



## Williamsburg Visits Highland by Sarah Scott

**H**RA is partnering with Friends of the Meadows Museum to sponsor a Greening of the Museum on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 2:30 pm. Greenings are special events held during the Holiday season to decorate with natural pine, spruce, firs, fruits and berries, nuts and cones. Because of the use of natural flora inside and outside the building, the aroma of the cut boughs brings to life all that is wonderful about celebrating the Christmas season.

It was our early forefathers who practiced such greening traditions in this country and even today, Williamsburg, VA starts their Holiday season with the very same Greening practice. Because of the historical beauty of The Meadows Museum, and indeed all of Centenary College, the decorating theme will hold closely to America's first colony's greening practices.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

#### Community Renewal Highland Children's Choir

Saturday, Dec. 20

A natural extension of the children's craft day at the Meadows, HRA is also co-sponsoring a special trolley ride for the Community Renewal Children's Choir as they carol at selected locations around the city.

The day does not only entail the greening, as there is an afternoon of traditional holiday activities planned to delight the child in all:

2:30 pm - Museum doors open with patrons enjoying refreshments, live auto harp music by Madelyn and Len Elford, browsing the gift shop, enjoying the current art and meeting new friends.

3:00 pm - Jeannine Pasini Beekman will take us on a vivid "story-ride" about childhood and Christmas in early America.

3:30 pm - Orange pomander making (oranges with whole cloves pushed in the skin forming patterns)

4:10 pm - Silver origami paper dove ornament making.

4:30 pm - Miniature natural wreath making using Greening supplies.

5:00 pm - Drawing for 3 Gingerbread House Door Prizes and lighting of the exterior of the Museum.

5:05 pm - The finale of the day will include what we hope will become a new tradition in Highland, The Community Renewal Highland Children's Choir singing endearing songs that stir the child within us all. Sandra Simpson and Prescola Williams, Community Renewal Haven House Coordinators, will lead the children in song on the front steps of the Museum while the candles flicker in the windows behind them.

The Friends of the Meadows looks forward to partnering with HRA on

### IN APPRECIATION

Thanks to Sarah Scott, Sue Ball, & Diane Dufilho for their work in making the holiday events at the Meadows Museum possible!

their third recent shared event to highlight life in Highland, focusing on the positive aspects of living in a historic district, celebrating old Holiday traditions and supporting neighborhood children's activities that broaden their horizons and teach them why Highland Historic Neighborhood is special.

If you can only attend a portion of this planned afternoon, it is perfectly fine to come enjoy any part of the schedule, and that is why each activity is a timed event. This is a free event, and children of all ages are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact the Meadows Museum at 869-5040; RSVPs are requested at the same number. The museum is located at 2911 Centenary Boulevard.



### IN APPRECIATION

Thanks to Kathryn Usher for updating the HRA blog!

# TERESA EDGERTON

## Haynesville Shale Update

The Highland Restoration Association remains an active member of the ShreveCentre Coalition, the group of 40 neighborhood associations that have banded together for the purpose of negotiating with companies that are part of the Haynesville Shale play. The Coalition's boundaries include approximately 8,000 acres. Within that acreage, each neighborhood group is getting interested property owners to sign non-binding letters of intent that indicate the mineral rights owner wants his/her property to be part of the Coalition's acreage for negotiating purposes.

Three companies have already called the ShreveCentre Coalition in advance of the bid process, showing that the Coalition's acreage is coveted. Highland has over 850 signed letters of

intent, but many people are unaware of this opportunity. If you have signed a letter of intent, please tell others on your block about the Coalition and give them the opportunity to sign, too.

HRA agreed to help organize Highland, to be responsible for data entry, and to represent Highland in the Coalition. However, we will only be successful if the neighborhood gets behind the effort. If you want the Coalition to succeed in Highland, then you can spread the word by volunteering to be a block captain and walking your block to see if your neighbors want to sign letters of intent. After you discuss Haynesville Shale activity, then you and your neighbors may also problem-solve other challenges we face in Highland—poorly maintained property, litter, zoning issues, garbage cans left out, criminal activity, stray animals, etc.

**Remember: The Highland Restoration Association is comprised of volunteers who work on behalf of Highland in many different arenas. (Read the enclosed 2008 Highlights to see the areas of activity for**

**HRA.) The Haynesville Shale organizing effort is but one service we are providing for the community.**

Only you can decide if you want to participate in the Coalition. If you would rather sign an agreement on your own, get your lawyer to read documents before you sign them. If you choose to be part of the Coalition, please know that a team of experts will carefully examine any proposed lease agreement before it is presented to individual property owners.

Even though negotiations are underway, it is not too late to sign the non-binding letters for Highland. The non-binding letters of intent can be downloaded from the HRA website at [highlandrestoration.org](http://highlandrestoration.org). Click on the Haynesville Shale tab, then click the pdf file for the non-binding letter of intent. Copies of the letters can be picked up at City Printing at 2204 Line Avenue and turned in at the Highland Center office (tell the secretary it's for Highland Restoration) at 520 Olive Street, or mailed to HRA, P.O. Box 4432, Shreveport, LA 71134-432.

