

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

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

SEPTEMBER 2010

## One Big Day – Three Neighborhood Events – Saturday, September 25, 2010

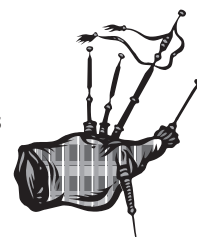
### Wolf River Day ✧ Clanjamfry: A Scottish Festival ✧ Snowden School Centennial

Wrap up your long, hot summer by celebrating **Wolf River Day—It's Cool to Go Green!** on Saturday, September 25 from 10 am to 6 pm. The festival will be held on the V&E Greenline at 620 Avalon at the V&E Stationhouse. Stroll beneath the shady tree canopy of the V&E Greenline perusing green exhibits while enjoying arts and crafts vendors, environmental exhibits, local food vendors, great live music, and a kids' bike parade. Throughout the day there will be wildlife presentations, programs on bees and butterflies, community garden exhibits, information on the Wolf River Greenway and other conservation efforts in West Tennessee. Cool off at the Wolf River dunking booth, and be sure to drop by the Memphis politicians stump!



While you're in Midtown visiting Wolf River Day, plan to take a short trip over to **Evergreen Presbyterian Church for the 12th annual Clanjamfry: A Scottish Festival**. A full day of Scottish music, food, games, demonstrations, talks, dance and more awaits you, fun for all ages. Enjoy the rousing skirl of the Wolf River Pipes and Drums, official bagpipe band of Clanjamfry, as they escort the Parade of Clans, who will share with you their heritage and help you explore your own. Watch the amazing border collie sheep herding demonstrations, and listen to some of the best Celtic music in the region. New this year is the Plaid Pooch Promenade, a competition for the best (Scottish) dressed dog.

Clanjamfry takes place 10 am until 5 pm and is sponsored and presented by Evergreen Presbyterian Church at 613 University, across from Rhodes. All proceeds go to support the Evergreen Recreation Ministry, a community outreach program that includes after school care, tutoring, team sports, community activities and working with at-risk youth. Tickets are available at the gate, and are \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors, students, kids 5-12 and military and each member of their families. Kids under 5 are free. Call the church at 274-3740 for more information.



On your way from one great festival to another stop by our neighborhood public school. As part of the **100 year celebration of Snowden School** tours of the building will be offered from 10:30 to 12:30. Refreshments will be offered in the Elementary Library just inside the main office entrance to the school. Look through a yearbook or get a preview of the documentary about the school by local resident and Snowden supporter Willy Bearden. Snowden Alumni and anyone interested are welcome to visit. Snowden will also have tables at both Wolf River Day and Clamjamfry with more information about the school and other centennial events.



[www.wolfriver.org](http://www.wolfriver.org) ✧ [www.clanjamfrymemphis.org/index.html](http://www.clanjamfrymemphis.org/index.html) ✧ [www.mcsk12.net/schools/snowden.school/site/activities.shtml](http://www.mcsk12.net/schools/snowden.school/site/activities.shtml)

## VECA Supports Lick Creek Clean-Up – Saturday, September 18 V&E Stationhouse, 620 Avalon, 9:00 am

Vollintine Evergreen residents will take a stand against litter in our natural areas, streams and rivers on Saturday, September 18. Residents are encouraged to join VECA, Wolf River Conservancy, Clean Memphis, First Tennessee, the state Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and other individual and organizational volunteers participating in five stream and tributary clean-ups across Memphis. One of the five areas selected for the one-day clean-up is Lick Creek, which runs westward through the neighborhood from Snowden School at McLean to Watkins.

First Tennessee is generously sponsoring the five clean-ups. In addition, assistance from TWRA is a "Clean Streams" grant which will be used to buy tools and t-shirts for

volunteers. Buckman Laboratories is also donating supplies to VECA for the Lick Creek cleanup. In addition, VECA residents will place "Drains to Streams" plaques on storm water drains and bridges to remind everyone that what goes into the drain ends up in our streams and rivers.

