

East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 38 No. 6

Margaret Hand, Editor

www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org

June 2011

On the Calendar

EEHDA Neighborhood Meeting June 2nd (Thursday)

Refreshments at 5:30, meeting at 6:00
at the Cottage

Block Party June 10th (Friday)

5:30 p.m.
At the Cottage
Victor Gustafson Day

GAIN MEETING June 16th (Thursday)

All East Enders invited
5:30 p.m.
Moody Mansion lower level

COFFEE AT THE COTTAGE
will return in October

Looking Ahead

EEHDA 3rd Annual Fall Garden Tour October 8th-9th, 2011

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tickets available September 1st
Tom's Thumb Nursery & Landscaping

EEHDA 22nd Annual Victorian Christmas Homes Tour Friday, December 2nd, 2011

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Tickets available October 1st
The Grand 1894 Opera House

Always a difficult decision to cancel a Block Party due to weather! Watching the radar on Thursday afternoon, it seemed obvious that Galveston was

in the path of severe storms, so a joint decision was made at 4 pm to postpone the May Block Party by 24 hours. Driving home I noted with regret the still-dry causeway, but arrived at The Cottage to find rain, lightning and high winds! Despite the unplanned delay we had an excellent turnout and the weather for the premiere of Cinema Under the Stars was perfect – although from now on we'll most certainly post guards!

Speaking of The Cottage, next time you drive by take a look at the backyard fence. Thanks to Bill & Lynette Haaga, the fence has been strengthened and is in the process of being painted. Repairs to the side and back gates and back garden are planned to be completed before the June Block Party that will once again honor Victor Gustafson, original builder of The Cottage.

Hats off to Jane Chapin and her team of volunteers selling *East End Edibles* Cookbooks - they exceeded all expectations by selling out the final printing of 250 copies over the two weekends of GHF Homes Tour. Not only did they promote the East End in fine fashion, but a new cookbook with updated recipes is now a distinct possibility! Plus lots more space in the storeroom!

Finally, thanks to yet another group of volunteers who helped install the new sprinkler system at Alderdice Park on Saturday May 21st. Once completed, Alderdice Park will boast well tended gardens, green grass and historic lampposts – and demonstrate the values and commitment of the EEHDA to maintaining and improving the East End Historical District.

Don't forget to visit our web site at www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org for all the latest information.

David
Schuler
EEHDA
President





Q & A

by
Steve Austin

Two unrelated old-house questions arose this month. If I'm the only one interested in the first, I apologize for wasting your time with it. The second question, however, has generated so much steam that I'm sure someone else out there will want the details.

The first question was mine. I found a couple of Victorian toilet pull chain handles for our high-tank toilets on eBay. Both have a rubber ring around them. I couldn't figure out why. Ron Gilroy knew the answer. The rubber exists to protect the plaster walls that the chain might occasionally swing in to. I went home and looked at the proximity of the old pull-chain handle to the wall. Clearly Ron's right. Thanks for the answer, Ron!

The next question came out of a misperception apparently held by many Galvestonians (in this case including *several* BOIs and even one full-time GHF employee). There was a surprising amount of unhappiness when a bunch of Aramco blinds were placed back onto an East End house after it was all fixed up (including a new paint job that required the temporary removal of the Aramco's). The near-universal reaction I heard was, "They can't do that—it's illegal." First the punch line: it's legal. Now the details. . . .

Elements that detract from the historic appearance of Victorian houses in the East End (e.g., plastic siding or Aramco blinds) may not, by law, be added now (emphasis on the word "now"). Preexisting Aramco's are grandfathered in, meaning they need not be taken down. When repairs are being made to a house with preexisting plastic siding or Aramco blinds, the owners have a period of time in which to do the repairs before they lose their grandfathered status. This means that if the plastic siding or Aramco blinds are put back in a timely manner, it is legal for the homeowners to do so. The Standards for the East End do not specify how long this period of time should be, leaving that call to our Planning Department. After hearing "They can't do that" for at least the half-dozen time, I called Catherine Tinnemeyer in Planning. She said that ordinarily, Planning gives homeowners six months to replace

grandfathered elements before the grandfather status elapses. Hopefully this clarifies this matter that has recently led to so much buzz here in the East End. Thanks for the answer, Catherine!

