

Become Involved In Your Community

The Vance Jackson Neighborhood, Inc (VJNI) is in contact with almost 3,500 homes in the neighborhood as well as other community groups, and as importantly, our elected officials at the city level.

Our association has helped bring awareness of rezoning issues to more than just immediate affected neighbors. One rezoning issue allowed some of us the opportunity to visit the City Council Meeting where our president made an impassioned plea against closing a street within our purview. We got to see the government in action and got to meet some important people at that level of our local government. Candidates often appear before the board of directors and the association members at large when the opportunity permits.

As you may remember, we have our annual members meeting in January of each year. Ted Trakas, our president, provides an annual review, introduces the current officers and a guest speaker or two. As the Treasurer, I present the annual report, and for the past couple of years, pay for pizza, coke, and cookies – but it's with your money. The annual meeting is also at this time that a vote is made for the association's officers for the upcoming year since VJNI is a voluntary group.

This brings me to the very important aspect of this article. It is time for folks to start considering to volunteer their time to a community effort. It doesn't take much time, it is very educational, and it gives you an opportunity to give back to the community now that you may have the time to do that. You will see some of the problems of the neighborhood and be able to affect the outcome and solution.

The newsletter editor and treasurer are both due to rotate terms. Some skills are needed in both of these important offices.

The newsletter editor needs to be able to use a computer, know how to use Microsoft Office products, have a computer connected to the internet, be skilled in English grammar to edit and correct articles like this one.

The treasurer must have some skill in balancing checkbooks and some knowledge of Microsoft Office products like Excel and Word to produce monthly financial statements for the board. Transportation is needed to go to the "mailbox" frequently to pick up the mail, which comes from members in the way of renewals and documents from city and state offices regarding public meetings of a variety of subjects, such as VIA Rapid Transit, the 281/1604 interchange, etc. Of course when membership renewals are made, checks need to be deposited and notices sent to the membership chairman to update association records.

There is nothing trivial about either of these offices.

If you have been interested but didn't know who to tell about that interest, now is your chance. Send an email to officers@vjni.org. He may have a place for you. I know I do. There is no pay other than the satisfaction that one may have made a positive difference to our neighbors.

Jimmy Turner
Treasurer