

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

## NEWS

A NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLICATION SPONSORED BY VECA, THE VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION / VECA.ORG / VECA901@GMAIL.COM

APRIL 2015


## V&E Artwalk

The fourth annual V&E Artwalk will raise money and awareness for the V&E Greenline community-owned trail, which travels through the heart of Midtown and the Vollintine Evergreen Community. The event will feature the work of artists from all over the Greater Memphis area.

This large family event is an annual occurrence in the Midtown area. It will not only raise awareness about 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 local art community. Artists will be selling their creations at affordable prices. There will be a silent auction from items donated by the artists. There will be a children's area with art activities and bounce houses. Music by local artists will be a special treat. Several types of craft beer from a Memphis microbrewery will be available. There will be grilled foods, side items, walking tacos, barbecue, hot dogs and hamburgers, and vegetarian items.

We expect 70 booths and many people from surrounding neighborhoods and throughout the metropolitan area.

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

Please thank these sponsors and tell them that you appreciate their support of the V&E Artwalk: Dino's Grill; Eclectic Eye; Evergreen Historic District; Jeffery and Katherine Warren; Mary Wilder for City Council; Memphis Arts Collective; Mercy Hill Church; Mid Town Mini Mart; Tangles Hair Studio; Walnut Grove Animal Clinic; West Memorials; Yo Clark Yoga Therapy; In Home\*In Studio 

**V&E**  
  
**GREENLINE**



**V&E**  
**ARTWALK**

**BENEFITS MIDTOWN'S V&E GREENLINE**  
FEATURING MEMPHIS ARTISTS SELLING THEIR CRAFTS

**APRIL 25**

SILENT AUCTION FOOD AND DRINKS CHILDREN'S AREA  
1625 TUTWILER VEGREENLINE.ORG 901-276-1782

SATURDAY 11 - 6 RAIN DATE: APRIL 26

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Dates:

Ice Cream Social, Sunday, July 19

National Night Out, Tuesday, August 4

Clean-Up Event with Rhodes Kinney Students,  
Saturday, August 22

October Fest, Friday, October 16



Now's a great time to get involved in community gardening in VECA.  
Contact Chris Floyd for information on when the team is meeting next:  
cakirby72@yahoo.com or 491-6320.

### Historic Project

Troy Hallsell, a history PhD student at the University of Memphis, is looking to interview Vollintine Evergreen residents that lived in the neighborhood during the 1960s and 1970s. He is researching the neighborhood's efforts to prevent the State of Tennessee from building Interstate-40 through the Vollintine Evergreen area. If anyone who was involved in this event has a story to share, or can speak to what it was like living here during this period, please contact him at the number below.

Troy Hallsell

Phone: 915-525-8425

Email: thallsll@memphis.edu

## Rental Office Space for Nonprofits \$300/Month

At VECA Welcome Center

Office shared by three small nonprofits  
Plenty of parking • Located on a visible street  
Building has security system • Nonprofit use  
must be compatible with VECA use

Access to internet • FAX available •  
Reasonable use of utilities included •  
VECA-approved office decoration •  
Lockable office door • Large meeting room  
adjacent to office for meetings and events  
• Kitchen available for light entertaining •  
Recently remodeled

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](http://veca.org)

1680 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38107  
For more information, call 901-276-1782 or  
email: [veca901@gmail.com](mailto:veca901@gmail.com)



## VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

April 2015

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VECA Committees

### DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS MAY 15 ADS MAY 15

Please send all articles and submissions to  
[NEWS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NEWS@GMAIL.COM)  
For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads  
electronically, please email  
[vecanews901@gmail.com](mailto:vecanews901@gmail.com)

VECA BOARD OFFICERS  
President Lilly Gilkey  
Vice President Rick Maxwell  
Secretary Chris Floyd  
Treasurer Chuck Fox

VECA COMMITTEE HEADS  
V&E Greenline Greg Lieberman  
Housing Chuck Fox  
Neighborhood Networks  
and Safety  
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](http://veca.org)  
Email: [veca901@gmail.com](mailto:veca901@gmail.com)

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_





# V&E Campaign

The V&E Greenline is soliciting donations to help pay for maintenance.

The maintenance, repair and beautification of the V&E Greenline depend on donations.

Upkeep is not cheap. In addition to buying materials for routine chores like mowing, weed eating, emptying of garbage cans, litter pickup, and leaf removal, we have to pay for utilities and equipment repairs. Other problems such as tree and trail damage affect the bottom line. There are also needs like mailings and ever-increasing insurance costs. Our pockets are especially strained since the V&E Greenline is paying for the awesome water fountain that was installed near the Stationhouse.

