

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

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

Volume XXIX, Number 3

MAY 2003

## V&E GREENLINE FUNDRAISER



Doing your spring housecleaning?  
Found items you no longer need?  
Donate them to the V&E Greenline  
for its annual yard sale fundraiser.

For pickup call 276-1782 or 274-3875, or email [Jkirby@rhodes.edu](mailto:Jkirby@rhodes.edu).

The yard sale is Saturday May 24th,  
8 am to 1 pm on the Greenline at 745 N. McLean.

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## VECA'S FREE TECHNOLOGY CENTER OPEN

*by Andrew Wilkins*



After a lot of good work by VECA Board member Jonathan Prince and neighbor Bud Moon, the computers are up and running, wired for high-speed internet service and ready for free use by our neighbors. The computers will be available when the VECA office is open, usually 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Donations were also provided by Rhodes College, United Way, Gifts In Kind and Memphis Community Development Partnership. Several other grant applications are pending.

Computer classes are being planned, and neighbors willing to teach a class on basic computer skills are needed. We've received dozens of surveys expressing interest in the technology center and computer classes — let's get together to make this unique resource successful!

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## POTLUCK SUPPER AND POOL PARTY

Mark your calendars, and join many of your neighbors for great food and water fun on Saturday, July 12, 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. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the event will go on, indoors.



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Do Not Place In Or On Mailboxes

## 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
National Night Out	August 5
Open House	fall, T.B.A.
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 26, 2004 (tentative)
Historic Home & Garden Tour	April 25, 2004
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:	June 6, August 5, October 3, December 2
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	first Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	May 5, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	June 2, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	July 7, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



## 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.

## 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  
(sean@vecacdc.org)
- Steve Gadbois,  
Executive Director  
(gadbois@vecacdc.org)
- Ruth Gibson,  
Homeowner Counselor and Office Manager (wruth@vecacdc.org)
- Leslie Rae Isaacman,  
Rhodes College student intern
- Daryl Lewis,  
Neighborhood Preservationist  
(dlewis@vecacdc.org)
- Wilma Vandermeer,  
Financial Manager
- Andrew Wilkins,  
Property Code Coordinator  
(wilkinsandrew@vecacdc.org)

## VOLLINTINE -- EVERGREEN NEWS

1680 JACKSON AVENUE - MEMPHIS, TN 38107

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Submissions can be submitted on paper (even hand-written), on disk, or by email to [veca@vecacdc.org](mailto:veca@vecacdc.org)

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email: [veca@vecacdc.org](mailto:veca@vecacdc.org) and  
[vecacdc@vecacdc.org](mailto:vecacdc@vecacdc.org)

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

## CRIME MAPS

Understanding that knowledge is power, a map of Vollintine Evergreen crime incidents are now available weekly on-line at [www.thevillagememphis.com/](http://www.thevillagememphis.com/).

As well as listing the previous week's crime every Monday, The Village Memphis @ Vollintine Evergreen features an on-line tour of the neighborhood and posts community interest stories every other Friday.

The Village Memphis is an effort to refocus attention to important local issues like crime and schools usually ignored by citywide media outlets.

Tracking the crime in our neighborhood revealed in February a rash of car thefts centered around the commercial center at Vollintine Avenue and Maury Street. A representative from the North Precinct promised to increase patrols in that area, and as a result car thefts have been reduced.

## YARDWORK SEASON — NEED HELP? WANT TO HELP?



Call the VECA office if you either are looking for yardwork to do or looking for someone to do yardwork. Staff will keep lists and suggest matches. Any agreement for work to be done and price to be charged is strictly between

the property owner and the worker(s).

VECA, VECA CDC, and VECA CDC staff will act in good faith, but make no promises, assume no responsibility for work done, and assume no liability for accidents or problems.

## 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 (these are changed from previously published lists):

- |          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| May 17:  | Cabinets and Paneling |
| June 21: | Minor Plumbing        |
| July 19: | any suggestions?      |

The first four sessions were well attended and well received. Suggestions for future topics are welcome. We would also love to have experienced neighborhood residents help conduct a class or two.

## NEEDED AT YOUR VECA OFFICE

- electric stove and oven (for our new kitchenette)
- shelving
- projector screen

We'll be glad to pick up!



- to Claude (Bud) Moon and Jim Gossett for many hours of skilled assistance in upgrading and networking the computers in VECA's computer lab;
- to Jane Turnage for the donation of a whirlpool tub that will be used in the near future in a new VECA CDC house or a rehab;
- to Rhodes College, for printing 1000 new color brochures to market the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood



## V&E GREENLINE WALK & TALKS

Starting this spring there will be five educational and fun walks on the Greenline. This will be an opportunity for people in the community to hear about the V&E Greenline, meet volunteers and ask questions.

