



Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Winter 2012

A Cut With Some Style In the Garden District

By: Mindy Piontek

Pat Harvey, a professional hair dresser, has been a fellow resident in the Garden District off and on for the past thirty years. Five and a half years ago, she sold her home in Spanish Town and returned, buying a home on Park Boulevard. It soon occurred to her that there was no hair salon this side of the Perkins Road Overpass, and when she drove past the shops on Perkins where Hundred Oaks forms a T, she knew she had found the perfect location for her own salon. For two months, she drove past the vacant spot, until she finally called the real estate agent representing it.

"At first, it was too big, and I knew I could not afford the note," says Pat, but the real estate agent called back, offering her a smaller chunk of the empty space, 600-800 square feet, and she jumped at the opportunity.

After signing on the dotted line, Pat was overwhelmed by the amount of work needed to turn the grim rooms into the kind of salon she wanted. "I would sit in the middle of the space and rock back and forth trying to figure out what to do," says Pat.

What she did become Just HAir, a salon that is both modern in finishes and warm in color scheme, with smooth grey surfaces and cheerful chartreuse accents. Quirky plants, such as cardboard roll--a relative of the sago palm by way of Dr. Seuss, echo



Pat Harvey, owner of Just HAir.

After signing on the dotted line, Pat was overwhelmed by the amount of work needed to turn the grim rooms into the kind of salon she wanted.

both the bright green and the strong, modern shapes of the furniture and appointments.

During remodeling, Pat learned an important lesson. Don't begin a renovation at the opening of hunting season. "We were two and a half months behind," she says, attributing the delay to the amount of time her contractors and subs spent in deer and duck blinds.

At first, Pat's main concern in opening her business was that the neighborhood

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Garden District Honored as One of the Best Places to Live!

By: Flo Ulmer and Ray Mack

Each year since 2007, the American Planning Association (APA) honors 10 neighborhoods, streets and public places in America, with the distinction of becoming known as one of the "Great Places in America." This year they chose as one of their 10 neighborhoods...the Garden District in Baton Rouge. According to the APA website.... APA Great Places offer better

choices for where and how people work and live. They are enjoyable, safe and desirable. They are places where people want to be -- not only to visit, but to live and work everyday. The designation puts us in the same company as Faubourg Marigny, Jackson Square and St. Charles Avenue, the only other Louisiana designees.

For most of us, there is no doubt why the APA chose the Garden District. Being a Great American Neighborhood is very

important for everyone in the Garden District with many potential benefits such as increased property values, more family owned homes which are well maintained with less potential for run down rental homes with distant owners, and increased attention from our City leaders.

The Garden District Civic association is developing programs to keep our jewel of

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Neighbor Seeks New Potential For Louisiana in Nupotential

By: Karolyn Eilertsen

In 2004, a Garden District resident, Dr. Ken Eilertsen returned to his home state of Louisiana with his wife and daughter to embark on a new scientific journey. In 1997, Eilertsen had believed he reached the pinnacle of his career: he and his team of scientists at Infigen Inc. had successfully cloned the second mammal in the world, a bull named Gene. However, Eilertsen, longing for "warm weather, coastal access and grilled oysters" relocated to Louisiana, where he and his wife purchased a recently-restored white colonial in the Garden District of Baton Rouge. Eilertsen chose the Garden District for its diversity. "I could never live in a neighborhood where every house looked the same," he explained.

Using his knowledge and experience

Nupotential, a biotechnology company dedicated to "discovering and developing novel, best-in-class small molecule drugs."

at Infigen, Eilertsen created Nupotential, a biotechnology company dedicated to "discovering and developing novel, best-in-class small molecule drugs." In essence, Nupotential develops new pharmaceutical drugs to treat a range of diseases including Alzheimer's, type two diabetes, and cancer. Last year, Dr. Eilertsen won "Louisiana Innovator of the Year," in technology for his advancements in cell re-programming.

Eilertsen feels evolving biotechnology in Louisiana is imperative to a thriving economy. "By creating knowledge-based jobs,

we increasingly apply pressure to raise the standard of living and quality of life: jobs are filled by educated people who want quality schools for their children, and high-quality safe living environments," Eilertsen explains.

