

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

## NEWS

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

SEPTEMBER 2015



Khara Woods and NJ Woods  
[www.kharawoods.com](http://www.kharawoods.com)

## New Public Art Project on Jackson Ave

By Ginika Nwoko


There's a new artistic addition to our Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood in the form of an eye-catching mural at 1689 Jackson Avenue. And if NJ and Khara Woods, a mother-daughter artistic duo, have anything to say about it, it won't be the last.

This mural project has been ten years in the making for NJ. She first produced this work in acrylic in her series called Under Construction. The mural, which features the same designs from the series, uses geometric shapes to construct portraits of unique faces. She chose this particular piece of art in the hopes that the classical shapes would be familiar and eye-catching to passersby. Ideally, the mural will encourage the public to contemplate topics surrounding "individuality and the multifaceted nature of life." The artists wanted the piece to be thought-provoking and inspirational.

Khara also wants this mural to serve as inspiration for other members of the neighborhood to make their dreams for projects come to life. She and her mother used the website In Our Backyard – or IOBY – to make their dream a reality. IOBY is a community crowd-sourcing platform for people to raise money for projects that will benefit their communities.

Community improvement is a unique aspect of this organization; the more local your project, the better. Initially, both Khara and NJ were nervous about the organization's restrictions. In hindsight they agree that there are great benefits in making sure that the projects have an impact close to home. Fittingly, the progressive and art-loving owner of Moore Food Catering on Jackson gave them access to a wall of his restaurant thus providing them with prime real estate. They met neighbors whose curiosities were piqued by the artists working under the hot sun. In conjunction with VECA volunteer Mike Kirby, they were able to establish and build their relationship with VECA board members and the association as a whole. The benefits were bountiful.

Khara and NJ were energized by the project, and they became better connected to our community. With an air of passion and determination, they are adamant that they don't want this mural to be the last piece of art they are able to bring to the community.

In fact, they are already looking for a new mural location in our neighborhood. Both of these women were inspired to do more for this neighborhood and they want you to be inspired too. Be the change you want to see in Vollintine Evergreen! Khara blogs about her experience at: [www.kharawoods.com](http://www.kharawoods.com). 



NJ Woods and Khara Woods



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS  
**SENIOR'S INFORMATION NIGHT**  
 Monday Evening, September 14, 2015  
 6:00 to 7:30 PM  
 The Welcome Center  
 1680 Jackson Avenue

What's in it for you?

Senior Safety from the Memphis and Shelby County-Crime Stoppers

Shelby County Trustee David Lenoir can answer your Property Tax Questions.

Did you know that you can have your property taxes frozen?

Joann Lowe – Aging Commission

Did you know that you can have your Wheel Tax reimbursed?

Did you know that you can have your City and County Property taxes reduced or cancelled?



### Show Your Neighborhood Pride

Reflecting the great outdoors that our neighborhood offers, the soft shirt serves as a fundraiser and was designed by neighbor Corey Owens.



\$15 for Small, Medium, Large, X-Large  
 Check made payable to VECA or via PayPal on veca website: veca.org

We deliver!

### 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

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



## VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

September 2015

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 Natasha Strong  
 VECA Committeess

### DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS OCT 15

ADS OCTOBER 15

Please send all articles and submissions to vecanews901@gmail.com

For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email vecanews901@gmail.com

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

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 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  
 Email: 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Location Chances for Voting Precincts

Shelby County Election Commission approved consolidating a number of precincts in the county.

If you voted at the VECA Welcome Center, you will now vote at Open Door Bible Church, 1792 North Parkway.

If you voted at Volland Elementary School, you now vote at Peace Lutheran Church, 1542 Jackson Avenue.

This information and more is available at [www.ShelbyVote.com](http://www.ShelbyVote.com).

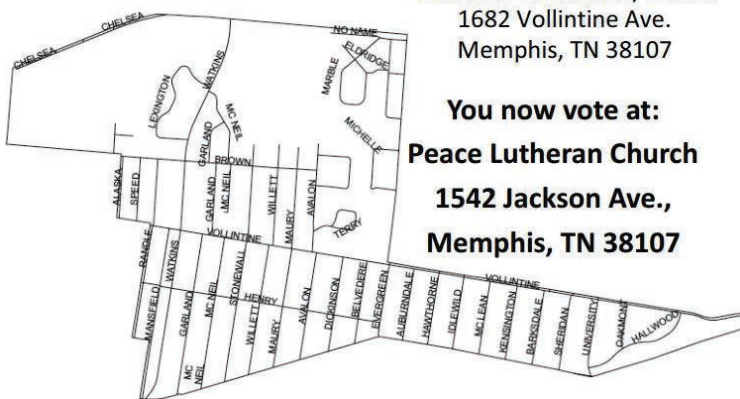
Election Day: Thursday, October 8, 2015

Early Voting: Friday, September 18 - Saturday, October 3, 2015

### Combined Precinct: 36-02

If you voted at:  
Volland Elementary School  
1682 Volland Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38107

