

vccahouston.org

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January 2021

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
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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

Vermont Commons Constable Patrol Update

What is the Constable Patrol?

The Vermont Commons Constable Patrol program covers the Vermont Commons, Park Civic, and Lewisdale neighborhoods, bounded by Peden, Dunlavy, Westheimer, and Shepherd. The Vermont Commons Security Foundation (VCSF) volunteer board members manage the contract with the Precinct 1 Constable's office, administer VCSF membership, and other duties.

The Constable program is voluntarily funded by some residents in the contract patrol area through the VCSF. The program benefits the entire neighborhood by increasing law enforcement presence and faster response for non-emergency events. The Constable does not respond to calls in a neighborhood unless they have a contract.

Member benefits include having the Constable's office respond to home alarms (typically much faster), vacation watch, membership yard signs, and vehicle stickers. The annual fees fund the Constable Contract and minimal administrative fees for things like insurance and signs.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining the Constable program. Information on how to join and pay is on the VCSF website: www.vcpatrol.com. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email info@vcpatrol.com.

2021 Membership Drive

The 2021 Constable Program membership drive will start in January 2021 ahead of the Q1 2021 renewal period. For 2021, we must increase membership to maintain, and hopefully add another, Constable to patrol the neighborhood. Also, the more members we have, the lower the annual membership fee will be.

This is the perfect time to encourage neighbors who are not members to join the program. Yes, we all benefit from it, but *only a minority of Vermont Commons/Park Civic/Lewisdale residents are funding the entire program*. Some Members have successfully convinced their neighbors to join and the VCSF Board truly appreciates those efforts. We would appreciate any ideas and assistance that Members can provide to help us get information out to the broader neighborhood and get more residents involved in the program.

The annual fee for 2021 will be \$350, a reduction from 2020.

Constable Contact Information

Please don't hesitate to call the Constable if you have any security-related concerns. It is the main benefit of having the Constable program in our neighborhood.

If there is a non-emergency matter that you want Constable assistance with, call the Constable Dispatcher at: **(713)-755-7628**. For all emergencies, please call 911.

The VCSF Board appreciates your questions and any constructive feedback. Please feel free to contact us at: info@vcpatrol.com

Next Year's Agenda

The Directors of VCCA will be planning activities for 2021. A resident has volunteered to help with activities for children. If you have ideas that you think would benefit the children of Vermont Commons, please email hix@rmi.net with those ideas. There are no plans to have a meeting in January.

Bye Bye
2020

Construction Updates Around the Neighborhood

WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

Good news for Vermont Commons old water lines. Perhaps you have seen the City of Houston surveying in Vermont Commons. Council Member Abbie Kamin's office explains that this is part of the Water Main Replacement Project S-000035-0268. This project will occur in most of Vermont Commons. At this time, S-000035-0268 is currently in the design phase with a projected construction start date of February 2022. There is no information about how the streets will be impacted. Updates will be given as the plans are determined.

SHEPARD CONSTRUCTION

Residents will likely be effected by a \$20 million construction project to revamp Shepard Drive from Westheimer Road to US-59. The project is set to start in early 2021 and is projected to last for two years. The project will consist of both critical improvements such as updating drainage and new pavement, as well as cosmetic changes that include landscaping and new lighting. For more information please see the full article in <https://houston.culturemap.com/news/city-life/12-01-20-shepherd-drive-improvement-construction-us-59-upper-kirby-district/>.

A Little Vermont Commons History

Some of the history of Houston is right here in Vermont Commons, as evidenced by the variety of street signs you may have seen on our corners. The original markers were made out of concrete and there are very few left in the neighborhood. The ceramic letters on the curb replaced the stone markers. The elevated street signs came next. The beautiful stone and ceramic curb signs are protected by the city and here is a fine if they are destroyed or removed. Please watch construction that occurs around the neighborhood and remind the workers of the city ordinance protecting these historic curb signs.



Join Your VCCA Neighbors on Nextdoor

Visit [Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com) to verify your address and sign up!

Vermont Commons Civic Association is on the Nextdoor social app and we have about 1,150 residents signed up to date. Hear about important information and connect with your neighbors in VCCA and the surrounding neighborhoods. Nextdoor also verifies addresses to ensure that only Vermont Commons residents sign up in the Nextdoor VCCA neighborhood.



The app is free to residents – Nextdoor makes money primarily through sponsored content and partnerships to local and national businesses. Nextdoor was founded in 2008, and today, the platform is available in 11 countries across the globe with 27 million active monthly users.

By joining Nextdoor, you make it easier to receive information from VCCA as we continually work to keep our neighborhood a safe and lively place that we're proud to call home.

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

VCCA Book Club

Start off the new year by joining the VCCA Book Club and enjoy discussing what you are reading every month. The Book Club meets virtually (Zoom) every third Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. General fiction, mysteries, non-fiction, and biographies are generally what we read. **Our 2021 selections have not been made yet.** Reach out to Natalie Browne, at nbrowne48@gmail.com for the **January title** and for other information. We'll be glad to get you our Zoom link for the January 20th meeting.

YARD OF THE MONTH CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST WINNERS

The YOM committee was so impressed with the beautiful and festive decorations we decide to change the rules for this "Covid year" and acknowledge multiple winners per category. Thank you for spreading holiday cheer! Happy New Year!



Best Decorated Houses:

1710 Driscoll
1610 Hazard

Best Decorated Townhouses:

2001,2003, 2005 Vermont
2112 McDuffie

Best Decorated Bungalows

and Duplex:
2205 Hazard
2310 Driscoll
2012 Vermont

Most Unique Decorations:


2032 Vermont
2008 McDuffie



CITIZEN PATROL

Citizen Patrol had 11 patrollers that did a total of 212 hours of driving and walking in November. That is over 7 hours per day of volunteering for community safety, which is becoming more of a concern with the recently rising crime rate in Houston. Special thanks to Bob Costantini, Sankar Muhuri, and Satavisa Sarkar for each putting in more than 20 hours in November.

- David Hoyer, CP Coordinator



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