You can mail a check to the V&E Greenline, 1680 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38107. You can also donate online through PayPal at [VEGreenline.org](http://VEGreenline.org). Another option is to make smaller monthly payments through PayPal.

Your contribution will ensure that this nationally and locally recognized treasure remains a prominent part of our Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. 🐦

## Historic Signs for VECA

VECA is raising funds for signs to promote our neighborhood's historic identity. The ioby fundraising campaign has a goal to raise \$3,125. Make a donation now at [www.ioby.org/project/veca-vollintine-evergreen-national-historic-district-signage-campaign](http://www.ioby.org/project/veca-vollintine-evergreen-national-historic-district-signage-campaign).

VECA is confident the neighborhood will meet and exceed its goal. Additional money raised will fund more historic signs.

Vollintine Evergreen is a historic neighborhood with nearly 2,500 homes and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Other historic Midtown neighborhoods have signs to remind residents and visitors that they are in a special place with historic status. VECA's signs will be fabricated from metal and anchored to be beautiful and long-lasting like the community, and will be placed at major entry points to the neighborhood.

The internet-based funding platform ioby supports citizen-led and neighbor-funded projects and stands for "in our backyards." Livable Memphis and the Hyde Family Foundations are currently participating in and supporting a national ioby campaign that is providing up to \$85,000 in matching gifts for Memphis neighborhood projects.

[www.ioby.org/project/veca-vollintine-evergreen-national-historic-district-signage-campaign](http://www.ioby.org/project/veca-vollintine-evergreen-national-historic-district-signage-campaign). 🐦

**DONATE  
TO YOUR  
V&E GREENLINE**

[WWW.VEGREENLINE.ORG](http://WWW.VEGREENLINE.ORG)

**UPKEEP COSTS MONEY**



Father and daughter, George Burton and Christina Burton working on snow sculptures early in March.

**BIBLE BASED • CHRIST CENTERED • GRACE DRIVEN**

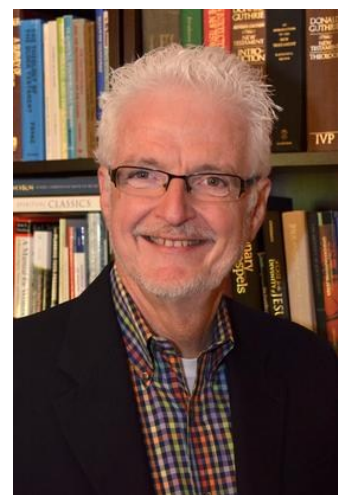
**MCLEAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
815 N. MCLEAN  
MEMPHIS, TN 38107  
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*Join us on Sunday mornings  
in the chapel at McLean and  
Crump*

**Adult Sunday School—9:30 AM**  
**Classic Sunday Worship—10:50 AM**

*"A warm welcome is waiting for you.  
Come and enjoy traditional hymns,  
Bible preaching, and a truly caring  
family of Jesus followers."*

—Dr. Kendell Easley, Pastor





# VECA Annual Meeting

The VECA annual meeting is held yearly to remain in compliance with nonprofit regulations. As dull as that sounds, the organizing team strives to make the event informative, fun yet short. This year, neighbors were offered a chance to register for the “biggest loser” competition that runs from January 31 through April 24. Neighbors were able to visit with government officials including Memphis City Council officials Jim Strickland (District 5) and Berlin Boyd (District 7) and County Commissioner Melvin Burgess (District 2).

Our host church this year was Open Door Bible Church, and they did much more than simply open the doors for us. They surprised everyone by providing an abundance of yummy hot pancakes and coffee. Many thanks to Denise Flores and Stephanie LaVoice for their culinary skills; to Michael LaVoice for his technical help; and to Pastor Gary Starbuck and the team for their gracious hospitality and use of the facilities. Many thanks also to all the neighbors who brought breakfast foods to share.

The VECA board is elected at the annual meeting. Those voted to serve in 2015 are: Justin Askew; Justin Burkhead; Anne Engstrom; Sara First; Chris Floyd, Secretary; Chuck Fox, Treasurer; Lilly Gilkey, President; Joey Goforth; Neal Heaslett; Marci Hendrix; Angela Lamb; Rick Maxwell, Vice President; Bill Nelson; Brandi Posey; Angie Powell; Sam Powers; Bob Rigus; Tony Steinberg; Natasha Strong; Diane Thornton; Jeannie Tomlinson Saltmarsh; and Brigid Wheeler. Lilly Gilkey was elected to her second term as president.

