



East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 39 No. 8

Margaret Hand, Editor

www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org

August 2012

On the Calendar

**EEHDA Neighborhood Meeting
August 2nd (Thursday)**
Refreshments at 5:30, meeting at 6:00
at The Cottage 1501 Postoffice

BLOCK PARTY
August 9th (Thursday)
at the Cottage
Starts at 6:30!!!

MAH JONG AT THE COTTAGE
Every Monday
1-4 p.m.
Everyone is welcome

EEHDA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
September 6th
6 p.m.
To vote on proposed bylaws changes

**2012 EEHDA Backyard Garden Tour
is coming up
October 6th & 7th**
Contact Fran Kelly for more information

As with most of this year, July has gone by fast. This month's Block Party was another success, after being rained out originally.

I attended a gain meeting this month at which was discussed a proposed venture for Pelican Island. The president of the Texas Mexico and Pacific Railroad was the guest speaker. It was very interesting and informative, lots of facts. We'll try and get him to come and speak at one of our meetings.

Well, no drought so far this year! I've heard that so far this year we are ahead a few inches, but with our porous soil we'll still have to watch our watering, especially recently planted and pot plants. Long-established plants can often survive on rainfall alone, even in periods when the supply is sparse or sporadic, but newly planted or recently moved plants need reliable moisture to encourage root growth and establishment.

Irrigation is important in ornamental and vegetable gardens. Trees and shrubs, grown for fruit or as ornamentals, require regular supplies of water through the first growing season after planting, as do border perennials. Similarly, annual vegetables and seasonal bedding benefit from irrigation after planting-out to encourage growth. Extra water is also needed for established fruit bushes and vegetables at critical times in the development of the annual harvest.

When watering or irrigating, do not try to mimic rain, which wets your entire garden. Instead target your water more closely on key plants. A simple technique is to form the soil into low ridges or shallow furrows to help direct and contain water close to plantings. It should soak down into the soil rather than running off onto other areas. Making mounded furrows around trees is very important. Soil mounding is versatile; it suits any size of growing area; it can be used for seedbeds, individual plants or groups; and can be especially useful on sloping sites to reduce water runoff.

EEHDA
President
Bill
Beveridge



Bylaws Changes to be Decided in September

The EEHDA Bylaws subcommittee chaired by Larry Stanley has completed its work and is ready to present the proposed new bylaws at a September meeting of the membership. The committee met over the course of several months to create the first draft of the new document. It was presented at the June meeting, and an open meeting of interested members was held June 19th at which changes were discussed and several additional changes were proposed.

A copy of the final document is on the EEHDA website, with the current bylaws and the proposed changes side by side for comparison.

The first change is an attempt to remove outdated and ambiguous language, such as that dealing with the original dates and composition of the board, and to remove the section establishing the SAFEE committee since it is no longer in use.

There were several conflicts between sections describing Board meetings and Membership meetings, so we created a whole new section entitled Meetings to describe how meetings are to be called and held, and what constitutes a quorum, etc. The goal was to make the procedure easier to follow. The timing and nature of meetings will not change.

