

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

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

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2008

## Something Great Starts at Snowden

Some of you may have seen them around town, the green bumper stickers that say, "Something Great Starts at Snowden". Something great does start at Snowden and has been since it opened its doors to the first pupils in 1909. Colonel R. B. Snowden and his brother R. Brinkley Snowden donated a tract of land to the Board of Education in early 1909 with one condition, that the school be enrichment for the neighborhood. Since then Snowden School has been more than an enrichment to the neighborhood. It has also been a fixture in the lives of the students that come from Snowden eager to excel. Now, nearly 100 years later, Snowden continues to thrive as an important part of the community. Although the school started with a mere 155 students, it now has 1526 boys and girls from around the area.



Snowden School is located at 1870 N. Parkway

This year, the school will welcome new principle Randy Thompson. Snowden's previous principal, Mrs. Catherine Battle was named Memphis's principal of the year in 2004-2005 and principal of the year for the state of Tennessee in 2006. With an outstanding staff and an in touch parent network, the Parent-Teacher Association, the students are reaping the benefits. This year, Snowden school will send four student entries to the state history day competition.

For more information about Snowden School and other Memphis City School visit their new and improved website at <http://www.mcsc12.net/>

## Darius Goes West: One teenager Making the Difference

Darius Weems, a fifteen year-old boy from Atlanta, was diagnosed with Duschene Muscular Dystrophy along with his older brother, Mario. After the loss of his brother four years ago Darius and his friends decided to spread national awareness about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), the number one genetic killer of children in the world.

'Darius Goes West' is a documentary of their cross-country trip, from Atlanta to California, in hopes of getting Darius's wheelchair on the show "Pimp my Ride". The documentary is a vivid portrayal of the adventure, brotherhood, and the strength it takes to shed light on such an issue. Darius Weems, who turns 19 this year, the same age his brother Mario was when he died, continues to raise money for DMD with the hopes of finding a cure for other children affected. The multi-award winning documentary costs \$20 with \$17 going to DMD and \$3 going to make more DVDs.

Rhodes College will have a screening of the documentary next Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome and encourage to come. Rhodes is located at 2000 N. Parkway.

For more information visit the website, [www.dariusgoeswest.org](http://www.dariusgoeswest.org)

### VECA's Safety and Security Committee

In a continued effort to improve the security of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood, the Safety and Security Committee is hosting State Representative Jeanne Richardson.

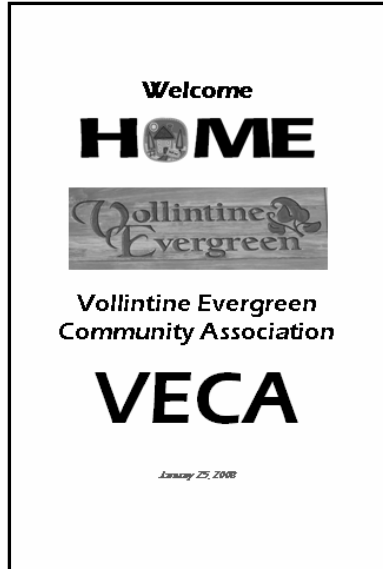
She will speak on Tuesday, September 30 at 7:00 at McLean Baptist concerning safety issues in the neighborhood.

## 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 is 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.



## All Scream for Baskin Robbins Ice Cream!

The Vollintine-Evegreen community would like to thank Baskin-Robbins for providing ice cream at this summer's jubilee that took place on June 22nd.

The neighborhood greatly appreciated the generosity!

**Baskin-Robbins** is located at 1680 Union Ave or at 4307 Summer Ave.



## 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	Monday, September 15th, and October 13 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](http://www.veca-neighborhood.org)

## nexAir: It's All in the Family



nexAir located at 1211 North McLean,  
North of Vollintine-Evergreen

Last October, nexAir's Chief Executive Officer, Robert G. McEniry, continued the family tradition and passed on his title to his son, Kevin McEniry. This third-generation family owned business was founded in Memphis in 1940 by Kevin McEniry's grandfather, R.Q. McEniry.

nexAir is a distributor of atmospheric gases and although initially seems an industrial service, is actually involved in everyday life. Atmospheric gases are involved in the carbonation in the soda machine at your local gas station and the welding of the steel on your Toyota or Nissan car. nexAir also provides to all of the major hospitals in the Southeast.

