



East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 40 No. 3

Margaret Hand, Editor

www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org

March 2013

On the Calendar

EEHDA Neighborhood Meeting

March 7th (Thursday)

Refreshments at 5:30, meeting at 6:00
at The Cottage 1501 Postoffice

Casino Night 2013 Set

By Deanna Johnson



Mark your calendars! Casino Night will be held on Saturday, April 27 at the Purity Ice Cream factory at 12th & Postoffice. This year we're putting an exciting spin on the event – we've invited our adjacent neighborhoods to participate! Volunteers from the University Area, San Jacinto and Silk Stocking neighborhoods will work beside us, help sell tickets and contribute silent auction items to help make this year's Casino Night an even bigger success. If you haven't already staked your claim to a volunteer position, email me at dljohnson28@gmail.com. We have two chair vacancies and several dealer and set-up/tear-down positions to fill.

This issue of the President's column focuses on some of the activities stemming from the East End Historical District



Association (EE) meeting Feb 7th, 2013.

The EE "Mission Statement" was adopted and will be displayed in the cottage. It will also appear in EE correspondence and documents when indicated. It is displayed on page 2 for your review.

This year's Casino night party will be held April 27th and once again Ralph and Lynne will be hosting at their facilities. Conducting an event like this is very complicated and time consuming and the EE is greatly indebted to them for their hospitality. Deanna Johnson is chairing this event and will need the help of 35 to 40 volunteers to handle the details. This year the EE is enthusiastically inviting surrounding neighborhoods to participate in full partnership to share in the responsibilities, rewards and FUN. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Details and responsibilities will be outlined in upcoming meetings

PS: Ticket sales drive the success of this event and everyone must be aggressive in that effort.

The "Finance Committee" is the one and only permanent standing committee outlined in the EE By-Laws and is charged with the responsibility of creating a budget. See activity report on page 3

A new Ad Hoc committee "Grounds Committee" has been created and assigned responsibility for establishing policy for care and maintenance of the grounds deeded to the EE. The Cottage grounds, Darragh Park, Alderdice Park along with the Cottage facility are the face of our EE to the outside world and

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must be kept in immaculate condition. See activity report on page 5.

Thanks to Margaret and David you can see the Newsletter continues as usual, however its future is unpredictable. One of the most daunting responsibilities of publishing the newsletter is obtaining articles of interest. The EE is fortunate that Jane Chance has stepped forward and assumed the responsibilities of chairing the new "Newsletter Editorial Board". Contact Jane and her committee members with your ideas. We are currently in the process of identifying someone to manage the layout process which is necessary for preparing the newsletter for print. Other formats for relaying important information to the EE membership are being investigated.

Congratulations to Fran and her committee for hosting a very successful Mardi Gras Brunch at the cottage Feb 9th. A record number of people came to the event and all had a great time. We're already looking forward to next year.

