Vollintine --- Evergreen,

VOLLINTINE Street EVERGREEN

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

NOVEMBER 2010

Status of Flooding in VECA



Megan Wilkins in Lick Creek cleaning

clean.

By Mary Wilder.

The prolonged dry spell has been rough on gardeners and our landscape but it has given relief to our VECA neighbors along Lick Creek who have experienced flooding this season.

In July, the City of Memphis Public Works cleaned Lick Creek for the first time in two years by cutting trees and removing debris which will help Lick Creek flow better in rain events. VECA thanked Public Works for this effort in flood prevention.

Because Lick Creek serves as a natural water filtration and aeration system, this type of hand maintenance needs to be done biannually. This will enable the City of Memphis to comply with the Clean Water Act which means

the storm water entering the Wolf and then the Mississippi is safe and

Additionally, since Lick Creek cannot handle the amount of water that comes from a heavy rain event, the City of Memphis Engineering and Public Works has to figure out how to stop, slow or detain water before it goes into the creek.

In August, Memphis City Council and Mayor Wharton agreed to bring in an independent consultant to review the City of Memphis Storm Water Basin Plan for Lick Creek. The plan calls for up to five detention areas in the basin. The City of Memphis will implement several detention areas throughout the basin and require building sites to detain water thus reducing the flooding in Lick Creek.

On August 26, over eighty people attended a meeting at Evergreen Presbyterian Church to express their frustration about repeated sanitary sewer backups in private homes. This problem is related to the Lick Creek flooding and the over-taxed storm water system. Most of the

Public Meeting Mon. Nov. 22, 5-7pm Location TBD

A public meeting will be held to get input from community members regarding flooding and the City's plans for detention to stop the flooding. The location and reminder will be sent via VECA's email. To sign up to receive all neighborhood emails visit the website: veca.org.

backups occur in areas adjacent to Lick Creek and the storm water system. VECA residents cleaned

Lick Creek of litter and debris on September 18. Scott Banbary, Rehim Babaogu, Ann George, Chris Teague, Megan Wilkins, Garnette Stephens, J.A. Steinberg, Dania and Robert Watson, Tom and Aidan Walters, and Karamjit Singh and Mary Wilder were volunteers cleaning Lick Creek. Snakes, fish, turtles and raccoon tracks were found alongside several loads of trash collected. To reduce future trash

in Lick Creek, Carla Langford led Mary Pitts,

George Burton, and Janie Carloss in placing "Drains to Rivers" placards on bridges and storm drain leading to Lick Creek. Over 80 placards were installed. If you are interested in doing a similar project on storm drains

in your area call VECA 276-1782 and a volunteer will get in touch with you. At the Wolf River Day event, September 25, Megan Wilkins worked with Shelby County Environmental Department to raffle and auction two rain barrels. Megan explained to Wolf River Day goers the benefits of flood reduction when using rain barrels. Mary Wilder had a table with a map of the entire Lick Creek basin and answered questions regarding flooding and future plans to reduce flood risk in the Lick Creek basin.







Congressman Cohen learning about Lick Creek



Dr. Allison Stiles, FAAP Rela Miller, FNP

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AmeriCorps Team Helps with Wolf River Day Event

By Sean Ransick and Sean Fitzgerald, AmeriCorps NCCC Team.

Within the heart of the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood along the historic and scenic V&E Greenline exists a vibrant community. As a visiting AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team, we have witnessed this and felt welcomed by everyone. The beauty of the neighborhood has been evident to us as friendly people can always be found perusing, jogging, or biking along the old rail-line

that now forms the 1.7-mile trail.

On Saturday, September 25, the spirit of the community came out to support and take part in Wolf River Day, a festival of environmental awareness centered on the motto "It's Cool to Go Green!" The festival celebrated the Wolf River Conservancy's mission to preserve and enhance sections of the Wolf River that flow though Memphis.

Families from the neighborhood and communities across the city came to hear live music, learn about local

across the city came to hea wildlife, join the bike parade, stroll through booths from local vendors, and much more. The Wolf River Conservancy in concert with VECA and our AmeriCorps NCCC team hosted the all-day event. Over 60 community volunteers made the day possible by doing anything from directing parking, to working the beer tent for one of the Wolf River



Conservancy's partners, the Ghost River Brewery.

