

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

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

JANUARY 2015



Above: Richie Smith, Mike Kirby, and Bubba Smith

Beneficial V&E Greenline Project

By Mike Kirby

The V&E Greenline has a beautiful property at 1625 Tutwiler of which we are all very proud. It includes the trail, a woodland path in a shade garden, a charming Stationhouse, a musical play station sculpture, and the grounds for the V&E Artwalk. However, the site has not been easily accessible because of several drainage ditches and a steep incline separating the Stationhouse from the trail.

The Hyde Family Foundations stepped in with a grant that funded a majority of construction costs of the V&E Greenline Stationhouse walkway. Hyde also funded a number of other projects on the V&E Greenline that were completed earlier this year. It was a pleasure to work with Lauren Taylor, Hyde Family Foundations program director for Livable Communities, who was very patient and supportive as we took our time to complete this very complicated project.

The walkway was designed by Ritchie Smith Associates, which did the impressive design work pro bono. Ritchie Smith did extensive landscape drawings and worked directly with a contractor to make the design come to life. He designed the project so it met the requirements of the Americans for Disability Act (ADA).

Since funding was not sufficient to complete the work, Keeler Ironworks – which built the two V&E Greenline bridges in earlier years – donated the rails for the stairs and handicap-accessible bank sidewalk. The rails will be completed as Keeler Ironworks has time to work on them.

Although not a part of the original plan, an attractive water fountain was added to the project; it includes a bubbler, bottle refill station, and a dog drinking dish. It was provided by the Tennessee Clean Water Network and funds were donated by V&E Greenline supporters:

(continued on page 3)



Upcoming Events

Annual Membership Meeting



Saturday, January 31, 2015
 Open Door Bible Church
 1792 North Parkway
 Memphis, TN 38112
 Potluck Breakfast @ 9am
 Annual Meeting & Elections @ 10am



Bring your favorite breakfast food to share. VECA will provide coffee and juice.



Join us at the Annual Meeting for your first / initial weigh-in. Sat., Jan. 31 @ 10am Open Door Church

Contest runs January 31 - April 30

You can also weigh-in Feb. 1st & 2nd @ the Welcome Center.

The rules are simple:

- 1) Pay \$20 to play
- 2) Lose weight

Any weight loss regime is acceptable; harming your body is not.

The person with the highest percent of weight lost will win a cash prize! The more players the bigger the cash prize!



Join us for a Pi Day Celebration!

Enter the Best Pie Contest by making your favorite pie. Sample a variety of pies and decide who's the winner. Socialize with your neighbors & enjoy dessert together.

3-141592653589793238462643383279502884

\$5 entry fee + your favorite pie
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 Building has security system • Nonprofit use must be compatible with VECA use

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The Welcome Center is a multi-use facility serving the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood • VECA is a neighborhood organization. For more information about VECA, see veca.org

1680 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38107
 For more information, call 901-276-1782 or email: veca@veca.org



VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

JANUARY 2015

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DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT
 VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS
 ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FEBRUARY 15
 ADS FEBRUARY 15
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 Co-Chairs Lilly Gilkey and Rick Maxwell
 Preservation Chris Floyd
 Communications Marci Hendrix

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



VECA Annual Membership Form – Become a Member

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

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Be one of the following types of team members:

Member \$20 • Neighbor \$30 • Supporter \$50 • Leader \$100 • Champion \$500 • Benefactor \$1000

\$50 or more: Historic Plaque _____ or Poster _____

Thank you, Shelby County Greenprint

By Mike Kirby

The V&E Greenline trail has been cherished by many users, but the crossing streets lack crosswalks, warning signs to motorists, and handicapped-accessible entrances. Making these improvements is especially complicated because they are in the public right of way and the changes are governed by federal law and City of Memphis requirements. In December 2013, the V&E Greenline received a planning subgrant from the Shelby County Greenprint to plan these improvements. The Greenprint "is designed to enhance regional livability and sustainability by establishing a unified vision for a region-wide network of greenspace areas."

