

Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association
2401 Burgundy Street, Box 10
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Feed the Fifth: Fat Tuesday

Meet the Neighbors: TBD



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Next Board Meeting

February 5, 2019
7:00pm Meeting
904 St. Ferdinand St.

Next General Meeting

February 18, 2019
6:30pm Potluck, 7:15pm Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church
2624 Burgundy St.



IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

Volume 48, No. 1

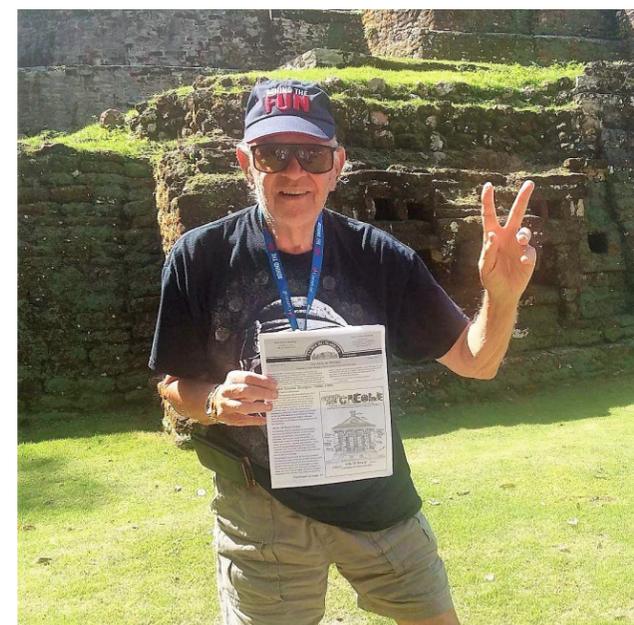
February 2019

Les Amis de Marigny

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

Where Y'At?

Steve Halpern visited the Mayan ruins in Belize, 897 miles from New Orleans. Here he poses, featuring a recent volume of *Les Amis de Marigny*.



It's Carnival Time Again!

By the time you read this, you will have missed (or not) the third appearance of the Societe of Champs Elysee riding the street car on Twelfth Night. But don't despair, more is yet to come in the up-close and personal celebration of carnival season that happens in the Marigny. Chewbacchus' *Space Farce* parades on February 9 and Krewe du Vieux will roll on Saturday, February 16 at 6:30pm to the theme of "The City of Yes Yes Oh God Yes." 'tit Rex strolls on Sunday, February 17 at 4:30pm - bring the kids. This change to the Sunday after Krewe du Vieux was mandated by the city and is permanent. The Krewe of Red Beans marches at 2:00pm on Lundi Gras and of course the Societe de Ste Anne on Mardi Gras. A nearby parade on a human scale will be the ever popular Mystic Krewe of Barkus in the French Quarter on February 24 at 2:00pm. These krewes and walking clubs preserve and maintain the individualistic, hands-on spirit of Carnival as only the downriver neighborhoods can.



Fat Tuesday Feast



FEED THE FIFTH

For several years, the FMIA under the leadership of Lisa Suarez, has held a Fat Tuesday Feed Your 5th District Officers. This is in appreciation for the officers who work 12-hour shifts during the final twelve days of Mardi Gras and so have little or no time to eat. Donations and volunteers are needed to make sandwiches, purchase water, fruit, snacks, and (of course) King Cake. If interested in helping, contact Lisa at suarezinmarigny@gmail.com.

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Per-month Rates 3+ times/year*

Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page	Business Card	Back Cover
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*10% off these rates for FMIA Members!

Ads should be photo ready in .jpg, .tif, .gif, .png, or .bmp format. No .pdf files please, as distortion may occur during conversion.

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 Available

The newsletter also accepts classified ads at the rate of \$5 per each 25 words. Personal ads, however, are not being accepted at this time. Contact Ads@FaubourgMarigny.org.

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 each month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Send contributions to:

FMIA Newsletter
2401 Burgundy St., Box 10
New Orleans, LA 70117

or Editor@FaubourgMrigny.org.

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Letter from the President

By Allen Johnson

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. Things in the neighborhood and City Hall slowed down a little bit, but things geared up quickly when the City Council, on January 10, took up the subject that generates an amazing amount of passion and large crowds. That subject, of course, is...