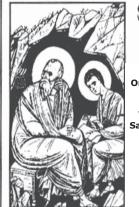
Throughout the day, children flocked to the ever-popular bounce castle and dunk tank. A colorful parade of bikes decorated with streamers and greenery led by the Memphis Police toured the Greenline. Another attraction was located in the canopy above, as professional tree-climbers led a demonstration of safe climbing with ropes and harnesses. The VECA

stationhouse was home for the day to a variety of environmental lectures.

In addition to the festival on September 25, Wolf River Day included a clean-up of urban tributaries of the Wolf River on September 18 and free canoe rides on October 2. Over 70 volunteers came together to beautify five sites that contribute to the Wolf river, including Vollintine-

Evergreen's own Lick Creek. Signs were posted on bridges and storm drains to raise awareness that excess stormwater flows to the Wolf River. On free canoe day, 198 Memphians courageously paddled a 1.5-mile section of the urban Wolf River beginning at Kennedy Park.

As a group of young people from all across the country, in the short time we have been here we have come to appreciate this neighborhood for its flavor and commitment to volunteering. Thank you for welcoming us and providing such a positive experience. Future AmeriCorps NCCC teams stationed in Memphis are in for a treat!

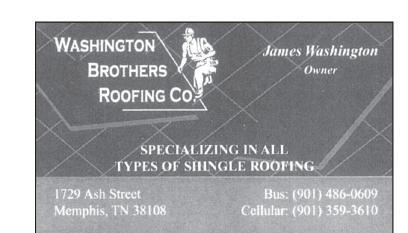


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Walking/Running the V&E Greenline



By Jane Owen

Recently, I returned from a trip to the Grand Canyon where we hiked the trails of the South and North Rims for views that will take your breath away. Yet, as austere as the Grand Canyon is, I was happy to return home and even more excited to run the V&E Greenline now that the weather is cooler and the leaves are

changing colors. And, I am happy to provide a prescription to our readers for beginning an exercise program or better yet, a lifestyle change to increase your physical activity. *Please check with your healthcare provider to make sure they approve of your beginning a mild exercise program.*

Warm-up: To get started, walk to the V&E Greenline from your home as your warm-up. A warm-up is just what the name says – it is a slow start getting the blood circulating to your muscles a little more quickly. It should be slightly faster than a normal walk, but not so fast as to make your breathing hard. A 5-10 minute warm-up is recommended giving your muscles time to get plenty of blood supply before starting the intense part of your walk/run/bike/stroll.

Intensity Cycle: Next, increase the intensity of exercise so you start breathing harder by swinging your arms more intentionally, or increasing the turnover of your feet (more steps per minute), or increasing your stride (longer strides than normal). I recommend simply increasing the turnover rate of your feet. Start with one change at a time and get comfortable with it before adding or trying something new.

To help adjust as you build up endurance, use intensity cycles: do 1-2 minutes intense pace followed by 30 seconds normal pace and repeat. Do this cycle for 20 minutes. You will gradually be able to spend more time at the faster pace, with less and less breathlessness which means you are getting more fit!

For those who occasionally exercise, do longer periods of intensity with fewer minutes of recovery, until eventually you have worked up to 20-25 minutes of intense exercise. You should be challenged, but not overwhelmed! If you feel overwhelmed or can't get your breathing to settle down to resting in about 15-30 seconds then slow down or decrease your intensity.

You may do intensity training on the Greenline by a measured distance instead of by the clock. For example, you might go from one bridge to the next. Or do sections between streets. As your fitness and endurance increases you will find yourself doing 2-3 sections continuously in an intense workout, rather than just one.

Cool-Down: After 20 minutes of intensity, head home in cool-down mode (10 minutes) getting your breathing and heart rate down to a more normal resting or walking level.

Not complicated, not expensive, and can be done from your door to the V&E Greenline, and back to your house – how simple is that!

The prescription for a healthy life is to get active so you will feel good about getting off the couch and getting outside in the neighborhood. We have an absolute gem in the V&E Greenline with 1.7 miles of trees, two bridges, an awesome community flower bed and a couple of benches to rest from your workout. Don't wait, for another day, weekend or for better weather! Get on those shoes and **do it!** See you on the V&E Greenline!

Part One of Jane's article is available in the September issue online at veca.org.

