

FAUBOURG MARIGNY



IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

Volume 35, No. 5

www.faubourgmarigny.org

May 2007

Les Amis de Marigny

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

“Do The Right Thing” Series
Each Saturday in May • 7 PM
(See page 3 for Details)

Washington Square Park Clean-Up and Repair
Saturday, May 19 • 8 AM - NOON

35th Annual Home Tour and Art Market
Sunday, May 20 • 12 - 4 PM
(See page 2 for Details)

May 30 • 7 PM
Board Meeting (for June)
Location on www.faubourgmarigny.org

JUNE

Meet the Neighbors • June 12
Mimi’s • 2501 Royal • 6:30 PM

General Meeting • June 18
6:30 Potluck • 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

EVERY SATURDAY

UPPER 9th WARD GREEN MARKET

1 - 4 PM • Holy Angels Convent • 3500 St. Claude at Gallier

ST. CLAUDE URBAN MAIN STREET MEETINGS

Steering Committee, 2nd Wednesday of the month
Promotions Committee, 3rd Wednesday of the month
6:00 - 7:30 PM • Green Project • Marais and Press Streets

PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Chris Costello

Spring is here and our annual home tour is just days away (May 20). It has been 35 years since our first home tour and since then it has grown into an event that draws people from all over the city to our neighborhood to get a glimpse of what makes it a great place to live, work and play. This is a great event to bring friends to and show off our unique neighborhood by enjoying the sights, sounds and tastes the Marigny has to offer. Thank you to Reg and Deborah for all their hard work in organizing this event. Break a leg! We can always use an extra set of hands the day of the event so if you can spare 2 hours to help out the neighborhood, let us know. (See Page 2, column 1)

Who is the best line dancer in the neighborhood? If the vote was taken at our last Meet the Neighbors night at Cow Pokes it would be a close race. As always the Meet the Neighbors event is a great time and it is a great way to meet new people and an even better way to catch up with old friends. Thank you to CowPokes for their hospitality and to Stephanie Pedro for her hard working in organizing the event. Our next installment will be 6/12 at Mimi’s.

We have been very lucky that many of our businesses returned to our neighborhood after the storm. However, as the summer creeps closer our businesses come into their slow season and for some, they may not be able to make it. It is vitally important that we support our local businesses during this time. Please consider frequenting our local businesses more these summer months so we can help them through this rough part of the year.

The Main Street program is gearing up and they are planning lots of events to bring people back to St. Claude Avenue. For this program to be successful we all need to participate and show our support. At a minimum we need everyone to attend the events and for those that have some time, they need people to help support their activities either through committee involvement or helping at one of the events. Please consider helping out. (See Page 2, column 2)

- continued Page2, Column 1

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - continued from page 1

We are slowly chipping away at the \$12,000.00 cost for the repair of the playground equipment in Washington Square Park. To date we have over \$2,300. We need help with raising the money. If you can help us please let us know. Our quotes will soon be reaching their deadlines and the price will certainly go up. (See Page 5, column 1)

Summer will soon be upon us and things naturally slow down in the Big Easy. What we don't want to slow down is the rebuilding of our city. To make sure that does not happen we must continue to stay involved or become involved in what is happening in our city. We must put civic involvement at the top of our list of things to do. We must pick ourselves up, help others pick themselves up and work together to make the city we want for ourselves, our children and our grand children. The time is now to get involved and do something positive for our community. Will you join me?

2007 HOME TOUR
An Act of Public Service

Over the years so many people have opened their homes to the FMIA for its annual home tour, which has become a tradition of public service. It is not the easiest thing for most people to open their homes to the public - their homes being their private sanctuaries. But Marigny residents have consistently done this as a part of public service and to show their renewed effort to reestablish our community after Katrina. They have done it as a contribution to the Association and the important work that it does to protect, maintain, support and promote the Faubourg Marigny.

This year, the 35th year of the Home Tour and of our organization, the Home Tour committee is proud to present seven properties – four homes and three private gardens. The homes range from the elegant Claiborne mansion to graceful private residences. There are beautiful private gardens where you can see how people actually live and entertain. St. Paul's church with its newly discovered and restored ceiling murals is proud to be part of this day, May 20th from 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM. In all, not a day to be missed. Come to Washington Square Park to purchase tickets, start the tour and enjoy our ever-expanding art fair with over twenty local artists offering their wares for sale.

If you would like to help out, we can always use another hand to help setup and man tables as well as house sitters for the day of the event. Volunteers work 2 hours shifts and get free admission into the home tour. The time slots are:

House Sitters (volunteers who will watch a house for a 2 hour shift) — 12 - 2pm or 2 - 4pm
Volunteers (2 hours shifts) — 10 - 12 PM, 11 - 1 PM, 12 - 2 PM, 1 - 3 PM, 2 - 4 PM).

If you can help, contact Deborah Oppenheim at (504) 319-4262.

- By Reg Medellin

**St. Claude Ave.
Main Street**

**St. Claude Urban
Main Street Project:
Leaders Wanted!**

The St. Claude Avenue Urban Main Street Project Team is working hard to make the business corridor shared by Faubourg St. Roch, Faubourg Marigny, and Bywater a vital and vibrant commercial district, and we need your help.

