

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

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

Volume XXII, Number 5

SEPTEMBER 1996

## VECA HISTORIC DISTRICT HOME TOUR OCTOBER 20TH

The very first Vollintine-Evergreen Historic District Home Tour will take place on Sunday October 20, 1996 from 12:30 to 5:00. All-inclusive tickets will be just \$8. The tour will give us a chance to show Memphis how great our neighborhood is and to exhibit the different kinds of houses we have. For this year's tour, we are clustering houses near the Jackson-University intersection so walking will be easy.

There will be five houses and one church on the tour, plus antique cars from the 1920s. Tickets and refreshments will be available at the central point of the tour, the Church of the Good Shepherd at 1971 Jackson Avenue. The tour consists of the Oakmont Bungalow of John and Claudia Rutkavkus, the Hallwood Tudor of Bette Ackerman and Henry Kurtz, the Hallwood Colonial Gambrel of David and Brenda Jeter, the Jackson Tudor of Chuck Dille and Randall Paxton, and the Kensington Bungalow of Dell Stiner. Tickets will also be available at the VECA office prior to the tour.

If you would like to help with the tour, please the VECA office at 276-1782. We will need lots of volunteers on tour day but we can use help beforehand, too! Encourage your friends and neighbors to buy a ticket and come out to help the neighborhood show off.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS



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. All are open to everyone.

VECA Board	September 9, 7pm
VECA Board (with CDC)	October 10, 7pm
VECA Board	November 4, 7pm
VECA Board	December 2, 7pm
VECA Board	January 6, 1997, 7pm
VECA Annual Meeting	January 27, 1997, 7pm
CDC Board	September 14, 9am
CDC Board (with VECA)	October 10, 7pm
CDC Board	November 9, 9am
CDC Board	December 14, 9am
Housing Committee	September 7, 9am

## FROM THE FIFTH ISSUE OF "THE EVERGREEN NEWS"

*"THE EVERGREEN NEWS, A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association" (May 6, 1971)*

—It is nice to know that VECAA is only one of many neighborhood associations engaged in building a stable, interracial community. There are associations such as ours across the continent, from Hartford, Connecticut to Los Angeles, California, and from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Atlanta, Georgia.

—Miss Mary Wilkins Riley, who moved to 875 N. Evergreen in 1928 when Vollintine School was Mr. Barham's cow pasture, was honored at a party given May 1 by Miss Alice Brignardello and several other Snowden teachers. Miss Riley is retiring this month after a teaching career of 43 years at Snowden Junior High.

—WANTED Unfurnished two- or three-bedroom home in Snowden School area... Price range \$125-\$150.

—May Procession at Little Flower Church on Sunday, May 9. In honor of Mary parishioners will march to the church garden and hear a sermon by Msgr. Leppert at 5:00 P.M.

—The Real Estate Committee has sent letters of protest to the [real estate] firms concerned. If this practice [of block-busting] continues, stronger measures will be taken. Potential sellers are reminded that there are a great number of ethical agents in town to do business with.

—Delicious Foods Bakery, 607 N. McLean; Southwestern Pharmacy, 643 N. McLean; Great Star Supermarket, 651 N. McLean; John's Bakery, 1688 Jackson Avenue

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 (276-1782).



## HOME TOUR CLEAN UP!

Residents and realtors from all over the city will be visiting our neighborhood for the home tour on October 20th and we want to look our best. A clean up of the neighborhood would be helpful, so gather your neighbors Saturday, October 12th and help spruce up your street! There will be a lot of cars so remember to park your car in your driveway.

Do Not Place In Mailboxes

## A RED-LETTER DAY FOR THE VECA GREENWAY!

Molly Miller

On July 23, at a gathering of VECA Greenway Committee members, neighbors and passersby, we had a little champagne, took a lot of pictures, christened a concrete traffic-stopping "stump", and, yes, finally signed the contract! After many sometimes-frustrating years, we are finally making progress towards owning, maintaining and controlling the 1.7 mile "Urban Linear Greenspace" traversing Vollintine-Evergreen that was once a railroad bed. This contract is our offer to buy the property from CSX Railroad for \$15,000; the Railroad has 45 days to respond. As the deal is being finalized, we can plan for maintenance, future funding and possible tie-ins with other VECA committees. We have also learned that the Office of Planning and Development would like to incorporate our project into the "Community Compact" as a demonstration to other communities of projects that make a neighborhood a pleasant place to live!

