

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 2

MAY 2008

Springdale Baptist Church Community Clean Up

March 29 was a cool, cloudy, spring day with threatening rain, but over 80 members of Springdale Baptist Church turned out to clean up and beautify Springdale Street.

They pruned overgrown hedges, removed dead branches, picked up litter, and trimmed the grass on vacant lots, an abandoned house, and the land adjacent to the street. They planted a variety of trees—maples, oaks, Bradford pears, and crepe myrtle. The City of Memphis Division of Public Works donated mulch for the newly planted trees.



Jeff and Deon Shelton organized the event and helped select the areas that were cleaned by the volunteers. Rhodes College provided tools for the event and students assisted in organizing the event. When the work was done, the members of the church had a cookout to celebrate the great work that had taken place.

The church expects to continue their work on Springdale Street on a regular basis. A special thanks is due to Senior Pastor Dr. Derrick Hughes for his leadership in developing a partnership with the community. Springdale Baptist calls itself "the church in the heart of the community with the community at heart".

Springdale Baptist Church is located in Vollintine-Evergreen at 1193 Springdale Street – Memphis, TN 38108, 274-6652, info@springdalebc.org.

Church on the Square

Church on the Square came to Vollintine Evergreen to clean up and beautify the V&E Greenline area near the stationhouse. They picked up limbs, raked leaves, mulched trees and plants, and planted bulbs. This is the second time that the group worked on the V & E Greenline and they promised to return in the fall. The church members talked about how the clean up was an expression of their faith by doing good works in the community. The church meets at the Studio on the Square.



Summer Jubilee

Vollintine Evergreen Neighborhood Picnic

All neighbors welcome

Sunday June 22nd

4:00 to 7:00

V&E Greenline Garden area

Greenline between McLean and Auburndale

Bring a picnic

Ice Cream Sundaes \$1.00 a scoop

Games, Water Play, Cake Sale

CONTEST

Who can bring the most folks to the PICNIC

If your Block club, street, or group of friends would like to reserve a table, please call 272-2620 and leave the name of your street.

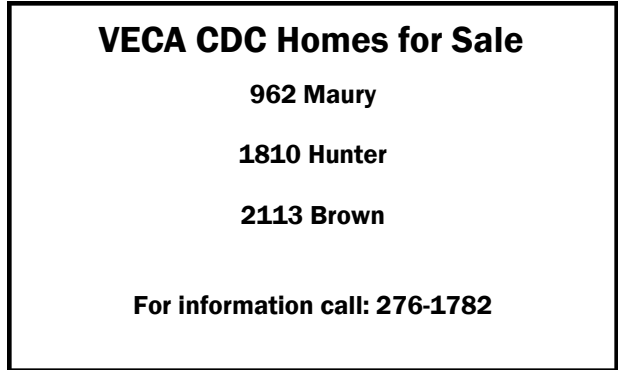
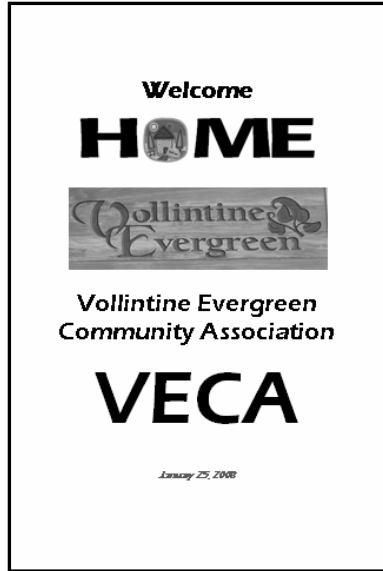
The group with the largest number will receive a gift certificate for your next Block Party.

VECA Brochure

Are you new to the neighborhood? The efforts of block club members, along with Rhodes College students and staff, have resulted in the creation of a 36-page booklet about the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood.

Want to know more about VECA organizations? Which churches and schools serve the neighborhood? What are some important code enforcement guidelines for the neighborhood? All of this and more is covered in the brochure.

