

East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 38 No. 3

Margaret Hand, Editor

www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org

March 2011

On the Calendar

EEHDA Neighborhood Meeting

March 3rd (Thursday)

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

Fat Tuesday Pre-Parade Party

March 8th (Tuesday)

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

1428 Broadway

Hosts Steve Aubin & Sharon Mimms

Darragh/Alderdice Parks Work Day

March 12th (Saturday)

8:00 a.m.

Mulching

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE COTTAGE

March 15th (Tuesday)

7:00 p.m.

Movie TBA

GAIN MEETING

March 17th (Thursday)

All East Enders invited

5:30 p.m.

Moody Mansion lower level

COFFEE AT THE COTTAGE

March 19th (Saturday)

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Stop in and have a cup!

Neighborwoods II Tree Planting Day

March 26th (Saturday)

7:00 a.m.

Please come out and help!

Kicking off this month's column is a small victory – Landmark, Planning and City Council all voted to deny a specific use permit for the apartments on 17th and Sealy. Both

EEHDA and GAIN voted in support of the denial and it was rewarding to see the issue resolved – so far. Construction work continues on the apartment building and we all hope the owner will cooperate with the city and local neighbors to create a complex that meets building codes and provides appropriate density and parking solutions for residents. Hats off to the community, commissioners and council members who took the time and made the hard decisions to get this right.

Thanks to Fran Kelly, Lizette Gaudin, Nelson Smelker, Anita Schuler, Ralph & Lynn McMorris and a plethora of volunteers who contributed to the success of our 2011 Casino Night Fund Raiser. Did you know that a brunch for two at M&M could be worth over \$500,000? In play money, of course, but a great time was had by all.

Although it may appear that not much is happening on the Free Street Tree front, behind the scenes progress continues aplenty. Approximately 125 residents turned in their tree cards and the results have been tallied – once again Live Oak is the winner, followed by Texas Redbud, Magnolia and Crêpe myrtle. Planting day is Saturday, March 26th. If you are interested in volunteering – and it does NOT mean we necessarily hand you a shovel and say, “Dig here!” – Please leave a message on the cottage answering machine or contact any EEHDA officer or board member.

Darragh Park received its yearly haircut on Saturday, February 12th when a group of dedicated volunteers with clippers – energized by donuts and kolaches - whacked (i.e., pruned) the many rose bushes and bougainvillea vines – all the while hoping fervently for no more freezing weather. March 12th is Park Mulch Day, so plan to stop by and cheer – or bring a shovel and wheelbarrow to help out.

Don't forget to visit our website at www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org. We plan to add on-line ticket sales and membership renewal options in the very near future.

David
Schuler
EEHDA
President





Natchez

by
Steve Austin

If you love old houses and seek an affordable vacation that doesn't require getting virtually strip-searched at the airport, consider a six-hour road trip to Natchez.

Natchez has flown six flags since 1716. That even beats us (if only by one)! The current town developed in the early 1790s while under Spanish control. Many early settlers, however, were Americans loyalists fleeing from what, from their perspective, was the unhappy outcome of our Revolution. Thus, early Natchez architecture looks more American than Spanish.

Natchez once had more millionaires than any other American town except New York. The money came from cotton and was made off the backs of thousands of enslaved African Americans. Despite that, Natchez voted against secession. (Most cotton customers were Yankees and Natchezians knew a war would kill their cotton business.) Overall, of course, Mississippi voted the other way, joining the Confederacy.

When Ulysses Grant arrived, men of fighting age had already left town to join the Confederate army, leaving mostly women, children, and old men. Natchez surrendered and Grant left Natchez intact. That's why it's still here.

For a town less than 19,000, Natchez has a remarkable dozen house museums! The best of these, Rosalie, Stanton Hall, and Melrose, provide breath-taking examples of how rich southern plantation owners lived before "the war." (In Natchez, one needn't specify which war "the war" is.)

One museum house, Ellicott's Hill, dates to the 1790s. Another, Longwood, shows the skeleton of an 1850s mansion before a completion that never took place. Another, the William Johnson House, provides a rare glimpse into the world of a free antebellum black family.

