectory
- Disassembly and repair of convent siding and windows
- Structural framing at convent

We are still on schedule with anticipated completion date of late summer/fall 2018. You can always reach me with any questions at stpeterandpaulfeedback@gmail.com or on my cell at 504-715-7142.

Reinstalling a restored window in the school's 3rd floor.

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Board of Directors Election

As the incumbents of the five open positions on the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association were unopposed, it was moved from the floor that they be re-elected. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Gretchen Bomboy, Jeff Bromberger, Simone Cifuentes, Troy Grant and Allen Johnson will continue their service to the association and our neighborhood.



Gretchen Bomboy



Troy Grant



Allen Johnson



Jeff Bromberger



Simone Cifuentes

Calendar of Events

October 2017

Board Meeting

October 4, 7 pm,
2509 Burgundy St.

Meet the Neighbors

Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Press Street Station
5 Press Street

General Meeting

October 16, 6:30 Potluck, 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy St.

November 2017

Board Meeting

November 1, 7 pm,
2509 Burgundy St.

Meet the Neighbors

November, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
TBD

General Meeting

November 20, 6:30 Potluck, 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy St.

NONPACC MEETINGS

*5th District — 2nd Wednesday, 6 pm,
3900 N. Claiborne*

8th District — 4th Tuesday 6 pm, 334 Royal

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

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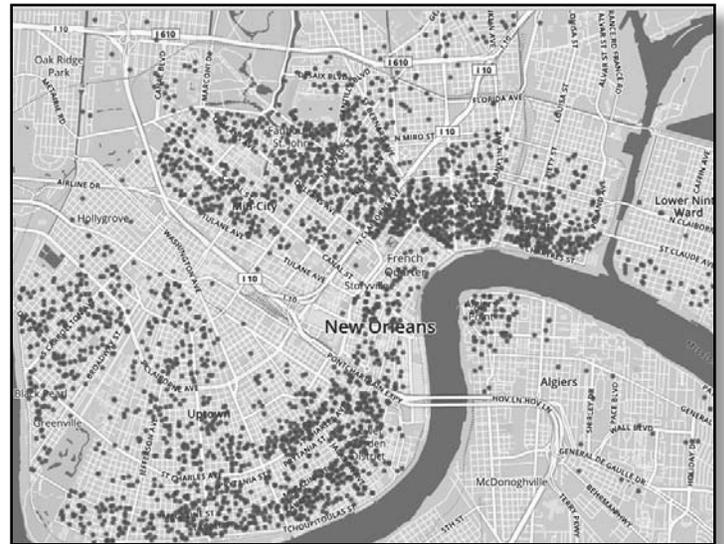
Our contact in city government for neighborhood issues is **Valerie Bouldin**, Neighborhood Liaison with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement. She is almost always available at our monthly meetings. Otherwise, she may be reached at **VBouldin@nola.gov**, 504.658.4977 office or 504.410.2248 mobile.

due to lack of enforcement. Ramsey stated that she was in favor of tighter and stricter enforcement of musicians and music clubs. Palmer recited a list of Amendments that Ramsey dropped the morning of the most recent CZO (Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance) in 2015. These motions would have all increased regulations on bars, restaurants and music clubs, and were similar to the proposals Ramsey said she was now in favor of. Ramsey countered that was were pulled, not dropped, and she intends to bring them back at a time when they can be more fully considered. After some back and forth, I stepped up and moved on to the next topic.

The one topic that seemed to creep its way into every subject was Short Term Rentals.

In conclusion, Palmer said there should be checks and balances and believes in putting neighborhoods first. During the time she's been out of office, she hasn't

withdrawn from her civic responsibilities and has stayed involved in citizen groups and institutions throughout the city. Ramsey says she knows our issues, wants residents to want to stay here, and supports families and Affordable Housing and has delivered on economic development. She says she respects decisions different from hers and says together we can do this.



