

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



May
2012

Civic Association Newsletter

Not Just For Cat Lovers

A dedicated group of VCCA residents is developing a program to control the feral cat population by using the TNR (trap, neuter and return) method. TNR is the only proven method of reducing the population of free roaming cats. It works because the sterilized feral cats defend their territory, keeping other cats away, but cannot reproduce. It improves the lives of free roaming cats and helps alleviate the strain on cat caregivers. It also prevents the births of unwanted kittens.

The entire neighborhood can benefit from this program. In the past 12 months, it is estimated that 32 free roaming Vermont Commons cats and kittens have been trapped, spayed/neutered and released or adopted into loving homes. Hopefully, this program will become a role model for the City of Houston and be put into place in other neighborhoods.



VCCA is working closely with Rescue Bank, a non-profit organization committed to supporting the animal rescue and rehabilitation efforts in communities. VCCA has \$1,100 in our Rescue Bank/SNAP account that will be used to pay for spay/neutering and vaccinating the cats that are trapped.

The group needs your help to identify and build trust with cat caregivers. The task of caregiving can be overwhelming, and they are there to assist. If you know of someone who is taking care of a feral cat colony or who has numerous cats hanging around, contact Carolyn Levy 713-522-2475; houstoncatlover@gmail.com; Jane Crowder Schmitt 713-524-2728; jlc2728@gmail.com; or Cay Dickson 713-524-6965; ocayd@ocay.com.

To make a tax-deductible donation, send contributions to Rescue Bank, 6363 Woodway, Suite 975, Houston, TX 77057. On the check please note that the donation is for "Spay/neuter of Vermont Commons' cats".

Speaker for May VCCA Meeting

Clement Macys, a security expert, will make a presentation on home security at the May 14th VCCA meeting. He recently spoke at the monthly police organized PIP meeting to a very enthusiastic crowd. His talk will focus on "The Basics of Shopping for a Security Camera System" for individual residents and entire communities. His specialty is encouraging and enabling neighbors to work together for better security. For example, a camera on your house may have the best view of your neighbor's back yard, and one on their house ... you get the idea. He will follow up with questions and concerns.

Vermont Commons Civic Association
Newsletter

Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 24

VCCA meetings are held every

2nd Monday of the month.

Join us at 7:00 PM

May 14th

Mockingbird Bistro

1985 Welch @ McDuffie.



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

2012 Vermont Commons Civic Association Officers

President: Jeanette Hix
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hix@rmi.net

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nkmh54@aol.com

Secretary: Lance Hack
lhack02@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Andy Tallin
atallin01@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Jeanenne Hagerman
Cay Dickson

Morning Coffee

The inaugural VCCA "Morning Coffee" held on April 24th was a great success. Old friends reunited and new friends were made. There were several guests from the Park Civic area, and VCCA hopes more Park Civic residents will participate at future gatherings.

The next "Morning Coffee" will be sponsored by Adrianna Breidenstein at her residence on Tuesday May 22nd at 10:00 AM. Please RSVP if you plan to attend to abreidenst@aol.com or you may just drop by. Save the date!

Graffiti Remover

Vermont Commons has a dedicated resident! You may think that Vermont Commons is fortunate that our signs, sidewalks, poles and other stationary objects do not have graffiti, but if it were not for the dedication of Cary Davis, all of the above mentioned items would be covered with graffiti. Below is a list of all the places where she has removed graffiti in the past year. As you read, you may think a mistake was made as some places are listed more than once. No mistake! The graffiti makers continue to paint at the same locations. All residents should applaud her efforts.

Cary's recommendation for the best product to remove graffiti is **Remover Magic**.

Locations where the graffiti used to be:

- Telephone pole - corner of Brun and Fairview
- Newsstand - corner of Fairview and McDuffie
- Gray pole (on brown telephone post) - 2116 Hazard
- Green metal fence - 2028 Hazard, sidewalk - McDuffie and Fairview NW corner of Fairview & Driscoll, SE corner wall of Fairview & McDuffie
- Telephone pole on Fairview next to Latina restaurant
- Black gates - Fairview east of Driscoll
- Street sign on Vermont just past Brun
- Telephone pole - Fairview
- Stop sign - Brun

Things to Do In Houston in May

25th Annual Houston Art Car Parade – May 12 from 1-3 PM – The Art Car Parade features 250 vehicles and other entries from 23 states, Canada and Mexico. Over 250,000 people will be watching the moving art as it drives down Allen Parkway. Not to be missed, so get there about 2 hours early and expect lots of traffic coming and going.

