

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

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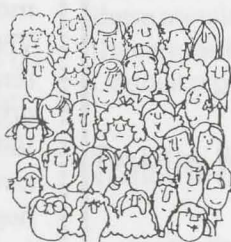
A Neighborhood Publication Sponsored by VECA, the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

Volume XXIII, Number 2

MARCH 1997

1997 VECA BOARD MEMBERS

The following members of the VECA Board were elected by the entire VECA membership at the January 27, 1997 meeting held at McLean Baptist Church.



Stephanie Banks
Margaret Blackmon
Kay Blues
Janis Cannon (vice president)
Rick Cartwright (secretary)
Len Cobb
Steve Gadbois
Willette Gray
Conita Grigsby
Mary Haynes

Martha Heinemann
Hazel Jackson
Jennifer Jenson (president)
Martha Jordan
Molly Miller
Jessie Rodgers
Gloria Singleton
Charlotte Swailes
Samuel Thompson

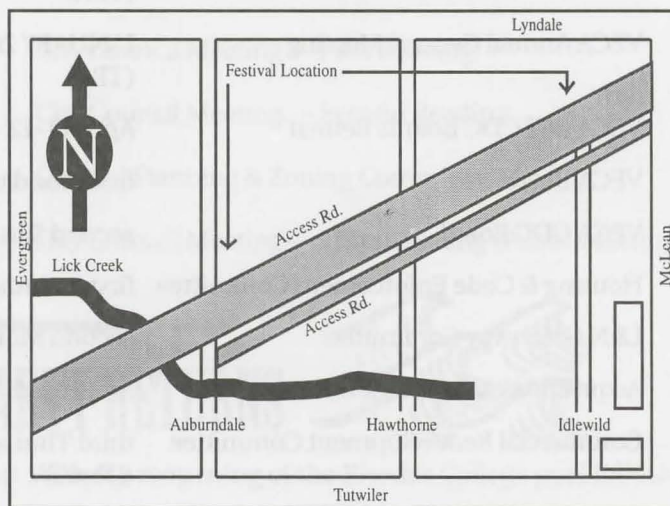
The following members of the VECA CDC Board were chosen by the VECA Board. Each serves a two-year term.

Julie Borys
Steve Gadbois
Andree Glenn
Paul Herron
Mike Kirby
Mac McWhirter (treasurer)
Jim Martin (chair)
Tyrone Moore (secretary)

Ethel Nolan
William Stemmler
M. Dell Stiner (vice chair)
Pete Swailes
Dottie Sachritz
Clare Terrell
Modeanne Thompson
Regina Walker
Randall Wilder

VECA SPRING FESTIVAL

When: Saturday, April 19, noon to 4pm
Where: The "Gardens Section" of the L&N Greenway, between McLean and Auburndale
What: Booths, food, entertainment, plant swap, neighborhood cleanup, Memphis City Beautiful Bag-A-Thon, Hands on Memphis Day



1996 VECA TREASURER'S REPORT

Martha Heinemann

During the 1996 calendar year, VECA had total support and revenue of \$5033.82 and total expenses of \$3765.67, leaving it with a year-end balance of \$5041.63.



NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP — TRASH TO FLOWERS



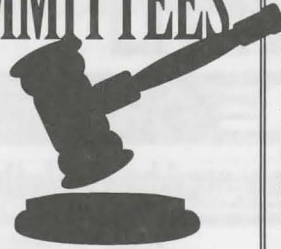
When: Saturday, April 19, 9am to noon
Where: Everywhere in the neighborhood

Idlewild resident Michael Mitchell is organizing a neighborhood cleanup with City Beautiful and the Glad Bag-A-Thon. Please call the VECA office at 276-1782 to get your bags for the cleanup. Bags can be brought to the Spring Festival at noon. A bag of trash will enter you in the Trash Drawing for prizes, and can be exchanged for a packet of flower seeds.

Do Not Place In Mailboxes

UPCOMING MEETINGS & COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise marked, all of these meetings are at the VECA office at 1680 Jackson. To be certain, you can call first at 276-1782. Committee meetings and Board meetings are open to everyone.



