

vccahouston.org

PO Box 130891

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March 2019

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
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VCCA Happy Hour

This month's gathering will not feature a speaker, but is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors better. Bring your best vacation tales, work and life updates, and favorite anecdotes to share. Join Vermont Common residents in the bar area of Churrascos, 2055 Westheimer, on **March 11 at 6:30pm!**

Get ready for the VCCA Picnic to take place instead of the April Happy Hour. Can't wait to see everyone at **4:00pm on Sunday, April 7** at 1605 Woodhead.

VCCA Coffe

Join your VCCA/Park Civic neighbors for coffee, laughter and friendship at 10:00am on March 6th at La Madeleine French Bakery, 2047 West Gray. Hope to see you there!

ARE YOU RECYCLING PROPERLY?

Did you know that these common items **cannot** go into the green recycling bins?

- **Filled up paper bags** - all items should be completely out and loose in the bin
- Any **glass items** or **styrofoam**
- **Unflattened** cardboard boxes
- Wrapping or tissue paper, napkins, etc.

Please take the time to find out how to correctly fill and place your bins for the curbside recycling program at the City of Houston webpage www.houstontx.gov.

Join VC Constable Patrol

Have you ever come home to find your garage door open, but you're pretty sure you closed it? Instinctively, you call HPD, but it can feel like a long wait before they can arrive and make sure your home is safe.

Understaffed by 2500 officers, they must, understandably, concentrate on more serious crimes. On the other hand, a call to the Constable will bring a Deputy out in a very short period of time. Why? Because rapid response is of critical importance to them, and thanks to the VC Constable Patrol program, they are already in our neighborhood! The VC Patrol Membership Drive has begun, and we hope that you'll become a part of this valuable program and everything it has to offer:



- Vacation Watch Service
- Yard signage indicating membership in the program
- High Constable visibility in the neighborhood, a deterrent to crime
- Quick response from a community liaison, if you have any questions
- Various programs to address personal and home security and safety
- Personal relationship with the Constables
- *And much much more!*

Help make our community safer by joining our program or renewing your existing membership. To join, or for more information, please visit www.vcpatrol.com

FEBRUARY HAPPY HOUR - CAY DICKSON AND CONSTABLES



The VCCA Happy Hour on February 11th at Churrascos turned out to be quite a remarkable event. Cay Dickson entertained us with her marvelous sense of humor, as she shared about her experiences at the Constable's Citizens Police Academy. Four representatives from the Constable's Office were also in attendance.

City of Houston police officer Wayne Pate also came to the happy hour. He let everyone in attendance know that he would be retiring in December. As a representative of the Houston Police Department, he has been coming to VCCA meeting for years, and Vermont Commons residents had always looked forward to his presentations about safety and crime in Houston.



He requested that we pass on this message:

"I would truly like to thank everyone for the wonderful reception that I had received from everyone at the VCCA meeting last week. It's the people like you that I truly enjoy working for and will miss when I retire... I love you guys!!! Have a wonderful day!!!!!"

VCCA OFFICERS 2019

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

Treasurer: Chuck Randall

VP Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin

Newsletter: Natalia Podosinnikova



Yard of the Month Volunteers



Each month **Stephanie Taylor, Kathleen Terracina** and **Sara Strom** take the time to walk around the neighborhood and choose the Yard of the Month. The yard owners then get to show off this honor with a sign in front of their home. Thank you very much for all your continued hard work on behalf of the Vermont Commons!

VCCA Event Schedule for 2019

- March 6 — Coffee
- March 11 — Happy Hour
- April 3 — Coffee
- April 7 — Picnic
- May 1 — Coffee
- May 13 — Happy Hour/Speaker: Stephen Costello (aka Houston's Flood Czar) to talk about the city's drainage issues and plans
- June 5 — Coffee
- June 10 — Happy Hour/Speaker: City Councilperson Ellen Cohen

Send news, notices, photos, editorials, advertising requests to nat.podo@gmail.com. Submissions are due the 15th of the month preceding the newsletter.

Natalia Podosinnikova, Editor



VCCA Yard of the Month



1600 Hazard St.

Neartown Meeting Update

Neartown Association had its monthly meeting on January 22 at the Cherryhurst Park Community Center. David Robinson, Houston City Councilman At-Large Position 2 spoke first about a variety of issues, including that the City is “revenue-challenged.” If you would like more information, including research establishing recent Houston revenue growth, please email David Hoyer at davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net.

The second speaker was Muxian Fang, from the City of Houston Planning Department. She spoke about Proposed Transit Corridor Amendments, most notably regarding making transit corridor streets more pedestrian friendly. For more information, you can email her at muxian.fang@houstontx.gov. The final topic revolved around METRO’s long-range transportation Moving Forward Plan. The plan draft is currently available for public perusal and input on METRONext.org, and the conversation also continues at local community events, a calendar for which can, too, be found on the site.

CITIZEN PATROL

In February, ten Citizen Patrol volunteers completed a total of 176 hours of walking and driving patrol. These efforts helped keep the neighborhood safe for an average of 6 hours a day! Thank you to all volunteers, and especially our new patroller **Charley Kifer**, who did 68 hours, and the veteran patroller **Bob Costantini**, who did 54 hours. If you’d like to learn more about Citizen Patrol, or to become a volunteer, contact David Hoyer at davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net.

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