



# East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 39 No. 7

Margaret Hand, Editor

[www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org](http://www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org)

July 2012

## On the Calendar

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

***BLOCK PARTY***  
**July 12th (Thursday)**  
at The Cottage  
**Starts at 6:30!!!**  
Paul Evans will present a tribute to  
Dr. Burke Evans

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

**The 2012 4th of July Parade  
will be held on the Seawall  
July 4th, 7:30 PM  
from 28th to 53rd St.  
Fireworks 9:15 at 37th St.**

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

Summer is here with the heat and humidity! It seems that living here for so many years one would be use to it, not so. I do have a few friends that

can't seem to get enough of the summer sun and heat.

Our feathered friends need some help during these heated months ahead. Fresh water in a shaded area is always helpful, along with some seeds or stale bread crumbs. Shelter is a good idea too. Decorative bird houses abound, from quaint cottages with painted curtains at the windows to gleaming constructions of copper and weathered wood. Different birds prefer different sizes of nest boxes and entry holes. Wrens, woodpeckers and starlings like 4 inch deep and wide boxes that are 8 to 10 inches high. Entry holes should be 1 ¼ inches in diameter. House wrens like a shorter 6 to 8 inch high box. Place entrance holes 6 to 8 inches up from the base, and secure boxes 5 to 15 feet from the ground. A rough patch below the entry hole, inside and out, helps birds come and go. A perch simply gives birds such as starlings and house sparrows a place to sit. The best nest boxes have a hinged or removable roof or side that allows you to peek inside, and gives easy access for cleaning.

When naturalist Mark Catesby roamed the Carolinas during the early 1700's he noted how the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians hung birdhouses made from gourds around their gardens to attract martins, voracious eaters of mosquitoes and garden pests. Most birds, from larks and blue jays to Finches and robins, weren't so well treated. So abundant were these and other species that native tribes and European settlers were far more apt to eat them than provide them with shelter or sustenance. "Four and twenty blackbirds, baked in a pie" wasn't just a rhyme, it was a recipe.

Today, we benefit from the legacy of that early conservation movement. Bird baths, birdfeeders and birdhouses of all descriptions are widely available and once in place, foster a vitality in the garden that plants alone cannot supply.

EEHDA  
President  
Bill  
Beveridge



## Featured Eastender House July 2012

**1886 MATILDA V. WEHMEYER HOUSE, 1616 Winnie  
(owned by Leonard La Magna and Kevin Folzenlogen)**

*Edited by Jane Chance from information provided by Jami Durham and the compilation by Jane Chapin from research by David Bush.*

In November 1885, the house at 1616 Winnie, owned by Miss Matilda V. Wehmeyer and built sometime after she purchased it in 1880, was completely destroyed as a fire at the Vulcan Ironworks at 16<sup>th</sup> and Strand swept bare 40 residential blocks in the East End and south of Broadway. The Tax Assessors Records for 1885 show an improvement valued at \$400; it was also improved in 1887. Apparently the house thereafter was used as rental property. According to the *City Directory*, in 1888-89 Miss Wehmeyer “boarded...on the north side of Church between 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>” and taught music and German. However, by 1891 to 1892, she was living at Alfred Muller’s house with him and his wife at 1910 Avenue L. Muller was probably the second most significant nineteenth-century architect on the island after Nicholas Clayton, for he designed the Trube Castle (17<sup>th</sup> and Sealy), the Letitia Rosenberg Home for Aged Women (25<sup>th</sup> and O ½), and the Darragh House, destroyed by fire in the late 1980’s (15<sup>th</sup> and Church Street). Was Muller the architect for this property?

Matilda moved back to 1616 Winnie in 1893 and used the house as a private school. In 1895, she is listed as a teacher at a private “German-American kindergarten school.” By 1901—after the Great Storm—Miss Matilda Wehmeyer is listed with no occupation and rooming at 2125 Sealy with Ethel Pape, dressmaker. She died in 1903; her funeral was held at the Mullers’ house, where Muller’s widow still lived.

In 1901, Worthy Boyd, “a principal with Boyd and Marrast, cotton weighers whose office was on the northwest corner of 30<sup>th</sup> and Postoffice,” bought the

house. In 1888 he had worked as a cotton clerk for Marx and Kempner. Boyd also owned, and lived next door, at 1620 Winnie, using 1616 Winnie as rental property until 1922 when he sold it to William H. Pohlig.

