



East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 35 No. 7

Bob Chapin & Lynette Haaga, Editors

www.eastendgalveston.org

July 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EEHDA activity

July 3rd (Thursday)

5:30pm - Refreshments at The Cottage

6:00pm - **Neighborhood Meeting**

Every Tuesday 7:30pm – **Band Concert**

Sealy Pavilion – 2300 block of Sealy

July 4th (Friday) **Independence Day!**

Parade starts at 10:00am

July 5th (Saturday) 6:00pm – **Art Walk**

July 7th & 21st (Mondays) 4:00pm

Landmark Commission – City Hall

July 8th & 22nd (Tuesdays) 4:00pm

Planning Commission – City Hall

EEHDA activity

July 10th (Thursday) 6:00pm –

Block Party “RED, WHITE & BLUE”

15th Street – Church to Postoffice

EEHDA activity

July 12th & 26th (Saturdays) 9:00am

We paint The Cottage! Need your help.

JOIN US!

July 12th (Saturday) – 8:00 am – Noon

Farmer’s Market, 24th at The Strand’s

Saengerfest Park

July 19th (Saturday) 10:00am – 4:00pm

Galveston Bicycle Day at Saengerfest Park



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Mike Gilbert

EEHDA PRESIDENT



Man, its hot outside! As I write this little column, it is technically Spring, but it really feels like August – just think what we have to look forward to.

I do hope your summer is going well. Our “Island” is full of visitors from all over the state and from beyond visiting and hopefully leaving with wonderful impressions of what we already know – Galveston is a great place to live. I hope you have noticed how many visitors are walking and driving through our beautiful neighborhood, many of them with our walk/driving brochure. Be sure to greet them with a smile and a big “Welcome to Galveston and the East End”.

If you haven’t been by our “Cottage” lately, you need to take some time and notice the changes to the building. Many of our members have given up a few hours on various Saturdays to scrape and will soon begin to paint the outside of our meeting house. Thanks to **Jonathan Tromm** for taking on this huge task of organizing and leading us through the process of making our Cottage look a little brighter on Postoffice Street.

The inside is also receiving a face lift – new paint and fixtures – all under the guidance of **Lizette Narjarian** and **Lynette Haaga** – Thanks Ladies - Give Jonathan a call at 771-5255 to find out the next date of our “Workday at the Cottage”. It really is a lot of fun.

See you Around the Neighborhood!

IS IT CHRISTMAS YET?

By Kathy Bass

No, don't panic. We've still got 6 months, but I'm already thinking about decorating the East End cottage for our December 5th Candlelight Homes Tour. I would like to ask each of you to donate a Christmas ornament, preferably Victorian in style, to our cottage tree. If you've ever seen my Christmas trees, you know that my motto has always been "the more the merrier", so I'd like to decorate in this "more is better" Victorian theme.

You can bring your ornament to one of our block parties or membership meetings, or drop it off at my house at 1827 Ball. I figure if we start collecting now, we'll have a full tree by December 5th. Thank you all and have a great summer!

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING REFRESHMENTS UPDATE

Special thanks to those who provided refreshments for our June Neighborhood Meeting! And thank you also to our members who generously donated to our kitty as well. (These funds will be used to fill in on months when we run short of volunteers.) **Anita, Allison and B.J.** have stepped forward to help us out in July, and **Marianne, Karl, and Fran** are on the list for future meetings.

If you would like to help by bringing something to an upcoming meeting, just call **Lynette at 750-9441** and she will put your name on the list for the category of your choice. We have had some busy and productive meetings this year, and we truly appreciate having tasty snacks and cold drinks to enjoy during our social hour and through our business proceedings.



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Notes from

ELIZABETH BEETON

City Council Representative
District 3


Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones - commonly known as TIRZes - have been a topic at City Hall lately. That's because requests to expand or create new TIRZes are in the offing. A TIRZ is a geographic area carved out by City Hall; Developers in the zone are allowed to spend the property taxes generated within the zone on their projects, rather than having them flow into the general fund, as they otherwise would.

I have two concerns with TIRZes. First, Galveston allows developers within a TIRZ to spend tax dollars on expensive items that developers in other parts of the city have to pay for themselves, which gives TIRZ developers a competitive advantage. Second, TIRZes are a burden on the city's other taxpayers. Tax dollars generated within a TIRZ that would normally pay for police, fire, code enforcement, streets, etc. are instead spent on development projects within the TIRZ, forcing the city's other taxpayers to subsidize city services for the zone's developers and residents. And TIRZes are expensive to operate.

City manager LeBlanc estimates that the bill for consultants and lawyers for the city's four tax zones to date is already \$1 million. That number pales compared to the interest charges the taxpayers will pay over time for the projects undertaken within the TIRZ zones, because the city has agreed to pay interest to the TIRZ developers on their expenses.

The county does contribute to the TIRZes, which means that north county taxpayers are helping subsidize our TIRZes, but by the same token we are helping subsidize the TIRZes in north county.

Is the payoff of eventually having these high-end developments on our city's tax rolls after the TIRZ zones expire - some 35 years from now - worth it? I would like to know your opinion.