## PROPERTY STANDARDS

by James Moore

If you would like to be a part of a better Highland neighborhood, and would like to serve on the Highland Restoration Association (HRA) Property Standards Committee, please give me a call at 222-8527. Committee meetings will be brief and held on an as-required basis. HRA has had a very positive impact on the appearance of our neighborhood through its past and current involvement with code enforcement issues, but more can and needs to be done. We need neighborhood residents to be involved with the problems in their areas. We need more eyes, ears and voices regarding problem properties. Ideally, we need at least one person to represent each of the following areas in Highland –

west of Line Avenue, east of Centenary, north of Olive, and south of Olive, between Line and Centenary.

I would like to extend a personal, and on behalf of the Board of Directors of HRA, a special **THANK YOU** to Mayor Glover for his "Operation T-Bone," his dedication to the goal of better neighborhoods, and his vision of Shreveport as the next great city of the south. And also a special **THANK YOU** to Jim Holt, the director of Code Enforcement. Mr. Holt has made great strides in streamlining his department and in the day-to-day functioning of Code Enforcement. He has made his department functional, something that we have only asked and hoped for from past administrations.

I have stressed to Mr. Holt my belief that not only care of premises violations and abandoned vehicles need to be dealt with on a matter-of-fact, day-to-day basis, but that the "general

requirements for structures" (rotten wood and roofs, steps, porches falling off, etc.)" must also be addressed in the early stages of neglect, while properties still have value. Once a property has been allowed to sit and rot until it is a liability for the owner, rather than an asset, that is when owners get hard to find, the titles to the properties become bad, the tax base shrinks, and the burden of tearing down the house and then cutting the grass falls on us, the taxpayer. I believe it is a felony offense when property owners allow their property to sit and rot, and get to the point that the values of surrounding properties are negatively affected by thousands or tens of thousands of dollars.

Help us at HRA by giving me a call, and let's get this Property Standards Committee up and running! This is your chance to help build a better Highland neighborhood. I am looking forward to hearing from you!

# HIGHLAND IMPROVEMENT AWARD

## Homeowners

These Highland homeowners have gone above and beyond in their efforts to improve Highland, one house at a time. Keep up the good work!



Danny and Sally Gayer



Lisa Powell and Jeff Hicks



John and Jodie Gharbi



William Duncan

## Garden of the Month Award Winners



Elizabeth Mercer



Terry and Judy Doty

# HRA'S MOST GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

The Highland Restoration Association relies heavily on member dues for financial support. We thank all of our members for supporting their neighborhood association and wish to offer special recognition to those individuals and businesses that have been especially generous in their support this year.

Kilpatrick Life Insurance  
Kilpatrick Rose Neath Funeral  
Homes, Crematorium, and  
Cemeteries, Inc.  
Mary Evelyn McGuire  
Total Care Medical Clinic  
Marsha and Terry Gill  
Ricky and Teresa Edgerton  
Bonnie and Gifford Gillen  
Chris Johnson

B. L. Shaw  
Richard and Michelle Williams  
Arthritis & Rheumatology Clinic  
Lyle Blount  
Caddo Coffee & Cafe Supply  
City Printing  
Community Bank Of Louisiana  
Creswell Apartments  
Giglio Plumbing Co., Inc.  
OK Cleaners, Inc.

Jones, Odom, Spruiell, Davis, &  
Politz  
Line Avenue Pharmacy  
Pill Box Pharmacy, Inc  
Richie, Richie & Oberle, LLP  
Rutherford House  
Time It Lube, Inc.  
U. L. Coleman Properties  
Weems, Schimpf, Gilsoul, Haines,  
Landry & Carmouche

## 2008 Highland Restoration Association Membership Information

(Member dues are our primary source of revenue.)

Regular Membership	\$20	Renters	\$10	Family Membership	\$30	Patron	\$275
Senior Citizens (60+)	\$10	Commercial Member	\$75	Sponsor	\$125	Benefactor	\$525+

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in serving on a committee or more involvement with HRA as a volunteer? Yes No (circle)

Committees: Property Standards Zoning Newsletter Program Other \_\_\_\_\_

What do you consider to be the top three issues facing the Highland area? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What other issues or concerns do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can the Highland Restoration Association better serve the area? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to us at: Highland Restoration Association, 520 Olive Street, Shreveport, LA 71104  
HRA Phone: 221-7629; email: highland\_restoration@hotmail.com

# KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

**Teresa Edgerton**, President

**Matt Werner**, Vice President

**Cathy Williamson**, Secretary

**Barbara Ramsey**, Treasurer

**Sue Ball**, Advisor

**Ginger Broussard**      **James Moore**

**James Eakin**              **Kelly Gay**

**Charles Gullette**        **Alan Berry**

**Marsha Millican Gill**

These individuals are proud to continue a 30-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.

