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

Volume XXIX, Number 1

VECA' S ANNUAL MEETING: JANUARY 27 AT GETHSEMANE

<12×13>

All Vollintine-Evergreen residents are invited to VECA's annual meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27 at Gethsemane Garden Institutional Church of God in Christ (1740 Vollintine Avenue, at Evergreen). Though VECA hosts various other events during the year, this event is the most important for laying the foundation for a productive year. Come for an update on plans for much-needed renovation of

**JANUARY 2003** 

the exterior of the VECA office, spearheaded by VECA Historic Committee. The new VECA Board and its officers will be elected, the new VECA CDC Board will be

introduced, and the Dichtel Award, the Borys Award, and the new Heinemann Award will be presented. Besides business, there will be good food, entertainment, and a chance to talk with old and new neighbors. Call the VECA office if you have any questions.

Gethsemane's building is handicapped-accessible, and we'll be entering through the "tunnel" entrance at the northeast corner. There is plenty of free parking next to that entrance.



VECA will begin a new program in 2003. Home repair classes on a variety of topics will be held on the third Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. at the VECA office. Cost is only \$1. You do not need to bring tools or supplies, but you may bring them if you have them.

#### Tentative topics:

January 18:	Contractors, Building Codes, and Permits
February 15:	Sheetrock and Plaster
March 15:	Types of Paint and Techniques of Painting
April 19:	Cabinets and Paneling
May 17:	Minor Plumbing
June 21:	Tile and Wood Flooring

Suggestions for future topics are welcome. We would also love to have experienced neighborhood residents help conduct a class or two.

## <u> Vollintine – Evergreen</u>

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & COMMITI

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 January 27 (at Gethsemane Garden Institutional Church of God in Christ)

Open House

Potluck Supper & Pool Party

National Night Out

Youth Committee

Historic Committee (various locations; call office)

Code Enforcement Committee

Block Club Committee

Cypress Creek Beautification Committee

V&E Greenline Committee

Housing Committee

Commercial Revitalization Committee

Managing Committee

VENews deadlines, 2003:

VECA CDC & VECA Boards

VECA CDC & VECA Boards VECA CDC & VECA Boards VECA CDC & VECA Boards April 17, 5:00 p.m. July 12 (tentative) August 5

second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.

first Saturday monthly, 9:00 a.m. first Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m. third Tuesday monthly, 6:00 p.m. third Tuesday monthly, 7:00 p.m. second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m. second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m. last Monday monthly, 5:30 p.m. February 4, April 4, June 6, August 5, October 3, December 2 first Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. January 6, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. February 3, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

#### Do you want to remodel? Do you need home repairs but don't know how to start?

VECA CDC has staff that can assist Vollintine-Evergreen residents with inspecting and determining necessary repairs. Staff can also prepare the scope-of-work and do preliminary estimates. The fee is modest. Call the VECA office for details.

276-1782



www.neignbornoodiink.com/veca www.thevillagememphis.com

### VECA & VECA CDC STAFF

Sean Fegette, Construction Coordinator

> Steve Gadbois, Executive Director

Ruth Gibson, Homeowner Counselor and Office Manager

Belinda Kerusch, Brown & Howell Community Organizer

Daryl Lewis, Neighborhood Preservationist

> Wilma Vandermeer. Financial Manager

Andrew Wilkins, Property Code Coordinator

# Vollintine-Evergreen

1680 JACKSON AV	E · MEMPHIS, TN 38107
Coordinating Editor	Ron Bright
Finance	
Graphic Designer	Sherry Henson
Printer	Diamond Printing Company
Distribution	Fredha Feaster
	illed on paper (even handwrillen),

on disk, or by email to VECA\_news@yabon.com

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

email: YECA@netten.net www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca www.thevillagememphis.com



to Chad Montrie (a professional historian), for writing the first detailed environmental history of the Vollintine-Evergreen area, which will run in several installments in this and following issues of this newsletter (see page 4).

## FIRESTONE REMODELING

The Firestone Auto Service Center, located on Jackson at Evergreen, has recently been remodeled to better serve its customers. General Manager William Sidney would like to invite everyone to stop in and see the improvements. We are proud to be a part of this neighborhood and we welcome all to stop in and see us.

