



## Highland Jazz + Blues Festival Celebrates Lucky Seven

by Liz Swaine

“We came so close to not making it,” says Highland Jazz + Blues Chairman Kenney Koonce. “Last year, with the economy tight and grants cut, we wondered if number six would be our swan song. Our event this year is Lucky Seven in a number of ways.” It’s hard to believe that any event as popular as the Highland Jazz + Blues Festival would ever be short of operating cash, but as costs remained the same and grants and sponsorships dropped, the future looked grim.

As an estimated 10,000 people packed into Highland’s historic Columbia Park, a sort of sixth-year miracle occurred. “Festival-goers bought everything we had,” says Festival Creative Director Amy Loe. “Tee shirts and posters just flew off the tables. People were buying tee shirts from last year and the year before.” When told of the

money problem, the crowd that had gathered for the free festival began pulling out wads of cash, turning hats into spontaneous collection buckets, raising their hands and their greenbacks high so people could walk through and collect the crumpled donations. “My children were running through the crowd taking money. Our councilman, Monty Walford, turned his hat inside out and walked the crowd taking money. People were walking up telling us how much they loved the festival and didn’t want it to go away.” Loe, not used to such outpourings of soulful support, remembers being so touched by the reaction that she started to cry. “I just couldn’t believe it,” says Loe. “After so much work and worry, to have people respond with such affection. It made us even more determined to bring the festival back for number seven.”

Seven years ago, the then-infant festival attracted a much smaller crowd, fewer vendors and less notice. Over the years, the word-of-mouth has spread. Musicians love it, vendors talk about it and the crowd, getting five free hours of music on two stages, eats it up. It has become THE fall Highland event.



Highland Jazz + Blues Festival 2009

Though the Highland Jazz + Blues Festival is known for great regional music, tasty food, and creative arts and crafts, it is ultimately about more than one day of fun. The real goal has always been to show off the Highland neighborhood to visitors; to introduce the free-spirited, historical, architectural, unusual, and very livable aspects of the neighborhood to people who might never travel to Highland otherwise. “Everyone who serves on the board of Highland Jazz + Blues lives in Highland,” says Chairman



Highland Jazz + Blues Festival 2009

### 2010 Highland Jazz + Blues Festival

**What:** 5 hours of FREE music and over 50 food and art vendors

**When:** Saturday, November 13, noon-5pm

**Where:** Columbia Park (600 Columbia St)

**More Information:** Visit <http://highlandjazzandblues.org>

## HJ+B Fest, cont'd

Koonce. "We want others to see what we see, that Highland has more historical structures and artists than any other part of the city, more diverse styles of architecture, that we are close to both downtown and the great shopping along Line Avenue, Kings Highway and Youree Drive, that our homes have character, and our housing costs are reasonable. People come to Highland and put down roots here." "You can't hit people over the head with a bunch of glowing statistics about Highland," says Highland Restoration Association (HRA) President Teresa Edgerton, a supporter of the Highland Jazz & Blues Festival. "They'll just glaze over. But when you bring people into Highland and they have fun and walk our streets and feel safe and eat great Highland food and talk to talented Highland artists, it accomplishes a lot of the same goals."

"The word is definitely spreading," says Koonce. It's easy to see that in the line-up of festival sponsors. MetroPCS has come onboard as the presenting sponsor and their help, along with money and sup-

port from the Community Foundation, the City of Shreveport, Shreveport Public Assembly and Recreation (SPAR), Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC), the Parish of Caddo, River City Cycle and Fitness, and Red River Radio, will mean a big AND very lucky number seven for the festival. In addition to five hours of music on two stages, there will be two larger food and art areas comprising a

total of 56 vendors, a children's area, and plenty of space for blankets, lawn chairs, and well-mannered, leashed dogs. The event, planned for Saturday, November 13, is from noon until 5 pm at Columbia Park, 600 Columbia Street. "As always," says Koonce, "come hungry, come thirsty, come with your holiday shopping list and come prepared to have a great time."

