

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXVI, Number 2

MARCH 2000



V&E GREENLINE: MARCH IS CONTRIBUTION MONTH

by Renate Rosenthal

This past year has been another good one for our "linear urban sanctuary" known as the V&E Greenline, the abandoned railroad track which was purchased by the VECA neighborhood.

It has never looked better. Who would believe that it was a piece of neglected, overgrown, trash-ridden no-man's land

not too long ago? With the anticipated addition of a small bridge over Lick Creek, this recreational path will extend from Springdale to Watkins without interruption.

Maintenance and upkeep is provided exclusively by a group of dedicated neighborhood volunteers. But there are ongoing expenses such as repair of equipment, replacement of tools, servicing the tractor

and the mowers, fuel, etc. In addition, funds are needed for planting more trees, shrubs, and flowers, for erosion control, and for the never-ending struggle against kudzu. The Lick Creek bridge will significantly increase expenses this year.

During the month of March, you will see signs at the entrances to the Greenline, reminding you that "Upkeep costs money — March is contribution month."

Please support this beautiful neighborhood amenity by making a tax-deductible donation to VECA CDC, 1680 Jackson Avenue, Memphis TN 38107, earmarked for the V&E Greenline. No amount is too small.

We need more volunteers! If you would like to get involved, come to a V&E Greenline meeting (normally the third Monday of each month) or contact the VECA office.

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 Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting
Potluck Supper & Pool Party
Block Club Fall Festival
VECA Board
VECA CDC Board
Historic Committee

Block Club Committee
Code Enforcement Committee
V&E Greenline Committee
Cypress Creek Beautification Committee
Managing Committee

Housing Committee
Commercial Revitalization Committee
Youth Committee
VENews deadlines:

VECA Board

CDC Board

January 22, 2001 (*tentative*)
July 8, 2000 (*tentative*)
fall, 2000 TBA
first Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
fourth Saturday monthly, 9:00 a.m.
second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
(*call office for location*)
first Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
first Saturday monthly, 9:00 a.m.
third Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
third Tuesday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday before third Saturday
monthly, 7:30 a.m.
second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
second Thursday monthly, noon

April 7, June 2, August 4,
October 6, December 1
March 6, 7:00 p.m., April 3, 7:00 p.m.
May 1, 7:00 p.m.
March 25, 9:00 a.m., April 22, 9:00 a.m.,
May 27, 9:00 a.m.

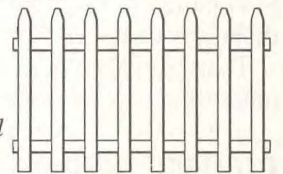
FENCES

by Renate Rosenthal

Good fences make good neighbors. Good fences make secure back yards. Secure back yards discourage petty thieves and intruders.

We were delighted to hear at the recent VECA general membership meeting that there has been a significant decrease in crime in the neighborhood. We still have our share of intruders, though — opportunistic criminals who strike where there is easy access and quick get-away. Inadequate fences are an open invitation.

This is a good time to survey your own fencing situation, make needed repairs, and discuss possible security measures with your neighbors. The winter vegetation makes it easy to see where the weak links are.



YOUR 2000 VECA BOARD

In accordance with the VECA Bylaws, all Vollintine-Evergreen members attending the January 24 meeting elected the following VECA Board members, as well as the president and vice president. (The VECA Board then selected its secretary and treasurer.)

Stephanie Banks, Kay Blues, Janis Cannon, Rick Cartwright (secretary), Fredha Feaster, Steve Gadbois, Martha Heinemann (treasurer), Hazel Jackson (president), Jenny Jenson, Helen Johnson, Jessie Rodgers (vice president), Renate Rosenthal, and Lois Scott



YOUR 2000 VECA CDC BOARD

In accordance with the CDC Bylaws, last year's VECA Board selected the following CDC Board members. (The CDC Board then selected its chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer.)

Lance Andrade, Julie Borys (secretary), Peggy Brewer, Janis Foster, Steve Gadbois, Russell Grantham, Martha Jordan, Lesa Lee, Charles McKelroy, Janese Perry (treasurer), Dottie Sachritz, Bob Schneider, Bill Stemmler, Garnett Stephens, Dell Stiner (chair), Modeane Thompson, and Regina Walker (vice chair)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

by Gloria Fulton

About 75 people attended the annual VECA meeting held at Evergreen Presbyterian Church on January 24. There was a Peabody ambiance in the Fellowship Hall as Steve Gadbois played classical music while residents mingled and ate finger foods. Janis Cannon made coming out in the frigid weather more bearable by serving domestic and imported coffee. Pastor George Shipp, owner of The Daisy Basket, was gracious enough to supply the beautiful plants and flowers which adorned the tables, which were arranged cafe-style. Elizabeth, Jonathan, and Ruth Gibson set up tables, arranged food, organized committee booths, and — as usual — did whatever was necessary.