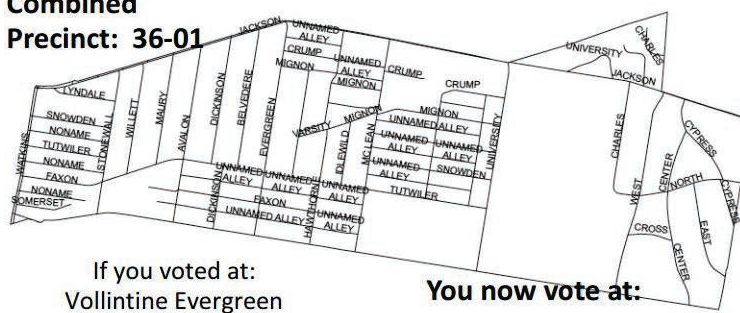
You now vote at:  
Peace Lutheran Church  
1542 Jackson Ave.,  
Memphis, TN 38107



### Combined Precinct: 36-01

If you voted at:  
Volland Evergreen  
Community Assoc.  
1680 Jackson Ave.,  
Memphis, TN 38107

You now vote at:  
Open Door Bible Church  
1792 N. Parkway  
Memphis, TN 38112



## VECA's Ice Cream Social

VECA held its annual ice cream social on Sunday, July 19 in conjunction with National Ice Cream Day at the Garden's section of the V&E Greenline. Frozen treats, wading pools, sprinklers, corn hole and a cycling rodeo kept the children occupied and happy. Livable Memphis brought their Mobile Porch which lent a festive air to the gardens and provided a helpful survey about the V&E Greenline for attendees to complete. For the second year in a row, folk music was provided by Mississippi John McDowell and friends, John Fleskes, Dan Larson, Glenn Malchow and Sorianna. Almost \$400 was donated at the event that will help with V&E Greenline maintenance.

Many thanks to Donna's KettleCorn for the popcorn donation, and a huge thanks to the many volunteers who helped set-up, sell tickets, serve ice cream and hot dogs, and clean-up; it was a successful event because of them.



THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 17 | 5-8PM | 769 VANCE AVENUE  
*Empowering Memphians in 38126  
to accomplish their educational and professional goals.*

Evergreener Kate Lareau and Volland Evergreener Ann Brainerd are accepting submissions for Art for Jobs, an art show and sale benefiting Advance Memphis. Advance works to empower residents of 38126, one of Memphis's most impoverished communities, to move from poverty to financial security through education and employment. Each year our artists include nationally known artists as well as students and "Sunday painters," so join us! An artist split of 50% is available. Submissions preferred by September 1.

For more information, visit <http://advancememphis.org/art-for-jobs-2015> or contact [kate@advancememphis.org](mailto:kate@advancememphis.org)

Do you want a 95 gallon recycling cart? Delivery began this summer in waves of 40,000 at a time. Rather than roll these out in specific communities, they are being delivered upon request. Submit your name and address to [Joyce.williams@memphistn.gov](mailto:Joyce.williams@memphistn.gov)



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[www.MyMemphisVet.com](http://www.MyMemphisVet.com)



# Featured Artist

By Sara First

Melissa McGuire Bridgman is an artist, a potter, and a consummate problem solver. She's also a proud Southerner and passionate member of the Vollintine Evergreen community. Walking her excitable black Lab mix or ferrying her Snowden sixth-grader to school, she takes full advantage of our neighborhood's amenities and even throws them into her work. Her pottery is retro-inspired and meant for everyday use – much like the early-to mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century homes, yards and sidewalks in our neighborhood.



Hence when she walked into our house and immediately agreed with me that we should repair rather than replace or seal off our cracked and drafty patio doors, I took her opinion to my husband as the clear voice of reason and authority. “You have to preserve household functionality,” she assured me. Never mind that the patio doors are five feet from the front door; “Beauty matters.” Her own home and yard blend form and functionality, full of life in the garden, as well as wonderful colors and contrasts throughout the house.

When I asked her if the V&E community has changed during her more than a decade in Midtown, she emphasized continuity. “Our neighborhood has such a long, proud history.” Like so many of us, she loves the V&E Greenline and appreciates residents who “work tirelessly” to keep it up. She has noted changes in the neighborhood, especially in the past five years, but she values how neighbors maintain the longtime character of intimate engagement in V&E. “Over the past five years, people are using their front yards more, for gardens, even vegetable gardens, and not just grass. I like seeing that.” She loves seeing children use the field near the stationhouse for Nerf-gun birthday parties or games of tag.