## Highland Jazz & Blues Fest 2010 Lineup

### Pavilion Stage

12:00pm-12:45pm Robin & the Bluebirds

1:00pm-1:45pm AJ & the Two Tone Blues Band

2:00pm-2:45pm AJ Haynes & the Monkey Business

3:00pm-3:45pm Total Choice

4:00pm-5:00pm The Gourds

### Gazebo Stage

12:15pm-1:00pm Buddy Flett, Tim Brogan, Jimmy Caskey

1:15-2:00pm Otis Ockley Band

2:15-3:00pm The Space Travelers

3:15-4:00pm David Egan & the Twenty Years of Trouble



## Upcoming Event: HRA Neighborhood Cleanup

HRA is hosting a neighborhood cleanup to help prepare the streets and sidewalks around Columbia Park for the Highland Jazz and Blues Festival. Members will be picking up litter on Saturday, No-

vember 6 from 8:00am-11:00am. Volunteers should meet at the corner of Cres-

well Ave and Wilkinson St at 8:00am. Participants will be provided trash bags, trash grabbers, and plastic gloves; however a trash dumpster will not be provided for this event. After cleaning up the neighborhood, volunteers will be

invited to lunch at Lilah's Deli & Bakery (440 Olive St). Residents who aren't able to join in our organized clean-up are urged to pick up trash on their own streets. For more information, you can call HRA at (318) 221-7629 or email [highland\\_restoration@hotmail.com](mailto:highland_restoration@hotmail.com). Look for updates on the HRA website, [restorehighland.org](http://restorehighland.org).

# TERESA EDGERTON

There is so much going on in our city and neighborhood right now! I hope everyone is taking advantage of opportunities to learn more about the proposed Master Plan for Shreveport, especially the details regarding preserving and revitalizing the city's central core and older neighborhoods. To help members, HRA hosted Dr. Larissa Brown, Goody Clancy chief planner, as the speaker for our third and final general membership meeting of 2010. We also discussed a proposed historic preservation ordinance for the city.

HRA is working with city officials and neighborhood residents to develop a Cultural District that would encompass the greater Highland area. This extends potential tax credit benefits to more residents and sales tax breaks to local artists. More information will be forthcoming, but interested persons can find more information on HRA's website, [restorehighland.org](http://restorehighland.org), under Zoning Issues; or on the Louisiana historic preservation website, [www.crt.state.la.us/culturaldistricts/home.aspx](http://www.crt.state.la.us/culturaldistricts/home.aspx).

In all our programming, HRA highlights issues that are timely for our membership. In recent years, we have focused on urban gas drilling, zoning education, home ownership and mortgage accessibility, and property standards with



HRA District B City Council Candidate Forum

emphasis on homeowner education. We recently sponsored the District B City Council Candidate Forum. Support HRA and your neighborhood by attending our meetings. We elect new board members and officers at our next general membership meeting, which will be held in January or early February 2011. Watch for future announcements. And remember, we also serve great food at our meetings from Highland eateries!

Communication is important to the cohesiveness of a neighborhood and HRA employs a variety of methods to communicate with our members and community. This newsletter is just one of our many methods. As the largest and most well-known of the homeowner groups in our area, HRA accesses free media through radio, television and newspaper to get information out to the public, we use our oft-updated website, [restorehighland.org](http://restorehighland.org), social media through our Facebook group, email blasts, postcards, brochures, and signage. Outreach communication is also accomplished at our HRA-sponsored events, which include clean-ups and trash pick-up events, signage for neighborhood beautifi-

cation winners, and traditional phone and letter correspondence.

HRA has served the greater Highland area for 33 years. If you agree that HRA has a positive impact on our neighborhood, please look at your newsletter label and pay your dues today if your anniversary date is approaching or if you are past due in renewing your membership. If you have questions about your anniversary date, please let us know.

Two HRA board members are on the mend after hospitalizations. HRA board advisor and long-time Highland resident historian, Sue Ball, continues to recover from recent knee replacement surgery. Sue is undergoing rehabilitation and hopes to be home soon. James Eakin is making a great recovery after falling from his roof in June. James' compressed vertebrae, broken pelvis and fractured heel are steadily healing. James was able to attend the recent National Night Out Neighborhood Fish Fry on Pinehurst and Robinson Place; it was great to see him out and about again.

I want to thank all Highland residents who hosted and participated in the National Night Out gatherings on their streets this year. It's a great way to get together with neighbors and meet city officials who stop by.

**LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD ON NOVEMBER 2. GET OUT AND VOTE!!**

# HRA General Membership Meeting October 2010

## KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



- Teresa Edgerton**, President
- Julie Payne Johnson**, Vice President
- Cathy Williamson**, Secretary
- Barbara Ramsey**, Treasurer
- Tom Arceneaux**
- James Eakin**
- Kelly Gay**
- Marsha Millican Gill**
- Tina Kendrick**
- Liz Swaine**
- Sue Ball and Dan Marcalus**, Advisors



These individuals are proud to continue a 33-year tradition of volunteer service to the residents and businesses of Highland and they appreciate your support.

You may contact any of your board members by calling and leaving a message for them at (318) 221-7629.

HRA Members: Please note the date of your last dues payment above. If no date is shown, please pay your dues now!

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