



# VERMONT COMMONS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 130891 HOUSTON, TX 77219

MARCH  
2010

## Stephen Costello, City Council At Large Position 1, Will Speak at March Meeting

VCCA resident and newly elected City Council member, **Stephen Costello** is President and co-founder of **Costello, Inc.**, a Houston based civil engineering firm experienced in transportation, drainage and flood control, surveying, municipal engineering and land development. His company has been voted one of the best places to work in Houston for 2006, 2007, and 2009. With his knowledge of flooding and storm water management Stephen

has helped write and rewrite criteria manuals for the Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County, and the City of Houston.

Stephen is a 13-year board member and 4-year board chairman of the **Memorial Park Conservancy**, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the natural habitat and historical significance of **Memorial Park**. One of the recent enhancements Stephen has helped implement is the new living bridge which connects both



sides of Memorial Park for the safety of bikers and pedestrians crossing the heavily traveled Memorial Drive. Visit with Stephen Costello at 8:00 PM at our March 10th meeting.

See you there!

### Join VCCA & Get Involved In Your Neighborhood!

**Membership** is open to all residents of the area. Annual dues of only \$30 are payable on January 1st for residents renewing membership. New member dues are payable on the date of membership, prorated to \$15 after June 30th.

Mail to:  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891  
Houston, TX 77219-0891

### Come to Our Next Meeting March 10th

#### Where to Go

All **Vermont Commons Civic Association** meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at **Mockingbird Bistro**, located at **1985 Welch & McDuffie**. Meet friends & neighbors & stay for social hour following the meeting. **Mr. Costello will speak at 8:00 PM.**

[mockingbirdbistro.com](http://mockingbirdbistro.com).

## Biodegradable Bags for Yard Clippings Required for Trash Pick-Up by April 5

**Beginning April 5, 2010** yard clippings for curbside pick-up need to be placed in compostable or biodegradable trash bags. According to the website [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org)



there are 5 acceptable brands of biobags sold, the Houston's Lawn & Leaf sold at **Kroger** and **Randall's** grocery stores,

Eco Guard sold at Lowe's and Home Depot, and Eco Safe, Bag to Nature, and Al-Pack sold at **Wal-Mart**.

This new ordinance recently enacted by the **City Council** is an effort to make Houston more green and to protect our environment. As with many changes in our normal routines, this ordinance will require a little practice to iron out all the wrinkles. There's a 60 day grace period for everyone to comply.

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BLOCK CAPTAINS

DELIA CUELLAR

Huldy: Fairview to Indiana  
(713) 523-4205

ANN INCE

Huldy: Indiana to Welch  
Indiana: Huldy to Brun  
(713) 522-0708

LINDA HART

Huldy: Vermont to Haddon  
Haddon: Huldy to Brun  
t@aol.com

JANE SCHMITT

Brun: Fairview to Indiana  
Indiana: Brun to McDuffie  
(713) 524-2728

DAVID HOYER

McDuffie: Indiana to Welch  
(713) 533-0382

SUSAN WILSON

Hazard: Fairview to West-  
heimer  
Fairview: Hazard to Driscoll  
(713) 557-9509

