VECA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Monday, January 22, 7:00 PM
1740 Vollintine
Gethsemane Garden Church of God In Christ

Learn about your home's style and age and what it will mean to be a Historic District.

This will be VECA's 25th Anniversary celebration and the formal public presentation of the VECA Historic Designation application — a chance to hear the history of the community and to learn about the style and architecture of the VECA homes.

The program will include:
- Slide presentation of history
- Program reports on the NPI Grant activities
- Election of officers
- Presentation of the Margaret Dichtel Award and the Richard Borys Award

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
January 11 and February 5, 7pm

VECA CDC Board
February 10, 9am

Greenways and Parks workday
February 3, 10am

FROM THE VERY FIRST ISSUE OF “THE EVERGREEN NEWS, A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association” (January 25, 1971)

— About a hundred and fifty men and women with various backgrounds and livelihoods have gotten together to form a neighborhood association. It is called Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association (VECAA). Its purpose is “to cooperatively maintain and enhance a healthy, bi-racial community”...

— We are planning to publish the Evergreen News once a month.

— For VECAA family membership and VECAA decal send $2.50...

— Acting Chairman: Margaret Dichtel; Secretary: Beulah Morris; Treasurer: John W. Appling; Real Estate Committee Chairman: Father Tom Kirk; Education Committee Chairman: to be appointed; Communications Committee Chairman: J. Kimbrough Johnson; Co-Editors: John Bruhwiler, and George Bradfute; News: Rick Thomas; Art: Warren Lowry; Business: Golden Shumaker; Clerical: Emma Palmer and Martha J. Edwards; Circulation and Information Center: Miss Cornelia Morris

— At Baron Hirsch Synagogue we can enjoy concerts and other unique cultural events, at Southwestern's Center for Continuing Education we can, among other exciting things, explore the religions of Man...

— Southwestern's swimming team is also active this time of year and competes at the University of Tennessee medical Units gymnasium.

— For TV entertainment she likes the Lawrence Welk show.

VECA's collection of old issues of the Evergreen News is far from complete. Old issues that you could donate, or loan and let us photocopy, would be very much appreciated. Other VECA memorabilia is welcome too. Call the VECA office (276-1066).
WATKINS VILLAGE CLEANUP

We'd like to thank the group of men from the Shelby County Department of Corrections who spent the week of October 30th cleaning up the nine VECA CDC houses on North Watkins. It was a tough job well done, and enabled us to start renovation work on the first two buildings. Pictured from left to right are Michael, James, Larry, Washington, Franklin, Randy, Hershey and Lang. We're hoping to get them back later to help with landscaping.

HAVE YOU WALKED THE L&N RAILROAD BED LATELY?

Under the direction of VECA's Greenways and Parks Committee and a Rhodes College student townhouse group, a large number of people (neighbors, scouts, and Rhodes students) turned out on a beautiful November 4 to clean up the L & N railroad bed between McLean and University. While this walkway will retain its undeveloped character, the cleanup was the first step in beautification, and the improvement is striking. Look for plantings in the spring. Special thanks go to Chris Pettit and Danny Kistemaker for providing and operating a "Bobcat" all day.

VECA IS A GREAT DEAL

By paying your $10 VECA dues for 1996 now, you support VECA and save us the trouble and expense of reminder mailings later. Remember, the Pew grant money is allowing a new level of activity in the neighborhood, but is kept separate from dues income. We still have the same expenses as we did before the grant, and must cover them with dues and advertising income. Send your check to Martha Heinemann, VECA treasurer, at 705 N. Belvedere.
THANKS TO VOLUNTEER CARRIERS

Every two months over 4000 copies of the Vollintine-Evergreen News are distributed in the neighborhood and mailed to various people and offices around the city. It simply wouldn’t happen without volunteer suppliers (marked below by *) who get papers to volunteer carriers who in turn get papers to each house:


St. Therese
Little Flower Catholic Community
Jackson at Belvedere

Sunday Eucharists
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.
Tues. - Fri. Mass - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday Confession - 3:45 - 4:30
Fr. Bob Ewing, Pastor
276-1412

Staying In Touch!

Carol Chumney

Your ideas count, and you can count on Carol to listen!
“Call Me!”
327-8528

Helping You Get A Loan.

To get a loan application by mail, call 766-2757.
VECA HISTORY TIMELINE

Here is a brief outline of key events in VECA history. Residents of VECA may have information to add. Please send your comments to the Vollintine-Evergreen News, at 840 Dickinson.

