

vccahouston.org

PO Box 130891

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May 2019

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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

VCCA monthly happy hours are on the 2nd Monday at 6:30pm, September through June, at Churrascos on 2055 Westheimer. Houston District C Council Member and Mayor Pro-Tem **Ellen R. Cohen** will address residents' questions regarding neighborhood and city matters at the June Happy Hour. *To take part in the discussion, please submit topics of interest to Jeanette Hix at hix@rmi.net prior to next month's gathering.*

VCCA Book Club

The VCCA Book Club is open to members of VCCA and Park Civic. We meet year-round on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Cafe Express 2-3:30 p.m. In addition, once or twice each year, we choose a book from the MFAH Book Club and take docent led tours of art related to the book at the Museum. If you are a book lover, please consider joining us. We would love to have you. Please contact Carole Dodson at VCCA.Bookclub@gmail.com.



Monthly Coffee

Share some delicious food, coffee and a laugh with your VCCA/Park Civic neighbors every first Wednesday of the month at 10am at La Madeleine French Bakery, 2047 West Gray. Hope to see you there on May 1st!



May Happy Hour & Speaker:

Chief Recovery Officer Stephen Costello

Date: Monday, May 13th, 6:30pm Happy Hour
Speaker at 7pm

Location: Churrasco's, 2055 Westheimer,
Shepherd Square Shopping Center

Houston's **Chief Recovery Officer Stephen Costello** is bringing his extensive flooding and drainage expertise to talk about ongoing and future projects aimed at preventing potential flooding. In his current role, Mr. Costello engages with different levels of government, private and non-profit organizations, interest groups and individuals to handle any and all flood-related matters. One of his major tasks is ensuring rapid recovery from Hurricane Harvey and other legacy disasters, as well as preparing the city to handle any future emergencies. **If you have any questions or topic suggestions, please send them to Jeanette Hix at hix@rmi.net.**

NO BLOCK LEFT BEHIND

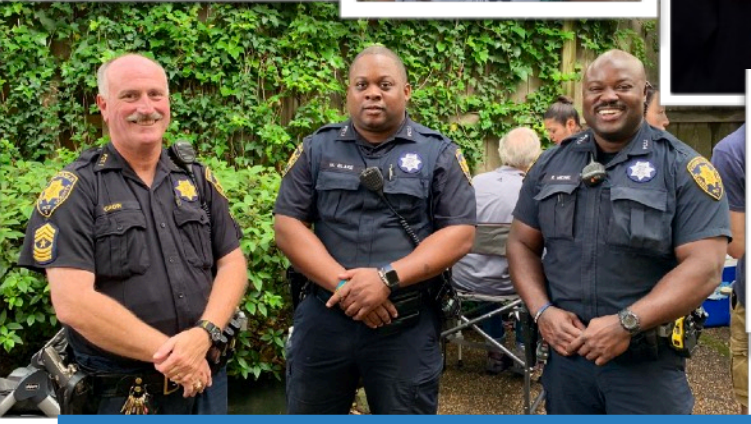
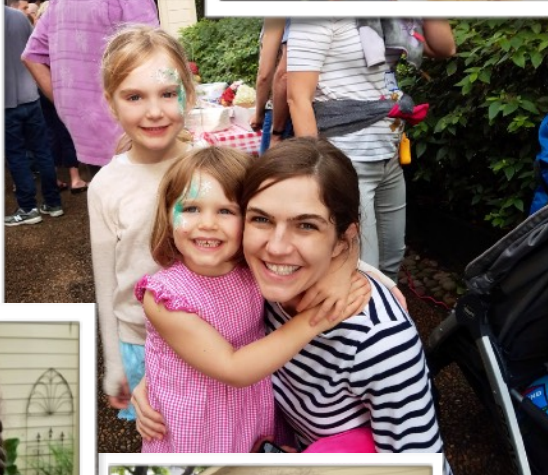
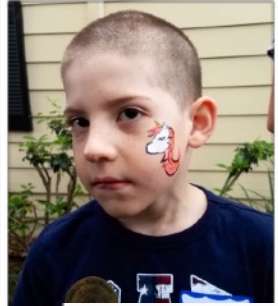
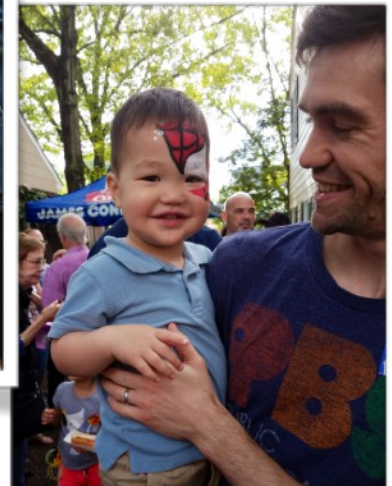
"Knowing your neighbors" is one of the best ways to improve your home and community. Block Captains are essential in bringing neighbors together. Here is why VCCA encourages every block to have a Block Captain:

- **Security:** Good neighbors watch out for each other - alerting you to a garage door accidentally left open, or keeping an eye on your place while you're out of town.
 - **Comfort:** Your neighbors don't have to be close friends, but being acquainted with them can greatly increase your peace of mind and sense of community.
 - **Convenience:** Once you have a relationship with neighbors, you can ask them to pick up that package from your porch; and you can put out a bowl of food for their outdoor kitty when they're out.
 - **And the greater good:** Together, neighbors can do things too big to take on by yourself - like organizing a neighborhood clean-up, or petitioning city hall to make a dangerous intersection safer.
- If there isn't a Captain on your block, please volunteer at hix@rmi.net!

SPRING PICNIC — APRIL 7

Despite looming storm clouds, the picnic took place, and close to 100 residents attended. There were loads of children, newly moved-in residents, and longtime neighbors, all joining in on the fun. Three constables stopped by to introduce themselves and encourage everyone to join. The face painter did a fabulous job, while James Coney Island set up a tent to cook fresh hot dogs. Those who did not attend missed a truly great time!

photos by Jeanette Hix, Ann G. Terrel



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



VCCA Event Schedule for 2019

- May 1 — Coffee
- May 13 — Happy Hour/Speaker: Stephen Costello
- June 5 — Coffee
- June 10 — Happy Hour/Speaker: 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



1710 Driscoll

CITIZEN PATROL

Citizen Patrol volunteers totaled 169 hours of walking and driving patrol in March, averaging about five hours a day. Thank you to all eight patrollers, and especially **Bob Costantini**, who contributed 92 hours. For more information, or to become a volunteer, contact David Hoyer at davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net.

Neartown Meeting Update

Neartown Association's had its monthly meeting on March 26th in the Cherryhurst Park Community Center. The first speaker, Matt Dulin, introduced a new free monthly publication, *Community Impact Newspaper*. If you hadn't already received your inaugural issue, you can email the editor at mdulin@communityimpact.com. Then, Houston Fire Department's Leonard Chan announced a survey of community perceptions and expectations of HFD. Those interested in participating can email him at leonard.chan@houstontx.gov. Finally, there was a candidate forum. Mayor candidate Bill King invited everyone to a crawfish boil on April 30, 5-7pm at Sam's Boat, 5720 Richmond. Tickets start at \$20 to cover crawfish and a drink. Then, Abbie Kamin's spouse talked about Abbie's run for City Council District C (currently represented by Ellen Cohen). To learn more about this candidate, visit AbbieKamin.com.

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