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Farewell to SAFEE

Sheryl Rozier

The SAFEE program has been in place since 2002 and has been an important part of the East End. Since 2007 it was calculated that the Officers worked over 2,642 man hours; making countless personal contacts with our neighbors, walked properties when requested and took care of serious crime for the East End.

With the success of the community policing program and the apparent reduction in crime in our neighborhood the SAFEE Committee and EEHDA Board have decided to close the SAFEE Program on June 30th. Due to these factors the programs membership had begun to dwindle since late last year and the program can no longer financially sustain itself. Although this announcement is made with a certain level of personal sadness, I know our neighborhood is better because of the long term success of the SAFEE Program and its dedicated Officers, some of which have worked the program since its inception. I would like to personally thank Chris Keller and Ron Gilroy for their leadership in the program over the years. I would also like to say a huge Thank You to our Officers: John Blackwell, Destin Sims, Joel Caldwell, Douglas Bali and Joseph Durr!!! Reimbursements to members who have paid dues past the June 30th closing date will be made accordingly. If you have further questions or comments please contact David Schuler (EEHDA president) at president@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org or by phone at (409) 599-7578.

GAIN Container Port Committee Forms Non-profit Corporation

Ralph McMorris

The GAIN Container Port Committee has created a non-profit group called Galveston Quality of Life, Inc., (GQOL) to educate the public and City Council regarding the environmental impact of a container port in Galveston. The educational process is expected to include background information, key issues and possibly an example ordinance that the city could adopt or use as a template.

Hiring expert help is important, and GQOL has been in touch with Jim Blackburn, a Gulf Coast environmental attorney familiar with the Bayport container terminal. His initial fee would be \$7000 and would include drafting an ordinance with features the neighborhoods need for protection.

This process of a civic organization taking the initiative is not without precedence. Most recently, the Chamber of Commerce spearheaded the recent successful campaign for Seawall parking. GAIN is considering a \$2000 loan to GQOL to get started, and GQOL may also ask other impacted neighborhoods for help. Time is of the essence, as the port director has been quoted as saying it was a good idea to get a building permit approved before any SUP (ordinance) could be put in place.

East End residents Jonathon Tromm and Emmy Morrison are the GAIN representatives to the city staff in this process. Thank you again, Jonathan and Emmy! In my opinion, a container port, unchecked, is the single biggest deterrent to quality of life. Done right, an effective ordinance can provide the necessary balance between economic growth and quality of life here on Galveston Island.



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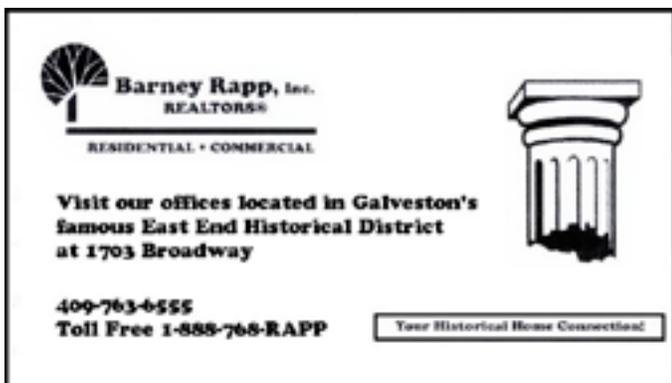
Cottage & Parks Update:

Cottage Fence Makeover Alderdice Park Gets Sprinkler System

Dave Schuler

Thanks to Mike Gilbert, Jim Cantrell and Terry and Deanna Johnson, Alderdice Park has a new electronically controlled sprinkler system. Work started early on Saturday, May 21st as Mike and Terry worked to dig trenches around the lawn and garden areas, Deanna kept us supplied with water and sandwiches from a local bakery while I managed to break the main water supply. Once all the trenches were complete, everyone joined in to cut and glue PVC pipe – yumm, smells good! As of this writing, the supply pipe, city-mandated anti-siphon valve, four control valves and risers for sixteen independent sprinkler heads have been installed. Work yet to be done includes installing and programming the controller, installing the sprinkler heads and performing those pesky final adjustments.

