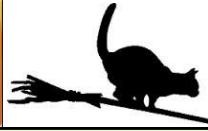


vccahouston.org  
PO Box 130891  
Houston, TX 77219-0891



October 2016

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 67

### October VCCA Monthly Meeting

The monthly VCCA meeting will be on **Monday, October 10th at 7:00 PM** at Café Ginger, located at 1952 West Gray Street in the shopping center near the intersection with Driscoll.



*Café Ginger*

### Plan Houston Initiative - Coming Soon

At our September VCCA meeting, Council Member Amanda Edwards announced the Plan Houston Initiative. After passing a strategic plan in 2015, the Council Member is heading up an initiative that is reaching out to the residents of the city of Houston to collect input on what is important to us as residents for what we want to see in the next few years. The Initiative will begin with an online survey, coming out this month, aimed at gathering feedback from neighborhoods across the city. CM Edwards is hoping to collect feedback on topics of concern ranging from drainage solutions to traffic issues to improving neighborhood safety and Council communications. The Council will be able to use the survey to ask departments to set forth initiatives around priorities and have clear deliverables based on residents' goals.

Email [atlarge4@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge4@houstontx.gov) to receive her newsletter and please respond to the survey when it comes available.

### October VCCA Meeting Speaker — Bill Robertson

Join us on October 10th at the VCCA Meeting at Café Ginger where speaker Bill Robertson will discuss current options for glass recycling and what the city may be offering soon, plus issues concerning the city budget.



Since the City of Houston stopped collecting glass in the standard green recycling bins, residents throughout Houston have been looking for new ways to continue recycling glass. After hearing that the city excluded glass from its recycling program in April, Bill Robertson and his neighbors decided to coordinate their own pickup service, iRecycle Glass, to ensure that their glass still got recycled. Having no experience in waste management, Bill has embraced the challenge of a grass-roots effort that has already saved over 36,000 pounds of glass from Houston's landfills. He and his Oak Forest neighbors have coordinated glass pickup services for their area, and Bill has been staying on top of the latest changes and potential return to glass recycling collection by the city. Join us to learn more and find out what changes may be coming.

### New neighbors? Are they informed about VCCA?

Do you have new neighbors who may not be aware of VCCA or read the newsletter? We have volunteers who spend a day driving our community to update resident addresses, but sometimes we don't catch every new home or neighbor. Help us out - let us know if you have new neighbors so we can make sure they stay informed. Email [rbogreene9@gmail.com](mailto:rbogreene9@gmail.com) so we can make sure our new neighbors are on the newsletter list.

**Don't Forget to Pay your VCCA Dues!** Help us keep the neighborhood informed, host fun activities, and look out for one another. It is not too late to pay your dues - \$40 per year. Use the PayPal link at [vccahouston.org](http://vccahouston.org) or simply send your check to the VCCA, P.O. Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219. Thank you for renewing!

### 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. 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 a dish/drinks to share, 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.





**VCCA Yard of the Month** This month is a shared townhouse yard area at 2001 and 2003 Vermont. We ask our residents to nominate yards for our monthly Yard of the Month designation by Oct 10. Send the address to [Lillian\\_skogsberg@earthlink.net](mailto:Lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net).

**Do you have kids? We want to hear from you!**

We love seeing all the new residents and families with children come out for National Night Out. It's great to have so many wonderful neighbors. As more people turn to living inside the loop rather than the suburbs to take advantage of all the perks of living closer in, we want to make sure our neighborhood association is responsive to the needs and interests of all our neighbors. We would love your feedback on how we can help all families better enjoy our fantastic neighborhood.

We hope you will plan to attend our next meeting October 10th. We address topics of concern at the top of the meeting (7pm), so those with young children can participate and leave early if necessary. Input from everyone is vitally important so that we can continue to better serve our neighbors of all ages. We look forward to seeing you at Cafe Ginger!

**Safety in VCCA** When you see something, many of you say something, and we appreciate all the posts to Nextdoor alerting neighbors to strange occurrences in the community. But please don't forget to report suspicious activity to the Houston Police Department and, even better, the Constable. Notifying authorities is a better way for us to help track suspicious activity and find patterns that will keep our community safe.

And did you know you can submit an alert slip to HPD if you are on vacation? Visit this site: [www.houstontx.gov/police/alert\\_slip](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/alert_slip) and complete the Alert Slip to let HPD know you'll be away and get extra eyes on your house.

**Citizen Patrol Update**

David Hoyer, Coordinator

August your Citizens Patrol did a total of 212 walking hours plus 81 driving hours, or an average of 9+ volunteer patrolling hours per day keeping us all safer! Thank you to all patrollers and especially to top patroller Bob Costantini who did 101 hours and to Lillian and Jim Skogsberg who each did 31 hours.

*Java Time — VCCA October Coffee*

Take a coffee break with friends and neighbors.



**When:** Tuesday, October 18th at 10 am

**Where:** 2213 Brun, hosted by Jeanette Hix

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

**Notes from Neartown: Kush Menace**

Within the past few months, Kush(K2) users and dealers have become an ever increasing threat to security, peace and wellbeing for Montrose Neighborhoods, especially those adjacent to Highway 59 Spur 527. Drove of Kush users living in unsanitary conditions have taken up residence underneath unfenced portions of Spur 527 overpasses spilling out into Highway 59 right-of-ways. Commonly Kush users are falling into busy street areas and wondering incoherently into neighborhoods aggressively demanding drug money and sometimes destroying property. HPD, City of Houston, TX Dot and support agencies have yet to effectively address this Kush hotspot. Neartown supports addressing the Kush Menace with a lasting long term solution.

Local neighborhoods will look into the passage of a Civility Ordinance to allow a proactive HPD interface Kush homeless.

A vote was taken for Neartown to send letter(s) to City of Houston Departments, churches, homeless organizations, the State Legislator and TX DOT.

To learn more or get involved, please consider joining David Hoyer, our Neartown Representative, and attend an upcoming meeting held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri Street at 7pm.

**VCCA Treasurer's Report 6/14/16 thru 9/12/16**

<b>Beginning Balance 6/14/16</b>		<b>\$2,187.27</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bulk Permit yrly subscription	(\$215.00)	
Office supplies for mailing	(\$79.51)	
Rescue Bank (TNR donation)	(\$250.00)	
Bank Fees	(\$16.00)	
	(\$560.51)	(\$560.51)
<b>Income</b>		
Advertising Fees	\$300.00	
Dues Transfer from PayPal	\$38.54	
	\$338.54	\$338.54
<b>Ending Balance 9/12/16</b>		<b>\$1,965.30</b>



## 2016 Election

The 2016 election is November 8th! Are you prepared? The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, October 11th, 2016. Early voting begins October 24th, 2016. You can vote early at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 W Gray Street - walking distance from our neighborhood! There are ample resources available online to find your polling place and review sample ballots. You can also apply to vote by mail if you will be out of town during early voting and election period, if you're sick or disabled, and if you are 65 years of age or older on election day. For more information about voting in Harris County, visit this website: <http://www.harrisvotes.com/>. Photo identification is required for voting at the poll. Without a photo ID, the voter must swear or affirm and sign a declaration AND present an approved form of identification.



**Photo #1:** Tom Hix and Andy Tallin replacing sign toppers that have mysteriously disappeared. If you see a stray sign topper, please return it to the VCCA. **Photo #2:** Ed Quilter, a Brun Street resident for 80 years, visiting his home on Indiana Street where he lived for the first 10 years of his life. The home is scheduled to be torn down in the near future.



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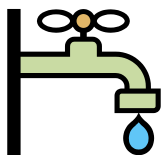
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