

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



January  
2012

## Civic Association Newsletter

### 2012 New Year's Resolutions Residents of Vermont Commons

- I will join the Vermont Commons Civic Association.
- I will meet and greet all of my neighbors.
- I will watch out for my neighbor's property.
- I will continue to follow the City of Houston Water Restrictions.
- I will recycle all my recyclable material.
- I will put my garage can out no earlier than 6:00 PM the day before pick up.
- I will put my garbage and recyclable can away the day they are emptied by the city.
- I will keep the street in front of my house clean of dirt and debris.
- I will pick up unwanted newspapers that are thrown on my property.
- I will keep the bushes along the sidewalk on my property trimmed to allow walkers to pass easily.
- I will make my sidewalk safe for walkers.
- I will keep my dog's barking to a minimum.
- I will keep my dog on a leash when off my property.
- I will pick up all my dog's poop.

### Councilwoman Ellen Cohen January Speaker

Councilwoman Ellen Cohen faced frustrated voters and a crowded slate to be elected to the newly-created District C this past November. No stranger to such battles, Cohen had been victorious in her campaign for State Representative, District 134, in 2006, serving until 2010.

She came to Houston by way of Ohio and Montreal, Canada, where she lived with her late husband and her children. While in Canada Cohen was diagnosed with breast cancer before she was 30 years old. After realizing that she had questions that the doctors couldn't answer, and as soon as she was able, she founded Reach to Recovery of Canada, a self-help post-mastectomy group.

The family moved to Texas in 1977 because Texans were easygoing and friendly and the state was growing in all sorts of ways. When

they moved to Houston, she served as Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee for ten years. She went on to serve as President and CEO of the Houston Area Women's Home for the next 18 years.

In 2005, Ellen was encouraged by a group of leaders in the community to consider running for the position of State Representative, District 134. She felt it was a natural extension of the work she had been doing in Houston for the past 28 years. On November 7, 2006, Cohen was elected to the Texas House of Representatives with the largest margin of any challenger to an incumbent in Texas at that time.

Ellen's career choices reflect her commitment to public service. She is dedicated to continued public service and giving back to the City of Houston.

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**VCCA** meetings are held every  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month.

Join us at 7:00 PM  
January 9<sup>th</sup>

Mockingbird Bistro  
1985 Welch @ McDuffie.



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

### ARE YOU RECYCLING?

Are you actively participating in the Automated Recycling Program? Every other week, recyclables are picked up by the City's trucks. In order for this program to continue, we need everyone to participate. Here is what can go in the containers: newspaper, plastic containers (1-5, 7, rinse & drained), magazines, aluminum & tin cans (rinsed & drained), flattened cardboard, catalogs, phone books and glass bottles & jars (rinsed & drained). Do your part and fill up those containers.

### 2012 Vermont Commons Civic Association Officers

President: Jeanette Hix  
(713) 521-3337  
hix@rmi.net  
Vice Pres: Nancy Higgs  
(512) 422-3317  
nkmh54@aol.com  
Secretary: Lance Hack  
lhack02@hotmail.com  
Treasurer: Andy Tallin  
atallin01@yahoo.com  
Newsletter: Jeanenne Hagerman  
Cay Dickson

## 2011 Annual Holiday Lights Decorating Contest

Ho Ho Ho! The VCCA Yard-of-the-Month Committee composed of Nancy Higgs, Betsy Banks, Lillian Skogsberg, and Susan Wilson, prowled the 'hood, hot mocha in hand (yea for Starbucks!), enjoying the colorful lights and imaginative outdoor decorations in search of the winners. They were announced at the Holiday party held Monday, December 12th at the Mockingbird Bistro.

The choices were hard to make, thanks to everyone's holiday spirit, and we thank all of you!! We are also appreciative of the local businesses who generously donated prizes for the awards: Splash Car Wash, California Pizza Kitchen, Roost, Araya Artisan Chocolates, and Yogurtland! Here are the winners for 2011:

- Overall Best - 1810 McDuffie, home of Robert Harvey.
- Best Contemporary - home of Randy Fajkus.
- Best Apt - 1809 #1 Brun, home of Mary Verbeck.
- Best Block - 1960/1962/1964 Indiana –John Tovas (1960), Brigitte Warren and Adam Mullaly (1962), and Niel Avendano (1964).

Happy Holidays, everyone! And remember - decorate EARLY and decorate BIG next year - so you can be a WINNER too!



Home of "Overall Best" Winner

## VCCA Holiday Party



The VCCA Holiday party, held at the Mockingbird Bistro on December 12th, was a tremendous success, with over 90 people in attendance. Sparkling holiday attire amid the delicious hors d'oeuvres and lively conversations kept the group going for quite some time. It was a fun time and a great way to get to meet even more of your neighbors.

