



Walnut Bend Civic Association

THE CARDINAL

WHERE NEWS & NEIGHBORS MEET



April 2013 Volume 18 Issue 2

<http://walnutbendno.org>

P.O. BOX 740022 New Orleans, LA 70174

2013 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President Yvonne Mitchell-Grubb
yvonnemg@aol.com 393-0694

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

Secretary Shelia Green
flow8er@yahoo.com 393-2712

Treasurer Elmo Peters
elmopeters@gmail.com 392-5352

Neighborhood Watch VACANT

**Public Info & Affairs/Nuisance
& Complaints** Elizabeth Williams
bosfem@att.net

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 DonnaDuplantier 234-8452

Quad II Cyril Laster 393-0844

Quad III Tom Graffeo 393-8954

Quad IV Phil Boogaerts 393-6496

Inside this issue:

- 2013 Calendar 2
- Xmas Decoration Contest
- Jan 179 Meeting Agenda 2
- WB Crime Issues
- Support out Local Businesses 3
- Membership Contest, & Garden on the Month, 4
- Property Rules and Regulations & Community Info 4



The annual Easter Egg Hunt is a WBCA activity held for the enjoyment of our young residents.

The event was held on Saturday, March 23 at Woodland Park, corner of Woodland Drive and General Meyer.

Some of our participants come each year and it's been a pleasure to watch them grow up.

The morning started out

foggy, but the sun came out just in time. There were lots of eggs and prizes for everyone.

1st place went to Tyler who won a set of speakers, and 2nd place to

Ronan, who won ear-phones.

The other participants were Jordan, Jasmine JaLah, Danny, Lance, Paris, Tilyn, Antonio, Sakiri and Kasey.



WBCA APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 6, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.

Algiers Regional Library, 3014 Holiday Drive

DISCUSSION FOCUS: Neighborhood Issues and Concerns

GUESTS: Councilmember Kristin Palmer (or representative), NOPD 4th District, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement

Come meet us at the library!

Our second General Meeting of the year will be held at the Algiers Regional Library on Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting will focus on issues and concerns within our neighborhood. There are many ongoing complaints, some general and some are specific to particular streets or neighbors.

We've invited our City Council member, our NOPD 4th District Commander and Quality of Life Officer, along with representatives from the Mayor's office to discuss the status of ongoing

issues and additional concerns.

The goal is to make sure that everyone is aware of how to report problems and get them resolved. **Your presence** will help to demonstrate Walnut Bend's determination to maintain its Quality of Life.

See more information about neighborhood issues on page 4.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Coffee & Doughnuts at 9:45 a.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Annual Night Out Against Crime-
Tues, October 8, 6pm – 8:30 pm. Date is subject to change.

Algiers Police Advisory Cmte

- (APAC) 2nd Tues, 7pm, NOPD 4th District, 2405 Sanctuary Drive in Federal City.

4th District COMSTAT Mtgs

- 1st Tues, 9am, at NOPD 4th District Police Station.

Algiers Neighborhood Pres Cncl

- (ANPC) 4th Tues, 7pm, Woldenberg Village.

Election Day

- Saturday, April 6, Judge Juvenile Court, Section E

Algiers Regional Library

- AARP Tax Aide - 4/8, 10am - 2pm
- Computer Education - M-Th, 11-2
- Storytime - M & Sat, 10:30-11:30
- Young Adult Homework Club - Wed, 3pm-5pm

YMCA Community Health Day

- Sat, 4/13, 7:30 am-2pm, YMCA Federal City. 5K Race, "Silver Sneakers" Kids Fun Run/Walk, Paralympics, ACSA school performances. Call 504-821-9622 to register for races.

NOLA FOR LIFE Day

- Sat, 4/20, 9am-1pm, McDonogh Park, 1500 Teche St. Neighborhood clean-up, info about city services & community resources, DJ, BBQ. Volunteer sign up at NOLAforLife.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE

Are you guilty of any of these offenses?