VECA Cleanup	April 19, 9am-noon (all over!)
VECA Spring Festival	April 19, noon-4pm (L&N Greenway)
Historic District Reception	June 6, 5:30-7:00pm
VECA Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 12, 6pm&7pm (Rhodes College)
Second VECA Home Tour	October 19 afternoon (TBA)
VECA Annual General Meeting	JANUARY 26, 1998, 7pm (TBA)
VECA and CDC Boards Retreat	April 11 12
VECA Board	first Monday monthly, 7pm
VECA CDC Board	second Saturday monthly, 9am
Housing & Code Enforcement Committee	first Saturday monthly, 9am
L&N Greenway Committee	second Monday monthly, 7pm
Acquisitions & Rehab Committee	first Tuesday monthly, 5pm
Commercial Redevelopment Committee	third Thursday monthly, noon (Dino's)
Budget & Finance Committee	first Tuesday monthly, 7:45am (Dino's)
Sales, Rentals, & Loans Committee	third Thursday monthly, 10am
CDC Managing Committee	fourth Saturday monthly, 9am
Membership & Fundraising Committee	
Historic Home Tour Committee	
Block Club Committee	
Youth & Recreation Committee	
Delta Team	
Vollintine-Evergreen News Committee	Article deadlines: April 11, June 6, August 8, October 10, December 5

VECA AND THE FINAL YEAR OF THE PEW N.P.I.

VECA is now into the last year of its partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis in the Neighborhood Preservation Initiative, which brought major support from the Pew Charitable Trust. The positive changes in the neighborhood that NPI made possible boggle the mind. But with last of the grant money, we must remember that VECA has always been, and will remain, a largely volunteer-driven organization. If you would like to see VECA continue working near recent levels, aided by paid staff members housed in our own office at 1680 Jackson, then you should do your part:

1. Stay informed — read the Vollintine-Evergreen News!
2. Pay your dues. Basic annual membership for a family or an individual is only \$10. As you can see in the Treasurer's Report, VECA itself is healthy but not wealthy.
3. Volunteer to work with a committee. All existing committees are listed in the box on page 2, many with already-set meeting times.
4. Volunteer to work "on your own", either at an on-going project or at a one-time project. On-going projects might include distributing the Vollintine-Evergreen News, mailing the Vollintine-Evergreen News, or working on the L&N Greenway or other greenspace within VECA. One-time projects might include painting the VECA logo above the office entrance, landscaping in front of the VECA office, helping out in the VECA office, or providing expertise regarding accounting or computer software.
5. Donate usable items that you no longer need: furniture, desks, file cabinets, shelving, lawn equipment, etc. Donations may be tax deductible.

FULLTIME JOB OPPORTUNITY — VECA VISTA VOLUNTEER

VECA and VECA CDC have applied to the United Way of Greater Memphis for funding for a VISTA Volunteer. VECA hopes to hear about the application in March of 1997

Any VECA resident can apply to be a VISTA volunteer, to work full time in the VECA office with the Housing Committee on code enforcement and with the CDC on home ownership training classes.

VISTA pays \$636.00 a month and has a health plan. At the end of the service year the volunteer may choose to receive a \$1,200 service award to use in any way or a \$4,725 education tuition award to be applied towards tuition. The volunteer may not work at any other job during the service year. For a retiree, retirement income will not affect eligibility.

If you or anyone you know is interested, stop by or call the VECA office

ZONING

Stop by the VECA office to review the VECA Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which reviews the use and zoning of land in VECA. VECA's Zoning Committee, the VECA Board, and VECA residents that attended two public meetings in 1996 felt that a zoning change was required to maintain this mix of uses at its current level. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan recommends changing the residential zoning in VECA from "single family duplex" to "single family" More information is available at the VECA office or in the February 1997 issue of the Vollintine-Evergreen News.

