

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXI, Number 4


SEPTEMBER 1995

CHANGES AT THE VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN NEWS

VECA's newspaper, now nearly 20 years old, continues to improve, thanks to the efforts of people like Ann Munns and Danny Munns. Ann served as coordinating editor and her son Dan volunteered his skills as layout and graphics editor from June 1992 through July 1995. Sherry Henson Adcox has agreed to take over as graphic designer, but we still need a coordinating editor, who job involves collecting articles, most of which are already typed. And we always welcome ideas for stories (or, better yet, the stories themselves!).

Most readers of the Vollintine-Evergreen News are lucky enough to have it delivered free to their homes, but not everyone is! Consider sharing our news with neighbors by volunteering to spend 30 minutes every two months delivering on any of the following routes. Call Steve Gadbois at 278-4116.

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EAST DRIVE, JACKSON TO VOLLINTINE
EDWARD & EDWARD COVE, MCLEAN TO UNIVERSITY
EDWARD BELVEDERE & ROSEBUD, WEST OF EVERGREEN
HENRY & CHARLES PLACE COVE, WEST OF SPRINGDALE
HENRY SPRINGDALE TO TREZEVANT
JACKSON (NORTH SIDE), BELVEDERE TO WILLETT
JACKSON (NORTH SIDE), SPRINGDALE TO TREZEVANT
JACKSON (NORTH SIDE), WILLETT TO WATKINS
JACKSON (SOUTH SIDE), WILLETT TO WATKINS
JACKSON, MCLEAN TO UNIVERSITY
N. PARKWAY (NORTH SIDE), WATKINS TO AVALON
N. PARKWAY (NORTH SIDE), AVALON TO EVERGREEN
N. PARKWAY (NORTH SIDE), EVERGREEN TO MCLEAN
SPRINGDALE (WEST SIDE), VOLLINTINE TO JACKSON
TREZEVANT (WEST SIDE), JACKSON TO VOLLINTINE
UNIVERSITY, VOLLINTINE TO EDWARD
VOLLINTINE, MCLEAN TO UNIVERSITY
VOLLINTINE, SPRINGDALE TO TREZEVANT
WOODMONT TOWERS (LOBBY)



OCTOBER 16 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

VECA's next general membership meeting will be at 7pm on Monday, October 16 at 840 Dickinson, downstairs from the VECA office. There will be a brief update on VECA's many activities, and Peggy Brewer will lead a session on code enforcement. All are welcome!

25th ANNIVERSARY APPROACHING!

VECA (originally called the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association) was incorporated in 1970 and the first Vollintine-Evergreen News (then called the Evergreen News) was published in 1971 so 1996 will be a important year for us. We'll kick it all off at our biggest general membership meeting ever on January 22, where we hope to formally present our application for Historic Designation. During the spring months we may have home tours, antique car exhibits, and other activities, but as always, new volunteers can make these plans even better. If you'd like to help out on the "25th Anniversary Committee" (formerly the Historic Designation Committee), call the VECA office at 276-1066.

Do Not Place In Mailboxes



TRIBUTE TO ALBERTA GAINES (1914-1995)

Contributors: Nesby Blanchard; Rosalind Cottrell; Janet L. Henson; Deborah, Ruby, and Vivian James; Otis Jean Johnson; Marilyn Kidd; Eddie L. Robinson; Alive Winfrey

My neighbor's name was Alberta Gaines. She was a good neighbor. Sheridan Street will miss her.

She would take a little vine and tell me, "Take this and watch it grow and just as this plant grows so will you."

Her light shone like a million stars and will linger long through the lives she has touched round about her. Her life work spread from her home, into society and the community at large.

Alberta Gaines was a woman of wisdom, ingenuity, and vast experience in precarious situations.

