

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

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

Volume XXIX, Number 2

MARCH 2003

## MONTHLY HOME REPAIR CLASSES CONTINUE

VECA and VECA CDC have begun a new program in 2003. Home repair classes on a variety of topics are 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.



**HOME REPAIR  
CLASSES**

### Tentative topics:

- March 15: Types of Paint and Techniques of Painting
- April 19: Cabinets and Paneling
- May 17: Minor Plumbing
- June 21: Tile and Wood Flooring
- July 19: Any suggestions?



The first two classes were well attended and well received. January's class was on building codes and February's class dealt with drywall. Suggestions for future topics are welcome. We would also love to have experienced neighborhood residents help conduct a class or two.



## V&E GREENLINE: MARCH IS CONTRIBUTION MONTH

*by Mike Kirby*

This past year has been another good one for the V&E Greenline. The V&E Greenline is 1.7 miles of community park that was formerly an abandoned railroad track and is now owned and maintained by the neighborhood.

It has never looked better. During the year, volunteers planted trees, mowed the roadbed, did landscaping, improved the drainage, and added small signs. Two large projects are planned for 2003: completion of a bridge over West Creek and eradication of kudzu. The 2002 Annual Report is available at the office.

Maintenance and upkeep is provided by a group of dedicated neighborhood volunteers. There are ongoing expenses such as repair of equipment, payment of property taxes, servicing the tractor and the mowers, fuel, etc. In addition, the Greenline needs funds for planting more trees and adding bollards to keep motorized vehicles from entering the Greenline.

In the month of March, you will see signs at the entrances to the Greenline, reminding you that "Upkeep Cost Money — March is Contribution Month". New volunteers are also always welcome; the V&E Greenline Committee normally meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

Please support this beautiful neighborhood amenity by making a tax-deductible donation to VECA CDC, earmarked for the V&E Greenline. No amount is too small. Thank you for your support.

## 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 12 (tentative)
National Night Out	August 5
Open House	T.B.A.
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 26, 2004 (tentative)
Historic Committee	second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m. (various locations; call office)
Code Enforcement Committee	third Saturday monthly, 10:30 a.m.
Block Club Committee	first Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Cypress Creek Committee	call office for update
Youth Committee	call office to help
V&E Greenline Committee	third Tuesday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
Housing Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Commercial Revitalization Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Managing Committee	last Monday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
VENews deadlines, 2003:	April 4, June 6, August 5, October 3, December 2
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	first Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	March 3, 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	April 7, 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	May 5, 7:00 p.m.

## VISIT VECA'S WEBSITES

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca)  
[www.thevillagememphis.com](http://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



## FOR SALE BY VECA CDC

All are new brick, 3-bedroom,  
2-bathroom houses under construction:

2113 Brown  
2218 Hunter  
2348 Hunter  
2136 Howell  
2345 Shasta  
2375 Shasta



2113 Brown



2348 Hunter

For more information,  
contact Randy Wilder  
of Sowell & Company at 278-4380.

## VOLLINTINE NEWS EVERGREEN

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Submissions can be submitted on paper (even handwritten),  
on disk, or by email to [VECA\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:VECA_news@yahoo.com)

276-1782 phone • 276-1784 fax

email: [VECA@netten.net](mailto:VECA@netten.net)  
[www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca)  
[www.thevillagememphis.com](http://www.thevillagememphis.com)

## THE 2003 VECA BOARD

In accordance with the VECA Bylaws, all Vollintine-Evergreen members attending the January 27 meeting elected the following VECA Board members, as well as the president and vice president. (The VECA Board then selected its secretary and treasurer.)

Annette Anderson, Scott Banbury, Kay Blues, Don Campbell, Janis Cannon (treasurer), Rick Cartwright (vice president), Fredha Feaster, Gloria Fulton, Jenny Jenson, Helen Johnson, Scott Moore (secretary), Sr. Lakshmi Napagoda, Bill Newberg, Joyce Parker, Jonathan Prince, Jessie Rodgers, John Rutkauskas, Mary Wilder (president)

## THE 2003 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.

Julie Borys, Paul Herron (treasurer), Judith Johnson, Teddy King, Janet McGregor (chair), Dick Mochow (secretary), Janese Perry, Jessie Rodgers, Renate Rosenthal, Bob Schneider, Alan Shinosky, Mitchell Spence, Mike Streeter, Jane Venson (vice-chair)

## 2002 VECA TREASURER'S REPORT

*by Janis Cannon*

Following is a summary of the 2002 VECA budget. (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 will be provided upon request.