- 1- Uncut and unkempt lawn
- 2- Neglected home maintenance
- 3- Basketball goal on sidewalk / street
- 4- Loud music and parties, esp. at night
- 5- Pets not on a leash
- 6- Dog constantly barking
- 6- Illegal pets, such as chickens, etc.
- 6- Unmovable car on the street
- 7- Illegal or illegally parked vehicles such as an 18 - wheeler, trailer, etc.

These and other problems have been reported by your neighbors to the WBCA.

Please be a responsible homeowner and pet owner. Offenders are subject to notice by the Walnut Bend Civic Association and NOPD Quality of Life Officer.

NOPD 4th District Quality of Life Officer

Officer Alvin Walton, Jr. is the **new** Quality of Life Officer for NOPD 4th District.



Officer Walton encourages residents to contact him via email at awalton@nola.gov or by calling him at 504-658-6040.

During the mornings he reviews emails and phone calls to deter-

mine the issues for the day. (Emails are probably best for providing as much detail as possible.) After the morning review, he goes into the neighborhoods to investigate and address problems reported

He emphasized that names or other information about complainants **are not divulged**, but that information should still be provided so he can report back on the status or resolution of the issue.

Problems that can be reported to the Quality of Life Officer include:

- Suspicion of illegal activities such as drug dealing, business in violation of zoning, etc.
- Abandoned houses, tall grass, loitering, squatting
- Abandoned vehicles
- Street lights that are broken, hidden by trees or other obstructions
- Truancy or curfew violations
- Loud music or other excessive noise, barking dogs, etc.
- Speeding

Remember to provide details such as address/intersection; day/time of day problem occurs; property owner name; car license plate, make and model.

April 6 WB Mtg Agenda



Discussion of Issues with:

- ⇒ Councilmember Kristin Palmer's Office
- ⇒ Rep. from Mayor's Office
- ⇒ NOPD 4th District
- ⇒ Q & A
- ⇒ Gen. Mtg. Location & Dates
- ⇒ Membership

To add agenda items, send email to info@walnutbendno.org

March / April Garden of the Month

Congratulations to
2626 St. Nick!

To nominate your neighbor's garden, or your own, contact:

Anne Brown at
gabrown@bellsouth.net.



Support Our Local Businesses

Bobby Stults Senior Pastor

504.392.1818 (office)
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)



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. Additional **10% discount** is given to **Walnut Bend residents** who pay for yearly advertising.

Payment must accompany the ad request.

Contact: Yvonne at yvonnemg@aol.com.

EXPERIENCED. EDUCATED. DEDICATED.

22 Years Experience
in Juvenile Law

Cynthia D.
SAMUEL
for
JUDGE JUVENILE COURT

Endorsed
by:



VOTE SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Elizabeth Bose Williams, M.D.



by Walnut Bend Resident

Elizabeth Bose Williams, M.D., N.F.A.

"I'm a Work in Progress is written to encourage readers that no matter the trials on your way, stand tall and fight back."

Available in paperback at Barnes and Noble (\$19.99) and at Authorhouse.com.



Aquarium Masters, Inc.
504-392-0050
www.aquariummasters.net

- Specializing in Large Custom Aquarium Design
- Installation & Maintenance of Saltwater Fish, Reef & Freshwater Aquariums
- Pond & Fountain Maintenance
- Serving the Greater New Orleans Area Since 1993



NEWSLETTER DELIVERY



CHANGES!

Since its inception over 30 years ago, The Cardinal, the Walnut Bend newsletter, has been delivered to all Walnut Bend residents. It is delivered by your neighbors who volunteer their time.

Funds for printing The Cardinal come from WBCA dues. While the number of dues paying residents have decreased, printing costs have increased.

To contain costs, the next quarterly newsletter will be mailed to those who have **paid WBCA dues**, and available on the WBCA website to all others.

The annual (January) newsletter will continue to be delivered to everyone, along with flyers about events such as the Night Out Against Crime. Limited numbers of newsletters will also be available at WBCA General Meetings.

Lawn and neutral ground signage will also be posted to announce upcoming meetings and events.

