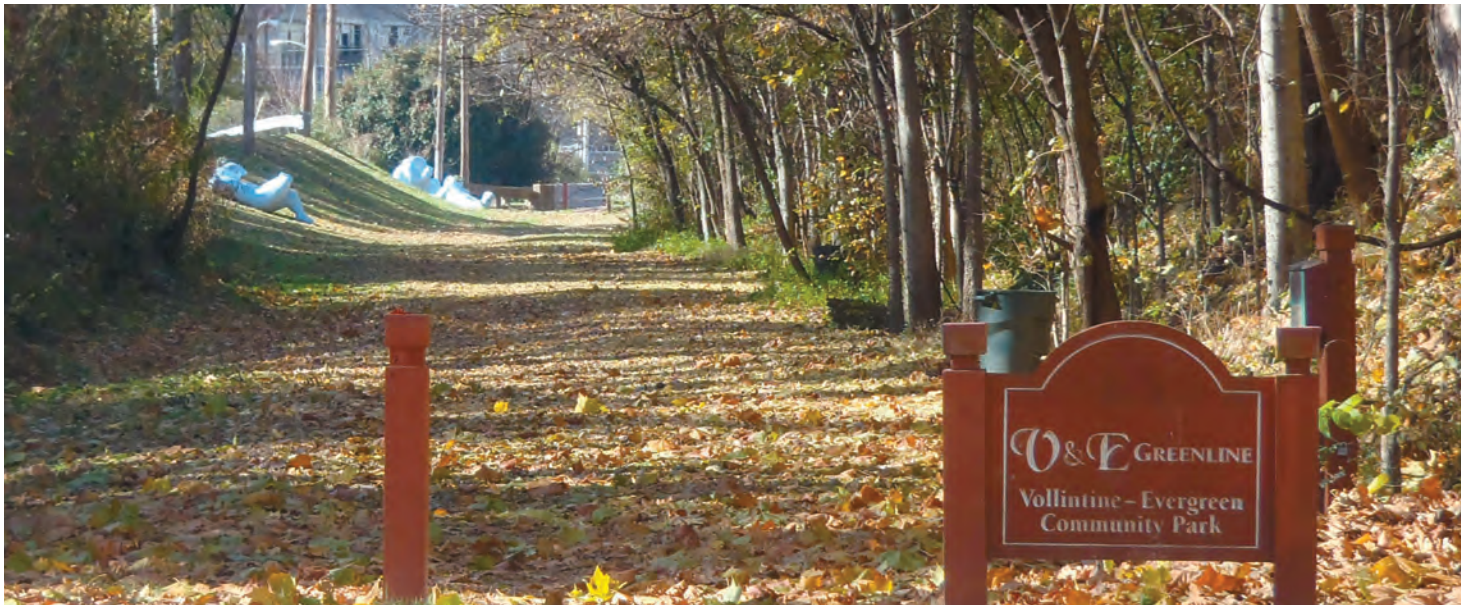


VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

NEWS

A NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLICATION SPONSORED BY VECA, THE VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION / VECA.ORG / VECA@VECA.ORG

MARCH 2014



Contribute to the V&E Greenline

Those of you not new to this wonderful neighborhood are probably aware of the history of the V&E Greenline. For those who are not, it is worth mentioning that our own Greenline, a natural walking, jogging and biking path that stretches from near Watkins Street to Springdale Street, was the first Greenline in the Memphis area. It was started by a group of motivated VECA neighbors and has since been maintained by many of these same neighbors. Over the years, the Greenline has grown in beauty and scope. It has been recognized for excellence by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

Neighbors recognize the benefits of having access to greenspace for their pets: “The Greenline has given my dog countless hours of enjoyment and exercise and for that I am most grateful,” said Jeff Hendrix, Greenline volunteer.

Said Katherine Whitfield: “Living near the Greenline is one of the many things I love about VECA. My best friend and I often enjoy early-evening walks on the Greenline, and my dog and I hit the trail together at least three to four times a week. When we adopted Gumbo one year ago, he was suffering from muscle damage in his hip and leg from being hit by a car. His kidneys were failing, he had a severe case of heartworms and his body was recovering from almost two dozen wounds from a pellet gun attack. Today, he is a strong, healthy hound, and the Greenline has played such a big role in his recovery. Gumbo loves having a safe, shady, wooded walking trail, and I love seeing the renewed strength and energy with which he approaches every day. VECA is such a strong community, and the Greenline is a fabulous asset!”

