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

JULY/AUGUST 2011

Public Input on Public Art

By Marian Hill

The next time someone says, "Hey, let's go see the kids" they just may be talking about the Big Kids on the V&E Greenline. Revealed to the public at an unveiling party Saturday, April 30, the Big Kids are something new and intriguing

to offer cyclists, walkers and runners. The five new sculptures depict big, blue kids lounging or sitting and are located along the western end of the V&E Greenline.

The sculptures began with eighteen students at Rhodes College. They were invited by Rhodes Professor Ben Butler to participate in a class where students would develop proposals of art work to send to the V&E Greenline committee to review and judge. Out of 18 projects, five finalists were

chosen. Each finalist then formed a team from the remaining classmates. Of those finalists, Graham Smart, a rising junior at Rhodes, was selected to create his proposal of the Big Kids. The class

then worked as one team to build the artwork.

"I already had the beginnings of an idea kicking around in my head a few months before the class began. I had thought that it would be neat to make plaster casts of my head and replace the brain case with small glass terrariums," Smart said. He initially considered proposing that large versions of these "terrariums" be created for the Greenline but, "realized that would be a bit too 'out there' to have a shot at winning."

Despite his original idea being a bit out-of-

the-box, it did spur the idea of the Big Kids.

"Instead [of the terrariums in craniums] I sketched full bodied figures with a terrarium head and drew it extremely simple for quickness sake," Smart said. "It turned out to be really interesting and playful, I

sure that the sculptures were matching the proposal images."

"Professor Butler and I were actually astounded at how close the original concept sketches and the sculptures ended up being,"

> Smart said. "I really think thev succeeded in being playful and approachable."

As it goes with any art, naturally there is some criticism, but for the most part, the neighbors are enjoying the sculptures. Fans on Facebook noted: "They make me happy and spread a sense of joy in the area that used to be run down."

Another fan finds them

motivating! "My 9 month old loves looking at those statues, and it is further incentive to continue our walk down the Greenline, whereas before we would walk to Stonewall and head back east."

VECA residents greatly appreciated the work put in by the Rhodes students and feel the V&E Greenline has become more interesting because of the sculptures.

thought, and when Professor The idea won over the V&E Greenline committee and the Big Kids sculptures began to take shape. "The class researched materials and and painting the sculptures. It was also my job to run around the fabrication studio and make



Butler agreed I went for it!"

processes until we arrived at the final method and began fabrication," Smart said. "At that point, I mostly headed the fabrication team, meaning carving foam, sanding, gluing, coating,

Photos are available on the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association Facebook page. Or find a link to the photos at: veca.org/events

Why Live Anywhere Else!

By Marian Hill

A VECA resident for over 34 years, Lilly Gilkey has raised her family here, served on a variety of VECA committees over the years and still finds time to volunteer outside the neighborhood as well. Gilkey volunteers at the Pink Palace; at the District Attorney's office mentoring at-risk-youth; and she serves as a Sunday School teacher at her church. She also loves to read and cook for her grandkids.

Gilkey's grown sons, Breggie and Brandon, went to Vollentine and Snowden schools before attending high school (Overton and Central, respectively). She is now the proud grandmother of four grandsons, Kyler, Bryson, Carson and Conner. She also has a two-year German Shepard Thor who is keeping her busy.

Gilkey's service to VECA has been nothing less than unwavering.

She has served on the VECA board two different terms and is currently

serving the board as a member of the neighborhood network committee, the managing committee, and the fundraising committee. For her outstanding work with the VECA block clubs, for planning an excellent health fair in 2010, and for her significant contributions to committee work, Gilkev received the 2011 Heinemann Award at the VECA Annual Meeting in January.

One of Gilkey's hopes for VECA is to see more neighborhood involvement in the area of block clubs working directly with VECA. "We used to have lots of neighborhood block clubs, but over time participation dwindled down," Gilkey said. "I would like to see the involvement come back to the neighborhood."

One way Gilkey hopes to achieve this is by getting more young people involved in events such as National Night Out and Dumpster Day and in other activities hosted by the neighborhood association. She has many ideas on how to help achieve this goal. "After some financial issues due to the economy, VECA is finally getting stronger," Gilkey said. "I want to get neighbors involved."

Gilkey joined VECA because of the way she viewed what it is. "VECA is who we are; people ask 'who is

VECA?' and it's us, we are VECA,"
Gilkey said. "All the people who make

up this community are the community. I help out because it's who I am."

Talking with Gilkey leaves no doubt she loves her neighborhood. "I like VECA because of its history. We have a history of grandeur. Beautiful homes, optional schools, Rhodes, restaurants, access to the zoo, museums, downtown, just to name a few.