### SATURDAY MORNING MAY 10 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. AT THE GARDENS

**The Gardens:** Learn about the flowers you have enjoyed in the gardens on your walks. What works in the garden and what doesn't? Come with your questions.

### SATURDAY MORNING JUNE 14 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. AT THE AUBURNDALE BRIDGE

**Urban Farmers:** Find out who owns and drives the V&E Greenline tractor. How do volunteers manage the upkeep of the V&E Greenline? How can you become a Greenline volunteer?

### SATURDAY MORNING JULY 12 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. AT THE SPRINGS

**Native Plants on the V&E Greenline:** Railroad beds are sometimes the oldest undisturbed green areas left in the urban environment. Our secluded Greenline yields plant life surprises. Come and learn about the biodiversity in our backyard.

### SATURDAY EVENING AUGUST 9 FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AT THE AUBURNDALE BRIDGE

**History of Our V&E Greenline:** Civil war encampments, lumber mills, early settlers, the second oldest railbed in Memphis c. 1856. Come and learn the story behind our Greenline.

### SATURDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 13 FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AT MLGW PARK

**Ice Cream Sundays and a Little Music:** Come and meet your neighbors on the V&E Greenline and close out the summer.

Call 272-2620 if you have questions or want to join the V&E Greenline committee.

## CYPRESS CREEK SOIL INVESTIGATION UPDATE

By Chuck Hanson,  
Vice President, Environment, Health, and Safety,  
Velsicol Chemical Corporation

On April 1, 2003, representatives from Velsicol met with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finalize the details of the upcoming soil sampling program along Cypress Creek.

The next phase of the program will focus primarily on the backyards of homes and other properties that abut Cypress Creek between Jackson Avenue and Evergreen Street. Soil samples will be collected from about 70 homes and 20 other properties and tested to determine if contaminants are present. Additional areas away from the Creek may also be tested where historic information indicates that sediments taken from the Creek may have been used to fill low areas. Once TDEC reviews and accepts the data as valid, we'll begin the process of evaluating human health risks.

Currently, the plan is for Velsicol, TDEC and EPA to collect the necessary soil samples from mid-April through early June, assuming we don't run into delays getting permission to access residents' yards. If all goes well with the sampling timeline and the government agencies give us timely feedback on the data that is collected, we expect to communicate the results of the study by late summer or early fall.

If your home has been identified as a possible site for the sampling, Gary Hermann, Velsicol's project manager for the Cypress Creek investigation, will contact you. Initially, he'll send a letter to your home, then discuss more details with you and answer your questions through a phone call or personal visit and hopefully secure permission to access your yard for the sampling.

Gary met with several members of the University Lane Association block club earlier this year to explain the sampling process. Several residents expressed an interest in having their yards be a part of the sampling program. If you did not attend that meeting, have a yard that abuts the Creek and want to volunteer it for the soil investigation program, please call Gary at 345-1788, extension 120.

If you have questions about the soil sampling, the health risk evaluation, the project timeline, the investigative work that was done at the Cypress Middle School and University Park last summer and fall or want Gary to attend one of your neighborhood meetings to present more detailed information, call us. You can reach both Gary and me at Velsicol's Memphis Environmental Center at 345-1788.

## ASK THE BANKER: Financing Home Improvements

**Question:** Why is the present a good time for many homeowners to consider home improvements?

**Answer:** Right now financial institutions are offering extremely low interest rates. These low rates allow many individuals to fit home improvement loans into their monthly budgets.

**Question:** What home improvements are generally most cost-effective?

**Answer:** Historically, repairing and upgrading kitchens and bathrooms tend to increase the value of a home significantly. Even a simple coat of paint and a little landscaping can also improve the value of a home without spending a lot of money. On the other hand, adding a swimming pool usually does little to increase value.

**Question:** What should homeowners avoid when considering home improvements?

**Answer:** Homeowners should avoid individuals and contractors who claim to be able to do everything, offer to work too cheaply, suggest that permits are not necessary, or promise too much. Contractors should be licensed, bonded, and insured specifically for the work they propose to perform. Homeowners should ask for, and contractors should gladly provide, references for prior work. The payment schedule should be agreed to in writing in advance; a common schedule for an average-sized job is 20% up front, 40% at the halfway point, and 40% upon completion and once final details are taken care of. Bankers (and VECA CDC) may be able to provide a list of contractors that they felt comfortable with.



