



Volume 13, Issue 12

December 2014

ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

The LOE Annual meeting was October 11, 2014. Fifty resident households including the Board members attended. Fifty proxies were also received.

Carlton Thorpe, HOA President, welcomed the attendees. In acknowledgement of Veteran's Day, she also honored our veterans and resident family's with active duty personnel.

The meeting agenda is shown below:

- Introductions
- Clubhouse Review
- 2014 Other Major Achievements
- Financial Report
- Appreciation of Volunteers
- Sheriff's Office Statistics
- Access Control Report
- MUD 341 Management
- 2015 Plans
- Election of 2 Directors
- Question and Answer

Carlton introduced the Board Members – Gary Fehsenfeld, David Westphal, Doug Ray, and Gene Giles. She also introduced Elise Campagna. Elise is LOE's community manager, but she is also the Director of Single Family Services for First Service Residential. LOE is the only property she manages in addition to her director duties.

Carlton reviewed the clubhouse completion. The grand opening was October 4, 2014. The total cost of the project from demolition to completion was \$1.2 Million. The project was completed within the established budget. Insurance paid \$920,000 of the cost with the remaining funds coming from \$50,000 in operating savings from 2013, the reserve funding from 2014, and the one-time homeowner contribution of \$146 in 2013. She also walked the attendees through the clubhouse completion process beginning with the fire on December 25, 2012, the email address for community input on a new clubhouse that was established December 27, 2012, the initial

design team that worked from January 8- March 3rd, the 3 town halls with residents, the negotiations with the insurance company, and the start and completion of construction. Carlton also reviewed all the new features of our clubhouse and showed a picture of the old interior. The differences were striking. Robert Healy interrupted the meeting to lead the community in thanking Carlton and the Board for their hard work to give the community such a beautiful facility.

Carlton then discussed all the additional work done by the HOA last year in the areas of maintenance, beautification and general enhancements:

- Exterior and Interior Brick Walls Repaired
- Lake A-1 Community Fountain Replaced
- Pool Lights Repaired; New Conduit Installed
- 392 Trees Trimmed
- Pool Equipment & Chemical Storage Rooms Renovated
- Major Leaks in Outdoor Restrooms Repaired
- New Benches, Sidewalk, and Paths at Clubhouse Playground
- New Landscaping at Entrance Monument
- Gate House Repainted and Interior Modifications
- New Light Poles at Clubhouse
- New Furniture for Lanai Area; Resident Team refurbishes Existing Furniture
- Volleyball Court Restored
- Electricity at Tanner Gates For Christmas Decorations
- Implemented New Access Control – Key Fobs
- Established Welcome Committee
- Established Fitness Committee
- Developed New Ticket Book for non-moving violations
- Installed Emergency Phone at Pool

Carlton then presented the financials for our community. She shared the Board had kept its promise that the proposed one-time payment for the clubhouse was in fact just a one-time payment

(Continued on Page 2)

Lakes on Eldridge

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

First Service Residential.....	713-932-1122
Gate Attendant.....	713-937-8825
Waterfowl, Betty Burkett.....	713-302-9929
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Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency).....	281-466-6116
(non-emergency)	281-550-6663
Poison Control.....	1-800-764-7661
Texas DPS.....	713-681-1761
Waste Management.....	713-695-4055
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)	
TNG Utility (Water).....	281-350-0895
Harris County Tax Office.....	713-224-1919
Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
CenterPoint (gas)	713-659-2111
Center Point (street light).....	713-207-2222
(give pole # of street which is out)	
Comcast.....	713-341-1000
Houston Chronicle	713-220-7211
Metro Transit Info.....	713-635-4000
Kirk Elementary.....	713-849-8250
Truitt Middle School.....	281-856-1100
Cy-Falls High School	281-856-1000
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LOE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To contact a member of the Board of Directors, call Elise Campagna with First Service Residential at 713-932-1122. Leave the number where you can be reached. Your message will then be forwarded onto one of the following board members:

Carlton Thorpe.....	President
Gary Fehsenfeld	Vice President
David Westphal.....	Secretary
Doug Ray.....	Treasurer
Gene Giles	Director

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(Continued from Cover Page)