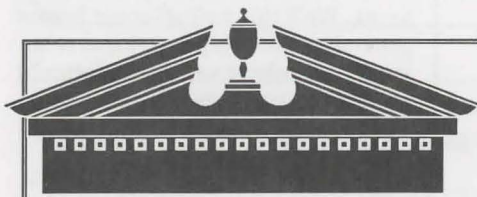
Bert put her heart, body, and soul into everything with which she became involved. No task was too great for her to undertake.

Those of us fortunate enough to call her "Aunt Bert" learned many valuable skills: to cook, to sew, to sit properly, to cut grass, to drive, to eat right. We thank God.

Aunt Bert taught my family and me how to share and how to give,

how to face tragedy that comes our way,
how to find courage to face each new day,
how to smile when your heart is broken,
how to go on when you can take no more,
how to laugh when you want to cry,
how to be brave when you say goodbye,
how to still love when one's loss is so great,
how to forgive when your urge is to hate,
how to be sure that God is really there,
how to find Him and seek Him in prayer

Who among us will accept her challenge to make the world a better place to live in by helping someone in need today?



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NEWEST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS ON AVALON

On August 3, 1995, the residents of Avalon from Jackson to Vollintine met with Officers Pearlman and Tines of the North Precinct to discuss the neighborhood and to form a Neighborhood Watch. In spite of the heat, the officers were very cordial, patient, and informative during their presentation and question-and-answer session. A better rapport was established and residents developed a better understanding of police duties.

It was generally agreed that we have a good neighborhood, where neighbors know and communicate with each other, and extend a helping hand to one another. Concerns discussed included the vacant HUD house, possible crack houses, young people hanging out on Vollintine, unwanted traffic, and long police response time.

Avalon residents in attendance were Gracie Anderson, Jacqueline Brown, McKinley Edwards, Beverly Hampton, Margie Hampton, Carl Hicks, Jean Hicks, Libby Kluge, Leatrice Lester, Bill Neal, William Pollard, Lulu Roper, Charles Wiler, Lee Winfield, Janie Womack, and Theren Womack. Visiting from Willett Street were Rosie Mitchell, Martha Sims, Isabelle Tate, and Mattie Worles. VECA Block Club coordinator Gloria Singleton also attended, and discussed starting an Avalon block club.

Thanks to all who volunteered their help, especially Libby and Jackie for distributing invitations. Avalon residents will be informed of future meetings.

WATKINS VILLAGE

The VECA Community Development Corporation has bought nine dilapidated duplexes on Watkins in the northwest corner of VECA. We will be converting these well-built brick buildings to single family homes with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, a laundry room and a large dining room. We plan to sell each for about \$48,000, preferably to new buyers. They are being boarded up while we solicit bids from contractors. For more information call Ruth Gibson at 276-6413.

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"All Are Welcome"

OH WHAT A NIGHT!

Gloria Singleton

I was asked to attend the August 31 Sheridan Street National Night Out by Ms. Dottie Sachritz, who lives at 899 Sheridan. Approximately 30 people met and fellowshiped. It was almost like Thanksgiving with wonderful pasta, cold drinks, fresh fruits and desserts. Ms. Sachritz first had me discuss the activities that the Stonewall Block Club had planned and was planning. I concluded by saying we were all in this together and we didn't have all the answers.

Tabitha Hughes wanted to become more involved and volunteered to be the contact person, who makes sure people get a newsletter and new people on the block get a gift packet. I found out that part of the movie "Memphis" was filmed on Sheridan, with our own Cybil Shepard, a native Memphian, in the kitchen of David Babij and Ed Davis. As you know, Sheridan has well-manicured lawns. Was it my imagination or are all the lawns evenly mowed? Well, I found out it was not my imagination. Helen Dunn not only mows the lawns, but she also climbs up the poles and installs the Christmas lights every year. Julia Sohm does a fantastic job of painting the exteriors of the houses on Sheridan. Yes, ladies, two women are responsible for all that glorious beauty. There is no street without problems, and Sheridan has its share between Jackson and Vollintine. Their main concern is car thefts. There was talk about adding more light to the homes and having a citizen patrol.

