

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXII, Number 2

MARCH 1996

THE L&N GREENWAY

VECA's Greenways Committee and the VECA Board will be hosting a public meeting on the L&N Greenway on March 18. Many neighbors have been working on the railbed to improve its appearance, and the Greenways Committee has been working on the plans for a passive greenway on the old rail bed. VECA would like to hear from residents.

The railroad (CSX) minimally maintains this area with three mowings a year. Area residents Mike Kirby, Charlotte Swailes, Pete Swailes, Gertrude Rhodes, Sherry Lewis and Chuck Fox mow and garden the area between Auburndale and McLean during the summer. Residents between McLean and University have participated in two major cleanups and one planting of their area. But the railroad will act only in its own interest, so VECA has to act on its own behalf and has a window of just two years if it chooses to use the resources of the NPI grant. Attorney Bruce Smith has been retained to research the feasibility of purchasing the rail bed. Greenways Committee members and other volunteers have put together a plan for the use and maintenance of the space, which will be discussed at the March 18 meeting. Please join us!

Mission for the VECA Railroad Greenbelt: "To make the VECA Greenbelt the crown jewel of the neighborhood"

Goals for the VECA Railroad Greenbelt:

1. To acquire ownership of the greenbelt.
2. To retain the existing open space.
3. To realize the potential of the greenbelt for passive recreation.
4. To provide adjacent neighbors with a feeling a safety.
5. To beautify and make the greenbelt environmentally friendly.
6. To maintain the greenbelt.

These statements were adopted by the VECA Board on June 5, 1995, on the recommendation of its Greenways Committee.

FROM THE SECOND ISSUE OF "THE EVERGREEN NEWS"

*A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association
(February 12, 1971)*

—Of the more than one hundred and fifty families who have moved here since September, a number came from other neighborhoods in the city, quite a few moved in from suburban areas, while some transferred here from other states. The homes they bought range from \$12,000 to \$40,000...

—Vollentine Kindergarten: Tuition for half days is \$15 a month, for full days \$30.

—Four scouting centers serve our community.

—Snowden Jr. High will tap this year's Honor Students on Friday, Feb. 19. The program will be followed by a tea for the honor students and their parents.

—Family Planning Seminar at Southwestern on February 17.

—Race Relations Day at McLean Baptist Church, Sunday, Feb. 14.

—I VERSUS E. From 1911 to 1940, Vollintine Street was officially recorded as VollEntine, both on street signs and city maps. Between 1931 and 1956, the E gradually gave way to the I. In 1941, an official city map has the name spelled with I, by 1956, every map and every single street sign had adopted the I. But not the School. Vollintine School was built in 1930, when the E was still ruling supreme, and it remained faithful to it. That's the reason why today the street is called Vollintine and the school VollEntine. Now get this: the man both the street and the school were named after was Hiram Volentine who spelled his name with E but only one L which makes both modern spellings false.

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).

Do Not Place In Mailboxes

UPCOMING MEETINGS



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7pm on Monday, March 18 at 1680 Jackson Avenue (formerly Dr. Muhammad's election headquarters)

Come see VECA's new permanent office, and give your opinion of plans for the Greenway along the old L&N Railroad bed.

OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS

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. Everyone is welcome.

VECA Board
 April 1, 7pm

VECA CDC Board
 March 9 and April 13, 9am

ALMOST A HISTORIC DISTRICT!

On January 24, 1996, VECA Historic Designation committee members Amy Darke, Dotty Sachritz, Mary Wilder, and Judy Wimmer and consultant Judith Johnson went to Nashville to present VECA's Historic District nomination. The nomination was approved by the Tennessee Historical Commission and was forwarded to the United States Department of the Interior with Tennessee's recommendation for acceptance. VECA should hear back in two to four months. If approved, the name will be the Vollintine Evergreen Historic District, and we'll be the largest historic district in the state of Tennessee.

Amy Darke is a recent graduate of the University of Memphis and is a resident of the Cabanas. Amy is currently preparing the second phase of the nomination for the area north of Vollintine, which is not quite old enough now. The flood control measures along Cypress Creek only made this land available for development in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The homes in this area are typical of the development during the Depression and on into World War Two. Homes are generally smaller and take on a more modern styling referred to as "minimal traditional". The streetscape also changes as the cul de sac becomes a way of grouping more homes in a smaller area. This area also includes houses from the earlier period with streets on a grid pattern.

At the January 22 general membership meeting, two designs for a Historic District plaque were displayed. If you didn't get a chance to vote for one at that meeting, just place your vote by phone (276-1066) or mail now.



