

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

MAY 2009

Lick Creek Meeting

Lick Creek serves as the drainage basin for most of Midtown. As many residents know, the out-dated drainage system has been causing flooding problems in VECA.

Tuesday evening, March 11, VECA residents and others met with City officials to discuss the flooding problems along Lick Creek. VECA leader Brian Floyd discussed the flooding on Tutwiler Ave and Auburndale St. "Last fall heavy rains caused Lick Creek to overflow flooding Auburndale, Tutwiler, Hawthorne, and Idlewild. Unfortunately for my neighbors north of the creek, their entire yards were underwater."

VECA leader Rich Olcott gave a presentation on his personal experience with the problems related to the commingling of the sanitary sewer and storm sewers. "The first year we lived in the house, a heavy rainfall poured water into our basement — but it wasn't rainwater that came in. Instead, raw sewage backed up the center drain. Two feet deep."

VECA residents are concerned that the City plans would actually exacerbate flooding in VECA. They were pleased the City officials agreed to work with them in a planning session to solve the problem.

The City of Memphis Division of Engineering is the lead agency in this work, and division director Wain Gaskins and senior engineer Hugh Teaford are pictured below in their presentation to the group. Other agencies and residents are pictured on page 2.

Residents interested in working on this issue should contact VECA Lick Creek Chair Mary Wilder at 276-1782 or email VECA-neighborhood.org.



Summer Jubilee & Ice Cream Social



It is that time of year again! Time to beat the heat with some cool treats & your favorite neighborhood! VECA is sponsoring its annual Ice Cream Social!

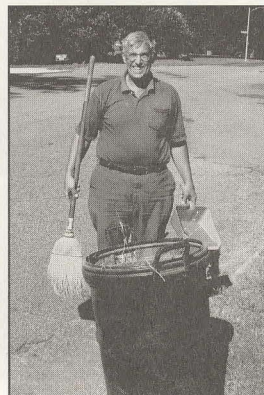
The VECA Ice Cream Social provides an opportunity for all Vollintine Evergreen residents to come together in a relaxed atmosphere to celebrate the neighborhood and meet their neighbors. Look for a surprise about a new VECA project

which will be announced at the event.

The event is held on Sunday June 28th at 4pm at the V&E Greenline (north of Tutwiler Ave) and Hawthorne St (west of McLean Blvd). We would love to see you there!

Walk the Line

The V&E Greenline held its first annual "Walk the Line" event. It honored police officers for their work in VECA and attendees signed posters that were delivered to the Old Allen Station and the Union Station precincts as a sign of VECA's appreciation to the officers. Andrew Mitchell was honored with the Dick Mochow Award as the Outstanding V&E Greenline Volunteer. Greenline board members and officers were selected. A special thanks is due to the Greenline contributors and volunteers who attended, the Glenmary for its support of the event, and everyone who donated food.





