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865-7651

UNO Students Develop Design Ideas for Broad Place Park

By Ben Shirtcliff

Down by the sweeping bend of Broad Place, at the intersection of Fontainebleau and Broadway, lies this neighborhood's only public park. Once the tail end of the Foucher plantation, (now home to noteworthy places like Audubon Park and Zoo, Loyola, Tulane, and the Fly,) Broad Place Park is the piece of land left after roads were realigned to create Fontainebleau Drive. Currently maintained by Parks and Parkways, Broad Place Park contains mature pine, crepe myrtle, oak, cedar, and pecan casting a dense shade on the grassy terrain. Announced by Ben Shirtcliff at the last neighborhood meeting, 21 graduate students from the University of New Orleans Planning and Urban Studies program studied and developed designs for Broad Place Park. Ann MacDonald, Director of Parks and Parkways, 'liked the idea of having students look at the space' and reminded them to 'design considering long term maintenance and sustainability', adding that Parkways 'does not have a funding source for new projects.' With budgets, sustainability, and maintenance in mind the students were motivated to help with a community project such as this.

Initial impressions surprised the students with the size of the park as an urban design project. However, as Emilie Bahr put it, "I loved the small scale of the park project, which forced creativity." Their frequent site visits and analysis of the site revealed that the park lacks any consistent edge or center that would identify it as a desirable destination. Also, without edges, the park is completely exposed to the high volume of traffic at the intersection of Broadway and Fontainebleau. The high shade leaves the ground in a soggy state, unfit for recreational activity or picnicking on a nice day.

Student suggestions built off the unique architectural pattern of the neighborhood, its beautiful gardens, and quiet, reserved nature, noting its walkability and interest. Their suggestions included: repair broken sidewalks to ease walking; remove broken site features like the telephone that make the site look unappreciated; prune trees for dead wood and remove dead plants from the park for aesthetics and safety; provide the park with an identity and improve safety for children by implementing edges, center, and visible entrances with walkways; and, improve traffic safety by slowing traffic through a speed change, narrowing Broad Place, and building a speed table (raised intersection) to slow traffic. Other ideas included building a theme: like a Jazz Park or Garden, with a pergola or simple band stand for a neighborhood concert series, or a Play Park, with lots of different play elements scattered around the park, or a Community Living Room, with a place to project the game, barbeque/boil sites, and a covered area. Ultimately, the students enjoyed their experience, as Beth Sorce noted, "I enjoyed the small residential park—it forced us to look for simple, transformative design elements that I think takes more skill than designing big." A summary presentation of the student work will be presented at the next neighborhood meeting. Neighborhood residents will have the opportunity to voice their concerns, suggest ideas for funding, and meet the students.

FIA ANNUAL MEETING: January 18 , 2011

WHERE: St. Mary's Dominican High School Library 7701 Walmsley

WHEN: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 18th

WHY: Discuss current neighborhood issues

GUEST SPEAKER: NOPD Chief Ronal Serpas

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIA PRESIDENT



**Mark Romig,
President**

Dear residents:

Happy New Year!

As we move into our new year, I urge you to attend the annual meeting of the association, scheduled for Tuesday, January 18th at St. Mary's Dominican High School. A special thanks to Cynthia Thomas and the staff at Dominican for their consistent and steadfast support of our association.

We will welcome Chief Ronal Serpas to our annual meeting as our guest speaker. Due to his very busy schedule, we will allow Chief Serpas to speak at the beginning of our meeting. Please make every effort to arrive by 7:00 p.m. We will start on time so that we can accommodate the Chief's schedule.

2010 was another banner year for our association. We hosted a very successful "Night Out for Crime" for the City of New Orleans at St. Rita School, hosted an exciting Block Party in the 7800 block of Nelson Street and worked on maintaining the neutral ground on our namesake drive.

