

Eastern New Orleans

Newsletter

June 29, 2009

Three articles in this week's edition address how other parts of the city and nation address issues that affect our area as well – empty lots (see article to the right), code violations (see page 9), and blighted properties (see below). The keys to success are strong neighborhood associations working closely with municipal organizations.

Nationwide, grassroots efforts are transforming neighborhoods one blighted property at a time

**By Bruce Schreiner, Associated Press Writer
Reported in the Times-Picayune,
Friday, June 26, 2009**

Under the stewardship of an active neighborhood association, new homes sprung up on weed-infested lots and boarded up houses were renovated in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood in Louisville, Kentucky.

Grassroots strategies to reclaim distressed neighborhoods are taking hold in cities across the country, including Cleveland, Philadelphia,

See Empty Lots, continued on page 5

Sales of empty lots pushed in Lakeview New Orleans

**by Kate Moran, The Times-Picayune
Friday June 26, 2009, 9:47 PM**

Lakeview has begun a major push to unload several hundred Road Home properties that remain a drag on the neighborhood. The neighborhood's civic association has sought buyers for months through the Lot Next Door program, a citywide effort that encourages home owners to expand their yards by buying the vacant Road Home lot next to their own. While that program continues, the civic association has started shopping unsold property to buyers from all over the region.

To discourage speculators from buying the Road Home lots and then sitting on them, new owners will be required to build on the property within a year. Buyers can purchase only one lot -- or two if they are next to each other and will be merged -- and either the buyer or an immediate family member must live in the home once it is complete.

Lakeview developed the rules for Road Home lots with the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, the agency charged with disposing of thousands of flooded houses sold to the state. The civic association is circulating information about the lots through its Web site and at various community events, while NORA will handle the mechanics of the sale.

Full story at:

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/06/sales_of_empty_lots_pushed_in.html

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Calendar of Events

Monday, June 8, 2009 – Friday, July 17, 2009. 7:30 am – 3:30 pm daily. Operation S.O.W. Summer Camp. 9869 East Wheaton Circle in New Orleans East. \$60 per week. After care 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm, \$15 per day. Operated by Mrs. “Bess” Bynum-Vaughn. Activities include culinary arts, multicultural activities, field trips, basketball swimming, bingo, singing, dancing, and much more. For more information, call (504) 245-4100 or (504) 259-4398.

Monday, June 8, 2009 – Friday, July 17, 2009. Resurrection of Our Lord School Learn and Play Summer Camp. Call (504) 243-2257 for more information.

Tuesday, June 30, 2009 6:00 p.m. ENONAC Commissioners Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting for neighborhood association presidents. St. Maria Goretti, Rooms 3 and 4. Each neighborhood should be represented. CAB meetings occur on the last Tuesday of each month.

New! Tuesday, June 30, 2009 9:00 am – 11:45 am. Tech Tuesday, hosted by the Louisiana Technology Council. Presentations on the available financing sources for workforce development training grants in Louisiana. Focus on Small Business Employee Training Grant and the Incumbent Worker Training Grant. Louisiana Technology Council offices at 1215 Prytania St. \$20 for nonmembers. Free for members. For more information or to register call Michelle Hansen at 504.304.2910.

Thursday, July 2, 2009. Jazz City Java Coffeehouse. Chess Club every Thursday evening beginning on, June 18th. Game Time is at 5:00 pm (or as soon as you arrive). We’ll keep the doors open until 8:00 pm so you’ll have time to Get Your Game On!! So, bring your boards and your game!!! Come be a part of the chess community in New Orleans East. All ages and skill levels are invited. 5555 Bullard Ave, NOLA, 70128 504-245-8282 JAZZ CITY JAVA COFFEEHOUSE

Friday, July 3, 2009 10 am – 3 pm (registration at 8:30 am). Behrman Stadium, 2529 General Meyer Ave, New Orleans, LA. Robert Royal (Cleveland Browns) & Ryan Clark’s (Superbowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers) T.E.A.M. Camp (Together Each Achieves More). For additional information, please contact T.E.A.M. Camp coordinator Katrina Leonce at profilesgroup@yahoo.com

Thursday, July 9, 2009. Jazz City Java Coffeehouse. Chess Club every Thursday evening beginning on, June 18th. Game Time is at 5:00 pm (or as soon as you arrive). We’ll keep the doors open until 8:00 pm so you’ll have time to Get Your Game On!! So, bring your boards and your game!!! Come be a part of the chess community in New Orleans East. All ages and skill levels are invited. 5555

Bullard Ave, NOLA, 70128 504-245-8282 JAZZ CITY JAVA COFFEEHOUSE

New! Saturday, July 11, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Kidz Courtyard Child Day Care Grand Opening ceremony. 8400 Morrison Road.

