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Knowledge for Creating and  
Sustaining the Built Environment

August 2012

## AUGUST 27ST MEETING

**PLACE:** H.E.S.S. Building  
5430 Westheimer

### TIME:

5:30 P.M. (Registration and  
mixer)

6:00 P.M. (Evening Meal  
and Meeting)

### COST:

\$35.00 Per Person; Free to  
CSI members.

**RESERVATIONS:** Please go  
to: <http://www.csihouston.org>

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CSI Houston Website:  
<http://www.csihouston.org>

## August CSI Houston Chapter Program

### “Using Unit Skylights to Daylight Commercial Buildings”

Presented by

### John Douglass with Wasco Products

John Douglass with Wasco Products, (Tel) 727-204-9720, [jdouglass@wascoproducts.com](mailto:jdouglass@wascoproducts.com), will present “Using Skylights to Daylight Commercial Buildings.”

AIA CEU and HSW credits will be available for program attendees. Certificates of attendance may be requested for non-AIA members attending the presentation.

The August dinner meeting will be held Monday evening, August 27, 2012 at the HESS Club.

Cost is \$35.00 per person, gratis to CSI Houston Chapter members.

## September Meeting Program

### Randy Tucker, CCRD

### “LEED 2012”

Randy Tucker with CCRD, (Tel) 713-213-7355, [randyt@ccrd.com](mailto:randyt@ccrd.com), will present “Fire Protection Topic” at the September 24th CSI Houston Chapter dinner meeting.

CCRD is a consulting engineering firm committed to sustainable systems design solutions for its clients. Since our founding in 1980 as Texas Energy Engineers, Inc., we have grown to 10 offices throughout the United States in Austin, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Kansas City, Miami, Nashville, Richmond, Phoenix and Washington D.C. CCRD employs more than 150 highly-skilled professionals and support staff.

**CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER  
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Position 3, 3 Years Don Ude, CSI

**CSI SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (<http://www.scr-csi.org>)**

|                            |  |                     |   |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| Acting SC Region President | Rick J. Lueb, CSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA<br>(405) 232-8787<br>rlueb@taparchitecture.com         | Institute Director  | Dorothy Gumm Denison, CSI, CCS<br>(713) 962-4209<br>dotgumm@sbcglobal.net     |
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## August 2012

### President's Message

by Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP BD+C

I hope that everyone has been enjoying the Summer Olympics. While watching the events, the first thing that comes to mind is the commitment that every person on the team has to have to win an event. With that being said, the commitment to CSI, our Chapter, and all of our CSI events is no different.



It is important for every member of our Chapter to work toward making our Chapter strong and encouraging new membership. Our Board and Committee Chairs are working on and trying new ideas to help us bring in new members as well as retain current members. We are actively recruiting new members through personal invitation, quarterly Happy Hours, Certification Classes, monthly chapter meeting presentations, and our Golf Tournament.

The next CSI Happy hour will be on August the 8<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 p.m. at TQLA, 4601 Washington Avenue. Our last Happy Hour was well attended and a *really* good time was had by all. Take a moment to invite a guest to come with you.

CDT classes started in July and are continuing until September. We have had a wonderful response from members willing to teach sessions of the classes. Good luck to all of the students who are participating in the classes and who plan on taking the CDT exam.

The Board and Committee Chairs have discussed making our monthly chapter meeting presentations more technical so that they will encourage more attendance. Our Program Committee Chair is reviewing the presentations currently scheduled and working with presenters.

The Golf Committee has been meeting every month and will soon have more frequent meetings. Invitations have gone out to Architectural/Engineering firms, and previous as well as new sponsors are being recruited. If every member participates by inviting players, giving out sponsorship information, playing, and volunteering, the Golf Tournament would be one of the best ever.

Finally, mark your calendars for the next CSI Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. I plan on attending the convention and I hope that we have a big Houston contingent. The convention has so many things to offer our

members. There are classes, opportunities to gather information from manufacturer's, networking opportunities, and more.

I hope that everyone enjoys the remaining events in the Olympics and from the games take on the same spirit and commitment for our organization.

