

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

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

JANUARY 2015




Keeler Handrails

By Mike Kirby

The V&E Greenline completed the V&E stationhouse walkway when Keeler Ironworks installed handrails, the final part of the two-year project. The handrails were an artistic creation with the V&E Greenline logo and decorative leaves on the handrails. In addition, Keeler Ironworks built an iron logo that fits onto the side of the stationhouse and clearly identifies the building. Dozens of trail users have commented about the beauty of the new artwork that made the stationhouse look like a fabulous facility.

Both the handrails and logo were a gift to the V&E Greenline from Keeler Ironworks. This is the fourth project that Keeler has done for the Greenline. Previous projects were the Lick Creek Bridge, Keeler Bridge, and grading of several Greenline sections. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Keeler Ironworks – they have made a huge difference in improving the quality of the V&E Greenline.

The Greenline has commissioned a plaque created by the Metal Museum to thank all of those that made the walkway possible: Hyde Family Foundations, Keeler Ironworks and Ritchey Smith Associates. 



VECA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Gethsemane Garden
1740 Vollintine Avenue

Saturday, January 23, 2016
9:00-10:00 am Potluck Breakfast
10:00-11:15 am Annual Meeting & Elections

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

It's that time of year again to gather and socialize at our annual neighborhood meeting. Your annual membership contributions generate about \$8,000 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 their time. We invite all residents to get involved in helping to maintain and develop our beautiful historic neighborhood!

V&E ARTWALK
Saturday, April 23, 2016
11:00 am - 6:00 pm
For more information:
www.vegreenline.org

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

January 2015

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VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS
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VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The newsletter, VECA mail, annual meeting, and committee activities are ways in which VECA communicates with its residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

The VECA area is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Springdale on the East, and North Parkway on the South.

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

Membership \$25 • Family/Household Membership \$35 • 45th Anniversary/Gift Membership \$45 •

Neighbor \$75 • Leader \$100 • Other _____



Giving to VECA

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

Amazon Smile : Amazon Smile supports VECA and the V&E Greenline when you shop. You can shop at Amazon and 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 veca901@gmail.com 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 veca901@gmail.com if you have any questions about using the Kroger Plus Card.

Local Government Representation

District	Council Member	Status	Where
City District 5	Worth Morgan	New	VECA
City District 7	Berlin Boyd		VECA
City Super District 8-1	Joe Brown		VECA
City Super District 8-2	Janis Fullilove		VECA
City Super District 8-3	Martavius Jones	New	VECA
City Super District 9-1	Kemp Conrad		VECA
City Super District 9-2	Philip Spinosa Jr.	New	VECA
City Super District 9-3	Reid Hedgepeth		VECA
County District 7	Melvin Burgess		VECA
TN Senate District 29	Lee Harris		VECA
TN House District 30	Sara Kyle		VECA
District 1	Bill Morrison		Other
District 2	Frank Colvett Jr	New	Other
District 3	Patrice Robinson	New	Other
District 4	Jamita Swaengen	New	Other
District 6	Edmund Ford, Jr.		Other

TENNESSEE: VEHICLES MUST YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO

PEDESTRIANS WITHIN A CROSSWALK that are in the same half of the roadway as the vehicle or when a pedestrian is approaching closely enough from the opposite side of the roadway to be in danger. Vehicles in marked school zones must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk and remain stopped until the pedestrian has crossed the roadway. Pedestrians may not suddenly leave the curb and enter a crosswalk into the path of a moving vehicle that is so close the vehicle is unable to yield. Pedestrians must yield the right-of-way to vehicles when crossing outside of a marked crosswalk or an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. Where traffic control devices are in operation, pedestrians may only cross between two adjacent intersections in a marked crosswalk.

www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/pedestrian-crossing-50-state-summary.aspx

Hit and Run

Vollintine Evergreen neighbors were saddened to learn of the hit and run death of resident Joy Collier. On October 8, 22-year old Joy was struck and killed in the McLean crosswalk after getting off the bus on Vollintine. Witnesses said the car that hit her was headed south on McLean at a high rate of speed.

This tragic event is a reminder that we have to be on guard while walking in our neighborhood. Vollintine Evergreen is an area with lots of traffic and many pedestrians. Children walk to school, babies are pushed in strollers, neighbors walk to work and businesses, they walk and run for exercise, and they walk their dogs – it's a very walkable neighborhood that we can be proud of. But it is not always friendly where pedestrians are concerned. From North Parkway, Jackson Avenue, and Vollintine to cross streets such as Evergreen, McLean, University, Watkins and Springdale, pedestrian safety is a concern.

