



Holy Cross Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Established in 1981

Holy Cross Neighborhood Association – P.O. BOX 3417 New Orleans, LA 70177
 Website: www.helpholycross.org Email: sustainthe9@gmail.com

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.

Cairo Illinois and the Lower Ninth Ward

The Lower Ninth Ward and Cairo Illinois, from Dr. Robert Swenson and Dr. Michael Brazley of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, “Each community is approximately the same size . . . 15-20,000 residents, and may seem at first glance to be quite different and have no relationship to each other at all. However, all three have common history, themes, and economic/transportation relationships. Not only are they part of the “Delta Regional Authority” region, they are tied together by the same Mississippi River, U.S. Route 51, Interstates 55 & 57, the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad system, and music, especially the “Blues” and Arlo Guthrie’s *Riding on the City of New Orleans*. Carbondale was originally a railroad town and Cairo and New Orleans, originally oriented to the river, became railroad towns. River flooding affecting Cairo, affects New Orleans several weeks later and these two cities have similar cultural, ecological, architectural, and planning heritage, primarily because of the river”

There are more, starker similarities. Both Cairo and the Lower Ninth Ward now have fewer than 1/5 of their former populations. Cairo refused to enforce the civil rights act and lost most of their population. Our levees failed.

Cairo is 85% African American now with a population of around 3,000, surrounded by levees and floodgates at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers with hundreds of homes where no one lives. It appears we have a population of less than 3,000, pre-levee breaks our population was 92% African American. We are at the confluence of the Mississippi, the Industrial Canal and the GIWW with many, many homes where no one lives and are surrounded by floodwalls and levees.

Our communities can learn a lot from one another and with the help of Dr. Swenson, Dr. Brazley and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, we will.

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THE RADIANT NINE

Through a grant from our good friends at the **Sierra Club**, facilitated by **Leslie March** and **Darryl Malek-Wiley**, the **Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development (CSED)** continues its partnership with the **Alliance for Affordable Energy** in a radiant barrier bulk purchasing and installation program. The radiant barrier we are installing in Lower 9 homes is a premium, builder quality, heavy duty, reflective foil material which is stapled to the rafters of the attic. It works with existing attic insulation materials to further reduce heating and cooling costs.

This project would not be possible without the hard-working volunteers who perform the installations. In September 2007, students from the **Southern Illinois University Carbondale** with their **Professor Michael Brazley** and volunteers from **Rebuilding Together** as well as homeowners **Bruce Harris**, **Gina Phillips** and **Derrick Rattler** completed radiant barrier installation in five Lower 9 homes. **Wright State University** students with their **Professor Hunting Brown** joined in our effort and installed radiant barrier in the Greater Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church and in six homes while they were in town in December. Starting the new year off with a bang, our neighbors and partner **Common Ground** sent us students from **Occidental College** to help with radiant barrier installation in 10 homes in January. Assisting in all of these installations as well as 14 additional houses, **Americorps** volunteers with their team leader, **Lindsay Woldt**, have worked endless hours in Lower 9 attics. **Together, these volunteers have made possible the installation of radiant barrier in a total of 35 Lower 9 homes!!!**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of these wonderful volunteers. You have improved our quality of life and lifted our spirits with your generosity and endless energy.

We would also like to extend our tremendous gratitude to Forest Bradley-Wright of Alliance for Affordable Energy. He has been a constant champion for the greening of the Lower Nine beginning with the Sharp Solar donation in January 2007 and continuing with energy efficiency workshops, weatherization projects, Clean Energy Home Tours, ongoing public policy formulation and advocacy and, currently, with the radiant barrier program. We salute our partner and friend.

We ask all our Lower 9 neighbors to please come to our January 24th community meeting at 5:30pm in the Greater Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 5130 Chartres Street at Lizardi to help us thank these volunteers, to celebrate the successful completion of our pilot program, and to learn more about radiant barrier, how it works and our plans for Phase II of the radiant barrier installation program.

SUSTAIN THE NINE!

The Port Shifts Policy

The Port of New Orleans has announced that it is considering selling off much of its property along the Industrial Canal, retaining just wharfs at France and Jourdan Roads. The reason for this shift is the closing of the MRGO and the dimmed prospects for a new lock to allow bigger ships.. The Port said it is focusing on the container trade. They want the money from the sale of industrial canal property to build up river facilities.

