

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

NEWS

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

MAY 2016



The V&E Greenline is 20 Years Old!

By Mike Kirby

There are a lot of memories in those 20 years. The original charrette in 1996 met at McLean Boulevard and the V&E Greenline to plan the work. Here's a partial cast of characters: The Pew Charitable Trusts helped fund the purchase. Mary Wilder worked to obtain ownership. Pete and Charlotte Swailes did the initial mowing of an area at Auburndale and the V&E Greenline. Carol Chumney arranged the state grant to purchase a tractor that is used to this day. Keeler Ironworks built the two bridges and handrails at the Stationhouse. VECA and the YouthBuild program built the Stationhouse. Volunteers planted community flower gardens. Ritchie Smith Associates helped with the first master plan in 1998 and then again worked on the walkway and entrances project in 2015. And we can never forget the continual work of the V&E Greenline Committee, with both old and new members.

The meticulous maintenance of the trail for all of the years has been a highlight, starting with the work of mowing volunteers Len Cobb and Craig Jordan in 1996 and continuing with current mowing volunteers Bill Rehberg, Jeff Hendrix, Scott McDermott, Paul Goldstein, Tom Kirby, and Maureen Holland.

And the many trail users (averaging 175 a day) make the V&E Greenline special.

We are thankful for so much: The volunteers who mowed and managed the trail from year one, the many contributors who pay for maintenance, partners like Keeler Ironworks that provide facilities, and funders such as Hyde Family Foundation, City of Memphis and the Mid-South Regional Greenprint that helped provide infrastructure improvements, and the many trail users from both Vollintine Evergreen, Evergreen Historic, other midtown neighborhoods, and even beyond.

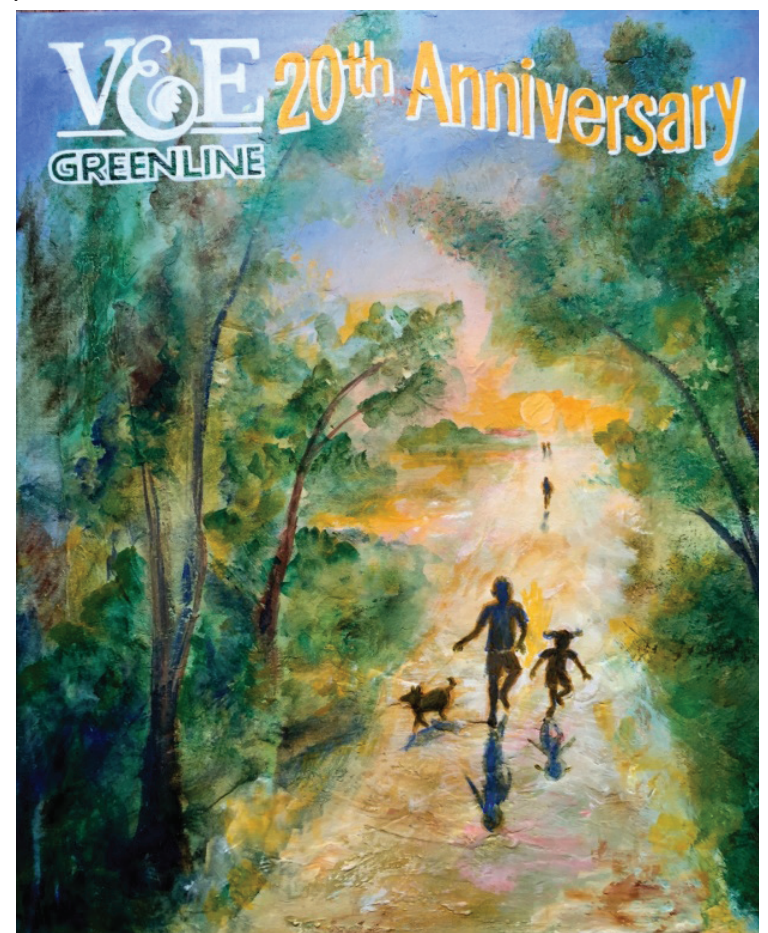
To celebrate the anniversary, the V&E Greenline commissioned a poster that represents the surroundings, people and spirit of the V&E Greenline. Mary Bowman's poster represents the spirit of the trail. It reflects the trail users in the natural habitat or our own urban forest with many trees both recently planted and some still here from previous generations.