For more information, call 276-1782 or sign up at either: [www.wolfriver.org](http://www.wolfriver.org) or by visiting [www.surveymonkey.com/s/RHW758Y](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RHW758Y).

### Wolf River Day Volunteers Needed

Wolf River Conservancy is recruiting volunteers for three weekend events related to Wolf River Day:

1. Wolf River Tributaries Clean up (including VECA's Lick Creek), Saturday, September 18, 9 am
2. Wolf River Day Expo, Saturday, September 25, 7 am to 7 pm
3. Wolf River Free Canoe Rides, Saturday, October 2, 8 am to 6 pm

More information is available at: [www.wolfriver.org](http://www.wolfriver.org)



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## Mother Nature and Me

By Garnette Stephens

I LOVE GARDENING! Shade gardening was my gardening of choice for 22 years at my Snowden Avenue bungalow. It prevailed until I had three mature trees removed in a one-year period.

In June 2008, Mother Nature took off a sizeable limb from a huge tree in the front yard, and the imbalance required the tree to be removed. There was damage to the landscaping in my yard and my neighbor's, and thankfully, no one was hurt although a neighbor's cat Tinker was missing for hours and we feared the worst, panicking until he returned home. I feel so blessed to live in this neighborhood like ours. Within minutes of the tree falling, many neighbors showed up and worked for hours, rakes and chain saws in hand, to clear the debris that blocked the street and spanned through three yards.

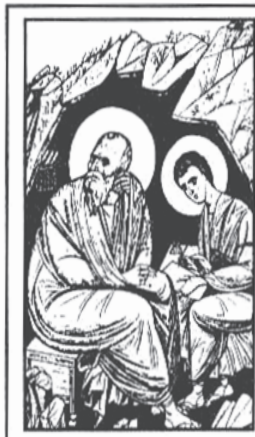
Then in June 2009, Mother Nature used a wind shear to snap in half a large backyard tree, again causing no personal damage but this time there was extensive property damage, including my neighbor's property (Yes, it was the same neighbor and unbelievably, we remain friends!). Enough was enough. Before Mother Nature could revisit and do something to my third and only tree left, I had it removed. After much time moaning and groaning about the loss of my trees and the shade gardening, I resigned myself to the situation and accepted the challenge of redesigning for sun gardening. Robinson Tree, State Farm and I became best friends and got everything back in order by mid-December 2009.

From the former shade gardens, almost 20 hostas were adopted by

neighbor friends and numerous ferns and several hydrangeas were relocated to shady spots within a west side courtyard and to the east side pathway between my house and my neighbor's house. Surprisingly, some azaleas and the heuchera adapted well to full sun and did not have to be moved. While sun loving hybrid tea roses, irises and crepe myrtles have always been favorites, I added many of these, plus two October Glory maples and over 20 different sun-loving or sun-tolerant perennials. Several containers are colorful with annuals such as geraniums, potato vine, lantana, lobelia, begonias, petunias, oxalis, and heather. An herb garden and eight tomato plants complete the sun garden design. Shady nooks – few in number – feature ferns, caladium, hostas, impatiens, ivy, coleus and begonias. The courtyard is the best of both worlds – mostly shade with a few sunny spots for althea, nandina, a few succulents, and an oversized arbor with wisteria. Front and backyards have been sodded.



Changing from shade gardening to sun gardening has been quite laborious and needless to say, costly, but has been worth it all. Beauty abounds! The birds, butterflies, toads, and neighbors' cats seem to enjoy the gardens too. Toddler neighbor Matthew loves the backyard garden and takes great pleasure in picking flowers. The only item I avoid in my garden is not a plant but mulch – my dog Honey has an acquired taste for it and it is a big "no-no" for him. So, a ground cover works just fine year round though it is a challenge to keep it from taking over the plants. What really works for my garden? Cow manure, and fish emulsion and lots of TLC, especially watering! My joy is gardening, and Mother Nature seems to approve...so far, no more havoc from her!



