



Vermont Commons

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

November 2022



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Issue No. 129

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

Pet Blessing

Our furry and feathered roommates, for many of us, are our best friends. Gussy them up (costumes encouraged) and trot them to the parking lot of Eugene's restaurant at McDuffie and Welch, for a costume contest and blessing. Our neighborhood pet lover and newly anointed pastor, Cay Dickson, will bestow a blessing as you and your pets parade through the parking lot. Win a trophy for best costume, and for best behaved pet! The event will take place on **Sunday, November 6 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Eugene's restaurant parking lot at Welch and McDuffie. All types of pets welcome.

National Night Out Celebration

Close to 100 Vermont Commons residents gathered at Dr. Rebecca Harvey's parking lot on Fairview. Dr. Harvey welcomed residents with a sign. Six constables attended to assure residents that they were watching out for everyone. There was loads of laughing, sharing and ice cream eating!



CONSTABLE PATROL

Did you know that the Constables who patrol Vermont Commons are here because residents pay for their services? There are 1100 households in Vermont Commons and only 215 of those pay the fee. The constables only patrol part of the day. Why? There are not enough households paying the fee. Vermont Commons would love to have constables watching our homes and vehicles 24/7. Please consider joining for only \$300 a year. Visit Vcpatrol.com to join.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2 - Coffee, 10am, Empire Cafe

November 6 - Pet Blessing, 4pm, Eugene's

November 14 - Monthly Happy Hour, 6:30pm, Churrasco's

November 16 - 2 pm-3:30pm, Book Club

December 5 - VCCA Holiday Party

Dec. 11 - Monarch Chamber Players, 5:30pm

REMINDERS

Renew your VCCA membership!

Dues are only \$40 for a full year of events and services. Visit our website at vccahouston.org to learn how to pay with Zelle.

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 *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. We welcome new members! Please contact Natalie Browne at nbrowne48@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to join us at our November 16th meeting.

CITIZEN PATROL

Citizen Patrol had 18 patrollers that did 290 hours of walking and driving in September. That is almost 10 hours per day of volunteering to help make our neighborhood safe. Thanks to all, especially Bob Costantini, Maria Rodriguez, and new patroller John Hughes who did over half of the hours between them. 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

All in the VCCA Family

Community members enjoyed Parents Night Out last month with an evening of great conversation and delicious refreshments. If you are not familiar with the restaurant, La Grange, it is a great local spot with an inviting patio for coastal Mexican cuisine.



We now have a WhatsApp group in addition to our Facebook group (All in the VCCA Family). If you are interested in being added to WhatsApp, please email AllintheVCCAFamily@gmail.com.

Please look for the *Trunk or Treat* article in the December newsletter.

Thanks to John Waldo and Willa White, two VCCA residents, who responded to the call for new VCCA volunteers! Thank you and welcome!

The Rest of the Story

Nina Westfeld, VCCA Director and Hazard resident, read the article about Tom Oxford in last month's newsletter with great interest. As it turns out, her father was the lawyer Tom referred to in the article in the October newsletter. Nina was aware that her father handled the property, but she did not know that it was right around the corner from where she lives. Nina never accompanied her father to the property, but was very aware of the Ice Box Murders house. Tom and Nina had a great reunion as you can tell by the picture.



1610 Hazard

Garden Sanctuary for Birds, Bees, Butterflies, and Wildlife

Madeleine Schlemmer loves to garden, "I always liked to get my hands dirty," and it is obvious as you take a stroll through her garden. Her goal was not to just have a beautiful landscape, but to have birds and small animals frequent her garden. "Please, no rats!" she proclaimed, but they come with the territory. When she saw an article about how to make her garden a certified Wildlife Habitat, she applied to the National Wildlife Federation. She met all the criteria and the sign proudly hangs on the outside wall of her house. She has rain barrels that catch the rain water from her gutters and uses the water when rain is scarce. The yard is a fabulous place and right here in the middle of the city with busy streets abutting her property. Birds are in abundance all year long. Her plants are host to many insects. Butterflies and bees frequent the many flowering shrubs.



Madeleine, who speaks four languages, arrived in Houston in 1964 from Basel, Switzerland. Switzerland is her native country, but she was looking for a change and when an opportunity arose to meet her grandfather, a US citizen, she decided to visit and then stay. In 1989, she purchased her home on Huldy. She has not only established a habitat for wild animals, but is the proud owner of three indoor rescue cats.



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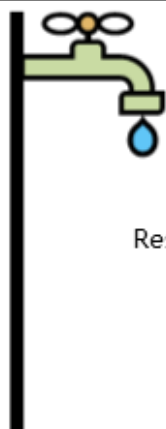
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Rebecca M. Harvey, D.D.S., P.A.

drharvey@dentisthouston.com

2025 Fairview Houston, TX 77019

Phone (713) 528-4054

Fax (713) 528-1443



Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891
Houston, TX 77219-0891

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