

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



September 2016

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 66

September VCCA Monthly Meeting

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



Cafe Ginger

Note from the New VCCA President

Lis Harper

I am eager to get to work as your new VCCA president this year. I have loved being on the board and working with all of you, and was honored to be asked to serve as president. We have such wonderful neighbors and so many great activities and opportunities to get involved, and I plan to build on the incredible foundation established by Jeanette Hix and the board members who've come before.

I want to focus this year on listening to you - what you think about VCCA and how you'd like to get involved. Our neighborhood is changing and it's important that we continue to listen to and hear from you about what you'd like to see happen. Thank you for this opportunity and for your contributions. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year!

September VCCA Meeting Speaker



We're delighted to welcome City of Houston Council Member Amanda Edwards as our speaker for our September VCCA meeting. Council Member Edwards will discuss updates regarding budgetary matters at the city during our meeting.

Amanda K. Edwards serves as the Houston City Council Member in the At-Large Position 4. She is also an attorney and native Houstonian with a passion for building communities through public service. Currently,

Amanda serves as Vice Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee and serves on the Economic Development and Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committees. She strives to innovatively address the city's fiscal challenges and its urban core needs in order to move all of Houston forward so that it can be the place where the Gulf Coast and the world's future meet. Amanda attended Eisenhower High School in Aldine ISD and Emory University in Atlanta, where she earned a degree in political science.

Please join us, meet your neighbors, and bring your questions for Council Member Edwards.

The City Council is Houston's legislative body, with the power to enact and enforce all ordinances and resolutions.

Eleven Council Members are elected from districts and five are elected at-large, by all voters of the City.

The sixteen members of Council, along with the Mayor, act only by ordinance, resolution or motion. They adopt and may alter the annual budget and confirm the Mayor's appointments. Council is responsible for the appropriation and issuance of bonds, the awarding of contracts and the approval of City expenditures over \$50,000. Council may lease or dispose of the City's real estate and may levy assessments against property. Council determines its own rules of procedure, and its meetings are open to the public.

Sixteen Council Members, along with the Mayor and City Controller, are elected every



The
City of Houston
Official Site for Houston, Texas

four years. Council Members are limited to serving two terms of four years each, with each term beginning on January 2. Five

Council Members are elected At-Large, or city-wide, while the other eleven are elected to geographic districts of roughly the same proportion of population.

Beginning January 2, 2016, City elected officials can serve a maximum of two four-year terms. Those who already served one two-year term are eligible to serve two more four-year terms, for a maximum of ten years, and those who already served two two-year terms are eligible to serve for one more four-year term, for a maximum of eight years.

Each week's Council agenda is available to view at www.houstontx.gov/citysec. You can write to your Council Member at: 900 Bagby / City Hall Annex / First Floor / Houston, TX 77002.



VCCA Monthly Coffee

September Coffee will be on Wednesday, September 21, 10 AM at 2105 Brun Street. Our hostess will be Jane Schmitt.

We are looking for hostesses for October and November coffees. Please contactCarolynn Kevlin at carolynnk@sbcglobal.net.

Citizen Patrol Update

David Hoyer, Coordinator

I am proud to report that, in spite of the July heat, Citizens Patrol did 82.25 hours of walking patrol by 10 patrollers last month. That was in addition to 35 hours of driving patrol, for a total of 117.25 hours for the month. The leading patroller was Brenda Rojas, followed by Barry Brandt and then Marilyn Grant (each did 20+ total hours).

Thank you to all for volunteering effectively 4 hours per day towards keeping everyone safe!

Meet the New VCCA Prez !

Our new VCCA President is Elisabeth Harper. Lis and her husband, Adam Barth, have resided in Vermont Commons for a little over two years. Like many of our younger residents, Lis and Adam are busy professionals. Lis is a realtor, and Adam is an energy industry consultant. Their family also includes two cats, Da Vinci and Lucy.



Lis is a graduate of Indiana University and has a Master of Public Policy from The George Washington University. She and Adam met in Washington, D.C., where they both have experience as political campaign operatives. Lis's previous experience includes consulting and developing outreach programs and policy for various think tanks and non-profits. She continues to consult for the National Woman's Party at the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, for whom she worked in Washington, D.C.

Lis comes by her desire to serve her community and country naturally. Her mom was a public school teacher, who also served as president of her teacher's union and in other volunteer positions. She instilled in Lis a belief that one committed person can make a difference in her neighborhood and her country.

