

NOTES AND ISSUES

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NO. 7

Residents Begin Coming Home to Parkview; All Utilities But Telephone Restored

Parkview residents continued to stream home in November, finding houses that had electricity, gas, water and cable television. However, telephone service through BellSouth remains unavailable. *The Times-*



Columns on Roosevelt home show water lines.

Picayune is now doing home delivery. Mail delivery (yes, by Cliff) is also being made.

The exact number or percentage of residents that are home is hard to tell. Streets that received very little flood damage, such as Moss and Delgado, appear to

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Rich Campanella to Discuss Post-Flood Plan on Dec. 7

Richard Campanella will discuss his ideas and visions for rebuilding New Orleans at an event held on December 7 at 7:30 PM at Vincent Hall at Holy Rosary, 1324 Moss Street. The event is sponsored by Our Lady of the Rosary Archival Project.

Mr. Campanella is the author of two well regarded books on New Orleans, including the highly praised *Time and Place in New Orleans: Past Geographies in the Present Day*.

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**General Meeting
Tuesday
December 6
7:30 PM**

**Vincent Hall at
Holy Rosary**

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The title of Mr. Campanella's talk and Power Point Presentation is "A Geographical Interpretation of Hurricane Katrina."

In October Mr. Campanella wrote an op-ed piece for *The Times-Picayune* in which he proposed a plan for rebuilding the City. The plan, which is a methodology for rebuilding, is credited as being the first serious and public plan for the City. [The unabridged version of this article can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.]

A few weeks after the Campanella Plan was published, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) released its own detailed and comprehensive plan. While there are many similarities between the two plans, especially as to attention to environmental and safety issues, the Campanella Plan suggests that those living in areas that were hardest hit should be surveyed to find out if they will return to those areas, and if so, what are their plans.

According to a *Times-Picayune* article of November 26, the Urban Land Institute's panel debated the Campanella Plan but "raised concerns about the logistics of surveying all residents, noting that the FEMA has refused to release specific information about the whereabouts of evacuees." Members of the ULI panel also said residents may not know how to respond if they don't know what they will be returning to.

Both of Mr. Campanella's books will be available for purchase at the event. ■

Entergy Works Weekend to Restore Gas to Parkview

On the weekend of November 12-13 five crews from Entergy restored gas service to dozens of homes in Parkview, making it possible for many residents to be able to move back home.

Using e-mails and fliers to advertise the coming Entergy crews a list was compiled of 58 residents who needed gas.

For many residents the lack of gas was the only thing keeping them from returning home. Residents had complained that because of the cooler weather they needed natural gas in order to operate their heating systems.

***DON'T FORGET - IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED***

RTA Optimistic About Restoring Canal Street Line; St. Charles Av. Cars Could Run in Mid-City

All 24 of the new red streetcars that ran on the Canal Street line suffered flooding damage while being stored at the facility next to Warren Easton High School. However, RTA officials have said that the Canal track itself is in good shape, and if the St. Charles cars, which were stored Uptown and were unaffected by the Storm, are available, they could be used on the Mid-City line. The problem is that the St. Charles Avenue cars are historic landmarks and federally protected, so their use is restricted.

Elmer van Dullen, who supervised the construction of the Canal Street cars, said, "It was really sad. It was very corrosive. All the metal rusted. Even the plastic had white bubbles. If you had a shiny piece of plastic, it blistered the surface."

RTA has restored over a dozen bus lines, most of which are Uptown and in Algiers. The Canal Street bus line is now running in place of the streetcar. However, the Esplanade, Carrollton, City Park and Broadway lines have not been restored. ■

Businesses in Bayou and City Park Area Re-Opening; Mid-City, Facing More Hurdles, Sees Less Activity

Of the four active businesses located in Parkview prior to the Storm, only Parkview Tavern is open, as of the end of November. Work is presently being done on Fellini's Cafe, and it is expected to be open soon.

Ralph's on the Park has re-opened and is doing a brisk business, as are most high end restaurants in the City. On Esplanade Avenue Cafe Degas opened in mid-November.

However, further down Carrollton towards Mid-City, there are very few retail businesses open. Because of flood damage to the floors Tony Tardo of Tardo and Marshall Hair Designers, located in the 600 block of N. Carrollton, cuts hair on the front porch of his shop. Other than Mr. Tardo it is difficult to find other businesses open along Carrollton, certainly up to Claiborne. Along Jeff Davis the situation is even worse. Bienville and Canal, once busy with medical and legal offices, are now silent. ■

[Parkview Opinion]

EDITORIAL

Institutions Lead Rebuilding of City

Food critic Tom Fitzmorris is fond of saying that the restaurants are paving the way for the rebuilding of New Orleans. While everyone certainly enjoys seeing their favorite waiters and eating their favorite dishes, restaurants won't bring families back home, and most everyone agrees that right now getting families to return is a major priority for a healthy community.