The brochure will be used to welcome newcomers, but it also contains helpful information of interest to all VECA residents. Copies are available at the VECA office, 1680 Jackson Avenue.



V&E Greenline as a Best Practice

The V & E Greenline is proud that this important part of the community has a national reputation. This email reached the Greenline and our volunteers are responding with advice to this new and exciting trail.

"I'm with the Friends of the Lafitte Corridor in New Orleans (<http://www.folc-nola.org/index.htm>) a community organization working to create a 3 mile greenway in our city. FOLC recently rec'd 501(c)(3) status and completed a master plan for the Lafitte Corridor. I volunteered to do some research on various greenways around the country and have been in touch with the folks at rails to trails as well. I wanted to ask for your thoughts/experiences, as we develop our strategic plan."

Join a VECA Committee

Open for all to attend, the Vollintine-Evergreen community has many committees on which residents can serve. The committees listed have a designated meeting time. Other committees, such as the Block Clubs hold meetings periodically.

Call the VECA office at 276-1782 for more information about these committees or check the website for a calendar of events.

Committees usually meet at the VECA office located at 1680 Jackson Ave.

VECA CDC Board	First Monday of the month	6:30 pm
VECA Board	First Monday of the month	7:00 pm
Neighborhood Preservation	Fourth Thursday of the month	6:00 pm
Neighbors for Trees	Third Monday of the month	5:30 pm
V&E Greenline	Second Monday of the months of June, August and October at 1625 Tutwiler Ave	6:30 pm
Safety and Security	First Tuesday of the month at McLean Baptist Church, Crump Ave and McLean Blvd	7:00 pm

www.veca-neighborhood.org

Glenmary Converts to Senior Living

According to *The Daily News*, Glenmary at Evergreen, located at 1550 North Parkway, is currently adapting senior housing. The former apartment complex will provide housing for independent-living and assisted-living seniors.

The facility, which will keep the name Glenmary at Evergreen, is scheduled to open this October. The complex includes two buildings consisting of 172 units.

Originally purchased by Gintz Group with plans for condominiums, the company has sold the facility to Nationwide Health Properties.

They have contracted Paradigm Senior Living, Inc., a senior living management group, to administer the buildings and services. Nationwide properties Inc., based out of Newport Beach, California, holds investments in additional senior

housing and care facilities throughout the country.

A representative from Gintz commented that they hope to appeal to the moderate income market. With no upfront deposit and rental on a monthly basis, the company hopes to create a reasonably priced option for aging seniors.

Gintz Group had already invested \$5.6 million dollar into the original condominium renovations when the decision was made to create a senior living facility, according to the *Memphis Business Journal*.

The picture to the right shows the construction being done on the property.



Have Complaints About Public Services?

The City of Memphis has a one-stop shop to receive complaints or requests about city services known as the Mayor's Citizen Service Center (MCSC). If you have a concern about garbage not being picked up on your street, vacant properties or lots, perpetual yard sales, loose dogs, faulty streetlights, sanitation issues, mosquito and rodent control, this is the place to call.

The center also responds to complaints about rooming houses, zoning violations, and conditions in commercial areas.

The Mayor's Citizen Service Center can be reached at 576-6500. The MCSC does not reveal who has complained, but you can request a letter about the resolution of the complaint.

The MCSC also has a complaint center on the City of Memphis website. Go to www.memphistn.gov and select "Online Support Center" under the mayor's picture.

Unless citizens file complaints about problem services, public

High Weeds?



As the summer approaches, high weeds can become a common problem. Please report any weeds over 12 inches to the Mayor's Citizen's Service Center:

Phone: 576-6500
Web: <http://memphistn.gov>
(Select "Online Support Center")

Shades
Cornices
Window Treatments

Valances
Upholstery
Faux Finishes
Japanese Screen (Fabric)

Interiors By Fulton

Custom Designs on Walls, Furniture, and Fabrics



Gloria Singleton

Ph: (901) 272-3845

Apartments, Apartments, Apartments

VECA CDC is the nonprofit organization that builds, rehabilitates, and manages real estate for the neighborhood. Because grant funds have decreased, VECA CDC is no longer fully staffed and must depend upon volunteers. The Apartment Committee invites others to join them—no experience is needed and only an interest in improving the neighborhood. Call 276-1782 to volunteer.

