

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

MARCH 2009

V&E Greenline: March is Contribution Month!



This past year has been another good one for the V&E Greenline. The V&E Greenline is 1.7 miles of community park that was formerly an abandoned railroad track and is now owned by the neighborhood. It has never looked better. During the year, volunteers planted trees, mowed the roadbed, did landscaping, improved the drainage, and managed contractors that did additional trail maintenance.

Support Your V&E Greenline

**Mail your contribution check to:
1680 Jackson Ave., Memphis TN 38107**

Even though much upkeep for the V&E Greenline is provided by a group of dedicated neighborhood volunteers, there are ongoing expenses such as equipment repair, paying property taxes, servicing the tractor and mowers, and paying for fuel.

An unprecedented number of people are using the V&E Greenline as a place to walk, jog, bike, and walk their dogs. VECA has healthier and happier residents because they are using the Greenline for exercise.

In the month of March, you will see signs at the entrances to the Greenline, reminding you "Upkeep Costs Money – March Is Contribution Month." Please support this beautiful neighborhood amenity by mailing a tax-deductible donation to the V&E Greenline. No amount is too small. Thank you for your support.

Successful Annual Meeting!



VECA had its annual meeting on January 26th at Evergreen Presbyterian church. After a wonderful dinner sponsored by VECA Block Clubs, the meeting was called to order by President Nedra Bailey. In a "State of the Union" address, VECA CDC member Paul Herron called the members to action. This year VECA will focus on increasing membership and fundraising, as well as increasing involvement in programs such as the Welcome Center.

During the meeting a slideshow ran in the background thanking all of those 'unsung heroes' that VECA recognizes: from volunteers helping clean up the neighborhood to loyal board members who have helped bring VECA where it is today.

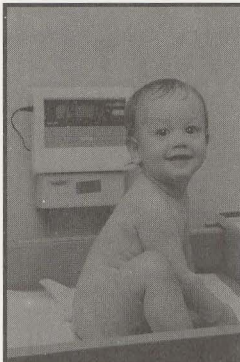
VECA would like to thank all of those involved in the planning of what was a very productive and inspiring meeting. Thanks also to all of our generous door prize sponsors!

Yard Sale Items Needed Support VECA

**Donate Items for VECA Yard Sale
Funds to be used to fix the VECA Welcome Center**

**Leave items at the VECA Welcome Center
1680 Jackson**

**For pick up of items call 276-1782
Items needed by April 15**



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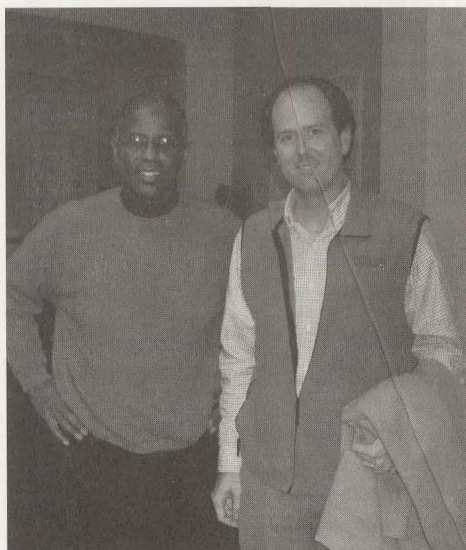
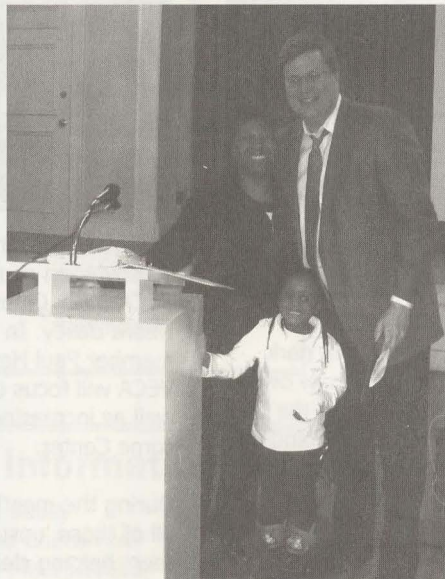
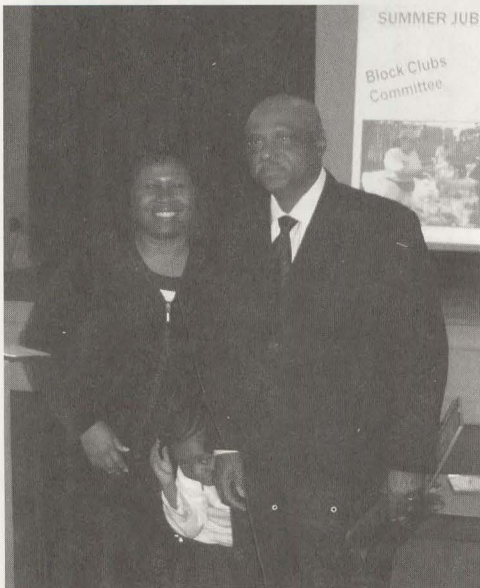
McLean
Baptist Church
815 North McLean at Jackson Ave.

