

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



February 2015

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

February VCCA Meeting
February 9th, 7 pm

Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 51

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be on **Monday, February 9th 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 February meeting is Stephen Daniel, Senior Community Liaison, Houston Police Department. Mr. Daniel will give a presentation on **Surviving an Active Shooter**.



Cafe Ginger

This presentation will provide attendees an informative seminar on developing your own unique Survival Mind Set should you ever become the victim of an active shooter. You will learn how an active shooter behaves and how to counter that behavior in order to survive the incident. Additionally, Mr. Daniel will describe what response to expect from the Houston Police Department.

Surviving an Active Shooter

The Houston Police Department is pleased to present to the citizens of Houston an informative seminar on the reality of an active shooter in your community. Dating back to 1966 at the University of Texas, we have seen senseless and tragic loss of life due to deranged individuals. In our current world, which is filled with shocking events, it is prudent to know what to expect and what to do should you find yourself faced with an active shooter.

In a world where your thoughts are rarely focused on such topics, proven, common sense instruction by experienced professionals, may save your life. Some of the points that will be discussed are:



- An historic overview of Active Shooting in America.
- Active Shooter profile
- Police response
- Run, Hide, Fight
- Priority of Life Scale
- Emergency Response Plans
- Case Studies
- Developing your own unique Survival Mind Set

ica.



See a biographic sketch for Stephen Daniel on page 3.

It should be noted that acquisition of weapons is not encouraged; yet the Houston Police Department does advise developing your own unique customized survival mind set for the world you live and work in. Much of the presented information is cutting edge and designed by the Houston Police Department, a law enforcement pioneer in this area. As of June 2014, more than 20,000 citizens of Houston have received this empowering training.

*The VCCA
thanks our
Sponsors*

February Meeting Sponsors: Del Fuller and Dr. Thom Mendez

February Newsletter Sponsors: Del Fuller and Dr. Thom Mendez

Thanks to Volunteers

Thanks to these residents who have recently volunteered to assist with VCCA activities.

Jacqueline Knight: Block Captain for her block of McDuffie and to assist with Yard of the month.

Laurie Johnson: Yard of the Month

Jackie Friedman: Block Captain for her block on Brun

Volunteers are what make VCCA run. Without the help of all the volunteers, Vermont Commons would not be such a wonderful place to live.

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 Editor*

Help Improve VCCA

VCCA needs ideas to improve the organization. Please send your ideas to Jeanette Hix - hix@rmi.net. All ideas are very much appreciated and will be considered. We promise not to harass you about volunteering.

VCCA COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS 2014 - 2015

Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin atallin01@yahoo.com

Block Captains: Sharon McKinzie

Newsletter Editor: Michael Forlenza vcca.newsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter Mailing: Jean Eagle Smith jeaglesmith@hotmail.com

Web Page: Carol Bjornstad carol.bjornstad@me.com

Nextdoor Coordinator: Karen Kane karen.db.kane@gmail.com

Coffee Coordinator: Carolyn Kevlin carolynnk@sbcglobal.net

Yard of the Month: Lillian Skogsberg lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net

Graffiti Removal: Ann Ince crazyauntann@yahoo.com

Book Club: Carole Dodson cardodson@sbcglobal.net

Trap Neuter Release: Carolyn Levy houstoncatlover@gmail.com

Citizen's Patrol: Elizabeth and Michael McKenzie

Additional Volunteers Needed.....

Citizen Patrol Update

Elizabeth and Mike McKenzie , Coordinators

The volunteer members of the Citizens Patrol listed below drove 51 hours and walked 215 hours through our neighborhood in *December*. Thank you for looking out for your neighbors. Keep up the good work Citizen Patrol!

Barry Brandt
Sue Attoe
Tim Attoe
Andriana Breidenstein
Adrienne Bukstein
Debbie Cody
Shirley Donohue
Rob Fuller
Cathryn Gabor
Jeanette Hix
Tom Hix

Paula Holton
David Hoyer
Karen Kane
Michael Link
Helen Mann
Elizabeth McKenzie
Michael McKenzie
Curtis Mooney
Brenda Rojas
Lisa Stephens
Andy Tallin

Coffee Time



SOMETHING NEW: To help our hostesses plan better, we are now asking attendees to let us know 3 days in advance of the coffee if you are planning to attend. You may do this by emailing Carolynnk@sbcglobal.net. This is not a formal RSVP, but just a simple yes will do so we can get an estimate of the number of possible attendees.

FEBRUARY COFFEE

February 11th, Wednesday, 10 AM

2022 McDuffie Street

our hostess is Adriana Breidenstein

please let us know by February 8th if you plan to attend.

email Carolynnk@sbcglobal.net

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.