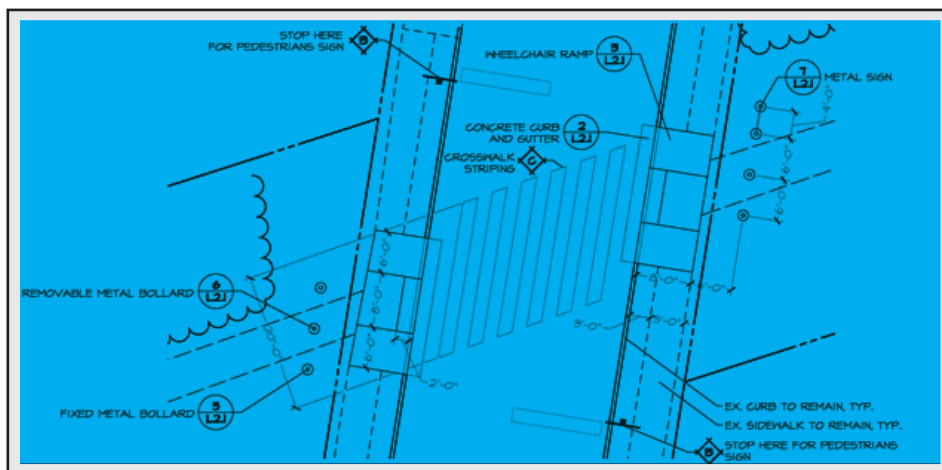
The subgrant has allowed the V&E Greenline to hire a landscape architect from Ritchie Smith Associates, who did technical studies and drawings at each of the street entrances to the trail. He assembled a team that included SR Consulting Engineers that developed final drawings for the entrances. These studies and drawings were submitted to the City of Memphis engineering department for approval. Once approved, significant funds will need to be raised for the actual construction. Ritchie Smith estimated the cost would be \$210,000, which could come from a combination of City transportation and storm water sources and federal sources.

A copy of the drawings is available at the VECA office. This project is not only a plan on how to develop the entrances, but it also provides detailed "shovel ready" technical drawings that can be used as soon as funding is available.

What would be different if this construction was done? A visit to the V&E Greenline crossing at McLean Boulevard shows what can be done. Along with the wide zebra-striped crosswalk already there, trail warning signs for motorists would be installed. The entrances would be made handicapped accessible, and sidewalks would be replaced. The changes would make the crossings safer, more accessible, easier to traverse, and much more attractive.

What's next? The V&E Greenline needs residents to serve as a group to help move this project forward. Email the V&E Greenline at VEGreenline@gmail.com, call 276-1782, or mail us at 1680 Jackson, Memphis TN 38107, to get involved.

We thank the Shelby County Regional Greenprint for funding and director John Zeanah and his staff for working with us in managing the grant. We are also grateful to Ritchie Smith Associates and their team for the great job they did on what has been a very complicated project. 🙌



The illustration shows the detail that was provided

V&E Greenline (cont.)

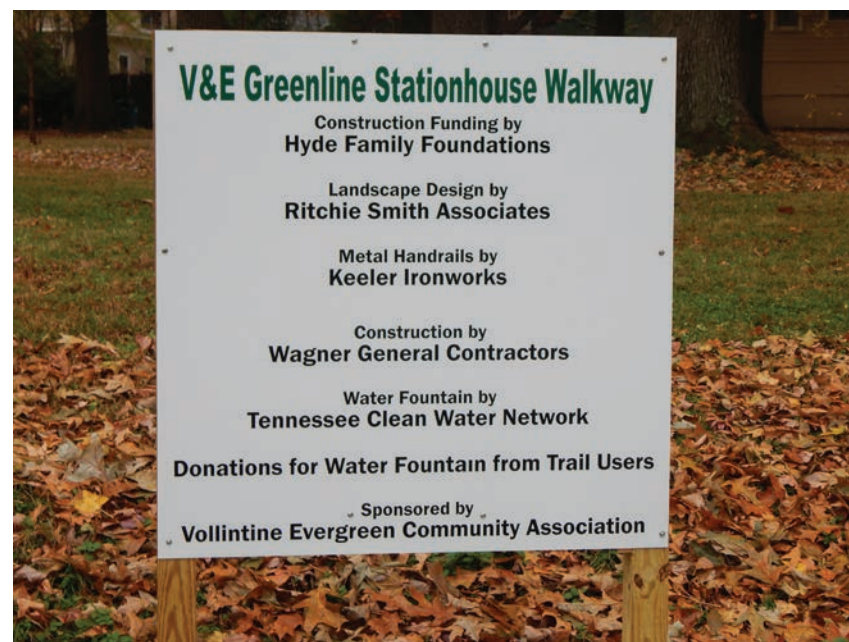


Chuck Fox, David Rhea, Wade and Mary Gibson, Mike Kirby, and Scott McDermott. Additional funds were provided through the proceeds of the V&E Artwalk.