New! Saturday, July 11, 2009 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Lake Bullard Subdivision Quarterly Meeting. 5700 Bullard Avenue (former State Farm Building). Agenda will include Opening of Nominations for Homeowner Association Officers, Update on Security Patrols, and Report of Lake Bullard Survey Results. For more information, call (504) 352-0227 or email lakebullard@aol.com.

Monday, July 13 – July 17, 2009. 6 pm - 8:30 pm. Cornerstone United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School. 5276 Bullard Ave. 5 years & up.

Tuesday, July 14, 2009 6:00 pm. Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission monthly meeting. St. Maria Goretti Church. ENONAC meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

New! Tuesday, July 14, 2009 1:30 p.m. City Planning Commission. Agenda will include Sun Energy, the company proposing a waste management facility in eastern New Orleans.

Wednesday, July 15, 2009 6:30 pm. NOPD 7th District New Orleans Neighborhood and Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC) meeting. 10555 Lake Forest Blvd. NONPACC meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Thursday, July 16, 2009. Jazz City Java Coffeehouse. Chess Club every Thursday evening beginning on, June 18th. Game Time is at 5:00 pm (or as soon as you arrive). We’ll keep the doors open until 8:00 pm so you’ll have time to Get Your Game On!! So, bring your boards and your game!!! Come be a part of the chess community in New Orleans East. All ages and skill levels are invited. 5555 Bullard Ave, NOLA, 70128 504-245-8282

Attention Lake Bullard Residents
Coming Soon - More information on
Lake Bullard Night at
Jazz City Java Coffeehouse
on Bullard Avenue

Job Opportunities

New! Corporate Connection \$10-11/hr. Part Time Teller. 25-30 hrs per wk. No wknds. Positions in CBD & NO East. 3 yrs recent cashiering exp. A must. 828-2210. FAX 828-4110. careers@ccistaff.com.

Various Employment opportunities at **McDonald's restaurants**. Visit www.mcstate.com or call 504-569-0120

Auditor (Contract Audit), Department Of Defense, Defense Contract Audit Agency, New Orleans, LA, \$38,117 - \$49,553. Closes Friday, August 28, 2009. Progressively challenging assignments that involve the systematic examination and appraisal of financial records, reports, management controls, policies, & practices affecting or reflecting the financial condition & operation of DOD & other Federal agency contractors. Will be in front of top level decision makers—from CEO's of Fortune 500 companies to high-level military & civilian government personnel. Gain broad-based professional experience. Work often performed on-site at major defense & other contractor installations in inclusive environment which fosters teamwork, open communication, trust, & mutual respect. More information:

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=75202192&AVSDM=2009%2D02%2D13+07%3A26%3A53&Logo=0&sort=rv&vw=d&brd=3876&ss=0&customapplicant=15513.15514.15515.15669.15523.15512.15516.45575&q=contract+auditor>

US Census positions available. Good pay, flexible hours, paid training. Field employee selection aid test every Tuesday and Thursday. 9 AM and 1 PM. St Bernard Parish Government Building Room 213, every Friday 10 AM Nunez Community College, Classroom J-4. No appointment necessary. Bring I.D. and social security card or birth certificate.

PLEASE PROVIDE JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM YOUR WORKPLACE TO POST HERE

Area in Need of City Services

Be careful when traveling in the 5900 block of Bullard Avenue, in front of the new Bullard Park building: the street is in need of repair. The street is also in need of repair in front of the McDonald's at 6005 Bullard.



Want to check out an email to see if it's valid before forwarding? Visit snopes.com and search keywords from the email. Recently, emails about free laptops and cell phone numbers being released to telemarketers have been circulating heavily.

