

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

NEWS

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JULY 2014



Recent Rain Recap

By Mary Wilder

On June 28 and 29, Memphis had seven inches of rainfall in 24 hours, and the detention basins were put to a real test. The Snowden detention basin began taking on water in the early morning hours and was full by 7:00 a.m. Ducks and a heron were seen enjoying the temporary water feature. Surface flooding caused by Lick Creek leaving its banks was confined to the streets, including Auburndale at Tutwiler, but the water had receded by 9:00 a.m. The system at Overton Square kept the Bellaire neighborhood and surrounding areas drier. There were no reports of major flooding.

VECA received reports from neighbors regarding sewer back-up in basements. While related to the rain, the cause of back-ups is old pipes. The City of Memphis is addressing this issue under its Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Plan. Residents who have water coming in their basements through the sanitary drain during rain may call and report the problem to Public Works at 529-8025. VECA conducted a survey of the basement overflow problem and will request smoke testing to determine where broken pipes are located. The City of Memphis is conducting tests of its sanitary infrastructure (pipes and drains) over the next ten years and will be in Vollintine Evergreen at some point in the future. 🐾

The Detention Basins Work!

By Meredith Heath

Long-term residents of the Vollintine Evergreen community may well be acquainted with the years of flooding from the Lick Creek stormwater basin, and they may also be aware of the recent implementation of two local water detention basins at Snowden School athletic field and the Overton Square parking garage. What they may not know, however, are the mechanics of how these basins function. On Thursday, May 29, City of Memphis Deputy Chief Engineer Manny Belen and city engineers George Cox and consultant Hugh Teaford met with VECA members at Evergreen Presbyterian to elaborate on the operations of these two new facilities, specifically how they deter flooding in the neighborhood.

The meeting began with an overview of the purpose of the new basins. They are not intended to become permanent repositories for overflow from Lick Creek, but rather are designed as detention areas where water can be stored until the creek has sufficiently subsided after storms. As the city engineers explained, the Snowden basin has a storage capacity of 500,000 cubic feet and can drain within a 24-hour period, even at full capacity. For water to rise beyond the top of the culvert and into the field at Snowden, the creek would have to raise more than two and a half feet, an occurrence that, statistically speaking, should only take place about twice a year. Mr. Cox explained that a storm would have to last from 30 to 45 minutes and cover a broad section of Midtown before such flooding would occur. So while neighbors may not perceive any evidence of the basin's efficiency, the lack of water in the athletic field indicates that the basin is indeed working. Runoff from storms will typically not cause overflow onto the field, except on rare occasions. *(continued on page 3)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event: Math is Art

Host: Angiline Powell

Tuesday, July 29, 2014, 9:00 am until Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 1:00 pm

Little Flower Catholic School—1644 Jackson Ave, Memphis

From July 29th through the 31st (9 am-1 pm) there will be a new, free opportunity for children living in Vollintine Evergreen to attend an arts and math summer day-camp! Math is Art Summer Day-camp is being offered for children in the 2nd grade, and will focus on combining math and visual arts in a fun and creative way. Activities will expose students to classic artists, art techniques, and how math exists in our everyday lives. Classwork will be incorporated into a mural that will be displayed in the VECA Community garden on Lyndale Avenue in August. The camp is funded by the University of Memphis and supported by VECA. For more information and to apply, visit mathisartcamp.com, visit their facebook page at [facebook.com/mathisartcamp](https://www.facebook.com/mathisartcamp) or call (901) 304-7503.

Public Meeting: Proposed Improvements to the Entrances of the V&E Greenline

Monday August 18 at 6:00 pm

1680 Jackson Ave

Light refreshments will be served

A sub-grant from Shelby County Greenprint program allowed the V&E Greenline to hire Ritchie Smith Associates, an award winning landscape architecture firm, to design improvements at each of the trail entrances of the V&E Greenline. The goal is to make the entrances universally accessible and in compliance with ADA, more attractive, and safer with marked crosswalks and new signage. Once the plan is completed, V&E Greenline supporters will work to find sources for construction funding.

From west to east, the entrances include Stonewall, Avalon, Tutwiler, Belvedere, Evergreen, Auburndale, McLean, University/Jackson, and Springdale.

