

vccahouston.org

PO Box 130891

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December 2019

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

100TH ISSUE!

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Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 100*

VCCA Announcements

On January 13th, monthly Happy Hours resume at 6:30pm at Churrascos with Precinct One's Community Engagement Team member Kenneth Olive. Join us to learn more information about the city's economic equity initiative.

Also, we are pleased to celebrate the VCCA Newsletter's 100th issue! A great deal of thanks to editors **Jeanenne Hagerman** (2010-2013), **Michael Forlenza** (2013-2018), **Natalia Podosinnikova** (2018 - now), as well as many others who contributed through the years!

VCCA Book Club



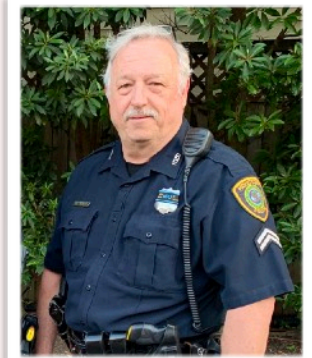
The VCCA Bookclub meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 2-3:30pm at Cafe Express for book reviews and conversation. Our book choices vary among the genres and provide opportunities for us to read books that we might not choose on our own. Join us for a lively discussion on December 18th. For the December book selection and more information, please reach out to Carole Dodson at vcca.bookclub@gmail.com.

MONTHLY COFFEE

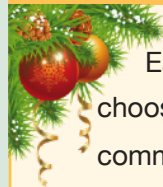
Enjoy delicious treats and with your VCCA/Park Civic neighbors at 10am on third Wednesdays of each month at La Madeleine, 2047 West Gray. Since January 1st is New Year's Day, we'll see you there on February 5th instead!

Officer Wayne Pate Retires

As the Central Positive Interaction Program Coordinator, and the Vermont Commons Officer Liaison, Wayne Pate has been the ombudsman or the "go-between" for VCCA residents and H.P.D for many years. More than that, he has been a good friend to the residents in our neighborhood. At the end of December, he will be retiring, which will be a great loss for the city of Houston and for our community. Thank you, Officer Pate for the years of devoted service! You will be sorely missed.



Christmas Lights & Decorations Contest

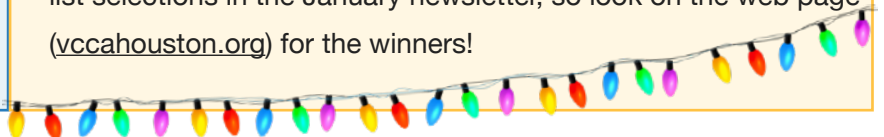


Each December the Yard of the Month committee chooses winners from within the Vermont Commons community for the following Holiday decorating categories:

- **Best Bungalow**
- **Best Decorated Townhome**
- **Best Decorated Single Family Home**
- **Best Uniquely Decorated Home**



This is one of our favorite months as a committee. Who doesn't love the magic of twinkling Christmas lights, poinsettias, Santa armadillos, and a Christmas snake... Let the fun begin. The deadline for consideration will be December 20th. Because voting will take place at the end of the month, it will be too late to list selections in the January newsletter, so look on the web page (vccahouston.org) for the winners!



BIG DREAMS AT LA PETIT PATISSERIE



In November 2016, in a small duplex at Park and Missouri, the culmination of late-night conversations, day dreams and life ambitions came to a result. Two determined individuals with a passion to share what they enjoyed with all the similarly-minded people they could find, started a little bakery known as La Petite Patisserie.

Aaron Parson, who at the time was a successful Sous Chef, had an undeniable desire to create, perfect and share consistent handmade pastry products while keeping in line with one basic truth - quality food is the common denominator, with the ability to bring people together under most any circumstances. It is the staple that allows us to communicate ideas and fellowship, to commiserate and to enjoy together. Jason Muegge was working for the Salvation Army USA as the Assistant to the Director of Finance at the time. Happily and without hesitation, they merged their values, with a goal to connect with others.

On a regular basis, these two create sweet and savory scones with unique flavor combinations as well as a chocolate chip cookie worthy to be rated among Houston's top ten. Handmade Bon Bons, sweet and savory tarts, truffles, turnovers, puff

pastry, pies, birthday and wedding cakes are also a few of the other amazing creations that come out of their new home on Elmen Street. When needed for the Sawyer Galleries, local schools or other benefits, they use a commercial kitchen in order to keep up with demand and ensure only the best quality products make it to the buyer.

They truly love this work, and this love was the deciding factor to leave the corporate world of work and go full on into a home-based occupation of self-preservation, little sleep and the satisfaction of leaving customers happy.

They can be found regularly at 5 Farmers Markets within the immediate area every week, and are always happy and open for the neighbors' requests and friendly conversation. Photos of recent and current work can be found on their website (thesmallpastry.com), their Facebook (@thesmallpastry) and they can always be reached by phone (832-836-7655 or 346-404-7585) or email (thesmallpastry@gmail.com).

The goal to establish a storefront is on the horizon for Parson and Muegge, as the day dreams and late night conversations continue. Making something from nothing is a gift given and shared by all, and is the cornerstone to the business practice at La Petite Patisserie.

November Happy Hour



Thank you **HPD Chief Art Acevedo**. What a powerful speaker! His enthusiasm for the Houston Police Department and Houston was very inspiring.

VCCA OFFICERS 2019 - 2020

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

Treasurer: Chuck Randall

VP Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin

Newsletter: Natalia Podosinnikova



VCCA Event Schedule for 2019-2020

- December 18 — Book Club
- January 13 — Happy Hour/Speaker: Precinct One's Kenneth Olive
- January 15 — Book Club
- February 5 — Coffee
- February 10 — Happy Hour
- February 19 — Book Club



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



1911 McDuffie

NEW VCCA NEARTOWN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED!

Nearatown held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 22 at Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri Street. On the agenda was Metro's Bond Election, which passed on November 5. Also discussed were Nearatown officers for 2020 and HPD's plans for closing the Westheimer Storefront. David Hoyer have been the VCCA's representative to Nearatown for the past couple of years, and *time has come for someone else to take this job in 2020*. Nearatown Association is the "Super Neighborhood" organization to which VCCA belongs, and it deals with issues impacting Nearatown/Montrose. Nearatown meets every 4th Tuesday at 7pm for about an hour. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email Jeanette at hix@rmi.net. For questions about the volunteer experience, feel free to email Hoyer at davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net.

CITIZEN PATROL

In the month of October, 10 patrollers completed a total of **183 hours** of driving and walking. That works out to an average of 6 hours per day of volunteer community safety! Thank you all, with special kudos to **Bob Costantini** and **Lillian & Jim Skogsberg** for putting in well over 20 hours each. 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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