



Vermont Commons

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

May 2024



Newsletter Published Monthly September — June
Issue No. 145

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

MAY HAPPY HOUR/SPEAKER MAY 13

Join VCCA at Churrasco's to hear from Houston police officer Lucia Vieira, the Community Liaison for the Houston Police Department Central Division. After the presentation there will be time for questions. The event is May 13th at 6:30pm. Happy Hour will follow.

VCCA YEAR END

The VCCA year runs from the first of September until the end of June. There will not be a newsletter, monthly Happy Hour or any activities in July and August. The activities will resume on September 9th with the monthly Happy Hour. Book Club and Coffee continues through the summer. Mark those dates on your calendar.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VCCA did not receive a response to the request for a liaison from VCCA to the monthly Neartown meetings. Neartown is a coalition of the surrounding Associations that join together to try to make an impact in the community. The meetings generally have a speaker with information that would be beneficial to VCCA. If more than one person volunteered it would not be necessary to make a monthly commitment as volunteers could rotate through the year. To volunteer, contact Jeanette Hix, hix@rmi.net.

VERMONT COMMONS CONSTABLE PATROL PROGRAM

The 2024-2025 contract year renewal and new member drive is well underway. Just a friendly reminder that if you haven't already renewed, membership renewal payment option can be found here:

<http://www.vcpatrol.com/membership-dues/>

Information on our neighborhood Constable program and how to become a new member can be found at

<http://www.vcpatrol.com> or contact us at info@vcpatrol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 – 10am Men's & Ladies Coffee, Empire Café

May 13 - 6:30pm Happy Hour, Churrasco's

May 15 - 2pm-3:30pm Book Club Meeting

June 10 – 6:30pm Happy Hour, Churrasco's



SUBMISSIONS

Send news, notices, photos, 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 May is *The Half-Known Life: In Search of Paradise* by Pico Iyer. We welcome new members! If you would like to join us for our May selection and location, please contact Natalie Browne, nbrowne48@gmail.com.

CITIZENS ON PATROL

Our neighbors were out walking in March. March had 10 residents out walking and driving for a total of 204 hours reported. Our most energetic walker is Bob Costantini. His dog, Katy, is the main beneficiary of his efforts. Keep on walking!!! Email questions to lillian_skogsberg@earthlink.net.

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

FAMILY ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Please join the All-in-the-VCCA-Family for an end-of-year ice cream social! All are welcome to join us at Baker Elementary playground on Saturday, May 4th at 4pm. Ice cream and popsicles provided! All ages event. Please check the WhatsApp/Facebook groups for updates or changes.

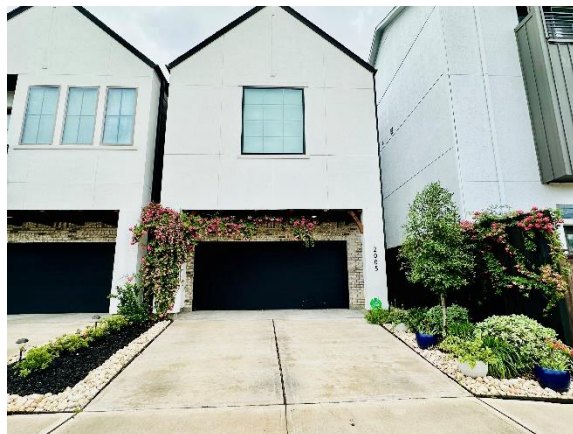
MONARCH PLAYERS

The Monarch Players event on March 24th was enjoyed by residents of all ages!



APRIL FOOL'S JOKE

McDuffie resident, Beth Garcia, played an April Fool's joke on her husband, Christopher. She created a Yard of the Month sign and put it in their front yard. He was so excited until she exclaimed April Fool's! It is such a great April Fool's story it needed to be shared with all Vermont Commons residents. Great job, Beth!



2005 Brun St

TREES TREES TREES

The Tree Committee activity has picked up, starting with the VCCA Board approving \$5,000 in funding in 2024 for tree planting in VCCA! We are hoping this is the start of an annual activity that results in the “ever-greening” of Vermont Commons streets. Over the coming months, the committee will be providing details on how residents can participate this year, which would qualify them for a subsidy. The committee is also finalizing data on the best types of trees to plant in VC, best practices for tree planting, preservation and maintenance, and having discussions with several contractors regarding the project. More details to follow the next couple months!

In the April newsletter, we promised more information regarding City of Houston ordinances for preservation of trees. The COH Permitting Center (www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/prd1001) states in part that:

“A permit is required to remove any tree on city property (which include trees planted on rights of way, medians, parks and other city property) or on a setback.”

In addition, COH Tree and Shrub Ordinance, Landscape Regulations for Development protects certain trees from removal including trees in the Right-of-Way, Corridors, Green Corridors, designated trees and Parkway trees.

Property owners who unnecessarily destroy a protected tree can be fined and violations of the Tree & Shrub Ordinance carry a potential fine of up to \$500 per day for each violation.

https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/developregs/docs_pdfs/tree_shrub.pdf.

If you witness activities that could lead to the removal of trees in the areas noted above, please call the Urban Park Rangers dispatch at 832-395-7100 so the department can check for permits and avoid unnecessary street tree loss. This phone line is answered 24 hours a day. Once the tree is removed, it’s too late!

Last, but not least, we are heading into the hotter seasons, so please make sure you water your trees regularly if we aren’t getting rain. “Watering Rings” are available at many locations or online and are a good option to conserve water through a slow release.



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May 2024



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