Evergreen Stained Glass

In June of 2007, Robbie O'Kelly, Keith Rash, and John Tyler began renovations on an unused building at 575 N. McLean. The renovations were complete in October of the same year. In November, they announced the opening of Evergreen Stained Glass.

The new studio is a drawing together of three of the best craftspeople in the city. With 35 years in the stained glass industry, the staff of Evergreen Stained Glass is known for their beautiful church work, both traditional and contemporary. They are the only studio in town with a full-time, in-house artist. Evergreen Stained Glass has designed a great deal of work for residential clients desiring either colored or clear leaded glass. They also provide restoration and repair work for existing glass.

The store is located at 575 N. McLean.

Community Pancake Breakfast

McLean Baptist Church hosted a Community Pancake Breakfast on Sunday April 13 for the Vollintine-Evergreen community. They served pancakes, scrambled eggs, and pork loin. As a bonus, two members of the police department provided tips on home and personal safety.

McLean Baptist, the church on the corner, is located at 815 N. McLean Blvd.

Advertise With Us!

Want to reach 3,000 VECA residents? Why not advertise in *the Vollintine-Evergreen News*? Local businesses like yours can receive community support by appearing in our pages. Just \$100 buys four prominent ads in our 2008 newsletters. Don't wait! Call our advertising manager at 276-1782.

Velsicol Settlement

The lawsuit against Velsicol corporation that has been going on for nearly four years, recently reached settlement between Velsicol Chemical Corp. and landowners affected by contaminated land.

VECA played an early role in the dealings of this suit by providing a meeting place for monthly meetings to help facilitate discussion among Velsicol representatives, officials from the health department as well as local community members. It did not take long for the situation to get beyond discussion and initiate cleanup action.

Now, after a sampling for the hazardous chemical dieldrin, it seems that Velsicol and affected landowners have reached what



VECA CDC Executive Director, Steve Gadbois, considers "a reasonable compromise." This compromise entails monetary settlement with exemption from liability for bodily injury.

The long term effects of dieldrin are still unknown, therefore making this settlement seems like a potential risk for those involved. If the chemical contamination has delayed effects, those who could be injured in the future may not have compensation from Velsicol. At that time Velsicol will be free of liability with the terms of this pending settlement.

This lawsuit is not entirely over, but it is said to be finalized between May and June of 2008. The question still remains if this pending settlement provides resolution.

Jared Powelson, OD Mike Gersner, OD

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16 N. McLean at Madison (across from Finos) • 725-EYES

Fundraising

Fundraising is important for the many activities that take place in Vollintine Evergreen.

VECA, the umbrella grassroots organization, had its membership drive in January of 2008. It received over 200 members for 2008 and it continues working to increase that number. These funds are used to help support the neighborhood newspaper since the ads only pay a portion of the costs. These funds are also used to support the neighborhood office—for example providing a computer and display items. The office is the center of many neighborhood activities and is indispensable to many volunteer activities.

The V&E Greenline started its contribution campaign that continues throughout the

year. At the time of going to press over 80 people had made a contribution and others were promising to send in their contributions.

The residents of Vollintine-Evergreen are supporters of the Greenline and it could not exist without their contributions. However, increasingly residents of other neighborhoods, including Evergreen Historic District, are contributing, as they also use the Greenline. The money is used for upkeep of the V&E Greenline; it is expensive to make the Greenline look like a neighborhood amenity.

Three contributions to the Greenline were made as memorials. These include Dick Mochow—a neighborhood leader, Janice Jordan—the mother of V&E Greenline leader Craig Jordan, and Betty Gilow—long time neighborhood resident and faculty member at Rhodes College.