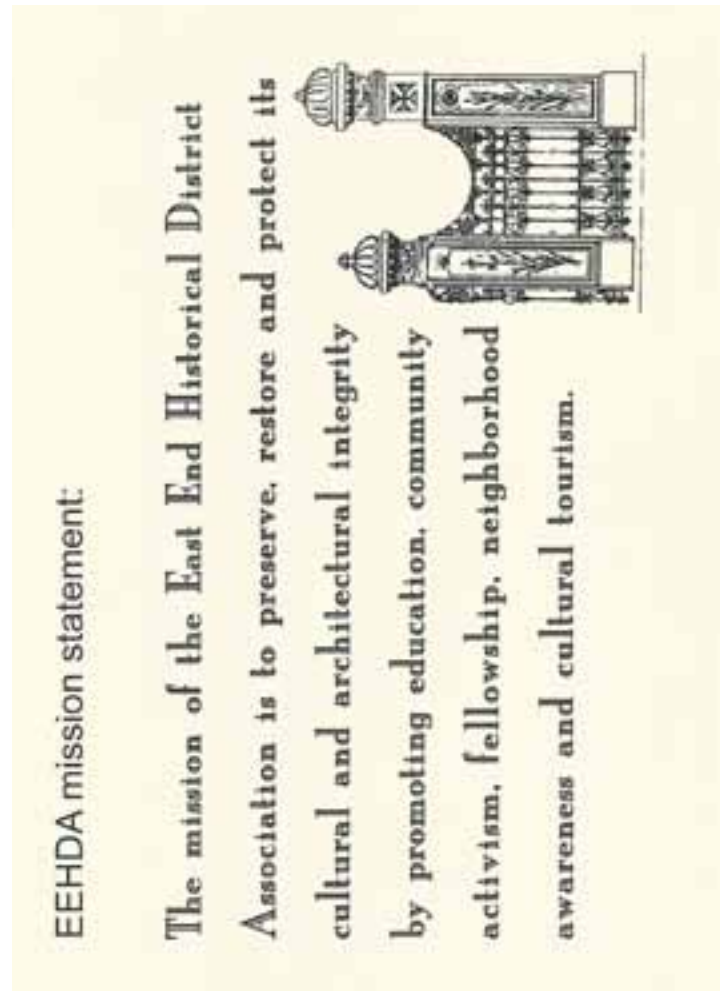
Bill Beveridge was presented with a plaque showing appreciation for the time and effort he dedicated to the EE this past year. He successfully dealt with the challenges of being President of the EE in 2012 and for that he is to be congratulated. Thanks Bill

Plankowners' Party

SAVE THE DATE AND WIN A LUXURY TRIP!

Galveston Historical Foundation's 2013 ELISSA Plankowners' Syndicate Party and Auction will be held on Saturday, June 1 at Texas Seaport Museum. It'll be a great party with plenty to see and do--tour the newly restored ship, check out the reconstructed dock, listen to live music, and drink, dine and bid at the silent and live auctions. This year we're even raffling off a luxury trip for two to "The Castle in the Rockies." Five days/ four nights, including airfare, at The Fairmont Banff Springs hotel in Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada.

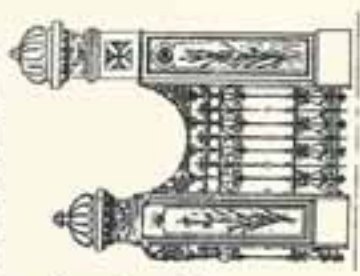
Styled after a Scottish baronial castle, The Fairmont Banff Springs offers a unique blend of opulence and seclusion, stunning vistas, championship golf courses, unparalleled skiing, classic cuisine and a world class European-style spa. Check out the website at www.fairmont.com/banff-springs. Raffle tickets are \$20 each, and you need not be present to win. All proceeds benefit the 1877 Tallship ELISSA. For information and tickets, contact Allison Brown, our EEHDA representative for GHF (allie_brown@comcast.net).



EEHDA mission statement:

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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City Planning Commission Issues

by Councilwoman Elizabeth Beeton

Our historic districts preserve superior building materials and craftsmanship, encourage investment and home ownership, support local laborers and craftspeople, and attract tourists.

Galveston is currently reviewing its land development regulations, with potentially major impact on its historic neighborhoods. Big issues for the East End include the rules governing the demolition of historic houses; the process for expanding historic districts; and parking for businesses.

Current proposals allow the destruction of homes in the city's historic districts on the basis of economic hardship, including the inability to realize a "reasonable rate of return on the property." This has the danger of opening the door for demolition by property owners who have allowed their property to deteriorate or those with connections at City Hall.

The process for expanding the boundaries of a historic district should respect property rights but not create an insurmountable burden. The current draft would accept applications to expand historic districts signed by owners representing 51% of the land area to be added. A better standard would fix the percentage on those who respond to the request: Galveston has a disproportionate amount of rental property and it is impossible to get responses from all property owners.

