



# Vermont Commons Civic Association Newsletter

September  
2010

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

## VERMONT COMMONS DUES

September is the Month to Pay Dues!!  
ONLY \$30 ANNUALLY!

Thanks to all of you who continue to support the work of our civic association, Vermont Commons Civic Association, (VCCA), by paying the annual dues. VCCA needs more participation so that we can continue our work in the community.

Just so you know that your dollars are accomplishing something, here is an overview of what VCCA did this past year.

- Created a new and improved newsletter, twice as large, and sent copies, by mail, to ALL residents of VCCA.
- Created a web site for VCCA - VCCAHOUSTON.ORG.
- Created signs to place at the peripheral edges of VCCA so that our community will be identified.
- Purchased graffiti removal spray and removed graffiti from signs in VCCA.
- Created Pet Scoopers signs for all residents to borrow.
- Selected yards to honor residents who help to beautify VCCA - Yard of the Month.
- Worked with the local police to monitor and help prevent crime.
- Sponsored National Night Out/Fall Picnic.
- Sponsored a Holiday Party at the Mockingbird Bistro.
- Monitored construction to make sure that the Deed Restrictions of VCCA are being followed.
- Encouraged residents to volunteer to become a Block Captain.

If you like what we do and you want VCCA to continue the process of bettering our neighborhood, please pay your dues. You can send the money to the address on the newsletter or log on to our web site, VCCAHOUSTON.ORG and pay through PAYPAL.

## MEETING DATE CHANGED Mockingbird Closed on Sep 8th Meeting Wednesday Sep 15th

Same place, same time, same great food and drinks, and same great neighbors. Chad Evans of River Oaks Gym will be our guest speaker.

Join us at 7 PM Sep 15<sup>th</sup>  
Mockingbird Bistro  
1985 Welch @ McDuffie.

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



## 2010 Vermont Commons Civic Association Officers

President: Jeanette Hix  
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## National Night Out/Fall Picnic Sponsored by Randalls

Vermont Commons Civic Association and Park Civic are coming together to host National Night Out and a Fall Picnic. The event is sponsored by Randalls grocery store. They will be supplying all of the food for the event, so be sure to thank the manager on your next visit to Randalls.

What is National Night Out? National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

### When and where is the event?

October 5, 2010 at 5:30 PM.

It continues until we all go home.

This year's event will take place at Terrie and David Irvin's at 1961 Peden. There is not much street parking, so plan to walk or ride your bicycle. The area is a perfect place to bring your children, as the townhouse complex has a large area protected from the street.

Officer Pate from the Houston Police Department will be there to talk about crime in our area and answer questions.

The hotdog cook out will be accompanied by chips and drinks.

Grab your family and your immediate neighbors and come to meet and greet your neighbors from all over Vermont Commons and Park Civic.

## Yards of the Summer Months



**JULY**

**YARD of the MONTH**  
Bob & Margaret Immel  
1967 Haddon

**AUGUST**  
**YARD of the MONTH**  
Dr. Rebecca Harvey  
Cosmetic & General Dentistry  
2025 Fairview  
VCCA's first business owner  
award is a great remodel of the  
surrounding area.



**SEPTEMBER**

**YARD of the MONTH**  
Doug & Kevin Riddle  
1814 McDuffie  
Three-year residents credit the  
great yard to Mr. Riddle.



### Home Crime Prevention

A burglary is reported every 15 seconds in the United States. By following these simple steps, you can reduce the possibility that your home will be targeted:

#### DOORS & WINDOWS

- All exterior doors should be solid core or metal. Keep doors locked and garage doors closed even when at home.
- All entry doors should be equipped with a double cylinder deadbolt with a minimum one-inch throw and a key readily available for an emergency exit.
- The deadbolt lock should use a heavy-duty strike plate secured with 12 gauge three-inch wood screws.
- Never leave a house key in an obvious place such as a mailbox, under plants, or a doormat.
- All exit doors with outside hinges should have their hinges pinned.
- Install a peephole with at least a 180-degree viewing area.
- Secure all sliding glass doors with an anti-lifting device and a secondary locking device.
- Windows should have secondary locking devices on each window.

#### EXTERIOR & LANDSCAPE

- Install lights in areas around doors, walkways, and driveways.
- Locate outside lights high and out of reach of intruders.
- Use inexpensive timers or photo electric cells to automatically turn the lights on and off at dusk and dawn.
- Trim shrubbery and trees so doors and windows are visible from the street.
- Prune trees so that a thief cannot use them to reach a second floor window.
- To discourage an intruder, plant thorny hostile plants along fences. Fences should not block the view of entry doors and gates. Do not leave ladders or tools outside; they can assist a person in gaining entry.
- Install large reflective numbers (minimum 3 inches) on your house and mailbox so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.

