

Message from the GDCA President

Hello neighbors. This is our first newsletter since the new GDCA board took office in March, so I would like to introduce myself and share some updates.

I've lived in the Garden District almost 10 years now; first on Cherokee in a home I bought during college and stayed in after I married my wife Rebecca, and now on Terrace in a house we had long admired and decided we'd buy if it ever went up for sale. That was over a year ago and we love it. We would not want to live anywhere else—or in any other neighborhood for that matter!

As you know, security is an issue in our neighborhood. We've formed a

security committee to work on solutions, including tackling the primary problem: lack of funding to support increased patrols. This newsletter has several articles on this subject; don't miss them.

We worked with Allied Waste and the city to clean up the alleys, allowing garbage pick-up to resume there after overgrown alleys made it difficult for Allied's trucks to pass. To avoid this problem in the future, please remember to keep your alleys clean and trimmed back.

Our annual Easter Egg hunt on April 5th was again hosted by Mike and Amy Cave. We had a great turnout, and the kids enjoyed meeting the Easter Bunny.

Our next social will be in the Fall, once it's cooled off a little. We're also working on Garden District T-shirts to sell, so be on the lookout for those.

Please email me at c.alex.tucker@gmail.com if you have any suggestions or concerns for the GDCA board to consider. I hope all of you have a relaxing and safe summer!

Sincerely,
Alex Tucker, *GDCA President*

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Crime Fighting

Continued from Page 1

the most efficient use, in terms of patrol times and locations, of our GDCA dues-funded security patrol hours.

- Improving nighttime lighting in the Garden District.

- Creating an online reporting system to give us an accurate account of crime occurring in the neighborhood, and to facilitate follow-up with BRPD. This is not intended to replace making a report to BRPD, but to allow us to track all incidents and ongoing investigations.

- Increasing GDCA membership, and thus the amount of funds available to pay for GD Security Patrol hours, via a door-to-door campaign headed by street captains. This campaign will be under the direction of the street captain subcommittee chaired by Alan Walsh, Bill O'Quin, and Willie Fontenot.

Each of these items will only be as effective as the extent to which we as a neighborhood support them. In the coming weeks, a neighbor from the street captain subcommit-

tee will knock on your door asking you to:

- Turn on your porch lights at night
- Install more security lighting if necessary
- Join the GDCA if you have not already done so
- Report all suspicious activity to the BRPD

The next meeting of the Security Committee is tentatively set for July 21st.

Garden District Civic Association Board Members | 2009-2010

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Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

June 2009

GD Security Committee Develops New Crime-Fighting Strategies

By: ELLEN STEIRMAN ALDERMAN, Security Committee Chairperson

The Garden District Civic Association Security Committee, formed in response to the recent increase in crime, held its first meeting on

June 9th. The 24 Garden District neighbors who volunteered for the committee were divided into a number of working groups, each tasked with researching and devising new strategies to cut crime in our neighborhood.

Over the coming months, the Security Committee will be working on:

- Forming an alliance with the GD Security Patrol to determine

See CRIME FIGHTING, page 4

Park Boulevard Beautification Project

By: ROSARY BECK

Garden District neighbors are spending part of each weekend cleaning up the Park Boulevard medians: removing cast iron plants (which retain moisture that can rot tree trunks), raking, picking up trash, clearing sidewalks, and trimming low branches. Starting at the Government Street entrance and working south, we're now down to Perkins.

This work is part of a design plan devised for Park Boulevard by Jon Emerson, registered landscape architect, GDCA board member, and beautification committee chair. Jon's plan showcases the beauty of our live oaks, includes additional historic markers along Park and, if funding becomes available, entranceway lighting, irrigation to sustain a garden, and installation of additional Garden District signage—in the Craftsman style after our local architecture—at the City Park and Government Street entrances.

Steve Shurtz, urban forester with BRDPW and another GD neighbor,



Park Boulevard after beautification efforts. Photo by Beatrice Winkler.

is arranging for the City to remove scrap trees, prune diseased tree branches, plant additional live oaks, improve cross-walks, and mulch the trees.

"Some of this is quite ambitious, but I think cleaning up this main artery and showing that we care about our public spaces will lead to others respecting the area too," says GDCA board president Alex Tucker.

Donations to support this worthy project can be made at the Garden District website: www.gdcabr.org.

Beautification committee: Rosary Beck, Sarah Butler, Jon Emerson, Ray Mack, Alex Tucker.

Additional thanks to the clean-up crew: Case Ahr, Patrick Alderman, Ben Broussard, Sarah Butler's mother Joyce, Diane Geheber, Marlene Little, and Mike Schexnayder.

Street Captains Organizing to Improve GD Security

The Street Captain Subcommittee devised this action plan at its first meeting June 15:

- Each Garden District street will have a captain (see table), who may recruit co-captains.

- Two-person volunteer teams will provide a "Garden District Security Kit" to each resident on their street.

- This bright-red kit, personalized for each resident, will have large-print emergency numbers and incident-reporting information on the cover.

- Kits will contain security tips, names of all residents on the street, crime charts, reasons to join the GDCA, and a GDCA application.