Once the construction was finished, volunteers installed sod on the banks at the Stationhouse and planted grass to prevent erosion. A special thanks to Jim Martin for his leadership in this project and to Chuck Fox, Jordan Kirby, Rhodes student Jake Owens, Jim Adcock, and Mike Kirby for installing the sod.

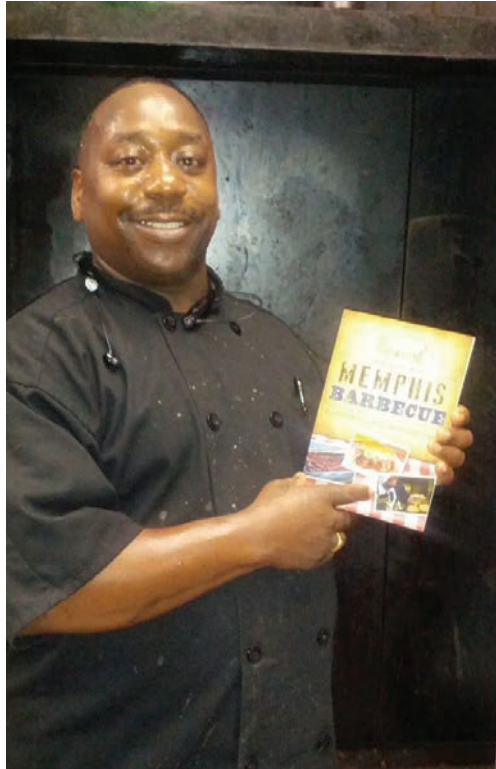
The project was directed by several V&E Greenline supporters: Jim Martin was indispensable with his technical reviews, Mike Kirby helped manage the project, Bill Rehberg and Scott McDermott reviewed the plans, and Brian Floyd helped sort through the financial issues of this very complex project. Special thanks are due to the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association, which was the grant recipient, and its Managing Committee was helpful in reviewing the grant progress.

Wagner General Contractors worked for a month on the project and did a fabulous job. We are especially thankful to supervisor Bubba Smith, who was on site throughout the project taking precise measurements, installing framing, moving tons of dirt, and finally pouring the cement that resulted in the project. 🙌



In Memoriam Carl Johnson

By Richard McFall



Left: Photo of Carl Johnson, courtesy of Craig Meek, VECA neighbor and author of *Memphis Barbeque: A Succulent History of Smoke, Sausage & Soul!*

Carl Johnson, who operated Cave's Soul Food & More with his wife, Veronica, in the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood, died September 1, 2014 from a heart attack. He was 51.

He was scheduled to have knee surgery the next day, and had decided to close the restaurant for all of September — for recuperation from the operation and for some well-deserved time off from the restaurant Carl (the CA) and Veronica (the VE) ran six days a week for almost four years.

Owning a restaurant was Carl's dream. He got the desire as a teenager, working at Gridley's. He started out cleaning at the barbecue restaurant, then worked up the ladder — busboy, waiter, cook. He helped open the Gridley's restaurant on Macon in 1979. His love of barbecue manifested itself at Cave's when he put a pit out back of a laundromat at 1689 Jackson that was renovated into the restaurant.

Carl and Veronica put out excellent food: smoked chicken, ribs, astonishing burgers, and pot roast on Tuesdays. Best of all, you always felt at home at Cave's. Carl was a huge sports fan, most proud of the Dallas Cowboys and the Miami Heat, and always ready to talk hoops.

Carl will be missed by his many friends in Memphis. 🙏

Sewer Assessment Rehabilitation Program

By Mary Wilder

The Sewer Assessment Rehabilitation Program is coming to Vollintine Evergreen this spring. Over the next ten years, the City of Memphis will be assessing the sanitary sewer lines in the neighborhoods of Memphis.

Sanitary sewers that carry the waste from our homes (toilets, sinks, etc.) out to the sanitary lines deep in the streets to the two city treatment plants.

Vollintine Evergreen was built in the 1920s, and the sewer lines are from this time as well. The sanitary lines are almost 100 years old. Nothing lasts forever, so Memphis, under an EPA Consent agreement, is looking for breaks and needed repairs. Breaks in sanitary lines can sometimes be the cause of sanitary sewer backups in basements during heavy rain. These are also referred to by the EPA as sanitary sewer overflows.

