



# Vermont Commons Civic Association Newsletter

November  
2011

[vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org)  
PO Box 130891 Houston, TX 77219-0891

## Volunteers Needed Deed Restrictions Committee

One of the most important volunteer committees of the Vermont Commons Civic Association is the Deed Restrictions Committee. Members of this committee make sure that all new construction adheres to the VCCA Deed Restrictions passed in 1994. Due to transfers and job responsibilities, two members have had to resign, and new volunteers are urgently needed to fill their spots.

Only a few hours a month of volunteer time are required to serve on this committee. It is not necessary for members to have special skills, just to have an interest in making sure that new construction conforms to the deed restrictions. However, if you are an architect and can donate several hours a month, that would be appreciated. Contact Jeanette Hix [hix@rmi.net](mailto:hix@rmi.net) to volunteer.

## VCCA Holiday Party

Mark your calendars! Put on your holiday smile and make plans to attend the Vermont Commons Civic Association Holiday Party! We will gather on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Mockingbird Bistro at 1985 Welch St. VCCA will provide the goodies to eat. Residents will be responsible for their own drinks. Hope to see all of you there.

## VCCA Elections

Vermont Commons Civic Association will elect new officers at the November meeting, to be held on the 14th at 7:00 PM. Voting will be for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, & Treasurer. To submit a name for consideration, contact Jeanette Hix, or you may make nominations from the floor at the meeting.

## November Speaker: Soil You Need to Know

The speaker for the November meeting is Richard Stamper, a soil specialist in addition to being an expert grower and the owner of Living Earth Technology. Nancy Higgs, our VCCA Vice President, met Mr. Stamper at the Annual Cactus and Succulents Society show. We look forward to learning how properly conditioned soil (vs. Houston clay!) combined with low-water-usage plant selections can create the best future Yard(s) of the Month.

## Water Restrictions Still In Effect

In spite of the recent wonderful rainfall, Houston residents are still under Stage Two Mandatory Water Conservation. You may water before 10 AM or after 8 PM on NO MORE than two days per week. The schedule is as follows:

Odd Numbered Addresses: Wednesday and Saturday

Even Numbered Addresses: Thursday and Sunday

Additionally, residents are required to repair all detectable private side leaks on their property within 72 hours of discovery. Call 311 with any questions.

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

Join us at 7:00 PM

November 14<sup>th</sup>

Mockingbird Bistro

1985 Welch @ McDuffie.



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

## Citizen's Patrol

The VCCA Citizens Patrol logged 244 hours watching out for our safety last month!

Soon you may see volunteers driving around with magnetized signs on their cars. If you see them on foot or in cars, be sure to thank them. They should be wearing identification badges as volunteers.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact the coordinator, Cathryn Gabor at [ccgabor@comcast.net](mailto:ccgabor@comcast.net).

## 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



## November Yard of the Month

2024 Welch St

The Yard of the Month goes to 2024 Welch, the home of Roy Neal Tannahill. He has lived there since 1994 and has always enjoyed plants. He discovered that his indoor cats also enjoyed them, so he found a creative way to use beautiful potted plants on his steps. He's made great use of a small space and given it lots of color.

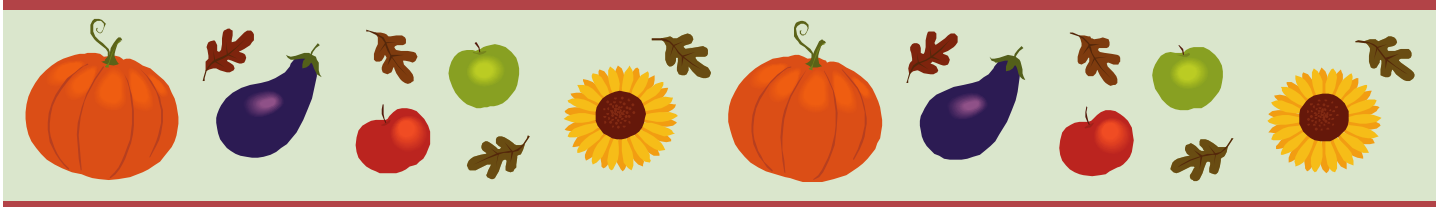


**Happy Thanksgiving**



### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

We "Fall back" at 2:00 AM on November 6th, the first Sunday in November, by setting our clock back one hour and thus returning to Standard Time.



