



THE CARDINAL

WHERE NEWS & NEIGHBORS MEET



2011 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President Kevin M. Doucette
kmdoucette@aol.com 433-7924

Vice Pres. Yvonne Mitchell-Grubb
yvonnemg@aol.com 393-0694

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Elmo Peters
elmopeters@gmail.com 392-5352

Neighborhood Watch VACANT

Public Info & Affairs/Nuisance & Complaints Shelia Green
flow8er@yahoo.com 393-2712

Membership/Social Millie Sarpy
msarpy@aol.com 914-3787

Beautification Anne Brown
gabrown@bellsouth.net 392-9947

Newsltr Editor Y. Mitchell-Grubb
yvonnemg@aol.com 393-0694

Webmaster Sunada Brookins
nadapool97@bellsouth.net 912-7516

Night Out Chair Alan Delery
adelery@cox.net 394-3532

Cardinal Distributors

Quad I Donna Duplantier 234-8452

Quad II Cyril Laster 393-0844

Quad III Tom Graffeo 393-8954

Quad IV Phil Boogaerts 393-6496

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President's Message

I'd like to thank the neighbors who came out for the Crime Walk in January and those that came to toast the Krewe of NOMTOC in March. Both events were a big success.!

The Crime Walk had a better than expected turnout. CAPT Heather Kouts, SGT Lawrence Gates (Walnut Bend resident), SGT Richard Sannett and many other NOPD Officers joined us as we walked through the neighborhood taking note of quality of life issues, meeting neighbors and distributing Crime Stoppers leaflets.

At one point I counted 12 NOPD Officers walking with us. It was a good event and an opportunity to meet our neighbors. Those present asked for another Crime Walk in the spring. Therefore we will hold a **Spring Walnut Bend Crime Walk on Tuesday, April 19th at 6:00PM.** We'll meet at the corner of Valentine Ct

and Vixen Street. The route will be about 1.5 miles.

We had bleachers for the **Annual Toast to the King and Queen of NOMTOC**, on the neutral ground on Holiday Dr. on the south side of Fiesta. Joining us for the toast were State Representative Jeff Arnold, City Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer, and NOPD 4th District Commander CAPT Heather Kouts.

The annual NOMTOC roast serves as the official start of the parade. Join us next year for this fun-filled event. NOMTOC really showed their appreciation for WB hosting this event and the parade annually. Those seated in the bleachers went home with more beads and things than they really cared to carry.

Other events since our last newsletter:

CAPT Kouts spoke at our last meeting and has been accessible and responsive

to the community.

The Walnut Bend Civic Association co-sponsored a **breakfast for the NOPD 4th District** on February 26th.

Yvonne and I attended a meeting with Sen. Heitmeier and other Civic Assoc. Presidents to discuss the future of tolls on the CCC and other community issues. I'll share information I have about the tolls and get your ideas on the issue at our April meeting.

Our elected officials will need to take a position on the issue and they want to know how we feel about continuing the tolls.

Yvonne and I also attended a meeting regarding the N.O. Citizen Participation Program (CPP). The CPP enables citizens to have a greater say in city government decision-making and priority setting, and it gives government officials an effective means (**cont'd on pg. 2**)

WBCA APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Oak Park Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1110 Kabel Drive

GUESTS: New NOPD 4th District Representatives

DISCUSSION: Crime Issues, Quality of Life, & Upcoming WB Anti-Crime Walk

Cookie Social at 6:45 p.m.

President's Message (cont'd)

for communicating with those they serve. We'll provide more detail at the April meeting.

We received a request for support for an converting a home on Holiday Drive into an assisted living facility. I've asked the group to come to our next BOD meeting and subsequent general meeting, but ther has been no reply. The group would need a zoning change to move forward. I'm not inclined to support this endeavor unless it is agreed upon by Walnut Bend residents.

It has also been brought to my attention that several businesses operate within Walnut Bend. According to our records there have been

no Conditional Use Permits issued for these business to operate in our neighborhood. We sent letters asking these neighbors to rectify this situation and/or come to the general meeting and discuss this matter. If we don't get a response, we'll refer the matter to the appropriate authorities.