That is why the recent opening of neighborhood schools and churches is something to celebrate. Holy Rosary opened its doors to St. Dominic students in October. In early November Cabrini started holding classes on its Bayou campus. And now, perhaps most remarkably, on November 28, Jesuit is open on Banks and Carrollton.

And it isn't just the schools. Churches throughout 70119 are functioning. On Canal Street, churches that received five and six feet of water are holding regular Sunday services, even if it means without electricity or outside on plastic chairs.

Seeing children walking about in school uniforms is the best sign that a neighborhood is alive.

Ed Muniz and Endymion, Friends of Mid-City

In November when all krewes learned that they would be required to use the Uptown route next year, Ed Muniz quickly and firmly promised the people of Mid-City that Endymion would return to Orleans Avenue in 2007. Considering this organization's long commitment to Mid-City we have every reason to trust that this promise will be made good.

To hear Mr. Muniz on radio and television say repeatedly that Endymion is a Mid-City organization is sweet music for a part of the City that needs and deserves recognition of its worth.

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

We read your editorial in the Parkview newsletter. We are very appreciative of your support and concern for our entire area. We're all in this together. We have always had a good working relationship with the neighboring organizations and believe that our future as a viable area of our city requires all of our organizations united, which has been our area's strong suit. The city is fragile at this time and together we can provide the strength to rebuild it.

I hope that you received my press release about the MCNO party at Rock and Bowl Saturday, Dec. 3 at 2:00pm. Let your friends and neighbors know. We're coming BACK!!!

Dottie Taylor

Mid-City Neighborhood Organization board member and Art Market marketing administrator

State Senator Edwin Murray Post-Storm Message Focuses on Preserving the Unique Culture of Neighborhoods

In a half page advertisement in the November 22 issue of *GambitWeekly*, State Senator Edwin Murray, who represents Parkview, wrote the following message:

“In addition to the physical reconstruction of our homes, businesses and schools, we must also strive to preserve the unique culture and spirit of our neighborhoods. As you senator, I am convinced that the restoration of the very heart and soul of our community cannot be debated in a meeting, studied by a committee, or illustrated in a simple blueprint. In order to truly rebuild our city, we will need the active input and participation of all the citizens who call it home. By working together, we can and will create a new vision of the future of New Orleans.” ■

When Did 70119 Officially Re-Open?

As part of the Mayor’s plan the City was re-opened by zip codes, with the areas that didn’t have flooding being allowed back in first. This meant first Algiers, then the French Quarter, then much of Uptown.

Parkview’s zip code, 70119, provided some difficulties. While some of 70119 received very little flooding, such as the area along Esplanade Avenue and City Park Avenue, other areas, such as Mid-City near Mercy Hospital, received devastating flooding. Sandwiched in-between these areas is Parkview, which itself did not receive an even level of flooding.

“Look and Leave,” as the Mayor called it, was the first step for many areas. You could visit your homes, grab what you needed, but you couldn’t stay. This was usually the case because there was no electricity and curfews were still in effect.

The second step was “Look and Stay,” which for 70119 was allowed on November 14. The other zip code that was opened that day was 70125, and when taken together these two zip codes had 73,000 residents, bringing to 255,000 the total number of residents who would now be allowed back into the City to live.

Even now, three months after the Storm, there are still areas of the City where residents can only view their homes from aboard chartered buses. ■

[Parkview News]

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have the highest number of residents living in their homes. Streets with plenty of raised bungalows or basement houses, such as the 900 blocks of Taft and Wilson, are also seeing residents returning. However, even on these streets, at least a quarter of the residents have not returned.

On the 800 blocks the number of residents that have returned are far fewer. These streets have more cottages and bungalows, which even if raised, still received water damage, and without a second story, the homes in many cases are still unlivable.

Residents on Olga and Roosevelt are returning at much lower rates than many of the other Parkview streets. These two streets received substantially more flood damage to livable space than other Parkview streets.

Household trash pick up has returned with weekly service. However construction materials remain on many streets, especially Olga and Roosevelt.