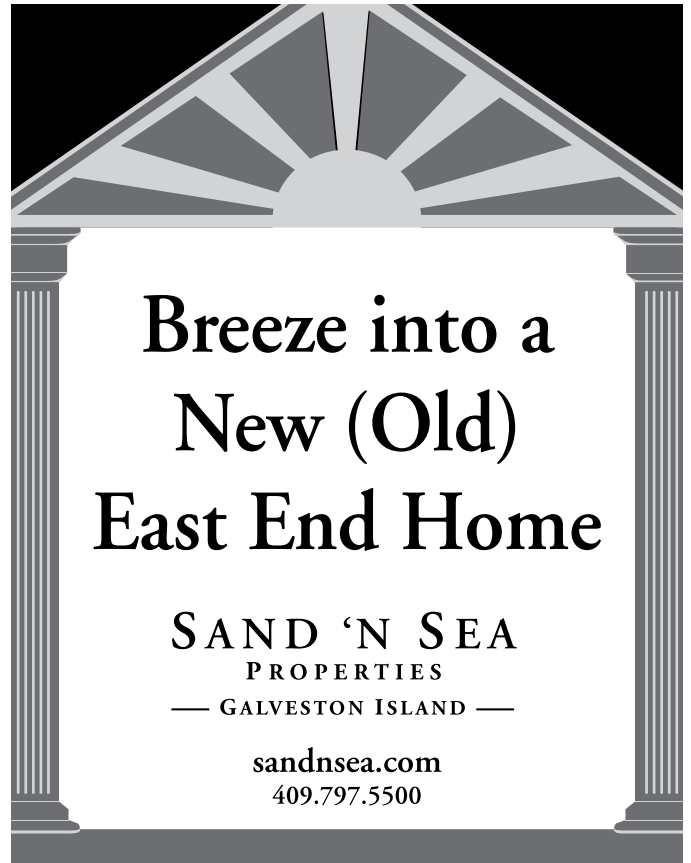
Another major change was the procedure to nominate new officers and Board members. The nominating committee will present their slate of candidates at the November meeting to allow the members time to review it and decide whether to propose other candidates. Additional nominations will be accepted by the Board at the December meeting. The election will still be held at the annual meeting of the membership in January, but no additional nominations will be accepted after the close of the December meeting.

The new bylaws also establish a Finance committee to oversee the financial affairs of the organization, and require an outside audit be conducted every two years.

The new bylaws will also contain an appendix with a map of the EEHDA boundaries.

A membership meeting to consider the changes will be held September 6th at 6:30 p.m., immediately following the September Board meeting from 6:00 until 6:30. It is hoped that conflicts and questions have been resolved and that the new bylaws can be approved at that meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact subcommittee chair Larry Stanley at 761-0745 or David Collins at 762-0567.



Committee Members Needed to Redesign Walking Brochure

The EEHDA walking brochure has been such a hit with area businesses and the Chamber of Commerce that they're all gone. Fran Kelly is looking into printing a small number of them while the brochure is redesigned to include the tree sculptures and other highlights of the East End.

It is hoped that we can have the new brochure ready for Christmas Homes Tour, but volunteers are needed to help with the design and to gather material.

If you would like to help, please contact Fran Kelly at 370-2306 right away. Given the time needed to do the redesign, get it approved and then printed, there's no time to waste. Call her today.



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Thieves Attack Bunny Sanctuary

by David Collins

One of the most popular attractions in the East End, the Bunny Sanctuary at the Victorian Inn at 17th and Postoffice in now closed - temporarily we hope. Host Marcy Hanson reported to police this month that at about 2 a.m. one morning two men entered the backyard sanctuary and caught and made off with two of her pet rabbits. Marcy has been rescuing and providing a home for wayward rabbits since 1994.

The men were in their twenties, and came and went through the side gate. They parked their car immediately adjacent to the gate on Postoffice, indicating that they knew exactly where they were going and what they were looking for.

Several days before, Marcy had found another of the rabbits dead in the yard. At first she thought it might have died from the heat, but she now suspects it died while being chased in an earlier incursion.

Police have a surveillance tape from the Inn's exterior cameras and are investigating the case.

The Victorian Inn is the home of the famous Angel with a Bunny statue. Marcy also hosts rescued white doves, and the yard at the inn serves as a Certified

Butterfly Way Station. The Sanctuary has been a favorite of guests at the Inn and neighbors alike, and its gates have been always been unlocked. She hopes to be able to reopen once locks are installed on the gates, but probably only during daylight and evening hours.



Honey Bear, one of six remaining rabbits at the Bunny Sanctuary at the Victorian Inn takes refuge from the daytime heat in his bunny house. Honey Bear is this month's EEHDA Pet of the Month.

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GAIN Update

by Jonathon Tromm

On June 21, Michael Culpepper, chair of the Landmark Commission answered questions about the new Design Guidelines for Historic Properties as well as the Historic Preservation Plan guidelines. <http://www.progressgalveston.com/news/three-specialized-plans-adopted>. Residents concerned about the Landmark commission allowing violations of the design guidelines might share their concerns with Rusty Legg, other council and Landmark commission members and the Mayor.