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

Sunday Services 10:50a.m.

VECA's City Council Representatives

Left to Right: City Council Members at VECA's Annual Meeting were Joe Brown and Jim Strickland receiving Borys Awards, Myron Lowery, Kemp Conrad, Janis Fullilove, and Barbara Swearingen Holt. See article on City Counsel Members and photo of Councilman Edmund Ford, Jr. on page 6.



Volunteers Celebrate MLK Jr. Day with Service

"Everyone can be great...because everyone can serve." - MLK Jr.

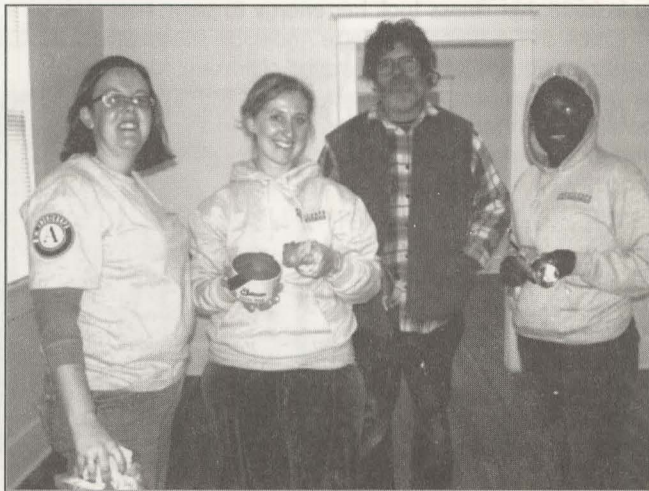
Taking those words to heart, volunteers from Memphis to as far away as Knoxville and Chattanooga came to help VECA in the true spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Volunteers came to two of the VECA-owned apartments and the VECA Welcome Center to help with renovations.

VECA organized two days of volunteer opportunity, on Saturday January 17 and of course on MLK Jr. Day, Monday January 19. As part of a city-wide day of volunteering, individuals were excited and filled with inspiration to help. From cleaning to painting all hands were welcomed with much to be done.

The groups were coordinated by Volunteer Memphis. Over 20 people came from East Tennessee as part of Americorp. Another large group involved in the apartment rehab was Ladies of Roses Mentoring Program. A group of young women cycled in every few hours — up to 60 came to the apartments. Dedicated neighborhood volunteers provided expert supervision.

VECA is very pleased with the results of the two days of help and are sincerely grateful for all those involved.

See the photos of the many dedicated volunteers that worked at the VECA-owned apartments. A special thanks is due to Jim Doyle (3rd from left) for his dedication in working at the apartments and for the following volunteers supervising work: Cassie Rogers, Samantha Ownby, Lucinda Ware, Rorey Lawrence, and Linda Moore.



VECA Membership Form

Name _____ Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Dues enclosed _____ Additional Contribution to VECA Welcome Center _____

Dues: \$10 individual; \$20 household; \$35 Gold Star Heritage, choice of bumper sticker or Historic Designation Plaque. Please also donate to the Welcome Center. Only the Welcome Center donation is tax deductible.

