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Impact of Redistricting

*OP/ED Submitted by Christopher Tidmore,
ctidmore@louisianaweekly.com*

When it comes to redistricting of our elected officials, our Fontainebleau neighborhood may soon emerge as more united with the Uptown area than ever before.

While the district of our current State Rep. Walker Hines will cease to exist, thanks to the efforts of the Speaker of the State House, Jim Tucker, Fontainebleau will be included with a new seat that encompasses most of the Uptown area, instead of one that stretches across parish lines.

That almost did not happen. In the waning days of the special session, the Jefferson House delegation launched an effort to expand three Jefferson GOP House seats into Orleans Parish.

Under Tucker's original proposal, only one Representative would cross parish lines on the East Bank. Rep. Nick Lorusso would see his Lakeview seat drawn into Bucktown, to the home precinct of his fellow GOP Rep. John LaBruzzo. The remainder of LaBruzzo's district in Old Metairie would be mostly given to Rep. Cameron Henry. Meanwhile, Henry would lose the four Orleans Riverbend precincts that he currently represents.

The plan also meant that two Republican districts would become one, ensuring an interparty fight in October. To stop that battle, led by Jefferson Rep. Tony Ligi, the Republican

House delegation proposed drawing three GOP seats into Uptown.

Under Tucker's plan, Uptown and Downtown remained relatively unbalkanized. Thanks to retiring Reps. Walker Hines and Juan LaFonta, Tucker drew a map that essentially preserved Neil Abramson's, Walt Leger's and Helena Moreno's districts. Most of central Uptown, Carrollton, the Riverbend, and Fontainebleau would fall into Abramson's seat

The Jefferson delegation disagreed. Ligi attempted to restore Henry's precincts in Riverbend (drastically expanding their number). LaBruzzo's seat would have stretched from Bucktown almost to Tulane University--through the Fontainebleau neighborhood. And, Lorusso's district would have gone from Lakeview to the Zoo.

Fontainebleau would have potentially been in the same seat as Old Metairie, connected through Hollygrove. Had Tucker strongly supported the measure, or even voted in favor, it would have passed. Instead, despite having Governor Jindal's support, it failed 47-49.

Our neighborhood will now sit as the edge of an Uptown-centric district in the House--and in the Senate. Julie Quinn is retiring; consequently, Fontainebleau will join Sen. Karen Carter Peterson's seat.

(Only a small portion of the Riverbend will remain attached to a Metairie-based district after redistricting, namely that of Sen. Conrad Appel.)

The real change, however, may come in the lines of City Council District A. Despite the impact of Hurricane Katrina, District A is overcrowded compared to the city's other seats, with 77,100 residents--far more than the Census ideal of 68,000.

Moreover, neighborhoods who are currently divided between Districts A,B,&C, parts of Lakeview (Lake Oaks) and the Faubourg St. John (Racetrack), have petitioned to unite into a single councilmatic seat, likely joining the Lake communities with Mid-City and the Esplanade Ridge.

That would boost the population of District A even further. To equalize numbers, a move is afoot transfer parts of Uptown out of District A, perhaps creating an Uptown-centric seat with precincts of "B".

Currently, Councilperson Susan Guidry has not expressed any support for the idea, but whether Fontainebleau stays in District "A" remains to be seen. The final City Council redistricting proposal will be heard on July 21st. (More at www.gtmorning.com)

FIA MEETING: June 7, 2011

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

WHEN: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, June 7

WHY: Discuss current neighborhood issues

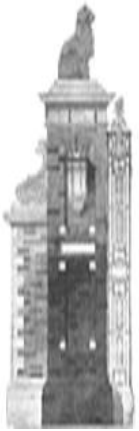
GUEST SPEAKERS: Lucas Diaz Director of Office of Neighborhood Engagement & Ellen Hazeur, Clerk of First City Court

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIA PRESIDENT



**Mark Romig,
President**

**Fontainebleau
Improvement
Association**



Dear residents:

Ready for the summer!

