

vccahouston.org
PO Box 130891
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March 2017

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Published Monthly September thru June
Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891, Houston, TX 77219
Issue No. 73

March VCCA Monthly Meeting

VCCA monthly meetings are at Local Pour, 1952 W Gray St, just behind Cafe Ginger. We meet in a room toward the front. We hope you will join us and enjoy a glass or some nibbles at or after the meeting. See you at Local Pour on **Monday, March 13th at 7 PM.**

LOCAL POUR
.....
Upscale Just Down The Street

March 13th VCCA Meeting Speaker - Raequel Roberts

The topic of refugees from Syria and other countries seeking to resettle in the United States has been in the news for a long time now. Elected officials and policy wonks are squaring off on a daily basis in debates about whom to let into the United States and what accepting refugees means for the economy and safety of the cities and towns that will become home to people fleeing war and strife. As the fourth largest city in the United States, Houston is not immune from this debate or the outcomes. Our March speaker is Raequel Roberts, Director of Communications for Interfaith Ministries in Houston. She will share information with us about the work Interfaith Ministries is undertaking to resettle refugees fleeing political, social, and religious persecution. Join us as we learn more about the human face of the policy debate as well as the local impact.



Raequel Roberts serves as Director of Communication at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (www.imgh.org), providing media relations, marketing, design and social media expertise. Previously, she served as Director of Marketing at Locke Lord LLP and VP of Marketing



for Houston METRO. She also has held various editorial positions at the Houston Chronicle and Houston Post, and has served on the Board of Directors of Avenue CDC and Diverse Works.

You may have seen Raequel walking the Vermont Commons neighborhood with her dogs. They are the two obnoxious Welsh corgis. Yes, those corgis. She apologizes profusely for any stress they may have caused you.

Save the Dates

April 10th: Join us at the April VCCA meeting where Jim Parsons from Preservation Houston will share a brief history of Houston. We'll also learn more about Preservation Houston and the work this organization does for our city.

April 22nd: VCCA Spring Picnic

PIP Meeting (Monthly)

Central District #1- Civic

1602 State Street
First Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 7,
2017

About Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston brings people of diverse faith traditions together for dialogue, collaboration, and service, as a demonstration of our shared beliefs. IM envisions a community working and acting together in response to the needs of a Greater Houston to create a more **respectful, connected, and caring society.**

History. In 1955, the Houston Council of Churches launched IM's predecessor organization, the Church Welfare Bureau, to organize the Protestant community to minister to those in need. In 1964, the Bureau was reorganized as Protestant Charities of Houston, a group that was joined and strengthened by the Jewish community. Officially chartered as Houston Metropolitan Ministries in 1969, IM has been a leading force in bringing together people of all faiths to serve people in need in the greater Houston area.

IM was renamed Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston in 1992 to reflect support from increasingly diverse faith traditions.

Areas of Service

IM believes that, through service and dialogue, it is possible for very diverse people to know one another and find common ground, while still embracing our personal beliefs and cultures. IM celebrates the strength of our shared beliefs through three areas of service:

Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston delivers more than 1.5 million meals each year to seniors in Harris and Galveston counties.

Refugee Services, in conjunction with the U.S. State Department, resettles thousands of refugees in Houston each year.

Interfaith Relations provides a safe harbor for greater Houston through its many interfaith programs and dialogue efforts.



ARE YOU RECYCLING TOO MUCH?

By Marilyn Fehrenkamp

If the United States recycling levels could reach 75%, that would have the same environmental benefit as removing 50 million cars from the road each year and it would create 1.5 million new jobs. Improving and increasing recycling is one of the greatest opportunities for the betterment of our environment, our natural resources, and our economy.

We want to recycle as much as we possibly can, but if you put unauthorized items in your recycling bin, the city has to hire people to manually separate this "trash" from the recyclable materials. And, if there is too much trash mixed in the bins, the vendors will not pay the city for the recyclable items they are collecting. If it costs the city too great, eventually curbside recycling may be discontinued.



Please read the top of your green bin to learn what is allowed and what is not allowed in curbside recycling.

Unfortunately, the city does not currently have a vendor that will buy glass, so it is not allowed in our green bins at this time. You can recycle glass yourself at specific locations or

pay to have someone pick it up for you at your home to take to a recycler.

I will be sending recycling tips in future newsletters to help keep you informed.

ALLOWED

- Aluminum cans (only cans)
- Corrugated cardboard, flattened
- Paper of all kinds
- Plastics that have the little triangle with the numbers 1,2,3,4,5, or 7 inside it. (no Styrofoam) (no #6 plastics)
- Cereal and other dry food boxes
- Steel (tin) cans, rinsed



NOT ALLOWED

- Plastic bags of any kind
- Dirty cardboard or paper
- Glass of any kind
- Plastic that does not have the little triangle on it (including water bottle tops)
- Grass or leaves
- Styrofoam



March Coffee

When: Tuesday, March 7, 10am

Where: 2109 Huldy St.
Our hostess will be Maura Ferrero Baroni

Join us for some hot coffee and a warm reception.