### VOLUNTEER NEWS

#### Donations

A special thanks to those who donated money to help fund the peripheral sign project. Without their help, we would not be able to afford the signs: Stephen & Debbie Costello, Lance Hack, Tom & Jeanette Hix, Andy Tallin & Maria Rodriguez.

#### VCCA Web Masters

If you have not logged onto the VCCA's website, you are missing a real treat. Wayne Ticac, Carlos Faxas, and Delia Cuellar have created a user-friendly website for residents to find out information and post items that they think are of interest. Thanks to these three residents for enhancing VCCA's communications.

#### Block Captain

We have another new block captain. Nina Otazo is representing Driscoll between Fairview and Indiana. You can contact her at [ninaotazo@msn.com](mailto:ninaotazo@msn.com).

Thanks, Karen

Karen Sturtevant, who was instrumental in developing VCCA's new newsletter, will no longer be assisting with the newsletter. A great big thanks Karen, for all you did.

## SOUND OFF!

**VCCA** received several complaints this summer concerning residents not **SCOOP-ING THEIR DOG POOP**. One Driscoll resident, Nina Otazo, decided to become pro-active. She created a wonderful sign that she placed in front of her house. The sign seems to be working, as she has not had to scoop other dog owners poop since erecting it.

VCCA loved her idea so much that we decided to make signs available to those who want to discourage non dog-scoopers.

Nina has volunteered to purchase the signs and have a sort of "lending library" for signs. If you would like to borrow a sign for a month, or purchase

one, contact Nina at [ninaotazo@msn.com](mailto:ninaotazo@msn.com).

Here is the law (Section 6-24):

Pet owners must remove all fecal material deposited by their pets on property they do not own, including neighbor's yards, city parks, school property, public right-of-ways, etc.

Defecation by dogs and cats:

- **A person in control of a dog or cat must promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by their dog or cat, when walking outside of their own yard with their pet.**
- **Each person in control of the dog or cat must have materials to remove the feces left by their dog or cat when they are off their own property.**
- **If the person in control of the dog or cat is the owner of the property, this law does not apply.**
- **Violation of this section is punishable upon conviction by a fine of not less than \$75 or more than \$500. Each violation of this section is a separate offense.**



### HOW VCCA CAME TO BE by Cay Dickson

In 1977, I bought a little 1300 square foot house with a garage apartment on the corner of Brun & Indiana. For years, I waved at my neighbors as we passed each other on the street, but I didn't know their names or anything about them. After about 10 or 12 years, it occurred to me that it would be a good thing if the neighbors knew each others' names and some information about one another. It also seemed like a good way to keep an eye out for the people who lived on our block or street. At that time, we had a

significant number of residents who had lived in their homes since the 1940s and 1950s.

Although it is now somewhat ironic, another motivator was the fact that the roof line of one of the first townhomes on Brun appeared to reach over the property line of a wonderful little cottage next to it. That didn't seem like a good sign of things to come, so a group of us banded together to develop deed restrictions to stop that sort of encroachment. As it turned out, the small cottage had been built slightly over the property line. The irony: three years after VCCA was formed, I ended up building three townhomes on my

corner lot.

The little group that got together to form Vermont Commons Civic Association included:

John & Catherine Focke, Molly & Don Glentzer, Tom Oxford, John & Anna Doody, Yvonne Meyer, Debbie Grote, Margaret Lam, and Cay Dickson.



I am proud to say that the majority of us, save for one, still live in VCCA's boundaries.

#### Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Tuesday Sep 7, & Mondays Sep 20, Oct 4, Oct 18, Nov 1, Nov 15, Nov 29

Heavy Trash Collection:

Tree Waste: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May & Jul

Junk Waste: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun & Aug

#### Helpful Phone and e-mail Numbers

**Our New Website:** [vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org)

City Council Member Dist D:

Wanda Adams: (832) 393-3001

e-mail: [districtd@cityofhouston.net](mailto:districtd@cityofhouston.net)

City Council Member at Large, Pos.1 Stephen Costello

e-mail: [atlarge1@cityofhouston.net](mailto:atlarge1@cityofhouston.net)

### Just a Note From Jeanette

Summer is over and I wish the heat was too. I am ready for cooler weather. We, the VCCA officers and Newsletter staff, took a break for July and August. We hope you missed our newsletter. You could have continued to read news about VCCA if you had logged onto the VCCA web site. Our web masters have continued their work while we rested. I hope that each of you will decide to financially support VCCA so we can continue our work. The volunteers all give generously of their time, and many use their own funds to do their share of the work. If you have ideas to improve VCCA, or have a Sound Off idea, please e-mail or call us and let us know. I hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

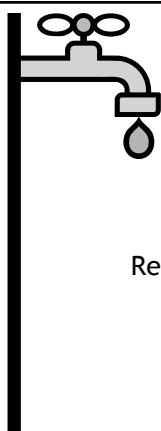
Your Pres, Jeanette Hix



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