

vccahouston.org
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October 2015

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
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VCCA Meeting October 12th Mayoral Forum

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be on **Monday, October 12th at 7:00 PM** at **Café Ginger**, located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near the intersection with Driscoll.

For the October meeting, the VCCA will host a mayoral forum. At least five of



Cafe Ginger the top City of Houston

mayoral candidates have committed to attend the October VCCA meeting. They will introduce themselves, speak about their thoughts on the City and leave some time for questions. The candidates are very busy so they will not all be at the meeting at the same time. Please come out and support the election process and maybe hear the next mayor.



National Night Out - October 6th

Want to stay connected when it comes to crime in our neighborhood? Join us on Tuesday, October 6th at

6pm 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. VCCA will provide water, cups, flatware, napkins and plates.

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. A n HPD Officer will be stopping by to shake hands and talk about crime prevention.

VCCA Dues:

If you have not taken the opportunity to pay your dues, please consider paying them today. You can pay by check or on the VCCA web page through Paypal. Thanks for your interest in the neighborhood.

Coffee Break

Take a coffee break with friends and neighbors.

When: Wednesday, October 20th, 11 am
Where: 2224 Brun at the home of our hosts Michael & Elizabeth McKenzie

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

The VCCA thanks our Sponsors

October Meeting Sponsors: Steve and Sylvia Brody

October Newsletter Sponsors: Gary and Sara Strom

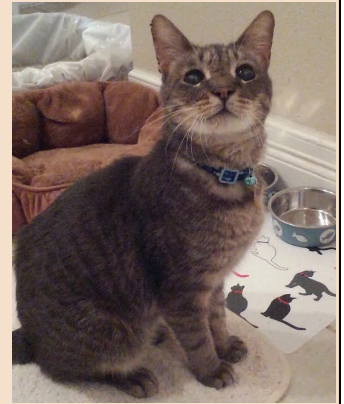


**October
Yard of the
Month -
1610 Hazard**

Monty's New Home

by Nina Otazo

Hi neighbors! I wanted to give y'all an update on Monty. His sleepover with a prospective adopter has turned into a forever home. He has come such a long way since I found him injured in our neighborhood. I am so very proud of our boy and also our incredible neighborhood that immediately rallied around this sweet cat in need of our help. A million thanks goes to



Friends for Life, Houston's only no-kill shelter, for graciously welcoming Monty into their program so they could get the word out to find him just the right family. Monty's new mom had a blind cat, Ray Charles, who passed away and was obviously a beloved member



of the family. He also has a new sister, Reese, who is very sweet with him. Monty now has the cutest little collar with a bell and a tag that says, "Please call my mom. I am blind." Just made my heart swell to see that. She is the perfect mom for him because she supports him in being his absolute best. He is exploring his environment, has discovered how to locate his water bowl, is making use of a scratching post...all the normal, everyday things that cats do but,

for Monty, these are monumental milestones.

If you would like to get the whole success story on Monty, please go to the Friends for Life website - www.adoptfriends4life.org/blog/view/montys-village. It is called *Monty's Village* - and indeed it did take a village. Many thanks to everyone for your well-wishes and support and for making our neighborhood something very special.

VCCA Chairs Corner

Vermont Commons TNR Program

The objective of our Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program is to help stabilize and then reduce the population of free-roaming cats in our neighborhood. We'd like to give you an update on the cumulative results since the program was formed in 2012.

We have received a total of \$ 2,565 in donations from our neighbors. We have spent \$ 1,394 at Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) and \$300 at the Cat Vet Clinic when the oppressive heat dictated the need to hospitalize kittens for their spay/neuter surgeries. We have a balance of \$871.

With your donations, we have spay/neutered 21 cats and kittens. Most of these cats were returned to the place they were trapped, but some were found to be tame and were placed in loving homes.

Our neighbors have also paid out of their own pockets for an estimated additional 30 cats and kittens to be spay/neutered. Many of those were placed in loving homes. One injured feral cat was trapped by a caring neighbor but had to be euthanized.

Now comes the astonishing number. These surgeries have prevented an estimated 1020 animal births!

