

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

VOLUME XXXIII, NUMBER 4

JULY 2007

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 7

by Gloria Singleton

The Block Club Committee is celebrating National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m. We are inviting all neighbors to join us at the VECA office (1680 Jackson Avenue) to be a part of the community by enjoying potluck and sharing prayers. We will come together to pray for our children, our neighbors, and our community.

WACHOVIA FOUNDATION

The Wachovia Foundation, based in Birmingham, Alabama, recently made a generous donation to VECA CDC to support our collaboration in the YouthBuild program, which trains Shelby County inmates in construction trades. That support indirectly impacts many people, and it is much appreciated!

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After seven years as VECA CDC's Executive Director, Steve Gadbois will be leaving this fall to return to teaching. VECA CDC's Board and staff have as their goal a smooth transition, and your participation is welcomed.

Applicants for the full-time position of Executive Director should send to the VECA office a letter of interest, a resume, names and contact information for three references, and any other supporting material. A detailed job description and an application form are available at the VECA office. The job's duties are varied, and include managing all staff members, communicating with and following the direction of the VECA CDC Board, gaining and managing grants, budgeting and approving expenses, and overseeing day-to-day operations. Community development experience and knowledge of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood are desirable. The Executive Director reports directly to the VECA CDC Board.

The position is multi-faceted and challenging, but rewarding. There is now in Memphis a strong "trade group" of other effective Community Development Corporations (CDCs) that can assist in training, and Steve can be available on a limited basis to help his successor learn the ropes if that is desired. VECA CDC staff members will continue to do housing counseling and provide affordable housing (and train inmates in construction trades) through the local YouthBuild collaborative.

THANKS

... to Andrew Mitchell, who has dropped by the office unannounced several times this year to mow, weed, and clean up outside, all at no charge.

... to Nathan Hill and Jonathan Prince of the Cooperative Computer Ministry, who provided VECA CDC's Executive Director with a nicely refurbished computer at a crucial time. (But did they *really* convert him from Mac to PC?)

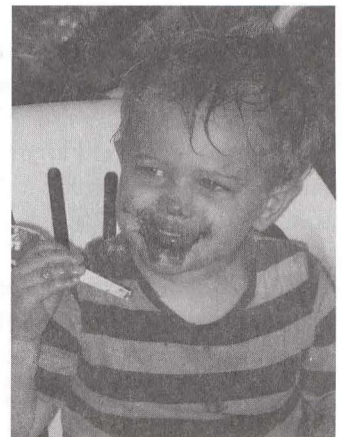
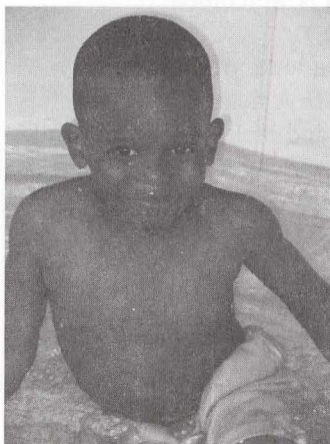
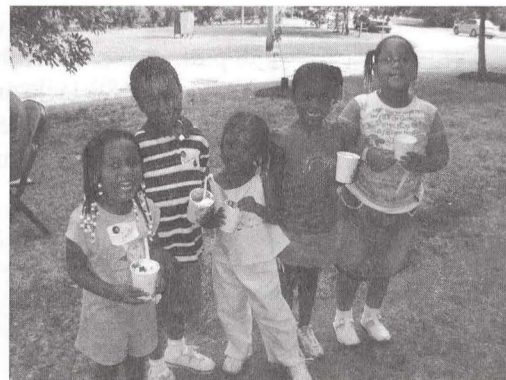
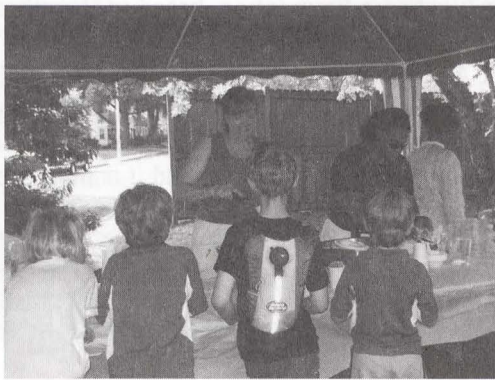
SECOND SUMMER JUBILEE ICE CREAM SOCIAL A SUCCESS

On Sunday, June 24, several hundred Vollintine-Evergreen residents and friends relaxed in the Gardens Section of our neighborhood-owned V&E Greenline, sharing ice cream, wading pools and sprinklers, stories, and news.

