



# Vermont Commons Civic Association Newsletter

December  
2010

[vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org)

PO Box 130891 Houston, TX 77219-0891

## Celebrate the Season With Your VCCA Neighbors

The Annual VCCA Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, December 8th at 6:30 PM at the Mockingbird Bistro on Welch at McDuffie. We'll meet in the private room and do some world-class mingling. There will be plenty of delicious hors d'oeuvres from their award-winning menu. There will be a cash bar should you want to indulge in an adult (or not) beverage. So throw on something shiny and seasonal and saunter on over to the Mockingbird to celebrate the end of a year that seems to have flown by.

## NEWSLETTER NAME CHANGE REJECTED!

There was a mighty outcry of disagreement at the November meeting when the subject of changing the name of the newsletter was discussed. Those in attendance voted to retain the present name.

The general sentiment was that we should not change something that has worked so well since the inception of VCCA. Thanks to all of our conscientious residents who submitted names

## SIGN TOPPERS APPROVED

The City of Houston has approved the request from VCCA to put sign toppers on all the street name signs within the VCCA area. A sign topper is similar in size to a street sign and is attached on top of the street sign. These signs will help identify VCCA as a community. Our local police have indicated that identifying your community is beneficial for deterring crime. **Watch for the sign toppers in 2011.**

Thanks to Delia Cuellar, Andy Tallin, Nancy Higgs, Lance Hack and

Jeanette Hix for creating all the documents for the application and for all the last minute endeavors to make it happen.

Many of the same documents were used to apply for a City of Houston Beautification grant to pay for the sign toppers. Andy Tallin spearheaded that application process. Thanks to Tom Hix for the last minute delivery of the application to the city. Hopefully, by the next newsletter, we will know if the VCCA grant application was successful.

## JANUARY SPEAKER

It seems everyone is travelling these days, from small trips to multi-generational family travel or going to the Olympics. Working with a travel agent to plan these trips can result in great benefits. At the January meeting, Adriana Briedenstein will discuss the role of a travel agent, some of the current trends, and relationships with On-site partners who take care of clients all over the world. She is a Certified Travel Counselor or CTC, the highest professional designation in travel.

Adriana was born, raised and educated in Holland. She has been fulfilling her lifelong dream to travel "more than she even imagined." She has worked for Lufthansa and British Airways in numerous capacities and places. Adriana's expertise is in creating private, custom-designed trips and tours. Some of her favorite destinations are India, Asia, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Vermont Commons Civic Association  
Newsletter

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Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 9

**VCCA** meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday of the month.

Join us at 6:30 PM  
December 8<sup>th</sup>  
Mockingbird Bistro  
1985 Welch @ McDuffie.

Celebrate the Season  
with your  
VCCA Neighbors!



## VCCA OFFICERS FOR 2011

The VCCA Bylaws call for the election of officers at the November meeting and installation in January. The 2010 VCCA Officers all agreed to serve another year and were duly elected at the November meeting. They are listed below.

The position of Newsletter is an officer, but it is not an elected position. Jeanenne Hagerman and Cay Dickson have both volunteered to remain as the newsletter staff.

### 2011 Vermont Commons Civic Association Officers

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

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

Secretary: Lance Hack  
[lhack02@hotmail.com](mailto:lhack02@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Andy Tallin  
[atallin01@yahoo.com](mailto:atallin01@yahoo.com)

Newsletter: Jeanenne Hagerman  
Cay Dickson

## Annual Holiday Lights Decorating Contest

It's time again for the Annual Vermont Commons Holiday Lights Decorating Contest! Beginning in 2008, the Yard of the Month committee decided this would be a fun way to acknowledge those of you who help us all get into the holiday spirit. There are always many beautiful, fun lights and decorations, and we will have a hard time picking the winners once again.

Winners will be announced at the December holiday gathering on December 8th held at Mockingbird Bistro, our favorite neighborhood restaurant. Winners may anticipate a door prize – or extra complimentary beverage at the party – or, well, at least recognition and applause! So, everyone get motivated!

Rather than 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will judge the following possible categories:

- Best Traditional
- Best Contemporary
- Best Animation
- Best Block (get your neighbors going!!)

If you have additional suggestions, please email them directly to Nancy Higgs at [nkmh54@aol.com](mailto:nkmh54@aol.com). Again, thank you to everyone for helping to make Vermont Commons the BEST Houston neighborhood to live in.

## Bring Donations to Holiday Party

Star of Hope is a Houston organization that shelters women and children. The local news again announced their dire need for toiletries. Please bring a donation to the Holiday Party and give to Nancy Higgs. She will deliver the goods to their facility. Let's remember others less fortunate during this Season of Giving.

## New Recycling Program

Our neighborhood has been selected to begin the Single Stream Recycling Program. You should have received your notice from the City Of Houston. Your bin will be delivered between November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup>. All your recycling material will now be put into the recycling cart. Be sure to read the materials that accompany the cart as there is a reward system for recycling and your points can be redeemed at numerous stores.

The old cart is now yours to keep. The city will not pick it up when they deliver your cart. If you do not want the green bin you now have, you can put it into the new recycling bin on recycling day to be recycled, or you can take it to the Westpark Recycling Center.

### Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays Dec 13, & Tuesday Dec 28

Heavy Trash Collection:

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

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

Environmental Service Center for the disposal of hazardous waste, 11500 South Post Oak, (713) 551-7355, open Tue - Wed, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM & the 2nd Sat of each month 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Paint, pesticides, batteries, smoke alarms, computers, televisions, most anything you shouldn't throw into the landfill can be brought here.