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## VECA - Home to Many Musicians

By Jeff Hulett

What's that sound? Well, in our neighborhood it might be drums or a flute or perhaps a full-on band practice. Sometimes it's even bagpipes. That's right, bagpipes. When my wife and I first moved to the neighborhood about a year ago, we had no idea how musical it was, and not just in terms of instruments being played. Have you heard the cicadas lately? Sounds like they're working on something big.

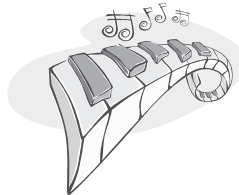
I recently caught up with several neighborhood musicians to highlight what they're up to and find out what they like best about living in the V&E neighborhood.

The first person I got in touch with was Steve Selvidge, who has lived in and around VECA since he was a kid. "It's in my bones, this part of town," Selvidge said. "It's where I'm from, and that keeps me grounded and I love my street, University Circle!" Steve is playing with the Hold Steady these days and whatever conglomeration of musical friends here in Memphis he finds himself around. If you haven't seen Steve play his guitar you're really missing out. Steve plays bass and drums as well, but states that he's better at guitar than any other instrument. The Hold Steady recently played at the Hi-Tone and will be touring nationally this fall. They plan on playing in Memphis again sometime in September.

Next, I talked with Robby Grant, who actually is an old bandmate of Steve's. They played for years together in Big Ass Truck and continue to collaborate musically today. Robby is playing in Mouserocket and Vending Machine these days. Robby shares the song writing duties in Mouserocket with fellow Vollintine Evergreen neighbor Alicja Trout. Vending Machine is mostly a solo project for Robby, but that doesn't keep him from playing out live with a stellar lineup. Robby has lived in VECA for eight years now and loves the proximity to Overton Park, good restaurants and most of his bandmates. Robby's next show is with Mouserocket at the Project Greenfork Benefit on September 26 at the Ghost River Brewery, 827 South Main Street.

Lastly, I huddled up with Ben Powers, front man of local band WatchPaper, who has lived in the neighborhood a little more than a year. Ben loves VECA for how quiet it is and its proximity to the V&E Greenline. Ben is a multi-instrumentalist who plays piano, guitar, bass, drums and violin. Ben is in the studio at the moment, but plans on playing out real soon.

For more information on these bands, visit [www.theholdsteady.net](http://www.theholdsteady.net), [www.myspace.com/mouserocket](http://www.myspace.com/mouserocket), [www.vendingmachineband.com](http://www.vendingmachineband.com) and [www.watchpaper.bandcamp.com](http://www.watchpaper.bandcamp.com).



## Walking/Running the V&E Greenline



Hello all! My name is Jane Owen and I live, work, play and run in Midtown – and I am proud of it! Several VECA neighbors are participating in the Memphis Runners Track Club (MRTC) Women in Training of which I help coach and they asked me to write an article. Thus, I am writing about two things I enjoy – my neighborhood and running. I run the

Greenline at least three times a week and I invite you to run, walk, bike or just stroll the Greenline and enjoy all it has to offer!

My work, as a Nurse Practitioner (NP), helps me know that one of the best healthy practices anyone can do is to do some form of exercise 3 times a week, for at least 30 minutes at a time. I am a member of various groups one of which is called Healthy Memphis Common Table (HMCT). The HMCT, has a project called Memphis in Motion (MIM) to get Memphians more healthy by being more active and eating better, so I'm going to do my part by giving a prescription to you readers, via this article, on how to start a more healthy journey in your own backyard – the V&E Greenline.

As with any kind of change, it is done best and is most enduring if done slowly and consistently. This applies to exercise as well. For those of you who might call yourself a couch potato then this is especially true for you. Most likely, you will actually see the quickest results in terms of weight loss and general overall fitness than those people who only occasionally do some kind of exercise.

