



Vermont Commons Civic Association Newsletter

October
2011

vccahouston.org

PO Box 130891 Houston, TX 77219-0891

Speaker at September VCCA Meeting

Thanks to Terrie Irvin, Vermont Commons resident and specialist in pet training and healthcare, for her presentation at the September meeting. Terrie presented information about the Tellington TTouch Method for pets. It is a unique approach to training and healthcare developed by internationally known animal expert, Linda Tellington-Jones. Based on compassion and respect for our animal friends, these techniques promote optimal health and behavior by building confidence and eliminating fearful or inappropriate responses. This gentle method is easy to apply and often produces significant changes, even with the most difficult behavior problems. A combination of touches, lifts, and strokes are used to induce a state of relaxation and increased body awareness, while ground exercises assist the animal to be more focused and build confidence. TTouch is currently being used by animal owners, trainers, breeders, veterinarians, and shelter workers in over 30 countries worldwide.

Tellington TTouch® can deepen the bond between you and your companion animal. It offers a positive approach to training, which emphasizes cooperation and partnership. You can apply TTouch to eliminate inappropriate behaviors, assist with recovery from injury and illness, or just enhance the quality of your animal's life.

TTouch offers positive solutions to behavioral & health related problems such as these: •Excessive Barking & Chewing, •Leash Pulling, •Jumping Up, •Aggressive Behavior, •Extreme Fear & Shyness, •Hyper Excitability, •Problems Associated with Aging, •Recovery from Injury or Surgery, •Resistance to Grooming, •Separation Anxiety, •Litter Box Issues.

A Humble Hero, the Postman

by Katie Oxford, POSTED ON CULTUREMAP.COM

U.S. Postal Carrier Rolando Ramirez is an amazing inspiration. He has never been anything but grateful and happy to be in this world, well, and doing his job. When he has a package, and no one's home, rather than leaving it on our front porch (signaling that no one's home) he drops a handwritten note in the mail slot saying "Left package on your back stoop."

Late in July, he heard a house alarm sound. He noticed a car he hadn't seen before parked in front. Then he saw three guys running from the back of a home. Meanwhile, a neighborhood patrol officer had just turned onto the street in response to a phone call from a housekeeper who had reported seeing three suspicious men in front of another house on a street nearby.

Rolando continued toward the house, and saw the three men now hunched down around the parked car. When he approached, they jumped in the car and sped off. Rolando quickly spied the patrol car coming his way and waved the officer down.

After hearing Rolando's report, officer Roy Eveline immediately made a U-turn over the esplanade and began chasing the car. He also radioed other police units and a police helicopter, which fortunately was already in the area above. Minutes later, at 288 and Binz, several police units stopped the car and arrested the three guys. Rolando stayed when the police took the suspects back to the house. He was able to (continued on pg 2)

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Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
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VCCA meetings are held every 2nd Monday of the month.

Join us at 7:00 PM

October 10th

Mockingbird Bistro

1985 Welch @ McDuffie.

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



October Speakers

VCCA will host a Candidate Night at our October meeting, when you will be able to meet candidates running for local offices. Check the web site VCCAHOUSTON.org to see who will be present.

Meet Officer Pate

HPD Officer Wayne Pate is the liaison from the Houston Police Department Store Front on Montrose to our community. He can be reached at 713-284-8604 or by email at w pate43@yahoo.com. Officer Pate has been instrumental in assisting many residents of Vermont Commons in solving problems.

2011 Vermont Commons Civic Association Officers

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Newsletter: Jeanenne Hagerman
Cay Dickson



October Yard of the Month

2205 Brun St
Harres & Heather Exezidis

A Humble Hero, the Postman, continued from pg 1 identify the burglars as each one, handcuffed, stepped out of the car. Afterwards, amazingly, he walked on and delivered the mail.

There were a lot of things remarkable about that day. The housekeeper following her hunch, Rolando's vigilance, the police work - individually as well as a team. But in the end it is a tribute I think to two things working together - Community and Individual. Whether as a community or individual - choice is the most powerful thing we do. That day, Rolando made a big one - in seconds time - all by his lonesome.

I'm grateful to everyone who helped that day, but mostly to Rolando. In a world of technology and many preferring "paperless," I've wondered if someday soon the postman may vanish too. (The news this week that the U.S. Postal Service is looking at closing as many as 3,700 post offices - including 219 in Texas, the most of any state - is hardly encouraging on this front).

As this day proved, there will never be a substitute for people. Those boots on the ground, who walk door-to-door delivering mail and a caring heart. Sometimes, a hell of a lot of courage too.

Long live the postman (and postwoman). Especially, Rolando Ramirez - and all those just like him.

Sound Off!

Let's keep Vermont Commons clean. Did you know that if someone "dumps" heavy trash without regard to the pickup schedule, you can call 3-1-1 and report them. They can actually be ticketed.

Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays Oct 10th, Oct 24th, Nov 7th & Nov 21st

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

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.

THANKS to Volunteers

- To newsletter folders Lillian Skogsberg (and host for the folding), Karrie Aldrich, Audrey Crawford, Adrianna Breidenstein, and Betsy Banks.
- To Dave Irvin, as he begins a new life in Tennessee, for the work he did on behalf of the Deed Restriction Ctte.
- To Terrie and Dave Irvin for hosting the National Night Out at their home.
- To the Yard of the month committee for their continued searches for the best yard in Vermont Commons: Nancy Higgs, Betsy Banks, Susan Wilson, & Lillian Skogsberg.
- To Citizens Patrol volunteers, who logged 197 hours for the month of August and dedicate their time to making Vermont Commons a safer place to live.
- To our newest block captain, Rita Michael. She will be covering Driscoll from Welch to Indiana. Her email address is rmichaelkl@gmail.com.