My personal wish is for you to have a prosperous and spirit filled 2011. Stay or become active in our association's activities as your schedule and interest fit. Please continue to take pride in our wonderful slice of New Orleans by helping us police any trash or debris that finds itself on our streets or on our green space.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

Sincerely,

Mark

**For more information,
visit the FIA online:
www.fia-nola.org**

**Fontainebleau
Improvement
Association**



FIA 2011 Board Nominations

We will vote on the following slate at the upcoming general meeting

| <u>Board of Directors – 2011</u> | <u>Committees - 2011</u> |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Gary Lazarus | Beautification – Ben Shirtcliff |
| Scott Ferguson | Block Party – Patrick and Jennifer McCausland |
| Cathy Espenan | Infrastructure – Brent Sibille |
| Laurie Conkerton | Finance/Membership – Scott Ferguson |
| Dick Gannon | Newsletter/Website – Gary and Suzy Lazarus |
| Brent Sibille | Quality of Life/Zoning - Cathy Espenan |
| Terry Walker | Security Patrol – Laurie Conkerton |
| Ben Shirtcliff | Communications – J.D. Demarest |
| Patrick McCausland | |
| Mark Romig | |
| J.D. Demarest | |

Help Keep Fontainebleau Safe in 2011!

While our neighborhood is among the safest in New Orleans, following these tips from NOPD will help make Fontainebleau even more unattractive to criminals. The Second District's Community Outreach Coordinator, Sgt. Robert W. Kirton III, shared these steps that we can take to avoid becoming victims of home or auto burglaries:

- When leaving your residence, make certain the doors and windows are locked.
- Examine the foliage around your home. Consider cutting back any shrubbery or tree limbs that may obstruct the view from the street, offer a hiding place or be used as an avenue into a window. You should be able to easily see the street and anyone passing on the sidewalk in front of your home.
- Assess your outside lighting situation. The better lighting you have, the less likely a criminal will target your home.
- Never advertise a new purchase by placing the box or carton it came in out for garbage pick-up. This is as good as an invitation to thieves to break into your home and help themselves. If you have a large purchase being delivered, ask that the delivery persons remove the carton or box it was delivered in. For smaller purchases, which you carried out of the store, try to break the carton or box into smaller pieces then place them in dark garbage bags.
- Always communicate with your neighbors.
 - Make agreements with your neighbors to watch out for each others' homes.
 - Let a neighbor know when you are going to be away from home. (Even if you are just going for a night out)
- Leaving vehicles unlocked to avoid break-ins is not a good idea. Most car burglars will not draw attention to themselves by smashing a window. They generally pick their targets by simply pulling on the door handle to see if it opens. If not, they usually move on to something easier (like a door left unlocked).
- Do not leave valuable items in plain sight (lap tops, GPS, guns, purses, cameras, cash, shopping bags). Seeing these items will make a thief take a chance on smashing the window.

Most importantly:

- Report any suspicious persons whom may be hanging around in the area.
- Do not hesitate to call the police if you see what you think is suspicious activity. **You are not wasting our time.**

Report crimes in progress to 911 or call 821-2222 to file non-emergency police reports.

JOIN THE FIA POLICE PATROL!

Fontainebleau Security Patrol members help our neighborhood stay safe.

Patrol members voluntarily fund the hiring of off-duty police officers; but all neighbors are served by the patrol, which provides a regular, visible police presence. While our officers are on duty, they respond to our neighborhood's emergency calls and often arrive well before the unit dispatched by the 911 operator.

The current number of patrol members sustains 22 hours of coverage every week. Dues-paying members receive special benefits, including a yard sign, the patrol's monthly schedule (information that will never appear in an e-blast to insure our area's safety), and the ability to call the on-duty officer for "meet me at home" service during patrol hours.

The number of patrol hours depends on the number of patrol members.

Dues are \$168 twice a year (\$336 annually or \$28/month), and we are actively seeking new members. For more information, please contact Laurie Conkerton at security@fia-nola.org or 866-3051.

Are you NOLA READY?

NOPD Chief Ronal Serpas encourages all resident to sign up for emergency alerts at www.nolaready.info.

You select the alerts that mean the most to you—including 2nd District communications.

