

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXI, Number 5

NOVEMBER 1995

JANUARY 22, 1996 — NOT JUST THE USUAL ANNUAL MEETING!

The biggest VECA general membership meeting ever is being planned for 7:00pm Monday, January 22, 1996 at Gethsemane Garden Church of God in Christ (1740 Vollintine). We will kick off VECA's 25th anniversary celebration and formally present our nomination for Historic Designation, which has been over three years in the making and involved many VECA volunteers. There will also be a short business meeting and elections of VECA Board members for 1996, but these will not distract us from the celebration. Look for more details in the January 1996 issue of the Vollintine-Evergreen News, or call the VECA office (276-1066). All are welcome!

KNOW SOMEONE (MAYBE YOURSELF!) WHO SHOULD SERVE ON EITHER THE VECA BOARD OR THE VECA CDC BOARD?

The VECA Board is in the process of nominating new Board members for both the VECA Board itself and the separate VECA CDC Board. All nominees for the VECA Board (including the president and vice-president) will be voted on at the January 22 meeting, with all VECA members eligible to vote. On the other hand, new members of the VECA CDC Board are selected by the VECA Board, in consultation with the current VECA CDC Board and other VECA members. Let Steve Gadbois (278-4116) know.

REPORT ON THE OCTOBER 16 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Monday, October 16, about 45 people gathered at the VECA office for a general membership meeting that was organized by VECA resident Peggy Brewer of Memphis Light Gas and Water, and featured Lonnie Haley of Housing and Community Development code enforcement. We thank Ms. Brewer and Mr. Haley for an informative session!

NPI REPRESENTATIVE VISIT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Kathy Merchant, director of the Pew Charitable Trust's Neighborhood Preservation Initiative, was in our neighborhood November 6-7. She attended the VECA Board meeting, met with Block Club Coordinator Gloria Singleton, met various members of the VECA CDC Board, and toured homes that the CDC is working on.

OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS



Unless otherwise marked, all of these meetings are at 840 Dickinson, just downstairs from the VECA office. To be certain, you might call the office at 276-1066.

VECA Board	December 4, 7pm
VECA Board	January 11, 7pm
VECA CDC Board	November 18, 9am
Block Club Committee (grants)	December 2, 10am
Historic Designation Committee	December 5, 7pm (McLean Baptist Church)
Housing Committee	December 2, 9am
Cypress School Committee	November 30, 7pm
Youth & Recreation Committee	November 16, 7pm

Do Not Place In Mailboxes



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT

The VECA Community Development Corporation has started work on a number of houses in the neighborhood. Interested buyers can call Ruth Gibson or Steve Lockwood at 276-6413. Here is just a sampling.

1659 Jackson — Perhaps you've noticed that work has finally begun on this house that has been in disrepair for years. It is undergoing a total renovation and conversion back to a single-family home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a den, and new central heat and air. It will be done about the end of the year and will sell for \$57,000.

1769 Edward — This duplex is being converted to a single-family home. It will be large and well laid out, with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, a den and a large laundry room. It may be completed in early December and will sell for \$53,000.

1811 Faxon — This once-beautiful home is older than most in the neighborhood. Built about 1915, it is being completely redone, with a new master bedroom and bath in the back. This house is less than a block from Snowden School, should be completed by the end of the year, and will sell for \$75,000.

Watkins Village — Work will soon start on the first two of these nine houses. Each of these duplexes will be converted to a large single-family brick home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, dining room, laundry room and large back yard, and will be sold to new buyers for \$48,000. VECA/CDC would love to pre-qualify some buyers who could help pick colors and perhaps appliances.

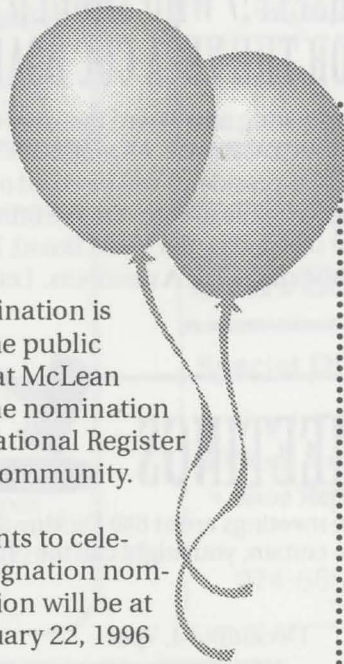
HISTORIC DESIGNATION/ 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

The first draft of the Historic Designation nomination is at the Tennessee Historic Commission Office. The public hearing has been set for 7:00pm on December 5 at McLean Baptist Church. This is not the presentation of the nomination but a time for residents to ask questions about National Register Listing and what this would mean for the VECA community. Please attend this important meeting.