Rob Lackowicz, Cultural Resource Manager for URS, the new administrator for the city's Recovery Program spoke. He will be at the EEHDA Aug. 2 meeting so come and ask him questions.

GAIN has determined that the implementation of the Seawall Parking Plan is highly flawed and cannot be implemented due to fiscal and legal restrictions. GAIN will encourage the city to abandon the plan and implement a series of alternatives asap.

On June 27, GAIN asked the city to include in the budget currently being prepared for finalization on Aug. 31, funding for writing environmental ordinances that were authorized by the city council in April 2011. The City Manager declined to do so and argued against having any such ordinances. GAIN is continuing to pursue this issue of importance to the neighborhoods. On July 20, John Hensley, Pres. of TM&P Railroad, made a presentation on the planned projects of coal, cargo and oil on Pelican Island and a new and separate railroad bridge from the mainland. The \$1.2 billion project will develop most of Pelican Island and has support of the city, county, state and federal governments. It is big economic development. Residents desiring environmental ordinances to mitigate negative effects from developments should

share their concerns with their Council Members and the Mayor.

GAIN is requesting detailed information as to building that are in code violations such as vacant for periods of years, vagrants use, crack houses, windows missing panes and deteriorating the structures, etc. The addresses must be supplied. Also, infrastructure issues: Specific drainage issues with precise locations; specific curbm gutter and sidewalk deterioration with precise locations, etc. Send info to eislamia@comcast.net. The information will be compiled and you will be anonymous. There is a monthly GAIN/City Manager meeting at which these will be presented as an ongoing basis.



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The House Detective #2: What are the Definitions of “Historical” and “Significant”?

Jane Chance

Each year the Texas Historical Commission releases the new official application forms for requests for an Official Texas Historical Marker (valid only from 1 September to 15 November, when the application period is open). For a building marker you need the application form for a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker (available online at the THC site). Markers may be awarded to “structures” that are either historically or architecturally significant. While the RTHLM represents the highest honor accorded by our state, it requires the display of the Official Texas Historical Marker on the property, which cannot be removed even if the owner changes. Such a marker also requires a sixty-day notice before any changes may be made to the outside of the structure, provided the THC agrees and supplies written approval for these changes. While owners may complain about this extra layer of bureaucracy, it does protect an historical building from indiscriminate renovation or unwarranted destruction or removal.

To be eligible for this marker, structures must meet the following criteria: (1) be at least 50-years old; (2) be historically significant either because of an event, a person who owned it or lived in it, or (if a school, bridge, industrial plant, or church) some contribution to the community; (3) be architecturally significant, by which is meant the structure represents an outstanding example (within the context of architectural history) of design, method of construction, materials, or type of structure; and (4) be well-maintained and “in a good state of repair.” For this reason in particular, it is imperative that potentially important historical buildings be preserved in accord with what are considered “accepted practices,” otherwise known as the “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.” This is why



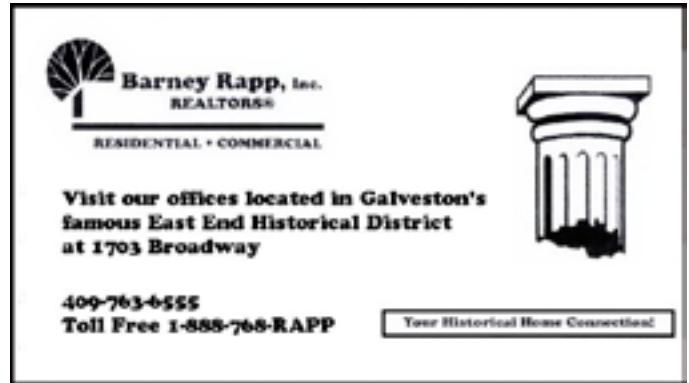
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the Landmark Commission is so important to us here in the East End: changes we make to our historical houses should be perceived as reflective of the original design insofar as that can be established. (To be continued: How do YOU determine what is “significant”?)