Map showing STR locations

The FMIA would like to thank both candidates for meeting with us, and allowing our members to ask them questions and learn of their positions. We would also like to thank all attendees for their excellent questions, and invite everyone to continue to return to our meetings and become more involved with YOUR neighborhood association.



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Meet the Neighbors

September Meet the Neighbors was held at Elysian Fields Inn, located



(surprisingly) on Elysian Fields Avenue. Hosts Bob and Michelle Hagan provided wonderful food, including Bob's fabulous pulled pork (see photo of decimated pulled pork platter below).

Refreshments were provided by Paul Chiriaco of Mags 940 next door, a great place to stop in and have a cocktail.



Next Meet the Neighbors:
Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 - 8 pm.
at Press Street Station, 5 Press Street

If you have a suggestion for a future Meet the Neighbors venue, email secretary@faubourgmarigny.org



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Gretchen Bomboy, Corresponding Secretary
Troy Gant, Treasurer
Jeff Bromberger
Simone Cifuentes
Matt Del Vecchio
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Newsletter: editor@faubourgmarigny.org

Caroling	Education	Volunteer
Community Outreach	Home Tour	Walking Tour
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Marigny Green

By Deborah Oppenheim



Be Part of The Solution, Help Reduce Storm Water Impact

A very long time ago, the New Orleans area had cypress and hardwood forest protecting the wetlands, bayous and lakes. Over many centuries, people altered these areas into an urban landscape of roads, parking lots and buildings. This caused the land to subside, draining water out of the soil and diminished the cypress and hardwood forest that once helped protect New Orleans. Now, even in a normal rain there is a threat of flooding.

Storm water runoff carries pollutants into local waterways such as rivers, lakes and streams eventually making its way into the oceans.

Storm water runoff can cause erosion by displacing the soil.

Storm water runoff can cause localized flooding when storm drains take on too much water at once.

As New Orleanians we are hyper sensitive to rising water especially with latest debacle of the S&W Board. However, every resident of New Orleans can help make a difference in the volume of water that rain drops onto one's property. Just like it sounds, storm water is any precipitation that falls from the sky to include rain, hail and snow. In a natural landscape, storm water is absorbed into the ground or bodies of water. It gives plants and animals water. An urban landscape is different because storm water falls onto a surface that does not absorb water resulting in runoff.

How can residents work with Nature rather than against it? There are several simple steps you can do to help the efficiency of our drainage system, reduce damage to your property and benefit the environment.

Simple Steps:

1. Know where the water enters and leaves your property.
2. Examine the roof – how is rainwater collected and removed from the roof.
3. Gutters are very important and need to be cleaned from falling leaves and debris.
4. If you have area around the perimeter of your house, build a simple gravel bed to create an infiltration zone. This allows water to collect and diffuse gently into the soil. Make sure the gravel beds are wide enough to keep plants away from your home.
5. The yard is a great place to control and filter storm water that helps reduce the demand on public drainage. A rain garden with native plants can briefly hold the water, cleaning it from pollutants and allow the water to drain slowing into the public system. It is wise not to use herbicides and pesticides.
6. Mature trees are another way to add water capacity (can capture hundred gallons of water daily). Trees are also good for shade that can help reduce summer utility bills and add beauty to your property. Do consider trees that are appropriate for the area.



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Continued on page 9

7. If you are redoing your sidewalk, patio and driveway, consider using porous materials that allow water to nourish the soil and reduce runoff. An incentive program of the Urban Conservancy response to excessive yard paving will reimburse eligible homeowners \$2.50 per square foot of paving removal up to 500 square feet for a max of \$1,250. For information on this front yard initiative program go to <http://www.urbanconservancy.org/project/fyi/>

8. Planter boxes filled with plants can absorb large amounts of water. It is suggested to place the planter boxes directly below the edge of the roof to catch runoff.

9. Rain barrels temporarily store water runoff from the roof that can prevent water collecting on your property or in the street. The non-potable water from the rain barrel is good for the garden.