The Committee is planning several special events to celebrate the 25th year of VECA and the Historic Designation nomination. The formal presentation of the nomination will be at the General Membership meeting at 7:00pm January 22, 1996 at Gethsemane Garden Church of God in Christ.

A slide show and history of the neighborhood will be presented. On January 24 members of the Historic Designation committee will travel to Nashville to make the presentation before the state Historic Commission. VECA's nomination will then be forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Parks Department for listing as a National Register Historic District Neighborhood.

The Committee is planning home tours for the spring and summer in conjunction with Rhodes College's Tennessee Williams retrospective. If you are interested in serving on the Committee, call the office (276-1066) for the next meeting date.



VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN N E W S

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VECA HOTLINE: 276-1066

LOST PETS

A.I.D. collar is your pet's most important possession.

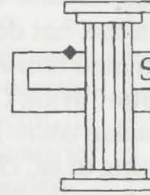
If you lose a pet:

1. Call or visit the Animal Shelter (362-5310) at 3456 Tchulahoma once every three days.
2. Call or visit the Memphis Humane Society (272-1753) at 2238 Central.
3. Contact nearby vets.
4. Check the "found" ads in the newspaper, and place a "lost" ad.
5. Post flyers and ask neighborhood children.

If you find a pet:

1. Call the Memphis Humane Society (272-1753).
2. Contact nearby vets.
3. Check the "lost" ads in the newspaper, and place a "found" ad.
4. Call the Animal Shelter (362-5310), especially if the animal has a Shelby County rabies tag.

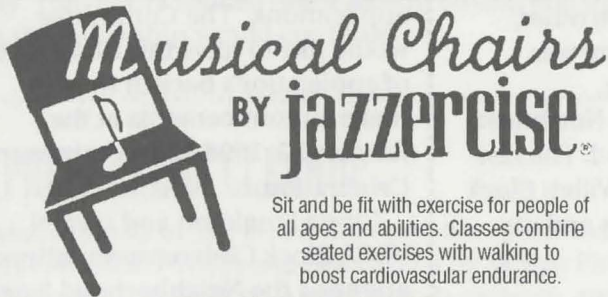
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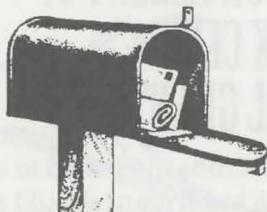
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Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.
Tues. Fri. Mass - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Confession - 3:45 4:50

Fr. Bob Ewing, Pastor
276-1412



"All Are Welcome"

WILLETT IS A STRONG-WILLED GROUP

Willett residents from Brown Street to the dead-end met on July 27 at the home of Jackie Walls-Blair. That area of Willett is usually quiet but that evening there was plenty of fellowship and the table was spread with goodies: cool, sliced watermelon, a spectacular-looking radish dish, cantaloupe, fruit salad, grilled smoke sausage, hot dogs, slaw, onion dip, chips, and sodas. All but one of the invited households came to "sup bread" Those in attendance were Bette Taylor, Cynthia Taylor, Beulah Green, Shira Howard, Virgie Mosby, Jackie Walls-Blair, and Fannie Williams. Many stayed after the meeting to sit, chat, and enjoy each other's fellowship.

The neighbors were delighted that Jackie took the time to deliver leaflets and host the meeting. Most of the neighbors know each other, speak to each other and look out for each other's property. There was interest in having a Neighborhood Watch meeting in the future.

Another meeting was held on August 30, with police officers Northfleet and Tines discussing how to prevent crime in the neighborhood. The residents felt more comfortable about Willett after they left. The Willett Block Club is focused and on its way. We wish you continued success and we salute you for being strong-willed neighbors.

