

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



December
2012

Civic Association Newsletter

Hope All of You Have a Great Holiday Season!

This last issue of 2012 is being dedicated to all those who volunteer their time creating a great community in Vermont Commons.

Last year's officers who will not be returning:



Nancy Higgs: Vice President for the last three years. She bought her Driscoll St townhouse in the fall of 2005. However, for the next few years, her college-age kids lived there more than she did. She says she will never forget getting a postcard in the mail telling her that there was a neighborhood association, and that she was invited to the annual Holiday party! Her first sense of 'belonging' in Houston took seed that day.

Lance Hack: Secretary for the last three years. He has lived in Houston for the past 15 years and on Driscoll St for three years.



Cay Dickson: (Pictured below on the left) Has written articles for the newsletter for the last year. A native Houstonian, Cay has lived in Vermont Commons on Brun St since 1977. She co-founded



VCCA in 1992 and served as President the first two years and has held numerous other positions in VCCA.

Jeanette Hagerman: (Pictured on the right with Cay) Newsletter editor and formatter for the last three years - and twin sister of Jeanette Hix, VCCA President. She moved to Houston in 1968, and to Brun St in the summer of 2007 with her husband Maury.

Returning Officers:

- Jeanette Hix- President
- Andy Tallin- Treasurer

Committee Chairpersons and Members:

- **Web Page:** Wayne Ticac, Delia Cuellar
- **Graffiti:** (Cary Davis - 2010 - 9/2012) New members: Christine Reed, Ann Ince, Karen Dressel
- **Deed Restrictions:** Bob Costantini, David Hoyer, John Muire, Lance Hack and Richard Adler (resigned)
- **Yard of Month:** Nancy Higgs (Chairperson), Betsy Banks, Susan Wilson, Lillian Skogsberg (Continued on Page 3)

Vermont Commons Civic Association
Newsletter

Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 29

VCCA meetings are held every

2nd Monday
of the month.

Join us at 7:00 PM

January 14th

Mockingbird Bistro

1985 Welch @ McDuffie.



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

VCCA Annual Holiday Lights Contest

The yearly holiday decorating contest winners will not be announced until January. The announcement is usually at the VCCA Holiday Party, but since the party is so early in December this year, the announcement will be in the January issue of the newsletter. Be sure to check the web page VCCAHouston.org to see who the winners are and then drive by and admire their great work.

Via Colori Street Art Festival

by Nancy Higgs

Every mid-November, downtown Houston streets become artists' sketchpads for the annual Via Colori sidewalk chalk festival. Since 2006, hundreds have contributed their talents, while sponsors donate funds in a unique collaboration of creativity and finance to benefit The Center for Hearing and Speech, which is located off West Dallas and Shepherd. This annual event raises funds for CHS and increases awareness about hearing loss (Continued on Page 2)



December Yard of the Month

Kathleen & Bobby Drackett
1916 Hazard St

Noisy Neighbors

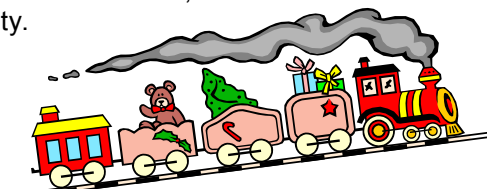
As we get ready to indulge in lots of good cheer and holiday festivities, it's worth a reminder to be a good neighbor when it comes to noise. The wonderful diversity of Vermont Commons residents - young and old, working people and retirees, students and shift workers - means that we have neighbors on different schedules. And with our homes close together, even sharing walls sometimes, a little noise can affect a lot of people nearby. So when you're having a late night party on your patio with friends, remember that you may have neighbors trying to get some sleep before the alarm goes off the next morning.

