

vccahouston.org  
PO Box 130891  
Houston, TX 77219-0891



September 2015

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 56

### VCCA Meeting September 14th *Identity Theft*

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be on **Monday, September 14th at 7:00 PM** at Café Ginger, located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near the intersection with Driscoll.

Houston Police Officer Jacob Web from the HPD Financial Crimes Department will make a presentation about identity theft. Come and find out how to protect yourself. Stay after to meet your neighbors.



### The VCCA and You

Wonder what VCCA can do for you? Check out the list below – we offer great benefits! Don't forget to join or renew today.

#### Communication:

- ◆ Monthly newsletters inform our neighborhood of the latest happenings
- ◆ Nextdoor online community group connects neighbors daily with information and advice
- ◆ The website provides timely and resourceful information about VCCA
- ◆ Block captains connect with neighbors and share local information regularly

**Social Activities:** Join your neighbors for monthly coffee, wine tasting, our annual National Night Out Party, the annual Holiday Party, monthly meetings and other social events

**Education:** We host great speakers focusing on topics of special interest to VCCA residents ranging from history and the arts to outdoor activities and local government - and more

#### Safety:

- ◆ Our association organized and continues to support Citizen Patrol
- ◆ We also invite Houston Police department speakers to provide neighborhood safety information and tips at our meetings
- ◆ We have a team that helps remove any graffiti in the neighborhood as soon as it appears

**Animal Welfare:** The Neighborhood Trap/Neuter/Release program protects cats in Vermont Commons, and Nextdoor posts help residents find and adopt pets.

**Neighborhood Enhancement:** Our Yard of the Month award encourages residents to beautify their property.

**Liaison with public officials:** We work with the city and other organizations to address our neighborhood concerns and learn more about services available to the community.

Join for the fun, join to be better informed, but whatever you do – make sure you join!

**How to Join:** Click on the Paypal button on the web page ([vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org)) or put your check in the envelope and mail to VCCA.

### Coffee Break

*Take a coffee break with friends and neighbors.*

**When:** Wednesday, September 9th, 10 am

**Where:** 2207 McDuffie at the home of our hostess Lillian Skogsberg

The VCCA monthly coffee welcomes residents from Vermont Commons and Park Civic. Come meet your neighbors, and we guarantee you'll make new friends.



**September  
Yard of the  
Month - 1911  
McDuffie**

## Neighbors Helping Monty

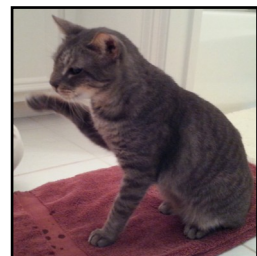
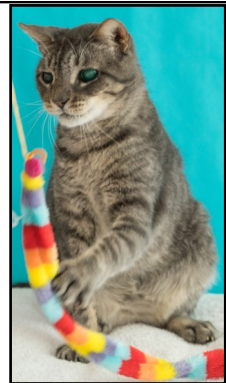
By Nina Otazo

Howdy Neighbors! Hope y'all have had a wonderful summer. Thank you for your continued interest in and well-wishes for Monty, the cat found injured in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood united and teamed together for Monty's sake. He has been left completely blind from the injuries but has healed beautifully.

Monty is not letting his disability stop him from fully enjoying his life. He bats and pounces on a cat wand like nobody's business. He has also learned how to do a high five for a special treat. It is an amazing sight to behold! He continues to be curious and to want to explore his environment. He has an indomitable spirit that is awe-inspiring to be around.

*Friends for Life* generously welcomed Monty into their program in order to find him the forever home that is just right for him. Monty is now on an extended sleep-over by a potential adopter to see if he is the right fit for their family. Please check out the Friends for Life website at [www.adoptfriends4life.org](http://www.adoptfriends4life.org) to find out the latest and to see the amazing work they are doing. Thank you to everyone for making our little corner of the world a better place!

Please check out Monty's blog for the latest: [www.adoptfriends4life.org/blog/view/montys-village](http://www.adoptfriends4life.org/blog/view/montys-village). Many thanks to our compassionate and generous neighbors for their support, well wishes, assistance and general all-around neighborly love!



## VCCA Chairs Update

### YARD OF THE MONTH COMMITTEE

Our committee has 3 to 4 members who keep an eye out for outstanding yards in the neighborhood. We try to nominate yards that have never been singled out before. We nominate yards by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the VCCA Newsletter for the month to come.

Occasionally, yards are nominated by our neighbors, not on the committee, and these are taken into account when evaluating yards. We take a picture of the yard for the Newsletter publication and try to talk to the home owner to get some details on the yard for submission to the Newsletter before its deadline-sometimes successfully. Most of the committee communication is done by email. Let me know if you would like to join our committee at:

[Lillian\\_skogsberg@earthlink.net](mailto:Lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net)

## Volunteers Needed

- ◆ A Coordinator for the Monthly Coffee
- ◆ Host a coffee in your home
- ◆ Help choose the Yard of the Month
- ◆ Block Captains for:
  - Hazard from Haddon to Vermont
  - Hazard from Indiana to Fairview
  - Haddon from Brun to Hazard
  - Welch from Huldy to Driscoll
  - McDuffie from Vermont to Welch
  - Brun from Vermont to Welch

## Shepherd Drive Construction Update:

According to the City of Houston, the contractor for the construction work along S. Shepherd Drive has been delayed by excessive rain and utility issues. The plan is to have the four lanes of Shepherd paved from Westheimer to Haddon by the end of August. The last section of 84 inch RCP storm sewer pipe to complete the new system to Buffalo Bayou is currently being installed from Del Monte to Brentwood. Other water lines, sanitary sewer, outfall structure, and new traffic signals will complete the project. The projected completion date is December 12, 2015.