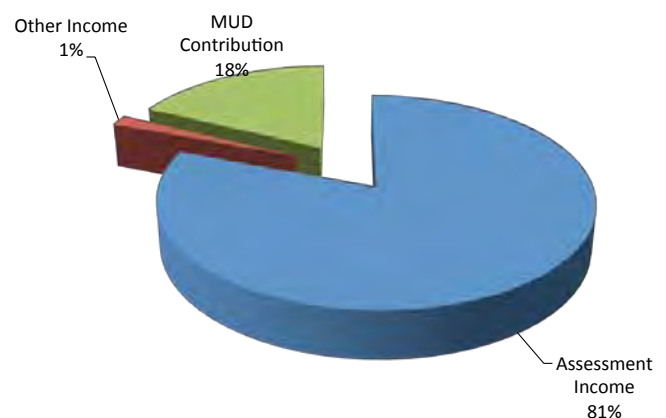
and the assessment for 2015 had been reduced \$146 from 2014 to \$1460. Carlon also told the community that the association had changed its collection firm for past due assessments and was now at 99% collected. Below are LOE's current financials as of September 30, 2014:

Operating Fund (Cash Balance)	\$559,501.50
Reserve Fund (Cash Balance)	\$335,898.94
Total 2014 YTD Income	\$1,089,663.89
Total 2014 YTD Expenses	\$1,018,718.52
Under Budget	\$70,945.37

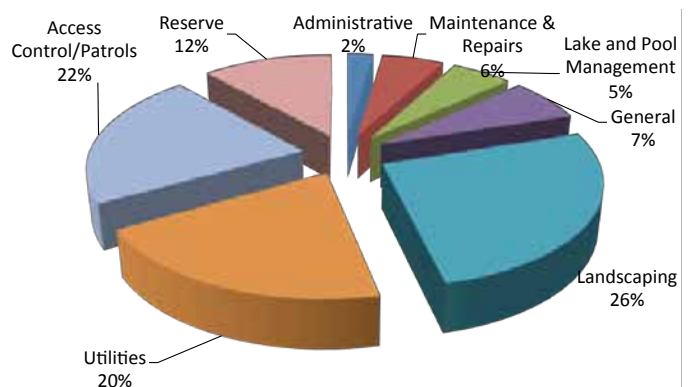
Because of the amount currently under budget, the Board is anticipating a \$50,000 contribution to the Reserve account. The Budget is under in several categories, but the primary source of the underage is in water usage. We had a very wet summer and therefore did not have to irrigate as much as in years past.

Carlton shared with the group the 2015 financials in two graphs:

Sources of Income



Expense Areas for 2015



(Continued on Page 3)

Lakes on Eldridge

(Continued from Page 2)

After the financial report, Carlon thanked the following people for their hard work on the clubhouse and on committees for the HOA this year. Committee Chairpersons are shown with a star. First she thanked the Clubhouse volunteers:

- Executive Team - Gary Fehsenfeld, Gene Giles, Carlon Thorpe*, David Westphal
 - Architect - Gene Giles Design Group
 - Initial Design Team- Suzie Austin, Gary Fehsenfeld*, Gene Giles*, Marcia Healy, Adrienne Lyons, Carlon Thorpe*, Kim Treas
 - Security & Audio Team- Carl Chapman, Al Florido, Kyle Schmid, Carlon Thorpe, Robert Wegner*, David Westphal
 - Fitness Committee - Jennifer Dawson, Marcia Healy, Srinivas Rao, Doug Ray*, Colette Spiers*
 - Outdoor Furniture Restoration Team- Bob Baker, Phyllis Baker, Gary Fehsenfeld*, Clive Gardner, Marcia Healy, Robert Healy, Jamie Powers, Susan Strebel
 - Interior Design Team - Gary Fehsenfeld*, Stephanie Leggett, Maggie Wegner, Carlon Thorpe*
- Carlon thanked the HOA Committee Volunteers and discussed the role of each committee:
- Access Control – Bob Wegner, Carl Chapman, Al Florido, Carlon Thorpe, David Westphal*

