

vccahouston.org
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February
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CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Happy Valentine's Day



Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 41

February VCCA Monthly Meeting

The February Monthly VCCA meeting will be
Monday **February 10th at 7:00 PM** at Café Ginger located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near

the intersection with Driscoll.

City Councilperson Ellen Cohen and several city employees directly involved with the reconstruction of South Shepherd Drive from Buffalo Bayou to Westheimer (Capital Improvement Project M-000267 Shepherd Dr. Drainage Improvements) will speak at the February meeting. According to the last report, the reconstruction should already have begun by the time that the February meeting occurs. Plan to attend to receive the latest updates.



Cafe Ginger

January meeting: Thank you to Robin Greene, second Vice President of VCCA for conducting the January meeting. Three officers were out of town, so she graciously took the lead. It was a great meeting with over 70 in attendance.

Bylaw change: Re-definition of the VCCA boundaries (see inset)

The first reading of the change in the VCCA bylaws to allow Park Civic to become a part of VCCA was at the January meeting. The second reading, will be at the February meeting. After the second reading, VCCA members in attendance will vote on the bylaw change. If VCCA accepts Park Civic, Park Civic will then poll their membership by mail about becoming a part of VCCA. The name VCCA will then pertain to area described in the bylaw change (see inset).

The VCCA covers the area bounded on the south by the line that is parallel and 250 feet north of Westheimer Road, on the north by Haddon Street between Huldy and McDuffie Streets and by Peden Street between McDuffie and Dunlavy, on the west by Huldy Street south of Haddon and McDuffie Street north of Haddon, and on the east by the westside of Dunlavy Street. The area excludes the properties that abut directly onto Westheimer Road and the properties contingent with such properties.

January 26th (day after Christmas) newsletter folders. What a great crew!



Crime Prevention Tips—February 2014

Door-to-door solicitations have been part of American life for many decades. For many of us growing up, a ring at the door meant the door would be opened to find out who was there. Times have changed. Opening your front door to unexpected strangers is not a wise policy.

Here are some options to consider for keeping your family and home safe when you hear a knock or the front door bell.

- When people are expecting company or a package, they often assume the doorbell means their guest or package has arrived and will answer without checking to see who it is first.

Option: Getting into the habit of looking through the peephole each and every time may prevent any unwanted face-to-face confrontation with any unwelcome visitor.

- We have a polite and welcoming neighborhood and our neighbors may feel like they need to give people the benefit of the doubt or open the door to talk to strangers so as not to be rude.

Option: Through a closed door, and after checking through the peephole, consider asking who it is and saying something polite that lets them know you are *not* interested - "This is *not* a good time...maybe some other time."



- When you hear a bell at the front door and you don't want to answer, you ignore it and stay quiet.

Option: Consider asking who it is (**through a closed door**) and saying something polite that lets them know you are *not* interested...but are *definitely* home.

- When you have a front gate you normally keep locked, a person might feel comfortable opening their front door without checking to see who it is first or if the person has actually made it past the front gate.

Option: Getting into the habit of looking through the peephole each and every time may prevent any unwanted face-to-face confrontation at your front door with any unwelcome visitor.

- There may come a time when someone may come to your door and ask for help and might even identify themselves as a neighbor or friend of a neighbor.

Option: After having checked the peephole and not recognizing the person, and with the door closed, consider offering to call for the assistance they are requesting.

We live in a gracious neighborhood full of southern hospitality. By politely acknowledging unexpected visitors through a closed door, we have the opportunity to be polite and respectful and also make every effort to keep our families and property safe.

Warning to Cat Owners

A VCCA resident who lives on Morse has reported that her cat was killed by unknown persons during the early morning of January 14th. Similar harm to cats has been reported in other area neighborhoods. For safety, cat owners may consider keeping their pets indoors at night. See Nextdoor.com for more information.

Citizen Patrol Update

Linda Perez, Coordinator

The members of Citizen Patrol listed below drove and walked through our neighborhood for a total of 376 hours in December. Thank you for looking out for your neighbors. Keep up the good work Citizen Patrol!

