

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXIII, Number 5

SEPTEMBER 1997

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN'S SECOND HISTORIC HOME TOUR OCTOBER 19



The second Vollintine-Evergreen Historic Home tour will be on Sunday, October 19 from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. The first tour, held in 1996, was highly successful and attracted several hundred people to our lovely, well-established neighborhood.

Mounted police and antique cars will be on the scene again. Free trolley shuttle service is anticipated for the fun and convenience of visitors during the tour. All-inclusive tickets are \$6 in advance or \$8 that day. They are available at the VECA office (1680 Jackson) and at Paggios For Hair (651 N. McLean), Wiles-Smith Drug Store (1635 Union), Burkes Bookstore (1719 Poplar), and 1910 Frameworks (2029 Union).

Tickets, hospitality, and baby-sitting will be offered at Evergreen Presbyterian Church (613 University),

continuing its tradition of active neighborhood involvement. The six houses that will be shown are clustered just north of the Church and immediately west of Rhodes College. They reflect the comments heard over and over from visitors last year that "these homes are so lovable"

All of these homes represent the architectural characteristics that qualified the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood for Historic Designation. Getting this designation in April of 1996

was the culmination of years of effort by members of the community. Among the primary goals of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association when it was formed 27 years ago were maintaining a diverse neighborhood and maintaining the quality of the housing. The resulting efforts contributed to tremendous cohesion among the residents and devoted service to the neighborhood.

The soft yellow painted shingles and colonial style of the James Farris home at 1978 Tutwiler are striking. The covered portico flanked by double columns pulls you into the entrance. The two bedroom house

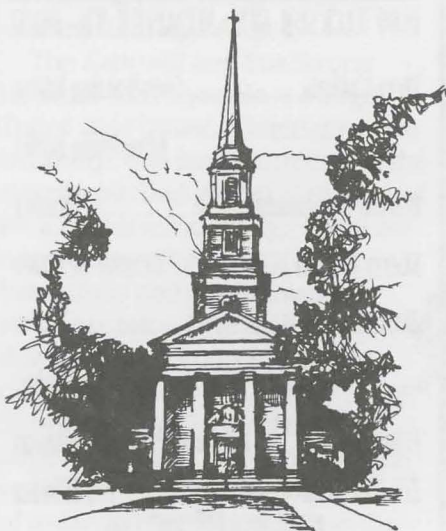
has a bright sun porch off the living room. The remodeled kitchen has unusual utilization of space. Opening off the kitchen is a room for lounging, and the back of the house opens onto an unexpectedly large and beautifully landscaped garden. There is a "spa pool" to relax in while enjoying the unusual gazebo and lovely plantings.

Mark Marascalco's home at 1972 Tutwiler is an example of a small house made beautifully and comfortably livable. There are two

bedrooms and one bathroom. The living room's focal point is an unusual fireplace. Another interesting feature here is the swimming pool with fountains in the lovely and deceptively large garden. The Tudor style facade features small multi-paned windows



1972 Tutwiler



613 University



1978 Tutwiler

continued on page 3



SENIORS... WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for a senior citizen from the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood who would like a part-time job helping out at the VECA office. Applicants must be low-income residents, 55 or older. Call 276-1782 or stop by the office at 1680 Jackson.

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.



Second VECA Home Tour	October 19 afternoon, 12:30 - 5:00pm (see article)
VECA Annual General Meeting	January 26, 1998, 7pm (TBA)
VECA Board	first Monday monthly, 7pm
VECA CDC Board	second Saturday monthly, 9am
Housing Code Enforcement Committee	first Saturday of even months, 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
Safety Committee	
Membership & Fundraising Committee	
Historic Home Tour Committee	second Monday monthly, 7pm (TBA)
Block Club Committee	
Youth & Recreation Committee	
Cypress/Brown/Howell Committee	
Delta Team	September 15, 7pm
Vollintine-Evergreen News Committee	Article deadlines: October 10, December 5
VECA Board	September 8, 7pm
VECA Board	October 6, 7pm
CDC Board	September 13, 9am
CDC Board	October 11, 9am

WE'RE NOW ON THE BOOKMOBILE ROUTE!



The Memphis Public Library will park its Bookmobile at the VECA Office (1680 Jackson) every other Wednesday starting September 10. Visits are free!

