



Vermont Commons Civic Association Newsletter

October
2010

vccahouston.org
PO Box 130891 Houston, TX 77219-0891

VCCA CONTEST Name the Newsletter!

With the help of Jeanenne Hagerman and Karen Sturtevant, the VCCA Newsletter has a great look. Now let's give it a great name. The contest begins as soon as you receive this newsletter. The winning name will be announced at the Holiday Party in December. Judges will be selected at the October meeting. There are many very creative residents living in the neighborhood and VCCA is hoping

to receive loads of great suggestions.

Rules

1. Submit as many suggestions as your creative juices can come up with.
2. The name needs to have more than four characters and less than twenty.
3. Submit by November 30th.
4. Submit to hix@rmi.net.

JUST ONE MORE REMINDER Dues Only \$30 Annually

Thank you to all of those residents who responded to our request in last month's newsletter to pay their dues. September is the month that VCCA dues are due. It is not an obligation as our Deed Restrictions do not allow VCCA to restrict property if dues are not paid, but all the collected funds go for community activities and neighborhood improvement. VCCA hopes to have your name on the list soon. Send dues to VCCA's address or pay on the web page vccahouston.org.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT / FALL PICNIC October 5th

Hopefully you will receive this newsletter before the National Night Out (NNO)/Fall Picnic. The details were in the last newsletter, so this is just a reminder. It is a joint affair with Park Civic - our neighboring association. Please come out to meet your neighbors, Officer Pate, and eat great hot dogs. VCCA loves their children so be sure to bring them too.

Randalls Grocery store is supplying all the food, so be sure to thank them on your next visit to their store at Westheimer and Shepherd. NNO will be at the home of David and Terrie Irvin at 1961 Peden from 5:30 PM until 10:00 PM. NNO is a reminder to all those who might commit crimes in our neighborhood, that all of the neighbors are watching out for each other.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL

Cary Davis is heading up Graffiti Removal in VCCA. She has volunteered to remove graffiti from all objects, signs, post, sidewalks and anywhere it is sprayed. This removal is a message to criminals that this neighborhood is watching out for each other. If you see Cary walking her dogs, with her purse stuffed full of graffiti removal spray, paper towels and a note pad, give her a big thank you. She wants all residents to notify her when they see graffiti. Contact her at (713) 468 3424 or davis.cary@gmail.com.

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PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 7

VCCA meetings are every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Join us at 7 PM Oct 13th
Mockingbird Bistro
1985 Welch @ McDuffie.

Meet friends & neighbors & stay for the social hour afterward.



Speaker for October Meeting Candidates Night

VCCA will sponsor a "Candidates Night" at the October meeting. Both parties will be represented, as well as non-partisan candidates such as those running for the HISD School Board. Stephen Costello, Houston City Council Member at Large, will be present to inform residents about the referendum on sewer fees. Voting is November 2nd. Come listen and make an informed decision about the candidates and referendums. The list of candidates who will be attending the October meeting can be found on the VCCA web page.

2010 Vermont Commons Civic Association Officers

President: Jeanette Hix
(713) 521-3337
hix@rmi.net

Vice Pres: Nancy Higgs
(512) 422-3317
nkmh54@aol.com

Secretary: Lance Hack
lhack02@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Andy Tallin
atallin01@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Jeanenne Hagerman
bhehome@aol.com



October Yard of the Month

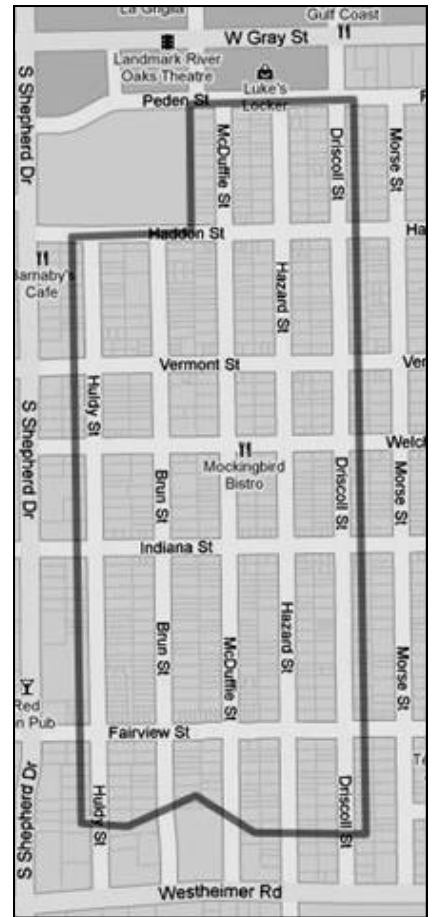
Dorothy Simons
2021 McDuffie St

Homeowner Dorothy Simons loves to garden, and has beautiful flowers in her front yard year-round.



Neighborhood Map

Exactly where are Vermont Common's boundaries? To learn, check out this map. If you misplace this month's newsletter, you can find the map on the VCCA web page.



Positive Interaction Program PIP

PIP meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. It offers an opportunity for residents to interact with the police who patrol our area. There is always a presentation, a time for questions and then a meet and greet with Houston Police Officers. All are welcome to attend. In addition to attending the meeting, residents can email your email address to Officer Pate and he will put you on his email list. He frequently has alerts about crime in the area.