Ritchie Smith will provide more detail at the meeting and will solicit input from those who attend.

Please attend and provide your reactions to the plan.

For more information, VEGreenline@gmail.com or 901-276-1782

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5, 6:00-8:00 pm

VECA Welcome Center— 1680 Jackson Avenue

Musical Playstation Public Unveiling

Sunday, August 24 (time TBD)

See article on page 10, and watch VECA facebook for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, October 26 – Neighborhood Block Party on the V&E Greenline



VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

JULY 2014

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DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS AUGUST 15

ADS AUGUST 15

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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

Detention Basins (cont.)

Questions about the safety of the Snowden detention basin were also raised and answered. From the standpoint of safety to athletes on the field, the City of Memphis first had to comply with Tennessee Secondary Athletic Association regulations regarding end zones, sidelines, and bleachers before construction could begin. Since the basin is only about two and a half feet deep, there is very little risk of anyone drowning. Also, the underground window openings to the creek have vertical bars to prevent anyone entering the creek itself (see photo on page 1).

Mr. Cox and Mr. Teaford explained that the Lick Creek stormwater basin is made up of waterways spanning from just south of Central Avenue in Cooper-Young to near Chelsea and Watkins on the north end of Lick Creek. The Overton Square parking garage detention basin was discussed at length because it, too, exists to deter flooding. The first of these detention basins to be constructed was actually a playground at Peabody Elementary. It primarily assisted the school with its own flooding issues, but it served an overall purpose in Midtown because the Arlington Bayou near the school is also connected to Lick Creek basin.

Since the first relationship with the former Memphis City Schools was established through Peabody, the Engineering Division of the City of Memphis has been able to further its cooperation with local entities such as Snowden School, Christian Brothers University, Rhodes College, and Second Presbyterian Church. The added benefit of collaboration with these organizations is that the City is not charged rent in order to construct these basins on these properties. The City is obligated to maintain the integrity of the detention basins themselves, but the landowners maintain the grounds adjacent to the basins.

As mentioned in the meeting, the City of Memphis recognizes that these water basins can by no means accommodate worst-case flooding scenarios, but the engineers have confidence that these new detention measures will significantly reduce the impact of flooding in most zones connected to the Lick Creek stormwater basin, including the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood.



TOP: Lick Creek as it receded on June 28.

MIDDLE: Athletic field at Snowden School after it receded on June 28

BOTTOM: A series of small drains on the athletic field at Snowden School serve to drain the field after heavy rains.

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AmeriCorps Team Impacts VECA

By Marci Hendrix

Much was accomplished in the neighborhood this spring with the help of our most recent AmeriCorps team. The team of four worked on a variety of projects including the V&E Greenline, mowing and cleaning vacant lots and houses, painting and gardening.

The experience has been positive for VECA, for the team, and for neighbors. Scott McDermott said, "I helped one day early on when they were working on abandoned houses in the area. They were motivated and energetic! The neighborhoods in VECA are better off for their work."

Neighbor Angie Powell expressed her appreciation and thanks for the help on the 1400 block of Tutwiler. The team mowed yards of abandoned houses and vacant lots at McNeil and Brown Ave, Maury at Henry, Watkins at Vollintine, Brown near Springdale, Jackson near Watkins, Tutwiler at Watkins, and Lyndale at Jackson.

They helped prepare a large planting bed at Hallwood and Oakmont. Steve Gadbois noted, "The hard work of tilling and mulching simply would not have happened without the AmeriCorps team."

Working with Chuck Fox, the team painted two VECA-owned homes. He estimated they saved VECA about \$1,200. Cathy Marcinko also commented on the value the AmeriCorps teams added to the neighborhood: "They provide a big capacity boost, which allows VECA to get projects done that otherwise might not happen. They can be catalysts for engaging other partners, volunteers and generating community interest and excitement. They also add a lot of value to our projects for a relatively small dollar investment."

On the V&E Greenline, the team spread 36 tons of gravel on the paths. They helped construct a safety fence at the Overton Bayou and they installed railroad ties to deal with trail erosion.

