

vccahouston.org  
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Houston, TX 77219-0891



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Vermont Commons Civic Association  
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## January VCCA Monthly Meeting

VCCA monthly meetings will take place at **Local Pour at 1952 W Gray Street**, just behind Cafe Ginger. We'll be meeting in a room toward the front. We hope you will take the opportunity to join us and enjoy a glass or some nibbles at or after the meeting. See you at **Local Pour on Monday, January 9th at 7 PM.**



## January VCCA Speaker: Jennifer Trandell

Buffalo Bayou is the main watershed for Houston, draining 221 square miles of streets. Just one discarded plastic bottle on each block can fill the bayou during a heavy rain. Jennifer Trandell, our January speaker, will talk about the implications of plastic in our bayous and oceans, as well as what photodegradable means and why it is important to limit our use disposable bottles and picking up any on the ground for the health of our oceans and planet. Also, the Houston Area is the biggest producer of plastic in the world. Join us to learn more about plastic and how we can be more mindful and protect our bayous.

Jennifer Trandell is a native Houstonian. She holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a master's in education with an emphasis in environmental art. As a freelance writer her stories are inspired by nature, ecology and the people working toward positive change. Her blog is [thebotanicaljourney.com](http://thebotanicaljourney.com).

The Botanical Journey seeks to explore the history, culture, and botany of a place. The beauty of people, botanical traditions, and the culinary arts of a region are the adventure. The abundance of life in all its unique and wonderful forms is the mission.



## About Jennifer Trandell

Jennifer Trandell is a professional freelance writer and photographer, specializing in nature, conservation, wildlife, archeology, art, and adventure travel. A native Texan, Jennifer has traveled to over 25 countries and lived in Asia, Australia, Europe, Hawaii, and Mexico. Her favorite places are remote islands.

She enjoys treks into the mountains and desert, canoeing rivers and bayous, and diving into the ocean. The people who are working toward positive global change for the health of the planet inspire Jennifer's stories.

Jennifer's works have been published in print and online publications including a piece in Edible Houston Magazine entitled Growing Up Growing Food- Outdoor Classrooms Make a Difference and a local restaurant's campaign to use a parking lot as an edible garden space, a monarch article for a local plant store blog, an article about urban beehives, a couple of conservation pieces for a local real estate blog, a yoga travel article for Pink Pangea and she is a regular contributor to The Gulf Coast Master Naturalist Newsletter including an article on freshwater ecosystems.

Few people are as qualified to write about ecology, the environment, flora, fauna, and art. She is a volunteer for the Tex-

as Master Naturalists, Gulf Coast Chapter and has reported about a prescribed prairie burn for the Texas Land Conservancy and for a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle patrol during nesting season with Turtle Island Restoration Network.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, San Diego and a master's degree in Art Education from Lesley University with an emphasis in Environmental Art. She has attended the Honolulu Arts Academy and the Glassell School of Art. Her previous vocation was an Art and Art History teacher in California, Hawaii, and Texas. Jennifer has written several articles about Art exhibi-

tions including a story for Papercity Magazine about the U.S. premiere of French Floral painter, Claire Basler: The Garden of Dreams.

Beyond nature, her favorite subject is archeology. She is a member of the Houston Archeological Society helping screen for artifacts on local prehistoric to historic era sites. Her undergraduate thesis was about the ancient Mesoamerican trade routes and she has explored and written articles about Maya Ruins and Prehistoric Rock Art. As a gardener, Jennifer also loves to write about all things botanical.





### VCCA Yard of the Month

Lovely flower plantings led to the selection of this townhouse at 2220 Brun as Yard of the Month for January 2017. Submit your nominations for YOM for January to [Lillian\\_skogsberg@earthlink.net](mailto:Lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net) by February 10th.

### January Coffee

Watch NextDoor and check the VCCA website for details.

Join us for some hot coffee and a warm reception. Meet your neighbors and welcome the new year.



### Citizen Patrol Update

David Hoyer, Coordinator

The Citizen Patrol had 12 patrollers do 209 hours of walking and 70 hours of driving in November! Simple math tells us that is 9 hours per day, so kudos to all. Once again Bob Costantini led the way with 116 total hours, followed by BR Simon with 30 hours and Rob Fuller

## Recap on Glass Recycling for the VCCA

A committee of nine members has exchanged notes and experiences on current glass recycling in Vermont Commons. It seems that, at this time, most committee members are in favor of letting people do glass recycling at their own convenience. The committee feels a community effort will take away some flexibility due to the schedules/pick up rules, etc.

The committee will highlight and distribute the relevant info within the community through the newsletter. For now, the committee will observe progress and revisit the issue if needed.

Thanks to everyone for helping us get the word out to the community.

Good news is, Mayor Turner has said that the city will be working on a new plan for recycling that will include curbside glass pickup in the future. So, hopefully all these measures are temporary solutions. For now we will do our best, be responsible citizens by dropping off our recyclable glass at the facilities near us.