Since the project's designation in October 2006, key committees have been formed and Kina Joshua was hired as Project Manager. Thanks to Kina's commitment (she's a Marigny resident and New Orleans native) as well as volunteer support from the community, the project has launched a Façade Improvement Grant Program, a grand opening event for Barrister's Gallery (2331 St. Claude Ave), and a much needed cleanup of Saint Claude's neutral ground.

Many on the street have met Kina as she inventories businesses while keeping an eye on vacant and available buildings. She's a frequent participant in neighborhood meetings and events, and keeps her finger on the pulse of what is going on. This busy professional's day does not stop there-- Kina is also a mom of a 6-year-old girl and is taking classes at UNO toward her masters degree in business

Are you interested in learning more about your neighborhood while helping to make positive change for the community? You – yes, you – can make a difference! Although the project is supported by a corps of dedicated volunteers from all of the neighborhoods in the area, St. Claude Ave. still has many opportunities for volunteer leaders and doers to become involved. Rest assured that there are opportunities for people with all different kinds of skills and levels of time commitment. Do you have just a short amount of time here and there to help out? Maybe you have some free time this summer. Ask to be put on a call list for quick, one-time projects like the clean-up, a cultural event, or handing out flyers. All of our committees (Design, Promotion, Organization, and Economic Restructuring) are actively seeking new members.

The bottom line is that the future of St. Claude belongs to all of us – residents and business owners. If you want to see our neighborhood revitalized, please contact Kina (kina.joshua@stclaude.org or 920-9873) with specifics about the types of activities that interest you and the time commitment you can comfortably afford.

Thanks to all the volunteers that came out on Saturday, April 21, for the Clean Up Day.

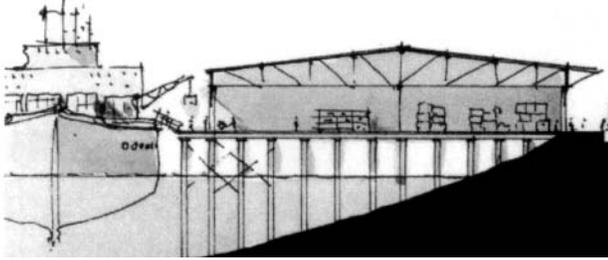
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RIVERFRONT NEWS

For those that have been keeping tabs on the riverfront progress the NOBC's "Reinventing the Crescent" committee will be holding **another meeting on May 26th from 9 – 11 am in the 1st Floor Auditorium at the Port's headquarters.** Like the other meetings this will be a presentation on the progress thus far. Please make every effort to attend.

For more information about what is happening with the riverfront and to get minutes from the meetings visit www.neworiverfront.com.



— RIVERFRONTALLIANCE.ORG —

The New Orleans Riverfront Alliance (The Alliance) was formed in response to a mutual concern by citizens of New Orleans regarding the process and the proposals that have been presented at a series of neighborhood meetings by New Orleans Building Corporation (NOBC) under the auspices of Reinventing the Crescent (RTC).

Although the neighborhoods and the public have been invited to attend expository meetings regarding the riverfront with the ostensible purpose of getting their reaction, the neighborhoods who will be most affected by the plans have not been heeded and the process is proceeding regardless of their opinions about the proposals. In addition to the RTC plan which has not yet been finalized, there have been several other committees and plans, namely The Riverfront Development Advisory Committee established by Councilman-at-Large Oliver Thomas, and the UNOP (Unified New Orleans Plan), which have not been incorporated into the RTC plans.

As stated in its mission, the reason The Alliance exists is to insure a place at the table that is meaningful and which reflects the wishes of those who have put so much energy into the affected neighborhoods when they were much less desirable and in a state of decline. Other neighborhood organizations have watched the disregard shown to these citizens and have joined the alliance to make sure that neighborhood opinions are not simply eyewitnessed.

The members of The Alliance are insisting that the process be open, transparent, inclusive, and significantly led by the residents and citizens of these neighborhoods. Their Mission is simple; to insure direct interaction between affected community and planners, a requirement for good planning.

If you believe that citizens should be a part of the planning process please take a moment to sign their petition at www.riverfrontalliance.org.



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ReLeaf Marigny

ReLeaf Marigny / Marigny Flowers

We lost many of our beautiful trees and all of our flowers during the storm. To help bring back the beauty of our streets we are releafing and reflowering the Marigny.

Would you consider planting a tree (or trees) in front of your house? Sign up for the Marigny ReLeaf program!

We are working with Parkway Partners to get the trees and a concrete saw to cut holes. We need volunteers to learn how to use the concrete saw and to plant the trees. If you can help, email Jeff at releaf@faubourgmarigny.org.

To help put the color back into our streets, we are currently organizing a Marigny Flowers day where we encourage residents to plant flowers and plants in front of their homes to beautify our wonderful neighborhood.

More details to come. Let us know if you are interested.

Do The Right Thing!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

SAINT ANNA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1313 ESPLANADE AVE.
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CONVERSATIONS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL PEOPLE!
CLAIM YOUR PLACE!

