

vccahouston.org  
PO Box 130891  
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March 2015

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

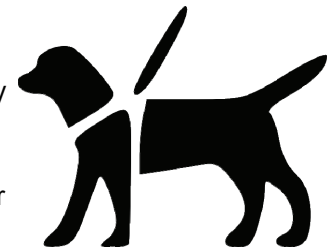
### *Springtime in the VCCA*

Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 52

#### **March VCCA Meeting March 9th, 7 pm**

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be on **Monday, March 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 March meeting is from Southeastern Guide Dogs.

Have you ever wondered what service dogs actually do? How are they trained? Can you interact with them? Join us at the VCCA March meeting and have these questions and many more answered by the puppy raisers from Southeastern Guide Dogs. Southern Guide Dogs is a non profit organization that raises and trains service dogs for vision impaired individuals and also for Paws for Patriots, a program that matches service dogs with veterans who suffer from PTSD. These dogs are placed at no charge to the individuals who are in need of help getting through daily life.



Southeastern Guide Dogs of Palmetto, Florida has been raising service dogs for over 30 years and has an active group here in Houston that raises puppies and awareness throughout the community. Meet active puppy raisers and puppies who are currently in training as well as hear updates on Marnie, a service dog raised in your neighborhood. It takes a community to raise a guide dog and you live in one that helped raise a dog that is currently in the final training phase for Paws for Patriots.



#### **Shepherd Drive Drainage and Paving Project**

Shepherd Drive construction for utilities and new pavement from Westheimer to Chilton/West Dallas intersection continues. The northbound lanes of Shepherd Drive from W. Dallas to Allen Parkway will receive concrete pavement repair while the southbound lanes from Kirby to Chilton will be milled 2-inches

and have new asphalt pavement. The major portion of the underground utilities will be the tunneling of an 84-inch storm sewer to Buffalo Bayou. A short section of Westheimer will be under construction. The westbound lanes of Westheimer will be closed to construct underground utilities from McDuffie to Shepherd Drive.

#### **Whom do we contact for emergencies and general questions?**

[PWECIP@houston.tx.gov](mailto:PWECIP@houston.tx.gov)

Oscar Renda – Tom Gould, Project Superintendent – 623-703-2012  
Oscar Renda – Bart Adams, Project Manager – 817-789-0832  
Huitt-Zollars, Inc. – Helen Stalkamp, Const. Manager – 713-569-2032  
Jody Craze -- City of Houston Public Works & Engineering -- 832-395-2392

#### **When will the project end?**

The project began on August 4, 2014 and will continue for 370 days until August 9, 2015.

#### **Will any work be performed on a 24 hour basis?**

Work on Shepherd Drive from Avalon south to Westheimer and work on Westheimer will be conducted 24 (twenty-four) hours a day and 7 (seven) days a week. The City of Houston may grant 24 hour periods of work due to special construction needs during the project.



<http://www.houston.tx.gov/council/g/shepherd/shepherd-faq.pdf>

*The VCCA  
thanks our  
Sponsors*

**March Meeting Sponsors: John Polasek & Nancy Buttino**

**March Newsletter Sponsors: Pamela McLemore**



### VCCA Book Club Meeting - January 21

**Back row:** Linda Perez, Donna Bennett, Willa White, "in hiding"-Connie Welday, Madeleine Schlemmer;  
**Second row:** Carole Dodson, Shellie Scott, Valerie Casey;  
**Seated:** Kathleen Terracina and Stephanie H.;  
**Not pictured:** Cindy Quach, Sue Attoe

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:atallin01@yahoo.com)  
**Block Captains:** Sharon McKinzie  
**Newsletter Editor:** Michael Forlenza [vcca\\_newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vcca_newsletter@gmail.com)  
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**Coffee Coordinator:** Carolyn 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:** Ann 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)  
**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 39 hours and walked 288 hours through our neighborhood in January. Thank you for looking out for your neighbors. Keep up the good work Citizen Patrol!