The testing will be done by various independent contractors. All trucks and workers should have their badges and logos displayed for all to see. The testing will be done using pressurized, odorless and harmless water vapor. Steam will be pumped into the lines to find breaks and leaks.


You will receive a notice on your door a week before the testing. The notice will provide you with contact information if you have questions. During the testing you may see steam coming up from your yard, out the drain in your tub, or out the vent stack on your roof. You may ask the workers any questions during this process.

If the steam appears in your yard, you may have a broken sanitary line. Talk to the workers for details. If the steam is in the street, the problem is with city lines.

This information was presented at the public meeting on basement backups (October 21).

The meeting was held at the VECA office. Bobby Allen from the City of Memphis Public Works and Michael Clay with Gresham Smith and Partners presented the program. 🙏





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Smart Phones Connect Neighbors, too!

By Rick Maxwell

If you haven't heard about Nextdoor yet, chances are, you'll hear about it soon. The "private social network" for neighborhoods is actively being used by the



Vollintine Evergreen Community and over 21,000 neighborhoods, and that number is growing every day. The Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood currently has 670 residents connected by using Nextdoor.

How does Nextdoor work? Neighbors create an account on Nextdoor and once their address is verified, they are connected to the other Vollintine Evergreen neighbors. Neighbors can then talk to each other about things going on in the neighborhood, whether that's exchanging recommendations on local service providers, like a contractor, a painter, a babysitter, or talking about local restaurants. People also use the site to talk about more personal things, like lost pets.

Crime and prevention is a frequent topic and Nextdoor is increasingly becoming like a virtual neighborhood watch for the neighborhood. Nextdoor enables everyone to participate in the conversations around crime and prevention even when they are unable to make it to a meeting.

How much personal information do users have to reveal? Members are required to use their real name on their Nextdoor profile and the street that they live on. House numbers are optional. Nextdoor verifies addresses, and no one outside of the area can see your address.

Do you have to have a computer to use Nextdoor.com? Not at all. There is a Nextdoor app for Iphone and android phones. The app allows your smartphone to login and connect just as you would with a PC.

What are some success stories of using Nextdoor.com or nextdoor app? The biggest success has been communication for safety and security. Alerting neighbors of suspicious activity, break ins or criminal mischief. This is about being able to share information with your neighbors easily and quickly. Nextdoor is not a replacement for the police. It's about giving neighbors an easy way to communicate with one another so that you basically have more eyes on the street, and more neighbors looking out for each other and for each other's homes.

Technology is helping people become more connected. One criticism is, why do we need to use technology to get to know the people who live right outside our front door? Why don't people just go meet their neighbors? Oftentime, people just don't. They're busy. Nextdoor can be an ice breaker to get the conversation going in the neighborhood. Nextdoor lends itself to bringing people together in real life and helping to create real-world relationships.

Want to learn more about Nextdoor.com or the Nextdoor app? Contact Rick Maxwell chair of the Safety and Security Committee Email: jrmxrayteck@gmail.com



VECA ENews

The ENews is VECA's best avenue for getting out information to neighbors about upcoming social events and meetings. To sign up, please go to the VECA website (veca.org) and the signup box is on the right side of the page.



**Help your Neighborhood
Report crime to police so they know
where it is taking place**

Report Drugs and Crime Anonymously

- Police Dispatch: 545-2677 (then press zero). Listen to the prompts. You can advise the dispatcher if you want to remain anonymous
- Drug Hotline: 525-3673 is anonymous
- Gang Hotline: 528-2338 is anonymous
- Crime Stoppers: 528-2274 is anonymous
- Crump Station: 636-4631- this gets you to the front desk officer. If you are calling to file a complaint only, advise the officer that you wish to remain anonymous.
- SeniorBsafe hotline: 528-0699 is anonymous

When reporting

- Be specific on the address
- Be specific on the type of crime you are seeing
- Describe the persons who are the problem in as much detail as possible



MLGW

To report street light outages,
call MLGW at 320-1497



To report code violations call
Memphis City Government at
311 (tall weeds, junk vehicles,
etc.)

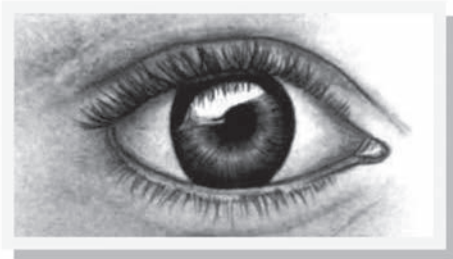


Anthony Ervin helps to clean the street curbs in the Rainbow Circle neighborhoods. Neighbors and cyclists as well appreciate his help! Photo submitted by Tom Fagan.

