



4th Qtr. 2006

**MCNO Annual
Membership &
Christmas Party!
Heart of the City
Award**

*And The Award Goes
To*

Membership Party

**Rock-n-Bowl
Mid-City Lanes**

**Sunday December 17th
4pm – 6pm**

**Come out for food,
refreshments, music, elections,
and the Heart of the City
Award presentation!**

**Meet your neighbors, get
involved, get informed, and
get into our community's
spirit this holiday season.**

Rebuilding Center Plans

MCNO is working with neighbors in Tulane/Gravier, Faubourg St. John, and Northwest Carrollton to develop a Rebuilding Center with Mercy Corps. This center is envisioned to include building materials re-sale, an adjacent millworks shop, and a significant small business support and job training center. The potential location is in Mid-City. If we are successful in getting this project, we will begin work on the center in January and hope to open in March 2007. A steering committee has been formed and invites you to join. We anticipate meeting regularly twice a week, Monday for lunch at Juan's at 11:30, and Thursdays at 1:30 at Bayou Coffeehouse. For more information please call Amy Lafont at 416-9766 or amelia.lafont@gmail.com.



Mid City Art Market *at Palmer Park*

Due to continued scheduling conflicts at City Park and tremendous growing pains, the Mid-City Art Market's new permanent location is Palmer Park at the corner of Carrollton and Claiborne. Palmer Park allows the market to spread out and grow, while maintaining a stable site, year round. Avoid the malls and come do your Christmas shopping, while supporting local artists. Come shop the last Saturday of each month except for December. The December market will be December 23rd, the Saturday before Christmas.

**December 23, 2006
10am to 4 pm**

Mid-City Art Market, Art in the Heart of New Orleans, proudly showcases local and regional artists selling their pottery, furniture, jewelry, glass, painting, metal art, sculpture, photography, textiles and accessories.

The Goings On!

Education Committee Update:

We're moving forward on two fronts. First, Mid-City Charter Schools is applying to charter Thurgood Marshall as a pre-K through 8th grade school. The application is due December 12th. Second, we're still on track to have a public library open in the early spring at the Mid-City Center, where Major Video used to be. We plan on having a fundraiser in the Spring for the library.

Michael M. Homan
Asst. Professor of Theology
Xavier University of Louisiana

Lafitte Corridor Funded

By: Bart Everson

Jennifer Ruley writes in with some exciting news for the Mid-City neighborhood!

The Lafitte Corridor Greenway (Broad St. to Jeff Davis Pkwy segment) was APPROVED for funding under the State Transportation Enhancement Program! Of the 26 statewide projects that were approved at a total of \$6.1M, the Lafitte Corridor Greenway was the ONLY project selected for Orleans Parish this year. You can view the announcement and other awardees at the following link:
http://www.dotd.louisiana.gov/planning/tep/s/elected_projects.asp Special thanks goes to all the [Friends of Lafitte Corridor] who helped to pull together the application, the City of New Orleans Dept. of Public Works for sponsoring the project, the Regional Planning Commission for it's help in establishing this project as a regional priority, and the numerous organizations and people who authored letters of support. This will pay for a nice bike path and park stretching from Bayou St. John to Broad along the abandoned rail line. Hooray!

Home for the Holidays in Mid-city

By: Natalie Lafont



The Centanni House On Canal

Listed in National Register of Historic Places

Many of us know the Centanni home for its history at Christmas time and the stories that folks tell of how they used to drive by to see the decorations. In the spirit of recovery, rebuilding, and the holidays, here's the story of the new owners who are honored to be living in Mid-City.

In December of 2005, Tracy Talbot and Meredith Miceli were living in the Quarter when they learned that the home was for sale. Talbot, a realtor, who specializes in historic structures, was immediately interested in the 1917 home comprised of a range of architectural styles. Miceli, a former resident of Mid-city in the mid 1990's, had too always been impressed by its endless exterior detail and felt that the interior held unique secrets as well.

In December of 2005, emotionally impacted by our city's destruction, the couple viewed the Canal Street home and found it almost untouched by the storm, almost as a beacon of what New Orleans was and what the city should aspire to become again. For both, Katrina made them feel like true New

Orleanians and moving into the house was their commitment to help rebuild the city.

They closed in mid February of this year, had the opportunity to meet Sammy and Joann Centanni, and told them that they would just consider themselves caretakers of the home and do their best to keep up with their family's warm spirit of love in the house.

Moving into the house brought on mixed emotions. There was the excitement of living in a piece of sculpture, a fantastic landmark where, each you discover new architectural details that you did not notice before. There was also the transition of leaving the Quarter and missing friends there and the sad feelings of seeing new neighbors picking up the pieces of their lives.