On Brown Street, the team worked with Barbara Gavalas to mow vacant lots, trim branches and overgrowth and clean up the sidewalk area across from KIPP Memphis Academy.

About the Jackson Avenue clean-up, Natasha Strong said, "I am so thankful and grateful that AmeriCorps worked on the clean-up of the Jackson Avenue medians with me. All four of them did a really great job! The team was productive, hardworking, and friendly. They were open to receiving directions and instructions, excited about various projects, and easily adaptable if the situation required it. They were open to sharing their knowledge as well as learning new skills and ways of doing things."

The team worked with Cathy Marcinko for Le Bonheur's Asthma Project, doing roofing work in the Hollywood area. Marcinko said, "They were on time and task-focused, friendly, hardworking, willing to learn and had basic knowledge and skills for construction."

Many thanks to Mike Kirby for managing and working with the AmeriCorps team and to Cathy Marcinko for writing the grant application.



TOP: Americorps team members Hannah Wendling, Jackie Searle, Jules Juniker, and Jesse Brammer BOTTOM: Americorps team with neighbors Steve Gadbois, Andree Glenn, and Bill Schultz LEFT: Jackie Searle

Going Local at the Evergreen Farmers Market

By Maura Angel and Margo Parks

Are you in need of fresh vegetables, homegrown honey, eco-friendly detergent and soap, hot tamales or adorable puppies? Every Thursday the Evergreen Community Farmers Market offers fresh wholesome items for sale by local vendors. Started in 2012, Rhodes faculty member and neighbor, Kimberly Kasper, and her market team of Rhodes students developed the Evergreen Community Farmers Market. Initially, the first official market was located under the Barret Library Cloister at Rhodes College. This spring the market moved to its current location at 613 University Street outside of Evergreen Presbyterian Church. The move has been beneficial to vendors by making the market more accessible to community members.

You can find between 10 and 15 tables set up on the lawn each week. Although food is a major attraction, customers can also find jewelry, vintage clothing, dog adoptions and much more. The market, which is a student run and driven organization, provides space for anyone interested in participation with a "no booth fee" in hopes of creating limited barriers for community development. Also the Rhodes Community Garden sells its own vegetables to the market and is currently seeking community volunteers to help with garden maintenance. The Market and garden have created a place for students, faculty, staff and community members to come together to support neighborhood efforts of "going local."

Karen Hess and Anna Santucci, both rising seniors and environmental studies majors, are the 2014 Rhodes Summer Garden Fellows. Their duties are to run the weekly markets and manage the Rhodes Community Garden this summer season. They will also be starting an ethnography project to capture the oral histories of people living in the Douglass neighborhood regarding their own food histories. Their favorite part of the market is meeting new people and seeing the excitement on the faces of newcomers.

Through food education, the Market hopes to bring awareness of the food deserts of Memphis, and to make fresh healthful foods more accessible. The market accepts donations for their Double Green\$ Program, which will increase the amount of money SNAP users are allowed for fresh



L-R: VECA neighbor, Dr. Kimberly Kasper, with Rhodes students Karen Hess and Anna Santucci who manage and run the weekly Evergreen Farmers Market

food. If you are interested in donating you can visit www.evergreencfm.org.

Kimberly has been involved with farmers market prior to her involvement at Rhodes. She says, "The success of the market is a collaborative endeavor that is dependent on community efforts." Stop by the Evergreen Community Farmers Market every Thursday from 2:00-6:00 pm rain or shine. Through the help of local vendors and neighbors the market can continue to grow and be a platform for community engagement.

Check them out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LocalLynxFarmersMarket>.

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One Harvest Food Ministries offers affordable, pre-packaged, high quality, freshly frozen boxes with a variety of meats and vegetables. The boxes can be purchased for 30 to 50 percent less than a family would pay in the grocery store. There are seven to eight options each month, ranging in price from \$20.00 to \$46.00. The family box assists in feeding a family of four for a week while the "More than Enough" box holds up to its name by aiding any family to stretch limited resources in a tough economy.

There are no qualifications for this program. There is no application process. Persons of all income levels are welcome to participate. The only requirement is to pre-pay for your box of food at the time of placing an order. The menu lists products and prices from which to choose.