VECA president Hazel Jackson greeted the crowd; she was later re-elected to a second year in the position. Outgoing CDC chair Mike Kirby received an engraved glass bowl from new CDC chair Dell Stiner, in honor of his nearly thirty years of service to Vollintine-Evergreen. There were several special guests present as well, including Police Director Walter Crews, who noted that there has been a 21% reduction in crime in our neighborhood in the last year.

Thanks to everyone who cared enough to participate, and to Evergreen Presbyterian Church for providing the pleasant meeting space. We look forward to the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2001.

DICHTEL AND BORYS AWARDS GIVEN AT ANNUAL MEETING

At VECA's annual meeting on January 25, 1999, VECA presented its two highly-prized annual awards to very deserving and well-known community figures.

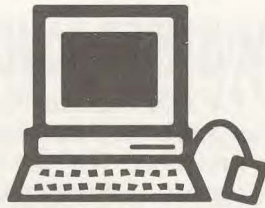
The Richard Borys Award, presented to a civic figure who has made a significant contribution to the efforts of VECA during the past year, was given to Wayne Risher. Wayne has covered neighborhood news for the Commercial Appeal for many years, showing a real insight into, and concern for, affairs in Vollintine-Evergreen and other neighborhoods throughout Memphis. He wrote about being honored with the award in a recent (February 3, 2000) article entitled, "There's something special about VECA neighborhood".

The Margaret Dichtel Award was given to both Sherry Henson and Belinda Kersch. Belinda is the driving force behind the recent activity and improvements on Brown & Howell just east of Cypress Junior High. Since returning to her family's neighborhood in 1996, she organized the Brown & Howell Block Club and publishes their newsletter. Those two streets have recently seen rehab by VECA CDC as well as new construction by Habitat for Humanity and private developers. Sherry's work can be seen all over the neighborhood: the ceramic Historic Designation plaques on many of our homes, the brown metal signs on the main entrance streets to the neighborhood, the wooden V&E Greenline signs, Home Expo tickets and brochures, and even the layout of this newsletter. She is currently designing a marketing brochure for the neighborhood.

Congratulations and thanks to Belinda, Sherry, and Wayne for their valuable contributions to our neighborhood and its organizations.

**VISIT
 VECA'S WEBSITE**

www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca



VECA & VECA CDC STAFF

Sean Fegette,
 Architectural Housing Intern

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

1680 JACKSON AVE • MEMPHIS, TN 38107

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Finance..... Martha Heinemann

Graphic Designer Sherry Henson

Printer Diamond Printing Company

Distribution Steve Gadbois

Submissions can be submitted on paper (even handwritten),
 on disk, or by email to sgadbois@aeneas.net.

276-1782 VECA • 276-1783 VECA-CDC • 276-1784 fax

email: VECA@netten.net
www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca

**1999 VECA
 TREASURER'S REPORT**

by Martha Heinemann

Following is a summary of the budget of VECA for the 1999 calendar year. (All of this is quite separate from the much larger and more complex budget of VECA CDC, which acts as Vollintine-Evergreen's main fiscal agent for grants, donations, etc.) More detailed information can be provided upon request.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

\$4405.00	dues
2290.00	Vollintine-Evergreen News ads
390.00	contributions
363.52	investment income
25.00	other
<hr/>	
\$7473.52	TOTAL

EXPENSES:

\$3535.00	Vollintine-Evergreen News printing
195.36	awards
690.18	other
8764.00	committee budgets
<hr/>	
\$13184.54	TOTAL

TOTAL ASSETS:

\$7711.94

TOTAL LIABILITIES:

\$0.00

**GOOD SHEPHERD
 SPRING JUMBLE FAIR**



The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of The Church of The Good Shepherd have scheduled their spring Jumble Fair for Saturday, April 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This annual event is a fundraiser for the missions of the ECW, including The Church Health Center, Bethany Maternity Home, and Palmer Home for Children.

The Jumble Fair will offer bargains on a wide variety of household items, including furniture, kitchen appliances, tools, and gently used clothing for both children and adults. An assortment of home-made goodies, including jams, jellies, and baked goods, will also be available.