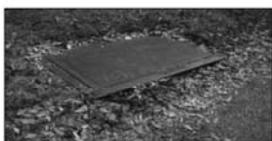
Reference and more information:
LSU AgCenter:
<http://lsuagcenter.com>

JUST RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

CATCH BASINS serve as the entry point of our drainage system

BUILD UP of leaves and other debris will collect in front of and on top of your catch basin which may

BLOCK rain water from flowing into the drainage system and contribute to street flooding



3 simple steps to improve drainage

1. Remove leaves, grass and other visible debris in front of the catch basin opening and nearby area, especially before a rain storm
2. Place lawn clippings in garbage cans, and never blow, or sweep them down the catch basin
- 3 Encourage your neighbors to do the same



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Thank you for your contributions and interest in keeping the catch basins free of debris.

CALL 311

TO REPORT BASINS IN NEED OF REPAIR OR INTERIOR CLEANING.

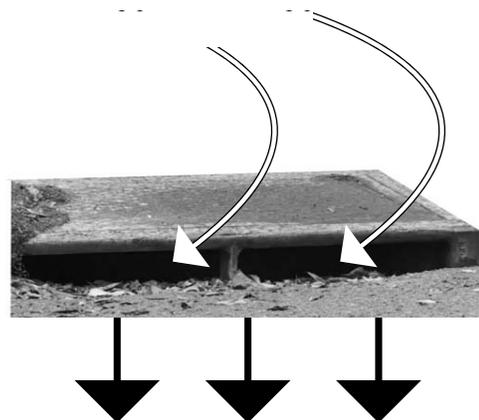
An interior cleaning requires a professional crew. Please do not attempt to lift catch basin lid or insert anything into the catch basin.

HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF STREET FLOODING

by following these tips:

- Do not dispose of anything in the catch basin— especially grease, construction debris, or any toxic materials
- Avoid parking on the catch basin
- Please call 311 to report catch basins that are not fully functioning

It is Important



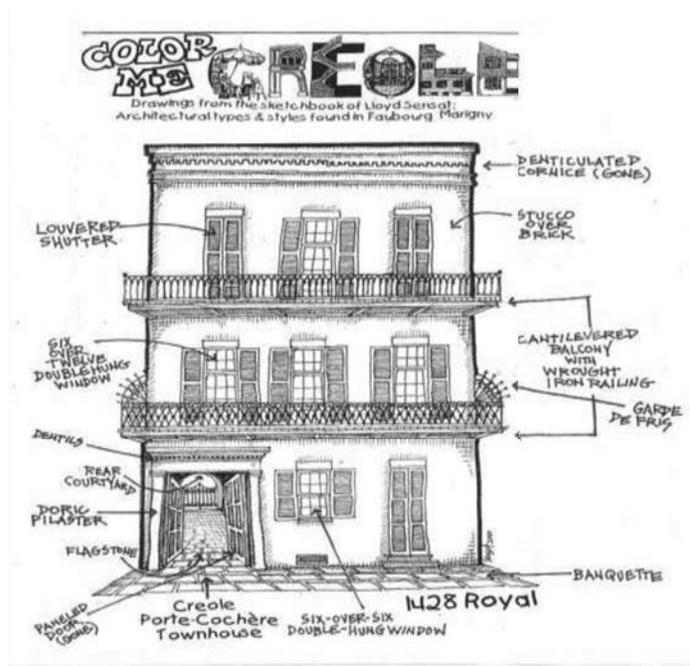
Always keep the Catch-Basin on your street clean!