Jared Powelson, O.D.

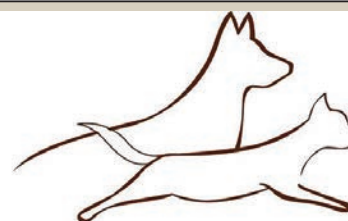
Mike Gerstner, O.D.

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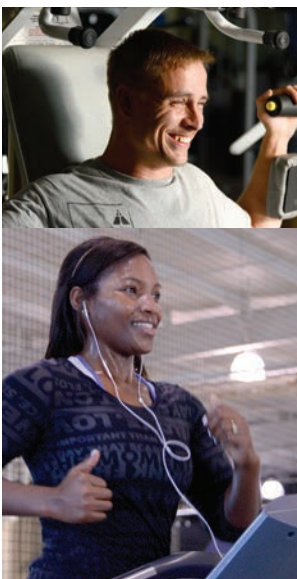
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From "Trick 'r Treat to "Ho Ho Ho" ... a good time was had by all!

By Angela Lamb

Halloween and the winter holidays are a favorite time of year for kids, and VECA's neighborhood kids are no different. Many of them dressed up Halloween night and stopped by the Welcome Center for a little treat; no tricks at this party! Volunteers braved the exceptionally cold and windy night to help pass out candy, masks, and small toys. A big thanks to the neighbors who donated the multitude of treats. December brings a multitude of celebration and VECA hosted a party

for the neighborhood and offered activities geared towards the children. We recognized and celebrated the winter solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa through educational tables, crafts, and music. And what's a holiday party without Santa Claus! Pizza, cookies, and punch were enjoyed by everyone. 🍷



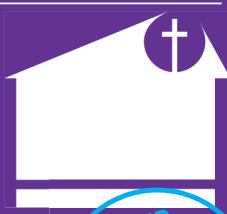
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 DONATION HOURS: MONDAY - SATURDAY 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. • SUNDAY 11 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

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.

Neighbor Highlight

Meet Nancy Morrow

By Maura Angel and Margo Richardson



Before stepping into the brightly colored home of Nancy Morrow, one can tell she has a lively personality from her vivacious garden and the blue and purple color trim of her home.

Nancy's front garden bursts with color in summer months. Nancy is a paralegal during

the week, but her true passion is plants, specifically terrariums. She grew up around plants; her family's garden occupied many of her childhood hours.

Nancy wanted to start a business she could carry over into retirement. She chose terrariums, due to their growing popularity and simplistic beauty.

Terrariums require a certain structure for the plants to thrive. Rocks or pebbles on the bottom provide drainage. Active carbon adds sweetness to the soil (a special mixture with low nutrients). A layer of dried sphagnum moss traps the water, and a final layer of soil controls the moisture in the tank to prevent mold. There is a delicate balance between too much moisture and not enough.

Nancy's focus on terrariums arose from her experience dealing with people who knew little about the plants they were buying. Large companies sell plants without instructing their customers how to care for them. You could call Nancy the plant rescuer! Her ability to educate is so important in the joy she brings to gardeners. People call Nancy for advice and she is always happy to share her expertise. She even started a network of people to promote plant education and spread awareness.

Terrariums are low maintenance, and they allow exotic plants to grow in an otherwise-hostile home environment. They thrive best in bright light but not direct sunlight. To prevent overgrowth and keep the plants small, you have to deprive them of resources.

Nancy sells them at Diane's Art Gift and Home on Overton Park Avenue, and Five In One on Broad Street. In the past Nancy has held a how-to terrarium class there,

It takes months for the terrarium to be complete and ready to sell, a slow road to "living art." But what an amazing gift to be able to create something unique. 🐦

Conference Overview

By Maura Angel

On a beautiful Saturday morning on October 25, VECA welcomed District Attorney Amy Weirich, Environmental Court Judge Larry Potter, and Community Resource Coordinator Toni Hayes. These leaders shared with community members an overview of their jobs and what they are currently working on to ensure communities like ours stay safe.