I asked Lis how she saw her new role as VCCA President. She said her first year is one of listening, learning, and trying to build on the amazing foundation Jeanette Hix's leadership had provided. She wants to identify the needs and interests of our residents, and further develop the organization to meet those needs and serve those interests. She sees our neighborhood's demographics as changing rapidly, and, like all areas where this happens, there is sometimes a failure to connect neighbor to neighbor and resident to neighborhood. She hopes that by utilizing and publicizing our website and making other media connections, we can bring our neighbors closer and foster greater involvement in neighborhood projects and activities. One example of her efforts to reach out for ideas and interests is a short survey already available on the VCCA.org website. If you have not responded to it, why not do that today?

Welcome, Lis! Best wishes on your challenging first year.

Carolynn Kevlin

VCCA Officers 2016 - 2017

President: Lis Harper lis-harper@icloud.com

Vice President- Deed Restrictions:

Andy Tallin atallin01@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Chuck Randall
cwrandall@gmail.com

Secretary: Lillian Skogsberg
lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net

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

President Emerita: Jeanette Hix
hix@rmi.net 713.521.3337

National Night Out - October 4, 2016

What is National Night Out? It is 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 at our event on the evening of October 4, 2016, 6 pm, in the parking lot of Rebecca Harvey's Dentist Office at 2025 Fairview. 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 our neighborhood safer place for everyone.

The Vermont Commons Civic Association (VCCA) offers great benefits and opportunities for you to get involved in your neighborhood! Don't forget to join or renew today.

What Can the VCCA Do For You?

Communication: Monthly newsletters inform our residents of the latest news, happenings, and events in the neighborhood. The Nextdoor.com online community connects neighbors daily with pertinent information and advice. The VCCA website provides access to information resources and allows VCCA Block captains to connect with neighbors and share local information.

Social Activities: Join your neighbors for monthly coffees, annual National Night Out Party, Holiday Party, spring picnic, monthly meetings, and more.

Education: We host great speakers focusing on topics ranging from history and the arts to outdoor activities, local government, and more.

Safety: We organized and continue to support Citizen Patrol. We receive regular visits from the Houston Police department at meetings. We also have a graffiti removal teaming the neighborhood.

Animal Welfare: The Neighborhood Trap/ Neuter/ Release program protects and assists stray and homeless cats in Vermont Commons neighborhood. Post on Nextdoor.com help residents find lost pets and facilitate pet adoptions.

Neighborhood Enhancement: Our Yard of the Month award acknowledges neighborhood enhancement efforts and encourages residents to beautify their property. The VCCA monitors new construction for adherence to deed building restrictions.

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 the VCCA. VCCA Membership is open to all residents (owners and renters) in the area for just \$40 per year.

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) or put your check in the envelope and mail to the VCCA. Annual dues are \$40 for September through August.

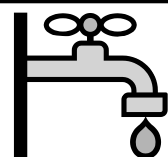
Yard of the Month

Summer still has a couple of months to go here in Houston, but it's time to start thinking about Yard of the Month candidates. This year Yard of the Month selection is going to take a different approach. We are asking our VCCA residents to submit their candidate YOM to Lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net by the 10th of the month. From the candidate yards submitted, the YOM committee will select one for the monthly honor. The winner will be announced in the Newsletter of the following month. This approach is getting started with this fall's selection. So please, look around your neighborhood and send your YOM selection to Lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net by September 10. The winner will appear in the October Newsletter.



RIVER OAKS GYM

Bring in this ad and receive a one-week pass and complimentary personal training session.
riveroaksgym.com
1937 W. Gray, Suite 200
(713) 528-4600



David Hicks Plumbing Inc.

"Since 1952"

Complete Plumbing Services
Residential • Commercial • Repairs
Remodeling • Gas Inspections
Tankless Water Heaters

713 / 528.0141
davidhicksplumbing.com

Rebecca M. Harvey, D.D.S., P.A.

drharvey@dentisthouston.com
2025 Fairview Houston, TX 77019
Phone (713) 528-4054
Fax (713) 528-1443
www.dentisthouston.com



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Houston, TX
Permit 9079

Also check
Nextdoor.com

Get Connected @
vccahouston.org



Circle of Excellence, Hall of Fame, 2015 - #1 Top Producer

**WE
ARE**

#1 IN SALES \$250K AND UP,
\$500K AND UP AND
\$1M AND UP.

NO FINE PRINT.

***“It’s not about selling one house;
it’s about building relationships.”***

Contact me with all your Real Estate needs.

Jay Monroe

BROKER ASSOCIATE

713.504.6936

Jay.Monroe@Sothebys homes.com

Martha
Turner

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY