



Vermont Commons

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

February 2021



Newsletter Published Monthly September — June
 Vermont Commons Civic Association
 PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
 Issue No. 112

FEBRUARY IS MAKE HOUSTON AND VCCA BEAUTIFUL MONTH

Over the next couple of months the VCCA has found a few ways for everyone to be involved in neighborhood activities while staying safe. February is make Houston and Vermont Commons Beautiful Month! To celebrate we are giving our neighborhood access to a Zoom meeting with the Executive Director of Keep Houston Beautiful and sponsoring a clean up. Additionally, we would like to continue beautifying the neighborhood in March by hosting a Chalk Drawing Festival!

Keep Houston Beautiful Zoom Meeting:

Amy Reed, Executive Director of Keep Houston Beautiful, will speak at Hyde Park Civic Association's **February 2nd** Zoom meeting. She will discuss why it is important to directly participate in cleanup efforts. To join the Zoom meeting connect to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89793156946?pwd=RXcvUVlhazBFaHBiVWVJY09Kck10Zz09>. Thank you Hyde Park Civic Association for allowing VCCA to join you.

Neighborhood Cleanup:

A few days after the Keep Houston Beautiful Zoom presentation, VCCA will sponsor a cleanup within the VCCA boundaries. Volunteers unite! Join us at 10:00 am on Saturday, **February 13th** at the intersection of Haddon and McDuffie. Bring your gloves and garbage bags. Volunteers will disperse from that intersection to pick up trash along our neighborhood streets. Please join us in keeping Vermont Commons beautiful!

MARCH CHALK DRAWING FESTIVAL

Bring out your chalk and decorate the sidewalks and driveways in Vermont Commons on Saturday, **March 13th** (rain date March 20th). At 4:00 pm residents are encouraged to walk the neighborhood and vote via text for your favorite. More details will follow in the March Newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 2nd

- Keep Houston Beautiful Zoom Meeting

February 10th

- VCCA Moms Meet and Greet

February 13th

- VCCA Cleanup

February 17th

- Bookclub

March 13th

- Chalk Drawing Festival

REMINDERS:

- **Renew your VCCA membership** if you have not already. Visit <http://www.vccahouston.org> and click "Membership" to renew.
- **Join the Constable Patrol Program** to help increase law enforcement presence and shorten response time to non-emergencies. For more information email: info@vcpatrol.com.

SUBMISSIONS:

Send news, notices, photos, editorials, or advertising requests to Jo Ann Mazoch at jmazoch@smu.edu. Submissions are due the 14th of the month.

BOOKCLUB

The VCCA Book Club meets by Zoom every third Wednesday of the month from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Our book choices vary among genres and provide us with the opportunity to read books we might not choose on our own. We welcome new members. Join us on the **17th** for a lively discussion of *Homeland Elegies*, by Ayad Akhtar. For more information and to get on the list to receive the Zoom link, please reach out to Natalie Browne. nbrowne48@gmail.com.

CITIZEN PATROL

Citizen Patrol had 12 patrollers that did a total of 264 hours of driving and walking in December. That is almost 9 hours per day of volunteering to make our community safer! Many thanks to all in these troubling times, but especially to Bob Costantini, Sankar Muhuri, and Jeanette Hix for each doing more than 20 hours of patrolling.

- David Hoyer, CP Coordinator

VCCA OFFICERS 2020-21

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

VERMONT COMMONS MOM'S GROUP

The Vermont Commons Moms' Group is off to a great start with 14 members so far! They would like to meet each other virtually for a **VCCA Moms Meet and Greet** that will be held on **Wednesday, February 10th from 8:00-9:30 pm** via Zoom. If you would like to join the virtual event, please email Isabel Bacarella at isabelzuulich@gmail.com for the video call information. To join the mom group on Facebook, which is geared towards moms of infants to young teens, you just need to search for the Facebook group named, **Vermont Commons Montrose Moms**, and request to be added. They look forward to brainstorming eventual in-person meetups and events, once it is safe.

VCCA'S FOOD BANK DONATION

You may remember that instead of hosting a Christmas Party this year, due to COVID-19, VCCA donated the money that would have been spent to the Houston Food Bank. Our donation was part of a triple match done by Chevron, so our donation went from \$1,000 to \$4,000! The Houston Food Bank is able to provide 3 meals per every dollar donated, which means that 12,000 meals were provided due to our matched donation! We wanted to pass along an excerpt of the letter from the the President of the Food Bank as a thank you to all VCCA residents: "Because of VCCA, we are still here to serve the community. Your generosity comes at our busiest time of the year when so many are at risk of missing out on meals. I am sincerely grateful for your willingness to support your neighbors in need throughout the holiday season and during these unprecedented times."

YARD OF THE MONTH



2110 McDuffie

CURB APPEAL: TRASH, RECYCLING, AND SIDEWALK INFORMATION

Recycle Correctly

Do you put your recycling into plastic sacks before you put it in the recycling can? If so, you may be defeating the purpose of recycling. The plastic bags cause the sorting machinery to clog up. Many plastic sacks with recycling in them are thrown away to keep from shutting the machines down to clean them. Instead, simply place your recyclables directly in the recycling can. Plastic bags can be recycled at the Westpark Recycling Center, Environmental Service Centers, or a local grocery store where plastic bags are accepted.



Trash, Recycle, & Heavy Pickup

Do you find yourself standing on your driveway on Sunday night to see which trash cans your neighbors have set out? Take the confusion out of knowing which type of trash is being picked up. Download the app "Rollout! Houston" to track trash, lawn, recycling, and junk pickup schedules. The app includes helpful information regarding proper disposal of recycling and yard waste. You can also setup reminders so you never miss a pickup day again.

Driveway, Curb, Gutter, and Sidewalk Maintenance

Ever tripped while on a neighborhood walk or had to push your stroller in the street? The City of Houston owns the property from the edge of the sidewalk closest to your home to the street, but City of Houston Ordinance Chapter 40, Article III, Sections 40-84 state that the property owners are responsible for keeping driveways, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks repaired. If a sidewalk falls into disrepair and the property owner does not fix it, residents can file a request with the city through 311.



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February 2021



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