The annual VECA awards are presented at the meeting.

Ritchie Smith of Ritchie Smith Associates received the Richard S. Borys award, which recognizes public officials who through their work contribute to the Vollintine Evergreen community. Ritchie Smith was nominated for this award because of his involvement in the V&E Greenline Stationhouse walkway. He volunteered to do the analysis and drawings that were used by the contractors to construct the walkway, and he also supervised their work. The result of this beneficial project includes a sidewalk, stairs and a handicap-accessible ramp, and a beautiful and functional water fountain for people and pets. Smith also volunteered at the founding of the trail. He created the master plan that guided development of the trail in the early years. He was also the primary contractor on the V&E Greenline Entrance Plan that was funded by a sub-grant from the Shelby County Greenprint.

On behalf of the Hyde Family Foundations, Lauren Taylor, program director for Livable Communities, received the Mary Wilder Award, which recognizes excellence in institutions that contribute to the Vollintine Evergreen community. The Hyde Family Foundations has been a long-time supporter of VECA. They provided matching funds for the Pew Charitable Trust grant in 1995 and funded block club efforts on Brown and Howell Avenues. Most recently, the Hyde Family Foundations provided a grant for trail and facilities improvements along the V&E Greenline. Much was accomplished with the grant, and some of the projects will have an impact for 15 years or more. The work included the construction of the V&E Greenline Stationhouse walkway; painting two bridges; adding safety features, including fences and stabilizing the banks; adding 60 tons of crushed gravel to the trail; and repairing a water infiltration problem at the Stationhouse.

Paul Goldstein received the Margaret Dichtel award, which is presented to a Vollintine Evergreen resident who embodies the principles of community action. Paul Goldstein was selected for the award for his excellent work as a volunteer on the V&E Greenline. A member of the V&E Greenline committee, he volunteers on the Greenline not only for his own enjoyment but to make it a wonderful place for all to use. He especially enjoys working on the community flower garden at Idlewild. He spent many hours watering this summer and weed eating around the beds. Paul also spent many hours cutting and cleaning up debris from the large tree that came down on Tutwiler near the trail last winter. Along with other volunteers, Paul worked many days on the Lick Creek bridge decking to make the bridge safer. He also helped on the V&E Artwalk; in particular, he worked on the setup before the event.

Marci Hendrix received the Martha Heinemann award, which honors a VECA board member who has rendered exceptional service to the VECA Board. Marci was selected for her work as a board member for organizing social events in the neighborhood, assisting with the annual meeting preparations, being involved in the planting of trees in the




ABOVE : Angela Lamb receives the inaugural Mike Kirby award.



Left to Right : Marci Hendrix, Paul Goldstein, Angela Lamb, Mike Kirby, Ritchie Smith, Lauren Taylor

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# Annual Meeting Cont.



neighborhood, and assisting the board committees to prepare for the board meetings. She joined the board in 2008 and has served as secretary and vice president; she has been the production editor of the newsletter since 2011. She also worked on the recent welcome center renovations team.

Creating an award category is one of the highest honors VECA can bestow on a volunteer in appreciation of their hard work for the neighborhood. This year the VECA board created a new award to honor Mike Kirby, who has worked tirelessly for the neighborhood for decades. The Mike Kirby award will be given every year to someone who served as a dedicated volunteer to VECA.

VECA now has two awards to honor volunteers – the Margaret Dichtel award and the Mike Kirby award. The Dichtel award intentionally has the broadest definition of any of our awards. This award can be presented to anyone who makes the neighborhood a better place to live, whether through VECA or on their own. For example, some neighbors get together to decorate their street during the holidays and other neighbors sweep and clean up their streets or mow vacant lots. The neighborhood has many deserving volunteers, and by creating this new category the VECA board hopes to thank more of our neighbors.


The Mike Kirby award will be given each year to a volunteer doing good things in the neighborhood with the specific criterion that the volunteer is working through the organization.

A little background about Mike Kirby's work for the neighborhood will easily explain why the VECA board wanted to name an award for him. Here's just a sampling of work Mike has done over the years.

