



Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Spring 2013

New Business Makes Lawns and People Happy

By: Mindy Piontek

Michael Chol has lived in the Garden District far longer than he's owned his own business. He and his wife, Andree, moved to a rent house in the 19th block of Tulip Street in 1980. Although they both grew up in Lake Charles, they didn't meet until both were enrolled at LSU in the 70's. The couple loved the Garden District in general and Tulip Street in particular so much, that in 1983 they bought a house a few blocks down.

When Michael graduated from LSU in 1977, he began working in industrial sales, from pulp and paper mills to chemical plants, eventually working for Honeywell in 1999. At that time, Honeywell laid off many of its middle managers. "I was 47, and I came home and didn't know what to do. I had two kids at Sacred Heart, and the youngest was still at home," Michael said. So Michael did what most Garden District residents would do--he took a walk around our beautiful neighborhood.

When he returned to his home on Tulip Street, he told his wife that he wanted to start his own business, an announcement she met the way most supportive wives would during an economic downturn--"Are you crazy?"

Perhaps he was, since he decided to start a lawn and landscape business with just a push mower and a broom. "I didn't have



Michael Chol and his crew: bottom row Tyler Jordan and Peter Chol; top row Joey Layton, Michael Chol, and Evan Trapp.

On weekends, he and Andree along with their children, Ella, Peter, and David, would split up, hitting different neighborhoods with stacks of flyers, looking for lawns to landscape.

any equipment," said Michael, but in spite of that minor complication, he "decided to make a go of it." Michel headed to Kinko's to run off flyers and order business cards.

Starting the business then became a family affair. On weekends, he and Andree along with their children, Ella, Peter, and David, would split up, hitting different neighborhoods with stacks of flyers, looking for lawns to landscape.

"I picked up a couple of jobs in the neighborhood, but it wasn't enough to get things going," said Michael. Then he got

See HAPPY LAWNS, page 5

Arts Council invites Garden District residents to FestForAll

By: Kathy Scherer

The Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge presents FestForAll - Baton Rouge's premier art & music festival, April 6 - April 7. Join us for a full weekend of art and entertainment along North Boulevard in downtown's Town Square and on the grounds of the Old State Capitol and the Shaw Center for the Arts. The hours on Saturday, April 6 are 10 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, April 7

are 12 noon - 6:00 p.m. FestForAll is free and open to everyone.

There will be great shopping with 100 artists from over a dozen states including two wonderful artists who reside in the Garden District! Babeth Schlegel will have inspired jewelry creations and Jaime Miller will bring her delightful functional pottery to the festival. Former Garden District resident, sculptor Denise Greenwood-Loveless is returning to Baton Rouge from her home

in Texas to be a part of FestForAll.

It's a great time to add to your collections; items of all price ranges will be on hand. Shop for pottery, woodwork, stained glass, jewelry, and much more. The Arts Council will award prizes for Best of Show, Award of Excellence, Awards of Distinction, Awards of Achievement and Awards of Merit to visual artists at FestForAll.

See FESTFORALL, page 6

The Garden District's Other Residents

By: MINDY PIONTEK

The features that attract so many of us to the Garden District--the big trees and beautiful lush landscaping, the proximity to the LSU lakes--also make our neighborhood attractive to neighbors of a feathery and furry sort.

From snowy egrets stalking our side walks like super models, to the family of hawks that raised several fledglings last spring, to the squirrels that chase each other in dizzying circles around our oaks, a variety of wildlife have found food and shelter in the Garden District.

Among our most intrepid visitors are raccoons. Many of us have witnessed their hunched shuffle across the yard at dusk and been appraised by a level stare from behind the mask. You almost expect them to wave with their black gloved hands.

For Anne and Mac Wallace of Kleinert Avenue, their close raccoon encounter was extended. According to Anne, a mother raccoon with a family of four moved into their attic. Upon moving out, however, she left a baby behind.

Not up on the care and feeding of baby raccoons, the Wallaces called an LSU wildlife agent who told them to feed the small raccoon Tender Vittles cat food which the young raccoon soon learned to "wash" in the rain water in the gutters. The agent informed them that their guest should leave in a few weeks. "Actually, he kept me com-



Other residents of the garden district!

pany for four months," says Anne, and he even earned a name, Felix.

Sis Pegues of Terrace Avenue had her own close encounter with a raccoon courtesy of a cat door. She awoke one night to see an unusually large "cat" helping himself to the bowl of cat food on her bedroom floor. "I had heard him come in through the cat door," says Sis. "I just stayed quiet and waited until he left on his own," which he eventually did after satisfying his hankering for cat food.

Three or four years ago, Cheryl Singer of Oleander had an uncomfortable encounter with one of our larger rodents, a nutria that wandered into her garage after a period of heavy rain.

