

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



September
2012

Civic Association Newsletter

Dues For Vermont Commons Civic Association ONLY \$30 ANNUALLY!

Thanks to all of you who continue to support the work of our civic association, Vermont Commons Civic Association, (VCCA), by paying the annual dues. VCCA needs more participation so that we can continue our work in the community.

The dues of \$30.00 are payable the first of September. You may pay at the September meeting, or log on to our website, VCCAHOUSTON.ORG and pay through PAYPAL, or make your check payable to VCCA and mail to P O Box 130891, Houston TX 77219.

Your dues allow VCCA to send out this newsletter and to meet the multiple needs of this community. By sending in your payment you can show your appreciation for all that VCCA has done to improve our neighborhood during the time you have lived in Vermont Commons and make it possible to continue the process of improvement.

Format Change for VCCA Meetings

The format for the VCCA meetings will be changing beginning at the next meeting in September. The time and place will remain the same - 7:00 PM on the second Monday of the month at the Mockingbird Bistro.

After suggestions from the membership committee and other residents of Vermont Commons, it was decided to spend less time discussing VCCA business and to limit the amount of time for the presentations by speakers. This will allow for more time to meet and greet your neighbors.

Here is the schedule:

September - Social	October - Speaker
November - Social	December - Holiday party
January - Speaker	February - Social
March - Speaker	April - Social
May - Speaker	June - Social

There will continue to be a short meeting before the socials and the speakers. VCCA hopes this will encourage more residents to attend the meetings.

Coffee

Six months ago, residents of Vermont Commons began hosting a "Coffee" each month in their home. What is a "Coffee"? It is residents getting together and visiting over coffee and goodies. The "Coffee" is an excellent opportunity to meet new neighbors and become reacquainted with neighbors you have not seen lately.

The "Coffees" continued during the summer. June was hosted by Ileen Sangster on Driscoll St, July was hosted by Linda Perez on Elmen St and August was hosted by Andrea Brown on Brun St. Many thanks to these residents for sharing their homes, their delicious food and their recipes. Hopefully, you will plan to attend the next "Coffee" on September 25th at 10:00 AM hosted by Darlene Fore at 2417 Driscoll St.

Vermont Commons Civic Association
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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
September 10th
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

Vermont Commons Field Trips

Anne Ince and several other residents of Vermont Commons have been taking field trips to interesting places around Houston. If you are interested in joining her and the group, send her your email address and she will let you know when the upcoming event will take place. You may contact Anne at annsplace44@yahoo.com.



September Yard of the Month

Timothy Stafford
1513 Hazard St

This cute blue house was recently purchased by Mr. Timothy Stafford. A large tree in front had to be removed because it was dead, likely a drought casualty. Mr. Stafford has done a superb job of landscaping, adding two new trees, as well as enhancing the beds around the entrance to the house.

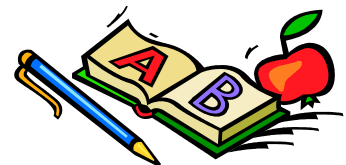
New Way to Report to 311

Imagine a mobile phone application (AKA 'app'), that would allow Houstonians to snap a photo and simply submit a 311 service request directly from their smartphone. Thanks to City Council approval in August, that app will soon become a reality!

The new City of Houston 311 app will utilize the GPS data from your smartphone to accurately pinpoint the location of your issue. Once a service request has been submitted, users will be able to track the progress of any open requests. The app will integrate with Facebook and Twitter.

The app is set to launch in a few weeks and will be available to download free of charge from the iTunes App Store and Android Marketplace.

Be the first to know when the 3-1-1 app launches! Sign up for EdforH Text Alerts today!



Holiday Garbage Collection

There will be no garbage collection services on Labor Day, Monday, September 3rd. On Tuesday, September 4th, Monday's garbage, curbside recycling, yard waste, & tree waste will be collected.

THANKS to Volunteers

- Installers of Citizen Patrol Signs: Andy Tallin, Yvonne Mikulencak, Alec Horn, Tom and Jeanette Hix.
- Folders for June newsletter: Hosted by Marlene Garnant; Folders: Maura Webster, Jane Schmitt, Jeanette Hix, Susan Wilson, Nancy Higgs, Ilene Sangster, Adrianna Breidenstein, Darlene Fore, Cindy Brown, and Pam Lee.
- New membership Committee members: Marlene Garnant, Carole Dodson, Sam Dodson, Wayne Ticac and David Skala.

Sound Off! Are You the Culprit?

