



# Holy Cross Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Established in 1981

Holy Cross Neighborhood Association – P.O. BOX 3417 New Orleans, LA 70177  
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## News from the Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable



## Engagement and Development

*A Project of Holy Cross Neighborhood Association*

*Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday 10AM-4PM*

*Physical Location: 5130 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70117 Back of Greater Little Zion M.B.C.*



*3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of  
Hurricanes Katrina & Rita*

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Looking around our great community near the third anniversary of the federal levee breaks and destruction of our neighborhoods, there is much to take pride in, much to be thankful for, much to despair, much to hope for and everything to move us to action.

And just to be clear, we're talking about all of the Lower Ninth Ward.

**PRIDE:** From Sister St. to Delery St., from Douglass St. to Florida Avenue, against all odds, predictions, inaction, bureaucracies, incompetence, ill will and on and on and on, **WE ARE BACK, WE ARE REBUILDING RIGHT, WE ARE ON THE MAP.** As families return, as we come together to confront what divides us and celebrate what unites us, as our churches, nonprofits, community based organizations, businesses and most importantly, our people grow stronger and deal with the day to day realities of living or working on the frontier, we all get better at what we have to do. We know our neighborhoods are vulnerable to storms; we know that manmade protection is inadequate. We are rebuilding higher, stronger, better and advocating for enhanced natural protections (restoration of Bayou Bienvenue) to allow for those vulnerabilities; we have evacuation plans and strategies. We know most of our neighbors are not back; we know there's been no concerted, effective effort to help them return. We're finding them ourselves and person to person, organization to organization, family to family, doing everything in our power to help our former residents make an informed decision about returning. And so much more...

**DESPAIR:** The loss of life, family, community and infrastructure caused by the levee breaks. Our elderly and children are especially at risk. There are no government funded reconstruction projects operating anywhere in the Lower Ninth Ward. The plans so many worked so hard on, so far have not been implemented. So much talk, so little action.

**THANKS:** People, institutions, organizations, businesses, corporations, academics, technicians, volunteers from all over the world continue to be generous with many resources.

**ACTION:** We have an unprecedented opportunity to remake our systems, the way we relate and the way we are governed. Please, get engaged, get involved, get informed, vote, love your neighbor and sustain the nine!



## *From the President's Pen*

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds everyone in good health and spirits as we go through the remaining summer months.

First, I want to wish all the best to the youth of all ages in our community as they return to school this month. All of us in this community are here to support in any way we can as you pursue your studies.

Secondly, I wish to thank all board members of our Holy Cross Neighborhood Association who recently traveled to New York for our meeting with the Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC). I believe we all received great insight and advice as we learned firsthand about the efforts of ADC in redeveloping its Harlem community. There will indeed be follow-up discussions regarding what we learned in Harlem within our board meetings and full neighborhood association meetings. I invite all members of our board to work with me and our Board Chair to further advance this overall discussion and process.

And lastly, I wish encourage everyone who has not registered to vote to do so very soon. Beginning in October and leading into November, there will be important local, state, and national elections including the presidential election. Remember, every vote matters! This year's presidential election is a historic one which should motivate everyone to register to vote and vote in the change necessary to turn our country around.

Finally, I wish to thank all the members and officers of our association as we continue to work tirelessly to rebuild and uplift our community in very extraordinary times.

Sincerely,  
Charles

LET'S WELCOME HOME OUR RETURNING AND NEW RESIDENTS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

By: Linda Novak



Above: Kevin Mercadel was born and raised in New Orleans. After 20 years away he moved back in 1995. While it is still under renovation, he is living in his Holy Cross converted double. He works at the National Trust for Historic Preservation overseeing grant and advocacy programs.

Below: David Fields works for the Preservation Resource Center and has been a regular attendee of our neighborhood meetings for some time. He purchased a beautiful single shotgun PRC renovation and moved in last month.



## Confessions of a Free Agent Volunteer

By Katie Del Guercio, Chatham, NJ

August 13, 2008



Whenever I meet someone new in New Orleans, they can usually tell from my accent that I am not a local. They almost immediately ask: "Well...what are you doing here?!" I am consistently delighted that the only answer I have to offer is this: "I'm a volunteer - I'm here to help."

It's an answer that is always greeted by a big smile, and often by an even bigger hug. The warmth of every welcome is a gift, and I have received so many of these gifts since arriving in the Crescent City. These gifts are the reasons why I came. When friends and family in New York and Los Angeles asked me why I was heading south to New Orleans, I responded: "To give as many hugs as possible."

I am twenty-six years old. I am blessed to be at a turning point in my career as a business manager with adequate savings to sustain me for awhile. I feel a very strong calling to engage in public service by directly connecting with people who need my help. These connections will prepare my heart to make good decisions about how to spend the rest of my career. What are my strengths, and how can I apply them in ways that create peace, joy and fulfillment in my life? Invariably, I cannot have those things unless I am participating in the creation of peace, joy and fulfillment in the lives of other people.

Without fail, the second question that everyone asks me about my time in New Orleans is: "What organization are you volunteering with?" My response is unconventional, which is why this process is so much fun. Here is how I can maximize both my impact on the city and the personal growth that I experience during my stay: "With no organization in particular...I am a free agent!"

There is no reason that a parent non-profit organization needs to incur the costs of administrating me. I am capable of managing my own calendar. I have an inquisitive mind and enjoy reading online journalism. I have thereby learned about a number of wonderful initiatives. I have a car and am not shy...and so I often just show up with a smile, extend my hand, and say "how can I help?" I understand the importance of networking and community building, and so I strive to introduce myself to as many people as possible. Referrals through people who I meet at community meetings are providing some of my most enriching experiences.

I have been in New Orleans for three weeks and have donated my time thus far to the St. Joseph Rebuild Center, Green Light New Orleans, Common Ground Relief, the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, the St. Bernard Project, Blanket New Orleans, and the MRGO Must Go Coalition. It is fascinating to see how grassroots community organizers are turning this city around and making life better for themselves and their neighbors. It is inspiring and enlivening to watch and participate in this process. Along the way, you have made me feel welcome as one of your neighbors. I am so blessed to have had every warm smile, wave, and embrace that you have given. I feel your faith running through my blood and know that this city will always be a place that I consider home. My hug tally is already off the charts...and I'm only getting started!



**This  
week  
marks the  
3rd Anniversary  
of Hurricane  
Katrina**



**For the past three years**, the resilient residents of the gulf coast have come together to help the region recover, and to rebuild their communities in new and innovative ways. To ensure that their efforts are sustained, we ask the nation's leaders to commit to a long term recovery plan that includes:

- ◆ **Category 5 Flood Protection.**
- ◆ **Restoration of Louisiana's Coastal Wetlands.**
- ◆ **A Federal Recovery Czar who reports directly to the President with authority and resources needed to get the job done.**
- ◆ **Reform of the Stafford Act.**
- ◆ **Funding of the gap between the recovery funds provided to date and what it will take to rebuild to 21st century standards.**

**Friends of New Orleans** thanks the countless volunteers from around the world who have donated time and money to help build a stronger gulf coast, and honors the **2008 Heroes of the Storm:**

**The Tipitina's Foundation, Women of the Storm, New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, Broadmoor Improvement Association, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, Beacon of Hope, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, St. Bernard Project, New Schools New Orleans, Idea Village and Reconcile New Orleans.**

And the many heroes now working to rebuild their homes and communities following the recent flooding in the Midwest.



FRIENDS OF  
NEW ORLEANS

# THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



United Synagogue Youth on Wheels Volunteers & Brennan of Lower9.org worked in the community on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> for 4 hours



More United Synagogue Youth on Wheels Volunteers working in our Community Garden.



Other United Synagogue Youth on Wheels Volunteers painted the homes of residents.



University of Madison Wisconsin on the levee riding along the Mississippi River.