Short Term Rentals

On January 10, the City Council met to hear public comments on another request for a study to be done by the City Planning Commission on Short Term Rentals. While it is just a study, it was apparent how the conversation has evolved. A Homestead Exemption requirement for a STR has almost universal support, however there is a movement to allow multiple STR licenses for one person, in order to allow people who bought property under the current rules to continue renting STR's. This would continue the current practice of houses dedicated to STR's, and no property owner living there to manage the property during their customers' stay. This does not take into consideration the quality of life of the actual neighbors who have to deal with the unregulated bachelor parties that people have become all too familiar with. Requiring a Homestead Exemption for STR's is essential to STR reform, and the most important element that's being discussed.

There is a great push to move STR's from residential neighborhoods to commercial properties. While that sounds promising for those of us in the Historic Core (Marigny, Tremé and Bywater) as well as other historic neighborhoods, it's important to remember that our neighborhoods were built with corner stores and other commercial properties woven into the fabric of the neighborhood. These were intended to serve and compliment the neighborhood and its citizens. However, now they could be Whole Home STR's, and function as unmanaged hotels. Just because the property is zoned as Commercial, it doesn't mean that the bachelor party is any less damaging to the quality of life of the neighbors. I feel it is important that we not allow Commercial STR's in Historic Mixed Use neighborhoods like ours, as this will provide the back door to allow some current Temporary

(continued on page 3)

FMIA Board Meeting Minutes: January 3, 2019

ROLL CALL:

Present: Allen, Donna, Jeff, Elisa, Bobby, Ray

Absent: Mark, Pat

Guests: None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Allen Johnson

1. Board seat open (Gretchen Howard resigned)
2. Iggy's Update: Situation worsened; continue to report activity to police.
3. Met with Robert to discuss task force against crime
4. Treasurer's report - includes ad sales and new NCIS revenue
5. 1924-1930 Dauphine STR hearing deferred at City Planning level
6. Missed topic 1 – Allen?

TREASURER'S REPORT: Allen Johnson

PRIORITIES FOR 2019:

1. St. Claude Corridor (including Red Haus) - ElisaCool & Donna Wakeman
 - a. Red Haus currently up for lease (\$8,000/mo)
 - b. Seeking protection via text amendment at City Council level regarding usage of backyards
 - c. Committee for St. Claude to meet and discuss and establish Marigny priorities Q1 2019
 - d. Current committee members include: Elisa Cool, Donna Wakeman, Ray Buntin, Bobby Moffet, Liz Thornton, Gretchen Howard (all are welcome to participate)
 - d. Next Step - Committee to present vision and mission to Board by March board meeting, to be shared with membership base following
2. Gov. Nicholls Wharf - Allen Johnson
 - a. Ron Forman conducting intercept interviews to gauge appetite for new park offering
 - b. Next Step - FMIA working with French Quarter to share the voice of neighborhoods as the situation progresses
3. Cafe Istanbul - Allen Johnson
 - a. Parties in violation of CBA (Good Neighbor Agreement)
 - b. Next Step - Continue to forward complaints to Dan MacNamara (ABO in City Attorney's office)
4. Frenchmen St. Enforcement - Allen Johnson & Jeff Bromberger
 - a. Issues with parking on neutral ground (Esplanade), illegal food vendors, etc. continue to grow
 - b. Next Step - Working on code enforcement with City Council
5. Party Buses
 - a. City Council (Palmer and Transportation Committee) are exploring legislation and precedent regarding Party Buses
 - b. Next Step - Allen Johnson to keep us posted

6. Website - Elisa Cool

- a. Migrating new site to more friendly address, starting content planning in January
 - b. Next Step - Survey members to best understand what types of content are valued in Q1, shift site, build a content plan (to begin production in Q2)
- MOTION - Elisa, seconded by Donna, APPROVED

7. Membership - Elisa Cool

- a. Membership base has grown requires an increase in license fee (\$34/month increase)
- MOTION - Elisa, seconded by Jeff, APPROVED
- b. Opportunities with new software include polling, financial reporting, better forecasting of needs
 - c. Next Step - Taskforce to build a business plan to take advantage of full opportunities in website and database to include: Elisa Cool, Donna Wakeman, Mark Mallouse
- MOTION - Elisa, seconded by Jeff, APPROVED (NOTE: need member to help with strong database experience)

8. Communications - Elisa Cool

- a. Combine Corresponding Secretary (including social media and website management) and Recording Secretary roles into Communications Director role.
- MOTION - Elisa, seconded by Jeff, APPROVED

9. Commemorative Plaques - Allen Johnson

- a. Recognize places of historic significance and interest within the neighborhood
- b. Next Step - Establish a proposed list of 6 first markers (Bobby Moffet)

10. Police Presence - Allen Johnson

- a. The noticeable absence of a police presence in Triangle
- b. Next Step - Task Force created to discuss and address the issue (Patt Galloway, Bobby Moffet, Jeff Bromberger, Allen Johnson)

11. Short Term Rentals

- a. asking for density limits
- b. asking CPC to do a study surrounding density limits
- c. Elisa voiced strong concern around limiting owner-occupied (homestead) licenses per block or block face.

