



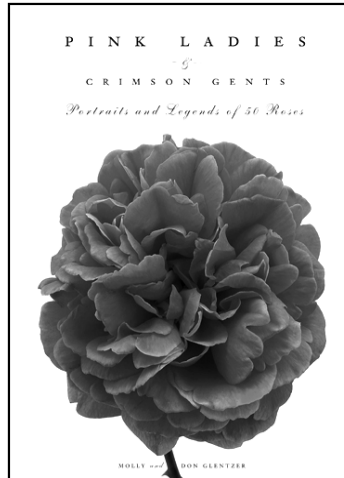
Vermont Commons Civic Association Newsletter

May
2010

How Does Your Rose Garden Grow?

Molly Glentzer, author of *Pink Ladies & Crimson Gents, Portraits and Legends of 50 Roses*, is a Texas-based writer and gardener, and one of our VCCA neighbors who will be speaking to us at our next meeting on May 12th. Molly is also the lifestyle editor of the *Houston Chronicle*, directing fashion, home and garden coverage, plus *Gloss*, the paper's monthly luxury lifestyle magazine. She also manages to find time to write the *Digging In* blog for houstongrows.com on the Chronicle's gardening website. Who could be better to give a talk on rose gardening in our neighborhood? Widely published in a variety of national magazines, she is a journalist with a special interest in culture and the arts. *Texas Monthly, Saveur, Food & Wine, Good Housekeeping, and Dance Magazine* are just some of the publications Molly adds to her long list of credentials.

Ms. Glentzer's book *Pink Ladies & Crimson Gents* is beautifully photographed by her husband, photographer **Don Glentzer**. They will have copies of the book available May 12th



to purchase after the meeting and have generously offered to donate \$5 to VCCA for every book sold. Help us welcome **Molly and Don Glentzer** to the meeting and support VCCA with a little rosarian expertise.

See you there!

VCCA Membership is open to all residents of our area for \$30 annual dues payable January 1st & prorated to \$15 after June 30th.

Mail to:

**Vermont Commons
Civic Association
P. O. Box 130891
Houston, TX 77219-0891**

Meetings are every 2nd Wednesday of the month. There will be no meetings or newsletters for July & August.



**Join us at 7 pm May 12th
Mockingbird Bistro
1985 Welch @ McDuffie.**

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

Molly and Don Glentzer will speak at 7:30 pm at our May meeting.

The Bicycle Thief

Our neighbor, Thom Mendez, was robbed while at home this past December. It seems he had the good intentions of feeding a cat his neighbors had abandoned when they moved away. Thom had left his garage door ajar just enough for the cat to slip under and come inside the garage, but a passerby noticed it, managed to trip the opening device, get inside and steal an expensive bike, or so he thought.

Meanwhile, Thom was considering a nap, but the red light of his alarm system alerted him to the intruder. Concerned, he races to the garage and immediately sees the garage door completely raised and an empty space where the bike normally sets. Thom remembers the bike has two flat tires and flies over to the nearest gas station on Shepherd and Westheimer, where he sees his beloved bike unattended near the air hose. (cont. p. 3)

Urban Garden Trek

VCCA is reinstating the Urban Garden Trek, a walking tour in the VCCA area featuring 10 touring gardens marked with green and white balloons, and 5 to 10 gardens for curbside viewing marked with red balloons.

Saturday 10 am - 2 pm, June 6th

Tickets \$10 per person will be sold:

- (1) Near corner of Vermont @ Huldy
- (2) 2200 block of Brun
- (3) 1800 block of McDuffie

This will be an opportunity to discover big ideas for small spaces and to view back and side gardens that are not visible from the street. Of course, front gardens will also be featured. To have a successful tour, we need volunteers. Call Jeanette at (713) 521-3337.

Check the website for more details as the date nears for the Garden Trek.

YARD OF THE MONTH

Thom Mendez and Del Fullen have beautifully landscaped their town home at 2112 McDuffie. Their home faces east, which provides plenty of sunshine to the eye-catching Knock Out Roses planted near the curb, a native Texas Mountain Laurel which sits atop a raised planter banked by native red Fringe shrubs along the driveway, and a mature wisteria elegantly draped above the garage entryway. Azaleas bloomed along the side fence just a couple of weeks ago and now brightly colored impatiens take shade under the umbrella of the roses and red Fringe shrubs. The household isn't complete without their little Papillon, Cali, a canine celebrity who is often seen surveying the property.

