

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXVII, Number 3

MAY 2001

POTLUCK SUPPER AND POOL PARTY

Join many of your neighbors for great food and water fun on Saturday, July 14, at the Rhodes College pool. The potluck supper will start at 6:00 p.m. and the pool will open at 7:00 p.m. This event is free. Bring swimsuits and a dish to share (the more people you bring, the larger the dish!). VECA will provide eating utensils and soft drinks. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the event will go on, indoors.

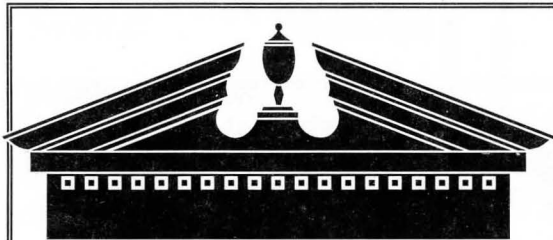


VECA CDC UPDATE

by Steve Gadbois, VECA CDC Executive Director

VECA CDC is currently completing two new houses and preparing to start several more. The hardest part of this work is acquiring appropriate property, either dilapidated houses or available vacant lots with clear title. Once VECA CDC has the property, it has the funding for rehab or new construction. Vollintine-Evergreen residents can also help by steering prospective buyers our way — VECA CDC's homeownership counselor and other staff members can make homeownership a reality for many. Anyone looking for a more formal involvement is welcome to join VECA CDC's Housing Committee, which meets monthly.

Renovations continue at the Watkins Square commercial strip. One of our six bays was recently renovated for a new tenant — look for an announcement in the next issue of the Vollintine-Evergreen News. And the long-awaited expansion of anchor tenant Melanie's Fine Foods is scheduled to begin in mid-May.



**FOR SALE
BY VECA CDC**

2111 Howell: rehabbed 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom house, with new roof, fresh paint, completely new interior, and central heat and air (\$28,000 or best offer)

2160 Brown: new all brick, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house (being completed, have contract at press time)

2135 Howell: new all brick, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house (being completed)

2122 Brown: new all brick, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house (under construction)

2113-2117-2119 Brown: new all brick, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house (under construction later in 2001)

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 14, Rhodes College Pool
National Night Out	August 7
Hot Fun Summerfest	August 11 (tentative)
Fall Festival	September 29 (tentative); September 30 (rain date)
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 21, 2002 (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	Last Monday 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)
VE News & ad deadlines:	June 8, August 3, October 5, December 5
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	May 7, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	June 4, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	July 9, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

DONATIONS TO VECA CDC

In memory of:

Lorraine Fassbinder Hoch,
by Catherine Hoch Gadbois



Donations to VECA CDC (but NOT to VECA) may be tax deductible, and may be directed to a particular CDC program. For more information, call the VECA office at (901) 276-1782.

VISIT VECA'S WEBSITE



www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca

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N E W S

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 on disk, or by email to VECA_news@hotmail.com

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

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



Martha Heinemann, long-time VECA Board member and Treasurer, has just completed the daunting task of organizing the considerable amount of print media coverage of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood, VECA, and VECA CDC. Clippings and copies of clippings that were scattered in various files and collected in several boxes are now organized chronologically in binders. Missing dates have been uncovered, yellowing originals have been photocopied for preservation. Those who have seen Martha's work know that this important project was done well.

One similar project remains for a small group of volunteers: labeling and organizing hundreds of photographs that have accumulated in the VECA office. Stop by or call the office to find out more.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE LITTLE FLOWER STUDENTS?



If you recognize anyone from this historic photo from Little Flower School circa 1960, please contact the VECA office at 276-1782.



Historic Fact: Jackson Avenue was formerly the Raleigh Plank Road, a toll road chartered in 1829.

SOME CITY ORDINANCES REGARDING PETS

Pets and other animals must be provided adequate water, food, and shelter at all times.

Pets and other animals must be kept in a manner to prevent odors and health risks.

Dog and cat feces must be promptly removed and properly disposed of when not on the owner's premises.

It is against the law to kill, torture, or abandon any pet or other animal.

Cats over three months old must have a current rabies vaccination.

Dogs over three months old must have a current city license tag and have a current rabies vaccination.