"My dog kept barking and barking and barking and would not be quiet," says Cheryl. When she investigated the garage which seemed to be the source of her dog's aggravation, she looked under a book shelf

See OTHER RESIDENTS, page 4

Find Licensed Professional Remodelers
and their expert trade partners!



www.RemodelBR.com
REMODELERS COUNCIL OF GBR

Kitchens • Baths • Additions
Outdoor Living Areas and More!
(225) 761-2800

"John is professional, reliable, and has VERY competitive pricing! I would highly recommend him to anyone."
- Didi Rozas, Spectrum Fitness Club Director



The Perfect Paint Job
For a Great Price!

Precision Painting

by John Edmonson
Interior/Exterior Painting • House Washing



Garden District Resident!!

cell: (225) 252-8979 ■ Home: (225) 381-7223



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.

WWW.GDCABR.ORG

GDCA Sustainable Living Tour 2013

By **DOROTHY PROWELL**

Join us for the first Garden District Tour of Sustainable Homes and Gardens on Saturday April 20, 2013, from 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon.

The tour will feature eight Garden District homes:

- Fran and Bill Beck at 2163 Terrace Avenue,
- Heather and Jason Day at 2010 Wisteria Street,
- Ana and Pat Forbes at 2361 Cherokee Avenue,
- David and Sandy Franz at 2240 Olive Street,
- Nancy Grush and Steve Mayer at 1951 Wisteria Street,
- Adam and Megan Knapp at 2332 Wisteria Street,
- Stephen Poss and Carrie Deyo at 1827 Tulip Street, and
- Dorothy Prowell at 2230 Tulip Street.

These residents live lightly on the land and save money in the process by conserving energy, growing their own food, and reducing waste.

Come get ideas and information by visiting with these homeowners and viewing their efforts and home features.

The tour will also feature a variety of professionals willing to answer your questions: Jeff Shaw from Gulf South Solar, Mike Thibodeaux, an energy auditor, and Dr. Carl Motsenbocher, an LSU horticulture professor and organic gardening expert.

In addition, homeowners have invited their professional installers and auditors so visitors will be able to talk with experts as well as homeowners about sustainable features.

Thanks to Baton Rouge Coca Cola, rain barrels will be raffled off, but if you don't win, you may purchase rain barrels and compost bins at selected tour homes.

The EBRP Recycling Office will have sustainable living guides and other environmental education material available along the tour.

Tickets are \$10⁰⁰

Available April 1st at Garden District Nursery (2544 Government St.) and Circa 1857 (1857 Government St.) and on-site at the Tour Host Home (2230 Tulip St.) on April 20th.

Gulf South Solar, Louisiana's oldest and most experienced solar integrator, has been busy installing solar electric and solar hot water systems in the Garden District and surrounding areas!

Your neighbors are enjoying lower utility bills with systems that sell energy back to the utility company and battery back-up systems which provide emergency power to your home in the event of a power outage. We also install VELUX solar water heating systems which provide year-round hot water heated by the sun.



Right now, take advantage of the **30% federal tax credit** and **Louisiana's 50% state tax credit/rebate** for an effective **80% off of any installed system!**

This makes going solar more affordable than ever with a cash flow payback in as little as 4 -5 years.



Contact us at **225-932-0035** or **info@gulfsouthsolar.com** and we'll be happy to give you an estimate.

4836 Revere Dr., Suite. F, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 www.gulfsouthsolar.com



Vicki Spurlock
of *Locations Real Estate* has received her **Historic Home Specialist Designation** from the **New Orleans Preservation Resource Center**. The **HHIS** designation and certification training is to promote the preservation, restoration and revitalization of historic architecture and neighborhoods. Certified **HHIS** designers are then able to assist potential homeowners in purchasing and renovations of homes that contribute to the city's character and encourage future investments.
Grace, (The Independent Lab), got hers too...



Vicki Spurlock, HHIS
(225) 928-2222

e-mail: vicki@locationsrealestate.com - www.locationsrealestate.com

Voted #1 SFR Historic House Specialist by an Independent Lab!

Volunteer Spotlight

HEATHER WESTRA

You might have seen Heather Westra and her husband walking their black lab, Dobby, every morning up one street and down another, but you might not have known all she has done for the neighborhood over the years. She lives on Oleander with her husband and children. She served on the Garden District Civic Association board for years and participated on many of the committees. She has been integral to the holiday lighting contest and spearheaded the new neighbor packets that many of you received upon moving into the Garden District. Her biggest contribution to the neighborhood, however, is the cookbook which helped commemorate the Garden District's Centennial. Not only did she gather and edit the recipes that went into it, she also sold the books at GD events and even from her own house!