VECA CONTINUES TO DRAW PRAISE

The latest of many favorable media stories on VECA is in the summer 1995 issue of "Community Dividends" published by The Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, VECA partner in the Pew Charitable Trust Neighborhood Preservation Initiative grant. The story features some of the recent successes and ongoing work of Grant Coordinator Mary Wilder and CDC Executive Director Steve Lockwood.

CDC CLEANUPS

Thanks to everyone who came out to help clean up houses that are to be renovated at 1811 Faxon and 1659 Jackson: Habitat for Humanity, Hands on Memphis, Pretrial Services, Margaret Blackmon, Chuck Fox, Steve Gadbois, Mike Kirby, Mac McWhirter, Jim Martin, Troy Mashburn, Molly Miller, Tom Ridenhour, and everyone else we forgot. There will be plenty of other opportunities to volunteer!

TREE TRIMMING

In late fall each year, crews from MLGW trim trees from power lines and around streetlights in neighborhoods across the city. Funds for this necessary work are limited, so homeowners should not ask for or expect special shaping and trimming. What is done is necessary, and improves the safety and appearance of our neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD POTLUCK

The annual VECA Neighborhood Potluck was held between rainstorms on Saturday, July 22, 1995 at Evergreen Presbyterian Church, with about 35 residents in attendance. The evening was enjoyable, with people sharing good company, good food, and information about our neighborhood. Special thanks go to Martha Heinemann and Kay Blues, organizers of this year's event, for a job well done and to Evergreen Presbyterian Church for being a gracious host.

EVERGREEN CONCERT SERIES

The 1995-1996 Evergreen Concert Series opens with an organ recital by international organist Almut Rössler of Düsseldorf, Germany, at 8:15pm on Tuesday, October 17 at Evergreen Presbyterian Church (613 University).

Ms. Rössler is Professor of Organ at the Robert Schumann Conservatory and Organist/Choir Director at St. John's Church in Düsseldorf. She is founder and conductor of the St. John's choir Johannes-Kantorei, which has performed major choral works throughout the world.

Ms. Rössler is especially interested in the work of the French composer Olivier Messiaen and has given premiere performances of his organ compositions in Europe, Japan, Canada, and the United States, and also has published several articles and a book about these works. She has recorded organ works by Bach, Alain, Frank, and Messiaen.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Memphis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and is free and open to the public. Evergreen Church is handicapped accessible.

Other concerts in the Evergreen Concert Series include The Pyramid Winds on November 17 Rhodes College (and Memphis Chicks) organist David Ramsey on February 29, and Evergreen Church organist Jane Gamble on April 23.

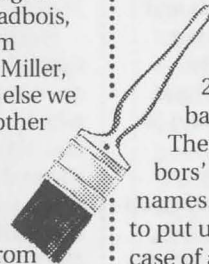
TERRY CIRCLE IS COMING FULL CIRCLE

The residents of Terry Circle recently met at Mrs. Rodgers' home, excited and full of ideas for the upcoming months.

Neighbors for anywhere from 2 years to 40 years, some felt badly for not meeting earlier.

They knew some of their neighbors' faces, but didn't know their names. Some residents volunteered to put up visible house numbers. In case of an emergency their number could then be seen by the fire fighters or police officers.

The main concern was the loitering on the corner of Vollintine and Terry Circle. Flood lights were suggested and the majority present approved. Other than feeling somewhat isolated from each other, everyone appeared to be content living in VECA. Roscoe Braswell, one of the residents who remained quiet during the rest of the meeting, ended with a heart-rendering prayer requesting unity, commitment, love and concern for each other. Refreshments were served later so everyone could continue to talk and fellowship.



LICK CREEK

Lula Coffey



Lick Creek is an environmental asset to our community. It provides water and food for migrating birds. On the grassy easements are weed seeds and insects. A mulberry tree provides a fruit banquet in late May, and the elderberry and pokeberry ripen later.

