



# East End Historical District Association's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vol. 39 No. 2

Margaret Hand, Editor

[www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org](http://www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org)

February 2012

## On the Calendar

### **EEHDA Neighborhood Meeting February 2nd (Thursday)**

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

### ***DECORATING FOR CASINO NIGHT* Friday February 3th 1202 Postoffice**

12:00 noon until we're done. Come and help.

### ***EEHDA CASINO NIGHT* Saturday February 4th 1202 Postoffice**

Tickets at the Door

### ***GAIN MEETING***

#### **February 16th (Thursday)**

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

### **EEHDA Garden Class February 25th (Saturday)**

9 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.  
Darragh Park  
Free to all East Enders. Everyone invited.

### ***MAH JONG AT THE COTTAGE* Every Monday**

1-4 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome

### ***EASTER SUNDAY 2012 IS APRIL 8TH* Mardi Gras celebration February 10th - 21st**

Visit [www.mardigrasgalveston.com](http://www.mardigrasgalveston.com) for more  
information

We're off to a fast start for the new year. Casino Night and Mardi Gras Brunch are upon us. Speaking of which, if any one can volunteer for either, please let us know.

EEHDA  
President  
Bill  
Beveridge



Lizette Gaudin has proposed another year of Block Parties (proposed schedule inside.) Let's all give her and the volunteers our support. It will be great fun.

The East End as a whole looks great with all the new paint and colorful yards. Everyone has taken a lot of pride in their homes and yards since Ike.

Starting February 25th, a couple of master gardeners and I will start garden classes, free to East End members, at Darraugh Park from 9 a.m to 10:30. Bring your chair, sharp clippers and gloves. The first class will be on roses. I'm hoping this will be a lot of fun, informative and a great help to the park.

This year let's try to get all of our neighbors involved in our activities. invite them to the block parties and the other events, and ask them to join the EEHDA. We already have had several people rejoin this past month.

A bit about me. I was born and raised in Houston where I attended Kincaid High School. I started college at Berkley, but Vietnam called, so off I went. Upon returning home I went back college, this time at U.C.L.A. at Pamona where I received my degree in Horticulture and Botany. In my Forties I retired from Occidental. I've been here for 15 years and most of that time have been in the antique business. I now run a small furniture business for a friend who lives in Houston.

I stayed during Ike with a good friend in the East End. After the storm, the Galveston Daily News gave me an "Unsung Hero Award" for my deeds in the East End Neighborhood. I moved to the East End from Ave. P after Ike. I've made a great number of good friends here and consider this neighborhood the best place to live, ever.


## 2012 EEHDA Block Party Proposed Schedule

Lizette Gaudin has been appointed the new Block Party Chair for the East End. Following the informal discussion about EEHDA plans for the year in January, she has produced the following proposed schedule of block parties for the year. Some aspects of the schedule remain to be finalized. There is a variety of opinion on whether parties should be held on Thursdays or Fridays. The final decision will be based on the input of East Enders.

One innovative suggestion from Vice President Jonathon Tromm was well received. July and August parties will start later, and will be held in the back yard of the Cottage to help escape the inevitable heat. Instead of dinner, we'll be serving drinks and ice cream.

Additional suggestions for block parties will be welcome at the February meeting. We still need a host for the November party. If no one steps forward, the party will be held at the Cottage.