William H. Pohlig (1888-1961) immigrated to the U.S. from Germany in 1905 and married Anne Louise Burrows in 1909. The front double gallery was probably redone in 1909, as documented by insurance records, because the columns with ionic capitals were typical of classic revival houses in the early 1900’s, although the Pohligs only began to rent the property in 1916. In 1919 William, his wife, and two children lived there with three other ladies, according to the *City Directory*, with a longshoreman and his wife (the cook at 1610 Winnie) in the rear property. It was quite common at this time to rent out rooms in your property in order to earn extra money. Pohlig originally worked for a steamship agent, but then ran a chemical company and grain exporter, in 1919, and by 1924 was a feed store manager, which, by 1936, he came to own.

Leonard La Magna bought the house in 2007. An article on the restoration of the house after Ike appeared in *Old House Journal*, Sept. 2011.

**(Please send your house history--around 300-500 words--and a photo to [jchance@rice.edu](mailto:jchance@rice.edu) no later than the first of the month for possible inclusion, first come, first served. Published as space and time permit. )**



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of July!**

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# Historic Neighborhood Church Under Restoration

By Lynette Haaga

Another historic East End church is experiencing an exciting post-Ike restoration. This time it's the First Latin Assemblies of God Church at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Postoffice Streets. The Reverend Lily Rodriguez, currently serving as Senior Pastor, was guest speaker at our June EEHDA meeting.

The current building has undergone many transformations over the last century. But first, in 1885, there were originally three small houses on this property that were private residences. They were destroyed in the Great Fire that same year that swept through Galveston's East End. The next available records, from 1889, show a pair of two-story structures with a connecting porch in between. This complex was used as a boarding house.

A decade later, the same boarding house was still in business. Ravaged by the Great Storm of 1900, it managed to survive and go on to a new incarnation.

By 1912, the structures on this property had been more drastically altered to become a theater known as The Little Theater of Galveston. The porch was closed in, and the original footprint of the building enlarged. A stage and dressing rooms were constructed, with rows of seating out front on a sloping, solid wooden floor. Famous stage actress Lily Langtry was said to have appeared in a performance there.

During the 1950s, the theater building was divided into apartments. Finally in 1965, it was sold to the Latin American District Council in the U. S. A. of the Assemblies of God Church.

The building was again remodeled, this time with classrooms, an office, a community dining room, and of course a sanctuary for worship. Pastor Rodriguez also recounted some more personal pieces of church history. Apparently Lily's boyfriend in high school, Manuel, asked her to come to church with him, with

the clever strategy of teenagers that they might be allowed to date if the dates included church. The plan worked, and worked so well that she and Manuel will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary later this year!

Church services were primarily in Spanish at the beginning, and community ministry focused a lot on the local jail and the hospital. In a scenario that sounds right out of the movies, a young man named Ted was running from local police and decided to duck into the church to hide. He landed right in the middle of a Sunday School class! Thinking quickly, Ted tried to blend in as best he could, and the police moved on. Ted then decided to change the path he was on in life, and the teacher from the class that day,

Although the original building came through the 1900 hurricane fairly well, it was not so lucky with Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Major reconstruction is still going on, and quite a bit of progress has been made. Historical preservation has been very important in this process. For example, the original solid wood flooring and theater stage had to be torn out, but as much of that wood as possible was salvaged and reused for items such new window frames in the building.

Lily emphasized that this church building that has served so many different purposes over more than a century can really show us that what we may think is ready to be discarded is actually ready to be used for something new. The current congregation numbers under 25, most of whom are "mature youth". But plans are already underway to revitalize and grow, with community outreach and mission work being top priorities.

The target date for dedication ceremonies is November 17<sup>th</sup> (the day before Lily and Manuel's anniversary) and it will be wonderful to have this church back as an active and vibrant part of the East End.

(This article is an excerpt from an upcoming book of historical Galveston vignettes co-authored by Gini Brown and Lynette Haaga.)

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## Cottage Work Day

On Saturday, June 9th, there was a cottage work day. We had good attendance and accomplished a lot of work in spite of the welcome rain shower, that cut short the outside work. Work was done on several windows, painting trim and in the kitchen. There is still more work to do, both inside and out. Our next cottage work day will be on July 21st. We will have more painting, window work and some carpentry so mark your calendar and come help. Remember that the work we do ourselves helps us save for other things, the funds we work so hard to accumulate through fundraisers.





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Mark your calendars for the Darragh Park workday on June 30 from 7 to 10am. We are going to do some sanding and painting on the light posts and benches so bring short and tall step ladders, wire brushes and cloth to wipe them down. Sandpaper and paint will be provided. We will also be pulling weeds and cutting back anything that needs it so bring gloves, cutters, weed digging tools and wheelbarrows. Come on out and get the park looking good for the summer.




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## Membership Update

by Emmy Morrison

We have 2 new members this month! Michael and Betty Ann Pamplin have purchased the house at 1111 Sealy St. They reside in Duncan OK. George Lee, resident of Avenue P and owner of the newly-opened G. Lee Gallery on 21st St has just become a member. Let's all extend a warm welcome to these new members of the EEHDA!

