

vccahouston.org
PO Box 130891
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May 2014

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 43

May VCCA Monthly Meeting

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be held on **Monday, May 12th at 7:00 PM** at Café Ginger, located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near the intersection with Driscoll.

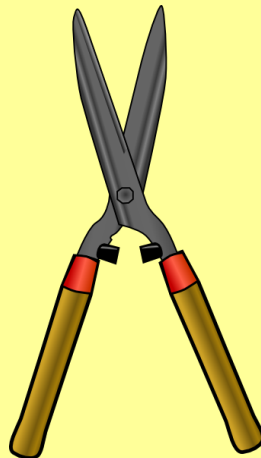
City of Houston Councilman at large and neighborhood resident, Stephen Costello, will speak at the May VCCA meeting. He will give an update about what is happening in Houston in general and answer questions about residents' concerns.



Cafe Ginger

VCCA Spring Clean Up May 24th

VCAA is sponsoring the 3rd annual Spring Clean Up on **Saturday, May 24th**. Many volunteers are needed to give Vermont Commons a spring lift. Volunteers will trim trees, bushes, and foliage in the right-of-way that block a clear view of stop signs and traffic at intersections or impede sidewalk traffic. Volunteers will assemble at the north end of Vermont Commons streets at 9:00 in the morning—Huldy and Haddon; Brun and Haddon; McDuffie, and Peden; and Driscoll and Peden. Residents will progress south on each street. Be sure and bring garden tools to saw or clip offending trees and bushes.



If you do not want VCCA volunteers to trim your trees or bushes, please notify Jeanette Hix at hix@rmi.net.

This is a great opportunity to make Vermont Commons more pedestrian friendly and improve the sight lines for drivers at intersections.

Last year's clean up crew sang and dance down the streets. A great time was held by all. Please join us.

VCCA Merger with Park Civic Update

At this time, the residents representing Park Civic Association have determined that the merger with Vermont Commons Civic Association will not take place.

The VCCA Executive Board is disappointed, as we were looking forward to joining with our Park Civic friends and neighbors.

Please tell your friends in Park Civic that, going forward, the newsletter will be mailed only to VCCA residents. The newsletter will continue to be publically-available on the VCCA website, vccahouston.org.

Our monthly meetings are open to all residents with the focus on Vermont Commons business.

Any questions regarding this decision should be directed to the Park Civic leadership.

VCCA Board

Crime Prevention Tips – May 2014

Did you know that spiffing up your front yard and house can bring some unexpected benefits? It seems that attending to our properties and keeping them tidy has a positive effect on deterring crime and vandalism. It may possibly be that it lets others we diligently to take care of our neighborhood, just as our hard-earned Citizen Patrol Crime Prevention signs do. Here are some of the things our neighbors already do that has a beneficial impact on our neighborhood:

1. Keeping lawns cut and sidewalks blown free of leaves on a regular basis.
2. Removing any debris or litter from around your house or on street.
3. Watering yard and garden consistently to keep grass and plants healthy.
4. Trimming any overgrown shrubs, trees, or plants that might block sidewalks or streets.
5. Clearing any door hangers, phone books, and junk mail left on front stoops.
6. Whenever possible, attending to any needed repairs which adversely impact the appearance of your house, fence or driveway.
7. Ensuring that packages and newspapers have been picked up in your absence.
8. Report any graffiti to 311 to have removed or use a special cleaner to remove from metal.
9. Keeping lights on outside at night.
10. Pulling empty trashcans from curb and back down driveway as soon as possible.

Thanks for taking such good care of our neighborhood and making it safer for all of us.

Nina Otazo

VCCA Officers

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Citizen Patrol Update

Elizabeth and Mike McKenzie , Coordinators

The members of Citizen Patrol listed below drove 35.35 hours and walked 228 hours through our neighborhood in March. Thank you for looking out for your neighbors. Keep up the good work Citizen Patrol!