12. New Proposals

- a. Donna Wakeman - FMIA Book Club - to seek interest in Newsletter
- b. Donna Wakeman - Ask FMIA article in newsletter each month
- c. Donna Wakeman - Presentation of general interest to the neighborhood at monthly meetings (e.g. chain of title/genealogy of home, historical markers and significance of homes and buildings around us).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm.



FMIA Board Meeting Minutes: December 5, 2019

ROLL CALL:

Present: Allen, Mark, Donna, Jeff, Gretchen, Elisa, Bobby, Ray

Absent: Pat

Guests: None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Allen Johnson

1. New Orleans Public Belt meeting: Thursday, December 6, at NOCCA
2. Riverfront Alliance Meeting: Thursday 6pm at Pitot House. Allen called for more participation from Board at this event.
3. 514 Franklin Street Project. A Marigny group, Marigny One, was inadvertently left off the invite to last NPP so a new one was held putting project back a month.
4. CPC meeting Tuesday December 11, 2018. Hampton Inn on agenda.
5. Bed and Breakfast Proposal: 1924-30 Dauphine Street received staff approval with 12 provisos. One calls for one of the two houses on property to operate as B&B and the other to be occupied by onsite resident.
6. FMIA Christmas Caroling: Sunday December 9, 2018 at Maison, 508 Frenchmen St. 6-8PM
7. Holiday Decorating of Washington Square Park, led by Lisa Suarez, was held on Sunday December 2, 2018. All volunteers enjoyed themselves.
8. Special Event Permits. After approval by KPC, Allen typically receives them shortly before the event with little time for Board approval
MOTION by Mark: FMIA President has discretionary approval of permits. APPROVED
*Elisa suggested these events be posted on FMIA social media platforms to inform neighbors.
9. Riverfront Overlay Update
10. HANO: ARC letter strongly opposed HANO 4100 Royal Street Project. HDLC will review on December 13, 2018.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mark Malouse

OLD BUSINESS

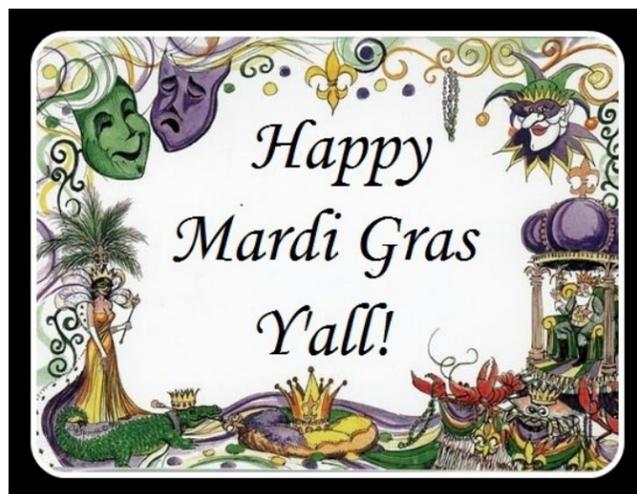
1. Redhaus/St. Claude Corridor: Redhaus withdrew application but may return with a request for a restaurant with outdoor dining which is a permitted use. We have asked Alison Poort to consider a text amendment to place moratorium to deal with outdoor use in HMC2.
2. St. Claude Committee to commence in January. Donna, Elisa, Bobby, Gretchen from board with Neighbors.