Today, most everyone asks them if they plan to decorate just as the Centannis did. Due to their focus in addressing structural storm damage, there will not be much time for decorating this year. However, in honor of Thanksgivings past, the couple hosted 22 family members and stretched out tables from the dining room into the living room just as Sammy Centanni had to with his family. 1967 was the last time Mrs. Centanni decorated the home. And while Talbot and Miceli would like to decorate for the holidays one day, their immediate commitment is one of honor and respect of the Centanni history, as well as, to warm the house with new friends and family traditions. They recently hosted the wedding of dear friends and love sharing the house and bringing it back to life.

Both feel that Mid-City is absolutely home now. They love that they have family and friends nearby. They have met new neighbors who they know will become lifelong friends and have been reconnected with old Mid-City friends. Talbot is honored to live in a community quick to get back on its feet and, for her the home symbolizes her intent to preserve our city's architecture. Miceli, loves the diversified and accepting nature of Mid-City. She describes it as an area of such texture, flavor, and color, unlike any other part of New Orleans.

Mid-City Mingling

MCNO Christmas Party!

Rock-n-Bowl Mid-City Lanes
December 17th 4pm-6pm
Food, Music, Elections, Membership
Party

Mid-City Art Market at Palmer Park

December 23rd 10am – 4pm

Celebration in the Oaks

December 8th – 30th
Closed Dec 24th & 25th

Monday – Thursday 5:30 – 10pm
Friday – Sunday 5:30 – 11pm

Snowland-City Park

December 23rd
8:30am till the snow melts

Local Hiker Returns from Appalachian Trail

Thousands of trees in New Orleans, Louisiana, were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Many of those trees were located in public spaces. Monique Pilié, a lifelong resident of New Orleans, intends to do her part to replant those trees.

Forty-one year old Monique has sold her home, left her job, and in April of this year set out to hike the Appalachian Trail. She completed her journey on October 7, 2006. The Trail is 2,175 miles long, cutting through Georgia, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. It was Monique's lifelong dream to walk the Trail. In the wake of Katrina's destruction, she wanted to combine that dream with the chance to give back to New Orleans. Through sponsorships, she hopes that each mile of her trek will lead to the planting of at least one tree in New Orleans.

To further these goals, Monique has created a non-profit organization, Hike for KaTREEna. It is through this organization that she will raise the money for the trees.

Currently, she has raised over 30,000 dollars, but still has a long way to go to reach her goal of planting 2175 trees in New Orleans.

Hike for KaTREEna will work together with other New Orleans' organizations, among them the Young Leadership Council (YLC), a volunteer-led organization whose mission is to address a myriad of issues facing New Orleans, including the beautification of its public spaces.

To find out how Hike For KaTREEna can help your neighborhood recover please contact Monique at 504 301-5628 or visit the web site @ www.HikeforKaTREEna.com.



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For advertising in the Heart of the City quarterly newsletter, contact Natalie Lafont at 228-7325.


Heart of the City is the quarterly newsletter of the Mid-City Neighborhood Organization. If you have an event, story, or feature that you wish to share with your fellow residents, please contact Natalie Lafont at 228-7325 or email us at administration@MCNO.org

Community Center Coming to Mid-City

Thanks to the hard work of Jennifer Weishaupt and a production company out of California, DNA, Mid-City will be given a \$3 million dollar community center at Comiskey Park on Jeff. Davis and Tulane. The construction will be filmed and nationally televised, as par of a reality TV show (similar to Extreme Makeover Home Edition). The community center will include an indoor basketball court, a full commercial kitchen and a computer/internet room and many other amenities. The construction will preserve the green space for the baseball field. There will be town-hall meetings held, starting in January, to discuss the needs and desires of the neighborhood to help fill the rest of the space in the building. Construction is to begin in April and be completed in a record-breaking 14 weeks. The show will air on the second anniversary of Katrina.

Holiday Shopping Safety

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
- Park in well-lighted areas and shop with a friend whenever possible.
- Teach children to find a store clerk or security guard if they get lost in a store or mall.
- Avoid carrying large sums of cash.
- Avoid going to an ATM early in the morning or late at night.
- Be sure to protect your PIN number when entering it to make a purchase.
- Women should carry their purse under their arm and keep it close to them.
- Men should carry their wallet in their front pants pocket or inside a jacket pocket.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages.
- Do not leave a purse or packages in plain view inside your vehicle.
- Be sure to lock your vehicle.
- Be alert and aware of who is around you in the parking lots.
- Take a quick look around your car as you approach it.
- Go back to the store and stay inside if you see anything suspicious.
- And always call the police to report any criminal activity.



