

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXIX, Number 6

NOVEMBER 2003

TO TREE OR NOT TO TREE

"Summer Storm 2003" was particularly devastating to our Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. Homes were damaged to varying degrees, families were without power for days, and many are still working to recover from the damage wrought by the storm. In addition to the damage to personal property, our neighborhood lost numerous large established trees that were such an integral part of the landscape of our neighborhood.

On Saturday, November 8, VECA will help host "To Tree or Not to Tree" at 2597 Avery Avenue (at Hollywood), in the Board of Education Auditorium. The free program will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon and will include nursery companies, arborists, and other tree experts. Topics include:

- why should I plant a tree?
- should I plant a large or small tree?
- how do I successfully plant a tree?
- how can I save a damaged tree?

Plans are being made now to obtain many large trees, for planting in the Jackson Avenue median, on the V&E Greenline, and in yards of many Vollintine-Evergreen residents who are interested.



NOVEMBER'S HOME REPAIR CLASS

The last monthly home repair class of 2003 will be on Saturday, November 15 at 9:00 a.m. at the VECA office. The subject will be windows, including repairing, cleaning, and decorating. Cost is only \$1.

You do not need to bring tools or supplies, but you may bring them if you have them.



SPRUCE UP THE V&E GREENLINE

Help keep our neighborhood linear park clean and trimmed. Come by to help from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on any of these Saturdays:

November 22

February 21

March 20

Meeting location will vary; look for signs along the Greenline or call the office.

WANTED: DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR BOARDS

At the general membership meeting each January, Vollintine-Evergreen residents elect their representatives to the VECA Board, as well as the VECA president and vice-president. All terms are for one year, so the entire Board is voted upon. This year, as has been the case every year in the past, some current Board members are willing and able to stand for election again, while others need to be replaced.

The VECA Board appoints the CDC Board. Those terms are for two years. So the CDC Board will have some members continuing, but there will also be vacancies.

The VECA Board ordinarily meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, and the CDC Board ordinarily meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. Board members usually also serve on one committee. If you are interested in being nominated to one of the Boards, need additional information, or know someone who would be able to contribute their time and talents, contact any VECA staff person or any member of either Board.

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.



VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 26, 2004 (Rhodes College)
Historic Committee's "Bungalow Tour"	April 25, 2004
V&E Greenline yard sale	June 12, 2004
Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 10, 2004 (tentative; Rhodes College)
National Night Out	August 3, 2004
Ice Cream Social	September 11, 2004 (V&E Greenline)
Historic Committee	second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m. (various locations; call office)
Code Enforcement Committee	third Thursday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Block Club Committee	first Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Cypress Creek Committee	third Wednesday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Youth Committee	call office to help
V&E Greenline Committee	third Tuesday monthly, 7:00 p.m. (but not July or December)
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:	December 2, February 3
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	first Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	November 3, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	December 1, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	January 5, 2004, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



FOR SALE BY VECA CDC

All five are new brick, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom houses
in various stages of construction:

2218 Hunter • 2348 Hunter • 2136 Howell • 2345 Shasta • 2375 Shasta



2113 Braun

For more
information,
contact the
VECA office
at 276-1782.



2348 Hunter

VISIT VECA'S WEBSITE



www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca

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VOLLINTINE -- EVERGREEN N E W S

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276-1782 phone • 276-1784 fax
email: veca@vecacdc.org and
vecacdc@vecacdc.org
www.neighborhoodlink.com/veca

THE MARGARET DICHEL AWARD

Margaret Dichtel was one of the founding members of VECA and its first president. She strongly believed that neighbors working in a community organization could accomplish together what they as individuals or government could not. Her faith in the value of neighboring and the importance of grassroots community action remains the VECA philosophy.

The Margaret Dichtel Award is presented annually to a Vollintine-Evergreen resident and VECA member who embodies the principles of neighboring and community action. There is no specific length of membership required and the awardee need not be an officer. The awardee will be an individual who strengthens relationships between community members, tackles problems that threaten the integrity of the community, makes the neighborhood a better place to live, improves VECA's image city-wide, and demonstrates a commitment to the neighborhood and the concept of a neighborhood.

