

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



October
2012

Civic Association Newsletter

Volunteers Needed!

As schedules change for residents of Vermont Commons or they move, their positions need to be filled. VCCA is in need of volunteers. Please call or email Jeanette Hix if you will volunteer.

- **Deed Restrictions Committee:** Monitor a street in Vermont Commons for new construction to make sure that the construction is following the VCCA Deed Restrictions. These volunteer duties only take several hours a month.
- **Graffiti Removal:** Have you ever wondered why you do not see graffiti in the Vermont Commons area? Her name is Cary Davis. Unfortunately, she is moving out of Vermont Commons and so VCCA is in need of someone to do this job. When Cary first took on this responsibility, she had to spend many hours a week getting the graffiti removed. Now she only spends several hours a month doing this volunteer job. She walks, so if you drove, it would be a lot less time. It would be great if a resident came forward so Vermont Commons can remain graffiti free.
- **Block Captains:** VCCA needs three new block captains:
Hazard Street from Haddon to Vermont
Hazard Street from Indiana to Fairview
Brun Street from Haddon to Vermont

Cohen to Speak at October VCCA Meeting

Ellen Cohen, Houston City Council Person District C and representative of residents of Vermont commons, will speak at the October VCCA meeting about issues that affect the Vermont Commons area.

The massive project to rebuild the infrastructure along Shepherd Dr between Westheimer Rd and Memorial Dr is in the planning stages, and scheduled to begin some time next year. It will include new storm sewers, curbs and sidewalks. The residents of Vermont Commons need to let Ms. Cohen know our concerns regarding the impact of this project on our area. A huge turnout could benefit Vermont Commons. Please plan to attend and bring your questions and concerns.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a presentation by Ms. Cohen and then a time for questions.

Election of Officers of VCCA

November is the month VCCA bylaws call for election of officers. The officers begin serving the first of January, for a term of one year. Positions include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you would like to serve as an officer or know someone who you think is qualified to serve, please contact Jeanette Hix.

In addition, a replacement is needed for Jeanenne Hagerman, who edits and formats the newsletter, and will be resigning after the December newsletter is completed. The editor is appointed by the President, and serves at the pleasure of the elected officers.

Vermont Commons Civic Association
Newsletter
Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 27

VCCA meetings are held every

2nd Monday
of the month.

Join us at 7:00 PM

October 8th

Mockingbird Bistro

1985 Welch @ McDuffie.



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

2012 Vermont Commons
Civic Association Officers

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

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

Secretary: Lance Hack
lhack02@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Andy Tallin
atallin01@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Jeanenne Hagerman
Cay Dickson

October VCCA Coffee

Betsy Banks will host the October VCCA Coffee on Tuesday October 23rd at 10:00 AM. Her home is located at 1904 Hazard. These Coffees are an opportunity to meet new neighbors and become reacquainted with old friends. Another special treat? Occasionally, Houston Police Officer Wayne Pate joins the group.



October Yard of the Month

Leah Croxton and Jack Holmes.
2219 Driscoll St.

Please welcome to the neighborhood native Houstonian Leah Croxton and Jack Holmes, who moved into this Driscoll St home on June 1st, moving from West U.

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 Oct 8th, Oct 22nd, Nov 5th, Nov 19th
 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

- Newsletter folding for September, hosted by Stephanie Taylor; folders: Jeanette Hix, Lillian Skogsberg, Marlene Garnant, Adrienne Bukstein, Andrea Brown, Susan Wilson, Mary McBeth.
- Citizen Patrol signs: Andy Tallin for his continued efforts to get the signs installed.
- Betsy Banks for designing new membership flyer to be distributed to new residents in the neighborhood and at meetings.
- Betsy Banks for designing and sending out email flyers reminding residents of upcoming events such as VCCA meetings, monthly Coffees and many more.
- Betsy Banks, Kathleen Drackett & Kit Muire for creating signs for poop removal to put around Vermont Commons.

Terrific News from Friends of Cherryhurst Park

In May of 2011 Cherryhurst Park was slated for closure. Usage of the community center was low, and with no demand, there was no reason to keep the park open. Montrose neighbors rallied to protest the closure at City Hall, then formed a nonprofit to support the Park and named it Friends of Cherryhurst Park (FCP). Because of their efforts, usage of the park is beginning to turn around.

FCP examined the problem. It turned out that the free after-school program had enormous potential to increase usage, but one problem had to be solved first. How do you get the kids to the Park when elementary schools close at 3 PM? Working parents can't drive them, and no one from the school or the Park is allowed to walk with them, apparently to avoid litigation problems.

FCP stepped in and now provides subsidized HISD busing to safely bring children from 5 area schools to Cherryhurst Park's Community Center. FCP's efforts are making a difference:

- With busing, the Spring 2012 after-school attendance doubled from last year.
- The 2012 summer program was a success – attendance increased 5-fold from 2011.
- The Fall 2012 after-school program is already full, with 63 kids enrolled, 50 of whom are bused. And, there is a waiting list!

