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Message from the President

We all agree that an education is essential for success. The education of our children should not be an inconvenience or the latest money-making industry. The present system of education though, I am sure, has many inherent benefits. It is hard to appreciate those benefits because it is not clearly understood by the community. It is noted that we have two systems: Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) and the Recovery School District (RSD). Each system's mission is often times in conflict with the other, which makes it more difficult for the residents of New Orleans to appreciate or accept. We are best served when we have an elected board that is accountable to the community it represents. (Remember the Bellsouth Building School fiasco?!)

The residents in New Orleans East ask why are there so many schools being built in our area, some needed and justified and some not. There are presently six new schools, not including some recently built schools, many with low enrollment and failing grades. Yet our children are being bused or waiting at bus stops before daylight in the morning to attend schools out of our area, some as far as the Westbank. Where is the projected population of students coming from for these mega schools in our neighborhoods? Is there any regard for infrastructure, street use patterns, ingress/egress and parking of school busses?

The State claims charter schools are best for our children. However, if that's the case, why are the grades so inconsistent in some of these charter schools? (Fortunately, ENO has one of the best in the city, Lake Forest Charter.) Does it have to do with equality of money, resources, committed personnel or lack of community involvement? If the money is properly utilized, we would not have to choose which is better than the other because they would all have the necessary budget and committed staff to assure success. (See New Orleans Tribune article May-June 2015, Volume 31, No. 3.) Why have the classes for special needs children disappeared? We need community schools that meet the needs of everyone in the community, and a system that recognizes schools are an integral part of thriving neighborhoods.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today"
Malcolm X

Best Regards,

Sylvia Scineaux-Richard,
President

PURCHASE OF APARTMENT COMPLEXES

Hidden Lake & The Willows

The community was notified by State Senator Edwin Murray (D-New Orleans) that the Global Ministries Foundation (GMF) was seeking funding from the Louisiana State Bond Commission to purchase the Hidden Lake Apartments (formerly Kenilworth Apartments). A meeting was scheduled by Dawn Hebert, Vice President, Lake Willow Homeowners Association and held at the New Orleans East Hospital on June 10, 2015 with community members, Attorney D. Cunningham and members representing Multifamily Management, Inc., 758 St. Michael Street in Mobile, AL 36602. This firm manages The Willows Apartments, Peace Lake Towers and The Hidden Lake Apartments.

Another local meeting was held on June 13, 2015, in the Lake Willow Subdivision. In attendance were Senator Murray, members of Multifamily Management, Inc., Attorney Cunningham and board members of Lake Willow, Spring Lake, and Kenilworth neighborhoods and ENONAC to discuss the proposed purchase and Quality of Life Concerns for residents of the apartment complexes and the community. Community members voiced concerns about the present management and appearance of all complexes managed by this group.

The Reverend Richard Hamlet, Global Ministries Foundation, appeared at the bond hearing on June 18, 2015 in an effort to encourage a vote to take place on the project, although it was not on the agenda. (Video link–fast-forward one hour: <http://senate.la.gov/video/2015/June.htm#18.>)

The issue has been deferred to a later date due to the efforts of the community and the Louisiana Bond Commission. (Read more on Page 4.)

Written by Dawn Hebert



Local meeting at Lake Willow Subdivision

Supreme Court Decision: June 26, 2015

President Obama recently said in an interview that racism is no longer "just a matter of overt discrimination." Today, the United States Supreme Court announced a landmark 5-4 ruling ensuring that we have the tools to fight back against housing discrimination in all its forms. The decision in the *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs vs. The Inclusive Communities Project* is a tremendous step towards upholding principles of equal opportunity. In it, the Court considered whether the State of Texas promoted racial segregation by incentivizing the building of affordable housing in Dallas exclusively in majority-minority neighborhoods through its tax credit program. This theory of disparate impact is an incredibly essential tool because it is often used to combat discrimination when a seemingly neutral policy has a discriminatory effect.