Betsy Banks	David Hoyer	Henry Rojas
Debbie Cody	Karen Kane	Jim Skogsberg
Julie Cornelison	Russ Kane	Lillian Skogsberg
Bob Costantini	Elizabeth McKenzie	Andy Tallin
Shirley Donohue	Michael McKenzie	Wayne Ticac
Rob Fuller	Curtis Mooney	
Cathryn Gabor	Linda Perez	
Jeanette Hix	Martin Prendergast	
Paula Holton	Brenda Rojas	

Comments or concerns:

As reported on www.stopcrime.com: theft on 03/21 1900 block of Hazard; 03/22 2000 block of Park; property theft 03/25 2100 block of Morse.

As reported on www.nextdoor.com: potential car theft 1500 block of McDuffie (couple on foot trying to open car doors); car break-in 03/25 2500 block of Hazard; suspicious person taking photos of a house without any ID when questioned. * Package thief - caucasian male driving a white Toyota Avalon Tx LP# DRJ 222 stealing delivered packages off the doorsteps. * Broken gas line 2200 block Brun St.

Thanks to Volunteers

Vivian Wang for hosting the April Coffee.

Dick and Jane Schmitt for hosting the February newsletter folding and Carolynn Kevlin for hosting the March newsletter folding.

Come for Coffee

Craving some java and good conversation? Then come meet your neighbors at the monthly **Morning Coffee!** The hostess for this month's coffee will be Carolynn Kevlin on **Tuesday, May 30th at 10:30 AM, 2120 McDuffie Street.**

Sign up to host a monthly neighborhood coffee by emailing Carolynnk@sbcglobal.net Tuesdays or Wednesdays available, morning or afternoon. Look forward to hearing from you.



Yard of the Month

1905 & 1907 McDuffie

Owners of both homes moved in about a year ago, but they are not new to the area. Ed and Jean Smith lived on the same street 12 years ago. Their hobby is working on the front floral garden and their lemon, lime, fig, and olive trees. 1905 owner Dean Crassas was born and raised in Houston. He enjoys the garden and the neighborhood.



SUNDAY STREETS HTX

CELEBRATE THE STREETS OF HOUSTON

On Sunday May 4th, the City of Houston will close Westheimer to vehicular traffic from Hazard to Yoakum from 11am to 3pm. With no cars on the road, you will be able to enjoy the street for walking, running, dancing, or bicycle riding with friends and family. Spread the word and visit www.gohealthyhouston.org/sundaystreetshtx for more info.

VCCA Spring Picnic May 24th

On Saturday May 24th at 4:00 P M, VCCA is sponsoring a picnic in the back yard at the home of Andy Tallin and Maria Rodriguez at **2109 Brun** (between Fairview and Indiana).



This is the second year Andy and Maria have graciously agreed to host the picnic. VCCA will cook hot dogs and supply all the fixings. Attendees are asked to bring side dishes and snacks. Bring a chair or two for your comfort and drinks to keep you cool.

Letter from a Resident:

I appreciate so much reading about the redplum link to attempt to be removed from some of the junk mail. I hope you will repeat this link. Perhaps it's always in the newsletter and I just never saw it. Hope it works!

I have an iPhone app named PaperKarma (free). I take pictures of the backs of catalogs with the return address and my address and then ask to be removed from the distribution list. It has cut down considerably the number of catalogs I receive. Your readers may also be interested in this information. I always feel so sorry for the postal carrier--as most of these things go straight into the trash.
Shari Wescott, Brun resident

Early morning noise!!

Lynda Transier, Hazard resident, checked on behalf of Vermont Commons to see how early gardeners could start making noise as they go about their chores. Thanks Lynda!!

Here is the answer:

I am Sergeant M. Donato and I am assigned to Central Patrol. I have been asked to give some insight to your inquiry regarding the lawn equipment and the hours of operation. The sound ordinance is under Chapter 34 and one of the defenses listed under number 7 is that landscaping equipment can be used between the hours of 7am to 8pm. These are the same hours that are allowed for construction, 7 am to 8 pm. I have enclosed the link to give you guidance for your newsletter (www.library.municode.com) I hope that I have provided with the information you have requested and if there are any other concerns, please feel free to contact me at 713-247-4400.

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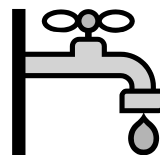
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