



Vermont Commons Civic Association Newsletter

February
2011

vccahouston.org
PO Box 130891 Houston, TX 77219-0891

Write In Our Own Neighborhood! February Speaker - Karleen Koen

Our neighbor, Karleen Koen, has recently published another fictional historical novel. Tentatively titled Before Versailles, it is about four months in the life of a young and hot Louis XIV. He fell deeply in love in the summer of 1661, and had to decide whether or not to take on the most powerful man in the kingdom.

A Park Civic resident and native Texan, Karleen will tell us about her writing and her books. Below is some insight into her writing.

"My childhood was filled with glorious books, *Little Women*, *Lad A Dog*, *Black Beauty*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Caddie Woodlawn*. They were as real to me as the life around me, a lower middle class one in a small oil refinery town in Texas. My grandfather, an invalid, was a huge fan of the writers Frank Slaughter, Frank Yerby, and Zane Grey. By the time I learned to read,



I was sneaking his square, cheap (a dime, I think) paperbacks off and reading them. Pirates. Passion. History. It has never occurred to me to write anything but historicals, a kind of time travel into other minds, other lands, other eras, other cultures, other worlds.

That's what I wish for my readers, that my books take them far away into another place and time and that they enjoy themselves there and maybe even learn an interesting fact or two.

www.redroom.com/author/karleen-koen/bio

How Many RecycleBank Points Do YOU Have?

All residents in the City of Houston Automated Recycling Program who have registered with RecycleBank and activated their account are eligible to earn points for household recycling efforts. RecycleBank home recycling members earn five points for every two pounds of waste recycled, and up to 450 points a month. Every 10 points equals up to \$1 in reward value, and active, par-

ticipating home recycling members can experience a potential savings of \$100-\$200 a year. Points can be redeemed for rewards such as groceries, apparel and gift cards at local and national businesses, or reward partners.

Visit their website (<https://www.recyclebank.com/login>) or call 1 (888) 727 2978 to register.

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VCCA meetings are held every 2nd
Wednesday of the month.

Join us at 7:00 PM
February 9th
Mockingbird Bistro
1985 Welch @ McDuffie.



Meet friends & neighbors &
stay for the social hour
afterward.

Car Broken Into on Huldy

A car was broken into at 1714 Huldy on Sunday, January 23, 2011. The incident occurred between 4:00 and 5:00 PM during an open house. A lady left her purse in her car, went into the open house, and heard her car alarm going off. When she went out, her window was smashed and her purse was gone. It happened very fast and no one seems to have seen anyone do it.

Be careful about leaving valuables in view inside your car.

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February Yard of the Month

Louie & Cary Davis
2109 Brun St



We moved into 2109 Brun Street in April of 2008, with our dogs Max and Maggie and our cat Lucky. We chose this neighborhood because it offered everything we were looking for: location, design of home, and mainly simplicity. After raising four boys in the Memorial area, we wanted to downsize and find a home that fit our present needs and interests. We love the unique personality that makes up Vermont Commons - the streets, the variety and character of the homes, the landscapes and the neighbors.

Everybody we have met in the neighborhood has been very kind and helpful. Dick and Jane came over with a nail gun to help me fix the gate so Max and Maggie would not get out again. Rob and Cathryn offered me a cup of coffee at 6:00 AM when I locked my keys in my car. The whole neighborhood was looking for a feral cat that we all know as Callie. Ed Quilter, always thinking of us and bringing us treats of shrimp and

ginger cookies. John and Anna looking out for us and helping in any way. Cay running out of her house after looking through her kitchen window and seeing Max run down the street, to catch him so he wouldn't get lost or hurt. Jeanette and Tom committing themselves to making our neighborhood a better place. Little did we know we had truly found the best neighborhood!

Now to the yard...flowers, flowers, flowers. That is always my first choice. Having a small flower bed area, it is easy to plant flowers and change them out every season. I do get a lot of help from our yard men Erasmo and Mauro.

I also like to have some yard ornaments to go along with the flowers. We are presently working on removing the grass and replacing it with a new flower bed, sharing the flower bed with our neighbor Chris (also a great neighbor).

Thank you for choosing our home for Yard of the Month. We are honored!

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

- To the residents who put the Meeting signs out each month for the VCCA meetings. A great reminder to all of us.
- To all the VCCA volunteers who make VCCA run so well - there are over 40 of you who make things come together each month.
- To Jane Schmitt for hosting the newsletter folding in her home in January.

Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays Feb 14th, Feb 28th, Mar 14th & Mar 28th

Heavy Trash Collection:

Tree Waste: 1st Tuesday in Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov & Jan

Junk Waste: 1st Tuesday in Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec

Environmental Service Center for the disposal of hazardous waste, 11500 South Post Oak, (713) 551-7355, open Tue - Wed, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM & the 2nd Sat of each month 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Paint, pesticides, batteries, smoke alarms, computers, televisions, most anything you shouldn't throw into the landfill can be brought here.

Helpful Phone and e-mail Numbers

Our New Website: vccahouston.org

City Council Member Dist D:

Wanda Adams: (832) 393-3001

e-mail: districtd@cityofhouston.net

City Council Member at Large, Pos.1 Stephen Costello

e-mail: atlarge1@cityofhouston.net

Go to vccahouston.org for more helpful info, phone numbers & links to city services.

Despite Re-Circulating E-mail, Cell Phone Registry Not Necessary

The number of phone numbers on the National Do Not Call (DNC) Registry has passed 139 million, and the Federal Trade Commission reiterates that despite claims made in e-mails circulating on the Internet, consumers should not be concerned that their cell phone numbers will be released to telemarketers at any time in the near future. In addition, it is not necessary to register cell phone numbers on the DNC Registry to be protected from most telemarketing calls to cell phones. Website: <https://www.donotcall.gov>

The truth about cell phones and the DNC Registry is:

- Contrary to the e-mail, cell phone numbers are NOT being released to telemarketers, and you will NOT soon be getting telemarketing calls on your cell phone.
- There is NO deadline by which you must register your cell phone number on the Registry.
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers. Automated dialers are standard in the industry, so most telemarketers are barred from calling consumers on their cell phones without their consent.

There is only ONE DNC Registry. There is no separate registry for cell phones.

Lost or Found An Animal... or Anything Else?

If you've recently lost an animal or even found one, please let us know so we can post it on the VCCA website under Lost & Found In the Neighborhood. It's a great way to put the word out (with a good photo) of a loved animal who has decided to go on an adventure or who has become lost.

One of my long-time feeders, Callie, disappeared for a few days. With the help of lots of folks who walk their dogs, I was able to determine that she was still around, and found her trapped under a house that had just been repaired so no animals could get under it! (She obviously didn't get the message to stay out, no go in!). Let's make the VCCA Lost & Found THE place to go to find lost animals and other things.

Volunteers Needed

Join the VCCA "Git 'Er Done" gang by volunteering for one of these committees:

- Block captains for some streets (streets with block captains can be located in the December Newsletter. Visit the VCCA website at vccahouston.org).
- Crime Committee
- Monthly Speaker Committee
- Deed Restriction Committee
- Representative to attend Near Town Meeting

If you have questions about who does what on which committee, just call Jeanette Hix at 713-521-3337

Slowing Things Down in VCCA

If you're interested in getting speed bumps or stop signs on more streets in VCCA, here's the place to go for information:

(http://documents.publicworks.houstontx.gov/documents/divisions/traffic/ntmp_application_form.pdf)

VCCA contacted Councilmember Stephen Costello's office and learned more about a Brochure, an Application and a Petition for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.

Speak up if you have an opinion about it!

Monthly Neighborhood Wine Tasting Sipping Wine With Your Neighbors

Each month, residents of VCCA and Park Civic gather to visit, drink wine and nibble on a few appetizers. The event takes place on the 4th Friday of the month in the home of a volunteer. Each attendee is asked to bring a bottle of wine and an appetizer to share.

If you would like to attend or to host a wine tasting, send your email address to Sheila Armsworth (jarmsworth@comcast.net), who coordinates the events. Each month you will receive an email telling you where the event is being hosted and what type of wine to bring.

This is a fun event and an opportunity to meet your neighbors!

Just a Note From Jeanette

I hope you read the VCCA Resident New Year's Resolutions. If we all follow those simple resolutions our neighborhood will be even greater than it already is. This spring, VCCA hopes to have a spring cleanup. Some of the bushes block our way when we walk, some grass grows out into the street, some limbs scrape our head when we walk and loads of dirt and leaves fill our streets. If we all get out and trim and clean, it will not be necessary to have the spring cleaning. Hopefully, when May rolls around, we will look around the neighborhood and ask, "Why did we think we needed to have a Spring Clean Up?"

Jeanette Hix, President VCCA



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