My home is in Vermont Commons, and my trash can lives inside my garage. Lately I've had the problem of people putting their dog's waste in my EMPTY can before I have moved it back inside after Monday's pick up. After being enclosed overnight the smell in my garage is awful. If it were before the trash trucks arrive, it would be different, but this creates obvious problems for me, and probably for other neighbors as well. Sometimes a bag can be dumped out - not an altogether easy task with these cans! Otherwise, the can must be cleaned and disinfected - another task no one wants.

I do think that some people with dogs just aren't thinking about trash cans that are in courtyards, patios, walkways, and garages. Please, please encourage our neighbors to discard another way - responsibly!!

Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays Sep 10th, Sep 24th, Oct 8th, Oct 22nd

Heavy Trash Collection:

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

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

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 C:

Ellen Cohen (832) 393 3004

e-mail: districtc@houstontx.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

Speaker at October VCCA Meeting

Ellen Cohen, Houston City Council Person District C, will speak at the October meeting about issues that affect the Vermont Commons area.

Ellen's career choices are a reflection of her commitment to public service. She is dedicated to continued public service and giving back to the City of Houston.

Ellen was appointed by President Bill Clinton along with the US Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the National Violence Against Women Advisory Council. She accepted this role because of the need for comprehensive language dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault. She was also appointed to the Governor's Planning Council for the STOP Violence Against Women campaign. The Supreme Court of Texas appointed Ellen to the Gender Fairness Implementation Executive Committee. In addition, Texas House Speaker Joe Straus appointed her to the serve on the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission following her sponsorship of the bill establishing the Commission.

Ellen's service is one reason why she is recognized as a community leader. She has a reputation for lending her expertise and leadership to those organizations and issues that she cares about deeply. Ellen is sought out as a speaker by schools, civic associations, and various community groups because of her extensive community and professional experience.

VCCA is fortunate to have Ellen attend the October meeting and address the needs of Vermont Commons.

Driveways, Curbs, Sidewalks and Gutters

Property owners are responsible for the sidewalks, curbs, driveways and gutters in front of their residence.

I need my driveway repaired. How do I get the City to repair it?

City Ordinance (Chapter 40, Article III Section 40-84) states that driveway repair is the property owner's responsibility; unless damaged through City operations.

The curbs in my neighborhood are cracked and broken. How can I get them repaired?

City Ordinance (Chapter 40, Article III Section 40-84) states that curb repair is the property owner's responsibility; unless damaged through City operations.

My sidewalk is cracked and broken. How do I get it repaired?

City Ordinance (Chapter 40, Article III Section 40-84) states that sidewalk repair is the property owner's responsibility; unless damaged through City operations.

I have standing water in front of my house? How do I get something done about this problem?

If water is standing in the gutter line, then maintenance/repair becomes the abutting property owner's responsibility per City Ordinances (Chapter 40, Article III Section 40-84).

Citizen Patrol Report

Thanks to Kathryn Gabor for using her multiple skills to start Citizen Patrol. She also coordinated the program for the past year. Due to professional commitments, she will no longer be able to hold that volunteer position. Linda Perez took over the position in July. She also hosted the training session, conducted by Officer Pate for new patrollers, in her home in July. Watch for emails requesting your volunteer hours from her.

The new Citizen Patrol signs have been installed. Andy Tallin, Yvonne Mikulencak, and Alec Horn dug the holes and installed the posts with cement. It was a hot humid evening in July and the three worked very hard. The next day Andy and Tom and Jeanette Hix attached the signs to the post - a much less labor-intensive job.



May: Patrolling 279 hours.	June: Patrolling 275.5 hours.
Adriana Breidenstein	Bill Banks
Bob Costantini	Adriana Breidenstein
Delia Cuellar	Debbie Cody
Rob Fuller	Bob Costantini
Cathryn Gabor	Delia Cuellar
Tom Hix	Rob Fuller
Paula Holton	Cathryn Gabor
David Hoyer	Tom Hix
Karen Kane	Paula Holton
Mike Link	David Hoyer
Beverly Newman	Karen Kane
Mark Newman	Mike Link
Brenda Rojas	Linda Perez
James Skogsberg	Brenda Rojas
Lillian Skogsberg	James Skogsberg
Lisa Stephens	Lillian Skogsberg
Andy Tallin	Andy Tallin
Stephanie Taylor	Stephanie Taylor
Gaylor Ticac	Wayne Ticac
Wayne Ticac	



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

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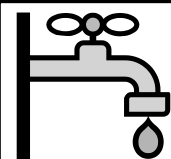
Rebecca M. Harvey, D.D.S., P.A.

drharvey@dentisthouston.com

2025 Fairview Houston, TX 77019

Phone (713) 528-4054

Fax (713) 528-1443



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