



BONNABEL BULLETIN

January 2024 Volume 35, Issue 1

P.O. Box 55224 ▪ Metairie, LA 70055 ▪ www.bonnabel.org

LILJEBERG, WALKER, AND VANVRANCKEN WIN

After a contentious and heated race, Scott Walker handily retained his At Large, Division B seat against opponent and term-limited District 4 Councilman Dominick



Scott Walker retains Parish Council At-Large, Division B seat

Impastato. The race, which often turned heated, saw confrontations around commercial development versus residential zoning for the 8.3 acre Haynes Academy site in Old Metairie, crime, and economic development.

Walker listed his priorities as early childhood education, public safety, and economic development. Impastato focused on increasing the role of the At Large seat to one of coordinating the priorities of all districts. He accused Walker of having a relaxed attitude regarding representing the district while Walker focused on collaborating with all members of the council.

The race between former judge Hans Liljeberg and business woman Melinda Bourgeois was much more civil with candidates agreeing on most issues. The Haynes site, Green Infrastructure Plan, crime, and retaining young people in the state and our parish were major topics of agreed upon priorities.



Hans Liljeberg Councilman for Jefferson Parish District 5

District 5 council woman Jennifer Van Vrancken bested incumbent Ricky Templet and third party candidate Frankie Hyers to assume the At Large, Division A seat. Van Vrancken maintains her focus on making the district cleaner, safer, and a better place to live. Another focus will be bringing down

skyrocketing insurance rates. Van Vrancken believes one way is to assure we are building to new resilience standards that resist storm impacts. She said her work on lowering crime will continue while working with the JPSO and Orleans police so problems don't bleed over into the parish. Van Vrancken plans to shift to working on the issues that impact the entire parish like insurance rates, building resilience, and sharing successes she has had in District 5 to the rest of the parish.



Jennifer Van Vrancken Council woman for Jefferson Parish At-Large, Division A

Election Results were as follows:

At Large, Division A

Jennifer VanVrancken	51.25%
Ricky Templet	45.53%
J. Frankie Hyers	3.23%

At Large, Division B

Scott Walker	61.47%
Dominick Impastato	38.53%

District 5

Hans Liljeberg	65.53%
Melinda Bourgeois	34.47%

The **Bonnabel Civic Association** congratulates the winners, thanks all those who were interested in serving, and looks forward to working with the entire council to improve our neighborhoods.

Thursday
January
11

GENERAL MEETING

Lakeshore Playground
1125 Rosa Avenue ▪ 7:00 p.m.

GENERAL BUSINESS

SPEAKERS

JPSO Update

JPSO Deputy Anthony Canatella

- General Update
- Home Security Recommendations

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES IN

JEFFERSON PARISH
Lynda Nugent Smith

- MRTPD & Buildable Space
- Residential Façade Improvement Program
- Fortified Roof Program
- The Louisiana Insurance Crisis

PARISH UPDATES

- Hans Liljeberg, District 5
- Jennifer Van Vrancken, At Large, Division A



BONNABEL
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Don't forget



Dues are due

Dues are \$25.00 per year.

Pay only \$15.00 if you refer a neighbor to join the Bonnabel Civic

2024 MEETINGS

BONNABEL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

7:00 PM, Lakeshore Playground
1125 Rosa Avenue, Meeting Room #3

January 11, 2024 April 11, 2024
July 9, 2024 (on a Tuesday) October 10, 2024

HOMEOWNER INSURANCE RATES REACH CRISIS IN LOUISIANA

As of September 19, 2023, the average annual home insurance premium cost in Louisiana is \$5,353 and is three times the national average. The primary reason for such high costs are because of the likelihood of hurricanes and recent catastrophic storms that saw many home insurers pull out of Louisiana ([see which states are hit most often by hurricanes](#)). Additionally, Louisiana has the least



Blue roofs over Kenner after Hurricane Ida over 5 years.

affordable auto insurance rates in the nation according to the Insurance Research Council. Flood insurance premiums are also increasing and the state has joined other states suing FEMA to disclose their new rate methodology, Risk Rating 2.0. State Solicitor General Liz Murrill called FEMA’s setting of the new premiums as “arbitrary and capricious”. FEMA refuses to disclose the formula but says rates are sound and equitable despite steep hikes hitting homeowners as a result of the new system. Louisiana is projected to see increases of 134% on average for single-family homes, phased in



The insurance crisis is impacting Louisiana residents by forcing hard decisions. Senior citizens on fixed budgets are being forced to consider relocation, selling their home, canceling their insurance, or utilizing their savings at a much faster rate than anticipated. Younger people with existing mortgages are seeing increases in their monthly payments that they are finding unsustainable and, for those considering buying a new home, increased monthly payments due to insurance premiums are causing them to either lower their target purchase price or delay their home purchase. In all cases, residents are growing more and more alarmed about how to pay for homeowner insurance rate increases that in 2022 increased by 18.5%, and flood insurance rate increases between 99% (Orleans Parish) to 545% (Plaquemines Parish). Jefferson Parish is projected to see an increase of 150%.

