



# Holy Cross Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Established in 1981

Holy Cross Neighborhood Association – P.O. BOX 3417 New Orleans, LA 70177

## Grand Opening, Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Center

The Holy Cross Neighborhood Association will celebrate the grand opening of the Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED) on Monday, April 2, 2007. The event will take place from 10:30 – 11:30am in the back of Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, located at 5130 Chartres Street in the Lower Ninth Ward. Leaders from the Lower 9th Ward will be joined by Mercy Corps and a delegation of over 100 community leaders from Oregon State including Mercy Corps CEO, Neal Keny-Guyer; The Honorable Tom Potter, Mayor of Portland; and The Honorable Ted Kulongoski; Governor of Oregon.

Pam Dashiell, President, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association (HCNA) said, "Mercy Corps and the Oregonians are wonderful, caring, insightful partners. Their support as the Lower Ninth Ward and

Holy Cross neighborhoods advance to a sustainable future is very much appreciated."

The new Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development will provide many services including: Assisting returning residents with resources and training on rebuilding their homes and navigating the "paperwork process"; buying construction items in bulk to offer low-cost (or no-cost) rebuilding materials; educating residents on how to use sustainable – or "green" – technologies and materials; facilitating strong and positive civic engagement; and teaching stewardship of the lower ninth's unique natural systems.

For more information, call Pam Dashiell, President, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association: 504-430-9041 or Susan Laarman, Mercy Corps: 503-341-3799.

1<sup>st</sup> Issue Since Hurricane Katrina

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## Sustainability Planning & Implementation: Nearly One Year Later

By Charles Allen, Vice-President, HCNA

It has been nearly one year since we in the Holy Cross/Lower 9th community first undertook sustainability planning for the restoration and recovery of our community. For some of us, we still are grappling with what the term sustainability even means. For others of us, we may know its meaning but are still looking for deeper insight into what it means and how this concept can fully envelope our lives in order to live in such a way in which we are always monitoring how we live in order to truly be sustainable inhabitants of this planet.

For many of us, we have seen and read and been involved in the development of our plan entitled, *Sustainable Restoration: Holy Cross District and the Lower 9th Ward*. Since this plan's development (May 2006), our community has gone through two other community-planning processes. The first was one commissioned by the New Orleans City Council and managed by a firm known as Lambert Advisory, LLC. This process ran from June to August 2006. And, the

second one called the Unified New Orleans Planning (UNOP) process ran from October 2006 to January 2007. In fact, our local City Planning Commission has just recently begun the review and public comment phase for this process. As a byproduct of the UNOP process, a committee called the Lower 9th Ward Stakeholders was convened to give guidance and closer stakeholder input to the UNOP process for planning District 8 which comprises all of the Lower 9th ward. And, throughout the two latest planning processes, various elements, if not the entire *Sustainability Plan*, were shared with residents, which allowed for an increased buy-in and support of various sustainability elements. This has caused a number of ideas and terms such as solar panels and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to not only be ideas but now realities for a number of our residents.

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## Sustainability ...

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And now, the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association has a project funded by Mercy Corps called the Lower 9th Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED) located in office space provided by the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church. The purpose of the CSED is To help make the concept of sustainability for residents by actually helping to provide energy efficient, sustainable materials to residents for rebuilding their homes. As eluded to previously, there are 10 homes/structures in the Lower 9th ward, which now have solar panel systems, installed on their rooftops thanks to Sharp Solar International various other local partners. And recently, the Historic District Landmark Commission of New Orleans voted unanimously to allow for the development of the first phase of a sustainable development project of Global Green USA in Holy Cross. This first project is the development of 2-story single-family residence located on the corner of Douglass and Andry Streets. This residence will also be part of

a larger project known as GreeNola which will include a 12-unit multi-family housing building, six single family homes and a community center. Lastly, numerous academic partners/universities along with the Sierra Club, New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board have stepped forward to the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association to help implement a restoration project for the Bayou Bienvenue ecosystem of the Lower 9th ward. One year after a beginning dialogue for this project, we now have a handful of project partners, a workshop hosted by the some of the same partners, and a tentative work schedule of summer activities for University of Wisconsin students to visit New Orleans to do preliminary work relative to the overall project. What a year it has been for *sustainability* in the Lower 9th.

It is hard to believe that we are oh so close to the 2nd year anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it feels as though we are a little closer to a more sustainable future. The journey though is far from over. But, with every day and month that goes by and with every step we take, we can come to realize a stronger, more sustainable community.