YOUNG BUSINESS AND YOUNG ENERGY

"Don't Send Your Loved Ones To A Kennel!" That's the advice from Snowden fifth grade honor student and young entrepreneur Anna Lovel, who will care for pets. She started her business after taking care of her neighbor's pets in their own homes. Anna is also willing to water plants and pick up mail. For more information call 276-5390.

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

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SECOND HISTORIC HOME TOUR OCTOBER 19

continued from page 1



1930 Lyndale

and a dominant front chimney that incorporates stucco, stone, and brick.

The home of James Stevenson and William Criss at 1930 Lyndale is also in the Tudor style. The lush and unusual plantings all around it are impressive.

Both entrances are also unusual — the front distinguished by the

columns on the portico, and the side by gold lions and by wrought iron supports of the porch roof. The interior features an innovative bath renovation, walls painted with interesting textures, and showy, exciting lighting designs.

The Kenneth and Sue Strong home at 1887 Lyndale is a larger Tudor style house. Originally a two bedroom, one bathroom house, the steeply-pitched gabled roof allowed for a recent remodeling. There are now two new bedrooms and a beautifully designed new bathroom upstairs. One of the downstairs bedrooms has been converted into a den. The Strongs had remodeled the large downstairs bathroom several years ago and have also done a lot of redecorating. They relax in the



1887 Lyndale

backyard in a pergola covered with wisteria.

Classic craftsman airplane bungalow describes the three bedroom, one bathroom home of Alan Garrett and Terry NeSmith at 1966 Snowden.

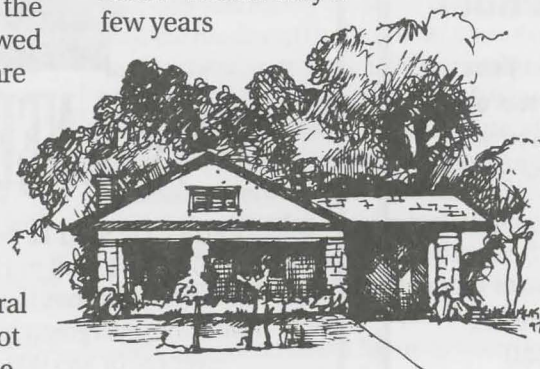
Such homes are characterized by their window styles and a wide covered front porch with stone columns widening at the base.

Unique features can be seen throughout this house. The kitchen features a child's slide hanging from the ceiling from

which pots and pans are hung. Remodeling closed one door, leaving a long wall and a wide living room.

Part of the hall was made into a big closet in what was a bedroom. The upstairs now has a bathroom and the master bedroom with big windows that look out into the tops of surrounding trees.

The Queen Anne style home of Gay Gullo at 771 North Barksdale fits beautifully with the older homes in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. Yet it is only a few years



1966 Snowden



771 North Barksdale

old, built on one of the few undeveloped lots, just south of the the V & E GreenLine. Two upstairs bedrooms share a bathroom. The

large master bedroom

and bathroom are on the first floor.

The house has some exceptional details, such

as period solid brass hardware and antique

lighting. Pickled wood was used for the kitchen cabinets and trim. All pantry and wall shelves are behind doors. Old brick was used for the driveway surface and the wall surrounding the garden.

Put Sunday, October 19 on your calendar if you want to see what Memphis was like in the 1920s and 1930s and how well these homes accommodate current living!

FOR SALE

Vollintine
Evergreen
NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

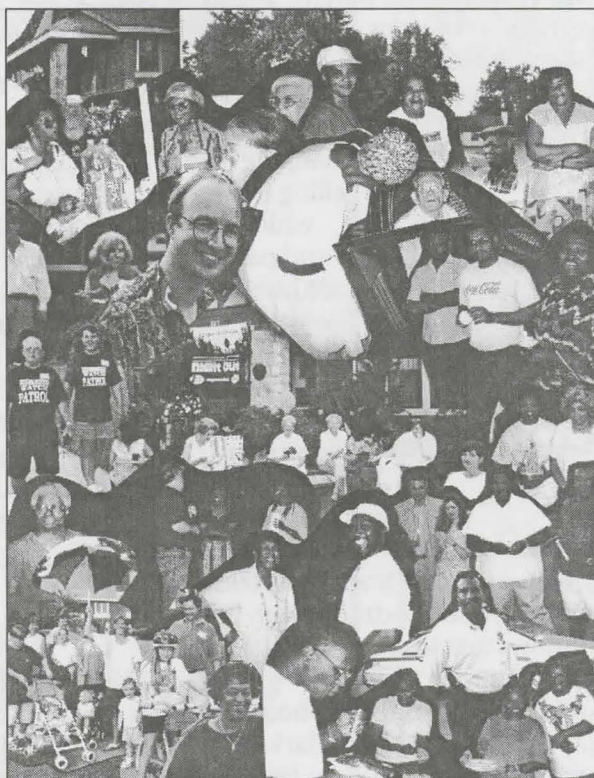
VECA still has
Historic Designation
plaques available
starting at \$25.

