



East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 39 No. 12

Margaret Hand, Editor

www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org December 2012

On the Calendar

CHRISTMAS HOMES TOUR
November 30th (Friday)
6:00 - 9:30 a.m.
(See article this month)

DICKENS ON THE STRAND
December 1st & 2nd
10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sunday
On the Strand

EEHDA Neighborhood Meeting
December 6th (Thursday)
Refreshments at 5:30, meeting at 6:00
at The Cottage 1501 Postoffice

EEHDA Officer and Board Elections
will be held at the January meeting
January 3rd at 6:00
at The Cottage 1501 Postoffice

Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Holidays, Merry Solstice
Happy Kwanza, Ramadan, Tet,
Festivus, Cheerful Maunajiyaras
or however you celebrate the season at your
house, from the EEHDA

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and you were able to spend it with your family or friends. By the time this

newsletter comes out. We'll have had the lighting contest. Volunteers have done a great job decorating the Cottage and Darragh Park. Drive by in the evening after dark and check them out. Fran and her crew did a good job decorating the Cottage and the Christmas tree with some new decorations.

Our finance committee is set to start for next years budget. And talking about next year, new Officers and Board Members have been slated. Along with nominations from the floor in January we should have a good selection. Please, everyone come to the Jan. meeting to vote. Showing an interest will really help improve the East End .

Our secretary "Deanna" has done a great job with the Christmas Homes tour. She has also volunteered to chair Casino Nite. Please help out and Volunteer to aid her in making it a success. It's a good fundraiser which will help out our coffers.

The last Block Party of the year turned out very well, despite getting dark so early. We did however have lights, and the food was wonderful. A good time was had by all.

My tenure is almost up, and after getting of to a rocky start things have improved somewhat. My idea of a neighborhood association and how it is run -is totally up to the people who live in the area. The volunteers and all the residents make up the neighborhood. There should be no one person giving orders.

Each activity has a chairperson, who in turns gathers volunteers and they as a group make decisions to better the event.

I want to Thank everyone for their support this past year. This next year should be even better for everyone. We all need to get more involved for a better Neighborhood.

EEHDA
President
Bill
Beveridge



Galveston



East End Historical
District Association

East End
Christmas
Homes Tour

A VICTORIAN
CHRISTMAS

Friday, Nov. 30th
6:00pm - 9:30pm

Tickets \$15

Available at:

The Grand Opera House

Christmas Homes Tour

by Deanna Johnson

Galveston's East End Historical District Association will host its **23rd annual "A Victorian Christmas" Homes Tour** on Friday, November 30 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The architecture of Galveston's East End reflects some of the state's most notable examples of residential Victorian architecture with a variety of styles and periods. This year's tour will feature four East End homes decorated for the holiday season:

The Sally Trueheart Williams Home, 1616 Broadway. This Spanish Colonial Revival style home was built in 1929. This design style was popularized during the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego in 1915. The home was actually constructed in the gardens of the Trueheart Mansion, which was designed by famed Texas architect, Nicholas Clayton, in 1885. After the death of the home's owner, Henry Trueheart, his daughter, Sally Trueheart Williams, decided the mansion was too large and expensive to maintain, so she commissioned a smaller home better suited to her needs. The Trueheart Mansion was demolished after completion of the current home.

The Browning K. Crowell House, 1127 Ball. This home was built in 1888 in the Queen Anne style. This design style was popularized in the late 19th century during the Industrial Revolution, when the expanding railroads allowed pre-cut architectural details to become available through much of the nation. This home was first owned by Galveston businessman Browning K. Crowell. Mr. Crowell was an executive with various Galveston companies such as Charles Clarke & Co., the Texas and Gulf Steamship Company and the Bowser Southern Dredging Company.

The Catherine & William Best Home, 1128 Sealy. This Victorian cottage was built in 1874 and

owned by German immigrant William Best and his wife, Catherine. Mr. Best was Captain aboard the Steamship Maddox. Mr. Best died in 1884, but Catherine continued to own the home with her son-in-law, Stanislaus Fagan, a Galveston plasterer.

The Alexander Allen House, 1118 Sealy. This home was built in 1874 and owned by Alexander Allen and his wife, Elizabeth. Mr. Allen was a marble contractor and monument maker, and was dubbed "the founder of the marble business in Texas," having established the state's first marble yard in 1852. Mr. Allen's partner in the business was Charles S. Ott, founder of Ott Monument Works, the oldest memorial business in Texas, currently in its 5th generation of business, located at 39th & Broadway.

Darragh Park, 15th & Church. This park was built after a fire destroyed Darragh House on this site in the 1990s. The property was donated by Galveston Historical Foundation to the East End Historical District Association, and a longtime association supporter, Dr. E. Burke Evans, donated the funds to build the wrought iron gazebo. The association maintains this park, along with Alderdice Park at 15th & Ball.

Victor Gustafson Cottage, 1501 Postoffice St. This historic cottage was built by Victor Gustafson, a Galveston Wharves cotton screwman. The cottage was partially destroyed during the 1900 storm, but Gustafson rebuilt and enlarged it for his family. The cottage was moved to its current location from 6th & Market in 1979 for use as a community center for the association. Refreshments will be served at this location by volunteers of the association.