*"This donation will help set up Holy Cross and the Lower Ninth Ward as a model of energy-efficient rebuilding."*

## Solar power brings light to Lower 9th Ward

*Originally reported in The Advocate and Tulane University's e-newsletter, The New Wave.*

Volunteers from Sharp Solar International and associated licensed solar power installers recently helped place 1.5-kilowatt solar panel systems on nine Holy Cross homes as well as on the Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Empowerment Network Association building.

The households were selected through a lottery held by the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association. Selected homes needed a south-facing roof and homeowners had to agree to open their home once a year for tours to demonstrate energy

efficiency methods.

The solar panels can produce about 7.5 to 10 kilowatts of energy a day and will last for 30 to 50 years while the electronics connected to these solar panels will last between 10 and 15 years.

"Our residents were ecstatic about the offer," Charles Allen says. "They were interested in long-term energy efficiency and long-term low utility bills. This donation ... will help set up Holy Cross and the Lower Ninth Ward as models of energy-efficient rebuilding."



## Corps Wants Public Input on Lock Replacement Project

*Originally published in New Orleans CityBusiness*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a meeting April 4, at 6 pm to collect citizen's ideas on possible environmental impacts of the replacement of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock.

The meeting will be held in the cafeteria trailer of Holy Cross School, 4950 Dauphine St. It will be preceded by a 5:30 pm open house.

## Green Light Project

Lower your utility bills and save energy with compact fluorescent bulbs free of charge. Lower Ninth Ward residents living in homes or apartments can register at [www.greenlightneworleans.org](http://www.greenlightneworleans.org).

Assistance with computer registration is available at the NENA Center, 1120 Lamanche Street.

For information about contractors, please visit [www.LouisianaRebuilds.info](http://www.LouisianaRebuilds.info)  
Or call toll free: 1-877-LA-Rebuilds

## Grant Program Helps Rebuild

*Originally reported in The Times-Picayune*

Nearly 300 homeowners of historic properties across the city, several of which live in Holy Cross, collected grants of between \$5,000 and \$45,000 in February from the Historic Building Recovery Grant program, administered by the State Historic Preservation Office.

Nonprofits and neighborhood groups, including the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, played an important role in getting inexperienced

homeowners to the grants. The State Historic Preservation Office helped others write better grant requests. So did volunteers from Tulane University and neighborhood recovery groups such as Phoenix of New Orleans, or PNOLA. "We didn't want this to just be a program funding high-style housing on Esplanade Avenue," said Walter Gallas, director of the New Orleans Field Office for the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



**Lt. Governor Landrieu was in Holy Cross February 27, 2007.**

## Back In Business

Several Businesses & Churches in our Area are back open!



- Mickie Bees Lounge



- Discount Gas



- Health Clinic
- Wash Zone Laundry
- Papa Joe's Bar B Que
- The Goin Home Community Cafe
- Greater Little Zion M.B.C
- St Paul COGIC
- Holy Trinity



- Klose Kutz & Styles



- Mark's Muffler Shop



- Community Garden

*Photos by Ariane Wiltse*

*FREE HOME REPAIRS by Christian Aid Ministries !*

*Home must be insured and owner must purchase own material.*

*Contact Phil Shock: (330) 231-9898 or Bill Cooly: (814) 573-6781*

**BellSouth is back in the area!**

**Call 1-888-757-6500 for services.**

*Holy Cross Neighborhood Association T-shirts are \$15 and free neighborhood signs are available.*

## Holy Cross Neighborhood Association

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## Rebuilding Permits

Before repairing your home, apply for building permits at City Hall. You will also need a permit from the Historic District Landmark Commission if you are going to make changes to the front side of your house.

## Step It Up 2007

On Friday, April 13, at 5:30pm, the Alliance for Affordable Energy and the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, along with a host of other organizations will gather at the levee (intersection of Jourdan Ave & Dauphine St) will organize to urge leaders to cut green house gas emission by 80% by 2050. Please join us. For more information, contact Micah Walker Parkin, Program Director: 504-258-1247

## About the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association

Established in 1981, the mission of the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association is to make our community the best place in the city to live and raise a family.

The association meets every Thursday night from 5:00pm – 7:00pm in the white trailer at Holy Cross School.

Elections take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in May. Yearly dues of \$10 must be paid before running for office.

The Board of Directors 2006/2007 is as follows:

Charles Allen  
Warrenetta Banks  
Beverly Boulet  
Pam Dashiell  
Marna David  
Charles Digrange  
Geina Jones  
John Koefel  
Linda Novak  
Andrew Robinson  
Stacy Rockwood  
Rev. Gilbert Scie  
Evelyn Stanley  
Patsy Story

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