



East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 35 No. 8

Bob Chapin & Lynette Haaga, Editors

www.eastendgalveston.org

August 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EEHDA activity

July 29th, August 9th, and August 23rd
(Saturdays) 8:00am
We paint The Cottage! Need your help.
JOIN US!

Every Tuesday 7:30pm – **Band Concert**
Sealy Pavilion – 2300 block of Sealy

EEHDA activity

August 7th (Thursday)
5:30pm - Refreshments at The Cottage
6:00pm - **Neighborhood Meeting**

EEHDA activity

August 8th (Friday) 6:00pm
Block Party at Alderdice Park
15th at Ball Street

August 9th (Saturday) – 8:00 am – Noon
Farmer's Market, 24th at The Strand's
Saengerfest Park

August 4th & 18th (Mondays) 4:00pm
Landmark Commission – City Hall

August 5th & 19th (Tuesdays) 4:00pm
Planning Commission – City Hall

August 23rd (Saturday) 6:00pm – **Art Walk**

Mike Gilbert

**EEHDA
PRESIDENT**



I've always loved to travel – don't get to travel as much as I would like to, but I hope to change that in the coming months. One of my favorite areas is the northeast where my wife, Pam, is from. In 2005, we traveled to New England. The thing that impressed me most was the number of American flags that were proudly displayed everyday on each home.

I've always felt that the East End is a small community within itself. Let's all fly our flags proudly everyday. This surely would identify our wonderful neighborhood even more, let everyone know that we not only take pride in our neighborhood, but we also love and honor our country.

Summer is now officially here and it seems as if during the summer we have more crime in our neighborhood than normal. Just this past week, I learned of four separate incidents where people's homes and cars were broken into. In two of the cases, the individuals who were victimized, were just unloading their cars of groceries, and when returning to their car found their lap top computer, car keys, and other items missing. This all happened within a span of three or four minutes.

See page 2 - Gilbert

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Cont. - Gilbert

Let me encourage you to be aware of your surroundings and please report to our police department anything that may be out of the ordinary in your part of our neighborhood.

You may not be aware, but EEHDA has a security program entitled SAFEE. On random days during the week Galveston police officers patrol our neighborhood over a four hour period, at different times during the day. These officers are an addition to the patrols already assigned to the East End.

We encourage you to support our efforts to protect our neighborhood by joining the SAFEE program. The more members we have the more hours we have protection.

Stay cool, pray for rain, and hope to see you at all the August EEHDA events. See you around the Neighborhood.!

BY-LAWS BEING REVIEWED

EEHDA's Board of Directors appointed an ad hoc committee to review the association's by-laws originally adopted in 1974. The committee will present it's report to the Board and our membership at the regular monthly membership meeting on August 7th. Members are encouraged to attend this meeting and participate in the discussion of recommended changes and/or up-dates submitted by the ad-hoc committee.

The Board will make it's decision at the August 7th meeting and publish it's recommendation for any changes in the September issue of EEHDA's Neighborhood News. The final decision for the adoption of any changes will be made by the general membership at the September 4th membership meeting.

	
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Jennifer Travis, CFM Registered Client Associate	409 766 2722 Jenny FAX 409 877 4307 marcia_brassieur@ml.com jennifer_travis@ml.com

GALVEZ SPA DONATES GIFT CERTIFICATES

By Lynette Haaga

Special thanks go to Steven Crietz and the Hotel Galvez for the generous donation of gift certificates for the new Spa at the Hotel Galvez.

A raffle was held at both the July EEHDA Neighborhood Meeting and at our July Block Party for a \$100.00 gift certificate for spa services. (Tickets were sold at \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00) Karl Lewis was the lucky winner at our meeting and Paul Evans took home the prize at our Block Party (bet Barbara will be enjoying the Spa though!)

Certificate winners have a choice of indulgences that include a variety of massages, facials, hair and nail services, and different types of luxury therapies. There's something for everyone to enjoy so both ladies and gentlemen can benefit from the spa.

Watch for more such raffles at future EEHDA activities and come prepared to buy your tickets. The raffles have started out as a very successful and popular fundraiser and we hope to continue them. You can be our next lucky winner and help out the East End at the same time!



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RESTORATION OF THE MONTH



517 13TH STREET

While many East End house restorations involve hundreds of thousands of dollars, and employ dozens of people, far more are accomplished on a limited budget over a longer period of time, such as the home of Mark & Lupe Aaron.

Last year they embarked on restoring their home, starting first with the exterior. Mark, with the assistance of Jonathan Tromm and his crew, replaced rotten wood, painted, and repaired windows over about three months. Since then, while Mark has continued working on the interior of the home. Their home is the middle of three, built by a local builder in 1905.