Downtown Natchez is mostly late Victorian. Franklin Street is filled with antiques shops loaded with mid-19th century American furniture. Twice a year (spring and fall), the "Pilgrimage" takes place—

sort of like GHF's May homes tour with docents decked out in antebellum costumes. Cathy and I haven't yet attended a Pilgrimage but it's now on our bucket list.

The 1888 Wensel House Bed & Breakfast (888-775-8577; www.1888wenselhouse.com) is the place to stay. For decades, proprietors Mimi and Ron Miller have spearheaded the local preservation movement. Besides being excellent hosts, they graciously answered all our questions about local restaurants, the museum houses, historic preservation, what to do while in town, and Natchez history. Also, the price is right and the location terrific. Natchez is one drivable get-away that belongs on every old house lover's list of vacation spots.



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EEHDA Fat Tuesday Pre-Parade Party

This year's EEHDA Fat Tuesday Pre-Parade Party will be at the home of Steve Aubin and Sharon Mimms, 1428 Broadway, from 4:00-6:00pm on March 8th. Then we'll all make our way downtown for one final round of catching beads and carrying on together as Mardi Gras comes to a close. All East Enders are welcome! Please bring an appetizer, snack, or finger-food dish to share, plus the adult beverage of your choice. Steve and Sharon will provide soft drinks, ice, and party supplies. Of course there will be plenty of King Cake, and as usual you'll want to keep an eye out for the baby in your piece since that will give you the honor of being next year's party host either at your house or at The Cottage. You won't want to miss all the fun with your East End friends on Fat Tuesday!

Galveston's Downtown Condo Market

By Kay Schwartz

Galveston's downtown condos suffered incredible losses in the storm, with all of them sustaining damage to the first floor of their buildings, thus knocking out the electrical systems, elevators, pools and common areas. The downtown condo market had been soft for a year or so before the hurricane, and prices had begun to come down considerably from their heyday in 2005-2006. There are great deals to be had right now on condos throughout the downtown area and sales are beginning to pick up!

Probably the best part of downtown condos is the fact that you are near an ever-increasing group of great restaurants, the arts, antique shops, festivals and businesses, yet are still within a mile or two of the beach and the Strand attractions. And Home Owner Association (HOA) fees are generally less than those on the Seawall. Many senior beach house and historical home owners are opting to sell their homes with multiple flights of stairs and maintenance issues to head to the ease of condo ownership.

HOAs have maintenance fees that cover different items from building to building, including maintenance and insurance. Upon investigation, you are likely to find that it will ultimately be less expensive and require less of your valuable time to maintain a condo than a single-family home.

It is very important to carefully review the condo docs, resale certificates and bylaws to familiarize yourself with those details before your option period is over to get an accurate assessment of the cost and rules of ownership.

For instance, some buildings feature insurance coverage from the sheetrock of the condo outward. Others cover everything in the condo with the exception of upgrades made after purchase and personal items including clothing and furniture. The thinking on more extensive insurance is that if the inside of the condos are covered, you will have a more uniform reconstruction and are not having to deal with several individual insurance companies. Maintenance fees also include water and trash pickup, basic cable and upgrades to the amenities as voted on by the HOAs.

Park Work Day

Jonathon Tromm

We had a very successful parks work day on Feb. 12th and both Alderdice and Darragh parks were trimmed back. We will be having another Parks work day on Saturday, March 12th from 8am to finish (before noon) to Mulch Alderdice and Darragh Parks Our first block party will be on April 8th (yes, already) so we need to get ready. Come on out and help and it goes quick. Bring wheel barrows, pitchforks and shovels. There will be no cottage work day in March due to Mardi Gras, the parks and the neighborwoods.



Improvements continue at Alderdice Park.

628 14th Street
Galveston, Texas 77550
409.763.1010 (café)
409.763.5251 (fax)
www.mosquitocafe.com

EEHDA Garage Sale Set For April 15 & 16

Dates for the sale are:

Champagne Pre-Sale – Friday, April 15 (tickets are \$10 and will go on sale in February) sales limited to 100 tickets;

Public sale: Saturday, April 16.