### Support and Revenue:

Dues	\$4280.00
Contributions	125.00
Investment Income	173.34
Vollintine-Evergreen News Ads	2340.00
Other	1129.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8047.60</b>

### Expenses:

Vollintine-Evergreen News Printing	\$3866.00
Awards & Gifts	164.31
Postage	307.11
Potluck Supper/Pool Party	148.70
Historic District Plaques (100)	2075.00
VECA Board Insurance	852.00
Other	146.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7559.96</b>

### Excess Income:

\$487.64

### Total Assets:

\$19,702.02

### Total Liabilities:

-0-

## DICTEL, BORYS, AND HEINEMANN AWARDS GIVEN AT ANNUAL MEETING

At VECA's annual meeting on January 27, 2003, VECA presented its three highly prized annual awards to very deserving and well-known community figures.

The Margaret Dichtel Award, presented to a neighborhood resident, was given to Fredha Feaster. Fredha is an active member of both the VECA Board and VECA Historic Committee (and her home was on the 2000 Holiday Home Tour). Several years ago Fredha agreed to assume full responsibility for coordinating distribution of this Vollintine-Evergreen News, 4,500 copies of which are distributed free throughout the neighborhood every two months.

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 Rickey Peete, last year's City Council chairman. Councilman Peete has been an untiring advocate of code enforcement. In response to calls from his constituents, he has contacted code enforcement agencies and brought city officials to Vollintine-Evergreen to view specific code violations. He frequently attends VECA meetings and events, so he understands the neighborhood's needs.

The new Martha Heinemann Award, presented to a Board member, was given to Janis Cannon. Janis Cannon has served many years on the VECA Board. Most notably, Janis assumed the VECA Treasurer's important responsibilities from Martha Heinemann in 2001. The transition was a smooth one. Thus, her selection as the first Heinemann award winner is especially appropriate.

Congratulations and thanks to Fredha, Rickey, and Janis for their valuable contributions to our neighborhood and organization.



Thanks to Gethsemane Garden Institutional Church of God in Christ for opening their wonderful facilities for VECA's use for its January 27 general membership meeting. About 100 people attended to share fellowship, music, and food (and to conduct a bit of business).



# HUNTING GROUNDS, DAIRY FARMS, AND HOUSING TRACTS: THREE CENTURIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN THE VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN NEIGHBORHOOD

by Chad Montrie (Chad.Montrie@umt.edu)

[Editor's note: This is the second of several installments of this article. The complete version is at the VECA office.]

## DAIRY FARMS

Although they have fluctuated over time, the modern-day boundaries of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood roughly correspond to Cypress Creek on the north, Watkins Street on the west, North Parkway on the south, and Springdale Street on the east. The southern half of this area was included in the original 5000-acre Rice grant in the late eighteenth century, but since that time the property has changed hands many times. From John Overton it eventually devolved to the heirs of Ann Overton Brinkley and Robert Bogardus Snowden, who gradually sold off portions of the 1068 acres during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Some of the northern section of the neighborhood, on the other side of Vollintine Avenue, was originally part of a large state grant to Williams Lawrence. A portion of this land was purchased by Hiram Vollintine (the spelling changed later) in 1859, which he developed as a subdivision to the west of what became Vollintine-Evergreen. Another section, between Evergreen Street and McLean Boulevard and north of Jackson Avenue, was bought up by R.A. Terry, one of the first permanent white settlers in the neighborhood.

