

vccahouston.org  
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December 2016

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June  
Vermont Commons Civic Association  
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219  
Issue No. 70

### VCCA Holiday Party – December 12th

It is time for some holiday cheer! Leave the cares of 2016 behind. The Vermont Commons Civic Association is once again hosting a Holiday Party. This year we will be gathering at **Local Pour , 1952 West Gray Street on December 12th at 7 PM.** The Holiday Party is for VCCA members who have paid their 2016-2017 dues of \$40. *Pro-tip:* You can pay your VCCA annual dues at the party.

We will have light appetizers and drinks will be available for purchase (cash bar). We are asking that each resident donate \$10 at the door.

Join your neighbors and start the holiday season off right! We look forward to seeing you at our VCCA holiday party December 12th at Local Pour!

These VCCA Holiday Parties are the BEST!

Yes, it is a great time to meet old friends and to make new ones.

Snacks, drinks, and the best neighbors. I wouldn't miss the VCCA Holiday Party for anything. CHEERS!



#### Letter from the VCCA President

One of the greatest characteristics of this nation is our diversity. We are richer and greater for it; our world is a better place when we can share our different perspectives and experiences, through it all recognizing the humanity in each of us. This is a country built on a foundation of freedom and respect. These values are not upheld when people are targeted and threatened because they are perceived as different.

Recently we have been made aware of threats and harassment of neighbors who are non-white. This cuts through the very fabric of our neighborhood as an open, supportive, and inviting community. When a neighbor is threatened, we are all unsafe. Please everyone, in this time of political change, do not make your neighbors your enemies. Beyond that, I hope we

will strive as Vermont Commons to make our neighbors our friends and to actively foster a sense of community.

We must empathize with our neighbors and not allow our community to be a place where families, regardless of color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or age, feel unsafe. Let us be charitable with one another. Let us work together to care for one another. Let us listen and strive to know each other better. Let us not allow hate and fear to guide our actions, but rather work to ensure that the value of inclusivity guides how we support and protect our neighbors and our community. We may not feel threatened, but a threat to one of us is a threat to the community. Please stand with me to ensure that no one in Vermont Commons feels unsafe here. - Lis Harper



### VCCA Yard of the Month

This townhouse at 2317 McDuffie, Yard of the Month for December, has lovely flower plantings and a cool turquoise door. Drive by to see it. It's neighbor has a red door. Submit your nominations for YOM by December 10 to [Lillian skogsborg@earthlink.net](mailto:Lillian_skogsborg@earthlink.net).




MontroseDistrict.org  
@MontroseDistrict  
@MontroseHTX

You're invited!

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING



**December 7, 2016**  
6pm - 8pm **Multi-Service Center**  
1475 West Gray

Learn about District Services & Projects including:  
Special Parking Area & Parking Management Plan  
Identity Monuments / Markers  
Esplanade Enhancements  
US 59 Overpass Bridge Lighting  
Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements  
Questions? Contact [TAllender@MontroseDistrict.org](mailto:TAllender@MontroseDistrict.org)



### Beware the fake workers who say they need to enter your back yard

Two or more men park their truck and come to your front door. They are dressed as construction workers, tree trimmers or other outdoor laborers. They say they need access to your back yard to work on a neighbor's fence or trim a neighbor's tree or carry out another other work that you have not requested.

You come out your front door to walk them around the side to your back yard. Or you let them walk through your house to get there. But you didn't lock the front door or the back door during these distracting actions.

**Crime Prevention Tip**

**Now you're in the back yard with one of the men, looking at broken fencing or overgrown trees. Where's the other man?**

He may have slipped inside your residence, where he's taking your jewelry and other valuables before high-tailing it down the street. Then his partner in crime tells you he needs to get drive around to the next block to look at the work assignment from the other side.

**But you never see them again. You've been fleeced, flim-flammed and tricked out of your very precious items.**

Unfortunately, this story has played out a few times time recently at single-family homes in Precinct 1. There's very little information about what they look like.