Andriana Breidenstein	Elizabeth McKenzie
Adrienne Bukstein	Michael McKenzie
Bob Costantini	Curtis Mooney
Shirley Donohue	Maria Rodriguez
Rob Fuller	Brenda Rojas
Cathryn Gabor	Jim Skogsberg
David Hoyer	Lillian Skogsberg
Karen Kane	Andy Tallin
Helen Mann	Stephanie Taylor

### Crime Prevention Tip

A home in Vermont Commons was recently broken into through the garage. Here is a web site that has a short video that shows how to protect your garage door from being opened from the outside.

<http://www.wfsb.com/story/25401255/simple-zip-ties-can-prevent-crooks-from-opening-garage-doors#ixzz3PmBEbHQk>

### Phone Numbers for Police

Montrose Police Station on Westheimer is 713-284-8604 but remember that they are only open Mon-Fri 8am-4pm. The other number you should have in your phone is the Non-Emergency Police number which is 713-884-3131 - dial, then Press 1 for dispatch

## Java Time

### MARCH COFFEE



March 10th, Tuesday, 10 AM  
 2224 Brun Street at the home  
 of our hosts of

our hostess is Elizabeth and Michael McKenzie. Please let us know by March 8th if you plan to attend.

email [Carolynnk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Carolynnk@sbcglobal.net)

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.

### 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 M: 713-594-9390

**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)



### Lend a Hand in Buffalo Bayou Park

Interested in making an impact in Buffalo Bayou Park? Volunteers are needed to remove invasive plants, pick up trash and debris, and spread mulch to help maintain the green space's appearance. All materials are provided by Buffalo Bayou Partnership!

Signing up is easy! Contact Crystal Ortiz, Volunteer Supervisor, with a date, number of volunteers, and any special requirements or questions. Once your date is confirmed, you will receive further details and parking instructions.

AVAILABLE SATURDAY INDIVIDUAL/GROUP VOLUNTEER DATES:

• April 18 and 25, • May 16 and 30 • Late spring, summer or fall dates

VOLUNTEERING DURING THE WEEK:

We are also seeking help from individuals/groups to:

- Maintain our designated garden areas (skilled gardeners are requested)
- General maintenance (e.g., removing invasive species and mulching)

If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed above, please contact Crystal at [cortiz@buffalobayou.org](mailto:cortiz@buffalobayou.org) or [713.752.0314 ext. 206](tel:713.752.0314), or visit the Volunteer section of our website.



**HOUSTON Livestock Show and Rodeo**  
**March 3—22, 2015 NRG Park**

### A Night of Scenes from Musical Theater and Opera

Friday, March 20, 2015 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

A three day event featuring the students of the University of St. Thomas Opera Workshop. The program will feature selections from classical opera, operetta, and musical theatre. The performances will be on Friday, March 20 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, March 22 at 3 pm. **Cost:** free and open to the public. **Location:** Cullen Recital Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon. Contact: Ann Harlan [concerts@stthom.edu](mailto:concerts@stthom.edu).



## The Wax Lab

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### Neighborhood Cats Being Dislocated by Shepherd Construction

As you are all aware, the Shepherd road construction and heavy trucks driving through our neighborhood are very noisy. It's hard enough for us to deal with the disruption, but I'm very sorry to report that our neighborhood cats are more disturbed than we are.

Neighborhood cats that have been part of colonies cared for by Vermont Commons residents for years are being dislocated. When these cats leave their familiar territories, they are in grave danger. They do not have a steady supply of food and water, and they do not have shelter and safety.

We are asking for your vigilance and help. If a new cat shows up around your house, please put out some cat food and water. If one of the cat's ear tips has been clipped, the cat has been spayed or neutered. Most likely this cat was fixed as part of our VCCA Feral Cat Program. If the cat's ear has not been clipped then it may be someone's pet cat, or it may need to be fixed.

If you need assistance with providing cat food, let us know. Please get in touch with us regarding new cats around your house. It would be very helpful if you would snap a picture of the cat with your phone.



Also, we'd like to remind you that kitten season is upon us! If you need assistance getting neighborhood cats fixed, we can help and it's FREE!

Carolyn Levy [houstoncatlover@gmail.com](mailto:houstoncatlover@gmail.com)

Jane Crowder Schmitt [jlc2728@gmail.com](mailto:jlc2728@gmail.com)

Lisa Rainey [blrainey2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blrainey2@sbcglobal.net)

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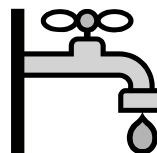
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