Her work has appeared at many Memphis venues, including Playhouse on the Square, Collierville Town Hall, Memphis Botanic Garden, Opera Memphis, and many other sites.

The poster is for sale for \$10 through the V&E Greenline. Email VEGreenline@gmail.com or go to the website at VEGreenline.org and donate via PayPal.



Photos of the fifth annual V&E Greenline Artwalk held Saturday, April 23, 2016.
Below: Mary Bowman's winning poster.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 2, 2016, 6-8pm
 VECA Welcome Center
 1680 Jackson Avenue



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Neighbors gathered for VECA's inaugural game night Wednesday, May 4th. Folks had great things to say about the event, "There were plenty of exciting, entertaining games which kept the brain working. What more can one ask for, other than, show up and you will be glad that you did."



Game Nite: Thursday, June 16, 6:30-8:00pm

NeighborFest – Saturday, October 29

Getting together with your neighbors should be easy and not a challenge. VECA has gotten the ball rolling by setting Saturday, October 29th aside as a time to meet-n-greet with your neighbors. In fact, any day that weekend is great! Someone on each block will need to take the lead to decide when, where, and what (snack food or potluck, etc). Ask for help. Make a simple flyer to let everyone on the block know. Keep it simple and have fun! We'll talk it up on Nextdoor in the days ahead.

Neighborhood Watch Monthly Meetings

The National Neighborhood Watch program is one of the oldest and most well-known crime prevention concepts in history that stresses community awareness and teamwork. Neighborhood Watch in Memphis was officially formulated in 1984. It is an organization which empowers local citizens to take back and maintain a better quality of life in their respective neighborhoods. This program has shown that citizens help in the reduction of local crime by being vigilant and by partnering with local law enforcement to address the crime related issues and economical challenges within their community. (www.memphispolice.org/initiatives.asp)

VECA is an official member of the Neighborhood Watch program. Meetings are held at Crump Station Monthly the first Tuesday of each month. You can share your concerns and ideas to help make our neighborhoods safe.

VECA holds quarterly NW meetings as well at the VECA Welcome Center. The remaining dates for 2016 are:

Tuesday, June 27, 6-7 pm
 Tuesday, September 26, 6-7 pm
 Tuesday, December 19, 6-7 pm

Crump Station (photo below)
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 Memphis, TN 38104
 Front Desk: (901) 636-4600
 Traffic Violations: (901) 636-4568
 GIB Local Investigations: (901) 636-4793
 Neighborhood Watch: (901) 636-4625
www.memphispolice.org/crump.asp



VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

May 2016

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DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT
 VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS
 ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS July 1
 ADS July 1

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VECA COMMITTEE HEADS
 V&E Greenline Greg Lieberman
 Housing Chuck Fox
 Neighborhood Networks Lilly Gilkey
 Blight Busters 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:

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 veoca901@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 veoca901@gmail.com if you have any questions about using the Kroger Plus Card.

www.ReadyShelby.org

Ready Shelby is an initiative that seeks to encourage Shelby County citizens to be more prepared in the event of a disaster. Our task is to encourage everyone to take advantage of FREE educational services that will help to meet this goal. Check out our website at www.ReadyShelby.org. Click on Community Partners, and then click on Ready Neighbors

In the event of an emergency, first responders may take a while to get to every Neighborhood. We are asking neighborhoods to help their residents and friends to accomplish the Five Steps to Preparedness. In order to make this goal fun for the participants, we are sponsoring a friendly competition. One Grand Prize in the amount of \$5,000 will be awarded. Three Second Prizes in the amount of \$750 each and three Third Prizes in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded according to participation in the five steps in three neighborhood size categories—Small, Medium, and Large. Let us know how many active members are in your neighborhood association or group so that we may know into which category your neighborhood will compete. .