More and more the V&E Greenline is becoming a popular destination for runners. “The V&E Greenline is a true gem and asset for my neighborhood. Living near McLean allows me to hop on the trail for a quick run in either direction. The people I see on my runs are always friendly, and meeting dogs of all flavors is a special treat. How lucky we are to have Rhodes College on one end and the new Sears Crosstown Building on the other. Thanks to those that maintain the V&E Greenline,” said Brad Heinz.

Events on the Greenline give neighbors occasions to meet and work together for a good cause: “Greenline activities have given us a nice opportunity to instill a sense of community in our children,” said Victor Coonin.

In the last year, a core of volunteers provided regular maintenance – mowing, litter pickup, emptying garbage cans, removing graffiti, and maintaining sections of the trail near their homes. These activities and many others were supported solely by in-kind volunteerism and financial contributions from Vollintine Evergreen neighbors just like you. Our V&E Greenline does not receive any city, county, or federal funding. What an amazing feat!

Upkeep costs money. March is our annual month to solicit contributions for the V&E Greenline. Whether or not you are a regular user, please consider supporting this wonderful community resource through a tax-deductible donation.

Contributions are accepted via mail (checks payable to V&E Greenline, sent to V&E Greenline, 1680 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38107) or online through PayPal at VEGreenline.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Vollintine Evergreen Youth Group
Every Wednesday from 2:30 - 6:30pm
Peace Lutheran Church
1548 Jackson Avenue

The newly established Vollintine Evergreen Youth Group (ages 11-18) will meet for arts and crafts, basketball, and homework help on Wednesdays, from 2:30pm to 6:30pm

Budgeting 101 presented by Bancorp South
Saturday, March 28
10:00am - 2:00pm
VECA Welcome Center
1680 Jackson Avenue



Group Bike Rides
Wednesdays, 6pm
Beginning April 2

Weekly group bike rides will begin on Wednesday, April 2, at 6 p.m. Meet at Café Eclectic. If you are new to group rides, this is for you! This ride is an easy one, intended to get cyclists comfortable on the roads, connect cyclists with each other, and help you with basic group cycling and safety.

The ride takes advantage of bikes lanes as much as possible and goes about 10-15 miles. Routes often includes Overton Park, Evergreen, Cooper-Young, Crosstown, and Downtown.

Lights and helmets are required.

SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday, April 26 – The V&E ArtWalk

Sunday, June 22 – Summer Jubilee /Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, August 5 – National Night Out

Sunday, October 26 – Neighborhood Block Party



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VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

MARCH 2014

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Youth Committee
Jill Williams

DEADLINES FOR THE MAY VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS APRIL 15 ADS APRIL 15

Please send all articles and submissions to
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For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads
electronically, please email
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VECA BOARD OFFICERS

President Lilly Gilkey
Past President Paul Herron
Vice President Rick Maxwell
Secretary Jackie Jones
Treasurer Chuck Fox

VECA COMMITTEE HEADS

Businesses Sam Powers
Communications Jeff Hulett
Fundraising Paul Herron
V&E Greenline Greg Lieberman
Housing Chuck Fox
Lick & Cypress Creeks Mary Wilder
Neighborhood Networks Lilly Gilkey
Preservation Chris Floyd
Safety & Security Rick Maxwell

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The newsletter, VECA mail, 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, Springdale on the East, and North Parkway on the South.

VECA
1680 Jackson Avenue
901.276.1782
Website / Calendar: veca.org
Email: veca@veca.org

V&E Artwalk

Saturday April 26, 2014 – 11:00am - 6:00pm

Rain Date: Sunday April 27, 2014 – noon - 6:00pm

1625 Tutwiler Ave on the V&E Greenline

The third annual V&E Artwalk will raise money and awareness for the V&E Greenline community owned trail which travels through the heart of the Vollintine Evergreen Community. The event will feature the work of artists from the Greater Memphis area as well as local academic institutions.

This will be a large event that is now an annual occurrence in the Midtown area. It will not only raise awareness about the sustaining the V&E Greenline as an important Memphis and neighborhood asset, but also provide an outlet for local artists to gain exposure and highlight the thriving art community which exists here in our beloved Memphis area.

There will be plenty for the children to enjoy, such as an inflated bouncy castle, and games and crafts for all ages. Terrific food and beverage vendors and musicians will keep you full and dancin'.

All proceeds go to the V&E Greenline to keep it attractive and useful for all to enjoy.



Memphis Arts Collective Thank you

The Memphis Arts Collective is a major sponsor for the 2014 Artwalk and has been a sponsor for all three years of the V&E Artwalk. Many thanks to the Memphis Arts Collective for their support which helps make the V&E Artwalk possible.

From their website: "The Memphis Arts Collective is a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to supporting the creative endeavors of Memphis and Mid South artists and craftsmen and to engage them in helping others in our community. The Memphis Arts Collective believes a city with an active and involved art and craft community provides a higher quality of life in that city for all its residents."



VECA Annual Meeting



VECA kicked off 2014 well with a celebration of neighborhood accomplishments and a look forward to the coming year. The VECA annual meeting was held Saturday, January 25, at Living Hope Church with approximately 100 neighbors in attendance. The meeting offered a time for neighbors to socialize over a delicious potluck breakfast as well as to hear about important neighborhood projects.

A highlight of the meeting was hearing from Syd Lerner and Nancy Ream of the Greater Memphis Greenline. One of their projects is close by. They are working on plans for the Chelsea Avenue Greenline, a 2.5-mile section of unused railway that will take trail users downtown.

The annual meeting is a time for elections. Lilly Gilkey was elected for her first term as president. As a nonprofit, VECA is governed by a board, a group of volunteers who, in turn, are responsible for membership. Board members serve one-year terms. There is no term limitation on board members, but the president is limited to three one-year terms. There is no limit on other officers, who are selected by the board.

VECA board members elected for February 2014 through January 2015 are: Lilly Gilkey,

president; Paul Herron, past president; Rick Maxwell, vice president; Chuck Fox, treasurer; Jackie Jones, secretary; Nedra Bailey; Sara First; Chris Floyd; Jeff Hulet; Barbara Gavalas; Marci Hendrix; Sarah Beth Larson; Greg Lieberman; Angie Powell; Sam Powers; Jeannie Tomlinson Saltmarsh; Tony Steinberg; and Natasha Strong.

The annual meeting is also a time for service awards that acknowledge extraordinary service to the neighborhood.

Given annually to a VECA neighbor who embodies the principles of service to the neighborhood and community action, the Margaret Dichtel Award was presented to Jill Williams. For several years, Jill has provided many hours volunteering her skills as a graphic artist. She designed the new header for the newsletter and has contributed many hours working on the newsletter as a graphic designer. Jill has also served as a board member and a committee member on the Safety and Security committee.

A second Margaret Dichtel Award was presented to Matt Washburn. Matt was selected for developing the V&E Greenline website. In doing this job, he was sensitive to the culture of the V&E Greenline, and the site

reflects that culture. The site is very professionally designed, and he continues to work on it when volunteers are unable to perform a task. He also spent an afternoon at the Artwalk helping serve food to the attendees.

Given to VECA Board members who have rendered exceptional service to the Board, the Martha Heinemann Award was presented to Jeannie Tomlinson Saltmarsh. For several years, Jeannie has worked tirelessly on newsletter distribution. She created a huge map of the neighborhood that helps us all see where we have newsletter volunteers and where we need more. This past year Jeannie worked diligently on public art for our Greenline: She worked on the damage to the Big Kids sculptures; she helped Suzy Hendrix with the bike rack sculpture; and she was the artist for the Fish in Lick Creek sculpture. Jeannie is also serving on a committee to extend the V&E Greenline behind the Sears building

The Richard S. Borys Award was created to recognize public officials who through their work contribute to the Vollintine Evergreen community. The Borys award was presented to Emily Trenholm of the Community Development Council of Greater Memphis. Emily has been an advocate for VECA for many years.

She was an advisor to VECA on the organizational merger three years ago, and her advice was instrumental in helping VECA through the process. This past year Emily helped guide VECA through the stages of mortgage financing, and she advised VECA on two grants applications. For one of the grants, she provided resources from the council to do a sidewalk survey, which was an important component to the grants.

The annual meeting is a chance for neighbors to hear from visiting city officials.

