

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXIII, Number 3

MAY 1997

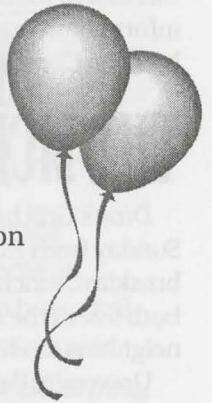
UPCOMING MEETINGS & COMMITTEES

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.



Historic District Reception	June 6, 6:00-8:00pm
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 Board	first Monday monthly (May 5 and June 2), 7pm
VECA CDC Board	second Saturday monthly (May 10 and June 14), 9am
Safety Committee	June 10, 7pm
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, 7:30am (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	
Cypress/Brown/Howell Committee	
Youth & Recreation Committee	
Delta Team	May 12, 7pm; June 6-8 (retreat)
Vollintine-Evergreen News Committee	Article deadlines: June 6, August 8, October 10, December 5

HISTORIC DESIGNATION RECEPTION



From 6pm to 8pm on Friday, June 6, the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association and its Historic Committee will host a reception for the entire community, to celebrate the listing on the National Register of Historic Places of the areas north of Vollintine (Vollintine Evergreen Avalon and Vollintine Evergreen North). All of the neighborhood will be referred to as the Vollintine Evergreen Historic District. Champagne and appetizers will follow a brief slide show, and historic home plaques will be available for homes in our historic district.

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. Final details will be in the July issue.

VECA'S COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

VECA's Commercial Redevelopment Committee will be especially active this year, and welcomes your input and involvement. Its next meeting will be at noon on Thursday, May 15, over lunch at Dino's Grill (645 N McLean). If you want to get involved but that time is not good for you, call the VECA office.

The Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood is primarily residential, but there are five main commercial districts: Jackson at Evergreen, Jackson at Watkins, Vollintine at Avalon, Watkins at Brown, and McLean at Tutwiler.

Five issues of the Vollintine-Evergreen News will be devoted to these districts, this first to McLean at Tutwiler. All business proprietors were sent a survey; information from those who responded has been used in this article on "The McLean Commercial District"

THE MCLEAN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Dino's Grill has been at 645 N. McLean for 24 years. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 7:00am to 9:00pm, Rudy Grisanti's family-owned restaurant offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, specializing in Italian dishes. Rudy and his son both live in the area, so Rudy notes that, "This makes a lot of my customers my neighbors as well."

University Park Cleaners has operated at 613 N. McLean since 1919. Hours are 6:30am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday and 7:30am to 1:00pm on Saturday. Owner Mark Matz is proud to state that, "We have been serving this neighborhood for five generations!"

Other establishments include Paggio's for Hair, Mid Town Mini Mart, Custom Cleaners, and Don Flippin & Son Pianos. We welcome news from them or any other VECA business.



THE STATE OF VECA REAL ESTATE

Randy Wilder

1996 showed an increase by 7% in average sales over 1995. (Averages are set by all home sales, including the high and the low.) Improvement should take place as our neighborhood association strives to increase neighborhood involvement by its residents.

	FIRST QUARTER 1996	FIRST QUARTER 1997
Single family homes:		
Number sold	57	45
Average cost	\$47,600	\$47,800
Average cost per square foot	\$31	\$31
High cost per square foot	\$57	\$55
Duplexes:		
Number sold	11	6
Average cost	\$26,600	\$58,700
Average cost per square foot	\$17	\$38

(Source: Intax Sales)

INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY SAFETY?

Members of the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association want to form a Safety Committee. Although VECA has never had a committee that deals directly with safety, now may be the time to work on this issue. After all, we have had success with nearly all the other activities we've undertaken recently.

A Safety Committee could network block clubs, host safety classes, patrol the neighborhood, request police bike patrols, track criminal activity reports for the area, talk with the West and North precincts, investigate the possibility of redrawing precinct lines so the neighborhood isn't split, work for a miniprecinct, discuss staffing and budgets for the precincts with city councilmembers and other city officials, etc.

This is very open ended. What the Safety Committee decides to do will be dependent on the volunteers that come to the first meeting at 7pm on Tuesday, June 10 at the VECA office (1680 Jackson). Or call the office at 276-1782. You can help make a difference!