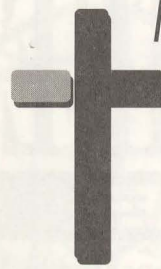
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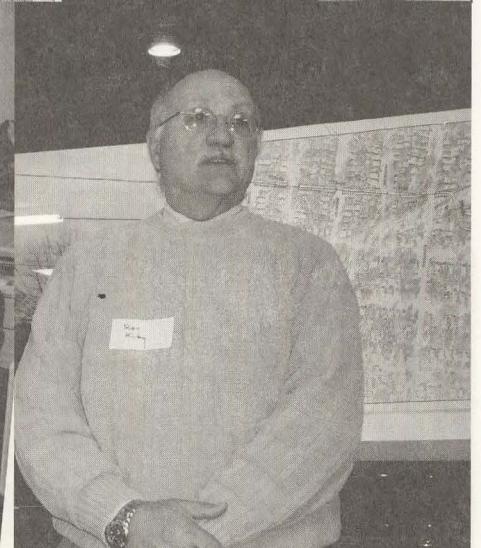
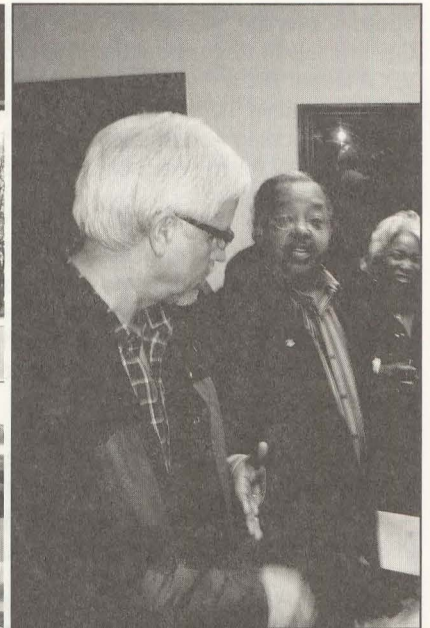
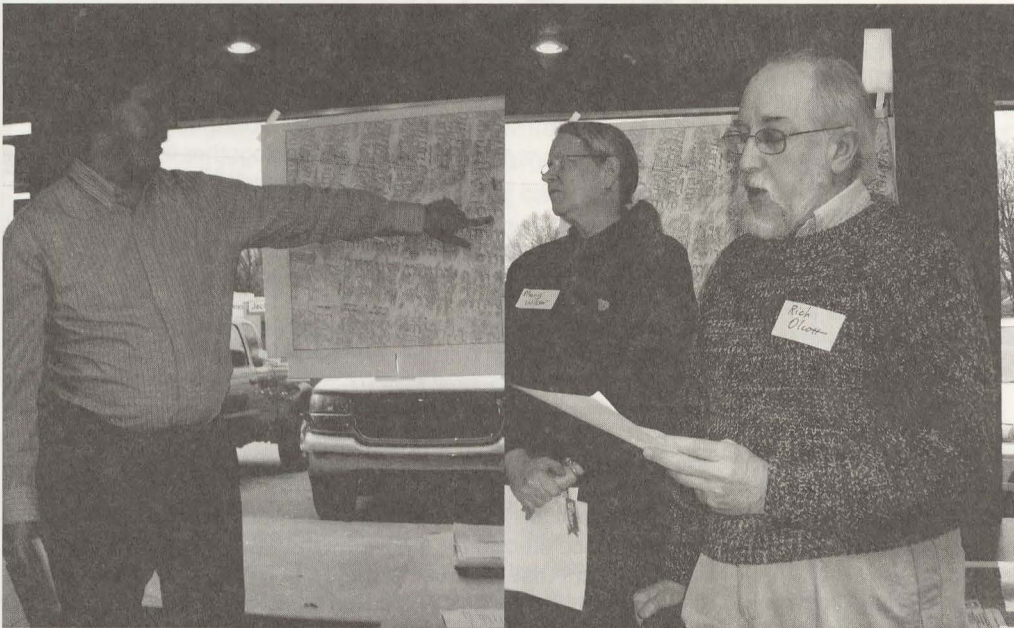
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Memphis, TN. 38107
901-274-3766
Pastor: Glenn Hales Jr.

*"The Church on the corner with a heart for the
community"*

Lick Creek Meeting

Top: VECA leaders Brian Floyd, Mary Wilder, and Rich Olcott make VECA's case for addressing Lick Creek flooding; City Council Member Myron Lowery. Bottom: City Council Member Jim Strickland in audience, and Ron Kirby, City official in charge of sewers



King's Grocery Turning 40

Theodore and Alfreda King opened King's Grocery on January 31, 1970. The store is located in VECA at 1098 Springdale. It is family owned and operated. Its mission is to provide the neighborhood with quality products at affordable prices while maintaining exceptional service.

To celebrate the milestone of turning 40, King's has scheduled a year long calendar of events to show its appreciation to the community. So stop by and taste their famous chili cheese smoke sausage, test your skills with a game of checkers, or pull up a seat for a family chat.

King's thanks VECA for the past 40 years and they are looking forward to the next 40 years.




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Yard Sale Thank You

Thanks to the many VECA Residents that donated the hundreds of items for the VECA yard sale. The funds will be used for the rehab of the VECA Welcome Center.



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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.

Lick Creek Flooding, The Bottom Line

There has been a lot written and discussed about Lick Creek flooding, and various proposals. BUT, what have we learned from the information provided by technical experts, climatologists, and informed citizens?

