

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

VOLUME XXXIV

NOVEMBER 2008

Join VECA E-mail

VECA is pleased to announce that it now has a way of communicating with residents via e-mail. And you can join this list.

This system has a comprehensive list of residents that will allow VECA to broadcast information in a quick, consistent, and professional manner.

By joining this e-mail list, you will strengthen VECA's presence and allow it to better coordinate with residents, as well as receive valuable and useful information. The strength of the group will increase with each new person who joins.

Here are some examples of things that we hope to implement soon:

- Scheduled publications such as the newsletter
- Emergency broadcasts concerning safety and security
- Meeting announcements
- Block watch programs
- Important general announcements
- VECA activities and projects
- Surveys that will let residents voice their opinion
- Promote involvement with neighborhood activities

Our mission is to broadcast details relevant to keeping all of us informed and safe which adds to our quality of life. Residents will not be bombarded by insignificant or annoying e-mails.

Additionally, your information will NOT be passed along to anyone looking for financial, political, or any other advantage.

All e-mail will be sent via blind copy, so no one else will see your address. Your name will **NOT** be added unless you e-mail your request. You will also have the ability to remove your name in the future.

To voluntarily join the VECA e-mail list, please send an e-mail to: news@veca-neighborhood.org Be sure to include your first name, last name, and e-mail address.

Councilman Jim Strickland



Councilman Jim Strickland, representing District 5, has high hopes for the neighborhood and continues to support the Vollintine-Evergreen area. As one of the many people who opposed the senior apartment complex in the Vollintine Hills area, Councilman Strickland helped the plan get defeated. Strickland was involved in helping with the Lick Creek flooding problems. He took a tour in October and is working with the city and neighbors to address the flooding. Councilman Strickland is an

advocate for neighborhoods, including Vollintine-Evergreen. He is concerned about crime. He supports proper development in neighborhoods. He supports amenities such as parks and the zoo.

"VECA has been one of the strongest and most diverse neighborhoods in the city for a very long time, and I think that if it maintains what it is doing as a community, that it will continue to progress" he adds. As a neighborhood, VECA's neighbors have been united and work together to reduce crime, he commented. As a neighborhood, he calls on us to continue to be aware of the happenings in the neighborhood and to actively participate in issues that call for neighborhood involvement such as zoning.

Contacting Councilman Jim Strickland: Mail—Room 514 125 N. Main St, Memphis, TN 38103, Phone—901-576-6786, Email—Jim.Strickland@memphistn.gov

See the map of Councilman Strickland's district on page 8.

Annual VECA Meeting

**Monday January 26 at 7:00
Evergreen Presbyterian Church**

Preceded by a light dinner at 6:00
Sponsored by the block clubs

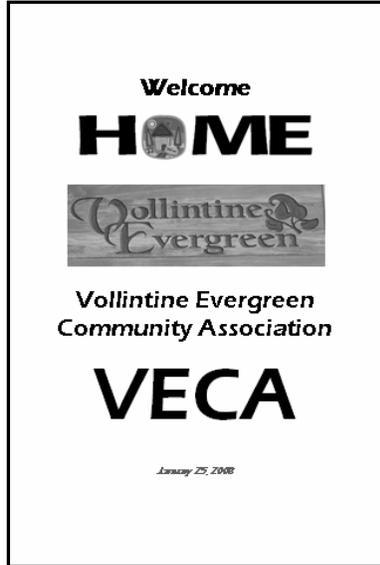
VECA officers and board are selected, the VECA CDC board is recognized, awards are made for service, and VECA accomplishments are presented at this meeting.

VECA Brochure

Are you new to the neighborhood? The efforts of block club members, along with Rhodes College students and faculty, 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.



This is your invitation to
McLean Baptist Church
 815 North McLean at Jackson Ave.

“The Church On The Corner with a Heart for the Community”

Sunday Services 10:50a.m.

Advertising

Want to reach 4,000 VECA residents and other neighborhood supporters? Why not advertise in the *Vollintine-Evergreen News*? Local businesses like yours can receive community support by appearing in our pages. Just \$150 buys 6 prominent ads in our 2009 newsletters. Don't wait! Call our advertising manager at 843-3841. The ad can be paid in two installments of \$75 each. It will help you get customers and help the neighborhood at the same time.