Dogs must be on a leash or confined by a fence at all times.

Animal Control: 362-5310



BELINDA'S TOPS AND SPECIALTIES — GRAND OPENING AT 954 MAURY

Spring is here and summer is near; what better way to welcome warm weather than with a smashing new wardrobe. As a newcomer to the Vollintine-Evergreen community, Belinda's Tops and Specialties at 954 Maury promises a unique selection that is sure to outshine the latest trends.

Owner Belinda Lowery has traveled from California to New York in search of the right combination of clothes, shoes, and accessories to give Memphis the edge in fashion. When asked how it feels to be a small business owner, Belinda says, "Obtaining the business is the easy part; maintaining it is not so easy. You have to be able to get your name out there and show the public that you are the best of the best. Your product has to reflect that."

Look around her store, near the corner of Maury and Vollintine, and you will see names such as Akademiks, Ecko, Shezelle, Donna Vinci, Evan Piconi, Belvedere, and her own name on a line of unique fashions. Products include hats for any occasion, custom-tailored shirts, men's exotic skin shoes, elegant purses, clergy robes, choir robes, pajamas, accessories, and styles for dress-up or dress-down occasions.

Belinda invites everyone to her boutique on Maury Street. If Belinda doesn't have what you want, she'll make it.





Home Style

by Linda Nichols

Did you know that your house is on the National Register of Historic Places?

What kind of house do you have - Colonial, Tudor, Spanish? Do you live in a bungalow?

Welcome to House Style, a column about our houses in the Vollintine-Evergreen National Historic District. In each issue, we will focus on the architecture of our homes. Before we dive into an explanation of house architecture, let's discuss the National Register. The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to protect properties that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Currently there are nearly 73,000 listings on the National Register. Under federal law, owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose provided that there is no Federal involvement.

To be included on the National Register, each home in our neighborhood was surveyed and written up, using uniform standards. This nomination package was sent to the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) who submitted it to a review board. The review board recommended that the SHPO approve our nomination. During this time, local officials and property owners were given the opportunity to comment on the nomination and owners of private property were given an opportunity to object to the nomination. The neighborhood agreed that we should apply to be a Historic District. Our nomination was forwarded to the National Park Service, which approved us for inclusion on the National Register. The entire Vollintine-Evergreen Historic District was placed on the National Register in 1993.

You can purchase a copy of the National Register write-up for your house, ready to be framed in an 8X10 cream colored mat with a place for a photo of your house. (An example may be viewed in the VECA office). Place your order by sending a check for \$10, made out to the VE Historic Committee, to the Vollintine-Evergreen office, 1680 Jackson, 38107.

In the next issue, we will begin to explore the interesting and significant architectural features that made our homes worthy of National Register Listing. We will also feature a home for sale. If you are selling or representing a house and would like it to be featured in this column, please call 278-1213.



GARDEN GAB

by Diane Butler



Recently, I was asked to name my favorite flower. Well, that depends on the season, the month, and maybe the week. Daffodils, bluebells, and muscari in the spring; peonies, roses, iris, and gaura in the summer; asters, rudbeckia, and ornamental grasses in the fall and hellebores for winter. Later, while pondering this conversation, I was led to think about enduring favorites, especially those that bring constant enjoyment in our hot, humid Southern climate. So, here's a list of a few perennials to consider for Memphis.

Achillea millefolium (Yarrow): New cultivars give us wonderful color in the garden. 'Paprika' yields red and yellow blooms, 'Fireland' produces red, yellow and bronze flowers, 'Red Beauty' crimson-red flowers, 'Rubra' dark pink flowers. This plant performs best in full sun and well-drained soils. Achillea flowers until frost.

Centaurea macrocephala (Basket Flower): This is a large plant, which grows three to four feet tall and has a spread of two feet. Bright yellow flowers are striking in the perennial border. It performs best in full sun and well-drained soils and its coarse texture makes it best suited for the middle of the border.

Gaura lindheimeri (Whirling butterflies): The common name of this plant is quite descriptive of its appearance - just like a hovering group of butterflies buffeted by the breeze. 'Siskiyou Pink' produces pink flowers in summer and brilliant red stems in fall. Gaura prefers full sun and a well-drained soil. Its open flower habit makes it an effective background plant.



