

East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 38 No. 11

Margaret Hand, Editor

www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org November 2011

On the Calendar

**EEHDA Neighborhood Meeting
November 3rd (Thursday)**

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

***COTTAGE WORK DAY*
November 5th (Saturday)**

9 a.m.

**Block Party
November 11th (Friday)**

Light Up the Night
5:30 p.m. at The Cottage 1501 Postoffice

**Movie Night at The Cottage
November 15th (Tuesday)**

7:00 p.m.
Movie TBA

***GAIN MEETING*
November 17th (Thursday)**

All East Enders invited
Moody Mansion lower level
5:30 p.m. 27th & Broadway

***COFFEE AT THE COTTAGE*
November 19th (Saturday)**

9 a.m.

Looking Ahead

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

6:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Tickets available at
The Grand 1894 Opera House

We Won!! First Place! My heartfelt thanks to everyone who voted for the Galveston Island Tree Conservancy in the Tom's of Maine "50 States for Good" contest. The Tree Conservancy will receive \$50,000 to help continue the process of bringing trees to Galveston Island. Most importantly, the \$50,000 has no 'strings attached' meaning it can be spent on a wide array of programs or projects. This is especially important as we are still in extreme drought conditions, and planting more trees – right now – may not be the best use of funds.

At almost the same time, Mother Nature finally came through with a gully-washer that soaked the ground and gave our 300+ NeighborWoods trees a much-needed dose of life.

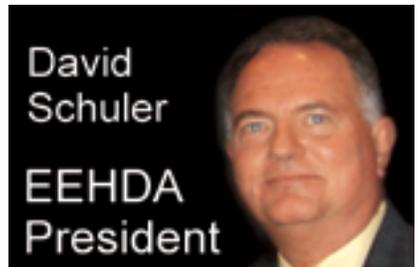
Speaking of trees, Pete Smith with the Texas Forest Service visited The Cottage on Saturday, October 14th to inspect our trees and offer advice on pruning. Yes, even though the trees have only been in the ground for 18 months, its time to take a closer look and start the process of pruning for structure – see details in this month's article. Next month, we'll look at recommendations for pruning smaller tree species.

We had a great turnout for the EEHDA October Block Party on National Night Out – neighbors, fire fighters, police officers and even our Mayor attended the festivities. Everyone was treated to a fine performance by Waterline, a local band that includes a number of East Enders. Next month, the November Block Party theme will be "Light Up the Night", so find some way to make yourself glow in the dark! For more information, contact Block Party Chair Lynette Haaga.

Before you know it, the East End's Victorian Christmas Homes Tour will be upon us. Tickets are available at The Grand 1894 Opera House. Only a limited number are sold, so be sure to get yours before they're all gone. Contact Mike Gilbert for additional details.

Finally, long range planning for our traditional February fundraiser, "Casino Night" will kickoff with a committee meeting in early November at The Cottage. Look for an EEHDA blast with date and time.

Visit our website at www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org.





Design
Standards
Basics V
by
Steve Austin

“The new work will be differentiated from the old . . .”

Books have been written about the extreme lengths some landmark commissions have gone to in order to emphasize the above quoted point. In some but certainly not all cases, new construction in historic neighborhoods, whether entire new buildings or additions to old ones, is not permitted unless the new construction is so clearly out of place as to look “differentiated from the old” to all but the legally blind. At the extreme, this position can result in buildings looking something like our Rosenberg Library. You can’t mistake the inappropriate modern addition for part of the original. But does this questionable achievement not come at too a high a price?

This odd way of thinking comes from a decades-old Department of Interior position. The Department of Interior wants to protect you from “a false sense of history.” If you’re wondering how a “false sense of history” would be worse for our neighborhood than having to look at inappropriate new construction, so are others. Increasingly, preservation-oriented architects in America have begun to question this doctrine. Indeed, one simple way these issues could be resolved would be to allow for appropriate construction on one hand, but require prominent signage saying “Built in 2011” on the other.

