

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

PO Box 130891

Houston, TX 77219-0891



January 2020

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Published Monthly September — June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 101

### VCCA Happy Hours

VCCA monthly happy hours are held every second Monday at 6:30pm, September through June, at Churrascos on 2055 Westheimer. Are you one of the many residents unknowingly placing non-recyclable items into your green bin? On **February 10th**, join us for a conversation with **Alyce Coffey**, Community Outreach Manager from the Houston Solid Waste Management Department, to learn all the ins and outs of recycling.

### 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. Join us for a lively discussion on January 15th! For the January book selection and more information, please reach out to Natalie Browne at [vcca.bookclub@gmail.com](mailto:vcca.bookclub@gmail.com).

### MONTHLY COFFEE

Share in the friendship, laughter, and a delicious morning pick-me-up with your VCCA/Park Civic neighbors at 10am on third Wednesdays of each month at La Madeleine, 2047 West Gray. Hope to see you there on February 5th!

### January Happy Hour & Speaker Where Our County Taxes Go

**Date:** Monday, January 13th, 6:30pm Happy Hour  
Speaker at 7pm  
**Location:** Churrasco's, 2055 Westheimer,  
Shepherd Square Shopping Center

Join us for a conversation with **Kenneth Olive**, member of the Community Engagement Team for the Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Precinct One. There are four precincts in Harris County. Vermont Commons falls under Precinct One. Widening wealth gap is an increasing problem for the region, disproportionately affecting women and communities of color. Kenneth Olive will discuss the Commissioner Office's initiative to create a Department of Economic Opportunity and Equity, which is designed to ensure long-term economic growth, as well address and mitigate economic inequality.



### Chevron Houston Marathon

Part of West Gray between Inwood and Waugh will be closed 6:15-9am Sunday January 19th, 2020 for the Houston Marathon. Watch out for the diverted traffic and the runners passing along West Gray. For more information, check out the website at [chevronhoustonmarathon.com](http://chevronhoustonmarathon.com).



### Thanks to all VCCA Volunteers!

January is the month to reach out and thank all those volunteers who make Vermont Commons a great place to live. There are more volunteers than there is space to put their names on the pages of the newsletter. If you see anyone out and about that you know has volunteered, be sure and thank them.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS - WILLY COLLINS



Willy Collins, a 10-year resident of Vermont Commons, can be seen diligently tending his beautiful garden on McDuffie. VCCA previously recognized him for his green thumb with the Yard of the Month awards. You can also watch him walk his four rescue dogs - he is quite dexterous to be able to handle all of them on leads at once!

However, his real claim to fame is his music. Willy grew up in Staten Island, New York, where as a teenager he played bass guitar in a local garage band. After living in Orlando and attending University of Central Florida, he moved to Houston completed law school and began his legal career at V&E. He is now practices law full-time with Sheehy Ware Pappas, where he specializes in truck accident and products liability litigation. Twelve years ago, he became reacquainted with playing music after buying his daughter Ashlyne an acoustic guitar to encourage her to learn to play. He joined her in lessons from the late Joe Romano and then entered the Berklee College of Music's online songwriting program. After graduating he began

writing songs and with the help from friends David Berkeley, Jordan Katz and Guy Strauss, recorded his first project in Atlanta in partnership with Will Robinson. Willy Released his first EP *Benevolent Lies* in 2012, and formed The Willy Collins Band band with several great Houston musicians, recording multiple records at Houston's famed Sugar Hill Studios.

After the band broke up, Willy started a new band with Joshua Lee Hammond called Londale, named after Willy's first transistor. Together with several musicians, they recorded and released three critically-acclaimed records. With the current lineup of Hammond (lead guitar), Alex Lambert (rhythm guitar), Cory Martin (bass guitar) and Gabe Bravo (drums) the band released its latest album *Achilles* in April 2019. Willy writes most of the lyrics, and he and his bandmates write the music. Willy describes the music as Indi-Rock with heavy 90's era influence. The band has performed at local music festivals and several venues around Houston, including the Continental Club, White Oak Music Hall, Rockefeller and many other sites. To follow the band and to hear their music visit their website at [londalemusic.com](http://londalemusic.com) with links to platforms such as iTunes and Spotify.

*Do you know a neighbor that you would like to see profiled in the newsletter? Let us know!*

### SVCCA MEMBERSHIPS

VCCA membership is at 163 households this year - up by 30! These funds will allow VCCA to offer another program this year. Stay tuned! Heartfelt thanks to all the residents who joined, and those who continue supporting VCCA.

### Christmas Decoration Winners

- ★ **Best Decorated Townhouse:** 1963 Haddon
- ★ **Best Decorated Bungalow:** 2017 Brun St
- ★ **Most Uniquely Decorated House:** 2032 Vermont St
- ★ **Best Decorated Single-Family Home:** 1511 Hazard St
- ★ **Best Decorated Multi-Unit Homes:** 2001, 2003, and 2005 Vermont St
- ★ **Best Decorated Commercial Property:** 2025 Fairview, Rebecca M. Harvey, DDS



*Special thanks to our fantastic guest judge, Kathleen Terracina's great nephew Julian!*



## VCCA Event Schedule for 2020

- January 13 — Happy Hour/Speaker: Precinct One's Kenneth Olive
- January 15 — Book Club
- February 5 — Coffee
- February 10 — Happy Hour/  
Speaker: Houston's Solid Waste Management's Alyce Coffey
- February 19 — Book Club



## VCCA OFFICERS 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

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.



## CITIZEN PATROL

In November, 9 volunteers that did a total of **173 hours** of driving and walking patrol. We want to thank **Tom and Jeanette Hix, Bob Costantini, Cathryn Gabor, Rob Fuller, Andy Tallin, Marilyn Fehrenkamp** and **Lillian and Jim Skogsberg** for their consistent dedicated efforts toward keeping us all safer. If you'd like to learn more about Citizen Patrol, or to become a volunteer, contact David Hoyer at [davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net).

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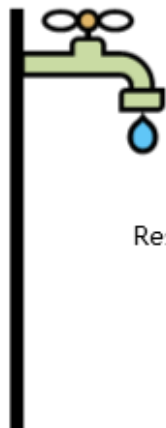
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