



STEWART & STEVENSON: 60 YEARS ON HARRISBURG

BY JENA MORENO

A historic East End manufacturing facility will soon be cleared to make room for a new retail development.

One of Houston's largest companies, Stewart & Stevenson, can trace its Eastwood roots back to the early 1940s.

World War II was raging when the U.S. government called upon Stewart & Stevenson to fill contracts.

Accepting the government's wartime contracts meant the company had to expand its operations from its original downtown facility.

Originally blacksmith C. Jim Stewart started the company in 1902. He was joined a year later by carriage maker Joe R. Stevenson. The carriage repair and horse shoeing parlor thrived on Preston Street. (The company's old downtown headquarters was demolished in 1997 and today is the site of Minute Maid Park.)

By the 1940s, that downtown facility wasn't big enough to handle the government's orders. So officials from Stewart & Stevenson opened a building on Harris-

continued on pg. 2



Aerial view of early 1960s expansion of the Stewart & Stevenson Harrisburg Plant

Eastwood Civic Association Meeting • January 3, 2005 • 7:30 - 8:30 pm • Cape Center

HOW TO PROTEST NUISANCE ALCOHOL BUSINESSES & ASSOCIATION UPDATE

BUFFALO BAYOU/EAST END DEVELOPMENTS

There have been several recent events regarding development along Buffalo Bayou in the East End. A twenty year plan is being developed which includes housing, entertainment, transportation, parks, and green spaces

The Buffalo Bayou East End Housing Workshop was held on November 13th. The goal of this workshop was to initiate an open dialog to address issues regarding housing in the near East End area. Approximately 75 representatives from neighborhood groups, local businesses, new and established residents, developers and area organizations. ECA members Tom Carnes (*Eastwood*) and Steve Parker (*W.A. Kirby*) represented our neighborhood.

The participants divided into three groups to discuss the issues, needs and concerns of three different topics. The first group concentrated on low income, affordable, and mixed income housing, specifically on preserving the physical character of the East End. Group two focused on affordable senior housing, single family housing and adequate public transportation, restoring and salvaging green space, and preserving historical structures. The third group covered a long list of

concerns and needs ranging from a viable route for the METRO light rail, hike and bike trails for transportation as well as recreation, attracting people to the neighborhood, new developments working with existing "fabric and texture" of the community, and proximity to restaurants/grocery store/retail shops/schools.

In response to a survey taken among the participants, 55% said they were excited by opportunities that would arise because of the population growth. The five most important elements to be included into new developments along Buffalo Bayou were reported as 1.) park space (73%), 2.) affordable housing (50%), 3.) proximity to restaurants/grocery stores/retail shops (45%), 4.) public transportation and senior citizen housing (43% each). Another question asked respondents to prioritize issues important to them, assuming new development occurs. The highest response was higher property taxes, second was the loss of neighborhood identity, and third was affordability of housing.

The group will continue to work with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the City of Houston to develop a housing strategies prototype project in the East

continued on pg. 2

STEWART & STEVENSON PLANT

cont. from pg. 1

burg Boulevard and Maplewood Street, which is now Lockwood Drive.

According to Stewart & Stevenson's newsletter, the facility was once a wagon factory built in the 1920s.

Stewart & Stevenson purchased the property, erected buildings and in about two months, employees were busy filling the government's contracts to manufacture generators and assemble Army trucks.

Many of these workers were women, as many American men had gone off to fight in the war. In old photographs of the plant, women and a few men can be seen overhauling the green Army jeeps.

Workers remanufactured 2,200 jeep bodies and jeep engines and they overhauled 4,000 Sherman tank engines. The jeeps were unloaded by railcar in the back of the factory.

When the contract for the Sherman tanks ended, Stewart & Stevenson -- in an unsolicited move -- gave the government back \$1 million in what the company determined was excess profits!

After the war, Stewart & Stevenson sold and serviced diesel engines.

But in March 1951, tragedy struck the plant when a fire started in the ceiling of a testing room. The damage was estimated at nearly \$1 million after the fire razed a warehouse and destroyed 25 new trucks, 60 to 70 new diesel tractor engines, big airplane motors and several generators.

One fireman was injured in the fire.

An article in the Houston Press described the fire as one of the worst in Houston history.

But before the smoke had cleared, Donald Stevenson began to direct the cleanup. A new building was built in less than 60 days to replace the one damaged in the fire.

Over the years, the company continued to diversify its product line and expand its Harrisburg facility.

Between 1992 and 1993, the Harrisburg facility underwent a \$10 million renovation. Two fully automated programmable robotic welders were added to enhance productivity at the plant.

Today, Stewart & Stevenson is a billion-dollar company manufacturing equipment for customers across the globe.

But its Harrisburg plant has been shuttered.