Miscanthus sinensis (Ornamental Grass): Ornamental grasses provide great architectural interest and are valuable for summer, fall, and winter display in our gardens. 'Cosmopolitan' and 'Caberet' provide variegated foliage with large leaves and serve as an incredible backdrop for plants like Gaura. These plants also enjoy full sun and well-drained soils.

While only a few plants have been highlighted, the list goes on. Consider drought tolerant plants (given the last two summers it may be essential!): **Asclepias tuberosa (butterfly weed)**, **Calaminthanepeta (catmint)**, **Echinacea purpurea (purple coneflower)**, **Helianthus angustifolius (sunflower)**, **Perovskia atriplicifolia (Russian sage)**, and **Sedum (stonecrop)**.

More important than plant choice is the enjoyment of planning, digging, planting, growing, and then appreciating the results of your labors.

Should you have questions about particular plants or suggestions about topics for future issues, please send your questions or comments to Diane Butler of VerdeDesign@yahoo.com.



NEWS FROM NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

by Mary Wooldridge

On March 11, the Close-Up Club spent a week in Washington D.C. participating in seminars, workshops, study visits, and a visit to Capitol Hill. Additionally, Northside students James Carr, Tabitha Fentress, Tavoyia Fouts, William Gales, Dennis Ross, and Jimmy Van Burne met other students from around the world.

Six Northside students received special recognition at the recent Shelby County Science Fair. Roslyn Valentine

earned first place in zoology and numerous other awards, including a monetary award from the University of Memphis Biology Department, for a project testing the effect of stimulants and depressants on the heart rate of the water flea *Daphnia*. Shuntia Heard earned first place in environmental science and several other prizes, for a project analyzing the chemical content of water along the Wolf River. Tamika Hill earned second place in microbiology for investigating the effectiveness of regular soap and antibacterial soap in reducing bacterial growth on the hands. Stacy McCoy earned second place in physics for analyzing the effect of insulation on the tone produced by various loudspeakers. Sherita Franklin earned third place in microbiology for studying the effectiveness of different brands of toothpaste in reducing oral bacteria. Warren Morris earned third place in mathematics for a project involving the probability of picking a particular color of M&M candy. Mrs. Mary Spann is their sponsor.

Northside National Honor Society members performed community service by brightening up some of the school's bathrooms with new paint. Other students rolled up their sleeves, put on their overalls, and pitched in after school. This is an example of true Cougar spirit.

Northside recently celebrated Black History month with a presentation by its new Benjamin Bannaker Choir, which performed many Negro spirituals and concluded

with "Melodies from Heaven" by Kirk Franklin. "This choir is electrifying and spirit-filled," explained Mrs. Barbara House-Williams. "I was shocked to hear such beautiful voices going unnoticed and unused. I don't know if I was more excited or my students." Berean M.B. Church, under the leadership of Dr. Edward Parker, Jr., donated the choir's robes.

The Students Attempting T-CAP Mastery (SATM)

program provides strategies to improve T-CAP scores in accordance with Northside's School Improvement Plan. During the week of February 20-23, selected students were placed in an intensive all-day study session. Teachers and high-scoring students served as tutors. The T-CAP test was then administered on February 27 and 28.

The Senior Project at Northside incorporates skills from the "High Schools That Work" model to insure that each student has sufficient mastery

of research, note-taking, summary, presentation, and reporting skills which are so vital for success in today's workforce. Students must select a field of interest and interview an authority in that field. On presentation day, they hand in a typed document with a creative cover, invite a guest speaker, and use graphics to discuss their topic, all while "dressed for success". Other students enjoy donuts and juice while critiquing fellow classmates' work, rubric in hand. Senior English instructor is Mrs. A.B. Lawson.

Northside parents and community members were invited to read with students as part of the "Stop! It's Time To Read" initiative. Reading guests included Danny Dockery, a former Memphis attorney; Dorine Hutchinson, U.S. pretrial officer; Marnie Klyman, U.S. probation officer; Johnetta Norman, supervising U.S. probation officer; and Inger UpChurch, Memphis and Shelby County librarian.