Nominations and Awards

Nominations are needed from VECA residents for awards to be given at the VECA Annual meeting.

There are three awards: The **Ditchel Award** for outstanding service to VECA given to a resident, business or institution within Vollintine-Evergreen; the **Borys Award** given to a person, business, institution or government that has helped

VECA; and the **Heinemann Award** for the outstanding board member.

Nominations are due by December 30, 2008

VECA has outstanding volunteers and community supporters. Let's recognize them with a nomination.

Send your nomination to VECA, 1680 Jackson, Memphis TN 38107

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.

www.veca-neighborhood.org

VECA CDC Board	First Monday of the month	6:30 pm
VECA Board	First Monday of the month	6:30 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 January 12 (place TBA) and March 8 (620 N Avalon)	6:30 pm
Safety and Security	First Tuesday of the month at McLean Baptist Church, Crump Ave and McLean Blvd	7:00 pm

Residents Gather for Lawsuit Payout

On Friday, September 5th, more than 30 people lined up outside of the VECA office in anticipation of receiving their settlement check from the Velsicol lawsuit.

Between Friday and Saturday, nearly 200 checks were given out as a result of a settlement in the class action suit— *Mildred Isabel et. al. v. Velsicol Chemical Corporation*—between residents near Cyprus Creek and Velsicol. The settlement compensated land owners whose property value was significantly diminished due to a multi-decade long action of chemical dumping by Velsicol.

In the lawsuit, which began in 2004, the law firm of Kramer, Horne, Wells and Sheng, PLC represented the citizens. Art Horne, a lawyer from the firm, was present at the check distribution to answer questions and allocate the settlement checks to residents.

Many of the residents seemed relieved to find an end to the four year lawsuit and countless other years of struggle against the corporation. One such resident, Mr. Banks, noted that he was glad to finally receive what the land owners deserved.

The lawsuit began as a result of residents complaining of illness and property damage. Over 200 people were part of the class action suit, and everyone received some form of financial settlement.

The formula for settlement took into account the value of each property and the level of contamination. Checks ranged from \$1,500 to \$20,000.

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.

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



The funds received have no specified use for the residents; they can be used for cleanup and property improvement, or whatever the recipient desires.

The speed of the lawsuit is likely the result of pressure from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, which has been involved in soil testing in the area.

Additionally, the link between Velsicol and the claimants was evident because the lawsuit only took into account property value and did not claim health and other problems as a result of exposure to the chemicals.

Designs by Gloria

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P.901.272.3845
C.901.288.3819

Rhodes College
-1818-

Rhodes College has many public lectures, art exhibits, sports events, and musical events.

Check the website for current information.

<http://www.rhodes.edu>

City Council Sides with Vollintine Hills & VECA

On Tuesday, September 09, 2008 the proposed Evergreen Senior Apartments were defeated. Over 40 residents of Vollintine Hills and VECA went to City Council for the last hearing on the Evergreen Senior Living Apartments. They were lead by Vollintine Hills resident Eric Jackson.

Councilman Joe Brown and Councilman Jim Strickland were strong leaders in the discussion and asked probing questions to get the important facts. Councilman Jim Strickland took the time to question the Vollintine Hills attorney. This helped the residents explain their concerns about this project. During the meeting, one of the council members noted that this appeared to be an age restricted apartment complex not a senior living facility. Vollintine Hill's residents were concerned the project was too large and dense for their area. The apartments would effectively change the zoning/land use from single family to multi family.

Martha Jordon, Audrey Larsha, Haymond and Eva Turner, Maynard Jordan, Perletha Thomas, Chuck Scruggs, April Jackson, Dorothy Mells, Sand Elion, Vera Vaughn, Carol Dickens, Johnetta Neal, Rowan Neal, Charlie Folsom, Larry Mells, Bertha Ching, Annie Haynes, Douglas Malone, and Kim Penn and many more Vollintine residents worked hard by attending meetings, writings letters, and calling their council members to voice their concern. This was truly a neighborhood effort.

Mr. Douglas Malone took the initiative to hire an attorney to represent the community at the city's hearing. The residents helped with the cost of representation.