- He recruits Rhodes students to get involved at VECA and in the neighborhood.
- He has served as president of VECA.
- He has served on the VECA board for many terms.
- He keeps VECA connected with city and county government by attending meetings and association meetings.
- He has written grants to benefit the neighborhood – including a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant that helped to open a community resource center in the north section of Vollintine Evergreen.
- For years he held open meetings at the police station on Hollywood for residents and government officials to come together to tackle problems.
- He is one of the founders of the V&E Greenline and is passionate about making the Greenline the best it can be for neighbors and for Memphis.
- He and his family work for months along with the Greenline committee to make the Artwalk a great event.
- He is chair of the management committee and works tirelessly to keep VECA financially solvent through good stewardship.

As he was retiring from Rhodes in 2010, he said, "I'm going to sort through the things I really want to do, that are most important to me and the community. ... I just plan to use my skills to help push things along." VECA is a better place because of your dedicated efforts, Mike, and you so deserve to have an award in your name.

The inaugural Mike Kirby award was presented to Angela Lamb for exceptional service to the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association. Angela has amazed everyone with her involvement and leadership in many VECA projects in a short time as a VECA volunteer. She was the lead for the ice cream social for the last two years and included fun new food items. She was the lead of the first annual "Trunk 'r Treat" at the Welcome Center, which was a huge success. She also is heading up the "biggest loser" contest. She has served as the volunteer coordinator for the V&E Artwalk, and she represents the Greenline committee at board meetings. Angela recently volunteered to be the co-chair of the Membership Committee, which provides funds for the many programs that are appreciated by neighborhood residents. 🐦



## St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

**Sunday**  
Orthos at 9 am • Liturgy at 10 am

**Weekdays**  
Wednesday Vespers at 5:30 pm  
Saturday Great Vespers at 5:50 pm

1663 Tutwiler Avenue  
at Dickinson  
(901) 274-4119  
[www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

# Security Patrol System

By Tami Robbins-Rigus

To Our Neighbors in the Vollintine Evergreen Historic District. Late in 2014 we saw a spike in the number of break-ins and burglaries happening in our neighborhood.

This occurred despite our efforts as individuals and neighbors to be safe and maintain security in our homes. A meeting was held with residents, MPD officers, and other volunteers to discuss the problem and work toward finding solutions. When any of these crimes are solved, it is often the result of tips and calls from residents.

As an extra effort to help prevent crime in our area, some residents have expressed a desire for a security patrol service, especially since we can't all be at home and on the lookout all the time. We have jobs and school, we have families, we have hobbies and activities, we have lives! As the result of a grassroots effort, a number of people who live in Vollintine Evergreen and Hein Park have met with Pro-Tech Security and secured a quote for services.

This activity is not related to, associated with or endorsed by the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association (VECA.) This is a group of residents who are willing to become paid subscribers to the services that Pro-Tech Security offers.

Pro-Tech Security provides armed, trained, uniformed, insured and licensed security officers, mainly off-duty or retired law enforcement officers, driving visibly marked patrol cars. The vehicles do not leave the neighborhood during the shift.


Twelve-hour patrols can be rotated to a different time period every two weeks (for instance, 3 pm-3 am, then 5 pm-5 am, then 2 pm-2a m, etc.) or divided into two six-hour patrols each day.

They provide yard signs and mailbox stickers to identify the homes of their clients. They offer vacation watch, personal escort between home and car after dark, home security alarm response, and the company will check on the babysitter when the client is away.

While you cannot put a price on safety, the bottom line is often "the bottom line." The more households that participate, the lower the cost will be for everyone. Approximately 85 residents have confirmed their desire to have this company patrol their streets. A minimum of 100 subscribers will cost each \$80.00 per month for twelve-hour patrols, seven days a week. The monthly cost for the same patrols drops to \$54.00 with 150 subscribers and \$40.00 per month with 200 subscribers! Over 200 subscribers will either drop the price further or increase the number of hours patrolled per day. Of course, those who live near subscribers will benefit from their neighbors' participation, although this service will respond to their clients first.

There is no contract required and no minimum commitment. They will bill each client monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually, according to each client's request.

Hiring a security patrol service does not replace police patrols, nor does it replace our own common sense and personal responsibility when it comes to the protection of our homes and families. It can, however, assist with the prevention of crime and offer peace of mind, especially when we are not home or when we are asleep.

If you are interested in subscribing to this security patrol service, please email Cindy Hazen at [cindyhazen@cs.com](mailto:cindyhazen@cs.com) with your name, address and contact information. If you would like additional information about this company and their services, please contact Cindy or Tami Rigus at [tami.robbinsrigus@yahoo.com](mailto:tami.robbinsrigus@yahoo.com). 