In addition to the East End homes, the tour will feature the **First Presbyterian Church, 1903 Church Street.** This Romanesque building was designed by prominent Galveston architect, Nicholas Clayton, and was constructed in 1872. The church is considered one of the best examples of Norman style architecture in the region. Its sanctuary has been remodeled since Hurricane Ike, and features breathtaking stained glass windows, three of which were designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Homes Tour ticket holders will enjoy a variety of holiday music at the church from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$15, and are available through The Grand 1894 Opera House. To purchase tickets call 409-765-1894 or 800-821-1894, or purchase online at www.thegrand.com.

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Blacksmithing a Garden Gate

by Laura Armstrong

Blacksmithing -- an ancient technique of shaping steel -- is gaining momentum among modern-day artists choosing to use the forge, hammer, and anvil to craft original, quality works.

To further hone my craft as a metal artist, I periodically take advanced blacksmithing classes at Austin Community College. These classes make extensive use of the 'power hammer,' a mechanical or air-driven machine used to work larger metal stock. The upper and lower dies of a power hammer serve as the hammer and anvil. Most power hammers are controlled with a foot pedal, leaving the smith's hands free to work the metal stock.

A recent class project was to craft a garden gate. The instructor, William Bastas, designed the basic frame. Each student designed his/her own picket finials. As for my pickets, I chose a stylized 'pod' theme reminiscent of seeds or beans.

How a blacksmithed piece transforms from raw stock to finished product isn't readily apparent, so a bit of explanation is helpful.

The raw metal stock for my gate frame was hammered into the desired shape, length, and thickness. Care was taken to ensure the top and bottom bars, as well as the stiles (i.e., the vertical bars on the left- and right-side of the garden gate frame) were the same length, producing a square frame.

This gate makes extensive use of traditional joinery, holding itself together via 'pass-throughs.' The gate isn't welded together, and no screws were used in its construction. Rather, openings were made in both the top- and bottom- bars for the pickets to pass through using a process called 'slitting and drifting.' Also, the tenons on the top- and bottom- bars fit snugly into the mortises of the stiles using the 'slit and drift' process.

I used specially shaped dies on the power hammer to create the 'pod'-themed finials atop the five pickets. The finished gate is approximately 3' wide and 4' tall overall.

I continue to find blacksmithing intriguing, particularly in how dramatically a piece of raw metal can be reshaped. A case in point is the middle picket of this gate: A 2" x 1" piece of solid steel 12" long was turned into a 40"-long picket, crowned with a finial 6"

wide and 4" tall. It's as close to magic as I'm going to get!



This gate has been installed at 1315 Winnie, alley-side.



Gate detail



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GAIN Update

Jonathon Tromm

The GAIN meeting on Nov. 15 had a presentation about the proposed city swimming pool. It would be located at Lasker Park, 43 & Q, near the tennis courts. This is within 2 miles of 63% of population and 69% of persons under 18 years of age. Plans call for an eight-lane, 25-yard pool. Officially sanctioned swim meets could be held there. Design would be funded from \$150,000 of 4b sales tax funds. The construction would be funded from private funds, as yet to be secured. Maintenance would be \$250,000 approx. annual funded at first by 4b sales tax funds.

Construction would start in 2015 and the pool would open in 2016 unless financing is secured sooner. Gain has formed an LDR committee. It will meet in December. Everybody is welcome to participate. Contact Jonathon Tromm of the EEHDA for updates. Gain will be forming a nominating committee to address their upcoming officer elections. Any member of Gain may submit their candidacy and all EEHDA members are members of Gain.

New Committees Seek Volunteers

by Jonathon Tromm

The EEHDA newsletter editors are retiring effective, Dec. 31, 2012. A newsletter committee has been formed to discuss and plan for finding new editors. Everyone is welcome to join and give input. We have to come up with a plan or the newsletters will come to an end in January! Please Help! Contact Vice President Jonathon Tromm if you'd like to be involved with the committee. eislamia@comcast.net or 409-771-5255.

The Land Development Regulations (LDR) Draft is placed on the city website for examining. <http://www.cityofgalveston.org/news/default.cfm?ID=6755>

The EEHDA has established an LDR committee in order to examine and discuss the proposed regulations. Everyone is welcome to join and give input concerning the proposed regulations. Read them from the internet in the comfort of your home. We will meet by email as well as in person. Please contact Jonathon Tromm if you'd like to be involved with the committee. eislamia@comcast.net or 409-771-5255.

There will be a public meeting on Nov. 27 from 6 to 8 pm at the convention center on the seawall to ask questions of city staff. City staff will also be available for meetings with groups. Now is the time to get involved. GAIN has also formed a committee to examine the LDR's and we will be involved with it.