Volunteering

VECA CDC needs neighborhood residents to help with the many tasks that were formerly performed by staff.

These include the following: work on managing the rental houses and apartments, volunteer some hours to help clean up and paint up, volunteer some hours to keep the office open, work on the finance committee, and serve on the board.

To volunteer, call 272-2620

Eric Jackson lead the group through all the meetings. Mary Wilder helped with mailing and making sure the office was open for meetings. Together Vollintine Hills and VECA kept their neighborhood safe from a dangerous development. City Council overwhelming defeated the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD).

If the council person voted no they voted to defeat the project. Vollintine Hills wanted the project defeated. A yes vote was in support of the project.

For Vollintine Hills and against the project were Jim Strickland, Bill Boyd, Harold Collins, Edmond Ford, Myron Lowery, Shea Flinn, Jack Sammons, and Reid Hedgepath. Voting for the project and against Vollintine Hills were Barbara Swearengen Ware, Wanda Halbert, Janis Fullilove, and Bill Morrison

Vollintine Hills and VECA would like to thank the council members who voted not to support a 117 unit age restricted apartment complex in the middle of an existing stable, single family neighborhood.

VECA CDC Reorganization

There are many changes taking place in VECA and the VECA board asks for your patience in this time of transition.

VECA remains an active and vibrant community organization—look at the activities in this newsletter. However, the nonprofit arm, VECA CDC, no longer has any staff members. As a result, volunteers are doing the work of the organization and the office is not staffed for regular business.

The VECA and VECA CDC boards have been meeting jointly for six months to work on the transition. More information will be available in future issues of the *Vollintine-Evergreen News* or at the annual meeting in January 2009.

In the meantime, make a special effort to thank the dedicated board members working on the transition.



**In the Heart of Memphis
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**10 S. Belvedere
276-7042**

Belvedere St at Madison Ave

Jared Powelson, OD | Mike Gerstner, OD

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

Lick Creek Flooding

On August 25, 2008, Midtown and Vollintine-Evergreen area received an overwhelming amount of rain in about one hour. This led to flooding on streets and residential properties near Lick Creek, including Tutwiler Ave, McLean Blvd, Auburndale St, Hawthorne St and Idlewild St.

What were the reasons for the flooding?

First and foremost, the intensity of the storm in the area surrounding Lick Creek throughout Midtown created immense amounts of water that had to be drained. The result was that water accumulated until the creek could not physically drain this large amount of rainwater. Lick Creek is designed to handle one inch of rain in one hour. According to the measurements taken at Rhodes, our area received two inches in twenty minutes which converts to six times the water the system was designed to handle.

Second, the flooding was historic. Some flooding is normal for this area. However, residents living in the area for 35 years said that this was the most severe flooding in their memory. The V&E Greenline Lick Creek Bridge was built to 100 year flood specifications and the water was near that point. Given the intensity of storms in this time of global warming, severe storms could become repeated events. Yet the flooding was short in duration and was not of the magnitude seen in other parts of the County.

Thirdly, the natural environment of trees and plants, along with open space has the ability to hold some water. The Lick Creek Flood Basin has seen more paving, removal of trees, and an increased number of parking lots. The Zoo, Overton Park, and Overton Square have removed parts of this natural permeable surface without proper flood control mitigation.

The Lick Creek Flood Basin is south to Southern, east to East Parkway, west to Watkins and north to the V&E Greenline. Lick Creek serves as a drainage system for most of midtown east of Watkins

Fourthly, in the 1930s the Lick Creek system was constructed for draining the capacity of an area with less paved surfaces. Now the Creek cannot be "improved" to increase capacity. Homes are

built up to the walls of Lick Creek and would have to be removed to increase capacity or many back yards would be taken for drainage.

Fifthly, the City of Memphis chose to address maintenance issues rather than the flooding problem by doing superficial maintenance work on the Creek in the Vollintine-Evergreen area. Although easier for the City to maintain the creek, this work would not offer a meaningful flood control.

Unfortunately, the Ellers Oakley Chester & Rike City of Memphis study in 2006 deals with flooding mitigation, but does not recognize the flooding problems in Vollintine-Evergreen. The consultant's report sees flooding as a problem upstream of Overton Park and not downstream in the Vollintine-Evergreen area.

