

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXV, Number 5

SEPTEMBER 1999

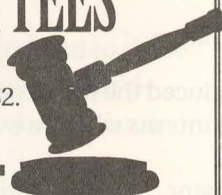


BLOCK CLUB FALL FESTIVAL

Hurry! Hurry!! Hurry!!! Come one and all and enjoy the festivities and friendship at the VECA Block Club Fall Festival on Saturday, September 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Saint Therese Little Flower Church (1644 Jackson Avenue, next to the VECA office). We'll have a festive time enjoying barbecue, snow cones, cotton candy, and other fun foods. There will be games, entertainment, and vendors selling crafts. Don't miss it! Rain date is October 2.

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.



Block Club Fall Festival	September 25 (St. Theresa Little Flower Church)
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 24, 2000 TBA
Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 8, 2000 (tentative)
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	October 1, December 3
VENews deadlines:	September 13, 7:00 p.m.
VECA Board	October 4, 7:00 p.m. November 1, 7:00 p.m.
CDC Board	September 25, 9:00 a.m. October 23, 9:00 a.m. November 27, 9:00 a.m.

FIRST ANNUAL VOLLINTINE- EVERGREEN 5K WALK/RUN

On September 25, VECA will be hosting the first annual Vollintine-Evergreen 5K Walk/Run. The event begins at 8:00 a.m. and will benefit the programs of VECA and VECA CDC. This non-competitive walk/run will begin at the VECA office (1680 Jackson Avenue) and loop around the V&E Greenline and the Cypress Creek Bike Trail. For an entry fee of \$15, walkers/runners will receive a 5K T-shirt and a goodie bag, and a donation to their favorite VECA program. Participants will be able to designate their donation for the following programs: Cypress Creek Beautification, V&E Greenline, Block Clubs, Historic Preservation, Code Enforcement, Housing Rehabilitation, Commercial Revitalization, YouthCorps, Housing Counseling, or the VECA General Fund. There will also be a drawing for prizes at the end of the race. Make it an all-day event by attending the Fall Festival sponsored by VECA Block Clubs next door at Saint Therese Little Flower Church.



Preregister by September 9 to guarantee receiving your 5K T-shirt. Registration on the day of the event is \$20. For more information or to sign up, call Kristen or Emily at 276-1782. We are encouraging corporate sponsorships to help make this a successful event.

VECA NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Gary Gilbert

There have been some exciting developments for VECA since the last issue of the newsletter.

Our Commercial Revitalization program is the recipient of a donated commercial strip on Watkins at Brown, near the "Watkins Village" housing redevelopment in the northwest quadrant of our neighborhood. This donation gives us the opportunity to show what a neighborhood-based organization can do to revitalize business facilities and develop new businesses for the neighborhood. Make sure to look for future articles on this exciting development. We are calling the donated business strip "Watkins Square".

We also just received notice that VECA has been selected by the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center to receive a Community Peacemaker Award in the category of Neighborhood Solidarity. The awards dinner will be on Saturday, October 16 at CBU. Call the VECA office if you would like to join the VECA group at the dinner.

MEET THE STAFF (PART 2)

by Gary Gilbert

In the last issue of the newsletter I introduced the full-time staff. In this article I will introduce the part-time staff and the interns who are essential to VECA's programs.

Gloria Fulton is our Block Club Coordinator. You see Gloria's winning smile as she works her magic to bring people together for many of the neighborhood's celebrations. You may even remember her as the fortune teller at last year's Block Club Festival. Gloria is always striving to help us work together more effectively as neighbors. Wilma Vandermeer is our Financial Manager and makes sure that our financial records are in order. Wilma is a CPA and was the Financial Manager for Habitat for Humanity for four years. Beulah Green is the person who answers the phone with the friendly "This is VECA-How may I help you?" Mrs. Green has been with us for two years as a VISTA volunteer. She pitches in and helps with the work of the office and provides us with her wisdom. Belinda Kersch, a resident and activist in the Brown and Howell neighborhood, is our Community Organizer for the Brown and Howell redevelopment project. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious. Emily Passini has been one of our important interns. She is a Rhodes College graduate in Urban Studies with a passion for environmental justice. She successfully wrote a grant to the EPA for \$20,000 to review the pollution status of Cypress Creek and she has coordinated the Cypress Creek program and helped with other VECA activities. We will miss Emily as she moves on to coordinate the recycling program for the City of Memphis. Sean Fegette is an Architecture major at University of Memphis. Sean helps in the VECA housing program and wherever else he can in the neighborhood — his knowledge and skills have been invaluable. LaTina Jones has been our Economic Revitalization summer intern. We will miss LaTina as she returns this fall to Clark Atlanta University to continue her studies in Business Administration Management.