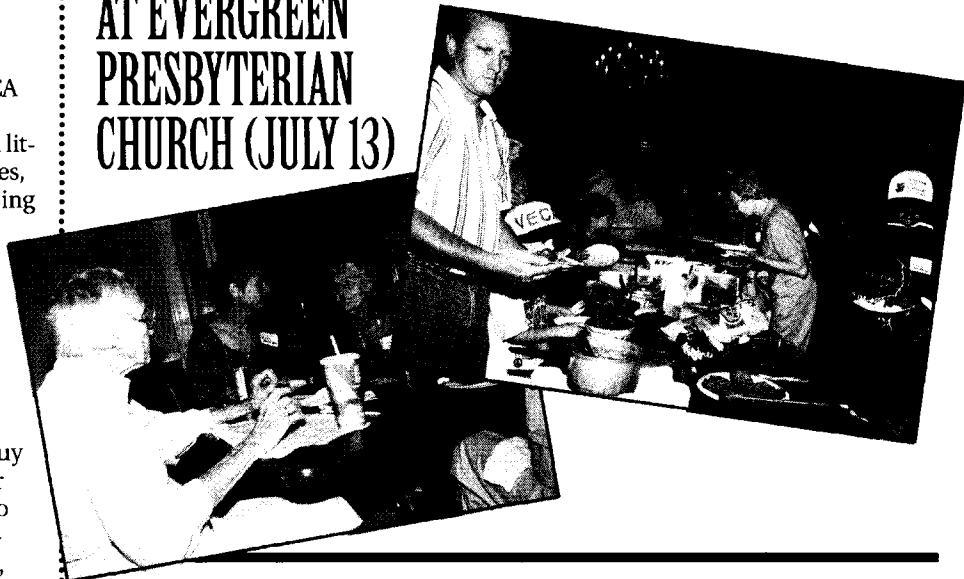
## RHODES/VECA "DELTA TEAM" UPDATE

Thanks to all of you who returned the survey from the last Vollintine-Evergreen News on your preferences for a possible community center. If you'd still like to express your views, surveys can be picked up and dropped off at the VECA office.

## PLANTING THE VECA MEDIANS

Would you like to plant all VECA medians with daffodils and crocuses? How about a fall plant-a-thon? Would you be willing to organize an area in front of your home on Jackson, University, Tutwiler, or North Parkway for a planting? Call the office at 276-1782 to join the VECA Green Median Subcommittee of the Greenways Committee.

## VECA POTLUCK SUPPER AT EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (JULY 13)



## EVERGREEN CONCERT SERIES BEGINS THIRD SEASON

Evergreen Presbyterian Church begins its third annual series of free concerts at 8pm on Friday, October 4 with an organ recital by its organist, Jane Gamble. The music chosen for this recital will showcase the new additions to the church's 1952 Reuter pipe organ, a gift from the estate of Maxine Haliburton. Dr. Gamble recently completed her third overseas recital tour with concerts at Coventry Cathedral and St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in England. She also teaches at Rhodes College, is the organist at Temple Israel Synagogue, and is a VECA resident.

### OTHER CONCERTS IN THE SERIES:

- 8pm Thursday, November 14 David Ramsey, organ
- 5pm Sunday, December 22 Carole Blankenship, soprano; Howard Vance, guitar; Beverly Vance, flute
- 8pm Friday, January 10 Bruce Neswick, organ
- 8pm Friday, February 7 Ron Burrichter, tenor
- 3pm Sunday, May 4 Germantown Symphony Orchestra

The public is cordially invited to these free concerts. Evergreen Presbyterian Church is located at 613 University Street and is handicapped accessible.



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Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.  
Tues. - Fri. Mass - 5:30 p.m.

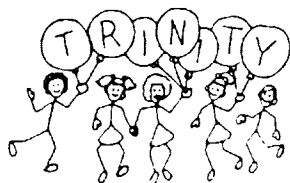
Saturday Confession - 3:45 - 4:50

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## FUTURE ADDITIONS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

While much of the VECA neighborhood dates from the 1920s and 1930s, some areas are newer and thus weren't eligible for Historic District designation with the original application. But plans are to include these newer areas later, and much of the work has already been done.

The nomination for the area between Vollintine and Cypress Creek has been prepared and submitted to the Tennessee Historical Commission for review. This area is divided into two sections, Avalon and Colonial. When the nomination is complete both areas will be referred to as the Vollintine Evergreen Historic District. This issue of the Vollintine-Evergreen News will outline the Colonial area nomination. The previous issue highlighted Avalon.

The Vollintine Evergreen Colonial Historic District is bounded by Vollintine on the south, McLean on the west, University on the east, and the north ends of Rainbow, Barksdale, and Sheridan on the north. The district is comprised of 283 primary and secondary structures: late 1920s and 1930s Tudor

Revival and Craftsman style homes built on streets in a grid pattern, and late 1930s and early 1940s Colonial Revival homes built on loop streets. The city's first FHA-financed home is on Rainbow Circle.

University is the high ground of this area, sloping down and westward to Rainbow Circle and Monticello. Sheridan and Barksdale dead-end at a steep drop to the lower ground of the Cypress Creek floodplain, where houses were built after flood control measures were in place following the flood of 1937. (The previous issue of the Vollintine-Evergreen News has more on the Jadwin Plan and flood control, the Cypress Creek pumping station, etc.)