Crimes Reported to NOPD in 2010 within Fontainebleau Security Patrol Boundaries

| Type of Crime | # |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Vehicle Related Crimes | |
| Simple Burglary | 13 |
| Auto Theft* | 6 |
| Theft from Exterior of Vehicle | 1 |
| Attempted Simple Burglary | 1 |
| Subtotal..... | 21 |
| Property Related Crimes | |
| Simple Burglary | 10 |
| Simple Criminal Damage | 9 |
| Simple Burglary | 6 |
| Theft | 6 |
| Bicycle Theft | 3 |
| Attempted Simple Burglary | 1 |
| Trespassing | 1 |
| Subtotal..... | 36 |
| Other Crimes | |
| Shoplifting | 3 |
| Aggravated Battery | 1 |
| Aggravated Burglary | 1 |
| Armed Carjacking | 1 |
| Armed Robbery (Gun) | 1 |
| Drug Law Violation | 1 |
| Purse Snatching | 1 |
| Subtotal..... | 9 |
| Grand Total | 66 |

*1 incident was auto theft and recovery

NEWS FROM DISTRICT A



**SUSAN GUIDRY,
COUNCILMEMBER**

Dear Fontainebleau Improvement Association members,

Since the last newsletter, my staff and I enjoyed some weekend time outdoors with constituents, and I'd like to highlight a few of those volunteer efforts.

The Central Carrollton Association fall tree plantings are part of a 20-year effort to green central Carrollton, and I was delighted that Association President Barbara Johnson invited me to join the day's activities. Later in the day, I visited with Johnson School families and friends as they finished planting an entire block of oaks that the students will nurture for the community.

While on the subject of trees, Lakeview's Connie Uddo asks for our help to spread the word that the non-profit "Matt's Trees --- Replanting New Orleans" is in the running for a \$50,000 PEPSI REFRESH grant. Grant winners will be determined by the results of ONLINE and TEXT voting, and we can vote every day from December 1-31, 2010. For voting procedures and to learn more about Matt's work in New Orleans and the non-profit created in his memory, please visit www.mattstrees.org


The Blight Sweep organized last weekend by the Mayor's office was a good beginning to what is slated to be a quarterly event in each of the five City Council districts. Trash was removed around Conrad Playground in the Hollygrove neighborhood, with over 1,000 discarded tires hauled away and properly discarded. Thank you to District "A" residents from Lakeview to Audubon who continue to offer your time to improve our neighborhoods!

While the City Council's budget deliberations are complete for this year, it's important to remember that keeping our shopping dollars local ensures a little more jingle in the City's sales tax revenue. Even when shopping time is limited during these final days, many of our local institutions - City Park, New Orleans Museum of Art, and Audubon Institute Marketplace Online – offer great online shopping opportunities that directly benefit their programs. Another spot for gifts for our 4-legged friends can be found at the Neighborhood Pet Market that just opened in Mid-City on the corner of Carrollton and Bienville.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your District "A" City Council office!

Sincerely,

Susan



NEIGHBORHOOD REAL ESTATE

| | RECENT SALES (as of 12/22/10) | CURRENT LISTINGS |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2514 Lowerline Street \$329,000 | 7715 Nelson Street \$289,000 |
| | 16 Fontainebleau Drive \$439,000 | 20 Fontainebleau Drive \$565,500 |
| | | 2615 S. Carrollton Ave. #G \$132,900 |
| | | 2615 S. Carrollton Ave. #F \$134,900 |

FIA Block Party 2010



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Martin Welch and Tim Buckless

7938 Nelson Street



In 2002, award winning artist, Martin Welch and his partner, Tim Buckless were living in Mobile, AL, but came to New Orleans three times a month every month for five years, to display Martin's art at the various art markets. They began to feel an inexplicable desire (but one that many of us can understand) to spend more time here. So, they started looking for a house that was centrally located, and had a large front porch, nice kitchen, plenty of bathrooms and additional space to be used as an art studio. Even after Katrina they were still determined to find a place in New Orleans, and they found what they were looking for at 7938 Nelson Street.

Martin's friends began to inquire if the house originally had a name and any history about the dairy that originally stood there. Welch began thinking that the house might need a moniker or nickname, so he began a quest to find the

right one, that exhibits the unique character of the home and its occupants. He has begun painting the fence.



