

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



November
2012

Civic Association Newsletter

VCCA November Meeting Election of New Officers

The November VCCA meeting will be a social meeting. There will not be a speaker, but a short meeting will be held. The social meetings allows time for residents to meet new neighbors and greet old ones.

The election of officers for 2013 will take place at the November meeting. Positions include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. To submit a name for consideration, contact Jeanette Hix, or you may make nominations from the floor at the meeting. These volunteers dedicate numerous hours of their time to benefit all who live in Vermont Commons. Please thank the new officers and of course the old ones too.

Holiday Party

Make plans to attend the Vermont Commons Civic Association Holiday Party on Monday, December 3rd! The fun begins at 7:00 PM at the Mockingbird Bistro at 1985 Welch St. VCCA will provide the treats, and each resident will be responsible for their own drinks.

Goals for 2013

The Officers of VCCA will be discussing future goals for the Association for 2013. If there are items that you would like VCCA to tackle, please let one of the officers know about your ideas. We want our community to be the best it can possibly be!

Website for Residents

E mmie Chang, a Vermont Commons resident, is inviting residents to join neighbors on **Nextdoor Vermont Commons!**, a private website for Vermont Commons residents that helps them connect with each other to build a stronger neighborhood. The website address is www.nextdoor.com. It's free and easy to enroll, and there are already a handful of residents on board. Perhaps in this manner, more residents can be involved in shaping our neighborhood. People are using Nextdoor to do things like:

- Borrow a neighbor's tool set
- Find someone to dog sit
- Organize a neighborhood potluck
- Learn more about recent crimes
- Develop emergency response plans

VCCA Coffee

The Holiday Season during November and December are very busy times for Vermont Commons residents, therefore, the Coffees will not be held during those months. In order to benefit more residents, beginning in January, the Coffees will be held on a different day of the week each month. VCCA hopes this will give more residents an opportunity to attend.

At the Coffee hosted by Darlene Fore, those who attended arranged to take a trip to China Town. A new Brun street resident from China acquainted the group with her favorite restaurant. The group then shopped at a strictly Chinese grocery store. There have been numerous emails discussing recipes and maybe a Chinese cooking class by our new resident from China. This is just an example of the type of activities that come about while interacting at the VCCA sponsored Coffees. Please make plans to attend.

Vermont Commons Civic Association
Newsletter
Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 28

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

Join us at 7:00 PM
November 12th
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

VCCA Annual Holiday Lights Contest

Believe it or not, the weather will cool off soon and we will begin to feel holiday festive. So, break out all your decorations and help spread good cheer to your neighbors with the most extravagant and imaginative decorating ever! Contest winners will be announced at our December holiday party. Great prizes will be awarded to all winners!



THANKS to Volunteers

- Newsletter Folders: Host for the folding- Ann Ince, Folders- Susan Wilson, Mary McBeth, Andie Brown, Jeanette Hix, Marlene Garnant, Betsy Banks.
- Coffee Hostess for September: Darlene Fore.
- Coffee hostess for October: Betsy Banks.
- VCCA representative to District C Town Hall meeting (Ellen Cohen's District): Nancy Higgs.
- New Block Captain between Indiana and Welch on Brun: Andrea Brown.
- New graffiti removal team: Christine Reed, Ann Ince, Karen Dressel.
- New newsletter formatters, writers and editors: Michael Forlenza and Karen Kane.

November Yard of the Month

November Yard of the Month is awarded for the well-kept and cheerful grounds found at 2511 and 2513 Hazard St. Brenda and Don Spurlin reside at 2513 Hazard St, and rumor has it that Brenda gets most of the credit for creating a beautiful outdoor space. A new tenant just moved into 2511 Hazard, and we welcome him to Vermont Commons. It is always special when renters care as much about beautifying their yard as do homeowners. Thank you, Brenda!

Change in Heavy Trash Collection Service

The Solid Waste Management Department announced that in a continuing effort to maximize cost savings, provide efficient service delivery and engage in proactive customer service, it is improving heavy trash and tree waste service. Effective November 1, 2012, the monthly heavy trash (tree waste/junk waste) pickup date for our neighborhood will change from the first Tuesday of the month to the first Wednesday of the month. Tree waste and junk waste collection will still occur in alternating months, odd-numbered months for tree waste and even-numbered months for junk waste. Please note that collection day schedules for other Solid Waste services such as garbage, yard waste trimmings and recycling collection WILL NOT change.

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 Nov 5th, Nov 19th, Dec 3rd, Dec 17th, & Dec 31
 Heavy Trash Collection:
 Tree Waste: 1st Wednesday in Nov, Jan, Mar, May, Jul & Sep
 Junk Waste: 1st Wednesday 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.

