HISTORIC SPANISH TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION ISSUE

PRIES/SLAUGHTER UPDATE: URGENT DEVELOPMENTS!!!

There's a lot going on in our effort to hold the legal line preserving Spanish Town.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is the Parish body that enforces new Historic District Guidelines. The first challenge to this authority is the proposal to build Capitol Lofts, a multi-story apartment complex near Arsenal Park.

After conversations with the Historic Spanish Town Civic Association (HSTCA), developer David Slaughter has slightly amended the size of the project. The HSTCA voted last month that the project is still far out of character with the neighborhood for numerous aesthetic and legal reasons. The HPC could allow Capital Loft's construction by overriding the law. HSTCA continues to vigorously assert that this neighborhood cannot survive more inappropriate, illegal development.

The owner of the property in question, Richard Preis, has made disparaging remarks about our efforts to preserve our own neighborhood, calling them a personal attack. He still wants to demolish seven homes on 7th and State Capital View Dr. As "proof" these homes should be bulldozed, he produced inspections listing their problems. The HPC voted to cite Pries, based on this evidence, for practicing illegal "demolition by neglect." Preis is appealing this to the Metro Council. It is highly suspect that this is a proper, legal channel for appeal. The HPC will discuss the proper procedure for appeals at its October 14th meeting at 8:30 am 222 St. Louis St. Rm 348.

The law promises to protect our neighborhood from more unwanted, illegal, inappropriate development. But the law – and the will of the people - can be subverted with "variances" and backroom deals. It is up to each of us to stand for what is right, for what is legal, and for what is best for our community.

Please contact members of the HPC and the Metro Council and let them know you want these ordinances upheld. See page 4 for contact information.

Join the pivotal fight to preserve Spanish Town by attending both the HPC meeting on October 14 and the Metro Council meeting on October 21, 4pm also at 222 St. Louis St. Rm 348, when Preis' illegal appeal is scheduled to be heard.

THE MANY FACES OF BEAUTIFICATION

Our unique sense of neighborhood in historic Spanish Town came through at the inaugural meeting of the new HSTCA Beautification Committee held on Sunday, October 4. Neighborliness, cleaning up, beautification and crime prevention work hand-in-hand.

Among ideas discussed were the reestablishment of block captains and updated lists of property owners leading to neighborhood-wide cleanup days, neighbor-helping-neighbor "shared tools" days, "adopt-a-lot" cleanup and co-op gardens on vacant lots. Major discussion surrounded on-going handicap and "walkability" issues especially badly broken sidewalks, overhanging limbs and shrubs, garbage cans and cars blocking sidewalks and curb cuts.

A fundraiser for beautification and sidewalk refurbishing is projected in connection with Spanish Town Mardi Gras.

Other short and long range ideas included participation by groups like City Year, Americorps and DPW in clean-up days, grants from local and national groups like B.R. Foundation, B.R. Green and FHL, establishment of a Facebook page for sharing, perennial issues of stray cats and dog poop, placing large planters of seasonal flowers on corners and along major streets and sharing info on the new "litter court".

Please join us for SPANISH TOWN'S OWN HOMECOMING-TAILGATE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 14, 8 A.M. till 1 P.M.; begins at Capitol Grocery. Grab your lawn tools, get your coffee, join your neighbors and head out in small groups into our Spanish Town neighborhood for an initial CLEAN-UP effort sponsored by the HSTCA Beautification Committee. For info/to volunteer contact Sam Corso at 344-4504 SJCorso@aol.com

Thanks to CAPITOL GROCERY who will be offering breakfast and lunch SPECIALS for the workers. Information on these specials will be available at Capital Grocery or e-mailed to our list.

-Rev. Howard Hall

OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11 Sunday in the Park Italian Festa	12	13	14 Lunch-time La-gniappe	15	16 Live After 5!	17
18 Sunday in the Park	19	20	21 Lunch time La-gniappe	22	23 Live After 5!	24
25 Sunday in the Park	26	27	28 Lunch time La-gniappe	29	30 Live Aft 5!	31
1	2	3	4 Lunch time La-gniappe	5	6 Live After 5!	7 Compost bin sale
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Neighbor-hood cleanup Day.