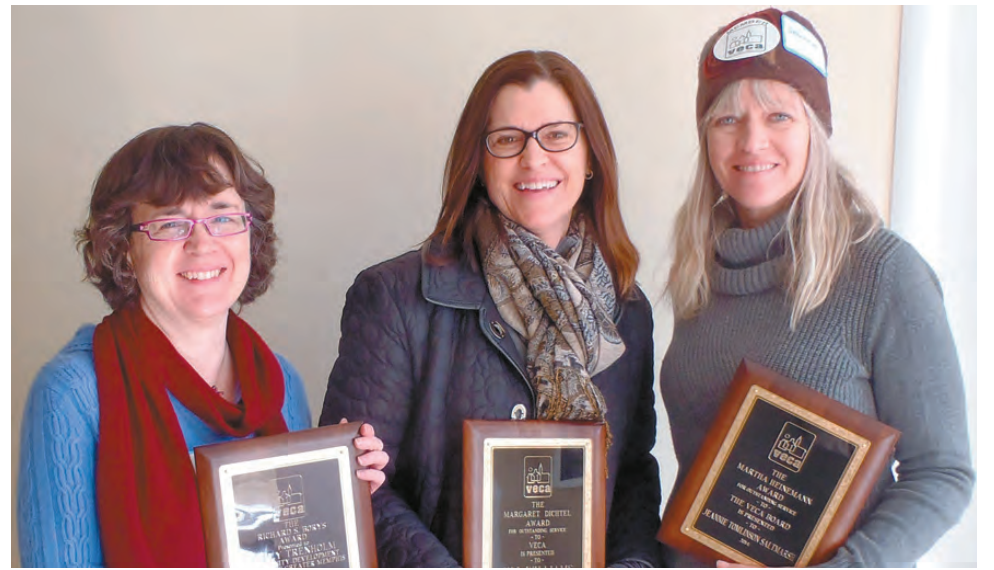
Memphis City Council member Myron Lowery has been faithfully attending the VECA Annual Meetings for years now, and we're always happy to see him. Councilmember Lowery serves as a representative for Super District 8, which includes VECA north of Jackson. At the annual meeting he noted that VECA is one of the strongest neighborhood associations in the city; he said he uses VECA as a model when speaking with other neighborhood associations. When associations talk to him about blight and housing programs, Lowery points them to VECA as a model for the organization's experience in buying, renovating and selling quality homes to neighbors, as well as for being good landlords for the

organization's rental properties. Lowery is especially proud of VECA for the diversity of the neighborhood: "Everyone comes together for a common goal. Race is never an issue in the organization because you live next door to one another. Diversity in Midtown lends strength to your organization and I'm just proud of you."

Councilman Lee Harris also attended. Harris has been active with VECA since being elected to the City Council in 2011. He said, "Thanks so much for the opportunity to share in a great neighborhood meeting. There was a lot of energy and excitement in the room. What a great start to the new year. Congrats to the new president and new and returning board members."

Many thanks to all who helped organize the annual meeting. Mary Wilder helped with the breakfast and Marci Hendrix helped with meeting logistics. Justin Burkhead and Living Hope Church members helped with setup. Angie Powell organized the door prizes and Jeff Hulett did a great job facilitating the meeting.

Now is still a great time to become a VECA member or renew your membership. Membership



Clockwise from top left: Councilman Lee Harris; Emily Trenholm, 2014 Recipient of the Richard S. Borys Award; Jill Williams, 2014 Co-Recipient of the Margaret Dichtel Award; Jeannie Tomlinson Saltmarsh, 2014 Recipient of the Martha Heinemann Award; Matt Washburn, 2014 Co-Recipient of the Margaret Dichtel Award; Syd Lerner, Greater Memphis Greenline; and Councilman Myron Lowery.

dues help fund projects and events in the neighborhood. If you have questions about getting more involved, please stop by the VECA Welcome Center at 1680 Jackson Avenue or email your questions to veca@veca.org.

A Note from VECA's President, Lilly R. Gilkey



I consider myself an old-fashioned country girl who, after retiring from my job with the City of Memphis, would build a home on family land in Mississippi and spend the rest of my life enjoying the fresh air and all the amenities of country life. But then I moved to Vollintine Evergreen. That was around December of 1976. I did retire (sort of; I'm presently working with the State Attorney General's office) but stayed in the neighborhood.

Sometime around the

nineties, the neighborhood started to change and I began thinking about relocating to another part of the city. As I began my search, I kept comparing everything to what I was leaving. I soon learned there was no comparison; 37 years later, I am still very much into Vollintine Evergreen. I love it and wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

Is it a perfect neighborhood? I will answer that with a question. Is there a perfect neighborhood? Being a member of VECA gives me the

opportunity to help maintain and preserve the uniqueness of this great historic area.

As president, I'm looking forward to working in the coming months with various committees, businesses, churches, civic groups, and neighbors. Together we can continue to build strong and lasting relationships that will encourage and support safety, growth, and bring awareness to all citizens of this great neighborhood.