Movement of the Port back to the River is good news for us, because the Port has been the Local Sponsor and main pusher of the Lock Project.

Yet there are some things to watch out for. What use is going to be made of the canal?

We certainly need to look ahead about the reuse of all this waterway property. We should even ask if the public would benefit keeping these resources intact, and create another authority instead of the port to oversee reconfigured facilities? The public should have first option on sale of public property, don't you think? This is major acreage.

We want any new canalside uses to be compatible and supportive of revitalization of our own neighborhoods and the restoration of Bayou Bienvenue marshes. We need clean, green businesses. Some of the uses there now, like the fabled "ship breaking" that releases heavy metals and toxins into the water, need to go. We do not need nuclear waste transshipping or dangerous chemicals either.

We do not believe that the Port is going to choose environmentally compatible uses by itself, because the Port is concerned mainly with turning these properties into money for its own expansion on the River. Note that the Port has not taken responsibility for its role in development of the MRGO, the destruction of wetlands, or flooding.. Nor has it taken responsibility for damage to the lock caused by huge ships. It may fall to us to look out not only for our own interests but those of the city and the broader public. Here's where we "think globally and act locally"..

What is the best course?

This new Port policy has enormous potential to affect us. We are very glad deep draft shipping is leaving the canal. This is cause for celebration indeed!

However, we should recognize that what the Port sees as cash sale of property we must see in longer terms because we live here with its consequences. We need to have much more to say about it, don't you think?

John Koefel

Rebuilding Permits

Lower 9 residents it's important for you to apply for your building permits at City Hall before you start the repairs of your home. If your home is located in the Holy Cross Historic District 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. They are located at: 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 1152 – Phone number is 658-7040.

Free Electrical Help for Lower 9 Residents

Lowernine is offering a free electrical and rebuilding program for Lower 9 residents. They have trained electricians and builders who will undertake the work using volunteers to perform the bulk of the labor, so rather than paying the \$5 - \$8 per square foot that a contractor would charge, you will only have to pay for materials. You must provide the money for materials, as needed, but they will provide free labor to re-wire your home and replace roofs, sheetrock, windows, floors, paint and other necessary work. ***Note Due to the limited number of volunteers they can train and organize, they can only accept a small number of jobs at any one time.** Please stop by there office located in the Lower 9th Ward @ 6018 El Dorado Street, New Orleans 70117 or call them @ (207)308-9639, or email them @ lowernine.org@gmail.com for an application or for more information.

Free Exterior Painting

Free exterior painting is now available in eight colors through **Operation Helping Hands, division of Catholic Charities**. In order to qualify you house must be:

- In paintable condition, without major repairs
- Homeowner must be planning to move into the house
- The home must be the primary residence of the homeowner
- Priority will be given to the elderly, disabled and low-income.

To be placed on the painting list please contact Shelia at: (504)821-7230. For general help rebuilding call the hotline at: (504)895-5439.

Common Ground - Helping Residents Rebuild

The Common Ground Organization, Located in the 1600 block of Deslonde has been working with the residents in Lower 9 to rebuild their homes soon after the hurricane. Please contact contact Zeke @ (504)913-5635 for more information. There is a small fee for their services.

The NENA Center

The Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Empowerment Network Association – A long term Recovery Center located at 1120 Lamanche Street, New Orleans. (504)375-6483. Open M-F 9-5. Every 2nd Saturday of the month, Homeowners meeting @ 1pm. Immediately following homeowners meeting distributions of materials will be handed out to residents that are signed up with NENA. Donated items such as: building materials, sinks, doors with out frames, uniforms etc. Website: lower9thwardnena.org.

GLOBAL GREEN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Please come to a workshop on Saturday, January 19th at Greater Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 5130 Lizardi (corner of Lizardi & Chartres) to begin at 10 and end by 2:30. **Lunch**, tour of the first, almost completed Global Green House, plans for the remaining houses, apartment building and community and retail center will be available and up for discussion. Address any concerns you may have and get your questions answered on the record and come and see what will be someone from our community's beautiful, energy-efficient, strong, green, sustainable home.