SATURDAY MAY 26, 7:00 PM
DR. LOUIE CREW
"Another kind of bigotry"
GLBT Justice





Highlights of the 8th District NONPAC meeting 4/12

Perhaps because crime in the French Quarter and the Marigny Triangle has been on the quiet side for most of the past month, only about 2 dozen residents turned out for last night's meeting. Just because crime has not been rampant recently is no reason to let your guard down--citizen attendance at these monthly meetings signals your interest in keeping your neighborhood safe and your support for the 8th District officers who are trying to do that.

Lt. Ed Selby, subbing for Capt. Edwin Hosli, along with the assistance of Quality-of-Life Officer Roger Jones, fielded these concerns:

Where are the cops?: One citizen questioned why she saw 9 officers (NOPD and State Police) congregating on one corner one evening on Bourbon Street. "Why aren't they on my block patrolling?" she wanted to know.

Lt. Selby said that shouldn't be happening because Capt. Hosli has a rule that there are to be 2 officers per block on the "Bourbon Promenade" (the glittery stretch of the street devoted to nightlife) in the evening. He said he would raise the issue with the captain and the head of the State Police contingent in the Quarter.

He noted that the district's 108 officers were "stretched thin" (though the 8th District showed the biggest decrease in crime in the past 4 weeks of all the city's NOPD districts).

Deploying officers on scooters, he said, should improve patrolling in the Quarter and Triangle, though only 10 are in operation due to a lack of funds. (Any philanthropists out there?) Scooters slowly patrolling neighborhoods gives the officers the ability to scan the scene around them and to make contact with residents, unlike officers in cars - which the lieutenant and residents alike - are criticized for driving around with windows up and often on a cellphone. "I think it ought to be against the law for an officer to be driving while on a cellphone," Lt. Selby added.

Regarding complaints from citizens who said some officers seem indifferent to their requests for assistance, Lt. Selby suggested getting the officer's badge number or his car number and report it to the district's Public Integrity Officer, Lt. D.J. Albert, noting that citizens didn't have to give their name to lodge a complaint.

The district doesn't have enough officers or cars to patrol regularly, Lt. Selby said. "They have to go where the calls are." But he pointed out, "We do tell an officer who has to write a report, to park his car in an area where there's been trouble and write the report in his car--that gives us visibility there."

When it was noted that the latest rash of armed robberies were committed by perpetrators in illegally parked cars with temporary tags, Lt. Selby told residents who noted something suspicious to "call and let the police check it out." Then he went further and gave the audience his cellphone number-- 234-8072--and told them to "call me if you see something that makes you

uncomfortable." He joked "I wouldn't be crazy about a call at 2 a.m.--but I guess I could always put in for overtime."

Can you hear me now? Voices clamored with complaints about the noise level on Bourbon Street. "I work in the Quarter and I'm trapped in it with the noise--and it's getting worse," one woman stammered with emotion. Others echoed the ongoing problem that has vexed neighbors for years.

Ofc. Jones noted that the NOPD's enforcement efforts are hampered by a restraining order that prevents the police from shutting down a noisy establishment. The dispute centers around "what is too loud?" and the lack of equipment to measure decibel levels emanating from the clubs. Laws are on the books which prevent clubs from placing speakers outside an establishment or directing speakers toward the street from less than 8 feet away (one officer supposedly has been known to disconnect the wires from speakers found in violation).

Ofc. Jones said citizens can file noise complaints with the city health department by obtaining a form from Room IW04 at City Hall; he said he would soon have forms available at the 8th District station at Royal and Conti streets. He urged residents to call him on his cellphone at 201-1520 if they had an urgent complaint.

NOcrimeline noted: Lt. Selby noted that the 8th District is the only NOPD district with a conduit to its constituents like NOcrimeline. "We hope we've started a trend here--we wish all districts could put out information so eloquently."

Capt. Hosli and his staff have begun supplying timely reports as crimes occur so residents of the district have current information that can help them avoid becoming a victim.

The monthly NONPAC (New Orleans Neighborhood Policing Anti-Crime Council) meetings are held the SECOND Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Omni Royal Orleans hotel, 621 St. Louis St..

To be added to our mailing list, send your NAME and email address to: NOcrimeline@gmail.com.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcomed.
Thom Kahler



Please note cell phone numbers of Lt. Ed Selby, 234-8072 to call about crime and Quality of Life Officer, Roger Jones 201-1520, for urgent complaints about noise.

Everyone knows that non-violent crime should be reported to 821-2222 and emergencies to 911.

Carol Greve

MEET THE NEIGHBORS



Our last Meet the Neighbors was at Cow Pokes. It was a great time catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. The highlight was the line dancing where our own Gary de Leamont instructed the novice and seasoned how to line dance. Come and see for yourself what all the fun is about. Our **next Meet The Neighbors night** will be **Tuesday, June 12, at Mimi's, 2601 Royal** beginning at 6:30 p.m. Come meet your neighbors and help us rebuild our community.

This is a social event. And as always, no purchase necessary.



PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISING



The generosity of our neighborhood is inspiring. To date we have raised over \$2,300 for the repair of the equipment thanks to the generous contributions of members, neighbors and friends.