Drivers, watch out for children crossing intersections. Slow down, don't use your phone (as of course you never do), turn the music down. When stopping at a light, let pedestrians know you see them by slowing down. Don't stop in the crosswalk – keep it clear for pedestrians.

Pedestrians, be alert for distracted drivers. Don't assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers. Be mindful even when you have the right of way. Use the crosswalks. Wait for opposing traffic to stop at the crosswalk. Watch out for drivers turning right on red.

Look across all lanes you have to cross and make sure all are clear before proceeding. Even if one motorist stops, do not assume that drivers in other lanes can see you and will stop for you.

Runners and cyclists, wear light colors and reflective gear and use lights after dark. Remember that headphones can make you distracted, too.

Don't let this tragic event stop you from getting out, but let it be a reminder to be safe. 🙏



Friends and family made a makeshift memorial for Joy Collier after she was struck and killed by a hit and run on October 8, 2015

Making a Difference in the V&E Neighborhood

By The Neighborhood Preservation Committee

VECA received numerous complaints about continual yard sales occurring at a property on Jackson Avenue. The complaints were first reported in 2013. The Neighborhood Preservation Committee filed many complaints with Shelby County Construction Code Enforcement for a zoning violation. Only two yard sales per year are allowed, according to the Memphis and Shelby County Unified Development Code. The yard sales continued.

Committee members were diligent in documenting the yard sales with date-stamped photos. The photos were provided to Shelby County Construction Code Enforcement. Based on the photos, Code Enforcement surveyed the property on a weekend and summoned the owner to appear in Environmental Court.

Several residents attended the court hearing to provide a voice for the neighborhood. Judge Larry Potter allowed us to provide feedback during court. The owner admitted to the yard sales and the judge issued an order prohibiting the owner from having any more yard sales this year.

As residents living in a historic neighborhood, we care about zoning laws and we recognize the importance of the laws. Reporting code and zoning violations to both the City of Memphis and Shelby County for enforcement has helped improve the neighborhood and maintain our historic character.

The Neighborhood Preservation Committee meets on the fourth Thursday of every month except in November and December. Meetings are held at the VECA Welcome Center at 6:00p.m. Please contact Chris Floyd at cakirby72@yahoo.com for additional information. Next meeting: January 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. 🐦

Neighbors Take on Blight

By Cindy Hazen and Rick White

“The secret to getting ahead is getting started,” Mark Twain once quipped. He could have been talking about combatting blight. As the neighbors on Hallwood Drive discovered, action by the Environmental Court can be slow. Nevertheless, the court is an important tool to protect neighborhoods from neglected properties.

The house at 2119 Hallwood burned in February 2013. Neighbors rallied to send donations to the family, a grandmother and her grandchildren, who lost everything in their rental home. When the house wasn't repaired, neighbors started calling the city's support center at 311. They did so for months.

Eventually, 311 referred callers to the attorney representing the city, Steve Barlow. By now, the property had been abandoned for more than a year. The front door was secured only by an X of two-by-fours. Mr. Barlow asked concerned residents to write to the Environmental Court. He read all of the letters and emails to the Judge, who demanded a financial plan and timeline for repair from the local investor/owner to be delivered a week later on 3/27.

Work on the property lasted just long enough to give hope. In an email dated November 20, 2014, Mr. Barlow wrote, “The original plan filed with the court was to complete the property by July 2014, which obviously didn't happen.”

It's hard to explain why the case has been slow to resolve. Numerous court dates followed. Neighbors took countless hours off work to attend hearings. The case was reset or delayed for a variety of reasons. A judge sitting in for Judge Potter recused himself. Once, the newly assigned attorney for the defense was unprepared. On another occasion the defense attorney couldn't be there for personal reasons. One time, the case was listed on both the 10:30 and 1:30 dockets, so she was confused about the time and had to be called in. Most recently, another attorney in her office took the case because the first attorney had to appear in another court. Judge Potter demanded the original attorney's presence, so the deputy was dispatched to retrieve her. By the time she arrived, Mr. Barlow and the witness from Code Enforcement had left.

The attorneys and the court are stretched thin. The defendant*, a Memphis investor who owns three other properties, has been present only a few times when the court commanded attendance.

The neighbors have sat through hours of court. We have listened to many cases and heard many reasons why properties become blighted. Almost always, a lack of funds is in play. The Hallwood investor*, we believe, was severely undercapitalized

V&E Greenline Receives Grant

The V&E Greenline and VECA received a City of Memphis Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grant for \$2,500 that will be used to install a security camera on the V&E Greenline at McLean Boulevard.