Please encourage each family in your Neighborhood to work toward the Five Steps to Preparedness. Every step you complete helps you to be more safe in the event of an emergency:

1. Have a Family Communication Plan
2. Identify safe places in the event of an emergency
3. Prepare an emergency kit including first aid supplies
4. Learn Compression Only CPR
5. Participate in Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT)

Details for each step are available at:
www.readyshelby.org/community-partners/ready-neighbors/



VECA Blight Busters

Blight Busters is the newly renamed committee that deals with blighted properties in the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood; it was formerly called the Neighborhood Preservation Committee. Committee members changed the name because it was a better fit with what we do.

What do we do?

- Identify blighted properties in the neighborhood and report to the appropriate agency.
- Meet monthly to discuss blighted properties and develop strategies to solve problems.
- Work with public agencies including Memphis Code Enforcement, Shelby County Construction Code Enforcement, Memphis Public Works, Shelby County Health Department and Shelby County Trustee.
- Maintain the Lyndale Community Garden.

What are some of our highlights?

- The committee works directly with the Shelby County Trustee to address blighted tax delinquent properties.
- The committee works with City Public Works to get overgrown alleys maintained.
- The committee worked with Shelby County Construction Code Enforcement to get an owner to cease weekly yard sales.
- A committee member is a volunteer code enforcement officer and can submit complaints to the City.
- The Lyndale Community Garden is a model neighborhood garden project that brings residents together from throughout the neighborhood.

What can you do to help?

Blight Busters has many volunteer opportunities, including attending meetings, doing quarterly field surveys, picking up litter and working in the garden. Please see our calendar of events for 2016. 🐾



Date	Event Type	Location	Time
Thursday, May 26	Committee Meeting	1680 Jackson	6:00 PM
Thursday, Jun 23	Committee Meeting	1680 Jackson	6:00 PM
Saturday, Jul 23	Blighted Properties Field Survey	1680 Jackson	9:00 AM
Thursday, Aug 25	Committee Meeting	1680 Jackson	6:00 PM
Saturday, Sep 24	Annual Picnic	1470 Lyndale	11:30 AM
Thursday, Oct 27	Committee Meeting	1680 Jackson	6:00 PM
Friday, Nov 11	Blighted Properties Field Survey	1680 Jackson	9:00 AM
Thursday, Dec 8	Holiday Party	1680 Jackson	6:00 PM



The leadership of Springdale Baptist Church is excited to announce the pastoral installation of their newly-elected Lead Pastor, Dr. Kevin B. Taylor.

1193 Springdale Street
901-274-6652

VECA Annual Meeting

VECA's annual membership meeting was held January 23, 2016, at Gethsemane Garden Church. The primary purpose of the annual meeting is to elect the president and the VECA board. The meeting is also a time to conduct needed business, highlight the past year's accomplishments, and thank our volunteers.

VECA Elections:

Neighbors voted to have Lilly Gilkey serve another year as VECA's president. The VECA bylaws state that the president is elected for a one-year term and may serve up to three consecutive terms. This will be Lilly's third and last term as president and she has done a tremendous job.

Neighbors approved the following VECA Board Members for 2016: Justin Burkhead, Karen Edwards, Chris Floyd, Chuck Fox, Mary Gibson, Lilly Gilkey, Marci Hendrix, Angela Lamb, Sam Powers, Bob Rigus, Susan Sherrod, Tony Steinberg, Natasha Strong, Diane Thornton, and Jeannie Tomlinson Saltmarsh.

VECA's Strategic Plan:

VECA's strategic plans for 2011 through 2015 involved input from neighbors via public meetings, input from other interested parties via individual interviews, a review and analysis of the resident survey, and a review of organizational documents provided by VECA. All this data resulted in a detailed plan created by a consultant and adopted by the neighborhood's governing bodies.

