

**SUMMER
2012**

**A PUBLICATION
OF THE
EL JARDIN
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**



October is Going to Be Fun!

By: Sue Hays

We are going to have a lot going on in October. Of course we will have Bayfest. The date for this year is October 13. I am sure you will be ready for cooler weather and a fun day at the bay! If you are new to the neighborhood, Bayfest is our big annual fundraiser. We have food, drinks, games, live music, helicopter rides. It's fun for the whole family. We will be begging for volunteers to help with Bayfest as the time gets closer. If you're interested in helping, please contact any of the EJCA officers.

By popular demand, we are going to have a Gumbo Cook Off on October 27. The cooks at the Chili Cook Off had so much fun they want to have another cook off. This will be held at the park in front of the Weis House. We will have two categories--seafood gumbo and other gumbo. There will be more information as we get closer to the event.

Mark your calendar for these two events! Come out, meet your neighbors, and enjoy the fall weather in our great neighborhood.

EJCA Meetings

**Held on the 3rd Monday
of the month**

7:00 p.m. at the Weis House



Important Contacts

Emergencies 911

ActionLine
713-475-5555

Non-emergency Police
713-475-5568

Public Works
713-475-7836

Animal Rescue & Assistance
281-991-0602

Pasadena City Hall
713-477-1511

Emergency Preparedness
713-475-5588

Pasadena Recycling
713-922-1000

City of Pasadena Website
www.ci.pasadena.tx.us



Join El Jardín del Mar
on Facebook!



For El Jardín events, photos, newsletters
and more, visit www.eljardindelmar.org



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Treasurer's Chest

By: Wyatt McCormack

The Ramblings of an Outgoing Treasurer

Not many people would think that a banker is an outgoing guy, but I am! Not only do I have a positive outlook on life and talk to strangers at social events, but I'm also the outgoing Treasurer for the EJCA, a post I assumed two years ago. In this time, I have made several updates to the systems and processes of both the EJCA and the treasurer's position. Those include:

- Changing the bank to the local credit union for better rates and lower fees. This has the added benefit that anyone who is a member of the EJCA is now welcome to join the Johnson Space Center Federal Credit Union.
- Switching long-term holdings from a mutual fund to very low-cost index funds (stock and bond) at Vanguard.
- Switching to free federal e-filing of taxes using the simplified Form 990-N.
- Allowing the defunct El Jardin Property Owner's Association to expire under the IRS.
- Filing with the Secretary of State and Comptroller of Public Accounts for tax exemption (and shared the forms with board members to save money on major purchases).
- Paying the sign license fees for the new entry sign to the City of Pasadena.
- Paying the local property taxes for EJCA's parks and the Weis House lot.
- Re-registering EJCA's post office box online--only the local post office was never made aware of this. Oops!
- Helping to fold and seal 600+ newsletters.
- Paying for multiple newsletter postal mailings and filled out the byzantine paperwork (well, my wife did most of that work for which I am eternally grateful).
- Updating and simplifying the treasurer's electronic files.
- Enabling dedicated volunteers to do their work for the community and receive reimbursement in a hassle-free manner!

While it has involved work, I have been fortunate to work with and get to know some great community leaders. As I GO OUT, I urge you to GET INVOLVED!

The Newsletter Needs Your Help

By: Sue Hays

Wyatt and Candice McCormack are moving, and we will miss them greatly. They are the neighbors who put the newsletter together and mailed it! If you could help turning the articles into a newsletter we need your help. Or you could help to fold, label, and mail the newsletters. We generally have 3-4 newsletters a year.

Another area we need help with is writing articles. If you can help in any of these areas please contact us through a board member, the website, or the EJCA email address.



Editor's Note: Thanks, Sue! I moved here in 2006 and have since gotten married, had a baby, and have another on the way. Our family has enjoyed living in El Jardin and will miss all of our fantastic neighbors. Like my husband said above, I encourage everyone to get involved in the community. See y'all at Bayfest!

Office of Emergency Management

By: Sue Hays



All cities have an Office of Emergency Management. If there is any problem in the city you will be contacted when a situation starts and again when the situation is over. You can call and put your name and phone number on their call list. I have found that I get better information from the La Porte Office of Emergency Management and Seabrook Office of Emergency Management. We are so far out of Pasadena not all of their calls are pertinent to us. A few weeks ago there was an incident on I46 involving a toxic spill. I received a call telling me about it and to stay away from the corner of I46 and Red Bluff. That was convent. This is also handy for any problems associated with the area industries or weather.

If you call the general number for La Porte City Hall (281-471-5020) or for Seabrook (281-291-5600) and ask for the number to register to receive calls from the Office of Emergency Management, they can give it to you.