I would also recommend that you who may have high blood pressure or any heart issues see your primary care provider either MD or NP and make sure you are medically okay to start a mild exercise (walking program).

Then make a decision and write it down as a contract with yourself to start on a certain day, and the number of days you are going to do it. Just begin by getting out some comfortable shoes or even a sturdy walking sandal. You probably have some old comfortable tennis shoes that will do just fine for a starter and will last you for your first month. You should aim for a minimum of 3 days a week as a good starting goal.

Goals – now there is another good topic to talk about – set them small and achievable. First, write your exercise contract and sign it. One step and goal already achieved – hey you are making progress already! Then get out your shoes, and some loose, cool shorts and t-shirt. See, second goal achieved! You are on a roll now....!

Now, I think this is enough for my first attempt at an article about fitness on the V&E Greenline. I haven't even started talking about the Greenline itself yet, but you have to get yourself ready to get out and enjoy it first.

And I haven't written the prescription for you to actually to get the exercise part started....so you have to stay tuned for the next session to get it started. Or you could say something like – "Anyone can take a walk without a coach, so I'm not going to wait for her to write her next article, I'm just starting today before/after work and I'm making my list now!" You go for it guys/girls!!! See you on the Greenline!

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## Give Me Wings

As a parting project, the VECA CD Interns decided to spice up the September newsletter by conducting a wing survey. We wanted to focus our search for the best wings in the VECA and midtown north neighborhoods. During one of our lunch breaks, we began our tedious research by driving around the neighborhoods and picking out four wing restaurants we hoped would satisfy our craving. The four lucky contestants were Jaxon's Hot Wings, Top of the Line Wings, Springdale's Finest Diner, and Alex's Tavern.

**Jaxon's Hot Wings:** If you're looking for some large tasty wings, we suggest going to Jaxon's Hot Wings located at 2302 Peres Avenue. There are many sauces to choose from, but we chose to try the Honey Hot flavor, hoping for a little extra kick. We got exactly what we expected – the wings were saturated in a flavorful sauce that was just as sweet as it was spicy. Not only were there 5 wings, but we were given carrots, celery, a roll, and ranch dressing to cool our mouth after the unexpected kick.

**Top of the Line Wings:** The newly opened shop on the corner of Golden and Hollywood definitely lived up to its name. At this location, we decided to try the signature BBQ Honey Gold. These wings, similar to the ones before, were fairly large in size and didn't skip out on the flavor. Top of the Line also included carrots, a roll, and a hefty serving of ranch dressing. If you're looking for a strong BBQ flavor, we would suggest getting another BBQ sauce to cover your wings – the gold sauce overpowered the BBQ but was extremely delicious nonetheless.

**Springdale's Finest Diner:** Next to the barber shop on the corner of Howell and Springdale, this diner took a different approach with their wings than the other locations we visited. Though their wings were smaller and had a deep fried exterior, their hot sauce was found in every savory bite. These might not have come with any side items besides ranch, but you definitely got a bang for your buck. The wings were set apart by their unique, delicious homemade sauces that the cook developed.

**Alex's Tavern:** Recently voted by *The Commercial Appeal* for having the best burgers and ribs in the area, Alex's was our last stop for our wing survey. This small bar, located at 1445 Jackson Avenue, serves a unique Greek style of wings that we haven't found at any of our other stops. We went with the BBQ wings, but got the Greek sauce on the side and were blown away by the different flavor it provided. Although nothing else came with the wings, they were perfectly seasoned and didn't need any support.

It was a really close race, and though we didn't pick one flat out winner, each restaurant had their own unique and delicious aspect to their wings. We highly recommend trying each restaurant (and even conducting your own wing survey to see who you like the best!) And while you're scarfing down those delectable wings, feel good about supporting our local businesses.