1829 - Raleigh Post Road (later known as Raleigh Plank Road or Jackson Avenue) is chartered

1849 - Memphis & Nashville Railroad is chartered

1854 - Railroad name is changed to Memphis & Ohio Railroad, with Robertson Topp and Colonel Trezevant as developers

1856 - Work begins on the M & O; Constantine Paine acquires land along Cypress Creek at Hill (now known as Evergreen)

1859 - First thirty miles of the M & O are completed to Brownsville; Hiram Vollentine buys land east of Watkins and west of Hill

1862 - Union armies are encamped along the M & O at Lick Creek and at Springdale

1870 - Springdale Church builds its first meeting hall at Trezevant just north of Jackson

1873 - The Father Matthew Society sets up one of the first yellow fever refugee camps near the present day location of Stonewall, Willett and Vollintine

1876 - M & O goes bankrupt and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad absorbs the M & O; Robert Allen Terry buys 80 acres of the Paine estate and starts a dairy farm on Vollintine south of Cypress Creek and west of Hill

1880s - Robert Terry buys land between Hill and present day McLean, builds small homes and rents out ten acres farms; his brother-in-law Jack Crump builds a general store at Evergreen and Jackson; Vollintine-Evergreen area becomes known as Terry Town

1899 - Memphis city limits extend to May (now known as University), south of Vollintine.

1909 - Memphis city limits extend east to Trezevant; Snowden School is built

1911 - The first PTA in the city is started at Snowden School

1920s - The area begins to be developed with the anticipated move to Memphis from Clarksville of Southwestern Presbyterian University (later known as Southwestern at Memphis and now as Rhodes College); the Overton, Lea, Snowden, and Brinkley heirs begin to sell or develop their property in the area between North Parkway and Jackson, Watkins and Trezevant
1925 - Southwestern holds first classes in Memphis

1926 - McLean Baptist Church begins services in its first building; First United Lutheran Church (now Peace Lutheran Church) begins services in the parish house

1927 - Lindsey Memorial Presbyterian Church (now St. John Orthodox Church) is built

1929 - Memphis city limits extend north of Vollintine to include all of present day VECA

1930 - Vollentine School is built; Saint Therese-Little Flower Church builds a school and church

1938 - First FHA house is built in Memphis on Rainbow Circle; extensive WPA work begins on Cypress Creek and Lick Creek

1945 - The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd moves to the corner of Jackson and University

1951 - Evergreen Presbyterian Church moves to University and Tutwiler

1952 - Baron Hirsch Synagogue moves to the northeast corner of Vollintine and Evergreen; Philip Belz is the builder and George Awsumb is the architect

1958 - Open Door Bible Church move to North Parkway

1967 - Cypress Junior High School is built

1971 - VECA is formed as a neighborhood association to combat block-busting and to advocate for the community; VECA joins as friend of the court in desegregation lawsuit

1973 - VECA voluntarily desegregates Snowden School and Vollintine School by pairing the schools; VECA maintains its neighborhood schools and never needs busing

1977 - Brother N. T. Green successfully remedies the drainage problem at Cypress School; University Park, VECA's first dedicated city park, is built over the Overton Bayou and has the only public tennis courts in the area

1984 - Baron Hirsch Synagogue leaves the neighborhood

1990 - Lindsey Memorial Presbyterian Church leaves and St. John Orthodox Church buys the building

1992 - Gethsemane Garden Church of God In Christ buys the Baron Hirsch Synagogue building; VECA starts its National Register nomination process

1994 - The Community Foundation of Greater Memphis is awarded a Neighborhood Preservation Initiative Grant from the Pew Charitable Trust, for use in the VECA neighborhood
DIVERSITY STUDY

VECA will be participating in a diversity study with Rhodes College and the Policy Research Action Group (PRAG). PRAG is a non-profit affiliated with Loyola University in Chicago and is conducting the study for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as part of a nationwide review of older neighborhoods in the United States that have a high level of racial diversity. The purpose is to review the nature of diversity in different communities and learn lessons from the study of these communities. VECA residents Julie Borys and Modene Thompson will coordinate with Rhodes College professors Mark Pohlmann and Mike Kirby to conduct community meetings. These community meetings will be to discuss VECA as a diverse community both now and during the formation of the association in the 1970s. If you are interested in hosting a community meeting please call the VECA office at 276-1066. When the project is completed the report will be given to the community at a general membership meeting.