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Landmark Notes

by Jonathon Tromm

The July 9th Landmark commission looked at one property in the East End, 1319 Ball. It was an application to raise the structure from 9.3 feet above sea level, or 2 feet above grade, 3 feet higher to 12.5 feet, or 5 feet above grade. It was determined that the current Design Guidelines for Historic Districts allow for such a change. The other historic structures on the block are from 2 to 6 feet off the ground. The Commission approved the request.

The Landmark Commission is also in the process of streamlining the permit process. They are working on regulations which will allow for various permit requests that fall within the Design Guidelines for Historic Districts to be approved by Planning staff instead of requiring a request in front of the Landmark Commission.

The July 23 Landmark Commission meeting will consider 1715 Church, a request for the enclosure of the downstairs back porch and construction of a rear addition and deck. Also, 1625 Market, a request for the installation of a front door.

Membership

by Emmy Morrison

The East End Historical District would like to welcome Janet Carter and Jack Meucke as new members. They reside on Avenue O.

If you know of new neighbors moving into the EEHDA, let us know at membership@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org, and we'll contact them about membership in the EEHDA

**MEMORIAM TO
E. BURKE EVANS**

7-12-2012

by Paul Evans


(The following is an excerpt from a speech by Paul Evans remembering Dr. E. Burke Evans)

The city of Galveston in general and The East End Historical District in particular, owes a tremendous debt to our recently deceased friend, E. Burke Evans. So many things that we East Enders take for granted would not be possible if not for this generous man I came to know simply as Burke.

Most of you received the May East End newsletter with the special tribute to Burke. It told of his many contributions to the field of medicine in Galveston and many of the things regarding the East End Historical District. Burke had an intense love of the history of our neighborhood and his Legacy to us is his intense desire for originality and of green space.

There are many newcomers to the district who have not heard the story of how [Darragh] park came into being. There was a grand home on these grounds, known as the Darragh mansion. Arsonists torched it twice before the fateful winter night in 1993 when they burned it beyond saving. At the time, the property belonged to the GHF. With financial assistance from Burke, a group of us got together to discuss the feasibility of doing a beautification park. We purchased the property from GHF and this fee was funded by Burke.

This committee then started meeting twice a month working out the logistics of how we could make this dream for a park become a reality. We explored things like fund raising, design, garden prep, plant procurement, etc. The biggest project we faced was a total restoration of the magnificent cast iron fence surrounding the property. It was in pretty sad condition, whereas a car had crashed into one section, one of the large gates had been stolen, and rust was in abundance.



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Up came riding on a white horse our shining Knight Burke Evans again. He funded complete restoration of the fence which included taking it apart by section and hauling off the island to be sandblasted due to the lead content in the paint. This restoration was done by Doug McLean blacksmithing and iron works.

We started several fund raising projects i.e brick sales, grants, and the FAB 50 program. Our target was to get 50 people to pledge \$100/year for 4 years thus raising \$20,000. We exceeded the 50. All donations of every kind is inscribed on the 5 granite markers in the park.. By the time the park was completed we had raised \$75,000.

Finally in the spring of 1998 the park was completed. Many of you in attendance today are part of the Galveston County Master Gardeners program. I ordered a total of 2,500 plants and got 36 master gardeners to show up at 9:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning and 6 hours later we had all 2,500 plants in the ground. The park officially opened at our April, 1998 block party and dedication ceremony.

The East End Historical District is truly a unique place to live and Burke Evans left his footprints all over the place. Like all of you, I was crushed to hear of his passing. He was truly an icon and we will all be forever indebted to his unique vision and generosity.

Burke, to me you were a phenomenon somewhat like Halley's Comet, something that comes along once in a lifetime and if we are very fortunate we will get to experience it.



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More Tips on Remodeling: Documenting and Scheduling Your Project

by Allison & Bob Brown

Document Your Project

Everyone loves flipping through the photo album of progress photos of your home repair project. But there are more reasons to document your job than just to show a 'Before and After.' Use photos and architectural drawings/sketches to maintain a record of your construction.