Both of these are untrue.

Tom's of Maine

Help your favorite nonprofit get \$20,000 in sponsorship funding
Deadline: August 30, 2009

Small differences in a community can make a large difference in the world. So we want to support and encourage your efforts to get involved! In November **we'll award five 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with \$20,000 each.** Right now, you can help us by encouraging nonprofits in your community to apply.

How does the program work? We are looking for applications **for community involvement projects from nonprofit organizations.** A review panel will narrow down our applications to 50 finalists. Then we'll post them on our site so you can help us by voting for which 5 projects should be awarded funding.

We're **accepting submissions from June 1st - August 30th.** We are looking for **applications from all 50 states.** Check out our [application form](#) and [Terms & Conditions](#) for more details.

Link:

<http://www.tomsofmaine.com/community-involvement/project-sponsorships.aspx> .

Please share this announcement with your respective nonprofit organization contacts. Thank you.

*Contributed by
Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis*



MGD Sod

Specializing in GRADE A Centipede and St. Augustine Grass. GRADE A bulk Garden Soil. GRADE A Cypress & Pine Needle Mulch
Discounts on large orders
4375 Michoud Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70129
(504) 253-5084

Entergy Grants Awarded to 26 Community Nonprofits

New Orleans, LA - June 23, 2009 - "I would like to extend a warm thanks to Rod West and the Entergy family for continuing to invest in our community. Today the Entergy team awarded 26 Community Partnership Grants, totaling more than \$25,000, to nonprofits serving our community. Entergy's Community Partnership Grants program awards up to \$1,000 for projects that effectively impact education and literacy, community improvement and enrichment, healthy families, or arts and culture. I would like to congratulate all of the nonprofits who received grants and I would also like to thank them for the services that they provide in our community.

"Since Hurricane Katrina, nonprofits have taken on a new role and much of our recovery has been attributed to them. They have in many ways become our fourth branch of government that succeeded in spite of the bureaucracy. I would like to extend special congratulations to the four District "E" grant recipients who either serve District "E", or have offices that are located in District "E." These grant recipients are:

- *Desire Street Ministries - Project: Financial Literacy Education for Low Income Backgrounds*
- *Mary Queen of Vietnam (MQVN) - Project: MQVN Field*
- *National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW), Greater N.O. - Project: NCBW ACT Preparation*
- *Parkway Partners Program - Project: Releaf New Orleans*

"Once again I would like to commend all 26 agencies for a job well done, and a special thanks to the groups representing District "E." Also, I would like to add as a point of information that Entergy New Orleans grants are available to community groups who apply and are eligible. For more information please check the Entergy website at www.entergy.com."

Cynthia Willard-Lewis Council Member District E

For more information, please contact Clarence Bickham, Chief of Staff, Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis either via email: cbickham@cityofno.com or call the office at (504) 658-1050.

Prepare for Storms Times-Picayune, Wednesday June 24, 2009

The Internal Revenue Service reminded taxpayers this week to take steps to safeguard their records from hurricanes or tropical storms. The agency encouraged consumers to store a set of backup records, including bank statements, tax returns and insurance policies, in a safe place away from the original set. The agency said consumers could obtain most financial records electronically or scan paper copies into a format that could be stored on a CD or external hard drive. The IRS also urged taxpayers to photograph or videotape the contents of their homes, especially items of higher value. It offers a disaster loss workbook, Publication 584 (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p584.pdf>), that can help taxpayers compile a room-by-room list of belongings.

Empty Lots, continued from page 1

Pittsburgh and Detroit.

In Pittsburgh, the Green Up Pittsburgh initiative, which converts vacant properties into green space, is gaining a foothold. The city offers horticultural consultants for soil testing and provides funding for initial plantings. A team of city public works employees helps maintain the property along with a corps of volunteers.

In Cleveland, Ohio, local officials are striving to revitalize vacant land in an initiative called Re-imagining a More Sustainable Cleveland. The Ohio city had more than 18,000 vacant parcels at the start of 2009. For some empty parcels, the goal is to return it to residential or commercial use.

