



Vermont Commons

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

February 2023



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



MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Let's Celebrate!! It's the time of year to celebrate Mardi Gras. Dress in vibrant Madi Gras colors (not mandatory) and join your friends and neighbors. Beads and doubloons will be thrown to the children. Music will be played; dance if you like. King cake will be served. Bring your favorite beverage. **February 19 at 5:00 pm** at the office of Dr. Rebecca Harvey on Fairview between Brun and Huldry.

NEW CITIZEN PATROL LEADER

Lillian Skogsberg has volunteered to replace David Hoyer as the Citizen Patrol coordinator. She is a long-time patroller, resident of Vermont Commons, and a Director of VCCA. Thanks, Lillian, for stepping up to fill this position. And again, many thanks to David Hoyer for his years of service!

VERMONT RESIDENT IN ACTION

Carole Allgood reported to 311 that Welch is a very busy street that is used by many to get to Allen Parkway, as there are very few stop signs along this segment. It was suggested that a four-way stop sign would help traffic slow down. Also, on Driscoll where existing stop signs are, motorists think this is a four-way controlled intersection. After many discussions with the City of Houston, a sign will be installed that says **CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP**. Thank you, Carole, for taking the time and energy to safeguard Vermont Commons residents.

HAPPY HOUR

Join friends and neighbors, old and new, for the monthly Happy Hour at Churrasco's. Last month there were 30 residents who gathered in the bar area who toasted the New Year. Hope you can join everyone on **February 13**.

VCCA DIRECTORS

VCCA Directors meet on a regular basis to plan activities for Vermont Commons. The directors would appreciate any ideas for activities that you think the neighborhood would enjoy. Please email Jeanette Hix at hix@rmi.net. Be creative!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1 -
Coffee, 10am,
Empire Cafe

February 13 -
Happy Hour, 6:30pm

February 19 -
Mardi Gras
Celebration, 5pm

February 15 - 2 pm
- 3:30pm, Book
Club

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 12th 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 of the month from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. February's book is *Breaking the Age Code: How Your Beliefs about Aging Determine How Long & Well You Live* by Rebecca Levy. Don't let the length of the title scare you; it's a great read. We welcome new members! Please contact Natalie Browne at nbrowne48@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to join us at our February 15 meeting.

CITIZEN PATROL

Citizen Patrol had 11 patrollers that did 173 hours of walking and driving in December. That comes out to almost 6 hours per day of volunteering to help keep our community safe. Many thanks to our volunteers! This is my last month as Coordinator, as my wife and I are downsizing to a townhome in Midtown now that our children have "left the roost." Lillian Skogsberg will be taking over as Coordinator next month after being one of our best patrollers for many years. Thank you one last time to our dedicated patrollers and all the best to everyone in Vermont Commons, David Hoyer, Retiring Citizens' Patrol 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: Kay Johnson
Deed Restrictions: Andy Tallin
Newsletter: Beverly McPhail

ALL IN THE VCCA FAMILY UPDATE

In December, Santa was spotted on Morse spreading holiday cheer. Thank you to the neighbor who opened up their driveway for Santa Claus and the children. If you are interested in connecting with other neighborhood families, please join our Facebook group, All in the VCCA Family, or email AllintheVCCAFamily@gmail.com to be added to the WhatsApp chat group.



1600 Hazard

Boxwoods and pansies survived the freeze!



Neighborhood Safety

The VC Security Foundation (Vermont Commons/Park Civic/Lewisdale neighborhood Constable program) will be starting its 2023 membership renewal process and new member recruitment program in February 2023. The annual dues for 2023 will be \$300, unchanged from 2022.

If you are not a member of our neighborhood Constable program, we encourage you to join and support the program that benefits and improves security in the entire neighborhood. Information about the Constable program can be found at www.vcpatrol.com or by email at info@vcpatrol.com. Submitted by Jim Wisner.

WHAT IS THE CITIZENS' PATROL?? ANOTHER TOOL TO PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Maybe you have wondered what the Citizen Patrol signs that you see in the neighborhood refer to. Citizen Patrol is a community-based volunteer program sponsored by the Houston Police Department. The goal of Citizens' Patrol is to provide an effective method of discouraging crime while promoting friendlier, safer neighborhoods.

VCCA's Involvement includes establishing a communication pathway between VCCA residents and the police department. Volunteers track and report patrol hours monthly to the coordinator. These reports are posted in the VCCA newsletter and reported to the Houston Police Department.

How do you know who is a Citizen Patrol volunteer? They are just like all the walkers and joggers in the neighborhood. They do not wear any particular clothing. They smile and greet their neighbors while keeping an eye out and reporting suspicious activity. For further details about the program, look on the VCCA web page: vccahouston.org



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February 2023



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