Electricity has been available for most of Parkview since late September. Gas was restored for the streets closest to Carrollton in October and the rest of Parkview in

Endymion to Parade Uptown in 2006

Because of a lack of money to pay police overtime, the City has reduced the number of parading days from eleven to eight and mandated that all krewes will use the traditional Uptown route. For Mid-City this means that Endymion will not roll down Orleans Avenue next February.

Endymion's captain Ed Muniz expressed much disappointment in not being able to parade using his krewe's usual Orleans Avenue/N. Carrollton Avenue route. He promised that Endymion will be back to Mid-City in 2007, a promise he kept in 2003 when his krewe was forced to abandon its route because of streetcar construction.

According to newspaper reports City Councilman Jay Batt lobbied Mayor Nagin to permit Endymion to use its regular route. ■

**Find Out When Your BellSouth Telephone Service Will Be Restored
Come to the Next Meeting
Tuesday December 6 at 7:30 PM
Vincent Hall at Holy Rosary, 1324 Moss Street**

3500 Block of Banks Street Profiled in *USA Today*; “So goes Mid-City, so goes New Orleans”

A lengthy article in the November 23 issue of *USA Today* profiled the residents of the 3500 block of Banks Street, showing the challenges and difficulties (and sometimes victories) that Mid-City faces.

It isn't clear if the reporter picked this block at random, but Rick Hampson of *USA Today* is sure that it is a typical street, writing, "Its 24 housing units were home to whites, blacks and Hispanics; yuppies and welfare families; gays and straights; renters and owners; refugees from the Vietnam War and from Hurricane Andrew; a nonagenarian who grew up on Banks Street and a young woman seven months pregnant."

The street is not a pretty scene. "Twelve weeks after the flood, no one has moved back. No one knows when electricity or gas service will return. The houses reek of sewage, mildew and rotten food. Inside, mold has painted the walls with abstract murals. Outside a bathtub ring 6 feet high stretches across house after house, all the way to the city line. Grass killed by saltwater crunches underfoot."

A dozen residents on the street were interviewed for the article. All but two evacuated in advance of the Storm. The reporter wrote, "All know that their block will never be the same. Most of the renters aren't coming back, and even the homeowners are doubtful. Nobody knows whether to speak of Banks in the present or past tense."

Many of those interviewed spoke of what they lost, although not necessarily because of the flooding. One woman, an attorney, who was laid off by her firm, said that her Banks Street house was recently burglarized. "They broke the lock. They went through my closet and my drawers. They took my wedding jar. It's a glass pickle jar I decorated with stickers. I kept change in it, for when I get married. There was about 20 bucks." ■

Comeback Party for Mid-City Scheduled for December 3

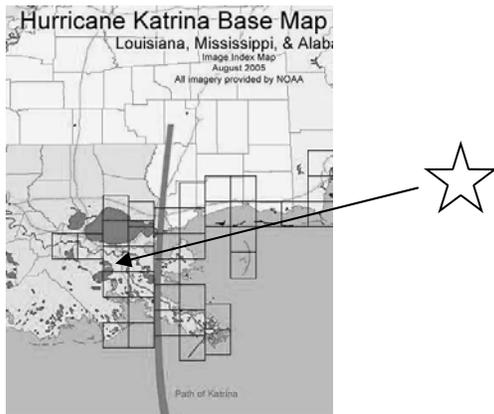
Rock and Bowl© on Carrollton and Tulane will be the site for a party celebrating the rebirth of Mid-City. The event will take place on Saturday December 3 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Music, refreshments, fun and friendship are all promised.

The event is sponsored by the Mid-City Neighborhood Organization, a group which every day promotes the "Heart of the City." The organization's website is www.mcno.org. ■

Aerial Views of Flooded Parkview Found on Internet

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shot aerial images of Louisiana on August 30 and August 31, just days after the Storm. These images can be found at the NOAA's hurricane site: <http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/katrina/KATRINA0000.HTM>. There is no index to these images, so the following steps must be taken in order to find the Parkview image:

When you pull up the website listed above this image will appear. Click on the square that is right below the Lake



The next image will show hundreds of tiny squares, each of them a link to an aerial view of the City. The second row of squares (from the top) contains the aerial views of the Bayou St. John area. They are located in the middle of this second row. When your cursor is over a box its number will be shown on the bottom of your screen. Parkview can be found at image 24427000. The image will look like this at the right.



This image and all images on the NOAA site can be saved, and this would be recommended in order to be able to zoom into the image to get a more detailed view. Once the .jpeg file is saved and opened in a photo editing software, such as Photoshop, the image can be manipulated. The detail on the NOAA images is quite good with automobiles in the street even being recognizable to their owners.

