
STREETCAR TRACKS

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The mission of the Saint Charles Avenue Association is to encourage the historic and residential character of Saint Charles Avenue. We currently protect and maintain the 1000 live oak trees, many dating back two or more centuries.

SAVING THE OAKS ALONG THE AVENUE



An Entergy contractor mistakenly took down a century-old live oak on St. Charles Avenue. When it came to our attention, it was too late to save the tree. As a result, Entergy has now changed their procedures, and did so within two days of the incident. We appreciate their diligence. As a result of this mistake, Entergy agreed to pay \$3,000 to replace the tree that was taken down plus \$20,000 as a fine, which will be used by Bayou Tree Service to plant more trees along the Avenue. As of February 28th, a total of 15 new oak trees have been planted, and there are two more coming.

On another note, Bayou Tree Service has been fertilizing the trees along the Avenue since 2012. They have reported that by fertilizing annually we can mimic the nutrient cycle typically found in a tree's natural habitat. Annual fertilization continues to be the most cost-effective way to maintain and improve tree health on the Avenue. The cost for the fertilization is \$13,500 a year. Please consider making a Donation to Save the Oaks to help cover this annual expense.

Make a Donation to Save the Oaks by mail or at

www.stcharlesavenueassociation.com

Our Mailing Address is:

St. Charles Avenue Association, 5500 Prytania Street, #525, New Orleans, LA 70115

ENTRY PLAZA AT AUDUBON PARK

The Saint Charles Avenue Association has made a donation of \$20,000 to the Audubon Nature Institute to re-landscape and beautify the St. Charles Avenue Entry Plaza at Audubon Park. Originally, the Garden Study Club of New Orleans and New

Orleans Town Gardeners contacted the Audubon Institute to support a community



beautification project to honor the 200th birthday of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, known as "the father of landscape architecture." His nephew and adopted son, John Charles Olmsted, did the design for Audubon Park. Audubon Park suggested revamping the St. Charles Avenue entrance. SCAA joined meetings in November to discuss the scope, design

intent, and other operational possibilities. The garden space will be utilized as a center for education and environmental stewardship, with an emphasis on native and pollinator friendly plants. The space will also provide educational volunteer opportunities. Planting will be done in the front and around the fountain, and the irrigation system will be replaced. SCAA is excited about this opportunity to partner with the Garden Study Club of New Orleans and New Orleans Town Gardeners, and to participate in the beautification of Audubon Park!

ACORN SOCIETY

The establishment of the Acorn Society was announced at the Annual Meeting. The Acorn Society is an endowed fund created by an initial and generous gift from the Garden Study Club of New Orleans. The Fund was established specifically to



maintain and perpetuate the elegant canopy of live oak trees that line Saint Charles Avenue. These oak trees make the Avenue a unique treasure for the City of New Orleans, a treasure which is enjoyed and admired by visitors from around the world. Other funds and donations support the annual fertilization and occasional spraying for caterpillars. The purpose

of the Acorn Society is to fill in any gaps for maintenance and to supply funding for special beautification projects and assistance for the loss of trees after a natural disaster such as a hurricane. Donations to the Acorn Society are appreciated.

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2022 SCAA ANNUAL MEETING AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS



SCAA had a lovely meeting on November 16th at the home of Betsy and Gary Laborde on Saint Charles Avenue. We talked about the Acorn Society, announced new board members Cole Halpern and Marianne Mumford, and acknowledged the memory of Bobby Hassinger, two-time SCAA President and long time board member who passed away in 2022. His

wife, Beth Hassinger, along with daughters Mary Schmidt and Cathy Drennan were presented with a proclamation honoring him.



SAINT CHARLES AVENUE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & DUES

Since its founding in 1972, The St. Charles Avenue Association has encouraged the preservation of its historic and residential character. We need your support so that we can continue our efforts to maintain and improve the Avenue. Join our many members by becoming a member or renewing your membership today!

Individual/Family \$45

Benefactor \$150

Business/Corporate \$200

Sponsor \$1000

Membership dues can be paid by mail or on our website,
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JOHN GEISER, LONGTIME EDITOR OF *STREETCAR TRACKS*, DIES

John Geiser, who died July 7, 2022, was an early board member of the St. Charles Avenue Association, serving in many capacities — president, secretary, and editor of *Streetcar Tracks*. John — by himself — created and mailed the newsletter from 1985 to 2009. He made sure that copies of *Streetcar Tracks* were preserved at Tulane University's Southeastern Architectural Archive. In a note to me in 2014, John wrote, "*Streetcar Tracks* April 1973 is the oldest issue I have but this is probably not the first issue of the newsletter. It would be wonderful if someone had copies of *Streetcar Tracks* in the 1970s that could be added to our collection at Tulane." John knew the importance of preserving the record — SCAA's history beginning in 1972.



— Louise C. Hoffman

SCAA Board of Directors

*President: Odom Heebe, Vice President: Ned Bergin, Secretary: Vanessa Claiborne,
Treasurer: Holly Snodgrass, Past President: Tommy Westervelt*

Members

*Court Carrere, Vanessa Claiborne, Martin de Laoreal, Jr., Billy Freiberg, Brad Gottsegen, Cole Halpern, Lesli Harris, Jennifer Heebe, Price Lanier, Everard Marks, Taylor Morgan, Marianne Mumford, Randy Opotowsky, Anne Redd, Chip Saulsbury, Peter Trapolin, and James Van Horn
Executive Director: Lesley Hardin*

The St. Charles Avenue Association was organized in 1972 to encourage the preservation of the historic and residential character of St. Charles Avenue. Membership is open to all who are interested in this goal. The St. Charles Avenue Association is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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