Boxes will be distributed once a month at Peace Lutheran on a Saturday in the afternoon (1545 Jackson Avenue). You can pick up your food boxes at Peace Lutheran on the distribution day between 1:00 and 1:30 pm. Any boxes not picked up by the end of the distribution time will be donated to a food pantry to aid the homeless. Orders for the next month may be placed when you pick up your box. There are no minimum or maximum requirements for orders.

Orders can be made at Peace Lutheran Church each Sunday between 9:30 and 10:15 am or by calling or emailing Pastor Tiffany at 901-606-6604 or tiffanymcclung@att.net. When placing your order, you can pay with cash or check. Checks should be made payable to Peace Lutheran Church. Credit cards are accepted online at www.oneharvest.com. Follow the link at the top of the home page to "Place an Order." While completing the order process, be sure to choose Peace Lutheran as your "Partner Pickup Location." If you wish to use your credit card, but would like us to place the order for you, you can place your order in person at the above times. If you wish to order and pay with an EBT (SNAP) card, you will need to schedule an appointment with Pastor Tiffany. Please contact her at the above number or email to schedule a time.

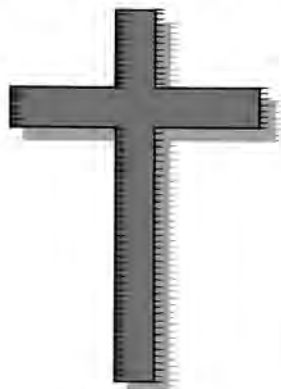
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5 Questions ... Dave Shouse

By Jeff Hulett

With all of the creative folk, artists, musicians, filmmakers, etc., we have in VECA, I think it's important that we celebrate and showcase this talent. Starting this issue we will run what I'm calling "5 questions with." We would love to feature anyone in our neighborhood that's doing something in the creative realm.

This time around I had a chance to talk with Dave Shouse. Dave is an unbelievably talented musician whom I've followed and been a fan of for years. I think my favorite project of his was the Bloodthirsty Lovers, but everything he touches is most unique. Oh, and if you need him to do a specialty project around your house, e.g. painting or whatever, he's your man.

JH: How long have you been in the neighborhood and what do you like most about it?

DS: I've lived in VECA since 1995, first on Tutwiler and now on Kensington Place. Love the older homes and laid-back vibe of the area.

JH: As a staple on the local music scene, what are you up to currently? And how can people hear your music?

DS: My main project is a music/performance art duo called >mancontrol< with Robby Grant. I've also recently begun playing out with the reunited Grifters. We've played several private shows and at the Hi-Tone Cafe a few times.

JH: Do you collaborate with other VECA neighbors? If so, who and how?

DS: Over the years I've worked with lots of VECA folks: Robby, Scott Taylor, Steve Selvidge, Jason Paxton, to name a few.

JH: What do you do besides music?

DS: Music stopped paying the bills long ago. By day I paint home interiors and do specialty projects.

JH: What's your favorite memory about living in VECA?

DS: I have a terrible memory, but my wife, Tammy, and I buying our first house on Kensington five years ago is definitely a highlight.



Dave Shouse, a prominent Memphis musician, is also a VECA resident.

What if there were a place—a church—where the people were encouraged to bring their brains with them on Sundays along with their Bibles? What if they regarded intellect as a gift that God intends them to use along their faith journey, and they refused to simply fall in line to be told what they should believe? And what if the people found that by stimulating their minds they actually feed their souls? What if you were to visit Evergreen Presbyterian Church and find just such a place? Sundays at 11, 613 University Street in Midtown.

Community Collaboration Makes for Successful Clean-up

By Maura Angel and Margo Richardson

Neighborhood residents Natasha Strong and Max Thornton-Leonard don't mind getting their hands a little dirty to help the neighborhood. On a warm, sunny Friday morning, June 13, Natasha, Max, AmeriCorps volunteers, and City of Memphis workers cleaned up the median on Jackson Avenue from Watkins to Evergreen. The tasks included picking up trash, weeding, raking leaves, pruning bushes, and planting trees.

This is the second year the Jackson Avenue clean-up was held. The project could not have been a success without help from Memphis police to direct traffic and ensure the safety of the crew, as well as VECA board member and clean-up coordinator Natasha Strong.