## VCCA Officers 2015 - 2016

**President:** Jeanette Hix

[hix@rmi.net](mailto:hix@rmi.net) 713.521.3337

**Vice President- Deed Restrictions:**

Andy Tallin [atallin01@yahoo.com](mailto:atallin01@yahoo.com)

**Vice President- Nextdoor:** Lis Harper

[lisharper@icloud.com](mailto:lisharper@icloud.com)

**Treasurer:** Robin Greene

[rbogreene9@gmail.com](mailto:rbogreene9@gmail.com) 281.723.3554

**Secretary:** Lillian Skogsberg

[lillian\\_skogsberg@earthlink.net](mailto:lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net)

**Newsletter:** Michael Forlenza

[vcca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vcca.newsletter@gmail.com)

## VCCA COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS 2015 - 2016

**Deed Restrictions:** Andy Tallin [atallin01@yahoo.com](mailto:atallin01@yahoo.com)

**Block Captains:** Sharon McKinzie [sharon912912@gmail.com](mailto:sharon912912@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Michael Forlenza [vcca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vcca.newsletter@gmail.com)

**Web Page:** Carol Bjornstad [carol.bjornstad@me.com](mailto:carol.bjornstad@me.com)

**Nextdoor Coordinator:** Karen Kane [karen.db.kane@gmail.com](mailto:karen.db.kane@gmail.com)

**Coffee Coordinator:** vacant

**Yard of the Month:** Lillian Skogsberg [lillian\\_skogsberg@earthlink.net](mailto:lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net)

**Graffiti Removal:** Ann Ince [annsplace44@yahoo.com](mailto:annsplace44@yahoo.com)

**Book Club:** Carole Dodson [cardodson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cardodson@sbcglobal.net)

**Trap Neuter Release:** Carolyn Levy [houstoncatlover@gmail.com](mailto:houstoncatlover@gmail.com)

**Citizen's Patrol:** Elizabeth McKenzie [emckenzie045@gmail.com](mailto:emckenzie045@gmail.com)

## PIP Meeting

Take advantage of an opportunity to speak to police officers one-on-one at the HPD Chief's Citywide - PIP Meeting:

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month  
at 7pm

Where: 1602 State St.  
(Auditorium)  
Houston, TX 77007



# Vermont Commons Civic Association Membership Form

P.O. Box 130891, Houston, TX 77210

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Names of Others in the Household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



Interested in Volunteering?    Yes    Maybe    (circle one)

Additional Donations. Please check box:     Sponsor a newsletter- \$50 Recognition in the newsletter for your additional donation. (example- This newsletter is sponsored by John Smith)     Sponsor a meeting- \$50     Sponsor a Holiday Party-\$100

*Clip and Return with Dues Payment (just \$40). Checks should be made payable to the Vermont Commons Civic Association (VCCA)*

## Security Patrol in Vermont Commons

1. The VCCA is a Civic Association. It is not a homeowner's association (HOA). An HOA can, and by law, does collect dues from homeowners.
2. VCCA board members are not doing anything to keep Vermont Commons residents from hiring and managing a constable or any other kind of security patrol.
3. The VCCA deed restrictions do not allow VCCA to collect any funds from residents.
4. The VCCA by-laws do not give VCCA any capability to collect funds for anything but dues. The yearly VCCA dues are voluntary.
5. VCCA does not have any means to demand that residents pay monthly or yearly fees to hire a patrol.
6. VCCA board members are not going to organize a group to start paid patrol in Vermont Commons.
7. The VCCA Board is not opposed to a security patrol.
8. If any residents want to have a hired patrol, they need to find volunteers who are willing to help and get organized.

*The VCCA Board*

## Neartown Association

VCCA is a member of the Neartown Association. The Neartown Association was established in 1963 by a group of dedicated individuals seeking to improve the quality of life in Houston's unique and historic inner-city neighborhoods. The next meeting of the Neartown Association is **Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 7:00 PM** —

Cherryhurst Park Community Center at 1700 Missouri St, Houston, TX 77006

## National Night Out - October 6<sup>th</sup>

Want to stay connected when it comes to crime in our

neighborhood? Join us on Tuesday, October 6th at 6 PM for National Night Out (NNO). We'll meet in the parking lot of the of VCCA newsletter-sponsor Dr. Rebecca Harvey at 2025 Fairview, between Huldy and Brun. Please bring your own snacks and drinks and a chair.

What is NNO? It's a fun way to get community members and law enforcement agencies to get to know each other even better and to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.



We want to see VCCA members from every street. Please tell your neighbors about the gathering and tell them to tell a neighbor. Bring your spouse, partner, children and well-behaved dogs and let's find out about what's going on and what we can do to make it a safer place for everyone.

Houston Police Department Officer Wayne Pate will be stopping by to shake hands and talk about crime prevention.

## The Wax Lab

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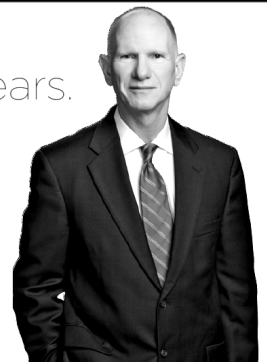
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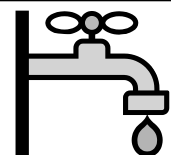
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