



# Vermont Commons

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April 2024



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Issue No. 144

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

## IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING

From the City of Houston:

Please be advised that a Work Authorization has been issued for safety improvements to sidewalk ramps and stop sign relocation at Westheimer Road and Driscoll Street. Construction has been scheduled to commence on February 12, 2024, and is anticipated to end by April 12, 2024. This Work Authorization will take 60 days to be completed.

## SPRING PICNIC

April 14<sup>th</sup>

Dust off your sun bonnets. It is almost time for the annual VCCA Picnic. Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. The VCCA sponsored picnic is once again at Jim and Sheila Armsworth's home at what they call the "back forty" at 1605 Woodhead. A shout out of thanks for generously sharing their property. Hot dogs and ice cream will be provided free of charge. Please bring an item of food that would accompany hot dogs to share with those who attend. Water and ice will be provided. Bring a chair or blanket and a drink of your choice. If you would like to volunteer to set up or clean up, show up early or stay late. If you have not paid your VCCA dues of \$40, please join at the picnic. All activities are provided with the dues that are paid by residents. Hope to see you at the picnic!

## HAPPY HOUR

On Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, VCCA will host Happy Hour at 6:30pm at Churrasco's. VCCA recognizes that this Happy Hour is the day after the VCCA Picnic, but many residents enjoy the Happy Hour on Monday nights.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Vermont Commons has trash rules in place to keep our neighborhood looking sharp. Put your container out after 5pm Sunday for Monday pickup and return your container to your garage or carport by 5pm Monday following pickup. You can visit the COH website for the holiday trash schedule or download the app *HTX Collects*. Please store your containers out of view to the best of your ability. Thanks!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 3** – 10am Men's & Ladies Coffee, Empire Café

**April 14** – Annual Picnic

**April 15** - 6:30pm Happy Hour, Churrasco's

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

**May 13** – 6:30pm Happy Hour/Speaker-Houston Police Officer Vieira



## SUBMISSIONS

Send news, notices, photos, or advertising requests to Chris Lane at [hix@rmi.net](mailto: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](http://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 April 17<sup>th</sup> is *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon. We welcome new members! If you would like to join us for our April selection and location, please contact Natalie Browne, [nbrowne48@gmail.com](mailto:nbrowne48@gmail.com).

## CITIZEN PATROL

Our neighbors walked 275 hours this month. No incidents were reported. Seems that summer is creeping up on us & should be conducive to more walking in the 'hood. Our neighbor Bob Costantini remains our most prolific walker. It's a fun time walking in the neighborhood, saying "hi" to neighbors & noting the changes occurring. Email [lillian\\_skogsberg@earthlink.net](mailto:lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net) with 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

## AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Neartown is a COH organization that meets monthly to bring neighborhood associations together to share information. It also has presentations by COH departments. VCCA has been a member for many years. The representative from our neighborhood moved last year and VCCA is looking for a volunteer to attend these meetings and bring the information back to our neighborhood to share through the newsletter. This information is very beneficial to all our residents. Perhaps several residents could join together and divide the months. If you have the time, once a month, please contact Jeanette Hix at [hix@rmi.net](mailto:hix@rmi.net).  
Newsletter Reviewers - Volunteers check the newsletter for accuracy before it is sent to the printer.

### MARCH HAPPY HOUR/SPEAKER

More than 60 residents attended the March 11<sup>th</sup> Happy Hour that featured speaker Cay Dickson. Cay discussed the Constable Patrol Program. It was very informative and enjoyable. Annual Membership Dues are only \$300. For more info and to join, visit <http://www.vcpatrol.com>.



### MONARCH PLAYERS

March 24<sup>th</sup> was an afternoon of beautiful music by the Monarch Players. If you missed this event, plan to attend the next time VCCA sponsors the group.



1810 Mcduffie

## TREES TREES TREES

The Tree Committee met again in February, and sharpened its focus on activities that will need to be addressed to be successful in both preserving the existing trees in our community and increasing the number of trees. Activities underway to support a community-wide tree planting initiative in late 2024 include:

- Reaching out to City of Houston to restrict contractor removal of existing trees
- Soliciting pricing from contractors for various tree species and sizes, including costs for planting
- Researching potential funding and organizations to partner with
- Partnering with neighboring communities for a consistent look and feel, and
- Providing tree-related educational information on the VCCA website

There are many good reasons for preserving and increasing the number of trees in our community, including reducing ambient air temperature, providing shade and animal habitat, improving community aesthetics, and increasing property value. Additionally, trees serve a valuable purpose in removing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a greenhouse gas, from our atmosphere, and storing it in the tree's trunk, branches, leaves, and roots. When trees are destroyed, that carbon is released into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. The average American's lifestyle generates about 32 trees worth of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, so every tree we preserve, or plant, helps the cause.

DID YOU KNOW that trees with a diameter of 20 inches or more are "protected" in our neighborhood by City of Houston ordinance? More on that and what you can do to help next month.



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## Dr. Rebecca M Harvey

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to form Houston Dental Partners.

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April 2024



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