Each nomination must be by a current dues-paying member of VECA and should consist of a letter stating the candidate's contributions and achievements. Send nominations by December 31 to the Nominating Committee, care of the VECA office.

THE RICHARD BORYS AWARD

Richard Borys moved to the Vollintine-Evergreen community in 1975 and served on various committees in the early years of the organization. Despite dying young at the age of 44, Dick's life was an example of public service. Dick came to Memphis as a VISTA volunteer. He helped design and start the Memphis City and Shelby County Pre Trial Release Program. In 1976 he was awarded the outstanding service award from the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association for his contributions to the Criminal Justice System. At the time of his death Dick was a vice president at the Regional Medical Center ("The Med").

Dick was active with his children in soccer, coaching up to three teams at a time. He was a member St. Therese Little Flower Church, located at the center of the Vollintine-Evergreen community. Clearly, Richard Borys served the community in his work, in the neighborhood, at church, and through his children, Claire, Alex and Pete. Dick's wife Julie M. Borys still resides in Vollintine-Evergreen and has served as VECA president, on the VECA CDC Board of Directors, and as active volunteer over the years.

The Richard S. Borys Award was created to recognize public officials who through their work contribute to the Vollintine-Evergreen community. The awardee need not be a Vollintine-Evergreen resident or a VECA member.

Each nomination must be by a current dues-paying member of VECA and should consist of a letter stating the candidate's contributions and achievements. Send nominations by December 31 to the Nominating Committee, care of the VECA office.

THE MARTHA HEINEMANN AWARD

Martha Heinemann grew up in Hot Springs, Arkansas, graduated from Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College) in biology, and earned her Masters degree from University of Arkansas in biochemistry. She was a research chemist at the University of Tennessee and the Veterans Administration hospital. Besides her volunteer work with VECA, Martha was associated with Rhodes Alumni, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Brooks Museum, and the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

The Heinemann Award honors a Board member who has rendered exceptional service to either the VECA Board or the VECA CDC Board. The Nominating Committee will select one winner from either Board.

Each nomination must be by a current dues-paying member of VECA and should consist of a letter stating the candidate's contributions and achievements. Send nominations by December 31 to the Nominating Committee, care of the VECA office.

PAST AWARD WINNERS

DICHEL AWARD

- 1988 Martha Heinemann
- 1990 Julie Borys
- 1991 Mike Kirby
- 1993 Mary Wilder
- 1995 Willette Gray & Gloria Singleton
- 1996 Rhodes College & The Terry Circle Block Club
- 1997 Linda Nichols
- 1998 Steve Gadbois
- 1999 Charlotte & Pete Swailes
- 2000 Sherry Henson & Belinda Kersch
- 2001 Bill Rehberg
- 2002 Tom Fagan
- 2003 Fredha Feaster
- 2004 ???

BORYS AWARD

- 1991 Steve Shular
- 1992 Vernua Hanrahan
- 1995 Janis Foster
- 1996 William Stemmler
- 1997 Charles Cook
- 1998 Barbara Swearingen Holt
- 1999 Carol Chumney
- 2000 Wayne Risher
- 2001 Charles Granderson
- 2002 Don Campbell
- 2003 Rickey Peete
- 2004 ???

HEINEMANN AWARD

- 2003 Janis Cannon
- 2004 ???

CYPRESS CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT

VECA CDC is pleased to announce that Jerry Loftin has been hired as an environmental consultant to work with the Vollintine-Evergreen community as sampling, testing, and analysis of soil near Cypress Creek is undertaken by Velsicol Chemical Corporation and the state of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Mr. Loftin is the principal of Vita Environmental Engineers based in Nashville, which does regulatory compliance auditing, environmental due diligence for corporate acquisitions and divestitures, environmental management, and oversight of site cleanup. He has considerable experience over thirty years as an environmental consultant. Look for Mr. Loftin's updates in this newsletter during the upcoming year, starting in this issue, and watch for announcement of a community meeting during the spring.

