

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



May 2015

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



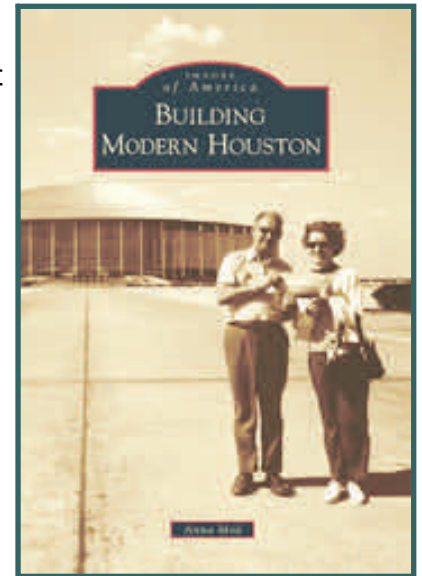
Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 54

VCCA Meeting May 11th, 7 pm

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be on **Monday, May 11th 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 May meeting will be Anna Mod. Ms. Mod is a historic preservation specialist with SWCA Environmental Consultants in Houston. She is a board member of The Heritage Society and a cofounder of Houston Mod, a nonprofit that promotes knowledge and appreciation of modern architecture and design. She is also the author of *Building Modern Houston*. Highlights from *Building Modern Houston* include:



◆ The story of the Houston Astrodome.
◆ Landmarks of Houston's NASA history.
◆ Architecture of private homes and post-war suburban expansion.
◆ Houston's earliest modern-era skyscrapers that transformed the city's skyline.
◆ The surviving treasures of the Richmond Avenue corridor.
◆ Philip Johnson and his contemporaries in Houston.



Spring Picnic May 16th



The joint VCCA Spring Picnic with Park Civic and Lewisdale will be on Saturday, May 16th, not May 9th as indicated in the April newsletter. For full details, see the notice on Page 3.



goes from caterpillar to chrysalis and soon to butterfly. Isn't nature amazing.

Check Out the Updated VCCA Web Page

The web crew of four have been working diligently to add additional useful and fun information and to make it handier to access.

Accolades to all four: Annie Miller, Carol Bjornstad, Lis Harper, and Nikki Bannister.

Website: vccahouston.org

NEW ON THE VCCA WEB PAGE — Photos and Activities

If you have pictures of the neighborhood or neighborhood activities send them to Carol (carol.bjornstad@me.com) and she will post them on the web page. Cay Dickson recently sent pictures and you can see the activity on her fence as the Monarch butterfly

*The VCCA
thanks our
Sponsors*

May Meeting Sponsors: Scott and Kristina Ireland

May Newsletter Sponsors: Anonymous -whoever you are, thanks

Neighbors Helping Out

Our wonderful neighborhood we call home never ceases to amaze. A group of neighbors have turned out, in so many ways, to assist a cat named Monty. It has been inspiring and heartwarming!

Monty was left behind by his owners when they moved years ago and another neighbor stepped in to feed him. He was found in the road with a broken jaw and possible vision loss from his injuries. He was taken to a vet for treatment. Since then he has had a jaw operation and been lovingly cared for at a neighbor's home, who is a volunteer at Friends for Life in the Heights. As soon as Monty is fully recovered from his surgery, Friends for Life (FFL) has offered to be his home away from home until he is adopted. Monty is on the mend but continues to need medical care and attention...along with lots of head scratches.

Please keep your eye out for the FFL Facebook page for upcoming news about Monty. Happily accepting donations at FFL at www.adoptfriends4life.org/how-to-help/donate. Thank you one and all for your generosity and compassion!



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*

VCCA COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS 2014 - 2015

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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 & Michael McKenzie emckenzie045@gmail.com

May Yard of the Month - 2028 Hazard



Citizen Patrol Update

Elizabeth and Mike McKenzie, Coordinators

The volunteer members of the **Citizens Patrol** listed below drove 95 hours and walked 327 hours through our neighborhood in March. Thank you for looking out for your neighbors. Keep up the good work Citizen Patrol!

Andriana Breidenstein	Tom Hix	Maria Rodriguez
Adrienne Bukstein	Paula Holton	Brenda Rojas
Debbie Cody	David Hoyer	BR Simon
Bob Costantini	Karen Kane	Lisa Stephens
Shirley Donohue	Helen Mann	Andy Tallin
Rob Fuller	Elizabeth McKenzie	Stephanie Taylor
Cathryn Gabor	Michael McKenzie	
Jeanette Hix	Curtis Mooney	

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 for more information.

Coffee Time

May COFFEE — May 12th, Tuesday, 10 AM

2425 Brun Street at the home of our hostess Susie Samuels. Come meet your neighbors and catch up on happenings in the neighborhood. Please let us know by May 10th 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 **Treasurer:** Robin Greene rbogreene9@gmail.com 281-723-3554
Vice President- Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin atallin01@yahoo.com M: 713-594-9390
Secretary: Karen Kane karen.db.kane@gmail.com **Newsletter:** Michael Forlenza vcca.newsletter@gmail.com

Good Work VCCA/Park Civic Citizen Patrol Volunteers

We need More Volunteers !!

Neighborhood Watch programs became popular in the 1970s and 1980s. By 2000, roughly 40% of the US residential population was covered by such citizen crime-watching programs. These neighborhood associations typically involve recruiting residents to participate in community meetings and various surveillance tasks around properties and common areas; a block captain and coordinator may take leadership roles and serve as liaisons to the local police.

A 2008 US Justice Department meta-analysis, "Does Neighborhood Watch Reduce Crime?" reviewed the results of 18 research projects and related studies that examined the relationship between crime reduction and citizen policing programs.

The report's findings include: Citizen policing programs were associated with a "significant reduction in crime." On average, there was a 16% decrease in crime in Neighborhood Watch communities when compared with control areas. However, the "results of evaluations are mixed and show that some programs work well while others appear to work less well."

Overall, there was insufficient data to justify definitive conclusions about why such programs are associated with positive outcomes: "Potential offenders might be deterred from committing a crime if they believe that Neighborhood Watch areas are too risky; and improved police investigation and enforcement will incapacitate offenders. It remains unclear whether Neighborhood Watch deters offenders or enhances police investigation."

The report mentions that other research has cast doubt on such programs, includ-

VERMONT COMMONS, PARK CIVIC, LEWISDALE NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC

Serving hot dogs, painting faces, honoring veterans!

Saturday, May 16, 2015
5 pm till ?? No Rain Date :-)
Balloon Artist and Face Painting at 6:00

1605 Woodhead

BRING: yourself, family, neighbors, a dish to share, a chair, and a beverage (adult or otherwise)



We live here. We work here. We love it here.
Park Civic Association and Vermont Commons
Civic Association are volunteer-based community
groups comprised of folks who live and/or work in
Vermont Commons and Park Civic. We invite area
residents, businesses, and neighbors to join us in
celebrating, connecting, and caring for
Vermont Commons and Park Civic.

ing a 2002 study that concluded that "the oldest and best-known community policing program, Neighborhood Watch, is ineffective at preventing crime."

The report states: "The primary problem is that the areas with highest crime rates are the most reluctant to organize.... Many

people refuse to host or attend community meetings, in part because they distrust their neighbors. Middle class areas, in which trust is higher, generally have little crime to begin with, making measurable effects on crime almost impossible to achieve."

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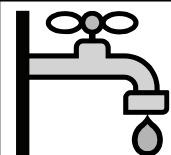
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