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The Newsletter of the Eastwood Civic Association

2023 - Issue 3

HIDDEN GLIMPSES INTO EASTWOOD'S HISTORY

BY CLAY DIPPEL, (EASTWOOD)

Perhaps for the first time in the history of Eastwood, receiving an email from the Harris County Tax Office was a reason to celebrate. Tucked into some old tax records in a file cabinet, a Harris County archivist found a polaroid taken on February 2, 1965. It showed our house, photographed from the corner of McKinney and Eastwood Street, with a small blooming bush where tall trees now stand. Scalloped awnings adorned the porch, and the house used to be white -- rather than the green it's painted now. Windows peeking out in unexpected places show rooms lost to time and a second (now long lost) chimney pokes out in the background, a nod to a time where fireplaces were more functional than decorative. I was thrilled! Where I was only expecting to hear about previous owners, the archivist shared a glimpse of what our house looked like nearly 60 years ago.

Part of the charm of calling Eastwood home is knowing that so many others have lived here before us. Century-old homes have stories to tell, if you take the time to hear them speak. When we moved to Eastwood, I was quick to research as much as I could about the people



who used to live here -- and it didn't take long to find a wealth of information! Here's a quick rundown of how we were able to find a lot of information, in hopes that it (continued on pg. 4)

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PROPOSITION B: GETTING HOUSTON FAIR REPRESENTATION ON H-GAC

BY DANIELLE LAPERRIERE, (EASTWOOD)

A little known regional council of government, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), distributes billions in federal funding to our region – but Houston isn't getting its fair share. Although Houston & Harris County make up 62.6% of the population H-GAC serves, our elected officials only get 17.9% of the voting share on the Council. This isn't working for Houston. As an example, H-GAC's plan for \$488M in federal flood mitigation funds would give Houston just 2% of the funding. Luckily, the grassroots organizing of Fair For

Houston has a solution in sight: a charter amendment on the November ballot known as "Proposition B" that would require the City of Houston to reform the voting structure of H-GAC to be proportional to population. Learn more about this issue and the proposed solution by visiting www.FairForHouton.com. I believe this issue is worth getting out to the polls so that Houston is fairly represented in important regional decisions about transportation, flood mitigation and so much more.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCACY STILL IMPORTANT ON METRO BRT

BY DANIELLE LAPERRIERE. (EASTWOOD) & TINA DRADY. (EASTWOOD)

Although an overpass is no longer being considered for Lockwood Drive, neighborhood advocacy around METRO's planned University Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is still needed. To support that work, we have relaunched a METRO BRT Committee with two objectives. First, to inform our neighborhood about the project and encourage them (YOU!) to provide feedback to METRO. Second, to identify when there is a need to take a collective stance on a particular issue and solicit feedback from the community to help inform that stance. Tina Brady, who was elected to the Civic Association Board in August 2023, is the newly appointed Chair of the Committee and will be organizing and supporting its work. If you're interested in being involved, please reach out to ecametrobrt@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with Tina.

The ECA METRO BRT committee has formed working subcommittees to address the planned underpass. METRO has applied for a "Categorical Exclusion" through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. They conducted a Historical Survey and the NEPA Response subcommittee responded to the Federal Transportaion Administration (FTA) and METRO. The Schools subcommittee communicates with area schools, updating them of activity that affects them and ensuring the staff and administrations are aware of current and upcoming activity. There are Eastwood residents who believe an underpass along Lockwood

would harm the character and community of Eastwood, flaws in METRO's analysis warrant investigation, and METRO's choice of Lockwood doesn't mean it is destined to be implemented. This is the focus of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Off Lockwood subcommittee.

If the underpass is ultimately implemented, we will have to work together to ensure the best possible outcome. This includes a design that is appropriate to our community and saves as many of our old-growth live oak trees as possible. The **Design and Save the Trees subcommittee** is working proactively to ensure collaboration in design, construction, and maintenance.

How can we make this right for Eastwood?

Like it, hate it, something in-between, or just don't care? We need your opinion.