She, like many of us, hopes that Crosstown's development will bring more homeowners rather than absentee landlords to the area. “I hope people come and do good, high-quality renovations on homes they want to live in themselves, like in the western part of Evergreen.”

Returning to her pottery, we discussed maintaining a work-life balance. With a B.A. from Salem College and an M.A. from the University of Mississippi, Melissa began her career working in nonprofits, especially organizations involved in the arts, while pursuing pottery as a hobby. During an information interview with a potential employer years ago, she was asked about her artistic work. When Melissa mentioned her pottery, the interviewer asked where she saw herself in five years with her pottery. Realizing that her jobs in nonprofits had been “very taxing” without particularly high pay, she began to wonder if she could turn her pottery into a business. Bridgman Pottery was born. She works at home and appreciates how it allows her to manage family obligations while giving her the freedom to “go upstairs and work after dinner.” As a writer, I know what she means.

I first met Melissa when we volunteered to collect box tops from the classrooms at Snowden. When we became Facebook friends, I realized she was too humble about her talent as a potter. Her pieces are beautiful in their simplicity. She works in six basic colors, giving her pottery a signature look. Birds, bees, chickens, and short quotes from Emily Dickinson and Eleanor Roosevelt embellish tea cups, egg cups, small plates and platters. Bridgman Pottery is a true Midtown, Vollintine Evergreen treasure.

Check out Melissa's website [www.bridgmanpottery.com](http://www.bridgmanpottery.com) for examples of her work and a link to her online shop. She's also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BridgmanPottery](http://www.facebook.com/BridgmanPottery). She will display her work at Brooks Holiday Market and Urban Barn Market in October. 🐦

# Jenna James / JMJL

By Ginika Nwoko and Marci Hendrix

Concerns regarding JennaJames Enterprises and its recent real estate purchases in the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood were brought to the VECA board's attention by neighbors via the Nextdoor social media site. Neighbors registered some of their concerns, including:

- Too many rental properties drives the neighborhood property value down and changes the residential feel of the neighborhood.
- Parking on streets with rentals is more congested, raising concerns for traffic and pedestrian safety (some houses have four or more vehicles).
- Renters are less likely to be socially invested in the neighborhood and/or be good neighbors (e.g., students tend to have more and louder parties than other residents).
- Neighbors complain of unsolicited offers to purchase their homes.
- Renters are more likely to damage property or fail to maintain the properties and yards.
- JennaJames will sell the properties in bulk to Rhodes to expand its border.

Researching the Shelby County Assessor site, we discovered that the real estate property management company has purchased over two dozen homes in Midtown since its inception in January 2014. Properties are listed as owned by JennaJames as well as JMJL. The VECA board made attempts to contact company officials Patrick Galphin and Milton Lovell about these purchases. We received a response from Galphin, who supplied information about the formation, management, and intentions of this company.

The company, still in its infancy, comprises three individuals: Galphin, Lovell, and one undisclosed investor. They have purchased homes in the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood and elsewhere in Midtown. For Galphin and Lovell, this job is a venture secondary to their full-time jobs at NexAir, a distributor of atmospheric gases and welding supplies.

Galphin and Lovell got into the business when Lovell, an adjunct professor of business at Rhodes, heard about students looking for convenient off-campus housing. Seeing an opportunity to make money, he and Galphin bought their first home on Crump and rented it to students. One purchase led to another as student demand for housing grew. Galphin noted that the company targets Rhodes students entering their third year of schooling. He says he screens potential tenants by asking his current tenants to comment on the character of the applicants.

To preserve the value of their investments, Galphin contracts yard and maintenance, and he says he visits the properties regularly.

Galphin said that in the future the company intends to sell the houses to families, thus maintaining Vollintine Evergreen's status as residential neighborhood. He also said that because the company is investing in the neighborhood, it makes sense for them to invest financially in the community through VECA by supporting neighborhood projects. 🐦

*Patrick Galphin invites neighbors to meet with him to discuss their concerns. Contact him at [info@jennajamesenterprises.com](mailto:info@jennajamesenterprises.com)*