Throughout the years, the company has developed a unique strategy that develops and retains well-trained, ambitious young workers. In fact, half of the company's officers are under the age of 45, while the average years of experience for those individuals is 21 years. nexAir continues to hire individuals directly out of college and provides an atmosphere in which he or she is constantly striving for a higher position, as in the case of newly appointed president, Bob Procter.

The well-structured company has since been reaping in the benefits. nexAir now has 21 sites in 6 states and conducts business in 14 states. nexAir has also bought 26 smaller companies, usually at the owner's request. As a thriving family-owned company, smaller companies generally prefer to accept an offer from a company such as nexAir, as opposed to a much larger, public company.

As a member of the neighborhood, with a plant located at 1211 N McLean, nexAir is concerned about the area and continues to be an active part of the community through a coalition with local police officers and other city and county officials called the Police and Joint Agency Committee. The group meets once a month to discuss issues that are of concern to the neighborhood. nexAir's Vice President, Chuck Britton, is a loyal attendee of the meetings and plays a significant role to the group.

## 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, or 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](http://www.memphistn.gov) and select "Online Support Center" under the mayor's picture.

Unless citizens file complaints about problem services, public agencies will not be able to improve those services.

**Upcoming Events:**  
 Sept. 11th: BET personality, Jeff Johnson Lecture  
 Sept. 12th & 13th: "Air Heart", Aerial show about Amelia Earhart, 7:30pm  
 Oct. 5th: Rhodes Singers at Grace St. Luke's Episcopal  
 For more information visit:  
<http://www.rhodes.edu>

## St. John Orthodox Church: A Community of Good Faith

It was truly commitment and faith that brought this community together. St. John Orthodox Church is a thriving parish with 325 members. However, the beginnings of this church were much more humble. In the 1970's about 10 to 15 families met together in each other's homes to pray and to worship. Towards the late 1970's the group decided to move into one neighborhood as a community. The group of families chose the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood due to the variety of housing, amenities, and the education that was provided in that area.

In 1990, the group, including pastor Fr. John Troy Mashburn, bought the 1663 Tutwiler building in which they currently meet and worship. Although previously a Presbyterian church, the building lends itself well to Antiochian Orthodox Christian church, despite the obvious need to renovate almost the entire building. As part of the neighborhood, St. John's makes a point to be a good, active neighbor. From tending to vacant lots as their own, to being a lifeline to neighbors in need.



St. John's Orthodox Church is located at 1663 Tutwiler Ave

St. John's intends to continue its active involvement in the neighborhood. Pastor Fr. John Troy Mashburn states, "Midtown, and especially this neighborhood, has been one of the most stable areas in Memphis, and I would hope that we have a stabilizing effect on our community."

For more information and a Calendar of all Church events visit, [www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

## Long Live the Sears Tower



The Sears Crosstown tower is located at 495 N Watkins

A recent article in the Commercial Appeal concerning the old Sears Tower's future has people talking. The Sears Crosstown building opened in 1927 as the Sears, Roebuck and Co., Mid-South regional office, the company's Credit Central operation as well as its catalog merchandise distribution center. The building invigorated the surrounding neighborhood near Watkins and

North Parkway and spurred other retail stores as well as a movie theatre. With the closing of the retail store in 1984 and the distribution center ten years later, once a beacon of capitalism, it is now a bleak monument.

However, things have started to look up since last year when real estate investor, Andy Cates, bought the landmark structure for \$3.8 million. Cates, who also started the Soulsville Revitalization Project in 1999, is researching all possible options for the project.

Similar projects have been done with vacant Sears tower around the country, but, with the current economic situation, Cates is faced with an extra hurdle. Regardless, the neighborhood remains hopeful and is merely thankful that Cates has taken that first step towards revitalizing the area.