In 2015 the VECA Board of Directors reviewed the earlier document and revised the strategic plan to reflect the experience of working with the plan and the needs and resources that would be available in 2016 and 2017. The plan was approved by the VECA membership at the annual meeting and is available at veca.org.

VECA Service Awards

VECA presented six service awards at the annual meeting.

The Richard S. Borys Award, which was created to recognize public officials who through their work contribute to the Vollintine Evergreen community, was presented to Bobby Allen, Administrator of Environmental Construction, City of Memphis, Division of Public Works for his leadership on the Sewer Assessment and Rehabilitation Program. Mr. Allen and his team made improvements to the sanitary sewers near Lick Creek as part of a \$250 million, ten-year project benefiting the entire city.

The Mary Wilder Award, which was created to recognize excellence in institutions that contribute to the Vollintine Evergreen community, was presented to St. John Orthodox Church for its unwavering commitment to the neighborhood.

The Margaret Dichtel Award, which was created to recognize a Vollintine Evergreen resident and VECA member who embodies the principles of being a good neighbor and community action, was presented to Andre Hayes for the kind assistance he gives to his neighbors. He encourages and motivates neighbors to respect and appreciate where they live by being an example. He is regularly out and about picking up trash, cleaning the sidewalks, calling in code enforcement violations and keeping an eye out for criminal activity.

A second Dichtel Award was presented to neighbors on Albany Avenue, represented by Thomas and Ellen Lacey. Albany Avenue is a sight to behold as neighbors annually decorate the block with snowmen and lights galore, making the holidays cheerful and fun for residents and those who drive by to see the lights.

The Michael Kirby Award, which was created to honor a VECA volunteer who has rendered exceptional service to the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association, was presented to A.D. Nelson. Mr. Nelson has cheerfully distributed the neighborhood newsletter for years. Living adjacent to Cypress Creek, he was a longtime active member of the Cypress Creek Committee.

A second Kirby award was presented to Chris Tague for her invaluable service as editor of the VECA newsletter. We all have stories to tell and we are grateful to Chris for helping make our stories clear and grammatically correct. Thank you, Chris, for making us look good in print. 🐾

Guest Speaker


John Carroll of City Leadership spoke about the new partnership with Serve901 and St. George's Independent School. See article on page 9.



Top right: Ellen Lacey and Chuck Fox;
Above left: Bobby Allen and team'
Above right: Lilly Gilkey and Andre Hayes;
Right and below: Many thanks to Gethsemane Garden Church of God in Christ for their wonderful hospitality.



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Memorial to Founders of the V&E Greenline

Charlotte Swailes and her husband, Pete, were longtime residents of Auburndale Street and one of many founders of the V&E Greenline. Charlotte recently died and was preceded in death by her husband.

Even before the purchase of the trail, Charlotte mowed the section near Auburndale Street and claimed she wore out three push mowers in the inhospitable former railroad bed. Pete was one of the first mowing volunteers to use a riding mower to mow the section from Hawthorne to University Street. The couple did some of the first landscaping on the trail, and their pine tree and railroad ties are still found at Auburndale Street. At the time, reckless drivers were tearing up on what was to become the V&E Greenline, so the Swaileses created the shade garden bed and installed cement barriers to control the traffic. They also started the beautiful crape myrtle collection on the west side of Auburndale. Charlotte was the first chair of the Friends of the Greenways, which was the predecessor of the V&E Greenline, and she signed the paperwork for the purchase of the trail from the railroad. The photo shows the ceremony of the signing event in 1996, along with Charlotte's celebratory bottle of Champagne. Pete and Charlotte were regular committee attendees and volunteered for every clean-up event. They received VECA's Margaret Dichtel Award for volunteerism in 1999.

