

The Fountainhead

The
Fontainebleau
Improvement
Association of
New Orleans

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April 2004

FIA General Membership Meeting set for Wednesday, May 5 at 6:45 PM; Representative of Carrollton United to make Presentation to Fontainebleau Residents

The next General Membership Meeting of the Fontainebleau Improvement Association has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 5 at 6:45 pm. As usual, the meeting will be held in the St. Rita School Auditorium.

You do not have to be a member of FIA to attend this meeting. Any and all residents in the Fontainebleau area are invited to attend.

FIA is pleased to have Ms. Jean Fischer of Carrollton United speak to us on the many plans and initiatives sponsored by her organization. Carrollton United is a collaborative of neighborhood organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals, all seeking a better quality of life for all Carrollton residents through a

shared vision and strategic directions developed by the community. Formed approximately four years ago with a small grant from the New Orleans Public Health Partnership, Carrollton United addresses such quality of life issues as blighted housing, safety and economic issues facing the poor.

Having lived for many years in the Carrollton area before a recent move to the University area, Jean Fischer is a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of all efforts to improve our Carrollton neighborhood. Recently, she has worked with your FIA leadership in its attempts to bring a grocery store to the now-infamous corner of South Claiborne and South Carrollton Avenues.

At Wednesday night's meeting, Jean will share with us the details of other projects that will impact our area. These projects are deserving of all our support, and I know Jean will have suggestions on how you and the FIA can help out.

As usual, we have also invited our District A Councilman, Jay Batt, and our State Representative, Alex Heaton, to attend to provide updates from their respective offices and to answer any questions you might have. (Although with the State legislature in session, Rep. Heaton is not likely to be able to make it.)

So please join us Wednesday, May 5 at 6:45 pm at the St. Rita School Auditorium. Your FIA needs you!

City-Wide Care Program, Termites Highlight January FIA General Membership Meeting

Recently, at the January FIA General Membership Meeting, Fontainebleau area residents learned all about a new initiative to foster pride in the "City That Care Forgot," through a lively and informative presentation on the City's new "Care Again" campaign by the City's first-ever marketing director, Mark Konigsmark.

According to Konigsmark, the "Care Again" campaign has three basic goals: to show New Orleanians -- and the world -- that progress is being made in the City; to foster an increased sense of pride in our great City; and to encourage participation by New Orleanians in programs designed to move the City forward.

As of the January meeting, the "Care Again" campaign boasted almost 60 agencies and 3000 individuals among its participants. The idea is to create a clearinghouse for citizen involvement, aligning willing volunteers (and you know that includes you) with groups whose goals are related to improving the City.

Interested? Call the "Care Again" campaign at 598-CARE, or visit its new website at NewNewOrleans.net.

Area residents also heard a most interesting and informative presentation from Brenda Walkenhorst, Outreach Coordinator for Audubon Zoo, on the City's most feared and despised invaders,

termites! Brenda shared loads of amazing and useful information on the little critters, and the various products designed to protect our homes from them.

Most interesting fun-fact of the night: termites can travel 300 feet underground to find a new food source. Best tip of the night: buy inexpensive little pine stakes at a home improvement store, hammer them into the soil around your house at 15-foot intervals, then check periodically to see if termites have taken up residence in your yard. It's a cheap and easy way to discover if you have a problem, or monitor the effectiveness of treatments.

The Irrepressible Optimist

Longtime Fontainebleau Resident
Bernie Smith is an Inspiration For Us All

By: Elsie Martinez

If you're ever feeling down, and your spirits need a lift, think of Bernie Smith. A smile will rise to your lips and the day will suddenly seem not so bad after all. Bernie has been a ray of sunshine in our neighborhood ever since she moved to 50 Fontainebleau Drive 60 years ago.

"I must like it around here to stay all that time," she says with a smile and a twinkle in her eye.

The neighborhood back then was a lot quieter, with less traffic and fewer children, she recalls. "It was very convenient for me because we had only one car and I could walk to one of the neighborhood groceries and to the drugstore and catch the bus to go downtown. And all the children went to St. Rita school right across the street."

Bernie and her late husband, Emmett, had five children: Emmett, Jr., Bonnie Talbot, our neighbor who lives right over

on Belfast Street, Gerrie Gough, Donald and Richard. Today, Bernie's family also includes 18 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

"Emmett and I were so happy when we were able to buy this house," she says while reminiscing in her cheery breakfast room. "A lot of people wanted to buy it – it was built in 1929 – and I think the owners favored us because Emmett liked the architectural features so much and he told them how finely the house was built."

Bernie and Emmett made the basement into a playroom for the children. That's where Emmett Jr. took banjo lessons and Richard guitar. Both still play, Emmett with a group he originated called "Banjo Plus Two," which some readers have probably enjoyed at parties or church functions.

For a number of years, Bernie hosted a prayer group in her home. One of the participants, Angela Kelly, recalls with a smile a memorable prayer of Bernie's: "Lord, I'm willing to accept anything you send my way, but I'll tell you what I prefer."

Neighbors were used to seeing Bernie walk to the 7 o'clock weekday Mass at St.