Old Neighbor, New Book

By Maura Weber

You may have heard of the recently published mystery novel *Chartreuse Envelope: Murder in Memphis*, which takes place in our very neighborhood, but what you may not know is that the author, Dr. Jim Paavola, was a former resident of VECA. Dr. Paavola lived on Oakmont Place for 25 years where he practiced as a psychologist and raised four children with his wife, Marilyn. After 35 years Dr Paavola retired from his position as a psychologist for Memphis City Schools. He now lives in the Lenox neighborhood but has very fond memories as a resident of VECA. Recently, during a recovery from hip surgery, Dr. Paavola decided to try his hand at writing mystery novels. His newly released book, *The Chartreuse Envelope* is about "industrial sabotage, illegal stock price manipulation and of course, murder." While this may not seem like the type of book a psychologist would write, Dr. Paavola actually constructed his novel from the experiences that he had working for the Memphis Police Department. He includes several psychological themes such as

trauma and resilience that make the characters seem very real and interesting. A great deal of the action in the novel takes place around our

neighborhood including areas such as Overton Park, North Parkway, and Hyde Park. Furthermore, the main character, Lt. Julia Todd, is a fictional police office stationed at the Union Avenue police station. The *Chartreuse Envelope* is very exciting and has been fun to read as a resident of Midtown.

Dr Paavola gained such a deep respect for the Memphis Police Department after his time working with several officers over the years that he decided to have a portion of the book sales be donated to the



Memphis Police Department's Foundation that helps train officers. *The Chartreuse Envelope: Murder in Memphis* is available at www.jimpaavola.com or Amazon. You may also purchase it at local bookstores such as Books A Million, Davis-Kidd, and Borders.





VECA Poster Welcome Center Fundraiser



\$10 for poster (\$20 if mailed)\$20 for signed poster and\$40 for a framed poster

Also available are VECA note card sets Set of 20 Note Cards and Envelopes; 5 each of 4 designs

Available at 1680 Jackson 901-276-1782 veca@veca.org

Framed House History VECA Historic Committee Fundraiser

Celebrate your historic home with a unique gift idea! Featured will be the historic description of the home along with a photograph of

the home. Please allow 30 days to process the order. All Christmas orders must be received by Monday, November 15 and will be ready for delivery or pickup by Wednesday, December 15 through Friday, December 17 (free delivery if you live in VECA). Three sizes are available: \$15, \$20 and \$25. Please call the Welcome Center, 901-276-1782 for an order form or email veca@veca.org to request an order form.



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Trash Can Project

By Jami King.

On Monday, November 8 (6pm), VECA will welcome community business owners and concerned members of the community to a forum to discuss the trashcan project. The project began as a response to concerns raised by business owners that excessive

litter outside their stores was limiting business and dissuading customers from shopping in the neighborhood. The trashcan project plans to place trashcans throughout the business districts that are decorated with the VECA logo, providing an identifier for businesses that are supporting growth in the neighborhood and





helping to limit the amount of litter on the streets and in shopping areas.

On a larger scale, the trashcan project hopes to promote a cleaner neighborhood by encouraging neighborhood members to take pride in their area and limit the litter in residential as well as commercial areas of the community. The hope is that less litter in front of businesses will also encourage new customers to shop in the area and help bring business to the neighborhood. The project began in September, when trashcans were placed outside of businesses in the Vollintine strip. Due to the success in that area, the project is hoping to expand and place trashcans in front of more interested businesses after the community meeting on November 8. For more information on the project, please contact Jami King at VECA.

Monday, Nov. 8, 6 pm at the VECA Welcome Center

This project was funded by a business development grant from Rhodes, as part of the "Transforming Neighborhoods" grant from the Plough Foundation. For additional information, please contact Rebecca Williams at the VECA Welcome Center.



Donate to VECA Through United Way. The United Way campaign allows **you** to donate directly to VECA! United Way donations are used by many nonprofit organizations and is a great opportunity for you to give to your neighborhood! **To Donate to VECA**: use the back of the yellow sheet of the United Way form. The bottom of Item 3 has the following statement: "You may also support another health and human services organization in the United Way of the Mid-South service area." **Enter VECA or Vollintine Evergreen as the agency name and the amount.** Please contact VECA at 276-1782 or veca@veca.org for any questions or to let us know about your contribution!