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While searching through the NOAA image files is part of the fun, if you want to go straight to the Parkview image, type in the following address into your address bar: <http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/storms/katrina/24427000.jpg>.

Other NOAA images of the area include:

Fair Grounds and streets around Fair Grounds:
<http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/storms/katrina/24426991.jpg>

Faubourg St. John:
<http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/storms/katrina/24426996.jpg>

MSNBC Site Offers High Resolution Images

Another source for aerial views is MSNBC's Katrina site, which can be found at: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/apps/ve/katrina.htm?a=1/> These are high resolution images that are taken at an approach angle rather than simply straight above like the NOAA shots. Therefore the images have perspective and the homes in the images appear multi-dimensional.

The MSNBC images do have software on the site that allow you to manipulate the image, unlike the NOAA site which requires you to save the image first. The difference is that with the MSNBC site there isn't a loss of quality when manipulating the images.

The MSNBC images were shot between September 6 and September 11.

GOOGLE

If you go to Google's general map site, <http://maps.google.com/>, and plug in any New Orleans address a Katrina option will be added to the different overlays that are available. This will allow you to quickly find images of flooded neighborhoods. Like the MSNBC site, the Google software allows you to manipulate the image easily and with confidence.

Google's Earth offers even more options, including many overlays that can be downloaded and integrated with other maps.

Finally, using Google's image search options at <http://images.google.com> will yield many interesting and worthwhile results. ■

[Parkview News]

In Time of Crisis and Renewal Lakeview Neighborhood Association Uses Website to Bring Hope to Members

Three months after the walls of the 17th Street Drainage Canal collapsed and flooded all of Lakeview, its residents are returning, gutting houses and asking lots of questions. Fortunately for them they are represented by one of the strongest neighborhood associations in the City. And with the help of the Internet the Lakeview Civic Improvement Association's presence is nearly as big as the challenges its members now face.

When you open the Lakeview Civic Improvement Association's website (www.lakeviewcivic.org) a message at the top says, "In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Lakeview Civic Improvement Association will use this website to keep our Lakeview family informed and in communication, until we can return to our homes." The people of Lakeview have taken these words to heart - soaking up massive amounts of information, viewing hundreds of photos of their flooded neighborhood, and, most importantly, actively using the message boards on the site in order to organize meetings, ask questions on insurance, and for many to rant and rave.

The site lists Lakeview businesses that are now open (at this time only Gulf Coast Bank and Trust on Harrison); those Lakeview residents who died because of the storm (thirteen total); and contact numbers for government agencies.

Hundreds of photos are archived on the site, many of them taken by residents in boats the day after the walls of the drainage canal failed. In most of these photos the water is at its highest level, which for many homes means only the roof can be seen. One particular set of photos by Michael Harper, taken on September 2, is a street by street review of the flooded areas.

State Representative Peppi Bruneau, who has long been Lakeview's powerful voice in Baton Rouge, has been writing a regular newsletter to his constituents, and these along with other updates by his office are posted on the Lakeview site. His update of September 20, when he returns to Lakeview for the first time, is compelling reading. He begins by writing, "On Sunday, I went into our neighborhood," reminding the reader that this was his home too.

However, the message boards attract the most attention to the site. The site connects you to The Rebuild Lakeview message board, which is a Yahoo group. On November 28 fifty one messages were posted. Some were announcements, but most were questions about insurance or FEMA, or concerns about rebuilding. Some re-

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General Meeting to be Held Tuesday December 6, 7:30 PM

The first post-Storm meeting of the Parkview Neighborhood Association will take place on Tuesday December 6 at 7:30 PM at Vincent Hall at Holy Rosary, 1324 Moss Street. City Councilman Jay Batt (or a representative of his office) will attend the meeting. Also, State Representative Peppi Bruneau regularly attends the meetings.

Representatives from BellSouth have been invited to attend the meeting in order to answer questions regarding the date when phone service will be restored to Parkview. Telephone service is the only utility that has not been restored.

Issues regarding City Park and Bayou St. John will also be discussed.

Meetings usually last for 90 minutes. ■

Mid-City Housing Featured in *Dallas Morning News* Article

Under the headline "Mid-City's Struggle to Return Symbolic of N.O.'s Problems," an article in the November 27 issue of *The Dallas Morning News* concluded that "in many ways, what happens to the Mid-City neighborhood could foretell the future of this city."