## VECA Poster Welcome Center Fundraiser



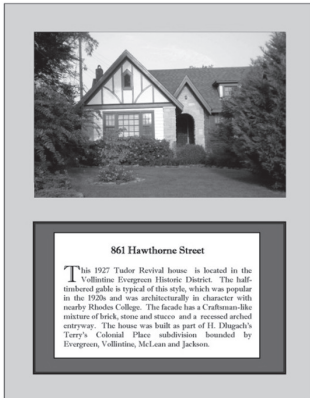
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## Framed House History VECA Historic Committee Fundraiser

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861 Hawthorne Street

This 1927 Tudor Revival home is located in the Vollintine Evergreen Historic District. The half-timbered gable is typical of this style, which was popular in the 1920s and was architecturally in character with nearby Hlaska College. The facade has a Craftsman-like mixture of brick, stone and stucco and a recessed arched entryway. The house was built as part of H. Dingsbach Terry's Colonial Place subdivision, founded by Evergreen, Vollintine, McLean and Jackson.

### Newsletter Advertising

Want to reach 3,500 VECA residents and other neighborhood supporters? Local businesses can receive community support by appearing in our pages. Just \$100 buys 4 prominent ads in our newsletters. Call our advertising manager at 276-1782. It will help you get customers and help the neighborhood at the same time.



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## Plough Into the Neighborhood

Rhodes recently received funding from the Plough Foundation that will enable the college to work with neighborhood partners to enhance the local community. Through the grant, there are plans to do neighborhood development and revitalization, as well as some business development to assist in the overall goal of community development.

What does this mean for the VECA neighborhood? Rhodes staff and students are partnering with the Community Association to achieve projects that will improve the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood. These projects will include a specific focus on developing the VECA Neighborhood Network (the new block clubs committee) and nearby commercial businesses.

The support needed in these projects will come not only from residents, but also from Rhodes students who will be able to gain both experience and course credits through fellowships assigned with assisting in the development plans.

The grant also comes with the opportunity to add two full-time positions to the Rhodes Learning Corridor staff. The *Plough Community Development Intern* will work to strengthen the relationship between community members and the Rhodes community, as well as supervise Rhodes students in fellowship positions throughout the Vollintine Evergreen and Midtown-North areas. With this position, the grant seeks

to both coordinate and expand the Rhodes/VECA affiliation.

Becky Williams, a 2007 Rhodes graduate, has recently started in the Intern position. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Williams majored in Urban Studies and went on to teach at The Soulsville Charter School for three years after graduating. On her plans for the position, Williams said, "I am most excited about forming meaningful relationships with the residents in the surrounding neighborhoods of Rhodes."

The *Lead Plough Fellow*, will work directly with VECA, running the Welcome Center and overseeing projects for the VECA board and committees. Werner Viser, upon starting this position, hopes to bring her passion for her hometown community of Shreveport, Louisiana, to her new home in Memphis. She is looking forward to "learning the ins and outs of the Vollintine Evergreen community and how we can work together for the betterment of everyone." Viser graduated from Rhodes College in May.

In addition to Williams and Viser, many new students will be holding fellowship positions with VECA, and working on everything from environmental management to communications.

Rhodes is excited to amplify its relationship with the VECA neighborhood and looks forward to the success that can be accomplished through such a strong partnership.

## Summer Staff – Thanks for Your Great Service!

Helping to keep VECA and the Welcome Center running smoothly this summer were four Rhodes students who were Community Development Interns: Maura Weber, Kelli Zomer, Annie Stuckslager, and Morgan Hannah, along with the leadership of their Project Manager and recent Rhodes graduate, Casey Mohan.

For long-time VECA workers Weber and Mohan, you could say this summer was a bit hotter than the past couple years, especially with the theft of the Welcome Center's AC system. Despite the challenge of temporarily having no air conditioning in an enclosed building, all staff managed to truck through, work on their daily projects and greet visitors with a smile.