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The Spotlight
is on

**LYNETTE
HAAGA**

by
Rose Marie Smith

Please meet Lynette Haaga, currently serving as Vice President of the East End Historic District. Lynette and Bill bought their home and moved in on Valentine's Day, 2005. That evening, as they sat on their front porch, something they had been looking forward to, the sea fog rolled in as it has a way of doing and turned their neighborhood into a fairy tale scene.



They had moved from Pearland and this was their first adventure into the life of restoring a historic home. Since the floor furnace wasn't working properly and the night was cold, they spent their first night in

Galveston in a motel. When someone came the next day to check the furnace, their decision to stay away was a good one because the furnace was emitting carbon monoxide. Today their home is well on its way to its glory days. Lynette has found an outlet for her love of painting (walls that is) and each room is coming alive with her careful touch.

Lynette is an accomplished musician. She plays piano, clarinet and bassoon. After she and Bill arrived in Galveston, she was teaching piano in her home, working at "You Gotta Have Art" and Galveston Island Tours. She decided she wanted a different life in Galveston and changed from this busy schedule to restoring their home.

She and Bill read about the East End Historic District Association and ventured to a block party. They visited with Paula and Louie Reeg and the rest is history. They are now very active in EEHDA and have contributed in many ways. Of course, their favorite activity is the block party, but they can be found at every undertaking, especially the recent

yard sale and the current redecorating of the Cottage.

Lynette grew up in Minnesota and when it came time to go to college she chose the University of Houston where she studied Food



and Nutrition. After graduating, she taught Food Science and had her own catering business in Houston. She speaks fondly of making wedding cakes. (She made the cake for their wedding.)

She and Bill met at a Classic Car gathering at the Prince's Drive-In in downtown Houston. Lynette was president of Convertibles of Houston. They had a '68 Corvette and a '73 Mustang. They still have these cars in their basement. They started going to car shows, married and celebrated their 19th Wedding Anniversary on June 3.

Bill was born in Illinois and came to Texas because of the weather (here are two people who came to Texas as quickly as they could.) He worked for Kraft Foods for 26 years at Maxwell House, retiring as a department manager. He works part time now at the Home Depot in the appliance department. It's good to know a helpful source at HD for all us redoers.

There is a large map of the world in one of the rooms in their home. There are pins in the map for all of the places they have traveled. One country with no pin yet is Finland. Since they have Finnish backgrounds, (Haaga is a Finnish name) they still have some traveling to do. Hope they get there.

As we were leaving after a delightful visit I noticed a plaque over their front door which read "And They Lived Happily Ever After." What a good wish for two very nice people and we're glad they are spending this happy time with us at the EEHDA.



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SAFEE

by Sheryl Rozier

One of the services that the SAFE E program offers is a vacation watch for your residence. You may notify the Officers by placing a note in the black mailbox at the Cottage at 1501 Postoffice or you may email me at safee@swbell.net with your request. Papers that are placed in the black box are only seen by the Officers. While you are away please consider letting them know. They will look over your home and actually walk the property and check doors and windows if you request. This is a wonderful service provided for your SAFE E membership. Also, with gas prices on the rise we have a tip for you. Please consider buying a locking gas cap for your vehicle. Some of you may remember this problem from the 1970's when people would actually steal gas from your car on the street. According to the SAFE E officers they have seen this happening again. I hope you have a great and safe summer. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about the SAFE E program.

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

New Life Member:

Jan & John Miszkowski

Regular and SAFE E members:

Marilyn S. Harris

Joan B. Miller

Tom & Julia Muncaster

Thomas Shehan & Claudette Braly

Sponsor members:

Dan Hays-Clark & William Ennis

Carl Tapia & John Wilmore

Larry Janzen

Jerry & Irma Hite

Mike & Pam Gilbert

Herbert & Rosalind Mitchell

Karen Derr

Paula & Louis Reeg

Ellen Morrison & Christian Robbian

Robert Evans

Terry Lee Wilson

Kenneth & Carol Bartz

Corporate Business members:

Ronald McDonald House

Kathleen Collins, Attorney at Law

BLOCK PARTIES BETTER THAN EVER

By Lynette Haaga

Our June Block Party at the Cottage was another success. We had the added benefit of a cool, fresh breeze blowing up 15th Street from the Gulf making this one of the most pleasant summer block parties ever. Neighbors enjoyed a nice variety of potluck goodies including grilled chicken legs, chili dogs, and all kinds of yummy side dishes and desserts. Thanks to all who brought food to share and also for contributing to our kitty for beverages and supplies.

A new twist to this June get-together was the theme of Artists in the Park. Several local artists, some of them our very own East Enders, displayed their works of art in the Darragh Park for everyone to enjoy. This proved to be so popular that we will be trying it again at a future Block Party. If you know any artists that would like to participate, please let Shane McDermott know at 409-771-6270 so they can be contacted. Special thanks to our June artists and those who helped out setting up the displays. A light sprinkle of rain set everyone scurrying towards the end of the evening but quickly passed and did nothing to dampen anybody's spirits.