Holly A. Jordan, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP BD+C  
President, Houston Chapter  
President-Elect, South Central Region


**CSI Happy Hour - Wednesday, August 8th**  
**TQLA, 4601 Washington Ave., No. 130**  
**Houston, TX 77007**

By Amanda Carrington

Here is another opportunity for CSI Houston to get together and socialize with other members and guests.

On Wednesday August 8th, all current and potential members, as well as guests are welcome to join us at TQLA on Washington Ave. for a Networking Happy Hour from 4-7pm. Drinks and food are on your own, but the excellent company is free. No registration required, just show up and have fun!

We hope to see you there!

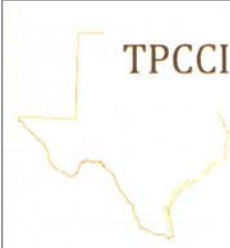


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## 2012 CSI Houston Chapter Brian Harrington Golf Classic

By Thomas L. Atwood, CSI ,CDT

CSI Houston Chapter is proud to once again extend an invitation to play as a special guest in our 23rd Annual Golf Tournament. The first 36 architects or engineers that confirm their attendance will be our special guest for a fun filled afternoon of golf including a light lunch before tee off and a BBQ dinner and awards presentation following the tournament. As always, we will have lots of door prizes and raffle items.

Please note our new location this year, **The Club at Falcon Point in Katy**, <http://www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/The-Club-at-Falcon-Point>

Don't miss this opportunity for a relaxing afternoon in the company of old friends and new acquaintances in the construction industry.

Date: Monday, October 22, 2012

Place: The Club at Falcon Point, 24503 Falcon Point Drive, Katy, TX 77494

Sign In: 10:30 am

Lunch Buffet: 11:30 am

Shotgun Start: 12:30 am

Awards 5:30 am

For a spot in our tournament, please complete the attached form and FAX your reply to Tom Atwell (713) 331.1822, or E-mail to [tom.atwell@cushwake.com](mailto:tom.atwell@cushwake.com)

Don't delay; remember the first 36 architects/engineers to respond will play free. If you're unable to play or know of other golfing architects that might be interested, please pass a copy of this along. And, if you miss this special opportunity, you can still play, space permitting, for an entry fee of \$125.00.

Visit our website for more information:

[www.csihouston.org](http://www.csihouston.org)

## Houston Code News and Events

By Di Ann Hassloch, CSI ,CCS, CCCA, LEED AP

### New Electrical Code - Effective 09/01/2011.

On August 10, City Council approved the adoption of the 2011 National Electrical Code and local amendments.

### New Commercial Energy Codes - Effective 09/02/2011.

September 2, 2011, commercial buildings and structures shall comply with the 2009 IECC or 2007 ASHRAE 90.1, pursuant to Section 19.53 of Chapter 34, Texas Administrative Code.

In accordance with this provision and the rules thereto, the City has reviewed the codes and has proposed amendments for review by the Energy Systems Laboratory.

Please visit the City of Houston Form & Publications Page at <http://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/code-enforcement/code-updates.html> to access the new Commercial Energy Codes

### New Construction Codes—Effective 12/31/10.

On November 3rd, City Council approved the 2006 Code Package to adopt updated Construction Codes. The new amendments are available at our Forms & Publications page.

Texas Adopts New Energy Code 2009 IECC effective April 1st, 2011. The major points to be guided by for the building envelope are:

- All commercial projects will need insulated glass. No more monolithic exceptions for small window to wall ratios.
- All commercial projects will need to exhibit an SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient) of .25 or less. This is a major revision and improvement to save energy for our building owners. There are exceptions for projection factors i.e. shading.

As published in the Texas Register today: ADOPTED RULES June 4, 2010 35 TexReg 4727

### Current codes in the City of Houston include:

- Building Code: 2006 IBC with Houston Amendments.
- Residential Code: 2006 IRC with Houston Amendments.
- Electrical Code: 2011 NEC with Houston Amendments—1st Printing.
- Mechanical Code: 2006 UMC with Houston Amendments.
- Plumbing Code: 2006 UPC with Houston Amendments.



