

vccahouston.org  
PO Box 130891  
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May  
2013

## Civic Association Newsletter

Issue No. 34

The Vermont Commons Civic Association Newsletter is published monthly, September through June

### *Two Great Events on One Great Day!*

**Saturday, May 18th: Spring Clean-Up at 9:00 a.m. and Picnic at 1:00 p.m.**

The VCCA's 2nd Annual Spring Clean-Up will be held on **Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.** Volunteers are needed to help trim the foliage that blocks views of intersections and traffic signs and/or impedes sidewalk passage. Grass and mud in gutters will also be removed.

Volunteers, please meet at **9:00 a.m.** at one of the following locations: **Huldy & Haddon; Brun & Haddon; McDuffie & Peden; Hazard & Peden; and Driscoll & Peden.** Work will progress southward on each street.

If volunteers are unable to clear an area where pruning is needed, they will leave a note asking that the homeowner or property owner complete the job.

Volunteers, be sure to wear gloves, and bring shears and clippers. This is a great opportunity to make Vermont Commons more pedestrian-friendly and improve the view for drivers at intersections.

I know! I'll bring my chainsaw to the Spring Clean-Up and then use it to slice cake at the Spring Picnic!

Gosh, Suki, you're always one step ahead of me!



If you haven't "officially" volunteered, you can join your block's team as it progresses down your street. For sign-up or questions, contact Jeanette Hix at [hix@rmi.net](mailto:hix@rmi.net).

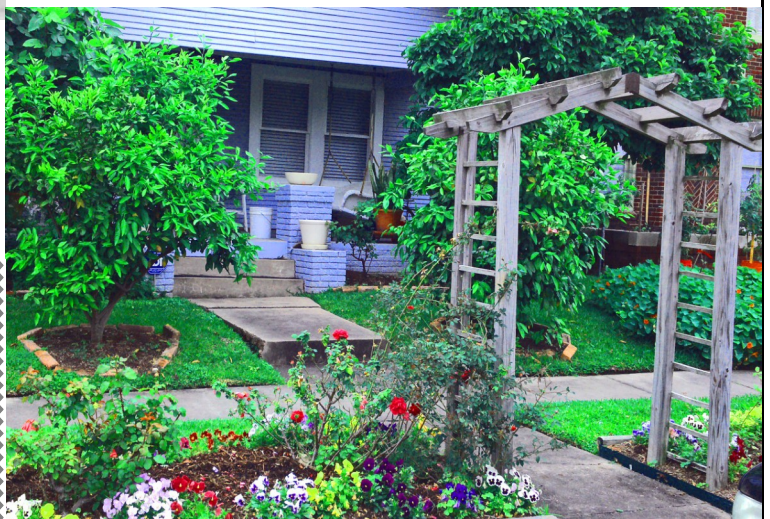
**After the Clean-Up, plan to attend the VCCA Picnic, starting at 1:00 p.m., at 2108 Brun Street. Andy Tallin and Maria Rodriguez are the Picnic's gracious hosts. VCCA will be cooking hotdogs and providing condiments. Bring side dishes or snacks to share, plus beverages and a chair or two for your comfort.**

Mark May 18th on your calendar and watch for additional details on the VCCA web page.

### *May Yard of the Month*

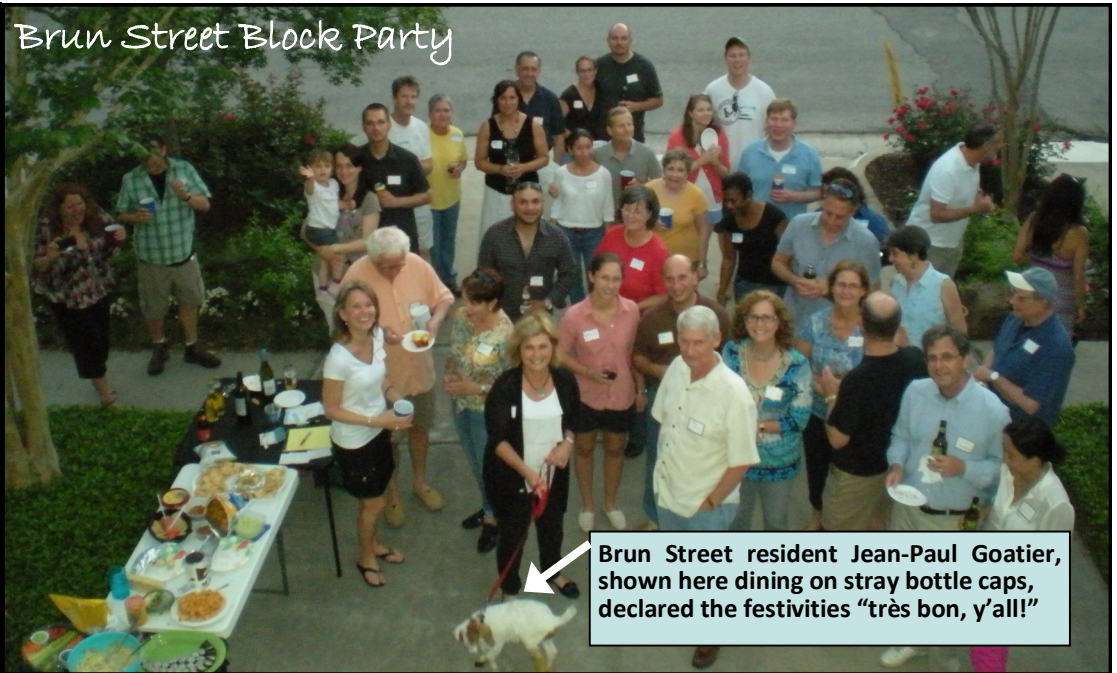
It's always a joy to walk past Jacqueline Friedman's blue bungalow at 2006 Brun Street and admire her expertly cared-for (and beautifully scented) roses, flowers, and citrus trees. Thanks, Jacqueline, for your lovely yard, and for inspiring the rest of us! ➡