Some communities also are turning to land banks to help manage the flood of idled property. Land banks are public authorities created to manage and develop tax-foreclosed property. And land banks can enable communities to pursue more strategic approaches to development.

Full story at:
<http://www.abc26.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-us-reclaiming-vacant-homes.0,4555839.story>

ATTENTION NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

The ENONAC Commissioners Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 30, 2009 6:00 p.m.** This meeting is for neighborhood association presidents only and will be held at St. Maria Goretti Church, Rooms 3 and 4. Each neighborhood should be represented. CAB meetings occur on the last Tuesday of each month.



If you are tired of credit card offers coming to your home you can call 1-888-567-8688 or opt out on www.optoutprescreen.com.

Contributed by Ann Williams

Burger King Is Now Open!

The Burger King at 5999 Bullard
between McDonald's and O'Cajun Seafood is now open

Neighborhood of the Week

McKendall Estates

There are approximately 40 neighborhoods in eastern New Orleans. Neighborhoods featured in past editions are Venetian Isles, Kingswood, Lake Willow, Lakewood East, Chimney Wood, Lake Barrington, and Castle Manor.

The McKendall Estates Subdivision has two leadership organizations – The McKendall Estates Homeowners Association and McKendall Estates Neighborhood Improvement District.

The McKendall Estates Homeowners Association was established on March 6, 2004 with the election of officers. The Homeowner Association meets approximately once per quarter.

The McKendall Estates Neighborhood Improvement District was established on November 13, 2008 and is one of the nine districts in eastern New Orleans that assesses a special fee with property taxes. It was voted on in the November 4, 2008 ballot and passed, and has been filed with the City of New Orleans.

The mission of the McKendall Estates Homeowners Association is to preserve the vision and enhance the quality of life that attracted us to become McKendall Estates residents. We will promote a healthy neighborhood, encourage a sense of community and provide superior representation as we maintain the master plan.

The subdivision is led by President Ronald Baptiste; Vice President Lloyd Durand; Secretary Gina Durand; Assistant Secretary Gina Bertrand; Treasurer Darryl Joseph; and Chaplain Catherine Pleasant.

The subdivision is directly off Bullard Avenue and enclosed at the front of the subdivision with reddish-grey bricked walls at each street entrance, with the name “McKendall Estates” on each wall, linked by black wrought iron fencing. The following streets form a horseshoe consisting of: North & South Easterlyn Circle, Easterlyn Circle, including a middle street - Maxine Drive, which exits onto Bullard; bounded by another horseshoe of streets consisting of: Tanner S. Davis, Zeno Place and Melvin Place, including a middle street - Campbell Drive.

Boundaries of the subdivision are Eastover Golf Course on the East, Bullard Avenue on the West, Lake Forest Boulevard & Commercial Strip/Rite Aid on the North, and Fairway Estates & Dwyer Road on the South.

There are 137 lots in the neighborhood, 73 in Phase 1,

and 64 in Phase II.

There are several things that make the subdivision special to its residents, including the people, the construction of the homes, the manicured front entrance, the neat manner in which the homes are kept, the manicured lawns and gardens of residents, and the McKendall namesake for the builder and his reputation of quality homes.

Like other neighborhoods, McKendall Estates has the following concerns: Adhering to the Acts of Restriction by old and new residents, homes with break-ins, outside visitors unfamiliar with Rules & Regulations of the subdivision, and participation by all residents in the overall business of the association. There is also concern about unwanted wildlife, including snakes and foxes, that result from the condition of the Eastover golf course.

Future plans of the subdivision include landscaping of the front entrance along Bullard, adding an irrigation system, adding security monitoring, repairing lighting; events and gatherings, including a Welcoming Committee, Memorial Day Event, Night Out Against Crime; and a Fall / Halloween Meet & Greet.

There is at least one vacant house per block Post-Katrina, and there are homes for sale in the subdivision.

Other interesting information about the neighborhood: the neighbors are friendly, cordial, and helpful; the streets are named for Alan McKendall’s relatives; and Alan McKendall still has presence in the area.