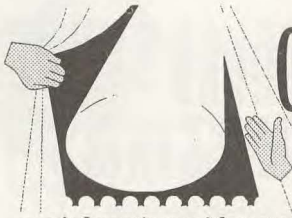
The Church of The Good Shepherd was founded in the fall of 1865 in the Chelsea district of downtown Memphis. The parish was instrumental in the founding of the Canfield Asylum, Boys Town, and the Refuge of The Good Shepherd. Its clergy and members also provided badly needed nursing and ecumenical care during the yellow fever epidemics that struck the city in the late 1870s. In 1942, the parish moved to its present location in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood, 1971 Jackson Avenue (at University). Services are held Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

NEW VECA EQUIPMENT STORAGE CENTER

by Mike Kirby

The skies were cloudy and the rain was intermittent, but a great group of volunteers turned out on January 22 to work on the multi-use storage facility at 1078 Watkins Square. The facility will soon house the Greenline tractor and other heavy equipment, provide storage for many of VECA CDC's programs, provide short-term storage of items for the May yard sale, and include a small meeting room. Interior walls were demolished and the facility was cleaned up, and it looks great.

Special thanks go to all of the following great volunteers: Lance Andrade, Len Cobb, Sean Fegette, Chuck Fox, Nia Frantz, Steve Gadbois, Mike Kirby, Mike McCune, Lauren Mize, Nickie Mochow, Trent Pigenot, Steve Shipp, Eve Strain, Cyrus Wirls, and Steve Wirls.



COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

This is the first of several installments featuring various VECA and VECA CDC committees. Consider getting involved — even with an office and some staff, VECA can't function without many dedicated volunteers. For more information, contact the VECA office at 276-1782. For meeting places and times (usually monthly), check the first page of this newsletter.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee was created about two years ago. The chair is Kay Blues and the vice-chair is Helen Johnson. The Committee's goal is to encourage membership in the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association. Throughout the year its members record and update membership data on the computer at the VECA office, handle correspondence, and put new volunteers in touch with appropriate committees. Volunteers are needed on the Committee to help with data entry, phone calls, and mailings; this work can be done at home or at the VECA office, as time permits.

HISTORIC COMMITTEE



The Historic Committee's first assignment — and first big success — was getting most of Vollintine-Evergreen on the National Register of Historic Places about five years ago. In conjunction with that, logos and signs were developed, including the Historic District street signs, the ceramic plaques that are available for each house, and the V&E Greenline signs. The Committee's main activity now is the biennial Home Tour, designed to show the rest of Memphis what a great neighborhood this is and what great houses we have. Look for the announcement of the fourth Tour elsewhere in this newsletter.

THE V&E GREENLINE COMMITTEE



The V&E Greenline was formerly an abandoned railroad track and is now a community park, garden, and walking trail, running almost two miles from Springdale in the east to Watkins in the west. Just as its users don't have to own property adjacent to it, neither do its volunteers! There is always planting, trimming, and mowing to be done — the Committee has acquired most of the necessary heavy equipment. Assistance of all kinds is also needed for this year's big project, a bridge over Lick Creek. The bridge will be the only "high-tech" improvement to what will otherwise remain a peaceful natural habitat for wildlife and a place to engage in quiet recreation.

DECEMBER HOME TOUR

The 2000 Vollintine-Evergreen Home Tour will be held on a Sunday evening in December. The Tour will showcase our great Christmas lights, including Sheridan Street, Barksdale Street, McLean Boulevard, and Terry Circle, as well as selected houses. We are looking for interesting houses that decorate for Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza. We are also hoping to involve other committees and block clubs. If you would like more information or have suggestions, please call Linda Nichols at 278-1213. Look for detailed information later this year.

EVERGREEN BLOCK CLUB

by Margaret Williams

During the summer of 1999 all Evergreen Block Club members that requested it received seasonal flowers to plant in their front lawns, along with small white fences. Baskets consisting of peanut butter crackers, oranges, apples, and bananas were given to each resident of Evergreen between Vollintine and Jackson.

The Evergreen Block Club had a Thanksgiving/Christmas party where neighbors came together to discuss their goals, achievements, and responsibilities. Although some were unable to attend, those who did enjoyed it immensely!

Charles Williams planted blooms of white, purple and blue flowers in front of his home, William Boyde's home, and Rose Dotson's home. These hardy flowers were imported from Canada and gave us the opportunity to enjoy some color during the gray days of winter.

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SPIRIT OF THE 1970s HOLIDAY PARTY

by Gloria Fulton

The Stonewall Block Club said goodbye to the 1990s by having a 1970s holiday party on December 23, at 893 Stonewall. We honored the “turbulent years” with appropriate clothes, music, and conversation. We wrote our famous last words of the 1990s on butcher block paper. We danced the “bump”, the “double-bump”, and the “Chinese checkers” as we listened to the sounds of James Brown, The Temptations, and The Isley Brothers.

