

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



February
2012

Civic Association Newsletter

Memorial Park Replanting

The 10,000 people who run or walk on Memorial Park's Seymour Leiberman Exercise Trail each day have watched sadly this year as the drought devastated their urban oasis.

Always tree-studded, the path now runs past lifeless trunks bearing fluorescent orange X's indicating they must come down to reduce the risk of fire and disease to the survivors. Other areas once green, then brown, now look as if they've been clear-cut.

The Memorial Park Conservancy hopes to plant thousands of seedlings, one-gallon and five-gallon trees, in the park. For a designated donation, the organization will plant a specific tree. Species include loblolly pine (\$75), bald cypress (\$100), southern magnolia (\$150); sycamore (\$200) and post oak (\$250). Foresters will decide where commemorative trees are planted, taking into consideration soil, elements and forest needs within the park.

All donors or those they are honoring will be listed on the conservancy's website. Imagine how the park would eventually be if even one-quarter of the 4 million people who visit it each year contributed a tree.

For information or to donate, visit memorialparkconservancy.org.

Meet and Greet Morning Coffee

Take a break from your busy schedule, meet some new neighbors and get reacquainted with the ones you do know in a relaxed, casual gathering. VCCA is sponsoring a "Meet and Greet Morning Coffee". This is an opportunity for residents to get together and meet those who live in the neighborhood.

RSVP'ing is great, but if at the last minute your schedule allows time to attend, please join us. Coffee, tea

and light refreshments will be served.

Thanks to Brenda McEntire for organizing and hosting this inaugural event. You may RSVP to Brenda at 904-728-0500 or email her at houstonbmac@gmail.com

Where: Home of Paul & Brenda McEntire

2013 Hazard Street

When: Tuesday February 28

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Residents to Speak at February VCCA Meeting

Two residents of Vermont Commons will speak at the February meeting. They both have many interesting stories to tell about the streets, events, and life throughout the years in what is now Vermont Commons.

Tom Page has lived on Huldy St since shortly after he moved to Houston in 1975 from Arkansas. He has always loved history and his high school teacher encouraged him to

study history in college. He also loves to take photographs and has many to share.

Ed Quilter was born in a house on Indiana St over eighty years ago. I promised not to divulge his age. He has watched the neighborhood grow from a field to what it is today. He knows about all the good and bad that have happened through the years.

Vermont Commons Civic Association
Newsletter

Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 21

VCCA meetings are held every
2nd Monday of the month.

Join us at 7:00 PM

February 13th

Mockingbird Bistro

1985 Welch @ McDuffie.



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

Do It In Houston in February

- February 23rd - 25th - World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest.
- February 24th - Go Texan Day.
- February 25th - Downtown Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade.
- February 28th - March 18th - Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.
- Go downtown to Bayou Place (500 Texas Ave) and wander around to movies, dining and theatre.
- Visit The Beer Can House at 222 Malone. If you haven't seen that, you're missing a chunk of Houston.

2012 Vermont Commons Civic Association Officers

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

Vice Pres: Nancy Higgs
(512) 422-3317
nknh54@aol.com

Secretary: Lance Hack
lhack02@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Andy Tallin
atallin01@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Jeanenne Hagerman
Cay Dickson



January Yard of the Month

1905 Hazard St
Mary Fendley



February Yard of the Month

1815A Brun St
Todd J Creger

Unsung Heroes

by Karen Kane

Every so often I dwell on the downside of living in an urban environment: the recent spate of burglaries; drivers speeding through our streets, heedless of pedestrians; dog walkers not cleaning up after their pets, etc. Inevitably, though, something happens that heightens my appreciation of Vermont Commons and its residents.

One such incident occurred while on a mid-December late-night walk with Tess, my dog. I hopped onto a curb near the intersection of Hazard and Indiana and promptly tripped, smashing my face into the sidewalk and hitting my head on a neighbor's wrought-iron fence. As I lay motionless on the sidewalk, my head throbbed in pain. I gingerly touched my face, panicking when I saw that my hand was covered in blood.

Then I heard a man's voice asking, "Are you okay?" Just prior to my fall I had noticed the man walking with a large German Shepherd. "I don't know," I responded. Tess sat beside me, wary of the approaching duo. The man helped me to my feet, and with a small flashlight assessed the damage. He immediately offered to retrieve his car and drive me and Tess home. I told him I could probably walk. So this kind man, whom I learned was named Vincent, and his well-behaved dog, Rebecca, accompanied Tess and me for several blocks, back to our Huld Street home. My husband rushed me off to a nearby emergency clinic, where I was expertly stitched up and sent home.

Tess and I revisited the scene of my accident many times, hoping to run into Vincent and Rebecca so that I could thank them. No such luck! But an e-mail to Jeanette Hix and Nancy Higgs solved the mystery – Nancy knew exactly who I was talking about. "That's my neighbor, Vincent," she replied, "and he is a real gem!" When I finally did meet up with Vincent, I gratefully thanked him, and Rebecca received many head-pats (from me) and kisses (from Tess).

Happily, the scars on my eyebrow and cheek are already beginning to fade. What won't fade is the knowledge that caring and compassionate neighbors, like Vincent, are the primary reason we love Vermont Commons!



Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays Feb 13th, Feb 27th, Mar 12th & Mar 26th

Heavy Trash Collection:

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

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

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

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

Greater Houston Preservation Alliance Walking Tours

On the second Sunday of every month at 2 PM (6 PM June through September; there is no tour in December), GHPA, Greater Houston Preservation Alliance, presents a docent-guided walking tour of an architecturally and/or historically significant area of Houston. Reservations are not required unless otherwise noted.