Robert Allen Terry and his wife moved to Memphis from Holly Springs, Mississippi, in 1876. They originally purchased twenty acres of the 80-acre Constantine Paine estate and set up the Chestnut Grove Dairy, while J.N. Paine and his wife continued to farm the remaining land to the north. In the course of a decade, Terry bought 100 more acres nearby, partly for his 100



1907-1910 Overton Park and L. & N. Railroad

head of cattle but also to develop a section of mini-farms. He and his carpenter father built about 15 homes, each with their own ten acres and barn, most of them south of Vollintine. These homes became the core of Terrytown, between Evergreen and McLean and Jackson and Brown (then a cattle lane known as Redbud). By the turn of the century, W.J. Pinkston and W.J. Percer had taken over operations on the Terry dairy land, another dairy had been set up south of Jackson, and three dairies had been established on nearby May (now University). The latter included T.J. Briggs's 28-acre dairy on the corner of Vollintine and two smaller dairies (three and six acres) on the lots north of him.

To the east of the growing Terrytown settlement was Springdale, which grew up near a toll gate on Raleigh Road (Jackson Avenue) and was a stop on the L&N Railroad. R.A. Terry's sister, Georgianna, and her husband, J.B. Vicory, moved their family to the area in 1881. They worked a small truck farm and kept some dairy cows on the north side of the railroad line east of Springdale, selling their vegetables, butter, and milk to a downtown grocery. By 1900, there was a full-fledged dairy operating on the adjacent lot, fifteen acres owned by J.S. Court, and three other dairies to the south of them, the Garner Dairy between the railroad and Raleigh Road, another on the Overton Bayou on the west side of Trezevant, and a third at the northeast corner of Springdale and Raleigh, the site of one of the area's springs and what was, until 1995, the location of Springdale Church of Christ. Including those in Terrytown, 11 of the

36 dairies in Shelby County were within or on the future boundaries of Vollintine-Evergreen at this time.

By 1910, a number of dairies had been sold while others had expanded. Garner Dairy went out of business; the two dairies on the other side of T.J. Briggs were bought out by J.R. Hollish though Briggs remained at the corner of May and Vollintine; J.S. Court purchased J.N. Vicory's property to add to his 15 acres and went into business with his brother; the dairy near the springs in Springdale passed to a new owner; W.J. Pinkston continued to operate on part of the old dairy land of R.A. Terry but along with his son; W.J. Percer sold out to B.M. Barham (whose son later reestablished the Chestnut Grove Dairy when he married a Terry daughter, but farther west on Vollintine); two others simply went out of business; Rook & Rook sold off their property for early subdivision development; and two new dairies were started, one near Vollintine and McLean and another on the south side of Redbud (Brown) east of Evergreen. All told, the number of dairies in Vollintine-Evergreen declined to 8, of 54 in the county as a whole, though this does not necessarily represent a decline in the local dairy industry, which remained vibrant until the 1920s.

There were, of course, other residents besides dairymen and their families in Vollintine-Evergreen at the turn of the century, including truck farmers, blacksmiths, harness makers, woodcutters, and even a handful of grocers. But in terms of scale, dairy farming was the most significant land use in the neighborhood. The nature of this land use can be gathered from a couple of disparate sources, including an interview of a former dairy hand, Moses Hull. Hull was born in Memphis in 1914 and was employed by W.H. Scheele & Son at his dairy just northwest of Watkins and south of Cypress Creek in the early 1930s. He arrived every morning at about

Continued on page 11

## HOW VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN RESIDENTS CAN HELP

Dozens of Vollintine-Evergreen residents currently serve on one of our Committees or on one of our two Boards, and about one hundred residents help prepare and deliver this free newsletter. But there are always tasks — one-time and recurring, large and small — that VECA CDC staff members don't have the time or the expertise to tackle, so whatever your skills and resources, your help is always welcome.

- Can you help maintain copy machines?
- Can you help sort, label, and store photographs?
- Can you help prepare various display boards?
- Can you do light carpentry and painting at the office?
- Can you repaint the metal Watkins Village sign?
- Can you help us stripe the office parking lot?
- Can you help network computers (mostly middle-aged PCs)?
- Can you help create a "master database" using Access?

Remember that VECA CDC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, which means that your donations may be tax-deductible. We would gladly arrange free pickup of any donated used goods, such as:

- Copiers, printers, and computer equipment
- Projector screen
- Shelving

Visit or call the office if you might be able to help in any way, whether it is listed here or not. Thanks.

