

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

Volume XXXII, Number 2

MARCH 2006

VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN 2006 HOME TOUR AND SPRING FESTIVAL — APRIL 30

The Vollintine-Evergreen National Historic District will showcase seven of its historic residences and a distinctive church during the neighborhood's home tour and spring festival on Sunday, April 30th. Although this year's tour is highlighting the way that the neighborhood's homes, which suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Elvis, the 2003 straight line wind storm, have re-emerged in new and exciting ways, this entire midtown neighborhood is in the middle of a rebirth.

A neighborhood committee has spearheaded the planning of new trees to replace those damaged in the straight line winds; new homes are being built by the neighborhood's Community Development Corporation and by local builders; existing houses are being renovated and expanded; the old railroad bed has been made into the V&E Greenline, a neighborhood-owned walking trail and gardening space; and home values are rising. New residents are moving in alongside those who have lived here for decades. The owners of the homes on the tour represent this mixture. Several families are relatively new to the neighborhood, moving in from other historic Memphis neighborhoods and from New York. One family moved into their home from next door. One family went to their first neighborhood meeting the night they moved into their home, 35 years ago.



"Why is our neighborhood experiencing this rebirth? It is because we share a commitment to community that is reflected in our daily lifestyles," said Lisan Parker, a member of VECA's Historic Committee. To celebrate this renewal, Vollintine-Evergreen will host its Home Tour and Spring Festival on Sunday, April 30th.

The tour will feature:

- **2056 Hallwood** - a 1930 Tudor architectural jewel with a fabulous new kitchen
- **1949 Jackson** - a 1927 Tudor cottage that presents an interesting combination of practical and decorative
- **934 North McLean** - a Tudor cottage with many faces, with themes of African and Asian heritage and family
- **1946 Mignon** - a 1924 Craftsman bungalow incorporating the best of the past and present
- **1999 Mignon** - a 1941 classic Colonial built using a Better Homes and Gardens Home Plan
- **773 University** - a 2004 Tudor that was the winner of last year's best new residential structure constructed in a Memphis Historic District
- **867 Hawthorne** - a 1927 Tudor cottage that reveres the past
- **815 North McLean** - a 1932 Colonial church that lost its sanctuary but renewed its commitment to the community

The Home Tour will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 30th. Tickets are \$10. Visitors can purchase tickets at McLean Baptist Church, 815 North McLean at Jackson, and then catch free trolley rides to each home on the tour. The Spring Festival, also at the church, will feature face painting, games, a petting zoo and pony rides.

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

FREE HOMEBUYER SEMINAR APRIL 18

VECA and BancorpSouth will host a homebuyer seminar at the VECA office at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18. The seminar will probably include a housing counselor, a credit officer, a representative of one of the "big three" credit bureaus, a banker, a realtor, and a closing attorney.

The event is free, but space is limited, so you must register before April 14 by calling the VECA office at 276-1782.

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.



Block Club Festival	April 30 (McLean Baptist Church)
Historic Home Tour	April 30 (see article for locations)
Summer Jubilee Ice Cream Social	June 25 (The Gardens)
General Membership Meeting	January 22, 2007 (TBA)
Historic Committee	second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m. (various locations; call office)
Neighborhood Preservation 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
Neighbors for Trees	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 Wednesday 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	June 6, August 8
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	first Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	March 6, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	April 3, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	May 1, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



FOR SALE BY VECA CDC

New construction

1902 Vollintine

Contact Steve Gadbois or Ruth Gibson of VECA CDC at 276-1782.

Current renovations

1810 Hunter

Contact Judith Johnson of Crye-Leike Realty at 603-0054.

VISIT VECA'S WEBSITES



www.vecacdc.org

www.vegreenline.org

VECA & VECA CDC STAFF

Corinthia Davis,
Accounting Consultant

Caroline Fabacher,
Rhodes College intern

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

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

Vernua Hanrahan,
YouthBuild Program Manager
(vh1956@bellsouth.net)

VOLLINTINE ↔ EVERGREEN

N E W S

1680 JACKSON AVENUE • MEMPHIS, TN 38107

Coordinating Editor Nedra Bailey

Graphic Designer Sherry Henson

Printer Diamond Printing Company

Distribution Fredha Feaster

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

FREE CONCERT

William Segraves, well-known gospel blues musician, will present a free concert in the Family Life Center of McLean Baptist Church, 815 N. McLean at Jackson, on Saturday, April 22, at 6:00 p.m. Come hear the story of how Christ changed a man who had hit bottom.

rites to play COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

On Saturday, April 8, Rhodes College will again host its free "Rites to Play Community Carnival." From noon until 3:00 p.m., children (and all others who were themselves once children) are welcome to join Rhodes College students in Fisher Gardens (near University and North Parkway). This year's theme is "Rites to Play the Curious George Way." Relax, try some new games, and meet interesting people.

Rites to Play is part of that weekend's Rites of Spring music festival, which will include live music both Friday and Saturday evening until about midnight in the outdoor amphitheatre. Rhodes apologizes for any inconvenience; questions or concerns may be directed to the Rhodes Activities Board at 843-3552.

