

# ***STREETCAR TRACKS***

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## **LETTER FROM NED BERGIN, SCAA PRESIDENT**

While many of you are long acquainted with the Saint Charles Avenue Association, I am new as President, so I want to take this opportunity to welcome each of you. Our organization has a limited, but important purpose: to preserve and protect St. Charles Avenue, which is one of New Orleans' treasures. This oak lined thoroughfare is truly a beautiful linear park, as well as a route of the longest running street railway in the world, which has been operating most of St. Charles Avenue since 1835. Along its path, we have Audubon Park, Tulane University, Loyola University and many of New Orleans' most beautiful homes.

The Association pays for the planting of new oaks and the care of existing oaks. We monitor construction work along the avenue to ensure the continuation of its historic nature. In recent months, we have tracked down the removal of an oak on the City right of way in the 6300 block of St. Charles Avenue. Although we never got a clear explanation of why or how the tree was removed without permission from the City, the property owners have agreed to bear the cost of having a new oak planted in its place. We have been monitoring the condition of another oak in on St. Charles Avenue, that was struck by lightning and is not doing well.

Another area of concern is the trees that become laden with beads after the Mardi Gras parades. The cost of removing the beads after Carnival is prohibitive given the amount of equipment and labor involved. I have no heard of any viable solution to this problem, other than trying to make the parading krewes aware of the problem.

While our official focus on oaks focuses on those on St. Charles Avenue, those of us who appreciate their aesthetic and natural importance should be concerned about them everywhere. We recently noticed that Loyola University or its contractor took down three oaks along La Salle Street near Calhoun where they are building a new dorm. Even though this is not along St. Charles Avenue, it is the sort of thing that we should all be concerned about, and we should express our concerns.

We also advocate on behalf of all of this and work closely with the City Government, both to support their positive efforts and to protest when they are not taking proper actions. The good thing is those in the City from the Mayor, the Council Members, their staffs, and the employees of many of the City's agencies share our views and goals. Unfortunately, when you get into discussions with these folks, you quickly learn that they face monumental problems that they are trying to overcome with limited resources.

For example, the City and the Sewerage and Water Board are trying to address our flooding problems which only seem to be getting worse. We have a city that is below sea level in many areas so we cannot rely on gravity drains. We have something like 1600 miles of major sewer and over 1/3 of them are over 100 years old. Some of the City's sewerage pumps date from 1915 and run on a different electricity that the standard produced by Entergy.

One of the efforts that I want to push this year is to increase our corporate membership, both because many businesses benefit by being on St. Charles Avenue and they hopefully have the revenue to join. A couple of years ago we established several different categories of corporate membership, but we have not yet really pushed to get more corporate members.

I want to close by thanking all of our officers and board members for all the work we do in pursuing our mission.

Regards,

Ned

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### THANK YOU TO BAYOU TREE SERVICE



A huge thank you to Scott Harlemert with Bayou Tree and his crew for removing over 300 pounds of beads from the tree close to the overpass! Scott is also thinking of ways to protect the tree next year.

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### 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, [www.stcharlesavenueassociation.com](http://www.stcharlesavenueassociation.com)**

**Our Mailing Address is:**

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

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### THANK YOU TO THE GOLDRINGS



SCAA had a lovely meeting last November at the beautiful home of Walton and Jeffrey Goldring on Saint Charles Avenue. Thanks again to the Goldrings for hosting our meeting!

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*SCAA Board of Directors: President: Ned Bergin, Vice President: Holly Snodgrass, Secretary: James Van Horn, Treasurer: Vanessa Claiborne, Immediate Past President: Odom Heebe*

*Members: Court Carrere, Jenny Charpentier, Martin de Laureal, Jr., Brad Gottsegen, Cole Halpern, Lesli Harris, Jeremy Head, Jennifer Heebe, Price Lanier, Paul Masinter, Taylor Morgan, Marianne Mumford, Randy Opotowsky, Anne Redd, Chip Saulsbury, Peter Trapolin, and Allie Freeman Yielding, 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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