



The East End Historical District Association
June 2015

Neighborhood News

EEHDA Board Meets June 4

The EEHDA Board Meeting will convene at 6 p.m., Thursday, June 4, at The Cottage located at 1501 Postoffice. All neighbors and members are welcome to attend.

Cocktails at the Cottage June 12

Toast the summer's start at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 12 at the Cottage, 1501 Postoffice. Please remember to bring suitable hors d'oeuvres.

Secret gardens

EEHDA is looking for special gardens to feature Oct. 3-4 during the East End's annual garden tour. If you'd like your garden to be considered, contact Fran Kelly at (409) 370-2306 or email kellyfran@aol.com. See more information on Page 16.



East End Doors

One of the great pleasures of walking in the East End is taking time to examine the many intricate, handcrafted doors. It's remarkable that so many have survived and that they continue to welcome homeowners and visitors with their special appeal. Victorian architecture is often portrayed as stuffy, prudish or gloomy, but the East End houses are wonderfully diverse and imaginative. See more on caring for historic doors, P. 4-5. Door photos by David Canright

President's Column

3 Cheers for Fran Kelly and Connie Patterson

By Julia Muncaster
President, East End Historic District
Association

I would like to start this month's column by acknowledging the East End Board members and Committee chairs for their time and commitment to our neighborhood.

For those who were unable to join us, we had a wonderful turnout at the cottage for our Cocktail Party on May 15th. Many thanks to Fran Kelly and her committee for decorating and facilitating the evening.

Also, big applause for Connie Patterson and her new fundraising committee. They have some great plans for our beloved neighborhood, the focus being friendship and fundraising. See inside for further details.

Two East End homes have received preservation awards from the City's Landmark Commission: 1601 Ball and 1423 Church. It is wonderful for the City to reward responsibility and stewardship and it is exciting that it is in our district. Marsha has more details inside.

Remember there will not be any board meetings in July and August. I very much look forward to seeing you all in September, if not before.

Please contact me with your ideas and suggestions, (409) 789-1739.
Thank you, Julia



A lively gathering of East End neighbors on May 15 featured cocktails and conversation at the Cottage.

Sealy Repaving Finally Underway

Work is now underway to replace the storm drains and repave the roadway surface on Sealy between 13th Street and 19th Street. As a part of this project, new storm drain inlets will be added along Sealy at 13th, 15th, and 16th Streets.

Construction activity is anticipated to take place from now through mid-July. Parking along Sealy within the construction zone will not be permitted. Partial roadway closures and traffic detours should be anticipated.

For information on this project, contact Trina Jankowski, at [\(409\) 797-3966](tel:4097973966) or email jankowskitri@cityofgalveston.org.

Expect Delays Due to New Gas Line

Texas Gas Service has begun installation of a new natural gas pipeline that will run from 59th Street and Harborside Drive to Holiday Drive (4th Street). Work will continue through October with crews working from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. five days a week. The four-mile, 8-inch pipeline will provide additional natural gas service to the University of Texas Medical Branch.

There are no planned service outages to customers during the construction, but residents can expect single lane closures and other traffic delays on Harborside and Old Port Industrial Road between 59th and 4th Streets. For additional information, contact Christy Penders, Communications Manager for Texas Gas Service, at [\(512\) 731-5931](tel:5127315931), or www.texasgasservice.com.

Landmark Commission Honors East End Homes

Two of the preservation awards presented by the City's Landmark Commission recognized restoration work in the East End. Honorees are Connie and Jeffrey Patterson for the 1890 Victorian at 1601 Ball and Dawn and Thomas Wilson for their rehabilitation of 1423 Church. New owners Damon Landry and Robin Hilsabeck were also acknowledged. The Pattersons have done extensive renovation including reopening enclosed porches. The work was guided by historic photographs. Contractor Brian Bludworth and A. Matali and Son were also recognized.

Confused by Pay-by-Phone Parking?

If you're trying to park downtown or on the Seawall, you may need help with the new procedure. You can download the app or get more information on your Smart phone at <https://paybyphone.com/mobile-apps/>. Many downtown merchants are willing to help. Hey Mikey's Ice Cream on Postoffice is especially accommodating.



Scenic Upgrade -- Neighbor Amy Adams Strunk, pictured above, and her husband, Bill, have completed work on a beautiful Herringbone brick sidewalk at their house on the corner of Ball and 14th Street. The walk is constructed of antique Chicago brick on pavers.



Connie and contractor Brian Bludworth.

