



PAVING THE WAY FOR HOUSTON'S GREATNESS

BY MARY K. VARGO

Students of Texas history learn that Santa Anna burned the town of Harrisburg to the ground, on his march to San Jacinto, but the story generally ends there. Today, residents of Houston's East End travel Harrisburg Boulevard, and most assume that Harrisburg was located somewhere along this street. In reality, Harrisburg, Texas, founded in 1824 (twelve years before Houston), was located between Brays Bayou and today's Lawndale, with Broadway as its main boulevard. Eventually, Houstonians would know Harrisburg Road (now Boulevard) as the road connecting the younger town of Houston to the more established town of Harrisburg.

It makes sense, that the first successful town in Stephen F. Austin's Colony would be located at the confluence of two main bodies of water - Buffalo and Sims Bayous, and that is exactly the spot John R. Harris selected for his town. Harris believed the location to be the headwaters of Buffalo Bayou, and today some still argue that Harris was correct. Years later, when the Allen brothers founded their town of Houston, it took a lot of work to make the bayou navigable above Harrisburg.

The biggest tragedy in the study of Houston's history is that Harrisburg's importance is ignored. The fact that Harrisburg was already established eliminated many of

the more overwhelming obstacles of founding a town in an uninhabited area. In fact, the Allen brothers knew that Harrisburg's location provided the most advantageous location for a town. They attempted to purchase the town lots of Harrisburg for the site of their town, but Harrisburg town lots were encumbered in litigation among the heirs of John R. Harris, who died of yellow fever in 1829. The Allen brothers then purchased land at the confluence of Buffalo and White Oak Bayous for their town.

In August of 1836, the Allen brothers advertised the town of Houston in eastern U. S. newspapers. The timing of Houston's birth took advantage of Harrisburg having been burned to the ground only months before, during events leading to the Battle of San Jacinto. Thus began Houston's determination to replace Harrisburg's position of prominence in Texas.

When Houston was founded, Harrisburg was shown on Texas maps as the largest town in the area, and was the seat of government for the municipality (today known as the county seat). Harrisburg's founder and leaders had the foresight to develop the infrastructure critical to survival. The town had grown to be the anchor: the artery through which commerce and settlers traveled.

Harrisburg's history as the first successful town in *continued on pg. 2*

Eastwood Civic Association Meeting • February 6, 2006 • 6:30 - 7:30 pm • Cape Center

METRO PLANS FOR THE HARRISBURG CORRIDOR PHASE II

HISTORIC RECOGNITION

Mayor Bill White recently created a task force to document and archive historical structures in Houston, and we're excited to announce that Eastwood has been selected as the pilot neighborhood for this project. A main component of the project is photographing historic buildings and homes in our neighborhood, and we are looking for volunteers to help with this endeavor.

On Saturday, March 11th, at 9 am, 10 or 11 teams will fan out over the oldest section of Eastwood. Each team will have two committee members and local volunteers. The committee is made up of some of the most important and influential architects, preservationists, and historians in the city.

After all we've done to make Eastwood the best place to live in Houston, we are being noticed for our

hard work. This is our opportunity to show that we love our neighborhood. We need at least ten volunteers, two per team would be better (20). The more people, the quicker it will get done. It would be great if they could tell the mayor that they were inundated with volunteers! They will try to have a digital camera on each team, but could use more.

The chairman of one of the committees under the task force, Barrie Scardino- Exec. Dir. of AIA Houston, will speak with us more about the project at our March 6th Civic meeting.

Please let us know if you would like to take part in this project or just show up at the Church of the Redeemer by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 11th. ☑

PAVING THE WAY FOR HOUSTON'S GREATNESS

Austin's Colony, is intertwined with some of the most significant and historic events in Texas. Harrisburg...