What more can you ask for of a neighborhood?" How about quick access to the interstate "so close you can get to any part of Memphis within minutes."

"Of all the cities I've visited," Gilkey notes, "Nashville, San Francisco, St. Louis, Chicago, Cincinnati, to name a few, I've never wanted to live anywhere else. And in Memphis, VECA has the friendliest neighbors in the City."



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\$10 for poster (\$20 if mailed) \$20 for signed poster and \$40 for a framed poster The poster is 17x21

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

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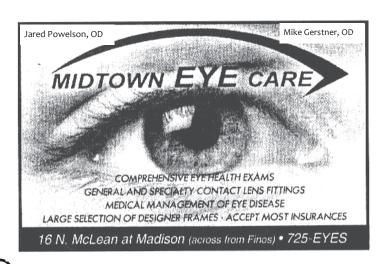
The order form is online at veca.org. You may also call the Welcome Center, 901.276.1782 for an order form or email veca@veca.org to request an order form.



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Public Voices Support for North Parkway Bike Lanes at Memphis Hearing

Reprinted with permission The Commercial Appeal By Tom Bailey, May 24, 2011

Proposed bike lanes for North Parkway received robust support tonight from several hundred people who packed a Rhodes College hall to hear the details from city officials.

City Councilman Reid Hedgepeth said if most citizens favor bike lanes on North Parkway, the striping and signage work can be completed by summer's end.

The nearly four-mile plan linking Overton Park to Downtown is divided into three segments with three kinds of bike facilities, Kyle Wagenschutz, the city's bike and pedestrian coordinator, told the crowd.

The Downtown section west of Thomas, where the route is known as A.W. Willis Avenue, will not have dedicated bike lanes, but signs such as "Share the Road." That section is narrower and is not as suited for bike lanes, Wagenschutz said.

The middle and largest section, from Thomas to McLean, will have dedicated bike lanes. The tree-canopied six-lane road with a wide lush median will be reduced to four vehicle lanes. The 14-foot-wide outside lanes on both sides will be "repurposed" and relined to create on-street, parallel parking against the curb and a six-foot-wide bike lane. consultants are designing bike lanes

The plan now is to avoid one particularly dicey spot, where the road narrows as it crosses under Watkins. Instead, the bike lanes would use the Watkins overpass and its stoplights, Wagenschutz said.

The east section, from McLean to a service road that enters Overton Park, also converts the two outside lanes, but on-street parking is not included. That will leave enough room to create a six-foot safety buffer between the bike and traffic lanes.

As of now, the plan does not extend the bike lanes all the way to East Parkway because that section and the East Parkway/

North Parkway intersection are so heavily traveled by vehicles, Wagenschutz said.

The service road entrance to Overton Park connects to the park's interior road section.

Bikers would use the park roads to pick up a planned bike-lane connector at East Parkway near Sam Cooper. Engineering connecting Overton Park and the nearby Broad Avenue commercial district to the west end of Shelby Farms Greenline at Tillman.

A few residents along North Parkway questioned whether bike lanes would be safe on the arterial road. Wagenschutz responded that studies show creation of bike lanes make roads safer because traffic tends to slow down.

Many others expressed their appreciation and excitement over the city's campaign to establish more and more bike facilities.

Be Our Eyes and Ears!

Submitted by the V&E Greenline Committee Greetings, neighbors! We are all committed to a cleaner and safer community. In order to maintain this and to serve as a good neighbor, we ask all users of the V&E Greenline to be on the lookout for suspicious activity. Some things to

• Suspicious loitering near objects on the Greenline

watch for might include:

Vandalism of objects on the Greenline or the

trail itself (e.g., spray painting, damage of sculptures on the West end of the Greenline, movement of Greenline trash cans)

• Offensive/illegal behavior (e.g., use of illicit drugs or fireworks; dumping of trash) These types of observations should be reported immediately to Memphis Police using the nonemergency phone number: 545-COPS (545-2677). Gather as much information as you can about the person(s) you observe. You can make reports to

this number anonymously if you'd like. Events such as these also should be reported to the V&E Greenline by calling 901.276.1782 and/or emailing VEGreenline@gmail.com. Always call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Together, by reporting all suspicious activity, we can work to reduce instances of vandalism and abuse of the V&E Greenline and make our community a safer and more pleasant place in which to live.

