



the Vineville Gazette

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Vineville Neighborhood Association

Letter from the President

By Nora McFarland

Save the Date!

VNA Annual Meeting January 29th, 7 p.m.

Join us at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer at the corner of Pierce and Ingleside. Attendees will choose a new VNA logo for the streetlamp banners decorating the historic district. VNA will provide the main course and all beverages. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

Sippin' Social

February 12th, 6-8 p.m.

Join us at *Off the Vine* at 3090 Vineville Ave. \$20.00 cost, per person. Includes wine card w/ \$8.00 credit and appetizers. All Vineville Neighborhood Association members are welcome!

Neighborhood Clean-Up

Come join us! It is always a good workout, great fellowship with your neighbors and a wonderful, positive service to the neighborhood.

February 7th, 9am

Meet at McDonald Ave. and Buford Place.

March 7th, 9am

Location to be announced.

Since our winter newsletter is being delivered to all households in Vineville, and not just VNA members, I'd like to start by welcoming anyone reading this who isn't familiar with our organization.

Since 1982 The Vineville Neighborhood Association has worked hard to promote and protect this great neighborhood. In addition to hosting various community and social events, the VNA is a strong advocate on crime and zoning issues.

If you've recently moved to Vineville, or know of an address with new residents, please email us. We'd love to deliver a membership and information packet. Vinevilleneighborhood@gmail.com. It's free and there's no obligation to join.

I encourage all Vineville residents to attend our annual potluck dinner coming up on January 29th. In addition to electing our 2015 board, we'll also choose a new logo for the neighborhood. Two options will be revealed and the final selection will be decided by a vote of those in attendance. This logo will be prominently displayed on banners hung throughout the historic district, so this decision will affect us all.

We'll also see a short presentation from Strong Tower Fellowship Church about their efforts to rehab homes adjacent to Vineville. I know everyone is thrilled that law enforcement and P&Z have taken action at the Bateman & Wade location. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see this positive momentum continue? Please see the article on page 3 for more information about this exciting project.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who made my time as President so wonderful. 2014 was an amazing year! It's been an honor to work with such an active board as well as our many members.

-Nora McFarland

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Announcements

New Neighbor?

We'll hand deliver a new-member packet. Just email us the street address and we'll get it there!

Vineilleneighborhood@gmail.com

Bridge, Bridge, Bridge

Let's have a VNA Neighborhood Bridge Club. If you're interested in playing bridge please email or call Susan Milam.

Susanmilam@live.com or 478-714-0545.

Help Wanted

The VNA plans to publish a "Guide to Vineville" that will provide new and old residents information about this great neighborhood. We need volunteers to help research and write this 36-page booklet. If you can help, please contact Susan Long at salong946@cox.net or 256-5975.

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In the Restoration Zone

Exciting things are happening along one of Vineville's borders. There's now a community garden where two condemned houses used to stand. An adjacent home is receiving paint and a new roof. Nearby, two duplexes and a home have already been renovated and are occupied.

This is all possible because these properties are in an area that Strong Tower Fellowship Church likes to call The Restoration Zone.

The leaders of this Presbyterian Church, located at Vineville Ave. and Culver St., knew that in order to minister to their congregants spiritual needs they needed to be concerned with their practical ones as well. With that in mind they launched The Pleasant Hill Housing Authority.

PHHA is a subsidiary of Strong Tower Fellowship Mission and the First Presbyterian foundation of Macon, Georgia. Its goal is to defeat blight and provide sustainable support for the entire community. It's achieving this goal by restoring and rebuilding abandoned properties.

This is of particular interest to Vineville residents because most of the PHHA's work is adjacent to our neighborhood. It covers the blocks around Clayton St. where it meets Holt Ln. and Culver St.

"The significance of this area that we refer to as 'The Restoration Zone' is that it is a concentrated effort in a high-potential space," says Church Social Worker Steven DeGeorge. "Because of its close-proximity to the Vineville neighborhood, Ingleside Village, Strong Tower Fellowship Church itself, and other PHHA projects, we will be able to create a noticeable impact very quickly."

One thing that separates the efforts of the PHHA from previous restoration efforts is that Strong Tower Fellowship retains ownership of the properties and makes itself available to the tenants by establishing an almost daily presence.

They're also different from many other property owners in the neighborhood because they invest more into renovations and charge some of the lowest rents.

As a result, they've experienced very-low turnover among tenants and are regularly asked about vacancies.



Construction Underway
at the New Community Garden

Now an ambitious new project is being planned!

The City of Macon's Land Bank has donated the eight adjoining stone houses on Holt Ln. and Clayton St. to the PHHA. These dilapidated structures—a source of crime and vagrancy to both Pleasant Hill and Vineville—are a natural extension of the Restoration Zone.