OH, WHAT A NIGHT! NATIONAL NIGHTOUT

Gloria Fulton

At least 25 streets in the neighborhood participated in the National Nightout on Tuesday, August 5. On Mignon, Michelle Brown organized a parade led by children on bikes with balloons. Under the leadership of Helen Dunn, Sheridan had a potluck dinner attended by new residents Allan and Connie Lummus and son Max. Over on Terry Circle residents prayed for safety and joined in a picnic with barbecue and spaghetti. On Evergreen, Ms. Williams was joined by Othniel Marquee and other residents. Barksdale got out the numbers with the help of Barbara Coleman. McNeil met at Hazel Jackson's house and enjoyed fellowship as they observed the occasion. On Avalon the Bakers hosted the festivities. Hawthorne conducted its second Neighborhood Watch meeting for Nightout. Garland folks met on Henry. Stonewall made local news when Channels 3 and 24 joining their prayful Nightout event. *[Editor's note: Once again, our own Block Club coordinator Gloria Fulton represented us well on television!]* And the police made friendly visits to several streets, including Sheridan, Terry Circle, McNeil, and Stonewall.

Thanks to Joe Allegrete, Annette Anderson, Geneva Angle, Sharon Baker, Michele Brown, Barbara Coleman, Helen Dunn, Willett Gray, Conita Grigsby, James Ivy, Hazel Jackson, Bettye Johnson, Helen Johnson, Rutha Jones, Belinda Kerusch, Margaret Leggett, Barbara Lowe, Charles McBride, Lorene Nightingale, Mary Poole, Jessie Rodgers, Gloria Singleton, Clara Terrell, Eula Tyes, and others who helped make this a successful event. Perhaps next year with advance planning we'll have a series of block parties all over the neighborhood. The Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood has 86 blocks that could join in National Nightout.



BLOCK CLUB NEWS

Gloria Fulton

Good things come in threes in the Vollintine-Evergreen community. Three streets have come together to form new block clubs: Garland, Willett and Evergreen.

Children are the main concern of Willett's residents. Paulett Catron seems to be the one with the most influence over the youth, and hopes to develop programs that will enable them to be good citizens and good homeowners in the neighborhood at some future time. Lorette Watkins and her mother are a team that seems to be a whirlwind of energy and dedication to improving Willett.

Charles and Margaret Williams are the unofficial leaders on Evergreen Street north of Jackson. When questions come up or things go wrong, they are the first called, so naturally they hosted Evergreen's first meeting.

Look for improvements on Garland under the leadership of several residents. Tommie Harris is the chaplain, Janis Cannon hospitality chair and acting secretary, James Ivy vicechair, and Charles McBride chair. They've discussed code violations and crime, and hope to have all their neighbors participating in the block club.

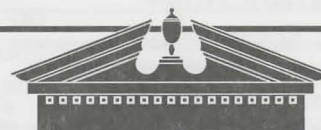
If you are interested in finding out more about block clubs or just being a VECA contact person for your block, please call 276-1782. There are free welcome packets at the VECA office for new folks who move onto your street.

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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.

COOPER-YOUNG HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

The annual Cooper-Young Home and Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, September 13. The Home Tour costs \$7 and will be from 11am to 4pm, at the same time as the renowned Cooper-Young Festival, with its music, food, and crafts. (Rain date for both events is Sunday.) Come see the creative and innovative renovations of ten beautiful early-1900s homes and gardens. Tickets can be purchased either in advance by calling 272-2922 or that day by visiting the gazebo at the intersection of Cooper and Young.

The annual four mile run will start from 2086 Young at 7pm the Friday evening before the Festival, rain or shine. For more information on the run, call 272-2922 or pick up an entry form at an area running store.

IN MEMORIAL

It is with great sorrow that we mark the untimely passing of Sam and So Chew, owners of the Sit and Chew Supermarket at 1073 N. Watkins. The Chews have been part of the Watkins and Brown commercial area for many years. Sam Chew came to Memphis in 1959 from China and worked for 14 years before his wife and son were allowed to join him in 1973. Earlier this year the Chews were awarded American citizenship.

