



Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Spring 2012

The Garden District Goes Hollywood!

By: MINDY PIONTEK

When the big white trucks appear on Camellia, Garden District streets are closed off by Baton Rouge's finest, and you see Bentleys with New York plates on Myrtle, it can only mean one thing—the film industry is enjoying both Louisiana's tax credit program and the indisputable ambience of our favorite neighborhood.

You might first notice that Keans down the street is sporting a new do—a bright red paint job and a pair of gasoline pumps. Or perhaps you notice the tents and catering trucks in the old Walmart parking lot. Maybe the klieg lights at the City Park lake tipped you off. The next thing you know, you are walking your dog through the set of a movie or cable T.V. show just down the street from your house.

One of our neighbors who has worked as an extra on several film projects agreed to share some of her experiences, on the condition of maintaining her anonymity. "I've worked as an extra for Breakout Kings on both the Myrtle and Olive locations. It was a beautiful day for filming, and it's awesome doing work like this in your own neighborhood."

According to this neighbor, it was the "luck of the draw" to get to work in the Garden District. She contacted a local agency that specializes in casting extras and was picked. "They are looking for normal



Episode of Breakout Kings being filmed on Olive Street.

people. Landscapes need trees, and a lot of scenes need people." Appropriately, these extras are called "background artists."

"It's a really nice part time job. You're paid to sit around a set all day, and they feed you. It's kind of boring, but sometimes it's really interesting."

Our extra participated in the filming of Breakout King's finale for the season, but even with anonymity, she's not about to give away the surprise ending. Her only

clue—look for Olive St. on the show when it happens.

If you are interested in becoming an extra, contact Celtic Studios or Baton Rouge Films, and look for even more movies and television shows coming to a street near you. The Garden District stands to be featured in even more productions in the coming years. Now if they only gave out Oscars for best location...

Crime and Crime Prevention Topics at Annual Meeting

By: MINDY PIONTEK

The Annual Meeting for the GDCA was held on February 12, at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, on Park Blvd. The usual suspects were there, joined by a few new faces.

Flo Ulmer announced new board members, Anne and Fred Trapp, Jeff Robinson, and Dorothy Prowell.

William Daniel spoke about the Decem-

ber Walking Tour of the neighborhood. He addressed questions regarding corners of concern, like the southwest corner of Oleander and Park and the southwest corner of Park and Cherokee, the problem of oak leaves and root systems that clog the drains and interfere with the pipes, the drain cover on Tulip at 22nd, and the alley between Terrace and Broussard. Daniel also spoke about neighbors' dissatisfaction regarding the replacement of sidewalks on Drehr be-

tween Myrtle and Olive. Daniel explained that the rocks had been used instead of sidewalks in order to protect the trees, always a priority when working in the Garden District.

Sargent Donald Stone discussed our security patrol, explaining that officers combine car patrols with walking patrols to discourage questionable activity in the

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Volunteer Spotlight

RANDY NICHOLS

Our neighbor, Randy Nichols, and his lovely wife, Meredith Veldman, live at the intersection of Camelia and Terrace Ave in a beautiful old Garden District home. Their two children Jeremy and Graham are both juniors in high school.

Randy and Meredith moved to a house on Cherokee in 1992, soon after they were married. They moved to the Garden District because they wanted a real neighborhood with trees, sidewalks, great people-- one close to down town and to a variety of good restaurants. During this first phase in the neighborhood, Meredith and Randy were block captains for the Garden District Civic Association (GDCA).

Soon, however, London called. Meredith is a British historian and the family moved to England for three years to facilitate her research. During this time Randy was pastor at three Methodist churches.

Randy and his family returned to the Garden District in 2002, when they bought their home on Terrace Ave. Randy joined the Garden District Civic Association Board and became president two years later. As president of the GDCA he led the campaign to designate Roseland Terrace and Kleinert Terrace as historic neighborhoods in order to assist in the preservation of the charm and character of the neighborhood. After a year as president, Randy retired to concentrate on his many jobs: Pastor, English teacher, Hospice Chaplin, Campus Minister and so forth.

Randy is currently Director for the Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless for which he was instrumental in obtaining grants and shepherding the building process. This on-going work keeps him pretty busy, but he finds time to visit, have some wine, and, on occasion, marry a couple of neighbors on a back porch.



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.

The Easter Egg Hunt is on!

Calling all jelly bean lovers! Bring your baskets and your best bunny impressions—it's time for the Garden District Civic Association's annual Easter Egg Hunt!

We will do our best to deliver beautiful spring weather to go along with the neighborhood's gorgeous blooms!

Please bring your children 12 and under and join your neighbors at 3:00pm on Sunday, March 25, at the home of Mike and Amy Cave, 714 Drehr Ave., the corner

of Oleander and Drehr. The hunt starts promptly at 3:15 and kids under 5 will be given a little head start!

The Easter Bunny plans to hide plenty of candy filled eggs on the Cave's lovely property, so bring a big basket.