- The Overton Park detention pond will not help VECA flooding and a pond on the Overton park Greensward is opposed by VECA.
- Lick Creek is at capacity. The City must slow the water by retention, diversion, and detention to prevent flooding.
- Solutions to flooding in VECA must include changes throughout the Lick Creek drainage area.
- Lick Creek needs immediate maintenance work. The City can perform the work using the ARAP permit and current funding.
- There is both a flooding issue and a sanitation issue since VECA basements fill with water and sewage during flooding.
- The City of Memphis has expressed an interest in working with VECA to address the problems.

Flood control efforts have thus far been portrayed as a deep ugly hole. Yet, the development of containment ponds can be done tastefully so they are an asset to the neighborhood. For example, think of the highly desirable Chickasaw Area which surrounds a lake with trees strategically placed around the lake. In fact, a containment pond could add park space, recreational areas and wildlife in the VECA community.

There are actions that homeowners can take:

- Sump pumps that are tied into the city sewers normally work, but in flooding the sanitary and storm sewers are commingled and cannot carry the water from your basement.
- Flood insurance is an option; call you homeowners insurance agent for a price.
- If flooding comes through basement windows, consider adding a blockage around the windows.
- Get involved with VECA's effort to get meaningful flood control.

VECA's Healthy Amenity

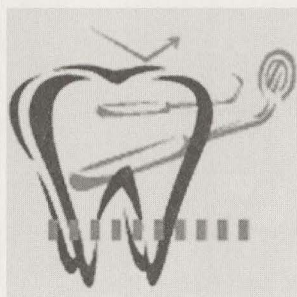
A contributor to the V&E Greenline recently sent a short, but powerful note, along with her contribution check. "Thank you. The Greenline helped me lose almost 45 pounds in 15 months. (The Greenline) has been a big part of my life."

For those that are intimidated by the cost of a health care membership, or the purchase of special equipment to participate in a sport, there is a neighborhood resource in VECA. The V&E Greenline is a 1.7 mile rails-to-trail (a rail line converted to a multi-use trail) that spans from Springdale to North Parkway and crosses several streets including Jackson, Mclean, Evergreen, and Stonewall.

A number of people use this trail on a daily basis to run, walk, dog walk, and bike. It also provides a healthy dose of tranquility as it passes by bridges and creeks, beautiful trees, and a variety of wildlife.



The Greenline is only a block or two away for many residents. A 20-30 minute walk will help improve your health. Because it is so close, many residents walk almost every day. Grab a pair of tennis shoes and a friend and we'll see you walking on the original Memphis Greenline as we all get fit.



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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.

Wells-Barksdale Block Club

Thanks to the planning efforts of Barbara Coleman and other residents, the Wells-Barksdale Block Club was reactivated on November 2008. Residents enjoyed a potluck dinner and dessert provided by over 18 residents from Barksdale, north of Vollintine.

Residents who attended received a copy of the VECA Standards to review. These led to discussion about code violations, crime concerns and what can be done as a community. Along with providing an opportunity for residents to get to know each other, another goal of this block club was to complete the training to have an official Neighborhood Watch. This will be accomplished with help from Police officers from the Old Allen Station.

The Wells-Barksdale Block club was once very active. They came together to address problems, and keep the street clean and attractive. However, since that time, many of the older residents have left and newer residents have taken their place. During the next meeting, the Block Club plans to discuss further organization of the club and the election of officers. VECA is a small town in a big city"; we want to be prepared and organized to keep it that way.

If your street is looking to organized a block club, contact the VECA office at 901-276-1782.

Springdale Baptist Clean Up



On the morning of March 28th more than one-hundred volunteers came from Springdale Baptist Church, University of Memphis, Rhodes College, and Shelby County to assist with the Springdale St area clean-up sponsored by Springdale Baptist Church.

Despite the cold and wet weather, volunteers picked up trash and debris from vacant lots and the railroad. The groups also groomed the lawns by cutting back weeds and tall grass, and planted trees and flowers around the neighborhood.

After a busy morning of work, volunteers shared a delicious meal of hamburgers and hotdogs. The day was a great time for friendships to be built and a chance to make a difference in the community. Thank you to everyone who donated their tools, time, and talent! Springdale Baptist Church has sponsored cleanups for the last four years.

