



A Lovely Day for a Neighborhood Stroll!

By: Mindi Piontek

Once again, Garden District champagne strollers benefited from beautiful weather! Although the week leading up to the stroll was our usual summer hot and humid, the afternoon of the stroll benefited from the fall's first mini cool front, and resi-

dents took full advantage of the slightly drier air to meander through the streets sipping champagne, making new acquaintances and reinvigorating old friendships.

The stroll culminated with a performance by the Retro Dukes, headed by GD resident, Ben Bell. If you missed the stroll this year, look for tickets next year when September rolls around.

Mark Your Calendar for Picnic!

The Annual Garden District picnic will be held on Sunday, October 26. The details have yet to be finalized, so check the neighborhood website at gdcabr.com for more information.

Support Your Neighbors!

In our next issue we hope to continue the new 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. 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.

Gulf South Solar, Louisiana's oldest and most experienced solar integrator, has been busy installing solar electric and solar hot water systems in the Garden District and surrounding areas!

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Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Fall 2014

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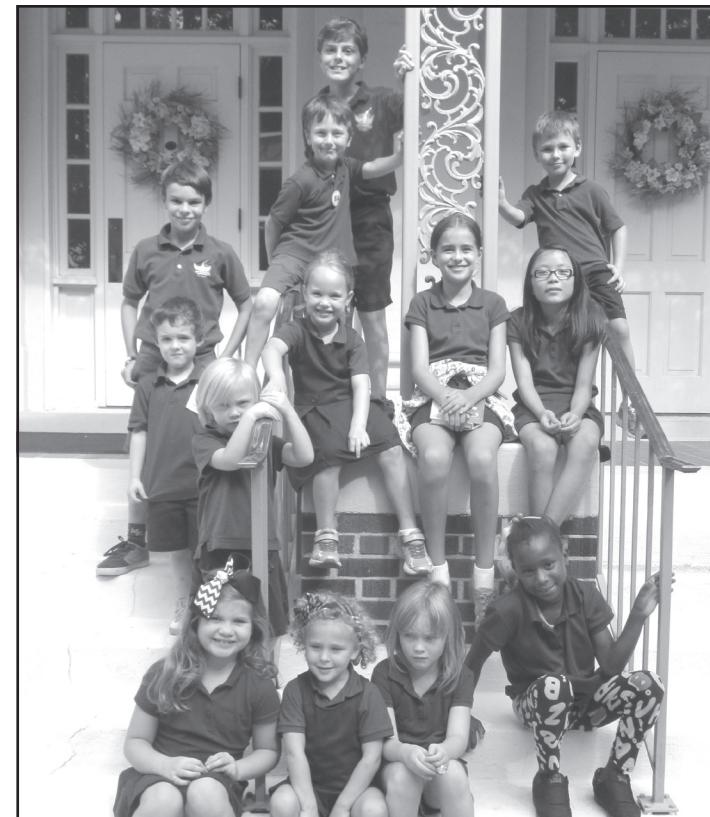
By: Carolyn Schwarzzoff

Up until about 5 years ago, you hardly ever heard about neighbors from the Garden District sending their kids to the Dufrocq School for their elementary education, even though Dufrocq is located right across Government Street from the neighborhood.

The list of elementary schools that our Garden District kids have attended over the last 20+ years has always included a broad range of excellent options such as private schools, LSU Lab School, magnet schools such as BRCVPA or Westdale Magnet, or public schools with gifted & talented programs.

However, five years ago, Dufrocq School made some changes that bumped them up into that group of more viable choices, and the good news is that our Garden District kids have priority admissions to the Dufrocq School's magnet programs because of our close proximity!

Named for the first mayor of Baton Rouge, John R. Dufrocq (mayor from 1850 – 1855), the Dufrocq School was built



These are some of the Garden District (and very nearby) kids who currently attend Dufrocq, grades Pre-K through 5th.

in 1920 and initially served its surrounding Mid-City neighborhoods, including the Gar-

den District neighborhood. As one of the oldest neighborhood schools in town, Dufrocq has

a special place in local history; many prominent people and some of our long-time Garden District residents started their education as Dufrocq Ducks.

However, at some point in or after the 1960s, Bernard Terrace became the public school for the attendance zone, which included the Garden District neighborhood. From that time until 2009, Dufrocq School housed mostly a traditional public school with a small Montessori program, and very few Garden District neighbors attended.

In 2008-09, Dufrocq underwent a giant renovation and expansion, which took 2 years and \$20 million to complete. When it reopened in the fall of 2009, the new Dufrocq School added a new academic magnet program, and the attendance zone was redrawn to include the Garden District.

Being in the Dufrocq attendance zone gives our residents a huge advantage when applying to the two Dufrocq magnet programs, which in 2012 won the "New and Emerging School

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Westmoreland Piccadilly is Gone but Not Forgotten

By: Carolyn Schwarzzoff

As most of you know, the nearby Piccadilly Cafeteria on Government St., which was located in the Westmoreland Shopping Center for 55 years, closed this past summer on June 29, 2014. A lot of people who grew up in BR (like me) have many fond memories of this particular Piccadilly. So,

I thought as a parting gesture to that culinary institution I would share a few of my memories of the place, and I asked other folks (via the GDCA E-mail list) to share their memories, too, and a couple of neighbors obliged.