District Attorney Weirich welcomed an intimate crowd with a warm smile and introduction. She has been a prosecutor for 23 years. The district attorney's office is made up of 210 employees, 106 of whom are attorneys, making it one of the largest D.A.'s office in the country. A newly designed system consisting of five vertical units has been developed in the past few years to ensure that cases are assigned to the same prosecutor throughout the procedure. This design is intended to minimize the number of times that victims have to repeat their stories. The combined units include: Domestic Violence; DUI Task Force; Gang and Narcotics; Public Corruption and Economic Crimes; Special Prosecution; and Special Victims.

Weirich is also in charge of a juvenile court staff that handles cases from truancy to murder. A child is considered truant after five days of unexcused school absences. Programs have been established to reduce the rate of truancy within Memphis. Eleven schools have participated in a reward program that donates new bikes at the end of the school year to children with good attendance. Last May 303 bikes were given to children through the Hyde Family Foundations.

Judge Larry Potter started working in the city court in 1978. In 1982 he applied for a vacancy on civil court; he was appointed to establish an Environmental Court. At the time, there were only two other environmental courts in the country. In 1991, environmental laws were passed giving the court injunctive authority to deal with such problems.

Nuisance and environmental laws were passed to keep Memphis and Shelby County clean and safe. Tall weeds, broken windows, junked cars, cars parked on yards, trash, and debris all diminish the quality of life. As Potter said, "As long as the way you're using your property does not interfere with the enjoyment of your neighbors' property, all is well. Since that is somewhat subjective, laws and interpretations of the laws are left to environmental court."

Toni Hayes works for the City of Memphis Office of Community Affairs as Community Resource Coordinator. Hayes serves Vollintine Evergreen as a liaison to the City of Memphis. The office offers a community neighborhood leadership training program, and many other programs to engage neighbors in their community. The office works with everything from crime, blight, beautification and National Night Out. 🐦



Lilly Gilkey pictured above with Toni Hayes; below with D.A. Weirich and Judge Potter.



5 Questions with James Watkins, Snowden Crossing Guard

By Sara First

If you've driven down McLean or Tutwiler near Snowden on a school day, you've probably seen James Watkins at his post. You may even have been chastised by him for speeding in a school zone or stopping in the crosswalk. I've often wondered why a person would want to spend their mornings and afternoons dealing with recalcitrant commuters and parents who drop their kids off in intersections, so I couldn't wait to chat with Mr. James, who has been a crossing officer for five years.

1. Crossing Officers work only two hours. What do you do the rest of the day?

I own my own business. I promote musical shows, jazz, R&B ... [through] my business ... J.E.W. Enterprises – that's the first letters of my names.

Somebody told you me you also work with a nonprofit?

I have two nonprofit organizations that I help and I also help several churches. I take them clothes or if someone is moving I move furniture. I try to give everybody a chance to have something.

2. What's one thing you want to say about being a crossing guard? Laughter. That you want printed in a newsletter.

Okay, okay. You get a chance to meet a lot of parents. You get a chance to be around kids. I think that's my drive every morning, getting up every morning knowing that I'll see the smiles on their faces, and that's why I'm still here. .Also, years ago, I was driving by Treadwell High School. One day I was just coming through and a kid got hit and died. When I looked into that child's face it was like she was looking at me and it really hurt me because I couldn't do anything to help her. I hope somebody else comes out here some day and has the same passion. I really love these kids. They talk to me. I encourage them to go to school. They show me their report cards and their progress reports. They come down here to show me and papers go flying everywhere.

3. Since you like music so much, do you remember the first song you memorized the lyrics to?

There's was one by Lionel Richie, singing about how fathers help their children. I can't remember the name. The other one was the O'Jays' Family Reunion. I'm a family-oriented person. I love unity in families.

4. What is your favorite spot in Midtown?

Cooper Young. I like going over there to eat. I can't really say which [restaurant] I like



the most. I like them all. I eat breakfast there all the time. That's my hangout.

5. Describe your perfect day.

Off day. That's it. Off day is the best day ever. Laughter (He was kidding!)

