



Touro Boulogny Newsletter

A publication of the Touro Boulogny Neighborhood Association

December 2008

www.touroboulogny.com

NOPD 2nd District Email List

Visit <http://groups.google.com/group/NOPD2-EmailBlast> for links to crime maps, crime prevention tips and to sign up for email alerts regarding crime in our district. You can also find this link under Public Safety, NOPD 2nd District on the Touro Boulogny website.

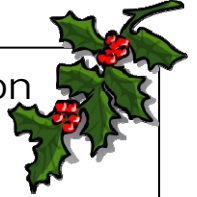
Second District Commander Major Bruce Little and his team do an excellent job of keeping the information current and residents notified.



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Christmas Decoration Competition



Once more we would like to encourage neighbors to enter the Christmas Decoration Competition by making their houses and gardens a tribute to the Christmas Season. We have traditionally offered certain guidelines which help the decorator be faithful to the ambience of the neighborhood.

We who have been the, admittedly self-appointed judges, feel that our neighborhood, with its historical and traditional architecture, deserves decoration which accentuates these qualities of the neighborhood.

- ❖ The decorations should enhance the architectural environment, the house – not too many illuminated objects in the yard out of keeping, but plenty of lights to suit the nature of the house, porch, tracery and its general style.
- ❖ Christmas trees behind lighted windows are a definite plus and cheer passersby.
- ❖ Commercial buildings can use window space and encourage their commercial interests by appropriate interior decorations as well as draped lights and greenery outside.
- ❖ Lights draped around bushes, trees, etc are always beautiful if done well.
- ❖ A Caution: An Al Copeland effect is not encouraged unless one can arrange police support!!

There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for Best Home Decoration and Best Commercial Decoration (which includes B&B's in the neighborhood) as well as a prize for the Best Small House Decoration. The Competition will be judged December 20th and 21st, the weekend before Christmas. Please leave lights on by 5:00pm. ❖

Urban Canopy

Christopher Quail

In the Fall edition of The Canopy, a publication of the La Urban Forestry Council, pictures and text showed the terrible damage done to the state's tree canopy. Perhaps we think of a canopy as a cloth covering over a door or yard or even a stage, but a tree canopy is more important. The whole state is covered with trees which are essential to the life and health of all of us. Hurricane Gustave and Ike did a lot of damage, especially in Baton Rouge. The emphasis now by the Forestry Council and other allied organizations is to prepare for future devastating storms by restoring the canopy; plant more trees. A number of qualified and certified foresters throughout the state supervise this and neighbors can get their help, especially if the neighbors work together and plan to shape the appearance of their streets. For information, consult www.louisianaurbanforestry.org.

In the meantime, it is possible for individuals to get training by a course in urban forestry, usually a week of days and become Tree Troopers. Consult Parkway Partners for the next course. www.parkwaypartnersnola.org. Stacy Head, our Councilperson, was recognized by the Forestry Council for her work in helping Parkway Partners with their "Releaf New Orleans Initiative." What is most needed now are volunteers, whether Tree Troopers or not, to help with replanting or new tree planting.

The urban canopy is our guarantee of good air and better health. Let's help.



Releafing

Taken from Parkway Partners

We can ReLeaf your neighborhood streets with free street trees and the approval of the Department of Parks and Parkways. Our 10 for the Hood Program is designed to help neighborhoods to recover their tree-lined streets. It's easy, just complete the [Agreement Form](#) requesting at least 10 street trees, choose the species, list the address and get signature of each participating homeowner and mail or fax to our office.

Parkway Partners
1137 Baronne St.
New Orleans, LA 70113

Choosing an Appropriate Tree

Every tree species has its good points as well as its negatives. Learn all that you can, make an informed decision and choose the most appropriate tree for your location.

What is the width of the area? If the width of the planting strip is less than 5 feet, only a small size tree is allowed. See the chart below to choose an appropriately sized tree.

Are there overhead or underground utility lines?

Overhead utility lines limit the size of the tree that can be planted beneath them. A tree that grows into the wires could cause disruption of utility service to your neighborhood during a storm. Often, a utility company will have to prune a tree to allow for the unimpeded passage of the wires through the canopy of the tree. It is best to avoid these problems by selecting and planting the correct tree for your location.

Do you prefer and evergreen or deciduous tree?