In contrast to the Department of Interior position, our local Standards create what seems to be a mixed message. On one hand, a picture appears of an apartment complex where the Heidenheimer Castle once stood. It’s held up as a good example of appropriate new work “differentiated from the old.” With its lower ceilings, unpainted siding, and lack of Victorian detailing, it won’t be confused with old construction. But despite not looking exactly like a tract home, it’s decidedly out of place. It even lacks window sills—a distinction that once separated human dwellings from barns housing animals.

In contrast, a drawing of an entirely appropriate “new old house” is also presented as a good example (p 6-2), distinguished from actual old houses by subtle material differences and suggested differences in other small characteristics. These two examples present

different interpretations, leaving our commissioners considerable latitude.

In the Landmark meetings I’ve attended, my sense is that our current commissioners are not rigidly focused on saving us from “false history.” This relatively enlightened position could change with a new set of commissioners.



EEHDA Membership

A Warm Welcome to our new Regular members:

Darlene Sims
Marsh and David Canright

Special thanks to our newest Sustaining members:

Margaret Hand and David Collins

Ongoing thanks to our Sustaining members:

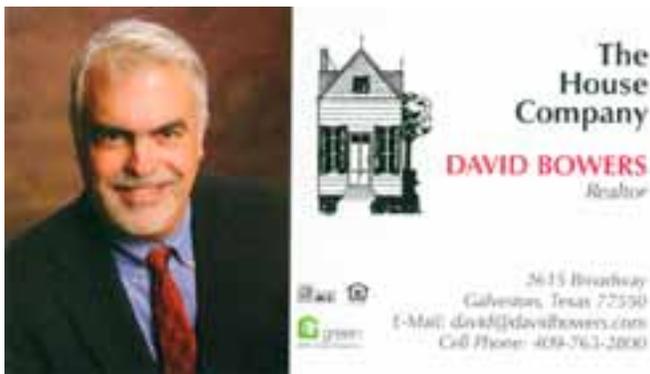
Mosquito Café
Sand ‘n Sea Properties
Carol Bartz, via an ExxonMobil Matching Gift
Harry Behal
Pamela & Billy Burge
Gerald Campbell
John C. Crossman, Jr.
Elisabeth Darst
Paul & Shannon Evans
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Herbert & Rosalind Mitchell
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Jody Phelps & James Heyland
Dixie Posert
Paula & Louis Reeg
Sally Robinson
Sharon & Emmett Strain
Carl Tapia & John Wilmore
Tom Thayer & Daniel Danford
James Tucker & Renee Magee
Larry & Diane Woodcox

Nominating Committee Update

It's time once again to select officers and board members for the upcoming year. Per the EEHDA bylaws, a nominating committee is formed each fall to identify a slate of candidates for the upcoming year. The EEHDA board consists of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Past President, along with ten board members. All four officers and five of the board members stand for election each year. All officers and board members must live in the East End Historical District.

The nominating committee is made up of two existing board members, two active members who are not currently on the board and the current president. The president appoints the committee, which must be approved by the existing board at the November board meeting. Once confirmed, the nominating committee must produce a slate of officers and board member candidates in time to be published in the December newsletter. The current board then votes to confirm the slate of candidates at the December meeting and final voting by the membership takes place at the January 5th regularly scheduled meeting.

An active, thriving organization works best when the group's leaders represent a cross section of the membership. We're looking for both new and long-time residents who enjoy our neighborhood and who have a passion for helping make the East End the best possible place to live in Galveston. If you are interested in being considered for the nominating committee, or would like to be nominated as a board member or officer, please contact David Schuler at (409) 599-7578 or dschuler@gdscorp.com



Advertise in the EEHDA Newsletter

Advertising with the East End Historical District promotes your business and supports a worthy organization. Feel free to contact newsletter editor Margaret Hand for more information at newsletter@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org.