HISTORIC DISTRICT NEWS

On January 24, 1996 the VECA Historic Designation Committee and its consultant Judith Johnson will go to Nashville to present the VECA Historic District Nomination. Come to the January 22, 1996 general membership meeting for a preview. The committee fully expects that VECA will be accepted as a Historic District. The Tennessee State Historic Commission would then pass the nomination on with their recommendations to the United States Department of the Interior. Normally the state recommendation is accepted by the federal government. We hope that VECA will be an official National Register Historic District by the summer of 1996. Though we will be the Vollintine Evergreen Historic District, VECA will not change its name nor will there be a separate organization to deal with the historic district status.

The Historic Designation Committee is planning a Home Tour and a Festival in conjunction with Rhodes College Theater Department’s Tennessee Williams Retrospective. The committee is also working on developing a home plaque for purchase by residents. Come to the general membership meeting, hear about the history, see the design for the plaque, and sign up to help with the Home Tours and Festival.

GREENWAYS

The Greenways and Parks Committee will be hosting a second work party for the L&N demonstration site between McLean and University on Saturday, February 3 starting at 10. The residents and committee members will finish clean up and begin planting along this stretch of the railroad bed. The Committee will gladly accept donations of daylilies, wood violets, daffodils, oxalis, and Columbine. Call the VECA office at 276-1066 with donations or to volunteer to help.

ZONING

VECA will begin a comprehensive planning process to develop a zoning application for City Council. VECA’s zoning and land use has not had a complete evaluation by the residents of this community for twenty years. There are areas in VECA zoned “multifamily” allowing for rooming houses, and commercial areas zoned “highway commercial” allowing for junk yards and the like. The Zoning Committee is made up of members of both the VECA Board and the VECA CDC Board. There will be two community-wide planning meetings and one public hearing. If you are interested in working on this committee, call the VECA office at 276-1066 or come to the January 22, 1996 general membership meeting.

DELTA PROJECT

A newly-formed group called the “Delta Project” consists of teams from five colleges in the Delta region (Centenary, Hendrix, Lyons, Millsaps, and Rhodes), each paired with a neighborhood or other group. Currently the Rhodes/VECA team consists of Rhodes chaplain and VECA resident Billy Newton, Rhodes philosophy professor Larry Lacy, Rhodes mathematics professor and VECA resident Steve Gadbois, VECA resident Gloria Singleton, Rhodes alumni and VECA resident Jenny Jenson, and Peace Lutheran Church pastor Tom Ridenhour.

These teams will get together several times during the next year to plan a project “that addresses the educational, economic, political, and/or social needs of the Delta region.” Specifically, plans now call for several half-day consultations during the next few months and a conference during the summer in Helena, Arkansas. The project is fully supported with funding from the Ford Foundation, the Phil Hardin Foundation, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the Foundation for the Mid South, and the five colleges. Ideas from VECA residents are welcome and may be passed on to any member of the Rhodes/VECA team.

RECYCLING UPDATE

All of VECA is now in the Memphis sanitation recycling program. This means that your trash is only picked up once a week at the same time as your recycling and yard waste. The beige recycling bin and green garbage cart should be returned to the back of your yard. You may call 576-6730 or 576-6500 if neighbors are leaving their carts at the curb for more than one day, and the city will issue a courtesy citation asking them to remove the cart.

The city of Memphis is required by
the State of Tennessee to reduce its landfill use by 25%. Recycling will help
the city of Memphis move towards this
goal. We also recycle because it makes
cents and sense. We save money by
reducing the cost of waste disposal and
creating a new and expanding business
— recycling. We also plan for the
future. Humans are the only creatures
that foul their own homes. There just
isn't enough room for all this garbage.
Recycle, reuse, renew!

Recycling: Steel cans, newspapers,
aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and
glass bottles.

Trash: as little as possible, but all the
material that cannot be recycled.

Welcome to Mattie Pearl Payne and
Sharda Nichole Craigwell at 903
Stonewall. Mattie lived in this home
earlier but left for Japan to be with her
daughter in the Air Force. She has trave­
elled with her daughter to Alaska and
the Phillipines. Ms. Payne's nine year
old granddaughter Sharda attends
Vollentine School. She loves to sing,
play, and even enjoys school, maybe
because Ms. Tipton is her third grade
teacher. Ms. Payne enjoys sitting on
her porch while her granddaughter
and other children play outside. She
also enjoys cooking.