May Yard of the Month

Paul Laymon, 2020 Driscoll St, and Guy Butler, 2022 Driscoll St



- Telephone pole - Brun
- Stop sign - Indiana and Welch
- 5 signs on Indiana
- Stop sign - Brun and Indiana
- Beautify sign by Mockingbird Bistro
- Fire hydrant - Hazard and Indiana
- Houston Chronicle newsstand - Hazard
- 3rd time to remove graffiti on Chronicle newsstand Fairview and Hazard
- Garbage can - one on Fairview, 2 on McDuffie, 1 on Indiana
- Stop signs - 2 on Indiana and Hazard
- Stop sign - McDuffie
- Stop sign - Indiana and McDuffie
- Stop sign - Hazard and Indiana
- Stop signs - 2 on Driscoll and Indiana
- Stop sign - Morse and Indiana
- Post - Morse and Indiana
- Cross sign - Brun and Fairview
- Houston Press stand – McDuffie
- Street corner - McDuffie and Indiana
- Black fence post - 3 on McDuffie
- Sign - McDuffie and Hazard
- Poles - Fairview near dental office
- Stop sign - Hazard and Fairview.

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition - Mar 16 - Sep 03 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The Titanic's compelling human stories are told through over 300 authentic artifacts and exacting re-creations of the Ship's interior. These objects collected from the wreck site offer poignant connections to lives abruptly ended or forever changed by one of the world's greatest maritime tragedies.

Helpful Phone and e-mail Numbers

Our Website: vccahouston.org

City Council Member Dist C:

Ellen Cohen (832) 393 3004

e-mail: districtc@houston.tx.gov

City Council Member at Large, Pos. 1 Stephen Costello

e-mail: atlarge1@cityofhouston.net

HPD Officer Wayne Pate: wpate43@yahoo.com

Storefront number (713) 284 8604

Office number (713) 284 8608

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

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

Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays May 7th, May 21st, Jun 4th & Jun 18th

Heavy Trash Collection:

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

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

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

- April Newsletter Folders: Kit Muire for hosting, folders Jeanette Hix, Karrie Aldrich, Audrey Crawford, Judy Alder, Stephanie Taylor, Marlene Garnant, and Andrea Brown.
- Block Captains: Too many to name who continue to distribute information to all the residents.
- Block Captain Coordinator Betsy Banks.
- Cay Dickson, Carolyn Levy and Jane Schmitt for educating all of us at the April meeting about feral cats.
- Susan Wilson for arranging for the second April speaker who educated us about plants.
- Wayne Ticac for arranging the May speaker for the VCCA meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities

Citizens Patrol Training

Are you interested in becoming a part of the Citizens Patrol group? VCCA will sponsor another training session in June. Watch for the date, time and place in the June newsletter. To put your name on the list for the upcoming training, email Cathryn Gabor at ccgabor@comcast.net.

Newsletter Folders

Maybe one of the best kept secrets in Vermont Commons. The folders gather at a resident's house, fold, tape and attach mailing labels to the newsletters. The best part is the wine, snacks, conversation, laughing and making new friends. Want to join this elite group? Email Jeanette at hix@rmi.net.

Citizens Patrol

Our dedicated group of walking patrolers collectively walked 192 hours in March.

Since they have reached milestones in the number of hours they have logged, a total of five Citizen Patrol signs will be installed in the area soon. Andy Tallin is coordinating and may need help installing them.

The following people patrolled in March.
Cathryn Gabor: Coordinator (713) 808-9240

Adriana Breidenstein	Karen Kane
Bob Costantini	Mike Link
Delia Cuellar	Maria C Rodriguez
Rob Fuller	James Skogsberg
Tom Hix	Lillian Skogsberg
Paula Holton	Stephanie Taylor

Cherryhurst Park At Your Service

The Friends of Cherryhurst Park has announced the summer schedule of Youth and Adult Activities. See the full list on the VCCA website, www.vccahouston.org.

Beginning on June 4th, Cherryhurst Park Community Center will offer a wide array of activities to fill the summer days for all ages, infants to adults.

The programs, which will run through August 10th, include a 10-week camp-style program for children aged 6-13, free summer lunch for children aged 1-18, free tennis lessons for youths, after school enrichment programs and fitness and social games for young children accompanied by their parents. Adults can participate in a walking club, dance and fitness classes, karate, hoop dancing and English as a Second Language classes.

If you're looking for a venue for a gathering of up to 70 people, you can rent the center for three hours for a mere \$55 plus the cost of one HPD officer. If you've not been to the Cherryhurst Park Community Center, at 1700 Missouri Street, you're missing a wonderful representation of the history in our area. The Center was built in 1925.

The Friends of Cherryhurst Park is a non-profit organization formed to ensure the continuing existence of Cherryhurst Park and its Community Center programs after the City cut its funding. They also strive to ensure that the park meets the needs of the community.

For more information, call the center at 713-284-1992 or contact the City of Houston Parks Department at www.houstontx.gov/parks or 832-395-7000.



Brun Street Block Party

Close to 50 residents attended the Brun Street Block Party on Sunday evening, April 22nd. A great time was had by all.

Just a Note From Jeanette

It is great to live in a neighborhood where all the residents work together to make it a better place to live. Next month's newsletter will be dedicated to all the VCCA volunteers. Without all the volunteers, VCCA would not have a successful Civic Association. Many new committees have been organized this year and volunteers have been doing an excellent job. Thanks to all of you. It certainly makes my job easier.

Your Pres.,
Jeanette Hix

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