Parents should accompany all children please. For more information or in case of bad weather please see our website at www.gdcabr.org and look for Annual Events / Easter Egg Hunt.

ETIQUETTE BRIEFS

Mind your Pet P's, Q's & the Law

We all know it is considerate to pick up our pet's waste when out for a daily constitutional, and our neighbors appreciate the effort. It is the law, however, to keep our dogs leashed as well as to keep our cats from wandering from our property. The law also requires that owners inoculate all dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies. So be a good neighbor and a law abiding citizen—scoop, leash, and inoculate.

Lawn and Alley Maintenance

Not only is the grass greener on the other side, but it is still growing--on the other side of the fence that is! Remember home owners are responsible for cutting the grass and cleaning up the leaves and trash in the alleys.

Many of us have tall privacy fences that make it is easy to forget about our alleys—out of sight, out of mind. Whether you cut your grass or hire someone to do it for you, you are still responsible for the upkeep in the alley. While we are on the subject, please remember not to blow leaves or grass cuttings into the street, since it is both unsightly and contributes to poor drainage. Yard debris can get in the storm drains and contribute to street flooding.

Please make sure whoever provides your lawn service is aware of the need to keep yard clippings and debris out of the street and to maintain the alleys. If you are a tenant, please pass this information along to your landlord.

Let's work together to keep the Garden District beautiful.



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.



Cuba Gooding in *Ticking Clock*.



Crews set up for the closing scene of *Ticking Clock* on Drehr Avenue.

Many Movies featured in the Garden District

By: MINDY PIONTEK

Look for the Garden District and its surroundings in the following movies and television programs among others.

Starting it all was the 1989 hit *Sex, Lies, and Videotape* by Steven Soderbergh starring James Spader.

In 1999, *Lush*, starring Campbell Scott and Laura Linney features the lovely porch at 2247 Oleander.

In 2010, *Mirrors 2* starring Nick Stahl was filmed in part in the grand home at the corner of Kleinert and Drehr.

A scene from the 2011 sci-fi thriller, *Battle of Los Angeles* features our nearby Bet-R store, pre-renovation.

The 2011 suspense film *Ticking Clock* starring Cuba Gooding Jr. had primary scenes at the house on the northwest cor-

ner of Oleander and Camelia with the final scene on Drehr at the corner of Wisteria Lane.

The 2011 film *Never Back Down 2: The Beatdown* was filmed in October 2010 at the home of Lynda Phillips.

The 2012 trading places movie, *Thun-*

derstruck (previously called *Switch*), starring Brandon T. Jackson filmed parts at the Conger house at 915 Drehr on the corner of Tulip.

And recent episodes of the A&E hit *Breakout Kings* were filmed on Myrtle and Olive streets.

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Breakout Kinds crew behind the scenes.

Show me the money, Hollywood!

If your house is featured in filming, you are usually paid the industry standard—1 ½ of your mortgage payment for the time.

If they use your driveway, the industry standard is \$250 a day.

The standard pay for extras varies greatly, from \$76 to \$500 for eight hours

of work. If the film crew uses your car in a shot, you can add between \$15 and \$45 for the day. \$150 for 10 hours is not uncommon, with time and a half for days longer than 10 hours.

If your Hollywood windfall inconveniences your neighbors, consider sharing your good fortune with them.

CRIME

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neighborhood. Sargent Stone has a new number, 389-3661, for questions about Garden District security.

Ray Mack gave a short talk on Crime Prevention Districts in which he made it clear that this is an issue to be addressed by the neighborhood as a whole.

If you are interested in working toward establishing the Garden District as a CPD, please contact Larry Melsheimer at lmelsheimer@att.net. Thank you Larry for taking the lead in exploring the CPD and initiating the procedure. If you do not want to see a Garden District CPD, you will have the opportunity to vote against it, should the process get that far.

Thanks to Bistro Byronz, Varsity Sports, the original Heroman's on Government St., and Government St. Hardware for gift certificates, t-shirts, a flower arrangement, and a propane burner, respectively. A couple of lucky attendees also won the ever stylish GDCA tee, emblazoned with a majestic live oak.

The meeting was followed by an hor d'oeuvres pot luck at the home of Flo Ulmer and Bill Rodman. Thanks for your hospitality!

DATE:

Tuesday, March 27 @ 6:pm

TOPIC:

Legal Issues Affecting Seniors and Those Who Love Them

SPEAKER:

Linda S. Melancon, Attorney-at-Law
The Legacy Center of Louisiana

DATE:

Tuesday, April 24 @ 6:00 pm

TOPIC:

You've been told you have Cancer Now what do you do?

SPEAKER:

Jay Brooks, MD; Chairman,
Ochsner Department of Hematology/Oncology

DATE:

Tuesday, May 29 @ 6:00 pm

TOPIC:

Dementia Defined

SPEAKER:

Herbert LeBourgeois, MD,
Medical Director, BR General Behavioral Wellness Center-Outpatient

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