All VECA residents will be receiving public notice for the VECA Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning request change to come before the Land Use Control Board and City Council in April and May. Your attendance at these meetings is important, for the City Council counts heads. Communities that are visible and supportive at the hearings receive the support of their City Council representatives.

Tentative Zoning Meeting Schedule:

April 1	City Council Meeting — First Reading
April 8	City Council Meeting — Second Reading
April 22	Council Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting
May 6	City Council Meeting — Third Reading (Public Meeting)

VECA POOL PARTY RETURNS



Mark your calendar! With the reopening of the Rhodes College pool following completion of the new Campus Life Center, VECA will gladly return to its midsummer potluck supper/pool party. This year's event is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Saturday, July 12, and is free and open to all. More details will be forthcoming.

LOW INTEREST HOME REPAIR LOANS

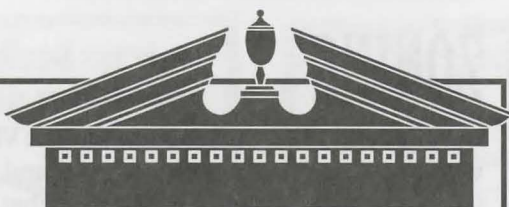
VECA CDC is now taking applications from VECA residents for 3% loans to repair serious structural problems: bad roofs, faulty wiring, faulty plumbing, etc.

Eligibility is determined by income limits below. Preference will be given to large households, the elderly and the handicapped. For more information or an application contact Robert Drain at 276-1783.

Income Limits by Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Very Low Income	\$13,850	15,800	17,750	19,750	21,350	22,900	24,500	26,050
Low Income	\$22,100	25,300	28,450	31,600	34,150	36,650	39,200	41,700

VECA NEEDS BUYERS

VECA CDC sold 12 houses in 1996, and will have about 15 more to sell in 1997. These are beautiful, fully renovated homes in many parts of the historic Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood, selling for an average of \$55,000. Call Ruth at 276-1782.



HISTORIC HOME TOUR

The Historic Home Tour Committee has started to work on the October 19 VECA home tour and is looking for homes in the VECA area:

- having interesting architectural features,
- with interesting interior decorating,
- having complementary landscaping,
- that are well-maintained,
- with an interesting history,
- with owners willing to open their doors to the public for a Sunday afternoon.

If you would like to suggest such a home or volunteer your own home, please call committee co-chairs Andree Glenn or Linda Nichols and leave a message. The home tour will move around the neighborhood, going to a different area each year. The 1996 tour was in the northeast quadrant.

The home tour serves as an effective marketing tool for our neighborhood, the Vollintine Evergreen Historic District. The tour brings people to the community, people who are checking neighborhoods for homes to buy, real estate agents looking at market areas, folks who appreciate interesting architecture and history, people who want interior design ideas, and folks who will carry the good news of this community to others in Memphis.

In addition to homes, volunteers are needed to serve on the Committee itself (a year long commitment), serve as a home tour docent (an eight week commitment), and serve as a home tour volunteer (a three day commitment)

HISTORIC DESIGNATION

The first phase of the Historic Designation project and listing on the National Register of Historical Places was the result of a four year effort started before the Neighborhood Preservation Initiative. The NPI grant allowed the process to be speeded up. An inventory of every house in the neighborhood was completed. The history of the community's development and its significance to the development of Memphis had to be documented. These were then included in a document for the State Historic Commission. There were three meetings with the state officials. In January 1996 the Nomination was approved by the state and submitted to the National Parks Service Keeper of the Register. On March 12, 1996 much of the VECA neighborhood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Vollintine Evergreen Historic District.

VECA is continuing the National Register Nomination process for 462 homes in the northern half of the neighborhood. The first draft went to the state on October 1, 1996. On December 10 state officials were here for a public hearing, on January 8 the Memphis Landmarks Commission approved the nomination, and on January 28 the State Historic Commission approved the nomination. It can now go to the National Park Service. VECA hopes that the nomination will be complete by May 1997. The new district will also be known as the Vollintine Evergreen Historic District. There will be an open reception for the two new Historic District additions, 5:30 to 7:00 on Friday, June 6, 1997 at the VECA office (1680 Jackson).



