

MESSAGE FROM THE GDCA PRESIDENT

By: ALEX TUCKER, GDCA PRESIDENT

Hello, neighbors! Hope everyone is having a good summer.

Park Boulevard continues to be a focus of our beautification efforts. Ideas under discussion include updating the entrance sign at Park and Government, as well as getting the city to help us trim and mulch the trees, improve the sidewalks and curbing, and provide a water source to maintain plantings in the median. Councilwoman Tara Wicker has been receptive to the ideas and thinks she will be able to help us accomplish some of them.

Park Blvd. is a signature street for our neighborhood, so we all benefit from fixing it up and making it something to be proud of. We'd appreciate any help with Park Blvd. maintenance.

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Work on a proposed crime prevention district to give the neighborhood a greater security patrol presence, is ongoing. Once remaining details are worked out, we should be ready to submit to the metro council, a resolution authorizing a petition on the matter. If the petition is signed by 30% of those registered to vote in the district, the security district proposal will be placed on the ballot. Volunteers are needed to help with this effort.

Our new social committee has been working hard getting ready for the summer party on July 25th from 4-7 (see flier for more details). Beginning at 4, Baton Rouge Green presents "Trees 101" to educate us on tree planting and maintenance; music and other activities kick off at 5. Come on out for a fun evening with old and new neighbors!

If you have any questions or concerns, or wish to volunteer for a project, please email me at c.alex.tucker@gmail.com.

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Meet Your Neighbor:  
Interior Designer Ty Larkins

By: RICKY BROCK

New Orleans native Ty Larkins began his career far from the world of interior design: the LSU political science major and 1996 graduate of LSU law school evolved into a designer through a series of fortuitous events.

Always told by friends and family he had a "good eye" when it came to picking out the right furniture and colors for rooms, people would ask him for decorating advice. Then about four years ago, he was hired to redesign a family's home in Chicago, which led to both Ty and the family being picked as the winning team for a full 13-episode season of the HGTV series "Dream House". Buoyed by the success of the show, Ty quit law and went into the design business full-time.

He calls his style the "wardrobe approach," where he typically starts with a foundation of one or more classic pieces of furniture, and layers other pieces onto it. His advice, as quoted in the December/January 2010 issue of House Beautiful magazine: "...buy what you like, first of all. You'll find when you buy what you like, there's a consistency. Those things will usually just go together, seamlessly."

Ty Larkins is the owner of Ty Larkins Interiors, on the corner of Government Street and Park Boulevard.

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Garden District  
News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Summer 2010

Neighbor Generates Own Electricity from Solar

By: DOROTHY PROWELL

This is part 2 of a 3-part series on home energy savings; part 3 will cover insulation and rebates. Dorothy Prowell, Ph.D. is a professor at LSU.

Louisiana is ideal for solar technology because we have plenty of sunlight, great government incentives, and many competent solar installers to choose from. In October, 2008 I took advantage of all that and installed a solar power system on my Tulip Street home.

My south-facing garage roof is in full sun so that's where the 14 solar panels making up my 2.4 kilowatt system were installed. Four back-up batteries store enough power to run 6 circuits in my house for 2 days without sun; during a power outage that supplies essentially all my electricity needs except for air conditioning.

The system's "brain" is the inverter, which determines where the solar power goes: as DC current to the back-up batteries to charge them if needed, and then the rest to be converted to AC which either powers the house or is returned to Entergy (for which I get credit on my account).

The inverter also determines whether my 6 solar-connected circuits receive



Eight of the 14 solar panels installed on the roof of Prowell's garage. Each 63" x 32" panel can generate 175 watts. Photo: Dorothy Prowell.

power from the main grid (Entergy plus solar) or from the back-up batteries. If the inverter detects no AC power from the grid line (i.e. power outage), it instantly switches the 6 circuits to battery power. My system was installed not long after Hurricane Gustav, and although I was planning to do this anyway, I love not needing a noisy, gasoline-consuming

generator anymore!  
It cost \$23,000 up front, but with state and federal rebates I got ~60% of that back: 50% of the cost (up to \$12,500) cash rebate from the state, and a federal rebate of 30% (up to \$2000), so my actual cost was \$9,500. In 2009, the cap

See ENERGY, page 2

Garden District Centennial Celebration Activities Planned

By: CINDY ELLIOTT

The Centennial Celebration Planning Committee is busy getting ready for a year-long celebration of the Garden District's 100th anniversary in 2011! Proposed events include:

Neighborhood Directory – Updat-

ed directory of current residents of the Garden District. Co-Chairs: Greta Corona (379-7866 or gretacorona@cox.net); another co-chair needed!

Neighborhood Cookbook with Historical Flavor – Recipes from Garden District residents plus history of our neighborhood The tentative publication

date is November 2011, just in time for Christmas. Please begin thinking about your contributions to the cookbook! Co-Chairs: Heather Westra (344-5634 or hwestra@cox.net) and Jennifer Falls (336-4937 or jennifer.falls@la.gov).

See CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, page 2



Take In Garbage Carts – It’s Neighborly, and It’s the Law!

Please promptly put away garbage and recycling carts after they are serviced; the wheels make it so easy, and your neighbors will appreciate it. Carts left out too long are an eyesore, and will irritate your neighbors who work hard to keep their property looking good. Homeowners-to-be looking at property in the Garden District will also be put off by carts left out, not only because the carts are ugly, but because of what this says about their possible future neighbors.