- Architectural Control – Gary Fehsenfeld*, Alphine Freeman, Sharon Flynn, Friedel Lipstay, Kim Treas
- Gate Repair – Lane Enderby, Burt Eschenfelder, Mattias Kjellqvist, Susan Kjellqvist, Dick McCasland, Mike McCurdy, Rob Ramirez, Doug Ray, David Westphal*
- Lakes and Wildlife – Betty Burkett*, Maggie Wegner, Sam & Sarla Rampuria
- Landscape – Gary Fehsenfeld, John Hasenbank, Carlon Thorpe*
- Newsletter – Linda Higdon, Carlon Thorpe*
- Social Events – Anke Arnold, Phyllis Baker, Patti Coughlin, Clive Gardner, Kay Horsch, Melissa Hunzeker, Regina Lemons, Carrie Loid, Adrienne Lyons, Karen Parker, Carol Peters, Georgia Shotwell*, Ann Tagore, Kim Treas
- Tennis – Cathy Barrows*, Emma Choi, Hyun Choi, Ann Criswell, Judy Ilavia
- Welcome – Barb Campbell, Clive Garner, Marian Gleize, Linda Higdon, Kim Treas*
- Yard of the Month – Stephanie Leggett, Maggie Wegner

Finally, Carlon asked for new volunteers. Each of these committees would welcome additional volunteers. Please contact Elise if you would be willing to serve.

(Continued on Page 4)



For More Information, Contact
KAY HORSCH
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Lakes on Eldridge

(Continued from Page 3)

At this point, Carlon turned the program over to Bob Wegner. Bob is a resident in the community and a member of the access control committee. Two years ago Bob presented an in-depth analysis of crime in the surrounding area and our community. At this meeting he updated that report with data from the last two years. He showed the community graphs from the last six months showing crime incidents in the surrounding area. The graphs clearly showed there are a lot of incidents outside LOE, but our community has very few issues. In the past two years, we have averaged just over five incidents per year with the most common category being property theft which is primarily thefts out of yards or unlocked cars. Bob's conclusion was we continue to live in a low crime neighborhood and the majority of our issues are crimes of opportunity. He further recommended we continue our patrols, continue tracking reports from the Sheriff's department and consider the cost/benefit of upgrading our gate hardware.

David Westphal, HOA Board Secretary and chairman of the Access Control Committee, then spoke to the residents. David initially discussed the dash tag program. We are currently averaging over 10,000 visitor tags per month. All vehicles should either display a community sticker or have a dash tag. David also shared information about the gate systems. Last year we spent over \$15,000 on gate repairs. We want to expand our current access control committee to look at gate alternatives that would enhance reliability. The issues with street parking were also discussed. We must more effectively discourage residents from blocking fire hydrants, resident driveways, and parking overnight on the street. David also reviewed the current schedule for patrols. Patrols have been expanded to give us coverage seven days a week. It is slightly less comprehensive than during the summer, but greater than previous years' coverage. David also expanded Carlon's discussion of the new clubhouse features of cameras and key fobs. The cameras have recorded several incidents of teenage vandalism which we were able to report to the parents. The key fob records each person's entry into the pool or workout facility. The pool, workout, flex and outdoor restrooms are now available from 5 am- 10 pm every day, except for the pool's closing on Monday for cleaning.

David also discussed with the group the topic of Swim at Your Own Risk. We adopted this procedure last summer because of the greatly expanded hours of availability. This year's experience and prior years' pool usage indicate the pool itself is rarely used extensively. There are many hours even in the summer when no one is using the pool. When it is used, there are typically five or less people in the pool. There is more usage of the lanai than the pool. Adopting the Swim at Your Own Risk policy saved the community over \$25,000 this year. David asked the attendees if they favored keeping Swim at Your Own Risk or returning to lifeguards. The attendees unanimously recommended staying with Swim at Your Own Risk.

David then shared information about MUD 341. While the MUD and the HOA are different organizations, the MUD's boundaries are essentially Lakes on Eldridge and the commercial property at Eldridge and Tanner. Therefore the interests of the MUD should align with the interests for the HOA. In order to be on the MUD Board, an individual must be either a resident of the district or own property in the district. Until six weeks ago, the MUD board was composed on two

residents and three non-residents. The three non-residents were able to serve because the original LOE developer carved out three "director lots" which are approximately 15 feet wide. That is not an unusual practice when a subdivision is first formed because qualified residents may not be available. What is unusual is for non-residents to still be on the Board when a subdivision is more than 17 years old. Recently one of the resident members of the MUD Board moved out of the subdivision. Instead of opening that position up to the community, the MUD Board chose to subdivide a director's lot and maintain the current membership. The HOA Board has verbally shared with the MUD on several occasions their recommendation that residents be allowed to serve on the MUD Board. With this most recent move to prevent HOA residents from serving, the HOA has prepared a letter to the MUD formally requesting them to work with the HOA to create a transition plan to full residential membership on the MUD. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on the MUD Board, please contact Elise Campagna.