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Board Elections at December Meeting

by David Collins

EEHDA elects officers and new board members at the January meeting. A nominating committee was appointed in October to find members willing to serve next year. (Committee members were Ralph McMorris, Emmy Morrison, Deanna Johnson, Kevin Barrett and Allison Brown) The committee presented its recommended slate at the November meeting. Our bylaws specify that open nominations from the general membership will be accepted during the December meeting, Dec. 6th, 6pm at the Cottage. Nominations will close at the close of the meeting.

The Board of Directors of the EEHDA consist of 4 officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary), the immediate Past President, and 10 board members. All officers and half of the board members are elected each January. Board members generally serve a two-year term. Officers' terms are for one year; an officer cannot serve more than two years in a row in any specific office.

Please join us at the December meeting for nominations from the floor. It is important that all members of the EEHDA attend the January Membership meeting to elect the new board and officers.

The slate presented by the committee in November includes:

President - David Fortenberry
Vice President - Jim Cantrell
Secretary - unfilled
Treasurer - Floyd Pollock

New two-year board members
Jane Chance
Tom Green
Anne Hecht
Mary LaFlore
Lizette Gaudin

New one-year board members (filling unexpired terms)

Beth DeKeyser
Larry Wygant

Immediate Past President - Bill Beveridge.



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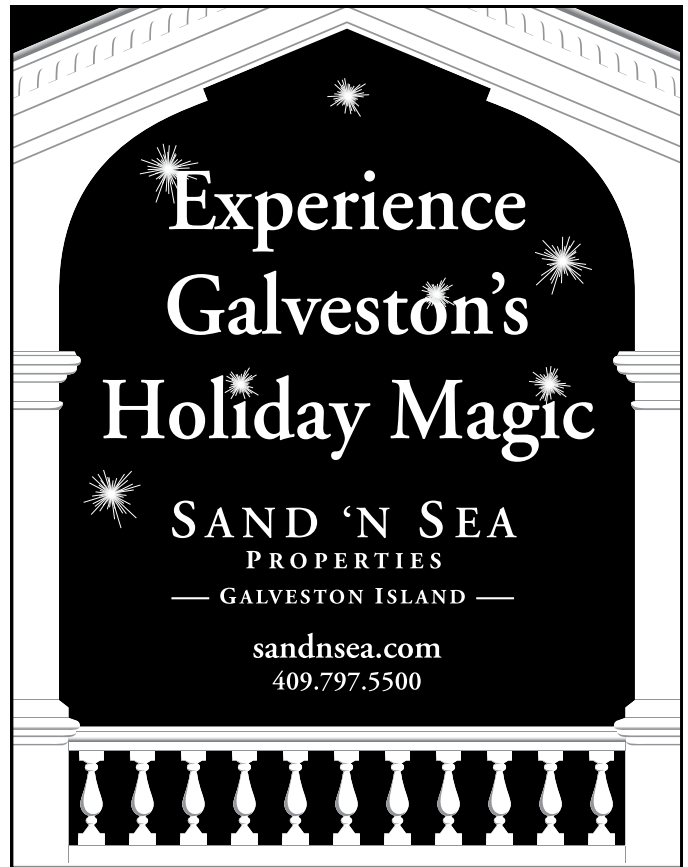
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Membership
by Emmy Morrison

A big thank you to our Sustaining members. Happy Holidays.

- Michael & Debbie Box
- Carl Tapia & John Wilmore
- Margaret Hand & David Collins
- Sharon & Emmett Strain
- James Tucker & Renee Magee
- John C. Crossman, Jr.
- William Salario & Donald Tomek
- Anne Kinder, Kara & Aaron Homes
- Al & Gail Pressman
- Elisabeth Darst
- Sandy Hardin & Karl Lewis
- Herbert & Rosalind Mitchell
- Pamela Burge
- Steve Rennick
- Mosquito Café
- Ellen Morrison & Christian Robbian
- Gerald Campbell
- Tom Thayer & Daniel Danford
- Terry Lee Wilson
- Jeff & Connie Patterson
- Carol Bartz
- Martin & Fran Kelly
- Carlos L. Guerguin



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Rates and an ad order form appear on the last page of this newsletter. Feel free to contact newsletter editor Margaret Hand for more information at newsletter@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org.

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East End Historical District Association's
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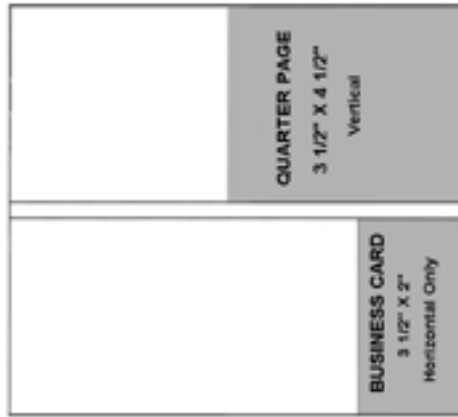
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- Ads must be paid for in advance.
- Ad deadline is the 15th of the month.
- Political ads are limited to 1/4 page.

Ads must be camera ready and proportional to dimensions listed above.



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:

East End Historical District Association
 PO Box 2424, Galveston, TX 77553

e-Mail: Margaret Hand, newsletter@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org, 409-762-0567

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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