

OAMSC Installs 2013 Board

On January 24, the new board was installed at the Old Algiers Main Street Corporation annual membership meeting. Valerie Robinson will serve a second term as president, along with returning officers Beryl Ragas, vice president; James Henderson, treasurer and Angela Theresa Henderson, secretary.

At-large members are Don Butler, Rev. Raynard Casimier, Philip Cooper, J. Dalton Courson, Alex Selico Dunn, Karri Maggio, Orlandez Pierre, Joyce Reed Mayfield and Paul Schmollinger.

9th Annual RiverFest™ Moved to the Fall

The board of River Festivals Foundation voted last month to postpone the ninth annual Old Algiers RiverFest™ until the fall due to construction on the levee and other issues related to the event location. Look for updates at www.aldalgiersriverfest.com.



Crescent City Connection Tolls

Tolls were removed from the Crescent City Connection this month after a judge ruled in favor of the Stop the Tolls organization. Citing the possible disenfranchisement of many voters in the November election that renewed tolls by a margin of 36 votes, the judge called for a new election on May 4.

The Old Algiers community will be involved in conversations regarding next steps as the election draws near.



Like Us Old Algiers Main Street

OAMSC Forges Ahead toward Goals

In 2012, Old Algiers Main Street Corporation moved forward with a variety of initiatives to enhance the neighborhoods of Old Algiers. Below are some major accomplishments.

- Partnered with the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission to bring free family movies in the spring and fall to McDonogh Playground.
- Worked with the Jaeger Foundation/Riverview Neighborhood Development Foundation on an affordable housing initiative in the Riverview community. Twenty-two energy-efficient homes were constructed and are occupied.
- Reinstated the quarterly newsletter, Main Street News. It is printed and emailed to more than 2500 people and is placed in locations throughout Algiers. To subscribe, please send an email to info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org.
- Led the Algiers Strategic Alliance Transportation Subcommittee. The Alliance was convened by the Algiers Economic Development Foundation to develop an overall economic development plan for Algiers.
- Continually updated the inventory of commercial properties, which is a tool for Realtors, buyers, developers and community leaders. There is a Realtor's page on the Website www.aldalgiersmainstreet.org.
- Serve as the liaison to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism regarding the Old Algiers Cultural District and monitor and report on cultural developments.
- Secured a donation of two outdoor-scale sculptures for use along commercial corridors of Old Algiers from Sculpture for New Orleans.
- Continued to work with the Regional Planning Commission and the City of New Orleans on plans for a US Department of Transportation grant application that will fund surface-level bike paths to connect to the levee as well as streetscape improvements on commercial corridors, particularly Newton and Teche.
- During the holidays, sponsored and conducted a lighting contest for commercial buildings in which 18 businesses participated. In 2013, the goal is to continue to enhance the Noel on Newton event by presenting a parade along Newton Street and an event highlighting our area schools diverse programs.

President's Corner

By Valerie Robinson

OAMSC made large steps forward in 2012 as we position the organization to take on major projects in 2013.

First, let me welcome and congratulate the 2013 board. There are four new members, with nine completing their two-year terms or agreeing to serve a second term. While there are a lot of energy and enthusiasm, we have ambitious goals that will stretch our volunteer organization to the max! I hope that others will join us on one of our four committees: Economic Development, Design, Promotion and Membership. If you are interested, please give me a call at 504-421-6692 or email me at robinsonetal@gmail.com.

Placemaking Program

We are so excited to have been chosen by the state to participate in the Community Placemaking Project to bring more artists and more cultural tourism to our area. We will be working with a Community Coach who will guide us in developing a plan. In addition to the Main Street board, we need at least one working artist and one elected official to participate. We welcome suggestions from the community. Our sessions will begin later this month and continue through September.

Grant Application

One of our major efforts this year will be submitting a grant application to U.S. Department of Transportation for improvements along the Newton/Teche corridor (see story, page 3). This requires us to find matching funds to cover up to 20 percent of the total cost. We also need letters of support from residents, businesses, government officials and community organization, so we will be calling on you in the near future.

Main Street Conference Tour

When the national Main Street Conference comes to New Orleans April 14-16, at least some of the group will make a visit to Old Algiers, which was selected for one of the conference tours. OAMSC will present a tour of the jazz landmarks and economic development opportunities in the community to Main Street managers and board members from around the country. The tour will end with live jazz and Mardi Gras Indian performances. It's a prime opportunity to showcase our architecture, landmarks (even if they aren't marked) and cultural contributions!

See Ya' at the Movies!

Join OAMSC and NORDC for Movies in the Park on May 17. It's free, so bring your friends and neighbors. Don't forget a blanket or chair, and a few dollars to support OAMSC's sale of refreshments. Although it is an animated movie, you don't have to accompany a child to enjoy it!

New Logo

Maybe you noticed the new logo in the masthead on the front of the newsletter. After 17 years, we decided it was time for a new look. Beginning with this issue of Main Street News, all future publications, Web site and logo placements will use the new logo, which keeps with the overall feel of the former logo, but provides a more modern interpretation (preserving the past and embracing our future!)

