

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

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SEPTEMBER 1998

GARY GILBERT TO HEAD VECA CDC

The Board of Directors of VECA's Community Development Corporation is pleased to announce that Gary L. Gilbert has been hired as Executive Director. Gary will supervise VECA office staff, oversee community development programs, continue the CDC's housing rehab work, and seek out and supervise applications for appropriate grant funds.

Most recently, Gary served as Housing and Planning Supervisor with the Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development, where he prepared applications for grants for housing and other community development activities, supervised data collection, and trained others in software use. Prior to that, much of his career was spent in Kansas City, Missouri, as a technical consultant, director of community gardens, coordinator of energy conservation, neighborhood development specialist, and community development programs specialist.

Gary succeeds Steve Lockwood, who is now Director of Technical Assistance for the Memphis Community Development Partnership, a new arm of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis. Welcome aboard, Gary!

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 Board	first Monday monthly, 7pm
VECA CDC Board	third Saturday monthly, 9am
Housing Code Enforcement Committee	first Saturday of even months, 9am
V&E Greenline Committee	second Monday monthly, 7pm
Acquisitions & Rehab Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 5:15pm
Commercial Redevelopment Committee	second Thursday monthly, 7pm
Budget & Finance Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 7:45am
Sales, Rentals, & Loans Committee	fourth Thursday monthly, 5:15pm
CDC Managing Committee	fourth Saturday monthly, 9am
Historic Home Tour Committee	second Monday monthly, 7pm (TBA)
Vollintine-Evergreen News Committee	Article deadlines: October 9, December 4
Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 10, 1999, 6pm & 7pm (Rhodes College) Tentative
VECA Board	September 14, 6pm (not 7pm)
VECA Board	October 5, 7pm
VECA Board	November 2, 7pm
CDC Board	September 19, 9am
CDC Board	October 17, 9am
CDC Board	November 21, 9am

Do Not Place In Mailboxes

FUTURE BUILDERS A SUCCESS!

with contributions from Sarah Flores, Danyell Thompson, Katrina Snow and others

The first "Future Builders" Leadership and Diversity Camp was held the week of July 13-17 for 28 middle school students, most from the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood, and most from Snowden School or Cypress School. The event was conceived of, planned by, and coordinated by Rhodes College Chaplain and VECA resident Billy Newton and a team of Bonner Scholar Rhodes students as a summer training event for the newly formed VECA Youth Corps. Billy's best decision may have been to recruit leadership from Bridge Builders, a group with experience and success running similar programs for high school students. Most activities occurred on the Rhodes College campus, though there were also trips to a local soup kitchen, the VECA office, and various Vollintine-Evergreen locations for service projects.

Sponsors and supporters of the Future Builders Camp (as well as several events leading up to it) included VECA, Bridge Builders, Rhodes College, the Bonner Scholar Fellows Program, the Memphis Arts Council, and St. Mary's Middle School.

Staff included Gloria Singleton Fulton of VECA; Billy Newton, Ebony Woods, and Tammie Tomlinson of Rhodes; Bridge Builders staff Robbie McQuiston, Chris Musser, Lee Moten, and Katrina Snow; Bridge Builders interns Julius Anderson, Mario Hendrix, Crystal Johnson, and Tirzah Kerns; and Bill Baker, Greg Hansen, and Larry Walker from the Memphis Arts Council. All shared their expertise in leading games, communication exercises, team-building activities, and service activities.

The Future Builders themselves are Christopher Anderson, Marceo Collins, Sarah Flores, Torrence Starks, Elizabeth Fong, Laurence Goodwin, Laura Nahmias, and Brittney Rogers (the blue team); Portia Brown, Jared Burrell, Kathleen Coffee, Timothy Moore, Justin Scott, Larry Watkins, Whitney Bainer, Katie Hobson, Sarah Nesin, and Kim Tran (the purple team); Kimberly Brady, Willie Brooks, Marcus Collins, Jessica Hinson, Keith Robinson, Danyell Thompson, Sarah Braden, Musette Morgan, Suvi Murti, and Jessica Pfeffer (the green team). They had the following to say:

"It was a neat experience."

"I think it rocked!"

"It was crunk."

"We had to overcome our differences to work together."

"We got to work together with people from other races."

"It was an educational experience that will never be forgotten."

"It's important to break down stereotypes in order to have peace and diversity."

"I liked learning how to work together as a team and be around other that are different from me."

"I liked helping out in the community and playing games."

"We got to make new friends from different races."

"I learned that I could be a good leader."

"It was one of the coolest experiences I've had!"

"I certainly hope I get chosen next year."