We need help raising money! We are looking for donations of all kinds: individual donations, corporate donations and/or donations of labor from contractors to do the work. Contact Chris if you can help out 710-8789.

Don't have the time? If you know of an individual or company that would be interested in making a donation or a licensed contractor who could to do the work for a reduced cost or free, please let us know.

Donations should be made out to FMIA with Playground in the memo field and send to FMIA, PO Box 770080, New Orleans LA 70177.

We would like to thank you to the following for donating thus far: Malcolm Willison, Wilson Bourg Lumber, Ravi Vadlamundi, Linda Swindle, Sadie Gentry, David Pirner, John & Angele Crawford, Kim Pedersen & Ray Ruiz, Calvin Rice & Heidi Lee, Koch & Wilson Architects, Castle Rock Pavers, Bywater Woodworks

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Parks and Parkways for helping us keep Washington Square Park maintained.



To the 5th and 8th District Police Department for the increased visibility of police officers.



To Calvin Rice for his work in organizing the playground repair.



To the Washington Park Krewe: Jason Patterson, Rick Fifield, Tim Dubois, Chris Costello, and all the others who pick up trash daily.

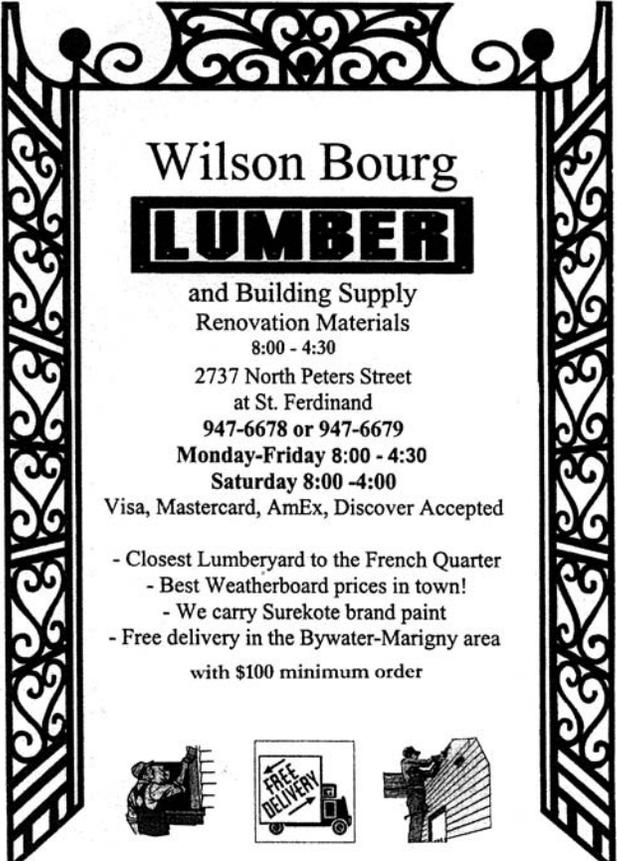
ONIONS

To people who throw their trash in Washington Square Park.



To those who don't pick up after their dogs!





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Violence in New Orleans

by the Marquis de LEJ
(Leonard Earl Johnson)



Here goes: Violence -- freelance and institutionalized -- has always been a part of the New Orleans mystique. From Federal agents violating rights of Storyville prostitutes (to facilitate a wholesome image of The City as a fitting embarkation port for the largely pointless World War One). Down to pre-Katrina drug-trafficking cops, and rich Texans in fancy cafés beating old men to the ground. To today's armed Circle-K shopper and the suicide lover who butchered, cooked and ate his girlfriend before jumping off a hotel roof.

Violence? Yes, before The Storm and now. Always. Numbers? Always been a lot. Always! But I have not now, nor then, seen any.

Think of when you have a tornado and the radio reports scare you and your friends while you otherwise hardly notice.

You want to see violence? Look at clips of the suffering around the Louisiana Superdome and Morial Convention Center waiting for the delusional George W. Bush to lead them to safety.

You want to see big numbers? Count the dead in Iraq (it is way over a half million).

My point is this-is-America, land of the violent. Violence is our religion, we teach it in sports, in school. We attend Churches, Temples, and Mosques that offer dispensation from their very own Commandments forbidding it. We pay to watch it on television and movies. We elect leaders who promise to commit it in our name. We love violence and think it the best solution to most problems. Hell, any problem, if Liberals would just let us! Got a problem, attack it! New Orleans has had its share of problems, is it any wonder we find violence a solution?

But don't feel holier than us. Are you not also in America? Is there not a lot of violence in your town, too? Not to mention that it is on your credit card and your children's and your children's children's that Goofus W., and his heart-shunted V. P. are financing their war machinery without funds, plan, purpose or end. A political ham bone, except with the New Deal now dead around their feet, they have ham and wee the people have the bone, and the debt.

You hear about New Orleans violence, as much because it is colorful, as editors and advertisers know we love it. Love hearing about it, thinking about it, even seeing some -- on TV, which is the only place I've ever seen any.

My only line of defense when in New Orleans is to not walk into a line of fire. It is the same for your town, for your storms, and Bush's Iraq.

We should flee storms, and rail and vote against politicians who would tighten our bond with violence and lead us ever further into more violence. This is the only thing that will save New Orleans, and America.