Make sure to drop by the office to say hello and thanks to these hard working, talented team members of the VECA neighborhood.

VECA WEB SITE

VECA now has a web site, thanks to Emily Passini and others. Check out www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca frequently, and let us know what you think! The bimonthly Vollintine-Evergreen News can't always keep up with fast-breaking news, but the web site can.

VECA & VECA CDC STAFF

Sean Fegette,
Architectural Housing Intern

Kristen Fitzpatrick,
Volunteer Coordinator

Gloria Fulton,
Block Club Organizer

Ruth Gibson,
Homeowner Counselor and
Office Manager

Gary Gilbert,
Executive Director

Beulah Green,
VISTA Volunteer

Belinda Kersch,
Brown & Howell
Community Organizer

Daryl Lewis,
Neighborhood Preservationist

Steve Shipp,
Economic Developer

Wilma Vandermeer,
Financial Manager

VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN N E W S

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Coordinating Editor Steve Gadbois

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Graphic Designer Sherry Henson

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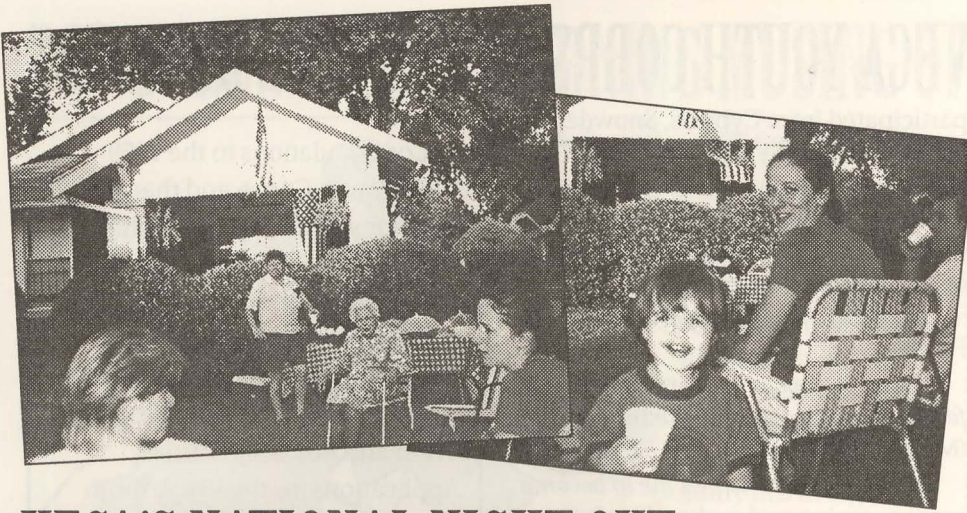
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REUNION

Remember Chelsea Avenue Presbyterian Church? Speedway Drug Store? Roxy or Rosemary "Picture Shows"? Back in the 40s and 50s we gathered at these and other places to share good times and bad.

Too much time has passed. Let's gather again at the Overton Park pavilion on Saturday, October 9. Someone will be there as early as 7 a.m. Call your old friends and tell them about this reunion. Collect any pictures you may have and meet with us. Be sure to bring food, drinks, lawn chairs, blankets, and a camera.

For more information, call Charles Hogan at 393-1192 or Jo Ann (Doty) Burns at 393-9551 (joabu@hotmail.com).

UT-MEMPHIS STUDIES

The Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Tennessee, Memphis is conducting two studies that may benefit eligible volunteers. There is no cost to participate in either study.