Thanks, Heather, for all you have done for us over the years. Maybe in another ninety-nine years you'll be up for sponsoring another cookbook!



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.

Mindy's World Famous Coffee Cake

Ok, it might not be world famous, but I do have a friend who makes sure I promise to have the coffee cake before she agrees to come to our house for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. You may also decorate this with purple, green and gold sugar to make it appropriate for Mardi Gras.

FILLING:

Combine ingredients thoroughly with hand mixer

- 1 8oz block of cream cheese, room temperature
- 6 T granulated sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- dash of salt
- 1 t vanilla

GLAZE

Stir together well

- 1 1/4 c powdered sugar
- 2-3 T milk
- 1 t vanilla

Ready one refrigerated sweet bread dough, or you can make your own—I usually use a bread machine sweet buttermilk dough. Roll out dough into a rectangle, about 8x12 inches. Spread filling over center of dough leaving a 1 inch border. Roll up carefully and seal edges. Slice three vents on top.

Alternatively, you may roll the dough out into a longer rectangle and then roll up and join ends to form an oval king cake. Let rise in a warm place for 45 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375 F. Bake for 15-17 minutes. Spread with glaze while warm but not hot.

OTHER RESIDENTS

Continued from Page 2

but wasn't sure what she saw. "I saw big yellow teeth and bristles, and I didn't know what it was. I thought it was a porcupine."

Animal control informed her that they did not come out on Saturdays, and her husband, Robert, was at work and not due home for a few hours. "It was up to me," she says.

Cheryl ran across the street to enlist the help of her neighbor, Bill Rodman, who grabbed a long-handled fishing net to wrangle the critter. Bill prodded the animal with the end of the net to encourage the nutria into the trash can Cheryl held. "It was a big one and a mean one and he was mad." As soon as the nutria was in the trash can, Cheryl flipped it up and slammed a lid on it. "Then we put the trash can in the back of Bill's truck and drove it to City Park Lake," says Cheryl.

If you have your own close encounter with our resident wildlife, send a picture, whether cute and cuddly or big and mean. We will periodically run pictures of the most interesting sightings.

**PROPANE
KEY CUTTING
GLASS CUTTING
PIPE THREADING
PLUMBING SUPPLIES
ELECTRICAL
GARDEN CENTER
CYPRESS FURNITURE
PAINT MATCHING**

True Value®

Government Street Hardware

2882 Government Street • BRLA • 70806

STORE: 343-8705 FAX: 343-4820

www.GOVERNMENTSTREETHARDWARE.com

FINE ART • FRAMING • RESTORATION • APPRAISAL

Taylor Clark
GALLERY

WWW.TAYLORCLARK.COM 2623 GOVERNMENT ST. 225.383.4929

ADVERTISE HERE
Learn how at
www.gdcabr.org

HAPPY LAWNS

Continued from Page 1

a call from Vicky Spurlock, who offered to put his name on the flyer she sent to her customers. "That kickstarted it."

Spurlock's endorsement also led Michael to change the way he approached looking for new business. "Flyers and business cards gave me a low return on my investment," said Michael, so he returned to his earlier sales approach. "I started making calls on real estate companies asking for fifteen minutes at their weekly or monthly meetings." Michael expanded his pitch to include commercial clients, approach-

ing Academy and Sonic among others. "I hustled and hustled and hustled to get business." As the business grew, he enlisted the help of his children, Ella for invoicing, and David and Peter as members of his crew.

The hard sell approach worked, and by 2003, Michael Chol's Lawn and Landscape LLC had a big enough client roster to justify hiring full time workers. Initially, Michael advertised in the newspaper for help with mixed results, but on the advice of a friend, he began targeting LSU students by advertising in The Daily Reveille.

Although owning his own business

hasn't always gone smoothly, it has always been interesting. Michael recalls a mishap soon after buying his first professional mower. "I loaded it on my trailer and drove over to a woman's house across from St. Joseph's Academy."

The woman was reluctant to trust someone other than her recently deceased husband to mow her lawn and instructed Michael to be especially careful around her bed of mature irises. With the unfamiliar mower, Michael lost control. "I had mowed down thirty feet of irises in no time." Not surprisingly, the woman asked him to leave before the job was complete.

Besides the very rare equipment glitch, Louisiana's weather is always up for throwing a curve. With a laugh, Michael points out the creativity he needed to make payroll just in this year, with our seemingly endless weeks of rain in January and February.

In spite of the challenges, Michael loves what he does. Besides getting to work outside, he appreciates the immediate gratification that comes with the job. "With industrial sales, it took months and months of sales calls to make a sale. With landscaping, you put in beds or mow the grass, and it immediately looks better."