[To see the majority opinion, authored by Justice Kennedy, click here.](#)

Taken from the Thursday, June 18, 2015 edition of The New Orleans Agenda

White Protesters in New Orleans East and the Proliferation of Multi-Family Housing

NEW ORLEANS, LA - Well folks, I thought I had seen it all; but I have not. If you just have a feeling that your neighborhood is changing, hold onto it because the change is not over yet. New Orleans East is the fastest growing district in the city, but not in the way that could be described as progressive. Poorer African Americans, the working class and the extremely poor are being pushed out to the East by the staggering increases in rents in their childhood neighborhoods and by developers and new land owners capitalizing on the housing shortage in this city.

With the tear down of affordable housing developments in New Orleans, without adequate rebuilding of replacement housing and with the lock out of poor residents from the new mixed income developments (formerly housing projects), the city is being transformed.

There is a new set of landlords in town. Many disguise themselves as missionaries, but a more adequate description would be new "carpetbaggers," who are working alongside their Southern sympathizers in this transformation. These church-based organizations buy apartment complexes formerly designed for use by adults with one or no children.

Non-profit organizations and others are acquiring bonds to purchase these properties.

As we watch large numbers of poor African American women, children and the elderly pushed out of their neighborhoods and former housing projects into complexes not built for families and no green space for children, our hearts break. It is difficult to watch our people walking in areas with no sidewalks, down service roads at night with no lights, no access to grocery stores and limited transportation. Some homeowners decided to protest and become opponents of the continuation of the sale of these properties to organizations with bad records. But more so, to the proliferation of a pattern that nationally has proven successful for realtors and developers, but not for African Americans.

This protest by homeowners in the East however, is being met with unexpected resolve and venom by the new "carpetbaggers" attempting to expand this practice and their profits. One landlord representing a church organization organized a protest against the neighborhood associations opposing this hostile takeover of our community. A group of mostly white protesters actually held signs on Crowder Blvd, proclaiming that this neighborhood did not want poor people to live here.

It was an unbelievable sight to see. But it tells us that these people will stoop to any level and stop at nothing to continue their scheme. All of a sudden, black people don't like poor people. Well for most of us, that would be the rest of our entire families. How absurd.

Undeniably, the shift in population tells a different story. It seems that the plans for the "New" New Orleans include the pushing out of thousands of poor African Americans with the intent of concentrating families in the East and any other suburb where they can be pushed out of the city.

A continuous mantra of liberals and some conservatives on what to do with the large concentration of poor African Americans in housing projects was the deconcentrating of poverty. In other words, a healthy outcome cannot be expected when communities are made up of mostly large concentrations of poor people. The answer to the poverty question was merely to move poor people around, not improve employment opportunities as would be expected.

If the truth were told, this dispersing of the poor is really the reconstruction of housing projects without the benefit of green space and convenient access to amenities.

The question that is being asked by many New Orleans East homeowners is why housing projects are not good for this community in certain areas, but are perfectly suitable for African American middle to upper-middle income suburbs. This new found religion for housing the poor did not include reconstructing affordable housing in the city. The "new" housing projects are former apartment complexes built for adults, but will soon be home for mostly women and children. Ironically, most of our leaders seem not to have a problem with filling every apartment complex in the east with poor residents and building huge complexes in the same area for 100% rent subsidy recipients.

Eastern New Orleans represents the designated area for the re-concentration of the poor. OH, but it's a secret!! We are not supposed to recognize this occurrence. We should not notice the increase in traffic, trash, noise, violence and other negative disamenities encroaching upon our community. We should not notice the lack of upkeep of the apartment complexes and walking spaces along the boulevard or our diminishing property values. But if we do notice these things and complain to property owners, our city and state representatives and our neighborhood associations organize to advocate for the safety and beautification of our neighborhoods, "We Hate Poor People." There seems to be a whole set of different rule for us that don't apply to others.