For the second year, all ice cream was donated by the Baskins Robbins store on Union at Belvedere — thanks especially go to manager Scott Schwartz. We were treated to several dances by the Agape dance group from Friendship Baptist Church. And we attracted several political candidates: Herman Morris and Carol Chumney, both running for mayor of Memphis; Bob Schreiber, running for city councilmember for District 5 (the seat now held by Ms. Chumney); and Jeanne Richardson, running for state representative from District 89 (the seat once held by Ms. Chumney and recently held on an interim basis by our own Mary Wilder).

The ice cream sales served as a fundraiser for our Neighbors for Trees committee. Look for a repeat event next year, perhaps on June 22, 2008.

Photos by Missy Fraser — thanks!



HELP PLAN THE NEXT FOREST FAIRE



VECA's third annual Forest Faire will be October 27, less than three months away. Planning has begun for this nature-themed event, which will be held on the V&E Greenline at the Stationhouse.

Do you have a business, a product or a message to share with your neighbors that will help reduce their carbon footprint? Reserve free table display space now or ask for a spot on the program. Last year's event included table displays on carpooling, recycling, environmental issues, and of course information on using trees in the landscape. Trees appropriate for our neighborhood will be offered by local nurseries and we'll dedicate our new arboretum.

For more information, contact the VECA office and leave a message for Steve Gadbois, Andree Glenn or Marcie Hendrix, or come to any meeting of Neighbors for Trees, normally at 5:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.

THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF TREES

by Robert A. Schreiber, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Greater Memphis Greenline

As I am sure you are aware by now, global greenhouse gas emissions are rising, causing an increase in greenhouse gases (GG) in our atmosphere. There are still a few people who feel that this is not manmade, because after all, how could we possibly affect something that big? What they may not appreciate is that well over 95% of all of the oxygen and carbon dioxide over our heads is in the troposphere, which extends to merely 7 miles over our heads – roughly the distance from Highland Avenue to the Mississippi River, and yes, we can affect it.

There are many who are working diligently to reduce our carbon footprint on the earth. In general, efforts fall into a few major categories: use less or do less of something, or use less GG-producing materials, or use more energy-efficient production and use methods, or lastly, carbon sequestration; that is, carbon capture. One of the best methods for carbon sequestration is planting of trees. Besides for the obvious social benefits, trees reduce air pollution and GGs, and capture water (which reduces peak water flow during rainstorms and mitigates overflow and street flooding). The water then evaporates and re-enters the atmosphere, rather than draining into sewer systems. This tends to cool the surrounding areas, and reduces the amount of air conditioning one needs during the summer, and during the winter tends to shield buildings as well, reducing the amount of heating required. Tree roots, of course, also filter and capture a considerable number of other pollutants – nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium, to name a few.

Trees capture in growth and development, on average, over 12 tons of carbon per acre. A single mature tree can absorb up to 50 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, and release enough oxygen to support two people. Trees are a capital asset in and of themselves, and as such, need and deserve governmental support. Entire societies through history have been shown to collapse when they did not manage their tree resources effectively. Not meaning to scare anyone, but in the last 200 years, we have cut down over 50% of the tree cover of the earth. In economic terms, over a 50-year lifetime, a single mature tree generates over \$30,000 worth of oxygen, provides over \$62,000 in pollution control, recycles over \$37,000 of water, and controls over \$30,000 in soil erosion, for a total pure added economic value of \$159,000 per tree, or a little over \$3,000 per tree per year. Many cities have created a separate department to foster their trees, and have established a "tree budget" of \$2 or more per citizen.

The Greater Memphis Greenline (GMG) is a proposed multi-use urban park/trail on a former CSX railroad right-of-way from the intersection of Poplar/Walnut Grove/Union in Midtown Memphis to near Houston Levee in the suburbs of Shelby County. The GMG, when completed, will encompass 13.4 miles, 100 feet wide; i.e., 160 acres. Historically, with considerable variability, there are about 50 large trees per acre in urban forests, parks, and greenways in this region. If we assume that about 25% of the space will be botanic, that is, 40 acres, then we estimate another 2,000 large trees will be planted, which will capture an additional 480 tons of carbon as they grow and mature, absorb an additional 50 tons of carbon dioxide per year, and provide oxygen for 4,000 of our citizens. At \$3,000 per tree per year, the extra 2,000 trees on the GMG will generate an additional \$6,000,000 **per year** in pure economic value to Memphis and Shelby County. Our website, www.greatermemphisgreenline.org, has links to articles which contain all the information referred to here.

