



HISTORIC SPANISH TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MARDI GRAS 2010 ISSUE

SPANISH TOWN LOSES ONE OF ITS HISTORIC TREASURES BY JOHN SYKES



Spanish Town lost one of its historic treasures to fire this year. Pictured above are the Dupree Duplexes on Spanish Town Road at 6th Street, when they were new in 1924. Fine examples of Mission Architecture, these twin duplex stuccoed apartment buildings initially contained one apartment on each floor. Original distinctive decor elements survived into the twenty-first century: iridescent green decorative tiles and matching green glazed roof tiles on the covered entrances to the upstairs apartments.

In the 1970, the originally two-bedroom apartments on each floor were subdivided into smaller studio apartments.

Built for Thomas (Tom) Byrd Dupree (1896-1980), these "most attractive and up-to-date duplex apartment houses" were finished by March 1924. Dupree's builder was his brother-in-law, Lewis Wilmot Eaton (1895-1974), a native of Galeton, Pennsylvania. Eaton, the son of a carpenter, moved to Baton Rouge by 1920 and worked with local builder, Herbert Sims before beginning his own successful contracting business.

(From A Guide to Historic Architecture of Spanish Town), John Sykes)

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Spanish Town Pa- rade/ Krewe of Poseidon Parade
14 Valen- tine's Day	15 Lundi Gras	16 Fat Tuesday	17 Ash Wednes- day	18	19	20 Amedisys Mardi Gras Mambo 10K
21	22 Beautifi- cation Cmmt. Meeting 5:30 813 N. St.	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Upcoming Mardi Gras Parades

- Krewe of Artimus "Artemis Remembers Her Childhood" Friday, February 5th, 7:00 p.m. begins at the corner of St. Phillip and South Blvd.
- Krew Mystique de la Capitale Saturday, February 6th 2:00 p.m. parade begins and ends at the corner of St. Phillip and Government St.
- Krewe of Orion "Love Is in the Air" Saturday, February 6th 6:30 p.m. parade begins and ends at the corner of St. Phillip and Government St.
- Spanish Town Parade "XXXpress It," Saturday, February 13th noon. Parade begins at the corner of Spanish Town Road and 5th St.
- Krewe of Poseidon "Mardi Gras Myths and Legends" Saturday, February 13th 4:00 p.m. follows the historic route of Downtown Baton Rouge

Upcoming Events

Amedisys Mardi Gras Mambo 10K walk and run. Saturday, February 20th 1 mile fun run/walk (8:30 a.m.) and 10 mile run (9:00 a.m.) begins at the Belle of Baton Rouge. Chris at 382-3596.

Join Our Mailing List

Please join our neighborhood e-mail List by contacting Shawn O'Brien at obriens@legis.state.la.us. You'll receive monthly supper club invitation, general-interest neighborhood info, security alerts, etc. Two lost pets have been recovered since Christmas through the network! If you would like to host a supper club, please contact Shawn. We are in need of hosts.

For other events going on this month visit

www.artsbr.org

www.redstickfarmersmarket.org/main

www.downtownbatonrouge.org

<http://manshiptheater.org/site.php>

<http://www.fhl.org/indexFHL.shtm>

To find out about more fun stuff going on in Baton Rouge, join the Cherry email list at: rougecherry@gmail.com or Cherry Baton Rouge on Facebook



THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER IN SPANISH TOWN

BY ANDREA NEIGHBORS AND DAVID BROWN

The Spanish Town Mardi Gras parade isn't any old parade, with its creative vibe and raunchy political satire heightened by a neighborhood rollicking with diversity, attitude and spirit, mixing artists, lawyers, homeless and political bigwigs in one happy gumbo, opening our homes to friends and even strangers from far and wide.

We do things differently in Spanish Town, right down to how we party: green. Last year, a slew of Spanish Town party givers and revelers alike worked to fit Mother Earth and Bacchus under one rockin' roof. Some went hard core, refusing to use disposable plates, cups, and silverware; others took small steps, directing people to recycle, pick up trash, and donate unwanted beads and throws.

As Spanish Town Mardi Gras 2010 fast approaches February 13, kick your party plans into full-throttle with a mind towards a new goal: the Grass is Always Greener in Spanish Town.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There are many ways to have a leaner, cleaner, greener Mardi Gras without sacrificing a drop of fun. We've outlined a bunch of ideas below that range from small-scale adjustments to a serious commitment to throw an environmentally sensitive party. Check out the suggestions, and come up with your own. Do it differently because you ARE Spanish Town!

Menu

Try to buy food that doesn't come in tons of packaging. Last year, some party givers even asked the bakery to box their king cakes in their own reusable tubs so they wouldn't have to bring home and then throw away all those cardboard boxes.

Serve fresh items like fruits and veggies that were grown locally, not transported from California, or beyond.

Serve finger foods to avoid the need for paper plates.

When not too pricey, go with locally produced items such as Zapps' potato chips and Abita beer.

