



Fontainebleau  
Improvement  
Association

# Fountainhead

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2

FALL 2010

## OFFICERS

**Mark Romig**  
President

**John Conkerton**  
Vice-President

**Scott Ferguson**  
Treasurer

**Cathy Espenan**  
Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Laurie Conkerton**  
**Dick Gannon**  
**JD Demarest**  
**Gary Lazarus**  
**Brent Sibille**  
**Terry Walker**  
**Andre Perry, Ph.D.**

## COMMITTEES

**Beautification**  
Don Espenan  
861-1257

**Block Party**  
Terry Walker  
Jennifer McCausland  
PatrickMcCausland

**Infrastructure**  
Brent Sibille  
214-3271

**Membership**  
Scott Ferguson  
301-7947

**Newsletter/Website**  
Gary Lazarus  
Suzy Lazarus  
382-2603

**Quality of Life**  
Laurie Conkerton  
866-3051

**Security**  
Laurie Conkerton  
866-3051

**Communications**  
J.D. Demarest  
865-7651

## FIA Block Party – September 19<sup>th</sup> Come meet your neighbors!

On Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-7:00 PM come out to see old friends and meet some new ones for our annual FIA block party. The party will be held again on Nelson Street between Burdette and Fern.

There will be music, food and drinks, a raffle and plenty of activities for the kids - Pony Rides, Spacewalk,

Face Painting and more.

The cost for FIA members and their guests is \$5. For non-members, the cost is \$10 (you also can join at the entry table for \$25 if you choose.) Kids 12 and under free.

Our party co-chairs this year are Terry Walker, Jennifer McCausland, and PatrickMcCausland. Please e-mail them with questions or to volunteer to help with the party -

[blockparty@fia-nola.org](mailto:blockparty@fia-nola.org)

We look forward to seeing you at the block party!

*We are proud of the fact that the FIA neighborhood is one of the safest and most pleasant in the city. We believe this is largely because we make it a priority to get to know our neighbors and look after each other.*



## FIA MEETING: September 7, 2010

**WHERE:** St. Mary's Dominican High School Library 7701 Walmsley

**WHEN:** 7:00 PM, Tuesday, September 7

**WHY:** Discuss current neighborhood issues

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Mary Beth Romig, Director of Public Relations and Special Projects for Mayor Mitch Landrieu

# A MESSAGE FROM THE FIA PRESIDENT

Dear residents of the Fontainebleau neighborhood:



**Mark Romig,  
President**

I hope this finds you ready for a cool fall and a winning Saints season. I can't help but think about where we were five years ago. Some days it feels like a decade ago; other days, just like yesterday. No matter, we remember Hurricane Katrina in so many personal ways.

One of my most powerful and lasting memories is how our little piece of New Orleans came together and brought back the Fontainebleau neighborhood block by block, house by house. In those early days of post-Katrina New Orleans, when all seemed chaotic and lost, brave and resilient residents began to trickle back to their homes, and worked 24/7 to regain a footing and existence. Our neutral grounds turned into graveyards of memories and lost treasures, and our beautiful landscaping, so lush and green for decades, fought through brown remnants of flood waters and mold. But as our spirits and passion would prove, we worked through these challenges as a neighborhood, together and with purpose. Today, five years later, little if anything can be seen from this destructive visitor. What can be seen is a newfound cooperation and determination to build and improve a better Fontainebleau.

I also want to extend a hearty thanks to Councilmember Susan Guidry and her team on behalf of the entire association. She has hit the ground running and has had her staff readily accessible to us as issues have come to light. Always ready to extend a helping hand, we are fortunate to have her energy and enthusiasm on our side.

In addition, I extend a special thanks to St. Rita Parish – both Fr. Dennis Hayes, pastor, and Sr. Annette Baxley, principal, for hosting our Night Out Against Crime on August 3rd. We were honored to be selected as the kickoff site for this year's events, and were visited by our elected and selected leadership, including Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Chief Ronal Serpas and District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, along with Councilmember-at-large Jackie Clarkson and Councilmember Susan Guidry. A special thanks as well to the volunteers from the parish and the association who lent a helping hand in set-up and arrangements.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our next membership meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 7:00 p.m. at Dominican High School, and our annual Block Party, Sunday, Sept. 19th.