This picture shows a part of the V & E Greenline. Contributions to the V & E Greenline help offset the cost of its continued maintenance.

Springdale Baptist Church Celebrates with Festival

Saturday, May 31st, Springdale Baptist Church will be holding its annual Springdale Baptist Church Street Ministry Festival. The festival will take place from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The event will include food, games, and fun for all. Additionally, there will be a clothing give-away and informational booths about voter registration, the GED, and more. Various community leaders are expected to attend.

Springdale Baptist Church is located at 1193 Springdale St. Everyone is welcome!

Local Schools Recognized

Smart City Memphis recently recognized "2 high schools, 7 middle schools and 23 elementary schools that have met state benchmarks and shown improvement over the last two years." KIPP Diamond Academy and Vollintine Elementary School were among the schools recognized. It noted the schools' achievement to be a goal for which the entire district should be striving.

Smart City Memphis is a radio talk show and website that "takes an in-depth look at urban life, the people, places, ideas and trends shaping cities".

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



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ABC's of the NPC

The Neighborhood Preservation Committee is working to identify condemned properties in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood.

The committee is identifying the properties through information provided by the City of Memphis and through surveys of the neighborhood. Rhodes College students from the Urban Studies Program and members of the Neighborhood Preservation Committee have been busy surveying the neighborhood.

Properties that are considered dangerous structures may be condemned by the City of Memphis after a lengthy process. In some cases, this is the appropriate solution to a dangerous structure.

However, the committee has determined that many of the condemned properties

are not dangerous structures, but are only vacant. It is important to remember that if a house is torn down, the neighbors will be left with a vacant lot. Vacant lots are often overgrown and littered with debris.

The committee will develop a strategy for each condemned property to best preserve the historical integrity of our neighborhood. If you are interested in volunteering, the committee meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the VECA Office.

Please contact Chris Floyd at 491-6320 or cakirby72@yahoo.com for additional information.



A severely damaged building at 1036 Maury that needs to be demolished by the City as soon as possible.



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Safety and Security


VECA's newest committee, Safety and Security, has been meeting since January, 2008. Its purpose is to equip the VECA membership with an understanding of why crime is occurring in our area. It focuses on being proactive individually and collectively in preventing crime.

The group urges everyone to attend the one hour meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm at McLean Baptist Church, Jackson Ave at McLean Blvd and Crump Ave entrance of the church. Average attendance is about 25.

VECA is split into two separate police precincts and the committee had the opportunity to meet with the leaders of the precincts. Colonel Mark Collins is the head of the Old Allen (formerly North) Precinct, which is north of Jackson Ave. Colonel Billy Garrett is head of the Union Station (formally West) precinct which is south of Jackson Ave.

The committee maintains an email notification list that allows residents to comment about safety and security.

Call the VECA office at 276-1782 for further information.



**St. John the Evangelist
Orthodox Church**

Sunday
Orthros at 9am • Liturgy at 10am

Weekdays
Wednesday Vespers at 6:50pm
Saturday Great Vespers at 5:50pm

1663 Tutwiler Avenue at Dickinson
(901) 274-4119

New Businesses in the Neighborhood by Virginia Fall

Sinclair Fabrics

Justin Kelly, originally from Costa Rica, is a ten year resident of Memphis. He recently opened an upholstery and supply store named Sinclair Fabrics. In talking with him on the second day that the store was officially open, he was exceptionally personable and enthusiastic about his new business. He elaborated on his goal with his store being a reliable source for the Memphis community. He is working in organizing the merchandise within the store, and he hopes to one day be able to sell more home décor and decorative items in addition to his basic supplies of fabrics, vinyl and polyester foams.

