

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



January 2016

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 60

### January VCCA Monthly Meeting

The Monthly VCCA meeting will be on **Monday, January 11th at 7:00 PM** at Café Ginger, located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near the intersection with Driscoll.



### HOLIDAY LIGHTS

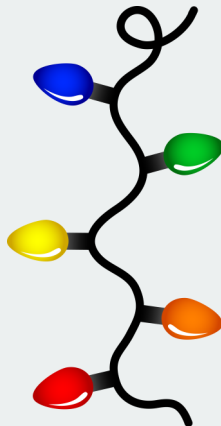
The Yard of the month Committee tallied their votes and announced the winners of the 2015 Holiday Lights contest. The addresses of the winners and the categories that they represent are:

**Yard Cut Outs** —  
1617 McDuffie

**Most unusual lights** - 2019B McDuffie

**Single Family Home** - 2204 McDuffie and 2411 Driscoll and 2108 Brun

**Town House** - 2306 Brun and 2112 McDuffie



*The VCCA  
thanks our  
Sponsors*

**January Newsletter Sponsor: Carolynn Kevlin**

### HELP MAKE THE CONSTABLE PATROL A REALITY IN VERMONT COMMONS!



The Harris County Constable Patrol will provide our neighborhood with a highly visible law enforcement presence. Neighborhood response to the initiative has been good, and we've heard from a lot of residents who are excited about having the Constable Patrol in Vermont Commons. Our Yard Signs look great and will be delivered to your home, identifying you as a Subscriber, as soon as you make your contribution!

Constable Alan Rosen and members of his team will be guest speakers at the next VCCA meeting on **Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at Café Ginger**. They will discuss the Patrol program and answer any questions. *We know there are neighbors that still have questions - Please make plans to attend!*

*We also know this program is effective.* For the first time since they began monitoring their crime statistics about a year ago, our neighbors in Winlow Place had ZERO reported crimes of any kind in November (the second month of their contract), and their Patrol logged 1,367 miles in Winlow and Mandel Place.

Once again, you will find an insert included with this month's VCCA newsletter that describes the highlights, benefits and costs of the program, along with our website and information on how to subscribe, (subscription info is also provided below).

Thank you for your contributions and your support!

**VC SECURITY FOUNDATION** (a non-profit corporation serving Vermont Commons)

#### HOW TO JOIN:

Online payments may be made by credit card or PayPal at <http://www.vcpatrol.com/membership-dues>.

To pay by check, make your check payable to "VC Security Foundation" and send to: Carolynn Kevlin, 2120 McDuffie Street, Houston, TX 77019. (Please include your contact information so we can deliver your yard sign!).

Sponsor - \$500 Subscriber: - \$395 (Please support this initiative by signing up as a **Sponsor!**).

VCSF wishes to thank the following residents for their invaluable expertise in promoting our effort for a safer neighborhood: Don Nelson, Carla Nims, Nina Westerfeld, Linda Eichenlaub, Jon Jones, Ann Ince and all the residents to have joined so far.

**THIS MEETING IS  
OPEN TO ALL  
VERMONT COMMONS  
AND PARK CIVIC  
RESIDENTS**

## New Volunteers Stepping Up to Help VCCA

**Speaker Committee:** Nancy Higgs and Kim Cagle

**Citizen Patrol:** David Hoyer

David replaced Elizabeth McKinzie who did a fabulous job for several years. Thanks Elizabeth

Carolynn Kevlin has resumed her role as the arranger of the VCCA monthly Coffee.

Annie Miller has resigned as a member of the web crew. She was a great asset to the group of four web crew members. Thanks Annie for your help on behalf of VCCA.

## Thanks To All the VCCA Volunteers

January is the month to reach out and thank all those volunteers who make Vermont Commons a great place to live. There are more volunteers than there is space to put their names on the pages of the newsletter. If you see anyone out and about that you know has volunteered, be sure and thank them.