You can help to keep Cherryhurst Park Community Center open. HISD busing for the school year is \$4,500. That is \$45 per student per year. A donation of \$45 to Friends of Cherryhurst Park would be appreciated. The parents of these children will be asked for donations as well, but many of them cannot afford it. For example, 57% of Wilson students qualify for the free lunch program.

To make a donation, contact Director Carol Rensink at 1617 Haver Street, or send a check to:

Friends of Cherryhurst Park
 P.O. Box 131101
 Houston, TX 77219-1101

Friends of Cherryhurst Park is a Texas nonprofit corporation. Federal tax exemption is in progress. We expect a favorable decision. If so, federal tax-exempt status will be retroactive to August 2011.

Recycling Has Never Been So REWARDING!

If you live in Vermont Commons and are participating in the City of Houston's single-stream recycling program, why not get rewarded for it? The City of Houston has teamed with [Recyclebank](#) to weigh all the recyclable materials collected in the large green carts from individual neighborhoods and convert the recycled activity into Recyclebank Points.

When you become a [Recyclebank](#) member, you can earn points for your green actions. You can earn Recyclebank Points in many ways:

- Home recycling in Vermont Commons
- Referring your friends and family
- Learning about ways to green your lifestyle
- Entering points codes from our partners

Use your points to shop for rewards from hundreds of local and national businesses in more than 10 categories online at [Recyclebank.com](#).

The Recyclebank program is already underway, so if you're not yet registered...what are you waiting for? Registration is **free** and easy to do - either visit [Recyclebank.com](#) or call 1.888.727.2978 today to get started. Don't forget to follow the prompts to verify your address so you can get the points!

Trap, Neuter, Release Report

by Carolyn Levy

Four more kittens from Huldy Street have been tamed and placed into loving homes, thanks to Jane Crowder Schmitt's efforts.

- We have received \$1,150 in donations, with others offering to send money when we need it.
- We have trapped and fixed 3 cats for a total of \$182.95, leaving a balance of \$967.05.
- The word about our efforts has been getting out, and we have even received calls from people outside Vermont Commons wanting information about TNR.
- I am almost ready to begin trapping again. I will be targeting some of the locations where I have seen cats hanging around outside by sending letters to those addresses.

Just a Note From Jeanette

Vermont Commons Civic Association (VCCA) continues to grow in membership. Even if you are not interested in being a member of VCCA, please consider paying your dues. You can pay by PayPals on the web page ([VCCAhouston.org](#)) or send a check to the address on the front of the newsletter. You can also pay at the monthly meeting. Many of the activities that take place in VCCA need funds to continue. The dues are only \$30.00 a year and will make it easier for VCCA to continue the work it does on behalf of the residents.

Your Pres.,
Jeanette Hix

National Night Out

Want to be on your toes and in the know when it comes to crime in our neighborhood? Join us on Tuesday, October 2, at 6 PM for National Night Out. We'll meet in the parking lot at the office of VCCA newsletter sponsor Dr. Rebecca Harvey. It's on Fairview, between Huldy and Brun. Please bring your own snacks and drinks and a chair.

What is NNO? It's a fun way to get community members and law enforcement agencies to get to know each other even better and:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

We want to see VCCA members from every street. Please tell your neighbors about it and tell them to tell a neighbor. Bring your spouse, partner, children and well-behaved dogs and let's find out about what's going on in the neighborhood and what we can do to make it a safer place for everyone.

HPD Officer Wayne Pate, the policeman who keeps us informed about criminal activity in the area, will be stopping by to shake hands and talk about crime prevention.

Citizen Patrol Report

A big thanks to all the residents of Vermont Commons, Park Civic and Lewisdale for the numerous hours they spend patrolling the streets of our community. In July the Citizen Patrollers served 226.5 hours and in August they served 266.5 hours.

July:

Stephen Baehl
Betsy Banks
Bill Banks
Adriana Breidenstein
Adrienne Bukstein
Bob Costantini
Delia Cuellar
Rob Fuller
Cathryn Gabor
Tom Hix
Paula Holton
David Hoyer
Sharon Israel
Karen Kane
Mike Link
Linda Perez
Brenda Rojas
James Skogsberg
Lillian Skogsberg
Lisa Stephens
Andy Tallin
Stephanie Taylor

August:

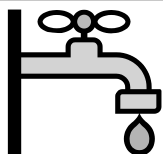
Stephen Baehl
Betsy Banks

Bill Banks
Adriana Breidenstein
Cindy Brown
Adrienne Bukstein
Debbie Cody
Bob Costantini
Delia Cuellar
Mark Del Pico
Rob Fuller
Cathryn Gabor
Tom Hix
Paula Holton
David Hoyer
Sharon Israel
Karen Kane
Mike Link
Kelly McKinzie
Mark Newman
Tim McWilliams
Linda Perez
Maria Rodriguez
Brenda Rojas
James Skogsberg
Lillian Skogsberg
Andy Tallin
Stephanie Taylor

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

MARY McBETH

Experience You Can Count On

Licensed Realtor - 1994
Certified Public Accountant - 1986
Vermont Commons Resident - 2007

713.516.2992
marym@johndaugherty.com
johndaugherty.com/marymcbeth



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