Keep these categories in mind as you look around for garage sale items:

Household Items: kitchen utensils, furniture, decorative items, small appliances, fixtures

Tools: yard tools, shop tools, wood tools, electrical

Collectibles: antique glass/ceramic ware, newspapers, magazines, knick-knacks, books, Galveston memorabilia, games, **1950s or earlier vintage hats and clothing (Dickens type...no regular adult clothes, please)**, posters

Baby/Children: toys, books, car seats, strollers, bikes/trikes, furniture

Misc: office supplies/furniture, holiday items, yard and garden things, that Christmas gift from Auntie, that box of stuff you haven't looked in for four years – you get the idea!

CLOTHES: The **ONLY** clothes we need are evening wear suitable for Mardi Gras balls or formal cruise wear **AND** Dickens outfits. Please don't bring other clothes as we're hoping we have so much great STUFF, we don't want to deal with clothes. However, PLEASE feel free to bring formal and Dickens outfits.

Baked Goodies: bring wrapped for sale, individual wrapped servings or entire batch/whole cake. Fran will be the contact person for the bake sale.

Donation drop-off will be every Friday in March, from 9:00 am til noon at the Kinsey's Garage (in the alley next to Karl and Sandy's house). Bring your items and help us price.

To volunteer, or arrange for pick up of donations, please call Kathy Bass @409-739-7092 or Fran Kelly @409-370-2306

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"John's worth the drive or whenever I'm in Houston"
- Jason T.
Galveston, TX

Web Site Update

Jonathon Tromm

We now have email addresses for the officers on the "about the association" page. You can click on the president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer to send them an email. The website is updated for the most part but it is difficult to know if something is not working. Please use the "site is maintained by EEHDA" link at the bottom of every page to report any links not working.

Merrill Lynch

Baker Brassieur & Associates Global Wealth Management

Marcia Brassieur, CFM, CRPC 306 22nd St.
Financial Advisor Galveston, Texas 77550
409 766 2718 Marcia
409 766 2718 Toll Free

Jennifer Travis, CFM 877 766 2718 Jenny
Registered Client Associate 409 766 2722 Jenny
FAX 409 877 4307
marcia_brassieur@ml.com
jennifer_travis@ml.com

Neighborwoods II Update

EEHDA Neighborwoods Program

Dave Schuler

Once again it's time to plant trees in the East End. We've placed the signs, tallied the cards and ordered the trees and, just like last year, we'll need every volunteer we can find to help on March 26th, Planting Day. In first place, with 31 requests, is the Live Oak, followed by seventeen Texas Redbuds, sixteen Magnolia and eleven Crepe Myrtles. We even have one request for a Yaupon tree!

One of the challenges this year is coordinating the actions of five different neighborhoods. Pris Files, tree planting coordinator for the Tree Conservancy and EEHDA board member, has been working late hours to pull together tree requests from San Jacinto, Silk Stocking, Old Seawall and Lasker Park in addition to our own. As we pioneered last year, Pris has been taking care of the myriad details that include checking tree species for appropriateness, calling both local and out-of-state nurseries to find the best fifteen-gallon trees, working with the City on utility locates for the various addresses, and in general 'herding cats' to make this happen. Thanks!

Once the trees are purchased and begin to arrive, we'll need some help unloading – but at this point all that's known is that the big truck 'o trees (or trucks!) should arrive at Darragh Park early in the week of March 21-25th – hopefully on Monday or Tuesday. While it doesn't take a lot of work - after all, fifteen gallon trees are not that big! – Unloading a hundred trees can be a lot more fun with a few good friends helping.

If you can assist with loading or unloading, or – especially – if you can help on March 26th Planting Day – please contact me or any EEHDA board member and let us know. It may not seem so, but in ten years all these trees will be a tremendous addition to the East End!



Volunteers unload two hundred trees during last year's Neighborwoods planting. This year's event is set for March 26th.



