



# EASTWOOD VOICE



The Newsletter of the Eastwood Civic Association

October 2006

## THE DRIVE HOME

BY DIANE BARBER

Did you know that the East End is home to the largest collection of murals in the city of Houston? This month will mark the completion of the latest addition to the neighborhood's outdoor art gallery as resident artist Jessie Sifuentes (who is also an art teacher at Austin High School) puts the finishing touches on his latest work. Sifuentes calls the artwork *The East End - The Birthplace of Houston* and it takes the form of a vibrant 100-foot mural on the west side of Rex Supply located at the corner of Harrisburg and Everton.

The project was the brainchild of Adrian De la Certa, Program Manager for The Orange Show Center for Visionary Art. De la Certa, who participated in the Greater East End Management District's Strategic Vision Project, came away from the visioning meetings with the idea of spearheading the creation of a major new mural that would incorporate some of the East End's cultural touchstones. De la Certa successfully lobbied the National Endowment for the Arts and The United Way for a total of \$12,500 towards the research, design, and creation of a mural that would celebrate life in the East End. The Orange Show - which has been under the direction of Eastwood resident Susanne Theis for more than two decades - kicked in another \$12,500 and the

project was underway.

Under the leadership of Mary Margaret Hansen, an artist herself, The Greater East End Management District has initiated or participated in a number of art-related projects intended to benefit East End residents and improve the quality of life in the area. It's no wonder that the District quickly became a partner in this project, adding momentum and leading efforts to find a site for the mural. Rex Supply, which incidentally was the site of first Sears Roebuck store in Houston, seemed the ideal location. The building sits across the street from the Maxwell House factory and features a sprawling west-facing wall that can be seen by any motorist entering the East End from downtown via Harrisburg. The business has been owned by the Madden family since 1947. The Maddens have an established track record of supporting development and beautification efforts in the area and jumped at the chance to donate space for the realization of the mural.

Jessie Sifuentes, a ceramicist and muralist and one of the East End's most notable artists, was chosen as the project's lead artist. Gonzo247, another East End native widely known in art circles for his involvement with an artistic collaborative called Aerosol Warfare, joined the team as an assistant and worked alongside Sifuentes with students from

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Eastwood Civic Association Meeting • October 2, 2006 • 6:30 - 7:30 pm • Cape Center

## DEED RESTRICTION DRIVE

The Eastwood subdivision began collecting signatures at the October civic association meeting for it's deed restriction renewal drive. Since the law firm's research took eight months, we are moving quickly to get the signatures needed. Once we reach the 51% required, the long process of verifying and submitting the information to the county could also take several months. If there are any problems in the process, we will have little time before the deadline renewal of April 2008.

Please help us reach our goal of 51% as quickly as possible. We had a very good showing at the September meeting. We will also be collecting signatures at the October and November meetings and at the Eastwood Historic Homes Tour, October 21 and 22. If we don't reach the goal by then, we will need to block walk or hold special signing events on blocks. Flyers will be passed out for those events in targeted areas. Deed Restrictions are the primary mechanism which helps us protect the character of the Eastwood subdivision.

## RECYCLING CONTEST

The City of Houston is holding a "Go Green Houston" recycling context. There will be four \$5,000 awards for most improved paper, overall highest paper, most improved commingled (aluminum/plastic), and highest overall commingled recycling, by area. The awards will go to approved community projects.

There is also a secondary aim of the contest. It was very difficult for areas to get recycling several years ago. A number of neighborhoods have been on the waiting list to start recycling. Neighborhoods that have poor participation now through the end of the year will have their programs cancelled.

If you don't already have a green recycling bin, call 3-1-1. It will take more than a week for it to be delivered. Since we don't know when they will be checking on participation levels, it is important to put the bin out each week. If you have too much for your bin, share with a neighbor. Encourage all of your neighbors to participate. For more info. visit [www.gogreenhouston.org](http://www.gogreenhouston.org) or call 3-1-1.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### 2006 EASTWOOD HISTORIC HOME TOUR 🌿

"Celebrating The Bungalow" is the theme for this year's home tour. It will be held on October 21-22, 2006 from noon until 5:00 p.m. each day. The ticket price is still \$10 for all tour attractions. The Eastwood Historic Commission will feature seven bungalows, the Church of the Redeemer, and the recently reconstructed Dora Lantrip Elementary School. If you would like to be a docent for the tour, please contact Bill England at 713-926-4307 and e-mail, garlan4422@aol.com.