Another challenge is how to provide convenient parking for corner stores and streets that are home to popular neighborhood services—like 14th Street—without destroying historic houses to create parking lots or inconveniencing neighbors with overflow parking.

David Fortenberry and Jonathan Tromm are attending the Planning Commission meetings on the regulations and will inform you as the proposals take shape. Please plan to comment to the newspaper, the Planning Commission and City Council in support of your neighborhood and your investment.

Finance Committee Report

On Thursday evening, February 14th, the EEHDA Finance Committee convened at the Cottage for its initial meeting. Chaired by Larry Stanley, the committee also includes Mike Box, David Fortenberry, Fran Kelly, Karl Lewis, Jeff Modzelewski, Floyd Pollock, and Jonathan Tromm.

The committee's initial charge is to determine the level of detail in the EEHDA's fiscal transactions provides sufficient information for the proper management of its financial operations. For example, for membership dues revenue, would a single category suffice, or would value be added by segregating this income into the various membership categories? With regard to the newsletter, would a single account suffice, or should we split expenditures into subcategories such as "envelopes," "layout," "postage," and "printing"?

After this information is developed into a Chart of Accounts, the committee's second charge will be to develop a budget for 2013 within this same classificatory framework, so that when actual revenues and expenditures are recorded against budgeted amounts, positive and negative variances between the two can be used to make operational decisions. Is the newsletter becoming cost-prohibitive to produce on a monthly basis? Is the net profit from a special event so small that the volunteer hours now dedicated to it might be used more effectively elsewhere?

One task to be addressed in the future is the transitioning from using a spreadsheet program, such as Microsoft Excel, for financial reporting and analysis to using software specifically written for this purpose, such as Intuit's Quicken or Quickbooks. This transition will be relatively simple to accomplish yet will provide significant benefits in the way of flexibility with which reporting needs can be answered.

The committee has already begun to tackle its first charge, communicating via telephone and e-mails with files attached, and it will meet again in March.



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Bill Beveridge Honored at February Meeting

At last month's meeting, Bill Beveridge was presented with a plaque noting his service to the EEHDA as President for 2012.



Kevin Barrett presents Bill Beveridge with a plaque thanking him for his service.



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Membership By Floyd Pollock

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Gain Report

By Jonathon Tromm

At the GAIN meeting on January 24, officers were elected. Bill Broussard as president, Norman Pappous as vice president, Uli Budelmann as treasurer, Susan Kaboord as secretary. The membership fee was lowered to \$50 in order to encourage smaller neighborhoods to join even though there is concern with funding projects for the year. The website is approved to be upgraded and work will begin immediately and should be completed in two months.

Everybody is encouraged to take the Development Survey on the city website, <http://www.cityofgalveston.org/news/default.cfm?ID=6907>.

There was extensive discussion about the draft LDR review and its importance to neighborhoods and quality of life. The discussion by the Planning Commission of the Land Development Regulations is ongoing. You can watch it on the city's tv channel from the city website, on the right side of the page under "galvestons municipal tv channel", http://www.cityofgalveston.org/administration/public_information_officer/G_TV_Galveston_Channel.cfm

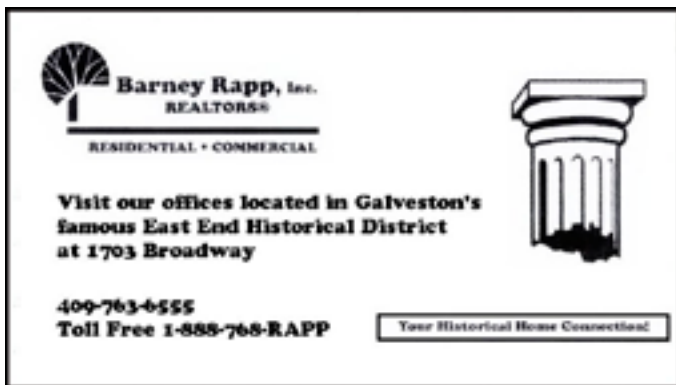
GAIN meetings are at 5:30 the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Moody Mansion, 2618 Broadway.