# Trustee David Lenoir Meets with VECA


By VECA Neighborhood Preservation Committee

The weather was cold outside the VECA Welcome Center on the evening of February 26, but inside there was warmth in a meeting between the Shelby County Trustee's office and 12 volunteers from the VECA Neighborhood Preservation Committee.

David Lenoir, Shelby County Trustee, spoke about how his office will be of assistance to VECA in dealing with properties that are vacant, blighted and have unpaid taxes. The Trustee can use a legal process called a tax sale to obtain ownership of these properties and then the Shelby County Land Bank can sell them. Properties must have at least three years of back taxes and the process of obtaining the land can take two years because of legal constraints. Lenoir called managing tax sale properties the hardest part of his job. His office must notify all owners, heirs, and lien holders, a process that can be very complicated. The Trustee is also the tax collector for Shelby County and the City of Memphis.

Donnell Cobbins in the Trustee's office, the liaison with VECA, reviewed 12 vacant houses and vacant lots that were concerns for VECA. They have been blighted for some time and code enforcement was not able to get the owners to maintain them. VECA has mowed some of the lots in the past and even boarded some of the blighted houses. In addition, some of these properties were abandoned and did not appear to have an owner. Cobbins said that five of the houses were now scheduled for a tax sale and that he would examine the others to see if it was possible to put them in a tax sale. He noted that one of the properties was in bankruptcy and thus could not be put into a tax sale.

Lenoir said his office will work with property owners who are delinquent in taxes. They hold monthly workshops to help people pay off delinquent taxes.

The Trustee's office has a reputation as being one of the best customer service public agencies, and Lenoir showed that work ethic by reaching out to VECA. We look forward to working with him. Cobbins will be attending future meetings of VECA's Neighborhood Preservation Committee. 



David Lenoir

Donnell Cobbins



Swimming! Circus Arts! Ping Pong! Pool! Crafts! Special guest! Field trips!



Tutoring Time Available!  
And More!

**"VENS Summer Camp"!**

(Vollintine Evergreen Neighborhood School)

Location: Living Hope Church Midtown  
815 McLean Blvd., Memphis 38107

Times: 7:15-6:00

Dates: June 1<sup>st</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup>

Ages: Rising K - Rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders

Cost: \$85.00 per week

Contact: Leslie Montgomery at 258-9473 or 300-4860

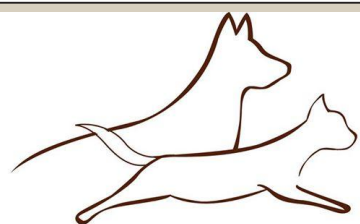
You may also e-mail me at [lesliem@venschool.com](mailto:lesliem@venschool.com)

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# Five Questions with Meredee Taylor

VECA Resident and Trinity Ministries Volunteer Coordinator

By Sara First

Here at VECA we have a fondness for all our neighbors, old and new. I sat down recently with Meredee Taylor, who moved to V&E in October hoping to get involved in the good things happening here. As volunteer coordinator for Trinity Ministries, the outreach ministry of Peace Lutheran Memphis, Meredee helps with Room in the Inn and the “Casserole Round-up.”

One of several Memphis churches to participate in Room in the Inn, Peace Lutheran opens its doors on Friday nights from October through March to provide emergency shelter and meals. The monthly Casserole Round-up provides Monday and Wednesday lunches for the working poor and homeless in the neighborhood. Neighbors make casseroles, usually using recipes provided by Trinity Ministries and take them to the church, where they’re frozen until needed. You don’t have to be a church member to help – my family’s not.

What brought you to our neighborhood?

The Church, actually, Peace Lutheran. I was looking for a diverse congregation and I like how the church really has a neighborhood, diverse feel to it. I was living out east and I thought I really wanted to live where I came to church. So I bought a HUD house here in October.

What do you like about VECA?

Well, it’s been cold but I’m looking forward to riding my bike on the [V&E] Greenline. I like living close to the Greenline and I’m looking forward to that Artwalk.

Room in the Inn is in its fifth year in Memphis and its third year at Peace Lutheran. What have you learned or enjoyed about it?

When I’ve had a bad week, I’ll say to myself, “Oh and now I have to go to Room in the Inn,” and then I go, I’m so happy I went because of the people themselves. You could see a difference just in them. Even as it gets bigger, we still have a real family feel. They love it when they know who you are and you know who they are. Knowing that you’ve made a difference in somebody’s life that day — that’s part of my prayer that I’ll make a positive difference in somebody’s life today. Sometimes the karma on a certain night with a group of people, it’s an empowering feeling and you leave thinking, “Wow, this was just a great night.” And we’ve had more than one of those where everyone is in sync.