### EAST END STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT 🌿

The Greater East End Management District held two events to unveil the East End Strategic Vision report. The luncheon was originally planned for up to 60 people. Approximately 350 were in attendance from all over Houston. Mary Margaret Hansen's presentation was not only informative and powerful but also received an enthusiastic standing ovation. This plan, much like the ones done for Downtown and Midtown, should help bring organized and well-planned development to the East End. The plan addresses historic and neighborhood preservation, commercial and higher-density development, as well as education, social services, and affordable housing.

### SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 🌿

The most recent meeting of the Greater Eastwood/Lawndale/Wayside Super Neighborhood Meeting was held on 9/12/06. Representatives of METRO presented the project plan and time line for the new East End Corridor line, which was approved by the METRO Board in late July to run the length of Harrisburg to the Magnolia Transit Center. Construction, which will be completed in segments to ease negative impact on the community, will begin in 2007 and end in late 2010. The initial response from affected business and property owners has been primarily favorable. There will be a 24-hour construction hotline set up to assist businesses during construction.

Also in attendance were guest speakers from the city's Parking Management department, who presented on such topics as parking regulations, types of common violations, and proposed new meters.

Finally and unfortunately, it was revealed that 80% of the five 2006 SNAP requests were rejected after review by the city. Each Civic Club is asked to bring requests from their residents to the next Super Neighborhood meeting in October, so that a SNAP plan can be completed and approved in the November meeting. The next meeting will take place 10/16/06, 6:30 PM, at the Villa de Matel Dubuis Conference Center.

### METRO HARRISBURG CORRIDOR UPDATE 🌿

The preliminary plans for the Harrisburg rapid transit corridor station locations start at Dowling (which will also be a station for the Southeast corridor), Middleton, east of York, Lockwood, Latham, 66th, and the Magnolia

Transit Center. The detailed design work will take place from January through July 2007. Construction on will begin on repositioning utilities and drainage in July 2007. Our neighbor, Sylvia Medina, (W.A. Kirby) is METRO's stakeholder representative for the Harrisburg Corridor.

### ECA BOARD ELECTIONS 🌿

The Eastwood Civic Association will hold elections for the 2007 Board of Directors at the October 2nd meeting. The nominations committee has submitted the following names: Karen Niemeier (*Eastwood*) - President, Paul O'Sullivan (*Eastwood*) - Vice President, Lisa Voiles (*Broadmoor*) - Secretary, Chris Blanke (*Eastwood*) - Treasurer, and Ben Johnston (*Eastwood*), Paul Voiles (*Broadmoor*), and Michael Coppens (*Eastlawn*). The nominating process will continue at the beginning of the October meeting.

### URBAN CORRIDORS MEETING 🌿

On Saturday, August 26th, the City of Houston Planning Department in conjunction with two nationally reknown urban planners, held a meeting to discuss the development of the new rapid transit urban corridors. Over 200 people from all over Houston and Harris County participated, including Xavier Acevedo (Youngmens), Michael Coppens (Eastlawn), and Steve Parker (WA Kirby). One of the common recommendations from the meeting was the importance to preserve our historic structures and neighborhoods while developing these higher-density corridors. While discussing preserving neighborhoods, Eastwood was the only example mentioned by the various groups.

### URBAN LAND INSTITUTE 🌿

Eastwood was selected to showcase and discuss how to preserve neighborhood character at the Urban Land Institute conference on September 8th. Steve Parker (*WA Kirby*), along with GEED board member, Sonny Flores and architect Julio del Carpio represented represented our area.

### LA CUENCA CUENTA (A WATERSHED FIESTA) 🌿

The 2nd Annual Festival will be held Saturday, October 7th from 12:00 p.m - 6:00 p.m. at Mason Park (At the new Wetlands), The Texas Coastal Watershed Program, a joint effort between the Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas Sea Grant, received funding to facilitate and conduct wetland reclamation and education within the Greater East End community of Houston, and specifically host an environmental/education awareness festival called "La Cuenca Cuenta" The festival name "La Cuenca Cuenta" has a dual meaning "The Watershed Counts or The Watershed Tells a Story".

Utilizing the dual meaning, the festival will focus on watershed issues: Our impact on local water quality; variety of native habitat within the Watershed; importance of various habitats within the Watershed.

The Watershed Fiesta will incorporate arts aspects, such as music, dance and especially storytelling, weaving the Latino Culture through various displays in the festival. Students from local high schools will participate as volunteers and support staff for various booths.