### all are new brick, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom houses under construction

in order of progress:

000000000

2113 Brown

2348 Hunter

2218 Hunter

2136 Howell

2345 Shasta

2375 Shasta



FOR SALE BY VECA CDC

2113 Brown



2348 Hunter

# JACKSON AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION

Next month, Vollintine-Evergreen residents and visitors should notice huge patches of yellow in all of the Jackson Avenue medians. On November 16, six thousand daffodil bulbs were planted by neighborhood volunteers. Mary Wilder obtained the bulbs and coordinated the event.

Thanks to everyone who helped: Annette Anderson, Aaron Bright, India Bright, Jasmine Bright, Janis Cannon, Suemi Chiba, Steve Crump, Brian Floyd, Gloria Fulton, Steve Gadbois, Daniel Guerra, Haley Harlan, Hunter Harlan, Ken Harlan, Paul Herron, Chris Kirby, Bradley Leggett, Margaret Leggett, Suzanne Martin, Connie McKee, Dick Mochow, Mildred Murphy, Janice Peterson, Mary Powers, Jessie Rodgers, Alan West, and Andrew Wilkins (as well as anyone else who helped but didn't sign in!).

In addition, Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Therese Little Flower Church, Rhodes College, Velsicol, Buckman, Buckeye, Plough, and Memphis City Beautiful all played an important role in making this beautification project happen. VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN

## HUNTING GROUNDS, DAIRY FARMS, AND HOUSING TRACTS: Three centuries of environmental change in the Vollintine -evergreen neighborhood

by Chad Montrie (Chad\_Montrie@uml.edu)

[Editor's note: This is the first of several installments of this article. The complete version (and the article's endnotes) is at the VECA office. All are invited to hear a free public presentation by Professor Montrie at a conference to be held at Rhodes College January 17-19, 2003. Call the VECA office for more details.]

Imagine you are standing on a corner of Jackson and McLean. In your line of vision, as you turn all the way around, are a church and countless numbers of snug little houses. In front of these houses are patches of lawn, concrete sidewalks, and paved streets. On the streets there are cars, trucks, and maybe a stray bus. This, though you might not think so, is an odd scene. A century ago, what you saw from the vantage point of Jackson and McLean, or other parts of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood, would have been quite different. Settlement was much less dense then, the few thoroughfares were dusty tracks, and people moved around on foot, by horse, or, a bit later, by streetcar. A century before that the scene was different still, with a forest in various stages of succession and Chickasaw hunters and their families the main human inhabitants. Although we often think of land use change as a simple story, from woods to suburbs or field to factory, various occupants of the local area have manipulated and transformed the landscape many times, in a relatively short period of time (geologically speaking, at least). Recognizing this fact, and identifying the forces responsible for the nearly incessant change, is important for charting an environmentally and economically sustainable future. This environmental history, then, is a "usable past."

### HUNTING GROUNDS

The first written records of land use in the Memphis area come from European explorers, the earliest band of which was led by Hernando de Soto, who passed through the locale from the southeast in May of 1541. This particular leg of the their journey brought them into contact with the native population of the river bluff, one of several groups then under the rule of a "great lord." These people grew corn in quantities large enough to store the grain through the winter, caught a variety of fish from the Mississippi and its tributaries, gathered tree nuts, berries, and roots, and hunted deer, elk, buffalo, and bear. More than a century later, the "Monsoupeleas" encountered by Fathers Jolliet and Marquette in the same area still practiced a similar subsistence but had incorporated European guns, axes, hoes, and knives. This undoubtedly intensified their impact on the land, particularly the soil. When LaSalle came through in 1682, however, the Monsoupeleas had been expelled from the bluff by the Chickasaw, a fierce tribe more inclined toward hunting than sedentary agriculture.