**VCCA Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month (Sept.—June), 7:00 p.m., at Kenneally's Irish Pub, 2111 S. Shepherd & Welch. Plan to attend the next meeting, on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, and socialize with your neighbors afterwards.**



On April 14th, neighbors on Brun Street gathered for a party. Brun Street—and Vermont Commons in general—boasts a diverse group of residents representing not only Texas and the U.S., but also far-flung homelands such as Lebanon, the Netherlands, Tunisia, Spain, Venezuela, Germany, and China. The partygoers also included a goat with a cast on its (broken) leg. Everyone (including the goat) had a great time!

## Brun Street Block Party



Brun Street resident Jean-Paul Goatier, shown here dining on stray bottle caps, declared the festivities “très bon, y’all!”

## Ahhhhh...Morning Coffee

Craving caffeine and good conversation? Then come meet your neighbors at the monthly Morning Coffee! The May event will be held at the home of Robin Greene, 1617 McDuffie, on May 21 at 10:00 a.m.

## Houston Grand Opera's La boheme is Free at Miller Outdoor Theater

May 17 and 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Houston Grand Opera (HGO) presents Puccini's La bohème. Impetuous love. The romance of Paris. The pain of regret. All unfold in one of the world's greatest love stories. This is a ticketed event for the covered seating area. Free tickets are available (4 per person) at the Miller Outdoor Theatre box office on May 18th, from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. If tickets remain at 1:00 p.m., the box office will re-open one hour before show time to distribute the remaining tickets. As always, there is free open seating on the hill. Bring a picnic basket and a blanket. For more information, go to <http://milleroutdoortheatre.com>

## Thanks to Our VCCA Volunteers!

Newsletter Folding Hosting: Ilene Sanger

Folders Extraordinaire: Susan Wilson, Madeleine Schlemmer, Mary McBeth,Carolynn Kevlin, Lillian Skogsberg, Betsy Banks, Kit Muire, Marlene Garnant, Pam Lee and Jeanette Hix.

Resigning Deed Restriction Member: Bob Costantini - thanks for your help!

New Deed Restriction Members: Jane Schmitt (Brun) and Joyce Hayes (Driscoll).

Kenneally's Irish Pub for letting the VCCA have monthly meetings at the pub (and for having Guinness on draft!).

## Trash Talk

**Garbage & Yard Trimmings:** Mondays (Schedule B)

**Recycling:** Mondays: April 6th and 20th.

**Heavy Trash Collection:**

**Tree Waste:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in May, Jul, Sep, and Nov.

**Junk Waste:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec.

## VCCA Officers

**President:** Jeanette Hix [hix@rmi.net](mailto:hix@rmi.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** Betsy Banks [betsybanks1@gmail.com](mailto:betsybanks1@gmail.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** Emmie Chang [emmie.chang+77019@gmail.com](mailto:emmie.chang+77019@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Kit Muire [ki77019@gmail.com](mailto:ki77019@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Andy Tallin [atallin01@yahoo.com](mailto:atallin01@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter:** Michael Forlenza & Karen Kane  
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## Helpful Contact Information

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City Council Member at Large, Pos. 1: Stephen Costello

e-mail: [atlarge1@cityofhouston.net](mailto:atlarge1@cityofhouston.net)

HPD Officer Wayne Pate: [wpate43@yahoo.com](mailto:wpate43@yahoo.com)