Well, we are not accepting their reality and will not be shamed by lies of self-hatred and disregard for poorer African Americans. This is patently untrue and defies the reality of living, loving and owning property in the East.

While the reputation of the East has been defamed almost in tandem with its change to a majority African American community, homeowners have continued to love and returned home in large numbers to the East. It is our neighborhood and we will fight to maintain its dignity.

Dr. Beverly Wright is a sociologist and the Executive Director of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Dr. Beverly Wright

Dr. Beverly Wright founder and Executive Director of The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice wrote the following Op-Ed for The New Orleans Agenda

Addressing the “Elephant” in the City 10-Years after Hurricane

NEW ORLEANS, LA – As we approach the tenth year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, let’s not ignore the “elephant” in New Orleans, notwithstanding the pressure to do just that. The elephant in our city is the rampant land grab displacing predominantly African American residents to the outskirts of the city, where public safety, reliable transit, nearby schools, accessible job opportunities, and neighborhood amenities are lacking. To be sure, the displacement of mostly African American residents also creates hardships for white New Orleanians who are not only out-financed by developers and incoming residents, but also see their salaries not keeping up with the rising costs of housing, education, and healthcare in this city.

The elephant we need to address in New Orleans is the privatization of public assets. Just recently, Representative Neil Abramson introduced House Bill 694 in the state legislature. Abramson’s bill would require the Orleans Parish School Board to sell any building or land that is “vacated or slated to be vacated” to a school charter company for an amount “up to fair market value” and allow the school charter company to re-sell the building or land to any “person or entity.” If this bill passes into law, there are some 100 properties in neighborhoods across New Orleans that can now wind up in the hands of developers after the initial purchase from the Orleans Parish School Board for a nominal amount.

We cannot ignore the elephant represented by the billions of taxpayer dollars poured into the coffers of private companies that profit from:

- the tear-down of public housing developments, construction of apartment complexes for only a small fraction of the public housing residents, and the eviction of those residents through a combination of harsh rules (*e.g.*, no people on porches not named in the lease agreement) and the upcoming expiration of subsidized apartments that will be leased at market rates;
- the shut-down of Charity Hospital and the razing of homes in the Mid-City neighborhood to build a hospital managed by LCMC pursuant to a no-bid contract that does not guarantee physical and mental health care that meets the needs of people in our city;
- the take-over of public schools with admission policies designed to exclude the enrollment of children who have special needs or are not honor roll students;
- the investment in certain neighborhoods to ramp up demand for skyrocketing housing cost, while other neighborhoods are neglected and denied adequate funds for street improvements, beautification projects, and home repair grants from the Road Home program, which a federal court declared was administered in a racially discriminatory manner.

Sadly, the elephant in our city has no regard for the health and safety of children and families. Case in point: the Recovery School District (RSD) plans to build a school on a site where an old city dump once existed and the land remains highly contaminated. On this dump, known as the Clio Street/Silver City Dump, the Booker T. Washington High School, the Calliope Housing Development, and the Rosenwald Recreational Center were built specifically for African Americans during Jim Crow. There was no consideration at that time of the serious health risks of placing children and families on a waste dump. While some have excused this as something from the bygone era of Jim Crow racial segregation, it is troubling that the same shameful lack of concern for African American children and families persists in the post-Katrina building of the Yvonne Marrero apartments, the new Rosenwald Recreational Center, and the RSD’s plan to build a school on the same waste dump.

Shrouded in secrecy, the elephant in our city shuts New Orleanians out of the decision-making process on key policies, programs, and funding priorities. In hindsight, the Unified New Orleans Plan and the Bring Back New Orleans Plan were distractions that moved our collective focus away from the billions of taxpayer dollars spent on implementing other plans that continue to displace residents.

As the spotlight turns to New Orleans on the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, will we address the elephant in our city or will we be silent about the injustice and inequity of ongoing displacement of predominantly African American residents in our city?

