



EASTWOOD: FROM URBAN FLIGHT TO HOME TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

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

The 1950s and 1960s brought a new dimension to life in older neighborhoods across the nation. And Houston was no exception.

Fueled by post-World War II enthusiasm and a new wave of prosperity newlyweds were seeking a new life—in new, modern homes in the suburbs. (Of course, the obvious probability of integration also led the migration from the city core to new neighborhoods.)

Virtually every established urban subdivision in Houston went through a change in demographics and desirability. Neighborhoods such as Riverside Terrace (south of The University of Houston) probably experienced the most profound change. Virtually overnight it went from affluent, white and mostly Jewish (deed restrictions in River Oaks prohibited homes being sold to anyone of the Jewish faith, so the affluent Jewish leaders in Houston built their own estate neighborhood) to professional middle-income Black families.

The Eastwood, Montrose, and Hyde Park neighborhoods just got old and forgotten as the city moved to the southwest subdivisions of Westbury, Willowbend, Meyerland and Braes Heights.

There were several things that kept Eastwood from becoming as derelict as parts of Montrose: as Houston grew to the southwest, fewer investors were interested in land in Eastwood so the homes remained intact; some of the old Italian families (Mandelas, Buteras, Vallones, Carabbas, etc.) who had settled in the Eastwood area years earlier did not join in the move to the suburbs and continued to call the East End home; and most important of

continued on pg. 2



One of many recently renovated homes in Eastwood.

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

SPEAKER: GREATER EAST END DISTRICT, MARY MARGARET HANSEN

EASTWOOD CLEANUP

On Saturday, April 24th, we will hold a community-wide cleanup for Eastwood, starting at 8:00 am. Our primary objective will be the area around Eastwood Academy. The students are volunteering their time as part of their yearly community service. Theresa Hermes (w. A. KIRBY) is coordinating the project with Dr. Lopez, principal of Eastwood Academy and Sr. Ofr. Mike Hill of the HPD Navigation Storefront.

Keep Houston Beautiful will be providing some of the supplies, including trash bags. The Houston Solid Waste Department will provide a dumpster. Volunteers should bring their own gloves. The cleanup will be expanded to other areas based on the number of volunteers that turn out. So, if you have an area you want covered, volunteer and bring some friends. To volunteer, sign up at the April meeting, send an email to eastwood@eastwood-houston.com or call 713.923.3983. ☑

PARKS COMMITTEE

The Eastwood Civic Association Parks Committee held its first meeting at Eastwood Park on March 17th. This committee will be working on the needs of our area parks and greenspaces.

Eastwood Park was acquired in 1916, just three years after the Eastwood Subdivision opened. There are two projects being considered for the park. First, a need has been identified for a skateboard park in the area. Currently, young people are coming from a long distance to skateboard there and creating make-shift ramps. The city is building a similar park in Kingwood. The Greater East End District, the East End Chamber of Commerce, and Parks and Recreation are working in conjunction with Council Member Adrian Garcia and project coordinator Jessica Hulsey (from our neighboring Oaklawn Fullerton Civic Association).

The second project is a long-range master plan for the park. A master plan costs about \$11,000 to develop and

continued on pg. 3

HOME TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

Continued from Page 1

all, The Church of The Redeemer, Episcopal evolved into a community-based mission church. In so doing, the church became a very important part of life in Eastwood. Most of the large homes in Eastwood were owned by parishioners of Redeemer and they turned their homes into communes—adding bedrooms, opening attics to allow for additional living quarters. The outreach program of Redeemer brought new life and new people into Eastwood. People moved from all over Houston to live in Eastwood to be near the church and join in what some have called a "social experiment of faith." The ministry of Redeemer Episcopal held Eastwood together during years when not many people wanted to live near the city's core. And this is one of the reasons Eastwood still has one of the largest intact collections of early 20th century homes in Houston.

During the early 1980's Eastwood enjoyed a boom in new residents and rising property values, but it was of short duration thanks to the infamous "oil bust." Like every other neighborhood in the city, property values dropped drastically, hundreds of homes were foreclosed and streets that were once manicured and handsome became run down and neglected. Many didn't know if Houston would recover—would we become the Detroit of the South?

What a difference 20 years can make! We are now a part of Houston's renaissance. As downtown Houston becomes a destination for people to live, shop, and be entertained, the enthusiasm is starting to spill over to the East End and Eastwood. We're being touted as "the new Heights," homes are being restored, schools are performing better than ever, new stores and restaurants are being planned on sites that for years were reserved for heavy industry. And, of course, new housing—mostly in the form of townhomes—will soon appear on the scene.

This will be a plus for property values in Eastwood, but we all need to work that much harder to keep the quality of life in the neighborhood—it's why many of us moved here in the first place! Stayed involved. Join the Eastwood Civic Association, volunteer for community projects, meet new neighbors and make them feel welcomed on your block. And let your elected city officials know what needs to be done to make Eastwood a better place to live.

Change can and will happen by itself. But we, as a neighborhood, need to direct that change so it is a positive force in Eastwood. So that 20 years from now, we will continue to be a green oasis of charming early 1900s architecture that everyone recognizes as a great place to call home. ☑

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 77261 or at eastwood.voice@eastwood-houston.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

DORA B. LANTRIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 

A proposal for renovations to the Dora Lantrip Elementary School was presented to the HISD board on Thursday, March 11, 2004 at 2:00 pm. The board unanimously approved the recommendation authorizing a \$12.3 million budget and to proceed with a design contract. Our district board member, Diana Davila spoke in favor of the recommendation and historically balanced construction plan.