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### FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH A TABLE TOP DISPLAY

At each monthly meeting, the Chapter encourages Industry Members to provide a table top display of their products and services for the inspection and education of those attending the meeting.

The table top display is also encouraged to be presented during the social hour and after the program for any questions by attendees.

The presentation fee for this time is \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members, or free with a Golf Sponsor-

### WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

A quarter page ad is only \$250 for 12 issues

A half page ad is only \$500 for 12 issues

A business card ad is only \$225 for 12 issues

Contact Don Smith at  
(713) 688-0092 or [don.smith315@sbdglobal.net](mailto:don.smith315@sbdglobal.net)  
for more information.

## CSI BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### Houston Chapter CSI

**Location: HESS Building - 5430 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX**  
**June 12, 2012**

Present: Betsy Finch, Bill Fairbanks, Bob Cook, Chuck Vojtech, Don Smith, Doug Frank, Holly Jordan, J. Peter Jordan, Janet Babineaux, Joey Penna, Neil Byrne, Tim Wilson

President Bob Cook called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

The May 2012 Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

### REPORTS

**Member Services:** Neil Byrne

Programs: Janet Babineaux. Janet distributed the current Program calendar to the board members for review. J. Peter Jordan will chair the Programs for the next term.

Membership: Joey Peena

Joey reported current membership at one hundred fifty seven members, an increase of three members from last month. He mentioned he emailed new members and also members that are scheduled to renew but have not done so. Holly asked to be copied.

Awards: Amy Salmeron  
No report.

**Finance/Administration:** Don Smith

J. Peter mentioned that the Institute will pay for travel so that the Chapter can bring in a guest speaker. He requested a budget of \$500.00 for expenses relating to the speaker. Chuck and Neil Byrne will review the budget. The Board decided to offer the ability to pay via PayPal on the website for the June Chapter meeting. The amount was increased from \$35.00 to \$37.00 to cover the fee charged by PayPal. Chuck will coordinate with Lisa Murry.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Vojtech

Chuck reported that he will present the 2012-2013 budget at the July Board Meeting. He also reported the current bank balance at \$24,669.56, the current CD 2886 will mature in June 2012 and that the balance will be transferred to the checking account.

Table Top Display: Holly Jordan  
No report.

**Public Services:** Lisa Murray

Golf Tournament: Holly Jordan

The Board discussed the upcoming golf tournament.

SPEC.tectonics: Don Smith

Don reported the June issue has been posted to the website.

Electronic Communications: Lisa Murray  
No report.

Public Relations: Logan Vits  
No report.

**Professional Development:** Mark Koehler

Continuing Education: Mark Koehler  
No report.

Academic Affairs: Al Pasek  
No report.

Certification: Holly Jordan  
Study classes will begin July 12th and Tim Wilson and Holly are working together on arranging a location for the classes.

Technical Committee: J. Peter Jordan  
No report.

**Scholarship:** Frank Bain

Doug Frank "Moved to give \$2,000.00 to the Scholarship Committee." The motion was seconded and approved.

**New Business:**

Board voted on a second Craftmanship Award to Betco Scaffolds for the scaffold work at Annunciation Church passed.

IRS/Tax Status: Chuck reported that the IRS is currently reviewing returns from October. The IRS received the CSI Houston Chapter return in January. Neil Byrne, Don Smith and Chuck Vojtech will meet before the next Board meeting to discuss whether or not to retain the CPA

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**Betsy Finch, CSI**  
**Chapter Secretary**

## CSI Certification Exams

by Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP  
BD+C

**Registration Dates:** 5/30/2012 - 8/31/2012

The CDT, CCS, CCCA and CCPR are computer-based exams administered at Prometric test centers throughout the US and Canada. The exams will be offered during a window (October 1 - 27, 2012). Candidates will receive a separate email notification with instructions on how to schedule their exam at a Prometric test center using their individual authorization number. To view the available Prometric test centers, please visit the Prometric website: <http://www.prometric.com/CSI/default.htm>. Then, select "Start" button to proceed.