Schedule of Events

- Oct. 11: Sunday in the Park-Walter Wolfman Washington. Free-Lafayette Park, Italian Festa: 11-7:30. Free-Sheraton Atrium
- Oct 14: Lunchtime Lagniappe: Chet Folks & Tommy Simmons. 12 pm-Free State Museum
- Oct. 16: Live After 5: The Late Evening Band. Free-Galvez Plaza
- Oct. 18: Sunday in the Park– Streamline. Free-Lafayette Park
- Oct 21: Lunchtime Lagniappe: History Underfoot. 12pm –Free-State Museum
- Oct 23: Live After 5: Bits and Pieces. Free-Galvez Plaza
- Oct. 25: Sunday in the Park-Greg Hayden and Vintage. Free-Lafayette Park
- Oct 28: Lunchtime Lagniappe: Sweet Olive. 12pm-State Museum– Free
- Oct 30: Live After 5: TK, GG, Steve Adams and Smoke. Free-Galvez Plaza
- Oct. 31:Halloween. Trick or Treating from 6-8 pm
- Nov. 4: Lunchtime Lagniappe: The Baughman Will Case. 12pm-State Museum-Free
- Nov. 6: Live After 5: Neighborhood Stars. Free-Galvez Plaza
- Nov. 7: Compost bin sale: Memorial Stadium Parking lot, East side (check or cash only)9am-2pm.
- Nov. 14: Spanish Town Tail Gate/Cleanup Day. 8-1 Capital Grocery 8am-1pm

For other events going on this month visit

www.artsbr.org

www.redstickfarmersmarket.org/main

www.downtownbatonrouge.org

http://manshiptheater.org/site.php

http://www.fhl.org/indexFHL.shtm

To find out about more fun stuff going on in Baton Rouge, join the Cherry email list at: rougecherry@gmail.com or Cherry Baton Rouge on Facebook

HSTCA ANNUAL MEETING GOES GREEN THIS YEAR

The Annual HSTCA meeting was held Sunday, September 27 from 1-3 at the La. State Museum on 4th Street. Approximately 48 people were in attendance for the first green meeting the HSTCA has ever sponsored. A huge thanks goes out to everyone involved and for those participating in our environmentally conscious use of materials and recycling efforts.

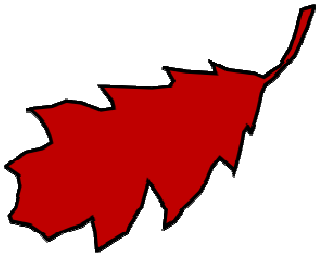
The meeting was called to order by Chairman, David Brown who gave a brief review of the year along with providing the latest information regarding the neighborhoods opposition of the Capitol Lofts Apartment project.

The membership voted to amend the association bylaws in order to make annual membership dues become payable in September as opposed to January each year. In addition, a vote also passed that would increase the membership dues from $20.00 to $40.00 effective in September of 2010. Congratulations to newly elected board member Marie Constatine, and to re-elected members, David Brown, Melissa Eastin, Gene Ransome, and Holley Vaughn.

Allan Williams gave a brief introduction of the new Crime Prevention Committee that he and Shawn O'Brien have spearheaded in order to keep our neighborhood as safe and crime-free as possible. Don Coppola of the HSTCA security patrol was recognized as being in attendance. Creative Holley Vaughn unveiled information on the planning stages of The Spanish Town Arts Festival, which will be held in April. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting project in the months ahead.

In recognition of those that have fought so hard to keep our neighborhood from becoming "super sized", **The Fighting Flamingo Award** was presented to: Allan Williams, Darryl Gissel, Marie Constintine, Father Hall and Andy Koplin. The **Yard Beautification Award** went to: Darryl Gissel for "Best Yard" and Mrs. Clytis Cohoon for "Most Improved Yard". Special thanks to Father Hall for sponsoring the award money and coming up with the idea for a beautification committee. The board presented outgoing chairman David Brown with a gift certificate to the downtown restaurant Little Village for the countless hours he has volunteered to the association this year. The raffle was not only fun but a success. Thank-you to all of those that donated and participated.

-Susan Bailey and Debbie Roussel



311: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT CAN DO FOR YOU

Our City Parish Government has implemented the 311 call center to help residents of Baton Rouge access government services.