The first study is on the effect of the nicotine patch in helping pregnant women quit smoking. Cigarette smoking has been shown to adversely affect pregnancy, resulting in slower fetal growth, increased miscarriages, higher rates of early delivery, and problems with bleeding. Participants in the study will receive free help with quitting smoking.

The second study compares the effects of dietary soy isoflavones on menopausal health, chronic disease risk factors, and quality of life in postmenopausal women. Women living in countries where substantial amounts of soy are consumed have lower rates of coronary heart disease, fractures, certain cancers, and adverse menopausal symptoms, but a clinical study is needed to rule out factors other than soy consumption.

To volunteer or to find out more, call the Recruitment Department at (901)448-8400 or Beverly Goodwin Sousoulas at (901)448-4280.

VECA'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

by Helen Johnson

The Evergreen Block Club held a star-spangled celebration on August 3, National Night Out, at 726 N. Evergreen. The flags waving in the light breeze on the star-lit night were symbolic of our midtown neighborhood's commitment to neighbors, community, and country.

Sixteen neighbors gathered for refreshments and conversation and to share their views, with the goal of continuing to improve our little section of midtown. There were also visits by police officers and the Neighborhood Watch coordinator.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MILLENNIAL MEMPHIS

The volunteers on the Greenline Committee continue to find outside funding to support our V&E Greenline. Last year it was state funding for a tractor and associated equipment. This year the Greenline Committee is recipient of the fifth \$1000 "Making a Difference in Millennial Memphis" grant, funded by an anonymous Memphis donor. As reported in the July 1-7, 1999 *Memphis Flyer*, VECA "purchased a 1.7 mile stretch of land that was abandoned by the L&N Railroad and was being used as a dump. Volunteers transformed the area into biking and walking paths. Currently, Greenway users have to go around Lick Creek and West Creek to cover the entire area. The grant will be used to buy supplies for the first of two bridges that will span the creeks." *The Memphis Flyer* tribute is appreciated. It is yet another example of why the VECA name is so well known and respected throughout the city of Memphis.

If you haven't checked out our Greenline lately, do so! Improvements are beginning to show in other Vollintine-Evergreen greenspaces as well, such as Cypress Creek and its bike path. Volunteer and you'll have even more reason to enjoy these resources.

SECOND YEAR OF THE VECA YOUTH CORPS AND FUTURE BUILDERS

1999 marks the second year of the VECA Youth Corps and "Future Builders" camp, held June 21-25 at Rhodes College. In addition to the summer camp, the VECA Youth Corps is active year round in service and leadership activities. Since the program was initiated in April 1998, corpsmembers have cooked meals in a local soup kitchen, visited MIFA and the Church Health Center, interviewed VECA and other community leaders, helped clear the Cypress Creek bike path, and volunteered with MIFA Handyman, Estival Communities, and Hands-On Memphis. Spearheading the VECA Youth Corps are Rhodes chaplain and Vollintine-Evergreen resident Billy Newton and Rhodes students Ebony Woods and Tammie Tomlinson, with help from VECA staff and volunteers.

The Future Builders camp is the high point of the Youth Corps summer, and combines Vollintine-Evergreen youth with junior high students from other parts of the city in an intensive week of service, leadership, and diversity. The camp intentionally mixes students from different backgrounds and races, and includes creative expression through the arts, adventure games, team-building, and group service projects. The 1999 camp was directed by Robbie McQuiston and the Bridge Builders staff, and jointly sponsored by Bridges, Inc., VECA, Rhodes Kinney Program and Bonner Scholars, and the Memphis Arts Council. Thirty-two youth

participated from Cypress, Snowden, St. Agnes, St. Mary's, and Memphis University School.