Mr. Loftin's work is made possible by an Environmental Justice grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ENGINEER'S CORNER

by Jerry Loftin

Thanks to VECA's leadership for selecting me to represent the Vollintine-Evergreen community in technical issues involving the ongoing evaluation and cleanup of Cypress Creek.

In the brief time that I have been involved, I have met with the Project Coordinator for the State of Tennessee and begun an extensive file review of the activities undertaken in the area to date by the State of Tennessee, the EPA, and Velsicol Chemical Corporation. I was pleased to discover that a great deal of sampling has taken place and more is planned. Hopefully this will help adequately define the contamination problem in your community. If not I will help serve as your voice to insure that every effort is made to determine the scope of the problem and that effective remedial activities are undertaken.

I want to help each of you feel good about what is being done to protect you and your family's well-being and your property. I will gladly answer any questions you have and address any concerns you may have. Feel free to contact me directly (615-269-5719; vita@comcast.net) or have VECA representatives do so on your behalf. I look forward to putting my thirty plus years of experience in environmental management and site cleanup to work for you.

Couldn't afford the Galloway Mansion? Want to be in the heart of Vollintine-Evergreen?

For sale: 862 Kensington Place
(on 1999 VECA Historic Home tour)

Something old: 1927 English tudor cottage, red gum
woodwork and French doors, wood floors

Something new: new metal roof system, completely remodeled
kitchen, fully finished attic, central heat and air, storm windows,
woodstove, 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, jacuzzi, skylights,
wood deck, sprinkler system, new driveway, new double garage

Call (901)278-4116

CYPRESS CREEK SOIL STUDY PROGRESSES

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

When we first started meeting with members of the VECA community a year ago, we made a commitment. Velsicol will gather the information needed to determine if there are potential health effects from soil contamination in and around Cypress Creek, share it with you and help you understand what it means.

Between late April and early July, Velsicol collected 124 soil samples and the United States Environmental Protection Agency collected another 38 from nearly half of the properties in what is called Sub Area III, which runs from Jackson Avenue to Evergreen Street.

Based on the information collected, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Velsicol's consultants concluded that there are no imminent or acute health risks associated with contamination. That's great news, but the process needs to continue. Now we need to look closely at some of the properties where there is an elevated level of contamination and determine if there are risks due to chronic or long-term exposure.

If you gave permission and your property was sampled, you will receive a summary of the results, including a description of what the data means, in mid to late November. If samples from your property show elevated levels of contamination, additional sampling will be done at adjacent properties that were not sampled, and more samples may be collected from your property.

Typically, once the additional information is gathered, we would expect to conduct a human health risk evaluation for long-term exposure. Part of that evaluation is identifying potential alternatives for fixing problems that may exist. In the meantime, the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department have announced their commitment to conducting a study to evaluate cancer rates in the Cypress Creek area. The Health Department epidemiologist will meet with representatives from the VECA community as soon as possible to explain the study design, what the results may reveal, and to obtain input from community members. This is another good step in helping area residents answer the question of whether the health of the Cypress Creek residents is significantly different than residents in other areas.

If you have questions about the Cypress Creek soil investigation or your individual property results, you can contact Gary Hermann, Velsicol's Project Manager for Cypress Creek at our Memphis Environmental Center. The number is 901-345-1788, extension 120.

ALEX'S CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Alex's Tavern, tucked away in a small strip of stores on Jackson near Watkins, has a rare event to observe in November. It's something no other tavern in Memphis can match. Alex's is the oldest family owned tavern in Memphis and a month long celebration is planned to mark the occasion.



The tradition, started by the late Alex Kasafes and his wife, Eugenia, is now carried by their son, Rocky Kasafes who said the concept taught to him by his parents has remained the same "treat the customer right, and they'll come back." Rocky has managed the pub since 1978 and is a familiar face in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood.