This summer proved to be very successful regardless of a few bumps in the road. Many projects took place outside the VECA Welcome Center. One being the Hunter Community Gardens that got started earlier this year. The Gardens continues to grow and produce tasty vegetables for the neighbors in the area to enjoy. Clean-ups were organized and supervised

by the summer staff to make sure that the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood stays beautiful. The summer staff helped to design a trash can project that will provide trash cans – decorated and installed by residents – along the Vollintine strip to help keep that business district free of litter.

With all that's been going on outside in the neighborhood, there was just as much completed in the office. Interns completed new brochures for Block Clubs and the VECA Welcome Center, which are now available to all residents. Also available is a Block Club Manual, outlining how to start up a block club for residents.

Many of the summer staff members have helped to put together the July and September newsletters, writing articles and working with local businesses that support the newsletter through advertisements.

Even with some obstacles, the VECA summer interns and manager finished many projects that helped to contribute to the community.



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## Is That a Drug House?

Most people are stunned when they find out there is a drug house in their neighborhood and ask how could this happen, believing that such a thing only happens elsewhere. Truth is, drug houses can be in ANY neighborhood and drug activity crosses ALL socioeconomic lines. Sometimes residents know there is a drug house in the neighborhood, and for whatever reason, turn a blind eye, which is what criminals want to happen.

Four factors are common to all drug houses: Product, buyer, seller and location. While neighbors have very little control over the product, buyer and seller, neighbors do have the power to affect the location of drug houses. Drug dealers choose one area over another to set up business and prefer where there is no sense of community, where neighbors do not communicate with each other, and where no one "wants to get involved." Like many other for-profit businesses, it's all about the money. If there is a demand for drugs, and the neighbors tolerate the drug activity, the business will thrive. Otherwise, the business relocates.

**Warning Signs of Drug Activity:** Anything that seems out of place, unusual for your neighborhood or during a particular time of day when it occurs, may mean criminal activity. Drug activity is no exception. It is often difficult to be certain that what activity you see involves drugs, but there are some patterns that may indicate it:

- Increase in vehicles and visitors to and from a house
- Visitors who appear to be acquaintances rather than friends or family
- Visits of short duration – people go in and out
- Visits are at odd times of day
- Traffic stops at a house and a resident comes out to the vehicle
- Observed signs of an exchange of goods and money
- Visitors bring valuables, as electronics, into a house and leave without them
- Noxious odors as a musty smell coming from the house or surrounding structures
- Houses that have extreme security
- Houses that are not well maintained, abandoned, or show no signs of day-to-day living
- Drugs or drug paraphernalia (needles, vials, glass pipes, etc.) on or near the house
- Offer to sell you drugs or engage you in conversation about drugs
- Befriending neighborhood children – often used as "look outs"
- Display of intimidating behavior
- Graffiti
- Increase in other criminal activity

**Renter versus Owner Occupied Properties:** Landlords often live outside the neighborhoods of their rental properties and even out of state. Landlords may be investor groups that have a third-party managing their properties. Landlords and tenants may never meet. There are some signs however to alert a "hands-on" landlord that there is drug activity in the rental property. For example, tenants never work "jobs" but always have cash and pay rent in cash. Tenants, otherwise associated with a lower standard of living, have expensive vehicles and personal belongings. Tenants have adapted the house to provide more than

normal security as surveillance cameras, alarms, door and window bars, and dogs whose breed is labeled vicious.

**Report Suspicious Activity:** What can you do if you suspect a house is a drug house in your neighborhood? Don't assume that the police already know about the activity or that another neighbor has probably called about it. It's better for several neighbors to call rather than for one neighbor to call numerous times. Keep reporting concerns as long as activity occurs and report when activity changes.