Beverages

Ask guests to bring their own cups rather than use disposables or, catch and use the durable cups thrown from floats at other parades. That way you can have a huge cooler of water and lemonade rather than serving individual bottled waters. Get a keg, rather than single serving cans or bottles, and have people use their own, non-disposable cups.

If you do serve individual beers and sodas, make sure you have identifiable recycling bins for guests to use.

Supplies (this is the hard one)

If you can, avoid paper or Styrofoam plates. Last year some party givers borrowed plates from friends, and picked up more at Goodwill, etc. Reusable recycled plastic dishwasher-safe plates can be purchased locally from Whole Foods. Some put outside a bucket of soapy water and a bucket of rinse water and asked guests to throw the plates in the buckets to make clean up easier. Others ordered on-line disposable plates made of corn starch that are guaranteed to dissolve in the backyard composter in approximately three months.

Avoid disposable cups. Put your Mardi Gras cups into use, and have a Sharpie on hand so people can mark their names on their cups and carry them to other parties. (And catch more cups at the parade for next year while you're at it). Also, you can order on-line disposable cups made of baggasse (residue from sugar cane) that are guaranteed to dissolve in the backyard composter in approximately three months.

Utensils: If you use plastic utensils, throw them in the dishwasher and reuse them. Also, you can order on-line disposable utensils made of corn starch that are guaranteed to dissolve in the backyard composter in approximately three months.

Party Clean Up

Mark your recycling bins so even drunk people can find and identify them.

If you or your guests don't want their beads, recycle them. You can bring them to Allen Kirkpatrick's home and place them on his front porch for recycling at 765 Spanish Town Road.

Neighborhood Clean-up

Pick up your own yards, as well as the adjacent street. Help out if you live next to an older person, or someone who needs help.

The Civic Association will hold a neighborhood clean-up session the following day; show up and help out!



Green Mardi Gras Cont'd.

Green Bucket to Raise Money

Some hosts had special green-themed beads to give out to those who donated to a special green cause. Last year, one family raised money for an environmental group and handed out homemade pine cone beads to anyone who contributed to the charity.

Décor

Reuse Mardi Gras decorations. Clip fresh flowers, or find other ways to go pink.

Educate Guests

Let guests know Spanish Town is greener, that you have pledged to be a Green Host, and ask them to be a Green Guest while in our neighborhood.

Post signs that instruct guests what to do: for example, "write name on your cup and reuse;" "Recycle Here!;" or "Rinse your plate here"

Ask guests to bring their own cups to your party.

Invite guests to contribute to a green cause.

If you're on Facebook, join the group: The Grass is Always Greener in Spanish Town; Mardi Gras 2010.



NEW SPANISH TOWN PARKING PASS PROGRAM BY DEBBIE ROUSSELL

Spanish Town residents need no longer be frustrated about not being able to park near their residences, particularly when the Legislature is in session and we have an added number of vehicles in our neighborhood. The new Spanish Town parking pass program will help ensure that residents can find a parking spot in the neighborhood.

You should have already received a letter from the Department of Public Works informing you about the program and how to get your annual pass. Parking passes can be purchased at 329 Chippewa (take a right onto River Road and take another right on Chippewa) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost is \$5, (cash or checks only) and the pass is good for twelve months. Residents can also purchase temporary tags and guest tags for visitors.

Please bring the following items with you to the Chippewa Street office in order to demonstrate your residency :

1. driver's license
2. vehicle registration
3. A bill or bank statement with your name and address

Vehicles parking on Spanish Town streets between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday without the requisite tag will be ticketed.

If you have any other specific questions about the implementation of the plan, enforcement of the underlying ordinance or any other associated particulars, please contact Cyndi Pennington, the engineer overseeing this plan for DPW, at (225) 389-3246 or cpennington@brgov.com. At present, the HSTCA is currently working with our city councilwoman Tara Wicker to iron out any kinks in the new system.

VISIT US ONLINE AT
www.spanishtown.us

Or email us at
hstcabr@gmail.com

If you are interested in contacting any of our City Government leaders, there are two ways you can do this. Go to

<http://www.brgov.com/dept/council/pdfs/mcmaillist.pdf>

If you do not have access to a computer send a self addressed, stamped envelope to the HSTCA (Re: Government Contacts) and we will send you a copy of the list.



P.O. Box 3282 B.R., La. 70821-3282

SONGS TO AGING CHILDREN: A FAREWELL TO JEAN LEE AND TED STRICKLAND BY EDWIN ALLMAN

First, Jean . Then, Ted. So soon after the holidays – too often an ironically sad time for many – we learned of Jean Lee’s suicide the Sunday after New Year’s Day.

Four days later, my friend, George, stood in the doorway to my apartment, looking grim. I assumed it was it his usual mock displeasure at my being late, yet again, for our weekly ritual of watching either the Saints or the Tigers, one of us – usually, Ted – in charge of cooking up the burgers or chili to go with the cheap brew we consumed while we groaned or cheered at the too-real images George’s wide-screen hi-def TV.