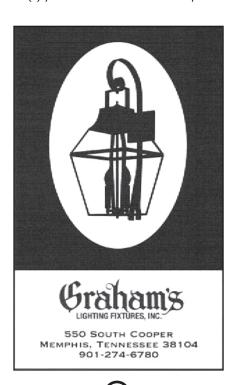
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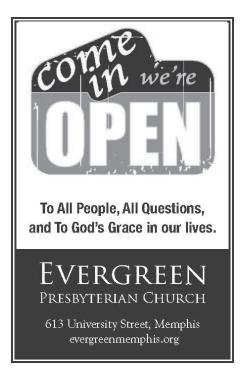
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McLean Baptist Church

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Summertime Fun

The VECA Summer
Jubilee was a big time. One
can count on Memphis being
hot during the summer
months and Sunday, June
26 was no exception.
Despite the temps,
neighbors came together to
enjoy a scoop or two of
Baskin Robbins ice cream.

The atmosphere was festive. One could hear the happy laughter of children playing in the wading pools, sprinklers and squirting each other with the water hose. Dogs got a little relief

from the heat with a cool bath. Children were mesmerized as they explored the buttons and instruments in the front seat of the police patrol car and explored the fire truck. Relaxed neighbors enjoyed music in the shady open area of the Arbors section of the V&E Greenline.

Many thanks to everyone for pitching in to help! Putting on an event takes a team and this year's team was exceptional. A special thanks to: Lilly Gilkey, Natasha Strong, Pat Champer, Jan Kirby, Lottie Marcinko,

Andreé Glenn, Steve Gadbois, Marci Hendrix, Mary Wilder, Chuck Fox, Paul Herron, Ann George, Harriet Schneider, Barbara Gavalas, Nedra Bailey, Angie Powell, Cynthia Stovall, Garnette Stephens, Greg Dunne, Katherine Laviera, Colin McDonald, Marian Hill, Grace Martin, Chris and Brian Floyd. A team from Living Hope Church helped out, too: Ben and Heather Cox, Alan and Pam May, Joey and Joanna Goforth, Justin and Brittany Burkhead, Matthew and Lisa Watson, and Lauren Hamsley. Music was provided by Terese Buscher, Jeff Hulett, Ellis Rich, Glenn Miller, and Jordaan Bulter. Thank you to our sponsors, Baskin Robbins at Union and Belvedere for the ice cream; and Cash Savers at Summer and White

Station for supplying strawberries, blueberries, toppings and

paper products!



Photos are available on the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association Facebook page. Or find a link to the photos at: veca.org/events

The Church of the Good Shepherd

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Wednesday - Holy Eucharist
10:30 A. M.



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I Can Fly

By Marian Hill

In the lobby of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital stands a 17-foot tall mosaic sculpture that is unlike anything else. The sculpture features a happy child riding a large, blue bird. The two rotate above the obelisk base, as though soaring. The sculpture is covered with hand-cut Italian glass tile from the base to the top.

This colorful sculpture is a giant welcome to the many patients in the hospital, and VECA neighbor Lea Holland's Pomegranate Studios made it a reality.

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital was looking for local artists to create a centerpiece for their lobby. Memphis painter Jeanne Seagle and art director Holland were thrilled to be given the commission. Seagle designed the piece, and Holland produced it. The obelisk base and bird sculpture were made elsewhere, and the mosaics were created in Holland's studio with the help of a team of four artists before being applied to the bases. It took seven months to complete.

"The only direction we were given was to feature a child who looked happy and healthy," Holland explained. "Jeanne had a couple initial concepts such as children jumping; then she had the idea for a child on a bird that was flying. We all loved it."

The bird design at the top was settled, but the lower half still had to be planned. It was decided that it would have an obelisk base with four panels, each panel representing a different season. The seasons show the passage of time and the process of healing.

"One of my favorite parts of the project was choosing the color mixes of the mosaic tile to match Jeanne's paintings", Holland said. "For example, you can see how the tree trunk changes color on each panel. It was fun finding combinations that were interesting and fit the season."

Holland is a Vollintine-Evergreen resident living on Jackson Avenue with her husband and seven adopted dogs. A former designer and art director from Los Angeles, she also enjoys ceramics and art history. She dreams of visiting all the major museums in the world.

"I never really thought about giving back to the community when I was doing this project, it just wasn't in my sphere of thought," Holland said. "But once it was up and I heard that people liked it and how much the children appreciated it, I realized I was giving back and how much that meant to me."



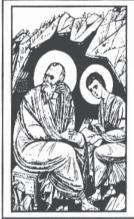
National Night Out

Tuesday, August 2, 6:00 pm McLean Baptist Church 815 N. McLean (Jackson/McLean)

The VECA Block Clubs and McLean Baptist Church would like to invite neighbors, families, community leaders and friends to National Night Out. We will celebrate with prayer and potluck. Politicians, VECA members, and Memphis Police Officers will be in attendance in support of our community. McLean Pastor, Glenn Hales, Jr. will offer

prayer for our children as they prepare to return to school and for other requests. Potluck will follow.