McKendall Estates Subdivision
P.O. Box 872162
New Orleans, LA 70187-2162
www.themeha.com or
www.mckendallestates.com

Contributed by Gina Durand



**Message from Erroll G. Williams,
Assessor – Third Municipal District
Wards – 7, 8 & 9**

Assessor Williams is sending messages to property owners in the district stating that all properties that have been repaired, rebuilt or demolished are being reassessed. Values for properties that have not been repaired will not be changed from the 2006 assessed value.

New assessment values will be posted on the web site at www.opboa.org on August 1st. Instructions on appealing the assessment will be provided.

Lake Bullard

**Neighborhood Improvement District
P.O. Box 870092
New Orleans, LA 70187-0092
Web Site: www.lakebullard.org
e-mail: lakebullard@aol.com
Phone: (504) 352-0227
Lisa Stafford, Editor**

Businesses in the East

**Nicola Pope
Independent Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/njackson10**

**Ynez Bevins
Independent Sales Director
www.marykay.com/ynbezbevins**

**A Stimulus Shopping Spree of
\$110 for \$50
\$65 for \$30
\$55 for \$25**

**Offer Expires
June 27, 2009
(504) 430-0388**

The Eastern New Orleans Newsletter is published weekly. Past issues can be found at www.enonac.org. Deadline for inclusion in the Monday newsletter is Friday at 5 pm. Information submitted for inclusion in the newsletter may be emailed to lakebullard@aol.com.

The Renaissance Marketplace held on the parking lot of Lowe's Home Improvement store was a huge success

Last Saturday, fifty vendors sold distinctive artwork, delicious hot food, fresh produce, exquisite jewelry, gorgeous hats, Tupperware, home décor, beverages, and much more. Additional vendors are expected for the next Marketplace on July 25, the 4th Saturday in July, so mark your calendars to attend this event, which is sure to be even more exciting.

Brazilian dancers provided entertainment and attendees joined together in dancing the Bus Stop as the event wound down.



Jazz City Java Coffeehouse has more than just coffee!

Check out the brochure accompanying this newsletter for information on Events and their tasty lunch menu!

Ladies Afternoon Tea Party at Jazz City Java Coffeehouse was an afternoon to remember

On Sunday, tea, fresh fruit, scones, delightful tea cookies, mouthwatering lemon bars, and assorted sandwiches were on the menu at the first Ladies Afternoon Tea Party at Jazz City Java Coffeehouse at 5555 Bullard.

Lovely ladies of all ages, some in stunning hats purchased at Saturday's Renaissance Marketplace, attended the event, which was organized by Mary Kay Cosmetics Consultant, Jean Chester and Lisa Ellsworth, co-owner of Jazz City Java.

Rosalind Davis, an author, and inspirational speaker captivated the group with her story of personal triumph over several challenges, including cancer, teen pregnancy, and Crohn's disease, among other things. She spoke of how Destiny drove her to reach her goals and move beyond her considerable difficulties.

The event was such a success, that it will be offered again, so look for more information coming soon.

Get your tickets early – this event sold out.

Businesses in the East

Skylah's

Women's and Men's Apparel
10040 I-10 Service Road
(504) 245-8999



**Educating Tomorrow's Leaders
the Fun Way Today
8400 Morrison Rd.
New Orleans, LA 70127
(504) 241-0060**

The Kidz Courtyard Child Day Care family would like to formally request your presence at the Kidz Courtyard Child Day Care Grand Opening ceremony. The Kidz Courtyard Child Day Care Grand Opening is scheduled for July 11, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Kidz Courtyard is located at 8400 Morrison Road.

Your presence at this ceremony would provide the much needed visibility that the New Orleans East community drastically needs to show former residents that New Orleans East is coming back. The opening of this New Orleans East business endeavor will aid in the full recovery of New Orleans. This endeavor would allow several hundred displaced residents to return to New Orleans East due to a much needed and vital resource (child day care). Kidz Courtyard will also aid the New Orleans economy by filling several youth employment positions (Summer Jobs) and numerous adult full-time positions.

Kidz Courtyard will accommodate children from the ages of 6 weeks to 12 years. Our hours of operation are 6:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. We offer a low student-teacher ratio, Spanish, sign language, Creative Curriculum, before and after school care, camera monitoring with Internet Access, and summer camp. We also provide hot meals for breakfast and lunch, and two snacks.