Caring for Historic Doors

Jhonny Langer is a preservation specialist who knows his 19th century doors. He just completed work restoring the magnificent doors at Bishop's Palace, and he shared some tips on caring for historic doors.

Question: How do you know if your door needs to be restored or just cleaned up? How do you do it?

Langer: Structurally- If your historic door is not shutting properly or is sagging, its possible the mortise and tenon has begun to pull apart. You can check this by removing the door and laying it flat. Look on the sides of the door and you will see where tenon comes through the door and is set with a sliver of wood called the Key. Place a little glue (optional) in the crevice and clamp the door and bring the door back together. Reset the key or create a new key if it's missing- this holds the stile and rail together. **Do not** try to screw the door together. It's not meant to have screws. This will slowly ruin the door.

Finish wise- keep a good coating on door to protect wood. Good Clear finishes include tung oil or UV varnish. Do not use polyurethane. This is a hard coating and will eventually compromise the life span of the door. Good opaque paint always helps the exterior. Interior finishes will most likely be shellac.

Question: What if your home's exterior door has been painted and you want to bring back the original wood?

Langer: Use a good green or enzyme-based stripper.



Question: Let's say your door has scratches and imperfections. How do you clean them up?

Langer: It depends on the finish coat. Deep scratches need to be filled and repainted. If it's a transparent finish you need to call a professional. Light scratches might just need a new transparent or paint finish after a light sanding.

Question: In the East End when these houses were being built -- particularly 1880's until just post storm - - what were the doors built from and what's the proper way to handle their cleaning?

Langer: Fir and Long leaf pine. Typically people shellacked and waxed their doors or painted them.

>

Question: Where did these doors come from?

Langer: Most were made by local craftsmen. Sometime after 1900, they were factory made.

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Adorable: These are examples of spectacular doors in the neighborhood. Did you know that the district's guidelines include doors? A few treatments to avoid: burglar bars on the front door, louvered metal front doors and glass storm doors atop a historic front door. Basically, don't cover doors up, and if possible, use stain rather than paint.

Langer's business is Source Historical Services at 1201 Avenue M; phone is 832-277-5056. Several neighbors have had a positive interaction with The Wet Door Refurbishing Co. in Houston. They come to the Island and refinish the doors. Phone is [713-515-9132](tel:713-515-9132); at www.happydoors.com. Photos by David Carright

How Low Should It Go? Noise Ordinance Tops GAIN Discussion

By Jonathon Tromm
Galveston Police Capt. Byron Frankland and Sgt. Jonathon Coward answered questions on the city's noise ordinance at the April 15 GAIN meeting.

The current allowed threshold is 85db, about the noise of a loud lawn mower. Wedding receptions are a common source of complaints in residential neighborhoods. The city council is considering lowering the threshold to be in line with cities like Houston, which is 65db in the daytime and 58db after 10 p.m.

Discussion of the noise ordinance continued at the May 20 meeting with neighborhoods out west in favor of lowering the threshold to Houston's level. In town there is

a mix of opinions with many neighbors wanting to lower the threshold to match Houston, others wanting to lower it by half, and some who wish to keep it as is.

It is not clear if there is an age bias or if some people want to be able to mow their lawn in the middle of the night, perhaps to combat insomnia or just to wake up their neighbors.

It appears that GAIN will be involved in the second round of the Community Bioethics Dialogue to be conducted by UTMB to augment last year's study. GAIN meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 1501 Post Office. EEHDA members are welcome to attend. <https://www.gaingalveston.com/>

June 27: ELISSA Plankowner's Party, Auction

The 2015 Plankowners' Syndicate Party and Auction gets underway at Galveston Historical Foundation's Texas Seaport Museum at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 27. Reservations are \$70 per person for open seating, and reserved tables for eight are \$650. Reservations are encouraged and may be made online at www.galvestonhistory.org.

"The 2015 Plankowners' dinner and auction will be an exciting summer event," says Dwayne Jones, Galveston Historical Foundation's Executive Director.

"It's a time to meet others interested in maritime history in Galveston and support the continued restoration of the 19th century tall ship ELISSA."

This annual fundraising event is chaired by the EEHDA's Deanna Johnson.

The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine during the silent auction, a buffet dinner, and an exciting live auction. All proceeds benefit ELISSA and the educational programs of the Texas Seaport Museum. Auction highlights include four nights in California's Sonoma wine country; six nights in Playa Herradura, Costa Rica and seven days in Croatia.