MARGRATE IMMEL

Hazard: Vermont to Haddon  
Haddon: Hazard to Driscoll  
mimmel2@comcast.net

KIM KNEISEL

Hazard: Peden to Haddon  
(713) 807-0979

LANCE HACK

Driscoll: Indiana to Welch  
(713) 594-6005

TERRIE IRVIN

Peden: McDuffie to Driscoll  
(713) 301-2794

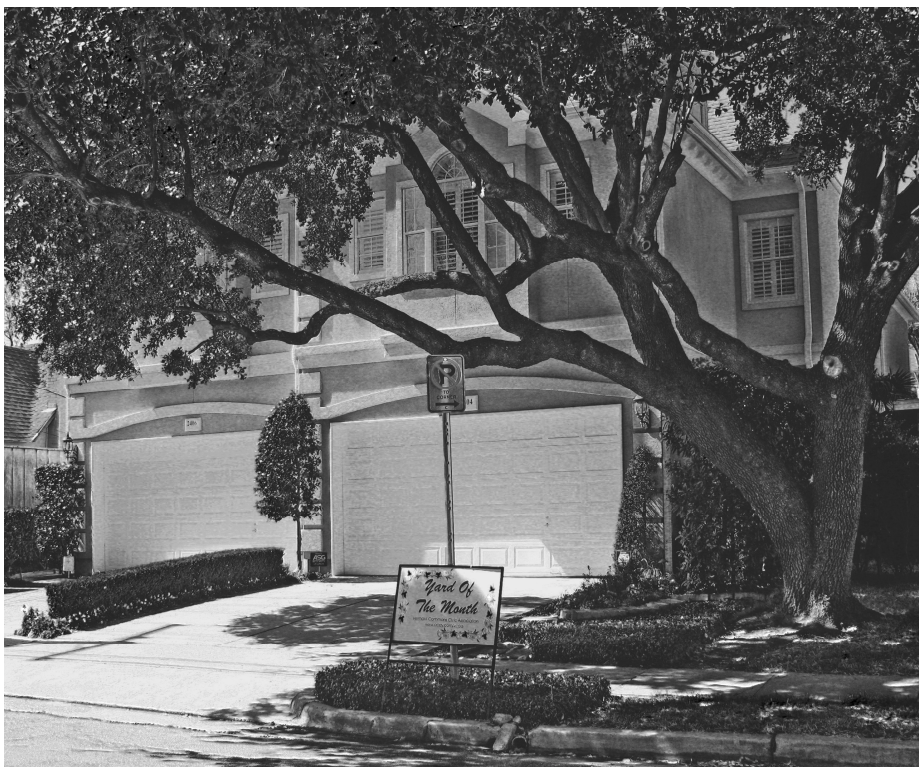
COLLETTE DUBOSE

Vermont: Driscoll to Hazard  
(512) 417-4574

**More Block Captains Needed**

Block captains are neighborhood representatives who help communicate important and helpful information to their neighbors. Many thanks to our present Block Captains. Additional volunteers are needed. Contact Jeanette Hix if you can help.

# Yard of the Month



**March Yard of the Month** goes to **Ashley and Mark Preston** at **2404 Hazard** built in 2001.

The couple have lived in their townhouse seven years and have been active members of VCCA. They enjoy their neighbor's beautiful live oak tree which shades both their properties. Pansies line the boxwood hedge at the driveway and lace around the stones by the walkway. It's a pleasure to see on a neighborhood walk.

## Neighbors Sound Off!

**S**idewalks in the Vermont Commons area are not accessible to everyone. So many of them are so deteriorated that it is impossible to push a baby stroller, for little ones to ride bikes and trikes and for the elderly and disabled to walk safely. Who is responsible?

The staff of the VCCA Newsletter started this column to give Vermont Commons residents an opportunity to have input in the newsletter and what you would like from VCCA. We would like your suggestions and complaints. Both will help the newsletter and VCCA to do a better job. Please email your Sound-Off items to the newsletter staff.

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### 2010 Vermont Commons Civic Association Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Jeanette Hix</b>	<b>(713) 521-3337</b>	<b>hix@rmi.net</b>
VP	Nancy Higgs	(512) 422-3317	nkmh54@aol.com
Secretary	Lance Hack		lhack02@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Andy Tallin		atallin01@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Karen Sturtevant		johnsturtevant@sbcglobal.net
Newsletter	Jeanenne Hagerman		bhehome@aol.com