Registration includes the exam application fee and CDT Candidate Handbook; it does not include the Project Delivery Practice Guide, Project Resource Manual - CSI Manual of Practice 5th Edition, AIA or EJCDC exam source materials.

### CSI Certificate/Certification Policies:

CSI exam application fees are non-transferable. Candidates who are unable to sit for a scheduled exam may request a cancellation and refund of the application fee. Cancellation requests must be submitted to the Institute in writing using the appropriate request form available on CSINet. A scheduled appointment with Prometric must also be cancelled through Prometric via [www.prometric.com/csi](http://www.prometric.com/csi) or 1-800-503-8991. Candidates who do not request a cancellation and do not sit for the exam forfeit all fees. Application fees may not be transferred to another individual. Candidates who wish to sit for the next exam must submit a new application and fee.

- Cancellation requests received by **September 17, 2012** (14 days prior to the first day of the test window) will be refunded 100% of the exam fee.
- Cancellation requests received on and after **September 18, 2012** (less than 14 days prior to the first day of the test window) will be refunded 50% of the exam fee.
- Cancellation requests received after **September 26, 2012** (less than 5 calendar days before the first day of the test window) will not be refunded the exam fee.

Those who are not successful in passing an exam may retest after 30 days but may not take the test more than two times in 12 months. Retests require a new application and registration fee. The CDT certifi-

cate is a lifetime achievement. The CCS, CCCA, and CCPR certifications are valid for three years. Renewal may be achieved by earning 24 learning hours of continuing education and paying the renewal fee. CSI's Certificate/Certification program is a rigorous test of knowledge, but is not a guarantee of future performance quality or capabilities of a certified individual.

**CDT exam** - lasts 2 hours and contains 120 multiple-choice questions.

**Student CDT exam** - lasts 2 hours and contains 120 multiple-choice questions. Full time students can register for the CDT exam at a reduced rate of \$105. Student candidates must fax a copy of their student ID to CSI for verification at 703-236-4600, Attn: Member Services.

**CCS exam** - lasts 4 hours and contains 200 multiple-choice questions.

**CCS Prerequisites:** Candidate must have passed the CDT exam. Candidate must have prepared or coordinated either Division 00 – Procurement and Contracting Requirements or Division 01 - General Requirements, and have directly prepared specification sections actually used in construction. Candidate must provide reference contact information for two professionals who will attest to candidate's experience within the last five years in the preparation of specifications actually used in construction.

**CCCA exam** - lasts 4 hours and contains 200 multiple-choice questions.

**CCCA Prerequisites:** Candidate must have passed the CDT exam. A minimum of 2 years of experience in the construction administration process, attested to by two people experienced in the field. .

**CCPR exam** - lasts 4 hours and contains 200 multiple-choice questions.

**CCPR Prerequisites:** Candidate must have passed the CDT exam. Candidate must have a minimum of two years experience in the representation of construction product(s) exclusive of academic preparation. Candidate must provide reference contact information from a manufacturer attested to on company letterhead by two manufacturers and/or employers.).

## **Construction Documents Technology Classes by Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP BD+C**

The Construction Documents Technology (CDT) classes will be held at a location TBD. Classes will be once a week on Thursday evenings from July 12<sup>th</sup> through September 20<sup>th</sup> (6-8 PM). The cost for the class is \$75.00 for CSI members and \$100.00 for non-members to cover materials and incidentals. RSVP to Tim Wilson, CSI at [twilson@weatherizationpartners.com](mailto:twilson@weatherizationpartners.com), (Tel) (832) 289-6765 if you would like to attend or if you have any questions.

This is a great opportunity to absorb the necessary background and information to pass the CDT exam given by CSI. It also dovetails nicely with the CD portion of the ARE exam subject matter. In addition, the following was taken from the NCARB ARE e-News (<http://www.ncarb.org/idp/enews/2009/may/index.html>):

**Interns in the NCARB IDP must acquire 700 training units to satisfy the IDP Training Requirement. One training unit equals eight hours of acceptable training in an acceptable work setting.**

- **CSI Construction Documents Technologist (CDT) Certification** Maximum Training Units Allowed: 5 A copy of your certificate must be submitted to NCARB to receive credit.
- **CSI Construction Specifier (CCS) Certification** Training Category A - Specifications and Materials Research Maximum Training Units Allowed: 5 A copy of your certificate must be submitted to NCARB to receive credit. (Note: this cannot be combined with EPC activities for satisfaction of minimum training units in this area.)

