

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXXI, Number 5

SEPTEMBER 2005

VECA OFFICE SIGN

The VECA office has a sign again, by far its best ever, thanks to custom woodworkers and "treecyclers" Scott Banbury and Austin Scott. Their sign is handmade from a solid piece of cypress, and all material and labor were donated.

Scott and Austin are Vollintine-Evergreen residents who recently opened their Midtown Logging and Lumber Company nearby at 1750 Chelsea Avenue (as reported in the March 2005 issue of this newsletter).

The installation of the VECA sign tops off last year's renovation of the exterior of the VECA office. There are still a few opportunities for neighborhood residents to volunteer with interior improvements, especially in our kitchenette. Call the office if you have a few hours to help paint, install trim, or generally tidy up.

NEW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

Please join us Wednesday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the VECA office to plan how we can use a new grant improve our storm water management. Refreshments will be served.

Bring a neighbor and come help determine where the money will go! VECA is partnering with Lichterman Nature Center in a new program to help neighborhoods address stormwater issues like flooding and pollution. VECA was selected as one of three pilot neighborhoods for this grant, nicknamed "FloodCAP," because of our long history of working together to make things happen.

For more information, call Andy Williams at Lichterman at 767.7322x102. This program is funded, in part, by the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis.

VECA CDC HAS TWO POSITIONS TO FILL

Construction Coordinator Sean Fegette and Financial Manager Wilma Vandermeer both recently left to pursue new (unrelated) opportunities. Since 1998 Sean oversaw construction of 10 new houses, rehab of about 20 houses, rehab of seven apartment units, and rehab of six commercial bays; he also managed innumerable property repairs and did many consulting jobs for neighborhood residents. Wilma brought a new level of professionalism to our accounting, and she leaves behind a well-organized financial system (based on QuickBooks Pro).

Accordingly, VECA CDC is now taking applications for both positions. Anyone interested in either position should send to the VECA office a resume and letter, including contact information for three references.

The Construction Coordinator can be a full-time position. An individual able to manage construction projects in a non-profit environment is required; experience with grant-writing is also desired.

The Financial Manager is a part-time contract position. It is anticipated that the Financial Manager will work one-half day every two weeks. An accountant with non-profit experience is preferred.

Both Sean and Wilma will be missed, and we wish them well.

FALL TREE FESTIVAL OCTOBER 15

VECA CDC's new Tree Restoration Committee will hold a tree festival on Saturday, October 15, starting at 9:00 a.m. at Dlugach Park on University Circle (off Jackson Avenue just north of Rhodes College). Come to learn about plants and planting, to buy trees and other plants suitable for our area, or to socialize with your neighbors! There will be plenty of healthy plants available at good prices - some common plants, some unusual. October and November will be ideal months to plant.

Besides the tree sale, there will be many free activities, including wild animals on display, pumpkin decorating, kids tree games, guided walking tours of the nearby V&E Greenline (10:00 a.m. and noon), a special talk on trees (11:00 a.m.), and a tree-planting ceremony (11:45 a.m.). All are welcome!

FEATURED TREE

So you love the evergreen foliage and beautiful fragrant flowers of the majestic Southern Magnolia, but thought they were limited to grand spaces? Well, the Little Gem Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) is the answer! It is the perfect tree for our small Vollintine-Evergreen yards, reaching a height of about 20 feet with a spread of 10 feet. Buy yours at the Tree Festival on October 15.

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.



Tree Restoration Event	October 15, 9:00 a.m. (Dlugach Park on University Circle)
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 23, 2006 (tentative; TBA)
Block Club Festival	April 29 or 30, 2006 (TBA)
Historic Home Tour	April 30, 2006 (throughout the neighborhood)
Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 8, 2006 (tentative; Rhodes College)
Historic Committee	second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m. (various locations; call office)
Code Enforcement Committee	fourth 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
Tree Restoration Committee	third Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
V&E Greenline Committee	third Tuesday monthly, 6:30 p.m. (but not July or December)
Housing Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Commercial Revitalization Committee	first Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
Managing Committee	last Monday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
VENews deadlines	October 4, December 1
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	first Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	September 12, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	October 3, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	November 7, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

VISIT VECA'S WEBSITES

www.vecacdc.org

www.vegreenline.org

VECA & VECA CDC STAFF

Portia Brown,
Housing Counseling Summer
Intern (pjbrown@stanford.edu)

Steve Gadbois,
Executive Director
(gadbois@vecacdc.org)

Ruth Gibson,
Homeowner Counselor and Office
Manager (wruth@vecacdc.org)



FOR SALE BY VECA CDC

CURRENT RENOVATIONS:

1522 Jackson
1810 Hunter

For more information, contact Judith Johnson of
Crye-Leike Realty at 603-0054.

VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN NEWS

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Submissions can be submitted on paper (even handwritten),
on disk, or by email to: veca@vecacdc.org

276-1782 phone • 276-1784 fax

email: veca@vecacdc.org and
vecacdc@vecacdc.org

THANKS BEN!

Rhodes College student Ben Trentlage spent his summer in the VECA office restoring order to our various old computers and our network.

Our computer lab has become functional again. An old, outdated, too-rigid VECA website has finally been tracked down and killed, and the framework of a new, easily-managed VECA CDC website has been created at www.vecacdc.org. (Comments and suggestions are welcome.)

Ben's talents and hard work as a Rhodes Summer Service Fellow made a difference, and his two months passed too quickly!



USEFUL CONTACTS

This list of phone numbers, email addresses, and websites will become a regular feature in this newsletter if readers find it useful. Suggestions (including additions and corrections) from readers are welcome.

VECA office	276-1784, vecacdc@vecacdc.org
Mayor's Citizens Service Center	576-6500
Property Code Enforcement	576-7380
www.memphistn.gov/HCDWeb/content/reportcomplaints.aspx	
Construction Code Enforcement	379-4200
Police North Precinct (north of Jackson)	377-3700
Police West Precinct (south of Jackson)	274-7012
Memphis Mayor's Office	576-6000
Memphis City Council	576-6786
Center for Neighborhoods	526-6627
Housing and Community Development	576-7300
Planning and Development	576-7197
Public Works	576-6742
Memphis City School Board	416-5300
Cypress Middle School	416-4624
Snowden School	416-4621
Vollentine Elementary School	416-4632
Memphis Shelby County Health Department	544-7600
Shelby County Mayor's Office	545-4500
Shelby County Commission	545-4301
Shelby County Assessor of Property	379-7333
U.S. Rep Harold Ford, Jr.	544-4131
Memphis Area Legal Services	432-4663
Memphis Light Gas and Water	544-6549

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RECOGNITION FOR V&E GREENLINE'S ROSENTHAL

Vollintine-Evergreen resident and VECA CDC board member Renate Rosenthal was named by Memphis Woman Magazine (July 2005) as one of "50 Women Who Make a Difference." The magazine honors those women that "are an inspiration to those whose lives they touch."

Dr. Rosenthal was honored for her work as the chair of the V&E Greenline committee. Her special interest has been to promote the health benefits of the Greenline. According to her nomination, Dr. Rosenthal "believes safe neighborhoods encourage residents to be active and, consequently, healthier." She is quoted in the article as wanting to "encourage people and bring them together to create something of value" - which is her approach as the long-time chair of the V&E Greenline Committee.

Dr. Rosenthal is a licensed clinical psychologist, a professor at the UT Health Science Center, and Director of their Medical Student Education in Psychiatry program. Congratulations Renate!

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

As of mid-July, there were 116 single-family properties, 9 duplexes and 6 multi-family complexes for sale in the area that includes Vollintine-Evergreen.

During the month of June 2005, there were 44 new listings with an average asking price of \$162,594, 24 contracts were pending with an average price of \$178,972, and 27 properties closed with an average selling price of \$187,340. The percentage of listing price to selling price was a very impressive 97.63%, and the average number of days on market was 58.

For the first half of 2005, there were 245 new listings with an average asking price of \$167,943, 137 contracts were pending with an average price of \$150,672, and 128 properties closed with an average selling price of \$146,469. The average number of days on market was 73.

Remember that the price per square foot always varies depending on the location and the size and condition of the property. Generally speaking the property in the nicest condition in the best location with the lowest price will sell quickest.

This sales data is according to the Memphis Area Association of Realtors. This report was compiled for the benefit of neighborhood residents by Judith Johnson, an affiliate real estate broker and a VECA member. Please feel free to call 901-603-0054 or e-mail judithj1@bellsouth.net with any of your real estate concerns.

LONG LIVE THE KINGS

by Rita Burton-Reyes

New to the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood is King's Grocery and Market, the third in a family chain. Located at 1701 Jackson Avenue at Evergreen Street (in the former "Bosi building"), King's is sure to provide a special shopping experience and be a very welcome addition to the community. Fresh foods, produce, and home-cooked breakfasts, lunches, and dinners will be offered. There will be a deli for the convenience of customers who prefer to eat in or just grab a bite.