FOR
SALE



VECA still has Historic Designation plaques available, in a variety of styles, starting at \$25.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

by Cliff Robertson

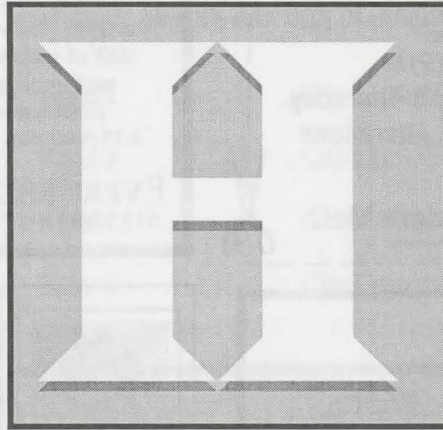
On Bellevue Boulevard, at the western edge of Midtown, lies the entrance to "The High School" of Memphis: Central High School. Its district boundaries encompass all or parts of all Midtown neighborhoods but students transfer into Central's college preparatory program from throughout the city, continuing a ninety year old tradition of educating high achieving students.

The history of Central High School is as rich as any institution in the city of Memphis. The school, built in 1909, was the first high school in Memphis. It was among the first schools to be desegregated in the late 1960s and was among the first four "optional schools" established in 1976 when Memphis City Schools initiated that program to lure white students back into the system. It includes among its alumni both past and present business and political leaders. Its reputation as an outstanding academic program continues today as more than 100 colleges and universities, including the most selective in the country, visit the school each year to recruit its students.

While other schools claim a "racially and culturally diverse student body", the diversity at Central extends deeper than the surface. The student body mirrors the racial make-up of Memphis City Schools (80 percent black, 20 percent white) and represents all economic classes, including families from public housing developments, working class families and children of the city's business and political leadership. There is also

a significant number of first generation Asian students who can be heard speaking a variety of languages in the hallways.

The faculty currently includes more Level Three Career Ladder teachers than any other high school in Memphis. Six of its teachers Barbara Doss, Bill Hicks, Mary Mulherin, Rita Ross, Anne Sutor, and Rick Yates have received recognition as Rotary Club Teachers of the Year. Central's art



teacher, Bill Hicks, is nationally recognized as producing the top high school art graduates in the country.

Central offers a full complement of advanced placement courses which students use to earn college credits while still in high school. Extra-curricular groups at the school are notable as well. Central's sports teams always finish high against other strong district teams and frequently advance to state-wide competition in post-season tournaments. Music groups such as the 20 member jazz band has been invited to play on Beale Street.

Because of its location, Central is often referred to as an "inner-city

school", but it defies the stereotype. The high expectations of achievement and discipline for all students, have produced an environment that is considered among the safest in the system. The school's record of incidents leading to suspensions (measured as incidents per 100 students) puts it at the third lowest of all city and county schools, including all suburban or east Memphis schools except Ridgeway High.

The entrance of ninth grade students at Central High School this coming August will mark one more historical step for the school. The city School Board approved a plan last fall which will restructure Central for a 9th through 12th grade curriculum. The plan begins with the reassignment of students from Snowden Junior High school and the transfer of other optional students from all over the city as space allows. Snowden will drop its 9th grade and become a middle school beginning with the 1997-98 school year. Other feeder schools, like Fairview and Bellevue, will become middle schools within three to four years to complete the plan. These students will then transfer to Central for four years of high school.

Central is no longer the only college prep optional program in the city. However, it attracts a student body which would be at the top of their class at any other public or private school. Central is unique. Students say that it is not just the strong academic program which drew them to Central. What distin-

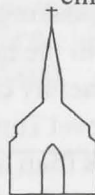
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Carol Chumney
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Paid for by The Chumney Campaign; Oran Quintrell, Coordinator



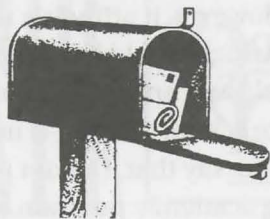
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Central Continued...

guishes the school is a climate that embodies the same characteristics that attract families to live in Midtown neighborhoods. In its premiere issue, Midtown magazine described the Midtown area as "a traditional-looking place, but its vision is progressive; its people are accepting and open-minded." That description applies as well to Central High School.

