

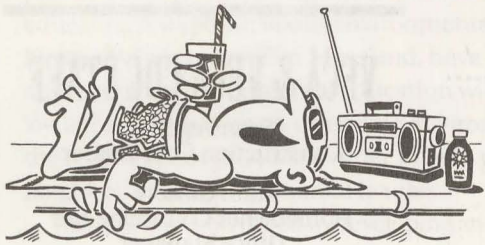
VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXVI, Number 4

JULY 2000



POTLUCK SUPPER AND POOL PARTY

Mark your calendars, and join many of your neighbors for great food and water fun on Saturday, July 8, 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.

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.

Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 8
Block Club Fall Festival	October 7 (tentative)
Historic Home Holiday Tour	December 10
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 22, 2001 (tentative)
Historic Committee	second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m. (call office for location)
Block Club Committee	first Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Code Enforcement Committee	first Saturday monthly, 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	Tuesday before third Saturday monthly, 7:30 a.m.
Housing Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Commercial Revitalization Committee	second Thursday monthly, noon
Brown/Howell Block Club	second Thursday monthly, 6:30 p.m. (Cypress Junior High School)
Youth Committee	
VENews deadlines:	August 4, October 6, December 1
VECA & CDC Board	August 7, 7:00 p.m.
VECA Board	first Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
VECA Board	September 11, 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC Board	fourth Saturday monthly, 9:00 a.m.
VECA CDC Board	July 22, 9:00 a.m.
VECA CDC Board	September 23, 9:00 a.m.

VISIT VECA'S WEB SITE

by Debra Hall

No matter what the season, VECA's web site is perfect for finding out what's going on in the neighborhood and spreading the word among neighbors when something warrants attention.

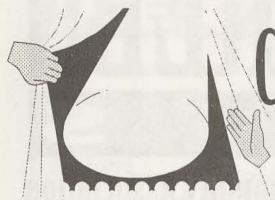
If you have an upcoming garage sale, why not tell everyone about it on the site? Lose — or find — a dog or cat? Have an upcoming event, meeting, or block party that needs publicity? Put a free notice on the Community Calendar!

While you're there, check out the "Talk About It" discussion area, where anyone can sound off about neighborhood concerns and seek opinions or answers on virtually any topic. Another feature allows anyone to create a personal homepage — easily, and for free!

New links to other sites of interest, and special pages with information relevant to VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN, are being added regularly. Each VECA and VECA CDC committee has a page detailing their goals, special events, and activities. There is also a five-day weather forecast, links to the sites operated by our local officials, and libraries with loads of extremely useful web sites that offer help with everything from homework to gardening.

The VECA web site is at www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca. Hope you'll join in!

Do Not Place In Mailboxes



COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

This is the third 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.

HISTORIC COMMITTEE

Sunday, December 10, the Historic Committee will host "Homes for the Holidays." There will be festivities all afternoon, including a tour of homes decorated for the holidays, a trolley tour of "lighted streets," photos with Santa on the Greenline, caroling, and other activities from various committees. We are interested in finding homes decorated with holiday themes (inside or out), and streets adorned with lights. Please call Kay Blues (726-1489) or Helen Johnson (272-9968) if you or your committee are interested in any of these activities.



HOUSING COMMITTEE



The Housing Committee started as the Acquisition and Sales Committee, and was responsible for approving purchase of properties for rehabilitation, reviewing the construction process, and helping to find buyers. The Committee now also reviews new programs and funding sources, recommends CDC Board approval for staff to pursue them, and monitors their implementation. Programs now include a low-interest small loan/grant program for homeowners with limited income, rehabbed housing, some new construction, and the possibility of VECA ownership and management of multiple housing units. Realizable goals are determined by the funding that becomes available.

GENERAL VOLUNTEERS



Being a general volunteer is probably the best position in the whole family of Vollintine-Evergreen organizations. Not only can you choose what you would like to do, you can usually set your own hours. Volunteers are needed at the office to do telephoning as well as help with mailings. Many times volunteers are needed to help with special one-time events, like the Home Tour, a yard sale, or a community cleanup. If you have recently indicated on your membership envelope that you would like to be a general volunteer, someone from the Membership Committee should be calling soon. You can also call or stop by the VECA office (1680 Jackson Avenue, 276-1782).