Carlon Thorpe then resumed speaking and shared the HOA's plans for 2015. Two maintenance projects are slated for 2015- the resurfacing of the tennis courts and repairs to curbs and sidewalks. Carlon also announced the Swim Team will be returning to LOE in 2015. They will be practicing at LOE on Monday's and all home meets will be LOE. Carlon also discussed two projects currently being led by residents – the Internet Enhancement project and the Hike/Bike Trail. The internet project is being led by Rafael Garcia and is designed to expand the availability of Comcast and U-Verse to all residents. Currently approximately 120 residents do not have access to these services. The Hike/Bike Trail is being led by Mark Durka and will connect LOE to the Addicks Reservoir. It will run along Tanner east of Ginger Ponds and then turn South to reach the Addicks area and beyond. Currently the funding for this project is being discussed within MUDs 341, 370 and Harris County.

Carlon also discussed three more HOA projects in the planning stage. The first is the Tree Removal and Replacement project. This involves the removal of the Bradford pear trees that are at the end of their usable life and replacing them with the appropriate number and type of trees. There are almost 300 pears in our subdivision and we anticipate the addition of approximately 170 trees. This evaluation is in progress, but Carlon requested help with this major undertaking.

The second project is the development of a new website. Unfortunately, none of the Board members have experience with website development. Carlon asked for volunteers to lead this effort.

The last major project was the evaluation of the gates for new and more reliable technology. Again, we would like to expand the current team evaluating this potential change.

The next item was the Election of two directors. Both Gary Fehsenfeld and David Westphal's terms were expiring. No additional nominations were received either in writing or from the floor of the meeting. The individuals at the meeting voted to re-elect Gary and David to new terms.

After the election, the meeting was officially adjourned, but the Board answered questions for over an additional hour. Some of the topics included the formation of a committee to look at rental policies and discussion of fencing requirements, the MUD, and general governance policies.



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Lakes on Eldridge

New Safety Procedures at Clubhouse Bus Stop

Beginning January 1, 2015 LOE will implement new bus stop procedures for children getting on or off school buses at the LOE clubhouse. Basically, we want to keep children on the clubhouse side of Lake Center Run to prevent potential injury. All parents picking up or dropping off children will be prohibited from parking or stopping on the east side of Lake Center Run (opposite from the clubhouse). Parents should park on the west side of Lake Center Run or in the clubhouse parking lot. The school buses will be required to drive to the clubhouse from the north so that their door faces the clubhouse. Everyone should be extra careful when children are assembling to get on the bus and are getting off the bus. All residents must STOP for any school bus with its flashers on. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our kids safe.

THANK YOU To Our Residents!

Thank you to all our residents who serve our community throughout the year on our HOA committees. We appreciate you!!

- Access Control – Bob Wegner, Carl Chapman, Al Florido, Carlon Thorpe, David Westphal*
- Architectural Control – Gary Fehsenfeld*, Alphine Freeman, Sharon Flynn, Friedel Lipstay, Kim Treas
- Gate Repair – Lane Enderby, Burt Eschenfelder, Mattias Kjellqvist, Susan Kjellqvist, Dick McCasland, Mike McCurdy, Rob Ramirez, Doug Ray, David Westphal*
- Lakes and Wildlife – Betty Burkett*, Maggie Wegner, Sam & Sarla Rampuria
- Landscape – Gary Fehsenfeld, John Hasenbank, Carlon Thorpe*
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- Social Events – Anke Arnold, Phyllis Baker, Patti Coughlin, Clive Gardner, Kay Horsch, Melissa Hunzeker, Regina Lemons, Carrie Loid, Adrienne Lyons, Karen Parker, Carol Peters, Georgia Shorwell*, Ann Tagore, Kim Treas
- Tennis – Cathy Barrows*, Emma Choi, Hyun Choi, Ann Criswell, Judy Ilavia
- Welcome – Barb Campbell, Clive Garner, Marian Gleize, Linda Higdon, Kim Treas*
- Yard of the Month – Stephanie Leggett, Maggie Wegner

Chairpersons are shown with a star. If you would be interesting in joining one of these committees, please contact the chairperson or Elise Campagna at First Service Residential.