SAINTS COURTS WANTS JUSTICE

Saints Court residents had an important meeting on August 15 in the home of Clara Terrell. Irene Malone volunteered to be the secretary and Clara Terrell will remain the contact person. The children at the meeting — Danterrio, Carphia, DeMark, and Leroy — were attentive, well-behaved and excited to be a part of the group.

One of the residents, Katherine Gaines, asked for the return of unity and the Christian values of years past. She remembered when respect for adults was commonplace even though children may have been mischievous. The residents wanted all residents to receive a Vollintine-Evergreen News and wanted new families acknowledged and welcomed into the community with gift packets. They also wanted prompt attention to their apartment repairs, such as water leaks from the roof, sink stoppages and plumbing leaks. But one long-time resident was satisfied with maintenance, saying that repairs were being taken care of "on time" The apartments seem to have more than their share of car thefts and break-ins. Children playing in the washerette was another concern. But management sometimes appears to be indifferent and aloof when approached with problems in the apartments.

Everyone at the meeting agreed that the majority of residents are honest, hard-working citizens, who believed in Christian values and morals. There is plenty of self-pride and self-respect at Saints Court. Children are neat and well-groomed when leaving for school. Colorful plants are on the porches and most of the lawns are clean. Residents of Saints Courts, we urge you to continue working on unifying your community and building on more brotherly-love.

BLOCK CLUB COMMITTEE

The Block Club Committee met on September 28 with Beth Ducrest of the Evergreen Historic District to discuss welcome packets. They also discussed the Block Club small grant project. Steve Moore is working on the grant application form and the Committee met again on October 26 to finish the form and set a timetable to distribute it and review applications. The Committee would like to have this first round of applications back in time to make announcements at the January 22, 1996 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Gloria Singleton and several VECA Block Club representatives attended the Neighborhood Small Grants Dinner on November 10. This annual dinner program is put on by the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis to highlight Memphis neighborhoods and their activities.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BLOCK CLUB SMALL GRANTS

Block Clubs interested in applying for a small grant should attend orientation from 10am to noon on Saturday, December 2 at 840 Dickinson. The Block Club Committee has established these small grants for Block Clubs to help with projects that neighbors may wish to take on for the improvement of their streets: tree-plantings, cleanups, group gatherings, welcome signs, etc. Please call the VECA office (276-1066) to RSVP for the orientation or to get a grant application.

SHERIDAN BLOCK CLUB

Residents of Sheridan between Vollintine and the dead-end met on August 8, outside as long as the weather was bearable. Lois Scott had passed out leaflets to residents encouraging neighbors to attend this meeting. Neighbors flocked together, bringing lawn chairs and a desire to organize and go to work. There were several people eager to join VECA. Their main interest is building a neighborly atmosphere and cohesiveness. Future activities may include having picnics and putting together a street directory. Residents who volunteered to serve are Lois Scott, vice president; Pam Moffett, recording secretary; Sharon Hardin, financial secretary; Otis Jean Johnson, treasurer; and Cheryl Bingham, parliamentarian. Jean Johnson ended the meeting with a benediction stressing unity. Neighbors walked home slowly, talking and promising one another that the fellowship would continue.

CYPRESS CREEK CLEANUP

Many thanks to Mr. Butch Eder and the rest of the Memphis Public Works Division. VECA had been asked by Skippy Pittman and Memphis City Beautiful to work on a public lands cleanup, and decided on the stretch of Cypress Creek between Evergreen and Watkins. Mr. Eder and his hard working colleagues jumped right in to do a lion's share of the cleanup. VECA has since met to discuss further cleanup with area residents and with representatives from the Corps Of Engineers and Buckman Labs. A bike path was built there in the 1980's but is not often used. It is hoped that cleaning up the area may spark some interest in its recreational and scenic value. If you are interested please contact the VECA office (276-1066).



LANDSCAPING AT CYPRESS SCHOOL

The VA Hospital is an adopter of Cypress School and is interested in working with the parents and other adopters to beautify the west side of the building. Mr. Ozell Taylor of the VA Hospital is planning a landscaping day beginning at 10:00am on November 18. Mr. Taylor is looking for donated bulbs, monkey grass, trees, and small shrubs. Workers are also welcome; stop by with your surplus plants and work tools for a workout that is cheaper and more satisfying than any you can get at a gym. Joining us will be employees of the U.S. Attorney General's office, volunteers from the VA, and Cypress parents.