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	276-1782, vecacdc@vecacdc.org
Mayor's Citizens Service Center	576-6500
Property Code Enforcement	576-7380
www.memphistn.gov/HCDWeb/content/reportcomplaint.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
Environmental Maintenance (sanitary sewers)	529-8025
Drain Maintenance (stormwater sewers)	357-0100
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

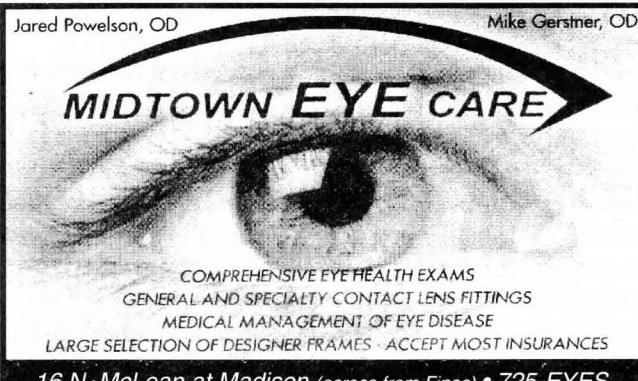


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RESIDENT ART SHOW BENEFITS VECA CDC

Vollintine-Evergreen resident Dottie Sachritz and fellow artist Liz Bass will have an art exhibition at Gallery 32 from March 16th through April 23rd. The gallery is located at 1918 Exeter Road, Suite 1, in Germantown, across from the library.

Please note that 25% of gallery profits will be donated to VECA CDC and to the Hernando-Desoto Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Here is your opportunity to buy some great art as well as to support great programs.

VECA CDC AND YOUTHBUILD

VECA CDC recently joined forces with a federally-funded program called YouthBuild that results in quality affordable housing while training young people in basic construction trades and helping them attain their high school general education diploma (GED).

The first YouthBuild house in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood is being constructed at 1902 Vollintine Avenue. It will have three bedrooms, two full bathrooms, and all the modern amenities, yet its design and all-brick exterior will fit our historic neighborhood.

Under this particular YouthBuild grant, most of the general labor is being provided by Shelby County prison inmates. These young people are minimal security nonviolent offenders, have been carefully screened, will be transported to and from the building site and continually overseen by Corrections officials, and will be supervised and taught by skilled union carpenters. YouthBuild has built hundreds of houses in Memphis, and there has never been an incident involving a worker. Because of the combination of labor supplied by the YouthBuild grant as well as funding supplied by the City of Memphis, VECA CDC will be able to sell this new house at a below-market price to a qualified buyer.

Obviously this collaboration involves many partners. Besides Shelby County Housing Shelby County Corrections, and the Tennessee Carpenters Local Union #345, we are grateful to Rhodes College for greatly simplifying our logistics by allowing our enclosed trailers containing valuable construction equipment to be parked on campus each night.

If you have questions about the program or are interested in buying one of these houses, feel free to call Steve Gadbois or Vernua Hanrahan at the VECA office.

YOUR 2006 VECA BOARD

In accordance with the VECA Bylaws, all Vollintine-Evergreen members attending the January 23 meeting elected the following VECA Board members, as well as the president and vice president. (The VECA Board then selected its secretary and treasurer.)

Annette Anderson, Nedra Bailey (vice-president), Janis Cannon (treasurer), Rick Cartwright, Barbara Coleman, Melissa Fraser, Gloria Fulton, Andrée Glenn, Bob Hicks, Jenny Jenson, Bettye Johnson, Chris Kirby, Tom McGowan, Scott Moore (secretary), Mary Wilder (president)

YOUR 2006 VECA CDC BOARD

In accordance with the CDC Bylaws, last year's VECA Board selected the following CDC Board members. (The CDC Board then selected its chair, vice chair, and secretary.)

Julie Borys, Lisa Butler, Paul Herron (vice chair), Dick Mochow (secretary), Janese Perry, Bud Richey, Renate Rosenthal, Bob Schneider, Mitchell Spence, Tommy Tabor, Jane Venson (chair)

2005 VECA TREASURER'S REPORT

Following is a summary of the 2005 VECA budget. (All of this is quite separate from the much larger and more complex budget of VECA CDC, which acts as Vollintine-Evergreen's main fiscal agent for grants, donations, etc.) More detailed information can be provided upon request.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

\$2610.00	Vollintine-Evergreen News ads
\$1480.00	dues
\$55.00	contributions
\$77.76	investment income
\$724.50	other
\$4947.26	TOTAL

EXPENSES:

\$3961.00	Vollintine-Evergreen News printing
\$1078.00	VECA Board insurance
\$274.00	Tree t-shirts
\$571.00	other
\$5884.66	TOTAL

EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

\$937.40

TOTAL ASSETS:

\$15,434.28

TOTAL LIABILITIES:

\$0

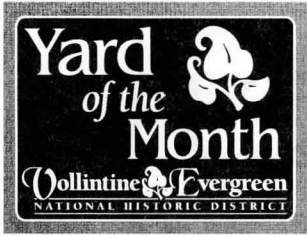
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YARD OF THE MONTH HONOREE!