If you want to minister, that’s not what it’s about. I’m not there because I am trying to sell my beliefs. I’m just trying to act on what I should do as a human being.

What else would you like people to know about the Room in the Inn and the Casserole Round-up?

Well, my sister in Colorado tells me she thinks it’s a great thing I’m doing but is it safe? I tell her, I tell people, we do screen and over time we do get to know people as they come back week after week. We have a connection with a social worker as we’ve started to serve more vets, for example.

There are even opportunities if you don’t want to serve but just want to provide the meal, we can find people that will come and serve. There’re lots of ways to work around if somebody doesn’t want to or can’t be there.

For Trinity Ministries, we are reaching out and doing the Monday and Wednesday lunch with the casseroles. We would encourage people to contact us and see how they can get involved and share other ideas. We’re trying different things and we want the community to know that Trinity Ministries is there.

To learn more about Room in the Inn and the Casserole Round-up, contact Trinity Ministries at [tonierobinson58@gmail.com](mailto:tonierobinson58@gmail.com) or 274-3677. 🐦



## Did you Know ... I Versus E

From the February 12, 1971 VECA Newsletter

Author Unknown

From 1911 to 1940, Vollintine Avenue was officially recorded as Vollentine, both on street signs and city maps. Between 1931 and 1956, the E gradually gave way to the I. In 1941, an official city map had the name spelled with I, and by 1956, every map and every street sign had adopted the I. But not the school. Vollentine School was built in 1930, when the E was still ruling supreme, and it remained faithful to it. That’s the reason why today the street is called Vollintine and the school Vollentine. Now get this: the man both the street and the school were named after was Hiram Volentine who spelled his name with E but only one L which makes both modern spellings false. 🐦



Vollentine Optional Elementary School  
at 1682 Vollintine Ave

**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.

# AGING IN PLACE PROGRAM



*As the years wear away on our bodies and homes, maintaining the dream of homeownership can become difficult. If you can't afford to add grab bars to make your bathroom safe or replace a leaking roof, how can you continue to live safely in the place you've called home for so long?*

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis, Service Over Self and Memphis Light, Gas & Water have come together to launch an Aging in Place Program. Supported by The Plough Foundation, the program will serve low-income seniors across Shelby County and focus on accessibility improvements, critical home repairs and weatherization enhancements crucial to help seniors live in their own homes longer.

Together Memphis Habitat, SOS and MLGW want to make continued homeownership for seniors across Shelby County a reality so they can age in place with the comfort and dignity they deserve.

## AM I ELIGIBLE?

You may qualify for the AIP Program if you meet all of the following criteria:

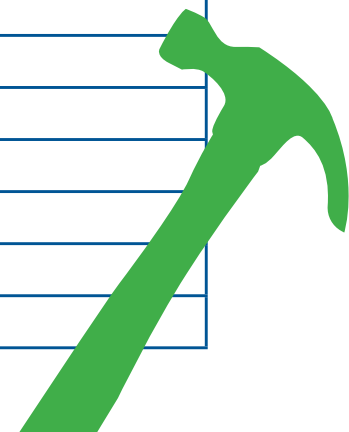
- I own and live in my home full-time.<sup>1</sup>
- I am 60 or older, or someone else who lives in my home full-time is 60 or older.
- My home is in Shelby County, Tennessee.
- City and county property taxes on my home are current.<sup>2</sup>
- The mortgage on my home is current<sup>2</sup>, or there is no mortgage on my home.
- I meet program guidelines for gross household income, based on all my home's residents older than 18. (See chart below.)
- I can provide documentation to prove identity, age, residency and income for myself and everyone else who lives in my home.<sup>3</sup>
- I am willing to participate in energy efficiency training with MLGW and in follow-up surveys with Habitat.
- My home needs work that falls within the services and budget of this program.

<sup>1</sup> Rental properties are NOT eligible to receive assistance through this program.

<sup>2</sup> "Current" means you are not being charged any interest, fees or penalties on an outstanding balance OR you are meeting all the conditions of an agreed payment plan.

<sup>3</sup> Documents you need to provide might include: a driver's license, utility bill, pay stubs and mortgage, Social Security, retirement/pension and/or bank statements.