Mid-City is pointed out as an example of a cultured and diverse neighborhood, noting that it is one of the few neighborhoods in New Orleans where rich and poor, black and white, live together in the same area. However, because of the anticipated increase in rents, some predict that many working class people may not be able to afford to live there.

According to the article while many homes can be saved, homes that are renovated and put back on the rental market are snatched up quickly at much higher rents than before the Storm. One resident who owns a house on N. Murat that is being renovated said that as soon as a for-rent sign goes up, FEMA is there to rent it at the asking price. The resident said that before the storm his two bedroom duplex rented for \$900 per month. Now, after spending \$60,000 on repairs, he said he will charge \$2,000 a month.

However, not all parts of Mid-City are ready for residents. Robert Cangelosi, who lives on N. Carrollton near Jesuit, said that only one house on his block is occupied. Mr. Cangelosi said, "I'm worried that all of what Mid-City has become will go away." ■

A Proposed Reconstruction Methodology for New Orleans The Campanella Plan

by Richard Campanella

The number of commissions, panels, symposia, and workshops convened recently to discuss the reconstruction of New Orleans is exceeded only by the number of proposals offered on how to do it. Should certain neighborhoods be demolished? Should they be rebuilt? If so, how? What if residents want to return but engineers recommend against it? What if the housing stock is severely damaged, but historically and architecturally significant?

Every New Orleanian, from layperson to professional, has ideas on how to resolve these colossal problems. Most are well worth discussing, and many are downright compelling. What has been lacking is a sound methodology through which these ideas may be passed, to ensure in a *fair, consistent, and repeatable* manner, that all stakeholders and values weigh in toward making the best decisions, and applying them to the right places.

As a geographer and long-time New Orleans historical researcher, I offer the following straightforward reconstruction methodology. It does not address important engineering issues such as levee reinforcement, sea wall installation, canal closures, or coastal restoration, but rather the mending of the city's urban fabric. The methodology is based on one overriding principle—*that the best decisions are based on solid, scientific data rather than emotions or politics*—and tries to balance four fundamental (and sometimes conflicting) values:

- That all New Orleanians have the right to return to their city, and if at all possible, to their neighborhoods and homes;
- That homes be structurally safe to re-inhabit;
- That the historical and architectural character of the neighborhoods be maintained to the utmost degree possible; and
- That the neighborhoods be environmentally and geographically as safe as possible from future floods, contaminants, and other threats.



800 block of Taft Place. Image was posted on the Internet.

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Here it is:

Step 1. Determine Who Wants to Return, and to Where—Conduct a scientific survey of residents (both returned and evacuated) regarding their intent to return and remain in New Orleans. Record the respondents' pre-Katrina addresses, and map out the results by census tract. Code to red those with return rates of under 25%; code to yellow those with return rates of 25-50%, and code to green those with return rates of 50-100%.

Step 2. Determine Structural Safety—Conduct an engineering survey of all residential structures regarding their physical damage and salvageability, and map the results by census tract. Code to red those with over 75% condemnation rates, yellow those with 50-75% condemnation, and green those with under 50% condemnation.

Step 3. Determine Historical/Architectural Significance—Conduct a historical/architectural survey of all structures, and map the results by census tract. Code to red those deemed to be historically / architecturally less significant; code to yellow those deemed fairly significant, and code to green those deemed highly significant.

Step 4. Determine Environmental Safety—Conduct a survey of elevation, vulnerability to flooding, subsidence, and environmental / human health conditions. Code to red those determined to be well below sea level and highly vulnerable or contaminated; yellow for those near sea level and somewhat vulnerable; and green those above sea level and relatively safe.

Step 5. Tabulate Data—Take the results from all four surveys and map out the patterns. Some areas will be coded all or mostly green; some will be all or mostly red; and some will be mixed. Below are a set of potential recommendations for the most likely combinations:

For those tracts coded “Green” in all four surveys:

These are safe, historic areas to which residents want to return. They will rebound on their own. The city should re-zone certain blocks to allow for intensified residential development and accommodate a higher population density.

“New Urbanism,” using traditional building styles and typologies (and recycled historical building materials), plus a healthy mix of modernism and new ideas, should be encouraged to fill open lots and mend the historical urban fabric.

Historical structures from devastated areas should be moved here, whenever possible.

Residents should be involved in all zoning and design decisions.