3. Governor Nicholls Wharves: An Intercept Survey will be added to the Audubon Institute research. Next meeting with neighbors TBA.
4. STR: Goes before City Council in January. Requesting to allow 3 permits per applicant and for blighted properties to be allowed permits that would end after 5 years and revert to residential homes.
5. Cafe Istanbul: Update - Moving forward with city attorney
6. Frenchmen Street Enforcement: Allen to meet with Robert Waters about their courtyard music at NOLA Cantina. Praline Connection to become a Willie's Chicken Shack. Illegal overflow parking on Elysian Fields and an illegally parked truck between R Bar and Esplanade Ave on Frenchmen need to be addressed.
MOTION: by Jeff to form Frenchmen Street Committee. Seconded by Bobby. APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Newsletter: Donna has gotten overwhelming response to her ads on Craig's List and Nextdoor for newsletter layout editor.
MOTION by Jeff and seconded by Bobby to allocate \$1000.00 to yearly budget for position. APPROVED
2. Website Update: Elisa announced that the site is ready to run content.
3. Land Committee will be chaired by Ray Buntin
4. VCPORA appointed Erin Holmes Executive Director.
5. Iggy's: goes before ABC in January 2019. 23 residents signed a petition stating how Iggy's has damaged their quality of life and the Eighth District makes a claim that they be punished accordingly.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm



Letter from the President (continued from Page 2)

license holders to get around the Homestead Exemption requirement and have their property "spot zoned" commercial and put a Whole House Bachelor Party Pad next to your home.

Additionally, the CPC has been asked to look at density limits. I also feel that this is essential, as the moratorium on STR's in the French Quarter pushes everything to their boundaries, which mean that Tremé and the Marigny will see the most Short Term Rentals, and the CPC Staff Report showed that has happened in the two years since STR's were made legal. It is important to learn from our mistakes, and it must be acknowledged that if a moratorium of STR's is to be continued in the French Quarter, other neighborhoods will bear the brunt.

Hampton Inn

It was at that same City Council meeting that the City Council voted unanimously to give final approval to the Hampton Inn at Decatur and Elysian Fields. It took a long time (almost two years from the first meeting with the FMIA Board), but I think we got a "building we can be proud of," as the developer said at our first

meeting. A big "thank you" should be extended to Councilmember Palmer and her staff, and to the developer, Pinu Patel, his attorney, Ed Suffern, and the final architect, Cynthia Dubberly and the team at Trapolin Peer for bringing their experience working in historic districts and putting the finishing (and right) touches on this project. And, personally, I'd like to thank Gene Cizek, our founder. Not being an architect myself, I sometimes feel out of my element when talking about projects like this, so having Gene to lean on and ask advice of is an unbelievable blessing.

Mardi Gras

Krewe du Vieux, Red Beans, 'tit Rex, Chewbacchus, Dead Beans, Krewe Delusion. In the years since Katrina, neighborhood parades (as well as marching groups) have proliferated in New Orleans, and we've led the way in the Marigny, and we should be proud of that. So, get out there, go to the parades, and celebrate the irreverent flavor that the Marigny brings to New Orleans.

HAPPY CARNIVAL!!



Marigny Green News – Exercise and Crescent Park

By Deborah Oppenheim



Happy New Year is an expression that people say on New Year's Eve. Why does the expression begin with the word **Happy**? Looking at the connotation of the word *happy*; it is associated with feeling good. Who does not want to feel good for the up and coming year? Research indicates that happy people have friends, feel gratitude, perform better at work, live longer and exhibit fewer health issues. Happiness can be different from one person to the next. One way to effectively boost your happiness is to be physically active.

A huge amount of research links physical activity with one's mental and physical health. It can alleviate feeling blue, reduce anxiety and make you feel good. The idea is to move whether you walk, bike or run. Research indicates that even a few minutes can make you feel better.

Why not make a goal this year to walk, bike, skate or run at Crescent Park. Getting fresh air while exercising has an added benefit of being in an outdoor setting. The Crescent Park has an incredible view of the city, benches to sit and look at the river, a dog park, swings, green space, covered area, lovely flora/fauna and a fun place to meet up with neighbors.

Besides the health benefits of exercise, exercise is good for your mind. Scientists have explained what is happening inside your head when you exercise. They concluded four ways exercise can make you feel better.

1. Endorphins: The "feel-good" brain chemicals called endorphins kicks in when exercising at certain intense levels according to Dr. Ekkekakis, PhD a professor of kinesiology at Iowa State University.

2. Endocannabinoids: Your brain produces another class of chemicals called endocannabinoids. "These neurotransmitters are associated with the same type of pleasure you get when eat an appetizing meal," said Dr. Ekkekakis. It only takes a moderate level of activity for your brain to produce these chemical messengers.

3. Serotonin: When exercising, your brain is covered in serotonin which is associated with a mood-boosting chemical.

4. Neurotrophins: The part of the brain that deals with memory is the hippocampus. Exercise can also increase proteins called neurotrophins and can be more effective than the prescribed drugs to prevent a loss of brain matter.