Deciduous trees often have the benefit of autumn color before the leaves drop each fall. They are also more energy efficient as they provide shade in the summer but do not block the winter sun. Evergreen trees still drop leaves, either periodically through the year (like the southern magnolia) or as the new leaves are emerging in the spring (like the live oak). But they are never completely bare.

Should you choose a flowering tree, a fruiting tree or a shade tree? After taking into account the space limitations of your planting location, the answer depends a lot on personal preference and your aggravation threshold. A crape myrtle provides colorful blooms all summer, but some people consider the flowers a nuisance as they drop onto cars and sidewalks. Berries attract birds, but also bird poop. The shade provided from a live oak tree can be very welcome in our hot New Orleans summers, but the live oak often demands more room than is available, buckling adjacent sidewalks and encroaching onto roofs of neighboring structures.

How do you pick the spot to plant the tree? There are standards for minimum distances between where you plant the tree and existing features along your street. Plant no closer than 25 feet from a corner intersection or 5 feet from a driveway, so that the tree won't block visibility and become a traffic hazard. Allow at least 20 feet between a tree and a light pole. You do not want the tree to block the light and create dark spots at night. Stay at least 10 feet away from a fire hydrant. Keep an area at least 4 feet in width by 7 feet in height clear for pedestrians along the sidewalk. A tree should never be allowed to impede pedestrian movement.

Trees for Planting Strips of 2 1/2 Ft. to 5 Ft. Width and Under Low Utility Lines

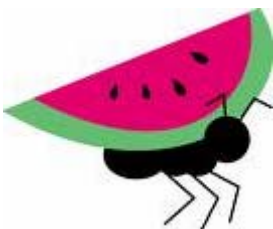
| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Nellie Stevens Holly | Fringe Tree |
| Foster's Holly | Silverbell |
| Savannah Holly | Possum-Haw Holly |
| Dahoon Holly | Crape Myrtle |
| American Holly | Japanese Magnolia |
| Yaupon | Chinese Pistachio |
| Spruce Pine | Japanese Evergreen Oak |
| Ironwood | Sweetbay Magnolia |

Trees for Planting Strips Over 5 Ft. Width and Where No Utility Lines Exist

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Live Oak | White Ash | Shumard Oak |
| Nuttall Oak | Ginkgo | American Elm |
| Willow Oak | Eastern Red Cedar | Winged Elm |
| Bald Cypress | White Oak | Cedar Elm |
| Lacebark Elm | Cherrybark Oak | Sawtooth Oak |
| Chinese Chestnut | Southern Red Oak | Dawn Redwood |
| Catalpa | Overcup Oak | Western Soapberry |
| Green Ash | Swamp Chestnut Oak | Basswood |

Touro Bouligny Picnic

Touro Bouligny families enjoyed good food and outdoor fun at the 1st Touro Bouligny Neighborhood Picnic, Sunday, September 28th. Neighbors mingled while the kids played at the Lawrence Square Park. Thanks to Emily Palit for organizing.



Honoring Our Gardens

Christopher Quail
Editor

Speaking for the TBNA Board, I offer our apologies to anyone expecting a Beautiful Gardens Competition this Fall as proposed in the last newsletter. Because of damage by hurricanes Gustav and Ike some gardens could not be ready and it just seemed better to choose next Spring in late April to be a better time for a garden competition. If anyone had done extra work hoping to be a winner we are very sorry to disappoint. Please try again next Spring.

Talking of gardens, most home owners have some garden space in the back of their homes which the passerby never gets to see except perhaps a glimpse through a fence of a lovely setting. The front gardens are inevitably smaller, often confined to the customary 30' width lot size. All the more credit to those who can make this limited space, often shared with an off-street parking lot, a spot of beauty with bushes, flowers and perhaps fountains. The traditional wrought iron fences usually enhance this sight as if creating a "hortus conclusus" - a sealed garden – but nevertheless viewable to the passerby. It is these little jewels of herbaceous beauty that will be judged for the competition with or without a fence. It will be a way to thank the neighbors for beautifying our "hood" – even if there is only one prize.

Our neighborhood is very lovely and despite a few rough spots of neglect, we can be very grateful. It is sad that a few folk, not residents, drop their litter on our streets – but we can hope to set an example to the "perpetrators" by picking it up behind them like weary but indulgent parents. Let's keep the neighborhood clean



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