**CSI Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA) Certification** Training Category B - Construction Phase—Office Maximum Training Units Allowed: 5 A copy of your certificate must be submitted to NCARB to receive credit. (Note: this cannot be combined with EPC activities for satisfaction of minimum training units in this area.)

The following information will be covered in the classes:

### **The Construction Documents Technology (CDT) Program**

The Construction Documents Technology (CDT) Program provides a comprehensive overview for anyone

who writes, interprets, enforces, or manages construction documents. Project architects, contractors, contract administrators, material suppliers, and manufacturers' representatives are all realizing the advantages of being Construction Documents Technologists.

By being able to understand and interpret written construction documents, CDTs perform their jobs more effectively. By understanding the roles and relationships of all participants, CDTs improve communication among all members of the construction team.

### **CDT Exam Overview**

CDT candidates must demonstrate their knowledge of CSI's recommended practices in the following subject areas:

- The construction process.
  - o Construction contract types.
  - o Modifications and substitution procedures.
- Contractual relationships.
  - o Rights, duties, and responsibilities.
  - o Contract provisions.
  - o Relationship and organization of construction documents.
- Use of construction documents.
  - o Organizational formats.
  - o Interpreting construction documents.



**INSTITUTE & REGION NEWS:**  
**By Dorothy Gumm Denison, CSI Director**

**INSTITUTE NEWS:**

Last month, we discussed the Institute's brand revitalization initiative. For progress, go to this link:

<http://www.csinet.org/brand>

At this link you will find key points of the research, the Institute's strategic plan, and other resources to help you understand the need to revitalize CSI's brand. If you did not add your input last month, you can still add your input at [www.brandrevitalization@csinet.org](http://www.brandrevitalization@csinet.org). Your input is needed and critical to the process. Findings will be discussed further at Construct 2012 in September in Phoenix. You will have more opportunities there to participate in the process.

**REGION NEWS:** Region President Rick Lueb and Tulsa Chapter President Bruce Stone and Institute Director Dorothy Denison and others around the nation will be attending the Institute's leader training gathering June 21 in Denver. Institute Board Members and Region presidents and presidents-elect from across the nation will gather in Denver Colorado for a weekend of training on ways to better serve the membership, review and gain a fuller understanding of CSI's mission, and review CSI's strategic plan for the future guiding it in its mission. Attendees will also be able to attend the Institute Board meeting as observers. Region President Rick Lueb attended the last Institute Board meeting and was invited to speak to the Board on membership issues pertaining to our Region. If you have any input you would like Rick to convey to the Board, please pass a note on to him at [rlueb@taparchitecture.com](mailto:rlueb@taparchitecture.com) by June 18.

Planning has begun for the next Region meeting.

The Fall Conference will be held in Austin Texas for the convenience of all those who may be attending the Texas Society of Architects Conference there in October. Though South Central Region will not sponsor a booth at the show this year, the membership voted in April to hold the meeting in Austin to give Fort Worth and Dallas chapters a break from hosting the annual event which typically rotates between Dallas and Fort Worth. These chapters recently hosted special conferences so the Region voted to approve Austin Chapter's offer to hold the conference in Austin so Dallas and Fort Worth chapters can have a year break before we return to normal rotation in 2013.



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Division 07 - Thermal and Moisture Protection

# CSI Houston June Awards Ceremony Pictures

by Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP BD+C



**Don Smith, Bob Cook and Doug Frank**



**Di Ann Reid and Bob Cook**



**Frank Bain and scholarship winner**



**Kathleen and John Liles**



**Chuck Vojtech, Holly Jordan and Bob Cook**



**Rick Leub and Dorothy Denison**



**Frank Bain and scholarship winner**



**Bob Cook and Craftsmanship Award Winners**

**Congratulations to all for your achievements this past year.**

## “Strictly SMITH-ly”

### Where do Your Specs Come From?

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Do your specifications come from similar projects? Manufacturer's guide spec? In-house master? Commercial master? Write your own section for the project? All the above? Each of these approaches can work depending on the quality of the source, and your willingness to spend a few minutes working it over, making sure it really applies to your project. Critical to the process is your understanding of what it is you want and your knowledge of the product itself.

Do you grab the section from the last similar project (which was grabbed from the last similar project that was grabbed ...). The problem that is most often encountered with "recycled" specs is that they have become stale; sometimes they are in an advanced state of decay. What is the Contractor to do when you have specified obsolete performance requirements and include two manufacturers who are no longer in business, one who has changed names, and one whose product line has morphed into something totally different. It may be time to simply start over. Remember that Contractors are creatures of habit and competition; they go with what works at the competitive price they have quoted.

Do you use a manufacturer's guide spec, throwing it in at the last minute without real review because that is the product you want on the job? These vary greatly in quality, and may be marketing blurbs with a CSI section name and number which may invite more RFIs and substitution requests than you want to deal with. They can, however, be a valuable resource for quickly generating a good spec section. Evaluate the quality of the document to see if it is really going to be useful. If you can use it, make sure you fill in the blanks, and make selections where are indicated. Most manufacturer's specs are proprietary and written to exclude competitors products.

Do you use an in-house master tailored for your practice? These can be less useful than grabbing a spec from the last project, being stale if someone is not charged with maintaining them. These should be reviewed on a regular basis, about every 3 years. Your masters should include options used most often in your practice, but not necessarily every option available. The manufacturers listed should be in business and the products currently offered. After you have made sure your master is current, edit it for your project; not all options will apply. Energy and building code changes, construction practice, design practice are changing more frequently. How do your specifications keep pace with change? Your client

also expects a value; quality at a competitive price. Within the design concept, there has to be provisions for product alternatives.

What about a commercial master specification system? Even the best systems are not "Specs for Dummies." An appropriate product still needs to be selected. The selected product should be vetted against various code and performance requirements as well as aesthetic consideration. Then the master needs to be edited to match the selection. Your favorite manufacturer may not be listed or there may be some special local requirements. Even a comprehensive master may not contain all of the options required for your project so some word-smithing may be required.

Do you write something from scratch using available resources? This is probably the most difficult task any specification writer faces. While an experienced spec writer may edit a master in 15 minutes or less, doing a scratch spec may take much, much longer. The project requirements need to be matched against the product to develop the salient characteristics required, and the product needs to be verified against what these characteristics. What about warranties, submittals, field quality control, and fire resistance? This is not a task for the faint of heart.

The truth is that a good specifier may use all of these approaches in developing specifications for a project. Each incorporates some type of intelligence and corporate memory that may be extremely useful. For some work results, the commercial masters (with editing) work best, for others, a good manufacturer's guide spec is indispensable. If your office masters are well maintained, they contain your firm's memory of what went right, what went wrong, and steps to take to make sure whatever went wrong doesn't happen again. A good office specification master should reflect a pallet of about 80 percent of the products, materials and equipment that are frequently used.

A large or medium architectural or engineering firm with at least 30 architects or engineers should consider having an experienced specification writer trained to maintain the office master based upon office practice and experience, edit the master for project specifications, and advise the design and technical staff as to the merits of proposed materials, systems and equipment for a particular project. This is especially important on additions that must match previous work, but must also comply with current energy and building codes.

**"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment."**

Barry LePatner, Esq.

... Just our opinion

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## August Through September 2012

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| <i>July 29</i> | 30   | 31   | <i>Aug 1</i>   | 2  | 3  | 4   |
| 5              | 6  | 7  | 8 <i>Happy Hour—<br/>TQLA, 4601<br/>Washington</i>     | 9  | 10   | 11  |
| 12             | 13   | 14 <i>CSI Planning<br/>Meeting —<br/>Louscan Library</i> | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18  |
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