Don't give up on exercise if you are not used to it. It can be challenging but have some fitness is important to your health and your mind. Choose one of your favorite types of exercise whether you are running, walking, swimming, cycling, skating, dancing, doing yoga or Pilates – any form that make you get up and move to have a positive effective on your health and mind. "There's no known drug out there that has been able to reliably restore cognitive deficits associated with aging, but exercise has been shown to halt or at least slow the decline," said Dr. Ekkekakis. Even just one or two hours a week of moderate-intensity activity can bring about improvement to your health and your mind.

Hope to see you at the Crescent Park!

References: *The Secret of Happiness* publishers Ben Harris and Sebastian Raatz and "Feel-Good Moves" by Alyssa Shaffer



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Good neighbors get informed. Great neighbors get involved. Join us and get both with the FMIA!

A New Way of Being

The FMIA has implemented a streamlined way to become a member. Now, joining or renewing is made easy at our website: www.FaubourgMarigny.org. If anyone should have difficulty joining or renewing this way online, they should contact Elisa Cool at ECool@FaubourgMarigny.org.

Benefits of Membership

As a member of the FMIA, you'll receive valuable information on our local community and the City of New Orleans. You'll also receive opportunities to get involved, including, but not limited to:

- member-only News & Information (coming soon!);
- a newsletter detailing new improvements and developments on issues affecting our neighborhood;
- a forum to ask questions and find helpful answers;
- invites to neighborhood events and volunteer opportunities; and
- voting rights for FMIA Board elections and other important organization decisions.

Interested in becoming a member?

Membership levels are as follows:

- ◆ Resident
 - ◇ Individual \$20
 - ◇ Household (2 votes) \$30
 - ◇ Senior \$5
- ◆ Non-Resident Property Owner \$20
- ◆ Non-Resident Business Owner \$50



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Ask the FMIA

Whenever a question arises that is of interest to the neighborhood, the question and a response from a knowledgeable person will be published in the newsletter. If you have a question that you feel the FMIA can answer, whether or not you think the neighborhood shares your interest, address it to Editor@FaubourgMarigny.org.

I read with interest the FMIA newsletter regarding the "Marigny KOA" situation. Having a front row seat to some of the action, I feel the situation is getting worse and I am wondering what I can do to help deter folks parking and living in their vehicles here in our neighborhood?

Calls to Parking Authority haven't been very helpful. I called once on 12/18 about the vehicles on Spain Street, and once today about the school bus, and both times was directed to call other departments, such as Quality of Life (where I just get a machine) or Abandoned (but if folks are living in the vehicles they are not abandoned).

I did call the police non-emergency number last night around 10:30 after listening to people yelling and fighting and swearing at each other. It got quiet afterwards, and I fell asleep before seeing any police. This morning I just called again to ask if perhaps an officer can encourage these folks to move on, and I am awaiting a response.

I don't want to make trouble for anyone and, to be honest, I am worried about retaliation. However, these situations often end up with mounds of trash left behind when these folks leave, and lots of noise and who knows what else happening outside of my door. This is my home and neighborhood, and I don't think having folks camping on the street is contributing favorably to our quality of life.

I am wondering if you have any suggestions on how I can be proactive to help deter this activity in my neighborhood in a safe, productive way? I'd appreciate your thoughts. Thank you.

Worried in the Neighborhood



Hi, WORRIED,

The city, especially our District C Councilperson Kristin Palmer, along with the Mayor, have some new strategies.

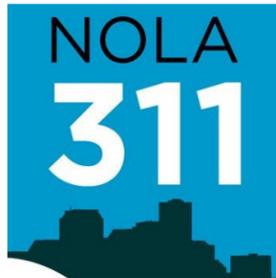
The 1st is to call 311 and register your complaint. You should be given a case number, so you can contact them and check up on their plans; be sure to grab their email address where you can submit evidence: Click for full information on 311:

<https://www.nola.gov/311/faq/?searched=311>.

The next idea is not fully developed but should be soon: a plan to declare homeless areas "Public Health Hazards," which the health department would determine, and then a notice of 24 hours would be given before a "Sweep" occurs, in which NOPD, Dept. of Sanitation, ASPCA, and other agencies arrive to "sweep" the area. This tactic has shown to be successful on the neutral ground at Decatur and Esplanade, and at N. Claiborne and Franklin (5th District), where you will notice there's very little "camping" going on (after numerous sweeps!).