Do you and the kids like to drive around looking at Christmas Lights during the Holiday Season? For most of us the answer is a resounding YES! What a great way to get everyone in the Holiday Spirit. You could even walk and get yourself a little exercise too! We are looking for volunteers to help with the judging of the LOE decorating contest! This could be a great opportunity for a Girl Scout troop, Boy Scout troop, or kids club to help volunteer in the neighborhood and get community service points.

LOE will have a Christmas Lighting and Decorating Contest December 10th and 11th, 2014. We hope to have lots of good neighborly competition to give you plenty of beautiful decorations to look at here in Lakes on Eldridge.

We will present an award for best decorations in each Village on December 11th and on December 12th there will be "OVERALL BEST" awards presented. The awards for the decorated homes and yards will be judged on their design, layout and overall flow of the decorations. In the past years, LOE residents have done a tremendous job with Christmas Decorations and we look forward to seeing the whole neighborhood sparkle in Holiday Cheer!

Let's all get out and "Light up our Neighborhood! Winners will have a Sign placed in their yard showing Best Christmas Decorations 2014. The signs can be displayed until the end of January 2015.

Please note that Holiday lights and decorations must not be turned on before Thanksgiving and must be taken down no later than fifteen (15) days after Christmas.

We look forward to seeing your Holiday Spirit and want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season!



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Lakes on Eldridge

2014 LOES SANTA'S TOY DRIVE & PARTY

The Holiday Season is just around the corner. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! The Annual Lakes on Eldridge Children's Christmas Party and Toy Drive will be held on Friday, December 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Santa has made his list and checked it twice and knows that the LOE children have all been nice!!! So bring your little ones over to take a picture with Santa and take a hayride around the neighborhood to see the Christmas lights. There will be hot chocolate, apple cider and Christmas cookies to share as well as other Holiday activities.

This party allows our residents to spread a little Holiday cheer and to donate toys to the less fortunate. So don't forget to bring a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to Toys for Tots while you get your picture taken with Santa for free. You may also make a cash donation to this very worthy cause.

We can always use volunteers to help with the pictures, coordinating, serving as well as cleanup. This would be a great opportunity for that high school student looking to do some volunteer work to put on their resume. If you would like to help with this event or want more details, please contact Georgia Shotwell Lester at (281)460-8505 or gshotwell@sbcglobal.net .

NEW MEN'S BIBLE STUDY IN LOE

The LOE MEN'S Bible Study has launched. We meet in the new LOE clubhouse. If you are interested in discussing the Bible and its applications to our lives today, please join us on Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM until about 8:15. In January, we will start the video series, "The Blessed Life." Hope to see you there!



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Lakes on Eldridge



The Lakes on Eldridge Social Committee needs your HELP! We are looking for volunteers to help with the Community events. The Holiday Season is upon us and we are looking for volunteers to help with the Community Christmas Party/Toy Drive and Christmas Decorating Contest. The Community events in the past have had a great turnout and were a lot of fun for the children as well as the adults. These events cannot be held or cannot be a success without Volunteers from the community. If YOU would like to help with one of the upcoming events or want more details, please contact Georgia Shotwell at (281)460-8505 or at gshotwell@sbcglobal.net



Do you know how to design a website? LOE needs you. The Board would like to form a committee to redesign our website to more effectively meet the needs of our community. If you would be interested in joining this effort, please send your contact information to elise.campagna@fsresidential.com.

We are also seeking more volunteers to all our HOA committees. If you've thought about getting involved, now is the perfect time. Again, please contact Elise if you are interested.