THE DRIVE HOME

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both Austin High School and University of Houston to make the mural come to life. In keeping with the artistic strategies evident in another mural by Sifuentes at the corner of Telephone and Dumble, *The East End – The Birthplace of Houston* incorporates images depicting the cultural traditions, architectural styles, commercial influences (did I mention **TRAINS?**), geographical markers, and charming quirks—my favorite is the rooster—that make the East End such a rich, unique and wonderful place to call home. The mural also contains hints at some of Sifuentes’ artistic influences and pays homage to artists he admires.

Great things are happening in this part of town. Partnerships like this one involving residents, arts organizations, neighborhood development groups, businesses and artists are on the rise and the product of such partnerships will have an impact for generations to come. They have the capacity to infuse residents with a sense of history and pride not to mention the impact they have on visitors who just happen to be passing through the neighborhood. Public art projects tend to generate excitement, curiosity, and conversation and undoubtedly contribute to the betterment and beautification of communities willing to make the investment in commissioning works of art. The East End is fortunate to have a collection of concerned citizens— artists, business owners, community leaders, and just good neighbors— with the foresight and drive to make ideas like Adrian De la Certa’s idea a tangible reality. Because of their efforts, our drive home just got a lot better. ☐

*Diane Barber is an Eastwood Resident and Co-Director of DiverseWorks Artspace*

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

The Eastwood Voice is a 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](mailto:eastwood.voice@eastwood-houston.com).

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING OR UNDERWRITING AN ISSUE OF THE EASTWOOD VOICE, PLEASE WRITE TO PO BOX 9542, HOUSTON, TX 77023 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO [EASTWOOD@EASTWOOD-HOUSTON.COM](mailto:EASTWOOD@EASTWOOD-HOUSTON.COM)

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 month’s Eastwood Voice

TLAQUEPAQUE MARKET WELCOMES TWO NEW TENANTS

Tlaquepaque Market at Eastwood welcomes two new tenants Magic Palace and Bohemeo’s to its unique marketplace. The Magic Palace is a 9,000 sf. venue which was designed in and out as a castle complete with an entertainment facility and electronic games. Originally it started as a children’s entertainment facility but now has evolved into a popular reception hall for quinceaneras, weddings, corporate events and birthday parties. Magic Palace’s beautiful décor and atmosphere is perfect for any Princess looking for the right place to celebrate her Quince. The venue was designed by award winning architect Julio del Carpio who has built several buildings in the East End including Kanomwan Thai Restaurant, the most popular restaurant in Eastwood, Tlaquepaque Market at Eastwood, Marbella Banquet Hall and Laredo National Bank in Old Harrisburg.

Bohemeo’s, due to open sometime in October, hopes to serve a great need for surrounding communities. Owned

by Lupe and Sidonie Olivarez, residents of Broadmoor, it will be a coffeeshop with free wireless internet, an original music venue, where used musical equipment is sold, and a showcase for artwork. There will also be recording services and an outdoor theatre available for event rental. Finally the East End will get a low-key hangout where one can get a good cup of coffee and desserts, hear great live original music, and see artwork all in one place. In the past, there have been many coffeehouses with music and art in other parts of town, but none that we know of in this area. bohemeo’s plans to send out a monthly newsletter with local businesses advertised as well as upcoming plans and entertainment scheduled. It hopes to grow into a sort of local cultural hangout. Along with these two additions, there will be seasonal festivals in the parking lot such as Christmas in Tlaquepaque.

In the near future, Tlaquepaque’s developer Dick Adkins plans to open a unique arts and crafts marketplace

# CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2 6:30 Civic Club Mtg. Cape Center	3	4	5 RECYCLING!	6 Heavy Trash Area B Area A Trash set out	7
8 Heavy Trash Area A COLUMBUS DAY	9	10 6:30 SuperNeighborhood	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 7:00 South Central PIP Meeting	18	19 RECYCLING!	20	21 Eastwood Historic Homes Tour: 12 - 5pm 2006 Nun Run sistersofcharity.com
OCTOBER 22 Eastwood Historic Homes Tour: 12 - 5pm	23	24	25	26	27 Area B Trash set out	28
29	30	31 HALLOWEEN	1	2 RECYCLING!	3 Heavy Trash Area B	4

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 ■ DEVERLY PARK ■ EASTVIEW ■  
 HAVSER ■ DOR RUTH ■ MIVELLER ■ DIXIE ■ BERRILIA ■ YOUNGMAENS