## NEW! YARD OF THE MONTH

Beginning April 2003, the Historic Committee will be announcing its "Yard of the Month". Each month's winner will be presented with a beautiful "Vollintine-Evergreen Yard of the Month" sign to be proudly displayed in the winner's yard.

If you would like to nominate your yard, a neighbor's yard or any yard in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood, please email to: [ve\\_historic@yahoo.com](mailto:ve_historic@yahoo.com) or call 272-0230.

## 2004 HOME TOUR — COMING SOON

The Historic Committee is looking for a few great looking homes for the next Home & Garden Tour to be held in April 2004. If you would like to recommend a home and/or garden, please email recommendations to: [ve\\_historic@yahoo.com](mailto:ve_historic@yahoo.com) or call 272-0230.



**Look for VECA in May 2003 issue of Southern Living magazine — Tennessee Living section.**



To Jonathan Prince (a new VECA Board member), for many hours of assistance preparing the VECA office's computer lab;

To Velsicol Chemical Corporation for the donation of two computer hubs that will help make the VECA office's new computer lab far more functional

To Bob Schneider, for the donation of a floor model copier machine to replace one he donated several years ago that served VECA well;

To Virginia McShane, for several days of assistance in answering telephones in the office;

To Keith Lowe and Scott Banbury, for the donation of folding tables, folding chairs, and a display board;

## ASK THE BANKER: Credit Scores



**Question:** What is a credit score?

**Answer:** A credit score is a number that relates to an individual's chance of paying back a loan or other debt.

**Question:** Do I have a credit score, even if I have never heard of it?

**Answer:** Most likely you do have a credit score, especially if you have ever had a credit card or have purchased anything on credit.

**Question:** Who uses my credit score? How?

**Answer:** Any potential creditor — bank, credit card company, or potential employer — may use your credit score to assess their risk. But they cannot do so until you give them written permission, which may be included in papers you are asked to sign.

**Question:** What is the range of possible credit scores? What is considered excellent, good, or bad?

**Answer:** The range of credit scores is from 400 to about 830. What is excellent, good, or bad credit is subjective. A credit score above 700 can be considered very good to excellent. A score in the 600s is usually average to good.

**Question:** What can raise my credit score?

**Answer:** To raise your credit score, you need to basically be very trustworthy when it comes to your debt obligations: pay your debts on time, do not accumulate much debt, and have a limited number of credit cards. You also need to actually have and responsibly use some credit.

**Question:** What can lower my credit score?

**Answer:** Some of the many factors that can lower your credit score are obvious: late payment of debts, excessive number of credit cards, large amounts of debt, liens, collection accounts, repossessions, and bankruptcy. But there are other less obvious factors: numerous applications for credit, however well intentioned, and too-frequent checking of your credit reports.

**Question:** Should I find out my credit score? How?

**Answer:** Everyone should review his or her credit history occasionally by obtaining a credit report from a credit reporting agency. Obtaining your credit report will enable you to see how your credit is being reported and will allow you to ask for explanations or possibly correct information that you do not agree with. (However, as mentioned above, frequent checking of your credit score, for whatever reason, may lower it.) The three credit reporting agencies are Equifax at 1-800-997-2493; Experian Information Solutions (formerly TRW) at 1-888-397-3742; TransUnion at 1-800-916-8800.

**Question:** Does it cost anything to check my credit score?

**Answer:** There is usually a modest fee to check your credit score.

BancorpSouth contributed most of this month's answers. 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.





**YOU ARE INVITED TO RHODES COLLEGE'S  
SIXTH ANNUAL RITES TO PLAY!  
COMMUNITY CARNIVAL "INTO THE WOODS"**

at noon on Saturday April 5, 2003  
in Fisher Gardens and Oak Alley  
(the south end of campus)

Come out and play, and be sure to  
bring a blanket and a picnic!  
There will be face painting, dunk tank,  
moon bounce, duck pond and lots of  
other games and activities.

Enjoy hot dogs, caramel apples,  
cotton candy and more!

If you have any question,  
call Alex Sedlander at 843-5153 or  
emasedam@rhodes.edu.