Thom and Dell moved into their newly built home ten years ago from Helena street in Avondale Civic Association. You might have noticed that Thom was mentioned in the *Bicycle Thief* article on the front cover. We are pleased to have them in our neighborhood, not to mention the priceless bicycle story which was shared with all of us in the Vermont Commons Community.



May Yard of the Month Goes to
Thom Mendez & Del Fullen at 2112 McDuffie

Thanks to All Our Volunteers!

Many thanks go to **Delia Cuellar, Carlos Faxas, and Wayne Ticac** for our new **VCCA Web Site: vccahouston.org**, which has all of this year's newsletters on-line, deed restrictions, & links to helpful contact numbers for city of Houston services & departments. Neartown Notes and select local news will also be available. Send your news & suggestions to us online. Be sure to go online and check out our site. Find everything you need to know about your neighborhood!

Advertisement Co Chair: Karen Sturtevant - johnsturtevant@sbcglobal.net

Neighborhood Crime Chair: Kelly McKinzie - kellymckinzie@hotmail.com

Deed Restriction Chair: David Irvin - dirvin@uh.edu

Committee Members : Lance Hack - lhack01@hotmail.com

David Hoyer - davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net

Mark Preston

Membership Chair: Nancy Higgs - nkmh54@aol.com

Neartown Representative: Claude Wynn - claudewynn@sbcglobal.net

Guest Speaker Chair: Karen Sturtevant - johnsturtevant@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Co Chairs: Karen Sturtevant - johnsturtevant@sbcglobal.net

Jeanenne Hagerman - bhehome@aol.com

Yard of the Month Chair: Nancy Higgs

Committee Members: Susan Wilson - susan_i_wilson@yahoo.com

Karen Sturtevant, photographer - johnsturtevant@sbcglobal.net

Web Page Members: Delia Cuellar - dic@designsong.com

Carlos Faxas - carlosfaxas@coair.com

Wayne Ticac - wticac@comcast.net

Newsletter Preparers who fold & label 1,000 newsletters for mailing

Members: Audrey Crawford, Delia Cuellar, Jeanenne Hagerman,

Nancy Higgs, Jeanette Hix, Ellen Oglive, Jane Schmitt,

Karen & John Sturtevant, Stephanie Taylor, Susan Wilson.

Check the VCCA website for information about officers.

To Volunteer Call (713) 521-3337

Crime Prevention: Committee Members

Garden Tour: Guides & Participants

Newsletter: Folding & Print Shop Pick-up

Yard of the Month: Committee Members

VCCA MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY Speakers: **Authors Mollie & Don Glentzer** on Rose Gardening; Social Hour

JUN Speaker: **Shannon Kimbrough, Co-Director of HISTORIC HOUSTON** on Saving Our Older Homes; Social Hour; Garden Tour June 5th

JUL & AUG: No Meetings & No Newsletters

SEP Speaker: **River Oaks Gym Owner Chad Evans** on Health & Fitness Training; Social Hour; Upcoming Neighborhood Picnic

OCT Speaker: **Data Doctor Tech Chris Sacco** on Internet Viruses; Social Hour; **National Night Out Oct 6th with Officer Wayne Pate**

NOV Speaker; Social Hour after the meeting

DEC Holiday Party: **Holiday Lights & Decorations Winners Announced**; Social Hour

Special Thanks to All Block Captains

Lizzie Corona: 1980 Fairview:
McDuffie to Hazard - (713) 775-3539
lizzie@greenwoodking.com

Delia Cuellar: 2318 Huldy: Fairview
to Indiana - (713) 523-4205
dic@designsong.com

Collette Dubose: 1963 Vermont:
Hazard to Driscoll - (512) 417-4574
colletedubose@yahoo.com

Lance Hack: Driscoll: Indiana to
Welch - (713) 594-6005
lhack01@hotmail.com

Linda Hart: Huldy: Vermont to Had-
don & Haddon: Huldy to Brun
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Margaret Immel: Hazard: Vermont to
Haddon & Haddon: Hazard to Driscoll
Mimmel2@comcast.net

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Welch & Indiana: Huldy to Brun
(713) 522-0708
crazyauntann@yahoo.com

Terri Irvin: 1961 Peden: McDuffie to
Driscoll - (713) 3301-2794
tsirvin@comcast.net

Ken Kneisel: 1514 B Hazard: Peden
to Haddon - (713) 807-0979
kenkneiselk2@earthlink.net

Kelly McKinzie: McDuffie: Welch to
Indiana - kellymckinzie@hotmail.com

Jane Schmitt: 2105 Brun: Fairview to
Indiana & Indiana: Brun to McDuffie
(713) 524-2728 - jlc278@earthlink.net

Susan Wilson: Hazard: Fairview to
Westheimer & Fairview: Hazard to
Driscoll - (713) 557-9505
susan_i_wilson@yahoo.com

We want to thank April's guest speaker, professional landscaper Annie DeGuerin, for speaking to us on the impact nonnative plants have on our Texas wildlife & environment.