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Seniors, Kids and Pets

By Garnette Stephens,

VECA Safety and Security Committee

As temperatures rise so does the risk of harm to those most vulnerable: seniors, children and pets. How can we help insure their safety and well-being?

Seniors: Often seniors are so concerned with their safety that they do not open windows or doors for ventilation. Or they can be so concerned with the cost of running their fans or air conditioners that they do not use them. The heat greatly increases the risk of injury or death especially when there are existing health problems, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, etc., and when medications are taken for these health problems. Many seniors live alone and depend on the kindness of friends and neighbors for help.

Kids: Children seem more tolerant to the heat but often do not heed the signs of heat exhaustion or dehydration. They are having too much fun and just don't know when to stop, cool down and rest before beginning their activities again.



Pets: Many pets, particularly cats and dogs, are kept outside and depend on us to help them survive the "dog days of summer." Many pet owners include pets in their exercise activities as jogging. This is extremely taxing on pets and may result in heat exhaustion or death.

Dumpster Day

The May 14 Dumpster Day clean-up was an inspiring success. Trash was picked up on Jackson Avenue, Dickinson and several other blocks in the area. Neighbors came to the VECA Welcome Center to take advantage of the dumpster. Lots of trash and junk was collected.

Memphis City Beautiful, with sponsorship from Allied Waste, donated a 20-yard dumpster placed at the Welcome Center. Mike Kirby and Chris Floyd coordinated community service workers along with neighborhood volunteers Gloria Singleton, Chuck Fox, Lilly Gilkey, Natasha Strong, Barbara Coleman, Janis Cannon and Willett Gray. Lieutenant Steve Ware with the MPD provided safety for the volunteers as they worked. Starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 1 p.m., the 20-yard dumpster was full and VECA was a cleaner neighborhood. Thanks for everyone's hard work.

If You're Looking For That Favorite Little Neighborhood Bar—Stop By And See Us At ALCX S TRVETI 1445 Jackson Ave. • 278-9086 Proud to be a part of the VECA Neighborhood since 1953 Coldest Beer In Memphis • Great Burgars • Four Big-Screen TV's & Satellite Sports Voted "Best Jukebox In Memphis" And "Best Bar In Memphis"

What We Can Do:

- Know your neighbors, especially senior neighbors, identify their needs and offer to help. Most people will not ask for help but will gladly accept help when offered.
- Check every day and preferably numerous times a day to see if all is well.
- Refer seniors to the Beat the Heat Program for information on their air conditioner program: (staysafeshelby@gmail.com; 901-324-8799) and fans (901-324-3399).
- Call 911 if you find a child or pet left unattended in a vehicle.
- Provide pets shelter from the heat and sun and provide large water bowls. Check often to see if refill is needed.
- Plan activities early in the day or in at dusk walk the tree shaded V&E Greenline!

Know it When it Happens!

Receiving VECA emails is the best way to stay up-todate on current events in the neighborhood. You can signup to receive VECA emails via the VECA website (veca.org).

Also, the VECA Weekly ENews is where neighbors can advertise yard sales, list items for sale or giveaway, or plug upcoming events. Please email your information to news@veca.org. The ENews guidelines are available on the VECA website.





April and May Lick Creek Clean-Ups

By Mary Wilder

On Saturday, April 9, the first sanctioned Earth Month event in Memphis took place in the VECA neighborhood. As a spring follow up to last fall's well attended and successful Lick Creek clean-up, eleven gracious and sturdy volunteers braved the new growth flora and fauna to remove the trash and debris that impede the flow of the lively ecosystem that babbles through our



backyards. The clean-up on April 9 was from Auburndale to Dickinson. The volunteers used humor and stories to pass the time removing plastic bags, cups, soaked carpets, metal, and wood that clogs our creek.

To continue this positive trend and turn out, a second Lick Creek clean-up took place May 7 in conjunction with Clean Memphis's city wide clean up day. With impending rain and the cresting Mississippi again volunteers cleaned Lick Creek from Avalon to Maury.

Gloves, buckets, and trash bags were provided by Memphis City Beautiful and Clean Memphis. Volunteers brought their boots and a smile! On May 7, we had a special visitor to cheer us on, Senator Beverley Marrero came to see the volunteers and check out flooding in the area.