— continued Page 7, Col. 1

Patronizing local businesses promotes a more heterogeneous community.

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“Violence...” - LEJ (cont'd.)

What else can we do? Stop being in New Orleans? Stop being in America? No thanks. Then the war lords, domestic and foreign, will have won. Beat us down to their rule. No thank you.

Pete Seeger, the great American troubadour, used to tell about a young Quaker who spoke out against war. People told him, "Son, you will never change the World." To which he replied, "Nor it me."

Want an ice-box magnet of my fat face, for your memory board or to ward off future storm vermin?

"Next time it'll keep them bugs out of your refrigerator, sugar!" ~ L. A. Norma

Send a self - addressed and stamped envelope, along with a five dollar bill. Send to:
Leonard Earl Johnson
302 Jefferson, Box 202
Lafayette, LA 70501

For more information, visit www.lej.org.

A DILEMMA FOR A SUPERMARKET

On August 29, 2005, Rob ert Fresh Market sustained significant damages due to Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath. All of our stores were damaged, five of the six being complete losses. Our administrative offices were in ruins. Our workforce, our friends, our neighbors—our community was faced with tragedy on an unprecedented level.

In the days following the hurricane, we regrouped and planned for the recovery of our company and our communities. As people began to return, a small group of dedicated associates worked nonstop to renovate and reopen the only store that was not completely destroyed. In November 2005, the Rob ert’s crew successfully opened the West Esplanade location in Metairie. During this period we also fully gutted and sanitized all five locations that had been lost to the hurricane: Annunciation St., Broad St., Canal St., Robert E. Lee Blvd., and St. Claude Ave. Since that time, we have battled with personnel issues, including the loss of several key positions within the company and the challenge to recruit and retain employees, as well as overwhelming insurance issues and pending litigations.

We are actively pursuing talks with the owners of the St. Claude site, and have been doing so since September 2005. We fully intend to return to this site. We still hold a long term lease on this property. The landlord for this site is very complicated and involves several individuals and trusts that are not in agreement as to how to proceed with the property. Negotiations are a challenging process.

Rob ert Fresh Market has full intentions to return to the Faubourg Marigny neighborhood. We want to provide a brand new, fresh, innovative, full service, prepared food market on the corner of Elysian Fields and St. Claude. Unfortunately, we have yet to be able to put a time table on this process as so many variables such as landlords, insurance litigation and third party interest play into the equation.

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ALVAR ARTS SCHEDULE



Alvar Library
 903 Alvar Street
 7:00 - 9:00 PM
First and Third Tuesday of each month
 June 5 • William Warren
 June 19 • Pati d'Amico

Support Our Local Growers

The Upper 9th Ward Market at Holy Angels continues to grow thanks to the support of the community. Now more than ever we must stick together and support our local growers who provide us with fresh, wholesome foods. If you have not been to the market come see for yourself what it is all about.

SATURDAYS 1-4 PM

Holy Angels Convent
 3500 St. Claude Ave at Gallier St.

MEETINGS

FMIA General and Board Meetings are open to the public. Committees and committee meetings are also open to anyone who is interested or would like to help.

Board Meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Location TBA (see www.faubourgmarigny.org)

General Meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month and begin with a potluck at 6:30 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street. The meeting starts at 7:15 PM. (There are NO general meetings in July and December.)

ADS AND ARTICLES

Ads and articles for the monthly newsletters are due by the Friday following the Board Meeting.

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER..

Member rates listed below are "per month" charges and dependent on the number of times you place an advertisement. Non-members pay an extra \$3 per month.

Size	3 - 10 Times/yr.	1 - 2 Times/yr.
Full Page	\$90	\$110
Half Page	\$45	\$55
Quarter Page	\$30	\$40
Back Quarter Page	\$45	\$55
Business Card	\$18	\$25

If we can be of any assistance with your ad, please send a request for info to the website at www.faubourgmarigny.org. We will handle your request as quickly as possible.

FMIA BOARD MEETING AGENDA April 4, 2007

Board Members Present - Simon, Gene, Leigh, Reg, Deborah, and Chris. Absent - Bob, Marshall, and Brian

- A. Approval of minutes from 3/7 and 3/19 - Yes
- B. Projects - none
- C. Releaf Marigny - Jeff Johnson 716 Spain Street is spearheading this project. Since the stumbling block is removing the concrete, the Board has voted to make a donation to Releaf Marigny for the purchase of the necessary saw. FMIA is collecting donations for the saw (\$1500-2000). The idea is to have classes on the use of the saw for residents at the Green Project.
- D. Neighbors 4 Neighbors - Stephanie Pedro scheduled a fabulous event at Cutter's. About 45 people were there for the event. The next one is April 10 at Buffa's. Stephanie suggested a banner to connect FMIA and the Neighbors 4 Neighbors to be used at each event. The Board voted Yes allocating no more than \$100 be spent on the banner.



E. Issues

About Time Lounge - The status of the meeting with Nolan Lambert, City Attorney, Chris, and Leigh regarding the lounge is: 1) A security guard is needed every Friday, Saturday nights and special events 2) The entire block is cleaned daily 3) Soundproofing 4) A contract with the lounge and if they did not agree their license would be revoked.