Sincerely,

*Mark*

**The FIA is online at**  
**[www.fia-nola.org!](http://www.fia-nola.org)**

- Current Neighborhood News
- Real Estate Values
- Membership information
- Security Patrol Information
- Contact Information for FIA leadership
- History of the Fontainebleau Arch

*Please visit the site and share your thoughts by e-mailing us at [news@fia-nola.org](mailto:news@fia-nola.org). We are open to suggestions for additional content and volunteers who want to assist with the page.*

The Fontainebleau Improvement Association

Home | News | Contact | Security | Leadership | Real Estate | The Arch

WELCOME! Wednesday, August 11, 2010

If you are new to our neighborhood, either as a home owner or renter, welcome! I know that you will enjoy the friendly atmosphere of our tree-lined streets and boulevards, and hope that you don't lose getting to know your neighbors. We come from all sorts of backgrounds and we work together to help build a friendly and safe place to call home. For those of you who have lived here since before Katrina, I know you share with great pride the way we returned after the devastation of that storm, how we learned on each other and came together as a people to rebuild and renovate better than before. This is indeed a special place.

Please enjoy our website and let us know if we can answer any questions. We also invite you to get more involved in our association by joining one of the several committees and attending our regular meetings. Dues for the association are only \$25 per person per year; you can join the amazing Scott Ferguson. You can also join the security patrol by contacting Lizzie Cochran.

Regards,  
Mark Romig, President, FIA

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
FIA Block Party  
Sept. 19  
4-7 PM  
Add to your calendar

Fontainebleau Arch  
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# ACTIVE SECURITY PATROL KEEPS FIA SAFE

NOPD crime reports support the fact that we live in one of the safest areas of New Orleans. Year to date, 44 crimes have been reported within FIA boundaries, compared to 131 reported for the Marlyville-Fontainebleau neighborhood (the larger surrounding area used for city planning and other official purposes).

For the first quarter of 2010, only 5% of crimes reported for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District occurred in FIA's immediate neighborhood. Second quarter district-wide numbers were not yet available, but we hope to share those soon.

The majority of incidents are property related: Simple Burglary or Simple Burglary of Residence (12 reports), Simple Burglary of Vehicle (8), Simple Criminal Damage (6), Theft (4) and Auto Theft (3). Two incidents were

personal crimes: an aggravated battery and an armed carjacking that occurred earlier this year.

Help keep our neighborhood safe—report all crime, no matter how minor it seems. Call 911 to report an incident in progress or 821-2222 for non-emergencies.

**One of the reasons we enjoy relatively low crime is the Fontainebleau Security Patrol.**

Patrol members fund the hiring of off-duty police officers; but all neighbors are served by the patrol, which provides a regular, visible police presence. While our officers are on duty, they respond to our neighborhood's emergency calls and often arrive well before the unit dispatched by the 911 operator.

The current number of patrol members sustains 22 hours of coverage every week. Dues-paying members receive special benefits, including a yard sign, the patrol's schedule (information that will never appear in an e-blast to insure our area's safety), and the ability to call the on-duty officer for "meet me at home" service during patrol hours.

The number of patrol hours depends on the number of patrol members. Dues are \$168 twice a year (\$336 annually or \$28/month), and we are actively seeking new members.

For more information, please contact Laurie Conkerton at: [security@fia-nola.org](mailto:security@fia-nola.org) or 866-3051.

## Surveillance Camera Survey

The New Orleans Police Department is compiling a list of active surveillance cameras throughout the City. By reporting known camera installations, you help support NOPD's crime-fighting mission. THANK YOU! Click this Web link to begin the survey: <http://bit.ly/nopd-scs-2010>

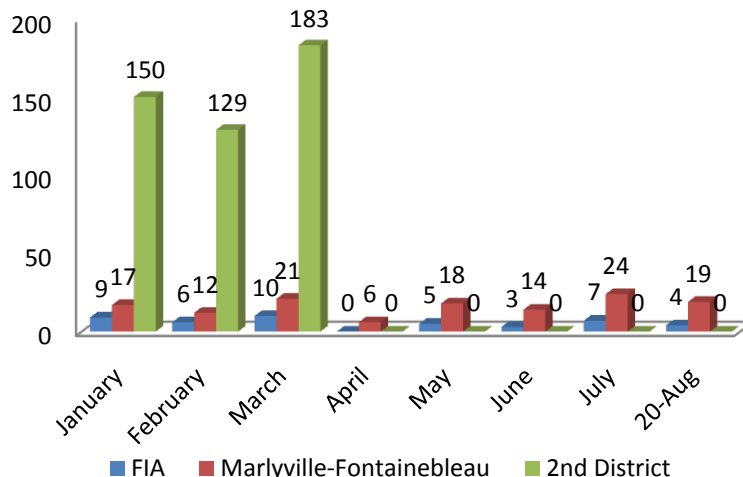
## Are you NOLA READY?

NOPD Chief Ronal Serpas encourages all resident to sign up for emergency alerts at [www.nolaready.info](http://www.nolaready.info). You select the alerts that mean the most to you—including 2<sup>nd</sup> District communications.