Northside students with Sen. Bill Frist

[Editor's note: Northside High School is located at 1212 Vollintine Avenue, west of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood.]

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276-1412



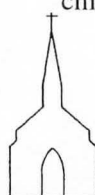
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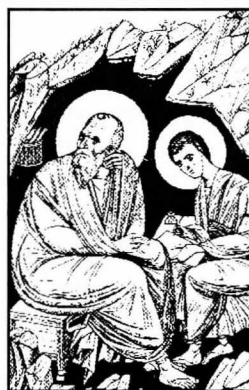
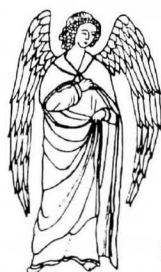
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WHAT YOU CAN'T SENSE MAY BE HURTING YOU!

By Scott Banbury

You can't see or smell them, but there are toxic chemicals in the Cypress Creek. Some of these chemicals have the potential to cause developmental disorders, autism, learning disabilities, immune system dysfunctions, male infertility, birth defects, and childhood cancers. Public officials have known about them since 1964 but nothing has been done to clean them up.

The Cypress Creek flows 7 1/2 miles through town to join the Wolf River near Bellevue Avenue and Levee Road. Along the way, it receives runoff from more than 12,000 acres of Memphis. This runoff carries litter and automotive chemicals from our streets, pesticides and herbicides from our lawns, and a multitude of chemicals from several manufacturing plants and unregulated dumps.

At Evergreen, the Cypress Creek leaves the confines of its concrete channel and flows through the large open green space called the Cypress Creek Floodplain. Equipped with bike trail and picnic benches, this area serves as a park for many residents of VECA. It is also habitat for numerous species of wildlife, including songbirds, waterfowl, owls, hawks, rabbits, and squirrels. The creek supports fish, frogs, and turtles. Sadly, children exploring the creek risk exposure to toxic chemicals that have accumulated in the soil and sediment of the basin.

For over thirty years, Velsicol Chemical Corporation, located at the intersection of Jackson and Warford, discharged toxic chemicals into the creek. Heptachlor and chlordane are the primary concern. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned the use of these chemicals in 1988. Since 1964, eight different studies have shown heptachlor and chlordane at levels far exceeding the standards established by the EPA. Based on these findings, the EPA has recommended that the lower portion of the creek be put on the Superfund National Priority List to make immediate cleanup possible. For dubious reasons, the city and county lobbied against this listing and nothing has been done since.

The only other program that addresses cleanup of contaminated sites is the Corrective Action Program authorized by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Under RCRA, companies must have a permit to handle or store hazardous wastes at their facilities, and they are required to develop a plan to cleanup their own property as well as any off-site contamination.

VECA's Cypress Creek Project is committed to seeing that the creek is cleaned up. We are actively working with Velsicol, city, state, and federal officials to address our concerns about the contamination. We also coordinate regular beautification projects along the creek and work with local schools to use the creek and the issues surrounding it to deliver environmental, science and civic lessons. We need your help. If you would like more information or want to get involved, please call Scott Banbury at 726-1473 or email sbanbury@midsouth.rr.com. To find out more about the threats of endocrine disruption, visit [www.ourstolenfuture.org](http://irptc.unep.ch/pops/), to learn more about Persistent Organic Pollutants such as heptachlor and chlordane visit <http://irptc.unep.ch/pops/>.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Shelby County Environmental Improvement Commission will hold its free spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, May 19. Call Lisa Williams at 387-5707 to get details.

Are you new to the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood?

Come by the VECA office at 1680 Jackson Avenue during regular business hours to pick up a free "welcome packet".

It's loaded with information, coupons, and a form for a free first-year membership in VECA.

VECA NEEDS MEMBERS

Name _____

Telephone Day: _____ Telephone Evening: _____

Address _____ Zip _____

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- Bumper Sticker B
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Please make checks payable to VECA

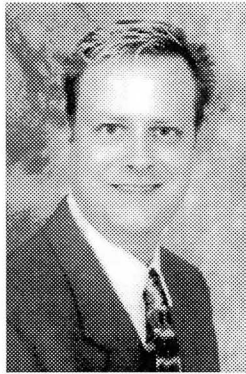
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VECA

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.