VECA CDC UPDATE

— Eight of our houses on Watkins have now been sold and we expect the remaining two to sell by mid-May. We are pleased to see that many of the new home owners have been out in their yards this spring planting flowers and trees. We have a contract to sell 845 Maury to a VECA resident. Construction continues on three other homes — 887 Charles Place, 1127 McNeil and 710 Willett. We need buyers for all three. We also have contracts to buy two cute, small HUD houses — 729 Dickinson and 789 Stonewall. Call Ruth at 276-1782 for sales information.

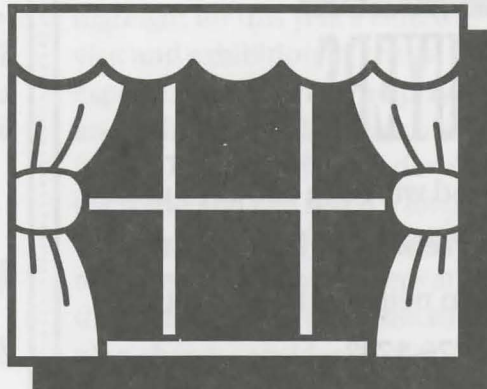
— We have interviewed and approved a number of applicants for our low interest (3%) home improvement loans. The first round of actual construction should begin soon. We still have more THDA funds available for qualified borrowers: low and very-low income Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood home owners. Call Ruth or Robert at 276-1783 for an application form.

— We recently noticed the announcement of the “Mayor’s Young Adult Jobs Program” We understand that this is a year-round program, not just a summer program. If you know of someone that might benefit from this program, have them call 576-6264.

— The proposed 1997-98 Memphis Housing and Community Development Plan and Budget is out. There is a lot in this budget to be happy about from a community development standpoint. There is increased funding for CDC’s housing programs, a grant program for very-low income homeowners and other good line items. We hope it sails through City Council! Stop by the VECA office if you’d like to see a copy.

— If you are over 65 or totally disabled and have a household income not exceeding \$10,000, or are 100% disabled veteran or veteran’s widow (no income limit) you are probably eligible for a waiver of property tax under Tennessee’s Property Tax Relief Program. Call the County Trustee’s Office or come in to the VECA Office for a brochure.

— Also, the Shelby County Weatherization program will provide free insulation, repair windows, repair doors, etc. for very-low income households. For more information call Elaine Geater or Betty Neal at 278-3893.



FULLTIME JOB OPPORTUNITY

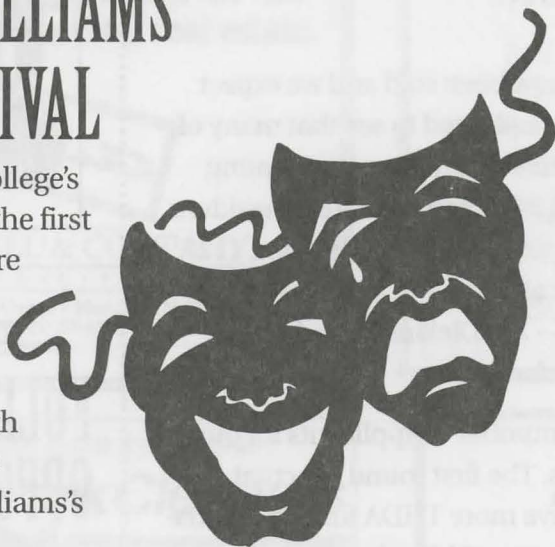
The Memphis Heritage Community Development Corporation wants to hire a full-time office manager. Salary is competitive. Good bookkeeping, secretarial, and computer skills are desired. Call Jane Kowalewski for details at 725-4157 or 527-3237

VISTA VOLUNTEER HIRED

There were several qualified applications from the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood for the VISTA volunteer position. VECA and VECA CDC are happy to announce the hiring of Ms. Beulah Green, a recently retired school teacher who lives on Willett. Beulah will travel to Orlando, Florida for VISTA training in early June and will start work immediately afterward. She will be helping with housing work — insurance, code enforcement, homeowner training, etc. We look forward to having her in the office!