You can help even more by emailing dated photos of accumulated garbage, the over-sized vehicles, and especially (ew) photos of human waste, with an identifiable location (piece of sidewalk, a stoop, something) to 311, while copying me. Sorry to be so graphic, but that's probably what it's going to take. More and more "tribes" will arrive for Mardi Gras. Just be careful! Once there are a few photos, I can call for the FMIA Board to write a letter to Ms. Palmer, and we can be more hopeful that a solution will be at hand.

Lisa Suarez



Hotel Peter and Paul Update

By Nathalie Jordi

Hi neighbors, how exciting to relay that this is my last update on the renovation at Sts. Peter & Paul because it is finally finished! The hotel opened in October and we have been so pleased by the wonderful feedback and support from the neighborhood, former parishioners/alumni, and the city at large.

The bar is much busier than we anticipated (good to see so many familiar faces) and we are just starting to think about what to do with the church space in 2019 - hoping for a good mix of performances, classes and wellness programming as well as private events. Our website's events calendar is constantly being updated, but regular features include donation-based yoga every Saturday and Sunday at 9 am and Pilates every Monday and Wednesday at 10 am - everyone is welcome. www.HotelPeterAndPaul.com.

Thanks again to the FMIA and all of you for your support over the past five years and as always, if you would like a tour or would like to otherwise contact me, my email is Nathalie@HotelPeterAndPaul.com.



TUESDAYS

PORK CHOP NIGHT

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February 2019

Calendar of Events

February 2019

Board Meeting (1st Tuesday)

February 5 – 7pm
904 St. Ferdinand St.

Meet the Neighbors

Date and Venue to be determined

General Meeting (3rd Monday)

February 18 – 6:00pm Potluck, 7:15pm Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church – 2624 Burgundy St.

March 2019

Board Meeting (1st Tuesday)

March 5 – 7pm
904 St. Ferdinand St.

Meet the Neighbors

Date and Venue to be determined

General Meeting (3rd Monday)

March 18 – 6:00pm Potluck, 7:15pm Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church – 2624 Burgundy St.

NONPACC Meetings

5th District

2nd Wednesdays – 6pm
3900 N. Claiborne

8th District

4th Tuesdays – 6pm
334 Royal St.

If you have an event for the calendar, please send it to
Editor@FaubourgMarigny.org.



CRESCENT PARK FITNESS



Mondays
 Make Your New Year's Resolutions Permanent
SHREDOUT MONDAYS
 THROUGH MARCH 6
 Meet at the Inland Northwest
 Inland Northwest State Park
 7 to 9 AM
 FREE PARKING

Tuesdays
 Make Your New Year's Resolutions Permanent
BOUNCE YA BRASS
 THROUGH MARCH 6
 Meet at the Inland Northwest
 Inland Northwest State Park
 7 to 9 AM
 FREE PARKING

Thursdays
 Make Your New Year's Resolutions Permanent
THREW YA BRASS
 THROUGH MARCH 6
 Meet at the Inland Northwest
 Inland Northwest State Park
 7 to 9 AM
 FREE PARKING

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10 AM - 4 PM DAILY!

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December/January Public Safety Report (continued from Page 10)

A resident from the 2400 block of Decatur, was not so rosy, in a letter to me, (edited): "Having a front row seat to some of the action, the situation is getting worse. What can I do to help deter folks parking and living in their vehicles in our neighborhood? At least one (the "Man Cave") has been here since before Christmas. On New Year's Eve day, a recreational school bus pulled in with many people and at least one dog living there. ..."

My Response: (edited) "Dear Neighbor, the city, especially our District C Councilperson Kristin Palmer, along with the Mayor, have some new strategies.

The first is to call 311, and register your complaint. You should be given a case number, so you can contact them and check up on their plans; be sure to grab their email address where you can submit evidence: Click for full information on 311: <https://www.nola.gov/311/faq/?searched=311>

The next idea is not fully developed but should be soon: Plan to declare homeless areas "Public Health Hazards," which the health department would determine, and then a notice of 24 hours would be given before a "Sweep" occurs, in which NOPD, Dept. of Sanitation, ASPCA, and other agencies arrive to "sweep" the area. ..."

[For a complete report of the question and Lisa's response, please see the Ask the FMIA article on page 12]

The Commander promised more drive-bys, and more visibility generally helps, but PLEASE BE AWARE, neither NOPD, nor Parking Control will ticket, or disturb, vehicles that may be occupied, because they don't know who or what could be in there. People with weapons?



