



# VERMONT COMMONS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

A Member of the Neartown Association

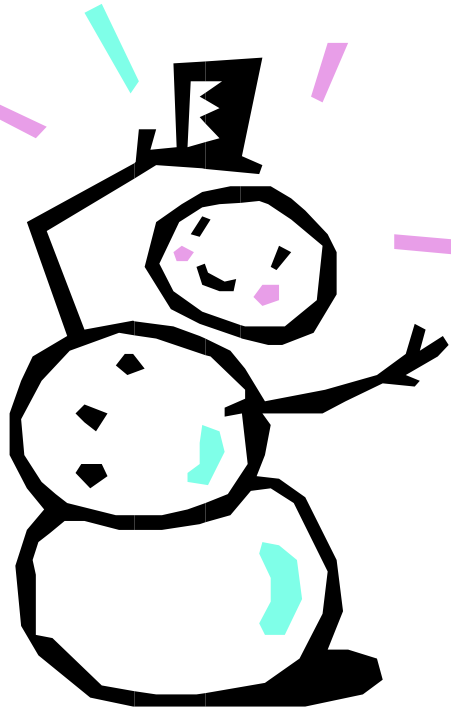
PO BOX 130891 HOUSTON, TX 77219

FEBRUARY  
2010

## winter newsletter

### HATS OFF To YOU !

Time to catch up with our creative friends in the neighborhood. For cool Christmas lights and decorations, many thanks go out to **Paul Miller at 1606 McDuffie**, **John Spadaro at 1960 Indiana**, and for neighborhood commercial properties thanks go to **Innate Chiropractic Healing Arts 2021 Driscoll**, **the Three Gables Apartment Bldg. 1801 Huldy**, and the wonderful **Mockingbird Bistro** which by the way happens to be home to our civic association meetings at **1958 Welch at McDuffie**. The homeowners were lucky winners receiving gift cards from California Pizza Kitchen, another great restaurant in our community. We should mention Dec. yard of the month went to **Lynda Transier at 1610 Hazard** which was stunning and festive.



### WINTER NEWS FOR DEC, JAN, FEB

#### 2010 Vermont Commons Officers Are Here

President	Jeanette Hix	(713) 521-3337	hix@rmi.net
VP	Nancy Higgs		nknh54@aol.com
Secretary	Lance Hack.		lhack02@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Andy Tallin		atallin01@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Jeanenne Hagerman		bhehome@aol.com
Newsletter	Karen Sturtevant		johnsturtevant@sbcglobal.net

### Holiday Crime Report

**Be Aware** of your surroundings and those around you while shopping or banking, etc. Before Christmas one of our neighbors was followed home from the grocery, assaulted and robbed as she opened her car to unload groceries in her garage. She was robbed of her jewelry, bruised, and badly traumatized. Although, we know it must have been horrifying, thank goodness she wasn't more seriously hurt. Don't let this happen to you. Similar incidents have happened to other neighbors. Be safe, look around, carry a cell phone and if a car seems to be following as you drive home, Don't drive straight home. **Call 911 for help** and drive to our neighborhood police storefront at **802 Westheimer just east of Montrose Blvd** which is open 9am-6pm. After 6pm the closest station is 61 Reisner near Lubbock in the Heights.

### Join our Next Meeting February 10th

#### Where to go?

All **Vermont Commons Civic Association** meetings are held the 2nd Wed. of each month, 7pm at **Mockingbird Bistro** located **1958 Welch** at **McDuffie** Meet friends & neighbors & stay for social hour following the meeting.

[mockingbirdbistro.com](http://mockingbirdbistro.com).



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# Yards of the winter months



**Dec Yard Of the Month** went to **Lynda Transier** at 1610 Hazard, built in 2007.



**Jan Yard Of the Month** went to **Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Brown** at 2023 McDuffie, built in 1993.



**Feb Yard Of the Month** goes to **Donald Ferrenbach** at 1609 Driscoll. A beautiful home built in 1938 and carefully maintained over the years. The yellow pansies which brighten up the yard are definitely worth a walk/drive by!

## Are You New to the Neighborhood & Yard of the Month?

Vermont Commons Civic Association is bounded by Shepherd, Driscoll, Peden, & Westheimer, approximately 30 square blocks of roughly 825 plus homes with a sprinkling of Multi-family apartment buildings on 560 standard city lots which measure 50 x 100 ft. Our neighborhood blends the old and new; small bungalows sit next to town home duplexes & quadraplexes, along with mil-

lion dollar homes, small apartment complexes, and a few businesses to make up the mix. We like to think there's room for everyone to enjoy the charm and convenience of this terrific location.

Yard of the month tries to encourage all neighbors to foster pride of ownership in our neighborhood and enjoy their homes and green spaces no matter how big or small. YOM rotates

monthly from individual homes to town homes, so everyone can be included.

Upcoming garden tours of our neighborhood will depend upon participation. It's another good way to meet people and get involved or just share an interest in gardening. So many of the homes in our neighborhood enhance the entire block while making a simple walk much more enjoyable.

