

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

MARCH 2010

V&E Greenline Fundraiser



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.



AmeriCorps NCCC helps at VECA

A team from AmeriCorps NCCC arrived in Memphis on January 14, 2010, to begin work with VECA (Vollintine-Evergreen Community Agency), the Wolf River Conservancy (WRC), and a faith-based non-profit organization called New Beginning.

The squad, which designated itself as "Delta One," did painting, patching, and carpentry at the VECA owned apartments, painted two of the VECA owned houses, and performed significant rehabilitation on the two "nasty" bathrooms at the VECA Welcome Center. They also spent three days working on the V&E Greenline at Avalon by raking and mulching leaves, landscaping, mulching trees, and restoring the trail with gravel. Three VECA residents--Mike Kirby, Chuck Fox, and Jim Doyle--worked with them on the project.

The AmeriCorp team, which has nine members, is led by Kyle Wood, a very nice young man from Vermont who is enjoying the mild Memphis weather. All their time is donated, and it has been a pleasure working with them. VECA provided supplies and supervision to the project.

The AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region Campus out of Vicksburg, Mississippi is a full-time, team based residential program for men and women ages 18-24. NCCC members are assigned to one of five campuses and organized into teams of 10-12 members which serve in local communities. AmeriCorps focuses on five service-areas: education, disaster services, public safety, unmet human needs, and environmental conservation.



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McLean Baptist Church

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Pastor: Glenn Hales Jr.

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GED and Literacy Classes at Springdale Baptist Church

Springdale Baptist Church is making a commitment to strengthening communities through education. The church provides free accredited GED and adult literacy classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

The classes are designed to assist those who did not fully succeed in the traditional classroom setting. Volunteer tutors help students of all ages work through lesson books and materials at their own pace. Because the program is based on the individual, students can miss class when life's other responsibilities take priority without falling behind.

The literacy and GED classes are based on individual drive, and each student has a different reason for pursuing his or her goal. Some decide to participate because they need a GED to be eligible for a new job or to make their current job more secure. Some want to improve their literacy for everyday life: reading bus maps and prescription bottles. Some want to achieve goals that once seemed too daunting.

Many of those in the literacy program are grandparents who want to read bedtime stories with the children they love. Home and community are important, and by educating ourselves in the present and in adulthood we can strengthen our communities.

Because unemployment and underemployment have increased during the recession more of us have the time to study and tutor, and those are great ways to invest in both our own future and that of our community.

One of the biggest challenges for Springdale Baptist Church is retaining tutors for its programs, because all of the tutors are volunteers. Buckman Labs, under the leadership of Charles Williams, now has staff members who are involved as tutors, and that has lent more long-term stability to the program and grounded it in the neighborhood.

If you might be interested in joining the GED classes or tutoring at night, please contact:

Springdale Baptist Church
 1193 Springdale Street
 Phone: (901) 274-6652

Bob Hicks-- In Memoriam

Bob Hicks moved into VECA in 1981 and lived on Lyndale Ave. about a block from his beloved church, McLean Baptist. He worked with McLean Baptist in the first VECA Neighborhood Festival in 1991. Bob also donated the use of his RV for the Churches Clown Ministry that came to the festival. In 2001 Bob was elected to the VECA Board. While on the board he served on the membership committee and worked closely with the Block Clubs in helping host the VECA annual meeting. Bob was a hard working and conscientious member of the board, and he was dedicated to connecting his church with the Vollintine Evergreen community.

Bob was also instrumental in helping fund the *Vollintine-Evergreen News* by working on the advertising committee. He contacted businesses to solicit them for advertisements and his church, McLean Baptist, is a long time supporter through its advertisements in the newsletter. In addition to his work with the membership and advertising committees, Bob worked closely with the V&E Greenline Committee to provide surplus gravel from the church for use on the trail.

Bob nominated Glen Hales, pastor of Mclean Baptist Church to the VECA board when he rotated off for health reasons.

Schnucks Fundraiser

Our community partners, Schnucks' grocery store has collaborated with VECA on a fundraiser.

