

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXV, Number 3

MAY 1999

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.



Old Home Expo & Trade Show	May 22-23 (Snowden School)
Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 10, 6:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. (Rhodes College)
Block Club Neighbor Fest	September 18 (St. Theresa Little Flower Church)
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 24, 2000 TBA
VECA Board	first Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC Board	fourth Saturday monthly, 9:00 a.m.
Historic Committee	second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
Block Club Committee	first Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Code Enforcement Committee	first Saturday of even months, 9:00 a.m.
V&E Greenline Committee	third Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
Cypress Creek Beautification Committee	third Tuesday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Managing Committee	first Wednesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Budget & Finance Committee	third Tuesday monthly, 7:30 a.m.
Housing Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Commercial Revitalization Committee	second Thursday monthly, noon, Dino's
Youth Committee	
VENews deadlines:	June 4, August 6, October 1, December 3
VECA Board	May 3, 7:00 p.m.
VECA Board	June 7, 7:00 p.m.
VECA Board	July 5, 7:00 p.m.
CDC Board	May 22, 9:00 a.m.
CDC Board	June 26, 9:00 a.m.
CDC Board	July 24, 9:00 a.m.



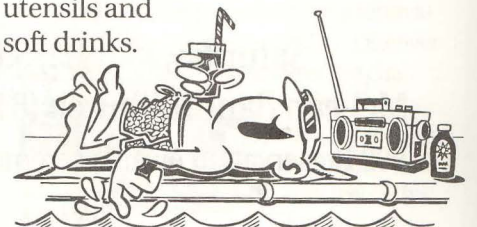
HOME RENOVATION TOUR & TRADESHOW

MAY 22-23

see page 2 for details

POTLUCK SUPPER AND POOL PARTY

Mark your calendars, and join many of your neighbors for great food and water fun on Saturday, July 10, at the Rhodes College pool. The potluck supper will start at 6:00 p.m. and the pool will open to us at 7:00 p.m. 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.



HOME RENOVATION TOUR & TRADESHOW MAY 22-23

This year the Vollintine Evergreen National Historic District will be the site of Memphis' first Old Home Expo, May 22-23. The Historic District's Home Tour will be a highlight of the weekend, with five houses open on Saturday and one of them (899 Idlewild Street) open Saturday and Sunday. Once again, there will be a trolley to take visitors from house to house. The Expo will also include a renovation trade show at the Snowden School gymnasium (on McLean just north of North Parkway), with vendors of products such as floor coverings, wall coverings, wood repair, doors, counters, cabinets, stained glass, and even clay-tile roofing. Tips and tricks will be provided for skills such as faux finishing and repairing sash cords in windows, while information on mortgages and home improvement loans for historic houses will help owners and prospective owners get started. Tickets will be \$7 for the whole weekend of activities and are available at the VECA office (1680 Jackson Avenue), Otherlands, Burke's Bookstore, Deliberate Literate Bookstore, and Memphis Heritage.



**Thursday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.,
McLean Baptist Church (815 N. McLean):**

Wilbert Hasbrouck, Chicago architect and preservationist, on "Forty Years in the Arena: Twentieth-Century Restoration"

**Friday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.,
Otherlands Coffee Bar (641 S. Cooper):**
Opening of photo exhibit "Memphis: Then and Now"
(free)

**Saturday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.,
Vollintine Evergreen Historic District:**
Old Home Expo home tours

**Saturday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
and Sunday, May 23, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.,
Snowden School gymnasium
(McLean just north of North Parkway):**
Trade Show and "how-to" demonstrations

**Saturday, May 22, 5:00 p.m.,
McLean Baptist Church (815 N. McLean):**
1999 Preservation Awards ceremony and reception
(free)

Vollintine Evergreen Historic District Home Tour

Illustrations of homes by Dottie Sachritz



1877 Crump Avenue

In the 16 years Margaret and Bob Leggett have lived in their 1922 Craftsman bungalow, they have basically rebuilt it. Their first building venture was converting a porch into an L-shaped addition housing a laundry room. In 1996, after ten years of dreaming and 20,000 drawings, their 1000 square foot addition was born.

An arch echoing the one from the living room to dining room leads the eye and the visitor into the large, light-filled den that looks out onto the backyard patio. A brick wall painted white is a reminder of where the house once stopped. Stairs lead to a large upstairs bedroom with enough room to house Bob's childhood train set and a great view of the backyard filled with native plants. A bump out in the roof line was added to accommodate the large windows.