2011 East End Christmas Light Contest

Sponsored by Boulevard Realty

Each year, a contest is held for the best outdoor holiday lighting display in the East End Historical District. The judging this year starts at 6pm on the evening of Tuesday, November 29th, in time for Dickens Weekend and the East End Christmas Candlelight Tour to be held that Friday, December 2nd. The judges will drive around the neighborhood in a horse drawn carriage and make their decisions that evening based on execution, charm, numbers of lights and creativity.

First, second and third place signs will be placed in the yards of the winners that night and are displayed throughout the holiday season. There are also cash prizes of \$100 for First Place, \$50 for Second Place and \$25 for Third Place.

All you have to do is decorate and be located in the East End Historical District to be considered for the contest!

Please contact Kay Schwartz at (713) 542-7509 if you have any questions.

Important Contact Information

Galveston Police – Non Emergency 409-765-3702

Galveston Police – Sgt. 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

cityplanningcounter@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

East End Christmas Homes Tour 2011

The 22nd Annual East End Victorian Christmas Homes Tour will take place this year on Friday, December 2nd, beginning at 6:00 PM and concluding at 9:30 PM. Four beautifully restored homes will be featured on this years tour along with the East End Cottage.

The following homes will be welcoming guests for this years tour. The 1897 William Beers home located at 1516 Ball. Recently featured in the Old House Journal will be the 1886 Miss Mitilda Wehmeyer Home located at 1616 Winnie. Located at 1618 Church will be the Mrs. Rosa McDonald Peete Home and last but not least will be the 1890-91 Allen E. Cameron Home located at 1126 Church.

First Presbyterian Church, 19th and Church, will host the entertainment for the evening and last year was featured as a “restoration in progress” due to Hurricane Ike. The church building was begun in 1873 and dedicated on February 24, 1899. During the restoration of the church, many original features including stenciling found behind the pipe organ chamber were found and have been restored back to their original condition.

Tickets are priced at \$ 15.00 each and may be purchased at “The Grand” 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice Street or by calling 409-765-1894.

**The best opportunity
to visit Galveston's historic church
restored to its 1889 splendor
is any Sunday at 11 am**



Come see the amazing restoration of First Presbyterian Church, painstakingly renewed by our finest artisans and committed Presbyterians. See three Tiffany stained glass windows that rival those in any museum. Marvel in the restoration of the rich woodwork, intricate stenciling, extensive gilding, and carved ceilings. And worship with folks who live their commitments. Dr. David H. Green, our pastor and the entire congregation will welcome you - any Sunday. Founded in 1840, we are Galveston's first church.

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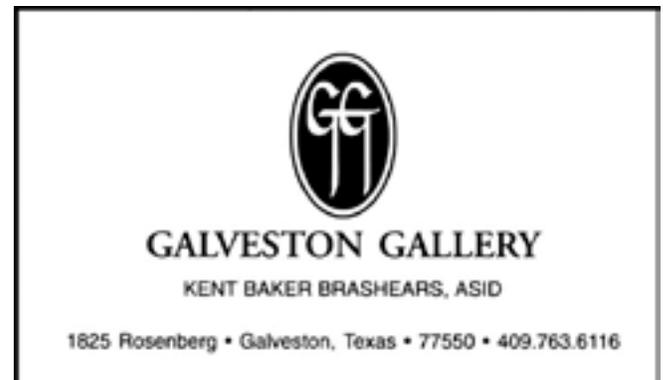


Bakers and Cottage Helpers Needed for Homes Tour

Good baking weather has arrived as this is being written, and it's time to start firing up your ovens to make your best holiday goodies to serve to our Christmas Homes Tour guests at The Cottage. Cookies, bars, quick breads, candy, and mini muffins are just some of the items you can make. If you gave this type of recipe for our new EEHDA cookbook, please consider bringing a batch or two of that recipe! Everything should be easy to handle “finger food”, and arrive ready to serve, pre-sliced or pre-portioned if needed to minimize work for our volunteers refilling the serving platters. The Cottage will be open at 4pm on Friday, December 2nd, for you to drop off your goodies before Homes Tour begins.