Vollintine Elementary Recognizes the Neighborhood



This year, the Memphis city schools urged teachers to provide a hands-on learning experience in order to enhance the children's creative and application skills. It was up to each school to establish a theme to this project.

Some Vollintine Elementary School students chose to portray the VECA neighborhood as they see it.

Each student in the third grade was asked to go out into his or her neighborhood and take pictures of their favorite places. From parks to restaurants, the class came up with a variety of landmark places in the neighborhood.

Mrs. Jaudon's third graders made sculptures of Dino's Grill, McLean Baptist Church, the V&E Greenline, as well as the VECA Welcome Center. Each sculpture was accompanied by a description of the place and why it is important to the neighborhood. Mrs. Jaundon and three of her students presented the sculptures to the VECA annual meeting on January 26th.

The efforts of Vollintine School were a true inspiration for the future of our neighborhood. VECA would like to thank the third grade for their hard work and creative ability. It is wonderful that they recognize the importance of our community and appreciate it for all that it has to offer.

In Memory of a Beloved Neighbor, Annette Anderson

Annette Anderson was a committed member of VECA. She showed her dedication to VECA by serving on the VECA Board and on the Block Clubs committee. She made her presence known by her enthusiasm for serving others and by the delicious cakes she made. Annette especially found pleasure in serving at the National Night Out, the Ice Cream Social, and the Summer Picnic and Pool Party. Actually, she had a passion for all VECA events.

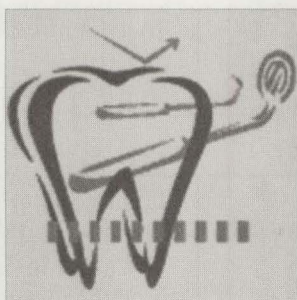
Annette continuously showed her devotion to VECA and never did mind helping out for the success of a VECA affair. Her quiet demeanor and liveliness to serve was an example to anyone who knew her.

Even when she had concerns with her health, Annette Anderson still attempted to attend VECA meetings and still tried to participate in VECA functions.

Early in 2008, her illness took her energy to serve her community. In December, Annette Anderson surrendered her body to cancer. She left behind seven children and a host of other family members and friends who will cherish her spirit and her examples of hard work and commitment.

She also left behind the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association to continue serving the community with the same character and fortitude as did Annette Anderson.

This article was provided by VECA President Nedra Bailey.



**In the Heart of Memphis
James Elliott, D.D.S.
Dentistry with a Gentle
touch**

**10 S. Belvedere
276-7042**

Belvedere Blvd at Madison Ave

The Welcome Center

The VECA Welcome Center at 1680 Jackson Ave is an exciting transformation of what was formerly an office. It will be a place for an increasing number of neighborhood activities. Many meetings will take place at the Welcome Center. Residents who want to work on issues will meet at the Center. It will be the "crossroads" and "hub" of VECA.

In order for this to happen, there will be a need for funding. Please add money to the yearly membership and designate it for the Welcome Center. Special fundraising events are being planned to support the Center.

Rebecca Rivalto Interiors at 579 N. McLean Blvd



Rebecca Rivalto Interiors is much more than an interior design store. In fact, it is much more than a store; it is a source of great history for the neighborhood. In 1980 Rebecca Rivalto and her husband bought the building at 579 N McLean Blvd in the heart of Vollintine-Evergreen. They renovated what was once a storage center for the Memphis Cotton Council. For the next 18 years Rebecca and her husband lived and raised a family in that home. In 2003, the

Rivalto family decided to turn what was then being leased as a home into a place of business for Rebecca who is an interior designer.

Seeing the need for more shops in the area, Rebecca wanted to provide more than just an interior store, but rather a lifestyle store. For three years Rebecca Rivalto Interiors has been serving the community for all its 'lifestyle needs'. The store not only serves the neighborhood but also reaches out to as far as Nashville and Little Rock, performing Christmas shows to advertise the business.

In the current economic climate however, lifestyle shops so often exclude those seeking affordable yet quality items. They plan to bring in a variety of lines of jewelry and other items that "are less expensive, and yet still unique", states owner Rebecca Rivalto. The store encourages the neighborhood to stop by and take a look, as there is something for everyone!