Later, I looked up the song Mr. James described. It's "Jesus Is Love," by The Commodores and the opening lyrics are, "Father / Help your children / And don't let them fall / By the side of the road." How appropriate.) 🙏



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In addition to being a dues paying member of VECA, there are several other ways you can contribute financially to the neighborhood:

Amazon Smile Supports VECA and the V&E Greenline When You Shop

Everyone can now shop at Amazon and simultaneously make a donation to the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association of 0.5 percent of the purchase price. This donation is made by Amazon, with no charge to the customer. The funds will be equally split between VECA's most visible projects: The V&E Greenline and the VECA Welcome Center. If you shop at Amazon, please sign up to have a donation made to VECA. You will be shopping at AmazonSmile.com, which is the same as regular Amazon with a different screen. Here's how you sign up for the donation:

- Go to the website: smile.amazon.com and sign in to Amazon
- In the box that says "pick your own charitable organization," type in Vollintine Evergreen Community Association and search.
- Next, select Vollintine Evergreen Community Association

United Way

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!

Kroger Plus Card

Use your Kroger Plus Card and donate to VECA. Create an account on the Kroger page at: <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>. Once signed in, click on "My Account." In the Community Rewards section, click on "Enroll". The VECA number is 18512. Please contact us at veca@veca.org if you have any questions about using the Kroger Plus Card.

Scott McDermott Wins Mochow Award

Scott McDermott was selected by the V&E Greenline Committee for the Dick Mochow Volunteer of the Year Award for outstanding service to the V&E Greenline. The award was presented at the group's holiday party honoring volunteers. The award is named after long-time V&E Greenline volunteer Dick Mochow.

Scott McDermott serves on the V&E Greenline Committee; he is the secretary of the committee and active in its affairs. He has volunteered a great deal of time on the trail itself. He spent many days in the installation of decking on the Lick Creek Bridge and both worked at and organized volunteers to deal with the large tree that fell on the trail on Dickinson Street, as well as pitching in for the Artwalk

Scott and his fellow volunteer Paul Goldstine adopted the trail from Hawthorne Avenue to University Street. They mow it regularly and do the many tasks that make it look great. He is a monthly financial contributor to the V&E Greenline and made a special contribution for the water fountain. He takes an interest in day-to-day activities of the V&E Greenline. 🐦



It's all smiles for presenters Joshua First and Angela Lamb as they award Scott McDermott the V&E Greenline Committee's Dick Mochow Award.

VECA Annual Membership Form – Become a Member

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

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Be one of the following types of team members:

Member \$20 • Neighbor \$30 • Supporter \$50 • Leader \$100 • Champion \$500 • Benefactor \$1000

\$50 or more: Historic Plaque _____ or Poster _____



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Citizen Action on Burglaries

By Mike Kirby

Citizens have been reporting on the NextDoor about what seemed to be an inordinate number of burglaries in Vollintine Evergreen. Mary Wilder organized a meeting at the VECA Welcome Center to talk about the problem.

The meeting was a great success. There were 23 residents, five police officials, and four VECA volunteers who discussed the problem dispassionately with the goal of solving the problem. The crime areas seemed to be northeast of Tutwiler Avenue and McLean, north of the Tutwiler and Dickinson area and Rainbow Circle. The police have identified 25 burglaries and have made five arrests. Four of those arrested were juveniles. Officers have been patrolling the area heavily, sending in undercover operations, and looking at police reports for crime patterns.

Residents at the meeting talked about their concerns and gave police the specifics of the burglaries at their homes. They asked great questions about securing their homes and the police responded that watching each other's houses was important, along with taking a number of safety actions, such as making houses look as secure as possible. Residents who are traveling out of town should not advertise their absence by leaving newspapers on the lawn and garbage cans at the curb. People can also call the Crump Station for a vacation patrol. The police cautioned against placing Christmas boxes from expensive items on the curb, since that alerts criminals that expensive items are in that house.

Police officials said they solve 70 percent of the burglaries as the result of calls and tips from residents. They also said burglar alarms were especially effective and video cameras were helpful in identifying the criminals.

Mostly the police asked residents to call them if suspicious people are on the street. They encouraged using the police dispatch number, but if it's difficult to get through on that line, use 911 or even call the Crump Station Precinct.

- Police dispatch 545-2677 (then press zero)
- Crump Station 636-4600
- Call the Crump Station for a vacation patrol/watch

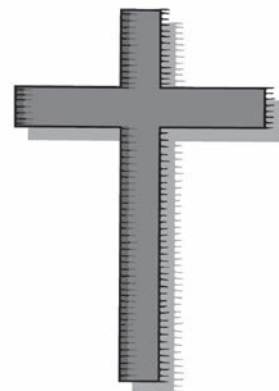
One of the more interesting suggestions was to have clean alleys. Police reported that often burglars had entered through alleys. Police like to drive through alleys but cannot if they are overgrown or blocked. Helping to keep your alleys clear can reduce crime in the neighborhood!



