

vccahouston.org  
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April 2015

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 53

### April VCCA Meeting March 13th, 7 pm

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be on **Monday, April 13th 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 April meeting is Melanie Scruggs, Houston Program Director for

Texas Campaign for the Environment (TCE).

TCE is a statewide non-profit advocacy group that focuses on grassroots campaigns to protect natural resources and spur a more engaged democracy. Some of TCE's major victories include expanding curbside recycling in Houston, and passing Zero Waste Plans including single-use bag ordinances in Austin and Dallas. Melanie is a graduate of UT Austin in the Plan II Honors program, a TCE staff member since 2012, and she serves on the Houston Clean City Commission, Keep Houston Beautiful.

TCE urges you to contact your state lawmakers to support a proposed battery recycling bill during the 2015 Texas Legislative Session and to weigh in on several other important environmental issues. For example, many cities have passed local ordinances to address environmental problems caused by single-use plastic bags and polluting industries such as oil and gas drilling. However, state lawmakers are considering bills that would preempt this right to local control. In addition, lawmakers are considering HB 1247, HB 1865, and SB 709, which would diminish the rights of Texans living near landfills and other polluting facilities to challenge them in a court-like process called a "contested case hearing" by shifting the burden of evidence to residents instead of polluters. Lawmakers are considering several bills that would preempt local ordinances:

- **HB 539, SB 360, SB 440** and **SB 720** would over-ride strong local gas drilling ordinances;
- **HB 190, HB 1442** and **HB 1472** would interfere with local tree preservation ordinances;
- **HB 540** would force cities to obtain permission from the state before holding local referendums;
- **SB 343** would undo local ordinances that are stronger than state law.



[www.texasenvironment.org](http://www.texasenvironment.org)

TCE will cover these issues and the environment in general during Melanie's talk on April 13th. Don't miss it!

### Spring Picnic

On **Saturday May 9th**, the VCCA is sponsoring the annual Spring Picnic. Watch for details in the May newsletter, on the VCCA web page, and on Nextdoor.com



### Federal Reserve Bank Tour

VCCA has scheduled a tour of the Federal Reserve Bank located at 1801 Allen Parkway on April 20th at 10 AM. There is no charge for the tour but anyone who wants to attend must



provide their contact information by email to David Hoyer ([davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net)). Mr. Hoyer will provide specifics about the tour by email to everyone who responds as the date gets closer. There is no penalty if you sign up and cannot make it, but the Bank will not let you in if you are not on the list.



*The VCCA  
thanks our  
Sponsors*

**March Meeting Sponsors: Sam and Carole Dodson**

**March Newsletter Sponsors: Tony and Carla Nims**

## VCCA Web Page

Have you checked out the revamped VCCA web page at [vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org) ? Thanks go to Carol Bjornstad and her crew of three new volunteers who have been spending many hours updating the web page . Check it out as there are many new features that hopefully are beneficial to you.

**New volunteers:** Lis Harper, Nikki Bannister, Annie Miller



## 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.

## Check Crime Data for Your Area

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

## 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.

## 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*

## VCCA COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS 2014 - 2015

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**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:** Ann Ince [crazyauntann@yahoo.com](mailto:crazyauntann@yahoo.com)

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

**Citizen's Patrol:** Elizabeth & Michael McKenzie [emckenzie045@gmail.com](mailto:emckenzie045@gmail.com)

**Additional Volunteers Needed.....**

## Citizen Patrol Update

Elizabeth and Mike McKenzie, Coordinators

The volunteer members of the **Citizens Patrol** listed below drove 41 hours and walked 254 hours through our neighborhood in February. Thank you for looking out for your neighbors. Keep up the good work Citizen Patrol!

Barry Brandt	Jeanette Hix	Michael McKenzie
Adrienne Bukstein	Tom Hix	Curtis Mooney
Debbie Cody	Paula Holton	Maria Rodriguez
Bob Costantini	David Hoyer	Brenda Rojas
Shirley Donohue	Karen Kane	Jim Skogsberg
Rob Fuller	Helen Mann	Lillian Skogsberg
Cathryn Gabor	Elizabeth McKenzie	Andy Tallin

If you would like to become a volunteer for the Citizen's Patrol to help keep our neighborhood safe, please contact Elizabeth McKenzie at [emckenzie045@gmail.com](mailto:emckenzie045@gmail.com) for more information.

## Cherryhurst Park Spring Picnic—2015

Report from Sam Dodson VCCA representative to Neartown: Last year in April the Friends of Cherryhurst Park, Hyde Park, North Montrose, and Cherryhurst sponsored the 2014 Super Fun Picnic. This year we would like to invite all the civic associations in Neartown to participate at the 2015 Super Fun Picnic on Saturday, April 11th.

The plan is to have pot luck type food. Water, soft drinks, and ice will be donated.

The Super Fun picnic is a way for us to get to know each other better, have fun, enjoy some good food, and bring attention to Cherryhurst Park.



## Java Time

### APRIL COFFEE

April 22nd, Wednesday, 10 AM

2120 McDuffie Street at the home of our hostess Carolynn Kelvin. Please let us know by April 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 **Treasurer:** Robin Greene [rbogreene9@gmail.com](mailto:rbogreene9@gmail.com) 281-723-3554

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

**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)

**VCCA Yard of the Month  
1806 McDuffie**

The April Yard of the Month is owned by Devon and Taylor Liedtke. The couple has lived in the neighborhood for a year and a half, and have loved every minute of it. This was the first house they looked at when they began their house hunt, and knew immediately that it was the one for them. They love their little bungalow! The Liedtkes have never won yard of the month, but as avid gardeners, they are thrilled and honored!



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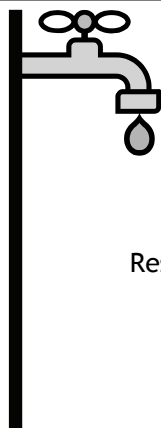
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