Since the EEHDA is currently undergoing a revision of the Bylaws of the Association, now is a good time to review the qualifications for voting membership. Only voting members will be able to vote on the new bylaws. According to Article III, Section I of the current bylaws of the East End Historical District Association (Rev. Oct. 2010), a voting member must be current in their membership dues and reside within the East End Historical District. The verbatim language from the bylaws reads: "Only those members who are residents within the boundaries of the East End Historical District of Galveston, Texas, and who shall be current in the payment of the annual membership fee shall be entitled to hold office or to vote on any question presented to members of the corporation."

The boundaries of the East End Historical District will be added as an addendum to the bylaws.

## GAIN Happenings

by Jonathon Tromm

On May 16th, Dr. Andrea Hricko, Director, Community Outreach and Education Program, Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center, gave a lecture at UTMB, "Responding to Community Concerns About Air Pollution's Health Effects."

There was also a special open meeting with the GAIN port committee attended by a large contingent of residents from the Galena Park neighborhood from Houston. The Galena Park residents had an extensive discussion about the negative impacts upon them and their battle for a healthier district. This is a perfect example of the need to take a proactive approach in ensuring that steps are taken to mitigate possible negative environmental effects from expanding industrialization.

Then Dr. Hricko and several people from UTMB presented at the annual Environmental Justice Encuentro held at TSU from May 17 to 19. The discussions concerned the negative impacts of industries and their pollution on the neighboring communities.

For the July 19 meeting, the guest speaker will be Mr. John Helsley, President of the Texas, Mexico & Pacific Railroads, LLC. The TM&P is expanding the port and rail facilities on Pelican Island under a 99 year lease with the Port of Houston. This will be a large project and could potentially impact the city neighborhoods so come out and hear first hand about the plans.

Also, the continuing discussions concerning Seawall Parking will begin to be reexamined by GAIN. Assistant City Manager Brian Maxwell and Galveston Police Department interim Chief Porretto have been invited to inform on that topic.

All EEHDA members are automatically members of GAIN and are welcome to attend the meetings the third Thursday of each month at the Moody Mansion at 27th and Broadway.



*John Wilmore*  
*Hair*

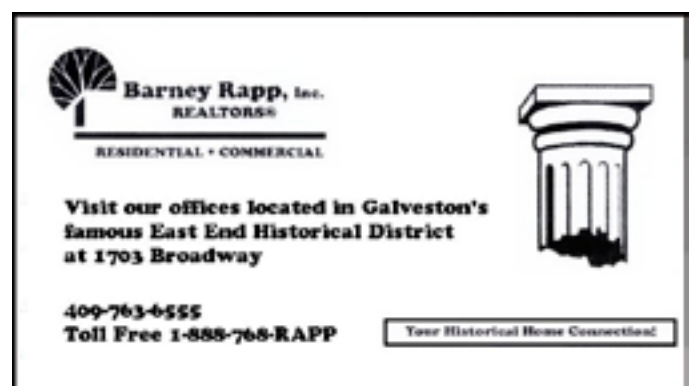
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## Critter Corner

Casey Jo and Dorothy Dan Farris

### Critters 101: Summer Shaving

Boy, is it hot! When summer comes lots of folks want to shave their pets to help them stay cooler. If less is more for us, shouldn't it be good for our pets too? According to the experts, this may not be such a good idea. If you jog with your dog, do so in early morning or late evening and take water along. If it is over 85 degrees the dogs cannot cool themselves fast enough.

Your pet's hair is not like yours. A pet's coat is designed by nature to keep it cool during the summer and warm in the winter. By shaving your pet you are interfering with this built-in temperature regulation.

If you have a dog that has been bred for very cold climates, like Great Pyrenees, St. Bernards, Malamutes, or Huskies, consider shaving them, but resist shaving other breeds because not only will dogs like labs and retrievers simply get no benefit from it, they run the risk of sunburn once shaved. Any dog can suffer sunburn, so if you do shave your thick-coated dog, be sure to leave at least an inch of hair to protect your pet from the sun's rays.

You may also want to shave a dog that has a matted coat, one that is likely to be wet often, or one that is prone to hot spots, but discuss this with your vet first.

Panting is the primary way dogs cool themselves but this only works if the air around them is cooler than their body temperature. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun. Also, brushing your pet removes dead undercoat, helping air to circulate near the skin, keeping pets cooler. If you have the time and energy, a daily brushing would be awesome. Another groovy idea is to give outside pets a slice of cold melon to help keep them cool and hydrated.

