JANUARY 22 IS VECA’S ANNUAL MEETING

All Vollintine-Evergreen residents are invited to VECA's annual meeting to be held Monday, January 22, at Evergreen Presbyterian Church (613 University Street). Though VECA hosts various other events during the year, this event is the most important for laying the foundation for a productive year. The new VECA Board and its officers will be elected, the new VECA CDC Board will be introduced, and both the Dichtel Award and Borys Award will be presented. Besides business, there will be good food, entertainment, and a chance to talk with old and new neighbors. Call the VECA office if you have any questions or would like to assist.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VECA Block Club Reception &amp; General Membership Meeting</td>
<td>January 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potluck Supper &amp; Pool Party</td>
<td>July 14 (tentative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Night Out</td>
<td>August 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Festival</td>
<td>September 29 (tentative); September 30 raindate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Committee</td>
<td>second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m. (call office for location)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Block Club Committee</td>
<td>first Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Code Enforcement Committee</td>
<td>first Saturday monthly, 9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V&amp;E Greenline Committee</td>
<td>third Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypress Creek Beautification Committee</td>
<td>third Tuesday monthly, 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Managing Committee</td>
<td>third Tuesday monthly, 7:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Committee</td>
<td>second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial Revitalization Committee</td>
<td>second Thursday monthly, noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown/Howell Block Club</td>
<td>second Thursday monthly, 6:30 p.m. (Cypress Junior High School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VENews deadlines:</td>
<td>February 2, April 6, June 8, August 3, October 5, December 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VECA CDC &amp; VECA Boards</td>
<td>first Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. &amp; 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VECA CDC &amp; VECA Boards</td>
<td>January 8, 6:30 p.m. &amp; 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VECA CDC &amp; VECA Boards</td>
<td>February 5, 6:30 p.m. &amp; 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VECA CDC &amp; VECA Boards</td>
<td>March 5, 6:30 p.m. &amp; 7:00 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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HOLIDAY HOME TOUR A SUCCESS

On Sunday, December 10, 2000 the Historic Committee held the neighborhood's first Holiday Home Tour. The entire community was involved and the activities included photos with Santa on the Greenline tractor, sponsored by the V & E Greenline Committee. The Block Club Committee sold hot beverages and cookies to visitors.

The festivities began with a tour of St. John Orthodox Church (1663 Tutwiler) and continued with a trolley ride through creatively lighted streets to each of the four homes featured on the tour: 706 Dickinson; 1003 Terry Circle; 1019 Terry Circle; 1874 Rainbow Drive. Each home was decorated with various themes from Victorian Christmas villages to Kwanzaa.

Holiday lights lined the trolley route throughout the neighborhood. Terry Circle was delightfully adorned with an assortment of white lights and lighted trees making the evening magical.

Thanks to all homeowners, volunteers, docents and everyone who made the event special.
LICK CREEK BRIDGE: A REALITY

On November 17, a cold, clear Friday morning, a 100 ton crane lumbered onto the V&E Greenline at Auburndale Street. Then, as interested neighbors congregated, a truck from Keeler Iron Works arrived carrying our 70 foot long bridge. The crane crew carefully set the outriggers needed to stabilize the crane so it could lift the 10,000 pound bridge around the powerlines and over the tops of the bordering trees while two men directed its progress with massive ropes attached to both ends. After a few tense moments the structure we have been working toward for over a year and a half was set gently on the concrete support piers. With less than an inch to spare it could hardly have fit more perfectly, and with its forest-green metal rails and natural wood deck it blends seamlessly into the scenery. Will Keeler stayed until after dark attaching the bridge to its piers.

No VECA funds were needed in this major project, thanks to the efforts of members of the V&E Greenline Committee. Keeler Iron Works provided materials at cost and donated thousands of dollars worth of skilled labor in the construction phase. Barnhart Crane and Rigging donated the crane and crew time, worth $2100.

So the bridge is there but the job is far from done. Our next big task is to complete access ramps on each end of the bridge. We are considering several options for completing these, based on both cost and aesthetics. We still have some minor cosmetic touches left, and in the spring we will have to seal the wood decking. A structure of this type will always require ongoing maintenance and we hope any neighborhood resident using the bridge will let the V&E Greenline Committee know of any maintenance issues they discover. If we work together to avoid vandalism or other intentional damage, the bridge will be there for generations after us.

Sometime around February we hope to have an official dedication ceremony at which we will unveil a bronze plaque thanking all our generous benefactors. Hopefully we will know the date in time to let everyone know through the Vollintine-Evergreen News!

WHAT’S NEXT?

The Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation recently awarded the V&E Greenline Committee $2000 to plan another bridge, this one over West Creek near Woodmont Towers.

LOST: a pair of black-framed glasses on the V&E Greenline, perhaps near the Lick Creek bridge. Call 276-6178.
Open Door Bible Church
Student Ministries

Coming Event:
AWANA Grand Prix
Pine Wood Derby 3/10/2001
Call Steve Miller for Information & Car Kit
Phone: 278-4311

7th – 12th Youth Group & College Ministry
Sunday Services
Bible Study Hour 9:30am
Worship Service 10:45am
Evening Service 6:00pm
Wednesday Nite
AWANA Kids Club
Pre-K – 12th Grade
6:45pm – 8:30pm

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. and Thurs. Mass – 5:30 p.m.
Wed. and Fri. Mass – 8:15 a.m.
Saturday Confession – 3:45 – 4:15 p.m.
276-1412

School’s Out.
Do you know where your kids are?
EVERGREEN HAS YOUR SOLUTION.
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM:
Safe and fun for K-8 students, Monday-Friday 2:15-6:00pm
SCHOOL’S OUT PROGRAM:
Most city school holidays 7:30am-6:00pm
SUMMER SPOT: The cool midtown day camp for K-junior high, Monday-Friday 7:30am-6:00pm

EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
615 UNIVERSITY AVENUE (ACROSS FROM RHODES COLLEGE)

The Church
Of The
Good Shepherd
A Traditional Episcopal Church
1971 Jackson Avenue at University Avenue
901-725-9768

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Voice Mail: (901) 751-9477

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St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church
Sunday
Orthros at 9 am • Liturgy at 10 am
Weekdays
Wednesday Vespers at 7 pm
Saturday Great Vespers at 7 pm
1663 Tutwiler Avenue at Dickinson
(901) 274-4119

5
RECEIVING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

Chances are, you have better things to do than make trips to deposit or cash your Federal payment check. Now you have other choices. If you receive Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans benefits, Civil Service salary, Civil Service Retirement payments, Railroad Retirement payments, or Military Retirement payments, you now have four ways to get your payment:

— DIRECT DEPOSIT
You can sign up to have your payment automatically deposited to your checking or savings account at a bank, savings and loan, or credit union. You won’t have to worry about your check getting lost or stolen and you won’t have to wait in long lines. Just ask where you already have an account.

— ELECTRONIC TRANSFER ACCOUNT (ETA)
You can open a special new, federally insured account for automatic deposit of your Federal payment at a participating bank, savings and loan, or credit union. As with direct deposit, you won’t have to worry about your check getting lost or stolen and you won’t have to wait in long lines. Call 888-382-3311 toll-free to find out where you can open an ETA.

— BENEFIT SECURITY CARD
You can have your payment automatically deposited to an account you access with a Benefit Security Card. The card is a debit card that can be used in some stores and at some ATMs. Call 800-720-9670 toll-free to find out more or to sign up.

— CHECK
You can receive your payment by check in the mail. This may still be cheaper than using direct deposit, an ETA, or a Benefit Security Card.

To learn more, contact the agency that pays you, toll-free:
Social Security: 800-772-1213
Veterans Affairs: 877-838-2778
Office of Personnel Management: 888-767-6738
Railroad Retirement Board: 800-808-0772

COMMUNITY GARDENS

by Eric Rogers,
Community Garden Project Coordinator
VECA has a long tradition of strong grassroots projects bringing real change to the community. As a neighborhood, we once again have such an opportunity: community gardening.

The number of community garden programs has been on the rise since the 1980s. They have been shown to be effective vehicles of change, improving any neighborhood that has them.

In the spring of 2000, VECA planted its first community garden under this initiative. Unfortunately, there was virtually no interest in this garden. Furthermore, the site was less than perfectly suited for gardening.

We plan to try again this spring, but with more realistic ideas. We hope to establish a new garden at Vollentine School, and involve students from the school in a hands-on learning experience, emphasizing each and every skill it takes to run a successful garden.

Our plans remain tentative, and cannot be realized without community support. SO WE WANT YOUR HELP! We need help of all sorts — from accounting and finance to crop rotation and pest control. If you have any interest, please contact Steve Shipp at the VECA office.


FedEx employees on Cypress Creek Bike Trail (east end) sitting on rebuilt picnic table.

Are you new to the Vollentine-Evergreen neighborhood?
Come by the VECA office at 1680 Jackson Avenue during regular business hours to pick up a free “welcome packet”. It’s loaded with information, coupons, and a form for a free first-year membership in VECA.
UPDATE FROM VECA CDC

After serving since midsummer on an interim basis, Dr. Steve Gadbois is VECA CDC’s new Executive Director. Having a great staff already in place is making Steve’s transition a fairly smooth one. (His new position leaves open the volunteer positions of coordinating editor and distribution manager of this bimonthly newsletter. Call the VECA office if you can make a long-term commitment to help with either.)