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Lakes on Eldridge



SPOTLIGHT ON LOE WILDLIFE: EGYPTIAN GEESE

*By Nick Kjellqvist, 8th Grade, St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton Catholic School*

There is an interesting type of bird in LOE known as the Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*). I thought it might have gotten the name because of the black outline around its eyes, which resembles the eye makeup you see in ancient Egyptian art. But, this duck actually is native to the Nile Valley and south of the Sahara. Egyptian geese were considered sacred by the ancient Egyptians, and appeared in much of their artwork. They have been raised for food and extensively bred in parts of Africa since they were domesticated by the ancient Egyptians. It has also been introduced elsewhere: Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, and Germany have self-sustaining populations which are mostly derived from escaped ornamental birds. It looks like a few have now made it to Texas and have made their home right here in Lakes on Eldridge! Above is a picture of some Egyptian geese in our neighborhood.

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Lakes on Eldridge Ladies' Bible Study

The Lakes on Eldridge Bible Study group continues in its study of the marriage relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church. The Bride of Christ is the whole of Christianity, all those throughout the world who believe and trust in Jesus Christ as the Savior for eternal life in the kingdom of God. By studying the ancient Jewish wedding ceremony, our eyes are opening to God's ultimate plan for all humanity.

The group meets every Tuesday morning from 9:15 to 11:30 for praise, study, and prayer. We will be taking a break after the December 16th meeting until January 13, 2015, to accommodate the school holidays. Please join us for the remainder of the study which will end on February 3. A new study is planned to begin on February 10, 2015.

If you would like further details or information, please contact Stephanie as mrstlj10179@gmail.com, or drop by any Tuesday morning.

Stitch & Chat

Members of Stitch & Chat meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. until noon. Our members knit, crochet, needle point, embroider, cross-stitch, quilt and mend. We also make fleece blankets for Texas Children's patients, shawls for cancer patients and caps for newborn babies. We would be happy to help you get started on a project that you have always wanted to try. Please join us for coffee and conversation, even if you don't do any sewing or handwork! We meet in the beautiful new clubhouse. To get more information about our group, contact Catherine Spellings at CTSpellings@aol.com or call 713-628-7083 or 713-896-1652; or contact Cathy Casey at 713-856-6668.

Special Stitch & Chat meeting on January 29! We will be having a quilting workshop from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. If you wish to participate, contact Celeste Fritz (celeste.fritz@gmail.com) to find out what supplies to bring. If you just want to watch, that's fine, too.

You do not have to be a resident of Lakes on Eldridge to join us.



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Restorations

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LOE BOOK CLUB

Wow! We've already selected books to read through the first quarter of 2015. Our numbers are growing, as we welcomed another new member last month. Consider joining us on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. We take turns hosting the meeting and sometimes change the date or book, so please contact celeste.fritz@gmail.com to get the details for each meeting.

December 8 – One for the Money by Janet Evanovich. This meeting will be our Christmas party, and we decided to have a light, fun book to read. The first of the Stephanie Plum series, this one introduces Stephanie, her wacky family, and other assorted interesting characters.

January 26 - Vampires in the Lemon Grove by Karen Russell. Named a Best Book of the Year by: *The Boston Globe*, *O The Oprah Magazine*, *Huffington Post*, *The A.V. Club*, *A Washington Post* Notable Book, An *NPR* Great Read of 2013

From the author of the novel *Swamplandia!*—a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize—comes a magical and uniquely daring collection of stories that showcases the author's gifts at their inimitable best.

NOTE: This will be the Houston Inprint series book lecture in January, so those interested may want to attend that.

February 23 - Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline. Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East

Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by luck and chance. This is the story of one such child.

March 23 - *The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend* by Glenn Frankel. In 1836 in East Texas, nine-year-old Cynthia Ann Parker was kidnapped by Comanches. She was raised by the tribe and eventually became the wife of a warrior. Twenty-four years after her capture, she was reclaimed by the U.S. cavalry and Texas Rangers and restored to her white family, to die in misery and obscurity. Cynthia Ann's story has been told and re-told over generations to become a foundational American tale.

NOTE: This will be the Holly Hall book review in March, so those interested may want to attend that.

April 27 - *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. Khaled Hosseini gifts us with a poignant story of love, loss, and recovery across several families and over several generations. Like an intricately woven tapestry, *And the Mountains Echoed* pulls us into the lives of disparate children, men, and women in Afghanistan, France, Greece, and California, showing us how the choices they and other make resonate over decades.

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