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



November 2015

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER





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VCCA Meeting November 9th

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be on **Mon**-

day, November 9th at 7:00 PM at Café Ginger, located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near the intersection with Driscoll.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a social time. Come, buy a glass of wine and meet and greet new and old neighbors. There might be a surprise





Take a coffee break with friends and neighbors. **When**: Wednesday, November 17th, 11 am

Where: 2224 Brun at the home of our hosts Michael and 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.



VCCA residents turned out for the candidate's forum that was conducted as part of the VCCA monthly meeting on October 12, 2015 at Café Ginger. Five candidates for Houston of-

Candidates Forum

fice presented their views on a range of topics including the city budget, the potential for city employee pension fund crisis, the municipal revenue cap, infrastructure maintenance and improvement, and public safety. VCCA residents had the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates when time permitted. The candidates who participated in the forum were:

Amanda Edwards – Ms. Edwards is a candidate for city council at large position 4. <u>www.edwardsforhouston.com</u>

The City of Houston mayoral candidates who spoke were:

Ben Hall – attorney, former Houston City Attorney, owner of KCOH radio, and candidate for Mayor in 2013 www.benhallforhouston.com

Stephen Costello – Houston City Council member, civil engineer, and co-founder of local engineering firm <u>http://costelloformayor.com</u>

Sylvester Turner – State Representative and candidate for Mayor in 1991 and 2003 <u>www.sylvesterturner.com</u>

Chris Bell – former U.S. Representative, former Houston City Councilmember, candidate for Mayor in 2001, and nominee for Governor of Texas in 2006 <u>https://bellformayor.com</u>

The VCCA candidate forum was an excellent opportunity to hear the candidates in a small format gathering. Many thanks to VCCA president Jeannette Hix for her efforts in organizing this informative and lively event. **Stay informed and be sure to vote on November 3rd. Early voting has already started.**

The VCCA
thanks our
SponsorsMay Meeting Sponsor:Pam LeeMay Newsletter Sponsors:John Polasek and Nancy Buttino



Water Meter Covers

During the rains in May, many of the water meter covers in our neighborhood floated away in the high water. The uncovered opening can present a hazard to pedestrians and pets passing by the area. Please call 311 to have the covers replaced before a resident inadvertently steps into a meter box potentially resulting in an injury.

Volunteers Needed

The VCCA is looking for volunteers to help with:

- Coffee Chair- co-ordinate monthly Coffees
- Host a coffee
- Assist with Holiday Party
- Coordinate Citizens Patrol

VCCA Officers 2015 - 2016

President: Jeanette Hix <u>hix@rmi.net</u> 713.521.3337 Vice President- Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin <u>atallin01@yahoo.com</u> Vice President- Nextdoor: Lis Harper <u>lisharper@icloud.com</u> Treasurer: Robin Greene rbogreene9@gmail.com 281.723.3554 Secretary: Lillian Skogsberg <u>lillian skogsberg@earthlink.net</u> Newsletter: Michael Forlenza vcca.newsletter@gmail.com

itizen Patrol Update

Elizabeth and Mike McKenzie, Coordinators

The volunteer members of the Citizen Patrol listed below drove 65 hours and walk 273 hours though our neighborhood in September. Thank you for looking out for our neighbors. Keep up the good work Citizen Patrol!

James Austin Barry Brandt Bob Costantini Shirley Donohue Marilyn Fehrenkamp

Rob Fuller Cathryn Gabor Jeanette Hix Paula Holton David Hoyer Helen Mann Karen Kane Elizabeth McKenzie Michael McKenzie Curtis Mooney Maria Rodriguez Brenda Rojas Andy Tallin Stephanie Taylor

If you would like to become a volunteer for the Citizen's Patrol to help keep our neighborhood safe, please contact Elizabeth McKenzie at emckenzie045@gmail.com for more information.



Wonderful street art on Fairview

VCCA COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS 2015 - 2016

Block Captains: Sharon McKinzie sharon912912@gmail.com

Nextdoor Coordinator: Karen Kane karen.db.kane@gmail.com

Yard of the Month: Lillian Skogsberg lillian skogsberg@earthlink.net

Trap Neuter Release: Carolyn Levy houstoncatlover@gmail.com

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

Newsletter Editor: Michael Forlenza vcca.newsletter@gmail.com

Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin atallin01@yahoo.com

Web Page: Carol Bjornstad carol.bjornstad@me.com

Graffiti Removal: Ann Ince annsplace44@vahoo.com

Book Club: Carole Dodson cardodson@sbcglobal.net

Coffee Coordinator: vacant

fly your flag.

Veteran's Day

is November 11th. Be

sure to



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.

Speakers for the Meetings

VCCA needs volunteers to assist with creating a speaker list for the monthly VCCA meetings. If you have contacts or ideas for speakers let us know.

Contact:

Jeanette 713 521 3337



National Night Out- October 6th

Close to 100 residents came to enjoy a beautiful evening and meet and greet new an old neighbors. The National Night Out event was attended by loads of children, many dogs, a politician, and officer Wayne Pate. A great team organized the

event: Carole Dodson, Jeanette Hix, Lis Harper, Jane Ingversen, Marilyn Fahrenkamp and Andy Tallin. Many



thanks to Doctor Rebecca Harvey for so generously allowing VCCA to use her parking



Resident for 38 Years – Jean Ross

VCCA neighbor Jean Ross, pictured here, has been a resident of Vermont Commons since 1977. Her home on Driscoll was built in 1927 by a local real-estate man, Robert Settles, and he and his family lived in the home until Jean purchased it. Jean moved here from South Carolina and she chose this neighborhood because of its diversity and the ability to walk to so many shops. and businesses. You may have seen her walking her dog Jackie Chan on her daily strolls. Jackie is 15 and their walks



Photos with Santa

Saturday, November 7, 2015, from 3:00-5:00pm at Jim and Sheila's Bench, 1605 Woodhead Street. Hosted by Sheila & Jim Armsworth and Cindy Quach & Christoph Eicken. Neighbors - bring your family and friends for complimentary holiday photos with (or without) Santa. You will get your photos in plenty of time to order your Christmas cards. We welcome pet photos too! Rain date is Sunday, November 8, 2015, from 3:00-5:00pm.



PHOTOS W/SANTA

Nov. 7th*, 3:00- 5:00 PM at Sheila & Jim's Bench 1605 Woodhead

Complimentary for Park Civic Vermont Commons Neighbors

RSVP Appreciated: santa@cqrealty.com



are much shorter these days.

The garage apartment behind her house has been occupied by many people involved in the arts and Rice University professors and students.

Her home is decorated with nu-

merous antiques she inherited from her family. Some of the furniture was purchased in late 1800s by family members. She retired as a Houston Independent School District teacher and enjoys her home, grandchildren, church, friends, and traveling.

Vermont Commons Civic Association PO Box 130891 Houston, TX 77219-0891



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