## Volunteer Needed

**D**o you have a few hours to contact local businesses to see if they are willing to advertise in the VCCA newsletter? These advertisements are needed to cover the cost of the printing and mailing of the newsletter.

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

## Citizen Patrol Update

### HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT CENTRAL 1 DIVISION Citizen Patrol Monthly Report

CP GROUP:	REPORTING PERIOD (mm/yr)	Coordinator (Name, Address, & Phone)	Report Completed by (Name, Address, & Phone)
Vermont/Park	November, 2015	David Hoyer 2026 McDuffie Street Houston, 77019 713-533-0382	Same as Coordinator

Number of incidents reported to police: 3 Number of suspects arrested: 0

Weekly Hrs: 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>: 40 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>: 41.5 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>: 42 22<sup>nd</sup> to end of the Month: 40

**Total number of hours patrolled this month: 163.5**

## Coffee Break

*Take a coffee break with friends and neighbors.*

**When:** Wednesday, January 13th, 10 am

**Where:** 2020 Indiana, hosted by Kit Muire



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

## Houston Marathon

Watch for the Houston Marathon passing through our neighborhood on Sunday January 17th, 2016 as the runners pass along West Gray. Check out the website at:

[www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com](http://www.chevronhoustonmarathon.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:** Carolynn Kevlin [carolynnk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolynnk@sbcglobal.net)

**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:** David Hoyer [davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net)

## Montrose TIRZ

Thank you Carole and Sam Dodson, VCCA representatives to Neartown, who tirelessly worked to ensure that Vermont Commons would be included in the Montrose TIRZ. City of Houston City Council unanimously approved the Montrose TIRZ at a City Council meeting in December. Way to go Carole and Sam.





## VCCA Holiday Party

The VCCA Holiday Party was a great success. Vermont Commons residents gathered at Churrascos for laughter, food and drinks. It was an opportunity to greet old neighbors and meet new ones. Thanks to the Holiday Committee who



made it happen- Carole Dodson, Jane Ingversen, Marilyn Fehrenkamp, Lillian Skogsberg, Julie Anderson, Sara Strom, Sandye Nelson and Jeannette Hix.



## Helping Stray Cats: VCCA TNR Volunteers

We continue to see progress in our VCCA Trap and Release (TNR) Program - all because of your support!

A touching example of our amazing neighborhood working together to make this happen is seen on our very own Hazard Street. A neighbor has been working to trap a mama cat and her growing kittens. Over the course of several months, he was



able to trap the mother and all four of her offspring along with one adult male cat, who may have been the father. He shuttled them back and forth to SNAP and another neighbor took care of the cats while they recovered from the spay/neuter procedures. The mama cat had a small wound on her neck that was also treated by SNAP. Her appetite is better and all the cats are doing well. A friend took two of the cats in, and the rest were released back to where they were found. They all continue to be given food and water by the compassionate neighbor.

**Help is Available:** 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 (because of your generous donations)!

### We need Donations to Support TNR in Vermont Commons:

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please make checks payable to Rescue Bank and put *Vermont Commons TNR* in the "For" line at

bottom of check.

Please mail checks to:

*Elizabeth Asher, Executive Director, RESCUE BANK, 11050 Pebble Rock Drive Houston, TX 77077*

If you have any questions, would like to participate or need our help, please e-mail:

Carolyn Levy - [houstoncatlover@gmail.com](mailto:houstoncatlover@gmail.com)  
Jane Crowder Schmitt - [jlc2728@gmail.com](mailto:jlc2728@gmail.com)  
Lisa Rainey - [blrainey2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blrainey2@sbcglobal.net)  
Nina Otazo - [ninaotazo@msn.com](mailto:ninaotazo@msn.com)

We greatly appreciate your support. You are making a difference to improve the quality of life for all us here in our beautiful neighborhood. Thank you!!

**Protected By HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE PATROL**

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**WE'RE POPPING UP ALL OVER**

**But we still need YOU**

Join today using our website PayPal link:  
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or make your check out to VC Security Foundation.  
**Mail to: 2120 McDuffie St. 77019**

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