Color Me Creole continued from page 1

The building was in shambles in 1984 when Don Richmond purchased it. With Eugene Cizek as his architectural adviser the building is being authentically restored. Gene's preservation studies students at Tulane University produced Historic American Building Survey (HABS) drawings of the building which won a prestigious Peterson Prize. In addition, interior design students at Louisiana State University led by Leon Steele prepared designs for period specific furnishings. To assist with repairs caused by hurricane Katrina, the museum has received a grant from the Historic Building Recovery Grant Program. A recent grant from the French Heritage Society provided funds to repair the foundations of the cottage and begin restoration of the interior plaster and millwork. Though still in the process of restoration the house provides a rich insight into the understanding of Creole architecture, furniture, decorative arts and culture. To arrange a tour or donate funds to help complete the restoration of this architectural gem, call Don Richmond at (504) 947-7673 and visit the web site at <http://www.rosetterochon.com>.*

**Editors Note: Since this article was written this building's ownership has changed. It is no longer a non-profit and the website above is no longer in use.*

Next Month:



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Speaking Volumes

By Sara Jacobelli, Assistant Branch Manager, Alvar Library

The fall is a terrific time to check out new books and movies. Want some ideas? We have a cart near the circulation desk with a display of our newest books, called "New & Now." We also have a display of both new and classic DVDs.

Have you tried the new NOLA Library APP?

The mobile app for the New Orleans Public Library lets you locate and search your library catalog wherever you are. If you are a library card holder you can locate books, movies, music and more with easy search features designed for Mobile devices. <http://www.nolalibrary.org/>

Wednesday, October 11, 6 pm.

Author Dave Cappello will talk about his new book, *The People's Grocer: John G Schwegmann, New Orleans, and the Making of the Modern Retail World*. <https://www.thepeoplesgrocer.com/about> <https://tinyurl.com/ydz9tap7>

Microcinema:

Third Wednesday of the month: October 20, 7-9pm. An outdoor film series dedicated to the presentation of animated and experimental works. Free popcorn! Feel free to bring snacks, drinks, and blankets.

Movies will be shown outdoors in good weather and inside when it rains.

In the Garden Writers' Workshop

Welcome to our second season of the workshop. Writers of all levels of experience and all genres are welcome, including Poetry, Fiction and Nonfiction Prose, and Plays. Local and visiting authors will periodically stop by to read their work and offer advice and encouragement. Participants will read their work at

a public reading in May. You may sign up at the Circulation Desk, or just come to the first session. We will meet the **second Saturday of every month from 2:00-3:45pm**, from September through May. This month's workshop will meet **Saturday, October 14, 2:00pm**, and will focus on poetry.



Writing Workshop

Photo by Laura VanDruff

Alvar Programs:

Toddler Story Time: Tuesdays, 11am

Computer Tutoring: Thursdays, 11 am-1pm

Drop-in Medicaid Assistance: Odyssey House will be available to assist with Medicaid applications and questions. Thursdays, 11 am-12:30pm

Compost at NOPL: Thursday evenings, 6-7:30 pm

For more information / to volunteer please contact Lynne Serpe at lynneserpe.nola@gmail.com with any questions, or offers to help. Volunteers are needed to help staff collections. Please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/Hv7gEu> and then just show up on the day/time you can make it.

Save the Date: Compost Conference: Let's Talk Trash! Saturday, November 4. Free to attend. More details coming soon.

Other Programs of Interest:

YMCA Adult Literacy Services: Adult Literacy and Workforce Development. YES! has locations in Downtown New Orleans and New Orleans East. For More information 504-596-3842, yes@ymcaneworleans.org, www.ymcaneworleans.org/YES

Louisiana Jobs and Career Center: <http://lajacc.state.lib.la.us/>

Welcome to our Career Workshop Series: This series is presented by Jessica Raeshide, certified personnel consultant and certified staffing professional. These workshops will provide the strategies and techniques to find the right job and career for you. This month Jessica Raeshide will teach two workshops at the East New Orleans Regional Library, 5641 Read Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70127.

LinkedIn: Promote Yourself and Your Experience: Saturday, October 14, 2-3pm.

Improve Your Business

Communications: Thursday, October 19, 6-7pm.

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- *MEETING SPACE RENTAL*

September Public Safety Reports

By Lisa Suarez

There were 10 officers and 12 citizens attending.