Earlier in the month at our regularly scheduled Cottage Work Day, Bill & Lynette Haaga spent a hot Saturday morning shoring up the fence around The Cottage. Flanked on both sides by new (straight) white picket fences, the Cottage fence was showing its age as well as the effects of twelve hours submerged in salt water. Adding additional 2x4 braces, fixing broken pickets and rolling on a fresh new coat of white paint has made all the difference. Maintenance never ends!

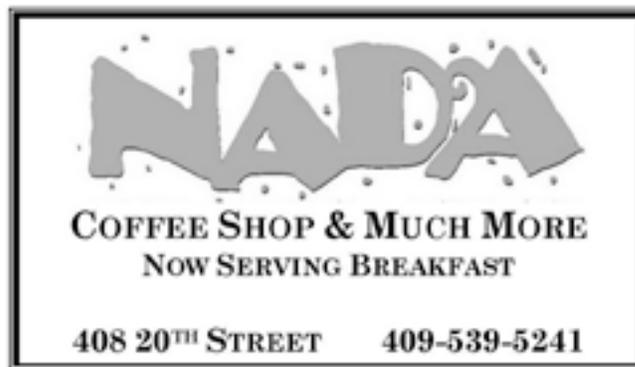


Coffee at The Cottage Restarts in October

Lynette Haaga

Our monthly Coffee at The Cottage get-together will take a break during the hot summer months and restart again this fall. Originally set up about two

years ago, our regular Saturday morning coffees were started when members began asking for another social gathering during the Block Party off-season. Always ready to find an excuse to eat good food and have a good time together, Coffee at The Cottage was born! East Enders take turns bring breakfast treats to share, and there have been some outstanding and unusual goodies like Paul Evans' made to order Ziploc Bag Omelets, Wayne Cox's Puffy Apple Pancake, and some of the best different kinds of homemade muffins you have probably ever eaten. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this such a fun event from the get-go! Watch for our start-up date in your October newsletter this fall. The coffee pot will be on!



Important Contact Information

Galveston Police – Non Emergency 409-765-3702

Galveston Police – Officer Annie Almendarez
409 765-3616 (office)
281 460-4534 (cell)
aalmendarez@cityofgalveston.org

City Council District 3 – Elizabeth Beeton
409-692-0698 elizabethbeeton@comcast.net

Code Enforcement – need address & short description of complaint

City planningcounter@cityofgalveston.org

GHF mattfarragher@galvestonhistory.org

GAIN Ralph@LtBlender.com

Storm Drain Problems – publicworks@cityofgalveston.org

Report Streetlights Out (8am-5pm M-F)
409-765-4165 (Must get number off pole and an address or street corner location)

Report Abandoned Cars on City Streets
409-765-3702 (Must get exact location plus car make, color, & license #)

EEHDA Officers:

president@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org
secretary@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org
treasurer@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org
visit our website at www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org or
leave comments in our box at 1501 Postoffice St.

EEHDA Membership

Special thanks to our New Regular, Sponsor and SAFE members:

Fran, Martin & David Kelly
 Nancy Maser
 Kayla Gaddis
 Paul & Shannon Evans
 Susan Dingle & David Hill
 Jaimi Douthit & Bill Nealon
 Kara Kincaid

Special thanks to our newest Lifetime member:
 David Bowers

Special thanks to our Business members:
 Mosquito Café
 Sand 'n Sea Properties

Special thanks to our Sponsor members:
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SAFE REPORT

JANUARY – MARCH 2011

	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
Arrest Felony			1	1
Arrest Misdemeanor	1			1
Call for Service	11	6	6	23
Citizen Contact	42	27	24	93
Disturbance		2	1	3
Noise Complaint/Citations/Warning	1			1
Parking Citations	3	35	29	67
Patrol Assists	4	10	6	20
Periodic Home Check	8	8	7	23
Suspicious Person/Vehicle checked	2	2	2	6
Traffic Citations/Warning			6	6
TOTALS	72	90	82	244
1st QUARTER MAN HOURS	45.5	44.0	40.5	130.0

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Block Party Season in Full Swing

Lynette Haaga

Welcome rain showers had us reschedule our May Block Party to the following evening, but for some reason no one really seemed to mind since we needed that rain so much! East Enders enjoyed another delicious spread with meatballs, fried chicken, casseroles, meatloaf, salads, and as always some great desserts to choose from. Thanks to everyone who juggled their schedules to come out for Friday night, and to all of you who helped with set-up and tear down too.