Eilertsen's dream is to grow the company locally and stimulate a new kind of industry in Louisiana!

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Garden District News

The Garden District News is published quarterly by the Garden District Civic Association and is edited by

Mindy Piontek

If you have comments or story ideas that you would like to submit to the publication contact Mindy Piontek at mmpiontek70@yahoo.com.

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Garden District Sustainable Living Tour 2013

By **DOROTHY PROWELL**

Living more sustainably is something most Garden District residents can appreciate--after all, we've chosen to "recycle" homes built by those who came before us, sometimes a hundred years earlier.

Living more sustainably not only minimizes negative affects on our environment but it can minimize hits to our pocket books. Because many households in the Garden District are implementing sustainable living practices and others would benefit from seeing these efforts, your Garden District Civic Association is highlighting sustainable living in our neighborhood in 2013.

We are planning a program at our annual meeting on Feb. 17 and a Sustainable Living Tour of Homes on Earth Day weekend, Sat. April 20th. The Board is lining up experts for both events to educate us on

- Energy conservation through home weatherization and solar power
- Food production in vegetable gardens and edible landscapes and with urban livestock
- Water and energy conservation in landscapes via rain collection barrels, low water requiring plants, drip irrigation,

shade tree placement, water permeable pavers, etc.

The Board wants your help in identifying households in the Garden District that are implementing some of these practices.

If you or someone you know has solar panels, home weatherization features, a vegetable garden, chickens, rain barrels, or anything else relating to sustainable living, we want to hear from you.

Please email Dorothy Prowell at dprowe@lsu.edu with specific details including names, email addresses, street addresses, and activities. We plan to compile a list of households and what they are doing so we can publicize our efforts and successes.

We plan to feature some of these homes in our spring home tour, so if you are interested in being featured, let us know.

UPDATED PHONE NUMBERS FOR GARDEN DISTRICT SECURITY

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, or if you see a crime in progress, call BR Police Dispatch at 389-2000, or call 911. If a GD security patrol officer happens to already be in the area, Dispatch will call them.

TO DISCUSS ONGOING SECURITY CONCERNS regarding criminal activity, Sgt. Don Stone, BRPD and head of the GD security patrol, is available at 389-3361 (office) or 571-7244 (cell). Please begin all messages with your name, address, and phone number.

Sgt. Stone is happy to talk about security concerns, but he should not be called for emergencies, traffic or parking violations, or other non-threatening matters. For those concerns, please call BR Police Dispatch or the appropriate EBR agency.

BISTRO BYRONZ SUPPORTS THE GARDEN DISTRICT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Join us during the month of January for lunch, dinner or brunch.

Let us know you are a member of the Garden District Civic Association & we will donate 20% of your food sales each visit to The Garden District Civic Association to help support off duty police security in the neighborhood!



5412 Government Street Baton Rouge 225.218.1433 www.bistrobyronz.com

Venue Announced for Annual Meeting

By **MINDY PIONTEK**

The Annual Garden District Civic Association Meeting will be held on February 17, from 2-4pm at the First Church of Christ Scientist at 601 Park Boulevard.

Every year, the board of the Garden District Civic Association invites the neighborhood to attend the annual meeting.

In the past, the neighborhood has been extremely underrepresented, in spite of the fact that the meetings offer a chance to vote on board officers as well as to hear informative speakers who have addressed topics such as drought protection for our magnificent oaks, the progress and future of the sewer projects that result in blocked

streets throughout Baton Rouge and our neighborhood but lead to a more effective sewer system for all, and the ever important topic of crime.

Although the official agenda for this year's meeting has yet to be finalized, the meeting will definitely address the recent rash of crimes and steps Sgt. Stone and his officers have been taking to combat the criminals, along with tips on what you can do to help protect yourself and those around you.

In that vein, we hope to have a discussion of the viability of forming a Crime Prevention District, a designation several local neighborhoods have chosen to pursue.