VECA residents can receive a card that is swiped at the time of the sale and a portion of the sale is then donated to VECA. And there is no charge to the customer—this is a painless way of donating to VECA.

The cards can be mailed to the resident or picked up at the VECA Welcome Center at 1680 Jackson 38107, 901-276-1782, VECA@VECA.Org.

The closest Schnucks' store is located at 1761 Union. You can help "create extraordinary results from ordinary purchases."

Real Estate Ads

Apartments for Rent

VECA has apartments for rent located at 820 and 795 Maury Ave. These are large one bedroom apartments with carpeting, a sunroom, and a front & back entrance. The front porches look onto the beautiful landscape of the historic neighborhood. Parking is available in the back of the apartments. These apartments are currently available for occupancy and rent for \$450 and \$500 per month. Please call the VECA Welcome Center at 276-1782 for more information or to set up a showing.


Affordable Business Site for Rent or Sale

A business site at 1570 Vollintine Ave is available for a very affordable rental rate or sale price, but you will need to clean up the site before occupying. This is a great opportunity for someone starting a new business who wants go get into a building for a low cost and expects to be a long time occupant. Contact Mid-South Realty at 761-4444.

New Businesses Committee

VECA is starting a new committee to work with neighborhood businesses.

If interested, please leave a message at 276-1782 or VECA@VECA.Org




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VECA Membership and Contribution Form

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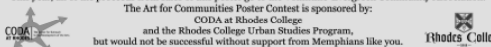
Be one of the following types of contributors—everything above \$10 is tax deductible

Member.....\$10 Supporter.....\$50 Leader.....\$100
Neighbor.....\$25 Neighborhood Mayor.....\$500

Any Size Contribution: Bumper Sticker _____
\$25 or more: Historic Plaque _____ or Poster _____

VECA Poster



Artist Anthony D. Lee's design, *Cuddled Trees*, was the 2009 winner of the Art for Communities Poster Contest. Each year, proceeds from the sale of the poster will go to a community association. This year, all of the proceeds from sales of this poster go to the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association. The Art for Communities Poster Contest is sponsored by: CODA at Rhodes College and the Rhodes College Urban Studies Program, but would not be successful without support from Memphians like you. 

Purchase the VECA Poster
Historic Houses, Vibrant Colors, Artistic Treasure

\$10 for poster and \$20 for mailed poster
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Fundraiser for VECA Welcome Center

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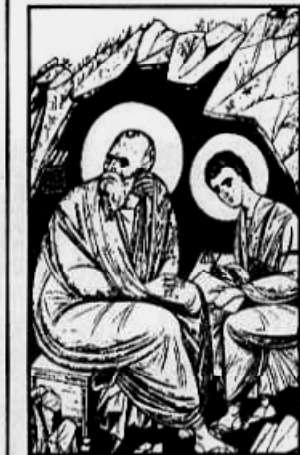
Some residents of VECA have been wondering about the MLGW (Memphis Light, Gas and Water) trucks and construction they have seen in the area. We contacted Kim Deaton of MLGW, and she said that the project is scheduled for completion by the end of October 2010 in the Belvedere/Jackson/McLean area.

Deaton explained that the purpose of the construction is to replace old cast iron pipes from the gas system with new pipes made of polyethylene. She says these new pipes will provide better reliability in the gas system and therefore better service for customers. The polyethylene pipes are flexible, which makes them safer in the case of an earthquake, and their flexibility will also allow for increases in gas pressure. An additional benefit of the new pipes is that they will last longer and fuse together better than the old cast iron pipes.



They are being installed by directional boring, which makes installation faster and easier.

by directional boring, which makes installation faster and easier.



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Available at 1680 Jackson

Fundraiser for VECA Welcome Center
901-276-1782 VECA@VECA.Org

Block Club News

By Gloria Singleton

On two cold December days, Jason Wright and ten-year-old Joshua Wilhite delivered candy and "Standards for VECA" leaflets to neighbors and residences on Stonewall from the dead-end avenue beyond Vollintine to Lyndale Street.