Speaking of volunteers, spaces are still available to help out at The Cottage on Homes Tour night, often the most popular volunteer positions of the evening. You can choose an early or late shift, and Cottage helpers may visit the tour homes for free. Jobs are easy and fun – greeting guests, refilling food platters, and serving beverages. Hot coffee will be plentiful along with our traditional Christmas Punch and Don Peak's Hot Wassail. Guests had so many questions about The Cottage last year that, for the first time, we'll have a front porch docent to share some of the history of the Gustafson family home. We appreciate Tom Bass stepping forward to fill this role!

Please give Lynette Haaga a call at 409-750-9441 to sign up to help, get on the bakers' list, or if you have any questions. If you're not able to drop off your baked goods yourself, we can stop by and pick them up the day before or early on tour day.



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Lots Accomplished on Fall Parks Work Day

By Lynette Haaga

Many East Enders have a long-time tradition of pitching in with our familiar February parks clean-up and March/April mulch day. Did you know that last year we started two fall Parks Work Days too? Late September plus the weekend right before Garden Tour are ideal times to spruce up Alderdice and Darragh Parks for both visitors and our own enjoyment during the cooler months. Things can get a little straggly during those dog days of summer! Even though we regretfully had to cancel this year's Garden Tour due to the severe drought, our green spaces still deserve some attention before winter settles in.

A small but enthusiastic crew showed up to work on a variety of low-key but necessary projects at both parks. Well-fueled by plenty of donuts and hot coffee, they also tackled The Cottage grounds for good measure. The fall spruce-up will be an annual event, so plan to join in the action next year after the summer heat is gone and help give a little extra sparkle to our East End green spaces.



Dave Schuler and Bill Haaga work on the lamp posts in Darragh Park on Fall Parks Work Day.



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Pruning Your NeighborWoods Oak Tree

By David Schuler

It's been more than 18 months since the first NeighborWoods trees were planted. Even though we've suffered through the state's worst drought since 1895, most of the new trees are alive and thriving. Many of the live oaks have even put on three or four feet of new growth.

This winter is the first opportunity for pruning, says Pete Smith of the Texas Forest Service. "Ranger Pete", as we know him, recommended the NeighborWoods program in 2009 and provided invaluable assistance during the first year.

According to Pete, Galveston's original oak trees were exceptionally well pruned during the early years. Their major branches were often between eight and twelve feet above the ground, providing clearance for pedestrians and vehicles, and their exceptional height provided shade and balance for the tall Victorian homes. Pete's objective is to help us repeat that process for the new NeighborWoods oaks.

When pruning a tree it is important to understand the goal. Types of pruning include 'pruning for aesthetics' where overall shape is considered, "pruning for safety", where branches that extend into the walkway or street are removed, 'pruning for lift', where the objective is to remove lower branches and promote growth higher up, and 'pruning for structure', where the goal is to establish a tree's primary trunk and branch structure.

Nursery-grown oak trees often appear shaped as an attractive and aesthetically pleasing "lolly-pop", with a long trunk and tight ball of foliage. While this shape sells well, the foliage ball may contain several "leaders" – competing upward-growing branches that represent the future growth direction for the tree. "Pruning for structure" is most important in the early years of a tree's life and allows the owner to identify and promote one of the leaders, while restricting the growth of the others.

Before considering what to prune, Pete recommends the following general rules.

- 1) Prune in late fall or winter, before new shoots bud out in the spring.
- 2) Always wear protective eye wear and gloves
- 3) Don't use power tools – too easy to overdo it!
- 4) Limit yourself to five cuts – choose wisely!
- 5) Try not to remove more than 25% of the total foliage
- 6) Maintain one-half to two-thirds of the overall height in branches and leaves.
- 7) Try not to cut any branch that is more than 1" in diameter.
- 8) When making cuts, don't "flush cut" too close to the existing trunk. If the cross section of the removed branch is round – that's good. If the cross section is oval, it means you've cut too close.