André Glenn Honored

VECA leader André Glenn was honored by the local chapter of the Sierra Club for environmental work done by African Americans in Memphis. She was recognized for organizing Neighbors for Trees which helped plant trees after Hurricane Elvis in 2003. She has worked on numerous Forest Faire events sponsored by Neighbors for Trees. Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton was also an honoree for his work in sustainable development.



Andre is working with others on a spectacular event in the fall which will be co-sponsored by Neighbors for Trees, Leadership Memphis, and the Wolf River Conservancy.



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Dogs, Dogs and More Dogs

An issue recently arose on how the City of Memphis could be asked to address a problem of multiple dogs at one house. The following information came from a conversation with the Police, Health Department, and Shelby County Code Enforcement.

By the City code, a resident is allowed to have four dogs without a kennel. If there are more than four dogs, then a complaint can be filed with the City.

If there are problems with the cleanliness of the grounds, then the Health Department can be asked to examine the premises. For example, lack of cleanliness can attract rodents.

There is also a leash law in Memphis, so call the City about loose dogs in the neighborhood.

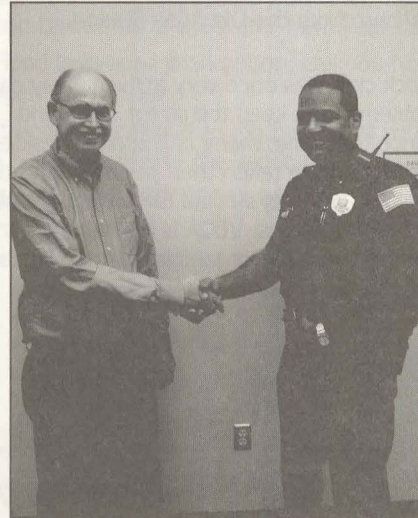
If noise is an issue, call the police and ask them to talk with the resident.

Another option is to talk directly with the resident and express your concerns.

To file a complaint with the City, call the Mayor's Citizen Service Center at 576-6500 or the police at their non-emergency number: 545-2677.

Lt. Ware Receives Award

Lt. Steve Ware, the supervisor of the community policing station that serves VECA north of Jackson Ave (Called CoAct), received the police department's annual award for the Outstanding Lieutenant in the Old Allen Station Precinct. Lt. Ware works out of the Hollywood policing station, which also serves the VECA area. He has been of great help to VECA in addressing issues that have been concerns to residents. The CoAct works with residents and neighborhood organization to identify crime concerns and then devise strategies. Lt. Ware currently has several zero tolerance actions taking place in VECA. Lt. Ware is picture below with neighborhood resident



Mike Kirby who is congratulating him on the award.

There has been a recent change in the boundaries of the Old Allen Station Precinct (formerly called North Precinct). It has been moved to VECA's western boundary of Watkins St and that should help the police respond to VECA. Lt. Ware can be reached at 323-8199.



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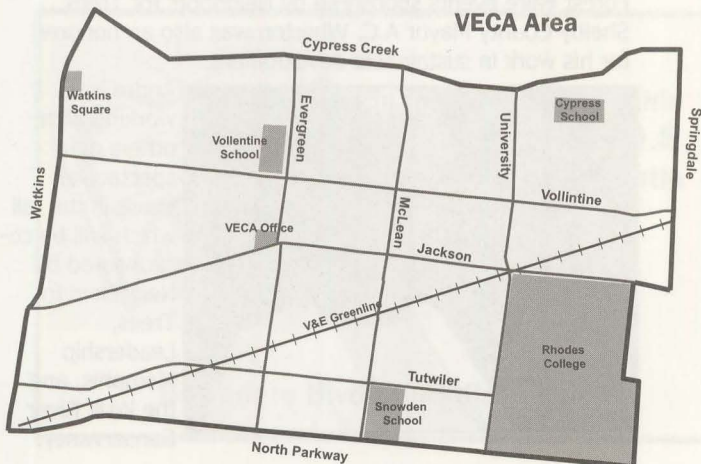


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Advertising

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 \$100 buys 4 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.

Cathedral of Faith and Children

Cathedral of Faith Community Church located in VECA at 2212 Jackson Ave is collaborating with Tennessee Department of Children Services-Shelby County to be a vehicle for the preservation and safety of children and families in the zip code areas of 38107, 38108, 38112 and 38127.