On June 25, the Chews were shot and killed in their store. The outpouring of grief and sorrow showed the affection that the neighborhood had for them. A number of area residents attended the funeral. The Chews were described at the service by their youngest daughter as the most generous people she had ever met. They are survived by two daughters, a son, and many relatives and friends in Memphis. May this tragic loss serve as a reminder to all of us to strive to improve our community and make it a safer place in which to live.

LINDEN HOUSE: A MIRROR OF CHILDHOOD IN A SOUTHERN RIVERTOWN

Helen B. Johnson

The year is 1933. This is my first recollection of my past.

My home is a two story brick house at 226 Linden in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. It is just an ordinary four square, large and unimposing, with a big front porch and tall round column scrolls at top and bottom. Its beauty lies within my mind. I seem to escape to this place that probably was not beautiful at all and only Victorian by its age and predecessors. As it should be, it is a place in time; it cannot happen again.

In the camera of my mind I can see each piece of furniture, the tall doors, the transoms above, and especially Grandma's chair, carved and regal. As I open my eyes the sunlight from the east window casts shadows and sparkles as it plays across the ornate mirror, majestic in stature, its golden color caressed by a rope of roses; the imposing slim marble-top table positioned gracefully beneath it is an interval of time.

The space I speak of is the Depression and hard times, with little money, few jobs, and ethnic neighborhoods.

Born into an Irish Catholic family with lots of love and caring, I did not realize until much later in life that, as my mother would say, "We were so poor." LIFE SEEMED WONDERFUL TO ME. I had lots of friends in my neighborhood. We were free to walk for several blocks from our house. There were few fears for us then. Our front door was always open; I do not remember keys. Did we have keys? The walls are no longer there. Only the earth echoes the stories of the past. I lived here with my mother, father, Grandma, Aunt Honey, my big sister Eliz, and later, my two brothers. My grandmother ruled the roost. She taught me much of what I know today: cooking, cleaning, and especially thinking. My mother and Aunt Honey had jobs because we needed the money. We were left in the care of my grandmother. She could be staunch and downright mean at times, but much of the time she was kind and gentle....

The things that filled my grandmother's house did not speak to me as antiques, but rather pushed me deeper into the past. It made me yearn to know the story behind each object, and its due process from generation to generation. When I would gaze upon grandmother's big carved arm chair and run my fingers over the deep carved lines, I thought about our lives dating back to the 1800s. This very chair sat in the home of my great-grandfather [John Loague, an early mayor of Memphis], quite the stately mansion for that period of time. Think about the fine lady in her satins and lace, my great-grandmother, first lady of Memphis, Tennessee.

This mighty, on-the-move rivertown would soon pass the one hundred thousand mark for population. It's so hard to hear my grandmother's voice. I know we talked. Time has dulled her sound. I think she was quite sad and a little ashamed of the poverty that death and time had brought her. Sometimes at lunch when I would run home from school, it would be molasses and bread. I did not like it, but I did think that everyone else was eating the same thing. I was so happy when she would hand me a dime and tell me to run to the corner store and purchase some of their nice Dortch cookies and some orange soda. I did not realize how tough times were for my family. They showered love on us children with Grandma's homemade biscuits and muskedine jelly made from berries we picked on All Soul's Day at Calvary cemetery. The cemeteries at this time were gathering places for families and friends. Picnics and other special occasions were held here among the ancestors in the shade of the stately elms. Oh, remember Sunday night sweetrolls from Schneider's Bakery? I have never tasted a sweetroll to equal it. The order never changed. My sister and I would walk the few blocks to Vance Street with money in our pockets and place our order, "Two dozen iced raisin sweet rolls please." (Mother said to be sure and say please.) It was hard to wait until we returned home to taste their delicacy and savor each bite, knowing there were always seconds.

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YEARS GONE BY

Janet M. Sedano

The little house that my husband and I share on North Auburndale next to Lick Creek has brought to mind a chapter in our family history.

During the Depression my mother and an older sister both attended piano lessons with Mrs. Eva McCleary on Tutwiler. Every Saturday morning Grandmother would bake a cake for class. As the cake cooled, my aunt took the sheet music over to Mrs. McCleary's. She returned for the cake to resume class, then walked back home. But the trip was not easy, for there was no bridge over Lick Creek between Crump and Tutwiler!

