



Vermont Commons

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April 2022



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Issue No. 124

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

Chalk Drawing Festival * All Day April 9

An all-day event for the young and old! Use all of the colors of the rainbow to create drawings on your sidewalk and/or driveway. VCCA encourages residents to stroll through the neighborhood to enjoy the art. Volunteers will be walking the neighborhood to take photos of the drawings to put in the next newsletter.

KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE! JOIN THE CONSTABLE PATROL PROGRAM!

Have you noticed the Precinct 1 Constable Patrol signs at the entrances to our neighborhood? What about the Constable vehicles patrolling our streets? The Constable Patrol has been in our neighborhood for seven years helping to improve the security of our community. However, they come at a cost! Residents of Vermont Commons need to help shoulder that cost. It takes financial support from **ALL OF** our neighbors to continue this important security service. Constable Patrols are **NOT** standard taxpayer-funded services. If you are a member, THANK YOU, and please continue your support and spread the word!! If you are not a Constable Patrol member, please join your neighbors and support the program. The 2022 annual cost per household is \$300. We need more members to maintain the Constable Deputies that patrol our neighborhood and respond quickly to our calls. **For more information**, visit <http://www.vcpatrol.com>. If you have any additional questions, please email us at info@vcpatrol.com.

Happy Hour

The VCCA Happy Hour continues the **second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm**. On Monday, April 11 at 6:30 pm, VCCA will be hosting Happy Hour at Churrasco's, 2055 Westheimer. There will not be a speaker.

May Picnic

On Sunday, May 15 at 4:00 pm, VCCA is sponsoring its annual May Picnic. It's another opportunity for residents to gather and enjoy old friends and make new ones. Jim and Sheila Armsworth have once again graciously agreed to host the picnic at their Woodhead side garden. More details about the picnic in the May newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6 - 10am
Monthly Coffee at Empire Cafe

April 9 - Chalk Drawing Festival
(Rain Date April 16)

April 11 - 6:30 p.m.
Happy Hour at Churrasco's

April 13 - 2 pm - 3:30pm
Zoom Book Club Meeting

April 29 - All in the VCCA Family,
Brasil, 7:30pm, Parents' Evening

May 15 - Annual Picnic

REMINDERS

Renew your VCCA membership if you have not already. Visit <http://www.vccahouston.org> and click "Membership" to renew or mail your check in the previously provided VCCA address.

CORRECTION

The Animal Blessing will take place in the Fall.

SUBMISSIONS

Send news, notices, photos, editorials, or advertising requests to Beverly McPhail at bevmcphail@icloud.com. Submissions are due by the 14th of the month preceding the newsletter.

BOOK CLUB

The VCCA Book Club usually meets every third Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., but will meet the second Wednesday for April, that is, April 13. We read a variety of genres that includes books we might not have read otherwise. This month we will discuss *The Sweetness of Water*, by Nathan Harris. We welcome new members! Please contact Natalie Browne at nbrowne48@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to join us at our April 13 meeting.

CITIZEN PATROL

Citizen Patrol had 11 patrollers that did a total of 198 hours of driving and walking in February. That is 7 hours per day of volunteering to help keep our community safe. Many thanks to all patrollers, especially Bob Costantini who did half of the hours.

David Hoyer, CP Coordinator

MONTHLY COFFEE

The monthly Coffee meets at Empire Cafe on Westheimer at Elmen on the first Wednesday of the month at **10:00 am** on the patio. Attend to enjoy conversation, laughter and camaraderie.

VCCA OFFICERS 2021-22

Directors: Jeanette Hix (Lead Director), Stephanie Taylor, Nina Westerfeld, Janet Meyer, Lisa Meyer, Lillian Skogsberg, Ann Green Terrel

Treasurer: Chuck Randall

VP Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin

Newsletter: Beverly McPhail and Susan Russell



New Neighborhood Safety Signal

Nancy Higgs (Vermont Commons resident, former VCCA VP) contacted Abbie Kamin our City Council representative in early 2021 to advocate for crosswalk signals at the West Gray/Dunlavy Street intersection. She worked feverishly with Ngan Nguyen in Abbie's office for almost a year! The signals are up and functioning. Kudos to Abbie, Ngan and Nancy for achieving this important neighborhood improvement!

All in the VCCA Family

The All in the VCCA family group is having a *Parents' Night Out* in April! Meet at Brasil's, located at the corner of

Westheimer and Dunlavy, on Friday, April 29 at 7:30pm.

There will be food and drinks for purchase and some great socializing for all. We hope to see you there!

Meet Our New VCCA Newsletter Co-Editors

Susan Russell was born and raised in Houston and grew up about a mile away from where she currently lives on Brun. She and her husband, Phillip, are both engineers and they have a 2-year old son and a newborn daughter. Beverly McPhail has lived on Driscoll for five years with her husband Kevin, dog Rocket and cat Maddie. She is a retired social worker and volunteers at The Guild Shop pricing art.



2021 McDuffie



Residential Fence Rules and Guidelines

Did you know? The City of Houston requires a permit if you construct a concrete or masonry fence, or if your fence will be over 8 feet high.

Specific Rules and Restrictions

- *Front Yard Fences* – Fences in front yards must get approval from the Houston Planning and Development Department. They may not be allowed in HOA controlled developments.
- *Side Yard Fences* – Required setbacks may apply, with height restrictions.
- *Back Yard Fences* – 8 feet maximum height without permit.
- *Corner Lot Restrictions* – Observe setback limitations. Fifteen feet line of sight triangles are required at intersections. Front yard fence prohibitions may also apply in HOA controlled areas.
- *Prohibited along Sidewalks* - Except as otherwise provided, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect or maintain, within the city limits, any railing or fencing along the sidewalks or next to the street. This applies to both residential and commercial property.
- *Residential Swimming Pools* - In Houston, areas with swimming pools must be enclosed by a fence. Houston's Health and Safety Code stipulates a fence's requirements, which include at least 48 inches in height. Furthermore, if it is not a privacy fence, an opening in the structure may not be wide enough to permit a 4-inch "sphere," or ball, from passing through it, unless the fence is made out of chain-link material. In this case, the links must be tight enough that a sphere no larger than 2 inches can pass through. Any gates must be latched and lockable.

Before you erect or replace a fence on your property, know these rules. If you see improper fence construction, approach your neighbor and/or call 311. Maintaining city code within Vermont Commons will help to preserve the neighborhood esthetics.



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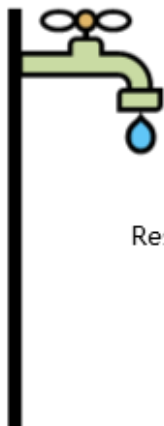
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April 2022



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