June 9th: Help us welcome Shannon Kimbrough, co-director of Historic Houston, a non-profit organization founded in 1999 which focuses on conserving Houston's rich architectural past by salvaging our disappearing historic structures and implementing green strategies in home building and remodeling.

Area Crime Report

There were three burglaries in our general area in the last thirty days:
3/30: 12 am Restaurant on 1400 block of W. Gray
4/10: 3 pm Dry Cleaners on 1900 block of Shepherd
4/20: 7 pm Specialty Store on 2300 block of Shepherd

Just a Note From Jeanette

VCCA continues to grow in membership and volunteers. What an exciting year! Thanks to everyone who is helping to make VCCA a better neighborhood. Thanks to Nancy Higgs for conducting the April meeting in my absence. I understand that it was a very informative meeting with loads of great information from Landscape Designer Annie DeGuerin and Officer Pate. I look

forward to more gardening information from Molly and Don Glentzer at our May meeting. The web site set up by Delia Cuellar, Carlos Fexas, and Wayne Ticac is a very exciting addition to VCCA. Make sure you take a look. We all appreciate all the hard work they have contributed to the growth of VCCA. I hope to see you at the May meeting.



Neighbors Sound Off!

We live in a community with homes that are very close together. What happens on your property will more than likely affect those who live around you. We need to all think about how our actions affect those who live near us. Several residents have contacted the VCCA Officers to ask about **Deed Restrictions** concerning noise. Our **Deed Restrictions** only address construction and do not have any authority over noise. Residents who are bothered by this activity can call 311 and report the problem as there is a noise ordinance in the City of Houston. Please think about your neighbors when you crank up the music, work on your automobile, or party late into the night.

Noted in April: The missing fire hydrant at the intersection of Hazard and Vermont has been replaced on the northwest corner of Hazard.

The Bicycle Thief (cont. from p.1)

You have to pay for air at this station, so Thom is just about to recover his bike when the thief runs out of the station and starts to fight, shoving him around and once again tries to make off with the bike. Obviously, the thief does not know how much Thom likes and wants his bike back, or that two other people are now watching and helping Thom chase down the stolen bike. The surprised culprit trips, drops the bike, sees he is outnumbered and manages to escape, running down the street.

During the struggle with the thief, Thom dropped his cell phone and didn't complete the 911 call. Although he returned home with his bike, Thom was very concerned and feels that this same character may still be cruising our streets - but not on Thom's bike nor on his own for that matter since the crook left his bike at Thom's house that day.

This is a great story and a good reminder that thieves are tempted by any door left open. Also, it reaffirms the theory if you see someone in need such as Thom was at the gas station, don't look away. Call **911** for help and be a good neighbor.

Neartown News to Go

Our friend & neighbor Claude Wynn reports that the Neartown Forum II, the second in the series of development forums to be held at St. Stephen's Church, Pecore Hall on Saturday, May 15, 9 am - 1 pm should be an important neighborhood workshop on what we want Montrose and Neartown to be. We urge everyone to attend to give their input and make use of this valuable planning tool for our community. Also discussed was the HEB proposed development for the Wilshire Village site located at the corner of Dunlavy and Alabama.

Vermont Commons Civic Association
PO Box 130891
Houston, TX 77219-0891

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Helpful Information

Garbage & Yard Trimmings: Mondays

Recycling: Mondays May 3, May 17, Jun 1, Jun 14, Jun 28, Jul 12, Jul 26, Aug 9, Aug 23, Sep 6, Sep 20.

Heavy Trash Collection:

Tree Waste: 1st Tuesday in May, July, Sep, & Nov

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

Officer Pate: HPD representative for our area. E-mail him with your concerns at wpate43@yahoo.com.

City of Houston: 311 for city services such as requesting a recycling bin, reporting graffiti, or derelict building issues.

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.



RIVER OAKS GYM

Bring in this ad and receive a one-week pass and complimentary personal training session.

Try to catch the **Free Wine & Food Tasting** from 7 pm - 9 pm May 28th, offered by Chad Evans at **River Oaks Gym**.

riveroaksgym.com

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