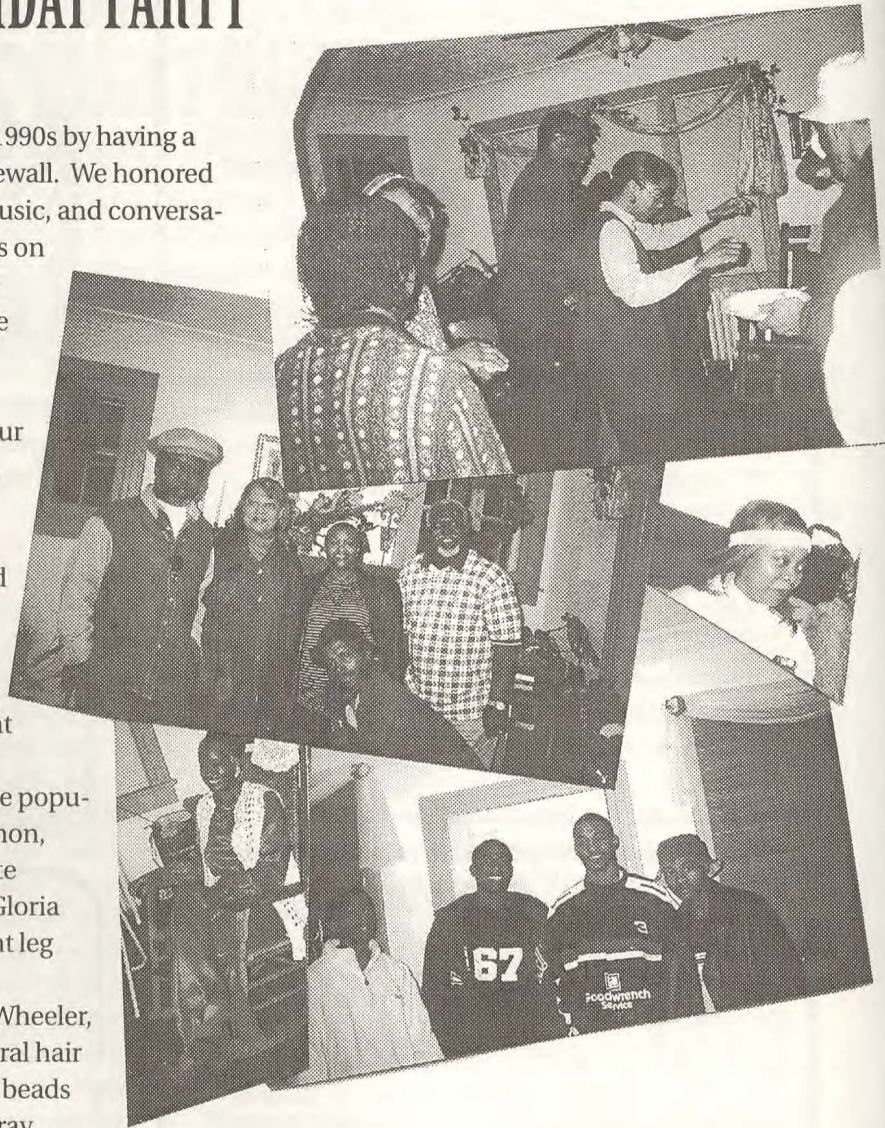
In the spirit of Christmas and Kwanza, two of our students, Joneau Singleton and Christopher Gray, received \$25 saving bonds for graduating from East High School in 1999.

Melvin Lazora and her two sons, Khaalil (4) and Taariq (6), received a prize for coming to the party first, while Charlotte Holmes Patterson received a prize for showing up last. Vickie Fulton was best dancer and Melvin Porter brought “Spirit of the 1970s Kook-a-Boo Punch”.

Jean shirts and pants were popular then and are popular now, according to Archie Anderson, Janis Cannon, Clarence Christian, Sylvester Fulton, and Charlotte Holmes Patterson. Lavera Duncan Whiting and Gloria Fulton decided to wear bell-bottoms and elephant leg pants.

The ethnic look was chosen by Lorean Turner Wheeler, and Lozora Jones competed with braids and natural hair designs. Willette Gray chose the hippie look with beads and a head band, while her husband Lawrence Gray strutted into the party with a very distinctive brim.

Thanks to everyone who attended and made this a special event: Annette Anderson, Claresse Wright Brown, Onealia Duncan, Willie Bell Fulton, Andrew Matthews, Bennie Nelson-West, Ms. West, Tharmella Patterson, Tonique Shunta Singleton, Henry Smith, Georgia Swift, Joshua Duran Wilhite, Phil Wright, and everyone mentioned earlier.