VISIT VECA'S WEBSITE

www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca

VECA & VECA CDC STAFF

Sean Fegette,
Construction Coordinator

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

**A Children's Place at
Schering-Plough HealthCare Products
NOW OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**

*Limited spaces available in PreK3 and PreK4 for Fall
Nationally Accredited (one of only ten in Memphis!)
Dedicated Degreed Teachers —
Loving, Educational Enrichment Program*

Open Monday-Friday 6:30-6:00
2980 Jackson Avenue - on the Schering-Plough Campus
Contact: Carol Ennis or Jimmie Pickens at 320-2958



**St. John the Evangelist
Orthodox Church**

Sunday
Orthros at 9 am • Liturgy at 10 am
Weekdays
Wednesday Vespers at 7 pm
Saturday Great Vespers at 7 pm

1663 Tutwiler Avenue at Dickinson
(901) 274-4119

**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. and Thurs. Mass - 5:30 p.m.
Wed. and Fri. Mass - 8:15 a.m.

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



"All Are Welcome"

276-1412

DAY CARE AVAILABLE



**For 3 and 4
years old**

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Trinity Preschool
1738 Galloway Ave. 274-6895

A Ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church

*School's Out.
Do you know where
your kids are?*

EVERGREEN HAS YOUR SOLUTION.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM:
Safe and fun for K-8 students, Monday-Friday 2:15-6:00pm

SCHOOL'S OUT PROGRAM:
Most city school holidays 7:30am-6:00pm

SUMMER SPOT: The cool midtown day camp
for K-junior high, Monday-Friday 7:30am-6:00pm

EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
613 UNIVERSITY AVENUE (ACROSS FROM RHODES COLLEGE)



**The Church
Of The
Good Shepherd**

*A Traditional Episcopal Church
1928 Prayer Book*

MASS - 7:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY
HOLY EUCHARIST - 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAYS
(NURSERY AT 10:30 SUNDAY)

1971 JACKSON AVENUE AT UNIVERSITY AVENUE
901-725-9768

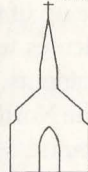
**OPEN DOOR BIBLE
CHURCH**

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Gary D. Starbuck, Pastor
Nursery Available
Sunday Services: 10:45 am and 6:00 pm

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Before and after school transportation with
child care for Snowden and Vollentine Schools



Full day summer and holiday program
for school age children

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YOUTH COMMUNITY GARDEN



Eric Rogers (MUS student) and Mark Hamilton (Buckman Labs employee) work on the Youth Community Garden at McLean and Edward.

BROWN/HOWELL REPORT

The Brown/Howell Block Club continues its many activities.

In April, neighborhood residents and members of Springdale Baptist Church pitched in to scrape and paint a home on Springdale that had been cited by Code Enforcement. Materials were donated by MLGW's "Project Max" program and by the Hyde Family Foundation. The transformation is dramatic!

The Block Club won a \$1000 grant from The Memphis Flyer for a "Sweep Around Your Own Front Door" contest, in which gift certificates will be awarded monthly throughout 2000.

Residents are looking forward to repaving of their streets, with a projected date of June 2000. Speed bumps are also being considered, which will be a welcome improvement, since Howell is the main entrance to, and Brown the main exit from, Cypress Junior High School.

All of this news and more is reported in the Block Club's regular newsletter. For more information, contact Belinda Kersch at 272-3197 or brownhowell@aol.com.

GARY GILBERT RESIGNS

VECA CDC Executive Director Gary Gilbert announced his resignation in May. Prior to his taking charge of VECA CDC in the summer of 1998, Gary was Housing and Planning Supervisor with the Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development. He immediately put his knowledge of city and county government agencies to good use in continuing to cultivate the relationships that successful nonprofits depend on.

Gary was new to Vollintine-Evergreen in 1998, but with his wife Sandy Call, he immediately became a homeowner in the neighborhood, and immersed himself in our work. Gary is known for working hard, running an efficient office, and communicating effectively.

Gary, we will miss your dedication as a vital staff member, but we are pleased that you will remain in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood as a valuable volunteer.

BUCKMAN LABS HOSTS CONSERVATION AWARD RECEPTION

On May 10, Buckman Labs hosted a reception during which about twenty-five Vollintine-Evergreen residents met several Buckman Labs employees for refreshments, orientation, and an extensive tour of Buckman's offices and plant at McLean and Chelsea.

The excuse for the get-together was VECA's selection for the Tennessee Conservation League's 1999 Conservation Organization of the Year award, for work on the V&E Greenline, Cypress Creek, and Jackson Avenue Beautification. Buckman nominated VECA for the award, and was itself nominated for the Industrial Conservationist award. Buckman's Richard Lutey coordinated the reception and greeted everybody to it.