## National Night Out

National Night Out is a time when neighbors gather to celebrate community and to take a stand against crime. Some neighbors got together on their streets to grill out and catch up. VECA also held a neighborhood-wide event at the VECA Welcome Center on August 4. There was music, games and crafts, food, and more. A huge shout-out to neighbor Tyler Stafford who volunteered as DJ; Cash Savers for providing hotdogs; MLGW for providing water, and Rhodes for providing craft supplies. VECA volunteers and organizers included Lilly Gilkey, Bob Rigus, Rick Maxwell, Marci Hendrix, Angela Lamb, Ginika Nwoko, Natasha Strong and Tony Steinberg. A special thanks to volunteers from Mercy Hill Church for all their efforts. They helped set up, clean up, and staff the event. Volunteers included Sandreka Blue, Riley Dunlap, Katie Dunlap, Cole Dunlap, Yohannes Dunlap, Chris Wiggins, Stephanie McFall, Peter and Laurie Braswell, Jerry and Jenn Maynard, Robert Turnage, Samantha Lenora, Jared and Kaitlyn Stigler, Karen Whitby, Tim and Angel Jacobs, Bill Flournoy, Matt Nason, David Freisen, TJ Davidson. Thank you all!

# Featured Musician

By Ginika Nwoko



This past December Vollintine Evergreen local Johnny Scott moonlighted as one of Santa's helpers at VECA's annual holiday party. His presence was the gift that kept on giving; one encounter with Johnny Scott just wasn't enough. We simply had to know more about this neighbor of ours. So for this issue of the VECA newsletter we are returning the spotlight to Johnny Scott.

As a songwriter, blues singer, and producer, Scott is nothing short of a triple threat. A Memphis native, he began his pursuit of musical excellence in the orchestra and glee club at Douglass High School. Shortly after high school, he went on to form the band The 4 Montereys, and they toured the local bars

and clubs ultimately putting them in the thick of Memphis's bustling music scene. Unfortunately for Scott, certain music cliques dominated the music scene and were obstacles to his entering the business in Memphis. The barriers did not halt his career in the music business; they simply redirected it. He moved to New York City, where he jumpstarted his career.

With his challenges eleven hundred miles behind him, Scott dove into New York's music scene. In the late fifties, He studied at both the Jarahal and the Manhattan School of Music. When he was not in school, he made a splash performing at various (now historically significant) clubs such as Small's Paradise and Ray Robinson's Club. When he enlisted in the army, his music took him to international sites. He toured various Army and Air Force installations in France and played larger venues throughout Europe, but he found these performances largely unfulfilling. This is when his story comes full circle – he decided to return home to Memphis.


Once home, he began to solidify his music career. No longer restricted by cliques, he performed at various distinguished clubs in Memphis. He recorded his hit singles "Let Me Be" and "Rough Riders", and he formed the record company Portra Records. Most notably, he became the star and host of the Johnny Scott Show. The name of that show should ring a bell for two reasons. One reason is obvious – it's named after Johnny – and the other not as obvious. Naming the show after himself was a strategic move. He was aware that giving his show a generic name would have made him potentially replaceable, which he clearly wanted to avoid. His territoriality was understandable and warranted considering the caliber of musical artists on the show. Johnny interviewed many of the greats, including B.B. King, Al Green, Patti LaBelle, and so many others.

In the midst his musical escapades Scott's path crossed with Vollintine Evergreen. He moved to the neighborhood in 1968 and was the first African-American on his street. This was the height of the civil rights movement, and our neighborhood was experiencing its own racial tension. Some residents fled the neighborhood upon the arrival of African-American families. This development spawned the creation of VECA, which sought to quell the panic and discourage white flight.

The red carpets were not rolled out for Johnny, to say the least, but neither was he harassed. When he moved to his street three white families moved, but he noted that three other white families promptly moved in. He now says that his neighborhood is appreciably more diverse and he has gotten to know and befriend his neighbors.

Mr. Scott is retired and living in the same home he bought in 1968. He says these are the most important years of his life; he is "fancy free and can concentrate on making and producing music" solely for his own entertainment. He's been working since he was a child, so it should come as no surprise that he is still working at the thing he loves.

Mr. Scott is a vigorous worker, a talented musician, and an accomplished man, and it has been a joy getting to know him. 🐦



**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

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# Ice Cream Social



Many thanks to musicians (Left to right): John Fleskes, Dan Larson, Glenn Malchow, John McDowell, and Sorianna..





