



Vermont Commons

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

March 2023



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



Bring your chair and favorite drink to the corner of Huldry and Fairview, Rebecca Harvey's parking lot, **Sunday, March 26th at 6:00 pm**, for a concert by The Drift, a groove-oriented blues rock band. Guitarist and band member Joe Crump lives in Vermont Commons, as do his Dad, Jim Crump and step-mother, Mary McBeth. The Drift is fundamentally a hard rock band that dabbles in other genres, such as funk and reggae. They can be found playing at various local venues, namely The Continental Club, where they got a rave review, and The Rustic. The live set list usually comprises ten originals, and the number is growing all the time. They are expected to release a 4 song EP in the spring, so look for it on your favorite streaming platform. You can follow them on Facebook or on Instagram @thedrift.texas. If you want to receive text notifications about upcoming shows, text @thedrif to this number: 81010.

HAPPY HOUR

VCCA once again sponsors a Happy Hour on **March 13 at 6:30pm at Churrasco's**. These Happy Hours give Vermont Commons residents an opportunity to meet neighbors. For some residents, it is gathering with long time friends from the neighborhood. But more and more new neighbors have been attending and learning about VCCA and all that it has to offer. Old and new neighbors, see you on March 13.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1 - Coffee,
10am, Empire Cafe

March 13 - 6:30pm
Happy Hour

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

March 26 - The
Drift Concert,
6:00pm

REMINDERS

**VC Constable Patrol
Membership
Drive is On.**

\$300 dollars a year for increased patrols and safety. See page 2 for details.

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. We read a variety of genres that includes books that we might not have read otherwise. This month we will discuss *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley. We welcome new members! Please contact Natalie Browne at nbrowne48@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to join us at our March 15 meeting.

CITIZEN PATROL

Citizens on Patrol had 16 patrollers who walked & drove around the neighborhood, totaling 185 hrs. That was about 11 hrs per day of patrolling our neighborhood. Bob Costantini was our top patroller keeping up his daily routine. A number of patrollers have alerted their neighbors of open garage doors. It's good to have our neighbors watching out for each other. Stay alert!

Submitted by Lillian Skogsberg,
Citizen's 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

VC CONSTABLE PATROL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

If you're not already a member, we invite you to participate in the VC Foundation Constable Patrol Program. The Foundation serves the Lewisdale, Park Civic, and Vermont Commons neighborhoods and functions as administrator for the program.

Having a Constable patrolling the neighborhood offers rapid response to calls that might otherwise be handled by HPD or other governmental agencies. Most response times by the constable are around 10 minutes!

There are other benefits, too : Vacation Watch, special watches for members with a particular circumstance, home security inspections, getting to know your Deputy on a first-name basis, and having a Constable's presence in the neighborhood, among other things.

To join, visit vcpatrol.org and go to **Become A Member**. Our preferred payment methods are Zelle and Venmo. If you want to write a check, please email info@vcpatrol.com and we'll give you the information.

Dues are just \$300 - less than \$1 a day for your peace of mind. Join today, and if your neighbor isn't a member, invite them to join, too!

All in the VCCA Family

We are looking for neighborhood babysitters to connect with families. If interested, please send an email with information about you and qualifications to the email below. We ask that all sitters be CPR trained and if under 18 have completed a babysitting course, such as Red Cross.

For parents and caregivers of children 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.



2220 Brun Street

FYI: Changes to City of Houston Construction and Electrical Codes

City Council approved amendments to the City Code of Ordinances and City of Houston Construction and Electrical Codes on Jan. 25 to address the effects that may arise when newly constructed, mid-rise and high-rise structures abut single-family and small scale multi-family residential structures. The amendments were presented to City Council as part of the ongoing work of the Livable Places initiative.

Residential buffering standards establish a buffer distance between all single-family residential or multi-unit residential properties and high-rise or mid-rise structures. (Chapter 42).

Garage screening and lighting standards prevent car headlights in parking garages and garage ceiling lights from shining on adjacent residential properties.

Wall or pole-mounted light fixtures

standards prevent wall or pole lights on commercial properties from shining into residential properties or streets. (Electrical Code).

Dumpster screening standards require that commercial developments provide dumpster screening when they are located adjacent to streets or residential properties and include the dumpster location on site plans (Chapter 39).

These changes will apply to all building permit applications for commercial properties starting February 25, 2023. To learn more visit letstalkhouston.org/livable-places.



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**Your Neighborhood
Newsletter!**



March 2023



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