All we want to know is, "When?" Because of the hard work of and support from Mr. King's family, the answer is, "Soon." Welcome to the King family, and thank you for bringing your business to Vollintine-Evergreen.

Y-CAT UPDATE

VECA is one of three neighborhood groups in Memphis with young people making up the new "Youth Civic Action Team" (Y-CAT). These young people are learning about the City's process of code enforcement and have surveyed many blocks in their neighborhoods.

Working in our Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood are Patrick Miller, Mckale Reeves, and Aisha Swauncy. Nearby in the newly-organized Hollywood-Springdale neighborhood are Danny Jackson and Joseph Miller. Their work will continue for about one year, although they will do more during the summer than during the school year. Thanks to everyone involved.

The Youth toured all three neighborhoods on August 2, and found themselves on Channel 5's local news that evening!

YARD WASTE: COMPOST OR COLLECT

contributed by Andy Williams, Manager, Lichterman Nature Center

Recycling can mean more than separating bottles, cans and paper - it can mean healthier gardens and shrubs! A natural way to recycle is to collect grass clippings and compost them. These clippings, along with leaves and kitchen scraps quickly decompose and become "black gold" (compost) for both indoor and outdoor plants.

Those who don't compost rely on the City's solid waste crews for recycling. Most bagged yard wastes left at the curb are collected separately and transported to the City's Earth Complex Composting Facility, where the leaves are processed into compost. The resulting matured compost is ultimately sold to local landscape companies or used as a soil amendment on City parks and other public properties. Last year over 8,000 tons of compost were generated from over 2,000 truck loads of bagged leaves collected from the curbs of Memphis homes.

Yard waste should never be placed in a roll cart - it places unnecessary strains on landfills and increases our solid waste disposal costs - or in the street or storm drainage system. It not only clogs storm drains and causes flooding, but also creates other problems. Water and wastes speed through storm drains into the Wolf River and Nonconnah Creek and on to the Mississippi River and McKellar Lake. Storm water travels so quickly, there is no time for leaves, grass and other waste to decay before reaching the natural streams.

Stormwater is not treated at treatment plant like sewage, so dumping yard wastes into storm drains pollutes our environment!



YARD OF THE MONTH HONOREE!

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

JULY — 924 SHERIDAN

July's yard of the month winners are Craig and Kay Jordan of 924 Sheridan Street, whose beautiful yard meets the standard set by their distinctive house. Their yard has an eye-catching design featuring curving bed lines with cobblestone edging. Sheridan has an unusual distance between the sidewalk and the street which they take advantage of planting shade-tolerant plants such as hostas and azaleas around two large oak trees. They use WOW fertilizer which is a natural product and provides pre-emergent weed control for their yard. In addition to taking meticulous care of their own yard, Craig is a volunteer for the V&E Greenline.



AUGUST — 1937 SNOWDEN

Garnett Stephens and her dog Honey of 1937 Snowden Avenue are the August yard of the month winners. Garnett, a realtor with Heritage Homes, is very creative and has given her yard an artistic touch. Her favorite containers are old whiskey barrels because they blend in so well. She uses containers with annuals to fill in bare spots. Garnett makes creative uses of items found at yard sales such as stools and benches on which sit containers of flowers. Not only is her yard interesting but it is also very lush. When she moved in 15 years ago, her yard was full shade. But after the ice storm, a lightning strike, and the wind storm, her yard is now a mixture of sun and shade so she's able to grow both sun-loving and shade-loving plants.

HISTORIC COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL 30, 2006 HOMETOUR

If you are interested in or want to learn more about historic home styles and architecture, the Historic Committee would love to have you as a docent or volunteer for the 2006 Home Tour. Please email us at vehistoric@yahoo.com or call 278-9838.



EVERGREEN'S CLANJAMFRY: A SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

Evergreen Presbyterian Church is delighted to announce the return of "Clanjamfry: A Scottish Festival", this year being celebrated for the seventh time. The festival will be on the weekend of September 23-25 and once again there will be entertainment and activities for the whole family, plus, of course, the stirring sounds of the Wolf River Pipes and Drums, Clanjamfry's official bagpipe band.

The weekend starts on Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. with the Ceilidh, a traditional Scottish talent show, in the Bryan Campus Life Center at Rhodes College. Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m., a 5K run/walk starts on University Street in front of the church and goes through Overton Park. Also on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the Scottish Faire fills the lawn of Evergreen with music on a stage sponsored by Strings & Things, vendors, games, displays, clan tents, sheepherding, a children's area and much more. Saturday night at 7:00 p.m., in cooperation with the Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance, Clanjamfry presents The Tannahill Weavers quintet, performing in Evergreen's sanctuary. The grand finale is the Kirkin' o' the Tartans on Sunday morning at 10:55 a.m., a moving church service with many elements of Scottish traditional worship, including the bagpipes in grand procession. A picnic on the lawn follows the service at about noon.