"To many, a tavern is a really a neighborhood 'club'," said Kasafes. "It's a place where people can meet friends in their spare time, have something to eat and a beer or two, without spending a lot of money. "We just try to give the customers what they want," said Kasafes. He said he always remembers what his father told him about his formula for success "It's not how many customers come, it's how many come back." Alex also told his son the importance of keeping the menu simple, but consistent.

A large, framed picture of Alex Kasafes still hangs over one of two CD-jukeboxes, which constantly play a combination of hits and have also become one of the tavern's primary attractions. Rocky said he has always been a fan of "oldie" music and the customers frequently compliment him on the unique collection. The tavern has been honored several times by the Memphis Flyer with its "Best Jukebox Award" and a Memphis radio station's listeners gave the "Best Hamburger" Award to "Alex's".

Since Alex's Tavern is near Rhodes College, UT-Memphis, and Southern College of Optometry, hundreds of "class parties" have come and gone and many alumni have returned, even after graduation, to hold reunion parties. Alex's also sets aside at least one night a year when some of the current college students can bring their parents by.

Sports fans are also a major part of "Alex's" clientele (the bar was being called a "sports bar" long before that term was common), and a huge, big-screen television was the first in town. Since then, several more have been added. The satellite dish at Alex's - also one of the first in Memphis - offers frequent sporting events that can't be seen on network TV or cable.

Alex's has played host to a long list of well-known names such as actress Stella Stevens, actors John Schneider and David Keith, baseball's Tim McCarver, and musicians Don Henley, Joe Walsh, Belinda Carlisle, Greg Allman, and Billy Gibbons of "ZZ Top". The popular band "Chicago" has stopped in the bar two times after appearances in Memphis.

Kasafes said, "We've made a lot of friends in the Vollintine-Evergreen area over the last 50 years, but we're always happy to meet our new neighbors. We would like to invite all the new residents to the area, as well as the older ones, to stop in anytime for a cold beer and a great burger."

PROPERTY INSURANCE ADVICE

based on September 20's presentation to VECA by Richard Coletta, C.I.C.

In case of property damage such as that experienced by many Vollintine-Evergreen residents in the July 22 windstorm:

- immediately do what is reasonable and prudent to prevent further damage and injuries, but do not do more than necessary until you have the permission of your property insurance company
- contact your property insurance company as soon as possible
- keep detailed written records of all calls to or from your insurance company and anyone you contact about repair work
- photograph or videotape all damage
- keep a detailed written list of all damage
- keep damaged items if possible
- keep receipts and a detailed written list for all repair work
- be careful when hiring people to do repair work; disasters often bring higher prices as well as unqualified or even dishonest contractors
- use common sense

In preparation for potential disasters:

- make sure that your house number is clearly visible from the street
- photograph or videotape your important personal property and your house
- keep a current list of important personal property, with full description, serial number, date purchased, and price
- give a current copy of your personal property list to your property insurance company or agent
- store offsite (perhaps at work) a current copy of your personal property list in case your home is severely damaged

During both normal times and times of disaster, make sure that contractors you hire are licensed, bonded, and insured. Ask to see a current license in the appropriate field (roofing, carpentry, etc.). Also ask to see a current certificate of insurance showing adequate general liability and workers compensation coverage. Check with the Better Business Bureau (901-759-1300). Get a detailed signed contract before work begins.

Finally, questions frequently arise regarding our beautiful large trees. If a tree growing on one property (Smith's) falls on another property (Jones's), normally it is up to Jones to remove the tree and repair the damage. Insurance will normally only cover removal of the portion of the tree that caused the damage or threatens to cause further damage. (In this situation, "damage" applies to house, garage, storage building, vehicle, etc.; it does not apply to simple cleanup or tree removal.) However, before Smith's tree falls, if Jones has good reason to feel that Smith's tree threatens Jones's property, Jones can send Smith a letter by certified mail expressing his concern in writing. This may shift some of the burden to Smith if and when there is a problem with the tree in the future.