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.

JANUARY — 930 AVALON STREET

January's yard of the month winners are Jean and Rev. Carl Hicks of 930 Avalon Street. They have lived in Vollintine-Evergreen for 25 years. Carl does the yard work and it is very much a labor of love. He works for UPS and is also pastor at the Greater New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in south Memphis. His beautiful topiaries create lots of interest during the winter months. During the growing season, his yard also features a red maple, a Japanese maple, mums, lilies, impatiens and vincas. Like many Vollintine-Evergreen residents, Carl and Jean enjoy sitting on their front porch and taking in the view of their beautiful yard.



NEIGHBORS FOR TREES

The tree planting project on Friday February 3 was a wonderful success, despite a slightly chaotic start. Eleven replacement trees were installed on Jackson Avenue between Watkins and Trezevant. The rain from the previous days meant the soil was easy to work with, and the rain that started falling just as we laid down the mulch around the newly-planted trees was a bonus. We couldn't ask for better timing!

For making this project possible, thanks go to the City's Park Services (especially Rich Beckwith and Lynn Hollowell) and our volunteers: Wendy Brooks, Eddie Branch, Leah Coffman, Steve Gadbois, Andrée Glenn, Bob Lenzini, Cristin McKnight, Amanda Semko, and Matt Semko.

The Neighbors for Trees committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the VECA office. At the next few meetings we'll talk about upcoming grant opportunities, the Greenline arboretum application, and our participation in the April 30 Spring Festival and Home Tour. We're always looking for new members — all are welcome to attend our meetings.

BE PREPARED FOR DISASTER: BECOME A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM MEMBER

If there were a significant earthquake today would you be prepared to manage light search and rescue for your family and your neighbors? Do you have all the supplies you need for your family and pets? Do you know how to prepare for emergencies in the aftermath of a quake? The Emergency Management Agency of Memphis and Shelby County have a wonderful free program that will help you plan to save your life.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

If you are interested in participating in the free CERT program, register online at www.mscema.org or contact the Memphis/Shelby County Emergency Management Agency by calling (901)458-4101x1013. There are also Disaster Awareness brochures available at the VECA office.

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-Fyodor Dostoevsky

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Sunday Eucharists
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.
Tues. and Thurs. Mass - 5:30 p.m.
Wed. and Fri. Mass - 8:15 a.m.

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

276-1412



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VELSICOL BEGINS CLEANUP PROCESS: Soil is removed and replaced at three properties along Cypress Creek

by Chuck Hanson, Vice President, Environment, Health & Safety, Velsicol Chemical Corporation

Velsicol reached an important milestone this past fall when we began the cleanup process at properties along Cypress Creek identified by the Tennessee Department of the Environment (TDEC) as having dieldrin levels requiring soil removal. We have finished removing contaminated soils from the first three of these properties (two properties on Edward Avenue and one on Vollintine Cove), and are looking forward to finishing the process on the remaining nine properties as soon as possible. The only obstacle that remains is securing permission from the property owners to begin the cleanup process.

A lot has been accomplished in the past three and a half years. More than 120 properties were tested under the watchful eye of TDEC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Outside experts developed information on clean-up goals that is being reviewed at TDEC and EPA and that will be used to establish the remedial action level for residential lands along Cypress Creek. Additionally, the Memphis and Shelby County Public Health Departments completed a health study to address the community's concerns about whether there were elevated levels of cancer along Cypress Creek. These results were shared with the community in April 2005.

While none of this came easily or went as quickly as any of us would have liked, it was a good, thorough scientific process that is directly leading to action - the clean up of properties that have elevated levels of contamination in the soil. Velsicol remains committed to finishing this important project. For those of you who did not see the soil removal process in action, let me explain how it works.

One of our objectives is to minimize the disruption to prop-

erty owners and their neighbors. Our project manager, Gary Hermann, meets with property owners to explain the process and set dates for soil removal, taking into account family schedules. While soil is being removed, workers monitor the air quality. Trucks hauling away contaminated soil are covered with tarps and are thoroughly cleaned before leaving the property. Contaminated soil is taken to a secure consolidation area on Velsicol's plant site on Warford Avenue. Next, clean soil is brought in and put into place and new sod is installed.

Our ultimate goal is to leave a property looking as good as or better than before soil removal, and to make sure yards are restored to the property owner's satisfaction. That includes replanting or replacing landscaping features like trees and shrubs, and structures like sheds and fences, which may have to be taken out for soil removal to take place.

Although our number one priority in the coming months is to complete the soil removal process at the remaining nine properties as well as at any others that may be identified, we want to continue working with leadership organizations such as VECA on how we can all work together on issues of community development. Velsicol shares your vision of a vibrant, attractive community, and wants to help ensure that this is the kind of future we can enjoy together.

If you have any questions about the Cypress Creek investigations, the soil removal process or about Velsicol in general, please feel free to call Gary Hermann, Velsicol's Cypress Creek project manager at (901) 380-9995x120. You can also learn more about the Cypress Creek project at www.cypresscreekmemphis.com.


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Name: _____

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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National Trust for Historic Preservation Advisor

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.