

# VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN NEWS

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

Volume XXI, Number 1

February 1995

## Annual General Membership Meeting is a Success

VECA held its annual general membership business meeting on January 23 at Gethsemane Garden Church of God in Christ, with over 100 VECA residents in attendance. We were also honored to have present City Council member Barbara Swearngen Holt, City School Board member Hubon Sandridge, State Representative Carol Chumney, and Mayor Herenton Representative Cary Hoffman.

The business portion of the agenda included the annual financial report from VECA treasurer Martha Heinemann and the approval of several revisions to the VECA By-Laws, made necessary by the formation of the new VECA Community Development Corporation (CDC).

Steve Gadbois was re-elected VECA President and Willette Gray was elected Vice President. An update was given on the Neighborhood Preservation Initiative grant by NPI grant coordinator (and outgoing VECA Vice President) Mary Wilder, and the various committees whose work the grant makes possible were formally convened. If you are interested in signing up to work on any of the committees (Block Clubs, Business Association, Cypress School, Greenways & Parks, Historic Designation, Housing, Membership, VENEWS, Youth), leave a message on the VECA hotline at 276-1066. Also available was the first draft of a "Neighborhood Directory", which will eventually include all neighborhood schools, churches, businesses, and organizations. You can also call the hotline to make sure your group is included. This Neighborhood Directory eventually will be included in the Vollintine Evergreen News and mailed to all VECA members.

The Borys award is given to a public official for service to VECA and the city. Past recipients have been Mark Hackett, Steve Shular, and Vernua Hanrahan. The 1995 recipient is Janice Foster of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis. It is no exaggeration to say that without Janice, VECA and the Community Foundation would never have gotten the \$975,000

Neighborhood Preservation Initiative grant from the Pew Charitable Trust.

The Dichtel award is given to a neighborhood resident for service to VECA. Past recipients have been Martha Heinemann, Julie Borys, Mike Kirby and Mary Wilder.

The meeting concluded with a tour of Gethsemane Garden Church of God in Christ (the former Baron Hirsch synagogue). The huge sanctuary is gorgeous! We are glad the Church is in our neighborhood and we appreciate its members opening its doors to us for a great meeting.

## VECA Community Development Corporation Information

A major portion of the Pew Charitable Trust grant fund money is allocated for housing improvement, so the VECA Community Development Corporation has been formed, has met, and is already in the process of buying, rehabilitating, and marketing distressed housing in the VECA neighborhood.

The VECA CDC is forming a list of people

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Do not place in mailboxes



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who live or work in the VECA neighborhood with any skill that might be useful in housing rehabilitation work, such as contracting, carpentry, roofing, electrical work, and plumbing. Also of use to the CDC would be individuals with special expertise in acquisition, financing, and grants. Write to the VECA CDC at P. O. Box 12011, Memphis, TN 38182-0011, or leave a message on the VECA hotline at 276-1066.

Seventeen dedicated individuals with a variety of talents make up the VECA CDC Board of Directors: James Beard, Craig Cardwell (Vice-chair), Chuck Dille, William Grandberry, Paul Herron (Chair), Jenny Jenson, Mike Kirby, Sheri Lipman, Mac McWhirter (Treasurer), Jim Martin, Tyrone Moore, Tom Ridenhour, William Stemmler, M. Dell Stiner, Pete Swailes, Regina Walker (Secretary), and Eddie Wright.

On December 14-16, five VECA residents and three Community Foundation officials attended the Neighborhood Preservation Initiative kickoff conference in Philadelphia sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Representing VECA and Memphis were Janis Foster, Steve Gadbois, William Grandberry, Mike Kirby, Herman Morris, Gloria Singleton, Gid Smith, and Mary Wilder. Groups were also sent by the eight other cities to receive NPI grants - Boston, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Kansas City,

Milwaukee, Philadelphia, St. Paul, and San Francisco. We toured Philadelphia's target neighborhood (Frankford); met with experts on economic opportunity, physical revitalization, youth development, and crime prevention and community safety; learned more about our responsibilities under the Pew grant; and, most importantly, began the networking process with our colleagues in the other NPI cities. During the three-year life of our grant, we will be in frequent contact with those in the other cities, and various VECA volunteers will have the opportunity to attend other meetings and training workshops. All of us were impressed by the caliber of people involved at all levels in this initiative, and we again realized how much VECA's success will depend on the involvement of many VECA residents.