2112 Burgundy - Chris contacted Bellsouth regarding the tree that was completely encased in concrete. They have removed the concrete and hopefully the tree will survive.

F. Playground Equipment - Calvin Rice has worked diligently on this project. The cost to repair the equipment is about \$12,000. FMIA is accepting donations. The Board voted to give a 10% donation from the dues. FUNDRAISING IS NECESSARY. Ideas were given to ask the following for donations: Whitney Bank, Doerr Furniture, Girls and Boys Town, Loews, Juan la Fonta's office, Home Depot, Councilperson Fielkow's office grant money.

G. 501C3 Status - Chris has worked assiduously to get the information needed so a professional can complete the paperwork. The Board voted Yes to pay up to \$1000 to have this done.

H. Change Bank Accounts to Whitney - The Board voted YES to change our account to Whitney to support the only bank in our neighborhood.

I. Historic Districts Management Authority - no status

J. Home Tour - Chairperson: Reg Medellin - Our 35th Annual Home Tour is May 20th, Noon - 4 PM, starting at Washington Square Park. This year is a special year since it is FMIA 35th birthday of the Association. We are fortunate to have St. Paul's Chapel plus adding gardens to the tour. Four years ago, Reg and Deborah introduced the idea of adding a few artists to the Home Tour. Now it has grown into an Art Market featuring local artists in our community and city. Volunteers are needed - call Deborah at 504-319-4262 and/or opprik@gmail.com

K. Riverfront Development Committee - Sean Cummings, New Orleans Building Corporation and reinventing the crescent group is having a meeting at Allen Eskew's office tomorrow April 5th which Gene Cizek will attend. Our neighborhood has not been given the opportunity to have input.

L. Circle K Store - HDLC has been called regarding the signage on the building. The information from HDLC indicated that the owners did not replace the sign with the illuminated signage, which the previous owners had and the business used appropriate materials and has the certificate for appropriateness.

M. Bellsouth and Digital Loop Carriers 2601 Burgundy - It probably will not happen at this location.

N. FMIA - 35th B-day! We are very proud of our neighborhood and want to share this with others. The Board discussed ideas for promoting our neighborhood. Marshal is doing research and development for banners on street lights. Other ideas included a special event, connecting Home Tour with 35th Birthday, adding a list of all our accomplishments in the newsletter, and articles in City Business and Gambit. Send ideas to www.faubourgmarigny.org.

O. T-shirt design? Mug design? None were submitted. 35th year something that could sell at Home Tour polo shirt. IDEAS needed.

P. Joint Reception for New 8th Captain w/ HNOG - Invite the 8th District Captain to our meeting Board voted YES

Q. Releaf New Orleans Coalition - Our Representative is Marshall.

R. District 7 - Barry Marks of EDAW wanted to continue working with District 7. He suggested that our district set up a Community Development Corporation (CDC). Chris, Gene, and Barry helped District 7 to set up the CDC. Barry informed FMIA that EDAW has signed on pro bono to facilitate and forming the CDC. Big thank you to Barry Marks, EDAW, Gene Cizek and Chris Costello for making this happen.

S. Riverfront Meeting - FQ, BYWATER and Marigny - The conclusion of the meeting is that the groups need to come together as a cohesive group and invite others to participate. The cohesive groups are called the Riverfront Alliance. Riverfront Alliance said that "Reinventing the Crescent" is not a good plan for the neighborhoods along the river. The Riverfront Alliance wants to enhance public safety, preserve our historic character, reflect our citizen needs and desires, which is determined by neighborhood driven planning. FMIA feels that this will best benefit the people that live and work, and visit our neighborhood. UNOP plan did not incorporate the Riverfront. The Riverfront Alliance wants an ACTIVE VOICE instead of a reactive voice. The Board voted YES and to be part of the group and give money for the website.

T. Roberts Fresh Market - Chris sent a letter that Leigh drafted and Darren of Roberts said that they are still committed to our area. They are invited them to our next General Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS - inactive

U. Guardian Angels - The group indicated that the Marigny neighborhood association support in various printed media. FMIA had the Guardian Angels attend a General Meeting. The Guardian Angels was going to get back with Chris regarding unanswered questions. This never occurred. Chris will contact the spokesperson of the Guardian Angels to correct their statements on public record.

V. Survey of District 7 via Tulane School of Medicine - no contact

W. Visibility of Marigny - no status

X. Jazz Series in Park - no status - Deborah will contact Jazz Festival and Tom Morgan of WWOZ after Jazz Fest.

Y. Projects:

839 Elysian Fields

1017 Touro (Friendly Touch Bar) Closed

801 Frenchmen St. The new Santa Fe did not work. A letter was sent to Councilperson Carter about the construction without proper permits. Letters were also sent re Ray's Boom Boom and Blue Nile regarding the Frenchmen Street Overlay violations.

