

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



September 2014

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 46

### September VCCA Monthly Meeting

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be held on **Monday, September 8th at 7:00 PM** at Café Ginger, located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near the intersection with Driscoll.

The speaker for the evening will be City of Houston Councilperson Ellen Cohen. Ms. Cohen has lived and worked in the city of Houston for the past 37 years. She served for 10 years as the Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee, and for 18 years as the CEO of the Houston Area Women's Center, working with survivors of sexual and domestic violence. In 2006, she was elected as the Texas State Representative for Houston's District 134. After serving two terms in the Texas Legislature, Ms. Cohen decided to continue her public service career at home. She ran for Houston City Council, and was sworn into office in January 2012 representing District C. The VCCA area is located in District C.



Councilperson Cohen will not be addressing any particular issue but will speak about what is happening in the City of Houston. Everyone will have an opportunity to ask questions.

**T**hanks to all of you who continue to make our neighborhood a better place and for supporting the Vermont Commons Civic Association, (VCCA) by paying the annual dues. The VCCA is seeking greater participation so that we can continue our efforts in the community.

The annual dues of \$40 are payable the first of September. You may pay at the September meeting or log on to our website, [vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org) and pay through PAYPAL. Alternately, you may contribute by mailing your check to the Vermont Commons Civic Association at P O Box 130891, Houston TX 77210. Clip, fill out, and send the form below with your payment.

Your dues allow the VCCA to send out this newsletter, organize social activities, and to address the multiple needs of this community. By sending in your payment you can show your appreciation for all that VCCA has done to improve our neighborhood during this time of change and growth. Your financial support makes it possible to continue the process of improvement.

**Support the VCCA**

**National Night Out -  
October 7th**  
*see Page 3 for details*

### Vermont Commons Civic Association Membership Form

P.O. Box 130891, Houston, TX 77210

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Names of Others in the Household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in Volunteering?    Yes    Maybe (circle one)



Additional Donations. Please check box:     Sponsor a newsletter- \$50 Recognition in the newsletter for your additional donation.  
(example- This newsletter is sponsored by John Smith)     Sponsor a meeting- \$50     Sponsor a Holiday Party-\$100

*Clip and Return with Dues Payment (just \$40). Checks should be made payable to the Vermont Commons Civic Association.*

## Nextdoor.com and Block Captains

As the Block Captain Chairperson, my responsibility is to notify Block Captains when there are crimes to report, or other important information. With Nextdoor Vermont Commons being so popular and highly encouraged, we will not be duplicating the information about crimes by forwarding them to the Block Captains, which forward to the Block residents.

Our goal is to minimize the amount of e-mails you receive from us. We want you to know that when we notify you of something, it is important!

If you have not joined Nextdoor Vermont Commons,

**"Social networks in a neighborhood lower crime, improve public health and raise test scores."**

Robert Putnam, Harvard Professor and Author, *Bowling Alone*

I highly recommend that you do as it helps keep everyone up to date on happenings in the neighborhood! [https://vermontcommonshstn.nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/](https://vermontcommonshstn.nextdoor.com/news_feed/)

Charles Lambert

Block Captain Chairperson

## VCCA COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS 2014 - 2015

**Deed Restrictions:** Andy Tallin [atallin01@yahoo.com](mailto:atallin01@yahoo.com)

**Block Captains:** Charles Lambert [charleslabert1962@yahoo.com](mailto:charleslabert1962@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Michael Forlenza [vcca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vcca.newsletter@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Mailing:** Jean Eagle Smith [jeaglesmith@hotmail.com](mailto:jeaglesmith@hotmail.com)

**Web Page:** Carol Bjornstad [carol.bjornstad@me.com](mailto:carol.bjornstad@me.com)

Meredith Terrall [meredith.terrall@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.terrall@gmail.com)

**Nextdoor Coordinator:** Karen Kane [karen.db.kane@gmail.com](mailto:karen.db.kane@gmail.com)

**Coffee Coordinator:**Carolynn Kevlin [carolynnk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolynnk@sbcglobal.net)

**Yard of the Month:** Lillian Skogsberg [lillian\\_skogsberg@earthlink.net](mailto:lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net)

**Graffiti Removal:** Anne Ince [crazyauntann@yahoo.com](mailto:crazyauntann@yahoo.com)

**Book Club:** Carole Dodson [cardodson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cardodson@sbcglobal.net)

**Trap Neuter Release:** Carolyn Levy [houstoncatlover@gmail.com](mailto:houstoncatlover@gmail.com)

## Additional Volunteers Needed

## VCCA Officers 2014 - 2015

**President :** Jeanette Hix [hix@rmi.net](mailto:hix@rmi.net) 713 521 3337

**Vice President- Deed Restrictions:** Andy Tallin [atallin01@yahoo.com](mailto:atallin01@yahoo.com) (h) 713 529 2503 (c) 713 594 9390

**Vice President- Block captains:** Charles Lambert [charleslambert1962@yahoo.com](mailto:charleslambert1962@yahoo.com) M 713-702-8692  
H: 713-Lam-ber(t) (713-526-2378)

**Treasurer:** Robin Greene [rbogreene9@gmail.com](mailto:rbogreene9@gmail.com)  
281 723 3554

**Secretary:** Karen Kane [karen.db.kane@gmail.com](mailto:karen.db.kane@gmail.com)

**Newsletter:** Michael Forlenza [vcca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vcca.newsletter@gmail.com)

## Citizen Patrol Update

Elizabeth and Mike McKenzie , Coordinators

The members of Citizen Patrol listed below drove 30.1 hours and walked 211.5 hours through our neighborhood in July. Thank you for looking out for your neighbors. Keep up the good work Citizen Patrol!