These services include pot-holes, sidewalk concerns, stray/loose cats and dogs, overgrown yards, junk cars, trash and debris pick up, tree branch hazards, and zoning violations. You can also receive information about the location and hours of government offices.

The 3-1-1 call center is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.

This service generally addresses issues of "public maintenance nature".

Property owners will be contacted by the City and if they do not respond to the complaint, the city will take action against the owner(s). Please be aware that the City Parish Charter does not allow public work forces to do work on private property

When you submit a request please have the following information available:

- The location and description of the problem.
- Your information (name, address and phone number).
- For more information copy and paste the 3-1-1 web site into your browser:

http://brgov.com/dept/dpw/311/default.asp

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING: THE BASICS

We are fortunate enough to live in a city that has automated curb side recycling and garbage collection. As this is our beautification issue, the Historic Spanish Town Civic Association thought it might be helpful to review the basics of this system.

You can recycle:

- Any color glass, but please, no mirrors, light bulbs, window glass, drinking glasses, or Pyrex.
- Plastics that are marked #1 through #7. These marks are usually on the bottom of the items. No plastic bags (grocery bags can be recycled at Wal-Mart), 6-pack rings, or plastic wrap.
- Most papers and cardboard can be recycled, but no soiled papers, waxy cartons, pizza boxes, photos, or take out containers.
- Aluminum, tin, and alloy metals are acceptable, but no aerosol cans, coat hangers, aluminum foil, pie tins or non-food metal containers (paint cans, etc.).
- Bulky recyclables such as appliances can be placed curb side for collection.

Please be sure to remove all lids and rinse items before you put them in the bin.

Items that have contained hazardous materials should be recycled on special hazardous material collection days. The next collection day will be November 21, 2009 from 9am to 1pm at Memorial Stadium off of I-110.

On November 7, 2009, also at Memorial Stadium there will be a compost bin sale from 9am to 2pm. For more information call 389-5194 or v http://brgov.com/DEPT/recycle/.

For information on electronics recycling contact the Capital Corporate Recycling Council at http://www.cacrc.com/ or 379-3577.

If you do not have a recycle bin please call 225-932-3442 or visit www.brgov.com/cartrequest.

Your garbage carts should contain bagged garbage (bio-degradable bags are now widely available). The can lid must be able to close.

Curbside collection is available for bulky waste such as tree limbs or home generated remodeling debris. (Contractor debris must be disposed of professionally). Please be sure to place these items away from low hanging branches and utility lines. Do not make piles more than 4 feet high.

For furniture disposal please consider donating your items to one of the numerous charities in the area. Items will be picked up by waste disposal if left on the curb.

Garbage is collected Tuesdays and Fridays. Recycling on Fridays only. Have your cans out by 5am.

PLEASE BRING YOUR BINS IN AS SOON AS YOU CAN. We have many handicapped people in our area and these large bins present challenges to their mobility and safety when they block the sidewalks and streets.

Learn more at: http://brgov.com/dept/dpw/solidwaste/

PLEASE CURB YOUR DOGS!!!

We would like to thank everyone for their efforts to curb their dogs. There has been a reduction in the amount of poop in the neighborhood.

We still need to encourage everyone to continue to make an effort and keeping the area clean and sanitary (including Arsenal Park) and encouraging your neighbors to do the same.

Again, its easy as poo-pie: Grab a bag and scoop the poop. Your friends and neighbors will thank you!

If you are interested in contacting any of our City Government leaders, there are two ways you can do this. Go to http://www.brgov.com/dept/council/pdfs/mcmaillist.pdf

If you do not have access to a computer send a self addressed, stamped envelope to the HSTCA (Re: Government Contacts) and we will send you a copy of the list.

P.O. Box 3282 B.R., La. 70821-3282

CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Crime prevention means being aware of your environment and remaining alert to situations that could make you vulnerable to crime.

The paid HSTCA Security Officers Kyle Calihan and Don Coppola (BRPD) recently presented a report and made a few comments about crime prevention to the HSTCA board that we would like to pass along to you.

Compared to the rest of the city Spanish Town has very little crime, and most of the crime that does occur in our neighborhood is that of an opportunist random nature.