A few suggestions:

- If you're having a party that you know will go late, it's a courtesy to let nearby neighbors know ahead of time. Or better yet, ask them to join you! If you have music, step outside and check the volume levels. And watch the time - loud music at 9:00 PM is much different than at 1:00 AM.
- Be flexible with your neighbors when they're entertaining. If there is a situation where loud people or music is creating a real nuisance, try phoning and asking your neighbors to keep the noise down. Many times people don't realize how well and how far loud noise, especially music, carries.
- If you can't resolve the situation, HPD does have a number to report loud music and party noise. According to Officer Pate, dial 713-884-3131, a recording will start, press 1 and you'll be directed to a call taker.

And, of course, always call 911 if you hear noise that may be coming from an assault, domestic violence or other criminal activity.

**Merry
Christmas**



(Via Colori continued from page 1)
and services available for deaf children.

The Center for Hearing and Speech (CHS) is the only full-service resource in Houston, and one of only three in Texas, that teaches children with mild to profound hearing loss to speak and read rather than to use sign language. CHS has helped thousands of children develop listening, speaking and literacy skills needed to succeed in the mainstream hearing world. CHS depends on support from corporations, foundations, individuals and the United Way to achieve their goals.

The festival is FREE to viewers! Artists work feverishly over a two-day period to create their works, which are in turn voted on by the public, by dropping donations in the slotted tubs found at each station. Works of art range from pop culture to political messaging and even include a Kids Block where children can create their own masterpieces.

I have visited this event for the past three years. I continue to be amazed and entertained by the drawings. The festival is not overcrowded, and street parking is plentiful. The weather is almost always perfect. I leave the event feeling contentedly connected with my community and incredibly inspired by the artistic talent.

Just a Note From Jeanette

Thanks to all of the volunteers who worked so hard during 2012 to ensure that Vermont Commons is a great place to live. I look forward to working with all of you during 2013 to continue the ongoing process of improving the place we all live. The new officers and old are already discussing ways to improve VCCA. Input from all residents is always welcome. I apologize if I missed a resident who contributed their time to VCCA and the community. I made my list and checked it twice! Have a wonderful Holiday Season. See you in 2013.

Your Pres.,
Jeanette Hix

Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays Dec 3rd, Dec 17th, Dec 31st

Heavy Trash Collection:

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

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.

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

(Volunteers continued from page 1)

- **Crime:** Kelly McKinzie
- **Poop Bag:** Kit Muire, Betsy Banks, Kathleen Dracket
- **Representative to Councilperson Ellen Cohen's Town Hall meetings:** Nancy Higgs.
- **Membership:** Marlene Garnant, Carole and Sam Dodson, and David Skala.

- **Block Captains:** Betsy Banks (Chairperson) and creator of all those wonderful flyers that are sent out each month to notify residents of upcoming events.

HULDY ST

- Haddon to Vermont & Haddon - Huldy to Brun: Linda Hart
- Vermont to Welch: Karen Kane
- Welch to Indiana: Ann Ince
- Indiana to Westheimer: Delia Cuellar

BRUN ST

- Vermont to Welch: Katie Sherborne
- Welch to Indiana: Andrea Brown
- Indiana to Westheimer: Cathryn Gabor

MCDUFFIE ST

- Peden to Vermont & Vermont - Huldy to Hazard: Brenda Rojas
- Vermont to Welch: Carlos Torres
- Welch to Indiana: Kelly McKinzie
- Indiana to Fairview: Bob Costantini
- Fairview to Westheimer: Katie & Stephen Baehl

HAZARD ST

- Peden to Haddon: Ken Kneisel
- Haddon to Vermont and Haddon - Brun to Driscoll: Lorna Ramsay
- Vermont to Welch: Betsy Banks
- Welch to Indiana: Nancy Parker
- Indiana to Fairview: Vonn Tran
- Fairview to Westheimer and Fairview- Hazard to Driscoll: Susan Wilson

