

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXX, Number 1

JANUARY 2004

JANUARY 26 IS VECA'S ANNUAL MEETING AT RHODES COLLEGE

All Vollintine-Evergreen residents are invited to VECA's annual meeting to be held on Monday, January 26 in the Orgill Room of Clough Hall on the Rhodes College campus. A free "dessert reception" (hosted by the block clubs) will start at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

Though VECA hosts various other events during the year, this event is the most important for laying the foundation for a productive year. The new VECA Board and its officers will be elected, the new VECA CDC Board will be introduced, and the Dichtel Award, Borys Award, and Heinemann Award will be presented. Besides business, there will be good food, entertainment, and a chance to talk with old and new neighbors. Free seedlings will also be given away. Call the VECA office if you have any questions.

"TO TREE OR NOT TO TREE" AND THE GREENING OF VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN

On Saturday November 8, over 140 people attended the free "To Tree or Not to Tree" Expo at the Memphis Board of Education offices. The event was sponsored by VECA, VECA CDC's V&E Greenline Committee, Rhodes College, Memphis City Beautiful, and the Sierra Club. Vollintine-Evergreen resident and Rhodes College employee Marci Hendrix coordinated the event, and got plenty of help from Mike Kirby, Mary Wilder, Judith Rutschman, Marijane Turnbow, and Eldra White.

Agricultural extension agent Booker Leigh demonstrated the best method to plant trees. Vollintine-Evergreen resident Margaret Leggett spoke on trees in the landscape how and where to place a tree in a yard. Evergreen Historic resident Tom Pellet spoke about the best large trees to plant in Memphis. Rhodes College biology professor Steve Brewer spoke about the small trees that are suited to the Memphis climate and conditions. Urban forester Mark Follis spoke about tree diseases and how to care for sick trees.

Several retail nurseries came and answered questions about trees and brought plants for sale.

Seventy vouchers for free trees were distributed to participants. These are large nursery trees donated to City Beautiful. Residents who received the vouchers must pick up the trees and make arrangements to have them planted.

V&E Greenline Committee member and Rhodes College professor Mike Kirby worked with volunteers from Rhodes College and VECA to plant twenty-two trees on Jackson Avenue and on the V&E Greenline. Jackson Avenue took quite a hit in the July 22 windstorm. The new trees will help recreate the beautiful canopy that was lost in the storm.

A redbud tree was planted in the Jackson Avenue median in front of the VECA office in memory of Lois Scott. A long-time Sheridan resident, Lois had served as a VECA Board member and a block club leader, and she had been the Downtown Precinct Neighborhood Watch coordinator. The redbud tree will bloom each spring and remind us of Lois's contribution to our community.

Vollintine Evergreen will recover from the windstorm as it has from all challenges, with the spirit and work of volunteers and a look to the future. Come to the annual meeting on Monday, January 26 to receive a free seedling to start greening your own corner of Vollintine Evergreen.

QUESTION:

What will users and supporters of the V&E Greenline find on the new V&E Greenline website, at VEGreenline.org?

ANSWER:

A calendar of events and much more.



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 (Rhodes College)
Historic Committee's "Bungalow Tour"	April 25 (throughout neighborhood)
V&E Greenline yard sale	June 12 (V&E Greenline)
Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 10 (Rhodes College)
National Night Out	August 3 (throughout neighborhood)
Ice Cream Social	September 11 (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:	February 3, April 6, June 4, August 3, October 5, December 3
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	first Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	January 5, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	February 2, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	March 1, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

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



FOR SALE BY VECA CDC

RENOVATIONS:

819 McNeil • 1506 Tutwiler/602 Stonewall (duplex)

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

(all brick, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, vaulted ceiling, central heat and air):
2218 Hunter • 2348 Hunter • 2136 Howell • 2345 Shasta • 2375 Shasta