**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 determin-  
ing 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**



**A Good Book and A Cup of Java**



15% off All Books

20% off Book Clubs with  
5 or more members

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Call to place an order

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**DENEUVILLE LEARNING  
CENTER'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY  
APRIL 12 OPEN HOUSE**

Sisters of the Good Shepherd and  
DeNeuville staff invite everyone to join in  
the celebration of five years of service in  
guiding women in learning the skills needed  
for betterment of themselves and their  
families. To celebrate this event, an Open  
House will be held on Saturday April 12  
from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at DeNeuville  
Learning Center at 840 Dickinson Street  
(behind St. Therese Little Flower Catholic  
Church on Jackson Avenue). There will be  
food and fun from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
This will be an opportunity for everyone to  
meet DeNeuville students and graduates,  
to visit DeNeuville, and to support the  
Sisters and staff in their mission. Please  
call 726-5902 if more information is needed.



*January 18 tour of Cypress Creek floodplain*

## Little Flower Primary School

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

1666 Jackson Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38107  
725-9900

Scholarships  
available!

## 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.

276-1412



"All Are Welcome"

## 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"*



For 3 and 4  
years old

**REGISTER  
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**Trinity Preschool**  
1738 Galloway Ave.

274-6895

A Ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church

## 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



## 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

## 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



## 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



VECA is participating this year in the Shelby County Schools "Storm Water Environmental Education Project" (SWEEP). One of the three targeted schools is Vollintine-Evergreen's own Cypress Middle School.

Your responses to the five questions below will be appreciated and will help VECA fulfill its obligations under the project. You may mail, fax, or drop off your completed survey at the VECA office at 1680 Jackson. Thank you.

## STORM WATER SURVEY

1. Storm water is the runoff from rain and melted snow that flows into the city's storm drain system. Were you aware of this?  
☐ YES ☐ NO
2. Storm water pollution occurs when items get into the storm water. Do you think Memphis has a problem with storm water pollution?  
☐ YES ☐ NO
3. Do you believe storm water goes through a cleaning process before reaching the Mississippi River?  
☐ YES ☐ NO
4. How interested are you in learning more about the issue of storm water pollution?  
☐ VERY INTERESTED ☐ SOMEWHAT INTERESTED ☐ NOT INTERESTED
5. If you change the oil in your car yourself, or if someone changes your oil for you, how is the used oil usually disposed of?  
☐ POURED IN THE STREET ☐ TAKEN TO A RECYCLING CENTER ☐ PUT IN THE TRASH

Please use the space below to pass along any comments about the subject of storm water or storm water pollution.