CYPRESS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Cypress School Committee met on October 19. The Committee is encouraging parents, teachers, adopters, and administrators at Cypress to work together on projects for the betterment of the school. The Committee worked out a tentative plan for the "Cypress School Parent Partners Grant" and designed a small grant form which will be distributed to all parties. Ms. Linda Ousley of the VA Hospital (a Cypress adopter) helped in the design and layout of the grant form. Proposals are due in November 20. The committee will meet again at 7:00pm on November 30 to review the grant proposals. If you are an interested Cypress parent, call Mr. Wall at the school (722-4524) or the VECA office (276-1066) for a grant application.

YOUTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Youth and Recreation Committee will hold its first meeting this year at 7:00pm on November 16. The Committee is looking for an area resident who would be willing to run the meetings and work with area residents on the development of recreational programs and services in the area north of Jackson. Through the Pew grant, VECA has small stipends set aside for the purpose of having some staffed committees, include the Youth and Recreation Committee. If you are interested in this position, please contact the VECA office (276-1066). The Committee will be involved in summer day camps, activities for the Vollintine School playground, and the University Park campus.

EXPENSIVE PARKING!

A real estate appraisal of a home with a car on the front lawn or with one on the front lawn next door will be \$1,000 to \$2,000 less than if the same house had a grassy lawn and the car parked in the driveway or on the street. VECA is a neighborhood of garages, long driveways, and adequate street parking. A house is the main financial investment for most folks and represents their largest capital expenditure. Most folks expect to realize an appreciation of their investment in their home. Be fair to yourself and to your neighbors. The front lawn is an expensive parking space. Think about it!

GOALS FOR THE RAILROAD GREENBELT

1. **To acquire ownership of the greenbelt.**
VECA will acquire ownership of the Railroad Greenbelt for future generations.
2. **To retain the existing open space.**
The greenbelt will remain open space, it will be left as a cinder path, and will be unlighted. There will be no equipment or parks along the railroad greenbelt. The greenbelt will not be used after sunset. Motorized vehicles will be prohibited from entering the greenbelt.
3. **To realize the potential of the greenbelt for passive recreation.**
VECA is unique in having a neighborhood-length greenbelt with such vast potential. It is an amenity which makes our neighborhood attractive to prospective home buyers. It brings adjacent VECA residents to common green spaces for spontaneous neighboring. It makes the neighborhood less "urban" and more pastoral.
4. **To provide adjacent neighbors with a feeling of safety.**
The grass will be trimmed and trash and litter will be picked up on a regular basis. VECA residents will use the greenbelt for walking, biking, gardening and neighboring. Some of the areas adjacent to private property will be planted with natural trees and shrubs that will serve as protection.
5. **To beautify and make the greenbelt environmentally friendly.**
Flower gardening will be encouraged as a way of beautifying the area. Trees will be planted for a sense of tranquility and shrubs will be used to entice birds to the area. Wildlife will be maintained in the natural habitat that now exists on the greenbelt. Educational opportunities will be provided for our children to view nature in an urban setting.
6. **To maintain the greenbelt**
Volunteers will be encouraged to mow the grass and pick up the litter. A spring cleanup each year will refurbish the entire area. Rhodes students have adopted the greenbelt as a project during the 1995-96 school year. In addition, will apply for a grant to finance maintenance that cannot be done by volunteers.

GREENWAYS & PARKS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Greenways & Parks Committee has retained Bruce Smith and his law firm of Apperson, Crump, Dunzane, & Maxwell to research issues related to the L&N railroad right-of-way such as ownership, title, and the quitclaim offer to VECA by the CSX Railroad.