The annual fundraiser helps to support the maintenance and day sails of the 1877 ELISSA, which was restored to sailing condition in 1982 and named as the Official Tall Ship of Texas. Please join ELISSA's crew and supporters in celebrating her history.

The 2015 Plankowners' Party offers the public the opportunity to join the Plankowners Syndicate II. By joining with the purchase of a plank, you can earn your place in the history of the ship. Each plank donation honors the purchaser by recording their name on ELISSA's honor board.

Texas Seaport Museum founded the ELISSA Plankowners' Syndicate in 1980 to honor a special group of donors. Through in-kind and cash contributions, individuals and businesses purchased planks for ELISSA's decks. The sale of the final plank inspired a new opportunity for the sale of 318 iron hull plates and Hullplate Owners joined the syndicate. The event is now open to the public.



Photo by David Canright

ABOUT THE 1877 ELISSA

Named the Official Tall Ship of Texas in 2005 by the Texas Legislature, ELISSA is one of three 19th-century iron square-riggers that continues to sail.

Built in 1877 in Aberdeen, Scotland, the vessel boasts a 90-year commercial history during which she carried cargoes to ports around the world, including Galveston. A National Historic Landmark and a fully functional sailing vessel, ELISSA has achieved her place in history by sailing in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

Abandoned as a freighter in Piraeus Harbor, Greece, ELISSA was rescued in the 1970s by preservationists. Following restoration, she is part of the museum's permanent exhibit and a popular tourist attraction. When not sailing, ELISSA is open for tours at the Texas Seaport Museum, located at Pier 22, off Harborside Drive in downtown Galveston.

For more information on the 2015 Plankowners' Syndicate Party & Auction, contact **Deanna Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator, at 409-765-3435;** deanna.johnson@galvestonhistory.org or visit www.galvestonhistory.org.

	Roberto Jesus and Gloria Torres
	1401 Church Street Galveston, Texas 77550 Phone (409) 621-1764 Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9-5

Monday 1st

Cooking Class at Kitchen Chick: Plant-based BBQ. 6:30 -9:30 p.m., 528 23rd St., 409-497-2999. \$55 per person. Chef Stephanie Evans will teach you fun, delicious plant-based alternatives to traditional BBQ fare! Learn to make crunchy roasted BBQ chickpeas, a creamy dairy and gluten free classic mac & cheese, a nutrient rich kaleslaw that kicks regular coleslaw to the curb.

<http://www.thekitchenchick.com/>

Street Cleaning. If you want the street swept in front of your house, and you live on the south or west side of the street, today is the day to move your car. Cleaning for even addresses is the first Monday of the month.

Tuesday 2nd

Full Moon Labyrinth Walk. Moody Methodist Labyrinth. 2803 53rd. Each walk begins about 8:45 p.m. This magnificent labyrinth is a replica of the original Chartres design in France. The labyrinth is a powerful process tool, which has the capacity to open people in a supportive way to the deeper dimensions of human experience.

Phone: (409) 744-4526

Thursday 4th

EEHDA Board Meeting. 6 p.m. The Cottage, 1501 Postoffice.

Friday 5th

Craft Beer Weekend 101. The Tremont House, 2300 Mechanic. Designed for those new to the art of Craft Beer, even seasoned ale lovers will be drawn to this weekend event designed for tasting, sampling and learning. Locally owned Galveston Island Brewing Company lead guests through the basics and differences of craft beer, the art of making beer and beer pairings with food. Limited registration begins at \$299 and includes accommodations for two nights, valet parking, Friday craft beer talk and tasting and Saturday brewery tour and beer pairing dinner. For information, contact: www.thetremonthouse.com

Turtle Patrol. 6-7 p.m. Galveston Island State Park. 14901 FM 3005. Meet at the day park area. You can become a citizen scientist, and help the park to understand more about the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, an endangered species that nests in Galveston Island State Park. Free with Park Entry Fee \$5; no charge under age 13. For information, contact Lisa.Reznicek@tpwd.texas.gov. (409)737-1222.

Illustration Fridays, 4 – 6 p.m., Galveston Arts Center, 2501 Market St. Every first and third Friday, drop in for a casual, open-studio session. An artist-volunteer will introduce the Illustration Friday topic (a one-word creative prompt) and each person picks up pencil or brush and responds. www.galvestonartscenter.org

Live Music: Bill Staines. Old Quarter Acoustic Café, 413 20th St. Over the decades, you have heard Bill singing on A Prairie Home Companion, on the HBO series Deadwood, and Public Radio's Mountain Stage. Cash only. For reservations email: wrecks@wt.net or call 409-762-9199 or 409-795-7777.