Ruth Gibson is VECA CDC’s longest-serving employee. She still serves as Office Manager, but has also developed skills as a Homeownership Counselor that are well recognized across the entire city and even by H.U.D. officials in Nashville and Atlanta. Each year she helps literally hundreds of people qualify for a first home, learn what homeownership entails, or get back on track when in danger of losing the home they’re in. Ruth has been out of the office due to serious illness since late October — the rest of the staff looks forward to her return!

Steve Shipp is VECA CDC’s Economic Developer and is responsible for the striking improvements to “Watkins Square”, a six-bay commercial strip on Watkins just north of Brown that the CDC acquired in 1998. As this newsletter goes to press, exterior work at Watkins Square is wrapping up, and interior work — most notably an expansion and redesign of Melanies Restaurant — should begin soon. Steve has raised major funds for the project, and then stretched those funds as far as possible.

Daryl Lewis is VECA CDC’s Neighborhood Preservationist, the person responsible for property acquisition. Funding is now available for about ten rehab and/or new construction projects in the year 2001; anyone volunteering to serve on the Housing Committee should find the year pleasantly busy. Daryl also plays an important role in code enforcement.

Sean Fegette is VECA CDC’s Construction Coordinator. His job includes architectural design and the selection and supervision of rehab and construction contractors. Thus, he and Daryl Lewis work closely together on VECA CDC’s housing projects. Taking advantage of his architectural training, Sean also played a major role in design of the new Lick Creek bridge.

Wilma Vandermeer, C.P.A., is VECA CDC’s part-time Financial Manager. In her one day a week at the office (usually Thursday), she always manages to make sense out of the financial chaos the rest of the staff creates during the other four days. Her skills are invaluable.

Belinda Kerusch continues as part-time Brown & Howell Community Organizer. That small area of Vollintine-Evergreen just east of Cypress Junior High School and west of Springdale has long been distressed; while much improvement is still needed, even a quick drive-through makes apparent that much has been done, thanks largely to Belinda. Homes have been built or rehabbed by VECA CDC, Habitat for Humanity, and private developers (a sure sign of health).

Scott Banbury is the new part-time Cypress Creek Environmental Educator. Look for more on his work in area schools early in 2001.

VECA CDC HOUSING

Members of VECA CDC’s Housing Committee are very much aware of the concerns of many residents about particular properties. Some are not well maintained. Although they are not always in violation of building codes, they may be unsightly, and everyone wants their street to look good and to feel safe and comfortable. The CDC has often been asked to buy and improve homes in order to maintain the integrity of surrounding ones. Sometimes certain sections of the community are of special concern, and we would like to be able to address this issue as well.

We would like our friends and neighbors to be aware of some of the restraints that limit our options. It would be wonderful if we could purchase all of these properties, but the amount of money available each year limits the number that can be done, and there are usually strings attached to federal funds and other grants. If the CDC buys a property in which someone is living, intending to do major rehab or replacement, the CDC would have to provide equivalent housing until the job is completed, and funds are insufficient for that.

The CDC will continue to identify and purchase vacant lots and unoccupied houses as money permits. You and your neighbors can help by suggesting such properties and assisting with some of the research on owners, status of back taxes, etc. The VECA spirit is what keeps our neighborhood the desirable place that we want it to be.
**VECA NEEDS MEMBERS**

Name: 

Telephone Day: ______________________ Telephone Evening: ______________________ 

Address: ______________________ Zip: ____________ 

**MAIL TO: VECA TREASURER, 705, N. BELVEDERE, MEMPHIS, TN 38107**

**I’M INTERESTED IN:**

☐ Block Club ☐ V&E Greenline 

☐ Historic Home Tours ☐ Youth 

☐ Housing ☐ Newsletter Delivery 

☐ Code Enforcement ☐ Newsletter Writing 

☐ Commercial Revitalization ☐ Volunteer (general) 

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE $10, $20 OR $35 PER YEAR AND ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE; ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO VECA CDC MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

☐ $10 dues, Individual 

☐ $20 dues (household), Gold Star members receive their choice of bumper sticker and the Historic Designation Plaque. 

☐ $35 dues, Gold Star Heritage members receive their choice of bumper sticker and the Historic Designation Plaque. 

☐ Bumper Sticker A ☐ Bumper Sticker B

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President Arthur Shipp

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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, and business and government policies. VECA is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Springdale 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.