He also enjoys the connection the business gives him to his neighbors--some of his longest standing clients are neighbors on Park Boulevard.

"It makes me happy to see how happy landscaping makes people." After 14 years, he must keep them very happy.

Margaret Bach, REALTOR® GRI, CRS

Office (225) 769-1500 Fax (225) 763-3377

Direct Line: (225) 763-3297

E-mail address: mbach@cjbrown.com



7414 Perkins Road, Suite 200 • Baton Rouge, LA 70808
C.J. Brown, ERA Powered, is Independently Owned & Operated



Cypress Dental FAMILY DENTISTRY



Kurt A. LeJeune D.D.S.

225-248-8400

cypressdental.com

3138 McIlhenny Drive • 70809

- Full Mouth Rehabilitation
- Smile Design and Veneers
- Laser Dentistry
- Mercury Safe Amalgam Removal
- Biocompatible Restorations
- Zoom Whitening
- Custom Sleep Apnea and Snoring Appliances
- Head, Neck, and Facial Pain Treatment
- TMD
- Orthodontics
- Non-Titanium Implants

New to the office: botox and cosmetic fillers.

Calling for Easter Bunny Helpers!!

The Garden District Easter Egg Hunt needs your help. This is such a fun event for the children and parents, but it does not happen on its own.

We need volunteers to help hide eggs and bring cupcakes and cookies for the participants. We also need volunteers willing to help with the younger kids and make sure the whole event runs smoothly.

As with everything, many hands make light work, so please volunteer today. This is an opportunity to work with other people in the neighborhood you might not know. The Easter Bunny needs you.

For more information, please contact Mary Fontenot at (225) 288-1950.

FESTFORALL

Continued from Page 1

The more you shop the better your chances of winning FestForAll prizes!

Each time you spend \$30 with a visual artist, enter to win prizes by bringing your receipts to the Visitor Information Booth.

In addition to great art, FestForAll's music line-up is rockin' and includes Space Capone (soul), Chris LeBlanc (blues), the Stooges Brass Band (funk) and many many more.

The FestForAll's Children's Village is coordinated by the Junior League of Baton Rouge and will feature hands-on art activities. Get creative while enjoying musicians, puppeteers, storytellers, jugglers, magicians, stilt walkers, and watch fun and entertaining stage performances on the Children's Village Stage. FestForAll's Children's Village will take place on the grounds of Louisiana's Old State Capitol.

Enjoy all this plus plenty of lagniappe activities and stay up to date on details at the Arts Council's website, www.artsbr.org.

FestForAll is a showcase for all the great things that are going on in Baton Rouge. It is a chance for Garden District families to take a short drive or bike ride downtown and eat, play, dance and shop. Children and adults can experience visual arts, music, and dance in a wonderful festival atmosphere. FestForAll celebrates the creative energy of our great community.

FestForAll - a Baton Rouge tradition since 1974 - is free & open to everyone. FestForAll has a distinguished 30+year history garnering a reputation as one of Louisiana's finest art and music festivals.

AFFORDABLE WEBSITES & COMPUTER GRAPHICS FOR BUSINESS



THE DESIGNSMITH

225.336.5444 | WWW.THEDESIGNSMITH.COM
PROUD TO BE A GARDEN DISTRICT HOMEOWNER

FestForAll

ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Two days of Rockin' Music, 100 Artists, Children's Village & tons more!

Saturday, April 6 - 10 am to 7 pm

Sunday, April 7 - Noon to 6 pm

Downtown Baton Rouge

Free Admission

SATURDAY MUSIC LINE-UP

Sunrise Brass Band (*Brass Band*)
Matthew Davidson Band (*Blues*)
Brandon Ledet (*Zydeco*)
Funkin' with Friends (*Funk*)
Tyler Kinchen & the Right Pieces (*Blues*)
Justin Garner (*R&B*)
Young Band Nation Blues Project (*Blues*)
Quiana Lynell (*Jazz*)
Brad Walker Quintet (*Jazz*)
Martin Flanagan (*Country*)
Eric Johanson (*Blues/Rock*)

SUNDAY MUSIC LINE-UP

Space Capone (*Soul*)
Soul Haven (*Rock*)
CJ Solar Band (*Acoustic Rock*)
Rosco Bandana (*Country/Rock*)
Jason Martin & the Corner Pocket (*Rock*)
Gravy Flavored Kisses (*Blues Rock*)
Chris LeBlanc (*Blues*)
Stooges Brass Band (*Funk*)



Artist: Babeth Schlegel



Artist: Denise Greenwood-Loveless

Visit ArtsBR.org for Festival info

Special thanks to FestForAll 2013 Sponsors:



OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR-
PRESIDENT



GoAuto
LOW COST CAR INSURANCE