Month	Day – Date - Time	Location
April	Friday, April 6 5:30 POT LUCK	1213 Sealy – hosted by Emmy Morrison & Chris Robbian honoring Carlos Guerguin
May	Thursday, May 10 5:30 POT LUCK	Darragh Park – honoring donors to Casino Night & Dr. Burke Evans
June	Thursday, June 14 5:30 POT LUCK	1117 Sealy – hosted by Fran, Martin & David Kelly
July	Thursday, July 12 6:30 – No Dinner ICE CREAM ONLY	15 <sup>th</sup> & Church at the Cottage – hosted by EEHDA – a tribute to EE Members & Volunteers – ice cream & drinks served by EEHDA
August	Thursday, Aug. 16 6:30 – No Dinner ICE CREAM ONLY	15 <sup>th</sup> & Church at the Cottage – hosted by EEHDA – another tribute to EE Members & Volunteers – ice cream & drinks served by EEHDA
September	Thursday, Sept. 13 5:30 POT LUCK	1702 Winnie – hosted by Lynn & Kevin Barrett
October	Tuesday, Oct. 5:30 POT LUCK	15 & Church at the Cottage – NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
November	Friday, Nov. 9 5:30 POT LUCK	Host needed or will be at Cottage





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## East End Historic Homes

*(This is a new feature of the Neighborhood News highlighting one of our historic homes. If you know the history of yours or another historic building in the East End and would like to submit a column, please contact editor Margaret Hand.)*

### 1887 Albert Rakel Home, 1808 Postoffice St. by Deanna Johnson

On a brisk November day in 1885, prosperous Galveston businessmen left bustling commercial establishments to return to luxurious homes, filled with fine Victorian furnishings. Hours later the city awoke to a Friday the thirteenth horror -- their world was literally in ashes. The Great Fire of 1885 had swept across the Island destroying an entire 40-block area, taking over 550 buildings and leaving 2,500 people homeless.

A few months later, in 1886, Galveston businessman Albert Rakel purchased two lots from H. Kempner at the corner of 18th and Postoffice Streets in the fire devastated area. Rakel, a wholesale and retail grocer, was owner of the *A. Rakel & Company New Orleans Store*, located on the north side of Market Street between 20th and 21st Streets. Rakel intended to build houses on the two lots to serve as rental property.

Albert Rakel chose one of Galveston's great new architects, Alfred Muller, to design and construct the houses. At the time of construction, each house was valued at \$4,500. Alfred Muller was a graduate of the Royal Academy of Architecture in Berlin, and spent ten years practicing in Germany before coming to the United States. He also worked in New York and Washington before settling in Galveston in 1885. During Muller's career, he designed some of Galveston's most interesting and important buildings. Unfortunately, Muller's architectural legacy was largely overshadowed by the better-known Nicholas J. Clayton. While Clayton lived to the age of 77, designing masterpiece after masterpiece, Muller died of typhoid fever in 1896 at the age of 41.

The elegance of Alfred Muller's Queen Anne design is reflected in both this house at 1808 Postoffice and its twin at 1802 Postoffice, with their nearly identical treatments inside and outside. The double galleries retain their original ornate balustrades and unusual corner tower with its beautiful pointed cap. Interior arches complement the window and decorative facade while generous moldings accent the spacious rooms, hall and stairway.

It was not until Meyer Levy purchased the house at 1808 Postoffice in 1903 that it was "owner-occupied."

He converted the gas lighting to oil and added a two-story structure at the rear of the property for laundry and servants quarters. Levy, a native of New York, was the owner of M.M. Levy and Company, one of the largest brokerage firms in Texas.

Over the next nearly 100 years, the home changed owners several times until the current owners, Terry & Deanna Johnson, purchased it in 2001 for their future retirement home. The home had obviously gone through various renovations, but the original floor plan had not been altered, and the house retained nearly all of its original *unpainted* doors and moldings. The two story structure in the rear had been converted to an apartment, so the property was once again used for rental income until after Hurricane Ike. Terry and Deanna are now full-time East Enders, and have made it their mission to return the home to its former glory.

To date, three bedrooms have been renovated, having their windows rebuilt and their plaster walls and ceilings scraped, patched, skim coated, painted and stenciled. Terry and Deanna have a keen interest in antiques, and have furnished each bedroom with a collection of 19th century Victorian pieces.

