



EASTWOOD: THE MASTER PLAN

THIS IS THE FIRST IN A FOUR-PART SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF THE EASTWOOD SUBDIVISION BY BILL ENGLAND.

William A. Wilson had a vision for Eastwood, his new suburban neighborhood. His plan was to develop 215 acres of land into a "distinctively high-class home center. . . a tangible example of modern community development". This vision included the development of the "social center idea" among Eastwood residents and a "community spirit of mutual benefit for the good of all. . ."

To William Wilson, it was not just about building homes-it was about creating a community of homes, a total lifestyle "where people who seek all that is best in life may live amid ideal surroundings." That's why his master plan included green space for Eastwood Park, land for Eastwood Community Church (an offshoot of downtown's Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral) and land for Eastwood School (now Dora P. Lantrip Elementary-the oldest in-use school in the HISD system). Wilson wanted Eastwood to be an incubator for "the enrichment of life." It was considered a bold social experiment in 1911. It's still considered so today.

The master plan initially envisioned 1,000 terraced lots (much of that terracing from the diggings of the Houston Ship Channel). At some point, Wilson sold part of the property to other developers and today Eastwood

has approximately 800 homes. Developed in 1911 with the first lots for sale in June 1912, Eastwood was officially opened in September 1913. In our research of the neighborhood, The Eastwood Historical Commission found some homes built prior to the official platting of the neighborhood (some built as early as 1900-1909).

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This house on Walker was the 3rd home in Eastwood, built in 1911.

Eastwood Civic Association Meeting • January 5, 2004 • 7:30 - 8:30 pm • Cape Center

SPEAKER: CREATING A LEGACY, ANN GRIGSBY & NEW STATE LAWS UPDATE, SR. OFR MIKE HILL

TOWN HALL MEETING

On January 5th, Congressman Gene Green will be holding a Town Hall meeting to address security at the Port of Houston and the area chemical plants. Many local, state and federal agencies, as well as the chemical industry will have representatives present. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm at the Stevenson Middle School Auditorium, 9595 Winkler (at Highway 3).

This meeting will be going on at the same time as our monthly meeting at the Cape Center. The civic association will be sending representatives and will bring back information for the membership. We strongly encourage anyone interested in this timely issue to attend. If you have questions or concerns you would like to have addressed, but cannot attend, please forward those to eastwood@eastwood-houston.com prior to noon on January 5th. and we will take them to the meeting. ☑

CREATING A LEGACY

Our guest speaker for January is Ann Grigsby, PhD, President of Editorial Resources. Her presentation *Creating a Legacy: Leave More than Money* is on how to present your family and friends with a written legacy of your life as described by you.

Creating a Legacy is about sharing your life with the people you love, no matter what your age is or the life situation in which you currently find yourself. This simple writing process helps you prepare a manuscript that will become a lasting memory for your loved ones. Recalling the "firsts" in your life, your challenges and victories, and those special moments, will be fun for you to document and will create a priceless memory only you can generate.

Because the Creating a Legacy writing process is modular, an individual, a few cousins, or an entire family may become involved in the project. After documenting

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Eastwood was a 15-minute ride from downtown on the streetcar. Streets were paved with a 6-inch base of gravel covered with two inches of crushed red granite—the same used in the paving at Rice Institute. The master plan also included cement curbs and sidewalks, city water, gas, electricity and sanitary sewerage (all placed at the rear of the properties to eliminate unsightly utility poles & lines marring the streetscape). There was a boulevard driveway skirting the intertwining ravine running through Eastwood which “lends a beautiful vista to the entire scheme.” The ravine was filled in many years ago and is now the esplanade dividing Park Drive. Wilson’s plan allowed for the drainage of the terraced lots to be “perfect,” with all surplus water immediately carried to the ravine, emptying into Brays Bayou southeast of the neighborhood. And, of course, his plan called for symmetrically placed oak and sycamore trees to line the streets. Many of these trees remain today and create beautiful corridors of green.

And his plan paid off. By October 1913, Eastwood was hailed by The Houston Daily Post as “A model suburb. . .one of the most convenient, attractive and beautiful homesite additions in the city of Houston.” And Wilson’s newspaper ads assured potential buyers that Eastwood was “The home place of discriminating people, who are particular where they live.”