From gift baskets to special events, Rebecca Rivalto's is far more than just an interior design store.

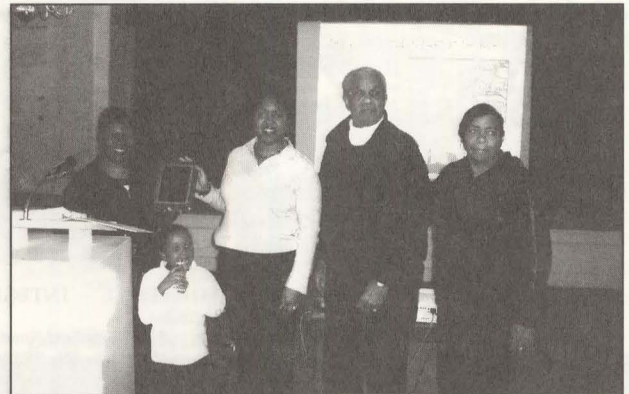


St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Sunday
Orthros at 9am • Liturgy at 10am

Weekdays
Wednesday Vespers at 5:30pm
Saturday Great Vespers at 5:50pm

1663 Tutwiler Avenue at Dickinson
(901) 274-4119



Dichtel Award Presented to Vollintine Hills Residents
See Congratulations to Award Recipients, page 7



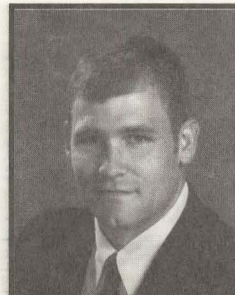
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Colonel Garrett Speaks at VECA

Recently, Colonel Billy Garrett of the Union Station precinct gave an excellent presentation on the safety and security concerns of the area. He discussed the current crime situation of the area and the measures that the police are taking to address these issues. He articulated the ways in which you, as residents of the area, can protect yourself as well as your neighbors. He was very complimentary of the VECA area in his precinct, and its overall low incidence of crime.

He reviewed the ill deeds of a recent criminal who not only affected VECA, but also a much larger area of Midtown and North Memphis. Colonel Garrett reported that he had been arrested and that numerous cases were now closed due to the arrest.

Colonel Garrett is truly a friend of the community and VECA is very lucky to have him on our side. His open and engaging personality allowed those in attendance to see things from an officer's point of view, which was enlightening.

Colonel Garrett reminded the audience that our police officers are putting their lives on the line every day for our safety and they need our support. A friendly wave, hello or thank you can go a long way. Much of our safety is reliant on the vigilance of the police force and the officers are a valuable asset to VECA.

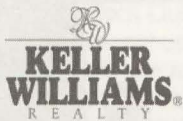
City Council Members Welcomed at Annual Meeting

VECA was pleased with impressive attendance by the Memphis city council members at the annual meeting. Council members attending were Joe Brown, Jim Strickland, Kemp Conrad, Janis Fullilove, Myron Lowery, Barbara Swearngen Ware, and Edmund Ford Jr. See pages 2 and 6 for photos.

The council members had a great time as they engaged the community, enjoyed the food, and made nice comments about VECA. The council members spoke of their commitment to the neighborhood and their admiration for the long history of neighborhood unity and involvement. VECA would like to thank each of the city council members for attending the meeting.

Council members Joe Brown and Jim Strickland were presented the Borys Award for their work on the rezoning issue involving Vollintine Hills. Council member Strickland talked about his support for neighborhood efforts, while Joe Brown talked passionately about his city council involvement and his life as a resident of Terry Circle.

A special treat was provided by the visit of council member Edmund Ford, Jr. who represents a South Memphis district. Council member Ford pointed out that VECA was one of the more fortunate neighborhoods in that it had eight council members that represented the area. Council member Ford is pictured below.