Now that you know, you won't fall for it.

### Citizen Patrol Update

David Hoyer, Coordinator

The Citizen Patrol did 405 hours of patrolling in October! We had 15 patrollers who altogether averaged 13 hours of volunteer patrolling per day. Congratulations to all, especially Bob Costantini (110 hours), Marilyn Grant (46.5 hours) and Carolynn Kevlin (40 hours).

### December Coffee

Date: Friday, December 16th  
Time: 10 am to 12 pm  
Location: 2120 McDuffie  
Hostess: Carolynn Kevlin



Join us for some hot coffee and a warm reception. Meet your neighbors and share some holiday tidings.

### Block by Block...

Block by block, we make a neighborhood. So many blocks here take pride in the community they create - through block parties and driveway gatherings for trick-or-treating, through group trips to Miller Outdoor Theatre and impromptu coffees, through wine parties and street clean ups. What is your block doing to strengthen community? Share your stories with us here.

### VCCA Treasurer's Report as of 31 October 2016

		Beginning Balance	\$4,892.62
<b>Income</b>			
Advertising Revenue		\$500.00	
Randalls Grocery Loyalty Program		\$38.32	
Deposit from October dues - checks		\$690.00	
<b>Total Revenue for October</b>		<b>\$1,228.32</b>	
	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$6,120.94</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Bank Fees - October		\$0.00	
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$6,120.94</b>
<b>Uncleared Checks as of 10/31/16</b>			
Café Ginger		-\$200.00	
Newsletter October & November		-\$1,132.00	
PayPal dues October not transferred to bank		\$539.56	
	<b>Net Funds Available</b>		<b>\$5,328.50</b>



## PLAN HOUSTON + YOU

For the first time in our City's history, Houston is embarking on a budgeting process that will involve resident input to shape select Plan Houston initiatives to be included in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Engaging residents about their priorities before developing our budget will allow residents to have more influence on the actions taken by their government, which will be more customer (resident) friendly and consistent with our strategic plan.

### More About Plan Houston

Plan Houston outlines the core strategies and vision for our City. After months of public meetings, significant stakeholder input and policy research, City Council passed Plan Houston late last year. As the first of its kind, Plan Houston sets the framework for our City's long-term goals. The core strategies of Plan Houston are the foundation of the plan and outline the community's vision for Houston. It is now time to put these ideas into action in a manner that will also include funding. To read more about Plan Hou-

ston, including the final report to City Council, visit <http://planhouston.org/>

### We Need Your Help

In October, the Planning Department released an online sur-



### About This Project

Houston is a great city. From its winding greenways, to its thriving arts and cultural scene, to its bold entrepreneurialism, Houston is a city of tremendous opportunity.

Even so, Houston faces many challenges, including managing growth, maintaining infrastructure, enhancing neighborhoods and overcoming fiscal hurdles. Addressing these challenges requires strong and effective local government – a City that confidently charts its course and works with its partners to achieve success.

Realizing this potential is the ambition of Plan Houston. Plan Houston describes a vision for Houston's future and identifies the policies, plans, and programs that represent the City's long-term priorities for achieving the vision. This plan was developed by looking at prior planning efforts, then listening to residents and community leaders who described their image of a successful Houston.

It's important to note that Plan Houston is not about establishing land use controls. Instead, this plan supports Houston's continued success by providing consensus on goals and policies, thus enabling more effective government: one that is better coordinated, more proactive, and more strategic. Plan Houston ensures a healthy, prosperous future for Houston.

vey tool to engage Houstonians to get their feedback about what is most pressing to them. Please make sure to share your feedback online. Connecting our general plan to the budget demonstrates the City's commitment in making these goals a reality. In order to make this novel approach a success, we need Houstonians to participate so please spread the word!

Go to [www.planhouston.org](http://www.planhouston.org) and look for the survey link on the home page.



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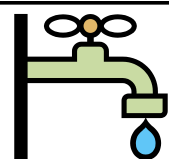
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