

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



October
2013

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

October Meeting New Location

The **October 14th** VCCA meeting will be at Café Ginger located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near the intersection with Driscoll. This location should provide 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

We loved meeting at Kenneally's Irish Pub but our meeting size has outgrown the space. We thank Kenneally's for their support and hospitality for the last several months.

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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October Meeting Speaker - Kay Van Cleave Property Tax Appraisal Process—October 14th

The speaker at the VCCA October meeting will be Kay Van Cleave. Dr. Van Cleave will talk about the tax appraisal district and educate attendees about how the entire process works.

Dr. Van Cleave began working for the Houston Independent School District (HISD) in 1959 and retired 41 years later in 2000. At HISD, she was a teacher and a drug counselor. During the 1980s, she earned a master's degree in education psychology and then a doctorate in holistic health science. From 2001 until 2006, she worked with Angel Flight helping to transport emergency surgery patients. She was a member of the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) Review Board from 2006 through 2009.

When she left HCAD, she decided to use her insider's knowledge to teach people how to prepare their own tax protests and taught courses at Leisure Learning. "I saw many people, especially seniors, literally crying at HCAD offices because they didn't know how to prepare a protest," she said. "I wanted to do something to help people." The course proved to be very popular leading Dr. Van Cleave to provide consulting services to help individuals prepare HCAD protest packets.

Dr. Van Cleave encourages taxpayers to learn how to do their own property tax protests. "Do it yourself," she says. "Learn a skill, and put some control back into your life."

Meeting attendees are encouraged to print out their property tax records from the HCAD website (www.hcad.org) and bring them to the meeting. Dr. Van Cleave will teach us how to read the records and understand the protest process. She can be reached at kayvctx1@aol.com.



Attention Voters:

The new Texas' Voter ID law is now in effect and will be in place during the November 5, 2013 Joint Election in Harris County. You must present an approved Photo Identification at the polls to be permitted to cast your ballot. Please help me in disseminating this information in the community

Hector de Leon

Director of Communications and Voter Outreach, Office of Harris County Clerk Stan Stanart

Ahhhhh...Morning Coffee

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

The hostess for the October event will be Wendy Park. The coffee will be held at 1909 Woodhead on Tuesday, October 22nd at 10:00 a.m.



Monthly Meetings

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

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BRING YOUR PHOTO ID to the polls

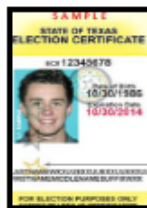
Texas requires voters to present an approved form of photo identification to vote in person. To facilitate the voter qualification process when YOU go to the poll, YOU should:

1. Review the list of approved Photo IDs and make sure YOU have one;
2. Make sure YOUR State Approved Photo ID is current; With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the Photo ID must be unexpired or expired less than 60 days;
3. Verify that the name the Voter Registrar has on file for YOU matches the name on one of the State approved Photo IDs. YOU may visit <https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager> to update YOUR 'Voter Name and Address'.

Approved Credentials for Voting in Texas



1. Texas driver license



2. Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)



3. Texas personal identification card

Voters who currently do not have an approved form of photo ID may apply for an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) at no charge with the Department of Public Safety. For more information: Call (512) 424-2600 or visit <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm>



4. Texas concealed handgun license



5. United States military identification card



6. United States citizenship certificate



7. United States passport



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Crime Prevention Tips

Unfortunately, car break-ins happen in our neighborhood. Here are a few options that might reduce this risk.

1. Park in a garage, if possible.
2. Park in a driveway, if possible.
3. Park under lighted lampposts, if possible.
4. Remove obvious valuables.

The option that Officer Wayne Pate recommends to deter a potential car break-in is:

Remove all visible items, regardless of their worth.

To quote Officer Pate: "Note To Self. Don't leave your valuables in your car. What you may think is not valuable, the suspect will think is valuable to him or her. I don't care how petty you think your item is. He will think its something good for him."



Citizen Patrol Update

Linda Perez, Coordinator

We patrolled our neighborhood for a whopping 372 hours in August! Your vigilance is greatly appreciated. I'd like to welcome our new volunteers and remind everyone to keep track of your driving hours. Remember, every little bit helps

Below are the people that patrolled:

Adrienne Bukstein	Bill Banks
Linda Perez	Bob Costantini
Mark Del Pico	Brenda Rojas
Tim McWilliams	Cathryn Gabor
Paula Holton	David Hoyer
Sue Attoe	Tom Hix
Tim Attoe	Lillian Skogsberg
Helen Mann	Jim Skogsberg
B.R. Simon	Karen Kane
Curtis Mooney	Jeanette Hix
Cindy Brown	Lisa Stephens
Shirley Donohue	Debbie Cody
SuEllen Mooney	Rob Fuller
Andy Tallin	Maria Rodriguez
Betsy Banks	

An Evening of Scenes from Opera and Musical Theater

Come enjoy songs and scenes from the Opera and Musical Theater repertoire

October 25th & 26th at 7:30pm
October 27th at 3:00pm

Dr. Brady Knapp,
Music Director

Debra Dickinson,
Choreography and Staging

Free and open to the public

University of St Thomas

Cullen Recital Hall

Presented by the UST Music Department

October Yard of the Month

October Yard of the Month goes to the townhouse pair at 2117-2119 McDuffie, both with front flower gardens bursting in color. Shane McCardell (2117) and Pam McLemore (2119) enjoy collaborating together on their seasonal plantings.



Yard of the Month

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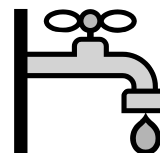
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