Residents who do not have online access should contact one of the board members (listed on page 1) to make other arrangements to receive the newsletter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(expression of person opinion)

I'm always amazed at organizations that represent a large group of individuals but only about 10% of them do all the work. In Walnut Bend we have that same situation, 800 households reap the benefits from the 120 households that pay \$25 a year and the less than 30 individuals who do all the work to keep our community safe and comfortable for everyone.

Several individuals complain about community problems and blame the WBCA Board Members for not addressing those problems. Yet, they're not willing to help change their environment, but **expect** others to carry that burden and do all the work. Then, when it doesn't get done or not done to their liking they become angry at those who attempted to make improvements and refuse to join the Association. They're not willing to volunteer their personal time, efforts and finances, as those Board members, who get criticized, do.

Those complainers expect immediate results to their complaints without realizing the Board has no real power to force anyone to do anything because the neighborhood has no charter. They have to work within the political bureaucratic system that's nearly bankrupt, seldom takes a proactive stance and is very slow to respond to requests until they become threats (such as "maybe we should go to the Channel 4 Action Reporter"). The Board can move only as fast as the political arena will allow them to. They do send letters to neighbors who they receive complaints, and when that doesn't resolve the situation they'll contact the Fourth Police District Quality of Life Officer who'll pay the household a visit.

For those who believe the Association is useless, I'll invite you to drive on Wall Blvd. That community doesn't have a Homeowners Association and they still have abandoned and derelict houses damaged during Katrina. Because of that, there are only a few houses that continue to be maintained, the other residents reflect their environment (derelict houses, breeds residents that feel there's a need to maintain their property). Crime begins when a significant number of residents begin feeling they don't care about their living conditions and never report abandoned cars, for example, to the Quality of Life Officer. For the most part, those communities that have Homeowners Associations are much better maintained, have higher property values, and less crime, than those that don't.

If all you do is criticize the Association but don't get involved, then you are the problem.

CDR Elmo J. Peters, Jr. (USCG, ret)
Walnut Bend Treasurer

Nuisance and Complaints / Membership

The WBCA Board recently began distributing past due membership invoices. While walking the neighborhood and via email we've received comments about membership dues and concerns about issues that residents feel have not been addressed.

The following is an excerpt of a response sent to one of the residents, related to those concerns.

Everyone in the subdivision is a potential member of the association, so we give [membership] invoices to everyone and past due notices to everyone who has not paid.

We are constantly meeting with our City Council member, attending meetings with the mayor's office of Neighborhood Engagement, the Algiers Police Advisory Committee meetings, and other meetings, calls and emails to ask for these services. ... We are volunteers and use our personal time, gas, and often our own money to address the issues of our community.

Unfortunately, this does not have been translating into the necessary work being done by the

city. Because the action is not taken by the city or the Sewerage and Water Board or some other agency, then neighbors assume that we are not addressing these concerns, but again, that is not true.

We were out on Saturday to get the specific pole numbers for all of the street lights that are out in Walnut Bend to give to the city, AGAIN. We have been asking for this to be remedied for over two years. The city asked for a list again, so we're doing an updated list with the pole numbers

We are also driving around ... to update the list of blighted properties. We have been giving this list to the city since 2006, and have followed all the procedures they have told us, with little progress. However Councilmember Palmer is making another effort to get resolution, so we are giving her an updated list this week.

We would like to send emails to everyone in the subdivision to ask them to report information to us, as well as information that the city would like for us to inform people of, but we don't have everyone's email address.

At the meetings we also try to give everyone the opportunity to voice concerns. A representative from Councilmember Palmer's office was at the last meeting, and we will have someone at the next meeting.

For items such as dogs running around, loud music, etc., we need someone to report the information to us and we can send a letter to the offender and to the NOPD Quality of Life Officer. ... Often someone will stop me and state a problem, but then they say that house down the street instead of giving me an address and the specific nature of the problem. ... Some people just give information but won't give me their name and address, so I can't check back to see if the problem has been rectified.

We would be happy to address the concerns that you listed, but please give me some specific information - the problem, the address, etc.

Sincerely, Walnut Bend Civic Association