

## Highlights of the Civic Association Annual Meeting

The GDCA annual meeting took place February 28 at Bistro Byronz on Government Street.

Alex Tucker, GDCA President, reported on neighborhood beautification work and security:

The Park Boulevard medians were cleaned during summer 2009, and the Board is continuing its efforts to secure a water source for new plantings there. They would also like to get a new sign for the Garden District entrance on Park.

Security is a big issue, but ground work for creating a crime prevention district has begun.

Susannah DesRoches of Baton Rouge

Green said BRG has received a grant to work with civic associations on the selection and care of trees. This learning opportunity can be done on a week-end; let Alex know what subjects are of interest.

Garden District resident Dorothy Prowell gave a presentation about energy conservation measures. (Her talk will be reprised as a 3-part series in the Garden District News, beginning with part 1 in this issue).

Sonya Pickens, GDCA treasurer, gave the financial report. Security dues increased to \$120 per year. Approximately 30% of residents typically pay dues. For 2009 we collected approx.

\$27,000; final numbers are posted on the GD website at <http://www.gdcabr.org/index.php>.

Two new board members took office: Ben Broussard and Jay Noland. (Two additional members, Trisha Fos and Susan Bracker, took office at a later date). One board seat remains to be filled; if you would like to volunteer, please contact Alex Tucker at [c.a.tucker@cox.net](mailto:c.a.tucker@cox.net).

The GDCA kindly thanks our neighbors Emelie Alton and Mike Kantrow, owners of Bistro Byronz, for making their restaurant available for our meeting.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Metro Council District 10 Annual Meeting Update

Tara Wicker, our representative on the Metro Council, also attended the annual meeting.

She reported that the Park Boulevard median project is a priority for her office. She suggested getting Dufrocq Elementary to adopt the median area at Government and Park, and have the students plant flowers where the sign is. There will also be an effort to remove the water oaks from the medians by the summer. Regarding the graffiti-covered signal box on Park, it cannot be painted but she suggested putting latticework around the box.

Tara has secured approval for various sidewalk projects; residents should contact her for specific sidewalks needing attention.

Tara's downtown office staff takes

care of her schedule. She also has a staff member at the Butler Center, which is available for meetings.

Tara's Leadership Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month in the Council Chambers at 6:00 pm.

### Historic Garden District photos viewable online

As we get ready to celebrate the Garden District's centennial in 2011, don't miss the historic photographs in the Cazedessus Collection on the EBRP Library's Baton Rouge Digital Archive at <http://cdm15196.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/browse.php>.

These old photos were donated to the library by Camille Cazedessus, whose father was a realtor selling property around Baton Rouge, including homes and lots in what we now know

as the Garden District. You'll recognize some of the homes in the photos. Be sure to look at each page within the brochures depicted; they too contain some treasures.

In the photo collection, you'll see a reference to Golden Rod Avenue or Goldenrod Avenue; that is now Park Boulevard.

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# Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

May 2010

## Neighbor's Simple Steps Cut Energy Use 30%

By: DOROTHY PROWELL

Cutting back on energy use in our homes is a winning strategy on many fronts: reducing one's "footprint" by lowering the amount of polluting gases entering the atmosphere; lowering the demand for resources like coal that are environmentally damaging to extract; and of course, saving money!

This is the first in a 3-part series in which I'll explain how my two-person household cut energy use 60% over 4 years. The total 2009 electricity bill for my 2350 sq. ft. home on Tulip Street was under \$1000 (average \$84/month), half what it was in 2006 when I started this conservation effort shortly after moving in. Natural gas has been more challenging with only a 15% reduction, but we're working on that.

I began with some no- or low-cost steps. I put an insulating blanket around my gas water heater, and in summer lowered the temperature setting to "warm" (~100 degrees). I gradually (1-2 degrees at a time) adjusted my thermostat so that now, the house is ~80° in summer and ~67° in winter. All rooms have ceiling fans and most windows now open to take advantage of cool breezes in fall and spring. I replaced light bulbs with compact fluo-



Prowell attaches her clothesline to a hook on the wooden steps; when not in use, it simply rolls up into a spring-loaded plastic container on the side of the house. Total cost ~\$40. Photo: Dorothy Prowell.

rescent (CF) ones where I could and installed dimmers on non-CF lights. I started washing clothes mostly in cold water and line-drying them on sunny days. I also switched off the heated drier in the dishwasher. Lastly, I caulked or sealed all joints inside and out prior to painting as I renovated my older home.