Lillian Skogsberg	Bob Costanini	Adrienne Bukstein
Jim Skogsberg	Maria Rodriguez	Sue Attoe
Lisa Stephens	David Hoyer	Tim Attoe
Karen Kane	Cathryn Gabor	Helen Mann
Brenda Rojas	Tom Hix	Cindy Brown
Rob Fuller	Jeanette Hix	Paula Holton
Andrew Tallin	Shirley Donahue	Linda Perez
Betsy Banks	Barry Brandt	
Bill Banks	Curt Mooney	

Come for Coffee

Craving some java and good conversation? Then come meet your neighbors at the monthly **Morning Coffee!** The hostess for the February coffee will be Adriana Breidenstein on **Tuesday, February 18th at 10 AM, 2022** McDuffie Street between Indiana and Welch.



VCCA Officers

President: Jeanette Hix hix@rmi.net
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Secretary: Lisa McDavid lisamcdavid327@gmail.com
Treasurer: Andy Tallin atallin01@yahoo.com
Newsletter: Michael Forlenza & Karen Kane
vcca.newsletter@gmail.com

Yard of the Month

HO HO HO and Happy New Year from your YOM Committee!

We enjoyed driving around and seeing all the lights and decorations in the 'hood. Thanks, everyone!

Here are the 2013 Holiday Lights Contest winners:

- Best townhome - 2019B Driscoll, home of Guy & Maria Michael
- Best house - 2309 Driscoll, home of Jean Ross
- Best grouping - 2003, 2007, 2011 Indiana, homes of Cay Dickson, Scott & Kristina Ireland, and Bharat Nandgaonkar, respectively.



Animal Proofing for Spring

The Wildlife Center of Texas would like to remind everyone that this is the **optimal** time of year to wildlife-proof your house. Most of the baby raccoons we received last year were made orphans unnecessarily. Following these simple guidelines from WCT can save you time, money, and keep wildlife families together.

1. Don't put out a welcome mat. Trim overhanging branches that provide easy access to your roof for squirrels and other wildlife. Loose shingles are the equivalent of a flashing "Vacancy" sign for wildlife. Carefully inspect your roof and eaves. Repair deteriorating boards, warped siding, and damaged shingles. Cover attic openings with heavy gauge, rustproof wire mesh (not chicken wire). If you have a chimney, make sure that it has a secure cap. Chimneys without caps are open invitations to noisy chimney swifts and raccoons looking for "hollow trees" in which to give birth and raise their young.

2. Avoid providing a buffet. Don't encourage nesting by providing food like accessible garbage, pet food, bird seed, and stand-



ing water. Tightly bungee cord trash cans and avoid feeding pets outside.

3. Don't forget your friends in low places.

Skunks and armadillos are ground-dwelling diggers. If you have a pier-and-beam foundation, cover vent openings with heavy gauge, rustproof wire mesh. If you have a deck, install an L-shaped barrier around it. Cover open bottom decks with lattice to discourage a potential nest.

4. Don't waste time and money. If you already have animals in your home, be sure to use a reputable wildlife removal company that takes the time to inspect and prevent *all* entry points to prevent more calls in the future. Also make sure your company takes the time to remove not only adults, but potential babies as well. If you're hearing strange noises from your attic and you suspect that furry guests already have moved in, call the experienced staff members at the Wildlife Center of Texas at 713-861-WILD (713-861-9453), 7 days a week. They can refer you to a group that can humanely evict and permanently exclude them. Don't waste time and money on traps or home remedies that can make the problem worse.



Good Neighbor Tips—Your Party

Everyone enjoys a fun gathering but be considerate of nearby residents when having a party. Do not allow your guests to park in or block others driveways. Reduce noise levels after 10 pm. Ensure that trash is not left where it should not be. Cheers!

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. Submissions are due the 15th of the month preceding the newsletter. *Michael Forlenza & Karen Kane, Editors*

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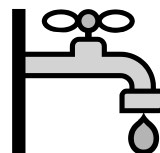
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