



New Orleans District 5 Neighborhood Recovery Group

City Park Neighborhood Association
Country Club Gardens Association
Lake Vista Property Owners Association
Parkview Neighborhood Association

Lakeshore Property Owners' Association
Lakeview Civic Improvement Association
Lakewood Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 24378
New Orleans, LA 70184
504.324.2270

Steering Committee

Martin Landrieu –
Chairman
Kelly Alfortish
Lovelie Blicht
Jeb Bruneau
Holly Callia
Charles Ciaccio
Laurence Cohen
Phil Costa
Shannon Daigle
Tim Hurley
Bari Landry
Mark Tullis
Freddy Yoder

Group Committee Leaders

Communications/Community
Engagement - Glenn Stoudt
Greenspace Recovery and
Beautification - Dale Stastny
Neighborhood Planning –
Martin Landrieu
Resources and Finances –
Brad Fortier
Infrastructure –
Freddy Yoder
Crime Prevention –
Charles Ciaccio
Civic Associations –
Jeb Bruneau

In Partnership with the University of New Orleans College of Urban & Public Affairs

Tim Joder
Jim Amdal
Constance Caruso
Wendel Dufour
Patrick Haughey
Earl Hedrick
John Kiefer
Marla Nelson
John Renne
Steve Villavaso
College of Liberal Arts
Shirley Laska
College of Business
Ivan Miestchovich
Heidi Charters

April 21, 2006

Dear Fellow Resident:

We hope this letter reaches you in good spirits. The last eight months have been a trying experience for all of us. But with the renewed hope of rebuilding our community to be beautiful once again, we bring you this news and information. This newsletter is provided to you by the District 5 Neighborhood Recovery Group, in partnership with the University of New Orleans College of Urban & Public Affairs (CUPA).

Through the initiatives of your neighborhood associations, a District 5 Neighborhood Recovery Group has been established and is in motion. New Orleans City Planning District 5 comprises the neighborhoods known as Lakeview, Lakeshore, Lake Vista, Lakewood, Parkview, City Park and Country Club Gardens.

The initial objective of the group is twofold: to assist our residents in the daily efforts to recover and restore our neighborhoods, and to prepare a comprehensive recovery plan for the short-term and long-term recovery process to be submitted to the various agencies involved in our city's recovery. This effort includes all aspects of recovery and involves the work of hundreds of volunteers. The group will continue to seek input from our residents and continue to provide information to you through our newsletters, website, meetings and community workshops. If you have something you would like to let us know, you can complete a suggestion survey on the website, www.lakeviewcivic.org. This website also provides up-to-date information about the recovery process. Our neighborhoods were a shining example of a fully functional community prior to the storm. In short, all of us want that back. We understand, as you certainly do, that this will take a lot of work and a fair amount of time. The Neighborhood Recovery Group has been established to help make this recovery possible.

Hurricane Katrina and its effects devastated our homes and businesses. The District 5 Neighborhood Recovery Group has worked tirelessly over the past few months to keep our residents informed and prepare a plan for complete recovery. The Bring New Orleans Back Commission, the Louisiana Recovery Authority, FEMA, the City of New Orleans and others will be looking to our group for a comprehensive recovery plan for District 5. Our group has partnered with CUPA to prepare a written plan that will be available to the community and the appropriate recovery authorities. The plan will guide our short-term, mid-term and long-term recovery efforts. With the input and assistance of CUPA, we hope to complete the plan shortly. We will make this happen with your continued support and with the help of hundreds of volunteers and a committed group of community leaders. There are a few things that you can do now to help the current and future residents of our community, particularly in our most damaged neighborhoods. Some of the things that will help everyone include, but are certainly not limited to, stabilizing your property by removing the contents and flooded portions of the structure so that the debris can be removed from our area and that the house can be rebuilt or sold; making plans for the maintenance of the grounds of your property if you do not plan to return in a short time; or, if the condition warrants it, arrange for the demolition of the structure. We understand that sorting through the morass of organizations and agencies is a mind numbing and sometimes frustrating experience. However, there are people and agencies that can help, and we respectfully encourage you to seek out these resources for the betterment of your community at large. The City Council recently passed an ordinance that sets a deadline for property owners to clean and gut, maintain the lot, or demolish their property. **The proposed deadline is August 29, 2006**, the anniversary date of Katrina. We hope that you would take action prior to that to help restore our neighborhood and avoid blighted housing, unsafe and unhealthy conditions in our community.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes,