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE FESTIVAL

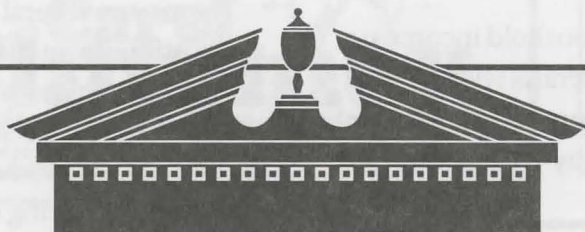
Last summer Rhodes College's McCoy Theatre launched the first Tennessee Williams Theatre Festival. The three-week festival honored one of America's greatest playwrights, and coincided with the 61st anniversary of the staging in Memphis of Williams's first play.



The second annual festival promises once again to enlighten and entertain audiences from all over the country, and will include *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (described as one of the most successful plays of our time, and directed by Jerry Chapman) and *Garden District* (comprised of the two one-act plays *Something Unspoken* and *Suddenly Last Summer*, and directed by Tom Jones)

New this summer will be an entertaining Ten-Minute Play Festival. Produced in conjunction with Playwright's Forum and directed by Louise Levin, five short plays by southern writers will be presented in Payne Auditorium on the Rhodes campus at 1:00pm on July 12, 19, and 26.

The Festival honoree this year will be Dakin Williams, Tennessee's younger brother. For ticket information call the McCoy Theatre at 843-3839.



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.

FOR SALE

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NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

VECA still has
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plaques available
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VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN
N E W S

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Printer .. Diamond Printing Company

276-1782 VECA • 276-1783 VECA-CDC • 276-1784 fax

NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

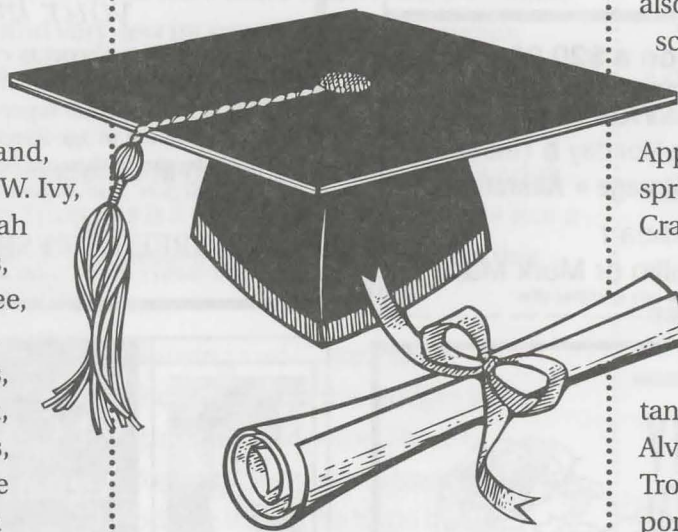
contributions by Mary Haynes

Congratulations to numerous Northside High School students for their recent achievements. Truly they have studied hard and committed themselves to take advantage of an education system that offers a bright future.

On the Principal's Honor Roll or the First Honor Roll for either the third six weeks or the fourth six weeks (or both) were S. Amos, Lakeisha Arnold, Kimberly Ballard, A.J. Catron, Q.A. Deberry, S. Draine, Stacy Gibson, Lakesha Herring, Tyrece Higdon, Ronda Holland, Mary Holloway, K. Holmes, W. Ivy, Dorries Jamerson, Rasheedah Jones, K.C. Jones, T.D. Jones, Tanesha Kuykindall, D.D. Lee, Bronsha Lewis, M.Q. Lewis, Telesia Lewis, C.L. Lobbins, T.S. Mackey, Melody Martin, E. Milam, Cassandra Morris, Hampton Mull, Jr., Jermaine Ousley, S.Y. Payne, Trameka Rhodes, S.S. Scott, Renata Simelton, Vatrice Smith, Tarshay Tate, Marquis Taylor, P.D. Taylor, C. Ward, Tonya Willett, Tina Woods, Ijuana Yancey, and Arlice Young.

Senior Ercia Holland has been awarded the Mid-South Minority Business Association's Robert R. Church Scholarship. Ercia Plans to attend Lane College with a double major in journalism and business. In the community, Ercia is a member of Bridge Builders, attended the Leadership Team Conference, is a MIFA volunteer, and is a National Civil Rights Museum tour guide.

Senior Terry DeShields has won a \$2000 college scholarship from the women's organization Lesgemmes for his artistic talents and achievements, which include self portraits, perspective views from different angles, and realism forms. Terry plans on attending the Savannah School of Art and Design, with the idea of owning a clothing design business.



