

vccahouston.org
PO Box 130891
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CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

November VCCA Meeting



Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
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The **November 11th** VCCA meeting will be at 7 PM at Café Ginger located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near the intersection with Driscoll. This location provides a large



enough space to accommodate the meeting attendees and an environment where the speakers can be heard. Café Ginger offers small plates, a dinner menu, and a full bar.

New Location



Café Ginger

Did you forget to pay your dues? An envelope was provided in the October newsletter for your convenience. Please consider paying.

November 11th Meeting Speaker Bonnie Bradshaw, 911 Wildlife

Have you had to deal with unwanted wildlife on or around your property? Squirrels, opossums, and raccoons are common in the VCCA area which can result in household issues. The November 11th (7 PM) speaker will discuss simple, effective ways to solve urban wildlife problems without ever setting a trap. **911 Wildlife** is a service that uses a different approach to wildlife and animal removal. No traps or chemicals of any kind are used. Specially designed one-way doors are installed to prevent animals from being trapped inside attics and chimneys or under foundations. Educational information on preventing wildlife problems is provided to every customer.

911 Wildlife exclusively uses techniques endorsed by the Humane Society of the United States, Houston SPCA, Bat Conservation International, and the Wildlife Center of Texas. These techniques have been used successfully for more than 25 years. Come to the November 11th meeting to hear more.

National Night Out

by Lisa McDavid

Perhaps, Frankie Valli said it best, "Oh, what a night." National Night Out, October 1st, turned out to be that kind of night. There was lots of food, refreshments, neighbors, friends and fun. It was a great turn out despite hot humid conditions and threatening rain. Neighbors from the Vermont Commons and Park Civic Associations gathered together in the parking lot of 2025 Fairview.

The location was graciously offered to us by Dr. Rebecca Harvey, DDS. It was truly a community event as volunteers pitched in setting up tables and collecting donated food items. Frank Pelech, Store Manager of our neighborhood Randall's, generously donated \$75 worth of food and refreshments. In addition, Dunkin Donuts sweetened us up with dozens of baked goods. However, it isn't a party unless the police show up. We were honored to have our community police officer, Wayne Pate, join us to talk a little about crime prevention and activity in the area. Later in the evening, two more officers stopped by just to make sure we were having a good time. There is no crime in having fun meeting your neighbors. National Night Out is a great way to get to know those who live near you as well as bring awareness to community watch programs. Crime happens everywhere but through awareness perhaps some of it can be preventable.

Special thanks to all of our great volunteers. Without their time and hard work, this night would not have been possible. Volunteers: Debra Isman, Shirley Donahue, Meredith Terral, Jane Ingversen, Dennis Pechal, Anthony Simpson, Kelley Stephens, and our littlest volunteer Quincy Stephens.

There were a lot of leftovers but Jeanette and Tom Hix made sure none of it went to waste. They took the remaining food to a local homeless shelter. Special thanks to them.

Bulletin Board

WALK THIS WAY...

Ann Parsons Newman invites all VCCA residents to join the Wanderlust Walkers. This group is open to all walkers, and there is NO charge. It's a great opportunity to explore new places with new friends as you improve your health! The next walk, scheduled for Saturday, November 2, at 9:00 a.m., will be 2 miles through a serene, nature-filled setting within Memorial Park. For more information, go to the "Events" section of <http://wanderlustwalkers.wordpress.com/> or contact Ann at amparsons@me.com.

Looking for lady tennis players (3.5+) for recreational play at local courts. If interested contact Andrea Brown at tokyo-brown@gmail.com

Ahhhhh...Morning Coffee

Craving some java and good conversation? Then come meet your neighbors at the monthly Morning Coffee!

The hostess this month will be Pam Lee. The coffee will be held at 1701 Driscoll on Tuesday, November 26th at 10:00 a.m.



Household Safety

The nights are starting to get shorter, and it's getting darker earlier. It appears that having outside lights blazing, in the front and back, might be the most inexpensive implementable measure to protect your home, family, and neighborhood. Luckily, there are inexpensive options to consider. Most light emitting diode (LED) lights will cost about \$10 and will last about 20,000 hours (2 yrs. 3 mos. if operated 24/7). Unbelievably, if each LED is left on 24/7, it will only cost \$1.28 per year for each bulb! Another upside is that the LED bulbs do not contain mercury like the compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL). The CFLs need to be disposed of properly at places like Home Depot or Ikea because they contain mercury, and this can add a cumbersome, but necessary, factor to your purchase.