District 5 Neighborhood Recovery Group

Neighborhood Recovery Committee Moving Forward

The District 5 Neighborhood Recovery Group is working daily and preparing a comprehensive plan to assist in the recovery of our community. The Steering Committee is made up of current and past presidents of Lakeview Civic and the presidents or their representatives from Lake Vista, Lakeshore, Lakewood, Country Club Gardens, City Park and Parkview. The committee has established additional action-oriented committees with responsibilities that utilize the input and work of many volunteers to help meet the challenges of rebuilding our community. The action-oriented committees are as follows:

Communications/Community Engagement (Group A) is responsible for establishing and maintaining all the processes and methods necessary for communications to our residents, our neighboring communities and others as may be appropriate. This committee will also receive and process information that can be of assistance to our fellow residents and help to organize community meetings. This group has conducted and published results of returning residents surveys, established a community information center that is helping residents daily, and provided a user-friendly website that is interactive and current.

Greenspace Recovery and Beautification (Group B) is responsible for handling the restitution of our green spaces and cleanups beyond the level of debris removal. The activities of the group will include planning for our parks, playgrounds and neutral grounds; developing volunteer efforts to make immediate improvements to our greenspaces; and coordinating planning and cleanup efforts with each neighborhood organization and governmental agency (NORD, RPC, BGR, CPC, etc.) involved with District 5.

Neighborhood Planning Team (Group C) consists of subcommittees directed to the issues of zoning and planning, historic preservation, health and environment, mitigation and related finance issues. The University of New Orleans College of Urban and Public Affairs is integrally involved in the discussions and development of the planning process. Subcommittees are staffed with local professionals personally interested in the recovery of District 5 and the city as a whole. The group is addressing the short-term goal of the District 5 community to immediately repopulate into a safe and workable neighborhood, as well as the long-term prospects for a more functional neighborhood with sufficient and controlled business corridors and consistent building regulations for new residential construction. Parks and other green space, transportation needs and other infrastructure-related issues are also part of the overall plan.

Resources and Finances (Group D) will perform two vital community functions. First, the group is compiling a Resource and Recovery guide for families to coordinate and simplify the complexity of all financial resources available to aid in the rebuilding process. Group D is also working with local law firms to organize a neighborhood workshop designed to educate individuals on how to properly handle their insurance claims without the need for public adjusters or attorneys. Second, the group is establishing the District 5 Neighborhood Recovery Fund under the Greater New Orleans Foundation. The group is aggressively engaging individuals, nonprofit, public and private entities in an effort to raise the necessary funds to ensure that adequate funding will remain available in the likely event that the federal recovery dollars will not be sufficient to meet all community infrastructure needs.

Infrastructure (Group E) is responsible for evaluating the past, present and future of all utilities and infrastructure in District 5 and for making recom-

mendations for infrastructure improvements. There are various subcommittees in this group, and the most recent status reports from each subcommittee are available at www.lakeviewcivic.org or by calling the Information Center at 504-324-2270. Some highlights include:

▼ **Utilities** – With the exception of those homes located near the 17th Street Canal Levee break, electrical service should be available to all residents; gas service should be available to all gas customers by the end of April. Power is available to all District 5 traffic lights; the city has the responsibility to restore the lights to service. The Sewerage and Water Board is working to restore pumping stations; see the website or call for detailed information. Bell South is working to restore voice, video and internet services; area specific details are available at the website. Cox Communications is working to restore video, internet and telephone service in District 5; they are limited by the availability of commercial power to the Cox supply centers and the erection of replacement poles.