VECA Neighbor since 1987

Garnette Stephens

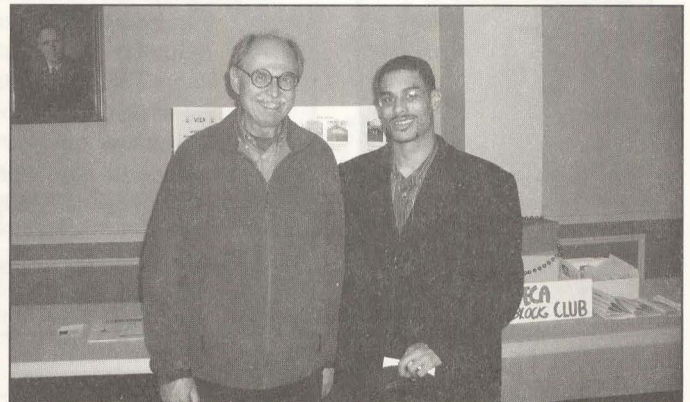
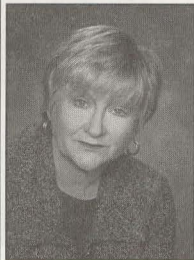
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Vollintine Evergreen Children are Invited to Rhodes Annual "Rites to Play" Saturday, April 4, 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Kids, come play at Rhodes on Saturday, April 4. Hot dogs, cotton candy, snow cones, and other carnival favorites will be available. There will be face painting, moon bounce, games and much more!

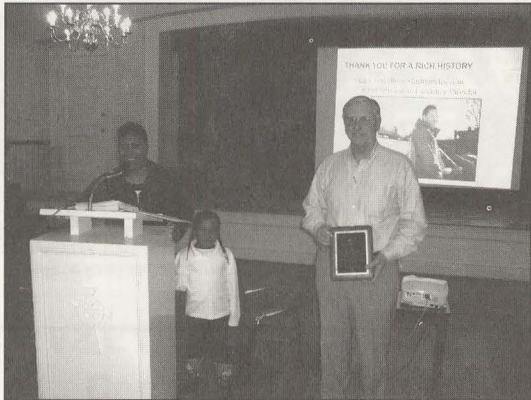
Rites to Play, a student-sponsored event, will be held at Oak Alley on the Rhodes campus in fair weather or in the Bryan Campus Life Center in unfavorable weather.

Advertising

Want to reach 3,500 VECA residents and other neighborhood supporters? Why not advertise in the *Vollintine-Evergreen News*? Local businesses can receive community support by appearing in our pages.

Just \$125 buys 5 prominent ads in our 2009 newsletters. Don't wait! Call our advertising manager at 276-1782. It will help you get customers and help the neighborhood at the same time.

Congratulations to VECA Award Recipients



Chuck Fox (on right) receives the Martha Heinemann Award

Congratulations to all those individuals who were recognized at the annual meeting.

The Margaret Ditchel Award, named for the most prominent founding member of VECA, is given to a resident or member that embodies the principals of neighboring and community action. The individual, or in this case the group of individuals that portrayed this commitment to the neighborhood was the Vollintine Hills neighbors for their work on the rezoning issue in their neighborhood. See page 5 for a photo.

The Martha Heinemann Award is named for a dedicated former board member. The award honors a board member who exhibits exceptional service. This year, Chuck Fox received the award for his longstanding dedication and commitment to VECA, for his work on the financial issues besetting the organization, and his leadership in rehabbing the VECA-owned apartments.

The Richard Borys Award recognizes public officials that performed exceptional public service. Council members Joe Brown and Jim Strickland received the award for their invaluable contributions to the rezoning issue in the Vollintine Hills neighborhood. However, their efforts went beyond this issue. Council member Strickland has also been working with the police and on the Lick Creek flooding issues. Council member Brown has long been a supporter of VECA efforts on the City Council.

VECA would like to thank everyone in the neighborhood for yet another great year!

Who is VECA? You are VECA.

VECA, the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association, is your neighborhood organization, composed of volunteers and neighbors.

Join VECA in The Big Read
Thursday, April 16, 6:30 pm
***A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines**
1680 Jackson Avenue, Welcome Center

Stop by the VECA Welcome Center (weekdays 8-1) for your free copy of *A Lesson Before Dying* while supplies last.

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS**



**THE
BIG
READ**

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to American culture. Memphis is one of 208 communities participating in this national program to promote literary reading.

Read the book between now and April 16 when we'll gather for a book discussion. Light refreshments will be served.