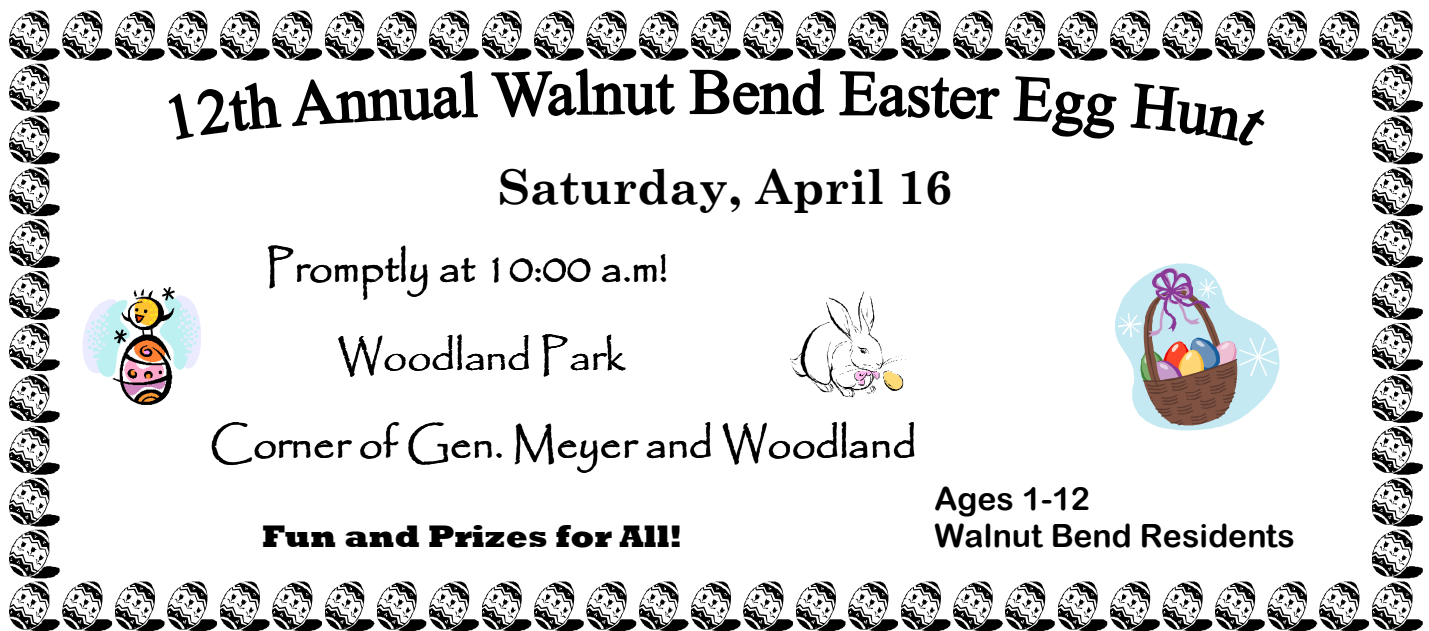
Walnut Bend is zoned strictly residential. Any business that desires to operate from a home within Walnut Bend would need a Conditional Use Permit from the City Zoning Commission. There may be other restrictions that apply.

One of our neighbors gave me photographs of Walnut Bend and docu-

ments dating back to 1959. I'll have these items available for your viewing at the April meeting. I think you'll find these pictures interesting. Your home may be in one of the pictures!

Finally, we've had an unfortunate recent rash of **burglaries** in Walnut Bend. I've asked the 4th District to come speak to us and let us know their progress in the investigation. It appears that the thieves are dressed like meter readers or surveyors and kicking in the back doors of homes where no one is home. We should have more information available at the April meeting.


Kevin M. Doucette




12th Annual Walnut Bend Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16

Promptly at 10:00 a.m!




Woodland Park



Corner of Gen. Meyer and Woodland

Fun and Prizes for All!



**Ages 1-12
Walnut Bend Residents**

Apr 12 WB Mtg Agenda



- ⇒ **NOPD 4th District to discuss recent crime occurrences**
 - ⇒ Bridge Tolls
 - ⇒ Citizen Participation Pgm
 - ⇒ Neighborhood Zoning
 - ⇒ Bus. Activity in Walnut Bend
 - ⇒ Other Issues and Concerns
- To add agenda items, contact Kevin at kmdoucette@aol.com.

WB Crime Walk to be Discussed at April Meeting

Residents have expressed concern about recent incidents in our neighborhood. Your presence and input at the April meeting can help us in working collaboratively with the NOPD to make a positive difference.

The Anti-Crime Walk Program provides an opportunity to assist in combating crime as well as nurture a positive relationship with the police. In April we will have our second anti-crime walk this year for Walnut Bend.

At the April 12 General Meeting:

- The starting location and route for the April 19 Crime Walk in Walnut Bend will be discussed.
- Residents will be asked to provide specific problem streets and addresses (in writing if preferred) so these locations can be included on the Walk.
- If you can't attend, please provide relevant information to a board member or a neighbor.

Help Keep our Neighborhood Safe!

Support Our Local Businesses

ADVERTISING IN THE CARDINAL

The Cardinal receives support from neighboring businesses, many of which are owned by residents of Walnut Bend. We thank our advertisers & we ask you to **support our advertisers and neighborhood businesses.**

AD SIZE	ISSUE COST
Business Card	\$15.00
1/4 page	\$25.00
1/2 page	\$50.00

One free issue of advertisement is given to those who pay for yearly publication. An additional **10% discount** is given to **Walnut Bend residents** who pay for yearly advertising.

Payment must accompany the ad request.

Contact **Natasha Anthony Wells** at natashaw@vzw.blackberry.net to place an ad.

