

Get Ready to Celebrate 100 Years!

Event Coordinators are busy preparing for the Garden District's Centennial Celebration, to begin in January 2011. We're looking forward to a full slate of events throughout the year. To contribute ideas or help plan, please contact the chairpersons listed below to help with a specific event, or contact Cindy Elliott at 343-6900 or celliott@selu.edu with ideas and suggestions, or to volunteer for one of the open chair spots.

Children's Event: Proposed ideas include a Bike Parade, Jumping Play Inflatable and Water Day with Snowball Stand! Chairperson(s) still needed.

Parade of Dogs under the Oaks: Co-Chairs – Judy Atkinson, Mark & Joel Mese. Volunteers needed to help organize the pooches and their people!

Block Party Progressive Dinners: Will be initiated by individual Garden District residents by block. Chairperson(s) still needed to coordinate this event; if you have done something like this in another neighborhood, we'd like to hear from you!

Neighborhood Cookbook with Historical Flavor: Please submit a recipe or two for our Gar-



Wilma C. Fearson Kossbiel sitting on the steps petting a cat, at their new home at 1001 Drehr in the early 1930's or very late 1920's. Photo courtesy of Laurie Morales Broussard.

Historic Homes Series: 1001 Drehr

By: LAURIE MORALES BROUSSARD

This stately home at 1001 Drehr Avenue was once owned by my great aunt Wilma Cecelia Fearson Kossbiel and her husband, Loye A. Kossbiel, originally from San Antonio.

Wilma was the daughter of William A. Fearson of East Baton Rouge Parish, and Alice May Rivet Schlatre Fearson, who died two months after Wilma was born.

Wilma was then adopted by her uncle, Edward Fearson, who owned a lumber mill in Baton

Rouge, and his second wife, Myrtle Ott Fearson. Myrtle was the sister of Stanley Ott, who eventually became Bishop Stanley Ott of Baton Rouge.

Laurie Morales Broussard is the sister-in-law of Garden District neighbor John Broussard.

If you have an old photo of your home and perhaps some interesting family history to go with it, please submit it for our "Historic Homes" series that we're starting with this issue to help celebrate our neighborhood's centennial.

Fran Beck, and John Broussard.

den District Cookbook by sending to GDCookbook@gmail.com. Do you have a bit of history to share as well? Get in touch with co-chairs Heather Westra (344-5634 or hwestra@cox.net) or Jennifer Falls (336-4937 or jennifer.falls@la.gov).

Neighborhood Directory: Don't miss including your information in our new directory for current Garden District residents; see the article on the front page.

Easter Egg Hunt: Kids, meet the Easter Bunny and look for the Golden Egg! Chair - Tricia Fos.

Garden District Tour of Homes: A spring event, not to be missed! Co-Chairs - Flo Ulmer (343-7034 or flo@billrodman.com) and Cheryl Singer. The Tour began in 1995 as a means to showcase the diversity and uniqueness of the homes in our neighborhood, and to share with others the experience of living in the Garden District.

Fun Run and Champagne Stroll: See upcoming newsletters for more information. Co-Chairs - Marianne Fry (387-6863 or fryfry70806@yahoo.com),



Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Fall 2010



Neighbors enjoy good food and company in the backyard of Flo Ulmer and Bill Rodman's home on Oleander Street. Photo by Paul Miller.

Neighbors Enjoy GDCA Summer Time Throwdown

By: TRISHA FOS

Garden District neighbors, friends, and family gathered on August 29th at the charming home of Flo Ulmer and Bill Rodman for the GDCA Summer Time Throwdown. Over 100 residents shared an afternoon of relaxation, good food, and great conversation.

Baton Rouge Green started the afternoon's events with information on tree preservation and proper tree pruning techniques.

The Andy Pizzo Project then took the back porch stage and provided jazzy entertainment as neighbors relaxed under the shady trees.

Neighbors made new friends and had a chance to catch up with familiar

faces! The Garden District Civic Association provided the main course by Go Ya Ya's, a mobile kitchen serving a variety of crepes.

Many neighbors supplied delicious side dishes, finger foods, and dessert.

The event was a great success, and the Civic Association is looking forward to continuing the tradition of bringing the neighborhood together with events bigger and better than ever.