# National Night Out



Mary Frances Vookles Pitts \* 901.355.5038 \* agentp@comcast.net \* Marx-Bensdorf Realtors \* 901.682.1868 \* Mary Frances Vookles Pitts \* 901.355.5038 \* agentp@comcast.net \* Marx-Bensdorf Realtors \* 901.682.1868

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# Learning - Every Minute Counts

Vollintine Evergreen Community, did you know that one of the best-kept secrets in the heart of our neighborhood is a wonderfully rigorous Catholic school? And no, kids don't not have to be Catholic to attend. St. Therese Little Flower Catholic School reopened its doors in the fall of 2001 after being closed for sixteen years. Little Flower Catholic School is a part of the Miracle in Memphis— one of nine Jubilee Catholic Schools located in urban areas that had closed for financial reasons. However, the schools began reopening in 1999 with help from private donors. These gracious donors wanted to ensure that inner city/urban families had the same opportunity to afford a great Catholic and academically rigorous education as all other families.\*

St. Therese Little Flower Catholic School sits on the corner of Jackson Avenue and Belvedere. The school serves students beginning at PK3 and goes through second grade. This year when school began on July 27; Little Flower joined eight other Jubilee Catholic schools in moving to a year-round calendar. This new calendar will increase the amount of time for instruction and will encourage the retention of learned materials. St. Therese will have 200 days of instruction instead of 180, which means an extra month of school and a four-week summer break.

As you enter Little Flower, you will immediately notice the warm feel of the school. In addition to promoting excellence in academics, we take great pride in our strong sense of community. Teachers and staff are dedicated to their students and take a personal interest in each student and family. We also strive to create an active, engaging learning environment with many opportunities for field trips and school enrichment. We are always busy and learning!

St. Therese's principal is Mrs. Tunia Sangster. Mrs. Sangster is a member of the St Therese Little Flower Catholic Church and enjoys working within the Vollintine community. She has a master's degree in early education and a bachelor's degree in business administration, and she has been accepted into the doctoral program at Grand Canyon University. She has been a part of the Little Flower family since July 2008. Mrs. Sangster has been the kindergarten and PK4 lead teacher, director of the PK program, and the safety coordinator, and she has served in other administrative assignments. She has a genuine love for the students and their families. She expects and will accept nothing less than the best from her students and wants only those who have that same mindset teaching her students. Mrs. Sangster says, "Our students deserve the very best academically rigorous education they can receive, and it is my job to ensure that I have quality teachers in place who ensure that success. St. Therese Little Flower School's doors are open to the public. We are always



looking for volunteers and are open to tours of the schools for present and future placement opportunities."

St. Therese Little Flower Catholic School's office can be contacted at 725-9900, or email Mrs. Sangster at [tunia.sangster@stlfschool.cdom.org](mailto:tunia.sangster@stlfschool.cdom.org) to schedule a tour, enroll your child, or request more information. 🐯

\* Known nationally as the "Miracle in Memphis," the Jubilee Catholic Schools Network is an unprecedented example of previously closed Catholic schools re-opening to serve predominantly low-income students through significant philanthropic support. [www.cdom.org](http://www.cdom.org)

**The church is not a building;  
The church is not a steeple;  
The church is not a resting place;  
The church is the people.\***

Join the people of Evergreen Presbyterian Church as we continue to explore where God is calling us for the future.

Worship Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.  
at The Beethoven Club  
263 South McLean Blvd.  
Corner of McLean and Peabody  
[www.evergreenmemphis.org](http://www.evergreenmemphis.org)

**EVERGREEN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

\*From "I Am The Church" by Avery & March, ©1972 Hope Publishing Co.

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## **McLEAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

815 N. McLEAN  
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901.274.3766

*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





# Neighborhood Schools



VENS is beginning a new chapter of childcare for the VECA communities. We focus on providing a Christian environment and quality education for our children. It is our mission to provide a program that helps strengthen families and to be a community of people who love and care for our neighborhood.

Research shows that the learning and development of children are inherently connected to their families. Understanding this, we will promote relationships based on trust and respect. Families will be an integral part of the program to support the students' social, emotional, and educational growth.

Licensed through the Department of Education, Playschool serves children ages 3 months – 5 years and also operates a licensed kindergarten during the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Based on the philosophy of "Learning Through Play", each classroom is designed using various centers that include academic components as well as also practical life experiences and opportunities for social and emotional growth.

Cindy Warren is the Playschool director and can be contacted at [cindyw@vensschool.com](mailto:cindyw@vensschool.com).

The afterschool program serves children kindergarten – 8th grade during the hours of 3:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. We provide a number of activities including tutoring, computer time, arts and crafts, group games, outside time, basketball, and fellowship. We provide transportation from Snowden Elementary, VOLLINTINE Elementary and Little Flower to VENS.

Leslie Montgomery is the afterschool director and can be contacted at [lesliem@vensschool.com](mailto:lesliem@vensschool.com).

For more information about VENS, please go to our website [www.vensschool.com](http://www.vensschool.com).

