

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

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

Volume XXIV, Number 4

JULY 1998

## DON'T MISS VECA'S POTLUCK SUPPER AND POOL PARTY

Saturday, July 11  
Rhodes College Pool

Join many of your neighbors for great food and water fun on Saturday, July 11, at the Rhodes College pool. The potluck supper will start at 6pm and the pool will open to us at 7pm. The event is free. Just bring swimsuits and a dish to share (the more people you bring, the larger the dish!); VECA will provide eating utensils and soft drinks.



### 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.



VECA Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 11, 6pm & 7pm (Rhodes College)
VECA Board	first Monday monthly, 7pm
VECA CDC Board	third Saturday monthly, 9am
Housing Code Enforcement Committee	first Saturday of even months, 9am
L&N Greenway Committee	second Monday monthly, 7pm
Acquisitions & Rehab Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 5:15pm
Commercial Redevelopment Committee	first Thursday monthly, noon (Dino's)
Budget & Finance Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 7:45am
Sales, Rentals, & Loans Committee	fourth Thursday monthly, 5:15pm
CDC Managing Committee	fourth Saturday monthly, 9am
Historic Home Tour Committee	second Monday monthly, 7pm (TBA)
Vollintine-Evergreen News Committee	Article deadlines: August 7, October 9, December 4
VECA Board	July 6, 7pm
VECA Board	August 3, 7pm
VECA Board	September 14, 7pm
CDC Board	July 18, 9am
CDC Board	August 15, 9am
CDC Board	September 19, 9am

Do Not Place In Mailboxes

## LOCKWOOD DECIDES TO MOVE ON

Steve Lockwood has resigned as Executive Director of VECA's Community Development Corporation, but has agreed to stay on during the search for and transition to a new Executive Director.

Steve came to VECA's new CDC over three years ago and quickly made it the most successful and most visible CDC in Memphis. He completely renovated a row of nine homes on Watkins (now known as Watkins Village) as part of over one million dollars worth of redevelopment in all parts of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood; even more rehab is currently underway. He created many successful first-time homeowners, helped complete the neighborhood downzoning project, and developed many mutually-beneficial relationships with the city council and various city, county, and state agencies. Steve was equally adept in dealing with builders and contractors, helping neighborhood residents, lobbying policy-makers, and working with foundations and other funders.

It is clear that the next Executive Director will [to use an old cliché] have big shoes to fill, but as this goes to press, the search is underway. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, contact CDC Board Chair Mike Kirby or any other CDC Board member.

Steve, we will miss your talents, hard work, and straight-forward style, but we'll surely work again with you for the good of everyone in Memphis. Best wishes to you, Mary Durham, Jake, and Anna!

## HOME BUYER WORKSHOPS

Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (N.A.C.A.) will sponsor its sixth home buyer workshop from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, July 11 at the office of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis (1900 Union Avenue). For more information, interested individuals should call N.A.C.A. at 396-3366 or stop by N.A.C.A.'s Memphis office at 4230 Elvis Presley Boulevard, Suite 270.

N.A.C.A. is a non-profit housing services and community advocacy organization that offers free financial counseling, assists in the home selection process, and provides affordable mortgage financing (through NationsBank). Its mission is to provide home purchase loans and rehab loans with no down payment and no closing costs; interest rates are currently between 6% and 8%. N.A.C.A. also provides an opportunity for current homeowners to refinance their current mortgage or refinance for debt consolidation and home improvements.

**HELP  
WANTED**



## WANTED

VECA is looking for someone to fill the position of block club coordinator for the area between Jackson and North Parkway. This position calls for someone who is patient, willing and able to work with neighborhood residents. It carries a stipend depending on qualifications. Stop by the VECA office for more information.