Benefits of LEDs to light the outside of your home are:

- 50-watt equivalent bulb uses only 2-watts of power
- A bug repellent yellow can be used to deter flying insects
- The bulbs produce virtually NO HEAT and will not attract spiders and moths attracted to heat
- The bulbs last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs
- Savings of about \$57 each year for a 60 watt bulb.
- Not manufactured with hazardous materials, like mercury

As a member of the VCCA, you will also be eligible for a **10% discount** at Southland Hardware for any outdoor lighting. Most cashiers aren't aware so it may take a little explaining. Please mention the daughter of the owner, Kathleen, as having approved this generous discount for us. She can also be reached at [713/529-0571](tel:7135290571).

Having lights on at night in the front and back might possibly help to deter theft from your car and make it safer for dog walkers, joggers, and pedestrians in our neighborhood. I know we are all so conscious about conserving energy. It is possible that having lights on outside at night might make a difference and may be worth the few extra pennies.

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 VCCA 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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Deed Restriction Committee

The street name is the street that they are responsible for concerning Deed Restrictions. Please contact if you have any concerns.

Jeanette Hix, Chair hix@rmi.net
Karen Kane - Huldy
Jane Schmitt - Brun jlc2728@gmail.com
David Hoyer - McDuffie davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net
Joyce Hays - Driscoll hysjyc@yahoo.com
John Muire - Hazard John.Muire@cabotog.com

VCCA Officers

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2nd VP: Robin Green
Secretary: Lisa McDavid
Treasurer: Andy Tallin atallin01@yahoo.com
Newsletter: Michael Forlenza & Karen Kane
vcca.newsletter@gmail.com

Thanks to Old and New Volunteers

V P of Membership:

Emmie Chang is moving to California
Robin Green has taken her place.

Secretary:

Kit Muire has a work conflict.
Lisa McDavid has taken her place.

Web Page:

Wayne Titac and Delia Cuellar for starting the web page. Delia has moved across Dunlavy and Wayne has work conflicts.
Carol Bjornstad and Meredith Terral have assumed that responsibility

Mailing the newsletters:

Susan Wilson has moved to new digs.
Marilyn Fehrenkamp has taken her place.

Book Club:

Sue Attoe and Carole Dodman have started the book club.

Graffiti Committee: Great leader- Ann Ince
New members: Shirley Donohue, Robin Greene, Carolyn Kevlin.

National Night Out:

Lisa McDavid and her crew did a great job.

Newsletter folders:

Always loads of volunteers show up. Great group.



Graffiti Removal

Vermont Common residents work hard to rid our neighborhood of graffiti. Here Anne Ince and Shirley Donohue (on the ladder) scrub the back of a stop sign to remove spray paint.

Monthly Meetings

VCCA Meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month (Sept. thru June) at 7:00 p.m.

Citizen Patrol Update

Linda Perez, Coordinator

The members of Citizen Patrol listed below drove and walked through our neighborhood for a total of 409 hours last month. Graffiti and an open garage door were reported. Thank you for looking out for your neighbors. Below are the people who patrolled:

Adrienne Bukstein	Cathryn Gabor
Linda Perez	David Hoyer
Paula Holton	Tom Hix
Helen Mann	Karen Kane
B.R. Simon	Jeanette Hix
Cindy Brown	Lisa Stephens
Shirley Donohue	Rob Fuller
Barry Brandt	Maria Rodriguez
Betsy Banks	Debbie Cody
Bill Banks	Adrianna Breidenstein
Bob Costantini	Stephie Taylor
Brenda Rojas	

November Yard of the Month

Yard of the Month goes to 2419 Huldy Street. This property was chosen Yard of the Month for its clean, architectural design. This property is owned by John Connally, who resides at 2418 Brun Street. Additionally, the Yard of the Month committee would like to thank our neighbors for all the fun and creative Halloween decorations. We enjoyed them while driving around the neighborhood.



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RIVER OAKS GYM

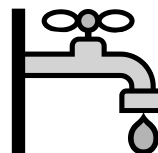
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