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CASINO NIGHT FINAL REPORT 2011

Fran Kelly

Well, we did it again, and what a great time was had by all. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered, because without your help this would not have been the success it was, and of course a very special thank you to Ralph and Lynn McMorris. To everyone who donated items for the auctions or for door prizes we also thank you.

A list of our door prize and auction item donors is shown below. I hope you will patronize the businesses that have been kind enough to help us out through the years. I will give a full report on monies made at the March E.E.H.D.A. meeting.

Again, thank you everyone for all your great help!!!!!!

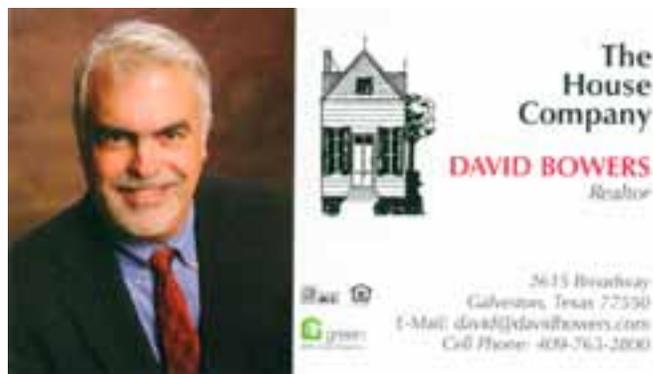
Casino Night Donors

Ginny Adams
Steve Austin & Cathy Hitchcock
Admiralty Marine Model Gallery
Bennett Floral
Bill Beveridge
Big House Antiques
Pam Burge
Jim Cantrell
Cheryl Fortune
Chili's
Coastal Creations
Frog At Home
Front Parlor
Gaido's Restaurant
Galveston.com
Galveston Gallery
Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF)
Galvez Hotel
Garden Inn
Mike & Pam Gilbert
Glow
Gracies
Grand 1894 Opera House
Head to Footsies
Pam Houston
J. Bangle Gallery
Fran & Martin Kelly
Kwik Kar
M&M Restaurant & Bar
Maceo's
Ralph & Lynn McMorris
Lizette & George Najarian
Nautical Antiques
Original Mexican Restaurant

Casino Night Donors (cont)

Saltwater Grill
Santa Fe Trail
Seaport Museum
Star Drug
Anita Schuler
Mary Smelker
Speedy's Kwik Kopy
Tangerine Boutique
Torres Barbershop
The Frog at Home
Therapeutic Healthworks
Tom's Thumb
Urban Fitness
Rene Wiley

Our thanks to you all for your support of the EEHDA.



“Star Trek” Big Hit at Movie Night

One of our new traditions is Movie Night at The Cottage – we supply a projector, screen, sound system, popcorn and goodies, invite friends and neighbors and voila – a fun time to be had by all. Movie Night alternates with Game Night and both occur on the third Tuesday of every month.

January's feature film was the 2009 version of “Star Trek”, a franchise ‘reboot’ that introduced new – and younger - actors playing Kirk, Spock, McCoy and the other main characters. The most successful Star Trek film to date, it was wildly popular with the crowd in attendance and the subject of only a few off-the-wall comments (“He’s Dead, Jim!).

March Movie Night falls on March 15th and the movie title will be announced in the email blast the prior week. If you have suggestions, please contact any officer or board member and let them know. We like to stay with classics, adventure films or comedies, so please no Shakespeare or documentaries on the wonders of Oxygen.

EEHDA Membership

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

Beth Thornton

Special thanks to our Business members:

Mosquito Café

Sand 'n Sea Properties

Special thanks to our Sponsor members:

Carol Bartz, via an ExxonMobil Matching Gift

Ken Bartz, via an ExxonMobil Matching Gift

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Gerald Campbell

John C. Crossman, Jr.