Here is some of what the students themselves said about the importance of the Future Builders camp:

Every ship needs a leader. (Precious Fields)

I loved getting to know people of different races, and working with them. (Martha Furguson)

Future Builders helped me to become more outgoing and make a lot of new friends. (Piper Gray)

There are so many obstacles that you might face in life. Future Builders teaches you how to work with others as both a leader and a follower. (Lucy Harris)

It rocks! (Kenya Henderson)

Future Builders was great because I met and understood people I normally wouldn't. (Elizabeth Matthews)

To lead is to serve. (Laine Peeler)

I liked it because it taught me to help in the community and it helped me work as a team. (Joseph Robinson)

It is something that everyone should try. It is a very good experience. (Supriya Sarkar)

Getting to know people of different races and helping other people. (Elizabeth Stevenson)

Future Builders will let people know that, yes, you are someone - a leader! (Jessica Taylor)

Getting to know people. (Danyell Thompson)

Congratulations to the 1999 VECA Youth Corps, and thank you for your service and leadership! Watch for these active corpsmembers as they continue this fall with monthly projects. Second year Youth Corps members are marked with * and serve on the Leadership Team and Advisory Council. Applications for the VECA Youth Corps Year 2000 will be available in January.

Willie (Trey) Brooks*

Portia (PJ) Brown*

Jared Burress*

Justin Chandler

John Collins

Precious Fields

Sarah Flores*

Karey Franklin

Kenya Henderson

Andrea McCray

Adrian McKay

Brittany Marshall

Andre Mathews

Brandon Owens

Brittni Sharp

Jessica Taylor

Danyell Thompson*

Carlos Tidwell

Tiffany Wright

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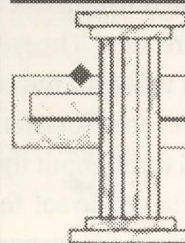
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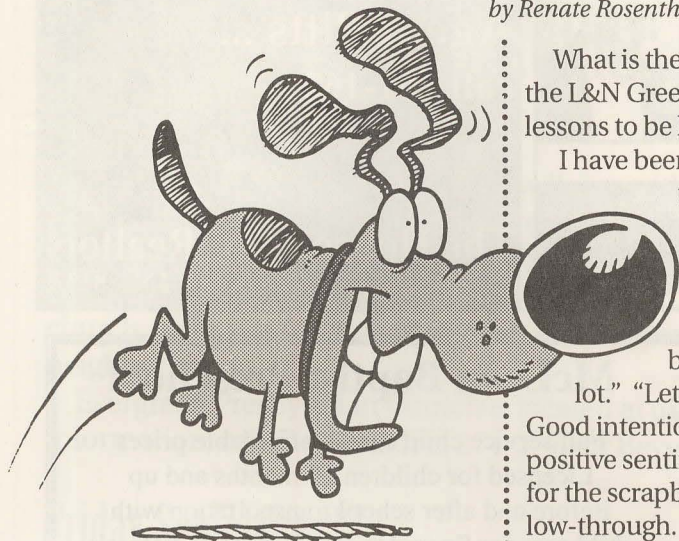
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GREENSPACES: MORNING MUSING OF A DOG WALKER

by Renate Rosenthal (L&N Greenline Committee)



We had a slight break in the heat this morning and my big dog Zeus and I decided we were overdue for a long sunrise walk. We struck out and entered the L&N Greenline at its east end at Springdale, the sun to our backs. The surface we walked on was freshly mowed and wide enough so we did not brush against any poison ivy, important for people like me who are highly allergic to this wicked vine!

We walked through the shady tunnel of vegetation of the "Springs" section, crossed Jackson and University, and traversed the canyon of the "Cut" section. I admired the flowers planted by the Brownies and their Moms on McLean and Mignon and crossed over to the "Arbors and Gardens" to the West. What a wonderful sight. In spite of heat and drought, there were flowers in full bloom, young trees, green and lush, an herb garden, mulch bins and other evidence of horticultural dedication by neighbors. They started to work on what used to be an abandoned barren no-man's land long before the Greenline had become a neighborhood amenity. They did this just because they wanted to and because they believed in making things beautiful.

What is the secret of the success of the L&N Greenline? Are there any lessons to be learned?

I have been part of other community efforts in other places. Fits-and-starts "feel-good" projects: "Let's all get together and plant trees." "Let's all beautify this overgrown lot." "Let's have a litter campaign."

