



# Vermont Commons

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### May 2023



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Issue No. 135

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

#### All in the VCCA Family

The Montrose Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success in raising funds for Kids Meals (non-profit that feeds hungry children in Houston) and bringing the larger community of Montrose together. At least 10 Vermont Commons families joined in the sack race, egg hunt, bounce house, cookie decorating, and playtime with friends old and new!

#### Parent's Night Out

Join us Saturday May 20 at Rudyards Pub (2010 Waugh St) at 9-10:30 pm for standup comedy! We'll be roasting our own VCCA resident Brian Gendron at The Riot Comedy Show. Tickets can be purchased at [Rudyardshtx.com](https://www.rudyardshtx.com) and follow the Eventbrite link. You can buy single tickets or reserve a table. Food and drinks available for purchase, 21 years+! Check any updates on the Facebook page and WhatsApp group chat as the date approaches.

For parents and caregivers of children interested in connecting with other neighborhood families, please join our Facebook group, All in the VCCA Family, and/or email [AllintheVCCAFamily@gmail.com](mailto:AllintheVCCAFamily@gmail.com) to be added to the WhatsApp chat group.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 3-** Coffee, 10am,  
Empire Cafe

**May 8-** Happy Hour,  
6:30pm, Churasco's,

**May 17 -** Book Club  
Meeting 2 pm - 3:30pm

**May 20 -**All in the VCCA  
Family *Parents Night Out*,  
9-10:30pm Rudyards Pub

**Jun 12 -** Council Woman  
Abbie Kamin attends  
meeting at 7:30pm

**May Pub Crawl cancelled.**

#### VCCA HAPPY HOUR

**Monday, June 12 Happy Hour at 6:30 pm** at Churrasco's. Join the fun and meet new residents and visit with those you already know. **Council Woman Abbie Kamin will speak at 7:30pm.**

#### SUBMISSIONS

Send news, notices, photos, editorials, or advertising requests to Beverly McPhail at [bevmcphail@icloud.com](mailto: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](https://vccahouston.org)

## BOOK CLUB

The VCCA Bookclub will meet on the third Wednesday of May, the 17th, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., to discuss *Surviving Hiroshima*, by Anthony Drago and Douglas Wellman. Our book choices vary among genres and provide opportunities for us to read books that we might not choose on our own. Please join us. For information about location and any other question, contact Natalie Brown at [nbrowne48@gmail.com](mailto:nbrowne48@gmail.com).

## CITIZEN PATROL

We had 225 volunteer hours with a dozen residents reporting patrolling hours. Our high walker is Bob Costantini followed by Satavisa Sarkar. We encourage residents to become part of our walking brigade. Email [lillian\\_skogsberg@earthlink.net](mailto:lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net) if you have any questions.

## 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

## What is happening on Woodhead???

WBS No. N-T27000-0002-7

### PROJECT LOCATION

- Woodhead Street: from West Clay Street to IH-69
- West Clay Street: from Dunlavy Street to Woodhead Street.
- Hawthorne Street: from Woodhead Street to Spur 527.

### FUNDING PARTNERS

- Montrose Redevelopment Authority/TIRZ 27
- 50% of Construction Cost
- Design and Construction Oversight Cost
- Harris County Precinct 1– Commissioner Rodney Ellis
- 50% of Construction Cost

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

This project was recommended in the Walk+Bike Montrose plan, which identified these corridors to be developed into Neighborhood Safe Streets. A **Neighborhood Safe Street** is a corridor designed so that roadway users of all ages and abilities, no matter their mode of travel, will feel safe and comfortable traveling along that corridor

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Convert Woodhead St. and Hawthorne St. corridors into Neighborhood Safe Streets and making the corridors more walkable and safer for all, recognizing the daily walk trips by parents and kids to Lanier Middle school

#### Improve Bicycle Safety & Mobility:

Mill & overlay existing deteriorated asphalt roadway, re-stripe the roadway, replace speed humps with speed cushions, and install curb extensions at intersections to develop a safe, low-stress shared roadway experience for both motorists and bicyclists.

#### Improve Pedestrian Facilities:

Promote a pedestrian-friendly environment by incorporating 6-FT wide, continuous, uninterrupted and safe sidewalks accompanied by City compliant curb ramps along the project corridors, within public right-of way.



**2114 McDuffie**



## City of Houston Matching Grant Program: A Win-Win Solution for VCCA

Vermont Commons Civic Association (VCCA) has put together a committee to research ideas on a community marker using the city of Houston Matching Grant Program to augment our funding. The COH grant program is designed to encourage community organizations and nonprofits to leverage their resources with city funding. VCCA is eligible to receive a matching grant, which could double the organization's funds for our community project.

Through discussions with residents, we have community support for installing some type of community marker that would:

- Increase our neighborhood visibility
- Make our neighborhood appear more organized and well-maintained
- Display our name and logo as a public acknowledgment of our pride and commitment to the area we call home

VCCA looks to maintain transparency and encourage collaboration for community partnership on this project. As a first step, we're seeking your involvement on what you think would be a good choice as a community marker! Examples of community markers:

- Street sign toppers (with the VCCA logo)
- Entry markers - masonry installation, metal lamp post markers, etc (with VCCA logo)
- Designated garden area (with maintenance plan)

**Please join us at the May Happy Hour or June Happy Hour/monthly meetings to share your recommendations, comments or questions** on this initiative and give comments on other changes you wish to see in our neighborhood that would create positive change (See this newsletter or our website [www.vccahouston.org](http://www.vccahouston.org) for times and locations of our monthly happy hours/meetings).



The VCCA Drift Concert was an exciting event for the young and old. Pictured to the left, Jim Crump listening to his son's band. His son dedicated the song to "Pops." Both live in Vermont Commons.



### RIVER OAKS GYM

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[riveroaksgym.com](http://riveroaksgym.com)  
1937 W. Gray, Suite 200

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