Watch the Garden District email list and newsletters for announcements of upcoming events, including the holiday festivities we have planned! Then we're into a busy 2011 as we celebrate our neighborhood's centennial (see p. 4). We look forward to seeing you at our next neighborhood get-together!

New neighborhood directory in the works

By: MARY FONTENOT

To help commemorate the Garden District's centennial in 2011, we plan to issue an updated neighborhood directory of current residents. The directories will be printed and distributed to each door sometime in the spring.

The Garden District Neighborhood Directory was last updated and distributed in 2004, so a lot of information has probably changed since then. To make this handy neighborhood reference as useful as possible, please help us make sure your information is correct by contacting one of the project's co-chairs: Greta Corona (379-7866 or gretacorona@cox.net) and Mary Fontenot (288-1950 or mufont@cox.net) to provide your current contact information (name(s), address, phone number(s) and e-mail) that you wish to have published, or to opt out of being listed. We also plan to make it possible for residents to submit their information online via the Garden District website at http://www.gdcabr.org/board_gdca.php.

To ensure that this huge undertaking results in an accurate directory, the co-chairs plan to call everyone they don't hear from by the end of this year, so please contact Greta or Mary at your convenience to help make this job for which they've volunteered, a little easier. Thank you.

VOTE OCTOBER 2!

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Drehr Place Rep Answers Questions about HPC

By: FLO ULMER

Q: What is the National Register of Historical Districts?

A: The official national list of properties deemed worthy of preservation. All three Garden District subdivisions (Rose-land Terrace, Kleinert Terrace, and Drehr Place) are on the list.

Q: What is a local historical district?

A: Defined geographical area where property owners are subject to architectural design guidelines and a where a COA (Certificate of Appropriateness) is required prior to making any change to the exterior of your property. In the GD, only Drehr Place is a local historical district.

Q: What are these guidelines and what do they mean to me as a resident of Drehr Place?

A: The laws you must adhere to when

making ANY changes to the exterior of your property. The Drehr Place Historic District local designation report and design guidelines can be found at: <http://brgov.com/dept/planning/historic/pdf/DrehrPlaceDesign.pdf>.

Q: How do I get a COA? Is this the same as a permit?

A: The COA is required prior to receiving a permit. Not all exterior home improvement projects require a permit but probably would require a COA. Go to <http://www.brgov.com/Dept/planning/applications.htm> for COA applications.

Q: What should I do if I read the guidelines and still don't know if I need a COA?

A: Call the Office of the Planning Commission at 389-3144.

Q: What if I just do my project without a COA?

A: Your project may be stopped in

progress by order of DPW.

Q: What is the Historical Preservation Commission (HPC)?

A: A 9-member board administered by the Office of the Planning Commission. Find out what the HPC is doing, what's coming up, and how your representatives vote, at <http://www.brgov.com/Dept/planning/historic/historic.htm>.

Q: Can the Drehr Place local historic district designation be rescinded and how?

A: The Metro Council has the authority to rescind the designation following receipt of a recommendation by the HPC and from comments at a public hearing.

This FAQ has been edited to fit space limitations of the newsletter. To receive the full length version of this document, please email Flo Ulmer, representative for Drehr Place on the HPC, at flo@billrodman.com.

Neighbor Explains Energy Efficiency Rebate Programs

This is the last of a 3-part series on home energy savings by Dorothy Prowell.

Continuing the quest to reduce energy use, I made a few more improvements last spring. Insulation professionals sprayed expanding foam between my attic rafters and on gables. I increased window R-values by installing magnetite windows: plastic sheets with magnetic edges that snap onto a small metal molding inside the window casing. I also replaced an inefficient electric hot water heater with an on-demand tankless gas unit.

Through a provision in the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, I'll recoup 30% of the cost of these improvements (up to \$1500) when I file IRS Form 5695 (Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit) with my 2010 taxes. I don't have enough data yet to quantify the energy

savings of these recent changes, but I have noticed that my heater and AC turn on less frequently.

In April 2010, the Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources started a cash rebate program for Energy Star® appliances (www.empowerlouisiana.org), offering rebates of \$75-500.