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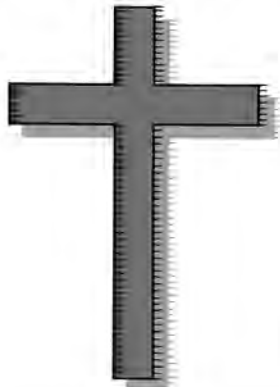
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Thank you!

VECA recently received a note from Gracie Billingsley, who worked in the neighborhood as an AmeriCorps team member last summer:

"On February 11, 2014, I attended the Corporation for National and Community Service awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

In attending this ceremony I couldn't help but think of all the people in my own personal AmeriCorps year who made it possible for me to serve. Whether you were my leader, sponsor, or the Southern region campus staff, you all were instrumental in not only helping me along this journey but changing my life for the better. Because of that I will be forever grateful for this life-changing experience.

Today as an AmeriCorps alumna, I am filled with gratitude because of your efforts and filled with an even greater fire within to answer the call to service because of you!"



ABOVE: Gracie holding her congressional award in front of the U.S. Capitol building



Interested in advertising in the Vollintine-Evergreen News?

The VE NEWS serves the Vollintine Evergreen area in Midtown—an eclectic and diverse neighborhood of over 4,000 houses, plus numerous businesses, churches, and schools. Call or email today to reserve your ad in our next issue!

901.276.1784 / news@veca.org

VOLLINTINE  **EVERGREEN**
NEWS

Vollintine Evergreen Youth Initiative Update

Our VECA Youth Initiative After-School Program is raising money to purchase iPads for the Wednesday after-school program and needs your help!

Our lack of access to technology and the internet makes it hard for us to help the kids with their schoolwork and to organize learning that engages the modern young mind. Many of our kids in the program don't have access to the internet and computers at home, and yet they come to us with homework that obviously requires the internet (or with math problems that the volunteers need to quickly remind themselves how to solve). Our goal right now is to purchase four iPads plus locks and cases for security.

We've organized a campaign with IOBY (which stands for "in our backyard," which could hardly be more apt for our program.) Please donate either via the ioby site or by contacting me, Sara First. I'm a VECA board member and member of the Youth committee. Any amount you can give will help. (<https://ioby.org/project/ipads-afterschool-learning-vollintine-evergreen>)

The VECA youth group recently relocated from Peace Lutheran Church to Living Hope Church, and we would like to say thank you to both churches. Thanks for giving us the space, food and internet access. We appreciate all that you do. The group would also like to thank Rhodes for its continued support, including student interns, snacks, and transportation. The program would not exist without your help.

Many thanks to the volunteers for their time, and a special thanks to Chevron Plummer for her generosity in providing much-needed winter coats.

Volunteers are needed from 2:00 to 4:30 on Wednesdays. Email veca@veca.org or angilinep@gmail.com with any questions you have about volunteering.




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Neighbor Highlight: Quilt Artist

By Marci Hendrix

Retired graphic designer Paula Kovarik and her husband, Jim, were living in Cooper Young when they decided to look for a home with more room. Paula needed an art studio space for her quilting and they hoped for a place to garden as well. They found what they were looking for in Vollintine Evergreen and have enjoyed living in the neighborhood for several years now.

With her successful 25-year career wrapped up, Paula had time to experience new things. She still enjoyed her graphic design work, as it allowed her to express herself, but she was ready to experience other art forms. She discovered quilting in 2007 and it quickly became her new love. When Paula was a child, her mother taught her everything she knew about the needle arts. When her mother took up quilting in her 70s, Paula jumped onboard. Starting with traditional patterns, she found that quilting was a great way to combine her sewing and graphic design skills. Being retired is freedom for her: "The sky's the limit and life is wonderful. I am blessed to have time, energy and inspiration to create works."

Paula discovered a national community doing the same type of quilt art as she did. She became involved with these other artisans and enters her quilts into juried national shows, including several that are highly regarded.

Using a sewing machine and some hand stitching, Paula makes items in all shapes and sizes. Some are composed of recycled stuff like old cotton napkins and tablecloths. She is finishing up a project of a tablecloth folded over with machine-sewn silhouettes. Much of her work is on one piece of fabric that tells a story with thread. Paula calls the phase she is in now the black and white stage.

Even though the work can take a physical toll – sore wrists, sore neck, sore shoulders, bloody fingers – she enjoys every step of quilt making.