In the meantime, residents of Mignon, Crump, and Jackson, members of the Committee, Rhodes students, and Eagle Scout Brett Rehberg are beginning cleanup and planting projects on the right-of-way between McLean and University. Landscaper and VECA resident Chris Pettit toured the area on September 9 with committee members and area residents, and offered to grade the pathway and help with weed reduction and the eradication of the kudzu. Landscaper and Evergreen Historic District resident Tom Pellett also toured the area with committee members on October 21 and felt that with a bounty of native trees and plants, the strategy should be removal of noxious non-native plants such as privet hedge, jasmine, kudzu and wisteria, for they will pose long-term maintenance problems. A canopy of trees overshadowing the path will provide a comfortable environment in the summer heat, reduce the need to mow and require the least amount of new plantings. The first major cleanup took place on November 4. There will be future opportunities for you to be "working on the railroad"





60 YEARS IN SCOUTING DARRELL RICHARDSON

Long-time VECA resident Dr. Darrell C. Richardson was recently honored as recipient of the Good Shepherd award from the Southern Baptist Convention for his dedication to his church and to the Boy Scouts of America. His scouting involvement spans over 60 years. As a youth Richardson became an Eagle Scout; as an adult volunteer he served in many positions, including Scoutmaster and District Commissioner, and earned many scouting awards, such as the Silver Beaver. He has also found the time to be an author, journalist, archaeologist, lieutenant colonel chaplain, Baptist pastor, husband, and father. Congratulations!

LEAD POISONING

Lead poisoning is a common and preventable health problem among children 6 months to 6 years of age. The most common source of lead poisoning is lead-based paint, which was widely used in homes throughout the nation until it was banned in 1978. But the presence of lead-based paint is not the problem; it is the lead-containing dust or paint chips created when paint in older homes wears off, flakes, or is sanded, due to remodeling or poor upkeep.

Lead poisoning is a silent disease. Side effects can include stomach pain, crankiness, restlessness, or fatigue, but these rarely show up until a child has moderately high levels of lead. Long term lead poisoning even at low levels can cause permanent damage. Children may develop learning disabilities, poor reading skills, and behavioral problems. The only way to tell if your child has been exposed to lead is a simple blood test that your family pediatrician can perform. If you don't have a family pediatrician or other doctor, or have other questions, call the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department at 576-7646.



EVERGREEN CONCERT SERIES

At 8pm on Friday, November 17, Evergreen Presbyterian Church offers its second free concert of the season, a program by The Pyramid Winds of chamber music for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn. Members of The Pyramid Winds are Connie Beach (flute), Katherine Hopkins-Piecuch (oboe), Elizabeth Weimer (clarinet), Christopher Piecuch (bassoon) and Frank Anthony (horn). All are professionals in their own right in many areas of the Memphis music scene.

Other concerts in the Evergreen Concert Series will feature Rhodes College (and Memphis Chicks) organist David Ramsey on February 29 and Evergreen Church organist Jane Gamble on April 23.

Evergreen Presbyterian Church is located at 613 University and is handicapped accessible.

CARRIER UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to deliver the Vollintine-Evergreen News on eight previously-undelivered routes. Contact Steve Gadbois (278-4116) if you would be able to deliver on any one of the following remaining routes.

UNIVERSITY, VOLLINTINE TO EDWARD
EDWARD BELVEDERE & ROSEBUD, WEST OF EVERGREEN
DICKINSON, JACKSON TO VOLLINTINE
JACKSON (NORTH SIDE), BELVEDERE TO WILLETT
VOLLINTINE (NORTH SIDE), MCLEAN TO UNIVERSITY
VOLLINTINE, UNIVERSITY TO HALLWOOD
VOLLINTINE, HALLWOOD TO SPRINGDALE
CYPRESS DRIVE & CYPRESS CIRCLE, HENRY TO JACKSON
EAST DRIVE, JACKSON TO VOLLINTINE
HENRY, SPRINGDALE TO TREZEVANT
TREZEVANT (WEST SIDE), JACKSON TO VOLLINTINE
VOLLINTINE, SPRINGDALE TO TREZEVANT
CHARLES PLACE, JACKSON TO NORTH END
HENRY & CHARLES PLACE COVE, WEST OF SPRINGDALE
JACKSON (NORTH SIDE); SPRINGDALE TO TREZEVANT
SPRINGDALE (WEST SIDE), VOLLINTINE TO JACKSON

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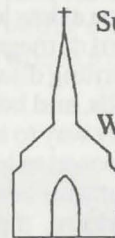
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EVERGREEN'S AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM could be the answer you've been looking for. We've increased our staff of trained adult supervisors to provide recreation and tutoring in age-specific groups for children in kindergarten through 9th grade. Monday-Friday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

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McLean Baptist Church

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



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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