So, where do you start?

First, identify the most prominent 'central leader', the upward growing stem that you want to be the future trunk. If

there are competing leaders or co-dominant stems, remove one or more of the competitors to focus new growth on the primary leader and restrict growth elsewhere. Remember, you only have five cuts, so plan ahead. It's OK to take longer to plan where to cut than to perform the task.

Second, consider that any branch below eight feet above the ground is going away at some point. Branches never grow 'up', only out. So one or two of your five cuts could be allocated to removing existing lower branches. Even though these branches will eventually have to be removed, right now they are providing energy and food for the tree. It won't hurt to leave them in place for one or two more seasons, especially if they are still smaller than one inch in diameter.

Third, look for crossing branches or branches touching on other branches – those will never get any better and now may be a good time to clip the offending branch.

While you work, don't discard the cut-off branches until you are completely done – the size of the pile helps you keep track of how much has been trimmed off – remember Rule #5 above!

Pruning is a long term program and you should not expect to be 'done' for five to ten years. In future years, pruning for structure becomes less critical, and pruning for lift and pruning for safety become equally important goals. If the early pruning is done right, then the tree will grow straight and tall and the need for future pruning will be reduced.

Next month we'll talk about pruning smaller tree species – Redbud, Texas Ebony and others. As always, water your trees as often as possible, and make sure that *string trimmers are kept well away from the trunk*. Even light impact, repeated hundreds of times in a growing season, can do extensive, permanent damage to the tree.

Look for a "Prune Your NeighborWoods Tree" class to be held at The Cottage in early 2012. For more information from the Texas Forest service, go to <http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/PruneYoungTree.html>.



Pris Files of the Galveston Tree Conservancy and Pete Smith of the Texas Forestry Service discuss tree trimming.

Big Bash for Last 2011 Block Party

By Lynette Haaga

Join us on Friday, November 11th, for our last Block Party of the 2011 season! The sun will be going down early, so help us "Light Up the Night" by bringing a lantern or creatively lighting yourself up for the occasion. We're also working on some entertainment for the evening, so stay tuned. This is another great chance to bring your cookbook recipe to share with everyone, and labeling materials will be available at the sign-in table. The party is at The Cottage, 1501 Postoffice Street, and starts at 5:30pm with potluck picnic supper at 6pm.

October's National Night Out Block Party brought out a big crowd to enjoy lots of special activities on a beautiful cool evening. We were joined by Mayor Joe Jaworski, Assistant Fire Chief Wisco, firefighters and Tower 1 truck, Sheriff Freddie Poor and deputies, GPD Police Chief Porretto along with Lt. Jorge Trevino and many of our neighborhood officers, Galveston Humane Society volunteers with pets to adopt, introduction of new Lt. Blender's Sugar-Free drink mixes by Ralph McMorris, and our fabulous live band "Waterline" featuring East Ender Chris Robbian and friends, plus our own Bob Brown stepping in on the banjo.

Special thanks to our door prize donors! East Ender Liz Rogers provided T-shirts, pizza coupons, coozies, and Brunch for Two from Mario's on the Seawall. Cynthia Gilroy won the brunch, and we hear that if Ron plays his cards right, he may get to go! A very generous anonymous donor gave our Grand Prize of a 19" LCD TV with DVD player, won by David Collins.

Another big thank you to Floyd and Sandra Pollock, Allison Brown, Jonathan Tromm, David Schuler, Jerry Hite, Ed Conner, Bill Haaga, and everyone else who gave a helping hand for the evening. It's been another great Block Party season thanks to each and every one of our members who have come out to join in on all the good times!



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Waterline entertained at last month's National Night Out at The Cottage



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Above: Cynthia and Ron Gilroy chat with Jane Chapin at National Night Out.
 Below: Cheryl Fortune entertains the boys in blue. (East End photos by Lynette Haaga)



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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