The VECA standards encourage residents to take pride in the beauty of their streets, yards, and houses. All of these actions help improve the safety of the neighborhood.

The Stonewall Block Club picked up litter as we walked. We also talked about how there was a need for improvement in the neighborhood, but that people should also appreciate the well-manicured lawns *and* homes. Thanks to all who participated in this event!

Jason is not new to community involvement because as a child he delivered fruit to neighbors one Christmas. Now he is back again to recommit and reconnect with the community. This time he is volunteering two more additions: his beloved wife Ralna and daughter Whitney

We urge all neighbors to get involved and commit if you have not done so. We need you!!!

The VECA Welcome Center at 1680 Jackson is available for block club meetings. There is also literature that can be handed out to residents. Call the Welcome Center at 276-1782 for more information.

VECA has a new email and website address

VECA.ORG
VECA@VECA.ORG

Ten Years of Greenlining and Wonderful Memories

By R. Craig Jordan
 My involvement with the V&E Greenline began obliquely. I had talked with Mary Wilder about picking up some volunteer commitments with VECA, and she asked me to review some foundations as potential grant sources for VECA and the Greenline after the purchase of the property from the L&N Railroad successor. I doubt if those efforts produced any dollars, but the task provided a clearer understanding about the Greenline's potential for the neighborhood. I began attending Greenline meetings in the fall 2001 and participated in some initial volunteer work.

A fellow committee member taught me how to drive the tractor, and I began to do both mowing and some front end loader work on the Springs section of the Greenline east of University St. The Springs was a bit wild at this time.

Preliminary clearing had made it passable but its ditches were irregular and the area open for users was limited.

Mowing was a challenge, but it provided great stress relief from my work as a hospital chaplain. The standing joke was with cutting Greenline grass I could at least see what I had accomplished at the end of the day. With the efforts of many people through the years, the Springs was further cleared and be-

came one of the most beautiful sections of the Greenline. Its trees, while a challenge at times because of falling limbs and toppling trunks, provide a wonderful summer canopy, and the birds, squirrels, and rabbits find it to be an attractive home.

In the next issue I will share four stories, each of which say as much about me as the Greenline.

Photo to the right shows Craig Jordan on the Greenline



Neighbors Make a Difference

VECA received numerous complaints from residents about graffiti-type signage at a store on Jackson Ave at Garland St.

Several VECA volunteers and residents visited the store and asked that the signage be removed because it was offensive to the neighborhood. In a spirit of neighborliness, the volunteers provided the business with a copy of the VECA newsletter and an informational brochure. However, the business chose to ignore the request, and therefore VECA filed complaints with two city agencies.

Bottom line: The sign has been painted over and is no longer a problem. VECA is working hard to develop positive relationship with businesses, but when a business crosses the line of community standards, VECA and its residents will respond.

Jared Powelson, OD Mike Gerstner, OD

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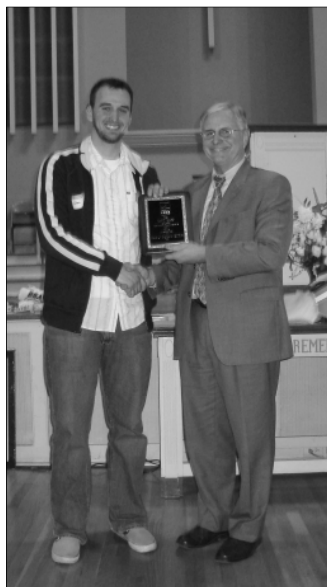
VECA's Annual Meeting

VECA's annual meeting for 2010 took place on January 25. About 100 people gathered at McLean Baptist Church for a potluck dinner put on by the block clubs, followed a meeting full of updates, awards and elections.

The meeting acknowledged some of VECA most dedicated supporters with four awards.

The Richard S. Borys Award, created to recognize public officials who contribute to VECA through their work, went to Lieutenant Steve Ware. Lieutenant Ware has made himself available at town hall meetings and worked directly with VECA residents on their concerns.