To share good news / graduations, retirements, etc. with your neighbors, send the info to yvonnemg@aol.com

NOMTOC WAS HERE!



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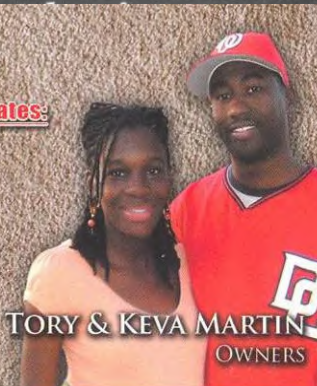
\$35.00 Cars
\$45.00 SUVs and Vans

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The above prices for carpet cleaning do not include commercial rooms or rooms larger than 15'x15' or 225 square feet. Please call for quotes.

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Bobby Stults Senior Pastor

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504.392.1810 (fax)
504.616.7162 (cell)
pastor@oakparkbc.com (email)



Oak Park Baptist Church
1110 Kabel Drive
New Orleans, LA 70131
(suburban New Orleans)



More NOMTOC !



January 2011 Meeting Summary

- **Treasury Balance** - \$1,179.16
- **Bylaws change approved:** Annual Meeting moved from Nov to Oct. General meetings changed from bi-monthly to quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct).
- **Habans School Partnership**
- **Proposed change to newsletter distribution-** Deliver Jan and July, mail to paid members in April and Oct. All newsletters available online. Proposal tabled
- **Volunteers Needed**
 - ⇒ Walnut Bend Secretary
 - ⇒ Newsletter Distributors

Code Enforcement Database Improved

Community leaders eager to rid their neighborhoods of **blight** long have begged City Hall to post online a sortable database of New Orleans properties that have been cited as public nuisances -- and slapped with fines and deadlines for cleaning up their act. Their wishes finally have come true.

Mayor **Mitch Landrieu's** administration recently posted a **read-only Excel spreadsheet** that residents can download, then sort by judgment date, address, case number, fine amount and other categories. At the city's **code enforcement website**, it is called "Total Guilty Code Enforcement Cases."

The database, which will be updated biweekly, includes 4,707 entries, with the oldest dating to January 2007. Fines range from flat \$75 penalties to daily fines of \$575, though the list does not include an aggregation of daily fines. Because address numbers and street names are combined in a single field, geographical sorting also is limited.

While it represents a measure of progress, the new database still contains only a fraction of the dilapidated properties in the city. A recent survey found nearly 43,800 blighted or vacant homes in New Orleans - about one in five citywide.

Though blight judgment data long has been **available at the city's website**, it's been limited to PDF format and separated by council district. That method, which is still available, does not allow for sorting or amassing the information citywide. A schedule of code enforcement hearings, as well as a list of upcoming demolitions and the city's do-not-demolish list, also appear on the site.



Information about the Citizen Participation Project

The New Orleans Citizen Participation Project (NOLA CPP) is a citizen driven initiative to create a formal system that involves people directly in the decisions they care about most. A Citizen Participation Program is a partnership between people and their government that enables individuals to provide input on government decision making through organized Neighborhood Associations or Communities of Interest.

The NOLA CPP is not funded by City funds. All of funds have been provided by grants and donations.

March 2011 Community Meetings

To provide the New Orleans community with an up-close look at citizen participation programs, Neighborhoods Partnership Network (NPN) and CBNO brought community leaders from neighborhoods, businesses and government from Birmingham

and Atlanta to New Orleans for a series of public events in March 2011. Birmingham and Atlanta's programs were selected because they are successful programs, and the cities have similar history, culture, and economy to New Orleans.

Hattie Dorsey, longtime neighborhood leader, was the guest from Atlanta. Birmingham guests included: Bernard Kincaid, former Mayor and neighborhood leader; Valerie Abbott, current City Council member and former neighborhood leader; Charlie Faulkner, former CEO of Princeton Baptist Hospital; Don Lupo, Director of the Mayor's Office of Citizen Assistance and former neighborhood leader; Alison Glascock, President of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association; and Doris Powell, President of the Fountain Heights Neighborhood Association.

March 17 Algiers Meeting

The community meeting at Woldenberg Village was co-sponsored by the Algiers Council of Neighborhood

Presidents and Algiers Economic Development Foundation. Mayor Kincaid and council member Valerie Abbott spoke about their experiences coming up through the Birmingham CPP as neighborhood leaders before taking elected offices and how that experience was invaluable to their effectiveness as city officials. Alison Glascock and Doris Powell each spoke about strategies they have used to accomplish neighborhood goals. One key point emphasized by each neighborhood leader was recognizing the assets of a neighborhood, and then leveraging those assets to improve the community..

For more information about the NOLA CPP, please contact Nick Kindel (see below) or go to <http://nolacpp.wordpress.com/>.

Nick Kindel, NOLA CPP Project Coordinator
nolacpp@gmail.com
504.267.4665