*Mary Wilder, Dottie Sachritz, Judith Johnson and Judy Wimmer after the Tennessee Historical Commission approved VECA for the National Historic District nomination.
 Photo: Amy Darke*

VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN

N E W S

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 VECA • PO Box 12011
 Memphis, TN 38182-0011
 or call 276-1066



#1



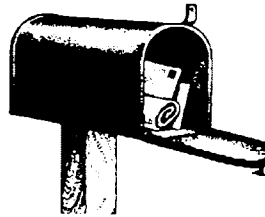
#2

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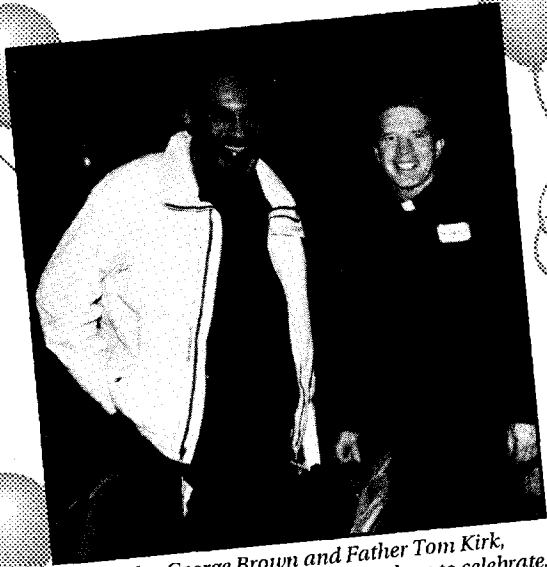
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JANUARY 22, 1996 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Over 100 VECA residents and friends gathered on January 22 to look back at 25 years of VECA history and look ahead to many more years of VECA successes. Thanks to Gethsemane Garden Church of God in Christ for the use of their beautiful facility.

Jenny Jenson and Janis Cannon were elected to serve in 1996 as VECA President and Vice-President, replacing Steve Gadbois and Willette Gray. Martha Heinemann and Rick Cartwright will continue as treasurer and secretary respectively. VECA's elected Board members for 1996 are Margaret Blackmon, Kay Blues, Janis Cannon, Rick Cartwright, Steve Gadbois, Willette Gray, Conita Grigsby, Mary Haynes, Martha Heinemann, Jenny Jenson, Martha Jordan, Margaret Leggett, Othniel Marqueei, Molly Miller, Ann Munns, Gloria Singleton, Mary Wilder, and Judy Wimmer.

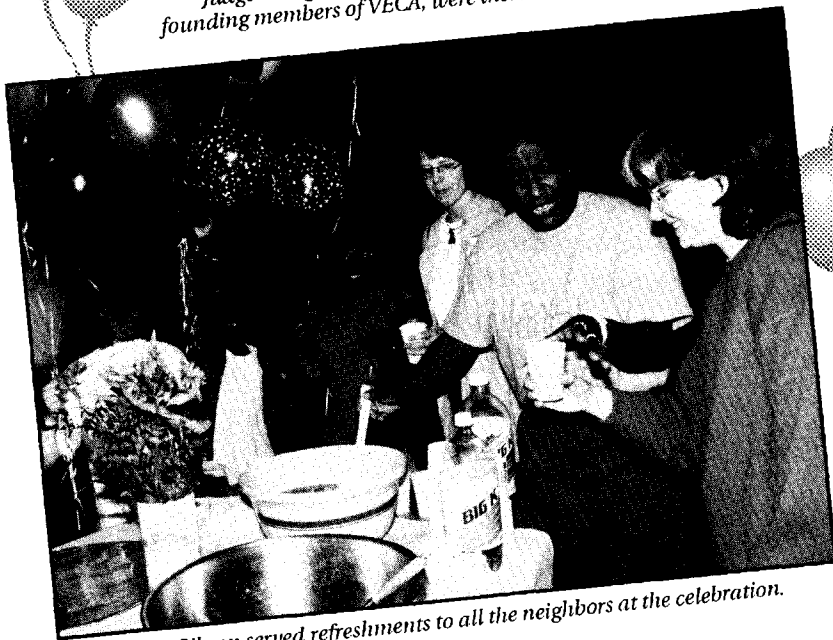
The Borys Award was presented to William Stemmler, and the Dichtel Award was shared by the Terry Circle Block Club and Rhodes College. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the public presentation of VECA's Historic Designation nomination. (See separate articles!)