## Interested in tracking crime reports?

Crime maps are online and easy to navigate—just type this URL into your browser: <http://cno-gisweb02.cityofno.com/crimeviewer/>. You can search on a specific address, neighborhoods, or police districts to see all reported crimes.

# of Crimes Reported Through 8/20/10



## E-BLASTS HELP DETER CRIME

FIA offers an e-blast service to quickly notify residents of important information, including alerts about recent crimes. Any FIA resident may submit information for and subscribe to the e-blasts. Send your e-mail address to [e-blast@fia-nola.org](mailto:e-blast@fia-nola.org) to receive the e-blasts. Please also report any crime-related incidents to [security@fia-nola.org](mailto:security@fia-nola.org) as soon as possible after they occur.

# NEWS FROM DISTRICT A



**SUSAN GUIDRY,  
COUNCILMEMBER**

Dear Fontainebleau Improvement Association members,

District A's meeting on New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) reform was held on August 24th. On October 2nd, voters will decide on a proposed change in the City Charter to reform NORD. Tuesday's meeting was an exceptional opportunity for residents to learn more about this proposal and ask questions of those who have worked on NORD reform and studied recreation departments in other cities.

I was joined by Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow, and NORD Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) Chair Rod West, for this important discussion. Though visionary in some ways when it was formed in the 1940's, today NORD presents shocking disparity among recreation facilities, programming, and funding across the City. Many of our children are growing up without the benefits that good recreation mentoring produces in young men and women. I support the work of NORD CAP, which promotes a more modern organizational structure, similar to the award winning recreational department in Baton Rouge, to begin building positive momentum and new recreation opportunities to improve quality of life for all New Orleanians.

Some residents at August 10's very well attended District A Community Meeting on the budget with Mayor Landrieu requested more information about the proposed NORD reforms and the meeting on August 24th provided those answers. Thanks to everyone who attended these important meetings.

I will be attending events citywide in the days around August 29. I know this time of year is a poignant one for many of us. I will pause to remember the day but remain committed to looking and moving District A forward.

As always, my office is open to you and your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Deputy Chief of Staff, Amy Chandler, with any needs or questions you may have. Amy can be reached at [aechandler@cityofno.com](mailto:aechandler@cityofno.com) or 658-1014.

Sincerely,

*Susan*

## NEIGHBORHOOD REAL ESTATE



### RECENT SALES (as of 8/20/10)

- 94 Versailles, \$187,700
- 86 Versailles, \$252,000
- 2423 Audubon St. \$275,000
- 2249 Audubon St. \$359,000
- 4007 Vendome \$515,000
- 4209 Vendome \$649,000

### CURRENT LISTINGS

- 2317-19 Short Street, Multi-family, \$319,000
- 4217-19 Vincennes Street, Multi-family, \$349,000
- 7734 Belfast St., 3 BR, 3 BA, \$265,000
- 4 Fontainebleau Dr., Multi-family, \$345,800
- 16 Fontainebleau Dr., 6 BR, \$449,000
- 20 Fontainebleau Dr., 6 BR, 4 BA, \$565,500
- 102 Fontainebleau Dr. 2 BR, 2 BA, \$310,000
- 2615 S. Carrollton, Unit G, 1 BR, 1 BA, \$132,900
- 2615 S. Carrollton, Unit F, 1 BR, 1 BA, \$134,900
- 229 Audubon Blvd., 4 BR, 4 ½ BA, \$639,000
- 2126 Audubon St., 2 BR, 2 BA, \$359,900
- 299 Audubon Blvd., 4 BR, 3 ½ BA, \$675,000
- 4504 Walmsley, double, \$179,000
- 2511 Broadway, 4 BR, 3 BA, \$334,500

# MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

## Don & Cathy Espenan

### 54 Fontainebleau Drive



You may not know Donald and Cathy Espenan, but you certainly know their house. It is the one that is appropriately decorated for every holiday. They cover all of the traditional ones, but also some fringe holidays, including the Alabama vs. Florida Football game, an important interfamily rivalry. Donald loves to decorate and does not skip an opportunity to do it.

However, if Donald had his way, they would never have become a fixture on Fontainebleau Drive. In 2004, Donald Espenan tried every trick in the book to not buy the house that Cathy had been eyeing. In May, 2004, after having three different inspections and then writing an offer that he was confident would be rejected, their offer for 49 Fontainebleau was unexpectedly accepted.

The house, built in 1918, was badly in need of updating, but they knew it had good bones and they both really liked the neighborhood (Donald grew up nearby.) They knew the house would be a big project, but they also knew that they now had plenty of space for friends and family to come visit.

As, Cathy said, "if we buy it, they will come."

Immediately, they began work. First, they renovated the bathrooms. Says Donald, "the bathroom floors were in such bad shape that I was worried someone would fall through the floor when they were sitting on the toilet."