Officer Calihan stated, "The residents of Spanish Town are just too nice, they leave their doors and windows unlocked, have been known to leave valuables such as purses and cell phones out in the open and unattended….you can't do things like that anymore without consequences."

Below are some important tips:

- Keep doors, garage, and windows locked at all times .
- Improve your outdoor lighting.
- Don't leave unsecured lawn equipment, furniture, toys, etc. in visible areas.
- Keep cars locked and windows shut at all times.
- Be aware of your surroundings and get to know your neighbors. Not every stranger is a criminal, but it helps to notice people out of the ordinary.
- Remember that as many crimes occur during daylight hours as at night. Don't let your guard down because it is day.
- Take precautions when you are on vacation. Have someone either stay at your home or collect your mail and papers and mow your lawn while you are away.

Individuals on bicycles with backpacks stopping residents to ask for money or work are a THREAT to your safety.

According to Officer Calihan, the police must be called immediately @ 389-2000. There is a great probability that these individuals have a long police record and/or have current outstanding warrants for their arrest.

Spanish Town and the surrounding area has a large influx of homeless people, and one reason for this is that word has gotten out that those nice people in Spanish Town will take care of you. Officer Calihan and Coppola strongly advised that because of our kindness we are actually attracting more homeless to our neighborhood. It should be pointed out that there are churches and other groups and places that specialize in caring for the homeless and their needs much better than we can.

Remember to report all crimes. Emergencies: 911

Non Emergencies: 389-2000

-Debbie Roussel and Allen Williams

OCTOBER SUPPER CLUB (AND PISTACHIO'S BIRTHDAY)!

Supper club is: Pistachio's Birthday - Happy Hallo-Green!!! Saturday October 17th from 7-9 pm at 617 Lakeland Dr. COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED!! Bring your favorite dish and reusable cups and plates.

Pistachio is our black cat and he likes to celebrate this month as his birthday (even though his parents didn't keep good birth records) because Halloween is his favorite holiday. He's black with green eyes.

HELP THE HSTCA MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

SIGN UP FOR A COMMITTEE NOW USING THE FORM ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER.

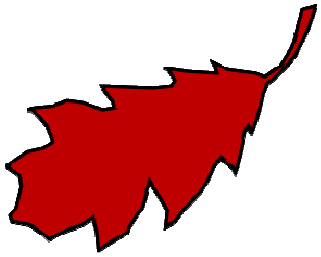
"Many hands make light work"

VISIT US ONLINE AT:

www.spanishtown.us

Or email us at:

hstcabr@gmail.com



Historic Spanish Town Civic Association

P. O. Box 3282

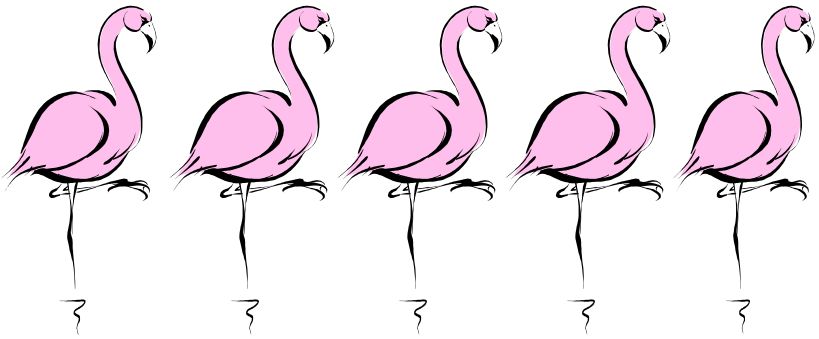
Baton Rouge, La. 70821-3282

VISIT US ONLINE AT:

www.spanishtown.us

Or email us at:

hstcabr@gmail.com



Resident $20.00 Property Owner $20.00 Business Owner $20.00

Preservationist $20.00 Student $10.00 Senior Citizen $10.0

Please consider contributing at least $20 annually to maintain essential security patrols that are privately funded through the HSTCA at a cost of $250 per week.

My contribution to neighborhood security: $_____

HSTCA

P.O. Box 3282

B.R., La. 70821-3282

Name:_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

E-mail_____

I am willing to help with (circle): Beautification, Security, Fundraising, Newsletter, Arts Festival, Crime Prevention, Parking, Community Relations