The camera will have solar power and wireless capabilities. The grant proposal was spearheaded by V&E Greenline Vice President Scott McDermott, who attended meetings, interacted with City officials, prepared the grant proposal, found a possible vendor, and handled last-minute issues. The goal of the camera is to have a visual record if any issues arise involving the trail. We want to thank Karlescia Brookins of the City of Memphis Area Neighborhood Watch program for this award.

In order to be eligible for this grant, VECA needed to be certified as a Neighborhood Watch Organization through training provided by Crump Station Crime Prevention officers Rachel Wilkins and Melanie Dorsey. A dozen VECA volunteers attended the stimulating session. Scott McDermott is shown below consulting with Officer Wilkins.

This grant is another example of how important our volunteers are in making the V&E Greenline a high-quality neighborhood trail.

Neighbors are invited to attend monthly Neighborhood Watch Meetings at the Crump Station. The VECA Neighborhood Watch chapter will hold quarterly meetings at the VECA Welcome Center. 🐦

Neighborhood Watch Meetings at Crump Station

First Tuesday of every month
949 E.H. Crump, 901.636.4625



Top: V&E Greenline receives \$2500 grant.
Bottom: Officer Rachel Wilkins and Scott McDermott at the VECA Neighborhood Watch Meeting

when disaster struck. Why else would he support a vacant, non-income-producing property when he is paying legal fees, a mortgage and, according to the Shelby County Assessor's office, \$4461 yearly in property taxes?

At the last court date, Judge Potter assured us we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. He expects to see substantial progress in a month's time or he says he will take the property into receivership. We've been told it could then take six months to restore the house to a livable condition. That will be three years since the fire.

We learned what to do if the house is broken into, as happened recently. The police couldn't barricade the broken door. It stood open for three days. In the future, because there is a pending lawsuit, Judge Potter asked us to report directly to Steve Barlow's office.

The Hallwood neighbors who have engaged in this process have learned a lot about fighting blight. The process is tedious. The actual case is between the city and the property owner. Neighbors can observe. When neighbors actively participate, the court knows they are seeking resolution. To anyone starting the process, the takeaway is to document every call, every email, and the results of each court date. Let the court know you are there and ask to be heard. Be respectful.

To be fair, Memphis's Environmental Court is overwhelmed with hundreds, if not thousands, of cases. It was a part-time court until last spring. Law students from the University of Memphis participate in litigation. There is no court reporter. Judges and lawyers rely on handwritten notes that are carried to court in hefty files.

Given the number and severity of neglected properties in Memphis, neighbors must take the first step in restoration. Support the Environmental Court through the election of judges and government officials to help provide the tools needed to be effective. Be present when cases are called that involve your neighborhood. Last, be patient. 🐦

* (Shalandus Harris is noted as the owner on the Shelby County Assessor of Property website. The city has filed a lawsuit against Shalandus Garrett. Presumably the same person, Shalandus Garrett engaged in 57 property transactions since January 2014, including 11 purchases in 2015 according to the Shelby County Register of Deeds website.)



Hallwood House open to vandals

Bad Friday

By Sara First

I love fall and spring in Midtown Memphis. We emerge from our summer cocoons and winter hibernation. The sidewalks fill with adults and children walking, running, and riding bikes. I feel at home on every block in my neighborhood, as do my children. A few weeks ago when we came back from a trip away, after we'd crossed under the Cleveland Street Bridge on North Parkway, my three-year-old announced, "We're home!"

I told him, "Not quite yet; we have two more blocks to go," but he replied, "This is all my home." How lovely to feel that way. Those are the moments I'm so grateful we live in a walkable, bikeable community. I can imagine how much stronger the feeling would be if we'd lived here 30 years, rather than just three.

Yet when longtime Midtown Memphian Timothy Parkes approached VECA with an experience he'd had on just such a warm spring day, Good Friday 2015, my heart sank. I knew that, hard as it may be, this neighborhood needs to have a conversation. We need to listen to one another and abide with one another as we live in our public spaces.

Tim told us how much he enjoys riding his "nice Edgewood Diamondback bicycle around [our] neighborhood." He's lived on his street since 2008. His wife was raised in the house next door, and his in-laws still live there. Tim is an African-American man, and he felt compelled to tell us that he holds a B.S. degree from the University of Memphis. He's a veteran and has a good job. At over 50 years old, he has never been charged with more than a speeding ticket.