Some of her inspirations come from doodles. She keeps a box of paper and pens nearby and she doodles constantly. The doodles can change: "I allow the muse to strike."

"I draw because I have to. The drawings come from observations of nature, glimpses in dreams and the joy of playing with ink on paper. In my opinion, all doodles have value." Sometimes these doodles inspire a quilt. (<http://www.paulakovarik.com/drawings/>)

Her concept-driven designs originate from her reading fiction and nonfiction. An example is one she made named "Round and Round It Goes." This 54-inch round quilt took seven months to make and was chosen for the Award of Excellence at Quilt National 2013. Paula used this piece to show that bad things happen to our planet despite our love for it. The quilt "tells the story of the earth; the way we live on it, treat it, and use it up." She wanted the quilt to be beautiful from afar but with a message that people saw the closer they got.



Quilt art, sometimes known as art quilting, is an art form that uses both modern and traditional quilting techniques to create art objects. Practitioners of quilt art create it based on their experiences, imagery, and ideas rather than traditional patterns. Quilt art generally has more in common with the fine arts than it does with traditional quilting.—Wikipedia

See more about Paula's Round and Round It Goes quilt at:
<http://quiltnationalartists.com/paula-kovarik/>

**Vollintine
Evergreen**

A great place to live and work!

Join the VECA Movement and make a difference!

Contact VECA at 901.276.1782 or email us at veca@veca.org to let us know where you would like to be involved. Here is a list of committees who would welcome your help!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – To encourage membership in the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association, which helps pay for programs that directly benefit the residents.

- Serve on the committee
- Write thank you notes and help with mailings
- Participate on telephone banks
- Enter data

WELCOME CENTER COMMITTEE – To encourage use of the Welcome Center and keep it tidy and organized.

- Staff the office from 10 to 12 to sign up volunteers and answer questions
- Volunteer for events located at the Welcome Center
- Help with handyman needs
- Work in the gardens at the Welcome Center

LICK and CYPRESS CREEKS COMMITTEE – To address flooding and maintenance of Lick Creek.

- Help with clean-ups
- Work with the city on flood detention
- Serve on various committees

BUSINESS DISTRICTS COMMITTEE – To help develop a commercial revitalization program in Vollintine Evergreen that improves the conditions and services in its business districts by working directly with property owners and merchants.

- Serve on committees
- Write newsletter articles
- Help coordinate neighborhood meet-ups at VECA businesses
- Help with the seasonal produce market at the Welcome Center

CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE – To maintain and board abandoned houses with the hope that either the owners or the city will bring them back into use.

- Help with cleanups at vacant houses

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – To provide interesting and helpful information about VECA, residents, and stakeholders through the V&E Newsletter and electronic communications. Tasks include:

- Write articles for newsletter
- Help newsletter distribution process and delivery
- Find advertisers for the newsletter
- Maintain and update the website
- Help with the ENews
- Take photographs at VECA events
- Organize our VECA photographs
- Scan old newsletters for the website

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS COMMITTEE – To promote neighborhood networks to address communication, safety, problem solving and social interaction among the residents of Vollintine Evergreen.

- Help promote block clubs in the neighborhood
- Coordinate quarterly leadership training sessions
- Help VECA build relationships with neighborhood schools
- Coordinate the children's annual Holiday Party
- Help to plan the annual National Night Out celebration

YOUTH – To work with our neighborhood youth.

- Provide programs that will encourage personal growth through sports, arts and crafts, exchange of ideas and neighborhood participation.
- Provide aid in homework activities
- Help with field trips

NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – To promote and strive for a well-maintained living environment for the Vollintine Evergreen Neighborhood.

- Identify and reporting neglected properties
- Work on the Lyndale Community Garden
- Work on vacant lots
- Help to plan an upcoming code enforcement workshop

NEIGHBORS FOR TREES – To promote the benefits of trees in the community and to encourage residents to plant trees and maintain the urban forest in which we live.

- Help to plant and maintain trees
- Help with the maintenance fruit orchard at the V&E Greenline

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE – To make Vollintine Evergreen a safe and secure place to live by expanding networking and communications with residents.

- Help to organize informational meetings
- Write articles for the newsletter

V&E GREENLINE COMMITTEE – To preserve, maintain and enhance the natural beauty of the V&E Greenline as a neighborhood amenity.

