

East End Historical District Association

Vol. 33 No. 8/9 Bob Chapin, Editor www.eastendgalveston.org August/September 2006

Editor's note:

Aside from the Block Parties, the summer months are slow ones for EEHDA so this issue of the newsletter will take us through September. Please note that this month's Block Party is **Tuesday, August 1st** – National Night Out!

COMING EVENTS- August

EEHDA activity

August 1st (Tuesday) 6:00 pm- 8:00pm

**National Night Out
Alderdice Park 15th & Winnie**

EEHDA activity

August 3rd (Thursday) 7:00 pm

Wine & Cheese Reception for members.

7:30 pm – EEHDA Board of Directors.

Members encouraged to attend!

Aug. 7th & 21st (Monday) 4:00pm – City

Landmark Commission – City Hall

Aug. 8th & 22nd (Tuesday) 4:00pm – City

Planning Commission – City Hall

Aug. 12th (Saturday) GHF's "Genteel Junk"

Sale – Garden Verein 2704 Ave. O

Aug. 19th (Saturday) 6:00 – 9:00pm – ARTWALK

COMING EVENTS- Sept.

EEHDA activity

Sept. 7th (Thursday) 7:00 pm

Wine & Cheese Reception for members.

7:30 pm – EEHDA Board of Directors.

Members encouraged to attend!

EEHDA activity

Sept. 13th (Friday) 6:00 pm- 8:00pm

1700 Block of Ball

Hosts: Paul Lyle & Frey Reggio

Sept. 18 (Monday) 4:00pm – City Landmark Commission – City Hall

Sept. 19 (Tuesday) 4:00pm – City Planning Commission – City Hall

Sept. 30th (Saturday) 6:00 – 9:00pm – ARTWALK

Jamie Grady

**EEHDA
PRESIDENT**



The 23rd Annual National Night Out, a unique crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 1, 2006. Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over 34 million people participated in NNO in 2005. Each year Galveston Officials visit the party, usually arriving by bus with city council members, police officers and the mayor.

August Block Party to be held on NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Tuesday, August 1st

The location for August 1st is Alderdice Park 15th Street between Ball and Winnie. In September and October we resume having our block party on the second Friday of the month. Don't forget to bring a covered dish or dessert or a pizza, and a chair if you want one. We supply the rest - water, beer, soda, wine, and frozen margaritas. Come join us. Please call me or email me if you have questions. jgrady@utmb.edu, cell: (409) 939-8845.



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MOSQUITO HORDES CAUSED ISLAND EVACUATION AND QUARANTINE

On July 30, 1867 the Galveston News warned people that they should leave the city, although it was free of disease at the moment. In late June, after reports of yellow fever in New Orleans and Indianola, the News promised to give notice of any local appearance. A young German traveler, George H. Moller, passed through Indianola and on to Galveston. He arrived on June 28 and died on July 3 with black vomit. The newspaper duly reported his death on July 5 and urged unacclimated German immigrants to leave for safety of the interior. On August 2 the editor admitted, "we can now tell the public candidly that yellow fever is epidemic."

Some five thousand people fled, probably one third of the population, and spread the disease along the inland railroad and stage routes. Business came to standstill. The banks refused to loan money; debtors refused to pay their bills. They waited to see who would die and would not have to be paid. Ice became scarce and high priced. There were 22 deaths in July, 596 in August, and 482 in September. Probably three-fourths of the population caught the disease. A total of 1,150 died, and at a rate of 20 per day.

Burning tar fumigated the air of the city, grass filled with small green frogs grew rank on the Strand, and ringing of church bells for the deceased was so constant that it irritated the sick and living. The most powerful

nineteenth-century weapon against "yellow jack" was quarantine, and the technique was responsible for the drop in yellow fever mortality after 1873. Twenty years earlier Dr. Ashbel Smith, the leading Texas medical authority, had written a letter to the Houston newspaper, which claimed that quarantine was ineffective. He cited Galveston as an example. The difficulty was poor enforcement of the barrier. In 1853, when Dr. Smith wrote, for instance, the captain of the Mexico from the infected port of New Orleans circumvented the quarantine by landing his passengers on the Gulf beach. They were into the city before Galveston authorities could stop them.

As debate over the efficiency of Quarantine continued, there developed additional incentive – unmitigated fear. In 1870 widespread panic seized the coast. Militia armed with shotguns and bludgeons stopped a trainload of fleeing Galvestonians at the Houston city limits. The train returned to the island "butt end foremost," but not before most of the passengers scattered in all directions and walked into the Bayou City by different routes. Houston placed quarantine on Galveston, turned back other trains and threatened to tear up the tracks. Other towns followed Houston's lead, and Galveston closed off trade with New Orleans. Crescent City merchants accused Galveston of using quarantine for its own profit, but this was not true. The motive was well-justified fear, and traffic ceased all along the coast. Only sixteen people died that year in Galveston. The lesson was plain. **Source: GALVESTON: A HISTORY by David G. McComb Univ. of Texas Press, Austin 1986. (Contributed by Donald Peak)**

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Join the SAFEE Program!

The SAFEE program option provides security patrols in the East End by uniformed police officers at random hours throughout the week. Also any security or other neighborhood issues can be noted and left in the security box located on the front porch of the EEHDA Cottage, 1501 Postoffice. Officers pick up the forms that are left there when they come on duty.

Joining the SAFEE Program includes
 Family membership in E.E.H.D.A.
 3 months \$60; 6 months \$120; full year \$240

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notes from

Juan Pena
City Council Representative
District 3



The Parks and Recreation board has four positions coming up for appointment. District 1, District 2, District 4 and the Mayor's appointment to the board are available. If you know of anyone living in the districts that may be interested, please have them contact their council representative or they may contact me at juanpena@cityofgalveston.org

A Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee will also be formed to evaluate/update the Comprehensive plan. Each Council Member will appoint one member to the committee. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on this committee.