Many observers who passed down the Mississippi River between the mouths of the Ohio and Arkansas Rivers remarked on the abundance of game in the region, and this abundance seems to have lasted into the late 18th century. But overhunting tied to the expanding skin and fur trade quickly thinned out the deer and buffalo populations. The growing scarcity of game, in fact, figured decisively in the Chickasaw's decision to give up their land claims in 1818. Earlier, in 1783, the Chickasaw boundaries had been set by a treaty with the new United States government. That same year, North Carolina briefly offered much of this land for sale, as a special benefit to land speculators, and John Rice secured a claim for 5000 acres that included much of what would later become the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. North Carolina eventually transferred this and other lands west of the Cumberland Gap to the federal government but with guarantees of special protection for all land act entry titles. Decades later, the Chickasaw ceded their remaining land in Kentucky and Tennessee and John Overton, who had purchased the Rice Grant for \$500 and sold part of it to Andrew Jackson, helped found both Shelby County and the town of Memphis.

In 1819, Memphis was small, consisting of a handful of white men who traded with Indians, linked to other parts by only two Indian trails, and rarely served by steamboats. Soon after its founding, state commissioners snubbed Memphis and selected Sanderlin's Bluff (later Raleigh) as the

### Vollintine-Evergreen

county seat, ten miles to the east. This was heavily wooded land, occupied solely by a trapper from North Carolina and remaining Chickasaw hunters, but land clearing there soon filled the Wolf River with logs and silt. In 1829, the Raleigh Post Road (later known as the Raleigh Plank Road and then Jackson Avenue) was constructed from Memphis to Raleigh, establishing communica-

tions between the two towns and insuring a certain amount of activity in the area along the thoroughfare. Twenty years later, the Memphis and Nashville Railroad (subsequently the Memphis and Ohio and then the Louisville and Nashville Railroad) was chartered, providing an additional link between the towns. Raleigh eventually lost its status as county seat. however, and it was Memphis that saw the most growth. On the eve of the Civil War it had a population of more than 22,000, including nearly 12,000 native whites, 3800 blacks, 4000 Irish, and 1400 Germans, with English, French, Scottish, and other immigrants making up the difference.

The growing population of the river city was grouped largely around the waterfront, an area where unsanitary conditions prevailed. Garbage and refuse filled the streets while the filth from thousands of privy vaults drained into the Gayoso Bayou, once a stream several miles in length running parallel to the Mississippi but quickly reduced to several stagnant pools. The lack of sanitation, putrid standing water, regular traffic on the river, and a warm climate provided all the necessary ingredients for frequent disease epidemics, which city officials dealt with by quarantine and disinfectant. This was the response to yellow fever when it hit Memphis first in 1855, again in 1867 and 1873, and with devastating effects in 1878. The



Oil trucks loading up to do mosquito control to combat malaria.

disease is caused by a mosquitoborne virus, a type that breeds in puddles of fresh water, so filth per se was not actually a major factor in the epidemics. But in 1878, more than two decades before Walter Reed determined yellow fever etiology, city officials and residents were not taking any chances. They established quarantines, applied various chemical solutions to streets and residences, and removed garbage. Thousands of residents also fled their filthy urban

environs for nearby refugee camps or distant cities.

The idea of establishing refugee camps during epidemics had been proposed earlier in Memphis in 1873, but it was not implemented until the next yellow fever visitation. The first camp was set up in mid-August on the Webb Place, about seven miles south of the city, and eventually attracted 600 to 700 Memphians. Another,

the Father Matthew Camp, was established on 200 acres near the presentday intersection of Stonewall and Willett with Vollintine, a wooded area about three miles east of the city then known for its pure springs. Organized by Reverend William Walsh of St. Bridget's Catholic Church, the encampment attracted mostly Irish and operated under the rules of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union. Sentries were placed on the perimeter to deal with any opposition from local inhabitants and 70 to 80 tents were pitched with capacity to shelter about 400 persons. Everyone seeking entry to the camp had to wait out two weeks in quarantine, and during the remaining days of the epidemic only ten residents died from yellow fever, which they had contracted in the city.

As cooler weather brought an end to the mosquito season and so also to the epidemic, the refugee camps were closed down and Memphis residents struggled to rebuild. The population had declined from 40,000 to 33,000 and the municipal government had not only declared bankruptcy but also abandoned its charter. In the 1880s, the Taxing District of Shelby County reorganized Memphis, plans for a new sewer system began, a regular garbage collection service started,



WWII-era malaria control poster.

receiving a new influx of residents was what became known as Vollintine-Evergreen, the northwest corner of which had hosted the Father Matthew Camp.