1987 Central graduate Lynn Crawford still lives and works as a graphic designer in the Cooper-Young neighborhood. She reflects that her education in the racial and cultural diversity at the school has served her immeasurably. "My experiences with other people of different income groups, races and cultures has prepared me to live in this community."

The appeal of that diversity has not changed in the last ten years. Senior Jonah McDonald, who lives in the Vollintine-Evergreen District, chose to attend Central after looking at other public school options because it has an environment which "lets you find your own identity. You don't have to be in a certain group to fit in or to dress a certain way to be accepted." Jonah has been actively involved in a variety of activities at Central, including the mock trial team and the baseball team. He currently serves as Student Council Vice-President. He has found the college prep program to be a rigorous preparation for college, and he has already been accepted by a number of well-known colleges in the midwest.

Hein Park resident Sarah Kesler

also describes the school as academically demanding, but goes further to explain that "teachers are supportive and really care whether you put forth your best effort. They want to help you achieve your best." In addition to being an honors student, Sarah is an accomplished musician studying piano and flute. As a junior, she is already looking at good colleges with strong music programs such as Oberlin College.

The atmosphere of diversity at Central seems to attract and nurture the artistically creative student. Lauren Jaynes, a sophomore who lives with her family in the Evergreen Historic District, looked to her home district high school for challenging academics and an accepting atmosphere. "As a white student, I'm in a racial minority, of course, but that doesn't make any difference in the way other students treat me. I've met lots of students who came to Central from J.P. Freeman or Bellevue who are great people to go to school with." Mathematics is her favorite academic subject but she is also a member of the junior company of Ballet Memphis. She has had the opportunity to dance with the professional ballet company in several performances at the Orpheum. Even though Lauren is an "A" student in Central's college prep program, she is considering a school for the performing arts after she graduates. Or perhaps she will postpone college if she has the opportunity to secure an apprenticeship with a professional dance company.

It is significant that these academic achievements are realized in a school where more than 50 percent

of the students are not enrolled in the college prep program. More than half of Central's students are on a technical path or a combined university/technical path. This curriculum requires the same number of credits in English, mathematics, sciences and social studies, but prepares students for careers that require specialized skills and training. These students have high expectations of success and participate in school activities with their college-bound classmates.

These accomplishments suggest that Central may be the most successful school in the city system, a flagship for urban public education. Central students express great pride in their education and high school community. "We respect one another," says Jonah McDonald. This attitude of openness and inclusiveness is peculiarly "Midtown" — just what you would expect from "The High School"

VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN
N E W S

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VECA NEEDS MEMBERS

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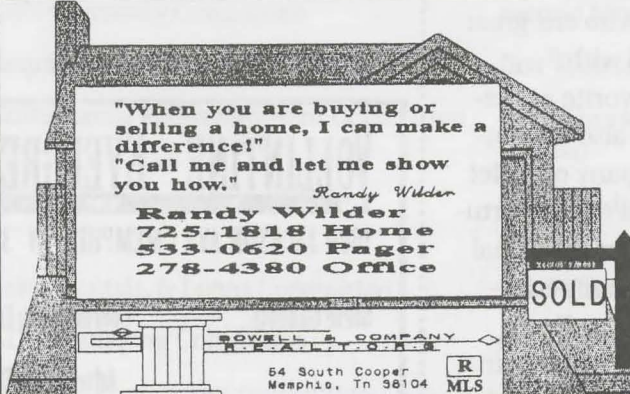
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VECA

VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The Vollintine-Evergreen News is the way in which VECA communicates with its residents. The Vollintine-Evergreen News contains information about VECA, neighborhood residents, and 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 1680 Jackson Avenue, Memphis, TN 38107 or call (901) 276-1782.