First and foremost, NEVER CONFRONT A SUSPECTED DRUG DEALER OR HIS BUYERS. If confronted by anyone, call 911. To report suspicious activity, call the non-emergency line 901-543-COPS. You may ask your identity to be anonymous and that you do not want an officer to visit you at your house.

**What More Can You Do?:** Criminal activity can be stopped but law enforcement cannot do it alone. Who knows the neighborhood better than you? Police depend on neighbors to be their eyes and ears and play an active role in making the neighborhood a safe place to live. Responsible neighbors must report concerns of suspected criminal activity. Don't be afraid of being labeled a "nosey neighbor" or of "bothering" the police. Don't be embarrassed if your suspicion turns out to be unfounded – better safe than sorry. As is said on one local news channel, we can "take back our neighborhood." Here are some ideas:

- Know your neighbors
- Be active in VECA's community association
- Organize a neighborhood network to build communication and cooperation among neighbors
- Report to the owners of rental properties any problems you are having with their tenants or suspicious activity at their property
- Report all problems to the police, fire department, code enforcement, and other appropriate agencies
- Maintain a good working relationship with police precincts serving the neighborhood
- Log activity related to a suspected drug house. An activity log is available at the VECA Welcome Center and on the VECA website.

Each monthly meeting of the Safety and Security Committee addresses a topic on Situational Crime Prevention. Meetings are 5:30-6:45 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at the VECA Welcome Center. All are welcome! YOU can make a difference and together WE can achieve even more!

### We Heard You!

VECA neighbors want more stories and articles from fellow VECA Neighbors. We are featuring three this issue on pages 2 and 3. Do you have an interest, hobby, story concerning the neighborhood that you would like to share? Email the Communications Committee at [veca@veca.org](mailto:veca@veca.org)!

### 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 activities 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

(901) 276-1782 Website: [veca.org](http://veca.org); email: [veca@veca.org](mailto:veca@veca.org)



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## Summer Jubilee June 2010

On Sunday, June 27, neighborhood residents gathered at the Gardens on the V&E Greenline for a summer celebration of the Vollintine Evergreen



neighborhood. This year's Summer Jubilee proved to be a great success as neighbors from the community enjoyed the beautiful day outside and all of the entertainment provided.

From dog washes, to wading pools, and supersoakers there were lots of ways for the neighbors to beat the heat, cool off and enjoy the day. A musical interlude was provided by Ellis Marcinko on the guitar, and Zoe

and Russell Wolfe on the violin. Many thanks to Baskin Robbins for their fifth consecutive year of sponsoring the ice cream fundraiser.

The VECA Events Committee is most thankful for the support of volunteers who helped with setting up, tending to the wading pools, scooping and serving ice cream, helping with the children activities, and working the various VECA booths. We absolutely could not pull this event off without your great help! Thank you!

Special thanks to two groups who participated. Congressman Steve Cohen's interns helped with set up and stayed for the event. Also, thanks to Susan Helms with Safe Kids Mid-South at Le Bonheur Hospital for providing a booth, games and prizes for the children.



More photos of the Summer Jubilee are posted on the Vollintine Evergreen Facebook page.

## Help Reduce Midtown Graffiti

(reprinted with permission)

Midtown Security Community is indebted to supporter Frank Roberts for taking the initiative in finding a way to work on reducing graffiti in Midtown. Through Frank's efforts we have a plan that is already showing success. Our work with the Union Station precinct has given us a contact with a person who is well known in the "tagger community." "Taggers" are non-gang members who put their artistic handiwork on buildings, dumpsters, train cars, etc. You have seen their work in Midtown. This contact person is willing to help us get rid of graffiti we identify and also to encourage taggers to keep their work out of Midtown. Midtown Security has a special email that has been set up to receive pictures of graffiti you find.

Please use this e-mail: [Frank@ZIP38104.com](mailto:Frank@ZIP38104.com)

Respondents should send: photo of graffiti; location (address if possible); when it first appeared (or was noticed).