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### Opening Day Lecture Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

Sunday, February 19, 1995, 2:30 p.m.

Mrs. Lula Coffey, well-known member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and popular Mid-South "birder," will present an illustrated lecture on "Birding in the U.S.: After Audubon." The lecture is free with Museum admission.

Following, is a sample of Mrs. Coffey's work:

#### *Our Feathered Neighbors*

Cedar Waxwings are slightly larger than a House Sparrow. They have an erect crest and black mask—mauve-colored above and yellowish below. Their short tails are tipped with bright yellow. They are called Waxwings because of the red waxlike spots on the wings of the adult.

They arrive here in September, but are not common until winter or early spring. They migrate north in late May. They often travel in foraging flocks, searching for berries. Not attracted to feeders, the Cedar Waxwing is most commonly drawn towards berry-bearing shrubs or trees such as holly (I prefer the deciduous holly), pyracantha, cherry laurel, etc.

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#### VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN NEWS

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**VECA Hotline: 276-1066**



State Representative-District 89  
**Carol Chumney**  
*Call Carol!—327-8528*

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 5:30 p.m. - Rhodes College May-Sept.  
**Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.**  
 Fr. Bob Ewing, Pastor  
 276-1412



**"All Are Welcome"**

## VECA NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS

### Steven Can Do

by Ms. Buddy Lee

"Hi! I'm Steven Schmidt. I live a few doors down. I always try to meet new people coming into the neighborhood."

Standing in the yard of my new home on Hallwood - walking the dogs - I turned to see a young man with auburn hair walking towards me, and I was pleased that one of my new neighbors was coming to greet me. Having lived in Suburbia for the past seven years where there was little contact with my neighbors, or any spirit of community, I was eager to "settle in", meet my neighbors, and "feel at home."

Keeping one eye on my two canine "children", we began a typical conversation between neighbors meeting for the first time. Important information was exchanged. I told him my name, where I had lived before, where I worked, what brought me to Hallwood. He told me about the neighborhood - how long he had lived there, which neighbors had children, who lived on either side of me and about how I could meet the rest of my neighbors at a planned "neighborhood watch" meeting being held at the church. Since he wasn't sure of all the details, he offered to get me a copy of the newsletter being circulated inviting all neighbors to attend. I was very excited about this because I wanted to get involved. Finally, he asked me if I thought I would like living in this neighborhood. I replied that I was sure I would like living here after everything was done - that right now there was just so much to do.

Steven nodded and looked around the yard thoughtfully. "Well . . . you know . . . I'm not busy this afternoon. I could come down here and cut and edge the yard for you. I do yard work for several people on this street. I could probably do it for, say . . ." and he named a small sum.

I told him that would be great, but would he have the time? And besides, I was sure he had better things to do while on vacation. "Oh, I'm not on vacation," he said. "I don't work at a full time job. I mean, I do work, but not like you. I'm still in high school."

He looked around again and noticed one of the dogs straying into the next yard. "You know, a part of your yard is already fenced. It would be real easy to fence the other side, add a gate across here, maybe one on the other side if you wanted. I could do it for you. I've got experience building fences - I could give you references. I built the fence across the street. You could look at it, and if you liked my work, I could get some estimates for you today."

This was on a Friday and my yard was neatly cut and edged that afternoon. By 12:00 the next day, a disgruntled Steven left my house because of rain, but 8 redwood fence posts stood in concrete.

In the following two months Steven finished the fence, ran wire underneath the house to connect 4 speakers to the TV and stereo, put the gas grill together, changed out old electrical outlets, worked in the yard, put in a ceiling fan and outside lighting for security, and renewed my faith in teenagers.