We encourage you to keep providing feedback to METRO and stay up to date with the project. We'll continue to provide you updates about the project, and ways that you can



ECA METRO BRT committee email

provide feedback. One way to ensure you stay informed is to sign up to our emailing list here:

www.tinyurl.com/ECA-Newsletter.

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SEPTEMBER 2023 METRO WORKSHOPS

BY STEVE PARKER, (EASTWOOD)

On September 14th and September 16th METRO hosted two community workshops with facilitated discussion and interactive exercises, so residents could work with the project team and provide direct input on the priorities and preferences for the design and amenities of the project.

One map allowed residents to show where items like pedestrian corridors and landscaping was important. Another station considered styles for railings, BRT stations, lighting and other hardscape components. Options ran from the original Craftsman style of Eastwood

all the way to modern styles. There was a station seeking feedback on our current bus and light rail experience. It asked for opinions of your starting point, first mile, waiting, boarding, transit ride, debarking, transit stop, last mile, and destination experiences. It provided an option rank best and worst of those experiences and written positive and negative comments for any of those. Another station looked at the route through the neighborhood and sought comments be made on any concerns along it.



METRORAPID UNIVERSITY CORRIDOR

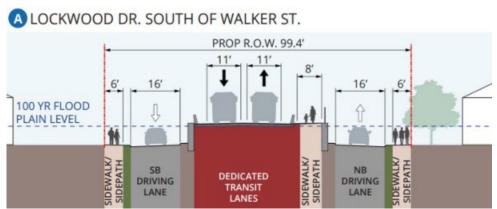
A bus rapid transit (BRT) is a system that provides fast high-capacity service – similar to METRORail – with dedicated stations and lanes. METRORapid stations and platforms have the same look as METRORail

The METRORapid Silver Line on Post Oak Blvd. in the Galleria area demonstrates the type of service that METRO will provide with this project. The 25.3-mile METRORapid Line will have more than 40 stations and dedicated bus lanes. It will operate mostly in METRO-owned Right of

Way (ROW) in Segment 1 and on City of Houston streets throughout Segments 2 - 5. Segment 4 runs from the Eastwood Transit Center to the Denver Harbor Transit Center.



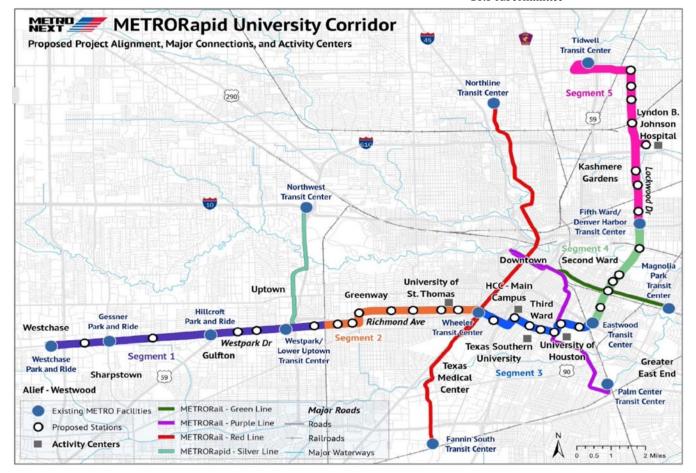




Cross Section of potential BRT lane layout showing elevation changes



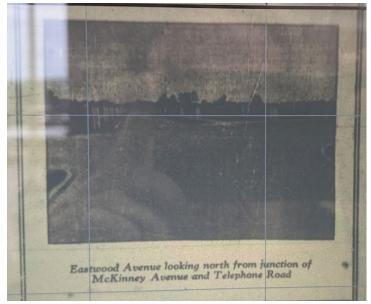
design element suggestions made by ECA Metro BRT subcommittee



HIDDEN GLIMPSES INTO EASTWOOD'S HISTORY

might help you discover the history of your home.