Saturday 6th

Bishop's Palace Basement to Attic Tour. 11-12:30 p.m., 1402 Broadway. The Basement to Attic tour of the 1892 Bishop's Palace offers you a rare look to areas of the home normally off limits. By reservation. \$30 per person. www.galvestonhistory.org.

June 2015

Events Calendar

Saturday 6th

Texas Outdoor Family Weekend. Through Sunday, June 7. Galveston Island State Park, 14901 FM 3005. Bring your family and learn more about camping in Texas State Parks. Basic gear and equipment for an overnight stay is provided. Individual car camping sites are provided with potable water, electricity, restrooms with hot showers. Classes in building a base camp, fire building, outdoor cooking, kayaking, beach walks and fishing. \$65. (409) 737-1222. Lisa.Reznicek@tpwd.texas.gov. www.galveston.com/galvestonislandstatepark/

Live jazz. 5 – 10 p.m. Galvez Bar & Grill at Hotel Galvez, 2024 Seawall. Jazz Duo Reg and Cary. No charge. (409)765-7721.

Movie Night on the Strand: Jaws, 7 p.m. Saengerfest Park, 2300 Strand. Bring chairs or blankets. Free. <http://www.galveston.com/saengerfestpark/>

Live Music. Bands on the Sand: Intercoastal Pirates. 6-10 p.m. Moody Gardens, Palm Beach. 1 Hope Blvd; (800) 582-4673. www.moodygardens.com

Sunday 7th

23rd Annual Juneteenth Scholarship Gala. 7 p.m. Old Cultural Center, 2627 Avenue M. Young Ladies ages 17 to 22 will compete for scholarships and prizes. Winner will be crowned Miss Juneteenth Ambassador. Contestants are judged on an oral presentation of their aspirations; a creative talent; formal wear and a question and answer session. Contact: Dorothy Brown (409)762-0063 or Archie Ruth DeClout (409)765-6120 \$15 adults; \$7.50 children.

Live Music on East Beach. 3-6 p.m. Far east tip of Galveston Island. Grab your beach gear and head to the island's party beach for a free, live concert series every Sunday throughout the summer. <http://www.galveston.com/eastbeach/calendar/>



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Monday 8th

Rosenberg Library Palm Beach Swim Party. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Moody Gardens Palm Beach, 1 Hope Blvd. Celebrate the start of Summer Reading Club with Rosenberg Library at Moody Gardens Palm Beach! This event is FREE for summer readers and their families. Have a blast and sign up for Summer Reading Club. For information, see: <http://www.rosenberg-library.org/>

Tuesday 9th

Al Edwards Juneteenth Banquet. 7 p.m. Old Cultural Center, 2627 Avenue M. "Come on Home Where It All Began" highlights the history of Juneteenth and its importance to our community and heritage. Former State Rep. Al Edwards, Old Central Board President Ennis Williams and UTMB started this banquet 19 years ago. Banquet Sponsorships: \$350, \$500, and \$1,000. Individual Tickets \$35. **For information, Pete Henley (409)392-0317 or Douglas Matthews (409)747-2791.**

Wednesday 10th

Hotel Galvez 104 Anniversary. 12-1 p.m. Hotel Galez and Spa, 2024 Seawall. In celebration of the hotel's anniversary, dinner guests that evening will also enjoy a complimentary dessert with their meal. The public is invited to browse the hotel's Hall of History which is located on the lower level and is a permanent exhibit at the property. Advance reservations are recommended. Reservations can be made by calling (409) 515-2145 or go to www.opentable.com...

Thursday 11th

City Council Meeting, 1 p.m. City Hall, Council Chambers, 823 Rosenberg. (409) 797-3510.

Surfrider Foundation Meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. MOD Coffee Shop, 2126 Postoffice. Galveston Chapter is a group of local activists who educate and encourage events and outreach for a better coast. For more information, contact:

VolunteerCoordinator@galveston.surfrider.org

Friday 12th

The EEHDA will host a cocktail party to toast summer's arrival. 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Cottage, 1501 Postoffice. Please remember to bring suitable hors d'oeuvres.