I think we can all agree that we are happy to have over one thousand fewer cats in the neighborhood.

Reducing Vermont Commons' free roaming cat population is an ongoing multi-pronged effort. Preventing kitten births through our spay/neuter program of free roaming cats is paramount. However taming wild kittens, re-homing tame cats and keeping owned cats inside are all critical to our success.

If you have unaltered cats/kittens around your house or a neighbor's house, they need to be spayed/neutered. You can identify a cat/kitten that has already been spayed/neutered by looking at its ears. A spayed/neutered cat will have the tip of its left ear clipped off.

If you need assistance getting neighborhood cats fixed, we can help and it's FREE! Contact:

Carolyn Levy houstoncatlover@gmail.com

Jane Crowder Schmitt jlc2728@gmail.com

Lisa Rainey blrainey2@sbcglobal.net

If you'd like to make a tax deductible donation to help pay for getting Vermont Commons' neighborhood cats spayed/neutered, please send your check made out to Rescue Bank (with Vermont Commons on the note line at the bottom) to:

Ms. Elizabeth Asher, Executive Director

Rescue Bank, 6363 Woodway, Suite 975

Houston, TX 77057

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Trap Neuter Release: Carolyn Levy houstoncatlover@gmail.com

Citizen's Patrol: Elizabeth McKenzie emckenzie045@gmail.com



Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!

- Do you put plastic bags, pizza boxes, broken dishes or aluminum foil in your green recycle bin? These materials should be placed in the regular (black) trash bin.



City wide, only 40% of what is put in recycle bins is recyclable.

- Do you know what items you are supposed to put in your recycle bin? Read on the lid of your green recycle bin for guidance on the materials to placed inside for recycling.
- If you want additional info about other ways to recycle, visit the VCCA web page at vccahouston.org.

The Harris County Constable Patrol Program:

How it Works and How it Benefits Neighborhoods in Houston

With the goal of increasing safety, security, and quality of life in our neighborhood, several Vermont Commons residents have formed a committee to investigate the potential for a Harris County Constable Patrol in Vermont Commons.

We are holding an educational meeting for all Vermont Commons residents on **Tuesday, October 27th, 6:30 p.m., at Café Ginger**. Harris County Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen will discuss how the program works, its benefits to participating neighborhoods, program costs, as well as answer any questions.

To provide firsthand perspective on the program, Michael Hawash, organizer of the Constable Patrol program in Mandell and Winlow Place, neighborhoods directly to the south of Vermont Commons, will be on hand to describe their experiences, offer suggestions, and discuss the possibility of Vermont Commons partnering with these adjacent neighborhoods.

We hope everyone will come to the meeting and learn about the program.



Blue and White Tiles: Street Name Mosaics

Have you noticed the blue and white tiles forming street name mosaics on the

curbs at the street intersections in Vermont Commons? The tiles were laid in the 1920s and 1930s by the City of Houston when the area streets were paved and curbs were added. It was cheap, attractive, durable, and easy to read. The use of the tiles was discontinued when the city felt that the names on the curbs could not easily be seen. The tiles were replaced with street names on concrete posts. Drivers were going faster and found that street signs on poles were easier to read at the higher speeds.



and trucks, repaving, re-curb-ing, name changes



and destruction for handicapped access at corners have all taken their toll on this pleasant reminder of Houston's slower paced past. There is a tile mosaic at the intersection of Hazard and Welch. Hopefully, the builder at that intersection will not damage or remove it.

If a contractor, no matter if it is city or private, is working on the curb where the tiles are present, a resident can ask that they not be removed or that the tile

Today, while a number of these relics remain in pristine condition, most are in various states of deterioration. Age, contact with automobiles

be placed onto the new curb.

The city does not protect the tiles, but contractors have been co-operative at leaving them in place. Historically and esthetically, it would be great if all the remaining tiles were protected. There is a web site that is registering the tiles all across Houston: www.bluetileproject.com. Take a photo and your favorite to the website.



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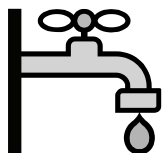
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