Snowden seventh grader Sarah Flores wrote a bit more: "The Future Builders camp was cool. I was on the blue team, and I enjoyed working with everyone. Lee, Julius, Mario, and Ebony were great counselors. I learned how to work as a team and how to interact with different people. I liked the camp a lot. It was a great experience." Cypress eighth grader Danyell Thompson also contributed: "The VECA Youth Corps is for kids that have leadership potential and commitment to their community, and the Future Builders summer camp teaches many skills useful in building a better community. This gives kids more determination to get involved in their community and to offer their services to those that are in need. VECA has a very unique program for youth, and it provides an environment where kids can build lasting relationships with others who share a common interest, our community." And staff member Katrina Snow added this adult perspective: "It was a great week!! Future Builders brought together a diverse group of students from several local schools (public and private) in the Memphis area. Although it was officially called a Leadership and Diversity Camp, the campers experienced everything from music and art to leadership workshops. This program is an investment in the future of Memphis. As a facilitator, it is my hope that the campers have learned subtle lessons about harmony and the value of diversity that will help them in their everyday lives. If the children are our future, then the Future Builders are our today."

VECA is proud of its small part in this success, hopes to keep many of the Future Builders involved in the VECA Youth Corps, and looks forward to helping build on the program in the coming years.



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HOME OWNERSHIP & HOME MAINTENANCE CLASSES

You are invited to attend the home ownership classes that are offered by VECA. Can you buy a home? Should you buy a home? How much home can you afford? How do you get the money to buy a home?

Saturday, August 29, 10am
(register by August 27)

Saturday, September 12, 10am
(register by September 10)

Saturday, September 26, 10am
(register by September 24)

VECA is also conducting home maintenance classes. What do you need to check? When should you check? How do you get things fixed?

Tuesday, September 15, 6pm
(register by September 13)

Thursday, September 17, 6pm
(register by September 15)

You MUST register to attend any of these free classes. Stop by the VECA office, or call 276-1783.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I appreciated Steve Lockwood pointing out to Vollintine-Evergreen residents (in the July 1998 issue) that "this community is as strong as its people."

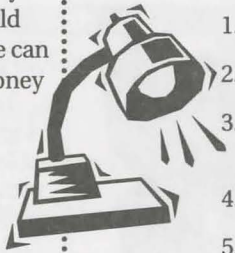
Like this country, this community can be no stronger, no more intelligent, no more just, and no more righteous than is the great body of its citizens. This fact constitutes the weakness as well as the strength of representative democracy.

It is the duty of a citizen to help create an intelligent, a just, and a righteous public opinion. In a representative democracy, public opinion tends to rule, and public opinion can rise no higher than the beliefs and the ideals of the citizens. Thanks for sharing with us meaningful beliefs and ideals.

Arthur H. Prince

VECA'S WISH LIST

The VECA office at 1680 Jackson Avenue is in need of a few good used items. If any of the following items are gathering dust in your attic or garage, please consider giving them a new home at our office. (Donations to VECA's CDC may be tax deductible.)



1. Desk lamps
2. Electric hot water heater
3. Cabinets and sink to create a kitchen area
4. Recycling bins
5. Trash containers (larger and small)
6. Computers for staff, interns, and volunteer use
7. Donated time and skill from a carpenter, a plumber, and an electrician