**Question:** What are some good ways to finance home improvements?

**Answer:** If you require financing for your home improvements, a home equity loan is usually a good way to proceed. Once you establish your game plan, make an appointment with a reputable financial institution to discuss all the details and legal requirements for such a loan. Your financial advisor will then help you decide what is best for you.

**Question:** What special option is available to senior citizens?

**Answer:** A senior citizen who owns their home may wish to take advantage of a "home equity conversion mortgage" (HECM). A HECM is sometimes called a "reverse mortgage" because the homeowner draws down the equity in their home by receiving monthly payments or receiving a lump sum payment. VECA CDC's Ruth Gibson has considerable experience and success with HECMs, which will be considered in detail in this column in the July 2003 issue.

**Question:** Where can I learn more about home improvement issues?

**Answer:** You may contact the local Better Business Bureau (759-1300), the Fair Trade Commission, the National Association of Home Builders, and the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

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.



## 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 third of several installments of this article. The complete version is at the VECA office. (Last time: Dairy Farms)]*

### Housing Tracts

Stepped up oversight of area dairies in the early twentieth century was only one part of a larger effort by local government to expand and extend city and county services. Sewer construction had begun in earnest after the 1878 yellow fever epidemic, introducing an innovative "separate system" designed by George Waring and pushing the amount of pipe laid from 26 miles in 1879 to 171 by 1901, increasing considerably more in the decades that followed. Regular garbage collection was improved after 1900 by the division of Memphis into two districts, north and south of Union Avenue, and most of the trash from those areas went to one of two, newly built municipal-owned crematories or, by 1916, to a third east-end incinerator. A year after the 1899 annexation, the city of Memphis also established a park commission and purchased a 340-acre tract along the river for Riverside Park and a 337-acre tract between North Parkway and Poplar Avenue for Overton Park. Neither of these parks was open to blacks, however, and within a decade the commission also established Douglass Park, on Macon Road, an extension of Jackson Avenue outside the eastern city limits.

In the newly annexed suburbs of South Memphis (south of Union Avenue), expanding public infrastructure served the immediate needs of an already dense collection of neighborhoods. Two decades into the twentieth

century, however, what became Vollintine-Evergreen was still largely a mix of dairy pastures, truck farm fields, wooded areas, and two small settlements (Terrytown and Springdale). City sewers were connected at Snowden and Belvedere by 1908, but it was not until the 1920s that the bayou at Faxon, Tutwiler, and Stonewall was filled, the streets paved, and gas lamps installed. Residents of Terrytown, outside the city limits until 1929, used lamplight until 1923, when the city allowed them to put up a pole and draw electricity. Vollintine and McLean were both variably dusty or muddy roads then, while the Jackson Avenue streetcar running from downtown ended at Watkins. And even in 1930, when developers purchased property to build the University Terrace subdivision around Vollintine and University, Thomas Briggs was still actively farming the land.

Subdivision building in Vollintine-Evergreen first occurred in the southwest corner of the neighborhood during the years prior to World War I, then during the 1920s in a band between Jackson and Vollintine from Watkins to Springdale (which also included Hein Park a bit further south), followed by some scattered construction north of Vollintine in the 1930s, and more intensified development efforts during the 1940s and 1950s to fill in the area up to Cypress Creek. This timing suggests there were important local forces at work in terms of Vollintine-Evergreen housing construction, particularly proximity to the infrastructure creeping outward from the city center and the fact of a concentrated population of black residents in North

Memphis, just on the other side of Cypress Creek, which made the south part of the neighborhood more desirable to whites. But developments at the national level also played an important role in encouraging home building in the area. As builders applied mass production methods to lower the cost of their homes, the National Housing Act of 1934 (and the G.I. Bill a decade later) enabled prospective homeowners to secure low-interest mortgages. Just as importantly, New Deal public works programs supplemented city and county efforts to lay sewers, channelize creeks, build bridges, extend roads, and otherwise transform the landscape to facilitate suburban expansion.

Perhaps the most significant federal public works projects in Vollintine-Evergreen addressed a variety of problems associated with Cypress and Lick Creeks and the Overton Bayou. To some extent this work was prompted by concerns about flooding in the North Memphis drainage basin, which also included the Wolf River, but the main objective seems to have been vector control. The city had begun filling and drainage work in an effort to control insect vectors of disease, particularly the two types of mosquitoes responsible for carrying yellow fever and malaria pathogens, just after the turn of the century. In 1918, the board of health also began spreading used motor oil on the surface of standing water. During the 1930s, both the WPA and PWA provided funds to employ laborers for drainage channel work in Memphis, including more than a hundred men to straighten and

HOUSING TRACTS *cont'd on page 11*

## VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN'S FIRST YARD OF THE MONTH CONGRATULATIONS EDWARD TOLER!



On April 1, 2003, the Historic Committee presented its first "Yard of the Month" to Edward Toler at 1920 Edward Cove. Mr.