Join the Walking Tours Program on **February 12th** to spend a Sunday afternoon with some of the most important people in early Texas during a visit to Founders Memorial Park. Located in the shadow of downtown Houston's skyscrapers, Founders is one of the few remaining physical links to the early days of Houston and Texas. The plot of land along the San Felipe Road (now W. Dallas Ave) began being used for burials shortly after Houston was founded in 1836, and among those who rest here are many veterans of the Texas Revolution, heroes of the Battle of San Jacinto and government officials of the Republic of Texas, including Henry Livingston Thompson, commodore of the Texas Navy; John Wharton, called the "keenest blade of San Jacinto"; and John Kirby Allen, one of Houston's founders. The tour tells their stories, which are the stories of Texas' beginnings, and also explores the history of this significant burial ground.

Tickets will be sold beginning at 1:30 PM outside the gate of Founders Memorial Park, 1217 W. Dallas Ave at Valentine. Admission cannot be charged for a tour of a city park, but the suggested donation is \$10 per person (\$7 for students with valid ID and GHPA members). Children 11 and under are admitted free, and tour participants who walk, bike or ride public transit to the tour will receive a \$2 discount on admission.

On **February 25th** there will be a tour of Glenwood Cemetery. This tour is by reservation only, and space is limited. Reserve your spot on an upcoming Glenwood tour now.

For information about additional tours go to the GHPA web site www.ghpa.org/tours.

THANKS to Volunteers

- Newsletter folders: Host - Susan Wilson, Kerrie Aldrich, Nancy Higgs, Betsy Banks, Christina Reed, Carol Dodson and Chalon Dilber.
- To those who braved the inclement weather to hear Ellen Cohen speak at the last VCCA meeting.
- To those who feed and care for all the feral cats in our neighborhood.
- To all the block captains who have had a very busy season of forwarding emails to residents on their block.

Just a Note From Jeanette

VCCA hopes to have a spring picnic. Anyone want to volunteer to make it happen? Please let me know.

Your Pres.,
Jeanette Hix

Sound Off!

Bullet Shot Into Home:

One lucky VCCA resident narrowly escaped being shot last Friday evening, January 20th, in a home in the 1900 block of Brun St. The bullet entered an upstairs window at the lowest possible entry level of the glass window, skirted across the head of the bed, taking pillow stuffing with it as the bullet then traveled upward again and scraped across the wall, leaving a track line in the sheetrock before falling to the floor. The resident was indeed fortunate to be out for the evening since the bullet grazed the very pillow where she would normally rest her head.

The residents on the first floor were awakened by the loud noise and noted the time to be midnight - 12:05 AM. HPD arrived at the scene, recorded the information, determined the bullet was a 45 caliber, and suggested that the shooting, although terrifying, was likely a random act.

No matter how the shooting is classified, it is a criminal and violent act that could have senselessly ended the life of an innocent person. These crimes are the most hideous because you cannot protect yourself by simply bolting the door and switching on the porch lights. Guns in the hands of irresponsible people are deadly. To my knowledge nothing like this has happened in our neighborhood before and I'm hoping this will be the last. If you heard, saw, or know anything about this crime, please contact the police, (713)284-8604.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors:

We live in a very close neighborhood. Frequently there is not enough street parking for everyone. Could you please use your garage and driveway if possible? Neighbors helping neighbors is important.

Citizens Patrol

Congratulations! We collectively walked 250 hours in December. A great feat with only 15 walkers during the holidays. Below are the people who patrolled:

Cathryn Gabor: Coordinator (713) 808-9240

Betsy Banks
Adriana Breidenstein
Bob Costantini
Rob Fuller
Tom Hix
Paula Holton
David Hoyer

Mike Link
Karen Kane
Brenda Rojas
James Skogsberg
Lillian Skogsberg
Andrew Tallin
Stephanie Taylor

Best made **retractable screens** on the market

www.madeintheshadeco.com

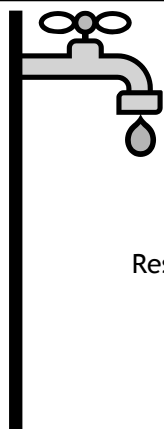
For a free estimate
call Mike Thompson
713-529-9675

**MADE IN THE
SHADE**

Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891
Houston, TX 77219-0891

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Houston, TX
Permit 9079

Website
vccahouston.org



**David
Hicks Plumbing
Inc.**

"Since 1952"

Complete Plumbing Services
Residential • Commercial • Repairs
Remodeling • Gas Inspections
Tankless Water Heaters

713 / 528.0141
davidhicksplumbing.com



Dr. Jackie St. Cyr, DC

**SAFE & EMPOWERING
CHIROPRACTIC CARE – FOR LIFE**

Network Spinal Analysis (NSA)
Somato Respiratory Integration (SRI)
Health & Wellness Support Groups
Empowerment Workshops
Massage Therapy

Innate & Chiropractic
HEALING ARTS CENTER



2021 Driscoll St • Houston, TX 77019 • 713-521-2104 • www.n8chiro.com



RIVER OAKS GYM

Bring in this ad and receive a one-week
pass and complimentary personal
training session.

riveroaksgym.com
1937 W. Gray, Suite 200
(713) 528-4600

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

drharvey@dentisthouston.com
2025 Fairview Houston, TX 77019
Phone (713) 528-4054
Fax (713) 528-1443