I was curious to find out how he came into the business of upholstery. He explained how he worked as a shoemaker for years in Costa Rica, but he decided to work on a larger craft in building and upholstering furniture. He builds furniture by hand at his home and brings it to the store to finish upholstering. His previous work includes projects like the building and upholstering of the booths at Los Compadres, a Mexican restaurant on Poplar Avenue. With the years experiences in the intricacies of shoe

making and the woodworking necessary for building furniture, Mr. Kelly provides a credible foundation for what we hope to be a successful business for him and his family.

He has already invested much time and money into his business I cannot doubt his dedication to his business and serving the people of Vollintine-Evergreen. Mr. Kelly was anxious to show me some of his 600 different fabrics available in the store. From his warm welcome, friendly conversation, and impressive knowledge of numerous languages he has the charm to attract customers.

Sinclair Fabrics is located at 1693 Jackson Avenue, open Monday through Saturday and the phone is 901-726-6198.

Café Eclectic

Café Eclectic at 603 N. McLean has opened with a decidedly neighborhood focus. Its website says "We hope the neighborhood will embrace us and that we may become a home away from home for many: A place to have your morning coffee, visit with your children after

school over a sweet treat, enjoy a hassle-free dinner with the family, and relax or study with friends at the end of the day. We wanted to concentrate on the little things that often get lost in life, like knowing the names of our patrons and serving wonderful fresh, local, and organic foods at reasonable prices."

With anticipations of a study atmosphere, I carried a few books inside to enjoy a cappuccino. When inside I saw a restaurant style café as opposed to a simple coffee shop. Even still, the ambience of Café Eclectic allows for you to make of it what you wish. There's a delightful outdoor patio on the N. Mclean side of the building and with good weather it gives the pleasure of a stroll through downtown Memphis with the accessibility of Midtown.

The service is great and the food is great. I thoroughly enjoyed a fresh Panini with a bottled root beer. There are plenty of other options for whatever you are craving: salty or sweet, hot or cold. Café Eclectic is truly the neighborhood bistro—great for kids and adults alike. When you have the time, stop by for a quick coffee or treat yourself to a scrumptious meal.



Sinclair Fabrics located at 1693 Jackson Ave.



Café Eclectic located at 603 N. McLean

We Want Your Input for the Neighborhood Newsletter

This issue marks a concerted effort to revitalize the Vollintine-Evergreen News – and we need your help! We are a dynamic, diverse community on the move and our bi-monthly newsletter is a great resource for keeping the neighborhood informed of our many activities.

The *Vollintine-Evergreen News* needs articles and photos from residents and committees that provide interesting

information about our neighborhood. To be included, materials must be submitted by the 10th of the month for the following month's publication. Articles for the July issue are due by June 10th.

The *Vollintine-Evergreen News* committee is also looking for committee members to edit the final draft of the newsletter.

Additionally, the *Vollintine-Evergreen News* is looking for community members willing to help with newsletter delivery. If your block does not receive the newsletter, please volunteer to be your block's distributor. It takes 20 minutes every two months.

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

Going Somewhere?



We offer dog sitting and dog walking services at your convenience. Whether in the comfort of your own home or a stroll through the park, we provide loving caregivers to watch after your beloved pets. References available.

Eileen Castline 725-9216

www.mrscruff.net

VECA SUMMER JUBILEE



**Saturday, June 22nd
4p.m. to 7p.m.**

An opportunity for residents to come together and meet their neighbors. Neighbors for Trees will have ice cream available as their fundraiser.

The event is held at the V&E Greenline—north of Tutwiler Ave at Hawthorne St

VECA & VECA CDC Staff

Steve Gadbois, Executive Director
Ruth Gibson, Homeowner Counselor and Office Manager
(wruth@vecacdc.org)

Rhodes Community Development Interns funded by City of Memphis
Division of Housing and Community Development,
Dale Baker and Maura Weber

YouthBuild

Vernua Hanrahan, Program Manager (vh1956@bellsouth.net)
Dana Hendrick, Apprentice Coordinator
Joe Kerley, Construction Manager

Vollintine-Evergreen Office

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Email

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vecacdc@vecacdc.org

websites

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