As he was riding down his dead-end street on Good Friday afternoon, a day he now remembers as "Bad Friday," a car pulled right up to his rear wheel. If you're a cyclist, like I am, you know it's scary when a car gets abnormally close. The car passed him but returned as he rode his bike into his own driveway. The driver, an African-American woman, according to Tim, stepped out of her car and shouted at him, demanding to know what he was doing on her street and in that driveway. He explained that he lived in the house, but she remained loud and aggressive until he introduced himself and explained his many connections to the street. Apparently satisfied he was simply out for exercise and not up to no good, but without a hint of an apology, the woman jumped back into her car and sped away.

I don't have this woman's side of the story, but Tim's experience rings too true to me. This is not the first time I've heard of a Vollintine Evergreen black resident or a guest feeling profiled – interracial or intra-racially – by neighbors. I am well aware of the rate of crime in our neighborhood. Correcting for events bringing more than one charge, we had over 150 criminal reports filed within a mile and a half of the VECA Welcome Center between September 5 and October 5. I'm also well aware that the best way to determine why a person is out and about in your neighborhood is to say hello and introduce yourself. I've been a victim of violent crime in the past. In the three years we've lived here, we've had items ranging from a box of candy bars to an expensive stroller stolen from our property.

I am a white woman with two young children and a dog. At times I'm out wandering the street aimlessly for hours. At times I'm on my bike, riding up and down dead-end streets with my seven-year-old. At times I've reached into a recycling bin to get items I never purchase – two-liter soda bottles or products with a box top – because my son's school needs them. At times I've walked up someone's front walkway quietly pursuing a stray cat or dog. Never in my life have I been yelled at, interrogated, or even obviously watched by a neighbor.

Why has no one ever yelled at me about my aimless wandering? Why has no one ever posted an alert on NextDoor about my theft from a recycling bin? The answer's obvious.

Why do I deserve different treatment from Tim or the men whose photos end up on NextDoor? I don't.

Why did Tim feel the need to preface his story for us with details about how he's a fine, upstanding member of our community? He shouldn't have to say those things before anyone will listen.

Crime, such as theft and violence, have so many causes. We live in a city with a high child poverty rate: 47% according to the "2015 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet" published by Professor Elena Delavega of the University of Memphis. We aren't going to cure that by yelling at the men walking and biking on our streets.


According to a July 20 report by WMC Action News titled "Leaving Kids Alone," the Memphis Police Department receives many calls every month to respond to emergencies caused by kids at home alone after school. Juvenile crime rates peak between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. – the hours children are most likely left unsupervised at home. We aren't going to cure that by complaining about teenagers playing basketball on our streets.

I like my belongings, but I love my neighbors. Tim joked sardonically, "I am so grateful that I wasn't wearing a hoodie and didn't have a bag of Skittles or some iced tea in my possession." He pointed out how he felt threatened by his neighbor – whom he had never seen before despite his regular presence out and about on the streets – but worked to keep his cool. I'm grateful the event didn't escalate. I'm glad he kept his temper in check, as much as she offended him.

I won't pretend to be holier than thou (and neither would Tim). I have my moments of questionable assumptions. I live in the world with the same media as everyone else. I choose to remember the vast majority of days in my life when the people around me haven't been up to no good, when they've been going up and down the streets for the same reasons I do: transportation from place to place, exercise, or a way to pass the time on a lovely day. I choose to grant privilege to and thus act according to the vast majority of my experiences in life, among a diversity of people, where no one has hurt me or stolen from me.

As Tim pointed out, we have a "unique blend" of races, ages, and social statuses in our neighborhood. Indeed, statistics reveal that Vollintine-Evergreen is one of the few truly interracial and economically diverse neighborhoods in the United States, but even we have several segregated streets. I have chosen to raise my children here and I value the diversity of my street and Snowden School. I can do so because VECA members and residents have worked for decades to maintain this neighborhood. If I live in fear of anything on my street, it's that a rush to implicitly racist assumptions will ruin their work. I worry that someone will be injured or killed, or simply begin to feel unwelcome enjoying our outdoor spaces.

I want us all to consider, before we accuse a person of not belonging on our streets, whether we might better serve our community and our neighbors by interrogating ourselves as much as we do others. 🙏




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Dear Angela Lamb,

Thank you for hosting a Lifeblood blood drive on 12/12/2015 at Vollintine Evergreen Community Association. We're so grateful for your efforts to make the blood drive a success. With your help we were able to collect 13 units!

Sincerely,
Danny Garrick, Executive Director





Above: Neighbors on Crump gather for an early fall block party.



Above: Mr. Stanfill and Bill Nelson at the the Lyndale annual picnic.



Above: Neighborhood children playing on the V&E Greenline musical public art.