**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 - 5:00 p.m.
Wed. and Fri. Mass - 8:15 a.m.

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

276-1412



"All Are Welcome"



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(901) 278-4430

AFTERSCHOOL MINISTRY:
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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



YARD OF THE MONTH HONOREES!

Congratulations to these honorees! Please drive by and admire these homes. If you would like to nominate a house for Yard of the Month, please email us at: ve_historic@yahoo.com or call 278-9838.

Louise Ungaro, a resident of VECA for 38 years, is 76 years old and takes lots of pride in her beautiful yard. She is especially proud that she can still do all of her own yard work at her age. Each year she tells herself that she'll cut back next year but she never does. Her love of flowers and the compliments from neighbors inspire her to plant more each year. She changes her plant selection each year and always uses a lot of color. Like many VECA residents, she enjoys her front porch a great deal. And with such a nice view, who can blame her.

SEPTEMBER — 683 HAWTHORNE



OCTOBER — 2156 VOLLINTINE



October's yard of the month winners are long-time VECA residents James and Elizabeth Prudent of 2156 Vollintine whose beautifully manicured lawn reflects much hard work and attention to detail. With her husband in poor health, Elizabeth, who is 79, does all of the yard work except for edging which her son does. Her beds have sweeping curves edged with brick that match her house. She uses containers with colorful flowers to make the entry welcoming while layers of neatly trimmed shrubbery provide year-round beauty.

GREAT BUNGALOWS NEEDED FOR NEXT HOME TOUR

VECA's next Home Tour on April 25, 2004 will feature bungalows. If you know of a great bungalow that should like to be included in the tour, or if you would like to be a historic committee member or just volunteer, please call 278-9838 or email to: ve_historic@yahoo.com.



Curious about the history of your house?

- Who built it?
- Who lived in it?
- What were they like?
- What style is it?
- Did an architect design it?



The house detectives can answer these questions and more. Call Judith Johnson & Associates (901) 324-4618

TREE ADVICE

based on September 20's presentation to VECA by Mark Follis, Ph.D.

The July 22 storm has made tree replanting this fall critical if Memphis is to restore the hardwood canopy for which the city is rightfully famous. Although trees can be successfully planted and transplanted in all seasons, planting after mid-October has distinct advantages. First, fall plantings are less subject to moisture stress because of the lower temperatures and leafdrop. They also have more time to overcome transplant shock and establish viable root systems before the heat of the following summer.

Proper species selection is equally important for long-term viability. Excellent choices for this region are the willow (often incorrectly referred to as a pin oak), northern red oak, and white oak. Avoid the true pin oak at all costs — it has too many serious disease problems. The tulip poplar (Tennessee's state tree) is a beautiful fast-grower but the trunk must be kept distant from sprinkler heads and free of mulch. Two grossly underplanted native trees with stunning fall coloration are the Swamp Chestnut Oak and the Black Gum. Be sure to consider tree size at maturity and avoid planting larger trees in small lots and under utility lines. As for existing trees, look for discolored, undersized or prematurely falling leaves which may indicate problems. Other important problem symptoms include mushrooms or other fungal growths anywhere on a tree, termite tubes, and "sawdust" which may indicate destructive insect activity. Call a certified arborist if you have questions.

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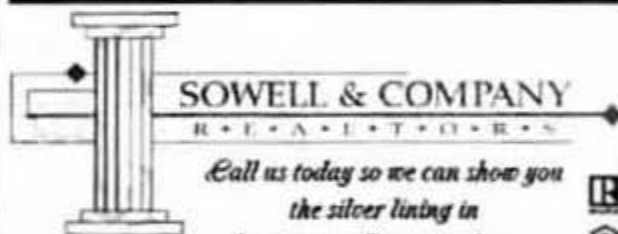
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VECA

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.