(Next time: Dairy Farms and more)

and a fresh water supply was secured when an ice company accidentally tapped into an aquifer. Soon Memphis saw a 200 percent increase in its population and significant growth beyond the city limits. After the turn of the century, one of the areas

## – <u>Vollintine-Evergreen</u> NEWS FROM VELSICOL

by Chuck Hanson

Velsicol recently received approval from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to begin taking soil samples from yards along Cypress Creek. That's good news for the Cypress Creek neighborhood.

This next phase of the investigation will address a 2.4mile long section of the Creek from Jackson Avenue to Evergreen Street. The work plan calls for sampling approximately 1/3 of the 143 single -family residences and 30 properties of other land uses (such as industrial and apartment complexes) along the Creek. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may do some additional sampling as well.

Recently, several leaders in the community asked me what the goal of the investigation is. Simply put, we're trying to determine if the contaminants found along Cypress Creek warrant remediation. To do that, we will collect and analyze soil samples predominately from residents' yards, conduct analytical tests and perform a human health risk evaluation based on an EPA-approved methodology. The results of the health risk evaluation will determine if any further steps are necessary.

Velsicol representatives will be contacting residents through early February to request permission to collect

Aground Accept
Aground Accept
South

samples from yards that back up to the Creek. The process is quite simple, typically taking just one hour per yard. An environmental specialist, working with representatives from TDEC, will use a hand auger to dig approximately 12 inches into the soil to collect samples from close to the Creek and from 30 or more feet away for each back yard selected. If your property backs up to the Creek and you want to volunteer your yard to be sampled, contact Gary Hermann, Velsicol's environmental project manager at 345-1788 extension 120 or at ghermann@velsicol.com. Any resident whose yard is sampled will be given information about the testing results specific to their yard. Gary is already working on selecting homes for the sampling program, so please give him your address, phone number and the best time to contact you.

Based on the current schedule, sampling will be performed during January and February. Velsicol will develop an evaluation and report of the results during the March to May time period. We expect to communicate the results of the study to the neighborhood after TDEC approves the report in June or July. We welcome any questions or comments you have in the meantime. I can be reached at chanson@velsicol.com.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME October 1 - November 30, 2002



## VOLLINTINE - EVERGREEN

# ASK THE BANKER: Obtaining and Using Credit Cards

Many of us have gotten numerous "pre-approved" credit card offers in the mail. Most of these offer some low introductory rate and urge you to accept the offer before it expires. Before you accept, it is in your best interest to shop around to get the best deal and know what you are getting.

Question: What is the annual percentage rate?

Answer: The annual percentage rate is a measure of the cost of credit,

expressed as a yearly figure. This rate must be disclosed prior to you becoming obligated on the account and it will be reflected on your statement.

#### Question: What is the "free" period?

Answer: During this period, also called the "grace period", you can avoid any interest charges if you pay off your balance in full. Not all credit cards have a free period!

Question: Can there be additional fees charged?

Answer: Yes — some cards have an annual fee, as well as fees for making a late payment, taking cash advances, and exceeding your credit limit, just to name a few.

Question: Can I be held responsible for unauthorized charges?

Answer: Yes - you can be held responsible for up to \$50. To minimize your liability, report any loss as soon as possible.

#### Question: What else should I know?

Answer: Here are a few more shopping tips when looking for a credit card.

- · Shop around and find the best plan for you.
- · Make sure you understand the terms of the credit card.
- · Carry only the card(s) you think you will need to use.
- · Protect your cards, your account numbers, and any PIN codes.
- Tear up all sale slip carbons immediately.
- · Keep all your receipts, and always check them against your monthly statement.
- · Keep a record of your account numbers and credit card company toll-free phone numbers, in a separate, safe place.

Most of this month's answers were contributed by BancorpSouth.

Information provided in this column is offered in good faith, but individuals should carefully consider whether the advice suits their own particular circumstances and act accordingly.



# IN MEMORY OF BEULAH GREEN

If you ever called the VECA office between 1998 and 2000, chances are you were greeted by the pleasant voice and manner of Beulah Green. A retiree of 34 years of teaching in our public schools, Ms. Green served VECA for three years as a VISTA volunteer. She died on November 29, 2002 with family in Dallas. Those who worked at the office with Ms. Green will always remember her.