The Houston Public Library is a gold mine. One of the biggest resources was the library's digitized scans of old newspaper archives. A 1913 advertisement by the William A. Wilson Company in the Houston Post showed a grainy photo of our then-empty lot, with tiny saplings dotting the streets, saplings that would, over time, grow into our beloved oak trees. Historic telephone directories had the names of old residents listed by address. I learned that our house was first occupied



A microfiche capture of a 1913 Houston Post advertisement showing the empty space where our house would one day be built.

in 1919 by the Bauguss family. M.C. Bauguss ran a lumber mill; Rosalie Bauguss, was a music teacher.

Back in the 1910s and 1920s, folks often posted detailed write-ups of parties and events in the social pages, tucked between charming, hand-drawn scrolling advertisements for "Electric Lights for Home Use." By searching for names of residents or by address, I learned that Rosalie Bauguss hosted "Eastwood Music Study Club" concerts right in our living room. Our home also hosted Halloween parties for the Eastwood School PTA (now Lantrip Elementary) with trick or treat candy and the newspaper gave detailed descriptions of the decorations. Mr. Bauguss was elected to county office and nearly got into trouble when he briefly lost the voter rolls for an election held at the elementary school campus. The next day's paper revealed that the voter roll had mistakenly been dropped into the locked ballot box, and all was well. Mrs. Bauguss served as neighborhood air raid war(cont. from pg. 1)

den for our block during World War II. Their son grew up to be an accomplished concert violinist.

In later years the home served as a boarding house, then a group home for the nearby Church of the Re-



Pi Kappa Alpha set in the living room hearth.

deemer, before becoming a fraternity house for the University of Houston Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity in the early 90s. It then transitioned back to a single family home. Oral histories have filled in many of the details of the last fifty years, and we're constantly learning more about the folks who used to call our house home. If you happen to know anything about our house's history—we'd love to hear from you!



Photo of family members on the front porch – Marion Claude Bauguss (far right) with his mother (far left) May Belle V. Glenn Kelly; Allen Glenn Bauguss (center); (baby) Patsy Bauguss.



HIDDEN GLIMPSES INTO EASTWOOD'S HISTORY

(cont. from pg. 4)

If you wish to look into your own home history, consider first using your free Houston Public Library card. The library has digitized, searchable archives of newspaper articles going back more than a hundred years. The Houston Metropolitan Research Center maintains old city directories and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps that might help you determine when your house was first built. The Clayton Library has a wealth of information on genealogical research. The Houston County Clerk maintains a record of deed transactions, helping

you trace ownership over time. Tax rolls can help you determine who owned your property, and what it was worth over time. Historical building permits can help you identify major changes to the structure.

A great place to start is www.houstonlibrary.org/houston-texas. That can link you to all types of public records, and don't forget that your neighbors may have a ton of information, too. Happy hunting -- you never know what you might find!





ARE THE TRAINS GETTING ANY BETTER?

DATA THANKS TO PAULETTE KUKUK

Thanks to the data from a security camera in the community, we count every train that comes down the Galveston Subdivision, and when they undoubtedly stop (because we all know they do nearly every day) we can measure for exactly how long. After two years of tracking and analyzing this data, we can see trends. So is it getting better? The short answers, not enough to make a difference in your life. Although the average

length of blockage has decreased by 62 minutes in 2022 to 41 minutes in 2023, we are still seeing about one in three trains coming to a complete stop for more than 10 minutes. There is still much work to be done, and we continue to advocate for responsible and respectful train operations in Eastwood. We will continue to communicate residents' desire for trains to move quickly and quietly through the neighborhood.

KEY METRICS ON TRAIN BLOCKAGES 2022 VS. 2023

CROSSING: EASTWOOD & RUSH (859522Y - GALVESTON SUD)

Metric (Average/Month)	2022	2023 YTD	% Change
# of Trains per month	152	144	-5%
# of Trains w/ Blockage >10 Minutes per month	50	54	8%
% of Trains w/ Blockage >10 Minutes per month	33%	38%	15%
Total Duration of Blockages (hrs)	51.90	36.71	-29%
Longest Single Blockage (Hours)	6.80	11.65	71%
Avg. Length of Blockage (Minutes)	62.47	41.23	-34%