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Common Code Violations

VECA residents take pride in the beauty of their streets, yards, and houses and are committed to improving the quality of life in the neighborhood. Residents can help keep the neighborhood a safe and attractive place to live by reporting code violations to the City of Memphis. Here are some

common code violations:

 Parking on the lawn: Please refrain from parking your vehicle on the lawn. Vehicles must be parked on concrete, asphalt or other approved hard surface.



- Inoperative vehicles: Residents cannot park or store any rusted, wrecked, junked, dismantled, inoperable or abandoned vehicle in a residential area.
- Excessive weeds, grass, trees, and shrubs: It is the responsibility of the property owner/tenant to keep yards properly

The Vollintine-Evergreen Newsletter is dedicated to sharing the many thoughts, ideas and stories of the neighborhood. That is why we have made it even easier for neighbors like you to write and submit an article for the newsletter, whether it be a distant memory or a current concern. Now you can submit your article online. We do ask that any article submitted to be less than 500 words. <u>Topic suggestions include</u>:

- A Favorite VECA Memory;
- Neighbor Spotlight;
- Useful "neighborly" Tips;
- A VECA or Neighborhood Event that you participated in (Block party, etc);
- History on the Neighborhood;
- Crime and Safety advice;
- Why you Love VECA! ... or any topic that you think that the neighborhood would want to know!

maintained. Weeds and grass cannot exceed over 12 inches high.

- Accumulation of junk, trash and debris: Accumulation of junk, debris and trash is not allowed. This includes auto parts, appliances, furniture, building materials, tires, paper, cardboard, plastics, dead limbs and branches.
- Improperly maintained dwelling exterior: The exterior of a dwelling should be properly maintained. This includes rotting boards, peeling paint, broken glass in windows and defective roofs.
- Commercial vehicles: Commercial trucks, such as tractor trailers, cannot be parked or stored on residential property or on residential streets.
- Abandoned structures: Abandoned properties must be properly secured to prevent the entry of vagrants or criminal activity.

Residents can file complaints with the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at (901) 576-6500. Reports can also be filed through the Online Support Center at cityofmemphis.org.

Become a Journalist!

<u>Submit an article Online via the website (veca.org)</u>: Visit VECA's Communication page directly at:

veca.org/blog/committees-2/communications-committee Click **Browse** to find your saved article and Upload it to the site. Please include contact information with the article (name, phone, email).

As always you may submit an article through the mail or in person. We hope that this makes it easier for neighbors like you, to be your own journalist. The VE Newsletter is for the neighborhood, it should be from the neighborhood too!

Please call or come by if you have any questions or would like to submit your article in person! Our office is located at: 1680 Jackson Ave, Memphis TN, 38107; 901.276.1782

We Heard You!

VECA neighbors want more stories and articles from fellow VECA Neighbors.

The Glenmary at Evergreen Independent Living and Assisted Living

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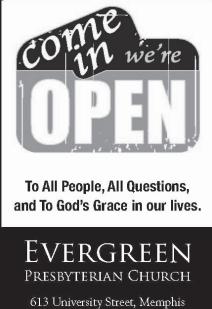


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evergreenmemphis.org

Vollintine - Evergreen

VECA Loves Dogs

Have you noticed that VECA loves dogs? They are welcome guests at the annual ice cream social as well as the Wolf River Day. Recently, a few of the neighborhood pups got together for a bow-wow. They asked us to remind our humans of a few things:

- We, your faithful friends are part of the family. Please do not chain us up; please keep our water filled and fresh; please give us our daily kibble; and please give us proper shelter.
- We like leashes. Leashes give us boundaries. Leashes are fun. We like being able to lead our humans around where we want them to go. Please use a leash.



- Leashes make good neighbors. We want to see and be seen by other doggies and humans but at a safe distance.
- Fences make good neighbors. We are embarrassed when our humans let us run loose out the front door and we accidently scare our neighbors and chase other leashed dogs.
- Scooping the poop is good. When we go for our walks on our leashes, we want our humans to carry plastic bags and clean up our waste (big and small doggies alike).

• Cleaning up after us is the law. We want to participate in keeping Memphis clean.

City Ordinance 5.2

Love to a dog is a feeling of affection given freely and without restriction. The best way dogs show you love is to wag their tail. If they're lucky a human will love them in return.

November's Theme: Have you noticed a recurring theme in this issue? We finally did and rolled with it: Respect and pride in our neighborhood is important and is a form of showing respect to your neighbor. We hope the articles will be helpful reminders that our Memphis laws are here to protect us, our neighbors, and our pets. "*Life is short but there is always time for courtesy*" ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson





Scoop the poop yard signs are available at The VECA Welcome Center.