Reprint from the 1999 newsletter article:

The Margaret Dichtel Award was given jointly to two long-time Vollintine Evergreen residents and VECA activists, Pete and Charlotte Swailes. The Swaileses have been good neighbors to their fellow residents on North Auburndale and beyond for over 20 years. Their activities have been numerous, ranging from serving on both the VECA Board and the VECA CDC Board, decorating their street each Christmas season, giving a wedding anniversary party for some elderly neighbors, and doing major maintenance and clean-up work on the old L&N Railroad right-of-way long before it was purchased by VECA and renamed the V&E Greenline. 🍷




Pete and Charlette Swailes pictured at the 1996 V&E Greenline signing event. Charlotte is on the first row, far right; Pete is near the center of the back row.

Newly-Named Kirby Station

At the March 21, 2016 meeting of the V&E Greenline Committee, a motion was made and approved to name the station house. Bill Rehberg told the committee, "All railroad stations need a name and ours is no exception. I propose we name it Kirby Station in honor of the hours and years of work by Mike Kirby and all the members of the Kirby Clan." In true Kirby fashion, Mike and Jan Kirby abstained from the vote, and graciously accepted the will of the majority. Be sure to go by Kirby Station to admire the new signage and other recent improvements which owe so much to Mike's vision and dedication! 🍷

Right: Mike Kirby and Bill Rehberg
Below: Kirby Clan, left to right: Mike and Jan Kirby; Betsy, Tom and son Jordan; Brian, Chris and daughter, Maddie.





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Artwalk photo contributors in this issue: Ashli Aaron, Caley Foreman, Marci Hendrix, Mike Kirby, and Suzanne Martin

Thank You Volunteers!

The V&E Greenline Committee would like to say thank you to everyone who helped make the V&E Artwalk a great success! Thank you for helping us prepare the grounds, thank you for passing out posters and postcards, and thank you for every single moment you gave us during the actual event.

Thanks for making a difference in the Vollintine Evergreen community and for helping to keep the V&E Greenline thriving!

HoneyRock Volunteers



Team members from HoneyRock, the Outdoor Center for Leadership Development of Wheaton College, spent March 31st working in Vollintine Evergreen. The group collected trash along Jackson Avenue and Watkins Avenue in the morning, and cleaned the sidewalk and grounds of the Stationhouse in preparation of the V&E Artwalk. Team members were engaged and asked a lot of questions about the neighborhood. We hope to work with HoneyRock again!
www.wheaton.edu/honeyrock



Spring into Action

Want to give back to the V&E Neighborhood and Support VECA?

By Natasha Strong

Whether you excel at planning events, have a knack for design, pick up litter when you see it, enjoy working in the garden, or help cut the lawns of vacant properties, volunteering at VECA is the perfect opportunity to give back to the community and support your neighborhood organization VECA. It's your chance to get more involved. Busy schedules do not mean we have to write off community involvement completely. There are many ways to Take Action and Get Involved. Here are a few ways to get you started!

Become a VECA AMBASSADOR – Get to know your neighbors. We're issuing a call for community greeters, meaning neighbors who would like to welcome newcomers to Vollintine Evergreen. Help boost and strengthen neighborhood pride by promoting VECA and the benefits of a VECA membership. For more information, email vecamembership@gmail.com.

DONATE to VECA – We rely on your tax-deductible membership dues to support neighborhood projects, to host a range of activities and events annually, and to fund the VECA Welcome Center, located at 1680 Jackson Avenue. Every dollar donated to VECA makes a difference!

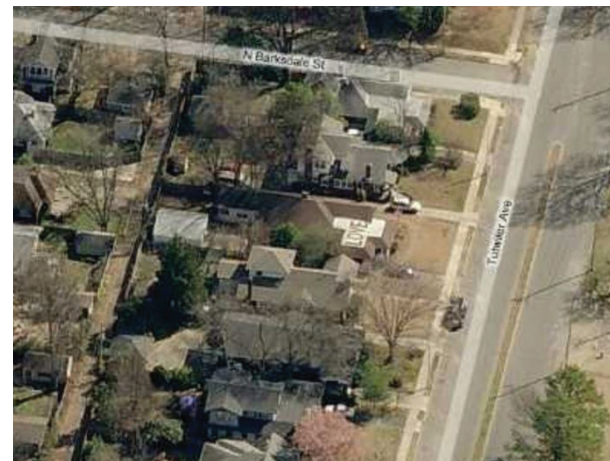
Be the "U" in VOLUNTEER – Make a difference and volunteer! Share your passion by joining a committee. As an entirely volunteer-run organization, VECA relies on its members and the active involvement of V&E residents like you. For more information, email veca901@gmail.com.