819 McNeil

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



2348 Hunter



- to Lillie Lewis, for the donation of 2 security doors and an electric stove/oven/microwave which will be used in an upcoming VECA CDC rehab project
- to Evergreen Presbyterian Church, for the donation of 50 tickets to its successful "Clanjamfry" celebration on September 20
- to United Way's Larry Tifverman, for the donation of 18 tickets to the November 22 football game between the University of Memphis and Cincinnati
- to Mark Follis, Ph.D., of Bluff City Tree Preservation (901-336-2256), for sharing his expertise on our city's trees, at the September 20 class on windstorm issues (see article in November 2003 issue)
- to Richard Coletta, C.I.C., of Brown & Associates (901-725-4500), for discussing property insurance, at the September 20 class on windstorm issues (see article in November 2003 issue)
- to Dottie Sachritz, for a donation to VECA CDC in honor of the wedding of Andrée Glenn and Steve Gadbois
- to Mike Kirby, Rhodes College, and the City of Memphis, for providing three student interns to assist at the VECA office
- to Steve Lockwood and the University of Memphis, for providing a student intern to assist in VECA CDC housing counseling program

ENGINEERS CORNER

by Jerry Loftin

There has been a lot of activity since the November 2003 newsletter. The Cypress Creek Committee has begun to meet again; its next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21 at the VECA office. All are welcome.

Velsicol has submitted results from sampling done along the creek this summer to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and will forward results with an explanation of potential health effects to homeowners who allowed their properties to be sampled. TDEC is requiring Velsicol to do additional sampling and has required a plan to be submitted in a couple of weeks.

Remediation at Cypress Middle School and adjoining University Park has begun. A soil cap was installed in December.

The Memphis Shelby County Health Department has begun conducting an evaluation of cancer rates in the Cypress Creek area shortly and has plans to conduct additional studies on the health of the area to determine if contamination along the creek has contributed to adverse health in the community.

Next month VECA with my assistance will be conducting a survey to determine Community awareness of issues related to contamination along the creek. The survey will be mailed to area residents so please participate. If you have questions about things that are going on now or will be taking place in the future please contact VECA or me directly at vita@comcast.net.

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) 272-3454

NEEDED AT YOUR VECA OFFICE

Shelving • Projector screen • We'll be glad to pick up!

Do you want to remodel?

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

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





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 Saturday, February 21 or March 20. Meeting locations will vary; look for signs along the Greenline or call the office.

NEWS FROM THE V&E GREENLINE

The V&E Greenline Committee has developed a new brochure that:

- (1) gives some history of this neighborhood park,
- (2) explains something of what we as a committee are about, and
- (3) sets forth some "Standards for the Use of the "V&E Greenline".

This article is meant to give this story to a wider audience.

What is our history? The land for the V&E Greenline was purchased by the V&E Greenline Corporation in 1996 from the L&N Railroad successors, which owned the tracks for more than 100 years. L&N had taken up the track, removed some of the bridges and had abandoned the line. VECA CDC stepped in to make it something worthwhile. The committee has been managing and maintaining it since that time.

Who are we? The V&E Greenline Corporation and the V&E Greenline Committee are organized under the VECA CDC. The committee is a group of volunteers who work on the issues related to Greenline management. These include, but are not limited to fundraising, mowing, tree trimming, and cleanup. Numerous VECA residents who aren't on the committee do volunteer work in all of the foregoing categories. The committee meets monthly, normally the third Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m., at the VECA office - visitors are welcome. We are always looking for volunteers.

What about the "Standards"? The new brochure introduces a new term Park Conductors. These are volunteers authorized by the committee to administer the standards and regulations. They carry identification cards and periodically patrol the V&E Greenline.

Permitted Uses of the Park

The V&E Greenline may be used for the following purposes:

- Pedestrian traffic (e.g., walking, running, and pet walking)
- Neighboring
- Gardening (where appropriate and with permission)
- Casual recreation, leisurely enjoyment, and education activities (e.g., flora/fauna habitat study)
- Bicycle riding
- Orderly public gatherings and special events that have prior approval of the Greenline Committee or a Park Conductor

- Use of light motorized devices by disabled individuals
- Access by police/fire/utility emergency vehicles and V&E Greenline maintenance equipment.