Above: Workers on Lick Creek working with the City of Memphis SARP10 (Sewer Assessment and Rehabilitation Program). Story on Page 11.



Left: Lyndale Garden team working on the fall vegetables. Above: the Lyndale Team and friends gather for their annual picnic.

Below: September 14, 2015 Senior Info Session



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WELLNESS



Above and Right: For the second year in a row, children and their families stopped by the VECA Welcome Center on Halloween to enjoy treats donated by Vollintine Evergreen neighbors!



Below: The VECA annual holiday party had a great turnout. Held on December 12, it was the last of three VECA parties that week. The V&E Greenline committee and Neighborhood Preservation both had receptions earlier in the week.



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

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Jim Martin, V&E Greenline Volunteer of the Year

The V&E Greenline held its annual volunteer reception on December 8, 2015, to recognize the work of the volunteers. The V&E Greenline generated an impressive amount of volunteer work in 2015: 193 volunteers with 2,824 total hours – the equivalent of 70 workweeks. V&E Greenline Committee members cooked the food for the event and created a poster display of the work of the volunteers.

A highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Dick Mochow V&E Greenline Volunteer of the Year Award to Jim Martin. He received the award for many tasks, including the layout of the Artwalk grounds, which provides space for 70 booths; clean-up of the Artwalk grounds; providing advice when the V&E Greenline was planning the entrances project; cleaning up the area around the Lick Creek Bridge; helping to lay sod around the V&E Stationhouse walkway; working on the purchase and use of a sidewalk edger to beautify the V&E Greenline sidewalks; financially supporting the V&E Greenline; and being a great supporter of the V&E Greenline. He is also a long-time distributor for the VECA News. 🍷



Jim Martin, V&E Volunteer of the Year.

The gym at the Church Health Center has your name on it!

Join now and move with us to Crosstown

By Jeff Hulett

The Church Health Center is known for providing health care to many of our neighbors who don't have access to traditional health insurance. Many artists, musicians and small business owners all take advantage of this model. Without it, they'd have nowhere else to turn.

But many in our community, I'd venture to say the majority of folks, don't have a clue that the Church Health Center has an 80,000-square-foot comprehensive wellness facility right down the street at 1115 Union Avenue. Many think that Church Health Center Wellness is only for the working insured or patients of the Center.

Our gym is for everyone!

Right now, family memberships are \$35 a month. That's less than \$9 a person for a family of four. Individual memberships are also extremely affordable.

The Center offers everything you'd expect from a gym, but its expert staff members are equipped to hold your hand if need be. Suffer from chronic disease? No problem; our diabetes programming and classes on hypertension control are always available.

The gym is not a meat market either. There is a modest-dress code and the Church Health Center's quest for true integrated health is on full display. Many patients use the gym and some refer to the Center as a "sanctuary for health."

The children's programming is exceptional, too. When I take my little ones there, I can drop them off for up to two hours while I work on my health goals. While I'm doing my best Penny Hardaway impression or just working on my core, my kids are learning how to make healthy snacks or playing fun, active games on the sports court. The creative movement studio is also fantastic.

Don't forget the different array of cooking classes and our farmers market that runs on Tuesdays from March to November.

I encourage you to be a part of this growing community now so when the big move to Crosstown Concourse happens, your rates will be locked in. Don't wait until we move – move with us now. 🍷

Jeff Hulett is communications manager at the Church Health Center. He lives in VECA with his wife, two kids and his dog, Chalupa.

Officer Ennis Jackson Crump Station November Officer of the Month

Congratulations to VECA resident and Crump Station's November "Officer of the Month" – Officer Ennis Jackson. This award is presented to officers who have displayed exceptional leadership, skills, and teamwork amongst peers. Officer Jackson reminds neighbors to report suspicious activity. "If it's on your mind, it's worth a call". 🍷



Officer Jackson (left) with neighbor, John Vego.

Crump Station
949 E.H. Crump
Memphis, TN 38104
Front Desk: (901) 636-4600

**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

EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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MEMPHIS, TN 38107
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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.
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Bible preaching, and a truly caring
family of Jesus followers."

—Dr. Kendell Easley, Pastor



The Church of the Good Shepherd 150th Anniversary

In our neighborhood stands a small church that for the past 150 years has provided worship and service to God in liberty wherewith Jesus Christ has made us free.