Live Music: The Relics. Bands on the Sands. 6-10 p.m. Moody Gardens, Palm Beach. 1 Hope Blvd; (800) 582-4673. www.moodygardens.com

150th Juneteenth Celebration

This is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Galveston Island and the Juneteenth Coalition remember this holiday with a series of celebrations held June 13-21. Festivities include the annual Gospel by the Sea, a scholarship gala, African-American Heritage Exhibits at the Old Central Cultural Center, book signings, and the Juneteenth Picnic, and more. For more information on dozens of events, contact **Douglas Matthews (409)747-2791.**

Saturday 13th

African American History: Importance and Reflection. 10 a.m. Galveston Historical Foundation, 1861 Customs House, 502 20th St. Two speakers bring a historical perspective to Juneteenth. Speakers are: Deborah Mack, National Museum of African American History; and Caleb Daniels, Rice University Department of History. Free. www.galvestonhistory.org

Beach Exploration. 10-11:15 a.m. Galveston Island State Park. 14901 FM 3005. Hunt for island treasures with park volunteers. Exploration hikes start at the park's Nature Center, located on the bay side of the park. Get a close-up look at the many critters that inhabit the sand, surf and seaweed. With guidance of Friends of Galveston Island State Park volunteers. For information, email: Lisa.Reznicek@tpwd.texas.gov

Birding 101. 9-11 a.m. Moody Gardens, 1 Hope Blvd. Presented by Moody Gardens and Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council, Birding 101 is a series of free classes designed to educate people about the tremendous variety of bird life on Galveston Island. Meet at the Aquarium Pyramid lobby. **(800) 582-4673.**

Wedding vows. Couples renew their vows as part of a mass ceremony held on the grounds of the historic Hotel Galvez, officiated by a Galveston Justice of the Peace. Following the ceremony, couples are invited to a reception hosted by the hotel. Participating couples have the option to book a weekend getaway or simply participate in the courtesy ceremony. Advance reservations are required. You may book online at www.hotelgalvez.com or call **(409) 765-7721.**

African American Museum Juneteenth Family & Friends Festival, 12 noon to 8 p.m. Kermit Courville Stadium Parking Lot, 27th & Avenue L. No charge. **For vendor rental space, contact: James Josey (409)497-6963.**

Juneteenth at Jack Johnson Park: "The Heart of A Champion." 12 noon to 5 p.m. Old Cultural Center Auditorium, 2627 Avenue M. Veteran boxing manager and historian Bob Spagnola will discuss the "sweet science" and show videos of several world champions. Photos will be taken in Jack Johnson Park. The park honors Johnson who was born in Galveston on March 31, 1878. He was the first African American to win the world Heavyweight Boxing Championship. Contact Douglas Matthews (409)747-2791.

Music Night on the Strand: The Last Dragons. 6-9 p.m. Saengerfeset Park, 2300 Strand. Free. www.galveston.com/saengerfestpark/

Sunday 14th

St. Vincent House 14th Annual Gospel by the Sea Benefit Concert, Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. St Vincent House: **Rev. Freda Marie Brown or Linda Cole at (409)763-8521.** Free but donations accepted.

An Evening with Travis Tritt. 7 p.m., Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. One of the most acclaimed musical artists of his era, Travis Tritt incorporates lifelong influences in honky-tonk, Southern Rock, blues and gospel into his country sound. During his career, Tritt has sold more than 25 million albums. Admission: \$25 to \$65. (409) 765-1894. <http://www.thegrand.com>

Monday 15th

Street cleaning is today for those who live on the south or west side of the street with an odd number address. Move your car if you want the street in front of your house swept.

Wednesday 17th

Freeman author Leonard Pitts will deliver a lecture as a visiting author of the Galveston Reads annual selection. 7 p.m., Galveston College, Siebel Center, 4015 Avenue Q. For information, call (409) 944-4242.

Friday 19th

36th Annual Al Edwards Juneteenth Prayer Breakfast. 8:30 a.m. Ashton Villa, 2328 Broadway. The Emancipation Proclamation will be read to commemorate the historic event that occurred in Galveston on June 19, 1865. Contact: Douglas Matthews (409)747-2791

Million Dollar Quartet. 8 p.m. 1894 Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Electrifying Tony Award-winning Broadway musical is the true story of a famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time. (409) 765-1894. <http://www.thegrand.com>

Saturday 20th

GHF Juneteenth Community Concert. 6-10 p.m. Saengerfest Park, 2300 Strand, Historically, the first formal celebrations of Emancipation were celebrated in the public square. Live music. www.galvestonhistory.org

International Surf Day, 7 a.m. Join members of Surfrider Foundation for a light beach cleanup and breakfast tacos; 51st and Seawall. <http://www.galvestonsurfrider.com>