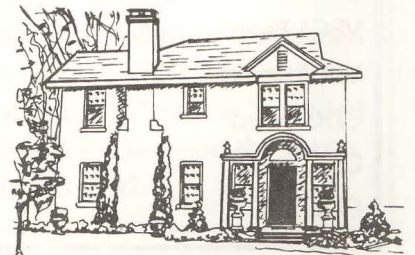
The space under the stairs is an integral part of the new downstairs bathroom. Cutouts along the stair line house towels and baskets. The tile shower with seat is built under and into the angle of the stairs. A glass block inset provides needed light.

The patio is reached through french doors from the den and is the stepping stone to a large native plant garden that includes paths and a pond. All types of blooming plants provide color and texture. The garden was formed on land reclaimed when the railroad abandoned the railbed. This railbed is now the V&E Greenline, a Tennessee designated historic greenway maintained by volunteers from the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood.

A landscape architect, Margaret designed the addition and drew the plans herself. Doing it herself is the norm for Margaret who laid the patio when she was eight months pregnant, with bricks that Bob found in the backyard by digging out old grass covered paths. At the back of the garden is a playhouse she copied from a ruin and built with the help of their two children.

1906 Jackson Avenue

Renovation challenges, large and small, abounded in the unusual 1922 English Tudor home of Vince Fayette and



Perry Uffelman. It is difficult to imagine this elegant home with termite damage, gouges and stains in the plaster walls, and exposed bathroom plumbing. The home's previous owner completed much of the major structural work. The changes start with the front porch. A small concrete stoop was replaced with a slightly larger porch and a rounded portico with finials that echoes the shape of the front door. New curving beds, flower urns and accent lighting highlight the front entry.

The large kitchen with melon walls and white cabinets was once three small rooms. Cabinets, counters and flooring are all new. The kitchen leads into the breakfast room, which is all original. One of the interesting features of the renovation is how it fits into the existing space. Taupe walls and white trim tie the entire house together.

Upstairs, two of the bedrooms and a bath have been turned into a bedroom/sitting room. Doors opened from each of the bedrooms into the bathroom. One door was closed, leaving access from the sitting room only. The wall between the two bedrooms was removed and an arch added to connect the two rooms.

Details provide the finishing touch to the renovations and make the house special. The owners added flat decorative molding to the tile and wood fireplace surround. Molding and finials were added to the staircase. Original details include a tiled niche for the radiator in the bathroom and the original wooden medicine cabinet and bathroom cabinets.

1900 Jackson Avenue

Renovations should be undertaken for function but done with style. That is certainly the case in the 1928 Tudor cottage home of Chuck Dille and Randall Paxton. Chuck, an architect, believes almost all floor plans

can be improved and the renovation should be seamless, virtually undetectable from the original home. The core of the house — living room, dining room, library and sunroom — now flows together, rather than being four separate rooms. Doors that opened into the core and took space were removed, further enhancing the flow and open character of the core. The wall between the living room and dining room was removed completely and the wall into the library was turned into a large open arch, echoing the one leading from the foyer to the living room.



The melding of form and function can be seen dramatically in the changes to the hall. A long straight hall originally led from the living room to the back bedroom. The lowering of the hall ceiling to accommodate the heating system ductwork was the impetus for the hall's transformation into an art gallery. The hall now leads from the library instead of the living room and takes a turn, allowing the viewer to experience each piece of art separately without competition from multiple pieces. For symmetry and ease in entertaining, a doorway into the core was changed to a cased entrance with the door removed and a paired cased entrance also open to the core was added. The last five feet of the hall, with a cedar closet, became the vestibule of the back bedroom, further changing the hall's original proportions.

The kitchen and bathrooms are further examples of enhancing rather than re-doing. In the kitchen, new flooring and counters complement the original metal cabinets that were painted a deep green and updated with new hardware. In the bathrooms, the original tile and fixtures remain, preserving the original character of the house.

The blending of lovely form and useful function is evident everywhere in the home, not just in the major renovations. In the kitchen entryway, a breaker box becomes a shelf for glasses. Shelves nestle above doorways, providing storage and decoration. In the basement broom closet/laundry room/studio, cinder blocks and 2x4s have been fashioned into sleek and sturdy work spaces that will make you forget all those college apartment bookshelves and send you home to start measuring your own work space.

862 Kensington Place

Steve Gadbois faced three of the most common renovating tasks in his 1927 Tudor cottage: kitchen, attic and second bathroom. The old kitchen (which he describes as "the worst in midtown") had two windows and five doors, all in the wrong places. There was so little counter space that a microwave took up half. The new kitchen has three doors and two big bay windows as well as a regular window. Quarry tile replaced the old linoleum floor, and the shelves in the bay windows are tiled to

match. The door from the dining room has been moved so that there is no sight line from the living room straight through the dining room into the kitchen. In the back yard, steps and a small concrete porch, now a setting for plants, mark where the back door was. A focal point of the kitchen is a Hoosier cabinet, which, formerly covered with green paint and in pieces, was a "present" from a departing neighbor.