The house has another connection, literally, to the homes on either side of it. The Aaron's home is connected to the other two homes by a pair of beams on the second story.

The purpose of these beams isn't apparent, but the Aarons surmise it was to create more stability between the homes during their construction, or perhaps it was for bracing the homes during a storm.

The Aaron's home is another example of homes that were built in the post-1900 Storm and the Aaron's good stewardship even on a limited budget is appreciated!
by Allison Brown

CHANGES IN BLOCK PARTY SCHEDULE

Double check your calendars and make a note of the changes in our Block Party schedule. Due to the summer heat, National Night Out has officially been moved statewide from August to October in the state of Texas. Our October Block Party will now be Tuesday, October 7th to celebrate that event. Since it was so popular last year, we will likely have a bonus party in November this year too.

We East Enders are not ones to give up a Block Party easily, so please note that OUR AUGUST BLOCK PARTY IS STILL ON BUT HAS BEEN MOVED TO FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH AT ALDERDICE PARK AT 15TH AND BALL. Hopefully the Friday date will enable more of our weekend residents to attend as well. We were a little short-handed to set up for the last Block Party so if you can lend us a hand this time it would really be appreciated. Be at the Cottage by 4:30 on Friday the 8th to help load up and transport everything to Alderdice Park, and if you have a truck we can use, let us know. Or you can meet us at the park to assist with the tables and awnings set-up. During the party we need people to take turns manning the bar table and keeping an eye on the donation jars.

Speaking of our donation jars, a huge thank you to everyone for their contributions each month. These funds help pay for supplies and drinks, and the kitty is really holding its own this year thanks to all of you.

There has been a request to purchase more eco-friendly party supplies. Please be assured this request is receiving serious consideration. A lot of supplies for this year have already been purchased in advance but as they are replenished we can certainly make some different choices.

Back at our July Block Party, neighbors enjoyed the usual great food and company along with Sheila Lee's accordion music. A lot of folks participated in the All-American Red, White and Blue theme by wearing patriotic-colored outfits. For a special treat we had a raffle of a \$100.00 gift certificate provided by neighbor Steven Crietz at the brand new Spa at the Hotel Galvez. Be prepared for future Block Party raffles and bring your wallet or purse along so you can buy a ticket. For information or questions on the Block Parties call Shane McDermott at 409-771-6270.
by Lynette Haaga

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LOOKING GOOD AT 1501 POSTOFFICE

Renewal work is well underway at the Cottage. On June 28th, **Paul Evans, Lizette Guadin, Lynette Haaga, Karl Lewis, John McDermott, George Najarian** and **David Schuler** hung new ceiling fans and rosettes, patched holes in the walls, and painted the pre-tinted primer coat in the main room.

Outside, **Bob and Allison Brown, Jonathon Tromm** and **Bill Haaga** finished washing the cottage. Now they're ready to caulk, a little more scraping on the west wall and then begin painting the outside.

On July 12th **Lynette Haaga** painted inside and **Jonathon Tromm** scraped on the notorious west wall. Though their efforts were mighty, the challenge was great and only a bit was accomplished since they were the only workers that day.

Please help if you can! The next scheduled dates are July 29th, August 9th, and August 23rd (every other Saturday). In an effort to beat the heat, the outside work parties will start at 8:00am – even earlier if you prefer. The inside painting will start at 9:00am.

This Cottage renewal project is the most extensive one in years. It is bringing new life to the place EEHDA calls home. Now it needs your help to reach the finish line. **Contact Jonathon Tromm - 409-771-5255 or email – eislamia@swbell.net**

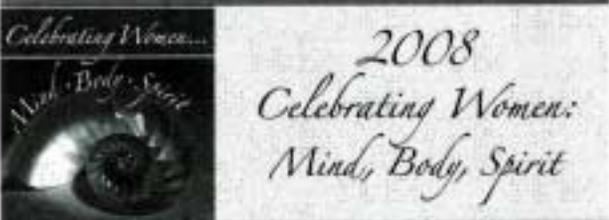


East End Construction

Nelson Smelker

Cell: 469-441-0900 Biz: 409-497-4709

nsmelker@earthlink.net



SAVE THE DATE!
September 25, 2008
8:19 a.m. – 3:59 p.m.
Galveston Island Convention Center
at the San Luis Resort

\$100 per person

- Kathleen Passanisi returns with more side-splitting humor
- MORE exciting speakers including LaDonna Gatlin—she speaks and sings her message straight to your heart!
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Your Historical Home Connection!



Strange sounds, objects being moved about, spectral hands, a figure on the staircase – many homes here in the East End have mysterious or unexplained events taking place. Read each month and decide – creaky old house, powerful imagination, or actual paranormal activity?

This month we pick up where we left off on the story of Old Billy, a colorful spirit active on Postoffice Street. A shoemaker by trade, he apparently lived thriftily and was able to save up a considerable amount of money over the years. Old



Old Billy is said to be "living" in this closet under the stairs

Billy also kept very much to himself, the proverbial "loner" you always hear about, with no known relatives and even secretive about his actual age. Seemingly out of character, he did step out enough to expound on abolition during the Civil War to the point where he was actually thrown in jail for about 2 years for doing so. Right before this he had reportedly buried jars containing much of his fortune in his yard. After Old Billy's death from tetanus in 1883, neighbors hurried over with shovels to see what they could unearth for themselves.

But his executor had already dug up the jars and disposed of the assets according to Old Billy's wishes. The obituary for Robert T. Bilderback (his true name) in the Galveston Daily News on January 13, 1883, includes the phrase that he "in his characteristics was decidedly peculiar".

Karl Lewis and Sandy Hardin live at 1521 Postoffice, right next door to the Stanley's where our story began last month. In Old Billy's time, neither house was there. Three smaller, rickety buildings occupied both lots and Old Billy was said to live in the one that straddled the current lot line. The houses there now were built around 1912-1914. His spirit now seems to flit between the two homes, making mischief and letting everyone know that he's there.

Karl told of numerous instances involving what he came to believe was Old Billy. Starting with a sense of a presence in the house soon after they moved in, he described their dogs going on alert for no reason, a voice calling his name when he was home alone, and that same sense of something moving quickly by out of the corner of his eye that Sandra Stanley has previously mentioned. He emphasized there has never been anything sinister, only a calm, welcoming atmosphere in the house.



Orb like flashes of light in the living room

Even though he has deliberately taken to latching it securely at night, Karl almost always finds the pantry door ajar in the morning. He reported seeing orb-like flashes of light in the corner of the living room, with the dogs again actively alerting to that area at the same time. Old Billy has even peered in at Karl in the kitchen over the transom and again through a back window. Karl described him as a scruffy-looking older man with an unkempt gray-white beard and wearing an old-fashioned cap.

Sandy has not had any incidents with Old Billy and remains skeptical, as does Larry next door. Who knows if Old Billy still has some money jars on the property and is just keeping a watchful eye on them. Who knows what exactly the cause of these mysterious events is.

To share your ghost story with our resident ghost hunter, call Lynette Haaga at 750-9441 or 1-409-200-9547. Got photos? Show us your ghost!



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SNACKS A BIG HIT AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Another big thank you is due to our friends who have generously donated refreshments for our monthly membership meetings at the Cottage. Everyone enjoyed the snacks and drinks Anita, Karl, and B.J. brought for July's meeting and their efforts are sincerely appreciated. Marianne and Karl will be helping out in August, while Larry, Fran, and Anita have already signed up for later on this year.

If you would like to help by bringing something to a future meeting, just call Lynette at 750-9441 and she will put your name on the list for which ever category you choose. We still are in need of volunteers as we move into fall. It's great to have a little something to tide us through as we take care of East End business.

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

Regular and SAFEE members:

Rick & Anny Heiberg
 Pamela R. Houston

Sponsor members:

Dan Hays-Clark & William Ennis
 Carl Tapia & John Wilmore
 Larry Janzen
 Jerry & Irma Hite
 Mike & Pam Gilbert
 Herbert & Rosalind Mitchell
 Karen Derr
 Paula & Louis Reeg
 Ellen Morrison & Christian Robbian
 Robert Evans
 Terry Lee Wilson
 Kenneth & Carol Bartz

Corporate Business members:

Ronald McDonald House
 Kathleen Collins, Attorney at Law

SAFEE CONGRATULATIONS

SAFEE Officers Destin Sims was recently promoted to Sergeant and Joel Caldwell was promoted to Lieutenant. If you see them in the neighborhood please give them a thanks and your support. **by Sheryl Rozier**