Andriana Breidenstein  
Bob Constantiini  
Rob Fuller  
Cathryn Gabor  
Jeanette Hix  
Tom Hix  
David Hoyer  
Sharon Israel

Karen Kane  
Elizabeth McKenzie  
Michael McKenzie  
Curtis Mooney  
Brenda Rojas  
Andy Talin  
Stephanie Taylor

## Driveways, Curbs, Gutters and Sidewalks

All City of Houston property owners are responsible for repairing sidewalks, driveways, curbs and gutters. The City of Houston owns the property from the edge of the sidewalk closest to your home to the street, but City Ordinance Chapter 40, article 111 Section 40-84 clearly states that property owners are responsible for keeping driveways, curbs, gutters and sidewalks repaired. If a person is injured because a sidewalk, driveway, gutter or curb is in disrepair, the property owner is liable, not the City of Houston.

## Perking Up with Summer Coffees

During Houston's hot, humid days this summer, we were fortunate enough to have three, well-attended neighborhood coffees hosted by three of the "coolest" ladies around. In June, Shirley Donohue graciously opened the door of her stylish contemporary home to us. Lillian Skogsberg welcomed us in July with a table of delicious delectables, as well as coffee. Finally, Marilyn Fehrenkamp kindly hosted a special event in August, a light lunch, proving that coffees don't have to be at 10 AM.

We want to thank Charles Lambert of VCCA and representatives of Park Civic Association for helping to make these coffees so successful.

All of our coffees are casual, come-and-go affairs. They provide opportunities for us to meet new friends, catch up with "young" old friends, and generally enjoy the benefits of living in the "hood." If you haven't attended one lately or ever, please join us. If you would like to host a coffee, contact me – November, December, and January dates are available.

Carolynn Kevlin [carolynnk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolynnk@sbcglobal.net) 214/980-5057



## Come for Coffee

Craving some java and good conversation? Then come meet your neighbors at the monthly **Morning Coffee!** The hostess for this month will be Jeanette Hix on **Tuesday, September 16th at 10:00 AM, 2213 Brun Street.**

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



## September Yard of the Month

**2224 Brun Street** is our Yard of the Month. The owners Elizabeth and Michael McKenzie have lived on Brun Street since January 2012. Elizabeth is a native Texan. She enjoys organizing & working in their garden. After discovering that Houston is in the Monarch Butterfly migration path, Elizabeth planted a Vitex tree. This garden has it all fruit, herbs and flowers. Stop by and enjoy the array of colors.

## National Night Out - October 7<sup>th</sup>

Want to stay connected when it comes to crime in our neighborhood? Join us on Tuesday, October 7th at 6 PM for National

Night Out (NNO). We'll meet in the parking lot of the VCCA newsletter-sponsor Dr. Rebecca Harvey at 2025 Fairview, between Huldry and Brun. Please bring your own snacks and drinks and a chair.

What is NNO? It's a fun way to get community members and law enforcement agencies to get to know each other even better and to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.



We want to see VCCA members from every street. Please tell your neighbors about the gathering and tell them to tell a neighbor. Bring your spouse, partner, children and well-behaved dogs and let's find out about what's going on and what we can do to make it a safer place for everyone.

## Neartown Association

VCCA is a member of the Neartown Association. The Neartown Association was established in 1963 by a group of dedicated individuals seeking to improve the quality of life in Houston's unique and historic inner-city neighborhoods. Undaunted by the time-consuming community-building process, they were not willing to wait for someone else to save and restore their home front, nestled between downtown Houston and the Houston Medical Center.

The next meeting of the Neartown Association is **Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 7:00 PM** — Cherryhurst Park Community Center at 1700 Missouri St Houston, TX 77006

## The Wax Lab

1802 Dunlavy St.  
Houston, TX 77006  
(Located inside Amado Salon)  
[www.waxlabhouston.com](http://www.waxlabhouston.com)  
832-888-2430

Bring this ad in for \$10 off your next male or female Brazilian wax.

Your Realtor &  
Neighbor for 23 Years.

For any of your real estate needs, call me!

**MIKE SPEAR**

REALTOR ASSOCIATE

Circle of Excellence

713.204.7653

[mspear@marthaturner.com](mailto:mspear@marthaturner.com)

[www.MikeSpear.com](http://www.MikeSpear.com)



*Martha Turner*  
PROPERTIES

**WELCOME HOME**  
[www.MARTHATURNER.com](http://www.MARTHATURNER.com)

Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891  
Houston, TX 77219-0891

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Houston, TX  
Permit 9079

Get Connected @  
vccahouston.org

Also check  
Nextdoor.com

**Rebecca M. Harvey, D.D.S., P.A.**

drharvey@dentisthouston.com  
2025 Fairview Houston, TX 77019  
Phone (713) 528-4054  
Fax (713) 528-1443



**RIVER OAKS GYM**

Bring in this ad and receive a one-week  
pass and complimentary personal  
training session.  
riveroaksgym.com  
1937 W. Gray, Suite 200  
(713) 528-4600



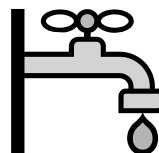
**VILLAGE**  
properties

*Your Vermont Commons Neighbor*

**MARY MCBETH**  
713.516.2992  
mary@thevillageproperties.com

Licensed Realtor  
Certified Public Accountant  
Certified Negotiation Expert

Village Properties donates to Habitat for Humanity  
after each sale. Help us build our community.



**David  
Hicks Plumbing  
Inc.**

*"Since 1952"*

**Complete Plumbing Services**  
Residential • Commercial • Repairs  
Remodeling • Gas Inspections  
Tankless Water Heaters

713 / 528.0141  
davidhicksplumbing.com