

vccahouston.org

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December 2020

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 110

Send news, notices, photos, editorials, or advertising requests to jmazoch@smu.edu. Submissions are due the 14th of the month preceding the newsletter.

Jo Ann Mazoch, Editor

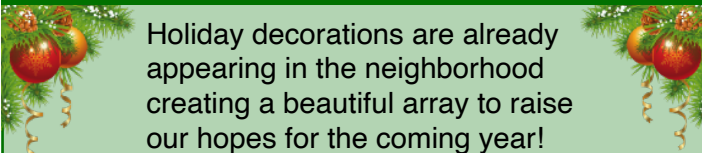
VCCA Donating to Houston Food Bank in Lieu of Holiday Party



Residents will miss getting together to celebrate with our annual holiday party, but due to the coronavirus, it is necessary to cancel the fun event this year. There are many of our fellow Houstonians who are having a hard time because of the coronavirus. Recognizing the help that is needed, VCCA has decided to donate the funds that are used for the holiday party to help feed those who are in need. The donation is being made to the Houston Food Bank. Thanks to all of you who have paid your dues this year so that VCCA can make the donation in all of your names.

Because we will not be seeing our residents in person, we would like to wish everyone the happiest and healthiest of holidays!

Holiday Yard of the Month



Holiday decorations are already appearing in the neighborhood creating a beautiful array to raise our hopes for the coming year!

The Yard of the Month Committee, in the middle of December, will search through the neighborhood to find decorated homes to award for best decorations from the following categories:

- **Best Single Family Home**
- **Best Apartment**
- **Best Cottage**
- **Best Townhome**

Watch for the VCCA signs naming the winners.
Enjoy decorating!

River Oaks Light Display



If you are looking for a perfect way to get in the holiday spirit, while still staying socially distant, then look no further than the other side of Shepherd Drive! River Oaks offers lights that are always at the top of any list of best holiday displays in Houston. The best displays can be found on: Inwood, Willowick, and Del Monte. Also make sure to check out the corner house at Mockingbird and Del Monte for a spectacular display. Lights go on at 5:30 p.m. and stay on till 11 p.m. Grab the family, hot chocolate, and drive or walk through our neighboring streets!

VCCA Book Club

The VCCA Book Club meets virtually (on Zoom) every 3rd Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Join us on December 16 for a taste of the coming year! Instead of a book discussion, each of us will bring up to 3 selections (general fiction, mystery/thrillers, and non-fiction, biography) along with a tasty beverage to sip on. We will have the fun of sharing and listening to descriptions of each book and choose 11 for 2021. For more information and to make sure we have your email to send you the Zoom link for the December meeting, please reach out to Natalie Browne, at nbrowne48@gmail.com

VCCA Halloween Parade

The residents of Driscoll were treated to a Halloween Parade this year. Neighbors, parents, children, and dogs paraded up one side of the street and down the other, showing off their costumes, all while keeping safe and socially distanced. This was a successful celebration that was a great alternative to traditional trick-or-treating. All children and most adults were given bags of candy that had been assembled and collected prior to the event. A good time was had by all! The VCCA loves hearing about when our neighborhood comes together to think of ways to make 2020 fun!

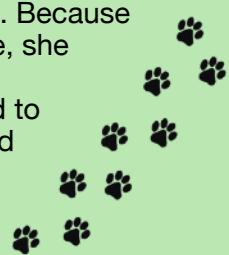


Covid-19 Research

The Kinder Institute at Rice University asked VCCA to make this information available to residents of the neighborhood and the VCCA Board approved putting this information in the newsletter. From the Kinder Institute: "While a lot is still unknown about COVID-19, Rice University and local health departments have created a survey to help measure the health and economic impacts of this public health crisis. Share your experience with us by visiting <https://registry.rice.edu/covid19>." Details about the study are on their web page as well as the registration information. Please consider registering.

Trap Neuter Release (TNR) Program

Thank you to Carolyn Levy who has headed up this program on behalf of VCCA and the residents of Vermont Commons for many years. She successfully captured, neutered, and released many feral cats in Vermont Commons in the past five years. Others in the area have helped her, but she was the leading force. Just removing feral cats from the neighborhood does not help the problem. Other feral cats will replace those that have been removed, so it is necessary to have them neutered. Unfortunately, Carolyn is moving to a nearby high rise and will no longer be able to head up the program. Because Carolyn wants the program to continue, she found Wes Cunningham to take her place. Wes has generously volunteered to head up the TNR Program. If you would like to volunteer with him, please contact Jeanette Hix at hix@rmi.net.



VCCA Officers 2020-2021

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

Treasurer: Chuck Randall

VP Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin

Newsletter: Jo Ann Mazoch

Graffiti Removal Committee

Thank you graffiti removers! If you observe a resident of our neighborhood out with a rag, a spray bottle, and maybe a ladder scrubbing away at graffiti, stop and thank them. They are the Vermont Commons volunteers who keep the neighborhood free of graffiti. On a regular basis, these volunteers check for and remove graffiti from our neighborhood. Thank you Nancy Higgs, Sheila Armsworth, and Kathy Ireland!



VCCA Yard of the Month

CITIZEN PATROL

Citizen Patrol had 11 patrollers who did a total of 252 hours of driving and walking in October! That is over 8 hours per day of volunteering to help keep the community safe. Thanks to all, especially Bob Costantini, Sankar Muhuri and Satavisa Sarkar who did 101, 31, and 22 hours respectively.

One of the great strengths of our country's democracy is its volunteer organizations. We should all be thankful and proud of our Citizen Patrollers, especially in these trying times! Happy Holidays,

- David Hoyer, CP Coordinator

VCCA MOMS' FACEBOOK PAGE

A Facebook page has been created by two Vermont Commons moms to foster a community of moms in our neighborhood! The page will be used for moms to support each other, do meet-ups (once it is safe), share information related to children/families, and selling/giving away children's items (like clothing, toys, etc.). The main goal of the group is to build parent relationships with each other and build a community for those caring for children of all ages. To join the group you just need to search for the Facebook Group named, **Vermont Commons Montrose Moms**, and request to be added. The group is interested in feedback on what types of information or activities moms are looking for. Moms can join and provide this feedback on the page or by email to Isabel Bacarella at isabelzuclich@gmail.com. The Facebook group is already live and we are looking forward to it growing!



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