Volunteers for both clean ups were Carla Langford, Garnette Stephens, Mary Wilder, Ann George, Susan Penn, Ron McDonald, Stephen Wirls, John Wirls, Tony Steinberg, Judith Sohngen, Megan Reynolds, John Reynolds,

> Rachel Grant and her hard working son, Chris Teague, Ray Babaogu, Debbie Stevens, Marylyn Rose, and the wonderful strong guys from the University of Memphis Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Parking Commercial Vehicles in Residential Neighborhoods Is This a Code Violation?

Submitted by The VECA Neighborhood Preservation Committee

Yes, it is a code violation to park or store any commercial vehicle exceeding 8,000 pounds on residential property or a residential street. This includes, but is not limited to any 18-wheelers, dump trucks or rolled -back towing wreckers that are not actively being loaded or unloaded.

Reasons Commercial Vehicles Are Not Allowed:

- Large vehicles present safety concerns for pedestrians and motorists by blocking sidewalks and obstructing views
- ◆ Large vehicles take up excessive space on narrow streets
- Large vehicles detract from the residential feel of a neighborhood
- Large vehicles may shorten the life of street paving Residents can take action with the following steps:
- Contact the trucking company using the signage on the truck. Note any identifying factors, such as vehicle number and/

or license plate number. The phone number can be located through an internet search.

- File complaints through the Mayor's Call Center at 901.576.6500 or use the Online Support Center at www.cityofmemphis.org
- Talk to the property owner. If the property is a rental, contact the owner of the property. This information can be obtained from the Shelby County Assessor at www.assessor.shelby.tn.us
- Talk to the person responsible for the vehicle and inform him/her about the violation.

If you need assistance with these steps, please contact VECA at 901.276.1782.

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Neighborhood Preservation Act

Submitted by The VECA Neighborhood Preservation Committee

The City of Memphis filed 138 lawsuits in Civil Court under the Neighborhood Preservation Act in October 2010. The civil litigation is an approach to aggressively reduce blight in the City of Memphis by suing the owners of neglected, vacant properties. Through court proceedings, the property owner will be required to demolish or rehab the property either through a court order or by consent.

None of the initial lawsuits filed by the City included cases from Vollintine-Evergreen. The City

intends to file a second wave of lawsuits, but the timing is yet unknown. VECA has provided a list of properties to Steve Barlow, the attorney working with the City on these



lawsuits. The properties have also been provided to the City Attorney.

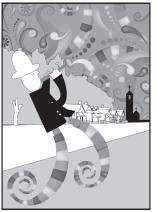
The properties include:

- 995 Avalon
- 910 Barksdale
- 910 Dickinson
- 1438 Faxon
- 2070 Vollintine
- 877 (879) Watkins
- 883 (885) Watkins
- 2163 Piedmont

VECA would like to see Mayor Wharton and the City of Memphis continue this approach with additional lawsuits coming from Vollintine-Evergreen as well as other neighborhoods. More information is available at www.memphistn.gov/blight.html.

or Bumper Sticker

Save the Date **VECA Diversity Tour** Sunday, October 17, 1-4 pm An Exercise in Harmony



VECA Annual Membership Form - Become a Member

Join your neighbors in helping Vollintine Evergreen be the great neighborhood it is! Dues are tax deductible.

or Notecards

Name	Address
Phone	Email
Be one of the following types of team memb Member \$20 • Neighbor \$30 • Supporte	ers: er \$50 • Leader \$100 • Champion \$500 • Benefactor \$1000

VECA: Vollintine Evergreen Community Association

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The newsletter, VECA email, the annual meeting, and committee activities are 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,

or Poster

Springdale on the East, and North Parkway on the South.

VECA Housing: Chuck Fox Lick Creek: Mary Wilder Historic Committee: Cathy Marcinko Communications: Marci Hendrix

Neighborhood Network: Gloria Singleton

\$30 or more: Historic Plaque

V&E Greenline: Len Cobb VECA Businesses: TBA

Safety and Security: Garnette Stephens Neighborhood Preservation: Chris Floyd VECA Board and Fundraising: Paul Herron

Email: veca@veca.org Website and Calendar: veca.org 901.276.1782 Fax: 901.276.1784 1680 Jackson Ave



Newsletter Deadlines for the Sept/Oct Issue

The V&E News is printed bimonthly Article submissions needed by August 1 Advertising copy needed by August 1 Distribution begins September 1 Advertising: \$150 annually; \$50 one-time ads Please send submissions and questions to news@veca.org

CyberWatch, provides useful information about public safety and additional ways for the public to communicate with police. CyberWatch allows users to select a reporting radius based on either an address or an intersection, and receive a CyberWatch report via daily email.

https://kiosk.memphispolice.org/cyberwatch/