The Church of the Good Shepherd was founded in the Chelsea neighborhood in 1865 immediately after the Civil War. Memphis was mired in poverty. This mission became a light, a city on the hill for settlements of English, Irish, Germans, Italians, and other immigrants from all over the world. This church attained full parish status in 1872 and assisted in forming the Refuge of the Good Shepherd mission the Canfield asylum, St. Savior's mission and St. Andrew's mission. It was a manifestation of the social gospel of Christ which had not yet become generally accepted. This endeavor was to catch on and be worked much later by the Salvation Army, Hull House in Chicago, and other social settlements caught on nation-wide 12 to 15 years later.

As Memphis spread east, so the Church of the Good Shepherd moved to 1971 Jackson Avenue in March 1942. The cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1945. As the neighborhood developed and became known as Vollintine Evergreen, the church thrived with families and children. As Memphis spread even farther east, the church decided to remain at 1971 Jackson.

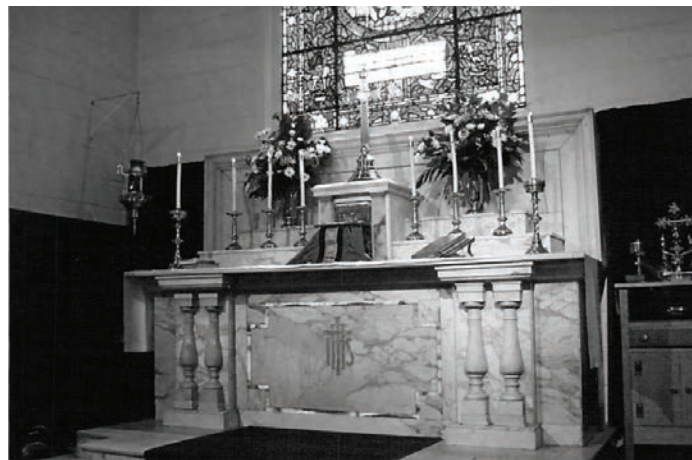
To our Vollintine Evergreen neighbors: We have maintained our presence here and will be until our times end. We have become smaller but viable, living and keeping the faith once delivered to the Saints of God.

In good times and in bad times we are here for holding up the faith that God has given to us and to mankind. We worship God in the beauty of Holiness and continue to promote, care, protect the faith that God has given to all who trust in Him.

If you are looking for a great relationship with God in Christ, Good Shepherd may be the place for you to grow more deeply committed to God. Love and forgiveness carries us throughout this journey of life we live. ☺



The Reverend William N. Fry III, Rector



At the Church of the Good Shepherd:

We use the Book of Common Prayer that all who read and digest its contents may lead a godly, quiet and peaceable life in God's world.

We live and believe in the Trinity of God, that is, God is our Father, Jesus Christ is His Son, our Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit given to us to lead and guide us.

We believe the universe is good. That it is the work of a single, loving God who creates, sustains, and directs it. The world belongs to God its creator, and we are called to enjoy it and to care for it in accordance with God's purpose. All people are worthy of respect and honor because all are created in God's image and all can respond to the love of God. God first has helped us. He revealed Himself and His will through nature and history, through many people and saints and prophets. God has given us a Messiah, His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We follow Jesus Christ as He taught us—Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all they mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it. Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

We incline our hearts to keep the Ten Commandments.

We believe the Apostles Creed.

We try to be joyful in the Lord and come before His presence with a song.

We give thanks and praise and come into His church to worship with his truth

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Church of the Good Shepherd

An Episcopal Church
Organized in Memphis in 1865



My sheep hear my voice
And I know them
And they follow me:
And I give them eternal Life.

-John 10:27

The Church of The Good Shepherd has remained as was originally designed, a Traditional Anglican and Episcopal Church. Our liturgy is solemn and beautiful, reflecting centuries of tradition and history. The ornamentation and practices reflect the logical outgrowth of the principles of the Oxford movement.

The Church of the Good Shepherd
The Reverend William N. Fry III, Rector
1971 Jackson Avenue
Memphis, TN 38107
Office: 725-9768

Service Times
Sundays, 7:30 and 10:30 am
Wednesdays, 10:30 am

Vollentine Optional Elementary School is Growing

The faculty and staff of Vollentine Optional Elementary School are proud to announce the expansion of the optional program. Our goal for the students is to become lifelong learners by engaging them in rigorous instruction and addressing different learning styles with a focus on science exploration. Students are exposed to a variety of instructional strategies to ensure optimal learning. We are so excited that our optional program has been expanded to include kindergartern students. With the expansion, we are able to recruit students in the surrounding daycares as well as students in pre-kindergarten programs. In addition to the science optional focus, we offer a variety of clubs to enhance our students' self-esteem and character. As always, we are dedicated to the belief that success in learning can and must be achieved by every student.