### THANKS to Volunteers

- To all those who helped fold the December newsletter - a great crew that worked very hard.
- To the Yard of the Month Committee for choosing the Holiday Light winners and for soliciting the gifts that were given to the winners: Nancy Higgs, Chairperson, Betsy Banks, Susan Wilson and Lillian Skogsberg.
- To Jeanenne Hagerman and Cay Dickson for producing such a great newsletter.
- To all who attended the Holiday Party and made it such an exciting event.
- To all the Citizen Patrol workers who watch out for our neighborhood.

### Do It In Houston in January

Greater Houston Preservation Alliance Walking Tour, January 8, Warehouse District – Tour one of Houston's oldest industrial districts: the Warehouse District, a reminder of the days when trade and transportation centered on Buffalo Bayou downtown.

Originally a residential neighborhood, it was transformed into an industrial area because of its location where rail lines intersected the old Port of Houston at Allen's Landing. Some remnants of the old residential neighborhood survive - the 1883 Henry Henke Fifth Ward Grocery Store, for example - but the area today is better known for its fascinating collection of warehouses, factories and freight terminals. <http://www.ghpa.org/tours/> \$10 per person. (713) 216-5000.

#### Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays  
 Recycling: Tuesdays Jan 3rd & Jan 17th & Monday Jan 30th  
 Heavy Trash Collection:  
 Tree Waste: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in Jan, Mar, May Jul, Sep & Nov  
 Junk Waste: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec  
 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](http://vccahouston.org)  
 City Council Member Dist D:  
 Wanda Adams: (832) 393-3001  
 e-mail: [districtd@cityofhouston.net](mailto:districtd@cityofhouston.net)  
 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)  
 Daily Crime Report: <http://spotcrime.com>  
 Houston Police non-emergency phone no: (713) 884-3131

## Kitty Kat Korner

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Claudia Garnica, Jane Schmitt, David Mak, Robert Wise and Carolyn Levy, 16 cats and kittens from Huldy Street have been trapped, spayed/neutered and received their vaccinations. Many of these babies are in need of fostering or a good home, so please spread the word. Contact Claudia at 713-748-9897 or [cgarnica@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgarnica@sbcglobal.net) if you can help. Please tell your friends and coworkers and see if they are interested. In addition to the hard work of these folks, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Kitty Fund. You chipped in \$500 to go toward this effort. Photos and descriptions will be on the VCCA website very soon.



## Holiday Garbage Collection

There will be no garbage collection services on Monday, January 2nd and Monday, January 16th. Service will be delayed until the following Tuesday, January 3rd and January 17th.

## Just a Note From Jeanette

I hope everyone had a great Holiday and a Happy New Year. The Officers of Vermont Commons are in the process of setting goals for 2012. If any resident has an idea about improving Vermont Commons please call or email one of the officers. One of the main purposes for VCCA is to improve the neighborhood. The goals that were set last year were met and VCCA is hoping to be successful in 2012.

Your Pres.,  
Jeanette Hix

## Sound Off!

Resident's Comments:

- Please be sure to keep your porch lights on and your eyes and ears open. The two terra cotta Warriors, from Forbidden Gardens, in Katy, that have been on my upstairs entry way for nearly a year, were stolen about a week ago. A neighbor found one of the flowers that the soldier had been holding. We determined that it must have happened in the middle of the night or early morning. How bold for them to come inside my gate, go up the stairs under a bright light and steal not one, but two statues.
- I'm sick of people speeding down our streets and not stopping at stop signs. I would really love to see more stop signs along more of the east-to-west streets. Speed bumps would be fine, too.
- There is often quite loud noise from the use of power tools coming from the house behind me. This noise can be day time, early evening, and weekend and is heard deep inside our home and it is more than a nuisance; it is very disturbing.

VCCA's Deed Restrictions regarding noise are for construction only. VCCA recommends that residents talk to their neighbors if being disturbed by loud noise. Residents should contact the City of Houston 311 Hot Line if conversation with the offender does not resolve the problem.

VCCA hopes that all residents will be considerate of their neighbors and avoid making loud noises.

## Citizens Patrol

Our watchful neighbors just keep racking up the hours, and we appreciate that. They collectively walked **217 hours** in November. A great 6th month, for sure!

Below are the people who Patrolled in November:

Cathryn Gabor: Coordinator (713) 808-9240

Betsy Banks

Bob Costantini

Rob Fuller

Tom Hix

Paula Holton

Bob Hoyer

Kelly McKinzie

Maria C. Rodriguez

Brenda Rojas

Jim Skogsberg

Lillian Skogsberg

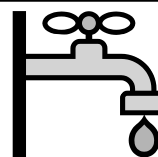
Lisa Stephens

Andy Tallin

Stephanie Taylor

Gaylor Ticac

Wayne Ticac



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drharvey@dentisthouston.com  
2025 Fairview Houston, TX 77019  
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