Information on the program is available at <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/press-07062016.html>. The website provides relevant information and links to both free and paid option for Glass Recycling.

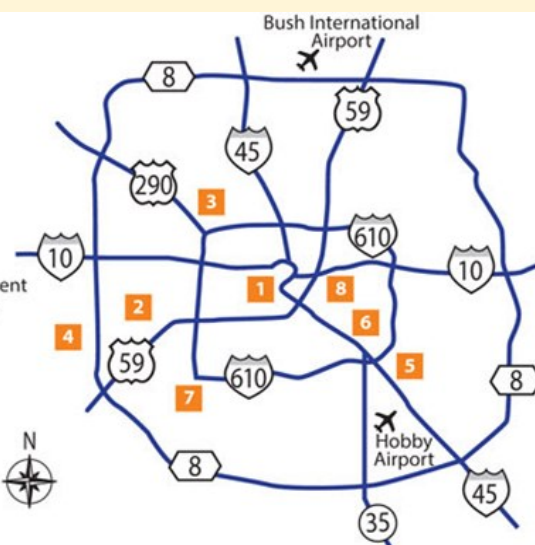
In partnership with Strategic Materials, Inc, North America's largest glass recycler, the City of Houston has provided Glass Recycling Drop off Boxes at the following locations in Houston. More locations will be added.

### Take the Survey

Are you, our Vermont Commons neighbor, recycling your glass or throwing it away? Let us know: <https://goo.gl/forms/pcqF06AU3ZvaizO32>



The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department will send out notices as other locations are added to this pilot program.



### VCCA Treasurer's Report as of 11/30/16

Beginning Balance 10/31/2016 (A)	\$	6,120.94
<b>Income</b>		
Total Revenue for November (B)	\$	-
Sub Total A + B	\$	6,120.94
<b>Expenses</b>		
Newsletter October & November	\$	(1,132.00)
Sub Total C	\$	(1,132.00)
Balance @ 11/30/2016 = A+B-C	\$	4,988.94
Additional deposits since 11/30/16	\$	1,279.73
Cleared payments after 11/30/16	\$	(1,712.50)
subtotal	\$	(432.77)
PayPal balance @11/15/16 not transferred	\$	757.22
<b>Net Funds Available</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,313.39</b>

1. Salvation Army Family Store & Donation Center - 2208 Washington Ave, accessible 24 hours.
2. Sharpstown Park Golf Course - 6600 Harbor Town Drive, accessible during park hours.
3. T.C. Jester Park - 4201 T C Jester Blvd, accessible during park hours.
4. Alief Community Park - 11903 Bellaire Blvd, accessible during park hours.
5. Glenbrook Golf Course - 8205 N Bayou Dr, accessible during park hours.
6. Mason Park (2) - 541 S 75th St, accessible during park hours.
7. Westbury Methodist Church - 5200 Willowbend Blvd, accessible during business hours.
8. We Can Recycle - 723 N Drennan St, accessible during business hours.



## VCCA Holiday Party

Good times were had by all at the annual VCCA Holiday Party on December 12th. Neighbors enjoyed catching up with one another, discussing holiday plans, and making new friends. The buffet spread and happy hour drink specials contributed to the joyous atmosphere, and VCCA will continue to hold meetings at this new location - the front room at **Local Pour**. We want to thank the wait staff and managers at Local Pour who helped make the party a great success. A special

thanks goes out to **Lillian Skogsberg** and the decorating committee:

**Carole Dodson, Elizabeth McKenzie, and Jeanette Hix.** Thanks also to the volunteers who helped greet neighbors at the welcome tables: **Ann Ince, Robin Greene, Chuck Randall, Marilyn Fehrenkamp, Catriona Sarkis, and Cay Dickson.**



## Lower Westheimer Corridor Study

Houston Planning & Development Department's Lower Westheimer Corridor Study, for rebuilding Westheimer/Elgin from Main Street to Shepherd, is near completion and likely will be funded. At the November Neighborhood meeting, a representative from the Department spoke with attendees about the study area and potential plans, including repaving, adding green space, enhancing sidewalk offerings, and other measure. There is a website, [www.lowerwestheimerstudy.org](http://www.lowerwestheimerstudy.org), offers more information about plans and progress.



The City of Houston  
Official Site for Houston, Texas



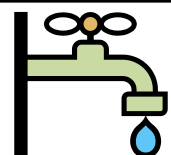
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## Rebecca M. Harvey, D.D.S., P.A.

[drharvey@dentisthouston.com](mailto:drharvey@dentisthouston.com)

2025 Fairview Houston, TX 77019

Phone (713) 528-4054

Fax (713) 528-1443

[www.dentisthouston.com](http://www.dentisthouston.com)



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