Toler was nominated by his neighbor, Bettye Johnson. He has a beautiful yard and does all of the work himself. Congratulations again, Mr. Toler, your hard work is really appreciated by your neighbors.

The Historic Committee is hoping to get enough nominees to present a "Yard of the Month" for every month. 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.



*Mr. Edward Toler and his lovely yard at 1920 Edward Cove.*



## MEMBERS/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEXT HOME TOUR — APRIL 2004

The Historic Committee held its most successful Home Tour on April 28, 2002 with over 700 people attending.

With the next Home Tour to be held in April 25, 2004, planning is now well underway. The Historic Committee needs volunteers to serve as docents and ticket-takers, etc. Also needed are recommendations for great looking homes around the neighborhood that you would like to see highlighted in the next Home Tour.

If you would like to become a member of the Historic Committee, volunteer or recommend a home or garden, please email to: [ve\\_historic@yahoo.com](mailto:ve_historic@yahoo.com) or call 272-0230.

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

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Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.  
Tues. and Thurs. Mass - 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. and Fri. Mass - 8:15 a.m.  
Saturday Confession - 3:45 - 4:15 p.m.  
278-1412



"All Are Welcome"

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Afterschool Ministry: Kindergarten - 12 yrs. old, M-F, 2-6 p.m.  
Athletic/Health Ministry: Soccer, Baseball, Basketball, Volleyball  
Jazzercise: M, T, TR 5:50-6:30 p.m. & Sat 9-10 a.m.



## ZOO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Memphis Zoo is looking for volunteers in the following areas. Just call Connie Douglass at 333-6654 or visit [www.memphiszoo.org](http://www.memphiszoo.org).

- China Interpreters
- Zoo Ambassadors
- Nocturnal Exhibit
- Mammal Exhibit
- Bird Exhibit
- Spiders Exhibit
- Special Events
- Clerical Help
- Horticulture



## SEE A LITTERING MOTORIST?

Call 52-CLEAN (522-5326) with the license number, type of vehicle, date and time, location of incident, and type of litter.

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## USE FREE ON-LINE "CALCULATOR" TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

Individuals are invited to use a internet computer at home, at the VECA office, at the library, or elsewhere to check on their eligibility for services such as the following:

- earned income tax credit, child tax credit
- child care co-payment, child care tax credit
- medicaid, family health plus, child health plus
- food stamps, WIC
- welfare
- public housing, LIHEAP

Check the website [www.wceca.org](http://www.wceca.org). (VECA CDC staff can assist you at the VECA office.) This opportunity is free and confidential, and no information will be stored anywhere when you are done.

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The National Pesticide Information Center can be found on the web at [npic.orst.edu](http://npic.orst.edu). To contact NPIC, call toll-free at 800-858-7378 or send email to [npic@ace.orst.edu](mailto:npic@ace.orst.edu).

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## PARDON OUR MOUNTAIN

*Russell Wigginton  
Special Assistant to the President for Community Relations  
Rhodes College*

We have received several phone calls from our VECA neighbors inquiring about the large mound of dirt on the northwest corner of the campus. Those of you who have experienced remodeling or construction sites at home or work know that it is almost impossible to build something neatly. We apologize for the unsightly "mountain," and want to take this opportunity to explain where we are in the construction of our 110,000 square-foot learning center, the Paul Barret Jr. Library. We are five months into an approximately two-year project that will revolutionize the looks of the campus and influence the way faculty teach and students learn.

Meanwhile, we will be chipping away at the mountain, which comprises approximately 20,000 cubic yards of dirt excavated for the basement level of the building. We have begun using some of the dirt to improve the existing open drainage ditch in the northwest corner of the campus by placing the storm drain system underground with new pipe. The balance of the excavated fill will then be spread to fill in and level this low-lying area. Also, by early fall we will return approximately 4,000 cubic yards of dirt to the library site once foundation walls are in place. Longer term, the college plans to construct a new varsity athletic field (lacrosse/field hockey) on a portion of the property "reclaimed" from the open drainage area. Finally, we will create a new dumpster and refuse containment facility shielded from the neighborhood by earthen berms and landscaping.