For more information, call the church office at 274-3740 or check the website www.clanjamfrymemphis.org.

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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



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*So long as man remains free he strives for
nothing so incessantly and so painfully as
to find someone to worship."*

-Fyodor Dostoevsky

RHODES HOLLYWOOD SPRINGDALE PARTNERSHIP HAS SUNNY START WITH SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Through a Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Rhodes Hollywood Springdale Partnership has been established to provide tangible commitments of resources and services and to renew a healthy clean, safe and sustainable community for all. The Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association is one of the partners.

From the various summer activities, the partnership has gotten off to a sunny start in the areas of leadership and capacity building, academic enrichment for neighborhood children, community policing, and community health.

"Building" Up the Neighborhood with a New Center

To organize and implement its various activities, Rhodes Hollywood Springdale Partnership has opened a neighborhood center named Shasta Central, located at 2375 Shasta Avenue, in a new house built and owned by VECA CDC. A July 16th open house full of music, games and food attracted over 300 people: political officials, Rhodes representatives, and neighbors and friends who learned ways they could become more involved in contributing positively to the neighborhood.

As a result, residents joined the community council and the various committees, according to Dorothy Cox, project manager for the Rhodes Hollywood Springdale Partnership. The next community event, a Haunted House, will from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 29. Mark your calendars!

Making Learning Fun for Neighborhood Youth

During the summer, Rhodes students Becky Saleska and Rachel Touchstone led "Camp Panther" that provided assistance for about 30 Hollywood Springdale community students in the areas of reading and writing. Volunteers from Rhodes and area high schools (Kingsbury, Northside, and Houston) taught the children using nonfiction stories and custom worksheets. Learning also was made fun with games, hands-on activities, and presentations by guest speakers. Says Touchstone, "Becky and I were blessed with a very enriching opportunity this summer."

Analyzing Data for Crime Prevention and Community Policing Strategies

As community policing interns for the Rhodes Hollywood Springdale Partnership, Rhodes students Doug Lensing and Lori Holyfield mapped crime data from the Police Department's Crime Mapper software to determine crime patterns in the Hollywood Springdale community. The interns also have been working with the Douglass CoAct (Community Action) unit on trying to establish weekly briefings on crime observation and prevention. Says Lensing, "It has been my main initiative to empower community members to form block clubs that develop a sense of community organization as well as provide a safe haven to discuss any issues, especially crime."

Identifying Health Needs to Create Health Resources

Over the summer, Rhodes students Ellie Hahn and Jessica Lotz worked with the Hollywood Health Loop Clinic, another Rhodes Hollywood Springdale partner, on identifying community health needs. They also worked on assisting people affected by the current TennCare cuts, gathered data for the local HIV consortium, and created a directory of health resources for the community.

Making Plans for the Fall

Through the COPC grant, Rhodes will continue to implement activities to address resident needs, support community renewal and help to improve student successes. For example, English professor Daniel Gates will include a service-learning component in his English 151 course this fall to benefit Rhodes students and Cypress Middle School eighth graders. Rhodes students will take the Cypress students through the stages of the writing process — developing ideas for a writing project, drafting it, and then revising it. "We hope this will help the eighth grade students prepare for the writing component of the TCAP, and it will also help the Rhodes students to strengthen their understanding of writing as a process that includes rough drafts and revision," says Gates.

Other projects related to the Rhodes Hollywood Springdale Partnership include establishing a GED program and counseling center at Shasta Central and a Big Brother Big Sister partnership between Rhodes and Springdale Elementary.

For those who want more information about the Rhodes Hollywood Springdale Partnership, contact Dorothy Cox at 233-0563 or coxd@rhodes.edu. The telephone number for the Shasta Central - Community Office & Resource Center is 458-4711.

WANTED

for use at the VECA office:
an upright vacuum cleaner

HOUSING COUNSELING

VECA CDC's housing counseling program is certified by both HUD and THDA for:

- First Time Home Buyer Counseling
- Mortgage Default Counseling
- Reverse Mortgage Counseling (HECM)

ARTIST'S NEW WEBSITE

Neighborhood artist Dottie Sachritz has a new website, showing about 45 of her paintings. Visit it at www.dottiesachritz.com

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.
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- 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.