The 5th District NOPD monthly New Orleans Neighbors & Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC) meeting of September 13th began with Commander Frank Young addressing statistics concerning the latest Narcotics arrests, the focus of a full team Task Force in all districts, in which the 5th took part in the "44 suspected drug dealers arrested in New Orleans in undercover operation," headline you may have seen in the September 8th New Orleans Advocate. (http://www.theadvocate.com/new-orleans/news/crime_police/article_c45aaa66-94d9-11e7-904b-e70c448a998a.html/)

Cmdr. Young did not mention the press, but went on to give a long list of locations including: 2300 block of Annette; 900 block of Pauline; 1600 block of N. Villere; Dauphine and Flood; 1400 France; 2700 N. Johnson; 1900 block of Lesseps; Louisa and Galvez; Galvez and Almonaster; 1300 block of Gordon; St. Claude and Louisa; 5000 block of Royal; N. Roman and Pauger; 1700 block of Franklin.

It is important to note NOPD and the State Police cooperated on a 2-month investigation which was, "Sparked by a high volume of citizen complaints about drug dealing and crime in their neighborhoods," said Chief Harrison.

This is one reason why violent crime (as compared with last year) is actually down (37%), despite a recent gunfight, shootings are down 75%, and homicides are down 33%. This year, there have been more deaths by opioid abuse than murders.

In the past 4 weeks Aggravated Burglary was up, but Auto Burglaries were down 21%; Business Robberies were down 67%; Residence Burglaries were down 13%; Simple Burglaries were down 14%; and Theft was down 9%. These numbers are compared with the previous months, and charted for comparisons to see if progress is being made.

The Commander let us know the Chief Harrison was pleased with his visit to the FMIA General meeting last month, and that NOPD sees, "the light at the end of the tunnel for the Consent Decree," meaning that it should not last a whole lot longer.

New Recruit class of 30 members was started this week.

Valerie Bouldin, Liaison for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement, who has attended many FMIA meetings, has recently had surgery for cancer. You can send best wishes to her: vbouldin@nola.gov, or 1300 Perdido, 8E15, NOLA 70112.

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT: Even though an 8th District "Community Liaison Officer" was present for the Chief's FMIA meeting, not much time was spent on the fact that we now have Community Liaison Officers!

They are not designed to replace what was formerly known as Quality of Life Officers, as those responsibilities are now handled by 311, "highly-trained Customer Service Representatives ready to help you with non-emergency City government matters," such as: Roads/Drainage; Lights/Signs/Signals; Property Maintenance (Code Enforcement); Trash/Recycling; Abandoned Vehicles; Mosquito, Termite & Rodent Control; Health-Related Requests; plus MUCH more.

The 5th District Community Liaison Officer is Larry Dace, and his primary responsibility is to interface with members of the community who are being impacted by violent, or potentially violent crimes. If you have video of crime being committed please email nopd5thdistrict@nola.gov

Other areas of Public Safety concern to Marigny residents and businesses include the fact that there are now two more Calls for Service codes being addressed by Patrol cars: "Area Checks," giving more visibility to Police by having cars patrol when not

attending to emergency calls, and "Business Checks," riding by businesses, again letting NOPD presence be known.

Cmdr. Young announced additional positive statistics: 51% more vehicle checks this month (nervous about that unfamiliar vehicle parked on your street?) There have been 40% percent fewer false House Alarms, eating into NOPD time.

Another difficult time management issue has been addressed: Minor Traffic Accidents are now being contracted out, so if you are in a fender bender, the wait should be substantially shorter. NOPD will still address Hit-and-Runs and Accidents with Injury.

Neighbors from N. Dorgenois Street near Poland came to complain about dump truck traffic shaking their houses, and not following the prescribed construction route. It was suggested they speak with their Councilperson.