He says "I started painting the fence because it just looked like a blank canvas. It's not finished and every now and then I will add to it. I like painting recycled objects like cabinet doors, boards, benches, tables and even shoes. I guess that led me to begin the Fence Gallery." Please email any house name suggestions to news@fia-nola.org

Another thing that makes this home unique is that the garage is the barn from the dairy that existed in this neighborhood before it was developed into the

Fontainebleau neighborhood. Welch said that initially the garage was a deterrent because of its poor condition, but once he learned that it may be the oldest building in the area, it added to the mystique of the house. Having lived in the neighborhood for three years now, Martin and Tim love their New Orleans home and can often be found sitting on their front porch enjoying the sights and sounds of the neighborhood.

Martin's art can be seen in galleries in Lakeview, Metairie, on Royal Street, and at local art markets. His paintings are also in HBO's "Treme." If you miss all these opportunities to see his works you can take a drive or stroll down Short Street and view the Fence Gallery.

For more information about Martin and his art, see his web site at: www.martinwelchart.com

CURRENT FIA MEMBERS as of 12/20/10

Lester/Linda Adelsberg
 Steve/Peggy Armstrong
 Greg/Nancy Baber/Martino
 Stuart/Olivia Bamforth
 Jason/Jenn Bilbe
 Thomas/Marina Bishop
 Larry Blanchard
 Lary/Christie (Lori) Brom
 Arlen Brunson
 Bill/Allyson Brusseau
 Joseph/Elizabeth Cali
 James/Jerrilyn Carmouche
 Jean/Craig Cassels/Hood
 Brian/Crescent Combe
 John/Laurie Conkerton
 Lizette M. Coughlin
 Margaret Cummins
 Sheva De Mateo
 Stephen/Pam DeFerrari
 J.D./Peggy Demarest
 Dominican HS Dominican HS
 Marcelle/Dionne Ducote
 David/Sarah Eberly
 Donald/Cathy Espenan
 Coco Evans Judd

Richard Exnicios
 Mark/Janet Fagan
 Scott/Marsha Ferguson
 Michael/Arlean Fermanis
 Michael Fischer
 Richard Foley
 Lydia Fonte
 Dick/Carla Gannon
 Hanley/Joel
 Germillion/Vanderlick
 Monique/Jason Gougisha
 Shaminder/Nomita Gupta
 Wyatt/Cathy Hines/Puett
 Jim/Joan Hughes
 Ronnie/Jim Jones/Outland
 Catherin Kahn
 Kevin/Nickie Kelly
 Ward/Kathryn Betsy Kenwood
 Gary/Suzy Lazarus
 Mary/Terry LeBlanc
 Greg/Debbie Lier
 Becky Lynott
 James/Gina Maclaren
 Garrett Majoue
 Nancy/Peter Marks/Briant

Gregory/Kristen Marsiglia
 Elsie Martinez
 Patrick/Jennifer McCausland
 Terry McGuckin
 Mark Milzim
 Ernesto Montano
 Stephanie Nelson
 Barbara Oakley
 Michael/Mary Lou O'Keefe
 Steven Olsen
 Debra Parker
 Andre Perry
 Mary Jane Phelan
 Cassie Pierson
 Jeanette Pou
 Julie/Alvin Puderer
 Conrad/Shelia Raabe
 Scott/Diane Ray/Peck
 Fannie Regenbogen
 Brian Rhodes
 Philip/Olga Riegel
 Mark Romig
 Cade/Chrissie Roux
 Thomas/Elizabeth Ryan
 Fred/Carole Schwab

Benjamin/Elizabeth Shirtcliff
 Thomas Short
 Brent/Paula Sibille
 Philip/Emily Skelding
 Lois Sweet Spengeman
 Helen/Janet Sperling/Fagan
 Tad/Leigh Ann Terrebonne
 Ardyn Thriffley
 Christopher/Sally Tidmore
 Craig/Erin Toomey
 Patrica/Shirley Unangst
 Laurie Valentino
 David/Cynthia Vandam
 Terry/Joan Walker
 Jonathan/Carrie Wachtel
 Jonathan/Cathryn Walsh
 John/Laura Williams
 Mignon Wolfe
 David/Elizabeth Woolverton
 Jan Wooten

Did you forget to renew?

PLEASE JOIN US!

For info, e-mail

membership@fia-nola.org



NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION



Congratulations to our neighbor at 86 Fontainebleau Dr. for receiving the seasonal garden award.

If you would like to nominate a neighbor for the garden award, please e-mail beautification@fia-nola.org.