



# Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Summer 2012

## Humming, or the Joy of Owning Your Own Café

By: Mindy Piontek

For Maureen Joyce of MJ's Café, starting her own business was a way to bring her European vacation home with her. While on an extended stay in France and Italy, Maureen had fallen in love with the way of life. She loved the importance good food had for her neighbors that led them to seek only the freshest produce, the highest quality oils, the most delicious cheese, and then to enjoy these items with a simple preparation to showcase their excellence. She enjoyed the French café culture that celebrated this passion for food.

"I thought Baton Rouge could use something like that," says Maureen. "I just didn't think I would be the one providing it."

Maureen didn't start in the restaurant business, although she did work in high end bakeries while pursuing a degree in art history. Although Maureen enjoyed teaching art history at LSU and then enjoyed working for the Baton Rouge Arts Council, it eventually dawned on her that she could redefine her life. "I realized, I didn't have to use my degree," says Maureen.

Ironically, it was her position at the Arts Council that led her to consider the viability of opening a vegetarian restaurant in Baton Rouge.

"I had been catering events for the Arts Council," says Maureen. "Three years ago, I fed all the artists for Fest-for-all, and it was



Maureen Joyce in front of the specials board at MJ's Cafe.

***First in a series of articles that spotlight business owners in our neighborhood.***

See News Briefs for more details.

the vegetarian dishes that I ran out of first. I thought Baton Rouge might be ready for a vegetarian restaurant."

There were many who second guessed

her and told her that there wasn't enough interest in vegetarianism in South Louisiana, with its emphasis on andouille, boudin, and cochon du lait. For Maureen, it wasn't such an either/or proposition. "When you make good vegetarian food, omnivores will choose to eat it, too," says Maureen.

Dreams of a European approach to dining do not turn into a thriving café with

***See HUMMING, page 3***

## It's Going to be a Long, Hot, Lightning Filled Summer

By: ELDON LEDOUX,

A few general lightning safety tips:

Sound travels a mile in about five seconds. So when you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder. If that interval is less than 30 seconds, the thunderstorm is within six miles of you, and you should immediately break off any outside activities and seek shelter.

Do not stand under a tree, canopy, aw-

ning or any unenclosed structure.

Seek shelter in a building with a roof and walls or a hardtop vehicle. Convertibles, golf carts, motorcycles and bicycles offer no lightning protection. It is the metal shell, not the rubber tires, that protects the inhabitants of a vehicle.

If you cannot get to an indoor location, crouch in the open, minimizing your ground contact surface area. Don't lie flat on the ground.

If you are in a group stranded outdoors, don't gather into a tight huddle; keep 12 to 15 feet apart. This sounds strange, but explains how the ground conductance of a single lightning strike can kill large numbers of livestock.

Lightning can enter a building through a direct strike or through pipes or electrical and phone wires. If you are indoors,

***See LIGHTENING, page 4***

# Volunteer Spotlight

## RAY MACK

*For Ray Mack, the Garden District is more than just a physical home. It serves as a kind of spiritual home, too, one that nurtures culture, community, and the soul. With an attitude like that, it's no wonder that he is always ready to take on a project to improve the lives of his neighbors and the Garden District as a whole.*

*When Ray and his wife, Beryl, first drove through the neighborhood after making the decision to move from Texas, it was the oaks at the corner of Terrace and Camelia that caught their eye. With a B for Beryl on the chimney, formerly for the previous owners, the Bolognas, the decision to purchase the house was a cinch.*

*In no time, Ray had become caught up in the Garden District's community spirit. Ray quickly joined the board, and one of his first actions was going door-to-door up and down Terrace, to query his neighbors for their thoughts on an historical district to cover part or all of the neighborhood. As a board member, Ray has championed projects from the Champagne Stroll, offering his house as a venue and his printer to whip up the tickets, to the CPD, or crime prevention district, giving generously of his time and his research expertise to suss out the specifics. As the board's crime liaison, Ray has worked closely with Officer Stone to ensure that the GDCA dues dedicated to off-duty police patrols cover as much as possible.*

*Thanks, Ray, for being a tireless promoter of the neighborhood you so clearly love!*

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Calling all Wildlife!

Do you have a picture of a raccoon waddling down your driveway? Or maybe an egret striding elegantly across the street? We're looking for critter pics to run in an upcoming issue. Please email your pics as a jpeg file to [mmpiontek70@yahoo.com](mailto:mmpiontek70@yahoo.com). If you wish to be acknowledged for your photography, be sure to include your name and when the picture was taken, and, if possible, identify the animal depicted.

### Support Your Neighbors!

This issue marks the beginning of a new regular feature highlighting neighbors who have opened their own businesses. Our intent is to showcase the talent and entrepreneurial spirit of residents while encouraging our readers to patronize their neighbors' shops, restaurants, and businesses.