## TO VOLLINTINE- EVERGREEN RESIDENTS

In February of 1995 I helped start VECA's Community Development Corporation and have served since then as its Executive Director. It's been a great three and a half years, but it is time for me to move on, and on May 16 the CDC Board of Directors accepted my resignation. I have great expectations of both the CDC and this neighborhood, and I want to thank the community for giving me the chance to work at such a meaningful job. I have learned more than I can say, and have gained a great admiration for the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood.

I have one small piece of advice: play to your strength, diversity. This community is as strong as its people. The more of you that get involved, the stronger the neighborhood will be. It has been a privilege getting to know so many of you. Thank you.

*Steve Lockwood*

## VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN N E W S

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# MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Some of VECA's 300 dues-paying members may be wondering when that familiar note from long-time treasurer Martha Heinemann will arrive. Well, VECA's Membership Committee has been rethinking our membership structure. This article will explain this year's goal.

Anyone who lives in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood is a VECA member, while anyone who pays the annual \$10 dues is Gold Star VECA member and is entitled to vote for officers.

Currently, annual membership revenue from about 300 households is about \$3,000. But if half of Vollintine-Evergreen households became Gold Star VECA members, there would be at least \$20,000 to support VECA's work for all of us. This would go a long way at a time when VECA no longer receives grant support for most of its work and must sustain its activity through the membership of many Vollintine-Evergreen residents.

Some of the many activities your dues have supported or will support are block club grants, block club activities (such as National Night Out), the annual potluck supper and pool party, neighborhood cleanups, the Jackson Avenue beautification project, commercial redevelopment, code enforcement, housing rehabilitation, home improvement loans, historic home tours, historic district status, maintenance and improvement of the V&E Greenline, this summer's Youth Service and Leadership Camp, the Delta Team, and RBI.

You have the ability and opportunity to become active in your neighborhood and help keep it a wonderful community. Membership in VECA is true investment in, and ownership of, your community's future. You are being asked to renew your membership or join today!

---

## VECA Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIPcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (night): \_\_\_\_\_

Dues enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional contribution (designate program): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 dues, **Gold Star** members receive their choice of bumper sticker.

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



Bumper Sticker A

Sign me up for these committees:

Block Club

V&E Greenline

Historic Home Tours

Delta Team & Youth

Housing

Newsletter Delivery

Code Enforcement

Newsletter Writing

Commercial Revitalization

Greenways

Volunteer (general)



Bumper Sticker B



Historic Designation Plaque

## V&E GREENLINE UPDATE

Our V&E Greenline is a 1.7 mile long neighborhood park owned and maintained by community volunteers. It depends upon contributions of time and other resources from residents of the neighborhood. A detailed brochure is available at the VECA office or on the Greenline at Idlewild.

Our neighborhood partner, Memphis Light Gas and Water, has graciously made the pump house at Idlewild available to the Greenways Committee as a storage area. Water has now been installed on the Abors and Gardens section for the trees and flower gardens. And the students of the Rhodes College Campus Green club provided funds to purchase trees for the Greenline.

On a more serious note, Greenways Committee member Greg Liebermann is now home recovering from serious injuries received while returning to work on the new V&E Greenline signs which have been installed at five intersections. Greg did the carpentry on the bollards adjacent to the signs. Greg, we all thank you and wish you a speedy recovery.

Faithful readers of the Memphis Flyer may have noticed that in its March 26-April 1, 1998 issue, the Vollintine-Evergreen Greenline was listed as the "Best Grassroots Project" this year in Memphis. Congratulations to members of the VECA Greenways Committee and the many other hard-working volunteers. If you haven't recently walked a portion of the Greenline, this would be a great time to!