All of this signals a new attitude about the part of campus once referred to as the "back forty." It's true that a person standing on the northern part of the campus gets a sense of looking at the backs of all the buildings. The Paul Barret Jr. Library will begin to change that sense, as it will be the beginning of a new quadrangle that is sensitive to how it is viewed from all directions.

I guess what I am saying is, in exchange for your patience with our "mountain," you will gain a beautiful new view of the campus. We hope you will be pleased with the changes.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.



### ALERT TO LAWN PARKERS

*Please don't park  
on your lawn.*

**It's unneighborly,  
unsightly, and  
against the law.**

### DONATIONS TO VECA CDC



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.

### 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



## HOUSING TRACTS *from page 6*

enlarge Cypress Creek from University to McLean, construct culverts and concrete walls on Lack Creek, and build concrete ditches along the Overton Bayou through the Hein Park subdivision. City health officials also set up a division of malaria-mosquito control that, by 1937, included three full-time inspectors and operated 13 oil trucks. In 1942, when the city and county health agencies merged, larviciding crews distributed 185,000 gallons of oil and 600 pounds of paris green on more than 4000 miles of streams and 300 acres of mosquito breeding waters. Additional crews continued to add to the more than 128 miles of paved ditches and fill in old cisterns, ponds, and abandoned cesspools.

As drainage work and vector control proceeded apace in Vollintine-Evergreen, and the number of malaria cases began a steady decline, residents of the newly established suburbs organized themselves into neighborhood groups to protect and enhance existing area amenities. The first such organization was the Evergreen Club, formed in 1935 out of separate men's and women's branches established decades earlier. This group played instrumental roles in obtaining the Snowden School and Southwestern as well as the zoo, but it declined in the 1940s and gave up its charter in 1959. The short-lived Jackson Avenue Civic Club, formed in 1927 as the Jackson Boulevard Improvement Club, worked on extending the Jackson Avenue carline, obtaining the Vollintine School and equip-

ping a playground behind it, extending sidewalks, as well as blocking the establishment of a "Negro College" into the area (which it boasted about in a 1935 brochure). Neither of these organizations gave any attention to addressing the new environmental problems caused by subdivision development, however, and, as the Jackson Avenue Civic Club brochure suggests, they were more likely to be engaged in defending racial exclusion in the suburbs rather than challenging it.

In terms of environmental impact, the home building in Vollintine-Evergreen could have been worse. Most of the homes in the neighborhood were almost immediately connected to sewer lines and the area avoided the numerous problems associated with septic tanks, including groundwater contamination. But the great increase in the amount of impermeable surfaces—roofs, streets, and even lawns—in a city that receives regular, heavy downpours meant that even the improved drainage channels were sometimes greatly overloaded. And those improved drainage channels, of course, required the transformation if not destruction of natural streamflow and wetlands. Aerial surveys from 1938 and 1959 show that there were also few trees of any notable size throughout the neighborhood, even along Cypress Creek. Compared to an 1862-1863 topographical map done for the Union Army, a significant amount of land clearing had taken place in the intervening period between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries, some of it

for pastures but much more of it for housing tracts, with little apparent attempt at reforestation. In conjunction with the manipulation of creeks and bayous in the area, this represented a major change in habitat for wildlife.

As for racial exclusion, it is difficult to imagine that white residents of Vollintine-Evergreen could have been more "successful" in keeping out African Americans. A 1936 study suggests that the neighborhood was entirely white as well as middle- and upper-class. At the time, only a few housing developments had inched away from Vollintine Avenue toward Cypress Creek, due in part to reluctance of whites to live too close to blacks on the other side as well as developers' hesitation to build in an area prone to flooding and deemed unhealthy. Once this area of the neighborhood was filled in with homes it was almost exclusively white until the end of the 1960s. As the neighborhood began to integrate, however, it was this section that received the first black residents and that eventually absorbed the largest concentration of them. The reason for that, very likely, stems from the racism that made whites reluctant to move there in the first place. The movement of African Americans into the area north of Vollintine prompted the most drastic white flight while south of Vollintine but north of Jackson there was a bit less of it and, south of Jackson, residents continued to live in nearly all-white subdivisions even into the 1990s.

*(Next time: Petrochemicals and Race)*



**Net! Neighborhood Plaques with Your House Number**

Each 12" x 8" plaque is cast in one piece with your house number, then hand finished. Aluminum has a painted background with a polished surface. Bronze is given a patina, polished and sealed to preserve luster.

Aluminum: \$60    To place and order, contact Bob Rogers  
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Telephone Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, 1680 JACKSON AVENUE, MEMPHIS, TN 38107

**I'M INTERESTED IN:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 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.

- \$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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**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.