Come see what we have to offer, because we are indeed the best-kept secret in Memphis! 🐾

Next Door Piper

By Sara First

If you're familiar with the social media site VECA NextDoor, you know it's not always a happy place. But September 22, neighbor Melissa J. initiated a welcome break from the missing pets and pilfered glove boxes by announcing, "The bagpipe player is back!!! Could listen all night!!!"

Scott C. echoed, "How great is Midtown!! Hail to the bagpipes!!!"

An eleventh-floor resident of Parkway House asked the piper to "play your lungs out," because "bagpipes are in my blood," and she loved to hear the "haunting, beautiful sound" filtering in through her windows from the V&E Greenline. Several more neighbors confessed to having their days spontaneously improved by the music of pipes in the air.

Eventually, thanks to our amazing social network online, the piper herself spoke up. Anne Katherine Campbell chimed in, "It's me! ... Only in Midtown does a piper feel so welcome."

A few weeks ago, thanks to that initial posting, my seven-year-old son, Samuel, and I visited with Anne Katherine to talk about pipes, bands, and life in Midtown. Samuel had several questions for her, beginning with, "What kind pipes do you play?" I hadn't realized how many different varieties of bagpipe there are in the world, but Samuel has a bit of an interest in Scotland and pipes, thanks to his love for Scooby Doo with its recurring Scottish motif and also the film Scooby Doo! And the Loch Ness Monster. They conversed about different qualities and types of pipes, and she explained that she has two sets of Highland pipes, which are the large-form pipes used most often in military exercises. Great Highland pipes – the kind I'm most used to seeing – have historically been considered a weapon, since they were used in battle to motivate and embolden soldiers. They're a folk instrument, which Anne Katherine explained has many meanings, but for her most simply suggests an instrument that can't be easily tuned to another instrument as well as an instrument that people like to bring out and play at parties.


She's been playing for nine years and right now performs with the Wolf River Pipes and Drums. They don't often play concerts in the area, but they do church services, memorial services, parades, and competitions all over the South. She began playing in college in Arkansas and her mother is also a piper. I missed a great opportunity for a photo while we talked. Anne Katherine was playing a reel for Samuel at his request when another young woman passed by on a skateboard – a Midtown moment at its best.

Anne Katherine expressed how much the enthusiastic exchange on NextDoor meant to her. She tries hard to find appropriate times and places to play, because as


we all know, bagpipes are loud. She used to practice during her lunch time at work, but she "didn't realize some people were sleeping in their cars during lunch. They asked [me] to stop." I didn't realize people did that either and I'm grateful Vollintine Evergreen's a more welcoming space! I'm looking forward to the next time I hear the music of the pipes floating through our neighborhood – whether during a planned concert or spontaneous practice. Or perhaps Anne Katherine will take up the suggestion that she perform at the ArtWalk in April.

In the meantime, check out Wolf River Pipes and Drum at their website www.wolfriverpipesanddrums.com or on Facebook. 🐾





Connect with Vollintine Evergreen Neighbors via Nextdoor, a private social network for neighborhoods. Go to nextdoor.com and create an account by entering your address and email address. Once the address is verified, you can connect to other Vollintine Evergreen neighbors and 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. Technology is helping people become more connected, and you are invited to join the conversation.



**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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1930 Exeter Road, Germantown, TN 38138

Historic Signage Update

Since the completion of the joby fundraising campaign, VECA's historic committee has been meeting monthly to keep this project moving forward.

Historic committee members met with employees of the engineering department recently to discuss the requirements of putting signage up around the district. The meeting went well. The engineering department updated us on requirements for the hardware and signs as well as insurance requirements.

Volunteers have identified many possible locations for the signage and are now soliciting bids on the signs and hardware.

The next steps are:

- 1) Determining insurance costs
- 2) Consulting with a graphic designer on the finishing touches of the design
- 3) Ordering signage
- 4) Selecting a contractor for installation
- 5) Finalizing plans with the city engineering department
- 6) Installation

Thanks again to everyone that donated to the project, and we look forward to keeping you updated as things continue moving along! 🐼



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.)

Sewer Project Benefits VECA Residents

By Mike Kirby

Residents attending a meeting at the VECA Welcome Center on December 15 learned that improvements to the sanitary sewers near Lick Creek are part of a \$250 million ten-year project benefiting the entire city. The project will significantly reduce the sewage backups that residents experience in their basements during heavy rains. Because sewers are old and the water table is high, water leaked into the sanitary sewer. The repairs will fix this leakage. This work was agreed to in a consent decree between Memphis and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The City and its contractors will have finished their work in Vollintine Evergreen by the end of January 2016. The work involves placing a large pipe in Lick Creek; the pipe is a temporary bypass so that work can be done on sewers that are in the streets and other public areas. The bypass pipe runs from near North Parkway and University Street to Watkins Street. It is pressure-treated and is inspected daily to make sure it does not leak sewage.