DRISCOLL ST

- Peden to Haddon: Karen Sturtevant
- Haddon to Vermont: Marlene Garnant
- Vermont to Welch: Lance Hack
- Welch to Indiana: Rita Michael
- Indiana to Fairview: Nina Otazo
- Fairview to Westheimer: Darlene Fore

PEDEN ST

- McDuffie to Driscoll: Terrie Irvin

VERMONT ST

- Hazard to Driscoll: Collette Dubose

WELCH ST

- Huldy to Driscoll: Lisa Brouillette

INDIANA ST

- Huldy to Driscoll: Kit Muire

FAIRVIEW ST

- Huldy to Hazard: Lisa Stephens

Citizen Patrol Coordinator: Linda Perez (Park Civic resi-

dent), Cathryn Gabor (Original organizer and coordinator through May of 2012). Andy Tallin, Yvonne Mikulencak, Alec Horn and Tom and Jeanette Hix installed the Citizen Patrol signs.

Patrollers:

Katie Baehl	Sharon Israel
Stephen Baehl	Karen Kane
Betsy Banks	Mike Link
Bill Banks	Kelly McKinzie
Adriana Breidenstein	Tim McWilliams
Cindy Brown	Beverly Newman
Adrienne Bukstein	Mark Newman
Debbie Cody	Linda Perez
Julie Cornelison	Maria Rodriguez
Bob Costantini	Brenda Rojas
Delia Cuellar	Dorothy Simons
Mark Del Pico	James Skogsberg
Rob Fuller	Lillian Skogsberg
Cathryn Gabor	Lisa Stephens
Tom Hix	Andy Tallin
Paula Holton	Stephanie Taylor
David Hoyer	Gaylor Ticac
	Wayne Ticac

- **Hosted the newsletter folding:** Susan Wilson, Kit Muire, Dick and Jane Schmitt, Jeanette Hix, Marlene Garnant, Stephanie Taylor, Ann Ince.

- **Newsletter folders:** Susan Wilson, Nancy Higgs, Betsy Banks, Christina Reed, Carol Dodson, Karen Kane, Judi Adler, Stephanie Taylor, Marlene Garnant, Tom & Jeanette Hix, Jeanenne Hagerman, Audrey Crawford, Andrea Brown, Adrienne Bukstein, Adrianna Breidenstein, Maura Webster, Ilene Sangster, Darlene Fore, Cindy Brown, Pam Lee, Lillian Skogsberg, Mary McBeth, Dick & Jane Schmitt, Kit & John Muire, Tom Paige, Ann Ince and Vicki Burke.

- **Hosted Neighborhood Coffee:** Carole Dodson, Jeanette Hix, Adrianna Breidenstein, Ileen Sangster, Linda Perez, Betsy Banks, Andrea Brown, Darlene Fore.

- **Trap, Neuter, Return Program for feral cats:** Carolyn Levy, Jane Schmitt

- **Spring Picnic:** All those who helped make signs, provided tables and who helped set up and take down.

- **National Night Out:** To all those who provided tables, made signs and helped set up and take down.

- **Helped with Spring Cleanup:** Jeanette and Tom Hix, Karen Kane, Tom Paige, Stephanie Taylor, David Hoyer, John Muire, Cay Dickson and Andy Tallin

2013 Officers:

- Jeanette Hix - President
- Betsy Banks - First Vice President
- Emmie Chang - Second Vice President
- Kit Muire - Secretary
- Andy Tallin - Treasurer
- Karen Kane and Michael Forlenza - Newsletter

Volunteer Needed for VCCA: Do you have several hours a month to give to VCCA? An additional member of the Deed Restriction Committee is needed. You can do this volunteer work as you take your daily walk, walk the dog or just drive down the street. Email Jeanette Hix if you have time to give. Your efforts will be a great asset to the community.

Vermont Commons Civic Association
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Non-Profit Organization
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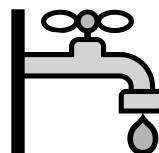
Vermont Commons Resident - 2007

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