Thank you for your continued participation in the Fontainebleau Improvement Association.

We share a wonderful neighborhood in the heart of the Carrollton/University area. As we enter the summer of 2011, we are also reminded of the need to stay alert and ready as we experience another season of potential tropical storm development. Make sure you have the appropriate plans set in the event we have to “batten down” or, perhaps, evacuate, if so ordered by our city. Also, take a few moments and speak to your neighbors about their plans, and familiarize yourself with any specific needs. One of the great legacies of Katrina was the relationships we built with each other immediately after the storm. I truly believe that these were key to our road to recovery.

With regret, we wish a fond farewell and a debt of gratitude to Scott Ferguson, who has resigned as our board member and treasurer as his family has moved from the neighborhood. Scott has been a stalwart supporter and friend of the association for many years – and he is greatly missed. I am pleased to welcome Sally Tidmore as our new Membership Committee chair. Sally was eager to get involved and will be putting together our long-awaited FIA Membership Directory, available online to any dues paying member.

I want to offer thanks to board members J.D. Demarest and Brent Sibille for their work in coordinating the recent buckmoth spraying. In addition, a special thanks to long-time board member and past president Terry Walker. For many years, Terry and his spouse Joan has been leading the annual block party efforts. This year, Terry passes the baton to Jennifer and Patrick McCausland. Thank you, Terry – and thank you Patrick and Jennifer.

I also want to extend another thanks to Councilmember Susan Guidry and her team on behalf of the entire association. Her office is always available whenever we call or contact them about an issue, they are responsive and always have a great attitude. We are fortunate to have Councilmember Guidry’s energy and enthusiasm on our side.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at our next membership meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 7:00 p.m. at Dominican High School, and our annual Block Party, Sunday, Oct. 30th.

Sincerely,

Mark

SAVE THE DATE! FIA Block Party Is Sunday October 30, 2011

FIA Security Patrol Reports Quiet Spring!

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.

Neighbors have reported a total of six incidents to the FIA Security Patrol since January 1—a 70% decrease from the 20 reports received during the same time period in 2010. The patrol was notified of two burglaries, one copper theft, one vehicle entry, and two reports of suspicious persons. While our neighborhood currently enjoys a low crime rate, it's not time to let down our guard. Reported incidents in our area tend to be property crimes, and we can all take simple steps to make Fontainebleau safer for our families.

- **Don't encourage solicitors.** Be aware that door-to-door solicitors could be trying to determine if residents are home or if there are items of value inside a home. Do not open your door to strangers, and please don't encourage soliciting by giving money to, offering chores to or buying items from these individuals. If you don't feel comfortable, call NOPD to report the incident—either 911 while the suspicious people are in the area or 821-2222 to file a report.
- **Lock vehicles and use alarms.** According to our NOPD community outreach coordinator, 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.
- **Consider joining the FIA Security Patrol.** 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 lconkerton@cox.net or 866-3051.

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

NOPD is currently revising its policies related to private security details. These revisions will likely impact the FIA Security Patrol, so we are monitoring the situation closely. Once NOPD's policy is in place, FIA Security Patrol Members will be contacted with additional information. In the meantime, the patrol's work continues with dedicated officers on duty 22 hours each week. We thank all dues-paying Patrol Members for their generous support and commitment to keeping Fontainebleau safe!



Please ask a neighbor to join the FIA & Police Patrol

NEWS FROM DISTRICT A



**SUSAN GUIDRY,
COUNCILMEMBER**

Dear Fontainebleau Improvement Association Members:

Spring is such a busy time of year. There are many issues and projects that affect our quality of life in District A. I will update you on just a few of them.

911

I am working with the Administration and the Orleans Parish Communications District to improve 911 call response times. As a result, several changes are being implemented. More emergency operators are being hired, cross-training is being conducted for call takers and dispatchers, and shift coverage changes are underway. We are expecting to see a vast improvement, and I will continue to monitor the operation.