Leaving carts out too long is also a violation under the Baton Rouge Litter Court Enforcement Program, which states: “Garbage cans must be stored on private property except between 4 p.m. the night before pick-up and 6 a.m. the day af-

ter pick-up. They should be placed near the street, but not in the street for pick-up.” (Title 6 Section 6:381, 384, and 406)

Citizens may report violations by calling 3-1-1 or 389-3090, or online by submitting a Citizen’s Request for Service at <https://brgov.com/apps/crs>. Inspectors from the DPW Inspections Division and the Office of Neighborhoods take photos of violations, including garbage cans that are not put back on private property after pick-up. Inspectors not only look at violations that are called in, but also those they happen to see when driving the streets. Violators receive a warning letter, and if the problem remains uncorrected, an order to appear in court.

ENERGY

Continued from Page 1

on the federal rebate ended and the system would have cost only \$4,600 (80%

off!). Based on my energy use records over the past 4 years, my solar installation saves me 30% and will pay for itself in ~12 years (6 years at 2010 costs).

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Continued from Page 1

**Easter Egg Hunt** – This long-standing annual event with the Easter Bunny was missed in 2010. A chairperson is needed to bring it back for 2011.

**Garden District Tour of Homes** – Highlighting Garden District homes and gardens will be a prominent feature of our centennial celebration. Chair: Flo Ulmer (343-7034 or [flo@billrodman.com](mailto:flo@billrodman.com)).

**Block Party Progressive Dinners** – Volunteer Block Coordinators needed.

**Fun Run and Champagne Stroll** – If you are a runner or simply enjoy a walk in our lovely neighborhood, this event is for you! Co-Chairs: Marianne Fry (387-6863 or [fryfry70806@yahoo.com](mailto:fryfry70806@yahoo.com)) and Fran Beck.

**Children’s Pet Show & Parade** – A chair or co-chairs are needed.

**Holiday Lighting Contest** – Help us put a little more sparkle into this annual holiday tradition by participating in 2011! Coordinators: Cindy Elliott, Heather Westra, and Judy Atkinson.

The success of each of these events depends on you, our neighbors. We

But let’s avoid all that. Bring in those carts!

For more information, go to [brgov.com/littercourt/default.asp](http://brgov.com/littercourt/default.asp) and City-Parish Code of Ordinances, <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10107&stateId=18&stateName=Louisiana>, Title 6, Chapter 4 Parts I and II.



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](mailto:winkler_beatrice@hotmail.com).

You can also mail submissions to:

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Volunteer Spotlight

MIKE & SUZANNE SCHEXNAYDER

Mike and Suzanne have worked on so many Garden District beautification projects over the last 18 years, it’s hard to recount them all! Both served on the GDCA Board for many years, and headed up the GDCA Beautification Committee.

They’ve done maintenance and flower planting at the neighborhood’s entrances, and even got their talented daughter to repaint the wooden signs and bollards a few years ago. Who puts Christmas wreaths on the light pillars at the Drehr & Government entrance, or the flags on the entry signs for the Fourth of July? The Schexnayders!

By the way, those Drehr lights were neglected for decades until Mike coordinated the effort to light them up again in 2001. He maintains them and changes the bulbs when they go out, even now!

Mike has organized alley cleanups: recruiting volunteers, directing the cleanup, and arranging the debris removal. Some people might help coordinate something like this for their own alley, but Mike has done it for years for alleys he has no connection to!

In 2006, Suzanne began organizing the oak tree adoption program for our magnificent live oaks on the Kleinert, Park, Cherokee, and Terrace medians. This involved mapping and evaluating each tree, and working with the entire neighborhood as well as the Mayor’s office, Baton Rouge Green, the Live Oak Society, and the Louisiana Garden Club among others. Thanks to this huge undertaking, neighbors now help maintain their adopted oaks, leading to better care of our precious historic trees.

So for nearly the last two decades, the Schexnayders have quietly done all these projects not for recognition, but just to enhance the neighborhood. Thank you, Suzanne and Mike, for the untold number of volunteer hours you have spent helping to make our historic, eclectic, and unique neighborhood an even more beautiful place to call home!

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](mailto:gretacorona@cox.net).

Live Oak Adoption Certificates to be Distributed

By: SUZANNE SCHEXNAYDER

Many Garden District neighbors have adopted live oaks in our medians, and eighty of them were registered with the Live Oak Society as the “Baton Rouge Garden District Stand.” Coleen Periloux Landry, chairman of the society, traveled here to deliver certificates with the names of each tree.

I originally thought the city would

display the certificates because the trees are on city property, but as it turns out, the city has no place for such a display. Therefore, I’m going to distribute these beautiful individually-numbered certificates bearing the embossed seal of the Live Oak Society to all of you who have adopted a registered tree. If I don’t call you soon, please call me and I’ll deliver your certificates to you.

The names of our Garden District



Order your Garden District T-shirt today at [gdcabr.org](http://gdcabr.org)!

Green T-shirts with GDCA crest on the front, and a drawing of Park Boulevard by neighbor Jon Emerson (pictured above) on the back.

Order online at [http://www.gdcabr.org/board\\_tshirts.php](http://www.gdcabr.org/board_tshirts.php) or call Alex at 267-5408; \$12 each.

Your Newest GDCA Board Member

Susan Bracker Bergethon is the newest member of the GDCA Board. She and her husband Ross are Georgia natives who moved to Baton Rouge in December, 2009. They are just the third owners of their 73-year-old house at the corner of Drehr and Broussard.

Susan directs the legal department of LHC Group, a home health care company based in Lafayette, while Ross works for the state as an Assistant Attorney General. They are very happy to live in the Garden District and can frequently be seen on walks with their 7-year-old Boston Terrier, Jake.