▼ **Transportation** – RTA is under contract with FEMA/SBA and receiving funding for routes that do not include District 5. Special-needs transportation is in effect; the number for paratransit is 504-827-7433.

▼ **Community Facilities** – Efforts are underway to install two trailers to house information centers that will contain kiosks connected to City Hall to access permit and housing information. Potential locations are Delgado City Park campus and the Robert E. Lee Shopping Center. The Robert E. Lee Fire Station is operable and there is no change in the level of police protection. Looting continues to be a problem. The U.S. Postal Service is not moving forward with cluster box units; drive-by service is planned for residents who have a curbside box in place. Garbage collection occurs once a week. Times-Picayune delivery is available in some areas; contact the newspaper circulation department at 504-822-6600 for more information.

▼ **Storm Demo and Cleanup** – As of March 31, 2006, 254 demolition permits have been issued by the City Permit Department. Mosquito Control facilities were destroyed, but the Mosquito Control Administration has begun spraying neighborhoods. Unattended swimming pools are a problem – an inspector can be sent out and the pool treated at no charge if mosquito larvae are found.

Crime Prevention (Group F) is responsible for establishing and maintaining contact with the other Crime Prevention Districts in Recovery District 5 and for maintaining and enhancing our crime-prevention effectiveness in the area with this coordinated approach.

District 5 Neighborhoods (Group G) includes a collaborative effort by the presidents and liaisons of civic associations for each of the neighborhoods within the boundaries of District 5. Those leaders have initiated contact within their neighborhoods to encourage and track residents, as well as recruit volunteers to serve on other group subcommittees to address the specific rebuilding projects and wish lists of their respective neighborhood.

Residents Surveys – Vital Information for Our Community

The civic associations of District 5 are conducting resident surveys to determine their intent to return to their neighborhood or any other decision they may make. It is critically important to the mission of the

District 5 Neighborhood Recovery Group to collect this data. The survey data received has been very encouraging for our community. Below are the survey results as of April 5, 2006.

Neighborhood	Total Households	Valid Respondents	% Returning	% Undecided	Association Websites
Lakeview	7360	2158	75%	14%	www.lakeviewcivic.org
City Park	1550	1550	100%	0%	www.cityparkna.org
Lake Vista	756	488	81%	9%	www.lakevistapropertyowners.com
Lakeshore	660	95	92%	0%	www.lakeshorenola.org
Parkview	550	48	90%	0%	not available
Lakewood	403	203	45%	31%	www.lakewoodns.org
Country Club Gardens	265	265	90%	0%	www.countryclubgardens.net/index.php
Total District 5	11,544	4807	84%	8%	

Resident participation is vital. If you have not completed a survey, please check your association's website for information.

Demolition and the ICC Process

The intent of this article is to dispel some of the uncertainty surrounding the use of what has become known to many of us as ICC. As many of you are now aware, the ICC (or Increased Cost of Compliance) language included in your flood insurance policy states that the homeowner is entitled to an additional \$30,000 (not to exceed the maximum coverage amount of \$250,000 under the standard flood policy limits) so long as it is used to mitigate future damage resulting from flooding. They go on to state that the money can be used to demolish, raise or relocate the covered structure. Herein lies where much of the confusion has arisen.

It is extremely important to understand that this money can be used for any of the above-mentioned options. If you are planning on demolishing your home and building a new structure on the existing lot, you can use these funds toward the cost of demolition. However, it is important to know that the remaining balance can be applied to the foundation of the new home so long as it is built according to the mitigation standards. Therefore, it is imperative to maximize this money to the fullest extent. There are several eager demolition companies in our area that claim they will handle the entire process for you, and will happily work through your insurance company, saving you the headache. If you are not planning on rebuilding, that option may make sense for you. However, if you intend to rebuild, be sure to have your home demolished at a competitive price because the remaining funds can be used toward the new construction costs.