- Photographing stages of repairs will help you remember later how plumbing was run, where electrical wires are, and how your roof was installed for a few examples. Or, you might need them to demonstrate to the engineer that your nailing pattern on the roof was correct so you can get your Windstorm (WPI-8) approval.
- Our roof had its requisite leak after construction and we were able to rule out likely causes by reviewing photos of how flashing was run where posts penetrated the roof of the kitchen. After consulting with the carpenter and roofer, we determined that the leak came from cracks in the posts that we didn't prime and caulk until almost a year after they were installed. Once our carpenter sealed the cracks the leaks were gone.
- If you used drawings for the changes to your home, it's a good idea to have your original set and a separate set of drawings on which you track the changes as you go. The second set is called your "As Built" drawings. The original set will help you compare the number of electrical outlets your electrician initially quoted compared to how many were add-ons. The as-built drawings are useful when you or the following owner of your home do future remodeling or repairs.

Scheduling All Those Contractors (aka Herding Cats)

- Scheduling is one of the most difficult things about working on a remodeling project. In many cases our contractors needed to coordinate work with each other. Make sure you facilitate that communication, especially if you are your own general contractor. You should make sure they know how to reach each other, then follow up with both of them to make sure they are going to "play nice." In our case, most of the contractors had worked together and had good relationships established already, so no worries, but they did change the schedule on me so that follow up kept me in the loop.
- The Three Ring Circus will inevitably occur when you have to have more than a couple of contractors over at the same time. I recommend talking with each of them ahead of time to make sure they won't get in each other's way.

In one instance, our carpenter had lumber scheduled to be delivered on the same day as I was going to have a sprinkler system installed; the carpenter was also going to work inside, and the termite company was scheduled to treat the house. Before all this was going to happen, I had the carpenter clear his pile of construction debris where the sprinkler lines would go, and got an idea from him when to expect the wood to be delivered. I had the sprinkler guys start first thing in the morning so they got the digging over with. Then the wood was delivered and covered so the sprinklers could be tested without having all that pretty new wood get soaked in the process. And the termite guy did his work by going under the house from the sides and front of the house. I gar-ohn-tee-you it was stressful, but look at all the work that was performed in just one day!

I hope you'll enjoy the process of making your lovely home even better, and encourage you to include this learning experience of mine to make your process go smoother!



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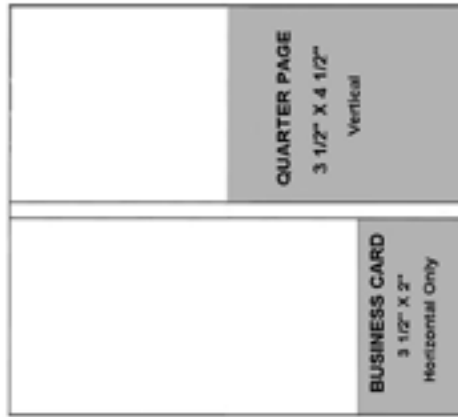
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The EEHDA Newsletter reports news and events related to The East End Historical District Association, and is distributed monthly to approximately 300 members, libraries and civic organizations in Galveston.

Make check payable to:

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Consider becoming an EEHDA Sustaining Member for \$100 per year.
 Contact our Membership Chair at membership@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org.

I would be interested in donating to the EEHDA Casino Night Fundraiser

(Office use only: Amount paid: _____)

Join the East End Historical District Association

Membership is open to everyone but only residents of the district are allowed to hold office or vote at meetings. Your membership supports a wide variety of services and programs dedicated to neighborhood improvement and historic preservation. Our Board of Directors holds regular neighborhood meetings at The Cottage, 1501 Postoffice Street at 6:00PM on the first Thursday of every month.

Meetings are open to all members and visitors to the district. The East End Historical District Association, Inc., is exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the EEHDA are deductible in the manner and to the extent provided by Section 170 of the IRS code. Rates are effective as of 10/1/2011.

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