NEW BUSINESS

Z. Next Board Meeting? Where May 2nd at Gene's house.

AA. Doerr Furniture Opening, Stephen Schulkens PR - Doerr Furniture - Re-opening April 12 and Doerr has a pledge to the community to be more involved with the community. At 10:00 am there will be a news conference, which will include Councilmen Feilkow, Thomas, and Carter. Chris has been invited to speak and he will talk about our neighborhood. Doerr has moved the front door to Burgundy Street and added a landscaped parking lot and garden. Ideas were given to Steve Schulkens how Doerr could be involved in our community. One suggestion was to bring back the tag line, "in historic Faubourg Marigny".

BB. Blighted/Vacant Property - We are an intact neighborhood that also has vacant, blighted, and unused land and build-



ings. A discussion included the idea to send letters to property owners to say that their property could be brought back into commerce and let FMIA know how we can help. We are talking to Will, Christopher Goodwin, and Katie Coyle. Gene will get a list of blighted property.

CC. Pet Fair at Baptist Friendship House on Saturday June 2 and Chris will meet with them to get details.

DD. Go through committee reports:

Treasurer – CD renews on 3/29 expires at the end of every month and we will look at alternate opportunities

Newsletter: We have a new layout person – Ron, thank you.

Membership – status? Missing Members, DUES need and also point out all that we have accomplished

Orchids/Onions, Questions, Ideas? Orchids: Kerrie Ramsel Crime Prevention Chair, Parks and Parkway, Visibility of Police, Calvin Rice, Washington Square Park Krewe:

Jason Patterson, Rick Fifield, Tim Dubois, Chris Costello and all the others who pick up trash daily

Onions: Those who throw trash on the ground in the Washington Square Park

EE. Community News – We are discussing this possibility. Mardi Gras Zone - vent stacks and gas meter on the outside of building. Letter to HDLC and James Carter

Ray's Boom Boom - Letter to James Carter

Blue Nile - Letter to James Carter construction

Meeting ended at 10:30pm

APRIL 16, 2007 GENERAL MEETING

Chris opened the meeting at 7:15 pm

Welcome New People and Guests : Terry and Michael Rawze Stanley Sherma, Rick, Mercy Corp

Red Cross – Jacob and Megan - Disaster Training, 504 620-3127, jfeigel@arcno.org. - Why her? Tornados taught the Red Cross a lesson. People want to know how to help? If you are interested you will need to be trained. An application is needed.

1) Join disaster action team will come to the group for training free

2) Emergency needs are given food, clothing, shelter

3) Neighbors helping Neighbors

4) City wide or just the Marigny for training

5) Need people to work in the shelters especially during the upcoming hurricane season

Neighborhood Activities

1) Lisa of Fleur de Lis Physical Therapy Clinic – has a massage therapist Dave Sobel

2) Kina Joshua 504-920-9873 St. Claude Avenue Urban Main Street Director funded by the State - need volunteers. The office will open at the Green Project, second floor this week. It is a Herculean task to build an organization. FMIA and St Claude Main Street is having a clean up day on April 21 beginning at 9:00 am to Noon at Marais and Press which is the Green Project. Please bring gloves, bags, shovels. If you are interested Committee Participation is needed.

3) Green Project located at Marais and Press Sts., www.thegreenproject.org., working in the community for 13 yrs. Angie and Kenny said that the Green Project mission is three fold: 1) get recycling out of land fill, 2) preserve the culture of NO and, 3) environmental organization

The Green Project other programs include: 1) gardening program. 2) recycle for the arts - educators and artists – low cost materials and workshops, 3) working with Mercy Corp taking a building down – saves all that material. Household recycling is

not their mission. They are taking newspaper. Please consider donating as you recycle your newspaper to help reduce the cost. Please consider signing up with the Sierra Club and write a short letter stressing the need for curbside recycling. The e-mail address is <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/neworleans> Tulane Campus dues crush cans alum rinsed, cardboard stack, and rinsed glass.

Announcements:

Kerrie Ramsdell coordinated a Meet and Greet with the 5th District. We had a great response and neighbors met the police officers who worked this district. Please notice on our website (Outreach) a flyer for downloading to put in your window thanking the police officers for walking the beat. Kerrie is getting a list of surveillance cameras. Please contact FMIA.

Gretchen - Are you interested in being a Block Captain or working the phone tree? Please contact FMIA. FMIA is purchasing the photo sensor to Light the Marigny. She discussed the possibility of a Crime Patrol? It is a subscribed and paid service. The members who attended appeared interested. There is a survey on the website.

Other Outreach – The whistles are being researched. The photo sensors for Light the Marigny are being purchased by United Hardware and will be sold at cost. The other great Outreach Program is Neighbors 4 Neighbors, a monthly social at a local business.

ReLeaf Marigny – Jeff Johnson, releaf@faubourgmarigny.com, is a project to replace and put new trees in the Marigny. The stumbling block is the cost to cut the concrete. FMIA is getting donations to buy the saw. We will be trained to use the saw with the help of the Green Project. Check out Spain St. and see the ReLeaf Project at work. Doerr is giving warehouse space for donated trees

Marigny Flowers – Another project which will begin in mid May is Marigny Flowers. FMIA is coordinating with Harold's and American Aqua Gardens. The concept is to plant flowers in front of one's house. Check the website for more details.

Playground Fund Raising - Calvin Rice - \$12,000 is needed to repair and refurbish the playground equipment at Washington Square Park. We now have collect \$2000.