Channel 4WWL published an article ([read it here](#)) as well as a map of insurance rates by zip code that reflects the results of their review of “9700 policies from Louisiana Insurance Corporation that have 2% hurricane deductibles and \$2,500 All Other Perils (AOP) deductibles. The map shows the average rate by Zip Code for insuring \$1,000 in Dwelling Insurance. In other words, a rate of \$25 per \$1,000 home value would cost \$2,500 to insure \$100,000 and \$5,000 to insure \$200,000 and so on.” You can find this map by [clicking on this link](#). A list of Jefferson Parish zip codes within the Bonnabel Civic Association and their rates per \$1000 are:

70001 \$23.66 70002 \$21.83 70003 \$26.92 70005 \$23.03 70006 \$23.15

Forbes Advisor just published an article on the [average home insurance cost for January 2024](#) and it provides a list of insurance companies, charts of average costs, and costs by state. This can be a useful tool in anticipating and shopping for a policy. Another useful tool is published by the Louisiana Department of Insurance and provides a rate comparison guide. It [can be accessed here](#).



Latter and Blum - Muriel Palmgren

murielpalmgren @latterblum.com

504-583-8306

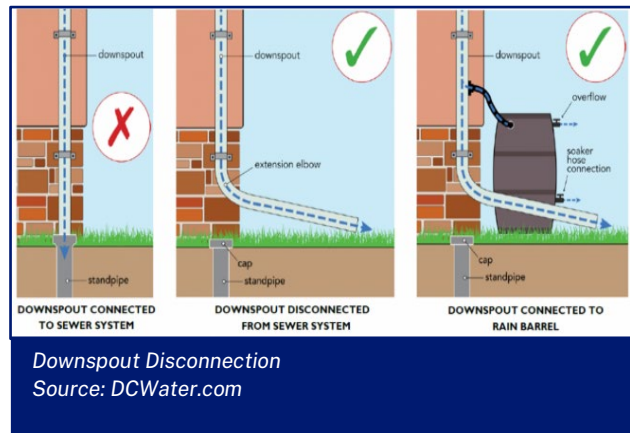
EXAMPLES OF RESIDENTIAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Green Infrastructure may be employed at site, neighborhood, and watershed scales and may include a variety of techniques. It should be implemented as a part of a low impact development approach and with local conditions and context in mind. Green Infrastructure should be used to complement other elements of traditional stormwater infrastructure, not replace them. Together – when designed and applied properly – gray and green infrastructure can work in tandem to create a unified, balanced drainage network that will deliver sustainable, cost-effective benefits at scale and over time.

Downspout Disconnection diverts rooftop runoff from direct discharge into a storm sewer system and spreads flows across lawns, vegetated areas, and other pervious areas, where runoff may be slowed, filtered, and possibly infiltrated before reaching collection systems. This seemingly insignificant element, if applied across a neighborhood or community can provide meaningful relief to a struggling closed storm sewer system.

No design or construction specifications and details are provided for this simple Green Infrastructure element.

Site Applicability and Limitations: Downspout discharges should be directed away from foundations and walkways. Splash protection should be provided at the outlet and flows should be diverted from areas that may be more susceptible to soil erosion. Positive drainage should be provided away from buildings. Downspout disconnection may also be used to direct runoff into other elements of Green Infrastructure, including cisterns for water harvesting.



Green and Blue Roofs provide stormwater capture, detention, and other water quality-related benefits on the roofs of buildings and structures using some or all of the available rooftop area. Green Roofs incorporate vegetation and a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. Green Roofs may also include additional features such as a root barrier and drainage and irrigation systems.

Blue Roofs only collect and detain runoff using dams and weirs only. They provide benefits associated with managing stormwater runoff quantity, but do not contribute much to water quality improvements. Green Roofs serve several purposes, such as slowing, storing, and removing pollutants from rainwater, providing insulation, lowering urban air temperatures, improving air quality, creating a habitat for wildlife, and providing a more aesthetically pleasing landscape.



Green and Blue Roofs are suitable for new development and building retrofit (with supporting structural analysis) and may be used in combination with Rainwater Harvesting.

Due to the sensitive nature of attaching additional structure and adding weight to existing or new rooftops, experienced specialty design and engineering professionals and local building codes should be consulted for implementation this element of Green infrastructure. No design or construction specifications or drawings are provided for element.

Site Applicability and Limitations: Appropriate for rural, urban, and suburban environments. Vegetation may be difficult to establish in the harsh growing conditions found on rooftops in Jefferson Parish. Green roofs can be difficult to install on rooftops with slopes steeper than 10%.