Mayor's State of the City Address

On Thursday, May 28, 2015 at the Historic Carver Theater, the Mayor addressed a packed house of New Orleanians waiting to hear the State of the City message. To open the event the audience was treated to awesome musical performances by Landry-Walker High School Choir directed by Joseph Knox and the singing of the national anthem by NOPD Officer Kimera Woods. The invocation was given by Pastor Maize Warren, Jr. of Spirit & Truth Family Worship Center, which lifted the crowd up in preparation for the Mayor's message.

Mayor Landrieu talked about the progress the City has made since Hurricane Katrina and announced the City's plans for the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Katrina. The City is a planning months-long celebration titled "K-10-Resilient New Orleans." He stated during this time the City will showcase to the country and the world the growth, recovery and long term resilience planning that has occurred over the years after the catastrophic storm. Landrieu said the planning and progress are all being done with eyes on the 300th anniversary in 2018 of the founding of New Orleans.

During the Mayor's speech he called out special recognition of several young people who in spite of insurmountable odds were able to survive and thrive.

The Mayor's speech, while recognizing the challenges of Katrina, was filled with the optimism of a productive and growing healthy economy for New Orleans. The Mayor's entire speech can be read in the Thursday, May 28, 2015 email edition of [The New Orleans Agenda](#). More information can be found on the City's website: Katrina10.org.

ENONAC is planning a commemoration of Katrina 10-Year Anniversary coupled with a Celebration of East New Orleans Neighborhoods on August 22, 2015 at Joe Brown Park.



Pictured above from left to right: Jared Brossett, City Council District D; Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, ENONAC President; and Timolynn Sams Sumpter, Executive Director, Neighborhood Partnership Network



Landry-Walker High School Choir with Joseph Knox, Director

Orientation held for Commission Advisory Board (CAB)

An Orientation was held on March 31, 2015 to familiarize new commissioner representatives and to update standing members on the latest information and the revised tool kit for working with the ENONAC Commission and their respective neighborhood associations. This orientation was conducted by the Executive Board of ENONAC. The specific topics covered were Budgets for Homeowner Associations by Octave Rainey, accountant; a general Synopsis & Implementation of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance by Paul Cramer, Planning Administrator with the City Planning Commission, and Homeowner Association Covenants by Attorney Jonathan Rhodes, Louisiana State Bar Association.

All of the topics were interesting and informative. In fact, because there was so much interest, the power point on Subdivision Covenants is now on our website for others to view.

We were treated to a light supper, courtesy of ENO resident Kimberley Denesse with McAlister Deli.



CNN Visits ENONAC Meeting

ENONAC was contacted by Sameen Amin, Producer for Soledad O'Brien of CNN, to be allowed to attend and tape one of our community meetings. They were interested in some of the challenges and topics of discussion East New Orleans residents are faced with ten years after Hurricane Katrina. They attended the ENONAC Commission Advisory Board (CAB) meeting held on April 28, 2015 when some of the items on the Agenda were the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, a proposed halfway house on a major thoroughfare, and an update and registration information on the MRGO lawsuit. Ms. Amin stated this taping was slated to be used as a part of a documentary titled "Ten Years after Hurricane Katrina" that is being done by Soledad O'Brien for CNN.

*Pictured, left to right, are:
Karol Sanders, ENONAC;
Sameen Amin, CNN;
Staffer for CNN;
Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, ENONAC; and
Dawn Hebert, ENONAC*



DID YOU KNOW

~ ENONAC is planning the **East New Orleans 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and Celebration of Family and Neighborhoods** on Saturday, August 22, 2015 at Joe Brown Park. This event is to acknowledge the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and to celebrate the resilience and commitment of our Families and Neighborhoods. Stay tuned as we plan for fun for the kids and entertainment for the Families.

~ New Orleans East Hospital (NOEH) is very excited to announce that effective **July 1st** NOEH will be in-network with **People's Health** to meet your healthcare needs. We are very excited about the opportunity to work with People's Health Network to provide high-quality, cost effective health care with courtesy, concern, kindness, and compassion.