We have invited several dignitaries; therefore, we are requesting that you RSVP by July 1, 2009 in

order to get the programs printed in a timely manner. Please contact our office at (504) 241-0060 or by email at carrie@kidzcourtyardonline.com.

We are planning to allow each dignitary to speak for 5-10 minutes after a "Tour" of the day care facility. We have also invited and expect the local news media presence to inform the public/community of this rebuilding/ revitalization effort.

Contributed by Kidz Courtyard

Local district may be allowed to issue citations within its boundaries Security fee for Marigny and Quarter approved

Times-Picayune
By Ed Anderson
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Residents and businesses of the French Quarter and Marigny could be paying a fee for increased security and crime prevention if Gov. Bobby Jindal signs Senate Bill 256, authored by Sen. Edwin Murray, D-New Orleans, and approved by lawmakers Tuesday.

Before the fees are imposed on about 3,400 parcels of taxable land in the district, they must be approved by voters in the affected area.

Murray's bill also carries a provision that would allow personnel from the district to issue citations for minor violations in the area if the New Orleans City Council delegates that responsibility to it.

Full story at: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/capital/index.ssf?/base/news-7/124582146057030.xml&coll=1>

Council Member, District D, Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Council Member Cynthia Hedge-Morrell brings a wealth of experience and dedication as she begins her journey in public service from Principal of McDonough #15 Creative Arts to City Council Member of District D. Mrs. Morrell has worked in private industry in marketing, construction, and thoroughbred racing and breeding. Various life experiences from a teacher's union representative and an administrator provided her with insight to effectively integrate disparate entities to achieve a common goal.

Mrs. Morrell began teaching at McDonough #15 School in 1976 and went on to become the Principal in 1985. During her tenure as Principal, McDonough #15 became a school for Creative Arts, which was recognized by Red Book Magazine as one of America's Best Schools.

In 1998, Mrs. Morrell was appointed by the Superintendent of Public Schools as Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Governmental Affairs. She developed the first published Legislative Agenda for the school district for local, state and federal issues.

In 2000, again as Principal, she developed the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA) Academy, a middle school for the visual and performing arts. Mrs. Morrell's vision took the school from a starter program to its present full-time academic and arts program for students in grades sixth through eighth, as well as the construction of a state-of-the-art Dance Studio.

Council Member Hedge-Morrell has served on numerous committees and boards, including the Louisiana State Racing Commission, the French Quarter Festival Committee, and the French Market Board, and as Trustee for the Center for Developmental Learning. Mrs. Morrell is also a member of Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, the International Reading Association, and the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee. She was an Alternate Delegate to the National Democratic Convention 2000, and a Delegate to the National Democratic Convention 2004.

Mrs. Morrell received her Bachelor of Administration in Elementary Education from the University of New Orleans and her Master of Science from Loyola University of New Orleans. In 1985, she furthered her educational goals to obtain her Administrative Supervision Certification from the University of New Orleans.

Council Member Hedge-Morrell is the daughter of the late Randolph Hedge and Olga Johnson Hedge. She is the wife of State Representative Arthur Morrell and has successfully raised four sons, Todd, Matthew, Jean Paul, and Nicholas Morrell. She is the grandmother of Kristin, Farrah, Ana, Mea, and Maximilian Morrell.

Reprinted from The New Orleans Agenda Newsletter

New Cable TV Show: *Good News from District "D"* (from Councilmember Hedge-Morrell)

We have launched a new biweekly cable television show on New Orleans Access TV, Channel 6 on Cox Cable. We are looking for community leaders interested in appearing on the show to talk about your neighborhood. Guests on the current episode include Demetric Mercadel, Ben Diggins, and Maddie Trepanier. The show is co-hosted by Vincent Sylvain. The show can be seen at 7pm, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Call our office at (504) 658-1040 if you are interested in participating.

June, 2009 -- Message from Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

I would like to take this opportunity to reintroduce you to your District "D" staff. I am proud that my former Chief of Staff, Jared Brossett, was elected to represent District 97 in the State Legislature. With his departure there have been a few changes in the office.