Don't miss our next Block Party coming up on Thursday, July 10th, 6:00pm at The Cottage on 15th and Postoffice! Our theme is ALL-AMERICAN RED, WHITE & BLUE so dress accordingly and bring your very favorite summertime picnic fare to share with your friends.

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COTTAGE PAINT PREP UNDERWAY

The Saturday, June 7th, Cottage maintenance social went extremely well. We all have to thank the following people without whom it would not have been possible and simply would not have happened. **Mike Gilbert, John McDermott** and **Jonathon Tromm** for their final scraping of (yes, the old paint keeps coming off) and **Bill Haaga** for power washing and scrubbing of half the outside of the cottage and **Kathy Bass** and **Lynette Haaga** for their work inside. Fortunately there was a good breeze and lots of shade during the event. By the time you read this, we would have gathered again on June 21st to finish washing, hopefully caulk and even prime the exterior of the cottage.



We are scheduling Saturdays, **July 12th** and **July 26th**, starting at 9am, to work on painting the **primer and top coat** colors so mark these days on your schedules. We have lots of rollers, trays and brushes so don't be shy about coming out for even an hour. We can accomplish so much with the more people who come out. With the wonderful summer heat upon us we will likely be doing short sessions. We always have lots of refreshments. Once the prep work is done, the nice thing about painting is that it can be done a little at a time. For those of you who might wish to donate some time, even an hour during a week day or other weekend day, please contact **Jonathon Tromm** to make arrangements. cel.# **409-771-5255** or email **eislamia@swbell.net**. Comments and suggestions are always welcome and encouraged.



Most likely, by the time you read this, the front porch eaves and roof will likely have been repaired. The wonderful fund raisers of the Champagne Night Social and Garage Sale are funding all of the repairs, maintenance and interior improvements of the cottage. Of course, the many volunteer hours involved in every aspect make everything possible, as it always has over the many years the EEHDA has been around, as well as creating very nice camaraderie and socializing.





incidents have settled down once Sandra impulsively told Old Billy outright in a very no-nonsense tone to quit messing with her!

This is a two-part haunting, so don't miss next month to learn some rather strange facts about Old Billy himself and find out where else he likes to roam when he ventures from the portal closet. To share your story with our resident ghost hunter, call Lynette Haaga at 750-9441 or 1-409-200-9547. Got photos? Show us your ghost and/or we'll come visit to try to see it.

Strange sounds, objects being moved about, spectral hands, cold spots, a figure on the staircase - many homes here in the East End have mysterious or unexplained events taking place. Read each month and decide – creaky old house, powerful imagination, or actual paranormal activity?

The Stanleys' house at 1517 Postoffice has an active presence. Known as "Old Billy", this ghost apparently does not want to be disturbed from his lair in the closet under the staircase. This closet is the only part of the house that has not been refurbished and still even has the original wallpaper inside, making it familiar and comfortable. Old Billy, whose real name was Robert T. Bilderback, lived at this address for about 30 years till his death on January 13, 1883.

Sandra described how digging in the closet to find various items has afterwards led to mysterious happenings. In one instance, bothering Old Billy's repose caused a securely stowed bag of decorative glass pieces used in vases to later be scattered on the closet floor with a huge crash as if it leapt right off the shelf. Another time, a big shopping bag full of books set just outside the closet ended up flung out all over the floor by itself. Many a time she has distinctly heard the front door open and close, only to come and find it securely locked. Working in her kitchen, she often sees something out of the corner of her eye moving from the closet area into the dining room.

Others are also sensitive to something unusual going on. A granddaughter feels a presence in a back bedroom upstairs. Sandra's son had a reading done on the house by telephone, and was told there was an "energy" in the house and also that the closet under the staircase was a "portal between this world and the next". (All this by a person who had never visited here and in fact was unaware such a closet existed.) Houseguests have mentioned feeling uneasy and sensing something they couldn't quite put their finger on. However,

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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



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:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Business \$105 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$255 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$55 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Fam. \$17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 manner and to the extent provided by section 170 of the code.

SAFE MEMBERSHIP OPTION

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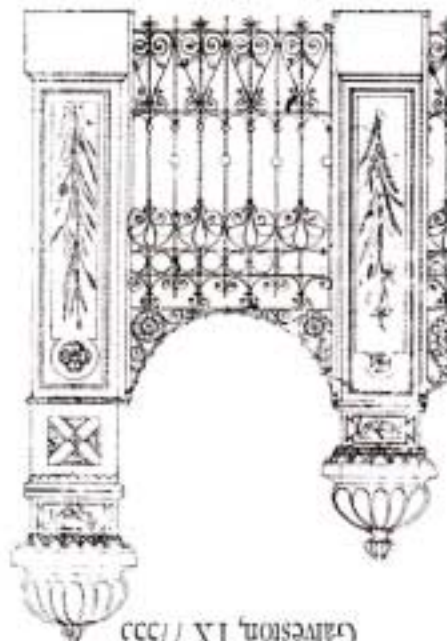
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