In this day of smart phones, the best thing to do is to photograph the graffiti and email it immediately to [Frank@ZIP38104.com](mailto:Frank@ZIP38104.com). Spread the word. Midtown Security Community is committed to working collaboratively with our Union Station to keep Midtown a safe place to live and work. We know that graffiti leads to more graffiti. It is the "broken window" theory at work. When a part of town looks like people don't care, graffiti emerges.

For more information about Midtown Security Committee: <http://midtownsecurity.blogspot.com/>



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## 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)**

## Basement Sewage Backup

### What to do when water comes through your sewage line into your basement:

- Identify the entry point: basement drain, basement toilet or washer.
- Call Environmental Maintenance at (901) 529-8025 and tell them the water is entering from a sewage line. You might also contact the 24-hour Memphis Storm Water Hotline at (901) 576-6721.
- If Environmental Maintenance doesn't respond with offering to send someone out, persist until you have their agreement that someone will come investigate at your residence.
- Environmental Maintenance should send someone to inspect that day. If they determine it is sewage backup due to overflow from storm drains, they will send someone to sanitize your basement.
- If you want your basement sanitized before Environmental Maintenance does it (but after they've seen the damage), you may have it done independently and file a claim later.
- Document backup and damage with photographs, video, and timeline.
- Document property loss with photographs, receipts, repair estimates.
- Keep records of the following:
  - What telephone number you called
  - When you called (date and time)
  - Whom you spoke to (first and last name)
  - What they said
  - Who came to your home
  - What they did
- Keep copies of all documentation sent to you by the City.
- Continue to contact Environmental Maintenance each month for updates on your area and keep records of these calls.
- File a claim with the City for damages, repairs, and property loss. The claim form is available here: [http://www.memphistn.gov/LegalForms/static\\_claim\\_form.pdf](http://www.memphistn.gov/LegalForms/static_claim_form.pdf) or you may contact the claims department at

(901) 636-6616. Keep copies of everything you send to the City. It will take many months for the City to process your claim. Follow up by phone each month.

- Read the City of Memphis Sewage Backup Claims Procedure here: [www.memphistn.gov/pdf\\_forms/ClaimsProcedureDamagesFromSanitarySewerResidential.pdf](http://www.memphistn.gov/pdf_forms/ClaimsProcedureDamagesFromSanitarySewerResidential.pdf)

### What to do now:

- Ask your insurance provider to add a sewage backup rider to your homeowner's policy. It is not very expensive.
- Consider having a plumber install a cut off valve in your basement drain (~\$1500).
- Consider having a plumber install a back flow valve on your residential sewer line.
- Consider installing a high volume sump pump with a battery backup in your basement.
- Identify where your sewer line is, where the main line is, and where your sewer clean out point is.
- Consider acquiring flood insurance through FEMA (your local agent can process the application).
- Keep in mind that if and when you decide to sell your home, you will be required by law to disclose any flooding and/or sewage backup whether it is in your basement or home and that this may affect your home's resale value.



### VECA Membership and Contribution Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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 Contact Information

901-276-1782; 1680 Jackson Ave; Email: [veca@veca.org](mailto:veca@veca.org)  
 Website and Calendar: [veca.org](http://veca.org)  
 Fax: 901-276-1784  
 VECA Board: Paul Herron  
 VECA Housing: Chuck Fox  
 Vollintine-Evergreen News Advertising: TBA  
 V&E Greenline: Len Cobb  
 Safety and Security : Garnette Stephens and Erin Hartong  
 Neighborhood Preservation Committee: Chris Floyd  
 Neighbors for Trees: Marci Hendrix and Andrée Glenn  
 VECA Businesses Committee: TBA  
 VECA Email and Communication Committee: Marci Hendrix  
 Lick Creek: Mary Wilder  
 Block Clubs Committee: Gloria Singleton  
 Historic Committee: Cathy Marcinko

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

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