In August of 2005, when people began to evacuate for the coming storm, they made the decision to stay in their home. They boarded up all of the windows and prepared for the approaching unknown. When the storm arrived, they sat inside and listened, as their roof blew off piece by piece while they sat inside unable to see what was going on outside.

As soon as the winds and rain calmed, they went out to inspect the house, the neighborhood and to see how they could help their neighbors. Fortunately, Donald had the foresight to bring their wave runners home.

The water continued to rise over the next 24 hours or so,

topping out just under the wood floors of their raised house.

In the aftermath of the storm, they continued the renovations of their home, with the added challenge of repairing all of the storm damage. But, determined to finish what they started, they persevered.

They continued by changing the windows to new insulated windows (customized to match the originals), remodeling the kitchen and the living room. They also recently coated the entire house with RhinoShield exterior coating. Next they hope to build an indoor laundry room.

Now they have a new problem - all of the hooks for the decorations were removed during the exterior work. Donald, ever committed to dressing their house up for the holidays is plotting new ways to install decorations without damaging the beautiful exterior. He says, his goal is to be "less Al Copeland and more...well, I'm not sure what."

**If you would like to recommend a neighbor for this meet your neighbor section, please e-mail [news@fia-nola.org](mailto:news@fia-nola.org).**

# CURRENT FIA MEMBERS as of August 20, 2010

- |                                   |                               |                            |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lester/Linda Adelsberg            | Shaminder/Nomita Gupta        | Thomas Short               |
| Greg/Nancy Baber/Martino          | Jim/Joan Hughes               | Brent/Paula Sibille        |
| Stuart/Olivia Bamforth            | Ronnie/Jim Jones/Outland      | Lois Sweet Spengeman       |
| Jason/Jenn Bilbe                  | Catherin Kahn                 | Helen/Janet Sperling/Fagan |
| Larry Blanchard                   | Ward/Kathryn Betsy Kenwood    | Marshall/Ann Stevens       |
| Bill/Allyson Brusseau             | Gary/Suzy Lazarus             | Effie Stockton             |
| Lary/Christie (Lori) Brom         | Mary/Terry LeBlanc            | Jannette Sturm-Mexic       |
| Arlen Brunson                     | Greg/Debbie Lier              | J. Walker Sullivan         |
| Joseph/Elizabeth Cali             | Becky Lynott                  | Bob/Bonnie Talbot          |
| James/Jerrilyn Carmouche          | James/Gina Maclaren           | Tad/Leigh Ann Terrebonne   |
| Jean/Craig Cassels/Hood           | Garett Majoue                 | Ardyn Thriffiley           |
| John/Laurie Conkerton             | Nancy/Peter Marks/Briant      | Craig/Erin Toomey          |
| Lizette M. Coughlin               | Terry McGuckin                | Patrica/Shirley Unangst    |
| Margaret Cummins                  | Barbara Oakley                | Laurie Valentino           |
| Stephen/Pam DeFerrari             | Michael/Mary Lou O'Keefe      | David/Cynthia Vandam       |
| J.D./Peggy Demarest               | Mary Jane Phelan              | Terry/Joan Walker          |
| Sheva De Mateo                    | Cassie Pierson                | John/Laura Williams        |
| Dominican HS Dominican HS         | Jeanette Pou                  | Karen Wimpelberg           |
| Marcelle/Dionne Ducote            | Julie/Alvin Puderer           | Mignon Wolfe               |
| Donald/Cathy Espenan              | Conrad/Shelia Raabe           | Jannette Wooten            |
| Coco Evans Judd                   | Scott/Diane Ray/Peck          |                            |
| Mark/Janet Fagan                  | Fannie Regenbogen             |                            |
| Scott/Marsha Ferguson             | Philip/Olga Riegel            |                            |
| Michael/Arlean Fermanis           | Mark Romig                    |                            |
| Michael Fischer                   | Cade/Chrissie Roux            |                            |
| Lydia Fonte                       | Thomas/Elizabeth Ryan         |                            |
| Dick/Carla Gannon                 | Fred/Carole Schwab            |                            |
| Monique/Jason Gougisha            | Benjamin/Elizabeth Shirtcliff |                            |
| Hanley/Joel Germillion/Vanderlick |                               |                            |



Please ask a neighbor to join the FIA & Police Patrol

## Fontainebleau Improvement Association



**Did you forget to renew?**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**For info, e-mail**

[membership@fia-nola.org](mailto:membership@fia-nola.org)

# NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION



**Congratulations to Nellie Watson at 7607 Nelson St. who is the recipient of the seasonal garden award.**

**If you would like to nominate a neighbor for the garden award, please e-mail [beautification@fia-nola.org](mailto:beautification@fia-nola.org).**