## Protesters call for Shell to pay La. \$362 million But oil firm defends coast restoration efforts

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

(Originally Published in the Times Picayune)

Carrying signs in a driving rainstorm demanding that Shell Oil Co. "fix the coast you broke," about 25 environmental activists on Tuesday attempted to deliver a bill for \$362 million to the corporation's New Orleans headquarters. At a news conference inside the offices of the Gulf Restoration Network, the activists called for Shell to pay the money to the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Trust Fund, where it could be added to other offshore drilling revenue to help rebuild wetlands and build levees.



The 25th Anniversary of National Night Out Against Crime was Celebrated in our Neighborhood at 3 locations. The residents were joined by Senator Ann Duplessis, Council Woman Cynthia Willard-Lewis, The New Orleans Police Department, Military Police and the Civil Sheriff's Department.



Resident's Calvin Young, and Lola Tilton Ring the "Residents Returning Home" Bell last month during the Neighborhood Association Meeting. Rev. Gilbert Scie looks on.

## Upcoming Events

**How Safe, How Soon** is sponsoring an **emergency preparedness meeting** that will be held on August 21, 2008 during our weekly community meeting. A follow-up will be held on August 23, 2008 at the lower 9 Village at 11:00. The meeting will address concerns of evacuation, what is a levee, and how safe are we living behind them. Also, we need volunteers to work on a newly formed committee, Emergency Preparedness. Any persons interested can contact Bernadette Carriere at (504) 939-7592 or [brcarriere@gmail.com](mailto:brcarriere@gmail.com) and/or Seth Siegel at (504) 376-5090 or [seth@unitedhoumanation.org](mailto:seth@unitedhoumanation.org)

- **Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Community Meeting** – Saturday August 23rd @ 11:00 AM  
Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Village 1001 Charbonnet Street  
*(These meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month @ 11:00 AM)*
- **The Alliance for Affordable Energy and Train2Rebuild** invites you to attend a **Free Home Insulation Workshop** – Saturday, August 23, 2:00PM – 3:00 PM @ The BuildSmart Resource Center (a new Project of the Alliance), 1001 South Broad Street, Suite 123, New Orleans, LA 70125
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Memorial Tribute** Open to the public  
To Honor the Victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita  
Sunday, August 24<sup>TH</sup>, 1:00 PM at North Claiborne Avenue & Tennessee Street. This event is sponsored by the Neighborhood Council, Inc. (Vera McFadden, President) and the Council District E.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita Breakfast Event at the E.J. Morris Senior Citizens Center** 1616 Caffin Avenue (corner of Caffin and North Claiborne) “Breakfast for Seniors” Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00AM to 10:00 AM. This event is sponsored by Councilman at Large Arnie Fielkow.
- **Hurricanes Katrina & Rita will be laid to rest after a traditional New Orleans Jazz Funeral** on Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> in a graveside service in the 1800 Block of Jourdan Avenue, This event starts at 8:30 AM at the corner of North Roman and Jourdan Avenue. This event is sponsored by the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Village, Ward, Mc Clendon, and Resident Robert Green. Residents seeking closure are encouraged to bring special items in the coffin.
- **Wreath Laying Ceremony** 9:00 A.M. Starting at the Memorial on Claiborne Avenue & Tennessee Street. Sponsored by Council Woman Cynthia Willard Lewis.

### Make It Right



Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward residents are invited to join Make It Right (MIR) for community events over the weekend of the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Katrina: **Friday, August 29**-Community Block Party, North Roman Street and Deslonde Street, 6:30 p.m. MIR will host a block party for the lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward community in honor of the first 6 families returning home through MIR. Area businesses and organizations will be on hand to provide new and returning residents with more information regarding services available in the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward area. Attire is casual – prepare to enjoy food and live entertainment.

**Saturday, August 30**-Homeowner Information Session and Financial Fitness Workshop, Greater Little Zion Church, 5130 Charters Street, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come learn more about the Make It Right program and our plans for developing homes that are both affordable and healthy, with the goal of providing an effective model for rebuilding in the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. During the Financial Fitness Workshop participants also will receive tips on developing family budgets, building a solid credit history, dealing with income/employment issues and more. The City of New Orleans Job1 Mobile Unit will be on-site for those individuals who wish to complete job applications and/or conduct job searches. All interested Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward property owners and residents are welcome. A light lunch will be served. To register for both events, call (504) 620-3234 by close of business on Wednesday, August 27.