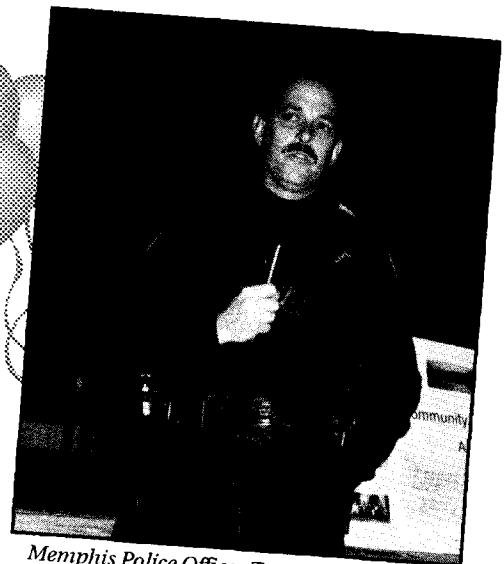
Judge George Brown and Father Tom Kirk, founding members of VECA, were there to celebrate.



Louis Dandridge, Martha Jordan, Dr. Fred Neal, Father Tom Kirk and Mac McWhirter helped VECA celebrate its 25th Anniversary.



Ruth Gibson served refreshments to all the neighbors at the celebration.



Memphis Police Officer Tom Tilton spoke at the annual meeting. Officer Tilton is also a VECA neighbor.

1996 DICHEL AWARD — TERRY CIRCLE BLOCK CLUB

Organizing by neighbors helped reduce loitering on Vollintine and Terry Circle. Phone calls to the Police Department were made consistently and frequently in an organized and planned manner to start patrols in this area. Residents held a successful campaign to clean up the area and discard old cars.

All houses in Terry Circle were decorated similarly during the Christmas season, with animated Christmas trees and reindeers. The decorations were so impressive that the homes were shown on Fox 13 TV. All neighbors participated in the Christmas potluck party, at which prizes were given to the oldest neighbor, youngest neighbor, longest resident, etc.

All of this came together in the short time from July 1995 to December 1995. At their first meeting last summer, some neighbors were embarrassed because they had lived on the street 15 or 20 years without knowing each other's names. This was one of the reasons they got organized with the help of Mrs. Jessie Rodgers.



Eldora Hollis, Ora Adams, Maureen Brooks, Jessie Rodgers and Gloria Tompkins were the members of the Terry Circle Block Club present to accept the Margeret Dichel Award.

1996 DICHEL AWARD — RHODES COLLEGE

1. Rhodes has assigned to VECA six student interns who have worked or are working in the areas of housing, historic research, greenspace development and marketing.

2. Rhodes served as the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for VECA and VECA CDC during the first nine months of the NPI grant. This included keeping the books, payroll, and accounts payable, as a donation to VECA.

3. The Rhodes Chapter of Habitat for Humanity has worked on four weekend projects with the VECA CDC.

4. The Rhodes Computer Center donated one computer to VECA, advised in the purchase of other computers, helped with service on all equipment, and made available campus software classes to VECA staff.

5. The VECA marketing brochure benefited from assistance and guidance from the Rhodes Public Relations office.

6. The Cypress School Committee included Rhodes faculty representation.

7. Some VECA office furniture was donated by Rhodes.

8. The VECA L&N Greenway is one of the Rhodes townhouse projects.

9. Ten area residents are participating in the Life Studies project of Rhodes sociology professor (and VECA resident) Tom McGowan. Urban Studies is conducting a diversity study with the Policy Research Action Group, Loyola University, and VECA.



Mac McWhirter accepted the Margeret Dichel Award from Steve Gadbois in the name of Rhodes College for its generous support and cooperation with VECA this past year.



1996 BORYS AWARD — WILLIAM STEMMLER

William E. Stemmler is recipient of VECA's 1996 Borys award, given to a non-resident public official for service to the VECA community. Bill is a Vice President for Boatmen's Bank of Tennessee, in charge of CRA/Compliance Loan Review. He first approached VECA on behalf of Boatmen's in the fall of 1994, and shortly thereafter accepted a position on the new VECA CDC Board of Directors. As a banker, an experienced player with the older Cooper-Young CDC, and a caring person, Bill has given to the CDC Board generously of his time and his unique talents, and it is no exaggeration to state that he is an important reason for the CDC's amazing success during its first crucial year of existence.

Bill Stemmler of Boatmen's Bank and the VECA CDC Board received the Richard Borys Award from VECA President Steve Gadbois.