The LA Home Energy Rebate Option (HERO) offers cash rebates to residents who make energy efficiency improvements of ≥30% to existing homes. To qualify, hire a certified Home Energy Rater who does the preliminary rating which becomes your application for HERO. You will need to make some moderately costly changes to recoup the rater's \$400-600 fee and to cut your use enough to qualify for the rebate.

For up-to-date information on these incentives, go to www.dsireusa.org.

For more information, contact Dorothy Prowell at dprowe@lsu.edu, or go to "Greater Green Ecopods" on Facebook.



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.

You can also mail submissions to:

**Garden District News
Garden District Civic Association
P.O. Box 4113
Baton Rouge, LA 70821**



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Garden District Resident!!



Volunteer Spotlight

FLO ULMER

Flo Ulmer, one of the Garden District's most dynamic and conscientious residents, began making a difference years ago when she stepped up to the plate to serve as president of the Garden District Civic Association. This position requires hours of time, and involves recruiting others to also serve. Flo felt at the time that volunteerism was lagging, and she was willing to do what was necessary to keep the civic association viable.

Flo put the Garden District on the map when she created, organized, and directed the Garden District Tour of Homes. This tremendous undertaking involves seeking homeowners willing to open their homes to the public, recruiting volunteer docents and entertainers, and finding corporate sponsors, and then coordinating them all. She also designs and prints the tour brochures, and publicizes each tour. She has graciously offered to organize another tour next year to celebrate the Garden District's centennial.

Flo and her husband Bill Rodman often open their beautiful home and garden to all of us for our neighborhood parties, most recently August's Summer Throwdown.

Each Halloween, Garden District children enjoy a wonderful, scary time at Flo and Bill's Halloween Haunted Porch, which they plan with sensitivity to children's ages. Screams and laughter can be heard for blocks around the big red house.

Today Flo continues to give her time to the neighborhood by representing Drehr Place on the Historic Preservation Commission. This too is a volunteer position that requires hours of her time.

Flo's continuing efforts through the years have been instrumental in making our neighborhood the beautiful place that it is. Thank you, Flo!



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.

Message from the GDCA Security Committee

By: RAY MACK

Please report all crime in the Garden District by posting a message (or asking a neighbor to post on your behalf) on the GD email list. The GDCA Security Committee monitors the list for incidents occurring in the neighborhood. The GDCA board has authorized an executive security committee to increase patrol hours temporarily as needed to address

increases in criminal activity. I also plan to contact Sgt. Stone monthly to check on crime in the GD and get his recommendations.

However, our funds for these increases are limited, so donations and new GDCA members are always welcome. The majority of your GDCA dues and all designated donations are committed to GD security patrols. To donate or join/renew your GDCA membership, go to http://www.gdcabr.org/board_join.php or mail your check for \$120 (\$35 quarterly) to: Treasurer, Garden District Civic Association, P.O. Box 4113, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.

To subscribe to the Garden District email list, send your full name and address to the list administrator, Carolyn Schwarzhoff, at gdca_br@hotmail.com.

Ray Mack is a GDCA board member and serves as security liaison.

Ray Mack is a GDCA board member and serves as security liaison.

Emergency 911

By: Sgt. Don Stone, BRPD

When you need police assistance, it's important to call the right number (and not waste time calling the wrong one). To be prepared, please review this information now, program the right numbers into your phones, and delete the wrong ones (for example, the "Security Patrol Cell Phone," which is no longer in service).

I've received voicemails on my personal cell phone from GD residents in need of immediate police assistance. I don't mind getting the calls, but I can't answer my cell phone at all times just as you can't.

So when you need the police right away, please call 911 or the police dispatcher at 389-2000. If a GD Security Patrol officer is in the neighborhood, dispatch knows he's here and will contact him, so the fastest way to contact the GD security patrol, is to let police dispatch do it.

911 is for emergencies only, and is the appropriate number for incidents requiring immediate attention such as home invasion, burglary in progress, traffic crash with serious injury, shooting, etc.; in general, anything life-threatening or involving serious bodily injury.

Incidents such as a theft, burglary that occurred earlier that you discover when you get home, or suspicious persons should be directed to police dispatch at 389-2000.

Although 911 is a generic number used nationwide for emergencies, the local police number 389-2000 can be utilized for ALL types of calls needing police assistance.

Rule of thumb: If you're not sure which number to call, call Police Dispatch 389-2000.