Jared Powelson, OD      Mike Gerstner, OD

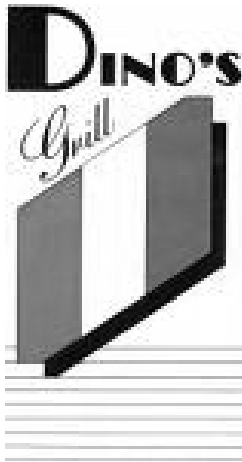
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## Dino's Grill: An Italian Tradition

By: Maura Weber



In 1973, Dino's grill moved into the neighborhood on 651 McLean as a family owned Italian restaurant. Dino's, which was formally "The Old State Café", located on Beale street, has been a haven for families, college students, and neighborhood regulars alike for 35 years. Decorated with WWII and the occasionally Southwestern memorabilia, Dino's is a great neighborhood restaurant with some of the best authentic Italian food in Memphis.

Due to great reviews, I tried the spinach ravioli and was pleasantly surprised. Having lived in Italy I am not one for American-Italian chain restaurants and deem myself a pretty hard critic when it comes to authentic Italian food. However, Dino's earned my approval with some of the best ravioli, as well as the charming, down to earth atmosphere and great service. The menu includes classic Italian favorites from meatballs to manicotti, as well as more Southern styles dishes on the lunch menu. With rather large portions, Dino's is an inexpensive eat and almost always has lunch specials. Dino's grill has been and will continue to be a great contribution to the neighborhood.

Dino's Grill is located at 645 N. McLean and at [www.dinosgrill.com](http://www.dinosgrill.com)

### Upcoming Happenings at Mclean Baptist

McLean Baptist Church is going to be busy in the community this fall. There are two big events planned for this October. They will be having a Revival October 12-15th. Dr. John Mahony will be speaking and everyone is invited. McLean Baptist Church is very excited to once again have the annual HallowHim festival in the Family Life Center on October 31.

There will be a moonwalk, candy, fun and games in a safe environment. Once again everyone is invited.

See [www.mcleanbaptistchurch.org](http://www.mcleanbaptistchurch.org) for details.

McLean Baptist loves the VECA community and is here for you. These are just a few of the ways that they are striving to be "The Church on the Corner with a Heart for the Community".



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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 \$50 buys two prominent ads in our 2008 newsletters. Don't wait! Call our advertising manager at 276-1782.

## Levitt Shell at Overton Park is back!



**The Shell is Back! Fall Season  
Started September 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> is  
Community Appreciation Night!  
Come Join us!**

The Levitt Shell at Overton Park kicked off its inaugural season of free, open-air concerts with a series of performances and grand opening events beginning Thursday, September 4 and running through Sunday night. The Shell extends a special invitation to friends and neighbors to attend Community Appreciation Night on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> for the Kirk Whalum concert.

Completely renovated through the generous support of the Mortimer Levitt Foundation, the City of Memphis and private donations, the Levitt Shell at Overton Park has a full line-up of fall performances scheduled, a brand new sound system and a lush, bring-your-own-blanket lawn.

So pack a picnic (concessions will also be available), bring the kids and plan to join in the neighborhood celebration of the Shell's rebirth.

Special events and door prizes are planned for Community Appreciation Night, including free souvenir water bottles for a lucky 200 guests. The concert starts at 7 pm. At 5 pm, Whalum will host a master class for musicians and students, part of the Levitt Shell's new "Makin' Music Muscles" educational series.

### What You Need to Know:

- It's FREE. Donations are welcomed and encouraged.
- Come Early. Doors are always open.
- Coolers welcome, but no alcoholic beverages allowed.
- Vendors will be on hand for food and beverages.
- All performances are family friendly and end by 9pm.



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### Performances Scheduled for the Fall at the Levitt Shell:

Sept 14th: an Irish Celtic band, Kula  
Sept. 18th: Sid Selvidge  
Sept. 20th: Sara Hickman  
Sept 27th: "Peter and the Wolf", new Ballet ensemble  
October 4th: Kenneth Jackson  
October 5th: Brave Combo



### 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

### Remembering a Dear Neighbor

Helen Pensak died this February 2008. Helen had been a member of VECA since its beginning in 1971. Helen and her husband have lived in VECA for over 44 years. Helen and her husband Emory enjoyed their walks on the Greenline and could be seen resting on the bench in the Gardens. Ms. Minnie Young remembered Helen and Helen's love of the neighborhood with a contribution to the VECA organization. We will miss our neighbor Helen.