And now the company's former facility will be demolished to make way for a new retail center in the East End. ☒

BUFFALO BAYOU PLANS

cont. from pg. 1

End. A well designed "model" or prototype development at an appropriate site can demonstrate to Houstonians the viability, desirability, affordability, and profitability of alternative land use patterns, new types of architecture, mixed uses, higher densities and demographic diversity.

The responses to the Eastwood Civic Association Survey and your comments on your membership applications were very useful in indicating the concerns and needs of our residents.

In other news from the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, a celebration was held on December 8th for the announcement of the future site of the Buffalo Bayou Nature Park. The park will be along the bayou located off Highway 90 just upstream of the Turning Basin and Hidalgo Park. This scenic 10-acre waterfront parcel of land to Harris County Precinct Two. The Trust for Public Land, with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Harris County Precinct Two, and the Harris County Flood Control District have made this possible. The partnership also extends special thanks to U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Representative Gene Green, and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. Once completed, the nature park will connect East End area residents to much needed open space, with a trail system linking other public spaces along the bayou. The park will also allow for wetland restoration, increased wildlife habitat, science education, water quality improvements, and natural flood control.

Houston's bayou system offers a unique view of nature in the city. The Eastwood Civic Association is planning a canoe trip down Buffalo and Braes Bayous in the spring. Let us know if you are interested in participating. ☒

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

U.S. REP. GENE GREEN TOWN HALL MEETING 🌸

We are honored to host a Town Hall Meeting for U.S. Representative Gene Green at our February meeting. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on February 7th at the E.B. Cape Center at Lockwood and Leeland.

SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN 🌸

The Eastwood Lawndale SuperNeighborhood has submitted the 2005 SuperNeighborhood Action Plan to the city. This year Mayor White asked that we look back to the items that have been submitted in past years, but have not been implemented. The four items that were submitted had all been submitted in the past. They are:

- 1 Repair of sidewalks in the Eastwood neighborhood.
- 2 Hike and Bike trail from Mason Park to McGregor
- 3 Fence at Cullinhan Park
- 4 Branch library in the East End.

EASTWOOD 2011 🌸

The ECA is in the process of setting up a committee under the Greater East End District which can accept tax-deductible donations for beautification projects as we near our 100 year anniversary.

13TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING 🌸

The City is providing recycling drop-off locations Wednesday-Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through Jan. 11th (closed on New Year's Day). Two locations near us are at the Memorial Park Ball Fields and the Lawndale Depository at 9200 Lawndale. The trees will be converted into mulch, saving landfills and the environment.

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	4626 Clay*	Houston City St RR
606 Altic	4310 Coyle*	4221 McKinney
5006 McKinney	4330 Jefferson	4120 Rusk*
Broadmoor	4418 Leeland*	Lawndale
1407 Elliott	4531 McKinney	5129 Claremont
1449 Lawson	4517 Park	5218 Lindsay
1851 Lombardy	4611 Park	5221 Lindsay
1505 Munger	4406 Rusk	S. M. Williams
1524 Telephone	4507 Woodside*	1020 Altic
1528 Telephone	4625 Woodside*	Woodleigh
Eastwood	Eastwood Oaks	4109 Dallas
4406 Bell*	5006 Curtin*	4214 Dallas*

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 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

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.

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.



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 in 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 ■ GEORGIA ■ YOUNG MENS

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY 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
9	10 Heavy Trash Area A	11 6:30 SuperNeighborhd	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 7:00 South Central PIP Meeting	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Area B Trash set out	29
30	31	FEBRUARY 1	2	3	4 Heavy Trash Area B	5
6	7 7:00 ECA Board Mtg. 7:30 Gene Green Town Hall Mtg./Civic Club Mtg. Cape Ctr.	8	9	10	11	12

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 Wayside) and North of Telephone (toward Polk)



GLORIA ACKER

BROKER ASSOCIATE

- Over 25 years of real estate experience
- Original partner Acker-Blum Realtors
- Committed to the redevelopment of the Eastwood area
- Eastwood Home Tour docent the past 4 years

Sold

- 4415 Bell
- 4321 Clay
- 4344 Clay
- 4709 Clay
- 4722 Clay
- 4346 Dallas
- 4618 Park
- 4420 Rusk
- 4721 Rusk
- 4410 Walker
- 4415 Walker
- 4430 Walker
- 4436 Walker

Just Listed

- 4309 Clay
- 5221 Lindsay
- 4221 McKinney
- 4507 Woodside

For your next move,
please contact

GLORIA ACKER
713-341-1758

gacker9632@aol.com

HERITAGE
TEXAS PROPERTIES

heritagetexas.com



1177 West Loop South, Suite 1200 Houston, Texas 77027 • 713.965.0812



Your East End Neighbors since 1970



Business Cards,
Letterheads,
Envelopes, Invoices,
Business Forms,
Wedding Invitations,
and much more

Tel. 713-227-5566
Fax 713-227-2811

3904 Leeland
Houston, TX 77003
e-mail: leeprinting@houston.rr.com