My mother had her own story about these lessons because she had to travel from Linden Avenue. She took the trolley to Linden Circle, the #5 bus down Peabody, and the trolley to the Sears Crosstown turnaround. Then she walked to Jackson, where she caught the electric bus to Tutwiler. There were so many car numbers but she recalled every crack in the sidewalk to get to Mrs. McCleary's.

My mother Barbara Morris performed with "Young America Sings" on the radio in the 1940s and later sang with the Memphis Symphony Chorus. My aunt Lorraine Alfaro is 72 years old and is still teaching some exceptionally gifted musicians at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts; this past May she received the Mayor's Arts Award for lifetime achievement.



Lorraine Wright Alfaro
(age 9 years) and
Barbara Wright Morris
(age 4 months)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

With the increase in activity in our neighborhood has come an increase in confusion over names! For the record, here's the official word.

Vollintine-Evergreen is the neighborhood of midtown Memphis bounded by North Parkway on the south, Watkins on the west, Cypress Creek on the north, and Springdale on the east.

Vollintine-Evergreen Historic District is the official designation of nearly all of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. The first and largest part of the neighborhood gained historic designation and a spot on the National Register in 1996, and other parts gained the same as they became old enough and surveys were completed.

Vollintine Evergreen Community Association (VECA) is the association that represents the interests of those living in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood, working to preserve the diversity and enhance the quality of life in the community, by directing the work of various volunteers, committees, and the VECA CDC (below). *VECA is not the neighborhood itself.* Formed in 1971, VECA is a 501(c)4 not-for-profit corporation, meaning that it can lobby and be politically active but cannot itself solicit grants or other funds. The members of its Board and Board's top officers are elected for one-year terms by all dues-paying members at the annual business meeting in January.

Vollintine Evergreen Community Association Community Development Corporation (VECA CDC) is the association whose primary responsibility is the maintenance and improvement of the physical and economic environment of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. Formed in 1995, VECA CDC is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, meaning that it can solicit and received grants and other funds but cannot itself lobby or be politically active. The members of its Board are selected for staggered two-year terms by the VECA Board, upon recommendation by the VECA CDC Board and others; it elects its own officers.

V & E GreenLine is the former L & N Railroad bed that runs through the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. Formally acquired in 1997 managed by VECA's GreenLine Committee, and held by a separate corporation, it is about 1.7 miles long.

WATKINS VILLAGE - VECA'S NEWEST NEIGHBORHOOD

Steve Lockwood

On July 15, VECA CDC sold the last of its ten homes on North Watkins. The sale signals the successful end of a phase of housing acquisition and renovation that took two years and taught many lessons. The project was undertaken by a fledgling Community Development Corporation that was concerned about the scope of the work, but found no one else willing to take it on. During the project, the quality of our work improved, and our understanding of our job expanded.

Watkins Village homes were sold for \$48,000. We feel that the value of the neighborhood has risen enough that future homes in the area will sell at above \$50,000. In fact, we are confident that the homes we sold are worth about \$55,000 today. This equity belongs to the new owners and will, we believe, encourage them to keep their investment in good condition.

We know that the CDC's work is not complete. Our next task is to assist new, inexperienced home owners in learning the skills needed to remain successful home owners and to encourage the formation of Block Clubs in which new and old home owners meet and support each other.

The CDC has had a lot of help. In particular, the Watkins Village project was made possible with support from neighborhood residents (especially CDC and VECA Board members), The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, City of Memphis Department of Housing and Community Development, Walker-Hall Inc., and the Memphis Police Department. Thanks, and congratulations!

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Mary Wilder

VECA and VECA CDC had the great fortune of receiving a sizable grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts nearly three years ago. That grant has nearly come to an end. While most of the funds were spent on the housing renovation programs of the CDC, support was also provided for programs such as block clubs, buying and developing the V & E GreenLine, and simply keeping the VECA office open and staffed. VECA and its CDC will always be pursuing other funds to continue working, but funds to continue the community work are harder to obtain than funds to rebuild houses.

That's where you come in. VECA CDC is a non-profit organization that you can donate to and receive a tax write-off. You can give to the general fund, or give to support one specific project of VECA or the CDC. Funds or gifts such as real estate are acceptable. We will need your support to continue the community building that was begun 27 years ago and that moved to an even higher level three years ago.

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Address _____ Zip _____

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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.