SAFEE REPORT - APRIL – JUNE 2008

	APR	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL
Abandoned Vehicles Checked/Tagged			1	1
Aggravated Assault				0
Arrest Felony		1		1
Arrest Misdemeanor		1	1	2
Burglary				0
Call for Service	12	32	23	67
Citizen Contact	61	80	56	197
Criminal Mischief				0
Disturbance	1	1	1	3
Drug Activity/ Suspect Checked				0
Gun Shots				0
House Alarm Response				0
Noise Citations/Warning				0
Patrol Assists	7	8	1	16
Periodic Home Check	3	7	6	16
Suspicious Person/Vehicle checked	3	4	5	12
Traffic Citations/Warning	8	17	8	33
Transient Citations/Warning				0
TOTALS	95	151	102	348
2nd QUARTER MAN HOURS	45.0	66.5	39.0	150.5

For all **non-emergency** police needs please call 409-765-3702 and speak to dispatch. Please contact Sheryl Rozier at 409-763-1773 or at safee@swbell.net if you have additional questions or would like to join the SAFEE program.



UPDATED BLOCK PARTY SCHEDULE

Month	Day, Date	Host	Host Phone #	Place
April	Friday, 11 th	EEHDA Board	Shane: 771-6270	On 15 th St. between Church St. & Postoffice St.
May	Thursday, 8 th	David and Dale "Margaritaville"	789-7279	On Winnie St. between 14 St –15 St
June	Thursday, 12 th	EEHDA Board	Shane: 771-6270	On 15 th St. between Church St. & Postoffice St.
July	Thursday, 10 th	Shane "Red, White & Blue"	771-6270	On 15 th St. between Church St. & Postoffice St.
August	Friday, 8 th	EEHDA Board	Shane: 771-6270	On 15 th St. between Sealy St. & Ball St.
September	Thursday, 11 th	Lynette & Bill "fabulous fifties"	750-9441	On 17 St between Winnie St. & Ball St.
October	Tuesday, 7 th	EEHDA Board	Shane: 771-6270	On 15 th St. between Church St. & Postoffice St.
November	Friday, 7 th	EEHDA	Shane – 771-6270	15 th St. Between Church St. & Postoffice

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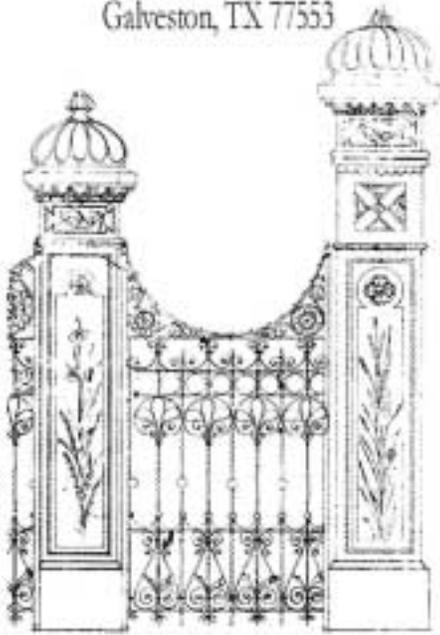
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CONTACT US

Telephone - 409-763-5928
 Membership info - sheryleehda@swbell.net
 SAFE E Program - safee@swbell.net

East End Historical District Association
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The SAFE program is a security program sponsored by EEHDA. SAFE provides security patrols in the East End by uniformed police officers at random hours throughout the week. Security of neighborhood issues can be noted and left for the officers in the black mail box located on the front porch of the EEHDA Cottage, 1501 Postoffice. "Vacation Watch" is offered under this program. Membership in EEHDA is required for SAFE enrollment.

3 months - \$60.00 6 months - \$120.00 12 months - \$240.00
 Mail check to:
 EEHDA, Attn: SAFE, PO Box 2424, Galveston, Texas 77553

SAFE ENROLLMENT

Contributions to EEHDA, are deductible in the manor and to the extent provided by section 170 of the code.

East End Historical District Association, Inc. is exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This exemption was granted February, 1978 and remains in full force and effect. Contributions to EEHDA, are deductible in the manor and to the extent provided by section 170 of the code.

Memberships are for one year. Your address label will display the year of your last payment. You need not reside in the East End Historical District to become a member. Your membership supports a variety of services and programs devoted to historic preservation. Our Board of Directors holds regular meetings at our meeting house, 1501 Postoffice Street at 5:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. All members are urged to attend these business meetings which often feature speakers and programs on current issues in the district.

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Mail to: East End Historical District Association
 P.O. Box 2424
 Galveston, TX 77553

Type of membership:

Individual \$15
 Corporate Business \$125
 Family \$20
 Life Member \$300
 Sponsor \$75
 Senior Fam. \$15
 Senior \$10
 SAFE (see enrollment)

Names of persons covered by this membership:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip Code _____ Phone _____
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Application for Membership - East End Historical District Association