In 1996 VECA received a Bicentennial Grant from the state of Tennessee to do planning of the V&E Greenline. A master plan was produced which presented both maintenance activities and capital improvements on the Greenline. As a result, the state of Tennessee designed the V&E Greenline as an official Bicentennial Greenway (you may have noticed the metal signs). The VECA Greenways Committee next drafted a proposal for state funding of equipment which would allow the committee to perform the maintenance listed in the plan; the Committee recently received the following:

This year as State Representative for District 89, I have submitted a budget amendment for VECA's effort to maintain the V&E Greenline. I am pleased to advise that the legislature has approved the amendment in the amount of \$20,000 to be used for purchase of a utility tractor and related equipment for maintenance of the V&E Greenline. The budget as adopted has now been sent to the Governor for his approval.

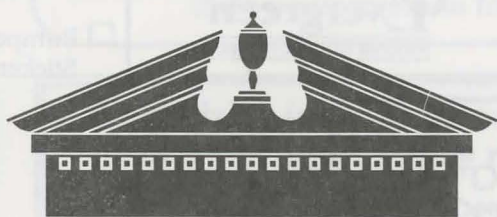
Sincerely,

*Carol J. Chumney*

State Representative for District 89  
(3728 Charleton Square, Memphis TN 38122)

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: AUGUST 4

It's that time again! National Night Out will be held on Thursday, August 4, 1998. As usual we celebrate this day by praying, singing or feasting with our new and old neighbors. Last year the "Pray for Our Community" event was so successful that we want to try again. At 7:30p.m. we would like neighbors throughout the community to light candles and pray for their families, homes, schools, churches, and community. We're asking God or some higher spirit to guide and protect us as we move about our daily lives. Contact persons will be notified about picking up candles at the VECA office on August 3 between 4:00 and 6:00p.m.



**HOMES FOR SALE**  
**CALL VECA CDC: 276-1783**

**1846 Brown**, renovated by May, offered at \$77,000  
3 bedroom, 2 bath, laundryroom, large corner lot

**710 N. Willett**, fully renovated, offered at \$55,000  
3 bedroom, 1 bath, eat-in kitchen

**1127 N. McNeil**, fully renovated, offered at \$55,000  
3 bedroom, 2 bath, large laundryroom, new HVAC, large corner lot

**1162 N. McNeil**, renovated by May, offered at \$55,000  
3 bedroom, 2 bath, large laundryroom, new HVAC

**899 N. Idlewild**, renovated by May, offered at \$104,000  
3 bedroom, 2 bath

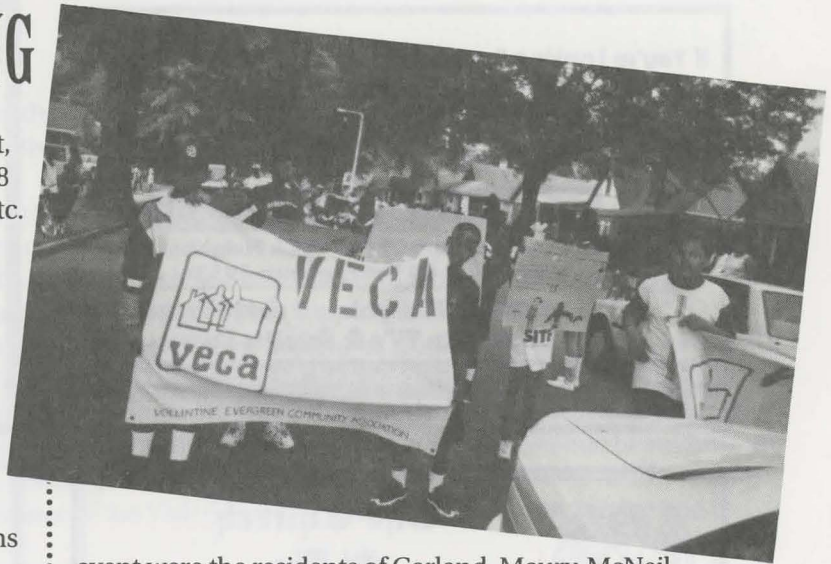
**887 Charles Place**, ready, offered at \$55,000 (sale pending)  
4 bedroom, 2 bath, laundryroom, large lot

# NOT ENOUGH OF A GOOD THING

VECA residents, VECA Board members, Friends of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community, the Police Department, and City Councilmember Ricky Peete met on May 9, 1998 to voice their disapproval of litter, graffiti, drugs, gangs, etc. in our community and to encourage responsible neighbors to stay involved and continue improving the neighborhood. The march started with a prayer and a short program at the corner of Vollintine and Garland, continued east on Vollintine, turned south on Maury, and ended with refreshments and neighborly fun at an empty lot on Maury.