Best Hot Dogs Ever

By: Sue Hays

Every Saturday at lunch, my friend's dad cooked hot dogs for everyone. He spiral cut the hot dogs and they were the best ever. I have spiral cut them ever since, as do my kids. Put the hot dogs on a cutting board. Roll the dogs and cut them diagonally with a knife--not all the way through. Yes, they taste better and I don't know why.

Go green!

To get your newsletter e-mailed to you, send a request to:

eljardindelmar@gmail.com

Live in El Jardin & own a small business?

We'll run a free business card-sized ad for dues-paying EJCA members.

Send your information to:
eljardindelmar@gmail.com

Hayes Hamilton (1933-2012)

By: Loretta Hamilton

Hayes Hamilton passed away on March 26, 2012. He was born in LaPorte and moved to El Jardin in 1958. In 1969 he married Loretta Tirch. That is when he planted the Live Oak tree in their front yard. As you can see, Hayes had a gift for growing things. He owned and operated Hamilton Construction through 1980 and The Greenhouse in LaPorte from 1976 until 1986, then Liberty Farms from 1986 until 1996.

Always a hard worker and an outdoorsman, Hayes loved to hunt and had many trophies from all over the United States including several from Alaska.

He had some great stories to tell. Also, we'll remember him for "walking" his beagle, Rowdy #7, all around El Jardin on his riding lawnmower. While wearing his famous cowboy hat! (Yes, Rowdy #7--older El Jardinians may remember the previous--#1, #2, etc!)

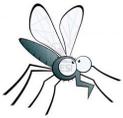
Many of us remember Hayes and Loretta for making and cooking the sausage at Bayfest. Each year they had a large jar of noodles or beans or something for us to "guess how many" in order to win a prize. He was GREAT supporter of El Jardin and will be missed by all.

A memorial fund has been established at Beacon Federal Credit Union and will be shared with the Alzheimer's Association.

A Little of This and a Little of That

By: Sue Hays

Neighborhood Mosquitos



I called the City of Pasadena and they are going to spray for mosquitoes as they have in the past. This means that they started at the beginning of May and will end in October. When they spray El Jardin they leave a notice in my mailbox so I know that they have been here. I have had good luck in the past with Cutters Bug Free Backyard spray. You can find it many places like Home Depot.

In Need of an Ambulance?



If you need to call an ambulance to your house, you need to know this. When you call 911 you will get Pasadena 911. This works for police and fire but NOT for an ambulance! We get our ambulance dispatched from Seabrook. So tell the 911 dispatch that you are in El Jardin and need an ambulance and ask to be transferred to Seabrook. This will take about 2 seconds. Then give the information to the Seabrook 911. If you give all your information to Pasadena 911 then they will transfer you to Seabrook and you must give all the information again! If this is a life or death situation you have lost critical time.

Good Neighbors



One thing I take for granted in El Jardin is that when I am out I will see my neighbors out and about. I recently baby sat a dog in Taylor Crest and I never saw anyone outside. It was like no one lived there. I started looking at other subdivisions and no one has the front drapes open and there are not even kids playing outside. We live in such a great place!

On the Lighter Side...

One summer evening, during a violent thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?"

The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

On June 10th, EJCA held the June General Meeting where board members were elected. There were also reports from the last general meeting, a treasurer's report, ETC.. Officers were elected on June 18th. Here they are!

2012-2013 EJCA Officers

Tara Woodruff, President

JJ Lewis, Vice President

Jan Carroll, Secretary

Mary Anderson, Treasurer



and Board Members

Mary Anderson

Bob Buddingh

Kit Cherry

Bill Connally

Melissa Conkling

Derrick Dampier

Bill Davis

Sue Hays

Mary Ann Walker

Tara Woodruff



*The El Jardin Community Association, a non-profit organization,
needs your monetary support!*

Where does this money go?

- It keeps the common areas (like the parks) maintained.
- It pays for gasoline and tractor maintenance for lawn mowing.
- It pays for the maintenance costs for the playground equipment.
- It keeps the electricity running at the Weis House.
- It gave us our awesome entrance sign.

Historically, only about 12% of households pay these low annual dues. Just think of what we could do if everyone donated! Please do your part to help make our community the best it can be!

**El Jardin Community Association
Membership Registration
P.O. Box 1115
Seabrook, Texas 77586**

Dues: \$35.00 per year for June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

I am a: _____ Property Owner _____ Rental Resident

Would you prefer to have your newsletter e-mailed? _____ Yes _____ No

A publication of:

El Jardin del Mar
Community Association

El Jardin del Mar is a
village on Galveston Bay
just north of Seabrook.

It sits on land that
was once part of
William Plunkett Harris's
Red Bluff Ranch.

It is a wonderful, restful place
to live in the southeastern
part of Harris County.

Please visit us on the Web at
www.eljardindelmar.org



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