Behind the scenes, plumbing and electrical services in the house have been updated, and a new HVAC system has been installed, thanks to the effects of Hurricane Ike in 2008. Projects for the near future include transforming a trunk room into a master bath, and repairing the balustrades on the front galleries of the house.

*Historical elements of this piece were borrowed from Galveston Historical Foundation's 13th Annual Historic Homes Tour brochure of 1987, written by Ann Anderson.*





# Getting to Know the Coyote

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

“Coyote is always out there waiting, and Coyote is always hungry.” - Navajo proverb

The hurricane slowed down our coyote population for a while but recently reports of sightings and howlings are mounting. You may have even heard about the coyote trapped in a fenced lot near here that the policeman chased free. Coyotes are one of the most adaptable animals on the planet and have adapted to living near humans in urban areas. With the increasing spread of the coyote, it has become critical for all of us to gain better understanding of everything about the coyote – habitat, diet, hunting behavior and group dynamics.

The coyote and the wolf are natural enemies since they compete for the same resources in the same habitat. The wolf



has disappeared over time so the coyote population has spread. The coyote diet is varied and this has also promoted the animal to seek new territories without concern about finding any one kind of prey. Their habitat determines

what they eat and they are both predators and scavengers. The coyote will hunt for rodents, rabbits, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fruits, berries, other plants, food left outside for pets, birds or squirrels, and they will also forage through human trash. **They will definitely hunt cats and small dogs.** Many well meaning humans have promoted an unnatural boldness in coyotes by intentionally or unintentionally feeding them. This has encouraged coyotes to become accustomed to the sights, sounds, and scents of humans, and consequently, lose their fear of humans. Coyotes may come up on porches and decks if food is regularly present.

Coyotes are nocturnal and are most active early evening and again before dawn. They usually hunt in male/female pairs. Most of the time they move around by trotting or loping, but they will gallop if chasing prey or being chased.

The coyote is about the size of a medium-sized dog – about 25 – 42 pounds. Look for its long, thin legs, a tapered muzzle, yellow eyes, and large pointed ears. It also has a bushy, black-tipped drooping tail. They range in color from dull yellow to gray and their fur is thick.

Coyotes mate between late January and March. A litter of 5-7 pups is born during April. The mom stays with the pups for the first two months so the male will be hunting

alone during this time. By the end of the summer, the pups are ready to find their own territory. Typical coyote dens would be storm drains, culverts, sheds, under houses or porches, parks, golf courses or any dry area. Their home range depends on the food and water availability but can be 5 – 10 square miles in size.

Check out real coyote videos on YouTube, especially *Coyotes Howling in Suburban Houston*.

A useful tip for distinguishing the coyote from a dog or a wolf is to watch its tail – the coyote runs with its tail down, while the wolf has it straight out and the dog has it pointing upwards.

*Casey Farris has owned/operated a pet sitting business in Houston for 11 years. Dorothy Dan has owned/operated Casey for 7 years. They live in Galveston's East End. www.sealysuites.com.*



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## Casino Night 2012

by Fran Kelly

By the time you receive this newsletter it will be almost time for Casino Night, Sat. Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 6 p.m. If you would like to join in some extra fun with us come to 1201 Postoffice on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and help us set up and decorate. We will start at noon. If you can't make that be sure to come to Casino Night and join us in all the games, costume contest, food and drinks. Remember tickets are only \$15.00, and you receive \$20,000.00 in poker chips for the games and the Live Auction later in the evening where you will be able to spend your winnings.

Hope to see all of you there

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## Cottage Exterior

by Jonathan Tromm

Come on out Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 10am. We will be doing maintenance on the cottage. Some interior painting, a little bit of drywall work, replacing the newel posts of the exterior front stairs and some window work. Bring your tools and gloves.

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# Nightmare on Elm Street: Tips to Survive Your Remodeling

Allison Brown

*(This is the first in a series of three articles by Allison on the extensive remodel that she and husband Bob have undertaken on their East End home on Sealy.)*

My house has been under construction off and on for the last three years after Ike. I learned a few tips I'd like to share with you for when or if you have construction done. Some of these were learned the hard way, and some I figured out ahead of time – thank goodness! I hope they help you.