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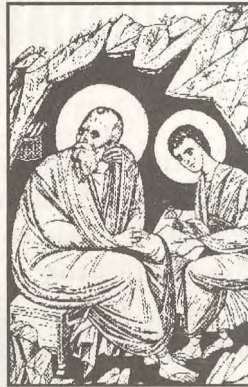
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Sunday Eucharists
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.
Tues. and Thurs. Mass - 5:30 p.m.
Wed. and Fri. Mass - 8:15 a.m.

Saturday Confession - 3:45 - 4:15 p.m.

276-1412



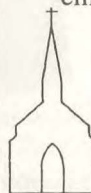
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JULIAN BOND SPEAKS AT RHODES COLLEGE'S M.L.K. EVENT

taken from the Rhodes College press release, with thanks to John Kerr and John Rone of the College Relations office

The city of Memphis was honored by the visit of scholar, author, civil rights activist, and former legislator Julian Bond, who spoke at Rhodes College on Wednesday, January 19 in celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His free public talk was entitled "2000: A Race Odyssey."

Prior to Bond's talk, the Rhodes College Gospel Choir performed, and Rhodes Chaplain (and Vollintine-Evergreen resident) Billy Newton announced the winners of Snowden School's contests: 8th grader Amanda Davis for her essay, and 4th graders Brandon Meriwether and Matt Haltom for their poems. The three students read their work to the large attentive audience.

Julian Bond is currently President of the NAACP's National Board, distinguished scholar-in-residence at the American University in Washington, D.C., and professor of history at the University of Virginia.

While a student at Morehouse

College, Bond helped form the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights in 1960. That same year Bond and several hundred students from across the South formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. He was active in protests, sit-ins, and voter registration campaigns throughout the South.

Bond eventually earned his English degree in 1971, but not before taking time off to start a political career that rocked the country. In 1965 he won a special election for a one-year term in the Georgia House of Representatives, but House members who objected to his opposition to the Vietnam War voted not to seat him. In 1966 Bond won a second election to fill his own vacant seat, and again a House vote barred him from membership. Later that year he won a third election to the seat for a two-year term. In December 1966, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Georgia House had violated Bond's rights in refusing him his seat. Bond served four terms

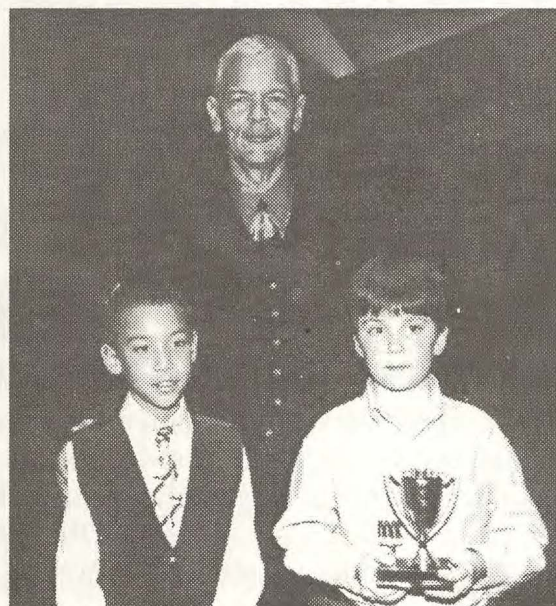
in the Georgia House before his election to the Georgia Senate in 1974. He served six terms in the Senate, leaving in 1987.

In 1968 Bond led a challenge group to the Democratic national convention, where the group successfully unseated the regular Georgia delegation. The 28-year-old Bond was nominated as a candidate for the vice presidency during the convention, but had to decline the nomination because, constitutionally, he was too young to serve in the post.

Julian Bond holds honorary degrees from 19 institutions of higher learning. He received the Legislative Service Award from the Georgia Municipal Association in 1984, the Bill of Rights Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia in 1985, and a similar award from the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union in 1990. He is president emeritus of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Time magazine has named Bond to its 200 Leaders list.



8th grader Amanda Davis (center) with Julian Bond (left), William Trout, President of Rhodes College.



4th graders Brandon Meriwether (left) and Matt Haltom (right) with Julian Bond.

VECA NEEDS MEMBERS

Name _____

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I'M INTERESTED IN:

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- Housing
- Code Enforcement
- Commercial Revitalization
- Greenways
- V&E Greenline
- Youth
- Newsletter Delivery
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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, Springdale 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.