Martha Heinemann and I spend 30 minutes or so most days on our Belvedere bridge next to "Coffey Grounds" with binoculars, checking on the birds. Migrating birds seen this spring included the spotted sandpiper, phoebe, summer tanager, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, swainson's thrush, northern water-thrush, yellow warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, golden-winged warbler, black-and-white warbler, white-eyed viree, blue-gray gnatcatcher, song sparrow, and chipping sparrow.

Fowler's toads breed in the shallow water, and their chorus at dusk is pleasant to hear. Recently a very large, very dead beaver was seen from our bridge where did it come from?

REVITALIZING OUR COMMERCIAL STRIPS

VECA and VECA CDC are interested in improving the commercial strips in our neighborhood. We would like to hear from anyone who would like to rent or purchase commercial space in VECA in the next year. Give us a call at 276-6413.



MEMPHIS HERITAGE HALLOWEEN BEAUX ARTS BALL & 20th ANNIVERSARY

7-11pm, October 27 at the Memphis-Brooks Museum of Art in Overton Park

Come dressed as your favorite building! There will be prizes for best costumes (though costume is optional). Part of each \$30 ticket will help support work in fifteen historic neighborhoods.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND GREENBELTS

Excerpts from The Trust for Public Land, "Healing America's Cities: How urban parks can make cities safe and healthy" (1994):

Healing America's Cities cites examples of the link between urban open space and healthy communities which has been documented for several decades. Recent findings documented in the report show that crime drops when adequate parks and recreational activities are available in inner-city neighborhoods.

When people avoid parks out of fear, crime and vandalism increase. The political scientist John Q. Wilson has suggested that when people feel a sense of order in their communities, it is less likely that crimes will be committed. The disorder of a junk lot or a graffiti-splashed park can contribute to a sense of permissiveness that fosters criminal behavior.

The theory explains, in part, why cutbacks in park maintenance have contributed to making parks unsafe and why community efforts to clean up public spaces have so successfully reduced crime and helped neighborhoods reclaim their parks.

Although criminologists have found no way to measure directly how much crime is caused by a lack of open space and recreation opportunities, plenty of evidence shows that crime frequently drops—sometimes dramatically—when these things are improved. As cities continue to witness rising crime and urban distress, it is becoming increasingly clear that support for parks and recreation is not a luxury—it is an investment in our own security and health and the stability of our cities.

In Philadelphia, after police helped neighborhood volunteers clean up vacant lots and plant gardens, crime in the precinct dropped 90 percent.

...Gardens are now a common feature in many cities, where it only makes sense for neighborhoods to turn abandoned land into centers of community activity. In Oakland, California, a newly formed nonprofit organization, East Bay Urban

Gardeners, is working with the city's Recreation and Parks Department to convert vacant lots into community gardens. Neighborhood residents are clearing the sites where gardens are to take root.

On Dearborn Street in the Mission District of San Francisco, residents documented a 28% drop in crime after the first year of their garden project. Working on the garden encouraged residents to form a neighborhood watch group, which made the area an unattractive place for drug dealers. Now crime in the area is down by 78%.

Proximity to open areas has also been shown to increase real estate values substantially. According to the 1994 Commonwealth Fund/Harris Poll, 57% of property owners living within two blocks of a city park in New York say that being located near the park enhances the value of their property. In Salem, Oregon, urban land next to a greenbelt was worth \$1,200 more per acre than urban land 1,000 feet away.

Floodways, riverside parks, streams, and wetlands are also money savers. Such natural areas can replace a good deal of expensive infrastructure to handle drainage, water supply, and water quality. A recent article in The New Yorker noted that the streams of southern Staten Island save New York hundreds of millions of dollars because they handle rainwater.

VOLLINTINE <-> EVERGREEN N E W S

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VECA HOTLINE: 276-1066

VECA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

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 Address _____ Zip _____

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery |
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VECA

VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The Vollintine-Evergreen News is the way in which VECA communicates with its residents. The Vollintine-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