<u> Vollintine – Evergreen</u>

#### Little Flower Primary School

*Now Enrolling* Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten, & 1st Grade

1666 Jackson Avenue Memphis, TN 38107 725-9900 Scholarships available!

#### OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH

1792 North Parkway Memphis, TN 38112 (901) 278-4311 Gary D. Starbuck, Pastor Nursery Available Sunday Services: 10:45 am and 6:00 pm

> "A common people with an uncommon love"

#### McLean Baptist Preschool

Full service child care at affordable prices Licensed for children 15 months and up Before and after school transportation with child care for Snowden and Vollentine Schools

Full day summer and holiday program for school age children

Now enrolling for all programs 815 N. McLean • 274-9440



#### St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

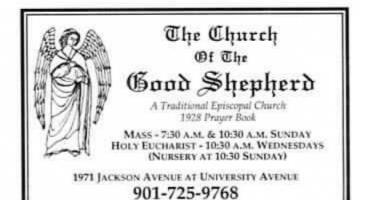
Sunday Orthros at 9 am • Liturgy at 10 am

Weekdays Wednesday Vespers at 7 pm Saturday Great Vespers at 7 pm

1663 Tutwiler Avenue at Dickinson (901) 274-4119



A Ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church



EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 613 UNIVERSITY AVENUE (ACROSS FROM RHODES COLLEGE) (901) 278-4430

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

SUMMER CAMP MINISTRY The cool MidTown day camp for K-Junior High Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:00pm

EXTENDED CARE: 3:00-6:00pm

- <u>Vollintine--Evergreen</u> -

### RHODES COLLEGE STUDENTS AND HANDS ON MEMPHIS PARTNER ON THE V&E GREENLINE

by Natalie Jones, Hands on Memphis Program Manager



On November 6, Kappa Sigma Fraternity from Rhodes College partnered with local non-profit Hands on Memphis to build a retaining wall for the V&E Greenline.

For the past several years Kappa Sigma has sponsored Philanthropy Week for its members and fellow Rhodes students. The week's activities have included one-time projects such as the Greenline work as well as campus-wide fundraising events.

When asked, Hands on Memphis was happy to partner in this endeavor. As an organization we strive to place volunteers in handson projects that are meaningful to the volunteer and the agency receiving service. VECA needed manual labor and we had a group of young, energetic college students ready to pitch in!

The students dug and placed railroad ties along the side of the Greenline near the corner of University and Jackson. Just east of this

corner is a section of Greenline that floods frequently. Hopefully, this retaining wall will serve its purpose and keep the flooding to a minimum.

Without a doubt, VECA, Rhodes College, and Hands on Memphis gained from this partnership. We certainly hope to be able to work together more in the future!

## **RESTORE BUILDING CENTER**

Vollintine-Evergreen residents who want to save some money on home repairs or renovations should visit the ReStore Building Center. The retail outlet for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis, the ReStore is located behind Habitat's offices at 169 Scott Street. The ReStore sells new and recycled building materials at prices well below retail. You can find great deals on quality merchandise such as windows, doors, flooring, cabinets, roofing, paint, and wallpaper. New inventory arrives weekly - if you have a project in mind, shop often and bring your measurements. Proceeds from the ReStore benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis.

Examples of the stock and prices:

Windows	\$15 and up
Exterior Doors	\$25 and up
Paint	\$3 per 1-gallon can
Wallpaper	\$3 per roll
Cabinet Pulls	\$0.50 - \$1.00 each

The ReStore is open Monday-Friday 9-4 and Saturday 9-1. Please call Habitat for Humanity at 761-4771 for more information or visit our Web site at memphishabitat.com.

### **NEWS FROM NORTHSIDE**

Last year Northside High School senior Kevin Sullivan entered a photography contest and won at the national level. Winning this contest allowed Kevin to travel to Philadelphia and pose as a photojournalist for the ESPN X-games. There his communication skills and his talents as a poet and artist were recognized and he was asked to speak to a group of 500 in Plano, Texas. Kevin has been awarded \$600 for these achievements to go with a lifetime of memories that otherwise might not have been amassed.



Vollintine-Evergreen



#### 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.