

## Community Information & Announcements

<p><b>Monthly Meetings with Lafitte Residents</b> take place on the second Wednesday of every month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Sojourner Truth Community Center. Meetings are facilitated by the Lafitte Resident Council, and include dinner and door prizes! Future meeting dates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday, August 11, 2010</li> <li>• Wednesday, September 8th, 2010</li> <li>• Wednesday, October 13th, 2010</li> <li>• Wednesday, November 10th, 2010</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lagniappe Academies</b> has secured a temporary site on the premises of the former Winn-Dixie on Basin Street - next to Lemann Park - for a new charter school for students in Greater Tremé. The school aims to combine classroom education with real-world skills and other support systems. Enrollment will be open in the fall of 2010 for Kindergarten and 5th grade classes, with future expansion through 12th grade.</p> <p>If you or anyone you know is interested in enrolling a student in this top-notch new school, please call 504-355-0950 or send an email to <a href="mailto:info@lagniappeacademies.org">info@lagniappeacademies.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>Are you interested in what's happening with the Lafitte Resident Council?</b> The Council meets monthly with Providence/Enterprise to discuss the Homebuilding Plan. Members include Emelda Paul (President), Valerie Johnson, Travis LeBlanc, Alvin Banks, Gale Sanders and Edwina Joseph. To get in touch with the Council, contact Emelda Paul at <a href="mailto:paulemelda@bellsouth.net">paulemelda@bellsouth.net</a> or (504) 367-4724.</p>	<p><i>Have a community announcement you want posted here in our next newsletter? Please contact Rebekah Simon at (504) 827-9734 or email at <a href="mailto:rsimon@archdiocese-no.org">rsimon@archdiocese-no.org</a></i></p>



### Update on Construction at Lafitte Frames are now taking shape onsite

Last August, over 250 residents, community leaders, government officials, and our team of committed partners came together for a joyous ceremony celebrating the groundbreaking of the new Lafitte Redevelopment on Orleans Avenue. We're excited to report that after months of hard work preparing the site for construction, frames are now beginning to take shape!

This first phase of our onsite development plan includes 134 affordable rental units and 47 affordable homeownership units, the majority of which will be completed by March 2011 and December 2011, respectively.

When complete, our Lafitte Homebuilding Plan will feature 1500 new homes and apartments in the Tremé/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier neighborhoods: a one-for-one replacement of all 900 subsidized rental apartments previously at Lafitte and an additional 600 new homes for sale to working families and first-time homeowners.

To monitor the progress of construction, please be sure to check our website <http://www.providencecommunityhousing.org> and follow us on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/providencecommunityhousing>. In the coming weeks, we will be uploading a new time-lapse video offering a unique prospective of the activities occurring onsite.

### In This Issue

- Lafitte onsite construction update
- 2nd Annual Resource Fair photos
- HUD Secretary visits Lafitte
- Re-occupancy criteria established for Lafitte
- Update on programs at Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center

### Moving? Please Let Us Know!

Lafitte residents are often on the move, and we are doing our best to keep our database up-to-date. Please remember to get in touch with us if your phone number, mailing address, or email address changes. Thank you!

Rebekah Simon  
Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center  
2200 Laffite Street, NOLA 70119  
Email: [rsimon@archdiocese-no.org](mailto:rsimon@archdiocese-no.org)  
Phone: (504) 827-9734



*Photos of the new Lafitte structures taking shape (June 10, 2010).*

## 2nd Annual Resource Fair a Success!

On May 15, 2010 from 11am-3pm, the Phoenix of New Orleans partnered with Common Ground Health Clinic, REACH NOLA, and Tulane Community Health Center to host the 2nd annual 7th Ward-Tremé Kids/Resource Fair at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. In all, over 40 non-profit and community organizations participated.

Fair activities included arts and crafts with Ya/Ya; spice-making with the Edible Schoolyards; a drum circle led by Project Rising Sun; face painting, tie-dyeing, and bird house building with City Year; sports with Playworks NOLA; and, of course, plenty of great food!