Rita, and even the extensive street work on Fontainebleau Drive a few years ago did not deter her. The workmen often helped her over the difficult spots.

She was used to walking in the neighborhood with her neighbors, Betty Jo Kron, Lydia Fonte, Jane Foley and Betty LeCroix. However, besides our Fontainebleau neighborhood, Bernie knows neighborhoods all over the world. She probably has been to more countries than many travel agents. One of her most memorable trips, she says, was to Medjugorja, where she felt she was really on holy ground. "I was surprised I could get to the top of that mountain, though," she says with a laugh. "It was wonderful to see the faith of all those people there."

A trip she makes regularly is much closer to home, right on the Gulf Coast in Pass Christian where she and her family have had a home for many years.

Wherever she is, Bernie brightens the scene with her great humor, her irrepressible optimism and love of life. One of her neighbors sums it up this way: "She's an inspiration for all of us, that's what."

FIA Hard at Work for You

Your FIA Officers and Directors have been hard at work for you over the past several months. Here are just a few things that have been accomplished thanks to their hard work and dedication:

- * National grocery store chain contacted by FIA President, and takes interest in corner of Carrollton and Claiborne; Councilman Batt offers to travel with FIA President to meet store representatives
- * Fontainebleau Arch repaired by City in short order, thanks to regular monitoring by FIA officers

* Privacy fence between commercial lot on Claiborne Avenue and Fontainebleau residences to be repaired to meet zoning requirements

* Property owners on Short Street and Belfast Street contacted about condition of properties and alleged zoning violations; follow-up action planned

* Thanks, in part, to regular monitoring by FIA officers, dentist on Carrollton Avenue told by City to meet zoning and building requirements or relocate; dentist elects to relocate

* Second Police District's Quality of Life Officer contacted about several violations of City ordinances in the neighborhood; Quality of Life Officer takes up issues directly with violators.

As you can see, the Fontainebleau Improvement Association is working hard to improve our neighborhood. Please help support these efforts by joining FIA today. Better yet, get even more involved by calling one of FIA's committee chairs and offering to help. Together, there's a lot we can do to improve quality of life.

FONTAINEBLEAU RESIDENTS SUPPORT FIA

Thanks to these FIA Members who have sent in their 2004 FIA Membership Dues. FIA works hard to improve the quality of our neighborhood, and we need your support, both financial and otherwise, to continue this work. Please help us in our effort by joining FIA and sending in your FIA Membership Dues today.

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lester Adelsberg & Linda Bauer | J. D. and Peggy Demarest | Nancy Marks | Sheila Reed |
| Tom and Margaret Baier | Christopher and Christine Bowie Dove | Joseph Marrison and Frank Leo | Charles and Suzanne Reveley |
| Stuart and Olivia Bamforth | Marcel and Dionne Ducote | John and Elsie Martinez | Olga and Philip Riegel |
| Philip and Arwin Bascle | Robert J. Ellis, Jr. | Benjamin Maygarden | Mark Romig |
| Rhonda and Tim Betbeze | Esther Forst | Leon Miller & Kevin Williams | Jeffrey A. and Jeffrey C. Roux |
| Mr. & Mrs. Larry Blanchard | Frank and Jocelyn Fromherz | Michael and Joy Monahan | Julie Sanchez |
| John and Audrey Broussard | Dick and Carla Gannon | Mary Lou and Michael O'Keefe | Tom and Chi-Chi Short |
| Arlen Brunson | Chad and Charlotte Gilman | Geoffrey and Debra Parker | Lois Spengeman |
| Joseph and Elizabeth Cali | Henry and Norma Haydel | Mary Jane Phelan | Effie Stockton |
| Chris and Ashley Chin | Gordon Hyde | Vincent and Felicia Pigna | J. Walker Sullivan, Jr. |
| John and Laurie Conkerton | Jeff and Bonnie Jones | O.L. Pollinque | Robert and Bonnie Talbot |
| Lizette Coughlin | Krista Jurisich | Jeanette Pou | Ardyn Thiffley |
| Alfred Cummings | Mary Kennedy | Alvin and Julie Puderer | Scott Umberger |
| Margaret Cummins | Dr. & Mrs. Wilbur A. Lazarus | Ray, Scott & Peck Diane | Elizabeth Verrett |
| Stephen and Pam De Ferrari | Mary LeBlanc | Kathleen Redmann | Terry & Joan Walker |
| | | | Jan Wootan |

(Clip and send in with your 2004 dues)

FONTAINEBLEAU IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION DUES STATEMENT

It's time to renew your FIA Membership.
The annual membership fee is only \$20.00 per household.

2004 Membership Dues:	\$20.00	Mail or deliver contribution to:
Additional donation:	_____	Fontainebleau Improvement Association
Towards capital improvement, beautification and other FIA projects		c/o Joe Marrison and Frank Leo
Total Contribution Enclosed	\$_____	7911 S. Claiborne Avenue
		New Orleans, Louisiana 70125

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Number of family members and ages: _____

Please mark which committees you would like to join or hear more about:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Security | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Party | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Life | |