- Work on the day of the Artwalk on a variety of tasks such as cleanup, helping artist setup, cleanup at the end of the day, staffing some of the booths
- Adopt a task on the V&E Greenline such as weed eating a section, emptying garbage cans, and picking up litter
- Volunteer to come to Saturday morning cleanups scheduled three times a year

HOMES FOR NEIGHBORS – To provide good, affordable housing, to positively impact the neighborhood, and to raise funds to support the VECA Welcome Center.

- Help maintain VECA dwellings (paint, repair, work with tenants, etc.)

Service Awards Honor VECA Volunteers

The Martha Heinemann Award

Martha Heinemann grew up in Hot Springs, Arkansas and graduated from Southwestern at Memphis in 1960 (now Rhodes College) with a degree in biology. She earned her Master's degree from University of Arkansas in biochemistry. She was a research chemist at the University of Tennessee and the Veterans Administration hospital. Besides her volunteer work with VECA, Martha was associated with Rhodes Alumni, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Brooks Museum of Art, and the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

The Martha Heinemann Award honors a Board member who has rendered exceptional service to the VECA Board.

Heinemann Award Recipients

2003 Janis Cannon
2004 Helen Johnson
2005 Tom McGowan
2007 Renate Rosenthal
2007 Andrée Glenn
2009 Chuck Fox
2010 Nedra Bailey
2010 Mike Kirby
2011 Chris Floyd
2011 Lilly Gilkey
2012 Cathy Marcinko
2012 Garnette Stephens
2013 Paul Herron
2013 Natasha Strong
2014 Jeannie Tomlinson Saltmarsh

The Mary Wilder Award

Mary Wilder grew up in Michigan and moved to Memphis in 1974 as a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). Mary graduated from Western Michigan with a major in education and minor in social work and history. At VECA, Mary has been involved in an array of projects and committees. She has served as Editor of the VE News and

she acted as volunteer manager on the project to survey neighborhood homes for historic status leading to VECA receiving the National Register of Historic Preservation designation. Mary has served as president of VECA and in 1993 she received the Dichtel Award. She also received the Center for Neighborhoods Neighborhood Leader of the Year in 1996. Mary led the project to have VECA rezoned as a primarily residential neighborhood; she helped develop the Pew Charitable Trusts proposal and was founder of the Greenline Gardens following the purchase of the L&N railroad track, now the V&E Greenline. She has worked on the Cypress Creek cleanups and with the Lick Creek flood plain project. In addition to Mary's work with VECA, she also served as an interim State Representative for District 89.

The Mary Wilder Award was created to recognize institutional excellence who through their work contributes to the Vollintine Evergreen community.

Wilder Award Recipients

2009 Rhodes College, accepted by Dr. Russell T. Wigginton, College Relations
2010 McLean Baptist Church, accepted by Pastor Glenn Hales, Jr.
2013 Mercy Hill Church, accepted by Pastor Brad Dunlap

The Margaret Dichtel Award

Margaret Dichtel was one of the founding members of VECA and its first president. She strongly believed that neighbors working in a community organization could accomplish together what they as individuals or government could not. Her faith in the value of

neighboring and the importance of grassroots community action remains the VECA philosophy.

The Margaret Dichtel Award is presented annually to a Vollintine Evergreen resident and VECA member who embodies the principles of neighboring and community action. There is no specific length of membership required and the awardee need not be an officer. The awardee will be an individual who strengthens relationships between community members, tackles problems that threaten the integrity of the community, makes the neighborhood a better place to live, improves VECA's image city-wide, and demonstrates a commitment to the neighborhood and the concept of a neighborhood.

Dichtel Award Recipients

1988 Martha Heinemann
1990 Julie Borys
1991 Mike Kirby
1993 Mary Wilder
1995 Willette Gray
1995 Gloria Singleton
1996 Rhodes College
1996 Terry Circle Block Club
1997 Linda Nichols
1998 Steve Gadbois
1999 Charlotte and Pete Swailes
2000 Sherry Henson
2000 Belinda Kerusch
2001 Bill Rehberg
2002 Tom Fagan
2003 Fredha Feaster
2004 Craig Jordan
2004 Len Cobb
2005 Bettye Johnson
2007 Marci Hendrix
2007 Jan Kirby
2009 Vollintine Hills
2010 Brad Heinz
2011 Barbara Gavalas
2011 Ann George

2011 Wayne Stanfill
2012 Andrée Glenn
2013 Alex Smythe
2013 Tony Steinberg
2014 Matt Washburn
2014 Jill Williams

The Richard Borys Award

Richard Borys moved to the Vollintine Evergreen community in 1975 and served on various committees in the early years of the organization. Despite dying young at the age of 44, Dick's life was an example of public service. Dick came to Memphis as a VISTA volunteer. He helped design and start the Memphis City and Shelby County Pre Trial Release Program. In 1976 he was awarded the outstanding service award from the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association for his contributions to the Criminal Justice System. At the time of his death Dick was a vice president at the Regional Medical Center ("The Med").

