

VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN NEWS

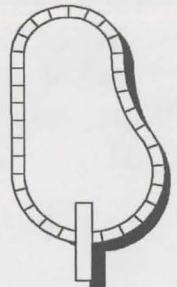
A Neighborhood Publication Sponsored by VECA, the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

Volume XX, Number 3

July 1994

Free VECA Pool Party and Pot Luck Supper

COOL OFF at the Rhodes College pool July 30th with your VECA neighbors. Bring a covered dish - VECA will supply the soft drinks. Visit with your friends. It's a good time to catch up on community news or just cool off. Due to safety considerations and the family nature of the get-together, children will need to bring their parents to the pool with them. Kids, tell your folks what a good time they will have, how good you will be and that you promise not to splash them, make your favorite dish (bag of potato chips) and bring your parents along. SEE EVERYONE THERE ON SATURDAY, JULY 30th at 6:00 p.m. for supper and 7:00 p.m. for swimming.



Neighborhood Preservation Initiative Grant

VECA has been asked by the Plough Community Foundation of Memphis to be the neighborhood that will apply with the Community Foundation to the Pew Charitable Trust for neighborhood preservation grant. This is for neighborhood revitalization as opposed to historic preservation. The grant would be for three years and could be for as much as \$1,200,000. Since mid-May VECA executive committee members have met three times with the Community Foundation staff, Gid Smith, Director, and Janis Foster, Program Officer. There have been four meetings held to develop ideas about the scope of the grant. Linda Nichols, Othneil Martque, William Grandberry, Gloria Singleton, and Mary Wilder attended an all day workshop put on by the Com-

munity Foundation for the purpose of developing ideas for the grant. Two idea meetings were held at Little Flower, and one workshop was held at Rhodes. Ann Munns, Kay Bradford, Janis Cannon, Gloria Singleton, Rodell Milam, Will-

helped develop ideas for the grant. The VECA executive committee voted to support the Neighborhood Preservation Initiative grant application at its monthly meeting held June 6th at Little Flower. The grant was written by Janis Foster of

Memphis is one of 22 cities applying for the funds. VECA is the only neighborhood in Memphis being considered.

iam Grandberry, Othneil Martque, Linda Nichols, Fred Munns, Mary Wilder, Rick Cartwright, Jennifer Jenson, Willette Gray, Kay Blues, Danny Munns, Tom Ridenhour, Steve Gadbois, and Mike Kirby all attended and

the Community Foundation with the help of VECA vice-president Mary Wilder. The Grant was submitted July 6th. The Pew Foundation will do a neighborhood site visit August 5th. The recipients of the

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Do not place in mailboxes

continued from page 1

grants will be announced in late September. Memphis is one of 22 cities applying for the funds and VECA is the only neighborhood in Memphis being considered. Rhodes College and the Buckman Foundation have expressed an interest in participation in the grant. VECA

vice-president Mary Wilder, VECA member Othneil Martque, and Community Foundation staff have met with Rhodes and Buckman Foundation representatives.

This grant could develop into a real community collaborative effort to help stabilize the VECA community as a quality residential neighbor-

hood in Memphis. Residents can get copies of the grant by calling 272-2620 and arranging to pick up a copy. The Fall general membership meeting will be devoted to the a discussion of the grant. Grant proposal copies will also be available at the July 30th Pool Party.

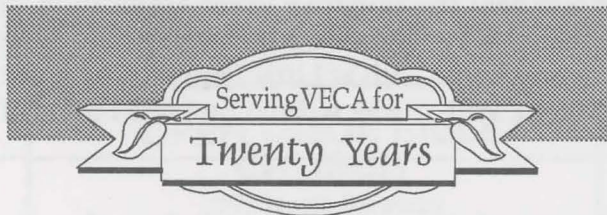
Our Feathered Neighbors

by Lula C. Coffey

When is a KITE not a kite? When it is a graceful bird soaring overhead! The Mississippi Kite is a regular summer visitor to our neighborhood. It is related to the Hawk, but the Kite feeds mainly on large flying insects. It is about 12 inches long, and has a wingspread of about 36 inches. Adults are dark gray underneath

with a pale gray head and grayish shoulders. Immature birds are slightly streaked underneath. These birds have a distinctive flight pattern soaring and swooping gracefully. They arrive here in April and migrate south in September and October.

Editor's note: Lula C. Coffey, a VECA resident for almost sixty years, was named Tennessee's "First Lady of Birding" by the Tennessee Ornithological Society.



VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN NEWS

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What is your house number?

Do you have numbers identifying the address on your house? Sometimes trees or scrubs cover the numbers or perhaps they have been painted over so many times they are not visible from the street.

