

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



January
2013

Civic Association Newsletter

Issue No. 30

The Vermont Commons Civic Association Newsletter is published monthly, September through June, by the Vermont Commons Civic Association, PO Box 130891, Houston, TX, 77219.



Bill King will speak about Pensions and City Finance at our January 14th VCCA Meeting. Bill, a life-long resident of the Houston area, was born and raised in Kemah. He attended the University of Houston, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a law degree.

Bill is currently the president of Southwest Airport Services and writes a weekly column for the *Houston Chronicle*. He has enjoyed a varied business and legal career and is now "mostly" retired from serving as counsel to Bracewell & Guiliani. His civic involvement has been extensive: In the early 1990s he returned to live in Kemah, where he was elected to city council and eventually served two terms as mayor. As well, he has served on numerous charitable and community boards, including the Fire Fighters Foundation of Houston, Galveston Bay Foundation, Crime Stoppers, Bay Area Houston Economic Partners, and the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Transportation Policy Council.

During his years of public service, Bill King developed a keen interest in public policy issues. He has served on numerous committees and task forces studying issues related to the efficient delivery of public services, especially in the areas of public infrastructure, mobility, environmental stewardship, and emergency preparedness.

VCCA meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month

Join us at 7:00 p.m.

On January 14th

At Mockingbird Bistro

1985 Welch @ McDuffie

Meet your neighbors,
then stay for the social
hour afterward



Got News?

We welcome your news, photos, and editorials, but reserve the right to edit for clarity, style, and length. Send questions and contributions to vcca.newsletter@gmail.com. Articles and ads do not necessarily reflect the views of the Vermont Commons Civic Association, nor is the Association responsible for errors that may be expressed by writers or advertisers. Submissions are due the 24th of the month preceding the newsletter.

Michael Forlenza & Karen Kane, Editors

Connect With VCCA in 2013

Read the Monthly Newsletter. It's the "official voice" of the VCCA, providing the current news and info that affect our neighborhood. There's also a schedule of upcoming VCCA events, plus helpful phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Find Out More Online. Head to VCCA's website, www.vccahouston.org, for an expanded menu of articles and resources, including the minutes from the previous month's meeting. Want to know how to contact your block captain, report a lost pet, or pay your VCCA membership dues? Curious about the neighborhood's history, bylaws, or deed restrictions? You'll find that information, plus a whole lot more, on our website.

Meet Your Neighbors "Next Door." Next Door is a free, private social networking site available to Vermont Commons residents. Simply go to www.nextdoor.com, sign up, and invite your neighbors to do the same. Use the site to seek advice (anyone know a good pet sitter?), post articles ("The Garden Slug: Friend or Foe?"), or blog (went to the new restaurant on West Gray...excellent food!!). Exchange ideas, connect with your neighbors, foster a sense of community, and meet new VCCA folks—Next Door makes it easy! Questions about how to connect online? Contact Emmie Chang at emmie.chang@gmail.com.



Your VCCA Executive Board: (from left to right): Betsy Banks, First Vice President; Karen Kane, Newsletter; Michael Forlenza, Newsletter; Andy Tallin, Treasurer, Kit Muire, Secretary; Jeanette Hix, President, Emmie Chang, Second Vice President.

Citizen Patrol Update
Linda Perez, Coordinator

Thank you for keeping our neighborhood safe. We collectively walked 325.5 hours in November 2012. Below are the people that patrolled in November:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Adrienne Bukstein | Debbie Cody |
| Cindy Brown | Delia Cuellar |
| Linda Perez | James Skogsberg |
| Mark Del Pico | Karen Kane |
| Tim McWilliams | Katie Baehl |
| Adriana Breidenstein | Lillian Skogsberg |
| Andy Tallin | Lisa Stephens |
| Betsy Banks | Maria Rodriquez |
| Bill Banks | Paula Holton |
| Bob Costantini | Sharon Israel |
| Brenda Rojas | Stehen Baehl |
| Cathryn Gabor | Stephanie Taylor |
| David Hoyer | Tom Hix |

CitizensNet

Would you like to receive periodic emails from the City of Houston on topics of interest to you and your neighborhood? If so, please register with CitizensNet today on the City of Houston website.



Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays
 Recycling: Mondays January 14th and 28th
 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
 Newsletter Email: vcca.newsletter@gmail.com
 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

The Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon is January 13, 2013.



Elite athletes and runners from all over the world will be passing through our neighborhood on Montrose Boulevard and Allen Parkway. Grab some breakfast and head out to cheer them on. For schedule and route information check the website:

www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com.

2012 VCCA Holiday Lights Contest Winners

We sincerely thank everyone for putting up lights and outdoor decorations to add to our neighborhood Holiday cheer! Without further ado, we present the selected winners of the 2012 Lights Contest:

Best Apartment Complex – 1801 Huldy

Multi-colored lights draping across the courtyard that look so inviting!

Best Block – 1960, 1962 & 1964 Indiana

Chosen 2nd year in a row – Wow!! Thanks, y'all! (2 of these 3 winners are CANADIANS!!)

Best Business – Roost, 1972 Fairview

We loved the old-fashioned simple, large white bulbs that traverse its entirety.

Best House – 1717 Driscoll

Lights across the roof, lights across the front, lights in the yard...and 30-year old Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls on the front porch! The house looks festive day or night.

Best Townhouse – 2002 Vermont

Lights all around, up and down, all three floors, all three sides. Best part – two huge PEACE signs that adorn the front doors. Yay for peace!

Thank you – See you next year! Start planning now ... to be a winner in 2013.

Your Friendly YOM Committee,
Nancy Higgs, Betsy Banks, Lillian Skoberg, and Susan Wilson

Letter from a Neighbor

We are new neighbors living in a home near Westheimer and Driscoll. We have sent in the \$30 for membership for VCCA. We have been here several months and would like to help our neighbors maintain this part of town.

I am very active in cleaning the streets. Perhaps you've seen me. I was given an award by the sustainability committee, plus a day in my honor, by the city we lived in prior to moving to Houston this June. Evidently, what I had been doing on my own for nearly 13 years—just cleaning up the litter and trash on neighborhood streets—was noticed, and I was surprisingly and humbly recognized.

After moving to Houston, I contacted, then met with, representatives of "Keep Houston Beautiful." While they did not find a match for my efforts, I have taken it upon myself to pick up trash and rubbish along Driscoll Street from Westheimer to West Gray every week.

Mark Stulberger and Suzan Sherburn

Vermont Commons Yard of the Month

The Yard of the Month belongs to Mary Lou Pringle at 1706 McDuffie Street.



Neighborhood Coffee

The January VCCA Coffee will be on Wednesday, January 23, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Carole Dodson at 2123 Huldy Street. Come meet your neighbors!

Thanks to VCCA Volunteers

Newsletter Folders: Ellyn Ogilvy – host; folders: Susan Wilson, Jeanette Hix, Joan Edwards, Ellen Levin, Pam Lee, Stephanie Taylor, Betsy Banks, Christine Reed, Ann Ince, Ken Kneisel, Mary McBeth.

Thanks to Susan Wilson for picking up the newsletters and mailing them. She has volunteered to do this for the next year.

Selection Committee for Yard of the Month and Best Holiday Lights displays: Betsy Banks, Nancy Higgs, Susan Wilson, Lillian Skoberg.

John M. Doody, AIA

713-254-5084 M
jmdamd@gmail.com



*Improve, rather than move!
Enhance mobility / accessibility
No job too big, no job too small!*

Join

the VCCA. VCCA Membership is open to all residents (owners and renters) in the area for just \$30 per year. Pay online at vccahouston.org

Vermont Commons Civic Association
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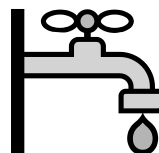
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