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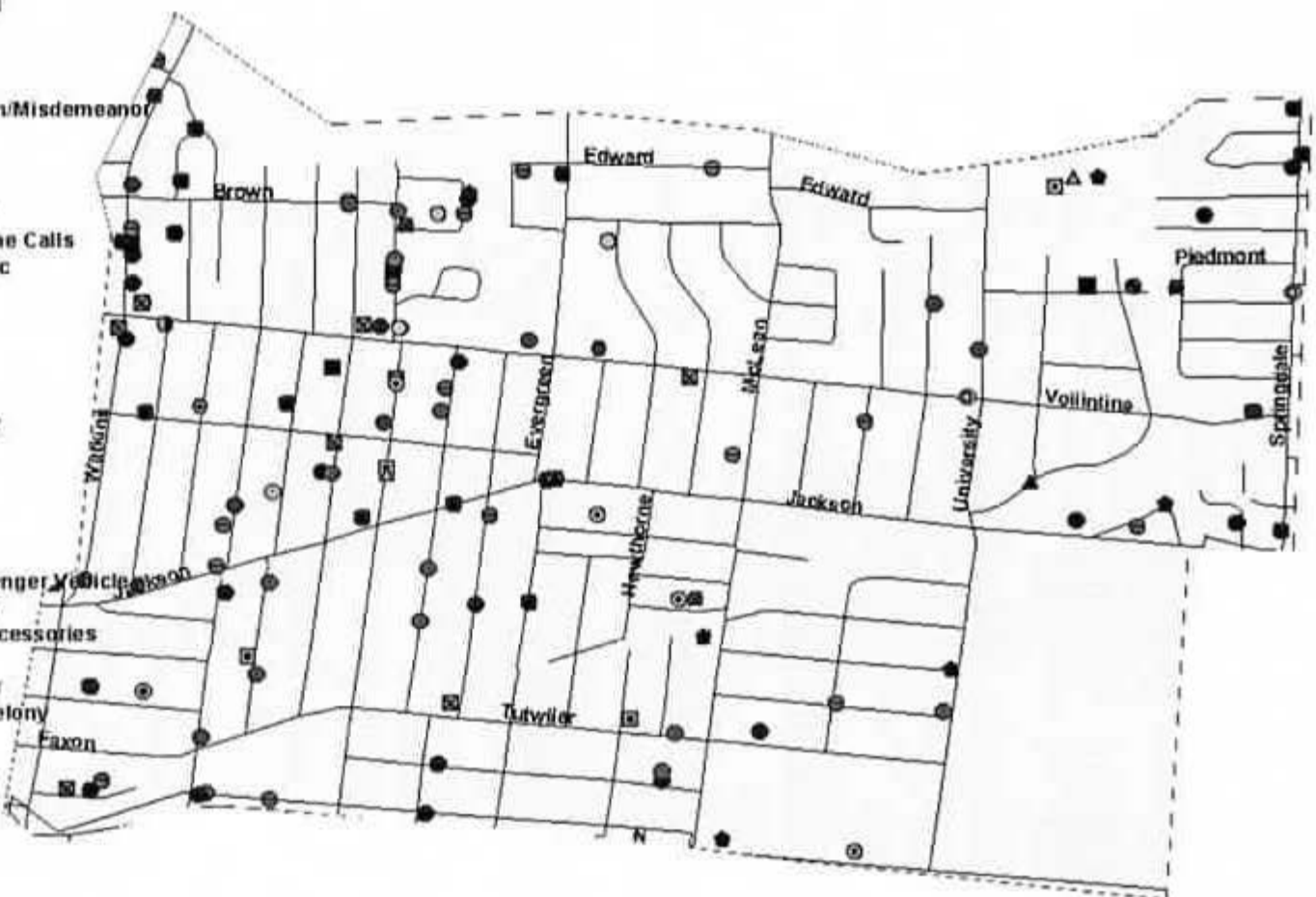
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# NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME — December 31, 2002 to January 31, 2003



Master\_incident.shp

- Aggravated Assault
- ▲ Aggravated Assault D/V
- Animal Injury
- Burglary/Business
- ★ Burglary/Non-Residential
- ⊙ Burglary/Residential
- ① Custodial Interference
- ⊙ DOA/Natural
- Drugs/Narcotics Violation/Misdemeanor
- ⊙ Forcible Rape
- ▲ Identity Theft
- ★ Intimidation
- MVT/ Passenger Vehicle
- ⊙ Obscene/Harassing Phone Calls
- Other Theft / Non-Specific
- ⊙ Possible Stolen
- ⊙ Prostitution
- ▲ Robbery/Business
- ⊙ Robbery/Individual
- Runaway
- Shoplifting Misdemeanor
- Simple Assault
- Simple Assault D/V
- Stalking
- Statutory Rape
- ★ Suspicious Person
- Theft & Recovery / Passenger Vehicle
- Theft from Motor Vehicle
- Theft of Vehicle Parts/Accessories
- ⊙ Vandalism/ Felony
- ⊙ Vandalism/ Misdemeanor
- ⊙ Weapon Law Violation/Felony

DAIRY FARMS from page 4

4 o'clock to assist and clean up after the two milkers. Before the milking he washed off the cows' milk bags, which would get splattered with mud and manure, then set the milk in the chilled milk room to keep it cool. Afterward he hosed down the barn and sprinkled the area with lime. The 20-25 cows Scheele owned, Hull remembers, spent much of the rest of the day in a 12-acre pasture, which was divided up by barbed wire so the animals could be rotated from one section to another. Sometimes they also grazed in a small plot on the north side of the creek where a small truck garden was planted (they might have been sent over to feed on roughage and/or to manure the field there). In the winter and at other times they were fed "sweet feed," enriched corn that was purchased rather than grown in a meadow on the farm.