NÉWSLETTÉR DLOCK CAPTAINS

The Eastwood Voice is delivered to homes by volunteer Block Captains. We still need captains for more of the Eastwood Civic Association areas. Some of our captains deliver to multiple areas. Here is the link to the public <u>Block Captain map*</u>. If you'd like to help deliver to homes in our area, please contact us at: info@eastwoodcivicassociation.org

 $^{*\} https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1XJIfQxbTFo5ENOJWzRNgpNFem0eHnHw\&usp=sharing$

EASTWOOD HOME TOUR

BY ERIN LOCKE, (EASTWOOD)

SAVE THE DATE! 25th Annual Eastwood Home Tour, presented by East End District October 21 & 22, 2023. For 25 years, the Eastwood Historic Home Tour has invited the Houston community at large to peek into the homes and lives of Eastwood while raising critical funds to support the Eastwood Civic Association, local schools and charities. As we mark our 25th year, we hope you will join us to celebrate and rediscover Eastwood's heritage and William A. Wilson's vision for the ideal place to call home.

Our community has been incredibly generous in support of the Home Tour this year, generating recordbreaking sponsorship revenue! The support of our Presenting Sponsor, East End District, and the many local businesses following in their lead have inspired us to spread the support throughout our community. In honor of our 25th Annual tour, we will be donating 25% of this year's tour revenue to support two wonderful programs serving the Greater Eastwood community. Gifts will be made to Barrio Dogs and East End Chamber of Commerce East End Scholars to initiate the first ever "Eastwood Civic Association Scholarship" to be awarded to a local student in the Spring. The remaining revenue will continue to support ECA's general efforts.

This year you are invited to take a look at 6 homes throughout the Eastwood neighborhood including an iconic 1913 home on McKinney, two updated bungalows, a new construction home on Walker, and this year's in-progress home—a reimagined bungalow with a second story addition. 2022 tour goers will be excited to see the completion of last year's in-progress home which will also be featured on the tour again this year!

Looking to get involved? Throughout the tour, we will rely on the support of nearly 100 volunteers and we want YOU to lend a hand! Help us share the beauty of Eastwood by being a docent or working at ticket head-quarters. You can also support the tour by purchasing tickets or becoming a sponsor. For more information on how to get involved, please visit our website: http://www.eastwoodcivicassociation.org/home-tour.

Have a piece of Eastwood history? We're interested in photos, books, newspaper articles that can help us share the story of Eastwood. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Erin Overhouse Locke at eoverhouse@gmail.com.

EAST END LEARNING CENTER

BY JOHN PLAIL. (EASTWOOD)

BakerRipley's East End Learning Center is a new maker space in Houston's East End dedicated to digital technology and content creation. We educate youth and adults using fun and inclusive STEM based learning activities in our skill-building classes and workshops. Some classes include 3D printing and modeling, laser cutting and engraving, robotics, coding, virtual reality, and movie making. It is conveniently located at 4450 Harrisburg Blvd. (near the intersection with Lockwood) and can be accessed on the METRO Green Line at the Lockwood/Eastwood station. We are open to the community from 10am-3pm, Monday-Friday.



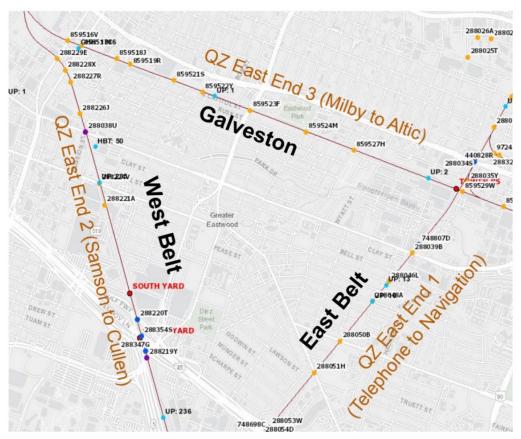
We kicked off programming this summer in collaboration with the BakerRipley school and Community Center at Ripley House, along with several Friends and Family workshops held at the East End Learning Center.