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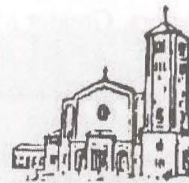
Providing safe, fun, creative and supportive environment for
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**St. Therese
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Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.
Tues. and Thurs. Mass - 5:30 p.m.
Wed. and Fri. Mass - 8:15 a.m.

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



"All Are Welcome"

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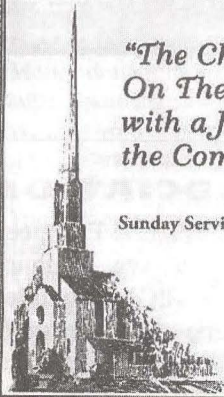
This is your invitation to

**McLean
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815 North McLean at Jackson Ave.

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with a Heart for
the Community"*

Sunday Services 10:50 a.m.



SWANKY JUST GOT REDEFINED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

You like the dark bamboo floors or the light? The bronze-stained concrete or the black stone? Got a favorite granite? From interior finishes, to exterior hangouts (the rooftop deck vs. the poolside cabana is a popular party debate among neighbors), Glenmary at Evergreen is all about choices. You know, just like life.

Condos have come to Evergreen! Purchased last summer by the Gintz Group out of Tacoma, Washington, Woodmont Towers is undergoing an extensive renovation and is being offered for sale by local realty firm Martin Group. Under the guidance of local development group M-Collective (Amelia Carkuff, Tony Bologna, Terry Saunders & Anna Holtzclaw), the building was renamed the Glenmary at Evergreen after Evergreen's first developer, Robert Galoway's original home *The Glen Mary*.

Although the building's new name honors the neighborhood history, the renovation is a combination of fresh, sexy furnishings, timeless finishes, and a variety of open floor plans which caused a recent visitor to remark "Wow – I would never expect something like this in Memphis!" From the original Jack Robinson lobby pics to the funky poolside cabana – the Glenmary has been designed with originality and individuality in mind. Coming this fall is a roof deck overlooking Memphis' tree tops with a clear view of the Downtown skyline. The Glenmary is also adjacent to the V&E Greenline, and it is likely that there soon will be gated access and a short path to the Greenline.

The homes feature concrete or bamboo floors, stainless steel appliances, new light fixtures, granite counter tops, new cabinets and floor plans opened up by architect and Evergreen resident Tom Turri of Bottletree Design. Studios start at \$84,000, making this property affordable with all of the charm of Midtown and amenities one would expect to see in a high-end property.

The Glenmary is open daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and weekends 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Real estate associates Kathy Pierce and Tommy Prest welcome you to stop by and tour the property anytime. They can be reached at 901-272-0143 and you can learn more at GlenmaryCondos.com or MartinGroupRealty.com.

IN MEMORIAM: DICK MOCHOW (1927-2007)

by Renate Rosenthal

The VECA neighborhood mourns the loss of one of its dearest neighbors and most stalwart champions, Dick Mochow. He died at his home on June 20, 2007, after a long and courageous battle with lung cancer., just one month shy of his 80th birthday.

Dick and Nickie moved into the VECA area in 1971. I first met them in 1995 or so, in the context of the creation of the V&E Greenline. Dick and Nicky were two of the original "Greenliners," They rarely missed a Committee meeting and eagerly took on many chores and duties to help the Greenline develop into an urban sanctuary.

Dick was a large and imposing figure, but was actually a gentle, thoughtful, modest man of few words. When his health was still good, he was one of the original hands-on tractor driving volunteers. I have a special memory of Dick: For several years, he played Santa on the Greenline Tractor, a winter fundraiser that became a tradition and a family affair that brought neighborhood awareness to this project.

Several years ago, Dick was recruited to join the VECA CDC Board where he served as secretary. Even when his health was failing, he continued to attend as many meetings as he could, and he faithfully took the minutes till the very end.