Next month we’ll find out who some of these discriminating and particular people were. ☒

CREATING A LEGACY *Continued from Page 1*

your life, with a little research, you could compile information on another family member - or perhaps a close friend who has shared many of your experiences. The possibilities are truly unlimited.

By creating a legacy, you are preparing a gift of love and friendship only you can give to those you love. You are a good friend.

Our neighborhood is also filled with a rich legacy. Just as those wonderful stories you hear over the holiday season recall the warm memories of your family and friends, the stories from our neighborhood help build our sense of community.

Dr. Grigsby will also provide a free one-hour session to help those who are interested in creating a legacy. You can purchase a guide or arrange for additional classes for yourself or a group by contacting Editorial Resources at 281.487.9113 or by email at info@editorial-resources.com. ☒

The Eastwood Voice is a monthly publication of the Eastwood Civic Association. If you have story ideas or comments, or our 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.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

WWW.EASTWOOD-HOUSTON.COM WEBSITE

The Eastwood Civic Association has recently changed our website. This interim website is the first step in creating a new website to provide more information for the association and for the community. It is easily updated so that you can check it for news since the last meeting. As each of our committees become more active, they will have their own page on the website for their members. We will also be including neighborhood resources such as a directory of businesses and agencies in the area, volunteer opportunities, maps and an event calendar.

The site will also be used to provide information to prospective homeowners. Since the Eastwood area contains one of the largest intact collections of the Craftsman, Arts & Crafts, Foursquare, and Mission architectural styles in Houston, we will have pages about these styles. With the renewed interest in these styles, we will also provide resources to help people restore their existing homes.

As we work to update our current website and design the new one, please let us know about anything you would like to see on your community website.

GREATER EASTWOOD SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

In November, representatives from Natural Legacy and the Freshwater Wetland Restoration Project spoke about the first-of-its-kind project at Mason Park to restore wetlands and help stem the damage from our major flooding. A newly constructed retention pond, a treatment marsh, and a tidal marsh will use natural processes to remove contaminants from flood waters from the nearby neighborhood. Thirty-five species of native plants will be reintroduced and educational trails will be built. An unprecedented group of nature and civic groups along with local, state, and federal agencies have teamed up for this project in our area.

There was also an update on the Harris County project to reconstruct and raise 15 bridges and widen the shelf along Brays Bayou from the Houston Ship Channel to the Beltway to control flooding.

The Superneighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) 2004 was finalized. The six items submitted to the City are:

1. Additional security lighting at Spurlock Park
2. Expedited demolition of abandoned apartment buildings at 1601 Hughes (DISSEN HEIGHTS)
3. Sidewalk reconstruction 4400-4800 blocks of Rusk, Walker, McKinney, and 600-1000 blocks of Eastwood and Sydney. (EASTWOOD)
4. Telephone Rd. reconstruction from Lawndale to Lockwood. (LAWNDALE, BROADMOOR, WA, KIRBY, EASTLAWN, & HAUSER)
5. Construct an iron fence at Cullinan Park near Jackson Middle School. (EASTLAWN & EASTVIEW)
6. The addition of a police storefront along Lawndale or Telephone (LAWNDALE & BROADMOOR)

MIDTOWN FREEWAY & VACANT LOT TRANSIENTS 

As mentioned in our November meeting, TxDOT has executed trespass affidavits to the Houston Police Department authorizing investigations on any person on TxDOT property and freeway rights-of-way. There are two purposes: to remove public safety and health issues and to get people to take advantage of public and private programs to get them off the streets and into treatment and job training programs.

The police are also monitoring the neighborhoods near the freeway to determine if some of the transients are moving into them. If you see this activity, please let our officers at the Navigation Storefront know. We don't want to see any campsites develop in our area, but we do want to see these individuals receive all the assistance they need. If you would like to volunteer for one of the many agencies reaching out to the homeless, please contact the Storefront, which has a list for our area.


NEW DEVELOPMENTS 

Tremont Homes announced Midtown Village, consisting of 120 homes on the site of the old Markle Steel site near downtown. The homes will cost between \$160,000 and \$210,000 and will be 1,300 to 1,600 square feet.

