



HRA Holiday Home Tour Returns; Promises to be Best Ever!



Quaint Queen Anne at 853 Robinson

If you've ever driven past one of Highland's beautiful homes and said, "I wonder what it looks like inside?," you'll definitely be interested in a signature HRA event returning after a three-year hiatus. On December 5th and 6th, twelve of Highland's most interesting architectural gems will get all dolled up for the holidays and roll out the welcome mat. On Saturday night, seven homes will be open from 5-9 p.m. for the candlelight tour and on Sunday, six homes will open their doors to the public from 1-5 p.m.

"Celebrate Highland: A Holiday Home Tour" features a cross section of styles throughout the Highland and Fairfield Historic Districts. Homes on the tour include a wide variety of architecture: Tudor, Mediterranean, Foursquare, Victorian, Craftsman, even a former Ital-

ian grocery store converted to residential. The diversity of the homes in Highland led the tour committee to name this year's event "Celebrate Highland." "It really is a celebration," says tour chairman Teresa Scott-Edgerton. "It's a celebration of our architecture, our homes, and our eclectic neighborhood. We want people who might not be familiar with Highland to come in and take a look around. We know that once they do, they will be intrigued."

Highland homeowner Liz Swaine is on the tour committee and has a home on the tour. "My husband and I had a different house on the tour three years ago and just had a blast. One of the local publications wanted to take a promotional picture in October so we had Christmas decorations up at Halloween



Charming Colonial Revival at 1080 Dalzell



Noel Mansion at 555 Herndon

to accommodate them. The trick-or-treaters couldn't quite get over that. This year we are hosting travel writers before Thanksgiving so our Christmas decorations are up early again. I would draw the line of putting them up any earlier than June," she adds jokingly.

"During the last tour, I could tell that people who might never have thought of living in Highland before could really see themselves living in my house and enjoying our neighborhood," says tour committee member and former home tour (Story continues on page 2!)

AIN APPRECIATION

Thanks to the Home Tour Sponsors for making our fabulous tour a reality this year! We couldn't do it without you!

HRA Holiday Home Tour Returns, cont'd

participant Kenney Koonce. "It's all about exposing people to the charm of Highland." Koonce, Swaine, Scott-Edgerton and Highland historian Sue Ball make up the home tour committee. "It was so much fun choosing the houses for the tour," says Ball. "There are just so many options in Highland. We think we have found something for everyone."

"Everyone" is right! The styles, sizes and furnishings of the homes are vastly different. Some are contemporary and spare, others are traditional and still another is filled with bright, primary colors and tons of artwork. "It's an event no one should miss," says Scott-Edgerton. "If you do, I guarantee you will be sorry." Tickets are \$20 for the Saturday night tour which comes complete with complimen-

tary wine and cheese and a free trolley. Sunday is \$15, also with complimentary transportation and free coffee and cookies. Both tours can be purchased together for a money-saving \$25! For more information or to purchase tickets, go to: www.celebratehighland.com or call 318-221-5629.

Tour sponsors include ISA/Stewart Insurance, Meritain Health, Southwestern Electric Power Company, Twin Cities Development and the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau.

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HRA Holiday Home Tour Sneak Preview: 902 Robinson

In 1912 planter Abel Bliss built this craftsman house and later sold it to Ewald Max Hoyer, who was Bossier City's first mayor. Subsequent

owners added wings to the original structure and extended the house at the back. All the additions were done in such a fashion that the facade of the house was not compromised. Present owners Arlena and Jerry Acree will have the elegant and eclectically-furnished house in full holiday dress. Visitors will be particularly impressed with the beautifully decorated dining room table. Of special interest is the history room containing many artifacts relating to the area's history that have been given to Mrs. Acree over the years. 902 Robinson will be featured on the Saturday night tour, so be sure to buy your ticket; you won't want to miss this one!



Fabulous Foursquare at 902 Robinson

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

TERESA EDGERTON

Highland's Holmesville Making a Comeback

Have you noticed the renovations taking place on the 400 and 500 blocks of Jordan Street? Part of the old Holmesville subdivision, which was one of the premier neighborhoods in Shreveport in the early 1900s, this section of Highland is

full of large, beautiful homes ripe for revitalization. Tom and Elizabeth Arceneaux have recently moved into one such house, her family's homeplace, in the 500 block of Jordan. The Arceneaux's are completely renovating the home and are looking forward to life as active, concerned Highlanders. Tom is a new member of the Highland Restoration Association Board and we welcome his involvement. Another home in the 400 block of Jordan is being restored by

the Millers, who are new to the area. The residence, which was previously converted into apartments and in need of some TLC, is now being repaired and converted back into a single family home. Thanks to the Millers for choosing Highland as your new home, we are happy to have you. A quick drive around the surrounding area reveals several properties in Holmesville being rejuvenated; we can't wait to see which ones will be restored next.

PROPERTY STANDARDS

By James Moore & Teresa Edgerton

There have been several changes made to the City of Shreveport Property Standards Code of ordinances which you might want to know about. The word “graffiti” has been added to the definition of a “nuisance violation.” So if you are tired of seeing graffiti on a garage or on a structure on private property, Code Enforcement now has the authority to deal with it. Give them a call at 673-6200 and report the address. Be sure to follow up if the problem is not dealt with.

Another section adds that the concrete curbs adjacent to properties are to be trimmed or edged. And when a property code violator goes to court, in addition to a possible fine for an existing violation, the judge now has the authority to require the violation be remedied. Language was also added that would allow suspension of jail time only if the violation had been taken care of. Our thanks to Jim Holt, Director of Code Enforcement, and all those who worked to get these changes in place. We hope that these changes will make it easier for our city courts to deal with code violators.

Zoning Update

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) staff's recent proposed rezoning of commercial pockets of the current SPI-I (Special Public Interest) zoning for the Highland and Fairfield Historic Districts has created much confusion and concern in the Highland neighborhood. One intent of the original SPI-I ordinance was to protect the old homes along Fairfield Avenue from commercialization in inappropriate ways, while another purpose of the SPI-I zoning was for the MPC (and, thus, the public through MPC processes) to have more control over commercial buffer businesses adjoining historic districts.

In general the proposed zoning changes would return these SPI-I commercial areas to B-1 (businesses that are generally offices) or B-2 (businesses that are generally retail). With B-1 and B-2 zoning, the regulations would be less stringent (e.g., signage, landscaping, setbacks). The MPC and neighborhood associations/neighbors could potentially lose some regulatory control over buffer businesses, because SPI-I zoning is generally more strict than B-1 or B-2 zoning.

The pockets proposed for rezoning are not in old homes but in commercial buildings (only a couple of which are actually historic struc-



One of the Properties in Question:
2024 Fairfield (old Cambridge Club)

tures), but all are located next to homes in historic districts. The stated reasons for the proposed rezoning of these pockets is to simplify the zoning application process and to prevent the profusion of SPE-IE (exception) zoning applications.

Zoning is a complicated matter and a full discussion of the proposed changes will be scheduled between MPC and interested residents in the near future. HRA representatives have attended neighborhood meetings and the MPC meeting to listen, learn more about the proposal, and voice the concerns of the neighborhood. Please call the MPC staff to voice concerns and ask questions when you see rezoning notices or receive one in the mail. Let the MPC staff know if you want to be informed of any future meetings concerning this issue. As always, HRA strives to work with the MPC to make sure that Highland's best interests are being served. We will keep you posted with any meeting dates and any further developments regarding this matter.

2009 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 volunteering with HRA? _____

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

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: 221-7679; Email: highland_restoration@hotmail.com

KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Teresa Edgerton, President

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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.