In 1938 C.M. Jacobson developed Colonial Terrace, which encompasses Rainbow Circle, Monticello, and part of Vollintine. The architect for Colonial Terrace was Polk W. Agee, a prominent architect in Memphis

for decades. He chose to live on Rainbow Circle until his death in 1987.

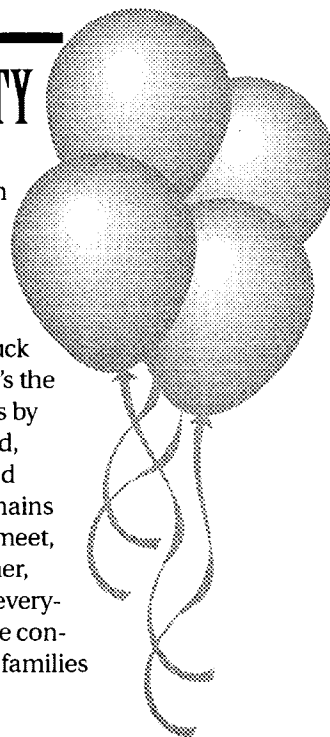
East of Colonial Terrace are the University Terrace and North Barksdale Terrace subdivisions, developed in 1929 and 1930 by Harry Dlugach. This development runs along both sides of Sheridan north of Vollintine, and is typical of the earlier grid pattern development.

The Jewish community started moving to Colonial as soon as homes were built in the 1930s. As the Jewish population grew so did the interest in moving their place of worship to the area. The war and the European refugee situation for the Jewish community put plans on hold. But after the war, the Baron Hirsch Synagogue was built and the surrounding Vollintine Hills area was developed on the Terry Golf Course by Herman Gruber and Philip Belz Sr., prominent members of the Baron Hirsch Jewish community.

## KENSINGTON THROWS A PARTY

*Gloria Singleton*

Some streets don't need to meet every month to brainstorm or have elections. Kensington is one of those streets. But the residents know they need to keep in touch with each other. So two or three neighbors decide who'll make and distribute leaflets, and like magic a spring potluck picnic is planned. The 1996 party (they think it's the eighth year in a row) was hosted under the oaks by the Van Tols: Lois, Hubert, Joshua, Naomi, Ladd, Jesse, and Jan. Residents of all ages mingled and socialized. Children played, ate, and sold keychains they'd made. There were some newcomers to meet, but most everyone else already knows each other, partly because of a up-to-date street directory everyone gets a copy of. Kensington residents, please continue to remind us of when life was simpler for families and neighbors.



VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN  
NEWS

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VECA HOTLINE: 276-1782

# HOW TO HANDLE A HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY

Robert Drain

Are you prepared for a household emergency? Every member of your household should be able to locate the shutoff valves and switches for your utility sources. Information on shutoff valves and switches should be in common areas where everyone can find them easily when needed. The main concerns in a household emergency situation are electricity, gas, water, and hot water tank.

Hidden from sight, the electrical system brings with it a greater potential for danger than any other system in the home. Any electrical fixture or appliance that is damaged or does not perform normally needs repair. If a switch, outlet, or fixture makes a snapping or cracking sound or if sparks, smoke, or flames are visible, immediately shut off electricity to that circuit at the service panel.

To turn off the gas to an appliance such as a stove, furnace, or water heater, find the shutoff valve for the appliance on the supply pipe where the gas enters the appliance. To turn off the gas to the entire house, use the shutoff valve on the main gas supply pipe, usually where it enters the house at the meter.

To turn off the water to a fixture such as a sink or toilet, find the shutoff valve for the fixture on the supply pipe behind or underneath the fixture. For an overflowing toilet, lift the tank cover off the tank and support the float assembly with a bent coat hanger. If the fixture has no shutoff valve, turn off the water to the entire house using the shutoff valve on the main water supply pipe, usually at the water meter at the sidewalk or where it enters the house indoors.

Always remember, problems with your house will not simply go away. They will only get bigger and cost more to fix later. All work and inspections should be done by a licensed professional.

In an emergency situation be prepared — it should only take a minute to locate the shutoff valves and switches. You'll prevent further damage to your home.

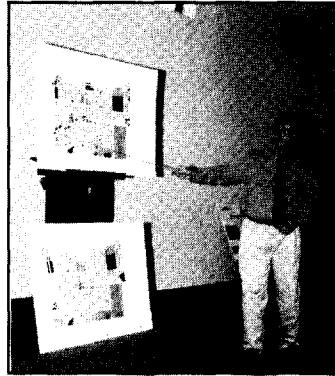
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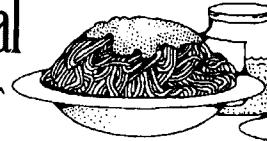
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JIMMY COVINGTON'S PRESENTATION OF VECA DOWNZONING PROPOSAL

## Snowden's Annual Spaghetti Supper



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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, 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 Ave., Memphis, TN 38107 or call 276-1782.