Prohibited Uses of the Park

The following uses of the V&E Greenline are prohibited:

- All motorized vehicles not specifically mentioned above, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, mopeds, scooters, ATVs, go-karts, and Segways
- Parking any vehicle or trailer on the Greenline or placing any other obstacle at the entrance off a public street so it blocks free access to the Greenline.
- Playing loud music
- Sleeping or camping
- Loitering or staking out an adjacent property
- Use of alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs
- Use of fireworks or firearms
- Loud and boisterous behavior
- Unsanctioned public gatherings
- Littering or using the garbage cans for disposal of large items or limbs
- Placing anything in the roadbed that impedes the access of users, including dumping anything (e.g., garbage, yard waste, scrap building materials)
- Placing items in drainage areas that impede the flow of water
- Encroaching on Greenline property with fences, gates, plantings or other obstructions, except as allowed by the V&E Greenline Committee
- Using the V&E Greenline property to enter private property except to the extent allowed by a Park Conductor
- Removing any vegetation or other items or cutting trees, except as authorized V&E Greenline maintenance
- Vandalism and defacing property
- Posting notices and other items on the bollards or signs
- Placing items such as ropes, swings, benches, and tree houses in Greenline vegetation, unless authorized by the V&E Greenline Committee

If you have questions or comments about these standards come to our next meeting or contact a member of the committee.



ARTIST SHOW

Neighborhood resident and artist Dottie Sachritz will have her work in a show at Christian Brothers University in January and February. Opening reception will be on Friday, January 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Featured in the main gallery will be Fred Burton, artist and teacher at the Memphis College of Art. Dottie's work—still-lives, flowers, and contemporary southwestern pieces—will be in the foyer, where it will remain throughout the Baucum pottery show in February.

PLEASE SUPPORT VECA AREA BUSINESSES!

by Arthur H. Prince

None of us would appreciate anyone telling us where we should spend our hard-earned dollars. But I wish everyone would consider nearby businesses. Some of the nicest people in the world are "right around the corner".

I would not want to live in any other area of Memphis! And I never have! I do not want anybody to go out of business because of a lack of customers. So please check out those businesses near you. They may have just what you are looking for, just what you need. Tell them that Arthur sent you.

WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?



Many Vollintine-Evergreen residents make annual tax-deductible contributions to United Way, which funds various worthy causes here in Memphis and Shelby County. Most donations are unrestricted, which United Way allocates to agencies providing much needed services. VECA CDC has in the past received grants to support neighborhood projects.

Through the United Way campaign, donors have the opportunity to make a "directed gift" to United Way for a specific cause or for a specific agency of the donor's choice. VECA CDC is one such agency. On the other hand, VECA itself is NOT such an agency, so DON'T DESIGNATE YOUR GIFT TO VECA, donate instead to VECA CDC. Remember, VECA was established in 1971 as a 501(c)4 tax-exempt organization, which allows it to lobby but prohibits it from receiving tax-deductible contributions; VECA CDC was established in 1995 as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, which allows it to receive tax-deductible contributions but prohibits it from lobbying.

VECA CDC's United Way and Combined Federal Campaign donor number is 5377. This number can be written on United Way's donor forms to direct the donation to the VECA CDC. To further direct the donation (to a specific project or committee, such as the V&E Greenline or Blocks Clubs), notify the VECA office.

ASK THE BANKER: TELEPHONE SCAMS

Telemarketing fraud is a multi-million dollar business in this country. Every day thousands lose their valuable money to con artists. Here is some useful information that may help you avoid becoming one of their victims.

Question: What are some of the common telephone scams?

Answer: You might have to do something to get your "free" prize, perhaps give out a credit card number. Supposedly free or low-cost travel usually ends up costing much more because of hidden costs. Products that have little or no value, such as some "vitamins", are often sold at a high cost. Some charities are phony, while others are real but use only a small part of donations for actual charitable work. And there are many types of get-rich-quick schemes that promise huge returns on your money with little risk.