“I know, I know – I’ll just be a min...” Before I could get the rest of sentence out, George quieted me with an almost imperceptible shake of his head. After what would later seem an interminable pause, he said quietly, “Ted shot himself.”

Friends of Jean (who did not leave a note) and Ted (who did, titled “I Loved Life), had no idea either was in so much pain. Shortly before the holidays, I had visited Jean Lee at her immaculate home on Lucilla Lane (artfully decorated with her own creations), inquiring about a mutual friend’s whereabouts. A brief hello/see ya later, perfectly innocent. In Ted’s case, I had seen him the evening before, shivering as he sipped a cup of coffee at a table in front of Capitol Grocery. Another brief greeting in passing as I hurried by to the sanctuary of my apartment next door, anxious to shed my clothes after a tiring day at work.

Had I hurried by too quickly?

Jean and Ted lived within a block of me, but I’m not sure if they knew each other well or at all, except perhaps in passing at one of the Spanish Town supper club get-togethers. Physical proximity, as it happens, is no guarantee of intimacy or even the most superficial kind of easy familiarity.

Who were Jean Lee and Ted Strickland? There are certainly biographical details worth considering – Jean Lee was a respected editor for the Louisiana Department of Education, a former editor at LSU Press and a fine artist; Ted was a jack-of-all-trades, recently unemployed after failing to find work after he quit his last job.

Friends remember Jean as someone unfailingly kind to her friends and neighbors, despite a sometimes wickedly sardonic twist of mind. One mutual acquaintance, who was hired to perform a few tasks for her, expressed gratitude for her patience and tolerance when the work extended past the promised deadline. Another appreciated that she rarely flaunted her obvious intelligence and professional accomplishments.

For me, there was the time I was playing some of my favorite songs by U2 and Roxy Music on the juke box at the Hound Dog, sure the magnificence of the music would transport everyone there into reverent silence. Somewhat disappointed that no one else seemed to be listening, I started dancing solo - a bit of childish defiance, I admit. But one person did notice. As I danced to “Avalon,” Jean tapped me on the shoulder and we continued alone, together. In retrospect, it is breathtakingly peculiar memory to associate with Jean.

In Ted’s case, it was a series of small kindnesses that endeared him to me – not to mention his low-key, gentle sense of humor and his Zen-like calm and generous spirit. Once, Ted overheard me grumbling about an electrical problem at my apartment that shut down my central AC, my stove and the lights in my bedroom and bathroom. Ted insisted on taking a look. Within 15 minutes, he’d figured out what was wrong – including the bizarre experience of the light over my sink coming on each time I tried to turn on the stove. Like magic, after three frustrating days, the problem disappeared.

My friend, George (whose apartment is across the balcony from where Ted lived in the brick apartment complex between 6th and 7th Streets on Spanish Town) came to regard Ted as one of his best friends. He told me Ted had twice fixed vexing problem with his car, among other things. Each time, Ted refused payment and actively resisted efforts to even thank him for his time, effort and expertise.

All of us who cared for them have our own, intensely private memories of who Jean Lee and Ted Strickland were. It’s never enough to say, “People hurry by too quickly” and not be stabbed by the all-too-melancholy realization that it is true.

Historic Spanish Town Civic Association

P. O. Box 3282

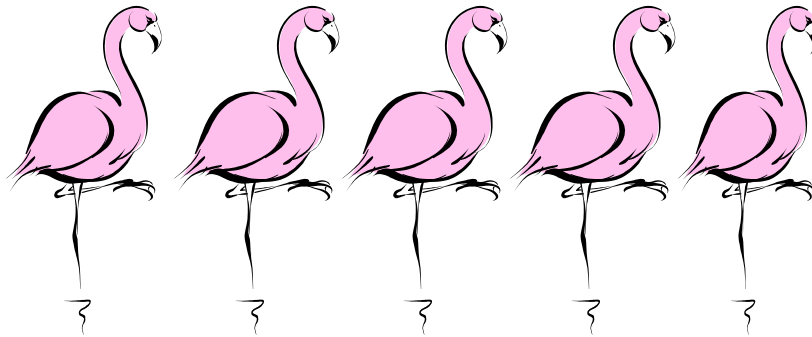
Baton Rouge, La. 70821-3282

VISIT US ONLINE AT:

www.spanishtown.us

Or email us at:

hstcabr@gmail.com



A friendly reminder: security patrol dues were due in September. Essential security patrols are privately funded, and cost the HSTCA \$250 a week. If you have not yet contributed, please consider giving at least \$20 annually to help keep Spanish Town safe.

Resident \$20.00 Property Owner \$20.00 Business Owner \$20.00

Preservationist \$20.00 Student \$10.00 Senior Citizen \$10.0

My contribution to neighborhood security: \$_____

HSTCA ° P.O. Box 3282 ° B.R., La. 70821-3282

Name: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

I am willing to help with (circle): Beautification, Security, Fundraising, Newsletter, Arts Festival, Crime Prevention, Parking, Community Relations