We will most likely discuss the upcoming

sustainability tour--see article in this newsletter for more information--and discuss possible neighborhood signs proclaiming the Garden District's status as a top 10 neighborhood by the APA and how to pay for them.

But that's not all! In addition to the important business at hand, the meeting gives you a chance to meet your board members, visit with neighbors, and there are usually door prizes! You will also have the opportunity to purchase Garden District cookbooks and t-shirts.

Join your friends and neighbors and become an active part of your civic association. Look for more information at GDCA-BR.org - we look forward to seeing you!

Volunteer Spotlight

MARY FONTENOT

The Garden District is lucky to have its own ace in the hole with the mayor's office: Mary Fontenot. As the leader of eight other staffers in the mayor's Office of Community Services, Mary has access to information that she is always happy to pass along to her neighbors here in the Garden District by way of the list serve and this newsletter (see her story in this issue on the map she encountered while at work).

Mary and her husband, Willie Fontenot, have lived in the Garden District since the summer of 1975--that's an impressive 37 years! Since then, Mary has had multiple tours of duty on the GD board, at times holding the position of secretary. As of two months ago, she is back on the board.

Besides her work on the board, Mary has hosted the annual Christmas Caroling event at her home with refreshments to fuel the singers as they go house to house spreading good cheer. For years she boiled and dyed dozens upon dozens of eggs for the annual Easter Egg hunt, a task that would wear out the most zealous of Easter Bunnies. Even when not on the board, she contributed to meetings whenever her expertise was required.

Thanks, Mary, for your dedication to the Garden District, and if we're looking to make an egg salad sandwich, we'll know who to call about boiling the eggs!



To help thank those Garden District neighbors who volunteer their time and energy to our neighborhood, we're presenting this regular feature to highlight their contributions. If you would like to submit a name or story about someone deserving please contact Greta Corona at gretacorona@cox.net.

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Residents enjoy Good Times at Annual Social

By: WILLIE FONTENOT

Once again, the Garden District enjoyed a fantastic Annual Social filled with new faces which we are always happy to see. The music of Ben Bell and The Stardust Boys made the evening especially festive with their highly danceable style.

Youngsters enjoyed getting to play and dancing on the shady grass while their parents and even some grandparents visited with neighbors.

Everyone enjoyed the great variety of side dishes and many scrumptious desserts, all of which seemed to be particularly good. We look forward to enjoying some of those

side dishes and desserts again next time! The desserts were all outstanding and all deserved to be counted as winners. There were several requests for the recipe for the first prize dessert so if the baker is willing to share it, we'll post it on the web site.

Special thanks must go to those who helped to plan the evening, to set everything up, and to clean things at the end and to all you generous cooks. We passed a good time.

We also want to thank Jim and Blair Purgerson who allowed us to enjoy their yard and shade again this year.

At times like this I really appreciate our civic association. It is through our organiza-

tion that we have the structure and people to put on events like this, where we can have fun on a beautiful Sunday afternoon and get to know each other better.

SOME STYLE

Continued from Page 1

wouldn't accept her. She should have had no worries there--this is the Garden District. "I've met so many interesting people; some stopped by while I was renovating the space and told me they couldn't wait for me to open so they could get a hair cut in the neighborhood."

Just HAIR Salon opened on February 1 of this year at 1940 Perkins Road, as part of the Perkins Road Historic Merchants District. Pat invites Garden District neighbors to drop by for a service or just to say hello.

You may reach the salon at (225) 218-6749 during business hours or any time at Vagaro.com/JustHairLLC.

HONORED

Continued from Page 1

a neighborhood polished by keeping the Garden District in the public mind. In addition to on-going programs like the Easter Egg Hunt, the annual Garden District Social, the Champagne Stroll, and the Christmas Light Contest, we plan to add a Sustainability Tour and a Garden District Art Contest in 2013.

To draw the attention of passersby, the GDCA plans to add signage that proclaims our status as an APA designee. A committee is being formed to study signage for the Garden District. Funds for signage may come from Garden District Civic Association dues ongoing, our rainy day fund, and also from donations.