Members of the New St. Claude Association of Neighbors (NSCAN) from the lake side of St. Claude at Poland Avenue came, with a petition, to complain about frequent loud parties attended by more than a hundred people, at "Castillo Blanco," from 10:30 p.m. until 2 or 3 a.m., parking on the neutral ground, and naked women dancing on stages in the backyard.

The ensuing discussion questioned the presence of Permits for a "Special Event," "Live Entertainment," and the "Temporary Sale of Alcohol." The 5th District will be on the lookout for such events during the Night Shift, will ask for permits, and will record events with their Dash-cams and Officers' Body-cams. We were reminded that offences that appear to be Disturbing the Peace require evidence, and only The New Orleans Health Department can measure "sound," but they have advisories on their website where there is also an online form to request sound measuring: <https://www.nola.gov/health-department/sound-check/>

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President's Letter continued from page 2

2) the end of a limitation on 180 days, and 3) a lack of occupancy limits on buildings. They have declared they have the financial backing of the large platforms (AirBnB, VRBO, etc.), and will go in front of the City Council during a lame-duck session, before the newly elected City Council takes office.

Governor Nicholls Street Wharves

As many of you are aware, the City has decided to trade the Public Belt Railroad to the Port of New Orleans in exchange for the Gov. Nicholls Street wharves. The basic announcement said that this would be used to connect Crescent Park to the Moon Walk. Two Press Conferences were scheduled in June, but were rained out. In a meeting with Councilmember Ramsey, I asked her about this, and she said she had not spoken to the Mayor's office about it, and did not know what was planned. We (alongside the French Quarter organizations) are trying to learn something, and hope to persuade the administration to hold charrettes to gather citizen input. We'll see!!

Neighborhood Development

As I drove through the neighborhood, it strikes me that we should recognize a few large projects happening in the neighborhood. As we all know, construction is on going at the Robért's at Elysian Fields and Rampart. The grocery store is scheduled to open next year, but it is hard to pin down a date, as there could be some delays. The Royal Frenchmen St. Hotel (formerly Boys Town) overlooking Washington Square Park, is scheduled to open in October. The building looks great, and I can't wait to peek inside. Another large property being rehabilitated is the former St. Peter-St. Paul's church on Burgundy in the Rectangle. This property is being converted to a hotel, and has taken

longer than we thought. Unfortunately, the First NBC Bank crisis caused work to cease. Thankfully, the project has been restarted, and progress is ongoing. It is exciting to see these properties brought back to use, and also to see the wonderful example of adaptive reuse evidenced by the latter two projects., which is the reason we supported them. Hopefully, they can prove to be an example to other properties around the neighborhood.

Committees

As always, I would like to encourage everyone's input and ask you to join one of our committees. For those of you who are interested please contact the people below:

Zoning and Land Use - Joel Ross
Short Term Rental - Allen Johnson
Public Safety and Graffiti - Lisa Suarez
Special Events & Fundraising - Jeff Bromberger
Newsletter - Donna Wakeman
Membership - Allen Johnson
Home Tour - Lisa Suarez

This is a great opportunity for members to learn more about the issues and learn how knowledgeable your fellow citizens are. Additionally, it is a great way to help your neighborhood and learn all that the FMIA does.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!

Eleven

Excerpt from Yours Truly in a Swamp Blog by Leonard Earl Johnson - www.LEJ.org

Along Elysian Fields Avenue is a sculpture as significant as any in the city today. *Eleven*, by Jason Kims, is located across from the lakeside-downtown gate to Washington Square Park. It is made from a varietal of leftover steel disks gathered from Birmingham, Alabama forgers (hear echoes of Civil War canon). Eleven life sized figures looking out from a circle, standing in the neutral ground of Elysian Fields. It tickles the eye and moves the soul.

The title refers to the eleven men who died in the British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion in 2010. Deepwater spewed an ocean of oil into the Gulf of Mexico for five months.



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“Every election is sort of an advance auction sale of stolen goods.”

— H.L. Mencken in “Prejudices: First Series,” published 1919

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