# Living in Home	Maximum Gross Household Income
1	\$31,750
2	\$36,300
3	\$40,850
4	\$45,350
5	\$49,000
6	\$52,650
7	\$56,250
8	\$59,900





# AGING IN PLACE PROGRAM



## HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications are administered over the phone. Habitat will accept application inquiry phone calls starting at 9 a.m. on each of the 5 AIP application dates listed below. Habitat will stop accepting application inquiries as soon as the maximum number for that period is reached.

### AIP Application Dates

Monday, March 2, 2015

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

### To apply:

1. Call the AIP hotline at **901-322-3500** on the application dates.
2. Leave your name and contact information to be added to our application call-back list.
3. Complete an application over the phone. Habitat will call you to complete an application and arrange to obtain your identity documentation. (Hearing impaired applicants may complete applications in person.)

If you are eligible, we will schedule an inspection of your home. If the inspection determines your repair needs fall within the program's services and budget, you will be officially accepted into the program. Homes that cannot be brought to safe, habitable conditions within the program's limits will not be eligible for assistance.

**901-322-3500**

**MemphisHabitat.com**



Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis, Inc. and its AIP Program partners are pledged to a policy of equal opportunity. All decisions regarding the provision of program services are made without regard to the race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status or disability of an applicant, their household members or the surrounding community. Decisions regarding awards of repair or subcontract work are made without regard to the race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status or disability of the owners or employees of the business. Bid opportunities for repair and subcontract work under the AIP program are being affirmatively advertised and marketed to local, female-owned and minority-owned businesses. Habitat for Humanity is an equal opportunity employer.

# Tanglefoot Trail



By Marci Hendrix

Have you heard about the 43-mile rails-to-trail path an hour from Memphis? Tanglefoot Trail, a paved path with trailheads in New Albany, MS, and Houston, MS, opened in the fall of 2013. From New Albany, cyclists can head south along the trail to Houston and turn around anywhere for a short round trip. The trail is perfect for cyclists of all levels, from beginners looking for an adventure to the experienced needing to get some training miles.

Last summer, two friends and I decided to go see what the fuss was all about. We made it more of an adventure by staying overnight in Houston. On Saturday, July 12, we packed the car with bikes, cycling gear and supplies and drove to New Albany.

The path in New Albany starts in the historic downtown area next to a new bike/running store, Trails and Treads. The friendly staff was available to help cyclists with last-minute purchases and minor adjustments.

The trail winds through an industrial section, past a junkyard and underneath a highway, before countryside appears. Once past New Albany, the trail meanders through pastures, fields and farms. The trail is shaded about halfway through and pretty flat; be prepared to pedal rather than coast.

There are four “whistle stops” with restrooms, water fountains and covered picnic tables. We got a late start that morning and the stops were a haven from the heat of the day. We met two fellow Hightailers at the second whistle stop; they were on their way back from a round trip.

Tanglefoot’s website provides lots of information about towns along the path. Several fast food restaurants in Pontotoc were visible across a four-lane highway. We didn’t venture over but there are several traffic lights if one wanted to cross the road.

Algoma’s country store was the place to be. Right on the trail, the store had the ambiance of Shelby Forest’s General Store. We stopped, refueled and enjoyed some fried pickles and okra and chatted with the locals. The store is closed on Sundays, but they told us they are planning to expand their hours and menu and will provide live music in their new pavilion.

Back on the trail, we crossed numerous country roads, mostly paved but several gravel. Some of the homes on the trail share their driveway with the path. There were homes of all types, mostly modest, but we admired one lovely Victorian.

When we reached the more shaded section of the trail, we started noticing the bluebirds as they streaked across our path, and it became a game to count them as they zipped by. The final round trip count was 19. We also spotted four deer, a beaver, an egret, a heron, goats, cows, chickens, too many cardinals to count and – yes, I know they don’t count as wildlife – two mules pulling a wagon. The cicadas sang to us and we sang back. There were so few other cyclists around that we didn’t worry about belting out songs with made-up lyrics.

We arrived at the trailhead in Houston on the outskirts of town; a little isolated but manageable and close to Bridges-Hall Manor, the B&B where we stayed.

Bridges-Hall was fun. About a block from the town square, the house and rooms were roomy and comfortable. We arrived around 4:00 and relaxed before heading out for a bite to eat. Dinner was two blocks away at No Way Jose. We were hungry, the food was decent and the service was good. Most memorable was breakfast Sunday morning at Bridges-Hall. We enjoyed coffee in the garden before feasting on sausage, biscuits, grits, scrambled eggs, preserves, fruit, pound cake, orange juice and coffee, all prepared and served by the delightful Marina. After that hearty meal, we were set to either take a nap or get on our bikes and pedal away. We pedaled.