## Part I: A Good Contract Saves a Lot of Grief

- Start with a good contract that includes not only the work you're hiring your contractor to do, but also that includes some of the little things I've included below that'll make it easier for you.
- Ask contractors for a copy of their liability insurance coverage. Oops, no coverage? You can be liable for paying for their twisted knees or falls off the ladder. This requirement separates the pros from the amateurs. Another good way is to call the city Building Department and ask them if the contractor is currently licensed with the city. This is required of all contractors and offers you some protection from fly-by-nighters.
- It really helps if you require your contractor to have a supervisor on site at all times that speaks the same language as you. I found this out the hard way when I remodeled my bathroom and a brand spanking new worker was learning to cut-in paint on top of my newly installed floor tiles. And I learned it again when my roofers started putting on shingles before the structural engineer had a chance to see the nailing pattern. The roofers wouldn't stop. Nor could I reach my contractor that very moment to explain to them why I was yelling at them. If there had been a supervisor on site that spoke my language he could have it could have saved us both some grief. It's good to establish this requirement ahead of time with your contractor, and may be something you want to include in your contract.
- Require each of your contractors to clean up their work every single day. This helped keep our dust level down in the house and made the workplace safer for everybody. Also, you never know when the crew will have to be pulled off your job for a

week. Most of my contractors knocked off at about 4:00 to clean up before they left at 5:00. If I'd put this clause in my roofer's contract I wouldn't have had to chase debris blowing around the yard several times.

Next Month: The Real Supervisor is YOU!



## EEHDA Membership

### Special thanks to our newest members:

Sana Betancourt  
J. & Elaine Bangle  
Donna Liebbert

### Ongoing Thanks to our Sustaining Members:

Mosquito Café  
Sand 'n Sea Properties  
Carol Bartz, via an ExxonMobil Matching Gift  
Harry Behal  
Mike and Debbie Box  
Pamela & Billy Burge  
Gerald Campbell  
John C. Crossman, Jr.  
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Fran, Martin & David Kelly  
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Herbert & Rosalind Mitchell  
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**\$15** Saturday, Feb. 4th, 2012  
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### CONTACT US

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409 765-3616 (office)  
281 460-4534 (cell)  
[aalmendarez@cityofgalveston.org](mailto:aalmendarez@cityofgalveston.org)

City Council District 3 – Elizabeth Beeton  
409-692-0698 [elizabethbeeton@comcast.net](mailto:elizabethbeeton@comcast.net)

Code Enforcement – need address & short description of  
complaint

[cityplanningcounter@cityofgalveston.org](mailto:cityplanningcounter@cityofgalveston.org)

GHF [mattfarragher@galvestonhistory.org](mailto:mattfarragher@galvestonhistory.org)

GAIN [Ralph@LtBlender.com](mailto:Ralph@LtBlender.com)

Storm Drain Problems – [publicworks@cityofgalveston.org](mailto:publicworks@cityofgalveston.org)

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409-765-3702 (Must get exact location plus car make,  
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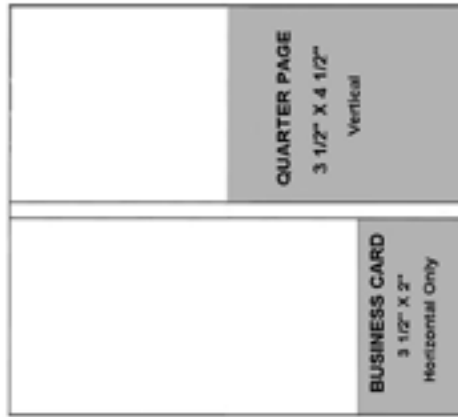
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 Contact our Membership Chair at [membership@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org](mailto:membership@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org).

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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