My records indicate these relatively

inexpensive measures (total cost under \$100) cut energy use by at least 30%. The more costly steps, which I'll write about in the next issue, saved another 30%. If you decide to embark on your own energy conservation journey, not only will you save money, but many energy-saving improvements also qualify

See **CUT ENERGY**, page 2

## GD Security District Ballot Ground Work Continuing

By: MICHELE FOURNET

As part of my research on security districts I met several months ago with officials from the Parish Attorney's office, who told me we would not incur any cost from placing the security district on the ballot.

However, Wendy LeBlanc, CPA, Assistant Budgeting Manager for the City of Baton Rouge, recently informed me that two crime prevention districts on the November 14, 2009 ballot were both billed by the Secretary of State's Office for a pro-rata share of the election costs.

The relevant statutes (R.S. 18:1300.31 and 33:9100.21) call for the crime prevention district to go on the ballot at a congressional general or gubernatorial election. Since the November 2009 election was neither of

See **SECURITY**, page 2

## Neighborhood Group Sponsors Pet Supply Drive

The Rescue Bank of Baton Rouge, an animal welfare organization started by GD residents Mark and Joel Mese, Suzanne Schexnayder, and Judy Atkinson, is sponsoring its first-ever, citywide pet food and supply drive May 2 – 8. The event is part of a community celebration of Be Kind to Animals Week, started in 1915 to honor animals for the important roles they play in our lives and to promote their humane treatment.

All pet food, leashes, toys, collars, blankets, cat litter, carriers, kennels, other supplies, and monetary donations will be distributed to non-profit animal rescues throughout East

Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension, St. Helena, East Feliciana and West Feliciana parishes.

Donations may be dropped off at the following locations, many very convenient to the Garden District: The Advocate, 7290 Bluebonnet (enter on Anselmo Lane); BusinessFirst Bank, 8440 Jefferson Hwy.; Red Shoes, 2303 Government St.; Garden District Nursery, 2544 Government St.; Jeannie Frey Rhodes Photography, 4271 Perkins Rd.

The Rescue Bank is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer-run and operated organization committed to supporting the animal rescue, foster and rehabili-

tation community with much needed supplies, services and resources. For more information, please call (225) 933-6010.

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### Garden District News

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

**Beatrice Winkler  
Honey East**

If you have comments or story ideas that you would like to submit to the publication please contact Beatrice Winkler at:

**winkler\_beatrice@hotmail.com**

## Easily Report Streetlight Outages Online!

Do you see a street light that is out? Report it to Entergy by completing this easy online form: <https://secure.entergy.com/forms/StreetLights.aspx?FormId=132&RegionId=LA>

Please do your part to keep our neighborhood well-lit at night by re-

porting any broken street lights that you see. Don't help the criminal element by providing the darkened surroundings they prefer; get those lights fixed for your safety and your neighbor's. Thank you.

## CUT ENERGY

Continued from Page 1

for federal and/or state tax rebates and credits, which I'll describe in part 3.

Dorothy Prowell, Ph.D. is a professor

at LSU. Her home was featured in the second annual Spring Solar Home Tour on April 17. She will discuss her solar power system in the next installment of this series.

## SECURITY

Continued from Page 1

these, it appears these two crime district votes were not held in compliance with the statute.

We intend to follow the letter of the current statute, including when to put the issue on the ballot. Kathleen Callaghan, another lawyer in our neighborhood who is helping me with this, is in contact with the Secretary of State's office to confirm what effect ballot timing has on costs. We'll update the neighborhood via the email list and the next newsletter once we have a definitive answer.

