

[vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org)

PO Box 130891

Houston, TX 77219-0891



October 2018

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Published Monthly September — June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 88

### VCCA Monthly 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 Randalls). **There is no gathering in October.** Join us October 2nd for the National Night Out, then get ready for a special *Hawk-tastic* Happy Hour on November 12th!

Meet Mary Anne Weber from Houston Audubon and her hawks. Learn all about these magnificent birds and their role in our neighborhoods and city parks.

### VCCA Thanks You!

To all of you who made your annual contribution to VCCA for 2018-2019 - a sincere thank you. As always, we put the funds to good use by publishing the monthly newsletter and sponsoring community activities like the National Night Out, Spring Picnic, Holiday Party, End of Winter Celebration, etc. It's never too late to contribute! If you haven't done so, there are several EASY ways to make your \$40 payment: 1) Checks made out to VCCA and mailed to: VCCA, PO Box 130891, Houston, Tx. 77210; 2) Going to [vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org) and clicking the PayPal button under Membership 3) We gladly accept checks and cash at the monthly happy hours.

### VCCA National Night Out - October 2 at 6pm

**Date:** Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018, 6:00pm

**Location:** Parking lot of Dr. Rebecca Harvey's Dentist Office @ 2025 Fairview



*Bring food and drinks to share. A chair if you need one.*

The annual National Night Out brings neighborhoods and law enforcement agencies together for an evening of fun, camaraderie and community. Through strengthening relationships, the National Night Out results in:

- Heightened awareness for crime and drug prevention.
- Increased support for, and participation in local anti-crime programs.
- Sending a message to criminals that our neighborhood is actively engaged in deterring and fighting crime.



We welcome all VCCA members! Celebrate and strengthen our community, by finding out what's going on in the neighborhood, and taking a bite out of crime. Bring your partner, spouse, kids, and well-behaved dogs. Join us!



### GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

Did you know that VCCA is a partner in the Good Neighbor Program by Randalls? Link your Remarkable Card to VCCA's Good Neighbor number 3901 at [randalls.com](http://randalls.com) and our neighborhood will get a 1% rebate on all your purchases at the end of the quarter! Signing up is a breeze, and you can add up to three organizations, so why not help support your neighborhood?



## HELPING STRAY CATS: NEIGHBORHOOD TRAP/NEUTER/RELEASE PROGRAM

With your donations we have spayed/neutered 31 cats and kittens since 2012. Most of these cats were returned to the place they were trapped, while the tame ones were placed in loving homes. We can thank Save A Purrfect Cat Rescue and Friends For Life for helping us with those cats.

Our neighbors have also paid out of their own pockets for an additional 30-40 cats and kittens to be spayed/neutered. Many were placed in loving homes.

Now comes the astonishing number. These surgeries have prevented an estimated 1400 births! It's hard to argue we're all better off without a well over one thousand additional cats in the neighborhood.

Taming wild kittens, rehoming tame cats and keeping owned cats inside are all also critical to our success. If you allow your cat outside, please make sure the cat has a collar

and tags, is micro-chipped, and spayed/neutered. Please be on the lookout for free-roaming unaltered cats - if they don't have a clipped ear, they need to be spayed/neutered as quickly as possible.

Volunteers listed below can advise you on how to trap and provide the needed equipment. Spay/neuter surgery, rabies vaccination, de-worming and flea treatment will be covered by the TNR funds. Consider becoming a foster while permanent homes are sought.

We also need volunteers! We have a need for at least one more person to be a contact point for information on this TNR program and to help advise neighbors on TNR. In addition, there is always a need for people to help with transport to SNAP or provide a garage, screened porch or spare bathroom for the post surgery recovery.



*If you need assistance getting neighborhood cats fixed, we can help, and it's FREE!*

[neighborhoodcats.org](http://neighborhoodcats.org)  
[alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org)

Carolyn Levy

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

Lisa Rainey

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

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION HAPPY HOUR

Many VCCA Volunteers gathered at Churrasco's for Happy Hour. There was lots of conversation about what a great neighborhood we live in, getting reacquainted with everyone, and sharing stories from summer adventures. All enjoyed a complimentary drink, courtesy of VCCA, in appreciation for their contributions. Those unable to attend were missed!

### VCCA Event Schedule for 2018-2019

- October 2 — National Night Out
- October 3 — Coffee
- October 29 — Citizen Patrol Training
- November 7 — Coffee
- November 12 — Happy Hour/Speaker: Hawk Presentation
- December 3 — Holiday Party
- December 5 — Coffee
- January 2 — Coffee
- January 14 — Happy Hour/Speaker: City of Houston update on Fairview reconstruction

Send news, notices, photos, editorials, advertising requests to [nat.podo@gmail.com](mailto:nat.podo@gmail.com). Submissions are due the 15th of the month preceding the newsletter.  
Natalia Podosinnikova, Editor



### CITIZENS PATROL

In September, ten Citizens Patrol volunteers committed to the safety of our neighborhood drove and walked for a total of 109 hours. **Rob Fuller**, **Jeanette Hix** and **Cathryn Gabor** led the way with 19, 18 and 16 hours respectively. Thanks to all our volunteer patrollers!

More patrollers are needed, so a **free, no-obligation 1-hour training session** has been scheduled for **Monday, October 29th, 7PM at 2026 McDuffie Street**. The Citizen Patrol program is an integral part of our Vermont Commons security plan, in partnership with HPD and the Constable Patrol. Please join us for the opportunity to learn more! Send an email to the host David Hoyer at [davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net) to reserve your spot.

### VCCA OFFICERS 2018-2019

**Directors:** Jeanette Hix, Stephanie Taylor, Nina Westerfeld, Janet Meyer, BR Simon, Lillian Skogsberg, Ann Green Terrel

**Secretary:** Chuck Randall

**VP Deed Restrictions:** Andy Tallin

**Newsletter:** Natalia Podosinnikova



*Lots of sharing, laughs and enjoyment at September Coffee! Hope you can join us on the first Wednesday of October at la Madeleine, 2047 W. Gray at 10am.*

## POT HOLES

Houston roads getting you down? Check out [houstonpotholes.org](http://houstonpotholes.org) for real-time graphs and charts tracking road repair progress, as well as information on what constitutes a pothole. Don't forget to download the 311 app from iTunes or Google - it's the fastest way to report potholes and other street conditions. You may also call 311 to submit a report.

(If outside Houston, dial 713.837.0311)



VCCA Yard of the Month

1604 Hazard St.

## ADOPT-A-DRAIN PROGRAM

Houston's new program, Adopt-A-Drain, is a partnership between Houston Public Works, Keep Houston Beautiful and community partners. This program hopes to help prevent future flooding, save taxpayer money and keep our neighborhood storm drains clean and litter free. "Anyone in the community can help by adopting a drain and promising to keep it free from leaves and trash, especially before it rains," said Mayor Turner, "these are just small actions that can add up to make a big difference for our entire City". Visit [HoustonAdoptaDrain.org](http://HoustonAdoptaDrain.org) to sign up.



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