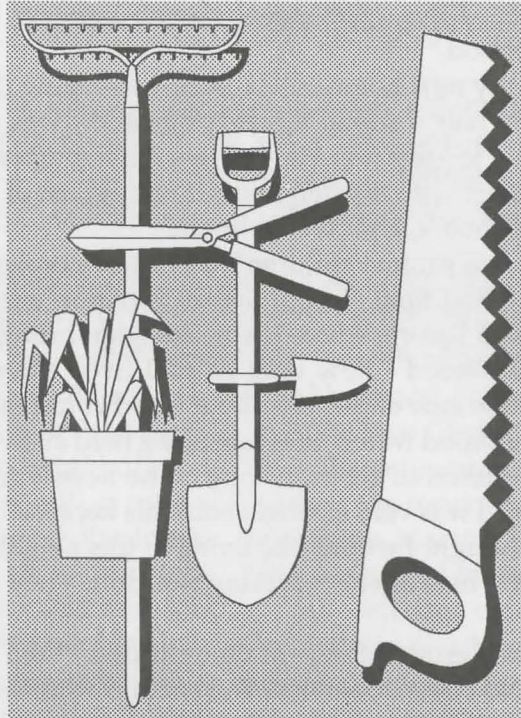
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I found out a lot about him during those two months. He appears to be a "throw back" to my father's time. A time when families bonded together to form one cohesive unit. A time when children respected their parents. A time when, working side by side together, fathers taught their sons how to use their hands and their minds, and how to take responsibility. A time when young men grew up feeling confident in their ability, certain that they held their own hopes and dreams in the palms of their hands, and that nothing they wanted was beyond the realm of possibility. They could be trusted with the future because they believed in themselves, and so did we. Armed with the skills of their fathers and the teachings of their mothers, they were good children and good neighbors; and we had a right to be proud.

Steven is 17 years old, a senior at Christian Brothers High School and active in theatre. He has performed in four high school plays - mostly musicals where he sings baritone. After graduation, he plans to study engineering.



If he has any spare time, he enjoys woodworking, but the summers usually find him operating his own business, which he has been doing in the Vollintine-Evergreen community since he was 11. If you were a resident of Hallwood, you'd be familiar with his bright yellow and

orange flier "Steven Can Do". Steven can do lawn mowing; edging, trimming, pruning; create and plant beds; build wooden fences; lay brick walkways and patios; exterior painting; small electrical jobs as well as build flower boxes, planters, bookshelves and entertainment centers.

When school started again I didn't see much of Steven; but I did see him last week while walking down the street, visiting my neighbors, and handing out Christmas "goodies". He was headed in my direction in his red

work truck. He stopped, stuck his auburn-haired head out the window to wish me a Merry Christmas.

I handed him a plate of fudge, which seemed to please him. Then, never to overlook an opportunity, he said, "Would you like me to clean up those leaves in your yard or clean out your gutters? I've got a few days off from school and I could . . ."

I'm glad I moved to Hallwood. I'm proud of the old fashioned look, the old fashioned homes, and the old fashioned values and ideals that still seem to work. And I'm glad I met Steve Schmidt, not only for helping me get settled into my new home, but for showing me that there still exists responsible and trustworthy young people who know what integrity and community means. It makes me feel good and hopeful—especially at this time of the year.

*School's out.  
Do you know where  
your kids are?*

EVERGREEN'S AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM could be the answer you've been looking for. We've increased our staff of trained adult supervisors to provide recreation and tutoring in age-specific groups for children in kindergarten through 9th grade. Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:00 p.m. Call Debby Preslar at 278-8919 for details!

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# VECA Needs Volunteers

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- Neighborfest
- Historic Preservation
- Newsletter Writing
- Newsletter Delivery
- Other

Volunteer

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are \$10.00 per year

Please send information to:  
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## CAUTION!

A man has been going around the neighborhood posing as a fundraiser for Friends for Life trying to collect money for a new house in midtown. He has NO relationship to Friends for Life which does not raise money door-to-door. While we encourage donations to Friends for Life, this man is a con artist and the police should be called if he approaches anyone.

### McLean Baptist Church

815 North McLean • Phone: 274-3766  
Harold Simmons, Pastor



Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
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## VECA Volintine-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.