The Eastwood Historic Commission held a meeting with HISD representatives on March 3rd on the renovation and reconstruction project. A great deal of support for preserving the historical integrity of Lantrip Elementary was demonstrated at the meeting. The 1926 wing, which houses the cafeteria, has severe structural problems and the proposal is to demolish it, but retain architectural elements and the fireplace to be used elsewhere in the new structure. The other later additions would also be demolished.

The architect understands the historical importance of the facility and stated that the new structure would complement the original buildings. They are using all the old oak trees in the plan, too, so none will be lost.

The gardens and courtyards will be retained with other open-air courtyards added to the new structure. The present fencing will all be removed with a completely rethought fence design to give the school an attractive street presence while providing the security necessary for the students.

After the board approves this initial proposal, the community will be involved in an ongoing basis to fine-tune the project—this is just a starting point. The new portion of the school will be state-of-the-art, which could once again make Lantrip a destination for people moving into the neighborhood.

The bottom line is that the information presented was very positive and participants were left with the sincere belief that nothing will be done without community input. They all know we love Lantrip and want it to continue to be the educational community center of Eastwood.

HISD SCHOOL FINANCE TOWN HALL MEETINGS 

HISD will host a series of public meetings on school finance issues, invite legislators to speak and/or respond to questions and provide resource information. Of the five meetings, the closest to Eastwood will be held at Milby High School, 1601 Broadway on April 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The other meetings will be at Waltrip HS-March 30, Worthing HS-April 6, Lamar HS-April 15, and Lee HS-April 20.



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. standard time on April 4th, which becomes 3:00 a.m. local daylight time.

SOUTH CENTRAL HPD PIP MEETING 

The March Positive Interaction Program (PIP) featured Ofr. Richard Rodriguez of HPD Community Services Division. He provided Houston Crime Statistics. Major crime in Houston is down over 3 percent over the same period last year (the Eastwood area is down over 11 percent). He also covered many of the same crime prevention points that Ofr. Storemski discussed at the ECA March meeting. For a crime to be committed, it needs three components: desire (suspect), target (victim), and opportunity (location). Remember to report all crimes to the police, even if you don't report it to your insurance company. No matter how small, it may fit into a pattern that will help solve other crimes. Report suspicious activities to the Navigation Storefront or to the South Central Substation.

The Houston Fire Department was also present. They will install free smoke detectors for low-income and elderly residents. Smoke detectors save lives. If you need one, call 713.247.5000.

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
El Centro de Corazon-Eastwood Clinic	713.926.6229
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)

Bell Place East	1029 Dumble
710 Altic *	Eastlawn
5026 Rusk	1216 Gustav
Broadmoor	5022 Lindsay
1407 Elliott	Eastview
1565 Godwin	5134 Bell *
1510 Lawson	Eastwood
1561 Lombardy	4416 Bell
1433 Munger	4422 Dallas *
1505 Munger *	4321 Jefferson
1449 Pearson	4610 McKinney *
1416 Scharpe *	4415 Walker
1458 Scharpe	Lawndale
1510 Scharpe *	5310 Claremont
1524 Telephone	S. M. Williams
1528 Telephone	5001 Park
Dissen Heights	Woodleigh
5303 Pease *	4018 Dallas
Dixie	Young Mens
4920 Curtin	5120 Walker *




PARKS COMMITTEE

Continued from Page 1

six to ten years to implement. The plan cost usually comes out of the city budget or from privately raised funds. Parks and Recreation Director Roksan Okan-Vick is looking for the funds within her department to pay for the plan. This is tremendously helpful since it will allow us to start the process sooner and help to meet our goal of completing the plan before 2016. A March 4th meeting was held in Council Member Garcia's office to begin planning for the skateboard park. Another meeting is scheduled for April 8th to discuss this and the plan for Eastwood Park.

The committee is also discussing the use of the Park Drive esplanade. ECA president Steve Parker is working with the Parks director and the Mayor's Special Events director on this issue.

The ECA Parks committee will hold its next meeting on April 14th at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in becoming involved or have a concern you would like the committee to address, please let us know by completing a comment card at the April general meeting or by sending an email to eastwood@eastwood-houston.com. 



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
STEVE

LOVE,
MOM & DAD

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.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH 28	29	30	31	APRIL 1	2 Heavy Trash Area B	3
4 PALM SUNDAY Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)	5 7:00 ECA Board Mtg. 7:30 Civic Club Mtg. Cape Center	6	7	8	9 GOOD FRIDAY Area A Trash set out	10
11 EASTER	12 Heavy Trash Area A	13 6:00 HGAC Regional Transportation Mtg 6:30 SuperNeighborhd	14	15 TAX DAY	16	17 12-4 Fish Fry on the Bayou (Sims Bayou Nature Center)
18	19	20 7:00 PIP Meeting	21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24 8:am Neighborhood Clean-up @ Eastwood Academy
25	26	27	28	29	30 ARBOR DAY Area B Trash set out	MAY 1
2	3 7:00 ECA Board Mtg. 7:30 Civic Club Mtg. Cape Center	4	5	6	7 Heavy Trash Area B Area A Trash set out	8

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

Time zones were instituted by the railroads in 1883, but became US Law as the The Standard Time Act on March 19, 1918 & included daylight saving time. Daylight saving time was repealed in 1919, but resumed from 1942 to 1945. It started again under the Uniform Time Act of 1966.



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 ■
 DISSSEN HEIGHTS ■ HOUSTON CITY RAILROAD ■ SUBURBAN ■ L.B. MOODY ■ BEVERLY PARK ■ EASTVIEW ■
 HAVSER ■ DOR RUTH ■ MIVELLER ■ DIXIE ■ GEORGIA