## Shelby County School Calendar

| First Semester            |                  |  |              |          |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|--------------|----------|
| Date                      | Day              | Event  | Students     | Teachers |
| August 10                 | Monday           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Day for Students   | In           | In       |
| September 7               | Monday           | Labor Day  | Out          | Out      |
| September 17              | Thursday         | Parent-Teacher Conference (3-6 pm) & (4-7pm)                                   | In           | In       |
| September 18              | Friday           | District Learning Day  | Out          | In       |
| October 9                 | Friday           | End of 1 <sup>st</sup> 9 weeks   | In           | In       |
| October 12-16             | Monday-Friday    | Fall Break   | Out          | Out      |
| November 11               | Wednesday        | Veterans Day   | Out          | Out      |
| November 25-27            | Wednesday-Friday | Thanksgiving Break   | Out          | Out      |
| December 16-18            | Wednesday-Friday | Semester Exams   | In           | In       |
| December 18               | Friday           | End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter<br>½ day for Students & Administrative-( ½ day) | In (1/2 day) | In       |
| December 21-<br>January 1 | Monday-Friday    | Winter Break   | Out          | Out      |
| Second Semester           |                  |  |              |          |
| Date                      | Day              | Event  | Students     | Teachers |
| January 4                 | Monday           | Administrative Day   | Out          | In       |
| January 5                 | Tuesday          | Students Return  | In           | In       |
| January 18                | Monday           | MLK Jr. Day  | Out          | Out      |
| February 11               | Thursday         | Parent –Teacher Conferences (3-6 p.m. & 4-7 p.m.)                              | In           | In       |
| February 12               | Friday           | District Learning Day  | Out          | In       |
| February 15               | Monday           | Presidents' Day  | Out          | Out      |
| March 21-25               | Monday-Friday    | Spring Break & Good Friday   | Out          | Out      |
| May 25-27                 | Wednesday-Friday | Semester Exams   | In           | In       |
| May 27                    | Friday           | Last day for Students<br>Administrative Day (1/2)                              | In (1/2day)  | In       |

**Vollentine Elementary School:** 1682 Vollintine Avenue, 38107 901.416.4632

Tamika Jackson, Principal  
JacksonTD1@scsk12.org  
8:15am – 3:15pm  
Pre-K School and Elementary  
[www.scsk12.org/uf/optional\\_schools/school\\_detail/112](http://www.scsk12.org/uf/optional_schools/school_detail/112)  
[www.scsk12.org/schools/vollentine.es/site/index.shtml](http://www.scsk12.org/schools/vollentine.es/site/index.shtml)

**Snowden School:** 1870 North Parkway, 38112 901.416.4621

Jamie Stallsmith, Principal  
stallsmithjd@scsk12.org  
8:15am – 3:15pm  
Pre-K School through 8th  
[www.scsk12.org/uf/optional\\_schools/school\\_detail/128](http://www.scsk12.org/uf/optional_schools/school_detail/128)  
[snowdenschool.wix.com/snowdenschool](http://snowdenschool.wix.com/snowdenschool)

**St. Therese the Little Flower Primary School:** 1666 Jackson Avenue, 3107 901.725.9900

Tunia Sangster, Principal  
tunia.sangster@stlfschool.cdom.org  
7:30am – 3:30pm and Extended Care 3:45pm - 6:00 pm.  
PreK-3 through 2nd grade primary school.  
[www.cdom.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=School\\_134239332885\\_about](http://www.cdom.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=School_134239332885_about)

**Vollentine Evergreen Neighborhood School:** 815 North McLean Blvd, 38107, 901.268.2650

**VENS Playschool:** 901.410.5420  
7:30am – 2:30pm  
Extended Care 2:30pm – 6:00pm.  
Infants, Preschoolers, and Kindergarteners (ages 3 months – 5 years)  
901.410.5420  
Cindy Warren, Administrator and Playschool Director  
[cindyw@vensschool.com](mailto:cindyw@vensschool.com)

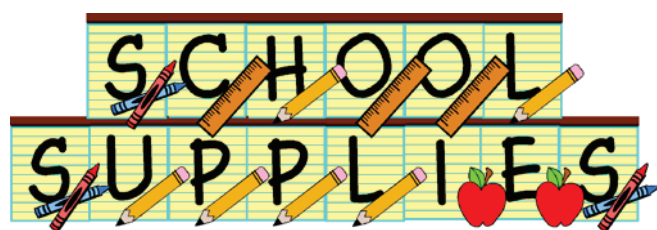
**VENS Afterschool:** 901.300.4860  
3:15pm – 6pm  
Kindergarten through 8th grade  
Leslie Montgomery, Afterschool Director  
[lesliem@vensschool.com](mailto:lesliem@vensschool.com)  
[vensschool.com](http://vensschool.com)