- For quick identification of GDCA members by neighbors and

GARDEN DISTRICT STREET CAPTAINS	
Broussard	Tony Kleinpeter
Camelia	Diane Geheber, Natalie Depp
Cherokee	Reid Penton
Drehr	Willie Fontenot, Madeleine Conger
Government	Mike Maginnis
Kleinert	Gail and Bill O'Quin
Magnolia Drive	
Myrtle	Libba Johnston, Greta Corona
Myrtle Walk	
Oleander	Case Ahr, Marlene Little
Olive	
Park Blvd.	Amanda Evans, Ellen Aldermen
Perkins Road	
South Eugene	Tori McRoberts
St. Rose	
Terrace	Scott Bardwell, Ray Beryl Mack
Tulip	Ruby and Allen Walsh
Wisteria	Jackie Moffitt

law enforcement, we plan to give each member small iridescent stickers for their home, cars, and bicycles.

- The volunteers will also request each household's telephone

number and e-mail address, to facilitate neighborhood communication and networking.

More street captains are needed. If you would like to take an empty street or just help out and meet your neighbors, please email Bill O'Quin at boquin@ix.netcom.com.

Please welcome your neighbors who will be calling on you in the next few weeks. Our goal is 90% GDCA participation, which translates to triple the funding for security patrols as what we presently have. Subcommittee chairman Allen Walsh has stepped

up to the plate by contributing dues on behalf of all his renters. We encourage other Garden District landlords to do the same; after all, better security means better rental business!

BR Fire Department "Staying Safe" Feature:

Preventing House Fires Caused by Electrical Faults

Each year, the Baton Rouge Fire Department responds to numerous structure fires caused by electrical problems; most are attributed to overloaded extension cords or power strips. Homeowners commonly believe that "if the power strip has six outlets, then I can use every one of them." Nothing could be farther from the truth!

For instance, the desktop computer system, printer, cable modem, and large screen television should not all be plugged into the same power strip, which could overheat and start a fire.

Extension cords utilized for other than their intended purpose, is another leading cause of electrical fires. For example, a small-gauge household extension cord is not intended for use in powering a refrigerator, window air-conditioning unit, or other appliance that consumes a lot of power. Over time, the large amount of current drawn by such appliances breaks down the integrity of the extension cord, which can cause it to overheat

and start a fire

A few electrical safety tips to keep in mind:

- Avoid running extension cords across doorways and under carpets or furniture.

- Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician so you do not have to use extension cords.

- To avoid overloading an outlet or power strip, plug only one high-wattage appliance into it at a time.

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for powering appliances.

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.

To discuss other fire safety concerns or to schedule a courtesy home safety inspection, contact the Baton Rouge Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau at (225) 354-1431.

Many thanks to Robert Combs of the BRFD Public Information Office for providing this article.

SPACE FOR SALE!
WWW.GDCABR.ORG



Garden District News

The Garden District News is tentatively scheduled to publish quarterly by the Garden District Civic Association. The newsletter is edited by

Honey East and Beatrice Winkler

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



The newly renovated Dufrocq School opens in August. Photo by Mary Fontenot.

New Neighborhood School Opening in August!

By **HONEY EAST,**
Retired EBR Principal

Beautifully refurbished and enlarged, and offering new programs, the Dufrocq School will soon give Garden District residents the chance to once again send children to a neighborhood school.

Once slated for closure, the old Dufrocq Elementary was instead saved thanks to the advocacy of local residents and community leaders. More recently, neighbors successfully lobbied for the inclusion of the Garden District in the Dufrocq School's attendance zone.

The school will offer an enlarged Montessori component; a traditional education component; and the newest, an academic magnet. The state and district comprehensive curriculum will drive all teaching and learning at Dufrocq.

The enhanced comprehensive curriculum of the academic magnet

component will provide rigor for high-achieving students, who must apply by July 6 and meet academic requirements to enter a selection pool. Applications and information are available from the EBR Parish Schools Magnet Office, or online at ebrschools.org. Residents of the attendance zone will receive top priority, as will siblings.

Starting in the 2010-2011 academic year, the MicroSociety will be an exciting school-wide addition that puts learning theory into practice by incorporating real-world experiences into basic curriculum, helping students apply classroom learning to real life. Students create a microcosm of the real world, and each has a role in running it.

The EBR Magnet Office welcomes your questions and hopes the Garden District will support this new school and help it become another crowning jewel in our public school system.

Worried by increased crime in the Garden District?

We have a proven effective crime deterrent costing less than a monthly pizza.

That crime deterrent is the GD Security Patrol, made up entirely of off-duty Baton Rouge Police Department officers, and paid with GDCA dues funds at an hourly rate set by the police chief.

At \$90/year, GDCA dues work out to less than the price of a monthly pizza. But with only about one-third of GD homes having paid their 2009 dues so far, it means our proven effective crime deterrent is operating at only one-third its potential. Think of the difference it could make to your family's safety, sense of security, and property value if everyone paid dues so we could bring it up to full strength.

It's easy! Pay online via PayPal at the Garden District website, www.gdcabr.org, or by check payable to "Garden District Civic Association" mailed to: GDCA, P.O. Box 4113, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4113.

New-neighbor welcoming packets available!

If you are new to the Garden District (or know someone who is), we would like to make sure you get a proper "Welcome!"

You can request a "New Neighbor Packet" on the Garden District website at www.gdcabr.org (click on "Neighborhood Information" on the left), or by contacting a GDCA board member.