Be an ACTIVE VECA MEMBER – Connect and engage with VECA on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor.com). Stay informed. To receive the weekly ENews from VECA, send your name and email address to vecanews901@gmail.com.

Be a CHANGEMAKER – Vollintine Evergreen still has challenges to overcome. Amplify your voice as a concerned citizen by attending neighborhood meetings. Only through all of us working together can we continue improving and maintaining a quality residential neighborhood where people want to live, work, play, shop, and eat. Visit veca.org for a calendar of events and committee information.

Did you know...

In 2012, Vance Lauderdale featured a story in *Memphis Magazine* about a house in our neighborhood (link below). We talked with homeowner, Stacy Pennington for an update. Pennington told us, "I was up on the roof, putting down some sealant to stop some leaks, and I had some left over that I didn't want to mess with storing. I know that the imaging satellites are south of us, closer to the equator, so I painted this on the roof and waited. About 6 months later, it was in Google and stayed that way for a couple of years. We've since had a new roof put on, so it is pretty boring up there now."



memphismagazine.com/ask-vance/the-secret-l-o-v-e-house-in-memphis/



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—Dr. Kendell Easley, Pastor



An Encounter with Bugs and Trees

By Connie Shepherd

Have you looked at your crape myrtle trees lately? You may notice black along the stems and bark, looking as if they are covered with soot. You might also notice small white scale along the bark. This is caused by an insect known as Eriococcus lagerstroemia, commonly referred to as crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS). The black "soot" is exudate from the insects. It is easy to see, even from a distance.

It was first noticed in the Memphis area about three years ago. Since that infestation, many of the crape myrtle trees in our area have been affected. I became aware of it last fall. As horticulturist for the City of Memphis, one of my responsibilities is to care for the trees on city properties, medians, and parks. It is a daunting task thinking about how many trees there are planted on the medians and in the parks.

According to several sources, the insect was first discovered in a Dallas suburb in 2004. It has spread throughout the southeast and has now begun its descent on Memphis and surrounding suburbs. At stake is a multibillion dollar landscape tree. It is one of a few trees that blooms throughout the summer. They are planted everywhere.

Now we have to consider what options are available to control this pest. Several articles by Chris Cooper, Tennessee cooperative extension agent for Shelby County, and Chris Gang, contributing writer for *The Commercial Appeal*, have highlighted the problem, as have speakers at garden shows. Little research has been done on how to control this pest.

According to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, here are several suggestions:

- Application of systemic insecticides as a drench applied to the root zone has shown the most promise in tests to date. Imidacloprid, thiomethoxam, and dinotefuran have shown the best control when applied between May and July. When drenching the soil with a systemic insecticide, allow several weeks for the product to be distributed throughout the plant. Acetamiprid and clothianidin, as well as neonicotinoids, have been helpful. (Neonicotinoids can be harmful to bees, so spray early so the chemical will not be present in the flowers during pollen season.)
- Horticultural oil has not yet been shown to be effective; however, a winter application of dormant oil to the bark and crotches of the plants where scales shelter may be beneficial. Be sure to use enough to allow for penetration behind loose bark and into cracks and crevices.
- Washing the black off the tree does nothing other than remove the exudate of the insect.
- Lady beetles should be preserved, as the twice-stabbed lady beetle is an efficient predator of this scale.

I have begun the spray program for crape myrtle trees on City of Memphis property. No one knows whether this insect can kill our trees. If you have a crape myrtle in your yard, please check for this insect. If infected, begin a regimen to control it.