Million Dollar Quartet. 3 pm and 8pm. 1894 Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. This is an electrifying Tony Award-winning Broadway musical. See description above. Admission: \$22-\$88. (409) 765-1894. <http://www.thegrand.com>

Great Texas Catamaran Race. South Padre to Galveston. The Great Texas Catamaran Race is one of the premier long distance beach cat races in the country. <http://www.greattexas300.com>

Monday 22st

Film: Rescue in the Philippines. 2:30 – 3:30. Watch a short film for kids about real heroes who helped Jews escape Nazi Germany and immigrate to the Philippines. Snacks and a discussion with producer Barbara Sasser. Registration required at www.rosenberg-library.org

Saturday 27th

Plankowners Syndicate and Auction. Texas Seaport Museum. This annual fundraising event features a silent auction, a buffet dinner, and auction. All proceeds benefit ELISSA and the programs of the Texas Seaport Museum. www.galvestonhistory.org

Monday 29th

Happy Birthday Henry Rosenberg. 2:30 – 4:30. Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy. Dance party with a D.J. www.rosenberg-library.org

Commercial use in residential historic districts still undecided

Commercial use of meeting halls and private parties for rent under the title of "place of private assembly" is allowed throughout the residential historic districts, in the current LDR ordinance. It is prohibited in all other residential districts.

The historic district associations had asked that this commercial use not be permitted in our residential neighborhoods. This concerns whether commercial businesses should be allowed throughout our residential neighborhoods. This change failed at the city council meeting on May 14th, perhaps due to a lack of attendance by residents of the historic districts.

It will be considered again by the city council at 1 p.m. on May 28th. Residents concerned about the negative impact of additional parking competition on our neighborhood streets and noise from this type of commercial enterprise are advised to contact city council members and attend the May 28 city council meeting.

The sign ordinance is under scrutiny with a moratorium on new digital signs. There are widespread complaints about brightness and about garishness. Residents should let city council know your opinion. – By Jonathon Tromm

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Galveston: Where Juneteenth Began 150 Years Ago

By DAVID CANRIGHT

In the years after the close of the Civil War, the 4th of July was celebrated more enthusiastically by Galveston's black citizens than by its whites. The founding of the nation that Texas had fought to withdraw from – at so great a cost -- was of no great interest to Southern whites.

Blacks here could celebrate a nation founded on the idea of freedom, a freedom that now included them. But the main celebration in Galveston's Black community was, and has been for 150 years, Juneteenth.

Juneteenth, now an official state holiday, commemorates June 19th, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger, newly arrived in Galveston with his occupying army, circulated General Order No. 3 stating unequivocally "all slaves are free." It was the last place in the former Confederacy to put emancipation into effect.

"Anyone who celebrates freedom should celebrate Juneteenth," said Sam Collins III, the Galveston Daily News' Citizen of the Year and committeeman for this year's 150th Juneteenth festivities.



The proclamation reaches the South where a family of slaves receives news of their emancipation. Bettmann / Corbis

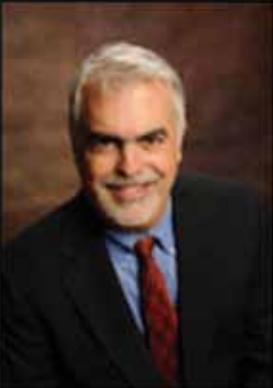
No social or individual transformation is easy, and none may have been more uneasy, or joyful, than the abrupt change many Texans experienced when they were suddenly declared free men and women--no longer someone else's property. The old order was gone, and a new one had to be invented.

The Emancipation Proclamation had been issued fully a year and a half before, but had no effect as long as Texas did not consider itself part of the United States, and the news of it had not been widely circulated. The war had ended on April 9, 1865, but Lincoln's assassination less than a week later cast even greater uncertainty as to the conditions that would evolve in its aftermath.

The order enforcing Emancipation by an occupying general, with the weight of a victorious Union behind it, was met with understandable jubilation by the formerly enslaved citizens of Galveston. The order was no doubt greeted with relief by most whites here as well, who with some certainty as to how things were going to be, could get back to business.

And prospects for business were good. The port city of Galveston was uniquely positioned at the close of the Civil War to adapt and thrive in the wake of so profound a social upheaval. Though trade had been disrupted by the Union blockade, causing hunger and want, fortunes had also been made, and the demand for cotton was greater than ever.

In her book "Galveston, Island of Color; Where Juneteenth Started," Izola Collins, a music educator and one time president of the Galveston Independent School District, writes:



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Juneteenth continued “Where it all began.”