## PIP Meeting Report

By Kelly McKinzie, Chair, Neighborhood Crime Committee

### Fire Protection Awareness

The Houston Fire Dept Chief spoke to us about basic tips since this was Fire Awareness month. He said most home fire-related casualties or injuries could have been avoided if the homeowner had functional fire detection systems. Many times they find fire detectors have bad batteries.

### Burglaries

Burglaries of all types are on the rise in Central Division of Houston, as well as other downtown areas. HPD encourages everyone to practice extra caution and awareness in their neighborhoods. Promptly report any suspicious behavior.

### HPD Success Story

Officer Wayne Pate and nine (9) other HPD Central Division officers were given a special recognition award by the HPD Chief of Police recently for successfully tracking and apprehending two (2) burglars responsible for approximately 150 burglaries in Central Division (most near the Neartown area). One burglar was apprehended on Monday, October 18th, and the second burglar was apprehended on Friday, October 22nd. Both had evidence on their persons validating their association to the crimes. One had a stolen wedding ring in his pocket!

TIP:

Officer Pate says it is VERY important to take pictures of your special belongings (such as jewelry). Also, record any serial numbers if possible. Such records immensely assist HPD in tracking stolen goods. All pawn shops are required to input serial numbers of items received into a central database. This is the first place HPD will check to determine if crooks have "pawned" stolen goods.

## Volunteer News

**Margaret Lamb**, a long-time resident, VCCA member and volunteer saved all the VCCA newsletters since VCCA began. It is a wonderful archive of VCCA events throughout the years.

**Betsy Banks** hosted the newsletter folding in her home in October. The group of folders had a great time and Betsy supplied delicious snacks.

**Claude Wynn, John Doodey** and **John Focke** have recently supplied VCCA with their old VCCA records. This has been very beneficial as VCCA is attempting to centralize all their information. If you have any information that you think would be beneficial to VCCA, please contact Jeanette Hix.

### 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)

**Go to [vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org) for more helpful info, phone numbers & links to city services.**

## Thanks to All Our Volunteers!

VCCA has the following volunteer committees. If you want to join any of these committees, please contact Jeanette Hix.

**Beautification Chair:** Nina Otazo

**Deed Restriction Chair:** David Irvin - [dirvin@uh.edu](mailto:dirvin@uh.edu)  
Committee Members : Lance Hack - [lhack01@hotmail.com](mailto:lhack01@hotmail.com)  
David Hoyer - [davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net)  
Mark Preston

**Graffiti Chair:** Cary Davis

**Guest Speaker Committee:** Adrianna Breidenstein, Susan Wilson

**Membership Chair:** Nancy Higgs - [nkmh54@aol.com](mailto:nkmh54@aol.com)

**Neighborhood Crime Chair:** Kelly McKinzie - [kellymckinzie@hotmail.com](mailto:kellymckinzie@hotmail.com)

**Newsletter Co Chairs:** Jeanenne Hagerman  
Cay Dickson

**Newsletter Preparers** who fold & label over 1,000 newsletters for mailing  
Members: Karrie Aldrich, Bill and Betsy Banks, Adrianna Breidenstein, Audrey Crawford, Delia Cuellar, Carol Dodson, Jeanenne Hagerman, Nancy Higgs, Jeanette Hix, Kit and John Muire, Ellen Oglive, Jane Schmitt, Lillian Skogsberg, Stephanie Taylor, Susan Wilson.

**Web Page Committee:** Delia Cuellar - [dic@designsong.com](mailto:dic@designsong.com)  
Carlos Faxas - [carlosfaxas@coair.com](mailto:carlosfaxas@coair.com)  
Wayne Ticac - [wticac@comcast.net](mailto:wticac@comcast.net)

**Yard of the Month Chair:** Nancy Higgs  
Committee Members: Susan Wilson - [susan\\_i\\_wilson@yahoo.com](mailto:susan_i_wilson@yahoo.com)  
Betsy Banks, Lillian Skogsberg

## SOUND OFF!

A resident of Vermont Commons emailed VCCA as she was concerned about garbage cans, recycling and garden debris being placed on the street during the day on Sunday. She enjoys having friends and family to her home on Sunday, and the streets in the Vermont Commons area are frequently full of garbage by early Sunday afternoon. The following information is from The Citizens Guide to City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department Services:

Garbage Collection. **Household garbage must be put inside the city-provided container which should be placed at the curb between 6:00 PM the day before and 7:00 AM on the scheduled collection day.** The neighborhood does not look clean and tidy when our streets are full of garbage that will not be picked up until the next morning. Thanks for being a good neighbor!

## Just a Note From Jeanette

As 2010 comes to an end, I have been reflecting on what a great year it has been for me and for VCCA. There has been an enormous amount of community participation and all the volunteers have made my job easy and fun. It has been a real joy to meet all the residents who have been attending the meetings and volunteering to make VCCA a better place to live. I hope to see all of you at the January meeting to help set plans for 2011.

Jeanette Hix, President VCCA



## Block Captains

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Indiana: Huldy to Brun  
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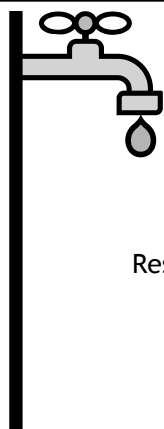
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Dr. Jackie St. Cyr, DC

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