

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

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

Volume XXII, Number 1

JANUARY 1996

## 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.



*Rhodes students attack kudzu vines on the L&N during clean up day.*



*"VECA GOTHIC" Margaret Leggett and Mike Maybry, next door neighbors whose yards back up to the L&N right of way.*



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT

Work continues on all VECA CDC homes. Look for a complete report in the next issue.

It appears very likely that the police will establish a Community Policing and Resource Center in the southern-most house (1093 N. Watkins) in Watkins Village. This should be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

## 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.

## VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN N E W S

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Steve Gadbois..... Coordinating Editor  
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VECA HOTLINE: 276-1066

## 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:

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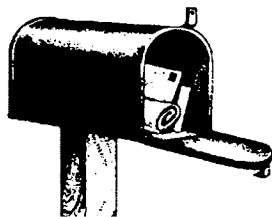


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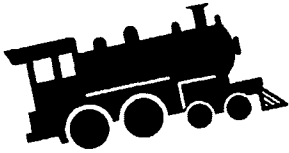
**EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 613 UNIVERSITY AVENUE (ACROSS FROM RHODES COLLEGE)

# 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 alum 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 NEW NEIGHBORS

The Stonewall Block Club wishes to welcome 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 traveled 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 Allen and family at 769 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 Dorothy 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 Vollintine has much diversity. One end is full of life, activity, and movement, The other end from Henry to Vollintine is quiet and sedate. You see children playing and laughing, women barbecuing, 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-manicured 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, communicate 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 fellowship with each other in the home of Libby Kluge. Friends and neighbors present were the Andersons, Ira Brown, Jacqueline Farwell, Steve and Conita Grisgby, 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 getting 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 Vollintine 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 PIA, the Evergreen Historic District, and some residents of Hein Park.

**VECA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER INTEREST**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborfest       | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery   |
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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, 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