Perry Homes received City approval to replat over 20 acres of old manufacturing property. The site is along the railroad tracks and has frontage on Telephone near the animal clinic and Loma Linda's and across Lawndale from the Eastwood Post Office.

Eastwood Civic Association Board Members Steve Parker and Ed Robert met with the Perry representative for land acquisition. The builder is looking to develop old commercial and industrial sites, rather than purchasing one or two lots within neighborhoods as they have in the past. Although plans have not been finalized, they want to place about 300 homes on the site. Over 60 percent would be single-family homes and duplexes. A smaller section, probably along Telephone would consist of townhomes. The home prices have not been set yet.

Perry Homes was previously informed by realtors and East End groups about the desire to keep townhomes out of the neighborhoods. They said they are aware of the concerns that arose in Montrose and the Heights due to high-density housing in those locations. This is one of the factors driving the layout of Lawndale Place. They are planning that most of the homesites will be 4,300 square feet. There will also be a two-acre retention pond to control flooding. They promise to keep us informed as the process moves forward. Other area civic groups and the Superneighborhood Council are also in discussions with Perry Homes. If you have concerns or comments, please email or mail those to us.

A half-way house reportedly tried to open on Bell Street. Several ECA members moved quickly to inform city and state officials. The house is now boarded up and no licences have been issued. We are continuing to stay on top of this issue. 

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
City Councilwoman Carol Alvarado	713.247.2011
Graffiti Abatement	713.928.9916
Union Pacific RR National Police to report parked trains blocking streets	888.877.7267
City of Houston Service Helpline	311

HOMES FOR SALE

Have friends or relatives you want to join you in a great neighborhood setting? Here is a partial list of homes, by subdivision, listed for sale at press time. (*new on list)

Broadmoor

- 1407 Elliott *
- 1565 Godwin
- 1510 Lawson
- 1561 Lombardy
- 1522 Munger
- 1449 Pearson *
- 1416 Scharpe
- 1458 Scharpe *
- 1518 Scharpe
- 1524 Telephone *
- 1528 Telephone *

Dissen Heights

- 5344 Clay *
- 5251 Jefferson
- 5211 Leeland
- 5303 Pease

Dixie

- 4920 Curtin

Dor Ruth

- 5008 Park

Eastlawn

- 1216 Gustav
- 5030 Lindsay

Eastview

- 5124 Polk

Eastwood

- 4312 Jefferson
- 4321 Jefferson
- 4338 Jefferson
- 4531 McKinney
- 4506 Park
- 4728 Park
- 4505 Rusk
- 4415 Walker
- 4436 Walker

Houston City St RR

- 4320 Walker *

Jackson Court

- 1134 Weaver

Lawndale

- 5202 Claremont *

S. M. Williams

- 5001 Park

Woodleigh

- 4213 Bell
- 4018 Dallas

THIS ISSUE OF THE EASTWOOD VOICE IS UNDERWRITTEN BY STEVE PARKER IN HONOR OF THE JANUARY BIRTHDAYS OF HIS GRANDMOTHER EUNICE PARKER AND HIS MOTHER VIRGINIA PARKER.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER 28	29	30	31	JANUARY 1	2 Heavy Trash Area B	3
4	5 6:30 US Rep. Green Town Hall Mtg. 7:30 Civic Club Mtg. Cape Center	6	7	8 5:30-7:30 Blueprint Houston Mayor's Reception	9 Area A Trash set out	10
11	12 Heavy Trash Area A	13 6:30 SuperNeighborhd	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 7:00 PIP Meeting	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
FEBRUARY 1	2 7:30 Civic Club Mtg. Cape Center	3	4	5	6 Area B Trash set out Heavy Trash Area B	7

Heavy Trash Area A: West of Lockwood (towards Cullen) and South of Telephone (towards I-45)
 Heavy Trash Area B: East of Lockwood (towards Wayside) and North of Telephone (towards Polk)



The Monthly Newsletter of the Eastwood Civic Association

NEXT MEETINGS: JANUARY 5, 2004 & FEBRUARY 2, 2004