Some of the more interesting items found on the median were a computer motherboard, a forlorn doll, and a golf ball.

Sarah Hammitt and Amanda Brandimore, facilitators of LeaderTreks also led a group of youth on the clean-up. They tackled weeds and brush at Dlugach Park on Jackson at University Circle. LeaderTreks is a faith-based organization that runs week-long camps for middle and high school church youth groups. The teams travel to cities across the country to work on a variety of projects. Open Door Bible Church (1792 North Parkway) has been very generous in hosting the groups this summer.

With the help of local residents, volunteer groups, and city workers, we can make the Jackson Avenue median a litter-free zone. Piece by piece we can each do our part and help clean up the debris that has taken over our neighborhood.



TOP: City of Memphis Horticulturalist Rich Beckwith provided leadership and guidance for the cleanup effort. MIDDLE: Natasha Strong and Max Thornton-Leonard coordinated the AmeriCorps team and the City of Memphis Staff
BOTTOM: A LeaderTreks team, led by Sarah Hammitt and Amanda Brandimore, tackled the cleanup of Dlugach Park on Jackson Avenue.



Thanks, Rhodes Interns!



Many thanks to Rhodes student interns, Maura Angel and Margo Richardson for their outstanding help getting the July newsletter together. They have been working hard on several VECA projects and we look forward to their return in the fall.

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Volunteer Highlights



Karen Foster and her daughter Ally Wright have dedicated the last three years to delivering the newsletter on Maury Street between Tutwiler and Jackson. Karen has worked at Café Eclectic for six years and has lived in the neighborhood for three. Their favorite part about volunteering is getting to know everyone on their block and introducing themselves to new neighbors. They have met friendly people on the route and have learned a lot about the neighborhood in which they live. We thank Karen and Ally for their service to the VECA newsletter, and if you see Karen walking and Ally riding her bike be sure to wave a friendly hello.

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Musical Art Coming Soon to the V&E Greenline

By Sara First

By summer's end, you'll be able to add more art to your recreation on the V&E Greenline. On August 23rd artists Sean Murphy and Anne Froning will install their musical "zylotable" and bench near the south east corner of Tutwiler and Avalon. Neighbors are invited to attend a public unveiling on Sunday, August 24th (time TBD).

Neighborhood volunteers helped construct the keys for the zylotable at a public workshop at Sears Crosstown on Saturday, June 28th and the project was funded through the generous donations of Lynne and Henry Turley. During the workshop, VECA residents ages six and up learned how sound waves travel through wood by using hammers, chisels, and a sander to turn raw materials into attractive xylophone keys. Sean even taught them a little geometry in the process.

Public art at its best invigorates community. Just as my toddler stops every time on the Greenline to admire the fabulous Fish in Lick Creek sculpture we watched go up last fall, my six-year-old now can't wait to use the F5 on the zylotable. Although the zylotable and bench cannot be heard much past the garden in the Stationhouse Section, I can't wait to hear my neighbors' musical talent displayed on this new installation.



Samuel First learns to use a saw while preparing keys for the Greenline's new xylotable.



LeaderTreks

On Thursday, July 10, LeaderTreks volunteers worked on the V&E entrance at Jackson Avenue. According to Mike Kirby, who led the effort, "They cleaned up the overgrown grass on the sidewalk and turned it into a great looking entrance to the trail. They also trimmed up the branches protruding onto the sidewalk along Jackson from the V&E Greenline to University Street. The sidewalk project was really hard and required a lot of muscle and drive."

Thanks so much to the LeaderTreks volunteers for their valuable contribution to the maintenance of our greenline!

LeaderTreks volunteers worked on the V&E entrance at Jackson Avenue

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VOLLINTINE  **EVERGREEN**
NEWS

Volunteer Needed for Newsletter Distribution

The VECA newsletter team is in need of two volunteers to help with distribution. The first task involves counting and bagging newsletters into stacks and then dropping them off at the home of the distributors.

Another process is to drop off newsletters at various businesses and institutions in the area. A team of two or three volunteers to help with this every other month would be ideal!

Contact news@news.org with any questions or to sign up. Thank you.

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