

**vccahouston.org**

PO Box 130891  
Houston, TX 77219-0891



May 2018

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**Fly your flag —  
May 28th**

Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 85

### May VCCA Happy Hour

VCCA monthly happy hours are the 2nd Monday, September through June. at Churrasco's, 2055 Westheimer, Shepherd Square Shopping Center (in front of Randall's). Join us May 14th at 6:30pm.

### Election of VCCA Officers

Election of VCCA officers is conducted at the June Happy Hour. This past year, VCCA elected six directors to fill the role of a president. The VCCA will continue with six directors. All the officers working together made a great team. Together they created additional activities and gave a lot to the Vermont Commons community. If you see them, be sure and thank them for their volunteer work.

The following officers have agreed to return:

**Directors:** Jeanette Hix, Lillian Skogsberg, B R Simon, Janet Meyer, Ann Green-Terrell, Nina Westerfeld

**Treasurer:** Chuck Randel

**Deed Restrictions:** Andy Tallin

**Newsletter:** Volunteer needed.

Nominations can come from the floor at the June Happy Hour.

### VCCA Happy Hour & Speaker Officer Wayne Pate

**Date:** Monday, May 14th, 2018, 6:30pm Happy Hour.  
Speaker at 7 pm

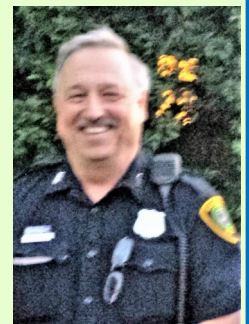
**Location:** Churrasco's, 2055 Westheimer, Shepherd Square Shopping Center (in front of Randall's)

Houston Police Officer Wayne Pate will speak at the May Happy Hour. **Officer Wayne Pate** is the ombudsman or "go-between" for VCCA residents and H.P.D. He provides timely and pertinent information to residents during meetings and as needed. His telephone number is (713) 284-8608



Officer Wayne Pate, Jr. grew up in Channelview, Texas. He was a hydraulic crane operator, before joining HPD in 1984. His doctor suggested that he join! He was accepted and started the academy on April 3, 1984 and graduated on August 4, 1984 - the same year he turned 25.

He has worked in the Central District his entire career. He worked the night shift for 21 years, until 2005, when he went to the day shift and took the PIP (Positive Interaction Program) position at the Near-town storefront on Westheimer. The PIP program is a way for citizens to learn more about HPD's operations by attending monthly meetings featuring speakers from Burglary and Theft, Homicide, K-9, Helicopters and SWAT, to name a few.



### VCCA Spring Picnic Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm

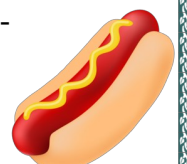
Keep Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> free for the annual VCCA Neighborhood Picnic. This is a great opportunity to visit with your neighbors, and meet new ones. Festivities will start at 4pm at Jim and Sheila Armsworth's "park" at 1605 Woodhead. The area is a shaded lawn. It is potluck, so bring a



dish, a beverage (water will be provided), some chairs, and help us decorate – bring cut flowers from your garden and show off your green thumb. We'll use them for tabletop décor!

We'll have kid's activities, including face painting and a "tattoo" parlor - plus a visit by our wonderful Constable Patrol.

Invite your neighbors and see you on the 19th!







### “End of Winter Celebration” - March 24th

Balmy spring weather greeting the nearly 50 VCCA residents that came out for the “End of Winter Celebration.” Hot dogs and ice cream from food trucks were on the menu. Kids enjoyed the games and our Constable patrol stopped by to say hello. Thanks to all the volunteers for organizing a nice neighborhood event.

## VCCA COFFEE

Monthly VCCA/Park Civic COFFEE at La Madeleine French Bakery and Café at 2047 West Gray, on May 2nd (the first Wednesday each month) at 10:00am.