Grounds Committee Formed

The new Grounds Committee, composed of Mike Box (chair), Bill Beveridge, and Jonathon Tromm held its first meeting on February 18. We discussed our thoughts on maintaining the East End Historical District Association's grounds. Each property has unique issues, and working Darragh Park, Alderdice Park, and the Cottage into a maintenance plan was the main point of discussion. In the end we decided to try to simplify grounds maintenance by going to a single vendor for all mowing, edging, trimming of trees, palms, roses; weeding, cleanup, etc. It looks like we can save about \$1000 per year this way.

We also decided to pay a lawn service to trim roses and bougainvillea and spread mulch this year. We could have saved some money by doing this with volunteer work days, but due to the short time frame the Association would be best served by having it done by professionals.

The committee would like to thank Sandy Hardin, Fran Kelley, and David Fortenberry for their input in getting us started along the path of taking care of our parks and cottage grounds in the most efficient manner possible. Sandy has also agreed to continue to maintain the beds around the cottage. Thanks guys!



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IBC: Why Did You Move Here?

(Lewis and Lynda Hodnett bought a house at 1103 Ball in December, 2011, and have been *slowly* moving in ever since. To tell your story, contact Jane Chance, jchance@rice.edu.)

Well, in a few words, because it feels like home.

Our first experience with Galveston was probably similar to John Denver's first visit to Colorado. When writing "*Rocky Mountain High*", he penned the line, "*he was coming home to a place he'd never been before.*"

Lynda and I both grew up along the banks of Bayou Lafourche in South Louisiana. I lived on a city lot in Thibodaux, she on a sugar cane plantation 12 miles north of Thibodaux at Supreme Sugar Refinery. Visiting Galveston for the first time, we found enough similarities of culture, architecture and landscape to make Galveston feel comfortable to us right away.

We moved from the French Quarter in New Orleans to Houston in 1970. For 40 years we were day-trippers to Galveston Island, always admiring, photographing and imagining what it would be like to live in one of the old houses on the Island. Adding to my interest and comfortable feeling in Galveston was my background, which includes a degree and license in Architecture, teaching at the U.H. College of Architecture and shooting architectural photography for clients.

In 2004 I had a one-man photography exhibit of my personal black and white photography at the Galveston Arts Center. "At the Water's Edge: Landscape and Beach Photography of Galveston," was a result of many visits to the Island. My ongoing personal work was focused then, as it is now, on three things Galveston has in abundance: unique vernacular architecture, people in the urban landscape, and the natural landscape.

I find the dynamic arts community here is unique for a city the size of Galveston. Walking on Post Office street during Art Walk is not unlike a stroll down Royal Street in the French Quarter, with the antique shops and art galleries welcoming everyone, street musicians performing for tips, and people visiting with one another while sipping a cool drink on the sidewalk.

And here in the East End, long walks on the beach are part of our daily routine, just as they were at Grand Isle years ago at my parents' camp. In the warmer months, we enjoy sitting on the beach at sunset, using binoculars to look at the ships standing off the coast, watching them catch the last rays of the sun on the horizon.

Living in an urban environment of 5.3 million people in the Houston / Galveston Metro Area certainly has its benefits. But, in Galveston, having the freedom to get away from it all for a long walk and focus our vision on the horizon, in a full 180 degree sweep, is a unique and peaceful way of ending the day.

We considered locations other than Galveston, but none of the other cities has the dynamic arts community or the open public spaces like our beaches. Likewise, we found no other city has the variety and depth of historic buildings and neighborhoods, which are accessible for photography and study, just as the historic French Quarter is available to one and all, by simply walking around the neighborhood.