Doggie Services

Amy Hall-West
Top Dog

NOLA
504.488.4200
www.adogslifenola.com



P.O. Box 19516
New Orleans, LA 70179
www.HikeforKatreena.com

Monique Pilié
Hiker/Planter
504.301.5628

President's Report

Dear Mid-City Residents and Friends of Mid-City:

We are winding down to what has been a very challenging year for all of us. Unfortunately, it has been much more challenging for others. This spot is usually reserved for the President of MCNO. As most of you know by now, Jim Taylor, the President of MCNO, had a stroke in late August. His recovery is going very well. In fact, some of you may have had some Jim Taylor sightings around the Mid-City area. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Taylor for his tireless work and the time that he devoted to Mid-City and MCNO, especially in the crucial months after Katrina. He extended himself for the organization at his own expense. And we are very grateful to him for all of the sacrifices that he made for Mid-City. Because of the storm, no elections were held for MCNO, which means he served in the capacity as President for two years, which is not an easy thing to do.

This also brings up an important subject for MCNO and the future direction of MCNO, which are board elections. MCNO will have its General Membership Meeting on Sunday, December 17 at Rock and Bowl, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Some of our Mid-City neighbors stepped up beyond belief during the early stages of the planning process and continue to do so, attending weekly meetings since June of this year. They have helped steer the future of what Mid-City, hopefully, will become. Unfortunately, not everyone was able to participate. In a perfect world we would have been able to contact each and every resident of Mid-City, those who are back and those who aren't. As you know, this is a very difficult task to accomplish. However, we tried very hard to get the word out and be as inclusive as possible. There were those who weren't aware of the process and would have liked to have participated and there are those who were aware and chose not to participate.

The good news is it's not too late. We are inviting each and everyone who lives in Mid-City and is a member of MCNO to consider becoming a board member and/or join a committee or just become a volunteer. You can become a member today. It is very disheartening to hear people complain about plans for our neighborhood when they choose not to be a part of the planning process. As we all know, if you don't say what you want, someone else will have a say in your future. We are not asking for a huge commitment. We just want you to be involved in the future of Mid-City. We still have a lot of work ahead of us and not a whole lot of people to get the job done. Some individuals have taken on way too much, but have such a strong commitment and passion for our community that they continue to take on more. I know that I will run the risk of leaving someone out, however; I have to give a special thanks to some of the people who have gone above and beyond. I'd like to thank Jennifer and Erich Weishaupt and baby Aidan, Michael Homan, Bart Everson and Doug and Janet Pease.

I wish everyone a safe and prosperous holiday season and am looking forward to the exciting things that will be coming to Mid-City in 2007 and the opportunity to make Mid-City a better place to live. I'd like to end this by speaking about Jim Taylor again. Jim is such an inspiration. Jim is the kind of person who lives life to the fullest. I am convinced that the only reason that he is progressing so quickly is his outlook on life and his determination and spirit. In all of our busy lives and hectic schedules, we should look to Jim as an example and start appreciating life a little more. I plan to do more of that myself. I'm also happy to announce that, as I'm writing this, Jim and Dottie Taylor are moving back into their home in Mid-City. I'm proud to be one of the first to say: Welcome home Jim and Dottie.

**Wendy Laker,
MCNO Chairperson 2006**

FACES OF RECOVERY



Mossy Motors – 7’ of Water
Open In January



Amoco Station
5’ of Water - Open Now



Liuzza's – 6 ½ ‘ of Water
Beer – May '06, Food – July '06



The Bagel Factory – 4’ of Water
Reopened last November



Mona's Café – 4’ of Water
Reopened last April



Banks Street Service Station – 5’ of Water
Reopened last October

The Mid-City Neighborhood Organization

The Mid City Neighborhood Organization ("MCNO") was formed in April, 1990 by the merger of two civic associations which were founded in the 1970s to respond to threats to Mid-City from the decline of the physical appearance of properties, the exodus of long-term residents, and zoning changes that allowed speculators to change residential properties to industrial and commercial use. Their efforts were largely successful and today Mid-City is a diverse neighborhood, with a balance of residential and commercial properties. MCNO's "area of emphasis" is bounded by City Park Ave, Broad St, Pontchartrain Expressway, and Orleans Ave.

MCNO works closely with our District A & B Councilmembers and other City Government to advocate for improvements to the quality of life for those that live & work in Mid-City, and to assure continuous improvement of our neighborhood. MCNO has represented Mid-City residents in numerous cases concerning zoning, demolitions, illegal dumping, greenspace and other issues.

MCNO exists for every resident of Mid-City, and must represent the diversity that is our neighborhood. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the time for action is now. It is imperative that we unite as one to rebuild a stronger Mid-City; not one of us can do it alone. MCNO needs your presence and voices every step of the way.

Join MCNO and put a better Mid-City in the heart of New Orleans!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print
Name _____

Address (include City, State & Zip) _____

Temporary Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Email _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL (Check One)

Senior Citizen/Student \$6 Household \$15 Business \$30 Friend _____

If you are unable to pay these dues, they may be waived at your request.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS (Check One) New Renewal

Please indicate volunteer areas:

? Housing ? Green & Public Spaces ? Zoning - Residential ? Zoning - Commercial ?

Economic Development ? Education ? Healthcare ? Crime Prevention ? Website ?

Membership ? Newsletter ? Transportation ? Events

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