I would like to extend Congratulations to Lynda and Jim Guidry for ten years of providing a fantastic service to Galveston County. They were honored with a proclamation from Galveston City Council for the 10th anniversary of Guidry News Service. If you have not yet done so, please visit www.guidrynews.com and become informed of what is transpiring in Galveston County.

There were several of you that participated in the Fourth of July Parade. The parade and the party afterwards were enjoyed by all. A round of applause for a job well done goes out to Kathy Modzelewski, sponsors Marine Corps League Detachment 668, Commandant Joe Vickery, The Galveston Lions Club and the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Galveston County Mayors and Councilmembers Association met July 12. All 13 cities in Galveston County were represented. A resolution was presented declaring opposition to any act in the Texas State Senate or House of Representatives that would amend the state constitution to give the governor sole authority to order a mandatory evacuation from coastal counties threatened by a hurricane or other catastrophic event.

As always, please contact me if there are any issues or concerns with which I can assist and any subjects to address in this column.

Thank you District three for electing me as your council representative.



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1114 BROADWAY, c1880



The original building owned by Capt. Joseph Boddeker and family was destroyed by the 1900 storm. While seeking shelter for his wife and sons, Boddeker located a house at 12th and Sealy. The building was constructed in 1880 and, although it required extensive repairs, it was structurally sound. Boddeker had the house moved and family tradition holds the building was pulled down Broadway by horses to its present location.*

Capt. Boddeker married Caroline Behlin and they had eight sons. He died in 1905 and his widow, Caroline continued to live in the home with their son

Tony. Tony married Elizabeth Grigg and they had two daughters Antoinette and Mary Margaret. Tony served as county commissioner from 1912 until his death in 1940. Mary Margaret was the mother of Mary Frances Sumner Najarin, deceased. George and Mary Frances Najarin have two sons, Mike and Mark, they are the fifth generation involved with this home site.


Boddeker died suddenly in February 1940. His widow, the former Elizabeth Grigg, served out his term as county commissioner, becoming the first female member of the Galveston County Commissioners Court. Elizabeth Boddeker died in 1960*

George and Lizette Najarin continue to maintain and preserve this 1880 residence. During the most recent refurbishing of the house and landscaping, Lizette found a number of small brown "medicine" bottles that were mortared to the concrete and brick footing pads. She thought she had uncovered some sort of a mystery. What a surprise when she learned that in the early 1900's this was the method of termite/pest control. These small brown bottles were filled with insecticide and the metal caps were perforated to expose the bait.

The East End Historic District appreciates the continued effort to maintain this historic home.

*Galveston Historic Homes Tour 1996

(submitted by Patsy and Jake Trost)



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Picture This: Galveston

- Who?** You and your digital camera or clipboard!
- What?** Picture This: Galveston. A one-day event to photo document Galveston's historic structures and neighborhoods.
- When?** 7:30 a.m., Saturday, July 29, 2006*
(Rain Date: Saturday, August 12, 2006)
- Where?** Meet at City Hall, 823 Rosenberg, for breakfast and receive your assignment
- How?** Call (409) 797-3660 and pre-register or join other volunteers that morning



The City of Galveston is documenting historic structures island-wide—be a part of this unprecedented canvassing! With your help, we will photograph entire neighborhoods. These photos will be entered into a central database and be used to assist in post-storm recovery efforts. Two-person volunteer teams will be assigned to a 10-block area to document neighborhood homes and buildings. One volunteer will take photos while the other records street addresses. Volunteers will receive a complimentary continental breakfast and lunch as a thank you for their participation.

Volunteers should:

- Wear comfortable shoes
- Dress for the day's weather
- Charge their digital camera battery
- Apply insect repellent
- Bring water, sunglasses, a hat, & sunscreen
- Bring plenty of camera image cards
- Bring a clipboard (if you have one)



For more information, please call (409) 797-3660
or visit www.cityofgalveston.org



Application for Membership - East End Historical District Association

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Names of persons covered by this membership:

Type of membership:
____ Individual \$10 ____ Corporate Business \$100
____ Family \$15 ____ Life Member \$250
____ Senior \$6 ____ Sponsor \$50
____ Senior Fam. \$12 ____ SAFEE (see Option)

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

Memberships are for one calendar year beginning January and ending in December. Membership includes a subscription to our monthly newsletter. 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. 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 7:30 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.

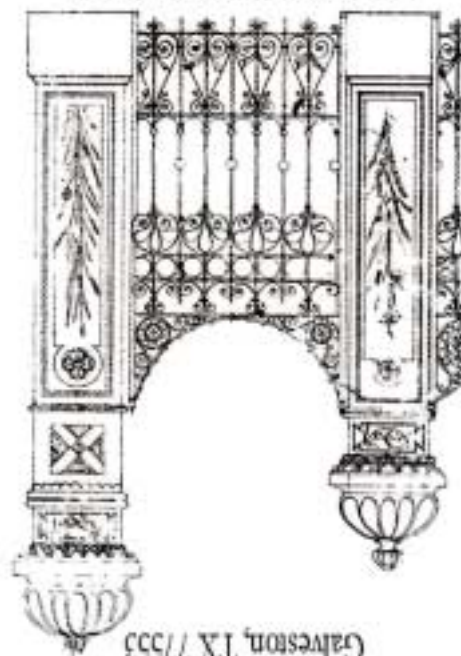
SAFEE MEMBERSHIP OPTION

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Joining the SAFEE Program includes

**Family membership in E.E.H.D.A.
3 months \$60; 6 months \$120; full year \$240**

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