

## **OANA General Meeting Minutes — 09/13/18**

Around 30 people attended the September meeting at the Maumus Center, which began with the Pledge of Allegiance and call to order at 6:05.

First off, we were relieved to hear that two of our key members are OK, following a recent and rather frightening traffic accident.

Continuing with good news, Hailey Bauman, an Arabi resident and culinary student at Nunez Community College, was recently awarded \$1000 to continue her studies, as the current recipient of our Mitchell Smith Culinary Scholarship.

Our next upcoming event will be the first Fall 2018 Sippin' in the Sunset on Thursday, September 20th, 6-9 p.m. at the Aycock Barn. Already 30 craft vendors, 6 food vendors and several non-profit organizations have signed up; music will be by Cypress Pop Trio; and our bar will be serving beer, wine and a special seasonal sangria. Social Bike riders will stop by, and we expect a lot of school teachers to attend this "Back to School" Sippin'.

Next up is the 10th Annual Sugar Fest, with planning already underway for an especially sweet time. The date is Saturday, October 13th, 1-9 p.m. at the Aycock Barn, and will feature three bands playing longer sets than usual. Sugar Fest has several unique features compared to other festivals: narrated historical tours of Old Arabi, a dessert baking competition, a donut eating contest, and Domino Sugar giveaways. The sponsor list is already at 13, with more expected to contribute.

Another date to remember is Tuesday, October 16th, for National Night Out Against Crime. Our neighborhood gathering will be 6-8 p.m. at Arabi Food Store's patio.

To answer a question many have asked, Chew Rouge tells us their Detroit-style pizza is rectangular, with a thick crispy crust, the result of baking in an industrial tray originally used to hold car parts in that city's auto factories.

Planetarium dates for September & October were announced. There will be two showings on Sugar Fest Saturday.

To promote Old Arabi businesses, a 5x7 postcard has been printed, with a map on one side and list of venues on the other. OANA & the Office of Tourism funded the initial batch, which will be given for free to the various businesses listed.

Another promotional project in the works is a "totem pole", to be installed at the Aycock Barn. It will have various arrows indicating points of interest in St. Bernard and beyond, and their distance from the pole.

The Community Garden is making rain barrels to raise funds for the ongoing beautification and support of the garden. The first 5 will be sold for \$50 each and will be available at the September Sippin' in the Sunset. Profits will initially be used to complete

the fence, for which OANA bought the first batch of materials.

A suggestion was made to create a map of “candy friendly” homes that trick-or-treaters could visit on Halloween. Interested members could sign up to be listed either tonight or at Night Out Against Crime on October 16th.

Constable Mitch Perkins announced that 10 citations were issued to trucks passing illegally through the neighborhood this week.

Door prizes were awarded, important dates were reiterated — including a reminder to VOTE on November 6th — and Gena was thanked for hosting our meeting. Members were reminded that the Coffee House at The Gathering now has a branch at Nunez Community College.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28, followed by a Sugar Fest meeting for all committee members and interested volunteers.