### *Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Community Rebuilding Information*

- **Total Community Action, Inc.**  
Low income Home Energy Assistance Program call (504)324-8609 for an appointment.
- **St. Jude Community Center Furniture Bank-** Selling used Hotel Furniture at a very reasonable price. Contact Kevin – (919)345-8516.
- **New Orleans Survivor Community Meeting Every Saturday, Old Pathway Baptist Church 1910 Alabo Street, 11am – 1pm. For more information call: (504)655-2715 or (504)655-3014.**
- **ACORN (504)943-0044**
- **Rebuilding Together – Helping Senior Citizens age 62, Disable, and First Responders in Holy Cross Rebuild their Home. Pick up an application @ CSED office.**
- **Holy Cross Neighborhood Association Planning Meeting every Monday 5:30 pm Greater Little Zion Church**
- **All Congregations Together (504)304-2281**
- **Common Ground Relief (504)583-0742**  
Free legal Clinic (504)717-7324  
CGR Media Collective (504)583-0750  
The Meg Perry Healthy Soil Project (504)913-5635  
Common Wetlands (504)442-2314
- **Lowernine.org (504)278-1240**
- **Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Clinic (504)309-0918**
- **Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Homeowners Assn. (229)269-9017**
- **Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Neighborhood Council (504)261-2768**
- **Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Village (504)948-0777**
- **Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward NENA (504)373-6483**
- **New Life Intracoastal CDC (504)606-2603**
- **Green Light New Orleans (504)324-2429**
- **Historic District Landmarks Commission (504)658-7040**
- **Debris Removal 311**
- **Code Enforcement 658-4300**
- **Louisiana United Methodist Southeast Disaster Recovery Ministry (504)248-7558**
- **Red Cross – (800)814-1477**
- **Catholic Charities (Free Exterior Painting) (504)281-7230**  
General help rebuilding (504)895-5439

## Holy Cross Neighborhood Association

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70177

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**WEBSITES**  
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[Sustainthe9@gmail.com](mailto:Sustainthe9@gmail.com)

**For \$10 a month you can  
advertise your business  
in our newsletter**

**Warrenetta Banks,  
Editor**  
[warrenettab@yahoo.com](mailto:warrenettab@yahoo.com)

## 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. Elections are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in May. Membership dues must be current by the end of April each year or the member will not be able to vote or participate in the May election. The association meets every Thursday night from 5:30pm – 7:00pm @ The Greater Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 5130 Chartres Street. Annual membership dues are \$10.00 T-Shirt included.

### The Board of Directors 2008/2009 is as follows:

Charles E. Allen, III, President  
William Waiters, Vice President  
Linda Novak, Corresponding Secretary  
Elois Parker, Recording Secretary  
Evelyn Stanley, Treasurer  
Pam Dashiell, Past President

Antoinette Ackerson  
Charles E. Allen, III  
Calvin Alexander  
Beverly Boulet  
Jeffery Chambliss  
Pam Dashiell  
Charles Digrange  
Elois Parker  
Linda Novak  
Rev. Gilbert Scie  
Evelyn Stanley  
Mary Patsy Story  
Ann Schnexyder  
William Waiters

### Holy Cross Neighborhood Association Crime Committee

#### Mission Statement

To facilitate an alliance between Lower Ninth Ward residents, community partners and public officials that fosters a safe, just and healthy community. In spirit of activism, resiliency and compassion that characterizes our neighborhood, the crime committee is dedicated to encouraging residents and partners to participate in both crime prevention and intervention for the betterment of our diverse and historic neighborhood.

**Jeffery Chambliss & Ariane Wiltse, Committee Organizers**

**Please report all crime to the NOPD's 5<sup>th</sup> district at:  
(504)658-6050. Report Drug activity to the FBI:  
(504)813-3000.**

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*P.O. BOX 3417*

*New Orleans, LA 70177*