## Neighbors Sound Off!

Since we all moved here for one reason or another, jobs, family, or the convenience, let's try to remember the other fellow, the one who lives beside you or behind you while we're enjoying ourselves. The noise from your dinner parties which may end up on the patio or back yard are often shared

with your next door neighbor. Be considerate and take your friends indoors at a reasonable hour. We all like being outdoors when the weather is nice but remember many people may be going to sleep at 10pm. After that the noise becomes a nuisance to those around you. Another timeless complaint is

for those who do not clean up after their dogs. If you walk at night, take a flashlight and scoop the poop so your neighbors don't have to. After all do you want to step into that at your home? Probably not, be kind and considerate & ask your friends to do the same. Thanks!

## Did you Know....?

You can check out the crime in our neighborhood and areas surrounding us for the last 30 days. You'll find HPD's website at <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/crime/> Click on enter crime site, then read the disclaimer and click on I accept. It then gives Browser Requirements with two options. Instead of downloading the PDF file RECENT CRIME MANUAL, choose the Click box. Once the map is up, click on the police officer icon (HPD tools) and select CRIME by AREA. Choose the offense and time frame, then choose filter type as zip code and enter our zip 77019 and hit search. To switch to a new offense, you must select conditional search—the first icon on the left at the top of the search box.

### There were five robberies in our general area during the evening hours in January.

Jan 2 — 6pm Strip business center parking lot on 400 block of W. Gray.

Jan 5 — 9pm Convenience store on 1900 block of Shepherd.

Jan 12 — 8:40pm CVS Pharmacy parking Lot 1000 block of Waugh.

Jan 16 — 10pm Bus stop 1400 block of W. Gray.

Jan 20 — 9pm Bank on 1400 W. Gray.



Always be aware of your surroundings - especially at night!

## Volunteers Wanted for Block Captains

Block captains are neighborhood representatives who help communicate important and helpful information to their neighbors. Usually a block captain interacts with people on their block but some may choose to cover two or more blocks from where they reside. They invite neighbors to civic association meetings, welcome new residents to their area, encourage recycling and try to be aware of those who sometimes need assistance. We need 4 to 6 captains for each block of Huldy, Brun, McDuffie, Hazard, and Driscoll plus 4 to 5 for our cross streets. It's not too difficult

and many of us already do these things without being asked, we just don't consider ourselves block captains. If you think you could help out, your time would be appreciated. Knowing more people on your street could be helpful in organizing groups of people who share common interests: book clubs, tree preservation & planting, wine tasting groups, save the vanishing bungalows, and as more families move into the neighborhood, play groups for children would be nice. It's good to know your neighbors. Many thanks to our current Block Captains.

## Remember Holden Caulfield

J. D. Salinger died January 27, 2010 at age 91. It's remarkable that his book *Catcher in the Rye* written in 1951 remains so popular today. It's recorded sales are 2000 copies most every year. Salinger would never release the rights to his book to be produced as a film and his estate will likely uphold his decision but a 2 hour documentary is being produced by the screenwriter Shane Salerno about the reclusive author which may be presented at the Cannes Spring Film Festival this year. Look for this film at our neighborhood River Oaks Theater in the near future.

## Just a Note from Jeanette

Recently, new Vermont Commons Civic Association Officers were elected for 2010. Jeanette Hix, President, wishes a Happy & Productive New Year to all VCAA residents and a standing invitation to join in the upcoming activities this year. Feb 10th will be the first Association meeting to include a

social hour following the business of VCAA. Of course we'll meet at Mockingbird Bistro at 7pm in the upstairs level of the Restaurant.

We're planning a busy year of garden tours, garage sales, political speakers, and opportunities for families to meet other families for

picnics and children's games. We look forward to getting to know you & we need everyone's ideas to enhance our neighborhood.



**Join VCCA and get involved in your neighborhood!**

**Mail this form with *only* \$30 annual dues to:**

Vermont Commons Civic Association, PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219-0891  
Or, bring it with you to the next monthly meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.  
Mockingbird Bistro, 1958 Welch at Indiana

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891  
Houston, TX 77219-0891

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
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Houston, TX  
Permit 9079

**Membership:** Open to all residents of the area. Annual dues of \$30 are payable on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Garbage & Yard Trimmings:** Mondays

**Recycling:** 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2010 - Mondays January 11, January 25, February 8, February 22, March 8, and March 22

**Heavy Trash Collection:** Tree Waste - January, March, May, July, September, and November

Junk Waste - February, April, June, August, October, and December

**Helpful Phone Numbers for Your Reference:**

**City of Houston:** 311 for city services such as requesting a recycling bin, reporting graffiti, or derelict building issues.

**Houston Police non-emergency:** (713) 884-3131

**Houston SPCA:** General Info (713) 869-7722; injured animals (713) 880-HELP

***Love your Block?*** Volunteer to be a block captain! It's a great way to ensure that your neighbors feel connected to VCCA and can access the resources they need. Contact Jeanette Hix to receive a handbook that will help you to advise your neighbors about available resources and how to report concerns for the community.