Good Neighbors Equal Good Home Security

By Robin Brown

Often the best protection for home safety and security is a good neighbor.

Have you ever come home after a tiring day at work to be greeted with a sight that knocks you off your feet? Right away you are aware of missing televisions, stereos and other appliances. Furniture is turned over and drawers emptied with the contents scattered about the room, leaving a dreadful scene. You are struck with several emotions: fear, anger, humiliation and a sinking feeling that your privacy has been totally violated. As you survey the debris you wonder if you'll ever feel safe and secure in your home again. The violation becomes even more painful when you realize they've taken precious keepsakes that are irreplaceable, and hold no value to anyone but you.

This scene describes an event in my life in another city several years ago. The burglary happened, ironically, during daylight hours, not once but twice within six weeks. I lived on a street lined with row houses built close together yet no one would admit to seeing or hearing anything. My neighbors were struck with the "see no, hear no, speak no evil" syndrome. Unfortunately, this is far too prevalent in many urban neighborhoods these days.

I was reminded of my victimization during a recent meeting of the VECA Safety and Security meeting. Home burglaries and other property crimes plague far too many communities in our city. Your chance of

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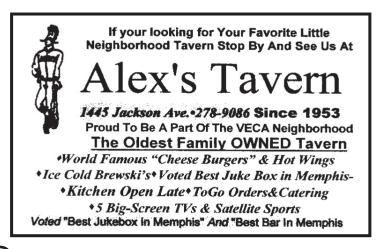
VECA: Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The *Vollintine-Evergreen News*, VECA email, the annual meeting, and committee 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; email: veca@veca.org becoming a victim is about 1 in 12 which compared to the state overall is 1 in 22. That's why it's crucial that neighbors know and look out for one another. Other safety measures include security alarms, keeping your hedges and trees manicured to avoid overgrowth, light timers and better lighting, and making sure doors and windows are secured at all times.

The slow recovery of the economy, lingering unemployment and other factors will continue to impact safety and security throughout the community. We're all potential victims and our best and most effective weapon – in contemporary vernacular – is to "watch each other's back." Whether it's a block club, neighborhood watch or a few nosy neighbors, they all have their place in this on-going struggle against criminal activity.

We have not been completely ignored by these transgressors on my street, but I think we've been lucky. I give credit to my neighbors who have put together a street directory with pertinent contact info and emergency numbers. Some neighbors have keys to each other homes in case there's an emergency while they're away. Not a bad idea if you have someone you can trust with that responsibility.

Remember, the best protection for home safety and security is a good neighbor. Is that you?



Vollintine - Evergreen

A Tired Dog is a Happy Dog

By Maura Weber.

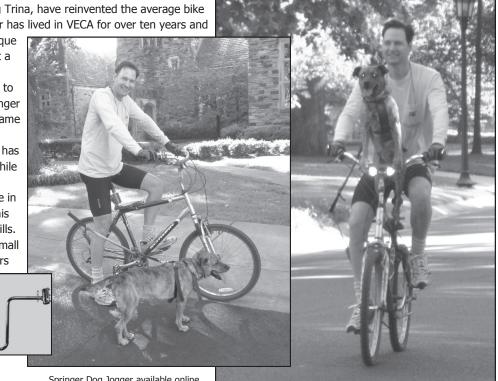
Long-time VECA resident, John Padavic and his dog Trina, have reinvented the average bike ride to include well, dogs! This unconventional biker has lived in VECA for over ten years and

has taken to the bike-friendly community. "The unique 1920's architecture and friendly community are just a couple of things that makes VECA special." As a dedicated dog owner and cyclist, John found a way to

enjoy both loves. He found a device called the Springer Dog Jogger that attaches a dog leash to the bike frame which makes biking with the dog safer than simply holding the leash. John has used this for years and has since trained Trina to hop up on the bike's frame while he continues to ride. He calls it an inadvertent

experiment after she had gotten tired one day while in Overton Park. The perch gives Trina a rest during his longer rides and Padavic can pick up speed down hills. For maximum comfort and safety, John even had small wooden planks attached to the top of the handlebars

and on the center frame to give Trina a place to rest her feet. In addition to Trina, one might also see John and his Chocolate Lab, Ginger, traversing about the neighborhood. Both Ginger and Trina are rescue dogs. Contact John if you need a dog runner -901.272.7577.