“As an international port in the latter 19th century, Galveston was the initiator, the source, the parent of much of civilization as it became known in the South.”

Galveston shared with all seaports a vibrant culture of the coming together of people from disparate, distant places—ambitious and hopeful people who were ready to do business in a new world. That sense of opportunity and possibility had largely—though not entirely—been denied the city’s Black residents, but it was in the atmosphere they breathed, and with emancipation came the opportunity to share in it.

The city was diverse, and compact by the nature of its geography. People of all stations and races and nationalities were in daily contact, interacting and necessarily tolerant. Racism and xenophobia were not absent, of course, but with the sudden removal of the fundamental relationship of owner and enslaved, and the needs of business, it was held in check.

The color line remained firmly in place. Though not yet segregated geographically, there was little or no sense of social equality on the island. Just because they could no longer be bought and sold did not make Blacks any less the “other” in most Southern white eyes. For the next 100 years, they must build and maintain their own parallel society.

Fortunately, there was already in place a structure of religious congregations that served to bind together communities of the faithful.

These included Reedy Chapel AME, which, if it was not the site of the first reading of General Granger’s order, was the site of the first mass celebration of it by more than 800 people on January 1, 1866.

Together, these congregations formed the core of Black social life in Galveston—one that fostered hope, uplift and education.

Galveston’s situation as a major seaport, with a vast and productive agricultural hinterland, led to another development.

It became the home of the largest Black industrial working class in the South. There was plenty of work along the docks. Profit in this stage of the process depended on stuffing, or “jamming,” the maximum amount of cotton possible into each ship’s hold, especially in loading cotton bales onto ships that would take it to British textile mills.

Blacks were good at this, but it took the organizing efforts of Norris Wright Cuney, to create the Cotton-jammers’ Union as an alternative to the white union, who were on strike. Cuney held out for equal pay with whites, and thereafter the two crews alternated loading ships.

The existence of a well-paid working class made possible the development of a Black middle class, supporting businesses from barbers to funeral homes, and generations of educators devoted to the highest standards of learning in the still-segregated schools.

This was the community in which Juneteenth became an annual celebration. Doug Matthews, who grew up in Galveston and served as city manager for 11 years, remembers Juneteenth as a high point in community life when he was a child in the 1950s and 60s.

“There were parades, barbeque, red soda water, parties in people’s yards and at Wright Cuney Park, and at the Seawall. It was a family day,” said Matthews.

Celebrations spread throughout the South, and with the second Great Migration to the industrial centers in the North and West, the holiday was carried throughout the country. 150 years is a major anniversary, and this one is well worth celebrating, especially here in Galveston “where it all began.”



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How You Can Help to Care for & Control the Feral Cat Population

There is some concern among East End residents about new city ordinances designed to keep individuals from feeding feral cats. That's not exactly the intent of the ordinances. A new effort is underway to humanely care for and reduce the population of feral cats. Caroline Dorsett-Pate, Executive Director of the Galveston Island Humane Society explains.

1. People can feed cats on their own property. A colony is considered 5 plus cats. There will be a process to register with the city, probably through the shelter. An individual who so desires can maintain the colony and will be provided the guidelines for the program. All cats should be spayed or neutered, either by the individual or through the Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program.

2. What is TNR? Trap-Neuter-Return has been shown to be an effective way to stabilize feral cat populations. Cats are humanely trapped and brought to local clinics to be altered, vaccinated, and the left ear notched to indicate that the cat has been altered, then they are returned to their previous territory. What's different? No more kittens. Their lives are improved; the population stabilizes and naturally declines. Behaviors associated with mating such as yowling, fighting and spraying subside.

3. What veterinarians are participating? If a person has a feral cat, they can contact their vet clinic or the clinic closest to them. All island veterinary clinics are participating and most do surgeries Monday through Friday. Discuss with the vet what the best days to attempt to trap the cat and take it in for spay/neuter.

4. How do I access the program? Go to any local vet clinic and fill out shelter paperwork. There is no charge for the program, but donations are gratefully accepted. If you do not have a trap, you can request one from the city. There may be a short waiting list as many traps are out. For people who cannot handle the trap with a cat, Animal Services officers will pick up the trap, deliver it to the clinic, and return the cat when ready. The ACO's are onboard with this program.

5. What if a cat is sick? Cats who appear to be sick can be tested at the discretion of the doctor. If they test positive for FIV/FELV, they will be euthanized to prevent the spread of the disease.



Feral kitten from Church Street whose mother died. Now a

6. What if a cat is pregnant? Pregnant cats will also be spayed as long as it does not present a danger to the cat. Cats can be spayed or neutered when they are two months or older.