National Night Out

By all estimates, about 75 Vermont Commons residents attended the National Night Out sponsored by VCCA. The event took place at Dr. Rebecca Harvey's parking lot on Fairview between Huldy and Brun. There were many new residents who attended and had an opportunity to interact with all the neighbors. A representative from the police department stopped by to answer questions.

The National Night Out event creates an opportunity for residents to say to criminals "We are a community that watches out for each other"!!

Dr. Harvey is a great neighbor. Not only did she allow VCCA to use her parking lot, but she has advertised in the newsletter for the last three years.



Tips on Leading a GREEN Lifestyle

Before you toss out the coffee grinds from your morning pot of coffee, consider some of these ways to reuse them:

- touch up wood scratches
- create natural fertilizer
- scrub grease off pans
- deodorize the kitchen drain or refrigerator
- accelerate compost activity

Almost 30% of the waste that goes into landfills is made up of paper goods! Not only do paper napkins use new material from trees, but the chemical processes used to bleach and decorate napkins can be harmful to the environment. Make every meal a "special occasion" by setting the table with reusable napkins.

This year, skip the trinkets and give your friends and loved ones an experience to remember! From movie tickets to a day at the spa, experiences create memories and keep all that useless packaging out of landfills.

Having friend over for dinner? Decorate the table with small plants and encourage guests to plant them! Plants like succulents, cactus and bamboo are unique and require little water. To really "green" your décor, repurpose used items as pots. Empty baby food containers work great.

Most lighters are considered "disposable" and over 1.5 billion of them end up in landfills each year. Because lighters are made of multiple types of materials, they tend not to be recycled. Choose matches over lighters.

Heading out on vacation? Make a green action a little more fun by holding an "Unplug Scavenger Hunt" with your family! Electronic devices like televisions, phone chargers, and coffee pots draw energy even when they're not on.

Plastic single-serve bottles produce 1.5 billion tons of

plastic waste per year. Rather than buying cases of plastic bottled water, keep a glass pitcher of water in the fridge. You won't waste water while waiting for the tap to get cold and you'll keep tons of plastic off the streets, out of our oceans and out of landfills.

Plastic bags can take hundreds of years to breakdown in a landfill. Next time you take Rover for a walk, consider using biodegradable bags to collect his/her waste. Biodegradable bags are readily available in pet stores, but you can also use paper bags like the ones you get from the liquor store.

A typical shower head uses 2 gallons of water per minute. Try to cut down your morning shower to save money and water. Switching off your water as you apply shampoo is just one way to save water. You can also collect unused water from the shower by putting a bucket in the shower with you, and using the collected water for your plants or lawn.

Headed out to run errands within a couple of miles of your home? Enjoy some fresh air and get some exercise by leaving your car keys behind and grabbing your walking shoes instead! Take some reusable bags with you to really take your "green" 2-mile excursion to another level.

Next time you clean out the cupboard, save your old mismatched dishes and take them to the office! Not only will you be repurposing them, but you'll also be encouraging your coworker to use less disposable dishware which is usually too contaminated to be recycled.

Did you know that used dryer sheets can be used to dust your house? Not only will they be repurposed, but if you also buy biodegradable dryer sheets, they can be tossed into the compost bin - with pet hair, dust and all!

For more tips like this and to get rewarded for your green actions, visit Recyclebank.com.

Holiday Garbage Collection

There will be no garbage collection services on Monday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day. On Tuesday, November 12th, Monday's garbage and yard waste will be collected.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

We "Fall back" at 2:00 AM on November 4th, the first Sunday in November, by setting our clock back one hour and thus returning to Standard Time.

Just a Note From Jeanette

At the October meeting and in the October newsletter, I asked for volunteers in many areas. There was a great response and almost all the open volunteer positions were filled. It was very heartwarming to see how many of our neighbors are willing to help to make Vermont Commons the best place to live. Thanks to all of you. The Holiday Season is upon us and we all need to watch out for each other even more. Police report and statistics confirm that crime increases during these times. I am so happy and proud to live in this community.

Your Pres.,
Jeanette Hix

Citizen Patrol Report

Thank you for keeping our neighborhood safe. We collectively walked 252 hours in September 2012. The following residents patrolled last month:

Katie Baehl
Stephen Baehl
Betsy Banks
Bill Banks
Adriana Breidenstein
Adrienne Bukstein
Bob Costantini
Mark Del Pico
Rob Fuller
Cathryn Gabor
Tom Hix
Paula Holton
David Hoyer

Karen Kane
Mike Link
Tim McWilliams
Linda Perez
Maria Rodriguez
Brenda Rojas
James Skogsberg
Lillian Skogsberg
Lisa Stephens
Andy Tallin
Submitted by Linda Perez,
Citizen Patrol Co-
ordinator

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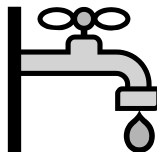
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