The Margaret Dichtel Award went to Brad Heinz who worked on a neighborhood email alert system that has grown to an email newsletter with a circulation of 500 people. There were two Heine-mann Award winners: Mike Kirby and Nedra Bailey. Kirby, who moved to Vollintine Evergreen in 1970, was honored for his work with the Greenline, the VECA newsletter and the Welcome Center. Bailey, who moved to the neighborhood in 1979, was honored for her selflessness and focus, which she demonstrated by leading VECA for three consecutive terms. The Mary Wilder Award went to McLean Baptist Church. The church is known as a gracious neighbor, and it shares facilities, resources and people with the neighborhood. In fact, the church shared its facilities for VECA's 2010 annual meeting!



A special guest at the meeting was council member Myron Lowery, whose district includes the VECA area. He has been a long time supporter of VECA and frequently appears at VECA events.

After the food, laughter and awards, members voted to consolidate VECA and VECA CDC and then use the name Vollintine Evergreen Community Association (VECA) for the organization. This will preserve VECA's nonprofit status while creating a more unified coalition. To have your voice heard and your vote count at next year's meeting make sure to become a VECA member today! If you have any questions about becoming more involved, please stop by the VECA Welcome Center at 1680 Jackson Avenue.



Clockwise from above: VECA resident Mike Kirby, Mrs. Telisa Ware, and Lt. Steven Ware; former VECA President Nedra Bailey along with VECA award presenter Chuck Fox; Council Member Myron Lowery; and McLean Baptist Church Pastor Glen Hales, Jr. along with VECA award presenter Chuck Fox.



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. The VECA area 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.org; Email: VECA@veca.org

Who is VECA? You are VECA.

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

Newsletter 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 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.

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.

Eleen Castine 725-9216 www.mrscruff.net

VECA Information

Daniel Jacobs, Project Manager, Welcome Center
901-276-1782 and ProjectManager@VECA.org

VECA Board: Paul Herron
VECA Housing: Chuck Fox
Vollintine-Evergreen News Advertising: Barbara Gavalas
V&E Greenline: Len Cobb
Safety and Security Committee: Garnette Stephens
Neighborhood Preservation Committee: Chris Floyd
Neighbors for Trees: Marci Hendrix and André Glenn
VECA Businesses Committee: Mike Kirby
VECA Email and Communication Committee: Marci Hendrix
Lick Creek: Mary Wilder
Block Clubs: Gloria Singleton
Historic Committee: Cathy Marcinko

Rhodes Community Development Interns funded by City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development

VECA Welcome Center 1680 Jackson Avenue
Memphis, TN 38107 Phone: 901-276-1782

VECA Website: www.VECA.org
VECA and VECA CDC Email: VECA@VECA.org
VECA Email Announcements: news@VECA.org
Vollintine-Evergreen News: VECA@VECA.org
V&E Greenline: VEgreenline@gmail.com and
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VECA Barber Is First Generation Graduate

By Tom Fagan

On Saturday, December 19, 2009 Eddie C. Harper received his Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree from the University of Memphis where he studied Physical Education for Teachers and Communications. Eddie is the first member of his parents' family to complete a college degree. Now age 42, he has been a barber for the Magic Clippers Barber Shop at 1572 Vollintine for the past 10 years. A graduate of Northside High School, Eddie completed his barber training at Jet Barber College in 1997. He started college studies at Southwest Tennessee Community College in 2005 and transferred to the University of Memphis in 2007.

He and his wife Marlo live at 926 North Willett St. Marlo Harper, a graduate of Mitchell High School and Christian Brothers University, has been teaching with the Shelby County Schools (Northaven Elementary School) for the past 5 years. Their family includes five children between the ages of seven and 20.



Eddie intends to continue running his barber shop and to become more active in community services in the VECA neighborhood. He also expects to do substitute teaching and eventually land a full-time teaching position in an area high school. He says that his community youth work revealed a strong need for children to have activities and responsible role models in their development. He is also encouraged by the recent improvements to the shops on Vollintine and the interest VECA is showing in improving that property and neighborhood. Congratulations to Eddie Harper and his family on this achievement.