Mike Kirby, a longtime Vollintine-Evergreen resident, V&E Greenline activist, and Rhodes College faculty member, spoke of the trip that he, Jan Kirby, and Richard Lutey made on April 14 to Paris Landing State Park to accept the conservation award. Besides the value of the conservation work itself, people from all over Tennessee praised the unusual and fruitful collaboration of a neighborhood association (VECA), an industry (Buckman), and an institution of higher education (Rhodes College). Mike also noted that the Tennessee Conservation League has always been concerned with urban sprawl and its impact on our remaining wild areas; by making our Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood and other parts of "old" Memphis more attractive places in which to live and work, we are doing our part to combat urban sprawl.

Buckman Labs employs over 1000 people worldwide, including over 500 at its world headquarters here, just north of our Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CYPRESS CREEK

by Kirsten L. Williams

It's summer! And since this means that school is out, you might be wondering — what could we possibly be doing concerning environmental education? The answer — we are doing quite a bit. A major part of the Cypress Creek project (part of the United Way proposal) involves educating area youth about environmental problems. Two new interns, Kirsten Williams and Tim Moreland, have begun developing a plan approaching environmental education with some local youth this summer. We are also planning on extending environmental education to some of the local schools this fall, in order to help prepare the next generation of neighborhood environmental leaders.

The first question raised in developing an approach to environmental education using Cypress Creek is very basic: What is environmental education? There is, of course, the simple answer — education about the environment — but that isn't much help, for it is so broad that almost anything could be considered environmental education. Instead, we would like to think that environmental education means giving students an understanding and respect for the systems that are part of our environment, as well as a genuine understanding of how humans can affect the planet for good or for ill.

Such an understanding comes hard to most people without a concrete, true example which has relevance in their own lives. Cypress Creek is the epitome of such an example. In looking at the pollution of the creek, we can see very clearly how human activity can harm the process of nature. The floodplain and creek bed are filled with all kinds of wildlife and plants, yet it is not yet a place of which the neighborhood can be particularly proud. The trash and dumping that have gone on both in our area and upstream disturb and make hazardous what could potentially be a beautiful, useful area.

Yet Cypress Creek is not just an example of the problems people can cause, but also of how people can come together to try and solve these problems. During a May meeting with other local neighborhood organizations, it was decided that Cypress Creek is a community problem whose solution we will all have to work on, both collectively and individually. In doing this, we hope to reclaim and undo the harm that has been done.

We hope that in educating the youth about the problems of, and possible solutions for, the Cypress Creek area, they will come to better understand how environmental issues affect them and ways in which we can all help, such as participation in cleanups, proper use of storm drains, proper recycling or disposal of wastes such as used motor oil, proper use of chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides, and active participation in the decisions which are made about the creek.

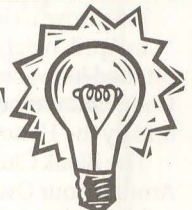
Of course, the importance of understanding and helping solve the problems of the Cypress Creek area aren't just limited to youth. If you would like to become involved with or learn more about Cypress Creek, contact Kirsten Williams or Tim Moreland at the VECA office.

WATCH OUT!

by Bettye Johnson

Be aware of who is on your telephone when you answer it, and pay special attention if the caller is asking you for money. Most of these calls are in the evening. In the Vollintine-Evergreen area, many people are being asked for money for emergencies, often medical ("my daughter needs dialysis") or automotive ("I just need a little gas"). Some criminals are smart enough to only ask for small amounts of money, such as \$20. Never give them cash, even if they claim to be a neighbor or a distant family member. And if you have doubts about a call related to a charity or a business, don't commit to anything but instead ask for written details by mail, and then contact the local Better Business Bureau at 759-1300.

JOIN THE "STREET LIGHT PATROL"



Consider this: The employees of MLGW's Outdoor Lighting department are responsible for maintaining more than 100,000 street lights and leased outdoor lights across Shelby County. They complete an average of 3,500 maintenance calls each month, but they need your help.

You can be a part of MLGW's "Street Light Patrol" by reporting street lights that burn throughout the day, lights which continually cycle on and off, or lights that aren't burning at all.

To report a street light problem, note the street light number stamped on the metal plate attached to the pole (the street address is the next best thing), and call MLGW's Outdoor Lighting department at 320-1497 anytime. If no one answers, leave a message on the recorder and they will respond to your request as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours.

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, \$20 OR \$35 PER YEAR

AND ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE; ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO VECA CDC MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

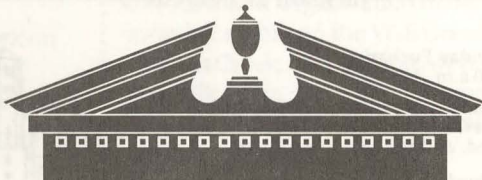
PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:

- \$10 dues, Individual
- \$20 dues (household), 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 
- Bumper Sticker B 
- Historic Designation Plaque 

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- Great Burgers
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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.