Jared Powelson, OD

Mike Gerstner, OD

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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*, VECA Email, the annual meeting, and committee activity are the ways in which VECA communicates with its residents, and businesses, and other stakeholders. 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. Website: www.veca-neighborhood.org; Email: VECA@veca-neighborhood.org

Next Issue: April 5 Deadline

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

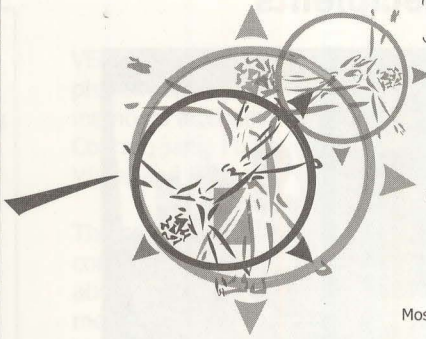
To be included, materials or suggestions for articles must be submitted by April 5.

Send the articles to VECA at 1680 Jackson Memphis, TN 38107 or email VECA@VECA-neighborhood.org

Thank you to the distributors and delivery volunteers; you make a difference in your community.

Support neighborhood businesses that make the newsletter available to their customers.

M I D T O W N



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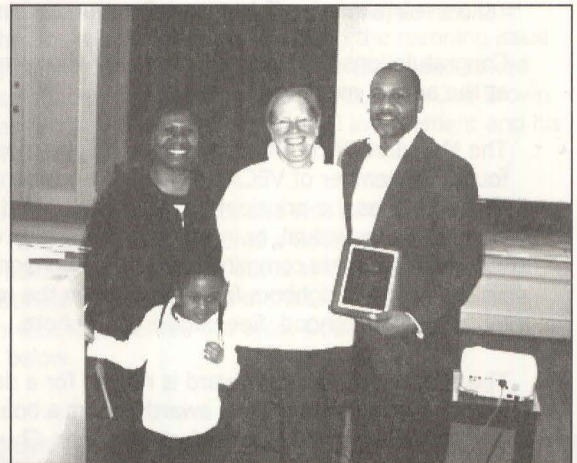


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Eileen Castine

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Mary Wilder Award to Rhodes College

VECA gave out a new award at the annual meeting called the Mary Wilder Award for Special Service. Mary Wilder, long time VECA resident and board member, has been involved in many activities in her time on the board. She was board president, editor of the newsletter, involved in issues such as zoning, involved in the historic designation of the neighborhood, and a leader in the purchase of the V&E Greenline from the CSX railroad.

The first Mary Wilder Award was given to Rhodes College for its many activities in support of VECA. These include co-sponsoring the planting of Valley Forge Elm trees on University Street, involving Urban Studies students in a variety of community activities, helping with safety issues, supporting the V&E Greenline, and many more activities. Russ Wigginton, VP for College Relations accepted the award for the College—see photo above.

VECA & VECA CDC Information

VECA Board: Nedra Bailey

VECA CDC: Paul Davis and Chuck Fox

Vollintine-Evergreen News: Maura Weber

V&E Greenline: Renate Rosenthal & Len Cobb

Safety and Security Committee: Ben Beard

Neighborhood Preservation Committee: Chris Floyd

Neighbors for Trees: Marci Hendrix and André Glenn

VECA Email: Brad Heinz

VECA Welcome Center Committee: Mike Kirby

Communication Committee: Brad Heinz

Apartments and Houses: Mary Wilder, Chuck Fox, and Nedra Bailey

Rhodes Community Development Interns funded by City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development, Maura Weber, Dale Baker, Virginia Fall, Erin Foster, Lacy Ward, and Eloise Schlafly

VECA Welcome Center 1680 Jackson Avenue Memphis, TN 38107

Phone: 901-276-1782 Fax: 901-276-1784

VECA Website: www.VECA-neighborhood.org

VECA and VECA CDC Email: VECA@VECA-neighborhood.org

VECA Email Announcements: news@VECA-neighborhood.org

Vollintine-Evergreen News: VECA@VECA-neighborhood.org

V&E Greenline: VEgreenline@gmail.com and www.VEGreenline.org