The other magnet that drew us to Galveston, (and forever endeared us to Texas) is the often discussed, "Can-Do spirit." Houston, and all of Texas, has it. But, I'm reminded daily, as I watch the waves break on the beach, that Galveston picked itself up after what should have been a fatal blow in 1900, rebuilt, and continued to move forward.

By all accounts, Galveston should have been done. Finished forever as a viable place to live, work and raise a family. But, it wasn't! Because here on the coast, the Can-Do spirit prevailed, and the citizens rose up to rebuild the city that we enjoy today.

Thanks, Galveston!



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House Story: 1321 Market (The Spence/Vassallo house)

By Sharman Keister

This house was built in 1898. It was originally a one story house, a bedroom on each corner and one bathroom. Rosario Vassallo, who came to Galveston to work in 1900 after arriving in New York from Italy, bought the house with his wife, Concetta. Her sisters bought the two houses on either side. This was the beginning of a long history and an inherent love of the island.

Rosario and Concetta went on to have seven children who all grew up in the house. Rosario was a very artistic man and opened his own barber shop on 24th and Market; Star Barbershop. His oldest son grew up to work with him and eventually opened his own barbershop. Two of the boys studied medicine at UTMB and used one of the corner rooms as a study. It's hard to believe because that particular room is very small and must have been very hot and stuffy. There were two sisters, Rose and Camille. Rose was the unofficial study-buddy and probably would have become a doctor herself if times had been different. But her job was always to support her brothers and she took it seriously. She ironed 35 white shirts a week and helped her mama with all the housework. To this day, the family knows the house as "mama's house".

At some time before the family moved in, but after the 1900 storm, the house was raised with the bottom floor becoming the top floor and a new bottom floor served as an entry, a living room, dining room, kitchen, and breakfast room. As the children grew and left home, each helped the next pay for college with money they made working. After Rosario died and Concetta aged, her son, Alfred, an obstetrician in Dallas, came and converted part of the breakfast room downstairs to a bathroom so that she didn't have to climb the steep stairs. Interesting bathroom

.....
In 1960 Concetta died, and the house was then separated into a duplex. One floor is occupied by Camille and the other by a renter. Rose will turn 100 on Valentine's Day, 2014, and still lives and thrives at 1211 Broadway. She will be front and center at Mardi Gras, volunteering as always at Moody Gardens and the East End Society, and always

being so proud to be a Vassallo, the daughter of an immigrant from Italy who came with nothing and worked to buy a home on the East End of Galveston in its heyday, open his own business, and raise a family of successful, educated members of American society.

The house took on a lot of water during Ike. It has been restored by Rosario's granddaughter, Sharman, and her husband, Larry Keister. Interestingly, when sanding the shiplap walls in the kitchen there was a sudden, strong smell of burning wood - the house survived a fire in 1921! Photos of the house and its interior are available at <http://mizjuneytalks.blogspot.com/2010/07/survivor.html>

Mama's house will host a family reunion in March, 2013.

(If you'd be interested in telling your own "House Story," send an article of no more than 500 words to Jane Chance at jchance@rice.edu before mid-month, or call 409-763-6066 for additional information).



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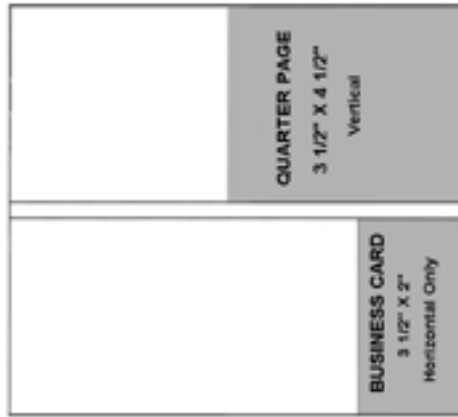
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The EEHDA Newsletter reports news and events related to The East End Historical District Association, and is distributed monthly to approximately 300 members, libraries and civic organizations in Galveston.

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 Contact our Membership Chair at membership@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org.

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. Rates are effective as of 10/1/2011.

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