On a happier note, dogwoods and tulip poplars are finishing their bloom cycle. Spring is a wonderful time in Memphis. Enjoy your outdoor time in your neighborhood, at Overton Park, and on the V&E Greenline. 🐦



Connie Shepherd graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor in science degree in horticulture. She has spent 25 years working in the horticulture industry. Five years ago, she came to Midtown Memphis to be closer to family and enjoy the cultural diversity of food, music and entertainment available. She recently moved into the VECA neighborhood from the other side of Overton Park.

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St. George's and Serve901 Forge Unique Partnership Provides Shared Space and Programming

By Sarah Cowan

St. George's Independent School and City Leadership today announced an exclusive joint partnership to support service learning and community engagement in Memphis through collaboration with the Choose901 campaign and Serve901 program. While the partnership is multi-faceted, the most visible aspect of the relationship will be newly renovated shared space at 815 N. McLean Boulevard in the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood.

Named the "St. George's/Serve901 Bunkhouse," the facility will include bunks for more than 100 people, as well as common areas. For Serve901, a program that curates service experiences with college students to understand and serve Memphis and logged 7248 volunteer hours from 434 participants in 2015, the space will enable program growth. St. George's constituents will be able to use the facility for a variety of purposes including alumni events, meetings, or class, club or team retreats.

"Both Serve901 and St. George's need a place like the Bunkhouse, but neither organization would use it every day of the year. Creating this space together and sharing it is such a great investment of maximizing resources," noted John Carroll, Executive Director of City Leadership.

Equally significant, the affiliation will include a four-year programming partnership in which Serve901 staff will collaborate with SGIS faculty and students to create outstanding year-round learning experiences, from summer camps to "deep dive" leadership opportunities for middle and upper school students.

"The partnership between St. George's and Serve901 is a natural fit all around. With a long track record of being focused on things greater than ourselves alone and a commitment to preparing our students for college and life, we look forward to broadening our efforts to provide compelling service and leadership experiences for our students," said Ross Peters, St. George's Head of School. "Our collaboration with Serve901 is a manifestation of our desire to serve our students by showing them how they might serve our city." 🐦

About St. George's Independent School

St. George's Independent School is a college preparatory school in the Episcopal tradition of education that is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, preparing students for a life of learning and meaningful contribution in an inclusive learning community that nurtures outstanding academic achievement, relationships, leadership, and character reinforced by Judeo-Christian values.

About Serve901

Serve901 is an initiative of the nonprofit organization, City Leadership which was founded in 2010 by John Carroll as a nonprofit consulting agency. Serve901 hosts groups of college students to Memphis to engage, serve, and learn about Memphis. Groups visit the National Civil Rights Museum, hear from social justice-minded leaders in the city, eat amazing food, and work to support the work of great Memphis organizations and communities. Since 2004, City Leadership/Serve901 has hosted more than 150 groups and invested thousands of volunteer hours into the city of Memphis. www.serve901.org

Christina Huntington with Memphis Urban Sketchers met up with other sketchers at the V&E Artwalk. The group

meets once a month or more, usually on the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome, and it's free. Find them on facebook or their website:



urbansketchers-memphis.blogspot.com



h2o Church



Bill Rehberg and h2o team

By Elizabeth Brooker

During the first week of March 2016, five of us from h2o Church at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio, set out for a week of service in Memphis. We had no idea what to expect because most of us had never been to Memphis before. Memphis was one of the two Spring Break trips that were offered this year through h2o.

h2o Church is a campus church for college students that meets in the student union on campus. We meet on Sundays for church and then throughout the week for our weekly Bible studies and other various events.

We knew we would be serving on this trip, but we didn't know in what capacity. Throughout the week, we spent time volunteering in schools, and nonprofits all over the city, and got to see a lot of the city itself. We loved it here!

One of the awesome things we got to do was team up with Mike Kirby and Bill Rehberg for a clean-up on the V&E Greenline. We chopped down vines, moved rotten tree trunks, and picked up sticks along the trail, as well as various other things. We also helped clean up the Stationhouse on our last day here.

Mike and Bill made this experience what it was. Their kind and caring personalities were obvious in all that they did. You could tell they love what they do.