If you own your own business and would like to be featured in an upcoming issue, contact the editor, Mindy Piontek, by email: [mmpiontek70@yahoo.com](mailto:mmpiontek70@yahoo.com). Although the stories will be written on a first come, first served basis, we reserve the right to make final decisions with an eye to showcasing the variety of talents in the neighborhood.

### Spotlight a Volunteer!

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

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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](mailto:mmpiontek70@yahoo.com).



# 2nd Annual Champagne Stroll

By: RAY MACK

The Second Annual Garden District Champagne Stroll will be held from 5:30PM until 8PM or so on Sunday, September 16, 2012.

The Stroll includes a Centennial Garden District Champagne Glass and visits to four Garden District Home sites for a glass of Champagne and light snacks.

The evening will end at Beryl and Ray Mack's home at the corner of Terrace Ave. and Camelia St. where Ben Bell and The Stardust Boys will play.

Ticket prices are \$20 per person and

may be purchased beginning August 1, 2012 at Circa 1857 and also at the Garden District Nursery, both on Government St., beginning September 1.

Sales are limited to 60 tickets. The stroll was enormously successful last year, and we want to keep up the tradition so buy early so you don't miss out! And then get ready for a wonderful evening with your neighbors.

Ticket sales will stop at noon on September 15, 2012. If there are any remaining tickets they will be available for sale at the starting home.

# HUMMING

Continued from Page 1

out an enormous amount of work, but gradually, the dreams acquired sharper edges, and, as Maureen says, "Everything started to fall into place."

Maureen's friend, Claire Major, had found a space for an art and design shop on Jefferson Highway between Government St. and Goodwood, but wasn't interested in covering the rent for the large space solo. Maureen also knew she would have to trim overhead, especially if she only wanted to serve a lunch crowd, in order to allow her more time with her two kids.

"Fear of failure was the only thing holding me back," says Maureen. It was time for a leap of faith. "I knew I wanted a glass front cooler for the café, but new ones cost between six and seven thousand dollars." Just after Maureen found one for \$1400 and purchased it, a point of no return in her mind, she received a check in the mail for the exact amount—a repayment of a seven year old debt that she had forgotten.

"Looking at that check, I was covered in goose bumps," says Maureen. "It was serendipitous but totally beautiful."

As her neighbors in France and Italy did, Maureen begins her days at the Farmer's market, inspecting the produce. "I never plan my soups in advance," says Maureen. "I decide when I see what looks good. Maybe the squash is lovely or the spinach looks especially fresh."

Now, you can find Maureen in her café Mondays through Fridays from 11-3, surrounded by customers who appreciate her commitment to fine ingredients simply prepared. "I want my customers to feel a little bit nurtured by the environment and the food," says Maureen.

That nurturing goes both ways, and what is good for her customers is good for her. "There are only two times when I hum to myself," she says, "when I'm painting or when I'm cooking." These days, she must be humming all the time.

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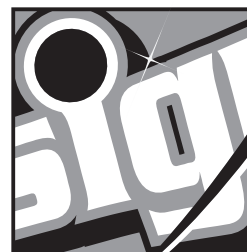
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# LIGHTENING

Continued from Page 1

avoid contact with corded phones (remember those) or contact with electrical equipment or plumbing fixtures. Also, stay away from windows and doors, and stay off of porches.

If someone has been struck by lightning call 911. The human body does not store an electrical charge, so a victim is safe to touch, so render immediate assistance.

Check their breathing and pulse. Begin CPR if necessary if you are trained to do so.

Burns or tissue loss may be present where lightning entered and left the body. Depending on the nature of the lightning strike, there may be no outward signs of trauma, but the victim may have suffered nervous system damage or internal injuries. Any contact with lightning's incredibly high energy requires, at the very least, a thorough medical evaluation.

Eldon LeDoux is the Public Information Officer for the St. George Fire Protection District.

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These Garden District kids had a blast at the annual GDCA Easter Egg Hunt!

## Easter Egg Hunt was great fun!

By: CAROLYN SCHWARZHOFF

The Garden District Civic Association's annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Sunday, March 25, 2012 in the beautiful oak-tree shaded yard of at the corner of Cherokee and Drehr.

The weather was gorgeous and it was a great day! We had an excellent turnout

this time around, and it was awesome to see that there are now SO MANY KIDS living in our beautiful neighborhood.

The kids seemed to have a lot of fun scrambling for eggs, the cupcakes and cookie treats were tasty, and everyone I spoke to thought that the event was a lot of fun.

A great big THANK YOU to Anne Trapp who organized the event, and to Amy and Mike Cave who agreed to let the kids hunt in their beautiful yard. Thank you also to those who put out the signs to remind us about the event! Flo Ulmer and Andy Johnson and probably others were there helping out that day as well.

Events like this, where friendly neighbors come out to see old friends AND make new ones, make me very proud to be a resident of the Garden District. Thank you to all who made it happen, as well as all who attended!!!

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