Leading the parade were Brenda Lauderdale, resident of Maury and CDC homebuyer, and drill teams from Vollintine School and Klondyke School. They carried signs reading "Enough is enough, respect our community, respect yourself" Lt. William Granderson of the North Precinct's miniprecinct provided police escort and use of the speaker system. Tyrone Moore, CDC board member and participant in the Million Man March, assisted with the parade. Several Million Man March participants added a sense of dignity to the parade and security by marching in front and bringing up the rear.

Tim Heinecke, interim pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, opened the ceremony with a prayer. Mr. Peete was the guest speaker. He agreed that we have had "enough graffiti, enough drugs, enough disrespect in our community; enough is enough" As usual Mr. Peete was bold and articulate as he held the attention of our youth as well as our adults. Mrs. Holt had to speak at an earlier engagement but she arrived later to offer her support of the block clubs' efforts to set the tone of respect for their community this summer. VECA president Rick Cartwright was also on hand for inspiring words. Block club organizer Jessie Rodgers was there (with several grandchildren) to assist with the event, as were VECA staff members Ruth Gibson, Steve Lockwood, Gloria Singleton, and Mary Wilder. The real stars of the



event were the residents of Garland, Maury, McNeil, Vollintine, and Willett.

Refreshments were provided by Greg Holliman, Freddie Ferguson, and VECA, and were prepared by Maury residents and block club members. (Greg was so conscious of our cholesterol level and health that he provided turkey franks!) Marjorie Barringer, Maury resident and block club member, took time to decorate her car with crepe paper, posters and balloons. Officer Frankie Johnson worked like Mother Hubbard. She appears to be the godmother of children in the neighborhood, and made sure that many of them arrived on time by picking them up. She also presented the winners of the essay contest: Trevor Montgomery first place, Shannon Woods second place and Carl Douglass third place. VECA provided their certificates and awards of \$25, \$20, and \$10.

The parade was so successful that there has been talk of having another one next year. So you can see we haven't had enough of a good thing. Vollintine-Evergreen is a wonderful community and its residents work hard to make it a livable and safe place. Don't forget National Night Out August 4!

## NORTH AVALON EASTER EGG HUNT



The kids from the 600 - 700 Block of North Avalon enjoyed hunting Easter eggs Saturday, April 11, 1998.

### 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. Fri. Mass - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday Confession - 3:45 4:15

276-1412



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I want to thank the editor for mentioning me at the end of Carol Sheehan's article "It's not my trash" in the May 1998 issue of the *Vollintine-Evergreen News*. I have been walking the neighborhood almost daily for the past three years or so and could write volumes about things I have found, people I meet, my impressions of the neighborhood and its changes, etc. I try to walk about two miles each trip, sometimes twice a day. Considering weather, vacations, business trips, etc., I walk the equivalent of 48 weeks a year.

This started out as strictly an attempt to get some exercise but soon I found myself picking up a few things along the way. I bore easily and need to find things to keep me busy while walking. I tried keeping up with general litter for a while but couldn't carry the two grocery sacks of it I typically found on each trip. It was also very discouraging to see how much junk was tossed in the street in this generally nice neighborhood. I soon settled into picking up aluminum cans, and I quickly learned that keeping up with that was a job as well. Last year alone, I picked up more than 17,000 cans and \$50 in loose change. I get considerable help for a few people along the way who save their cans for me each week. Despite the efforts of many in Vollintine-Evergreen to keep the neighborhood clean, the persistent stream of cans and other litter reflects the location of our community and the major thoroughfares that run through it. If VECA had waste cans on every corner, we would still have trash from people who are just passing through each day. I've come to realize that if it fits out the car window, I'll eventually find it in the street.