VECA CDC Board

James Beard
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 Steve Gadbois
 Paul Herron
 Jenny Jenson
 Mike Kirby
 Sheri Lipman
 Mac McWhirter
 Jim Martin
 Tyrone Moore
 Tom Ridenhour
 William Stemmler
 M. Dell Stiner
 Pete Swailes
 Regina Walker
 Eddie Wright

VECA Board

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 Kay Blues
 Janis Cannon
 Rick Cartwright
 Steve Gadbois
 Willette Gray
 Ann Munns
 Conita Grigsby
 Mary Haynes
 Martha Heinemann
 Jenny Jenson
 Martha Jordan
 Margaret Leggett
 Othniel Marquee
 Molly Miller
 Gloria Singleton
 Judy Wimmer

VECA and VECA CDC Staff

Ruth Gibson
 Steve Lockwood
 Mary Wilder

DIVERSITY STUDY UPDATE

VECA is participating in a diversity study with Rhodes College and the Policy Research Action Group (PRAG). The study is part of a nationwide review of older neighborhoods in the United States that have a high level of racial diversity. VECA residents Julie Borys and Modene Thompson are coordinating with Rhodes College professors Mark Pohlmann and Mike Kirby to conduct community meetings. Several of these community meetings have been held to discuss VECA as a diverse community both now and during the formation of the Association in the early 1970s. If you are interested in hosting a community meeting, contact the VECA office at 276-1066. When the project is completed the report will be presented to the community at a general membership meeting.

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RHODES/VECA "DELTA TEAM" SEEKS YOUR BEST IDEAS

The newly-formed "Delta Project" involves teams from five colleges in the Delta region — Centenary, Hendrix, Lyons, Millsaps, and Rhodes. Each college is paired with a nearby community — VECA in Rhodes College's case. The Rhodes/VECA team has begun meeting to discuss plans for a project "that addresses the educational, economic, political, and/or social needs of the Delta region", and is very much interested in ideas that you may have.

Feel free to contact any member of the team: VECA resident Janis Cannon, Rhodes math professor and VECA resident Steve Gadbois, Rhodes alum and VECA resident Jennifer Jenson, Rhodes philosophy professor Larry Lacy, Rhodes chaplain and VECA resident Billy Newton, Peace Lutheran Church pastor Tom Ridenhour, and VECA resident Gloria Singleton.

The current planning phase of 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. Current plans call for the writing and submission later this year of a major grant proposal for one or more large projects in our Delta region communities.

WHY HAVE BLOCK CLUBS?

Some people want to know their neighbors for safety reasons. Neighbors who know one another can look out for one another. They are also able to recognize strangers on the street and watch out for unusual behavior that may be an indication of crime.

Other people want to know their neighbors for social reasons. They want a sense of community, a small village feel to their neighborhood, with neighbors who know each other and share an occasional social event, like a Christmas party or a summer picnic. Folks want to talk and work together to address mutual concerns and just have a good time.

Community is a concept we used to take for granted. It still exists. We just have to work at it. Before the automobile and fear isolated us from one another, we met at school, in church, at the grocery store, and on the street. Now we get in the car and go to work, school, church, and

stores all over the city. But we can still meet on our street if we work at it. As humans we still need community. Block Clubs can help us come together and can be as individual as the people who make them up. You can meet monthly, have a party a couple times a year, do work projects together, or just exchange names and phone numbers and agree to look out for one another.

If you want to form a Block Club and don't know where to start, or know your neighbors already but need to revitalize your Block Club, call the VECA office at 276-1066.



WELCOME PACKETS

The Block Club Committee is putting together Welcome Packets for new neighbors. The packets will be assembled once a year and kept at the main office. When a new resident moves into the neighborhood, the welcome person for that street will pick up a packet at the VECA office and present it to the new resident. If you would like to be a welcome person or a contact for your street, please call Mary or Gloria at 276-1066.

MLGW TREE-TRIMMING PROGRESS REPORT

Contractors for Memphis, Light, Gas and Water are now working their way east through the Memphis area trimming, topping and removing trees for necessary clearance of electric lines. Crews may get to the area between Watkins and McLean between late February and late March, before moving on east of McLean.

Courtesy notices will be left at homes several days prior to the work. If a tree must be removed, the owner will be contacted about MLGW's removal/replacement program. All work is done without cost to customers.

VECA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Name _____

Telephone Day: _____ Telephone Evening: _____

Address _____ Zip _____

VOLUNTEER INTEREST

- Neighborfest
- Historic Preservation
- Newsletter Writing
- Newsletter Delivery
- Other
- Volunteer

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Staying In Touch!

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