The actual work involves large, million-dollar trucks like the one in the photo below. First, the section of sewer between manholes is cleaned out. Next, a camera is used to determine whether there are further blockages or significant damage, which is then repaired. Finally, a plastic liner is inserted into the sewer line to provide a continuous line without any joints. The liners are expected to hold up for 50 years.

All workers will be carrying badges that include the Memphis City and contractor's logo.

This process is non-invasive and will not require tearing up streets. Small sections of the sewer where there is severe damage will have to be dug up at Tutwiler Avenue and Auburndale Street and the Snowden football field.

Once the work has been finished, the City will maintain the sewers on schedules identified by the engineering firm supervising the work.

This project is for the public section of the sanitary sewer. Homeowners are still responsible for the section of the sewer that starts on the owners' side of the street cleanout (pipe with cap standing up) to inside the owners' homes.

Many other cities being required by the EPA to improve their sewers are seeing much higher costs, such as \$10 billion in Atlanta. One of the reasons Memphis's cost is lower is our separate sanitary and storm water sewers. In addition, Memphis's sewer fees are among the lowest in the nation.

One of the major causes for damage to the sewers is tree roots. And because people pour oil and grease down their drains, the sewers become clogged and can't drain properly. According to City inspectors, the only way to dispose of grease and oil is by pouring it into a container, freezing it, then putting it in your garbage can. The City even provides lids that fit common can sizes. Call 636-4301 for information on the City of Memphis Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) Program.

Special thanks to Bobby Allen of the City of Memphis, SARP10 (Sewer Assessment and Rehabilitation Program), and employees of engineering firm with

Black and Veatch for a wonderful presentation and great outreach into our community. Thanks also to Mary Wilder for arranging the meeting and for being a driving force in making our neighborhood needs known to the City. Finally, thanks to the EPA for requiring the City of Memphis to perform this long-overdue work.

For more information and a work schedule, see www.sarp10.com. 🐼



Top: Bobby Allen and Representatives from Black and Veatch presented at the December 15 meeting.
Bottom: Workers at Tutwiler and Dickerson.



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December 3rd, St. Jude runners going the full marathon distance of 26.2 miles, ran through Vollintine Evergreen. They approached the neighborhood via Watkins, ran east on Tutwiler to University to Jackson, Hein Park and through the Rhodes campus. VECA had a cheering station along the V&E Greenline.



2016 Annual Membership Campaign - VECA @ 45

Dear V&E Neighbor,

Happy New Year! We send you our best wishes for a fulfilling and great 2016. **The New Year marks the 45th Anniversary of VECA (Vollintine Evergreen Community Association), a momentous occasion for us to celebrate.** Because of V&E neighbors like you, who graciously donate time and share your talents with VECA, we are able to operate as a 100% volunteer-run neighborhood organization. Your loyal support is vital to VECA's operations and mission-critical to our continued success. Our deepest thanks and appreciation to all VECA members and volunteers!

In honor of our 45th Anniversary, please consider making a 2016 donation to VECA that is meaningful to you. All donations and membership dues are tax deductible.

IMAGINE...What We Can Do Together This Year with a 45th Anniversary Gift of \$45 to VECA:

- If 1,000 residents joined VECA at the \$45 membership level, we could raise \$45,000.
- If 2,000 residents joined VECA at the \$45 membership level, we would raise \$90,000.

IMAGINE...What We Can Do Together This Year with a Tribute Gift of \$100 to VECA:

- Renew or join us at the \$100 membership level to support our 2016 donation goal to have 45 or more neighbors contribute at this level or above.

Why Join VECA? VECA affords us the avenue to share ideas, celebrate accomplishments, and advocate, collectively, for the advancement of our neighborhood and community.

My VECA Membership: Every individual member keeps VECA going – whether you attend meetings, volunteer time, and/or donate financially. Your membership matters and we invite you to renew your membership or join VECA for the first time.

We are proud to celebrate and toast to VECA's 45 years of service – a collective effort with the community to support our beloved Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. Thank you for choosing Vollintine-Evergreen as your neighborhood and donating to VECA.

With Gratitude, Your VECA Membership Committee Team 🐦



VECA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Gethsemane Garden
1740 Vollintine Avenue

Saturday, January 23, 2016
9:00-10:00 am Potluck Breakfast
10:00-11:15 am Annual Meeting & Elections

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