Police said that juveniles committing burglaries were being released from the courts because of the recent U.S. Department of Justice settlement, and said state law prohibits their access to juvenile fingerprints. They also mentioned the shortage of officers because of resignations and retirements, and said it was difficult to put officers everywhere citizens wanted.

The meeting was a huge success -- thanks to everyone who attended. 🙏

McLean Baptist Church



815 N. McLean Avenue
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901-274-3766

We are still meeting in the chapel at
10:30am on Sunday mornings.



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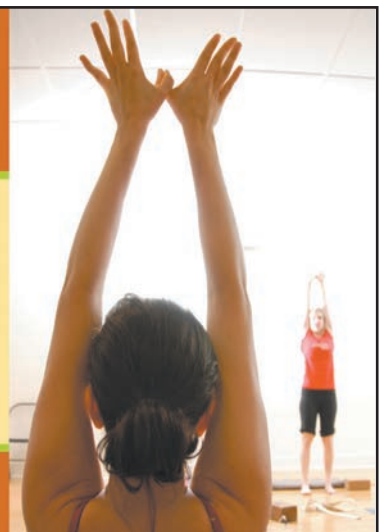
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Dear Neighbor,

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2014 has been a year full of success for **VECA**, and we have only been able to do it because of you - our neighbors. Through **VECA** (Vollintine Evergreen Community Association), we consciously and intentionally strive to make our neighborhood a great place to live, work, and play.

Did you know that more than **500** of your **Vollintine Evergreen** neighbors volunteered over **5,000** hours of their time to serve and impact our community this year? Together we have been able to:

- Harvest and maintain 2 community gardens
- Hold neighborhood cleanups
- Host over 20 neighborhood events
- Pen articles and distribute newsletters
- Tutor and mentor neighborhood children

It's that time of year again to gather and socialize at our annual neighborhood meeting. Your annual membership contributions generate about \$10,000 each year; all of your generous donations go directly back into the community towards the Welcome Center for neighborhood meetings, **VECA**-sponsored events, and all of our volunteer projects. **VECA** is a grassroots organization that is 100% volunteer-run; our 17 member board is elected by you - the residents - to help guide our work. **Vollintine Evergreen** residents consciously take pride in our neighborhood by making monetary donations to **VECA** and volunteering our time. We invite all residents to get involved in helping to maintain and develop our beautiful historic neighborhood!

Annual Membership Meeting



Saturday, January 31, 2015

Open Door Bible Church
1792 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112

Potluck Breakfast @ 9am

Annual Meeting & Elections @ 10am

Bring your favorite breakfast food to share. VECA will provide coffee and juice.



Join Your Neighbors in 2015 & Join VECA

If you are a renewing member, thank you for your continued support.

Please use the enclosed envelope to pay your 2015 membership.

Mail, bring it with you to the annual meeting, or pay online @ www.veca.org.



Facebook.com/VECA



Twitter.com/VECA_Midtown



veca.nextdoor.com



veca@veca.org



www.veca.org

I am VECA. You are VECA. We are VECA together.

Dear VECA,

Oh my, where has the time gone? We are already starting a brand new year.

Many, many, thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers for making this another successful year. Very special thanks to the VECA board and the committees who supported me during my first year as president.

Where would we be without you, our volunteers? So many wonderful people in the community have graciously stepped forward this past year with many actions of kindness, whether it was helping with an event, donating candy, neighborhood clean ups, working in the garden, helping in the summer arts camp, supporting the Artwalk, or financial contributions, your outpouring of support did not go unnoticed. You made a difference!

A quote from author, David Thomas says, "Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls." There is a bright light shining in VECA for all to see, and it is because of you, our volunteers.

So now, where do we go from here? What are our goals for next year? My answer to that is to do bigger and better things.

We have the same issues as other neighborhoods in our great city. Unfortunately, VECA is not immune to rising crime including, burglaries, robberies, domestic violence and problems with our youth. However, VECA will be proactive by working together to keep our community clean, educating our neighbors on crime prevention, bringing beautification into the neighborhoods through arts, community gardens, improvements to our V&E Greenline and other green spaces, and expanding and improving our communication.

It is said that volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. Join us in 2015! As William Shakespeare once said, "I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks".

Sincerely,

Lilly R. Gilkey, President

Vollintine Evergreen Community Association