Right before we left we were planting some trees along one of the roads with Mike, and a police car pulled up and asked if we were all right. We said, "Yeah, we're just planting some trees!" In that moment, and what summed up the entire trip for us, we realized how much good there is in cities like Memphis, and sometimes it's in something as small as a new tree. You just have to look for it. 🐦

Green Triangles Project Moves to Next Step

By Cathy Marcinko

VECA has successfully completed its third IOBY (In Our Backyard) fundraising campaign, raising more than \$6,425 thanks to the generosity of neighborhood residents, donors and IOBY! The Green Triangles Project will "green" and beautify two traffic islands at University/Hallwood and Jackson, which are major intersections and "gateways" within the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood that have long been covered in gray asphalt.

The response to the project has been overwhelmingly positive since the campaign began on March 1. The Green Triangles project team and the many residents who will benefit from the project are grateful to the more than 40 donors who have generously given to the campaign. We are also grateful for IOBY Memphis, which provided an online platform for the campaign, helped organize the effort, and provided a 1:1 match for the first \$1,750 raised. IOBY's match was critical in galvanizing the campaign effort and early donors. The match was met within the first few weeks of the campaign, showing that the project had struck a chord with many in the community.

The funds raised for the project will be primarily used to pay for fill dirt and landscaping materials. The project team has requested that the City assist in removing the asphalt from the islands. First, however, the city engineer's office must approve plans for the project. Ritchie

Smith and Associates, the landscape architectural firm that has worked with the V&E Greenline, has graciously agreed to help create the design plans.

The project team has developed a preliminary wish list for the design that includes low-maintenance native plants and incorporation of brick and rock. Once the plan is ready, we will share them with donors and residents through the VECA newsletter, website, and in a meeting at the VECA Welcome Center to get community input. Once the design is final, we can submit it to city engineers for review and approval. After approval, implementation is the next stage.

Donations are still being accepted for the Green Triangles Project and will allow other amenities to be added to the design. In addition, the project has and will require ongoing volunteer support. We are looking for volunteers to help with:

- design and engineering aspects
- getting approval from the City
- public relations/outreach/social media
- fundraising
- donations of materials and labor

We currently anticipate that work will begin in the fall of this year or early 2017, and that most of the landscaping work will be done by volunteers. After the project is completed, neighborhood residents will provide the ongoing maintenance of the triangles.

If you have suggestions or want to get involved in the Green Triangles Project, please email sgadbois@aeneas.com or cathy.marcinko@gmail.com. 🐦





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The Bikesmith



The Bikesmith truck has become a common sight in Vollintine Evergreen over the last couple of years. Neighbor Jim Steffen can be seen in his rehabbed former UPS-type truck working on bicycles around here, at Overton Park, in Binghampton, and Shelby Farms. Steffen began his mobile bike shop with grant assistance from the MEMMobile Program, a City of Memphis Innovation Delivery Team program designed to encourage small business.

And although he's still mobile, he recently opened a full-service bike shop on Hollywood near Broad complete with a pump track out back. What's a pump track? He explains, "A pump track is a continuous loop of dirt berms and 'rollers' [smooth dirt mounds] that you ride without pedaling. The name 'pump track' comes from the pumping motion used by the rider's upper and lower body as he or she rides around the track. The idea of a pump track is to use this pumping motion to maintain your speed around the track without pedaling."

In addition to being a full service bike shop, The Bikesmith shop offers yoga for cyclists and runners and classes on minor bike repair (flat tires, etc.). Visit The Bikesmith to see the selection of bikes, accessories, and craft beers. Or bring your bike in and watch it get repaired. 🐼

Bike Shop
509 N Hollywood
Memphis, TN — 38112
www.bikesmithtruck.com
901 871-2453
bikesmithtruck@gmail.com



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.)



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.

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Photos above and left by Ashli Aaron who has been a resident of the V&E neighborhood for nearly two years. She is studying Photography at The University of Memphis and will graduate in December of 2016.

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