As a little kid, I just loved putting my tray on the moving conveyor belt and watching as it progressed all along the wall to-

wards the mysterious, hidden dishwashing area! This was absolutely mesmerizing for a little kid! I also liked watching my parents' change roll down from the special old, giant, heavy, metal cash register they had until a few years ago. My siblings and I were raised on Piccadilly buttery green


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Ding Ding Trolley

If you admired the handsome trolley making its rounds on the PBS classic Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood and work downtown, you might be in luck! CATS is considering adding weekday rush hour trolley service from the Garden District to Town Square.

The proposed service would run Mondays-Fridays from 6am-8am and again in the evening from 4pm-6pm in a thirty-minute loop, Daniel Tiger not included. If you are interested in expressing an opinion on the proposal, you may contact Pam Volentine at pammiekate@gmail.com. It's always a beautiful day in our neighborhood!

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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.

DUFROCQ

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of Excellence" award from the Magnet Schools of America.

Dufrocq currently enrolls a total of 654 students. There are three district programs under one roof: an academic magnet program for K-5, a Montessori magnet program for preK-5, and a traditional program for preK-5.

Dufrocq also offers extracurricular activities such as running clubs, an orchestra, a "Microsociety" program, and a Slow Foods

Baton Rouge program featuring the Dufrocq garden.

If you have a child entering pre-K to 5th grade in the next year or two, and you have an interest in the Montessori or academic magnet programs at Dufrocq, you are invited and welcome to attend the Dufrocq Open House Tuesday, October 14, from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Or, you can call the Dufrocq School at 334-7653 to ask about taking a personal tour.

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PICCADILLY

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beans, crispy corn bread sticks, meat patties and mashed potatoes with gravy, and for dessert, cubes of green, blue, and red jello! That jello was cubes of pure happiness for a little kid!

As an adult, it became my husband's and my "go to" restaurant when our son Dean was a toddler, because it was one of the most kid-friendly restaurants in Baton Rouge, and of course they offered those discounted kids' meals. No one there seemed to mind if your 3-year old child ran up and down the long carpeted area laughing ma-

niacally, or if there were cornbread crumbs all over the floor when we were finished (we always tipped especially heavily when this happened!). It was especially fun when we, by chance, met up with other Garden District parents with their young kids on kids' night; I think I will probably miss that part the most! -- Carolyn Schwarzoff

Aaah, the conveyor belt! Many happy memories. My older brothers regularly threatened to stuff me on it and send me to the jungles of South America (that's where it goes, apparently). Then, when I was old enough to walk, I used to put things on it that were totally not supposed to be there-

-stuffed animals, mainly, but I think Barbie might have gone on a ride, too, seeking to broaden her horizons from her day job as an animal activist. I'd love to know what kinds of "presents" the dishwashers received from adoring, local children. I say "local" because you'd have to be a regular to scheme and masterfully execute your drop without a whiff of parental interference. -- Jeannie Smith

This was my mother's favorite place to eat. Her grandkids never understood why when they want to take her out to eat the only place she wanted to go was Piccadilly. One even "kidnapped" her one time and took her someplace else. They never did that again!

Secondly, I always lived and worked in close proximity to Piccadilly and when my work group of over 30 years was outsourced we made a pact to meet once a month for lunch at, you guessed it, Piccadilly. We would catch up with each other's lives, information share, laugh so loud I thought they were going to ask us to leave, but most importantly listen to Henry Gray play the piano and sing.

Kinda like Cheers minus the booze.

There was one waitress, Michelle, who always had our table set and waiting for us. Now I feel like I've lost a member of the family. Oh by the way, they had the best food of all the Piccadillys. -- Marlene Little

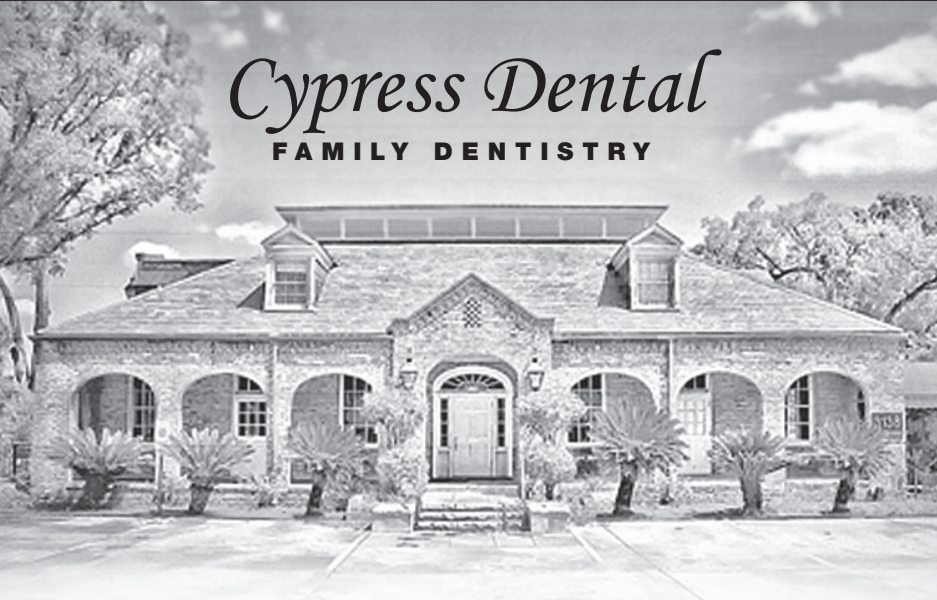
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New to the office: botox and cosmetic fillers.

Welcoming Packets

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 (gdcabr.org - click on "Neighborhood Information" on the left), or by contacting a GDCA board member.



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