Use of Garden District Civic Association funds for signage will be brought up for a vote at the Annual Garden District Civic Association meeting during February 2013. If you have any suggestions, please join your neighbors at the meeting.

Special thanks goes to Flo Ulmer for her tireless work in putting together the application for the award. Without her, we would not have won! Thanks, Flo!

For more information about the APA, other Great places and to learn more about the guidelines used to select the Garden District visit 'http://www.planning.org/greatplaces.'

To help sustain the characteristics that make our neighborhood great, join the GDCA, your civic association.

Visit GardenDistrictNews.com for properties SOLD in the Garden District

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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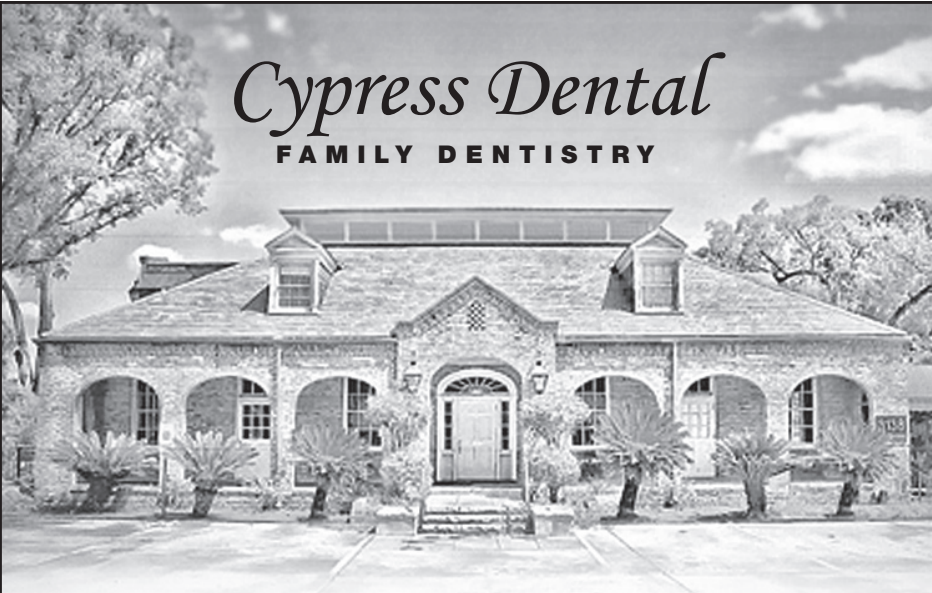
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Mayor Holden, Willie Fontenot, President of the Garden District Civic Association, Councilwoman Tara Wicker and Troy Bunch, Planning Commission.

Garden District Day Declared!

The American Planning Association recently designated the Garden District of Baton Rouge as one of the Great Places in America for 2012. In recognition of

this honor Mayor-President Melvin "Kip" Holden declared October 10, 2012 "Garden District Day."

Hello Map Lovers and History Buffs

By: MARY FONTENOT

On the wall in the basement of City Hall is a map of the Garden District from October 21, 1930. I was surprised by the name changes for many of our neighborhood streets. S. 19th and N. 19th were S. Dufrocq Street and N. Dufrocq Street. They called 22nd Allen Street. North of Government, Eugene was called Buckner Drive and south of Government it was Shirley Avenue.

The CATS bus barn was the City Incinerator. Park Boulevard was Park Boulevard. West of Park Boulevard, Terrace was called Reddy Street. Scenic Highway was named Bayou Sara Road. Capitol Lake was called University Lake. Plank Road was Plank Road. North Street above 22nd became Greenwell Springs. Between Greenwell Springs and Fuqua, 22nd was named Fryoux Street. Are you dizzy yet?

Holiday Events!

By: Kelli Bondy

Join your neighbors and fellow Baton Rougeans at these upcoming events:

- Ice Skating at the River Center, December 21-January 2, 12:00pm-7:30pm
- Children's Film: *Polar Express* at the Manship Theater December 20, 10:30am-12:30pm
- Zoolights at the Baton Rouge Zoo, December 1-30, 5:30pm-8:30pm



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