The estimated cost for this project is \$30,000 a house, for a total of \$240,000. This is a daunting sum, but the properties have been stripped, neglected, and need almost complete rebuilding.

The good news is that funding is in place to restore four of the eight homes thanks to generous donations from Vineville Methodist Church and Strong Tower Fellowship Church itself.

We'll get an update on fundraising efforts and other PHHA projects at the VNA annual meeting. Our guests will be Rev. Tom Anderson and Steven DeGeorge—both Vineville residents!

Movie in the Park!!!



VNA hosted its first Movie in the Park in October. Hundreds of people turned out to watch the film *Hocus Pocus* at this Halloween-themed event.



A Visit with Santa in Ingleside Village



As part of *Christmas in the Village*, the VNA sponsored Santa's visit to our local shopping district. Children of all ages had a blast taking photos with Kris Kringle.

Christmas Party



In December we celebrated the holidays at The Museum of Arts and Sciences with live music and delicious food!



Updates on VNA Special Projects

Banners

Our yellow banners, which delineate the historic district and promote Vineville, will soon be replaced and expanded.



Once a new logo is decided at the annual meeting, the VNA will have banners printed and placed on streetlights. Sometimes the permission to hang banners must be given by multiple city agencies and even the state. Because of this, some may take longer to install than others, but we're excited to see this happen in the next year.

Cars on Front Lawns

At last year's annual meeting our membership highlighted this issue as a top concern. When a resident drives over the curb and parks on grass or a walkway it's not only an eyesore. This practice also reduces the value of nearby homes and affects everyone in the neighborhood. To make clear, this does not refer to an instance of a car parked in a driveway.

Last fall the VNA joined with Historic Macon and the Intown Neighborhood Association to propose an ordinance that would prohibit parking this way in historic districts. We're hopeful that the staff of Macon/Bibb Planning and Zoning is going to adopt this ordinance and we'll keep you updated in future newsletters.



Park Progress

The city's purchase of the land at English and Oak Haven for a public park is a huge boost for our neighborhood. Although we're not yet ready for a ribbon cutting ceremony, the city is moving forward!

As part of the ongoing improvements to the land, diseased trees are being removed and replaced with healthy ones. Soon trashcans and picnic tables will begin appearing. There's also a plan for parking to be approved by the city's traffic division and better delineated.

Last October the VNA hosted Movie Night in the Park. We have plans to repeat this event towards the end of Spring once the weather improves. Keep checking our website and Facebook page for updates!



2014 Year in Review

By Dina Deason, Social Committee Chair

I can't believe how time flies; that's what they say when you are having fun, so it must have been a fun year because this year flew by quickly. There were many social events shared by the Vineville neighbors, and I sure hope you were able to attend at least one this year!

I would like to start out by talking about the Vineville Neighborhood Association Ladies' Night Out, this is an evening when all ladies of the neighborhood association get together once a month for a few hours just to enjoy each other's company. We were lucky to have several ladies open up their beautiful homes to host this event. We also enjoyed a wine tasting at Off the Vine and a cooking class at Robinson Home.

Early spring we supported our neighbors and locally owned historic shops on Ingleside. The Vineville Neighborhood Association sponsored a Spring Shop & Stroll in the village. There were many specials for all that came out to support all of these unique shop and restaurants. I hope that this is something that the Ingleside Village merchants will continue to do. I loved spending this beautiful spring day in the Village.



Shop and Stroll in Ingleside Village

Late June the Vineville Neighborhood Association and the Piassick's hosted a Back Yard BBQ. It was a fun evening getting to hang out with our neighbors and enjoy the Piassick's beautiful back yard.

This past September the Vineville Neighborhood Association hosted a Mercer Tail Gate. We gathered on the lawn behind the Mercer football

stadium, shared great food, and had such a fun time while waiting for the big game to start. There is nothing better than hometown football and of course winning the game.



VNA Mercer Tailgate

Mid October the Vineville Neighborhood Association hosted an outdoor family movie night. The movie night was one of our biggest events of the year with several hundred in attendance. The movie, Hocus Pocus, was a big hit with all. The family movie night was the first event in the new park in our neighborhood, and I am very excited about the future of the park and the neighborhood.

Our annual holiday party was held at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. The museum was a great space to host all of our neighbors for the holidays. All guest toured the Festival of Trees exhibit while enjoying live music and fabulous food. This event and many of this year's events were first for our neighborhood association. We do hope that we had events for all ages and hope to keep coming up with new and exciting events to keep our neighbors interested and excited about the Historic Vineville neighborhood.

I would like to thank everyone that volunteered their time or opened up their homes to share with the neighborhood. We could not have had such a wonderful year in the neighborhood without the help of all the wonderful neighbors of Historic Vineville.

-Dina Deason is a VNA board member and chair of The Historic Vineville Tour of Homes.





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