Beginning in September 2023, we will be providing after school programming at Cage Elementary, Chrysalis Middle School, Tijerina Elementary, and Navarro Middle School. Each semester, we will have partnerships (continued on pg. 7)





EASTWOOD RAILROAD CROSSING NUMBERS



East Belt

- # Telephone Rd, 288051 H
- & Lawndale Ave, 288050 B
- # Jefferson St, 288048 A
- **\$** Leeland St, 288046 L
- ♣ Polk St, 288039 B
- # Harrisburg Blvd, 288034 S & 440828 R
- # Canal St, 288024 L
- * Navigation Blvd, 288011 K & 920030 G
- # Hughes St, 288035 Y (East Belt Sub)

West Belt

- **&** Cullen Blvd, 288221 A
- ♣ Leeland St, 288224 V
- **Milby St, 288226 J**
- McKinney St, 288227 R
- **4** York St, 288228 X
- **Sampson St, 288229 E**

Union Pacific: 1-800-848-8715 Option 3, then Option 2 **OR** It is <u>preferable</u> to Report directly to the Federal Railroad Administration via this QR code, you can report up to a week after it happens. (Save as a favorite!)



QZ = Proposed Quiet Zone

Last revision: July 1

Galveston Line

- **Samson St**, 859516 V
- York St, 859517 C
- Milby St, 859518 J
- **St. Joseph St, 859519 R**
- ***** Oakhurst St, 859521 S
- **&** Eastwood St, 859522 Y
- ♣ Lockwood St, 859523 F
- **Dumble St, 859524 M**
- **Altic St, 859527 H**
- **#** Hughes St, 859529 W
- **S** 66th St, 859530 R
- S Cesar Chavez Blvd, 859533 L
- # Forest Hill Blvd, 859538 V



EAST END LEARNING CENTER

with a variety of neighborhood schools.

On Tuesdays throughout the fall, we offer free Friends and Family workshops for groups ranging from 5-20 people. Workshops are offered at two time slots: a morning session from 10:00am – 11:00am, and an afternoon session from 1:00pm – 2:00pm. Reserve one of the limited spots as soon as possible.

Professional development, team building activities, and school field trips are available upon request. For more information on our programs, facility, or to ar-

range a tour, please contact us at: eastendlc@bakerripley.org.

The East End Learning Center is free to the community! Reserve a Friends and Family Workshop using the QR code below or visit https://calendly.com/eastendlc/.



(cont. from pg. 6)



CALENDAR

October

10/10 Eastwood National Night Out

10/17 HPD PIP meeting @ 2202 St. Emanuel

10/21 BBP Kids' Day @ Marron Park

10/21 Eastwood Historic Home Tour

10/22 Eastwood Historic Home Tour

10/28 National Rx Drug Takeback Day @ 5900 Canal

November

11/1 First Wednesday Tree Waste Pickup

11/3 First Friday Tree WastePickup

11/6 6:30 - 7:30 pm: General Membership meeting

(Cape Center/Zoom)

11/21 HPD PIP meeting @ 2202 St. Emanuel

December

12/4 6:30 - 7:30 pm: General Membership meeting (Cape Center/Zoom)

12/6 First Wednesday Heavy Trash Pickup

12/8 First Friday Heavy Trash Pickup

12/19 HPD PIP meeting @ 2202 St. Emanuel



EASTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION (ECA) MEETINGS
LIVE AT THIS LINK:
TINYURL.COM/ECAMEETING

Find out all of the
Eastwood Civic Association
social media sites through the
QR code for the ECA linktree



2023 ELECTIONS

10/10 Voter Registration Deadline

10/23 Early Voting Begins

10/27 Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail

11/3 Early Voting Ends

11/7 General Election Day

12/9 Runoff Election Day



EastwoodCivicAssociation.org

EASTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2023 DOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Danielle Laperriere (Eastwood)

Vice President: Clay Dippel (Eastwood)
Secretary: Kyle Rogers (Woodleigh)
Treasurer: Pualani Tom (Broadmoor)

Directors: Tina Brady (Eastwood)

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Evert Henández (Young Mens)
Paulette Kukuk (Eastwood)
Erin Overhouse Locke (Eastwood)
Leslie Manzano (Young Mens)
Lindsay Williams (W. J. Taylor)

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