Question: What are some of the tip-offs to telephone scams?

Answer: Key lines are: you must act now; you have won a free prize; you must send money or give out your credit card number; you don't need to check out the company or charity; you shouldn't miss this high-profit, low-risk offer.

Question: How can I protect myself?

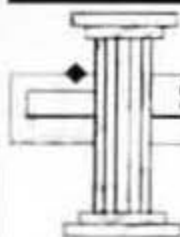
Answer: Never give out your credit card number unless you are absolutely sure that the company is legitimate. Ask telemarketers to mail you detailed information on unfamiliar charities or companies they claim to represent, and wait to receive that information. Check out unfamiliar charities and companies with the Better Business Bureau (759-1300). Never respond to an offer that you don't understand. Take your time in making a decision—it's never rude to wait and think about an offer.

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.



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276-1412



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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: vehistoric@yahoo.com or call 278-9838.

November's yard of the month winners are Richard and Vickie Mack of 1058 Terry Circle. Vickie is the primary gardener and has created a yard that is very colorful and interesting. Her early gardening influences were her aunt and grandmother who grew everything under the sun. While living in England, she developed a love for English-style gardens and has beautifully incorporated this style into her garden. Her beds consist of very diverse and colorful plantings that are densely planted. An ardent environmentalist, she uses very few chemicals in her yard and the butterflies love it. She uses pine needle mulch in her beds to keep out weeds, to reduce watering needs, and to add organic matter. She mulches her leaves into her yard and pulls any weeds that manage to come up through the mulch and dense plantings. Terry Circle is a side street off Avalon just north of Vollintine.

NOVEMBER — 1058 TERRY CIRCLE



DECEMBER — 846 STONEWALL

James and Louise Spencer of 846 Stonewall, owners of Spencer and Sons Cleaning Service and residents of Vollintine-Evergreen for 27 years, are December's yard of the month winners. The first thing that you will probably notice about their yard is its superb design. James believes that curving bed lines add interest and dimension to their garden and make it more eye-catching. With a great design in place, he has added a wonderful mixture of plants to complete the picture. In addition to all this, they were also beautifully decorated for Christmas.

SUMMER STORM 2003 CAN'T STOP YARD OF THE MONTH!



July's Yard of the Month winner Greg Francis in front of his home after July 22 storm.

2004 HOME TOUR - APRIL 25, 2004

Vollintine-Evergreen's Home Tour to be held on Sunday, April 25, 2004 will feature bungalows. The Historic Committee needs new members and volunteers to help out, please call 278-9838 or email to: vehistoric@yahoo.com.



MICAH 6 URBAN MINISTRY WORKSHOP

Pastors and lay leaders from churches and neighborhoods in Vollintine-Evergreen and nearby communities are invited to participate in the Micah 6 Urban Ministry Workshop, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, in the Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning at Rhodes College. The workshop will help leaders from churches and neighborhoods to explore a practical theology of urban ministry, as well as the growing need for servant churches and servant leaders in our own neighborhoods. There is no fee for the workshop, but there are limited spaces, and participants must register in advance with the Rhodes Chaplain's Office by phone at (901)843-3849 or by email at newton@rhodes.edu. A light lunch will be provided.

The workshop leader is Rev. André Johnson and its coordinator is Rhodes College Chaplain Billy Newton.

A \$10-\$20 contribution will help us begin a Micah 6 Community Fund to assist participating congregations and servant leaders in the local work of Micah 6 urban ministry. Churches in the Vollintine-Evergreen area interested in becoming part of a cooperative effort in urban ministry should contact Rev. Newton at Rhodes College or Rev. Johnson at Gifts of Life

VECA NEEDS MEMBERS

Name _____

Telephone Day: _____ Telephone Evening: _____

Address _____ Zip _____

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

I'M INTERESTED IN:

- 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

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:

- \$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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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.