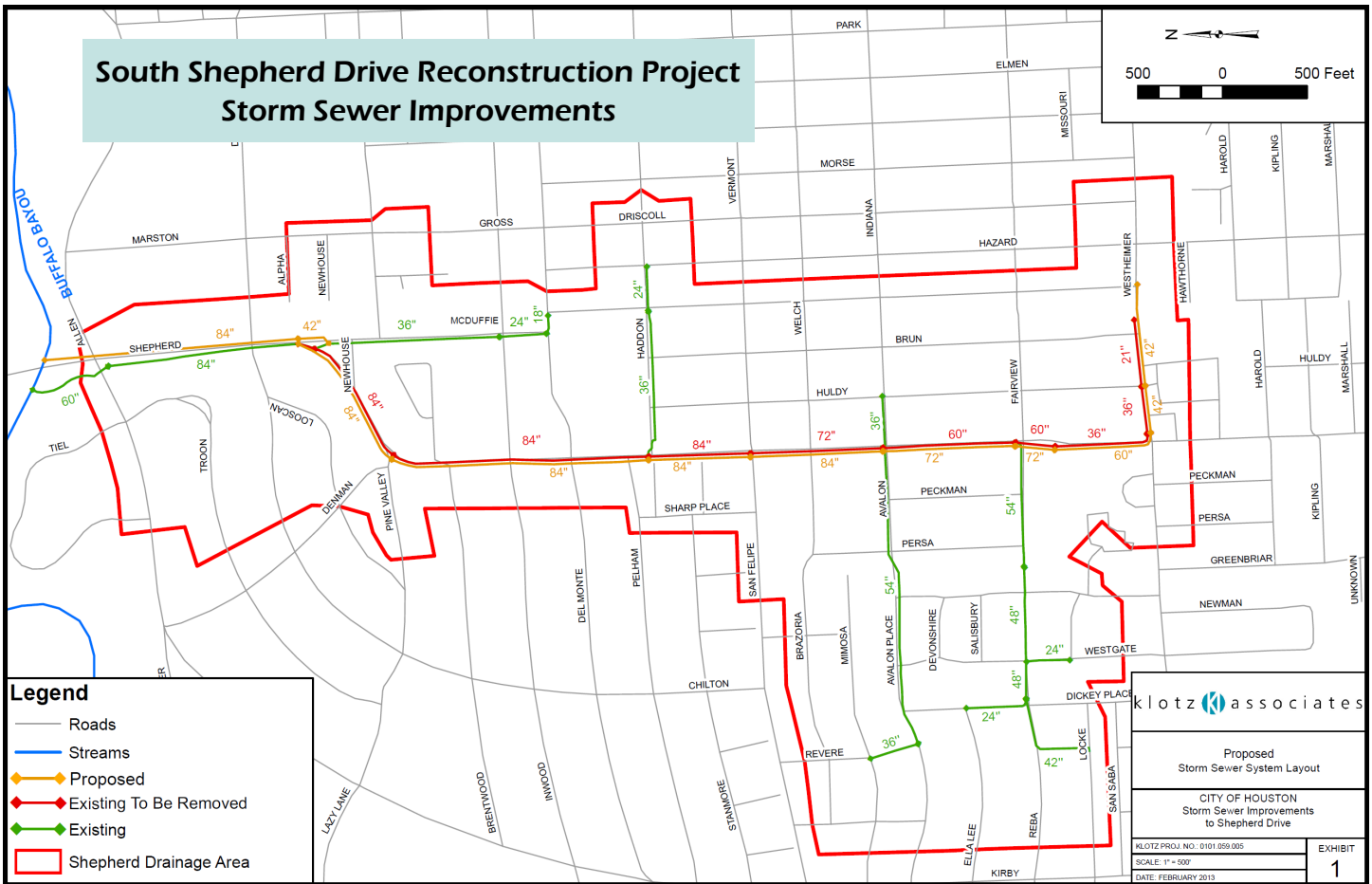
Storefront number (713) 284 8604

Office number (713) 284 8608

Daily Crime Report: <http://spotcrime.com>

Houston Police non-emergency phone no: (713) 884-3131

## South Shepherd Drive Reconstruction Project Storm Sewer Improvements



Klotz associates

Proposed  
Storm Sewer System Layout

CITY OF HOUSTON  
Storm Sewer Improvements  
to Shepherd Drive

KLOTZ PROJ. NO. 0101-099-005

SCALE: 1" = 500'

DATE: FEBRUARY 2013

EXHIBIT  
1

### South Shepherd Drive Capital Improvement Project

The City of Houston - Department of Public Works and Engineering (PWE) is finalizing plans for the drainage re-construction capital improvement project on South Shepherd Drive from Buffalo Bayou to Westheimer. All the plans have been finalized except for the final design of the underground waste-water lines. Irma Ayala, Director of Research and Community Relations for Council Member Ellen Cohen (District C), will communicate with VCCA's officers regarding the project's progress. Ms. Ayala will also meet with the PWE to discuss how it can work with our community to ensure that the project goes smoothly.

### Upper Kirby Management District

The Upper Kirby Management District will begin updating the roadway, curbs, sewers, sidewalks along Westheimer, from Shepherd to Kirby. The first phase of the project, which should begin in late May, will be putting the utilities underground.

Shepherd from Westheimer to Bissonnet is also in the Upper Kirby Management District. The work on this portion of Shepherd will begin as soon as the City of Houston project on Shepherd from Westheimer to Allen Parkway is completed.

### 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 [vcva.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vcva.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 15th of the month preceding the newsletter. *Michael Forlenza & Karen Kane, Editors*

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Architect

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**Join** the VCCA. VCCA Membership is open to all residents (owners and renters) in the area for just \$30 per year.

Pay online at [vcvahouston.org](http://vcvahouston.org)

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