### VCCA Treasurer's Report - April 2018

	<b>Beginning Balance (A)</b>	<b>\$ 7,258.80</b>	
<b>Income</b>			
Advertising	\$2,300.00		
Dues	\$80.00		
"End of Winter Party" Receipts	\$225.00		
Randall's Good Neighbor Program	\$9.48		
<b>Total Revenue (B)</b>	<b>\$2,614.48</b>		
	<b>Sub Total A + B</b>	<b>\$ 9,873.28</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
March and April Newsletter	-\$1,132.00		
"End of Winter Party" Expenses	-\$1,032.40		
Web Hosting	-\$107.88		
Holiday Party Expense Reimbursement	-\$64.91		
Newletter Postage through June 2019	-\$1,430.00		
<b>Sub Total (C)</b>	<b>-\$3,767.19</b>	<b>-3,767.19</b>	
<b>Balance = A+B-C</b>		<b>\$ 6,106.09</b>	
Pending Payments	\$0.00		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>Net Funds Available</b>		<b>\$ 6,106.09</b>	

## VCCA Citizen's Patrol Needs You!

Readers, we have had a decline in patrollers reporting their driving hours to the point where we only had 31 hours last month (we need 30 or more driving hours per month total from everyone to stay in good graces with HPD). Everyone drives in and out of Vermont Commons, which you can report as driving patrol hours monthly. If Citizen Patrol is going to continue our safety patrolling, we really need more volunteer participation. A lot of people who walk dogs, etc. daily could be reporting that time as walking patrol hours once per month (our nine veteran patrollers did 160 walking hours last month led by Bob Costantini with 114 hours). If you don't have a current Citizen Patrol card and can help out, please contact HPD Officer Pate (email: [wpate43@yahoo.com](mailto:wpate43@yahoo.com)) to set up the one-hour training session at your convenience.

If you have questions, shoot me an email or call:  
**David Hoyer, CP Coordinator**  
[davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net) 713-533-0382



## VCCA OFFICERS 2017-2018

**Directors (replacing 1 President)**

- Lillian Skogsborg
- Janet Meyer
- Nina Westerfeld
- Ann Green-Terrell
- BR Simon
- Jeanette Hix

**Treasurer:** Chuck Randall  
**Vice President - Deed Restrictions:** Andy Tallin  
**Newsletter:** Michael F. Forlenza

Send news, notices, photos, editorials, advertising requests to [vcca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vcca.newsletter@gmail.com). Submissions are due the 15th of the month preceding the newsletter. *Michael Forlenza, Editor*





Things you might not be aware of and may pique your interest:

## Constable Patrol Program

time may not be as timely as you expect. Sometimes it is many hours.

- Home owners fee:** This year it is \$375 per household. \$1 a day!! The more home owners who enroll, eventually the cost per home owner will go down.
- Hours a Constable patrols:** 80 hours a week. Constables patrolling in the area are on call to respond to vcpatrol area. The more home owners who enroll, the more funds to hire Constables to be in our neighborhood 24/7.
- Response time:** When a Constable is called, they are at your home in under 10 minutes. When the Houston Police Department is called, unless it is a crime in progress, their response

5. We love our HPD Officers, but they are overstretched. Houston needs more police. It is a big city.

4. **Alarm Companies:** Are you enrolled with an alarm company? If you are a member of Constable Patrol, the constables answer those calls. Constable response time- under 10 minutes. If you are not a member, HPD answers the calls. Police response time- much longer.

5. Please do your share by becoming a member and helping our neighborhood be a safe place to live.

For information about becoming a member: [vcpatrol.com](http://vcpatrol.com)



VCCA Yard of the Month

2220 Brun St

## Avalon Place Project Q&A

**• WHAT is the purpose of the project?** The project will install a new sanitary sewer line in a

public right-of-way and transfer services from the back-lot easement. The existing sewer has required frequent maintenance due to aging; and maintaining the system within the existing easement has been difficult due to right of way entry access issues.

**• Why are they creating bicycle lanes on Fairview that will only go five blocks in from Shepherd?** A citizen suggested that the funds be used to install street lights instead.

a. City of Houston CIP projects require a context sensitive design. Context sensitive design is defined in the City of Houston's Infrastructure Design Manual: *Context sensitive design takes into account all users, including people who are driving or riding in cars, using mass transit, riding bicycles, walking, using wheelchairs, driving or riding in trucks, driving or being transported by emergency vehicles, and being served at their residence or property by other users. Context sensitive design principles are flexible and sensitive to community values.*

b. The Houston Bike Plan, adopted by City Council on March 22, 2017, identifies Fairview

as a bike route and lane. This design incorporates the short- and long-term goals of the City into consideration by including a bike lane along Fairview.

**• Will there be significant disruption to traffic on Shepherd?** There will be no construction on Shepherd Drive as part of this project. The construction is limited on Fairview East and West of Shepherd Drive.

**• How long will it take? When will it start?** The construction is anticipated to start in the first quarter of 2019. The construction duration of the project is anticipated to be about three years.

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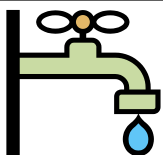
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