VCCA Officers 2014 - 2015

President : Jeanette Hix hix@rmi.net 713-521-3337

Vice President- Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin atallin01@yahoo.com H: 713-529-2503 M: 713-594-9390

Treasurer: Robin Greene rbogreene9@gmail.com 281-723-3554

Secretary: Karen Kane karen.db.kane@gmail.com

Newsletter: Michael Forlenza vcca.newsletter@gmail.com



Winter Visitors

by Michael Forlenza

February is winter-time in Houston. While that does not mean that we will be shoveling snow any time soon, it does mean that we will have feathered visitors from the north. Migratory birds have left the cold northern areas in

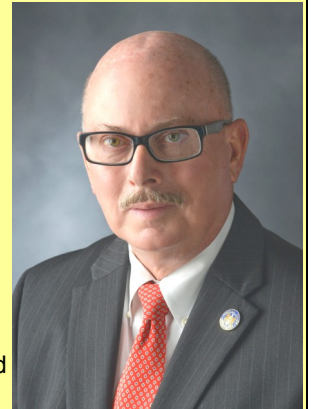
the U.S. and Canada for wintering grounds in Central and South America. A few species overwinter in our neighborhood. Listen for the soft whistle of flocks of cedar waxwings as they joyfully gobble the bright berries of the yaupon or the cherry laurel. Here is a partial list of birds spotted in our neighborhood:

- American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*
- American Robin *Turdus migratorius*
- Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*
- Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*
- Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*
- Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*
- Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*
- Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*
- Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*
- Eastern Screech Owl *Megascops asio*
- European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
- Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*
- Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*
- House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*
- House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
- Inca Dove *Columbina inca*
- Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*
- Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*
- Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*
- Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*
- White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*



Stephen Daniel

Senior Community Liaison Houston Police Department



Mr. Daniel began his security/law enforcement career managing corporate investigations for Burns International Security Services. These included undercover, background, surveillance, and white collar crime. Following the investigative management he managed security guard operations for Burns in the state of New Mexico supervising over 500 security officers.

Mr. Daniel moved from Burns to Pinkerton Security Services as a District Manager for guard and investigative operations in north Texas. While there he obtained recognition as the top District Manager worldwide in the Pinkerton operation.

Following the above assignments he served as District Manager for Smith Protective Services in Houston, Texas for 9 years. For the next ten years he was the Director of Safety & Police for Houston Baptist University where, as well as managing the campus police force, he facilitated a number of cutting edge law enforcement training seminars, importing national experts in various law enforcement disciplines. During 2001, Mr. Daniel was the Chairman for the local chapter of the American Society for Industrial Security. For over 20 years, Mr. Daniel has been a member of the ATF Bomb Council.

In 2007, Mr. Daniel joined the Houston Police Department as Senior Community Liaison. Beginning the first of 2011, he began facilitating "Active Shooter Defense" training with Sgt. Lee Lawrence of the HPD SWAT team. In October of 2011 as Sgt. Lawrence deployed to Afghanistan with his Army Ranger detachment, Mr. Daniel began promoting and presenting the Active Shooter Defense program in Houston. To date, over 19,000 citizens have been trained in Active Shooter survival by Mr. Daniel.

Mr. Daniel is continually researching and developing tactics which citizens may employ in order to survive an Active Shooter assault. He works closely with the Houston SWAT team in order to present the most viable advice possible to the citizens. Mr. Daniel is experienced in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or CPTED and incorporates these principles into his Active Shooter training. Mr. Daniel brings a passion for Active Shooter training as well as over 35 years of experience in security/law enforcement.



Tour de Houston - Sunday, March 15, 2015

Annual Bike Ride to Raise Funds for City's Reforestation Projects

Tour de Houston, the annual fund-raising bike ride, will take place Sunday, March 15, 2015. Now in its 10th year, the annual bike ride offers Houstonians and visitors a unique way to view the city with routes winding through Houston's historic neighborhoods, scenic districts and parks while raising funds for the city's Reforest Houston program. With three ride length options, the Tour de Houston is the perfect event for leisure riders or cycling enthusiasts. In addition, it is a BP MS 150 recommended training ride. Riders will start and end at City Hall located at 901 Bagby. The Mayor's Office of Special Events is planning for an estimated 5,000 riders.

For more information and registration, please visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/tourdehouston/>



The Wax Lab

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

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

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

Your Realtor &
Neighbor for 23 Years.

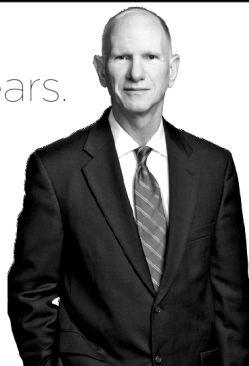
For any of your real estate needs, call me!

MIKE SPEAR

REALTOR ASSOCIATE
Circle of Excellence

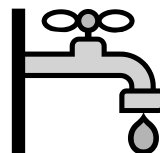
713.204.7653

mspear@marthaturner.com
www.MikeSpear.com



Martha Turner
PROPERTIES

WELCOME HOME
www.MARTHATURNER.com



**David
Hicks Plumbing
Inc.**

"Since 1952"

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

713 / 528.0141
davidhicksplumbing.com