If you had an emergency and called the police, fire department or EMS, they could have difficulty locating your house. This problem is worse at night. Every second may count in an emergency so having your house number clearly visible may save your house or a life.

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276-1412



"All Are Welcome"

VECA NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS

VECA Community Development Corporation (VECA CDC)

The mission of VECA is to maintain and preserve a quality residential neighborhood through the direct efforts of neighborhood residents. With that in mind, VECA is in the process of forming a community development corporation (CDC).

The CDC will be a separate corporation closely linked to VECA. Its policies, programs, budget and board members will be approved by VECA. The CDC will have a board made up of both representatives from the entire neighborhood and some other people with specialized skills such as accounting, real estate and management.

Individual VECA members have undergone training during 1993 and there has been informative discussion about such a CDC for several years. The CDC is now only in the planning stage and has not received funds or undertaken housing activities. It cannot perform that function until receiving 501(c)(3) status from the IRS which makes it a not for profit organization able to undertake such activity.

Members of the VECA executive committee have been hard at work on the IRS application. Rick Cartwright and Jenny Jenson have been providing legal assistance in preparing the charter and by-laws. Mike Kirby and Tom Ridenhour have written the IRS application. Mary Wilder, Steve Gadbois, Martha Heineman, and Margaret Blackmon have been providing ideas and critiquing the charter, by-laws and application.

The projected efforts of the proposed CDC are ambitious, although its work will be devoted to the VECA area. The projects undertaken by the CDC will fit with goals of revitalizing housing and halting deterioration in the VECA area. The following are some of the CDC's projected activities:

- It will purchase and rehabilitate single family houses and sell them to qualified neighborhood purchasers. The purchased house will have the following characteristics: dilapidated, absentee owner, probate status, vacant, under condemnation or foreclosed.
- It will purchase and rehabilitate small multi-family apartments and rent them to qualified neighborhood residents or sell them to owner-occupants.
- It will arrange for training of potential owners who will receive credit counseling and new owners who will be able to develop skills in the care and financing of their new home.
- It will work with a variety of existing organizations which provide resources and training for housing programs such as conducted by the CDC.
- It will undertake limited development of neighborhood blocks that show signs of substantial deterioration.
- It will seek to use housing as a form of economic development by using neighborhood contractors and training the youth of the area to work on the rehabilitation.
- It will increase the level of volunteerism by drawing on workers from the neighborhood and local institutions.
- It will leverage public funds, private funds and voluntary efforts to assist the city of Memphis in meeting its goal of providing housing for low and moderate-income housing.
- It will use its funds to create a revolving loan fund for new home owners.

If you have any reactions to these efforts, contact any of the VECA members mentioned in this article or leave a message on the VECA Hotline.

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Stonewall Block Club - Neighbors Again

The Stonewall Block Club met again June 6th at the corner of Henry and Stonewall. Over thirty-five adults and children attended a hot dog cookout and meeting. Judge D'Army Bailey spoke to the block club about the community and the importance of neighborhood organizing. The residents of Stonewall between Jackson and Vollintine plan to meet on a regular basis. Working together as a community is the most important contribution we can make for ourselves and our neighbors. Neighborliness is the glue that holds communities together.



Market/Delicatessen new to VECA Neighborhood

Deli sandwiches on fresh baked bread and top quality meats are items found at the recently opened Midtown Mini-Mart. The market also has available bread, milk, snacks, soft drinks, and imported and domestic beer. Located at 643 N. McLean, next to Dino's, the fully stocked market is owned by Ribhi Hajjah "Hajjie".

VECA resident Debbie Penczner is operating the Picnic Basket Delicatessen within the market. "I feel our neighborhood is long overdue for a really great deli and market. This corner has offered one or the other, but never the two

combined. We will carry only the very best meats for our customers. I know our community appreciates good quality."

"Our deli sandwiches will be served on fresh breads. On Saturdays we will offer bagels and croissants. We will also serve a variety of gourmet soups. 'Chicken and Black Bean Chili' is my favorite. People love it!"

Hajjie would like the Midtown Mini-Mart to be "your choice market". All are welcome to come by and have a cup of coffee and any suggestions from neighbors will be appreciated.

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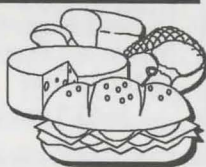
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VECA Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The Evergreen News is the way in which VECA communicates with its residents. The Evergreen News contains information about VECA, neighborhood residents, business and government policies. VECA is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Trezevant on the East and North Parkway on the South. Contact VECA by writing to P.O. Box 12011, Memphis, TN 38182-0011.