## Calendar of VCCA Events

March: Meeting, speaker Stephen Costello, social hour  
 April: Meeting, HPD Officer Pate, social hour  
 May: Meeting, Garden Speaker, social hour  
 Neighborhood Garage Sale  
 June: Meeting, social hour  
 Neighborhood Garden Tour  
 July: No meeting  
 August: No meeting  
 September: Meeting, HPD Officer Pate, social hour  
 Neighborhood Picnic  
 October: Meeting, speaker, social hour  
 National Night Out  
 November: Meeting, social hour  
 December: Holiday Party

## Neighborhood Crime Report

### Burglary

Jan 20 - 12 AM Duplex 1900 block Hazard  
 Jan 30 - 2:30 PM Garage 1900 block Brun  
 Feb 10 - 3 PM Apartment 2200 block Dallas St  
 Feb 11 - 3:50 PM Residence 1000 block Columbus

### Robbery

Feb 11 - 11:45PM Vehicle 400 block Gray

### Aggravated Assault

4 reported in Neartown/Montrose area

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!

We need VOLUNTEERS for the following special events and committees:

- MAY GARAGE SALE
- JUNE GARDEN TOUR
- FALL NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC
- DEED RESTRICTIONS
- CRIME PREVENTION

MORE BLOCK CAPTAINS ARE ALSO NEEDED

## VCCA DEED RESTRICTIONS

In the mid 90's, many residents of what is now known as Vermont Commons began a neighborhood effort to pass Deed Restrictions, which would maintain architectural control on height, set back lines and other regulations for new construction. These Deed Restrictions were passed and filed with the County in 1996.

Residents had an opportunity to sign the documents declaring that either they wanted their property to be restricted or not to be restricted. The act of doing nothing eventually restricted their property. Not all the properties in our civic association are deed restricted.

We hope to have a copy of the

Deed Restrictions and the list of all the properties with their status on a website in the near future.

If you have questions about your property or a neighboring property, please ask.

## NEARTOWN

Neartown is an organization of neighborhood civic associations in the greater neighborhood. Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 PM at Cherryhurst Community Center.

February 24th Meeting: Items discussed: Crime related to Spur 527; related items concerning the proposed Metro University Line; Importance of Neartown in the political realm; Capital Improvement Projects affecting the VCCA area.

## Just a Note from Jeanette

It was very exciting to see all the new faces at the February meeting. The officers and I are all looking forward to a very productive and event-filled year.

The revamped newsletter is a welcome addition to VCCA. Thanks to Karen and Jeanette for design-

ing, formatting and writing all of the articles. What a great job!

### March Agenda Items:

- The perimeter VCCA signs
- Plans for a garden tour
- Rollout recycle bins
- Input from residents.

Hope to see all of you on March 10th to welcome Stephen Costello, socialize with neighbors and for a short business meeting.



Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891  
Houston, TX 77219-0891

Non-Profit Organization  
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Houston, TX  
Permit 9079



## RIVER OAKS GYM

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riveroaksgym.com  
1937 W Gray, Suite 200  
(713) 528-4600

### Rebecca M. Harvey, D.D.S., P.A.

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2025 Fairview, Houston, TX 77019  
Phone (713) 528-4054  
Fax (713) 528-1443  
www.dentisthouston.com



#### Helpful Information

**Garbage & Yard Trimmings:** Mondays

**Recycling:** Mondays March 8, March 22, April 5, April 19, May 3, May 17, June 1, June 14, & June 28

**Heavy Trash Collection:**

**Tree Waste:-** 1st Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September, and November

**Junk Waste:-** 1st Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October, and December

**Officer Pate:** HPD representative for our area. Email him at wpate43@yahoo.com with your concerns.

#### Helpful Phone Numbers

**City Council Member District D:**

Wanda Adams: (832) 393-3001

**City of Houston:** 311 for city services such as requesting a recycling bin, reporting graffiti, or derelict building issues.

**Houston Police non-emergency:** (713) 884-3131

**Houston SPCA:** General Info (713) 869-7722; injured animals (713) 880-HELP