LAURENTINE ERNST COMMUNITY GARDEN



Garden Committee Co-Chairs Patsy Story and Jenga Mwendo organized a series of weekend clean-up and planting events, including a Children's Planting Day. Thanks to their guidance and the help of other community members, the garden is now vibrant with vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Special thanks to our Garden Keepers, Mack, Tish, Anne, Natalie, Gina, Betty and Virginia for their commitment to the daily maintenance of the community garden. The American Community Gardeners Conference will be held in New Orleans in October 2008. Members

of this national organization have expressed their interest in supporting this and other local community gardens by promising volunteers and materials to help restore and revive these shared community spaces. If you are interested in more information or would like to participate in the community garden, please contact the CSED 504-939-9012. The Laurentine Ernst Community Garden is located at the corner of Forstall and Chartres.

www.zerocarbonnola.org

WEBSITE COMMITTEE, SARAH DEBACHER, CHAIRPERSON IS LOOKING FOR RESIDENTS THAT ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH HER AND THE COMMITTEE ON THIS WEBSITE. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING PLEASE SEE CONTACT SARAH AT SARAHDEBACHER.MSN.COM.

Look for DAILY Crime Alerts - Now at <http://www.NOcrimeline.com>

There you'll be able to access previous crime updates, which include perpetrators' pictures, links to inmate data, and the charges against them. There's a tool you can use to find a particular crime by searching by date, street location or suspect's name. You'll also be able to track suspects through the courts with just one click on the suspect's name. In addition, there's a link to the NOPD's crime map and a link to various "Most Wanted Lists".

For more info, email nocrimeline@gmail.com

Special Thanks to our Volunteers



1. Wright State University hard at work installing Radiant Barrier in the GLZ attic



2. Southern Illinois Univ. Carbondale, and homeowner Eloise Mumford



3. WSU installing Radiant Barriers



1. Americorps volunteer



2. Wright State University Students



3. Forrest Bradley-Wright, Alliance for Affordable Energy, Americorps volunteers, and Andi Hoffman of Greenlight New Orleans



1. Occidental University Students Wiley



2. Right in Our Own Back Yard, Bayou Bienvenue, Picture by Darryl Malek-

Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Health Clinic



**5828 St. Claude Ave
(504)309-0918**

Hours of Operation

Mon. 8am - 4:30pm
 Tues. 10am - 6:00pm
 Wed. 8am - 4:30pm
 Thurs. 8am - 4:30pm
 Fri. Appointment Only

Center for the Arts

Located at 539 Caffin Avenue, New Orleans, LA, 70117. A space for residents of New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward to share their strength in rebuilding and to engage in their artistic heritage and future. Phone: 832-368-1679 email: Chandra_mccormick@yahoo.com

Lower 9th Ward Village Community Center

The Lower 9th Ward Village Community Center is making progress with the renovations of the building located at 1001 Charbonnet Street. If you want to help or make a donation you can contact Ward "Mack" McClendon at 504-799-8975.



Girl Scouts of America is recruiting girl ages 5-18 in the Lower 9. For more information see Warrenetta Banks @ the CSED Center.

**House of Dance and Feathers
New Orleans Culture Museum**

1317 Tupelo Street, Tours are by Appointment
 Only Contact: Ronald W. Lewis, Director @
 (504)957-2678

St. David Catholic Church is now open and worshipping has resumed at the original location, 5617 St. Claude Ave., Reverend Joseph J. Campion, S.S.J. Pastor invite you and your family to worship service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and weekday mornings at 8:00 a.m. in the rectory chapel, 605 St. Maurice Ave.



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

**Warrenetta Banks,
Editor**
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.

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 yard signs are Free.

The Board of Directors 2007/2008 is
as follows:

Charles Allen, III, President
William Waiters, Vice President
Linda Novak, Recording Secretary
Evelyn Stanley, Treasurer
Pam Dashiell, Past President
Charles Digange, HCS Headmaster

Antoinette Ackerson
Charles Allen
Calvin Alexander
Pam Dashiell
Geina Jones
John Koefel
Elois Parker
Linda Novak
Stacy Rockwood
Rev. Gilbert Scie
Evelyn Stanley
Mary Patsy Story
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.

**You're invited to attend the Committee Meetings on
Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm
Greater Little Zion MBC
Jeffery Chambliss & Ariane Wiltse, Committee Organizers**

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

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