Recycling

By now I hope that everyone in the Fontainebleau neighborhood is participating in the city's new recycling program. My office will assist with any issues that you may be having with the new program. Call us at 658-1010 or email ejsterling@nola.gov.

Visit <http://recycle.nola.gov> to register, or call the Department of Sanitation at (504) 658-3800. Residents may also fill out the Recycling Service Notice manually and mail it or drop it off to City Hall at 1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W03, New Orleans, LA 70112 or fax it to (504) 658-3801. You can order a recycle bin or use your own.

KaBOOM!

Congratulations to the neighborhood on the upcoming KaBOOM! playground coming to District A. Palmer Park has been selected by KaBOOM! to receive a new 2,500 sq. ft. playground sponsored by Disney. The Friends of Palmer Park are actively working on raising an additional \$40,000 in matching funds for the construction. I urge everyone who is able to make a contribution to the building fund to email the Friends of Palmer Park for instructions on making a donation: phall7848@aol.com. I am thrilled to be able to assist in the fundraising effort by arranging for a grant from Harrah's.

A Prep Day is scheduled for June 3rd and the Build Day is scheduled for Sunday, June 5th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The project will include other major enhancements to the park including landscaping, benches, and refurbishing the archway. To learn more and to volunteer, visit the Friends of Palmer Park Facebook page.

The founder and CEO of KaBOOM! as well as the CEO of AmeriCorps will be in attendance on the Build Day. This event is being held in conjunction with the 2011 National Conference on Volunteering and Service that is being held in New Orleans.

Thank you.

Susan



NEIGHBORHOOD REAL ESTATE

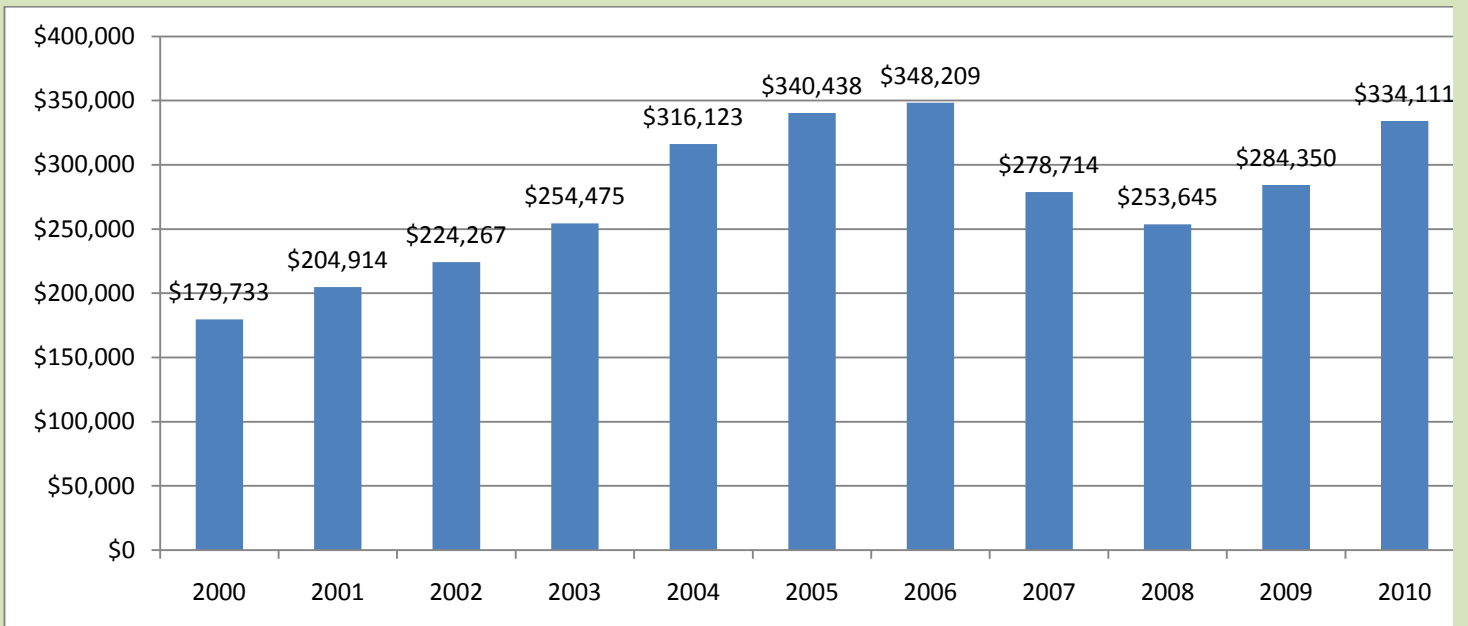
RECENT SALES (as of 5/16/11)