Good intentions, a flurry of activity, positive sentiment all around. Photos for the scrapbook. And then, no follow-through. Trees dying in the heat, shrubs wilting, weeds and litter taking over once again. Nobody wanted to commit to the maintenance part. That is the part that's not glamorous. In fact, it is very tedious, let's face it. Carrying water to trees and shrubs in times of drought. Mowing and edging and wielding weed eaters and chain saws. Picking up other people's trash. We all have our hands full with our own lives (and yards).

And yet, somehow a group of VECA volunteers has been able to pull this off and muster the staying-power it takes to make this thing work. To make a maintenance schedule and abide by it. To organize clean-up parties using whatever volunteer manpower they could find. To raise funds for maintenance, in campaigns ranging from rummage sales and picture-taking sessions on the VECA tractor to exhorting the neighbors to help financially if they could not help with sweat equity. Most important, however, was the week-to-week commitment of mowing and the month-to-month commitment of meeting as a committee, deciding what needed to be done, and getting it done.

VECA lent generous support to this effort by providing the funding and the legal help which made it possible to acquire the abandoned track space

from the L&N railroad in the first place. And VECA has continued to support the effort through its helpful staff and by letting the Committee use the office as a meeting place. It is good to have a regular time and place to make decisions. Without the sustained and unwavering dedication of the volunteers who maintain the property, however, this could have turned into yet another fits-and-starts "feel-good" project.

There are more green spaces in this neighborhood which have the potential to become lovely amenities. Look around where you live and pick a place that needs attention. Even a small place will do. Most good things start small. Form a committee that meets regularly and find people who have staying power, who will stick with it past the "feel-good" phase into the maintenance phase. That's the kicker. The VECA staff will facilitate things once there are volunteers to talk to.

The L&N Greenline Committee has its hands full with planning for and maintaining that green space. Once you walk its entire length, you will see why. All the volunteers have day jobs and other obligations but are still glad to serve as "consultants" for any group that wants to embark on a project of their own.

For readers whose yards adjoin the L&N Greenline, please remember that the land beyond your fence is VECA property. There's no problem with you dumping leaves and small yard debris over your fence in the wooded areas, for this will actually enrich the soil. But large limbs and building debris must be taken to the curb. Please contact the VECA office if you have any major plans or ideas for changes which involve the land beyond your fence. Most importantly, do not cut down any trees on the Greenline property.

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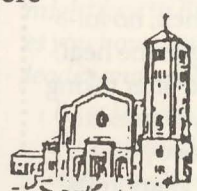
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EVERGREEN CHURCH HOSTS “CLANJAMFRY: A SCOTTISH FESTIVAL”

by Beverly Cruthirds

The streets of midtown Memphis will ring with the sounds of bagpipes the weekend of September 17-19, as Evergreen Presbyterian Church presents its first “Clanjamfry: A Scottish Festival”. Clanjamfry is a Scottish word meaning “a rowdy, festive gathering”; the three goals of Evergreen’s event are to explore and share the rich Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian church stemming from the Reformation, serve as an outreach of the church, and raise funds for Evergreen’s recreation programs that serve many in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood.

Evergreen Presbyterian Church is located at 613 University Street, across from Rhodes College. For further information, call the Church at 274-3740 or Beverly Cruthirds at 458-0715.

Friday, September 17

Edmund Orgill Golf Course in Millington
Golf Scramble (kilts optional but encouraged!)
\$45 (in advance)

Friday, September 17, 8pm

Bryan Campus Life Center at Rhodes College
“Ceilidh” (a sort of Scottish talent show)
\$3 suggested donation

Saturday, September 18, 10am-4pm

Evergreen Presbyterian Church front lawn
“Faire” (food, Scottish vendors, bagpipe music,
sheep herding, caber tossing)
\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children 5-12,
free children under 5

Saturday, September 18, 7pm

Evergreen Presbyterian Church sanctuary
Concert by Scottish singer Ed Miller
\$8 adults, \$4 children

Sunday, September 19, 11am

Evergreen Presbyterian Church sanctuary
Church service: Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans



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Address _____ Zip _____

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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.