### THANKS to Volunteers

- To newsletter folders - Adrianna Breidenstein for hosting; Betsy Banks, Audrey Crawford, Dorothy Simons, Karen Kane, Lillian Skogsberg, & Nancy Higgs for folding.
- To all the Citizens Patrol members for watching our neighborhood.
- To block captains for distributing all the emails to the residents of their street.
- To Terri Irvin for hosting National Night Out - over 70 residents attended.

### Sound Off!

Resident's Comments:

- Re man's best friend - although owners should not have to be told to "scoop the poop", endless loud barking for no reason is also annoying. I wonder if the newsletter could carry a reminder about noise consideration for neighbors, particularly early in the mornings.
- Parking: Please be considerate. With limited street parking in Vermont Commons, please pull forward to make room for an additional car or truck.

#### Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays Nov 7th, Nov 21st, Dec 5th, & Dec 19th

Heavy Trash Collection:

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

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.

#### Helpful Phone and e-mail Numbers

Our 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)

HPD Officer Wayne Pate: [wpate43@yahoo.com](mailto:wpate43@yahoo.com)

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

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



## Block Captain Volunteer Ann Ince



Long before VCCA began asking for Block Captain volunteers, Ann Ince had already organized her block of Hully for social gatherings. Of course, these social gatherings also entailed watching out for each other.

To quote Ann, "This all started in 2006, when my husband Karl and I returned from living in Taiwan. Crostini's restaurant on Shepherd had a Happy Hour special on Thursdays: \$3 martinis plus free pizza. Our friends and fellow Hully residents Bruce Perry, townhouse resident and Joe Hawkins, cottage resident, started joining us.

At some point in time, after Karl died in July 2007, Bruce and Joe suggested that the three of us continue the tradition. Off we went to Crostini's, which had gone out of business. We then started going to different places nearby and switched to Fridays. After a martini and snacks, they began coming back to my house to sit on the porch and drink wine. Gradually more neighbors began joining us - sometimes 2, or 3 or even 9. If the weather is cold and rainy we just stay at my house and order in Chinese.

Bruce and I drink vodka martinis and Joe drinks gin. So Bruce and I keep a bottle of "our" vodka in my freezer. It was the only thing in my freezer that came through Ike intact after 10 days without electricity".

Ann has been a resident since 1979. This has obviously been a great block to live on for a long time.

### Just a Note From Jeanette

National Night Out was a great success. There were lots of new faces, all with interesting experiences and stories to bring to the neighborhood. VCCA needs volunteers in many areas. I hope many of you will step forward to help out our great neighborhood.

Your Pres.,  
Jeanette Hix

## Dan the Dog Lover and Rescuer

At the National Night Out gathering, a dog was running frantically through traffic on Peden. Sean Bryne, who lives in the complex that was hosting the NNO event, grabbed his dog leash and chased the dog several blocks, eventually returning with it. Terri Irvin, speaker at the September meeting, used her dog training expertise to calm the dog.

The hero of the night was Dan Parker. He took the dog to his home and began trying to locate its owner. Dan, a 12-year resident of Vermont Commons and owner of a German shorthaired pointer, first took the dog to his veterinarian and had it checked for a radio-frequency identification (RFID) microchip. When there was not one, he walked the dog for hours each day, hoping its owner would spot it. When he was unable to locate its owner, he drove the dog 500 miles to Mississippi to his sister's house. His sister lives near a wooded area where the part setter and collie mix could run and enjoy the great outdoors.

Dan, who is a dog lover, became very attached to the dog, who was very happy-go-lucky and obedient. He said, "I am sad that I don't have the dog with me anymore, but happy to find it a good home." A great ending to what could have been a sad story.



Dan Parker and his German shorthaired pointer Colorado



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