The day also featured performances from the NOCCA Dance Department, Kai Knight's Silhouette Dance Ensemble, Dee 1, the Baby Boyz Brass Band, and a gospel puppet show by the Kingdom Kidz Youth Ministry. Spanish-English interpreters were available throughout the day for our Spanish-speaking families. The fair was a wonderful opportunity to bring the whole community together for some old-fashioned summer fun!



## HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan visits Lafitte



On April 12th, 2010, the Lafitte Redevelopment team was honored to welcome Shaun Donovan, U.S. Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to the Lafitte site for a first-hand look at our rebuilding efforts. During the visit, he reiterated the administration's full support for the rebirth of the Lafitte community.

In between chatting with residents and community leaders about our redevelopment plans, the Secretary enjoyed a poboyn lunch from nearby Parkway Tavern & Bakery.

## Lafitte Re-Occupancy Criteria Established

After many months of careful discussion and planning, the Lafitte Redevelopment team – in consultation with the Residents Council and our partners at Interstate Property Management – has released our unified "Summary of Occupancy Criteria" for Lafitte (attached as an insert in this newsletter). The document incorporates extensive feedback and suggestions from residents and community members at our monthly resident meetings.

The criteria reflect the type of healthy and vibrant community that our residents have told us they want to foster at a renewed Lafitte. For more information, please contact Michele Matthews with Interstate Realty Management at (504) 821-6687.

## What's happening at Sojourner Truth?



Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center (STNC), a hub for community building, offers family stabilization and family strengthening services and provides a welcoming space for residents and communities to gather.

Here are some highlights of what we've been up to recently (please come out and join us!)...

- *The Truth Youth*, a program that provides recreational, cultural, and educational activities for kids ages 7-14 on Saturday mornings, is going strong! Enrollment is open & ongoing.
- *Re-Occupancy Ready* workshops were held in June, providing info & resources to Lafitte residents in preparation for moving into the new development when construction is complete. More workshops will be offered soon!
- Our annual *Summer Witness* camp in June & July was a huge success, with 45 children in grades K-4 in attendance.
- Our *First Annual Winter Festival*, held on Saturday, February 27, featured a Community Drum Circle, Carnival Games & Prizes, Free Health Screenings, BINGO, Face Painting, Food, and a Black History Program performed by our very own Truth Youth Theater & Dance Company!
- Our *Family Wealth Development Specialist* is providing employment, education, and financial education services to residents.
- Our first *MoneyWi\$e* financial education class graduated this past April. Classes will continue throughout the year.
- Our *Section 3* program is up & running, offering weekly Lafitte Redevelopment Pre-Employment Orientations.
- Patrena Ester of *Integrity Resource Services* is providing credit counseling & homeownership counseling onsite.
- Led by the Lafitte Resident Council, our *Senior Citizen Club* expanded in June to a 4-day program offering exercise, nutrition education, lunch, weekly BINGO, fun and fellowship, and field trips to Gospel Alive & Senior Fest. Enrollment for senior citizens 55 & over is still open.
- Our monthly *Health & Wellness Series*, in partnership with the Tulane Community Health Center at Covenant House, addresses important health topics of interest to our community. June featured a Healthy BBQ fair and a seminar on living with diabetes. Bi-weekly nutrition classes will begin in July, led by a nutrition educator from the LSU Ag Center.
- Our new state-of-the-art *Community Technology Learning Lab* will open soon, thanks to a generous gift from Capital One!
- *Daily exercise classes* began this summer and will continue every Monday–Thursday through the Fall.
- Many more programs & services to come!!

STNC is open weekdays 9am–6pm and Saturdays 10am–4pm. For more information on membership benefits and services, please call (504) 827-9963.



Clockwise from top left: Truth Youth young men enjoy a snack, Truth Youth young ladies strike a pose, drum circle at our 1st Annual Winter Festival, Senior Citizen Club "striving today for a better tomorrow," Money Wi\$e graduates show off their diplomas, free health screening.