



Lake Oaks Civic Association

Phalon Cornist

President

2363 Killdeer St.

New Orleans, La 70122

Dear Residents;

I would like to first thank you for being awesome friends and neighbors. We have made new friends and lost loved ones. We've gained new neighbors and said goodbye to others. Lake Oaks, we've been through it and yet we have still managed to stay close and familiar. We have gone through some trying times yet we have persevered through them. I humbly thank you for your support, assistance, knowledge and thoughts throughout 2021.

In the past year we accomplished and conducted many community get togethers to get to know our neighbors and make connections despite the never ending roadwork. We donated meals to our friends and neighbors at the Orleans Levee District Police Department to thank them for their involvement in our community and foster even more. We conducted our annual pot luck and enhanced it with a concert.

After Hurricane IDA we encouraged cleanup and performed wellness and checks on homes. When necessary taking pictures and getting them to the owners. We helped foster a spirit of community and stood together while the power was out to help maintain the safety of the neighborhood to help keep it free from robbery and vandalism.

We added payment systems for the facilitation of paying dues, donations and event participation. We fought to get our subdivision added to the City's CZO (Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance) to help maintain continuity and maintenance which helps maintain and increase property values. We formed an alliance with the other three lake communities in order to gain a unified voice in dealing with the Lakefront Management Authority. This has already paid dividends. LMA had contracted with a vendor for debris removal and disposition. The vendor was looking to dispose of the debris by burning it by the UNO Technology Park a mere 100 yards from our neighborhood. All four Presidents immediately complained while questioning the legality of doing so and in the process we successfully got them to change their plans.

We conducted our second annual Steak night and Chili cookoff. This fed members of the OLDPD and NOPD at no charge to show our appreciation. This also facilitated the meeting of our city council candidates. This event also fostered a spirit of community in helping meet more of our neighbors. Congratulations to Chip Hardgrave and Esmond Carr the winners of the steak cookoff and Dino Dilaurentis for the Chili portion. We also participated in the Annual Night Against Crime later that same week providing refreshments to the community.

We continue to increase the number of dues paying members going from 57 in 2019, to 94 in 2020 and 130 last year. We encourage all 315 homeowners to participate in our activities and becoming a member of our Civic Association. It is truly a minimal monetary investment (\$25 annually) in your community. We maintain our community informed, fight to be properly represented in the City and the LMA (Lakefront Management Authority), items that arise that are pertinent to our community. An example being the Verdad Mini Storage facility in the Lake Oaks shopping Center. We informed the community got additional information and took a vote in opposition of the development. We personally met with Jared Brosset and conveyed our unanimous opposition but were unable to garner his support and the project was approved last month at the city council meeting which I attended.

After years of battling with the LMA to try to get them to clean up the utility easements behind our homes, we secured an agreement in writing from them not just to clean them up but to also maintaining them clean three times a year going forward. A special thank you to Van Robicheaux for drafting a letter on behalf of our association and to LMA Board members Esmond Carr (Lake Oaks resident and now Second Chair at LMA) and Eugene Green (Now our new councilman for District D).

For Halloween we partnered with OLDPD to provide a safe haven for the children and created our "Trunk or Treat" along Lake Oaks Parkway. OLDPD provided several patrol cars to restrict traffic and provide much needed lighting. A special thanks to OLDPD. Our association officially thanked them with a plaque at their board meeting on December 16th. The situation for Halloween was untenable as a result of the road construction and just about every street light in our neighborhood being out. We finally were successful in getting the city to finally fix most of our street lights (we have a few more to go) thanks to the help of Pierce Huff Constituent Services Aide District D and Christopher Lloyd Outreach Specialist Capital Improvement Program "Roadwork NOLA". Pierce was also instrumental in helping us get a huge pot hole on New York Street which had been a hazard for over four years. This was a project that had been left unfinished by the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.

We brought in the Holiday season just after Thanksgiving with our second annual Music under the Oaks with a string quartet where we provided snacks and refreshments. We continued the season with our Annual Breakfast with Santa event which closed our last community event for the year.

Our new community web site www.lakeoaksnola.com should be operational on or before February 1st. We will be welcoming content and pictures from our residents once launched. The first three security cameras should be installed by the end of February monitored by Project NOLA.

I would like to personally thank all of the volunteers that have helped accomplishing all of above and many others that are unspoken. We can stand proud that we did this all as a community.

Going forward into 2022 we plan on building on the events of last year and improve upon the deliverables such as the cameras and our new web site. We're looking into putting up signs that our neighborhood is being monitored by video surveillance. One of our next projects will be working with Rouse's Development in getting them to spruce up the Lake Oaks Shopping Center. We're also monitoring the LMA plans to reopen the beach at Pontchartrain Beach to the public.

Please join us at our next association meeting to be held February 3rd at the Chapel of the Holy Comforter located at 2220 Lakeshore Dr. N.O., LA 70122 at 7:00 PM. This meeting will also be the night of our annual election of officers to the Board.

Sincerely;

Phalon Cornist

President