Rainwater Harvesting is the ancient stormwater management practice of intercepting, diverting, and storing rainfall to provide detention and potential reuse. Stored water may be used for irrigation, firefighting, toilet flushing, and other non-potable uses. Typically, gutters and downspout systems are used to collect rainwater from roof tops and direct it to a storage tank or cistern.

Runoff may also be collected from plazas and other areas where permeable pavements have been applied. Harvested stormwater may be stored above or below the ground. For the element to be a benefit to Parish stormwater management efforts, the cistern must be drained or emptied in some fashion in between storm events. Pretreatment or filtration may be required depending on the type of reuse.



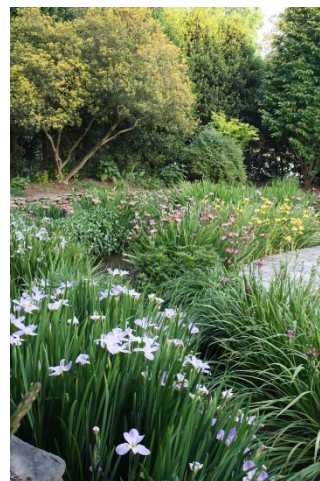
Residential Rainwater Harvesting

Due to rainwater harvesting and reuse being such a context-specific element of green infrastructure, no design or construction specifications or drawings are provided for this element.

Site Applicability and Limitations: This Green Infrastructure element is appropriate for rural, urban and suburban environments. It can be used on nearly any type of new or redevelopment site. The purpose for the collection and reuse will drive the capacity and space needs.

Rainwater Gardens Constructed depressions within the landscape that are built to capture and detain stormwater runoff for no more than 48 hrs. after a rain event. Rainwater infiltrates into the soil, evaporates, or is absorbed by plants and trees. These landscape features are attractive habitats to birds and beneficial insects such as butterflies, ladybugs, and praying mantis.

Site Applicability and Limitations: Appropriate for residential, commercial, industrial, and other land uses in rural and suburban environments.



https://www.ilbg.org/content/gallery/JLBG_Pictorial_History/Iris%20x%20Louisiana%20in%20flower%20in%20sunken%20garden/

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We're always ready to meet new neighbors!

Whether you are new to the neighborhood or lived here for years, we'd like to (re)introduce you to our association with reasons why so many neighbors belong.

The Bonnabel Civic Association:

1. Is a dynamic team of people that work together on important issues affecting our homes, property, and families.
2. Provides venues and events to get to know your neighbors and build a strong community.
3. Is active in improving our community. We collaborate with other associations and civic groups to maximize our impact.
4. Listens to you to identify neighborhood issues and concerns to determine appropriate actions.
5. Leverages our membership to present a powerful voice on important issues.
6. Takes ideas and puts them into action.
7. Is where we can meet like-minded people and forge new friendships.
8. Provides quarterly newsletters and regular emails to keep us informed on neighborhood developments, improvements, and projects. Hosts a website and social media to extend communications to our membership.
9. Holds regular meetings where we hear from and interact with our council, JPSO, legislators, parish department heads, & other experts.
10. Regularly invites our council representatives to present current initiatives.
11. Organizes events to keep our neighborhoods safe and protect the interests of our neighbors.
12. Mobilizes neighborhood assistance.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bonnabel Civic Association (BCA) offers sponsorship & advertising opportunities to businesses who do business within the Metairie area. As a sponsor, you will be recognized at all meetings with a regularly repeated invitation to members to use your services. Sponsorships include:

Sustaining Sponsor *(Limited to two businesses)* **\$500 per year**

- 1/4 page ad in each edition
- Name, logo, link on website footer
- Full Page insert in each newsletter
- Table at each association meeting

Supporting Sponsor **\$250 per year**

- Ad with link on website
- 1/2 page ad insert in one newsletter
- Logo and name in all newsletters

Business Sponsor **\$100 per year**

- Name and Logo on Website
- Name and Logo in Newsletter

Business Member *(property owners are voting members)* **\$ 50 per year**

- Name and Logo in Newsletter

If you are interested in supporting the neighbors of the Bonnabel Civic Association by becoming a sponsor, please contact us at bonnabelcivicassociation@gmail.com or complete the form on Page 4 and email or mail it to us. We will be in contact and help you to design your ads, links and answer questions you may have.

NEW TRASH SERVICE BEGINS

As many have read, Jefferson Parish granted a new 5-year contract to River Birch Renewable Energy LLC for curbside trash collection now being extended to the East Bank. Pickup dates remain the same. To check on your trash collection days, visit

[Jefferson Parish Environmental Affairs Dept.](#) Please note:

- Tipper carts—pick up twice a week (schedule remains the same)
- Bagged materials picked up once per week as bulk waste (limited to six cubic yards per week). Contractor waste is not eligible for pick-up.
- Curbside recycling is paused and drop-off sites are closed until the new contract with Ramelli Waste LLC is finalized and approved by the council (hopefully at the January 17 Council Meeting). Customers will not be charged for recycling during this pause. Customers are advised to retain and use their current 18-gallon recycling bin until further information is provided.