Garden District Civic Association Board Members   2010-2011			
MEMBER	OFFICE	PHONE	E MAIL
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## Volunteer Spotlight

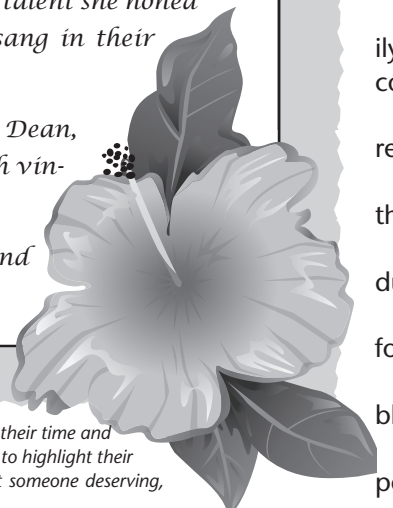
### CAROLYN SCHWARZHOFF

*If you subscribe to the Garden District email list, you know Carolyn as the tireless and dependable moderator who checks every message before it's promptly posted to the neighborhood—keeping us all communicating with each other while making sure the tone is positive and constructive, and protecting us all from spam! Our neighborhood was the first in Baton Rouge to have a list serve, and it was Carolyn's idea. To this day, she has been the list's only moderator, a seven-day-a-week job she handles with finesse and good humor.*

*Carolyn also served on the board of the Garden District Civic Association for many years. Anyone who has been on the board for any length of time knows that takes a person who is truly dedicated to the neighborhood. She volunteered at GDCA activities and was editor of the newsletter for several years, writing it and selling the ads. Probably as long as the Garden District has had Christmas caroling, she has been the carolers' conductor and steady voice, a talent she honed in the 1980s when she and her brothers sang in their band, "The Shoes," at The Caterie.*

*Carolyn, her husband Jay, and their son Dean, enjoy living in their 1940's house filled with vintage furniture.*

*Carolyn, thank you for all that you do and have done.*



*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.*

## Stone gives Security Q&A

Sgt. Don Stone, BRPD and head of the GD Security Patrol, talked about recent security concerns at the GDCA annual meeting, noting we have had our share of burglaries and thefts, but nothing that most other areas don't also have.

Regarding the magazine salespeople that occasionally make the rounds of our neighborhood, Sgt. Stone said if they don't have an occupancy license they can be arrested.

He also said that while there are not many parking issues in the neighborhood, residents are reminded it is not legal to park trailers on the roadway.

Sgt. Stone took questions from residents:

**Q:** Seems like there are a lot of wrecks at Terrace and Park near Perkins.

**A:** Our security patrols are primarily for security issues rather than traffic control.

**Q:** Anything we can do about non-residents walking in the alleys?

**A:** If you see suspicious people in the alley, call the police.

**Q:** What can we do about break-ins during the day?

**A:** Daytime is not an unusual time for break-ins. Alarm systems help.

**Q:** What can we do about people blocking the alleys?

**A:** It is illegal to block the alleys; call police.

## Welcome to the New GDCA Board Members!

Ben Broussard joined the board because he loves the neighborhood and wanted to do what he could to make it a better place to live. He and his wife Dana have lived here since 2004. They have a 2 1/2-year-old son named Jude, and are expecting another son in June. Ben, originally from Maurice, LA, is the director of development for the Tiger Athletic Foundation; Dana, a New Orleans native, is a physical therapist. The Broussards live on Cherokee Street.

Trisha Fos is a first-time homeowner, having bought her Olive Street house in June 2008. She chose the Garden

District for its history and charm, and because it reminds her of her native New Orleans. She joined the board to help out the community, and will be heading the social and special events committees where she looks forward to meeting and bringing together the neighborhood. She is a 2nd grade teacher at University Laboratory School. After school, she spends her free time tutoring and working with the U-high cheerleaders. Her two loves are fall football and spring gardening.

Jay Noland and his wife Elizabeth lived near the Garden District for about

seven years, and after their children were born they frequently strolled with them through the neighborhood. When they learned that a house they admired was coming up for sale, they jumped at it and after some renovation, moved in a year ago. The Nolands intend to raise their children here and for Jay, participating on the board seemed like a good way to get involved. He is a lawyer and practices in the area of residential real estate development.

Susan Bracker is the newest member of the GDCA Board; we will have a bio about her in the next issue.