The City is offering demolition as well. They, too, will seek reimbursement from homeowners through the ICC funds. The City will demolish the structure and leave the slab in place. The amount of reimbursement that the City will seek has not been defined at this time. Again, as stated above,

any remaining balance of ICC funds after demolition costs are subtracted can be applied to the foundation of the new home. Doing research prior to contracting for demolition will enable homeowners to maximize the value of their ICC funds.

Debris Removal

Currently, FEMA has a contract in place to remove debris in Lakeview. This contract expires at the end of May 2006. While it is anticipated that this contract will be extended for another 30 days, this will not be indefinite. Residents should utilize this free service now and ensure that their debris is on the curb for the contractor to pick up. Debris includes the contents of the home including refrigerators, freezers, washer and dryers, as well as sheetrock removed from the home. The debris removal contractors will also pick up trees and stumps. Following the termination of the FEMA contracts, residents will be required to facilitate and pay for their own debris removal.

State Establishes Website and Phone Number

The State of Louisiana has set up a registry to collect information that will be used to distribute money for rebuilding. This registry is called "The Road Home," and any homeowner whose damaged house was categorized as "major" or "severe" by FEMA is eligible to sign up by visiting www.housing-la.com or by calling 888-762-3252. Gov. Blanco has proposed to provide grant assistance of up to \$150,000 per homeowner for houses damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This registry is the first step to receive assistance.

Join or Renew Your Association Membership Now!

Your membership in your neighborhood's civic association is vital to the rebuilding of our neighborhoods. Please visit their website or contact them at the number listed.

Neighborhood	Phone Number	Websites
Lakeview	504-324-2270	www.lakeviewcivic.org
City Park	504-581-9322 ext. 147	www.cityparkna.org
Lake Vista		www.lakevistapropertyowners.com
Lakeshore	504-723-2417	www.lakeshorenola.org

Neighborhood	Phone Number	Websites
Parkview	504-891-9315	Not available
Lakewood		www.lakewoodns.org
Country Club Gardens	504-486-8128	www.countryclubgardens.net/index.php

Volunteer Now

Lakeview Community Information Center, 848 Harrison Ave. (located inside the Gulf Coast Bank Office),
Phone 504-324-2270

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – noon Saturday

Our information center is staffed by volunteers who answer the phone and assist residents. If you have not yet completed a resident survey card, please visit us or give the center a call to complete the survey over the phone. If you can volunteer some time to work at the center, please stop by and sign up. The center is also accepting LCIA membership renewals, and your support is appreciated.

Special thanks to:



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Lakeview Real Estate Market Alive and Well *By Jim Ruffin – Lakeview Resident and Certified Real Estate Appraiser*

Lakeview's post-Katrina popularity seems to be alive and well based on the level of real estate activity to date. There is more activity in the Lakeview area than any flooded area of New Orleans, which is remarkable considering the extent of devastation. Sales activity started slowly at the end of 2005, but since then there has been a sharp increase. According to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) in Lakeview post-Katrina, there have been 66 single-family sales ranging from \$65,000 to \$330,000; there are currently 252 active listings and 40 pending sales. MLS also indicates 13 sales of multi-family homes, 37 active listings and 10 pending sales. These statistics do not include for-sale-by-owner activity.

There is considerable sales activity in the \$80,000 to \$130,000 range with a predominant value around \$110,000. This represents older homes with little or no salvageable living area. Teardowns represent lower to midrange values. There is also noted activity in the \$190,000 to \$260,000 range composed of newer construction homes. As inventory of the newer construction has diminished over the past three months by sales, prices have moved steadily toward the upper range of value. This supply-and-demand reaction also applies to the older homes; however, it is going to take longer to diminish the large inventory of properties.

At the time of printing, Lakeview home sales, both MLS and by owner, totaled 207 homes.

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