Is there a solution to this problem? Absolutely!

The Lick Creek Drainage Study indicated that the only viable solution to flooding in Midtown is to build retention ponds that can temporarily hold the water until Lick Creek itself can drain the results of large rainfall.

For example, flooding along Cypress Creek is mitigated by a retention pond west of Evergreen St. Lick Creek retention ponds could be built in Overton Park, under the Snowden School football field, and perhaps along Evergreen St on MLGW land.

Some basements flooded from water that came from the sewer system, and the City needs to inform VECA if the sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems are somehow commingled.

Finally, there may be actions that homeowners can take. These include sump pumps, gutters, and enclosures around basement windows.

What are the next steps? See page 6.

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



Alex's Tavern

1445 Jackson Ave. • 278-9086

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John Ponnath,
Financial Advisor

1264 Peabody Ave.
Memphis, TN 38104
Bus. (901) 276-0523
John.ponnath@edwardjones.com



Safety and Security

By: Ben Beard

State Representative Jeanne Richardson Encourages Safety

VECA State Representative Ms. Jeannie Richardson was the featured speaker for the monthly meeting of the Safety and Security Committee of VECA. She is the tenth such speaker for the year.

She reported personally becoming very interested in crime activity due to increased crime in her VECA residential block. She is locking her door for the first time.

She encouraged the committee to continue its campaign of safety and security. She introduced two City of Memphis officials. One was a designer of Cyberwatch, the electronic crime abatement program developed by the Memphis Police Department. It is available to any one owning a PC. The other was a public defense attorney who represents criminal defendants in court.

Ms. Richardson stated she is prepared to initiate legislation to reduce crime in VECA as well as statewide.

Safe Practices

- Program 545-COPS (545-2677) into your cell phone—it is the quickest way to contact the police.
- Look up and down alleys every day as you walk, bike, or drive by.
- Immediately report suspicious activity to the police.
- Don't leave intriguing items visible in your car. Stow it, don't show it!
- Lock your doors when you are in your yard.
- Discourage walk-up workers by never hiring them – Hire folks recommended by your neighbors.
- Use porch and other outdoor lights at night. Lights and motion detectors can help with security AND save energy.
- Don't look like a victim. Keep your head up, be alert, and make eye contact.
- Cyberwatch: <https://kiosk.memphispolice.org/cyberwatch>

This information was provided by the Evergreen Historic District Association



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Solutions to Flooding

(cont. from Page 5)

VECA is asking for the following actions to reduce flooding in Vollintine Evergreen.

There are three departments in city government that have an input into the decisions affecting Lick Creek and flooding issues. The Public Works Division has Storm Water and Drain Maintenance departments. The City Engineering Division carries out the recommendations coming from the Division of Public Works. The Public Works Division studies the problems and is responsible for solutions, while City Engineers are the builders.

VECA is asking for a new consultant's study for the area from Overton Park to Watkins (especially focusing on Tutwiler Ave from McLean Blvd to Auburndale St). The consultants need to contact residents who encountered flooding, and then provide new data reflecting actual conditions and problems.

The result should be a plan which discusses retention ponds that create meaningful flood control.

The City also needs to be more vigilant in the planning process by requiring developers to replace permeable space when they remove it for paving or construction. For example, the new 150 unit student housing on North Parkway could further contribute to flooding issues if proper planning is not done.

See page 8 for a high water photo



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

Businesses in the VECA Area

In efforts to promote economic growth as well as spread awareness, we have compiled a list of businesses within the Vollintine-Evergreen area! If you would like to have your business included for the next list or you would like to place an advertisement in our newsletter please contact us at: VECANews@gmail.com. Thanks for your support!