**KIPP:** 2110 Howell Avenue, 38108

**KIPP Memphis Academy Middle:** 901.791.9793  
Andrew Bobowski, School Leader  
[info@kippmemphis.org](mailto:info@kippmemphis.org)  
7:30am – 4:00pm  
5 through 7

**KIPP Memphis Collegiate High School:** 901.791.9792  
Richard Bailey, Principal

[www.kipp.org/school-content/kipp-memphis-academy-middle#sthash.08WoCC3i.dpuf](http://www.kipp.org/school-content/kipp-memphis-academy-middle#sthash.08WoCC3i.dpuf)  
<http://www.kippmemphis.org/>



## Thank You!

The VECA board, as part of our efforts to increase engagement with the schools, inaugurated our first annual school supply drive for our neighborhood public schools, Vollentine and Snowden. Volunteers collected supplies at National Night Out as well as over several days at the Welcome Center.

We were happily surprised by the turnout and generosity of our neighbors. Even with a short turnaround time from our announcement to our collection period, we generated several boxes of supplies and \$150 in donations.

Now that school's in session, we can contact teachers to find out what they're short on and help fill their supply closets for the year.

Our youth committee is always eager to connect with our local schools. If you have ideas for how to engage with our local educators and students, email [veca901@gmail.com](mailto:veca901@gmail.com) to join a committee and the conversation.



# A Step Back in Time



Many thanks to Devin Greeney for sharing his 1927 family photo of The Greaney House on Stonewall. The child in the hat is Devin's aunt Dorothy Greaney; The woman kneeling is his grandmother, Catherine Greaney (1898-1984) and Devin's father is on the right (Edward Greaney (1924-2005)).

# Healthy Homes: A Key to Healthy People

**By Cathy Marcinko**

Scientists have produced lots of evidence over the last three decades to support an old-fashioned idea: that living in a healthy home is important for your health. Recently, many Memphians were shocked by news coverage about a family with young children suffering from chronic asthma as a result of living in substandard apartments at Springdale and Cypress Creek. If you want to see what this and many other families in our community must contend with on a daily basis, see the photo gallery posted by the Commercial Appeal at <http://www.commercialappeal.com/homepage-showcase/photo-gallery-cypress-gardens-apartments>.

Substandard housing is a problem of overwhelming proportions in Memphis. It affects 17 percent of homeowners (21,600 units) and 26 percent of renters (30,000 units) in the city, according to the 2011 American Housing Survey. Substandard housing is not just unpleasant to live in; it affects health. Indoor mold, dust, poor ventilation and infestations of pests like roaches and rodents are known to contribute to allergic reactions in asthmatic children and adults. There is even evidence that such conditions can cause asthma to develop in very young children.

How big is our asthma problem? In 2013, Shelby County had 10,594 emergency department and 1,256 inpatient asthma hospitalizations for adults and children. The total cost of these hospitalizations for the county was \$82.8 million, according to the Tennessee Department of Health (source: 2013 Hospital Utilization Data). For five years running, Memphis has been ranked as one of the top three asthma capitals of the United States; in 2015, we were ranked number one. <http://www.asthmacapitals.com/>

Lead-based paint, found mainly in pre-1979 housing units, is another danger, especially for children under the age of six. Young children are most vulnerable to lead poisoning since their brains are still developing. Lead poisoning can cause permanent neurological damage in young children, leading to life-long learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Some experts believe that many people in prison were lead-poisoned as children. In 2012 and 2013, there were 1,041 identified cases of child lead poisoning reported by the Shelby County Health Department.

Substandard housing exists in our neighborhood, and it is affecting the health of our children and residents. For ZIP codes 38108 and 38107 (38107 overlaps the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood) there were 86 adult and child inpatient and 726 emergency department hospitalizations in 2012. Lead paint is also a problem. In the years 2012 and 2013, there were 48 confirmed cases of childhood lead poisoning in ZIP code 38107 reported by the health department.


Concern about the impact that substandard housing has on human health is growing at the national, state and local levels. In 2014, a group of concerned agencies in Shelby County formed the Healthy Homes Partnership (HHP). Since then, the HHP has grown into a coalition of more than 20 housing, healthcare and legal services agencies with working groups collaborating with local government to find solutions to issues from housing policy and code enforcement to how to better integrate healthcare, housing and legal services for those most affected. By working together, HHP partner agencies believe they can move the needle on housing and health, so that every child can grow up in a healthy home.