- ☛ Was the location of the first steam sawmill, first successful port, and first cotton shipment in Texas.
- ☛ Was the site of the design and creation of the first tri-color Lone Star flag of Texas
- ☛ Was the second Capital of the Republic of Texas, during the Runaway Scrape
- ☛ Was the location of the first railroad in Texas and the second railroad west of the Mississippi River - the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos, and Colorado Railroad
- ☛ Leaders were prominent in the quest for a deepwater port, hosting the meeting with Washington delegates who came to review the plan submitted by Houston and Harrisburg leaders.
- ☛ Was the location of the Houston Launch Club, parent organization of the Houston Yacht Club, hosting regattas and pleasure boat races at Harrisburg, well into the 1920s

On December 14, 1927, James S. Deady performed his last act as Harrisburg's Mayor, by signing annexation

documents. At the same time, Harrisburg resident J. S. Bracewell, who had a thriving legal practice in Houston, ended his service as Harrisburg's City Attorney. Harrisburg had paved roads, a fire department, retail stores, a City Hall, and money in the bank. The Harrisburg Independent School District was serving students as far south, as the town of Park Place, and Pasadena students who wanted higher education, attended Harrisburg High School.

Today, we can feel the ghosts of this historic town, when visiting Glendale Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Houston, which began as the John R. Harris family cemetery. While historic buildings in Harrisburg are long gone, the land upon which Texas' most renowned leaders walked, over a period of more than a hundred years, is still here. This story is important, because Harrisburg really did pave the way for Houston's greatness.

Mary K. Vargo is he President of the Southeast Neighborhood Coalition and serves on the Planning Department's Buildings to Standard and Neighborhood Preservation Committees. She will make a presentation on history of Harrisburg at the April 3rd ECA meeting.

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ONE OF THE ANTIQUE COFFEE GRINDERS ON EXHIBIT ALONG WITH VINTAGE PHOTOS AND ROASTERS AT THE OFFICES OF THE GREATER EAST END MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, 3211 HARRISBURG FROM FEBRUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 2006.

Special Thanks to Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Victor Trevino's office for printing this month's Eastwood Voice

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

The most recent meeting was held February 14, 2006. Priorities for the upcoming year were discussed, including: addressing traffic congestion at the intersection at Woodridge/1-45 (Gulf Gate Mall); exploring viability of having Krogers launch a Signature store in the area; and requesting a UH marketing study of our Superneighborhood area.

Several guest speakers addressed topics of concern. Marion Boister, HPD Narcotics Division -FAST unit, explained the civil law that applies to "Common Nuisance" activities, such as illegal acts related to firearm discharges, organized crime, gambling, prostitution, drug traffic, distributing obscene material, and various crimes against persons. Sergio Martinez, HPD, described his role in providing Neighborhood Protection Services for parts of our SN area. Diane Bernal, City of Houston Planning Commission, agreed to assist the SN in working with area railroads to try to establish "safety zones." Other general topics discussed included area crime, notifying security officers of suspected crime, and local monitoring of chemicals in our air.

An update of the East End Visioning Process will occur at the next meeting. Next month's meeting is scheduled for March 14th, 6:30 PM, at the Villa de Matel Conference Center in Lawndale.

RANOMWAN HAS MOVED

Everyone's favorite East End Thai restaurant has moved from it's 1011 Telephone address. It has reopened in the Tlaquepaque Market at Eastwood, 736 Telephone across from the Houston Fire Station No. 18. The new location is behind the center at the back of the large parking lot. The hours of operation for dinner are Tuesday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and dinner Tuesday through Saturday, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

HPD SOUTH CENTRAL: MARCH ON CRIME

The South Central Division will be conducting crime prevention programs at the McNair Substation (2202 St. Emanuel) for this year's March on Crime Campaign. Two presentations will be made each week. Please make plans to attend one or more of these presentations.

Week #1 - Domestic Violence

Monday - March 6 - 10 a.m.

Thursday - March 9 - 6 p.m.

Week #2 - Personal Safety

Monday - March 13 - 10 a.m.

Thursday - March 16 - 6 p.m.

Week #3 - Child Safety / Cyber Safety

Tuesday - March 21 - 7 p.m.

Thursday - March 23 - 10 a.m.

Week #4 - Identity Theft / Fraud

Monday - March 27 - 6 p.m.