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CALLING FOR BACK ISSUES OF THE *LES AMIS DE MARIGNY*

Back issues of the FMIA Newsletter, *Les Amis de Marigny*, are posted on our website and the archive goes back to January of 2006. We were recently contacted by the Serials Librarian at the Main Library on Loyola Ave. He indicated that their holdings of our newsletter go back to January of 1998 (who knew!). He was looking for even older copies. The newsletter goes much further back in time than that, but we don't seem to have copies. This is a call for copies of *Les Amis de Marigny* earlier than January 1998. If you are a proud owner of any such copies, please contact the newsletter editor at Editor@FaubourgMarigny.org. If you don't want to part with a hard copy, we'd simply scan it.

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December/January Public Safety Report

By Lisa Suarez

12-12-18 New Orleans Neighbors & Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC) – 5th District

Attendance: Citizens 5; Officers 8, plus Superintendent Michael Harrison.

Commander Young was not present. Lt. Roberts began the meeting by introducing Chief Harrison, who came to announce the big news before the following day's press conference with Mayor Cantrell: City-wide New Orleans is down 13 murders from last year, on track to be under 150, (update 145!). A big deal when you consider there were 424 murders in 1994.

Shootings, armed robberies, and residence burglaries are also down. "I'm not bragging," said the Chief, "But we are trending down."

He announced 85 new vehicles to be delivered in the next couple of weeks, with another 85 coming after Mardi Gras, courtesy of Convention Center funds. More good news: NOPD is actually growing! Plus 30 for the year, and budgeted for 50 more officers in 2019. The Department's census was down only 66, due to attrition in 2018 - a 20 year low. 2013, '14, and '15 had attrition numbers between 100 and 120. The Chief said we can look forward to larger platoons and more visibility.

Mr. Ervin, (from the Lower 9th Ward), asked if the crime cameras were making the big difference. The Chief said they have been a help. The *Real Time Camera Program*, (on the poles with the red and blue flashing lights) is housed, monitored, and paid for by Homeland Security. Screens are not continuously watched, but triggered by dispatch from 911 calls. The location of the call highlights the cameras in a radius of the possible incident.

It is often believed that criminals just move from one corner to the next, but statistics demonstrate cameras are effective preventing and catching crime. Bottom line from the Chief: "Cameras catch criminals that would not be caught otherwise, and provide good evidence for Court. You can't count what might happen, only what actually happened."

Although cameras help, NOPD's march toward better outcomes reflects new technology, improvement at the platoon level, detectives who build relationships within the community, professional leadership training, and policy development for constitutional policing during the past 5 years, as specified by the Consent Decree.

Another question to the Chief was about Juvenile crime. What about these groups of youths checking car doors for anything of value, and stealing the vehicles? Tragedies have ensued, one at the end of December. Marigny has been affected a few times in the past year; more muggings and thefts than traffic fatalities. Especially bad when it happens to you!

Lt. Roberts reviewed the 5th District statistics: Homicide down from 49 to 34; Shootings down from 54 to 52; Armed Robberies down from 127 to 105. General Assignment Sgt. Randy Walton distinguished himself by his relentless work within the "intricate webs of deceit in the 7th Ward. I mean serious hunting them down, and putting them in jail work," said the Lieutenant. He showed a picture of a Derek Ambo as a person in running an auto burglary ring. "The TIGER (NOPD Tactical Intelligence Gathering and Enforcement) unit is working on it."

Detective Kevin Williams, Sgt. Greg Johnson, and Sgt. Gary La Cabe were highlighted for their exemplary professionalism. These Sergeants are in charge of platoons, where crimes are being solved, even before they get to the detectives.

1-9-19 NONPACC – 5th District

Attendance: 6 Citizens; 10 Officers.

Commander Frank Young opened the meeting discussing the statistics for 2018, and some reflection on the just-announced move to Baltimore by Chief Harrison. Officers were pleased that Mayor Cantrell would be promoting from within NOPD, so any learning curve would be minimized.

Compliments were given by Citizens to be conveyed to the TIGER Unit on the Derek Ambo case, a twenty-year-old, who was arrested on December 18 in connection with running an auto burglary ring and Domestic Battery.