Since we got an early start, the way back was cooler. The time flew by and before we knew it we were back at New Albany. On the drive home, we pondered our next adventure. Ideas include a dream vacation of touring Italy on bikes, mountain biking in New Mexico or Arizona, and someday sooner than soon heading to Missouri to check out the Katy Trail.

## Tips and Websites

- Saturday seems to be the best day for doing a round trip since the stores are open. The bike store in New Albany is closed on Sundays. The stores we could see in the towns appeared closed on Sunday but they may have afternoon hours.
- Be prepared and don’t be stingy with your supplies – bring snacks, water bottles and extra inner tubes and supplies to fix flats.
- We saw about three electric golf carts on the trail and read later that they are allowed with a permit.
- The counties along the trail are dry.
- Cell phone service for Verizon and AT&T were good; Sprint was slower.
- Houston has fast food but not many restaurant options.

<http://www.tanglefoottrail.com/>

<http://www.tanglefoottrail.com/about-us/rules-regulations/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trails-Treads-New-Albany/596190027121051>

<http://www.visitnewalbany.com/>

<http://www.pontotocchamber.com/tourism/seeing.php>

<http://www.natcheztracetravel.com/houston-bedandbreakfasts.html>

# VECA Blood Drive

By Angela Lamb

VECA hosted a neighborhood blood drive on Saturday, March 28, at the Welcome Center and was able to collect thirteen units of blood; one unit can save up to four lives. Three other people tried to donate but for one reason or another they were deferred that day. Even though our goal was to send 20 units back to Lifeblood, the thirteen that were collected were eventually sent to the patients in area hospitals. Located in the heart of the medical district Lifeblood is the Mid-South’s only full-service, nonprofit blood collection center. It is the area’s leading provider of blood and blood components to hospitals within a 100-mile radius, supplying more than 100,000 units for local patient transfusions each year. According to Lifeblood’s Mobile Rep., “VECA did okay for [our] first blood drive.” Even though we did not reach our goal, we did do well enough to be considered for another drive in six months or so. For those who were able to donate during VECA’s inaugural blood drive, you will be able to donate again at the end of May - and I hope you will! It’s a fact that 90% of us will need blood before age 70, but less than 10% of the general population actually donates blood. As the second-largest medical center per capita in the U.S., the Mid-South has a pressing and constant need for blood.

## Facts about blood:

- Every three minutes, someone needs a life-sustaining blood transfusion.
- Every eight minutes, someone gives blood.
- One in ten people who enter a hospital will need blood.
- Less than half the population is eligible to give blood.
- Red blood cells have a shelf life of only 42 days.
- Victims of car accidents can require up to 50 units of blood per hour until they stabilize.
- Sickle cell patients require up to four units per month for life.
- Cancer treatments can require four or more units of blood.
- Brain surgery requires anywhere from two to 25 units.
- Hip replacement surgery calls for two to five units.





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# VECA Youth and Sunday Funday



Above right: Nadia Taylor honing her shadowing skills  
 Above left: John Rutkauskas teaches VECA Youth, Deadrick and Malcolm shadowing; Below: VECA Youth at Brooks Museum Keiona, LaStacia, Nadia, Talicia, Destiny



By Jill Fredenburg  
 Sunday is Funday for VECA Youth participating in a Rhodes Arts Project. The mission of Rhodes Arts is to encourage the creativity of students in a positive environment. The students participate in various art projects, learning which media they prefer. The goal is to offer students an opportunity to discover art, materials, and their own personal talent. This semester the students have made their own clay, created abstract mixed-media self-portraits, and had an artist present his work to them. We drew inspiration from a visit to the Brooks Museum, and plan a participatory project in the Artwalk. This program is made possible by the Rhodes College Bonner Scholars program, Mustard Seed Studio and neighborhood artists who create art and community with the youth. 🐦



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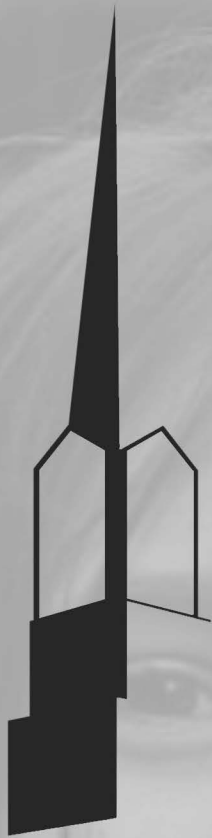
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## **PLAYSCHOOL**

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