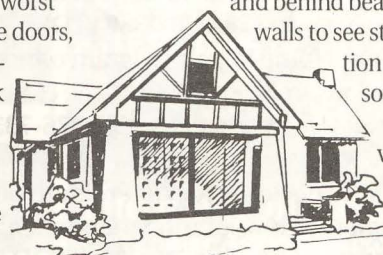
Some of the tongue and groove pine paneling of the attic had to be removed to add insulation. Then dormered skylights were added to give needed light; matching stained glass panels hang in front of them. Instead of a separate cooling system, a second thermostat and an auxiliary blower in the ductwork bring up cooler air from the downstairs when the attic temperature rises.

The upstairs bathroom is definitely not your usual Midtown bathroom. Tucked under the eaves, its angles are accented with wood and a peaked, custom-built window. A redwood surround encloses the jacuzzi tub. There's also a shower, a weight bench and an aquarium with stool (a favorite vantage point for the cats).

Much of Steve's renovation has definitely been hands-on. Except for the rough plumbing and sprayed ceiling, Steve did all the work on the upstairs bathroom. He also built the long low bookcases that line the short wall under the eaves. In building his deck, which leads off the newly-placed backdoor, Steve built the frame free-standing (so it could more easily be squared and leveled), moved it into position, dug the postholes, and dropped it into place.

899 Idlewild Street

If you have ever wanted to see a renovation from the ground up, this is your chance. This Tudor cottage is currently owned by the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Development Corporation. The interior, completely destroyed by a fire, is being renovated to look and feel like the original 1929 house but with all the newest amenities. Floors and walls are being installed, and visitors can look below and behind beams, joists, and



walls to see structural renovation details. Discover some of the challenges of renovating to recapture the historic look and feel of this historic home.

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Dispose properly of dangerous and toxic materials on Saturday, May 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., next to the Children's Museum at Hollywood and Central. Acceptable materials include paints, paint thinners, oil, car batteries, pesticides, herbicides, wood preservatives, and household cleaners. Up to 100 pounds of household waste per household is allowed. There is no cost, and the benefits to our environment are real! If you have questions, call the Shelby County Environmental Improvement Commission at 387-5707.



CALLING ALL SENIORS

Do you remember the days when neighbors would sit on their front porches and look out for one another? Do you miss baking goods for neighbors who feel under the weather? If so, VECA needs your help in initiating a program for seniors. We're looking for a few good ideas for starting a senior outreach program in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. If you're interested in planning, volunteering, or participating in a senior outreach program, please call Beulah Green or Kristen Fitzpatrick at the VECA office at 276-1782.

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Memphis and Shelby County offer various programs to aid qualifying homeowners with certain needs.

The county's Lead Inspection Program is offered for those whose houses are painted with lead-based paint. To qualify, there must be children under age seven living with you, you must be low-income (with total annual household income ranging from \$31,100 for 2 people to \$51,300 for 8 people), and your ZIPcode must be in the working area. Call 387-5700 for more information.

The city's Weatherization Program helps homeowners ensure that their houses (especially windows) are well-insulated. To find out if you qualify, provide proof of income and a deed of trust for your house. Call 278-3557 for more information.

The city's Housing and Rehabilitation Program (H.A.R.P.) offers financial and construction assistance to low- or moderate-income homeowners living in targeted areas to make repairs, including roofing, electrical, plumbing, painting, and interior finish work. Call 576-7330 (TDD 576-7422) for more information.

The city's Minor Home Repair Program offers assistance in a variety of minor home repairs to low- or moderate-income elderly or disabled homeowners not living in the H.A.R.P. targeted areas. Call 576-7330 (TDD 576-7422) for more information.

The city's Volunteer Home Repair Program offers assistance in a variety of minor home repairs to low- or moderate-income elderly or disabled homeowners, using volunteer labor. Call 576-7330 (TDD 576-7422) for more information.

VECA YOUTH CORPS

This year marks the second for the VECA Youth Corps, and a full slate of activities are planned.

April 15, 6:30 p.m.:
reception and orientation

April 17, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.:
Hands on Memphis Servathon

May 8, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.:
leadership tour and training day

June 8, 3:30 p.m.:
hunger and homelessness project

June 21-25, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.:
Future Builders camp
(at Rhodes College)

July 10, 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.:
VECA potluck supper
and pool party

August to November:
monthly VECA Youth Corps
community projects

Look for a list of participants and a full report later this year.

VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN

N E W S

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CYPRESS CREEK WALK-THROUGH

by Emily Passini

On Tuesday February 16, 1999, members of the Cypress Creek Beautification Committee hosted a public walk-through with city and state representatives from Public Works, the Parks Commission, the City Beautiful Commission, the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The purpose of the walk-through was to inform the officials of the chronic problem of dumping along the creek and floodplain area. Following a short introduction to the Cypress Creek project from intern Emily Passini at the VECA office, officials drove to the floodplain entrance at Evergreen and Merchant Streets. Rhodes College Urban Studies student and former VECA intern Trent Pingnot discussed routine maintenance problems at the Cypress Creek bike path as well as the main safety concerns, worn fences and overgrown bushes and weeds. Stonewall resident and Cypress Creek Committee member Scott Banbury discussed issues relevant to the floodplain maintenance and future recreation possibilities.

The walk-through was a great success, and it seems to have forged new relationships between public officials and the community. Anyone interested in participating with the Cypress Creek Beautification Committee should call the VECA office or attend our meetings the third Tuesday of each month.

YARD SALE
Saturday May 22
10am - 2pm

**McLean at the
 Greenline**

*Proceeds go to the
 Upkeep of the
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 Greenline committee
 members or contact
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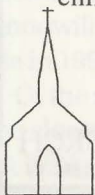
VECA still has Historic Designation plaques available starting at \$25.

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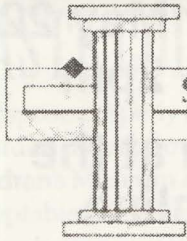


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NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Students at Northside High School have had a productive and busy year, as the following achievements suggest.

Tiffany Maxwell spent two weeks of April in Morocco as representative of Northside for Memphis in May.

Twelfth grade National Honor Society art student Roman Stewart was awarded an "Africa in April" honor scholarship in February.

The Chess Team won second place in the 33rd John Hurt City Chess High School Tournament on February 20. Team members are Quincy Taylor, Marcus Minor, Terrell Rutherford, and Ricky Batts.

The JROTC Rifle Team recently completed an undefeated season and took first place in the JROTC Brigade Marksmanship Championship. Team members are Geoffrey Ballard, LaQuita Collins, Kentrell Douglas, Ira Lott, Mario Morris, and Earnestine Steverson.

Northside students took home quite a few awards from the Business Professionals of America regional competition on February 8: Kenetria Young, 2nd place in banking concepts; Tori James and Shaunta Johnson, 2nd and 3rd place in business editing and proofreading; Tiffany Maxwell and Shaunta Johnson, 2nd and 3rd place in parliamentary procedures; and Tiesha Mallory, 4th place in financial specialist.

THE MAY 1999 NORTHSIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

May 1: Senior Prom (at the Peabody Hotel)

May 14: Athletic Awards

May 19-20: Senior Exams

May 23, 3:00 p.m.: Baccalaureate (at Bethlehem Church)

May 24-28: Senior Week

May 29, 11:00 a.m.: Graduation (at the Mid-South Coliseum)

VECA ARTIST'S SHOW

Dottie Sachritz is one of six Memphis artists who will be exhibiting their work at Theater Memphis from May 17 to June 6. A reception will be held on Friday, May 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

DENEUVILLE LEARNING CENTER FOR WOMEN ENDS FIRST YEAR AND EXPANDS

The DeNeuille Learning Center for Women at 840 Dickinson Street celebrated its first anniversary on April 13, 1999. The Center continues to be a place for women who have limited resources to learn sewing, computer skills, resume preparation, interview skills, business etiquette, parenting, health skills, and self-esteem, and to prepare for the General Educational Development (GED) Test.

As the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, staff, and volunteers take pride in serving women who strive to make a difference in their lives, they now extend their services to another neighborhood by opening the DeNeuille Extension at Holy Names Church at 697 Keel Avenue. Child care and transportation to and from the Center can be arranged.

For more information, call the Center at 726-5902 weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

MEMPHIS GOODWILL INDUSTRIES: "NOT A CHARITY BUT A CHANCE"

Isn't Goodwill known for its thrift stores and donated goods programs? Yes, but those programs exist to fund their bigger responsibility — helping disabled and disadvantaged people find jobs and providing them job skills training. The ultimate goal of Memphis Goodwill Industries is to see disabled individuals begin proud, new lives of independence and help them maximize their individual potential. From its start with Boston pastor Edgar J. Helms, Goodwill has grown into a global network that served more than 130,655 people in 1997.

Of the several donation centers and store locations in the Memphis area, the closest to Vollintine-Evergreen are at 2605 Chelsea, 574 South Highland (at Walker), and 792 North White Station (at Summer and I-240).

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
- Historic Home Tours
- Housing
- Code Enforcement
- Commercial Revitalization
- Greenways
- V&E Greenline
- Youth
- Newsletter Delivery
- Newsletter Writing
- Volunteer (general)

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$10 OR \$35 PER YEAR
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PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:

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