Dick was active with his children in soccer, coaching up to three teams at a time. He was a member St. Therese Little Flower Church, located at the center of the Vollintine-Evergreen community. He served the community in his work, in the neighborhood, at church, and through his children, Claire, Alex and Pete. Dick's wife Julie M. Borys still resides in Vollintine-Evergreen and has served as VECA president, on the VECA CDC Board of Directors, and as active volunteer over the years.

The Richard S. Borys Award was created to recognize public officials who through their work contribute to the Vollintine Evergreen community. The awardee need not be a Vollintine Evergreen resident or a VECA member.

What to Do if You Find or Lose a Dog

Borys Award Recipients

1991 Steve Shular
1992 Vernua Hanrahan
1995 Janis Foster
1996 William Stemmler
1997 Charles Cook
1998 Barbara Swearingen Holt
1999 Carol Chumney
2000 Wayne Risher
2001 Charles Granderson
2002 Don Campbell
2003 Rickey Peete
2004 Will Keeler
2004 Rob Keeler
2005 Twarla Guest
2007 Richard Beckwith
2009 Joe Brown
2009 Jim Strickland
2010 Lieutenant Steven Ware
2012 Janet Boscarino
2013 Emily Trentholm



By Marci Hendrix

Wouldn't it be scary to think of your pet wandering along busy North Parkway after escaping from your backyard? Hopefully someone would help your pet to safety, right? Last summer, VECA resident John Padavic was in his car when he saw a dog standing on North Parkway in harm's way. John realized that the dog was confused, and he was able to gently coax it to his car. He took the dog home, where he promptly got online in hopes of tracking down the pet's family. He sent neighbors an email with a photo of the dog, and one neighbor forwarded his email to Lost and Found Pets of the Midsouth, where the information was quickly posted.

It turns out that the dog in John's temporary care was Nori from the Evergreen neighborhood. When Nori's family realized she was missing from the backyard, they immediately posted information about Nori on the Lost and Found Pets of the Midsouth Facebook page. The administrator of the page recognized the photos and called the family. Within a few hours, Nori was home safe and sound where she belonged.

Happy ending number one wraps up, but wait – there's

more. Within days of that rescue, John's own dog Beau escaped through an open gate. John did all the right things. He contacted his neighbors, he contacted VECA, and he contacted Lost and Found Pets of the Midsouth, but with no luck.

John went to the Memphis Animal Shelter looking for Beau. There, the staff walked him all through the shelter looking for Beau. Beau wasn't there or anywhere at the shelter. Days went by but John didn't lose hope.

The next week he decided to go back to the Animal Shelter. The staff remembered him; and to everyone's delight, Beau was indeed there. He had been picked up just the night before. He had lost his collar but appeared to have been fed during his week on the loose. John was greatly relieved to have him home and he said, "I can't say enough how great the staff and vets are at Animal Services."

There are several tips to learn from these two experiences:

Put a collar and tag with contact information on your pets.

If your pet gets lost, use online resources. Social media including "Lost and Found Pets of the Midsouth" is an excellent resource. VECA's Facebook page and the Nextdoor sites are good places to post as well.

Be persistent. John checked the animal shelter early and went back in a few days. He also had a photo of Beau on his cellphone, which he was able to show to the shelter staff. (The shelter accepts a photo or vet records as proof of ownership.)

What to do if you find a lost dog:

- Scan for a chip – this can be done free of charge at almost any vet's office
- Contact local shelters and the vets around the area where the dog was found
- File a "Found Pet Report" with the shelter
- Post online and check regularly the following sites:
 - Lost and Found Pets of the Midsouth
 - Fidofinder.com
 - VECA's Facebook page
 - VECA's Nextdoor page
 - Craig's List
 - Commercial Appeal
- Watch the neighborhood for "lost" posters
- Post "found" posters right away and at vets' offices

If you find a dog make every effort to determine whether Rover has a panicked owner looking for him. It's the right thing to do. After all, what if the situation were reversed?



ABOVE: John's dog Beau escaped through an open gate, managed to lose his collar, and luckily was found a few days later at the Memphis Animal Shelter.

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