Marigny complaints concentrated on the nick-named "KOA" at the Reilly Lot and the surrounding streets of Spain, N. Peters, Decatur and Mandeville. A Bywater citizen said she'd had very good luck with Parking Control (504) 658-8200, putting \$500.00 a day tickets on over-size (larger than a parking space) vehicles. "After one or two days, they leave," she said, "And the Parking Control ladies are very sweet."

(continued on page 11)

One Book Marigny?

By Donna Wakeman

As you may or may not know, New Orleans has participated in the One Book movement, whereby a community comes together by reading the same book, since 2004. Some past selections have been *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America* by John M. Barry, 2005, *The World That Made New Orleans: From Spanish Silver to Congo Square* by Ned Sublette, 2012, and *New Orleans: A Food Biography* by Elizabeth M. Williams, 2018.

This year's selection is *Vengeance* by Zachary Lazar. Lazar, Professor of English at Tulane, has written a blend of fact and fiction in his fifth book. He tells the story of an (fictional) Angola inmate he meets while documenting the production of a play at the prison (factual). The inmate is serving a life sentence for murder and proclaims his innocence.

It is an intense look at the realities of the Louisiana criminal justice system and the troubled streets of New Orleans. The fact that Lazar's father was murdered forms part of the story and brings him a depth to the writing than otherwise might have been the case. Discussion of this book can clearly cover many topics and opinions, ranging from our justice system, New Orleans culture, fact vs. fiction, and how we reacted to the book itself.

I am a confirmed reader and love to share and discuss books I've read. The FMIA is willing to sponsor a book club and I'm willing to organize and chair, if enough people are interested. I'm proposing that we join the rest of the city and read *Vengeance* as a starting point. Depending on how participants feel, it may continue from there. If you'd like to join this book club, contact me at Editor@FaubourgMarigny.org.



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Speaking Volumes

By Sara Jacobelli, Assistant Branch Manager, Alvar Library

Start the New Year with Stories from the African Diaspora featuring Demetrius Lacroix. Join us to explore storytelling and oral tradition through the examination of several stories from all over the African Diaspora. This is a three-part series.

- Part 1: February 6th 6:00pm
- Part 2: February 13th 6:00pm
- Part 3: February 20th 6:00pm

State Library of Louisiana

Job Search and Career Portal
<http://lajacc.state.lib.la.us/>

This site was developed and is maintained by the State Library of Louisiana. It pulls together resources for those seeking new careers, changing jobs, needing a little extra help preparing for the job market, online one-on-one tutoring and access to free workforce development classes. This site includes:

- Job Search Resources
- Between-Job Resources
- Electronic Resources
- Small Business Resources
- Training



Programs at Alvar:

In the Garden Writers' Workshop: Welcome to our third 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 any 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, February 9th, from 2:00-3:45pm and will focus on writing poetry.**
Special Guest Author: Andy Young, author of *All Fires the Fire, All Night It Is Morning*, and *The People is Singular*.

Andy Young's amazing poems pledge allegiance to life. They have witnessed, travelled and gathered so much elemental power and light, they can't stop giving it back.
Naomi Shihab Nye, author of *You and Yours*, winner of the Isabella Gardner Poetry Award.

In her fearless addition to the poetry of disaster, Young moves from the Katrina and Deep Water Horizon events

in Louisiana to the political turmoils in Egypt and back to her roots in the mining towns of West Virginia. I know of no other poet writing today who so unremittingly arrests and details the political as personal. This is the book we have all been waiting for. **Peter Cooley, author of *Night Bus to the Afterlife***

Upcoming Alvar Library Events:

THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
Saturday, February 16th, 1:00pm-2:00pm
Drag Queen Story Time

Come listen to the beautiful and talented Vanessa and Desiree read stories. Open to all families, caregivers, and children of all ages.



TUESDAYS, 11:00am

Toddler Story Time

Open to all families and caregivers with children age 5 and under.

THURSDAYS, 11:00am-1:00pm

One-on-One Computer Tutoring

Designed for those who are just beginning to learn about technology or who would like to grow their digital skills and utilize the many digital resources the library offers.

THURSDAYS, 5:30pm-7:00pm

Community Composting with Compost NOW

Bring your frozen food scraps to our weekly food waste drop-off. For more information, visit www.nolalibrary.org.

Alvar Library Holiday Closings:

- Friday, Feb. 22nd, close at 4:00pm
- Saturday, Feb. 23rd, close at 3:00pm
- Wednesday, Feb. 27th, close at 5:00pm
- Thursday, Feb. 28th, close at 4:00pm



Alvar Winter Clothing Drive



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