The program is focusing on issues of child safety and family stability, support to birth families, resource families and the Foster Care programs.

The program needs some of the following resources to assist children and families: beds, clothes, tables/chairs, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, foster parents to provide temporary care for children in crisis, and situation mentors.

A volunteer is also needed to attend children services meetings to provide a community voice to critical decisions relative to whether or not a child is removed from his/her home, where the child is placed and if the child is placed in DCS custody. They help to strengthen our community by offering their knowledge of resources that are available to children and families in their own community.

To volunteer, make donations or for additional information, please contact Pastor Connie Booker at (901) 327-1616 or (901) 949-8226.

McLean Baptist Events

McLean Baptist Church has summer filled with fun events for the whole neighborhood!

• **June 6: Neighborhood Block Party 3:30-6pm**

The Block Party will be a free event on the grounds of the church and open for all to come. There will be a couple of "moonbounces" for the kids along with carnival games, face painting, music, food and much more. It will be an enjoyable time for the whole family.

• **June 8-10: VBS (K-12th grade) 1:30-3:30pm**

VBS is Vacation Bible School. It will be a fun and interactive time for kids in kindergarten through students in 12th grade. If the kids arrive at 12pm they can enjoy a free meal, and then the activities will start at 1:30. There will be games, crafts, and loads of fun for all who attend.

• **June 8-10: Free Community Lunch 12:00pm**

There will be a free lunch available Monday thru Wednesday at noon for anyone in the community who would like to attend. There will also be some special encouragement during this time for moms **who can attend**.

McLean Baptist is located at 815 N. McLean and the church Pastor is Glenn Hales, Jr.



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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, 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

Who is VECA? You are VECA.

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

Next Issue: June 5 Deadline

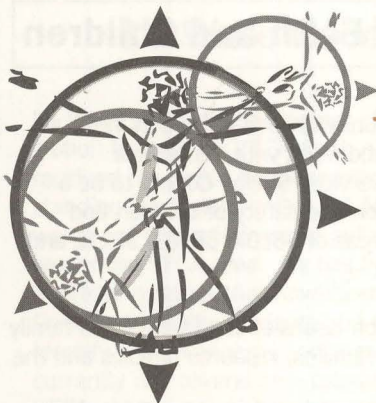
The *Vollintine-Evergreen News* needs articles and photos from residents and committees that provide interesting information about our neighborhood.

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



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Rhodes College Kidney Walk

The National Kidney Foundation of West Tennessee will host the 7th Annual Kidney Walk on Saturday, June 6 at Rhodes College. Funds raised from the walk will be used for patient emergency assistance, dialysis camp for children, local research, and patient education programs. This year's Walk Chair is Mike Clary, Director of Athletics at Rhodes College. "We've staged the Kidney Walk through the Rhodes campus the past two years and each year our event has grown. We're hopeful VECA and the Rhodes Community will support the 2009 walk," said Mike Clary. Come out and walk to support a great cause! Walk Day Registration \$35 Pre-registration \$25. Bring the family for an invigorating walk across beautiful Rhodes campus.

Registration begins 8 a.m. Walk 9 a.m. Call 683-6185 for more information.

VECA & VECA CDC Information

VECA Board: Nedra Bailey
 VECA CDC: Paul Davis and Chuck Fox
Vollintine-Evergreen News Advertising: Barbara Gavalas,
 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 Welcome Center Committee: Mike Kirby
 VECA Email and 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, Dale Baker and Lacy Ward
 Rhodes Summer Service Fellow: Eric Dailey

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

Graffiti

The City of Memphis has an anti-graffiti ordinance. The most useful part of the ordinance is the eradication of graffiti. The police tell us that it is important to remove graffiti as soon as possible.

If the graffiti is on public property—bridges, MLGW pumphouse, public building—then the Division of Community Enhancement will eradicate it fairly quickly. When calling the City, it is important to state that the graffiti is on public property along with the exact location.

If graffiti is on a private building or other structure, then the City can investigate and give the owner a month's notice to remove it. If the graffiti is not removed, the City may enter the property and eradicate the graffiti.

All graffiti complaints should be made to the Mayor's Citizen Service Center at 576-6500.

If the building is vacant and unoccupied, citizens sometimes remove the graffiti as a volunteer project.