7. How many can be brought to the vet at one time? That will depend on how many surgeries the vet can handle. Contact your participating clinic for the answer to that question.

8. How can I take responsibility? We need people to be involved to make the Trap, Neuter, & Release program work. If you have cats that you are feeding now, whether it is in your own back yard or on an abandoned lot, you need to start the process of getting them registered and fixed. Our goal is to have the paperwork side of things up and running by June 1st.



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East End Yard of the Month: 1601 Ball

The Yard of the Month for June belongs to Connie and Jeff Patterson who are painstakingly restoring 1601 Ball Street.

Connie designed the garden herself and as spring turns to summer, the yard is bursting with color and blooms.

"I felt the ground floor was hard and dry looking so I was looking for an upright evergreen to use against the house and a yard to soften the façade," she said.

She selected Lil Gems Magnolias – full of color and texture -- to achieve that end. The flowerbeds were

existing but have been reshaped and defined with a brick border.

"I use the corner bed as the focal point and the other beds to compliment it, keeping a now and later show of color in mind. Once the early spring blooms are over, the geraniums and potato vines will carry the color through the hot summer months," she said.

Connie uses a liquid fertilizer every two weeks and pinches back any spent blooms or leaves to encourage new growth. Her favorite plants are agapanthus and foxtail ferns for texture and evergreen.

"We are currently working on the back and side yards and hope to be completed in about three months," she said.

The plan is to take down the fence along 16th and bring those gardens into the fold, she said. Stay tuned.

Connie and Jeff moved to the East End from Houston in July 2013 and immediately began restorations to transition the home from a bed & breakfast to a single-family residence. Photo by David Canright.



Advertise in the East End Newsletter

Your advertising sponsorship not only helps support the East End neighborhood but it helps you reach an interested, engaged audience for your product or service.

Each month approximately 250 copies of The East End Neighborhood News are produced. These newsletters are mailed in a custom envelope to each of our paid member subscribers, with the balance of issues distributed to new residents of the East End, City of Galveston Council Members, Managers of City of Galveston Departments, Galveston area Civic Associations as well as Galveston's Rosenberg Library.

Here are descriptions and prices for our advertising opportunities with an ordering form. Let us hear from you. You'll be glad you did. If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at any time. My cell number is 713-291-7043 and my home is 409-770-0612. Or you can reach me via email at advertising@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org. I look forward to working with you. – Julia Muncaster, EEHDA President



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Membership in The East End Historical Association is Important & Fun!

“EEHDA is a diverse community of people who share a passion for our neighborhood’s rich heritage. We look forward to you joining us.”
– Julia Muncaster, President

Become a member of The East End Historical District Association. Your membership supports a wide variety of services and programs dedicated to neighborhood improvement and historic preservation. Without your active membership and participation The EEHDA cannot grow or survive.

Our Board of Directors holds regular neighborhood meetings at The Cottage, 1501 Postoffice, beginning at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. Meetings are open to all members and visitors to the district.

Membership is open to everyone but only resident EEHDA members are allowed to hold office or vote at meetings.

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 to the extent provided by Section 170 of the code.



East End Historical District Association

MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join, fill out this form and send, with a payment, to: EEHDA, PO Box 2424. Galveston, Texas 77553

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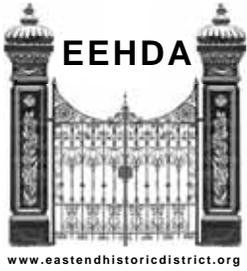
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Check here if you would like to have your newsletter emailed to you. This helps the EEHDA devote more funds to its mission, less to postage.



**East End Historical District
Association**

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The mission of The East End

Historical District Association is to preserve, restore and protect its cultural and architectural integrity by promoting education, community activism, fellowship, neighborhood awareness and cultural tourism.

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- Garden Tour Committee

Seeking Glorious Gardens -- This year's garden tour is scheduled for October 3-4 with a rain date the following weekend. The Garden Tour Committee is looking for all types of gardens from container gardens to small, medium and large ones. Anyone wishing to be on the tour needs to let us know as soon as possible. We have two confirmed gardens with a possible third in the works.

The people who tour our gardens are usually looking for ideas that they can incorporate into their own yards. Being able to stroll through different types of gardens is always helpful.

We have many creative gardeners here; what some people have done with their yards is truly inspiring. All homes on the tour are insured by the East End on the days of the tour. Tour hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days.