Downtown Rodeo Parade - March 4, 2017

Catch the Trail Riders on Memorial Drive as they head Downtown

Every February since 1938, the nation's fourth largest city is transformed from a bustling metropolis to a down-home celebration of Western heritage. Decorative floats intermingle with thousands of men and women on horseback to fill the streets with hoof beats and marching bands. Enthusiastic Houstonians join out-of-town spectators to line the streets and sidewalks to be involved in one of Houston's most popular celebrations!



March 7 - 26, 2016 The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is a Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to benefiting youth, supporting education, and facilitating better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation. Since 1932, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has grown to be the largest livestock show and rodeo in the world, attracting more than 2.4 million people to the annual event from across the world, and the Show's support of Texas youth is nearly \$430 million.

Citizen Patrol Update

David Hoyer, Coordinator

Citizen Patrol did 185 hours of volunteer patrolling in January! That of course is 6 hours per day, free of charge to residents of Vermont Commons and environs. Once again Bob (Iron Man) Costantini was our top patroller with 86 hours, followed by Elizabeth McKenzie with 36 hours and Rob Fuller with 24 hours.

VCCA Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2017

Beginning Balance 11/30/2016 (A)	\$ 5,346.17
Income	
Dues	\$160.00
Advertising	\$400.00
Total Revenue for January, 2017 (B)	\$560.00
Sub Total A + B	\$ 5,906.17
Expenses	
December & January newsletter printing	(1132.00)
Sub Total (C)	(1132.00)
Balance @ 1/31/ 2017 = A+B-C	\$ 4,774.17
Pending Payments (Feb 2017 Newsletter)	(626.00)
Checks deposited	\$ 1,240.00
Net Funds Available	\$ 5,388.17

It is a new year, and now is a great time for us to hear from you. What do you think about Vermont Commons' activities? What do you enjoy, what would you like to see added to the year, what do you think we could do better? Let us know what you think - visit the Vermont Commons website www.vccahouston.org, and click on the text circled here to give us your feedback. We look forward to hearing from you!

VCCA Sound Off!



Vermont Commons Civic Association
Welcome to Vermont Commons

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About VCCA Citizen Patrol Nextdoor Houston Information



February Coffee

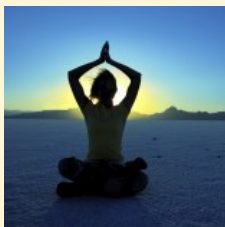
Tuesday, Feb 14, 10:00 AM at 2020 Indiana St. Hosted by Kit Muir
▲ Ann Terrell □ January 25, 2017 ● General

Share your feedback! - click here

Take a moment to tell us what you think about VCCA and what you'd like to get involved with in our community.

Just Breathe

Neighbors who attended our February meeting enjoyed an especially relaxing experience as Stan Merrill guided us through a meditation that helped us focus on our breathing and connected mindfulness with relaxation. We all have a lot of stress in our lives, and as Stan indicated, taking a moment to breathe and be mindful can help to reduce stress and bring a feeling of calm to your day. To learn more about Stan and the classes he offers, visit <http://BeingMindful.com>, and feel free to reach out to him with questions at Stan@StanleyMerrill.com.



The March selection is 2505B McDuffie. The home has nice flower landscaping. Please nominate your Yard of the Month candidate for April by March 13th to



lillia skogsberg @earthlink.net.

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Citizens and Police - Friendship Through Education

The Houston Police Department Positive Interaction Program (PIP) holds monthly meetings featuring speakers from different divisions (burglary and theft, homicide, K-9, helicopters, etc.) explaining how their division operates. This is done so citizens will know what to expect, should they ever need the police. PIP does not send an officer out to your group. Your civic association should send your neighborhood residents to the police station for the civic PIP meeting.

The education of the citizens on how their police department functions is essential to the PIP program. Once a citizen understands how the police department does its job, that citizen can better relay to the police department their neighborhood needs.

The free flow of information and ideas gives us both a better understanding of each other's needs and expectations. This fosters trust and friendship between citizens and the police department that serves them. Cooperation between the Houston Police Department and the citizens is imperative in the reduction of crime and enhancing the overall quality of life in their neighborhoods.



With state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of Montrose, the **University of St. Thomas** is Houston's hometown choice for the doctors, nurses and scientists of tomorrow.



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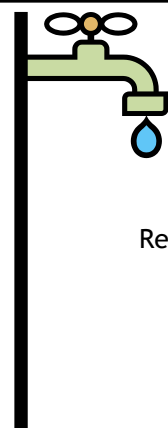
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