Cultural Corner

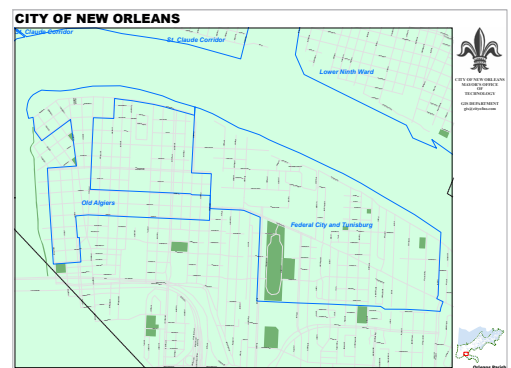
Old Algiers boasts many within the community who support themselves -- spiritually and/or financially -- through their art. Future newsletters will focus on a visual or performing artist or program in the community. If you are an artist, or want to recommend someone or a program to be featured, please contact me at robinsonetal@gmail.com.

OAMSC Selected for Cultural Place-Making Project

In the coming months, OAMSC board members, elected officials and artists will be working with the State Office of Cultural Development on the Creative Community Initiative. The process is designed to establish a clear set of strategies and a team of leaders to implement them as a new approach to making places better through, and for, the arts.

OAMSC is one of ten communities in the state that will receive six months of consulting and support by coaches trained by The National Consortium for Creative Placemaking. The program will help the community create a plan to attract more artists, make areas more welcoming for the arts, promote cultural tourism, create vibrant cultural districts, and take advantage of the growing creative economy.

Communities that successfully complete the program will receive \$3,000 seed grants to assist in accomplishing their creative place-making goals, as well as commendations from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism. If you are interested in participating in this project, please email info@oldalgiersmainstreet.com. The first meeting will be in March.





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Business Spotlight

Kiera's Learn N Play House
1122 Teche Street, New Orleans, LA 70114
504-301-2816, klnph@yahoo.com



Kiera's Learn N Play Offers Quality Childcare

Robert & Carla Oliver opened Kiera's Learn N Play House five years ago in an effort to offer the community quality childcare in Old Algiers. According to Carla, it serves "the future leaders" of the area.

With an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education, Carla serves as the director of the center, which serves 36 children from birth to 12 years-old.

"We teach on an age appropriate level with a lot of hand on activities," Carla said. "We specialize in making learning fun."

She said she moved to the area in 2001 and enjoys the fact that Old Algiers is a close-knit community. And she and her husband plan to stay with a goal of expanding the center to include infant care in the future.

Green Market May Expand to Old Algiers

The Sankofa Market is interested in expanding its fresh market to the Old Algiers community, and the organization is gathering data via a community survey. The electronic survey is located at www.algierseconomic.com, or you can receive a printed one by mail by contacting Old Algiers Main Street Corporation at 504-529-4341 or robinsonetal@gmail.com.

The deadline to submit the survey is March 30.
www.algierseconomic.com

Old Algiers Main Street Corporation is dedicated to the revitalization of the historically commercial corridors of Old Algiers.



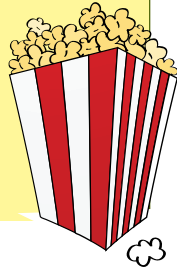
P.O. Box 740181
New Orleans, LA 70174

504-362-0708
www.oldalgiersmainstreet.org

Movies in the Park Set for May 17

On Friday, May 17, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission, in partnership with OAMSC, will present Movies in the Park at McDonogh Playground, 1500 Teche Street. The outdoor presentation will be Madagascar 3.

The event is free and open to the public, so bring a blanket or lawn chair and invite neighbors and friends. OAMSC will sell refreshments. The movie will begin at 7:30 p.m.



Join the OAMSC Team!

With your support, OAMSC can continue to offer programs that benefit the businesses and communities of Old Algiers. For as little as \$25 a year become a member today and join us as we revitalize Old Algiers!

Member Benefits:

- Programs and services to enhance business and the community
- Quarterly newsletter with info and articles of interest to the community
- Access to resources that help you enhance the business climate in your neighborhood
- Invitations to special events and annual membership meeting
- A voice in the decisions that affect all of Old Algiers
- An opportunity to serve on committees and task forces

Send this form with your check to:

OAMSC, P.O. Box 740181, NOLA 70174

Name _____

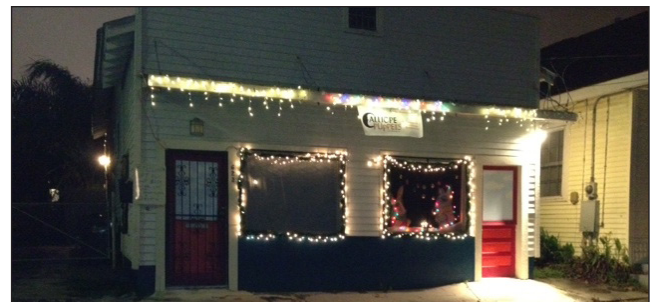
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Enclosed: \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100* Other _____

* Business membership of \$100 includes ad for one year.



Calliope Puppets Wins Lighting Contest

Calliope Puppets at 623 Vallette Street was selected as the winner of the second annual "Lights On in Old Algiers" holiday lighting contest. Seventeen businesses throughout the Old Algiers area competed in the competition.

Kiera's Learn & Play School at 1122 Teche Street placed second, and Westside Cleaners, 513 Opelousas, was the third-place winner.

A starter set of white lights was provided to any commercial establishment that requested them. A portion of the lights were paid for through a donation from District C Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer.

Additional holiday activities, including a parade, are planned for 2013.