Business	Category	Location
Alex's Tavern	Alcohol	1445 Jackson Ave
Wild Bills	Alcohol	1580 Vollintine Ave
Azor's Liquor	Alcohol	1433 Jackson Ave
Firestone	Auto	1694 Jackson Ave
Around the Clock Learning Center	Children	1396 Jackson Ave
Evergreen Presbyterian Playschool	Children	613 University St
University Park Cleaners	Cleaners	613 N McLean Blvd
King's Grocery & Deli	Convenience	1701 Jackson Ave
Mid-Town Minimarket	Convenience	643 N McLean Blvd
North Memphis Grocery	Convenience	1590 Vollintine Ave
JJ Supermarket	Convenience	1073 N. Watkins St
Just G Grocery	Convenience	1069 N Watkins St
Watkins Market	Convenience	1062 N Watkins St
Chu's Market	Convenience	1112 Springdale St
King's Grocery	Convenience	1098 Springdale St
Northside Food Market	Gas	1414 Jackson Ave
Mapco Express	Gas	1723 Jackson Ave
Immaculate Images Barber Shop	Hair Care	1683 Jackson Ave
Granberry Barber Shop	Hair Care	1447 Jackson Ave
In-Style Beauty Salon & Tax	Hair Care	1443 Jackson Ave
Marilyn's Hair Gallery	Hair Care	1582 Vollintine Ave
Magic Clippers	Hair Care	1572 Vollintine Ave
Diamond's Hair Gallery	Hair Care	1074 N Watkins St
Unisex Style Shop	Hair Care	1072 N Watkins St
Bryant Brothers Barber Shop	Hair Care	1130 Springdale St
Lynn's Got It Going Beauty Salon	Hair Care	1119 Springdale St
R`n R's Attic	Home	1690 Jackson Ave
Sinclair Upholstery	Home	1693 Jackson Ave
Rebecca Rivalto Interiors	Home	579 N McLean Blvd
Stained Glass Studio	Home	575 N McLean Blvd
Lille's Used Furniture	Home	1078 N Watkins St
Beauty & Dollar Mart	Products	1397 Jackson Ave
	Products	1063 N Watkins St
Tops Bar-B-Que	Restaurant	697 N Watkins St
Café Eclectic	Restaurant	603 N McLean Blvd
Dino's Grill	Restaurant	645 N McLean Blvd
Melanie's Restaurant	Restaurant	1070 N Watkins St
Mary's Kitchen	Restaurant	1126 Springdale St



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"At Highland"

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 businesses 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

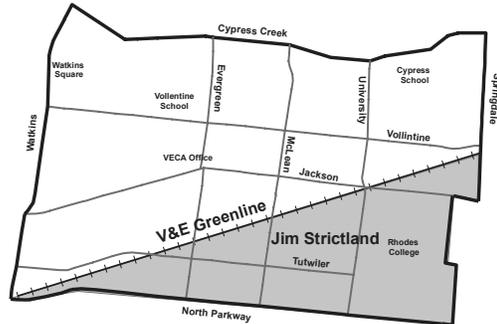
We Want Your Input!

The Vollintine-Evergreen News needs articles and photos from residents and committees that provide interesting information about our neighborhood.

To be included, materials or suggestions for articles must be submitted by December 10th. Send the articles to VECA at 1680 Jackson Memphis, TN 38107 or email them to VE-NEWS@Gmail.com

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.

City Council District 5 within VECA South of the V&E Greenline Represented by Jim Strickland



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.

Elleen Castline 725-9216

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 843-3841

VECA & VECA CDC Information

VECA President: Nedra Bailey
 VECA CDC Chairman: Paul Davis
 VECA CDC Treasurer: Chuck Fox
 V&E News Editors: Mike Kirby and Maura Weber
 V&E Greenline Committee Chair: Renate Rosenthal
 V&E Greenline Corporation Chair: Leonard Cobb
 Safety and Security Committee Chair: Ben Beard
 Neighborhood Preservation Committee Chair: Chris Floyd
 Neighbors for Trees Chairs: Marci Hendrix and Andree Glenn
 VECA Email: Brad Heinz

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

VECA Office

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Email

veca@vecacdc.org
VEGreenline@gmail.com

Websites

www.veca-neighborhood.org
www.vegreenline.org

On August 25, 2008, areas of Memphis received an overwhelming amount of rain in a short time. This led to high water (and some urban and basement flooding) in neighborhoods near Lick Creek. This picture shows the rushing water under the V&E Greenline's Lick Creek Bridge. It is approximately 15 feet above normal. Avery Coonin is in this photo.