Hull's recollections suggest that the Scheele dairy, like other dairies in Vollintine-Evergreen in the early twentieth century, was at least somewhat typical of the scattered operations throughout Shelby County. By the mid-1920s, within a 20-mile radius of Memphis, there were 182 dairies classified as "producer-distributors" and 346 classified as "producers," only 33 of which were actually engaged in full-time dairy production. The average number of cows at these operations was 25, which is about what the Scheeles kept. The average pasture on a producer-distributor dairy was 67 acres, however, which was much higher than any dairy in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. W.H. Scheele & Son was also among a minority of producer-distributors who owned all of their land, rather than renting part or all of it. The dairy was more typical by not growing their own feed, as land became unavailable, rents too high, or property too expensive to work a meadow close to the city. The great majority of area dairies also did not give away or sell manure, suggesting that they let it drop in the pasture uncollected or used it to fertilize truck farms or gardens of their own.

Although in some ways representative and in other ways not, W.H. Scheele & Son was, with other dairies serving the Memphis area, a primary concern of the city and county health agencies. The city board of health was inspecting dairies by

the early 1890s, checking on the health of the cows, their food and water supply, and condition of barns. By mid-decade dairymen had to register with the health office and submit samples for a health officer to test. Since there were no existing legal standards for purity, however, the city council passed such an ordinance in 1898 and, by that measure, the milk supply was poor, not only dirty but also adulterated with preservatives like formaldehyde and salicylic acid. A few dairymen were subsequently arrested, fined, and their names published in the newspaper, and supposedly great improvements in quality followed, but complaints and hand wringing continued.

Both board of health personnel and many other city officials insisted that disease in the suburbs was a direct menace to the city, whether due to unsanitary dairies and impure milk or inadequate sewage infrastructure, and this belief, strengthened by the threat of a fever epidemic in the summer of 1898, spurred on an annexation campaign. This effort was successful in January of 1899, adding more than 12 square miles to the existing 4 square mile city area, including the area south of Vollintine east to May (University). Later, annexation in 1909 pushed the eastern boundary to Trezevant, and another enlargement of city limits in 1929 brought in the section of Vollintine-Evergreen north of Vollintine. In the wake of the 1899 annexation, the board of health stepped up its dairy oversight and a report at the turn of the century found that "the majority of dairies were kept in unsanitary condition, and in some instances [were] positively filthy." More dairymen were arrested and fined and the general cleaning and white-washing of barns and dairy houses was ordered. By 1916, the board was calling for pasteurization of the milk supply too, but well into the 1930s this was not required. At the end of 1936, however, the county health department graders put pasteurized milk in a top category by itself, declared it safer than any other for drinking, and the percentage of pasteurized supply increased from 57 to 84 percent.



1938 Cypress Creek

As dairy inspection and milk testing expanded in Memphis, it had important implications for the dairy farms in Vollintine-Evergreen (and elsewhere in the city). The higher standards added to the even greater pressure to sell out brought on by increased real estate development in the neighborhood. Between 1910 and 1920, the number of dairies in Vollintine Evergreen actually increased by one, with some in the same location and under the same ownership while others were entirely new. During the next decade, however, the number of dairies in the area shrunk to three and, in the city as a whole, dropped from 53 to 23. Julian Wilson moved from Vollintine and McLean to Vollintine and May (University) to make way for the Colonial Garden Subdivision. C.E. Paty opened up a new dairy on the west side of Springdale north of the L&N railroad, and C.R. Barham (the son of B.M. Barham who had left the dairy business the decade before) reestablished the Chestnut Grove Dairy (he had married a daughter of R.A. Terry) at 1634 Vollintine. Of the six other dairies that disappeared between 1920 and 1930, nearly all of them were squeezed out by real estate development. This included the employer of Moses Hull, W.H. Scheele, who moved north to Chelsea and continued to operate a dairy with his son Bill. By 1940, there was only one dairy left in the neighborhood, on the northeast corner of Springdale and Vollintine, run by Mrs. Anna Russom, probably the widow of W.A. Russom, who had owned a dairy on the east side of Springdale at Chelsea back in the 1910s.

*Next time: Housing Tracts*



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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.