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[Parkview Ideas]

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For those tracts coded “Red” in all four surveys:

These are dangerous, heavily damaged, non-historic areas to which residents mostly do not want to return. Sad as it is for those few who do, it is not worth the tremendous societal effort to rebuild in these unsafe areas. They should be bought out, cleared, and returned to forest, to serve as (1) flood-retention areas, (2) green space and wildlife habitat, and (3) Katrina memorial parks. Some may be used for appropriate commerce or industry, possibly as tax-free zones.

Former residents of these areas who desire to return should have “first crack” at renting or buying parcels in nearby areas.

Selected houses that survived in reasonable condition should be moved to other areas, to preserve their place in the architectural record.

For those tracts coded “Yellow” or “Green” in the Resident-Return Survey, but “Red” in all other surveys:

The neighborhood should be cleared and then rebuilt, simply because a significant number of residents demand it.

Experts and community representatives should meet and agree on new construction styles, designs, and typologies.

All new structures should be raised on piers and reinforced for maximum flood and wind protection. Those few salvageable homes should be saved, to preserve architecture representation.

Old street networks and names should be maintained in their entirety, but the lowest blocks should be reserved for green space and parks.

For those tracts coded “Yellow” or “Green” in the Architectural/Historical Survey but “Red” in all other surveys:

The neighborhood should be saved at all costs, regardless of other factors. Historically and architecturally significant neighborhoods are absolutely critical to maintaining the city’s character and tourism economy. Tax credits and other mechanisms should be established to encourage restoration.

Such a methodology offers numerous benefits. It respects and balances four fundamental values. It is easily communicable to the public. It provides a citable, accountable basis for difficult and controversial decisions. It relies on science and engineering, but not at the expense of humanistic, historical, and aesthetic values. The methodology’s details, percentages, and proposed recommendations are all subject to rigorous debate. Perhaps the survey data should be aggregated by blocks, or by the 70-odd official neighborhoods boundaries, rather than by census tracts. Certain elements are admittedly subjective, time-consuming, costly, susceptible to abuse, and overly simplistic. I offer this “road map” not as *the* methodology, but merely in the hope of convincing the powers-that-be of the need for *a* methodology.

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Richard Campanella, a geographer and mapping scientist, is the author of *Time and Place in New Orleans: Past Geographies in the Present Day* (2002) and *New Orleans Then and Now* (1999), both published by Pelican Publishing Company. His next book, *Geographies of New Orleans: Urban Fabrics Before the Storm*, will be released by the Center for Louisiana Studies in 2006. ■

Obituaries: Remembering Our Members

Donald Pecoraro (Wilson Drive)

Fair Grounds Regular

Donald Pecoraro, who lived on the corner of Wilson and Orleans for over 40 years, died of heart failure on September 12, 2005 in Orangeburg, South Carolina, while evacuated because of the Storm. He was 73 years old.

In reporting Mr. Pecoraro's death a newspaper in South Carolina published a feature article on the Pecoraro family's flight from the hurricane.

Mr. Pecoraro, a New Orleans native, was married at St. Rose of Lima Church, and had three children. He is survived by his wife Pat, whom he met in grammar school.

Mr. Pecoraro was for many years the head usher at the 10'oclock Mass at Holy Rosary. However, he would probably also want to be remembered as a skilled horse-player who regularly attended races at Fair Grounds. ■

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ported looting. Sometimes a resident who had not been home yet would write to ask about progress in the area. There is plenty of anger too.

One thing that most all who post messages have in common is a desire to rebuild their homes. Few write that they are not coming back, and even those who do say that they are not returning write that the decision is a reluctant one, and one that may be necessary because of circumstances beyond their control. ■

[Parkview Flooding]

Taft Place Residents Throw Welcome Home Party

On Saturday November 19 residents in the 800 block of Taft Place threw a party to celebrate their return to their homes. The party was organized by the folks living at 853 Taft Place.

Elaine Jones, who was busy handing out the hot pink invitations, said that the party was an opportunity for people who are gutting homes to get together with their friends to tell stories and get reacquainted.

Everyone on the block was invited. ■

Line to Board Helicopters at Bayou near Post Office



The concrete strip that runs along the banks of the Bayou between Orleans Avenue and the end of the Bayou (at the Brake Tag Station) became a staging area for evacuations. People lined up on this path awaiting helicopters to take them away.

In this photo, which is from the Internet, a large crowd can be seen on the concrete strip. A helicopter can be seen to the left of the crowd, its rotary blades causing the water to ripple. Another helicopter can be seen to the right of the crowd.

Thousands of photos like this are available on the Internet. Unfortunately, when they are reproduced in print, as here, their quality suffers. ■