Don Richmond – has a grant for Museum Rochon on Pauger between Dauphine and Burgundy. He is dedicating his home to the museum honoring free men of color.

Farmer's Market - every Saturday 1-4 at Holy Angels – will move to St. Roch

Open Studios - April 21 – 22 Spring Tour of artists in the Marigny and Bywater - see their studios and support the artists. Councilman Carter – stopped in to say hello and answer questions

Q: Curbside recycling – A: not the Council's top priority

Q: FEMA reimbursement and how it is coming along?

A: Dr. Blakely to expedite the process.

Q: Trash Cans – what is happening?

A: Please have patience with Ms. White - there are new smaller trash cans - Q: What can be done for historic districts beside downsize the cans, but also consider how wide the cans are to fit into small alley ways. Large trash cans sitting about – can we share and are the smaller cans ordered?

Q: After the March Against Crime, several council members pledge to help with City Attorney and Riley to work together, well?

A: Number one priority is the crime problem. They now have a 10 point plan and are actually communicating at a different level than before. One idea is to give DA's liability insurance.

Q: Blighted property? Howard stated that he is talking pictures of all blighted properties.



A: Carter - Charles Ellis is responsible for looking for blighted properties – City Council has added money for inspectors - NORA is back. Blight is the Dept of Housing and Neighborhood Development main responsibility.

Q: TRASH – great job of picking up trash - but they are so many collapsed streets. Pre Katrina there was bond issues - any streets in Marigny slated for repair and what is the bond status? A: There is a hold up and Need to look at the list

Q: Polling places have changed for the 5th district and we are not voting in our district? A: ?

Q: What is the status on repairing police headquarters, we want happy policeman? A: It is a FEMA issue.

Q: Wireless has stopped at the Quarter? A: ?

Q: Crime and kids? A: “Until this city comes to grip with the issues, the situation is recycled the same as before” -ROYCE - the 816-3000 if you know a crack house etc., FBI line. NORD is rebuilding their programs - 658-3000

Blight Issue - Howard is photographing and taking inventory of blight in our neighborhood. FMIA will send a letter to each owner. The one big issue is that the City must give proper notice and that becomes a tangled web.

Newsletter - A fabulous new layout and new Newsletter Editor THANK YOU Ron

The New Orleans City Council Education Committee, Tulane University's Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public Education and the Greater New Orleans Education Foundation are undertaking an assessment of public education in New Orleans info@stateofnolaschools.org 504-593-9100 Josh and Dante introduced the assessment. It is a citywide assessment asking what is right and what is wrong in schools in our community. A report will be filed with City Council and the State.

What is right in NOPS?

1) Charter Schools are doing well because of parent involvement different approach to the process choice that they can pick a curriculum for their child.

2) Parents have feedback. Arts back in the school, diversity. Opportunities for growth:

a) Facilities - zero; b) Need vocational schools; c) Tutoring

What would you say that are actionable:

1) Salary; 2) Baby steps are needed; 3) Renovating the schools 4) Arts, PE; 5) Community Service – buy into the process of education, life skills; 6) We don't value education here - Programs are cut, poor facilities, poor salary everyone thinks but does not demonstrate that education is important; 7) Truancy

Darren - Roberts Grocery - Human Resource Director. Deliver to the Neighbors on Line. Want to open on St. Claude and Roberts has a 30 yr lease with Schwegmann's, the owner plus several individuals and 3 trusts. It is very complicated. The Store is gutted and cleaned before Nov. 2005. Roberts had six locations before the storm and one is operating. They lost all the others and corporate officers. Robert E. Lee will open at the end of this Sept. Roberts and Walgreens will build new stores at Claiborne and Carrollton. Roberts is negotiating the Canal St. store and had purchased Annunciation St. Annunciation will not open and is back up for resale. The owners of the St. Claude are having difficulties. Walgreens has offered to help work with the owners. Darren stressed that Roberts wants to return.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilman Carter: TOWNHALL MEETING EAST BANK April 24th, 1835 St. Roch Ave.

5th District - Kenny Guidry - Street Level Watch 3-11pm

NEWSLETTER - Please pay your dues

Robert's Refrigeration will do cleaning for \$82.95

Meet the Neighbors - May 8th at Cowpokes

Quality of Life Officer Jones 8th District invites all to attend the NonPac Meetings every 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Omni Royal 621 St. Louis Street. Please call him with your concerns 504-201-1520

Last month's newsletter should have read

Orchids to Jason, Rick and Chris for cleaning Washington Sq. Park

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Home Tour –

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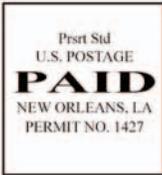
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Washington Square Park – Chris Costello

Web Site – Chris Costello

Zoning - Robyn Blanpied



General Meeting, Monday, 5/21

PAY YOUR DUES

F.M.I.A. Membership Form

1. Membership Status: New Renewal

2. Membership Type:

Individual (I) - \$15.00 Business - \$25.00
 Household (H) - \$20.00 Over 65 - \$5.00

3. Contact Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

4. Willing to volunteer? Yes No

Make checks payable to *F.M.I.A.* and send to:
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The deadline is the 7th of each month.

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