**Pet of the Month:** "Mr. July" is Sir Tippy II of Wellington Delk. Tippy is a *Chinchilla lanigera*. He lives with his mother, Allie Delk, and his grandmother, Cecily Storm on Ball Street. Chinchillas are crepuscular rodents

meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk. They are cuter, larger and more robust than squirrels. They like to burrow and are agile jumpers. Chinchilla eyes are adapted for low level light and their hearing range is similar to that of humans. Their fur is extremely soft because there are about 60 hairs sprouting from each follicle. They are native to the Andes Mountains in Chili, South America where they live in herds at high altitudes. Like all Chinchillas, Tippy eats hay and seeds, and raisins are a special treat. He also needs to chew on wood frequently to keep his teeth worn down. He prefers his baths dusty not wet so Allie buys a special dust from the pet store to mimic the volcanic rock dust from the Andes. Allie adopted Tippy when he was just a kit, now he is eight years old. Tippy has lots of toys, and in his spare time he likes to lie in his hammock, lounge on his marble slab to keep cool, or snuggle with his mama on the sofa. Cecily calls Tippy her grandchilla. Ain't life grand!



Casey Farris has owned/operated a pet sitting business in Houston since 2001. Dorothy Dan has owned/operated Casey since 2004. They live in Galveston's East End. See [www.sealysuites.com](http://www.sealysuites.com). Please forward your pet of the month nominations and comments to [Casey@sealysuites.com](mailto:Casey@sealysuites.com).

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## Recent Landmark Commission Decisions

by Jane Chance

To inform homeowners in the East End about what's happening in the neighborhood, I'll post decisions made at Landmark once a month.

Landmark meetings are open to the public; you're encouraged to attend and express your opinion at the meetings. The most recent design standards for historic properties are available online: [http://www.progressgalveston.com/sites/default/files/documents/12\\_0430\\_GALV\\_Design\\_Standards\\_FINAL\\_webres.pdf](http://www.progressgalveston.com/sites/default/files/documents/12_0430_GALV_Design_Standards_FINAL_webres.pdf) and eventually the City will post the Landmark minutes online, at [http://www.cityofgalveston.org/city\\_committees/citycomm\\_landmark.cfm](http://www.cityofgalveston.org/city_committees/citycomm_landmark.cfm). Questions? Call Jane Chance (409-763-6066; or email [jchance@rice.edu](mailto:jchance@rice.edu)).

May 21, 2012

1205 Church: Construction of an 8-foot tall side yard wooden privacy fence (east-side). Design issue: There should be no visible obstruction of the view of the property from the street. Given the proximity of the two properties and the fact it was on the east side, visibility was not actually an issue; discussion centered on additional means to block noise.

Approved.

June 4, 2012

1018 Sealy: Construction of an accessory building (apartment and 3-car garage, 26' high, with wide-hipped roof) behind single-story slab early modern house (over 50 years old). Issue: properties behind main house should not be higher than main house and should be consistent in height with adjacent properties. Third time applicant had appeared; previous appearance resulted in change of roof line and height decrease. Approved.



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614 15<sup>th</sup> St: Request to alter structure by installing a new metal garage door at the front of a raised 146 year old cottage. Problem: deterioration in wooden barn-door garage door provided weaken protection; sagging causing stress to foundation. Design standard issue: no metal garage doors used on the front of a property; also, alteration of house design to use anything other than vertical slat design garage door to match lower covering of house. Discussion centered on whether applicant had researched wooden garage doors. Approved: reinforced nonmetal garage door.

1416 Broadway: Request for alterations to structure, namely, window replacement with vinyl windows at third-story dormer front, side, and rear. House red-tagged. Problem: historic windows with muntins throughout the house leaking; third-story windows replaced to recondition and use elsewhere on the house. New vinyl windows inserted; owner added strips to resemble muntins (the strips that divide one pane into subdivided panes). Contractor replaced on his own. Discussion: owner willing to replace the vinyl windows with the originals, if necessary. But front 3<sup>rd</sup> story dormer window not truly visible from the street or from west-side house, also 3<sup>rd</sup> story. East side: upper window only visible from Bishop's Palace side.

Approved: Owner will be required to install exterior applied muntins to the vinyl windows to create a shadow line that is similar to the original windows.



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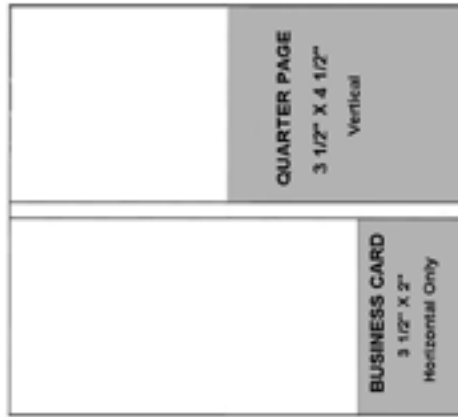
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## Join the East End Historical District Association

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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