Lena Stewart has taken over as Chief of Staff. With 23 years of City Hall experience, she brings a wealth of knowledge on the operations of city government. Joshua Barnett is my new Director of Communications, bringing public relations training and experience to the staff. Valarie Scott is handling Constituent Services, providing energetic and thorough service to all residents. Scott Darrah, former President of GCIA is my Legislative Aide. Among his many duties, Scott has been working in the neighborhoods to abate blighted properties through the health and safety codes. Tanya Evans-Nettles remains as my capable Office Manager and Scheduler. She is an expert at juggling my ever-changing schedule.

My staff is committed to serving the diverse needs of District D's residents. Please contact us at 658-1040 whenever you need assistance. The contact information for each staff member is located below. Thank you for the opportunity to allow us to serve and represent you.

Lena Stewart	Chief of Staff	lestewart@cityofno.com
Tanya Nettles-Evans	Office Manager	tdnevens@cityofno.com
Joshua Barnett	Dir. Of Communications	jbarnett@cityofno.com
Scott Darrah	Legislative Aide	smdarrah@cityofno.com
Valarie Scott	Constituent Services	vascott@cityofno.com

Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Eastern New Orleans Grocery Store Survey

An eastern New Orleans entrepreneur wants you to answer the following questions:

1. What type of grocery store do you want in your community?
2. What kind of service are you looking for?
3. How do you want your grocery store to look?
4. Would you want a Whole Foods type concept in your community?
5. If a brand new grocery store came to your community, would you support it even if Wal-Mart comes?

Please answer the questions so we can develop the best store for Eastern New Orleans.

Email your answers to the following address:

NewNolaPromo@gmail.com

Young Eastern New Orleans Entrepreneur Bridgeja' Baker

Becoming a business owner at 11 years old? That's exactly what Bridgeja' Baker is. She turned an unknown talent into a business by learning how to make jewelry from gemstones, crystals and beads. The name of her business is **Creative Jewelry by Bridgeja', LLC**. The phone number and website is **(504) 458-2028 www.creativejewelrybybridgeja.com**.

Bridgeja' was born premature (3 pounds and 7 ½ ounces) to Thomas and Bridgette Baker from New Orleans, Louisiana. However, she has developed business skills beyond the mind of an 11 year old. Bridgeja' is in the 6th grade at Lake Castle Private School in New Orleans East. During the past quarter she earned 4 A's and 3 B's. Her future endeavor is to become a pharmacist and owner of a drug store.

Here's her story: Bridgeja' was fortunate enough to have braces installed so she would have a million dollar smile in the future! Wouldn't you know? Ten days after she had her braces installed she was eating her mom's delicious barbeque turkey necks and a wire popped off her braces? Her mom called Dr. Brown's office (the orthodontist that installed the braces) in Metairie, to schedule an appointment, but his office was closed in Metairie. However, his Mandeville office was open. Bridgeja' indicated that she was in so much pain she could not wait until Dr. Brown's Metairie office opened a few days later. Bridgeja's mom asked her husband to take Bridgeja' to Dr. Brown's office in Mandeville. Bridgeja' dad took her to the scheduled appointment in Mandeville. Her dad noticed a bead shop (which was next to Dr. Brown's office called Diva Beads). Bridgeja' dad asked her if she wanted to look around in the bead shop. She said yes. Bridgeja' indicated she was amazed to see so many different types of beads, gemstones, crystals, pearls, etc. The store owner indicated that Bridgeja' could take classes to learn how to make jewelry. Bridgeja' started taking beading classes in June 2008 and the rest is history!!!!!! The price range of Bridgeja's jewelry is from \$6.50 to \$ 155.00. She had her first jewelry show on 11/1/08 which she earned **\$1,107.00**. It's truly amazing to see the unique designs she creates.

Bridgeja' would like to encourage other young people, especially girls to start preparing for their financial future at an early age!

Bridgeja' has decided to donate a percentage of her earnings to Children's Hospital and the SPCA.

Bridgeja' has been accepted to display and sell her jewelry at the 2009 Essence Marketplace & Art Expo, which will take place at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana from July 3rd-5th.

Contributed by Bridgette Baker

Editor's note: Bridgeja' was one of the vendor's at Saturday's Renaissance Marketplace. Look for her at the next event on July 25, the 4th Saturday of the month in front of Lowe's.