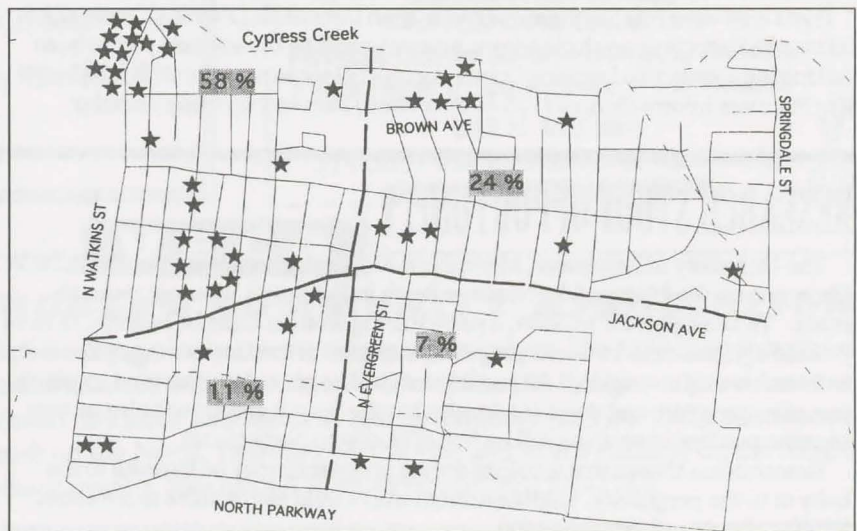


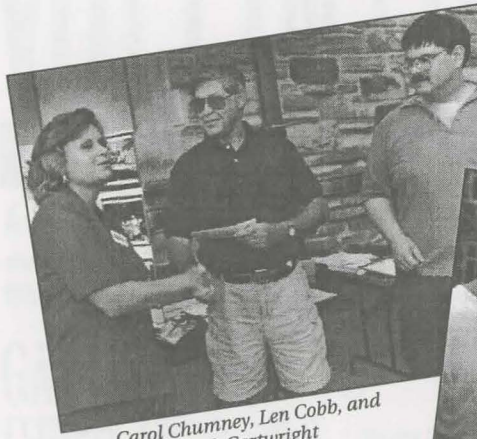
BLOCK CLUBS CELEBRATE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On August 4, block clubs throughout the Vollintine-Evergreen community celebrated the National Night Out festival. Groups of all sizes formed; old neighbors were reunited and got acquainted with new neighbors. Many residents got to meet Gary Gilbert, our new Executive Director. Besides music and conversation, there were hot dogs, hamburgers, pasta, chips, cakes, pies, pop, and other goodies. Candles were lit and prayers were said for our families, neighbors, streets, schools, and churches. Thank you Vollintine-Evergreen residents, for participating in National Night Out and making this a joyous and fun evening for families and friends.

VECA CDC HOUSING ACTIVITIES BY QUADRANT

As of August 1998





Carol Chumney, Len Cobb, and Rick Cartwright

VECA POTLUCK JULY 11th 1998



Steve Gadbois and Carol Chumney

EVERGREEN'S NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND

The Evergreen Presbyterian Church playground will be getting a new fence soon, repairing damage from the May 7 windstorm. A new swingset will also be installed in September, and volunteers have offered to help spread new gravel and replace railroad ties. Anyone willing to help put this neighborhood playground back together may call Evergreen's playschool office at 725-4159. Also, donations to a playground fund for replacement equipment and shade trees can be made to the Parents Association. Thank you.

G.E.D. AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Do you think having a high school diploma is important? Have you tried unsuccessfully to study for the G.E.D. on your own? Do you want to learn computer skills, but don't have access to a computer? Would you be interested in a program that offers classes in G.E.D. preparation and computer skills? Would you be even more interested if the program were free and provided daycare for your children?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, then Deneuille Learning Center at 840 Dickinson Street (just north of Jackson Avenue) could be the solution you've been looking for! Deneuille Learning Center is a quiet place to earn the skills for a better life. For more information, call 726-5902 between 9am and 4pm any weekday.

RESEARCH STUDY OPPORTUNITY

The University of Tennessee, Memphis is looking for volunteers for the RENEW (Research on the Effects of the Nicotine Patch in Expectant Women) research study. To be eligible for RENEW, a participating women must be healthy, 18 to 44 years of age, less than 18 weeks pregnant, a smoker of five or more cigarettes daily, and unable to quit smoking. All participants will be part of a behavioral smoking cessation program, and those randomized to the "patch group" will also receive nicotine patches; everything will be free of charge to participants.

Research has shown that smoking during pregnancy may be harmful to the baby or to the pregnancy. Eligible women who would like to know more about RENEW should call (901)448-8400.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH CALLS A NEW PASTOR

After serving six months as its "Interim Vicar", Rev. Timothy J. Heinecke was ordained and installed on August 2 as the new pastor at Peace Lutheran Church (1548 Jackson Avenue).

Tim earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1997 from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, and was active with "Bethel New Life" a church-based program that employs over 400 people and provides shelters, homes, job training and Christian education for people in the neighborhood just west of the Cabrini Green public housing project. Before seminary, Tim was a math and computer science teacher and associate athletic director at University Lake School outside Milwaukee. He was also a house leader for Habitat for Humanity there (an experience already put to use here in Memphis), and volunteered with "The Gathering" a Christian outreach program that operates soup kitchens, afterschool programs, literacy classes, and job training.

Pastor Tim plans on drawing from these past experiences to work alongside the people in the Vollintine-Evergreen community as we share God's love by improving our neighborhood.

VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN
N E W S

1680 JACKSON AVE MEMPHIS, TN 38107

Steve Gadbois Coordinating Editor

... .. Advertising Editor

Martha Heinemann Finance

Sherry Henson Graphic Designer

Photographer

Printer Diamond Printing Company

Steve Gadbois Distribution

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

email: VECA@netten.net

VECA NEEDS MEMBERS

Name _____
 Telephone Day: _____ Telephone Evening: _____
 Address _____ Zip _____

<p>I'M INTERESTED IN:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Block Club <input type="checkbox"/> V&E Greenline</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Historic Home Tours <input type="checkbox"/> Youth</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Housing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Revitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Writing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greenways <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer (general)</p>	<p>MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$10 PER YEAR</p> <p>MAIL TO: VECA TREASURER 705. N. BELVEDERE MEMPHIS, TN 38107</p>	<p>PLEASE SEND TO:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$10 dues, Gold Star members receive their choice of bumper sticker.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$35 dues, Gold Star Heritage members receive their choice of bumper sticker and the Historic Designation Plaque.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bumper Sticker A <input type="checkbox"/> Bumper Sticker B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Historic Designation Plaque</p>
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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.