



Vermont Commons

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

September 2022



Newsletter Published Monthly September — September
Issue No. 127

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

Annual Dues are Due! Plus a New Payment Method

The \$40 annual dues are due! The insert in this newsletter provides three different ways to join/renew and pay. VCCA leadership made the decision to no longer use PayPal. The Board felt that it was not responsible to continue to use PayPal as the service fees continued to climb each year. So, VCCA has switched to Zelle. Of course, you can pay by check directly to VCCA. We hope the decision is not an inconvenience to any of our neighbors. Please review the insert.

Volunteers Needed

VCCA is looking for a volunteer with real-estate legal experience to assist with deed restrictions. Please volunteer if this is your expertise. Contact Jeanette Hix at hix@rmi.net

Volunteers are also needed to work on special projects or events. The Directors and officers are happy to work for the betterment of the community, but we sure could use some assistance! Perks are getting to know your neighborhood and neighbors better! Please volunteer your time. Contact Jeanette Hix at hix@rmi.net.

VCCA Happy Hour

Volunteer Appreciation and Welcome Back from Summer

Join us Monday, September 12 at 6:30pm at Churrascos River Oaks in Shepherd Square Shopping Center at 2055 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77098. The VCCA is indebted to the neighbors who volunteer their time and resources to the organization on behalf of all our residents. We want to celebrate our volunteers' efforts and thank them with one free glass of wine for all who attend. And, if you're not already displaying your VCCA Volunteer sign, please place it out for the VCCA Volunteer Month of September. Everyone is welcome to come out and join us as we celebrate VCCA volunteers with VCCA Happy Hour and Volunteer Appreciation Night!

National Night Out

Join us on Tuesday, October 4 for a 6:30pm start to celebrate **National Night Out**, at the parking lot of Dr. Rebecca Harvey's Dental Office at 2025 Fairview. There will be a **free ice cream truck** and **one free drink** from the beverage truck (adult and other beverages)!

We all Scream for Ice Cream!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 7 - 10am, Wed.,
Monthly Coffee Klatch at
Empire Cafe

Sept 12 - Happy Hour,
Churrasco's, 6:30pm

Sept 21 - 2 pm - 3:30pm
Wednesday, Book Club
Meeting

Sept 30 - Parents' Night
Out, at LaGrange, 7:30pm

October 4 - National
Night Out, 6:30pm

REMINDERS

Renew your VCCA membership! Dues are only \$40 for a full year of events and services. The insert located in this newsletter provides three easy methods to renew or join!

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.

To read the newsletter in color, go to vccahouston.org

BOOK CLUB

The VCCA Book Club meets every third Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.. We read a variety of genres that includes books we might not have read otherwise. This month we will discuss *Golden Hill* by Francis Spufford. We welcome new members! Please contact Natalie Browne at nbrowne48@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to join us at our September 21st meeting.

CITIZEN PATROL

Citizen Patrol had 16 volunteer patrollers that did a total of 263 hours in July. That was over 9 hours per day of volunteering to keep us all safe. Thanks to all of our dedicated patrollers, especially Bob Costantini, Lillian and Jim Skogsberg, and Jeanette Hix who did the most hours David Hoyer, CP Coordinator

MONTHLY COFFEE

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

VCCA OFFICERS 2022-23

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



EVELYN GARNER, TURNED 100 IN AUGUST!

Evelyn Garner moved into what is now called Vermont Commons as a brand new bride in 1946. She is independent, full of stories of her well-lived life, and a joy to talk to. She and her husband reared their two children in the neighborhood. What does she miss most about her early years in the neighborhood? Starry nights, watching the sunrise, and being able to see the downtown skyline from her home.

All in the VCCA Family Update

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Parents and caregivers, come join us on Friday, September 30th at at 7:30 pm at La Grange (2517 Ralph St., lagrangehouston.com). Drinks and snacks available for purchase.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

The All in the VCCA Family group is planning a Trunk-or-Treat for late October. More details to come in the October newsletter and/or through the Facebook group. For more details on connecting with other neighborhood families, please join our Facebook group: All in the VCCA Family.



2018 Vermont

The shaped shrubs and abundance of flowers makes stopping at the stop sign a delight!

Meet your Neighbor Tom Oxford: Resident of Vermont Commons for 55 years!



Tom moved to his home on Driscoll in Vermont Commons in 1967. He was one of the original volunteers who helped start Vermont Commons Civic Association in the 1990s and continued to volunteer for many years. After he moved in, he discovered that next door to his new home, two years prior to moving in, the Ice Box Murders occurred. A book about the murders was written in 2003 – *The Ice Box Murders* by Hugh and Martha Gardenier (only available electronically). “At that time real estate salespeople did not have to make any disclosures, therefore, we did not know until after moving in that the icebox murder house was next door. It did not bother us. I even ended up mowing the property’s lawn as a convenience for the attorney of that estate.”

Tom is the rare native Houstonian and grew up near Moody Park. He attended Jefferson Davis High School as did his mother. Kenny Rogers and Tom were in the same class. Kenny never came to the high school reunions, but always sent his best wishes. Tom says the most dramatic changes in the area are the multitude of townhouses and apartments, not to mention the increase in traffic. “It took a long time before I realized that Driscoll is the only street between Shepherd and Woodhead that goes completely through from West Gray to Westheimer.” The restaurant that Tom misses most is Leo’s Mexican Restaurant, which was on Shepherd. “And, of course, we followed them to Washington Avenue until they closed.” From the time he graduated until he retired at 62, Tom was in the land title business beginning with Houston Title where his father worked. “I left that business in 2000. For the next 20 years I worked part-time at the River Oaks Bookstore until they closed in 2020. For the last 26 years I have worked weekends at Joshua’s Native Plants in the Heights.” Tom is very knowledgeable about plants and has a beautiful garden in his front yard that attracts butterflies, bees, and neighbors! He also bakes delicious bread for his lucky next door neighbors!



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 September 2022 



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