Elisabeth Darst

Mike & Pam Gilbert

Donna & Ken Goode

Carlos L. Guerguin

Denny & Charlotte Kelley

Karl Lewis & Sandy Hardin

Herbert & Rosalind Mitchell

Ellen Morrison & Christian Robbian

Jody Phelps & James Heyland

Dixie Posert

Paula & Louis Reeg

Sally Robinson

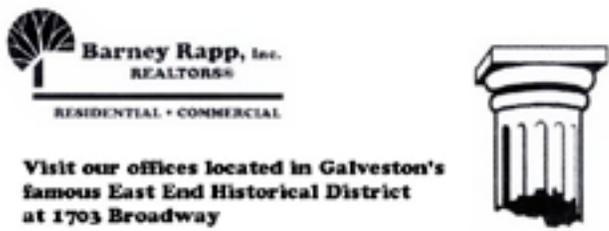
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Carl Tapia & John Wilmore

Tom Thayer & Daniel Danford

James Tucker & Renee Magee

Larry & Diane Woodcox



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Your Historical Home Connected

Important Contact Information

Galveston Police – Non Emergency 409-765-3702

SAFE E – safee@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org
(also leave comments in Cottage black mailbox)

Galveston Police – Officer Tommy Maffei

281-734-0931 (day)

281-755-1969 (night)

TMaffei@cityofgalveston.org

Sgt. Chapman

409-765-3616 (ofc)

409-750-0243 (cell)

ACHapman@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 #)

CONTACT US

Telephone - 409-763-5928

Membership Info - membership@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org

SAFE E Program - safee@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org



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**SAFE REPORT -- 2010 YEAR END
2011 SAFE DECALS COMING SOON**

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE SAFE PROGRAM

	1st Q	2nd Q	3rd Q	4th Q	TOTAL
Abandoned Vehicles Tagged/Towed					0
Aggravated Assault					0
Arrest Felony			1	2	3
Arrest Misdemeanor		4	1	2	7
Burglary					0
Call for Service	54	39	66	24	183
Citizen Contact	144	137	182	189	652
Criminal Mischief					0
Disturbance	3		2		5
Drug Activity/ Suspect Checked		3			3
Gun Shots					0
Hit and Run					0
House Alarm Response	3	1			4
Juvenile Disturbance					0
Noise Complaint/Citations/Warning	1	3	2	3	9
Parking Citations	3			5	8
Patrol Assists	19	13	17	23	72
Periodic Home Check	17	22	26	25	90
Suspicious Person/Vehicle checked	9	5	6	10	30
Traffic Citations/Warning	44	19	19		82
Transient Citations/Warning			5		5
TOTALS	297	246	327	283	1153
2010 MAN HOURS	182.0	162.5	183.0	146.5	674.0

For all non-emergency police needs please call 409-765-3702 and speak to dispatch. Please contact Sheryl Rozier at safee@svbell.net if you have additional questions.

Application for Membership - East End Historical District Association

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Names of persons covered by this membership:

Type of membership:

- Individual \$15
- Family \$20
- Senior \$10
- Senior Fam. \$15
- Corporate Business \$125
- Life Member \$300
- Sponsor \$75
- SAFE (see enrollment)

Mail to: East End Historical District Association
P.O. Box 2424
Galveston, TX 77553

Memberships are for one year. Your address label will display the year of your last payment. You need not reside in the East End Historical District to become a member but only residents of the district are entitled to hold office or vote on questions. Your membership supports a variety of services and programs devoted to historic preservation. Our Board of Directors holds regular meetings at our meeting house, 1501 Postoffice Street at 5:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. All members are urged to attend these business meetings which often feature speakers and programs on current issues in the district.

East End Historical District Association, Inc. is exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This exemption was granted February, 1978 and remains in full force and effect. Contributions to E.E.H.D.A. are deductible in the amount and to the extent provided by section 170 of the code.

SAFE ENROLLMENT

The SAFE program is a security program sponsored by EEHDA. SAFE provides security patrols in the East End by uniformed police officers at random hours throughout the week. Security of neighborhood issues can be noted and left for the officers in the black mail box located on the front porch of the EEHDA Cottage, 1501 Postoffice. "Vacation Watch" is offered under this program. Membership in EEHDA is required for SAFE enrollment.

3 months - \$60.00 6 months - \$120.00 12 months - \$240.00

Mail check to:

EEHDA; Attn: SAFE; PO Box 2424; Galveston, Texas 77553