There are, however, some locations that attract litter much more than others. The worst I have observed are in the vicinity of Evergreen and Jackson, especially the alley behind the Delta station and the stores on the south side of Jackson, as well as the row of shops on Vollintine at Avalon. Recently these areas have been getting cleaned up but they continue to attract people who leave quart beer bottles and other trash there daily. Surprisingly, these areas are as littered as the busy intersections of North Parkway and Trezevant, or Watkins and Jackson.

If I were giving awards for efforts by businesses to keep their property clean, I would include the Exxon station at North Parkway and Trezevant, and the Chief Auto Parts store at Watkins and Jackson. I don't walk many of the side streets in Vollintine-Evergreen but I am continually impressed with the cleanliness and manicured condition of Edward Avenue between McLean and Springdale. Snowden School is also much cleaner this year thanks to its janitorial staff; much of the litter there on weekends is from teams using the ballfields. Also on the brighter side are the efforts to improve the old L & N Railroad bed, now called the V & E Greenline. The general cleaning up of the Greenline and the recent installation of handsome signs make for a much more attractive area. The litter bins along the way are also helpful.

To Carol Sheehan's plea to pick up trash no matter whose it is, I would add that nothing seems to beget trash like trash itself. Once an area is perceived by passersby as dumpy, they will feel more comfortable about dumping there. It's like cleaning up a neighborhood's graffiti — the first move is to remove what's already there. Maybe I'll write again and share some particular memories ... like the Sunday morning last year when I found the new box of 38 caliber bullets. At any rate, keep cleaning up but leave a few cans for me. Thanks.

Tom Fagan

## DEREGULATION — WILL MLGW SURVIVE?

The electric industry is in the midst of dramatic changes centering on the promotion of competition and consumer choice — deregulation. The industry is comprised of three major segments: power generation, power transmission and power distribution. MLGW is a distribution utility. In today's context, deregulation does not mean the removal of regulation from all aspects of the electric industry. In fact, it focuses primarily on the removal of regulations from the generation segment and allowing power generation to be an unregulated commodity. The debate today centers around how to have a competitive market in generation and ensure that generation companies can reach markets using the transmission and distribution facilities of utilities. Deregulation is still unfolding.

MLGW is an industry leader in the deregulation of natural gas, and its experience and leadership has helped save its customers more than \$300 million in gas costs. MLGW will be just as successful in addressing the deregulation of the electric industry.

MLGW is in a position to provide Memphis with the best rates in a deregulated environment for the following reasons.

- \* MLGW's single purpose is to provide service to its customers at the lowest possible cost.

- \* MLGW has local control and decision-making over rates, revenues and benefits.

- \* MLGW has a competitive edge because of existing low rates.

- \* MLGW owns a distribution system that will not likely be duplicated; therefore, it will also be able to collect fees for services provided to other marketers.

- \* MLGW is working with legislators to shape legislation in order to remain competitive.

- \* Successful competition attracts businesses and offers more employment and a pleasing place to live.

**VECA NEEDS MEMBERS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Evening: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**I'M INTERESTED IN:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Club                | <input type="checkbox"/> V&E Greenline       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Home Tours       | <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Team & Youth  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement          | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Writing  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Revitalization | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer (general) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenways                 |  |

**MEMBERSHIP  
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705. N. BELVEDERE  
MEMPHIS, TN  
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 \$35 dues, **Gold Star Heritage** members receive their choice of bumper sticker and the Historic Designation Plaque.

Bumper Sticker A



Bumper Sticker B



Historic Designation Plaque

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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, Trezevant 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.