## Save Your Home from Foreclosure



With the economy in a state of despair, many people are faced with the terrible issue of foreclosure. If you or someone you know is dealing with a financial institution that is threatening foreclosure, there may be some things to know before losing your home entirely.

First, be sure to respond to all the letters sent by the lender, be proactive. Let the lender know your situation which prohibited you from making your payments. The lender would rather work with you to make payments rather than take your home.

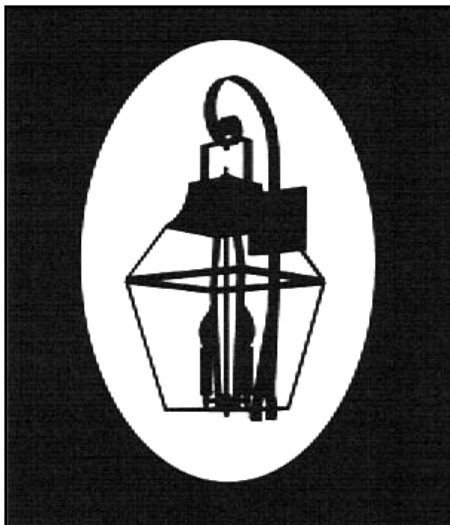
Second, keep all loan documents and read over your mortgage agreements. Know your mortgage rights and what the lender may or may not do if your payments are not made. Third, avoid any for-profit foreclosure prevention company's offer. Many people allow these companies to act of their behalf with foreclosure deals, but may be unknowingly signing over their title to their house. There are many foreclosure prevention options that are available, including contacting a U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved housing counselor. This individual will help you know your options, organize your finances, and represent you in negotiations with your lender. Lastly, prioritize your spending and use whatever assets you have. Saving your house should be your top priority. Review your expenses, eliminate any unnecessary spending and evaluate any assets that can be liquidated in order to make payments on your loan. Foreclosure is such a hard time for you and your family, the most important thing is to know that you have options.

To contact a local housing counseling network call 725-8361.

Also visit these sites for more information:

- [http://www.consumer-action.org/english/articles/saving\\_your\\_home\\_from\\_foreclosure/](http://www.consumer-action.org/english/articles/saving_your_home_from_foreclosure/)
- <http://www.hpfonline.org/>
- <http://www.hopenow.com/>

**VECA is in strong opposition to the multi-family housing proposed for the Vollintine Ave and Evergreen St area. It was defeated by your City Council—more information about this historic vote in the next issue of the *V&E News*.**



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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, 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 Ave, Memphis, TN 38107 or call (901) 276-1782. You can also visit our website [www.veca-neighborhood.org](http://www.veca-neighborhood.org)

## We Want Your Input for the Neighborhood Newsletter

This year 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 **OCTOBER 10TH**.

A special thanks is due the many delivery people and distributors who place the newsletter on the door step of VECA Residents. In addition, a thank you is due to the neighborhood businesses that make the newsletter available to their customers.

Thanks to Rhodes student Maura Weber

for writing and formatting parts of this issue. Rhodes student Casey Mohan also helped in formatting and editing this issue.

A special thanks to Jan Kirby and Lacy Ward for proofing the final draft.

Thank you to advertising manager Bob Hicks for his great work with the adversities. Please support the advertisers since they help finance the newsletter.

### 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](http://www.mrscruff.net)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Volunteers needed to deliver the VE News.**

Vollintine-Evergreen News is a newsletter for the community and needs to be maintained by the community. Help out by signing up for a route to deliver the newsletter. Several routes are open.

**Open routes include areas north of Vollintine Ave.**

For information call 276-1782

### VECA & VECA CDC Staff

Steve Gadbois, Executive Director  
Rhodes Community Development Interns  
funded by City of Memphis  
Division of Housing and Community Development,  
Casey Mohan and Maura Weber

### Vollintine-Evergreen Office

1680 Jackson Avenue ■ Memphis, TN 38107  
276-1782 Phone ■ 276-1784 Fax

#### Email

[veca@vecacdc.org](mailto:veca@vecacdc.org)  
[vecacdc@vecacdc.org](mailto:vecacdc@vecacdc.org)

#### Websites

[www.veca-neighborhood.org](http://www.veca-neighborhood.org)  
[www.vegreenline.org](http://www.vegreenline.org)

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For information call 276-1782