Springer Dog Jogger available online



Obey the Rules of the Road!



Memphis and Shelby County have bike laws that everyone should be aware of. Let's help Memphis become the bike friendly city that it can be by obeying simple and safe laws.

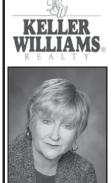
- Ride in the same direction of traffic •
- Do not ride more than 2 abreast
- Stop completely at a red light. If it is clear you MAY proceed.
- Lights at night are required! Front white light and red light or reflector in rear.
- When turning, use hand signals at least once.
- Every rider must have a seat and helmet. Child carriers count for children and helmets are required for all children under 16. •

See Memphis Code Chapter 21, Article 5 and Shelby County Code Chapter 20, Article 5 for more detail. For more information visit: LivableMemphis.org

Did you know that vehicles need to give cyclists at least 3 feet of clearance? TN Law states: "The operator of a motor vehicle, when overtaking and passing a bicycle proceeding in the same direction on the roadway, shall leave a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle of not less than three feet (3') and shall maintain the clearance until safely past the overtaken bicycle."

Going Somewhere? Marx-Bensderf realtors We offer dog sitting and dog walking services at your convenience. Whether in the **Mary Frances Vookles Pitts** comfort of your own home or Cell: 901-355-5038 Office: 901-682-1868 a stroll through the park, we agentp@comcast.net provide loving caregivers to watch after your beloved pets. References available. "everyone in veca knows agent pitts" **Eileen Castine** 725-9216 www.mrscruff.net

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Membership Dues are Due!

I want to plant a tree; I want to help clean a vacant lot on my street; I want to meet my neighbors; I want the City to help me because of flooding; what should I do about that junk car; I want to have fun and walk in my neighborhood. These and more, represent questions that can be addressed through membership in Vollintine Evergreen Neighborhood Association, VECA.

VECA is you and you are VECA. We came together back in 1970 as neighbors to organize and work on making our community a livable place. VECA's mission is "to maintain a quality residential neighborhood through the volunteer efforts of the neighborhood's residents." It is as simple as saying I want to do something and join.

Being a member of VECA is the first step in involvement. Membership renewal is upon us. VECA membership is from January to December. At this time of year you will receive a mailing to renew or join the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association, VECA.

VECA receives about \$3,000 in dues annually. Dues help us hold our

annual meeting and the Summer Jubilee. VECA has an office at 1680 Jackson which cost is paid for by the efforts of volunteers. VECA receives additional revenue from homes and apartments it owns and volunteer manages. Your dues help the volunteers help the neighborhood.

This year VECA volunteers held the first neighborhood wide City Beautiful Dumpster Day; cleaned up Lick Creek; placed over 80 signs on storm drains; held the Summer Jubilee and Ice Cream Social for over 200 visitors; rejuvenated the Safety Committee that now meets monthly and has helped areas of the neighborhood address safety issues; manages 13 units of affordable housing; works on code complaints; and hosts the Rhodes Plough partnership at the VECA offices.

Please join this year when you receive your mailing or join now by mailing in the membership application in this newsletter.

If you wish to help with the Membership Committee please call Mary Wilder at 901.272.2620 and leave your name and contact information.

VECA Annual Membership Form - Become a Member Dues are tax deductible.

Join your neighbors in helping Vollintine Evergreen be the great neighborhood it is!

Name ______ Address _____ Email _____ Phone Be one of the following types of team members: Member \$20 • Neighbor \$30 • Supporter \$50 • Leader \$100 • Champion \$500 • Benefactor \$1000 or Poster or Notecards or Bumper Sticker \$30 or more: Historic Plaque



VECA Contact Information 901-276-1782; 1680 Jackson Ave; Email: veca@veca.org Website and Calendar: veca.org Fax: 901-276-1784 VECA Board: Paul Herron VECA Housing: Chuck Fox Vollintine-Evergreen News Advertising: TBA VECA Email and Communication Committee: Marci Hendrix V&E Greenline: Len Cobb Safety and Security : Garnette Stephens and Erin Hartong Neighborhood Preservation Committee: Chris Floyd VECA Businesses Committee: TBA Lick Creek: Mary Wilder

Neighborhood Network Committee: Gloria Singleton

Historic Committee: Cathy Marcinko

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