Welcome to Chester Golden, Susan
Nichole Craigwell at 903
Stonewall. Ms. Allen's daughters Victoria, 12, and
Sherika, 6, both attend Vollentine
School, while Julia, 14, and Quatishua,
15, attend Snowden School. Ms. Allen
says "I love to participate any way I can" in the Block Club. Her family
enjoys worshipping at Our Father's
Holy Home C.O.G.I.C.

And welcome to Dorthy Davis and
family at 1769 Edward. Mrs. Davis
bought the first VECA home to be
rehabbed by the VECA CDC, with the
help of United Way's Hope 3 program.

Maury: A Mini-Community

Maury Street from Jackson to
Vollentine has much diversity. One end
is full of life, activity, and movement.
The other end from Henry to Vollentine
is quiet and sedate. You see children
playing and laughing, women barbecue­
ing, men mowing lawns, people walking,
old men sitting on porches, college
students with backpacks and serious
faces, blue-collar workers coming and
going, young women flirting, young
men with initials sculptured on well­
mancured heads, and multi-colored
dogs. We have homeowners and
renters, multi-units and duplexes.

Yes, Maury does have its share of problems, some more than others.
Money is exchanged and counted so
fast you wonder if these guys were
math majors. If only we could tap
some of this energy. We encourage you
neighbors to unite, organize, commu­
nicate and blend forces to improve
your street. Please call the VECA office
at 276-1066 if you are committed to
improving your street.

Feast Your Heart Out

by Gloria Singleton

October 21, 1995 was a memorable
night for residents of Avalon. I had the
privilege of being invited to their
potluck. Neighbors talked, laughed, ate, and
just had some down-home fellow­
ship with each other in the home of
Libby Kluge. Friends and neighbors
present were the Andersons, Ira Brown,
Jacqueline Farwell, Steve and Conita
Grisby, the Hicks, Libby Kluge, and
Thallen and Janie Womack.

There was an assortment of food, all
with wonderful smells, colors, and
textures. Jacqueline brought a meat
tray, cheese tray, bread tray, pickle,
cheese, candy, ice, drinks, tableware
and utensils. Conita brought spaghetti
and green bean salad. Gracie decided
to bring chocolate cake and potato
salad. The pound cake was made by
Janie, and Libby made a cheese and
fruit tray. As I write this article I'm get­
ing awfully hungry just remembering
all this delicious food. All neighbors not
present missed out on a feast and lots of
fun. Another pot luck is planned in
the future, so throw away the diet
sheets and commit to having a good
time. You can jog down scenic Avalon
later and speak to your neighbors as
the holiday approaches.

Bumper Sticker Contest

Got a good idea for a VECA bumper
sticker? Let's hear it... Entries will be
accepted at the VECA office until
February 15. A committee of the VECA
Executive Board will select five finalists
whose slogans will be included in the
March issue of the Vollentine Evergreen
News. VECA residents will then be able
to vote by mail or by phone. The
author of the winning slogan will win a
$100 savings bond.

Found

Two mountain bikes (one white and
one black) were found October 29 near
Tutwiler and Evergreen. Contact the
Memphis Police Department for assistance in reclaiming.

Shared Words—
Shared Worlds

This January some 5th, 7th, 8th,
and 9th graders at Snowden School
will be involved in a special program led by
professional storytellers. Students
will learn how their own stories reveal
the differences in their backgrounds
and cultures but at the same time
define commonly shared values.
STARS (Snowden Takes A Right Stand)
appreciates the grant from the
Memphis Arts Council that makes this
six-session program possible, as well as
the additional support received from the
Snowden PTA, the Evergreen
Historic District, and some residents
of Hein Park.
VECA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Name ____________________________________________
Telephone Day: ___________________________ Telephone Evening: ___________________________
Address ____________________________________________ Zip ___________________________

VOLUNTEER INTEREST
☐ Neighborfest       ☐ Historic Preservation
☐ Newsletter Writing ☐ Newsletter Delivery
☐ Other            ☐ Volunteer

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE $10 PER YEAR

PLEASE SEND TO:
Vollintine-Evergreen News
P.O. Box 12011
Memphis, TN 38182-0011

OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH
1792 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112 (901) 278-4311
Gary D. Starbuck, Pastor
Nursery Available
Sunday Services: 10:45 am and 6:00 pm
“A common people with an uncommon love”

McLean Baptist Preschool
Full service child care at affordable prices
Licensed for children 15 months and up
Before and after school transportation with child care for Snowden and Vollentine Schools
Full day summer and holiday program for school age children
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613 N. McLean
274-5851 ask for Marilyn or Mark Malz
This coupon not redeemable with any other offer

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