7715 Nelson Street	\$289,000
20 Fontainebleau Dr.	\$565,500
15 Fontainebleau Dr.	\$459,000
2715 Fern Street	\$159,000

CURRENT LISTINGS

2401 Adams Street	\$357,500
2615 S. Carrollton Ave. #F	\$134,900

FIA neighborhood average price of homes sold (by year)



CURRENT FIA MEMBERS as of 5/16/11

Lester/Linda Adelsberg
 Stuart/Olivia Bamforth
 Jason/Jenn Bilbe
 Lawrence Blanchard
 Lary/Christie (Lori) Brom
 Arlen Brunson
 Joseph/Elizabeth Cali
 Jean/Craig Cassels/Hood
 John/Laurie Conkerton
 Lizette M. Coughlin
 Margaret Cummins
 Stephen/Pam DeFerrari
 J.D./Peggy Demarest
 Marcelle/Dionne Ducote
 Donald/Cathy Espenan
 Mark/Janet Fagan
 Scott/Marsha Ferguson
 Michael/Arlean Fermanis
 Michael Fischer

Lydia Fonte
 Dick/Carla Gannon
 Jim/Joan Hughes
 Ward/Kathryn Betsy Kenwood
 Gary/Suzy Lazarus
 Mary/Terry LeBlanc
 Greg/Debbie Lier
 Becky Lynott
 James/Gina Maclaren
 Garrett Majoue
 Nancy/Peter Marks/Briant
 Barbara Oakley
 Michael/Mary Lou O'Keefe
 Cassie Pierson
 Jeanette Pou
 Julie/Alvin Puderer
 Conrad/Shelia Raabe
 Scott/Diane Ray/Peck

Philip/Olga Riegel
 Mark Romig
 Cade/Chrissie Roux
 Fred/Carole Schwab
 Benjamin/Elizabeth Shirtcliff
 Thomas Short
 Brent/Paula Sibille
 Lois Sweet Spengeman
 Helen/Janet Sperling/Fagan
 Effie Stockton
 Jannette Sturm Mexic
 Bob/Bonnie Talbot
 Tad/Leigh Ann Terrebonne
 Ardyn Thriffiley
 Craig/Erin Toomey
 Patrica/Shirley Unangst
 Laurie Valentino
 David/Cynthia Vandam

Terry/Joan Walker
 John/Laura Williams
 Karen Wimpelberg
 Mignon Wolfe
 Jannette Wooten

**If we inadvertently
 left your name off the list, or
 if you forgot to renew,
 please e-mail
membership@fia-nola.org**

Seasonal Garden Award Winner

Shaminder & Nomita Gupta

19 Fontainebleau Drive



“Selecting a seasonal garden award when the azaleas pop open is nearly impossible. The entire neighborhood is alive, bursting with color. Nearly every home could earn the award as swaths of green, pink, white and red welcome visitors to the Fontainebleau neighborhood. This season I continued to look for biodiversity and continuous interest in the gardens even after the azaleas have faded, focusing in particular on gardens that best embrace the relationship between house and the street. 19 Fontainebleau gracefully leads the eye from the street to the porch in a harmonious encounter of home and garden.” – Ben Shirtcliff

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

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