CALL Jefferson Parish Environmental Affairs at 504-731-4614 or email

JPEnvironmental@jeffparish.net OR-

call River Birch Renewable Energy at 504-867-2730 to:

- Report a missed pickup
- Dead animal removal
- Cart Repair
- Deliver Additional Recycle Bins

NO TRASH PICKUP ON:

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day
Mardi Gras Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day



River Birch picking up waste in Jefferson Parish on January 4

OCTOBER 12 MEETING RECAP

A big thank you to our primary speaker, **Bessie Martin, Director of Planning for Jefferson Parish.** Bessie has served as served as the Director of Planning since 2011 where she uses her legal and urban planning background to assure that Jefferson Parish is well-planned and developed. Ms. Martin’s presentation included a detailed summary of the Green Infrastructure Plan as well as numerous photos of native flowers and plants. She also shared examples of residential green infrastructure* providing residents photos and diagrams of solutions that can be used on many properties.



*This document is included as part of this newsletter for your convenience. Additional resources for you can be found at the [parish website on the Planning Departments pages](#). You can also find more information on sustainable stormwater from the [American Society of Landscape Architects Sustainable Stormwater](#), the LSU Ag Center, and information on sustained regeneration, improvement and management of our environment at [Groundwork New Orleans](#). [Click for more examples of gardens here](#).

We also enjoyed hearing a brief update from the **Honorable Laurie Schlegel**, Louisiana State Representative, District 82. Laurie continues her focus on the critical areas of education, literacy, mental health, crime, and protection for women and children.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for volunteers who have like interests in becoming involved in our neighborhoods. If you have talents to share, please contact us if you would like to help in the following areas:

Zoning, Ordinances & Code Enforcement—we monitor and track applications for permits and variances in order to balance residential and commercial development. We also report code violations in order to maintain our neighborhoods and minimize crime and blight.

Green Infrastructure, Trees, and Beautification: Luckily, much of Metairie is known for it’s beauty which helps maintain and grow our property values. If you are interested in growing our tree canopy, improving resilience, and protecting us from wind and flooding, you would enjoy working on this committee.

Membership: A strong membership builds friendships and support. Help us grow our membership so that we can support each other.

Events: We have regular meetings with interesting and informative speakers who keep us informed. As we grow, we want to expand opportunities for social interaction.

Neighborhood Mobilization and Contact: Improving contact with our neighbors helps all us whether its to share information about crime, events, weather, parish issues, or other common matters. We need to improve ways to contact each other. Help us.

Communications: If you have special skills in writing, publication, website design, or social media, we could use you to assist with quarterly newsletters, our website, or social media.

**2023-2024
BCA Officers**

PRESIDENT
Terry Almon

VICE PRESIDENT
Shelley Ferro

Membership/Green Infrastructure

SECRETARY
Marilyn Malone

TREASURER
Aimee Kitchen

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Byron Almquist
Events

Bob Evans
Past President

**Jennifer Duplantis
Thibodeaux**
Zoning/Ordinances

Jacqueline Graff
Membership/Hospitality

Steven Quaintance
Communication/Technology

Check payable to and mail:
Bonnabel Civic Association
P.O. Box 55224

[OR USE PAYPAL LINK HERE](#)

New Member: or Renewal:

Name: _____ Phone 1 (____) _____

Spouse Name: _____ Phone2: (____) _____

Business Name (if business member or sponsor) _____

Business Contact Name: _____ Business Contact Phone: _____

Street Address: _____ City, State Zip: _____

Email Address1: _____ Email Address2: _____

Please indicate if any interest in helping the Bonnabel Civic Association (check all that apply).

Zoning Green Infrastructure Membership Events\Socials Neighborhood Mobilization Social Media/Newsletter

Other (please describe): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT AND INFORMATION

2024 Annual Dues (January 1—December 31, 2024)

Household or Individual : \$25.00/yr
Business: \$50.00 /yr

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

Sustaining Sponsor*: \$500/yr

Supporting Sponsor: \$250/yr

Business Sponsor: \$100/yr

Business Member: \$ 50/yr

Sponsorships come with specific advertising, presentation, and recognition benefits (see Page 3)

All memberships are annual from Jan 1 through Dec 31, are non-refundable and not pro-rated. Dues are due on January 1st of each year.

**Sponsors are non-voting. Sponsorship benefits consist of ads and/or insertions in all BCA Newsletters, logo on website, and your business logo on meeting posters.*