Whenever Dick spoke, we listened carefully. We all valued his wisdom and his counsel. He brought special expertise to the neighborhood and to the V&E Greenline Committee, both as a veteran conservationist and as an engineer.

I last saw Dick at the June 2007 Greenline meeting, just a few days before he died. He was clearly unwell, but he never complained or let on just how poorly he was feeling.

Now Dick has passed on to a realm where there is no pain and no sickness. Our neighborhood has lost a true champion. May we learn from his example and honor his memory by carrying on the work that was so dear to him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and, above all, with Nickie, Dick's wife of 60 years.



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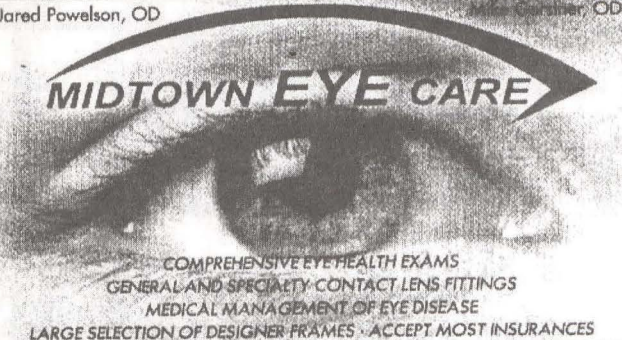
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USEFUL CONTACTS

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
Litter Hotline	52CLEAN
Police North Precinct (north of Jackson)	377-3700
Police West Precinct (south of Jackson)	274-7012
Police Reports	545-2650
Memphis Mayor's Office	576-6000
Memphis City Council	576-6786
Memphis Board of Education	416-5300
Center for Neighborhoods	576-4236
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
Vector Control (mosquitoes, rats, etc.)	324-5547
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 Election Commission	545-4125
Shelby County Assessor of Property	379-7333
Memphis Area Legal Services	432-4663
Memphis Light Gas and Water	544-6549




HOMEOWNERSHIP CLASSES

Free homeownership classes are held at the VECA office on one Saturday every month. The classes are open to all, but you must pre-register by calling the VECA office at 901-276-1782. When you call, staff will know the dates of upcoming classes.

Homeownership counselor Ruth Gibson has 12 years experience assisting first-time homebuyers understand the important homebuying process and deal with their personal financial issues. (She also provides mortgage default counseling to homeowners in trouble, and she can assist senior citizens with reverse mortgages.) Ruth is HUD- and THDA-certified.

Although other VECA CDC staff members encourage buyers to consider VECA CDC houses, Ruth is glad to assist buyers no matter what house they might be interested in and no matter where it is.

If You're Looking For That Favorite Little Neighborhood Bar—Stop By And See Us At



Alex's Tavern

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GLORIA SINGLETON 901-401-1822

Upcoming Meetings & Schedules

Unless otherwise marked, all of these meetings are at the VECA office at 1680 Jackson Avenue. To be certain, you can call first at 276-1782. Committee meetings and Board meetings are open to everyone.

National Night Out	August 7
Forest Faire on the V&E Greenline	October 27 (Stationhouse)
VECA Block Club Reception and General Membership Meeting	January 21, 2008
Summer Jubilee Ice Cream Social	June 22, 2008
Neighborhood Preservation Committee	Fourth Thursday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Block Club Committee	First Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Safety and Security Committee	Being formed; call office to help
Cypress Creek Committee	Call office
Historic Committee	Call office
Youth Committee	Call office
Neighbors for Trees	Third Monday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
V&E Greenline Committee	Second Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. (but not July or December)
V&E Greenline Spruce Up	Call office
Housing Committee	Second Wednesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Commercial Revitalization Committee	Call office
Managing Committee	Last Monday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
VENews deadlines	August 7, October 2, December 4
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	First Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	July 9, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	August 6, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	September 10, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For Sale

by
VECA CDC

New Construction

962 Maury Street (\$89,900)
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Rehab

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VECA & VECA CDC Staff

Corinthia Davis	Accounting Consultant
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)
Dana Hendrick	YouthBuild Apprentice Coordinator
Joe Kerley	YouthBuild Construction Manager
Aisha Swauncy	Office Assistant

Vollintine Evergreen Office

1680 Jackson Avenue ■ Memphis, TN 38107
901-276-1782 phone ■ 901-276-1784 fax

email

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and
vecacdc@vecacdc.org

websites

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www.veggreenline.org

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