The Northside chess club is growing by leaps and bounds, with 40 members this year. In January's speed chess tournament, Terrell Rutherford won and Robert Cole came in second. A highlight for this year's club was a visit and exhibition by chess expert Leroy Brown, who played and defeated 14 players at one time. The game of chess develops the mind and can teach a lot of things about life: learn from your mistakes and try not to repeat them; don't make quick decisions; plan ahead; consider all of your options carefully.

Northside's Future Communicators Club has been involved in several exciting activities this year. Culb president Danica Wilks and vice-president Danielle Woods founded "Children's Story Hour", in which members dedicate their lunch hour to go to the school nursery to read to the young children and perform skits and puppet shows. Club members have also been busily working on the school's literary magazine, "The Walking Stick", planning a field trip to the Commercial Appeal offices, and planning a spring luncheon. Mrs. Kathy Crawford is the club sponsor.

This year's spring play was August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize winner, "Fences" Director was Ercia Holland and assistant director was Audia Scruggs. Alvin Newell played the lead role of Troy Mason, and his wife Rose was portrayed by April Deberry. The Drama Club sponsor is Mrs. Kathy Crawford.

Finally, Northside High School's annual William Cox / St. Jude Classic was held on March 21 and pitted the Northside Drama Club against the FHA/Hero Club. Nedra Roddy emceed the halftime show, which spotlighted some the the school's most talented singers and dancers. Many prizes were raffled off throughout the game. All proceeds went to St. Jude's Hospital and the William Cox Scholarship Fund in memory of a former student who died of leukemia. Mrs. Betty Nolan and Mrs. Kathy Crawford sponsored.

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HERBAL GARDEN

Mary Haynes, Brucie Postell, Margaret Winfrey, and Georgia Swift have worked hard putting down herbs and trees on the Jackson Avenue median between Stonewall and McNeil. Herbs planted include santalina gray, purple sage, hardy rosemary, pineapple mint, lemon gem, African blue basil, monarda, and yarrow.



Last year only herbs were planted to help improve the landscape and add natural color and texture along Jackson. The Hendersons, the Grays, and Winfrey were involved then in watering and maintaining. James Stevens gave flowers, and other nearby neighbors donated the use of their water and their trash bins. Residents seemed to enjoy sitting on their porches watching the garden grow, as did people walking or driving by.

If you are a neighbor who has a green thumb or enjoys making our community a more pleasant place to live, please commit yourself to making the community more scenic. Let's all join in and make this a more attractive neighborhood.



The Stonewall Block Club wishes to welcome our new neighbors who have moved to Stonewall within the last six months. In the 700 block are Sharon Holden and Roy Banks, as well as Terry Oliver and family. In the 800 block are Veronica Hobson, her daughter Jeanette Hobson, and her grandchildren Laticia (a Snowden student), Nakennia and Keith (Vollentine students) And in the 900 block are Sandra Earle and Leroy Handy and their children Tanaya (a Snowden student), Tadasha and Taryn (Vollentine students), and Adrain. We look forward to getting to know you all.

jazzercise®

Location: Evergreen Presbyterian Church
613 University

Schedule: Monday/Tuesday/Thursday 5:30 pm
Saturday 9:00 am

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Call Lou Ann Vistica 327-5070 for More Information

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VECA NEEDS MEMBERS

Name _____

Telephone Day: _____ Telephone Evening: _____

Address _____ Zip _____

I'M INTERESTED IN:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth & Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Clubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Code Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenway |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Articles |
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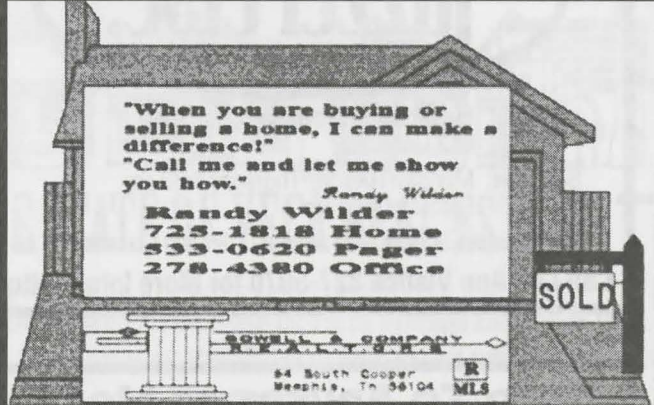
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276-1412

"All Are Welcome"

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.