Goodbye, Graffiti

Perhaps you've noticed some tagger graffiti in our neighborhood. More likely, you've *not* noticed it. One of our hardworking VCCA members, Carrie Davis, noticed something that needed to be done - removing graffiti - and stepped forward to do it, with encouragement and permission from VCCA. Although it's removed on a regular basis, some of the graffiti has now come back in the form of stickers that are difficult to remove. We believe this is more of a "tagger" activity, rather than full-blown gangs, but it's still a nuisance. If you see any graffiti that needs to be removed, please let us know the location.



Newsletter folders gather each month to fold, laugh, talk, eat and drink. Men are welcome too. If you would like to join the fun, contact Jeanette Hix hix@rmi.net. Pictured above from left to right: Karrie, Betsy, Lillian, Audrey and Adrianna.

Helpful Phone and e-mail Numbers

Our 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

HPD Officer Wayne Pate: wpate43@yahoo.com

Daily Crime Report: <http://spotcrime.com>

Houston Police non-emergency phone no: (713) 884-3131

Kitty for the Kitties

During the past few years, caring residents have taken steps to trap, spay/neuter/release or adopt many of the feral cats and kittens in Vermont Commons. This is especially true on Brun St and Huldy St. Currently, there are 7 precious 3-4 month old kittens being fostered by folks on Huldy, and they need some loving homes. There are an additional 7 kittens that need to be caught and taken in to be checked and prepared for neutering.

If you want to help reduce the feral cat population, please consider making a donation toward the cost of



having them neutered, vaccinated, checked for FIV and worms. For one person who cares enough to get it done, it costs a lot of money (about \$120 per kitten); when several people care, it's just a little money per person.

Please think about it. Send checks or drop off cash to Cay Dickson, 2003 Indiana St, Houston, TX 77019. To find out about adopting or fostering, email Claudia Garnica at cgarnica@sbcglobal.net or call her at 713-748-9897.

Block Captain Report of Neighbors Helping

by Nancy Parker

Recently, a lady inadvertently pulled into my driveway when she was looking for a similar address a block south. From what our neighbors could surmise, she must have gotten out of the car while it was in neutral. When it started rolling backwards, she was hit by her car.

The UPS guy who saw her ran over and stopped the car (now we know what brown can do for us!) and the first neighbors who were aware called 911. The police arrived before they got off the phone with 911, so we had very rapid response. The woman was coherent, but fairly well banged up, although I don't know if it was only bad bruises or if she might have been hurt more than was obvious. She was taken to the hospital.

It was nice to know that people would spring to action to help a stranger, and it was particularly convenient that we had recently had a little block get-together to collect names and email addresses. We all knew each other, which would not have been the case just a month ago.

What A Difference A Team Can Make!

by Nina Otazo

At the May VCCA meeting, Karen Kane voiced concerns about the block of Vermont from Shepherd to Huldy, where gardening crews park every week, not only crowding the street for passing traffic, but leaving behind a trail of trash. As a result, a small "team" came together based on our shared concerns for beautifying Vermont Commons.

Nancy Higgs, VP of VCCA, talked to the retail operators along Shepherd about a cooperative effort. I had a sign made to post in the area. I also returned a grocery cart to Randall's. Betsy and Bill Banks picked up all the trash and litter in the block. Karen contacted the residents who live on the corner of Huldy and Vermont to let them know of our efforts. They were very supportive and pleased with the progress was made.

The afternoon that Nancy and I posted the sign, we complimented the Taco Bell manager on their recent landscaping beautification. He expressed his own concerns about the littering and happily agreed to increase his customers' awareness. Pilgrims' landlord acted quickly once we made a request to clean out the accumulated litter behind the store. Precinct 1 Officers also responded promptly to calls about the hazardous parking. The Traffic Ops Division has also been made aware of the parking situation. Progress has been made on several fronts, but it is still a work-in-progress.

Thanks to Karen for planting the seed for transformation. Unbelievably, this all came together in less than a month. It was a wonderful team effort and very uplifting to see our little neighborhood come together in this way. It shows the extraordinary power of community and what can be accomplished with a little sweat, a lot of laughter, and a couple of trash bags. We have amazing neighbors who make Vermont Commons a great neighborhood!

Rebecca M. Harvey, D.D.S., P.A.

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Just a Note From Jeanette

I hope the change of the meeting date has not been a burden to all our faithful members who have been attending the meetings on Wednesdays through the years. Change is not always easy, but sometimes necessary. It is great that so many residents of Vermont Commons have volunteered to be block captains. Thanks to Betsy Banks who has found a block captain for all the blocks. It is an

excellent way to get information to all our residents. If you have not already contacted your block captain, please let them know your information in the near future. If you have not paid your yearly dues to VCCA, please make that payment. VCCA activities are funded by the dues you pay.

Your Pres.,
Jeanette Hix

Vermont Commons Civic Association
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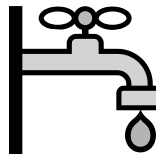
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