

# Vermont Commons

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
March 2024



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

#### **CELEBRATING MARDI GRAS**

The predicted rains did not materialize and the Mardi Gras event on February 11<sup>th</sup> was very successful with lots of children and adults enjoying the music, ice cream, beads and King Cake. Who got the baby?



# VCCA HAPPY HOUR WITH SPEAKER March 11th

Join your friends and neighbors at Churrasco's on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for a presentation by Cay Dickson and a representative from the Constable Patrol Office. Cay is very knowledgeable about the program as she has volunteered since its inception, and she, together with many others, were instrumental in starting the Constable Patrol Program. Cay is also the liaison between the neighborhood and the Constable's Office. Cay is a very witty person and is very entertaining. Accompanying Cay will be a Constable who will also make a presentation. There is time allotted for questions. And then off to the bar area to enjoy sharing time with all who attend!

#### **MEN'S COFFEE**

In February, about a dozen men attended the Men's Coffee held at the Empire Café, quite a leap from only 2 in January! They started with one table and continued to add more tables and chairs. Join this monthly group on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Empire Café at 10am.

#### MONARCH PLAYERS

The Monarch Players are returning to perform for Vermont Commons Civic Association. The players are an ensemble of professional musicians. They will be performing on Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at the parking lot near Fairview and Brun. If you have missed them before, be sure to attend. Bring a chair and a drink and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 6 - 10am Coffee, Empire Café

March 11 - 6:30pm Happy Hour & speaker, Churrasco's

March 20 - 2pm-3:30pm Book Club Meeting

March 24 – 4pm Monarch Players

**April 14** – Annual Picnic



#### **SUBMISSIONS**

Send news, notices, photos, editorials, or advertising requests to Chris Lane at hix@rmi.net. Submissions are due by the 10th 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 2pm-3:30pm. We read a variety of genres. The book for March 20<sup>th</sup> is *The Vaster Wild* by Laren Groff. We welcome new members! If you would like to join us for our March selection and location, please contact Natalie Browne, nbrowne48@gmail.com.

#### **CITIZEN PATROL**

February 2024 was a month for which no hours will be reported. No hours walking or driving were collected. Reporting will be back as usual for March. Email 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 10am. Attend to enjoy conversation, laughter and camaraderie.

#### VCCA OFFICERS 2023-24

**Directors:** Jeanette Hix (Lead Director), Stephanie Taylor, Nina Westerfeld, Janet Meyer, Lisa Meyer, Lillian Skogsberg, & Ann Terrel Green

**Treasurer:** Kay Johnson

**Deed Restrictions:** Andy Tallin

Newsletter: Chris Lane

### **ALL IN THE VCCA FAMILY**

On Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> several members from our neighborhood All in the VCCA Family group gathered at local eatery Brasil for a laidback "Galentine's" celebration. The group shared savory bites and sweet drinks while connecting through cozy conversation. The All in the VCCA Family group supports creating spaces and activities for neighborhood families to meet and connect. Join us at our next event! For questions or suggestions, please contact the group through our email AllintheVCCAfamily@gmail.com.



Mardi Gras Fun







1907 Driscoll

#### TREES TREES TREES

The Tree Committee continues to grow in numbers. The committee meets on a regular basis and the goal is to be ready to plant trees in February 2025 as February is the recommended planting time.

The committee is researching funding for trees and helping hands to plant them. The committee is also addressing the issue with the City of Houston regarding the removal of trees by home builders. Chip Gill, a Tree Committee member, with the help of *Trees for Houston* compiled the list below. If you are planning to plant a tree, this list of canopy trees will be the most beneficial for creating shade, adding value to your property and generally make the neighborhood more attractive...think Main Street as you drive by Rice University.

- Monterey Oak (Mexican White Oak) fast growing but doesn't grow quite as tall as other oaks
- Red Oak generally fast growers & there are several kinds (Nuttall Oak is native here & perhaps the best choice, may be harder to find)
- Shumard Oak great choice
- Live Oak great canopy shade trees, slow growers
- Bur Oak great canopy shade trees, slow growers

If you are looking for an alternative to an oak tree, Natchez Crepe Myrtle is fast growing with white flowers and a good choice under power lines. While they can get quite tall, their canopy is not as broad as the oak species.



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