This is the first in a series of articles about Healthy Homes. Next issue look for "Low-Cost Ways to Make Your Home Healthy and Safe." For more information on the Healthy Homes Partnership, email Cathy Marcinko at [Cathy.Marcinko@lebonheur.org](mailto:Cathy.Marcinko@lebonheur.org) or call 287-4781.

## Volunteer Needed

VECA needs a volunteer to help with data processing. Training will be provided. This volunteer position requires 2-4 hours each month.

For more information, please contact VECA at 901.276.1782 or [veca901@gmail.com](mailto:veca901@gmail.com).



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**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





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# In Memoriam

We recently learned of the passing of Dottie Sachritz, who was a long-time resident on Sheridan Street and who left in imprint on VECA. Besides being one of the founding members of VECA, she worked hard to address some housing issues that had developed in the neighborhood.

In 1995 VECA received a \$950,000 grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts. The largest portion of that money was spent on the purchase and rehabilitation of dilapidated houses in Vollintine Evergreen. Dottie Sachritz served as the chair and leader of the Acquisitions Committee, which found properties for purchase and rehabilitation. The committee identified the most problematic houses and recommended their purchase to the full board.

Dottie's background was in social services, and she knew very little about housing. But, she was a quick study and learned much of the technical jargon so she could function as an impressive spokesperson for the committee. She was articulate and passionate, but mostly she was highly committed to making Vollintine Evergreen a better place to live.

The results of Dottie's work were impressive. VECA was able to purchase and rehabilitate 25 houses during the three years of the Pew funding. The most impressive effort was the purchase of twelve duplexes on Watkins Street that were converted to single-family homes and sold to first-time home buyers. According to David Wright in his book, *It Takes a Neighborhood*, VECA "achieved impressive results." He wrote that at the time there ten other nonprofits in Memphis doing housing rehabilitation and that VECA produced more housing than all of the other groups combined.

Her daughters Sherry Sachritz and Jana Putnam still live in the neighborhood and are members of VECA. 🐾



# Rock for Love

The Church Health Center has one more reason to be excited about Crosstown this week as Rock for Love announces its 2015 music festival line-up and other surprises in store for the ninth annual event, happening Sept. 4-6 at locations across midtown.

The festival's live music kicks off Friday evening, Sept. 4 with a Crosstown Block Party that will bring together more partners and feature more stages than the inaugural event on the Cleveland strip in 2014. With singer-songwriters at Amurica Studios, punk and rock at The HiTone, hip-hop performance art and experimental electronic music at two Crosstown Arts spaces and an outdoor stage curated by Visible Community Music School, there's something for everyone.

Between sets, be sure to head outside where you can donate \$5 to the Church Health Center for a few chances to sink some surprise guests in the official Rock for Love Dunk Tank hosted by Memphis Roller Derby. (Practice your aim and you might even get the chance to sink Church Health Center CEO Dr. Scott Morris!)

Saturday night, the party moves farther east to Lafayette's Music Room in Overton Square, and the Sunday evening finale at the Levitt Shell will send the weekend off right with the North Mississippi All-Stars. Longtime CHC partner Huey's will again host an unofficial kick-off event one week prior to the festivities, with live music by The Chaulkies at its midtown location on Sunday, Aug. 30, donating a portion of beer sales from the night to the Church Health Center.

Beyond the packed music line-up, Rock for Love 9 will also feature comedy (a Thursday night Memphis comedy showcase kicks off the weekend at the HiTone), an online auction with amazing items from local merchants and artists (begin bidding on August 10 at rockforlove.org), a signature brew courtesy of Memphis Made, and the launch of the Operation Crosstown Fitness Park. Stop by on your way to the Crosstown Block Party from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sept. 4 to try out the fitness equipment, grab a Sno-Cone, jump into a drum circle or check out Parkour, hoop demos and games.

Rock for Love continues to be a marquee event for the Church Health Center – in 2014 the festival raised \$50,000 – and Communications Director Marvin Stockwell said the growth of the Crosstown element of this year's event is no coincidence.

"As we look toward 2016, our focus is on building momentum in the Crosstown neighborhood," he says. "As such, it makes perfect sense that the piece of Rock for Love that will see the most growth this year is our Crosstown Block Party."

The block party is of course just one piece of the CHC's ongoing move into Crosstown, as Memphians anxiously await the completion of the Crosstown Concourse project with the CHC as an anchor tenant. Operation Crosstown activities – including the new fitness park – began in 2014 and are already bringing a CHC presence and new vitality to the neighborhood.

"We're trying to foreshadow what's possible," says Church Health Center President Antony Sheehan. "Music, arts, education, healthcare – all of these elements working in concert to make a better Memphis. It's a holistic view to health and community." 🐾

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**Election Day: Thurs, Oct 8**