"Guest Speaker"

Jarrad Mears

Animal Control Supervisor

City of Houston

Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care

Date: October 27, 2010

Location: 1602 State St
(HPOU Auditorium)

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Contact information:

1 District:

Officer Wayne Pate

(713) 284-8604

Barnett.Pate@cityofhouston.net

VOLUNTEER NEWS

New Block Captain:

Betsy Banks

1904 Hazard St

betsybanks1@gmail.com

National Night Out

Thanks to Terrie and David Irvin for hosting the National Night Out in the common space of the town home complex where they live. A big thanks!!!

Newsletter Folding

Thanks to a great group of residents who gather each month to fold, tape and attach address labels to the newsletters. Kit and John Muire, Adriana Breidenstein, Betsy Banks, Carole Dodson, and Lillian Skogsberg have joined the group. Way to go folders!!!

Web Crew

If you have been on the VCCA web page, you will have noticed the ever-changing pictures of our neighborhood at the top of the page. Thanks to the web crew for the great photographs. Be sure to log on to the web page as your house or a decorative item in your front yard may be featured. Great job web crew!

Yard of the Month

Two more residents joined the Yard of the Month Committee: Betsy Banks and Lillian Skogsberg. They will be helping select a great yard each month.

THE REST OF THE STORY

Cay Dickson continues with "How VCCA Came To Be"

I had lived in a duplex at 1631 Dunlavy since 1974, so buying my first house was an important right of passage. The house was built in 1938. It was one-story, had asbestos siding and was perched on beams and cinder blocks. There was an 800 square-foot garage apartment in the back, with a tiny back yard. About every three years, I had to have the back end of the house literally jacked up, with a shingle or two put beneath it, to level it again. There was no insulation to speak of, the wiring had not been updated for many years and a lot of it was still cloth-covered copper wiring.

My neighbors were a nice couple, probably in their 60s at the time. I just called them "Mr. & Mrs. Eddie", as his name was Eddie. This is now the home of Andy, Maria and Gabby Tallin. When I moved here, that house was a triplex. If memory serves, I believe that Ed Quilter, who was recently interviewed for the VCCA newsletter, grew up in that house...or had something to do with it.

Directly across Indiana lived an elderly (80 years old back then) woman named Nellie Brosig. She was from Germany and her late husband was very talented with woodworking. He had built every cabinet and closet in their little white asbestos-sided home. The home had a wonderful metal roof that created the best sound when it rained. There were six enormous Crepe Myrtles along Indiana on the

side of her house. They were destroyed when the townhomes were built.

A lady in her 70s, Jewel Bell, lived four houses down from me, toward Fairview. She walked a mile every day and had all the information on everything that was going on in the neighborhood. At some point, she fell and her family sent her to a nursing home. She never came back and I'm not sure of the year in which she died. She had such great energy and was a vital part of this neighborhood. The parents of VCCA co-founders John & Anna Doody live there now.

At one point, Pepsico, which owned Kentucky Fried Chicken, asked for a meeting with VCCA to propose tearing down the two houses on the corner of Huldly and Fairview in order to increase the size of their drive-through facility. I will never forget, after a lengthy and impressive presentation from their representative, hearing then-president John Focke say that no matter what we might want to do, the Deed Restrictions prevented us from approving that proposal. Not too much longer after that, some beautiful townhomes were built on those lots.

As the townhomes started going up, there was a tiny bit of friction between the cottage owners and the townhome owners. That friction was caused by the perception that townhome owners "opened their garage doors, went inside and you never saw them again

until the next day"; whereas cottage owners were more sociable and tended to be more involved in the community. The reality is that the townhomes now outnumber the cottages and the truth is that this doesn't have to be a reality at all. We are still neighbors and we still need the watchful eye of another neighbor or to know that someone knows if there's "something a little different" about a car, a person or activities around the neighborhood. We are a community, and in order to maintain that, you've got to say hello to a neighbor every now and then.

Over the years, people have come and gone, and now I, along with a lot of other VCCA residents, am becoming one of the "old folks". The wonderful thing is that there are so many new residents, both older and younger, that seem to have an appreciation for all that our community has to offer.

I've loved every minute of living in this area and I hope that those who become residents as the years pass by will also have the enormous sense of ownership and civic pride that was such an important part of the founding of VCCA nearly 20 years ago.



Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays Oct 4, Oct 18, Nov 1, Nov 15, Nov 29, Dec 13, & Tuesday Dec 28

Heavy Trash Collection:

Tree Waste: 1st Tuesday in Nov, Jan, Mar, May & Jul, & Sep

Junk Waste: 1st Tuesday in Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun & Aug

Helpful Phone and e-mail Numbers

Our New Website: vccahouston.org

City Council Member Dist D:

Wanda Adams: (832) 393-3001

e-mail: districtd@cityofhouston.net

City Council Member at Large, Pos.1 Stephen Costello

e-mail: atlarge1@cityofhouston.net

Just a Note From Jeanette

Our Civic Association has met its goal, and now advertisements pay for all the expenses of the VCCA Newsletter. Be sure to thank those who advertise, as they are our neighbors. I am working with the Post Office to see if we can get some consistency with the delivery of the newsletters. My street, Brun, had deliveries stretching from Tuesday September 1st until Tuesday September 14th for the September newsletter. The PO is checking on this discrepancy. Hopefully we will all receive the October newsletter at the same time. Thanks to all the volunteers who make my job so easy.

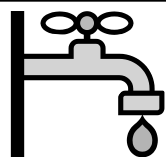
Your Pres, Jeanette Hix



Vermont Commons Civic Association
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Houston, TX 77219-0891

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NOV. 6
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DRUMMING
EVERY 9pm



Dr. Jackie St. Cyr, D.C.

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