Please contact NOEH at one of the following phone numbers below or visit www.noehospital.org for more information: New Orleans East Hospital: (504)-592-6548 or People's Health Network: (504)-849-4685.

~ **Roslyn Nocentelli Flot**, an ENO resident, founder and editor of *Breakthru Magazine*, recently received the 2015 Asante Award on May 17, 2015 at City Park's Pavilion of Two Sisters. This award was given from the Asante Foundation in salute to her excellence in The Mass Media Professions. Congrats, Roslyn!

SPOTLIGHT ON ENO NEIGHBORHOODS

LAKE BULLARD. We're making a lot of progress in Lake Bullard. All of our street name signs are installed. Sign poles are now at 90 degrees. Also, our area of Bullard is on the city's list to be re-striped. Our neighborhood's sign at Lake Forest and Bullard is being upgraded. Finally, we launched a newly designed website, www.lakebullard.org, to increase transparency and communication within the district.

Protecting the beauty of our neighborhoods and quality of life is critical. I want to personally thank ENONAC for all that you do for the community, especially the corridor cleanup days. I don't know where we would be without ENONAC. The last event was hugely successful and I'm glad I participated.

Derrick Francis, Lake Bullard President

DONNA VILLA's Clean-Up Day was held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 9:00 am through 11:30 am. During spring and summer months, the clean-up is done every 4 weeks. For the fall and winter months this is done every 6 weeks.

Also, there is a sign that is posted at 4 different locations leading into our subdivision. These signs were made from donations collected from residents that attend our monthly neighborhood association meeting held every 1st Monday of each month from 6:30 pm through 8:00 pm.

*William Bickham,
Donna Villa
President (far
right) and some
residents of
Donna Villa*



Community News

1. Removal of 18 wheelers and Trailers from Plaza Site

After meeting with the owners of the mall property and 7th District police, Sylvia Scineaux-Richard stated that an agreement was made to remove the more than 20 illegally parked 18-wheelers, trailers and/or cabs from the Lake Forest Plaza site (two of them were stolen). The removal started on Friday, June 26, 2015. We are all working with the towing company to have them removed on a day to day basis until they are no longer using the site as a truck stop. This commercial blight has had a negative effect on our community too long. The residents really appreciate the owners, Ashton Ryan and Caesar Burgos and the police stepping up to clean it up.

*Pictured right:
Officer Eddie Dema;
Sgt. T.K. Lane;*

*John Lapworth, Plaza Facilities Manager;
and Sylvia Scineaux-Richard*



2. Update - Chef Menteur on-ramp

Per response from the Regional Planning Authority, work has been pushed back to the 2nd or 3rd week of July. The delay is due to Entergy in relation to moving the power pole at this location, which is a main line into the city. With the high electric usage in the summer months, removing the power line would negatively affect customers using this power source. Construction is expected to take between 60 to 90 days for completion.

3. Mental Health Clinic in ENO

Louisiana Behavioral Specialists, LLC is a mental health clinic located at 9970 Lake Forest Blvd., Suite B adjacent to Community Choice Pharmacy at the intersection of Read & Lake Forest Blvd. The agency specializes in diagnosis and treatment of clients diagnosed with mental health issues. Services offered include psychiatric evaluation, medication management, and psychotherapy. The agency services ages 5-65, and currently accepts Medicaid and Medicare insurances.



The East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC) holds its **General Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month**. The Commission Advisory Board (CAB) of ENONAC holds a planning session on the last Tuesday of each month. Executive Board meetings are held every other month. Meetings are usually held at 6:00pm at St. Maria Goretti Community Center, 7300 Crowder Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70127. All meetings are open to the Public. Meeting notices are posted on ENONAC's office door at 7100 Read Blvd., Suite 201, New Orleans, LA 70127.

Join Us on our mission to make New Orleans East the most desired community in which to live, work and play

Newsletter design by NOELA Services, LLC. Newsletter content by Sylvia Scineaux-Richard.