Thursday - March 30 - 10 a.m.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Houston Police Dispatch (non-emergency)	713.884.3131
HPD South Central Substation	713.651.8100
HPD Navigation Storefront	713.238.2282
Harris Co. Constable, Prec. 6	713.923.9156
Constable Polk St. Storefront	713.921.0236
US Congressman Gene Green	713.330.0761
Texas State Senator Mario Gallegos	713.928.7575
Texas State Representative Rick Noriega	713.649.6563
County Commissioner Pct 2 Sylvia Garcia	713.755.6220
City Council Member Carol Alvarado	713.247.2011
Graffiti Abatement	713.928.9916
Street Light Outage (Centerpoint)	713.207.2222
Union Pacific RR National Police to report parked trains blocking streets	888.877.7267
City of Houston Service Helpline	311

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING OR UNDERWRITING AN ISSUE OF THE EASTWOOD VOICE, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO EASTWOOD@EASTWOOD-HOUSTON.COM OR CALL 713.923.3983.

The Eastwood Voice is a monthly publication of the Eastwood Civic Association. If you have story ideas or comments, or would like to help pass out copies to your neighbors, please contact us at PO Box 9542, Houston, TX 77023 or at eastwood.voice@eastwood-houston.com.

HISTORIC HOUSTON ONLINE AUCTION

The Spring 2006 Online Auction began February 15th and will continue through March 9th at 10:00 p.m. It is filled with unique, one-of-a-kind items from Historic Houston's Salvage Warehouse as well as fine wines, works of art, jewelry, books, and more.

This is a great opportunity to buy a replacement item for your old home, an old item for your new construction or just to support the great preservation work of Historic Houston.

Visit www.historichouston.org for a link to the live auction and to find out more about this organization. Historic Houston was identified by Metropolitan Home Magazine as No. 8 in their Design 100 of most innovative design ideas from around the world.

METRO SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR WORKSHOPS

Metro staff and consultant team members will discuss the Southeast Transit Center alignment, the Wheeler/Martin Luther King alignment variations and technology variations at two identical workshops. The first workshop will be Tuesday, February 28, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Judson W. Robinson, Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive. The second one will be Wednesday, March 1, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Palm Center Business Technology Center, 5330 Griggs Road.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 26 Coffee Exhibit Feb. 1 thru Apr. @ Greater East End District Office	27	28	MARCH 1	2	3	4
5	HPD SC March on Crime 10am 6:30 Civic Club Mtg. Cape Center	7	Metro Workshop @ Robinson C.C. 6-8pm	Metro Workshop @ Palm Center. 6-8pm	Heavy Trash Area B	11
12	HPD SC March on Crime 10am	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	6:30 SuperNeighborhd	22	HPD SC March on Crime 6pm	24	25
26	27	7:00 South Central PIP Meeting March on Crime	29	30	31	APRIL 1
2	Heavy Trash Area A HPD SC March on Crime 6pm	4	5	HPD SC March on Crime 10am 6-8pm Co. Comm. Garcia Town Hall Mtg	Area B Trashset out	4pm Yucca Flats
9	6:30 Civic Club Mtg. Cape Center	11	12	13	Area A Trash set out	14
16	17	18	19	20	Heavy Trash Area B GOOD FRIDAY Area A Trash set out	21

Heavy Trash Area A: Second Monday, West of Lockwood (toward Cullen) and South of Telephone (toward I-45)

Heavy Trash Area B: First Friday, East of Lockwood (toward Lawndale) and North of Telephone (toward Harrisburg)



EASTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION



PO Box 9542 • Houston • Texas • 77261

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please complete and mail to the address above or hand in at the meeting.)

Name: _____

(Please list each household member on this membership, including children.) _____

Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____

Email: _____

Please indicate up to three committees on which you would like to participate:

Block Captain Membership Graffiti Abatement Park Improvements Animal Control

Deed Restrictions Historical Commission OTHER _____

Annual Membership Dues \$25.00 I'm not a member, but please add me to your contact list.

Our monthly newsletter, the Eastwood Voice is available at the monthly meetings and door-to-door in areas with active block captains. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you please include \$3.70 for postage. (You don't have to be a member to receive the newsletter by mail.)

Circle your subdivision

EASTWOOD ■ BROADMOOR ■ LAWNDALE ■ W. A. KIRBY ■ JACKSON COURT ■ WOODLEIGH ■ EASTLAWN ■
 DISSEN HEIGHTS ■ HOUSTON CITY RAILROAD ■ SUBURBAN ■ L.B. MOODY ■ BEVERLY PARK ■ EASTVIEW ■
 HAVSER ■ DOR RUTH ■ MIVELLER ■ DIXIE ■ BERRILIA ■ YOUNGMEANS