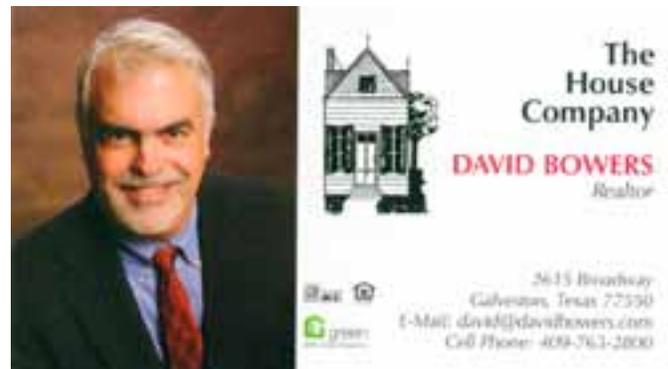
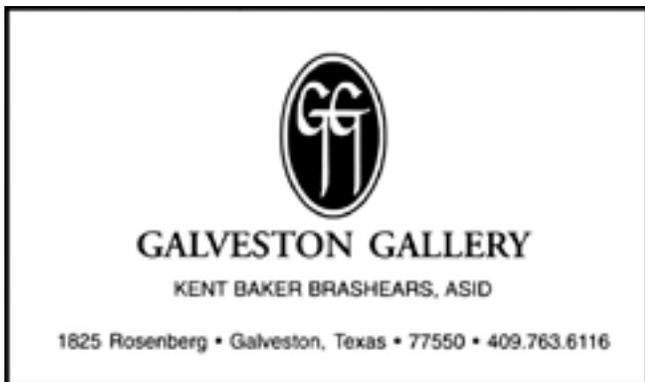
Partygoers were met by the sight of a giant inflatable movie screen as they arrived in the back yard of The Cottage! Thanks to Kitty Allen (of Galveston Flash Mob fame) for loaning us the screen and projector for our Cinema Under the Stars showing of "Indiana Jones and the Temple of the Crystal Skull". Those that stayed late for the movie munched on popcorn and basked in the cool north breeze that came along shortly after the sun went down. Pranksters in the alley added a little unexpected excitement but all was well in the end, and the Astros could possibly draft a new pitcher if they wanted to although the throw was low and to the inside.

Martin Buckley won our raffle prize of a \$50.00 gift card at the new Downtown Blooms florist on 23rd Street, and we thank owners Lee Sontag and Brad Cardenas for their generosity.

June's Block Party on Friday the 10th features our annual Victor Gustafson Day to honor the history and heritage of our East End Cottage. Members of the Gustafson family have been invited to join us again this year, and you will hear some fascinating stories they have to tell when you sit down with any of them. Victor Gustafson Day is a great opportunity for EEHDA to lead by example in preservation and promotion of a key historic property here in our neighborhood, and also to have a great time together while doing it. See you at the Block Party!



Even with the Block Party postponed, some food still made it to the table in The Cottage.





Dave Schuler and Terry Johnson man the raffle table at the Block Party



Bill and Dave set up the 'big screen' for the outdoor showing of *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. Twenty people stayed late for the movie, a new record for us.



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A bit of rain delayed the party on Thursday, but a good crowd came out for the make-up on Friday.

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 Contact our Membership Chair at eehdamemberchair@hotmail.com
 I would be interested in donating to the EEHDA Casino Night Fundraiser

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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.

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 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip Code: _____ Phone: () _____
 Email: _____
 Member(s) Names: _____

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