

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

NEWS

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

WINTER 2016

Vollintine Evergreen's 2017 Annual Neighborhood Meeting

Our V&E Annual Event is family friendly and open to all neighbors.

Saturday, January 28, 2017

9:00am - 11:00am

VECA Welcome Center

1680 Jackson Avenue

(between Evergreen St. & N. Belvedere Blvd.)

Bring your favorite breakfast or
brunch food.

VECA will provide
coffee & juice.

Focus on Evergreen-Jackson at Annual Meeting

VECA's annual meeting is a time for celebrating the successes and accomplishments of the previous year and for thinking about new beginnings and opportunities for our neighborhood. This year is a continuation of that tradition, and one of the success stories and opportunities on the agenda is about the geographic "heart" of our community – the Evergreen-Jackson commercial node.

The success is a Strengthening Communities grant that VECA was awarded in 2016 to create a vision and plan for the commercial properties at Evergreen and Jackson. The opportunity is the chance for you and others at the 2017 annual meeting to weigh in right from the beginning on your vision for this core area.

We are delighted to have Andy Kitsinger, a highly-respected architect and planner, to guide and advise VECA in this planning process. VECA, along with Mr. Kitsinger, wants your ideas, thoughts and input to create a plan that the entire community can support and implement. We intend to reach out to property owners and businesses in the district, as well as work with the Office of Planning and Development, code enforcement and other agencies.

So help VECA and the community start the year right – attend the annual meeting and bring your vision to this important discussion!

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Cindy Putnam McMillion, *Connecting Memphis*
Andy Kitsinger, AIA, AICP, *Development Studio, LLC*

2016 St. Jude Marathon

The residents of V&E are proud to be a part of the route for the annual marathon fundraising event for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



VECA Garden Club

By Connie Shepherd
VECA Neighbor and City of Memphis Horticulturist

Our Garden Club is starting out slow but we should gain momentum in 2017. We will join the Tennessee Garden Federation and become an established garden club. That means we must pay dues and become organized with president, treasurer, program director, etc.

We'll have a Yard of the Month designated every month. So start nominating your favorite gardens. I'll be starting from scratch and will need to catch up. Below is our calendar with ideas for next year.

Our Mission is to beautify our neighborhood, one garden at a time. If you have any ideas you are interested in, please send me an email at bmech314@gmail.com. I'll see you In The Garden,

VECA Garden Club Calendar:

- January 12 - Seed Saving/Sharing
Lichterman Seed Exchange Day
- February 9 - Prepping your garden for vegetables, annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees
- March 9 - Planting natives in your garden
Dixon - Woodland Garden Trail, Saturdays free 10-12; lunch
- April 13 - City of Memphis Greenhouse visit
Memphis Botanic Garden - Daffodil Dash 5K
- May 11 - Neighborhood beautification project: Butterfly Garden on the V&E Greenline
- June 8 - Neighborhood beautification project: Tutwiler medians 1700s/1800s blocks
- July - Summer Celebration, Jackson, TN
- August 10 - Preparing plants and projects for Delta Fair
Neighborhood beautification project: Community Garden
- September 14 - Summer Tea
- October 12 - What to do with your harvest: Canning.
- November 9 - Plant Swap



VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS
Winter 2016

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT PUBLICATION

February 1
vecanews901@gmail.com
For advertising rate sheet,
or to submit ads electronically,
please email
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VECA BOARD OFFICERS
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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.

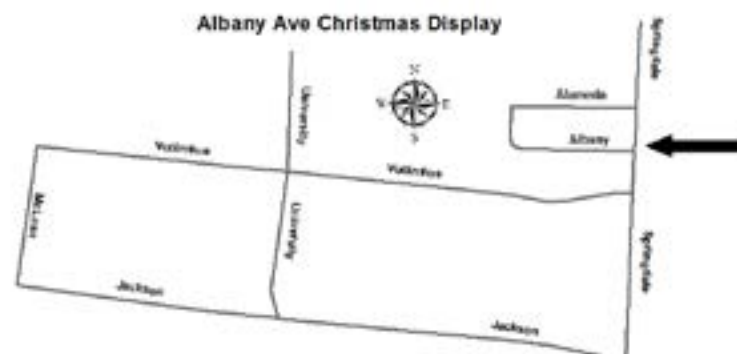
The VECA area is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Springdale on the East, and North Parkway on the South.

VECA
1680 Jackson Avenue
901.276.1782
Website and Calendar: veca.org
Email: veca901@gmail.com



Holiday Lights

If you're looking for festive lights, Albany Avenue is the place go. Take Vollintine east to Springdale. Turn left and left again on Albany. Before the season ends, do yourself a favor and drive or walk over to Albany Avenue to see the Christmas lights.



Saturday, April 22, 2017
11:00am—6:00pm
1625 Tutwiler Avenue
on the V&E Greenline

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 vecca901@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 vecca901@gmail.com if you have any questions about using the Kroger Plus Card.

Neighborhood Watch

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 at 6:00pm. 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. 📍

2017 NW Meetings at the VECA Welcome Center

- Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 6-7pm
- Tuesday, June 20, 2017, 6-7pm
- Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 6-7pm



Crump Station (photo left)
949 E.H. Crump
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




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.
- SeniorSafe 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



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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www.memphis-medpeds.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, vehicles parked on grass, etc.)

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

Church of the Good Shepherd
The Rev. William N. Fry III, Rector
1971 Jackson Avenue
Office: 901-725-9768
Services: Sundays, 7:30 and 10:30 am
Wednesdays, 10:30 am

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SkyCop on the V&E Greenline

By The V&E Greenline Committee

Great news. Because of the hard work of the V&E Greenline Committee, there will be a SkyCop camera on the V&E Greenline at the McLean Boulevard crossing of the trail.

This will be the same type of SkyCop camera that has been a buzz in the local media. The camera will be able to look up and down the trail and will also be able to capture images on the McLean Boulevard crossing. It is wireless and will transmit images directly to the police department's Real Time Crime Center. Ownership of the SkyCop camera was donated to the police department; it will monitor images and maintain the equipment. The \$7,322 price tag was significant, but that's the standard price. The hope is that the equipment will pay for itself by as a deterrent and making users more comfortable when using the trail. If someone commits a crime in the area and walks past the camera, the police may have a photo they can use to identify the suspect.

Unfortunately, the V&E Greenline did not have \$7,322 in its treasury for this project. The story of how it came about shows the power of volunteers in planning a project and then fundraising for it.

Several years ago, the committee asked whether the police could install one of their SkyCop cameras on the V&E Greenline. The department said that was not possible, since the V&E Greenline was a very low-crime area. However, residents of the area and trail users pointed out that a camera would make them feel more comfortable in using the trail. The committee had tried using a trail camera at one site, but no one wanted to climb a ladder to maintain the camera, such as replacing batteries and the memory card.

Scott McDermott, a V&E Greenline committee member, took the lead in finding initial funding. Before a grant proposal could be made, VECA had to become an official member of Neighborhood Watch. This involved a training session by the police; the session on October 27, 2015, was attended by 13 residents. Next, McDermott and Mike Kirby wrote a proposal to the City Neighborhood Watch for \$2,500 to fund a camera, and the grant was awarded in December of 2015.

At this point, the V&E Greenline Committee did not know what type of camera might be best or even how much one would cost. By the spring, committee members found that a SkyCop camera might be an option. After receiving a bid from SCI Technologies, the committee worked with SCI's Ken Shackelford to find a good placement near McLean Boulevard and determine what was needed to install it. Because it was a complex project and the cost would exceed the grant, the committee took about three months considering the details. Brian Floyd and Justin Gillis helped the committee better understand the technical details of a surveillance camera like SkyCop.

The police were involved throughout this process. Crump Station (the precinct for the V&E Greenline) was very enthusiastic and supportive of the camera. The committee sent a letter to the police director offering to donate the cost of the camera to the department, which is a requirement for a SkyCop facility. The police then took the request to City Council, which approved it.

At the end of the summer, the V&E Greenline contacted Livable Memphis, which sponsors an online IOBY resource that facilitates crowd funding. The project was online in August and September and raised \$2,389 from trail users, committee members and a challenge match provided by IOBY. IOBY provided a list of donors and Scott McDermott sent them thank you emails for their generous donations.

The remaining \$2,433 was provided by the Memphis Shelby County Law Enforcement Foundation. When asking for the balance, the V&E Greenline reported how much it had already raised but was still short. The foundation thought having a SkyCop camera on the V&E Greenline was important, just as it was important to have a camera on the Shelby Farms Greenline.

The next step is installation of the camera.

A lot of people helped plan and fund this important project. It would not have happened without the hard work of Scott McDermott, who brought together a great plan and resources to fund it, SCI representative Ken Shackelford, who helped us plan it, and Chuck Fox, who helped with the technical and policy issues involved. The V&E Greenline Committee would like to thank Mike Kirby, who provided invaluable support and assistance on this project and Brian Floyd and Justin Gillis for technical advice on camera issues. 🙏



St. Therese the Little Flower Catholic School

The Jubilee Catholic Schools provide a high quality, affordable education for students in PreK through 12th grade. Currently serving around 1600 students, the nine Jubilee schools are committed to serve by providing an academically rigorous and vibrantly Catholic education that prepares students to become all that God created them to be both today and tomorrow. To better serve families' needs, Jubilee school tuition operates on a sliding scale supported by significant donor funding. Families pay only what they can based on their income with donor funding helping to fill the gap. Your support helps make this possible.

No gift is too little or too large. Please help support our work by donating today.

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/JubileeCatholicSchoolsNetwork/10by10-donate.html>





Room in the Inn-Memphis is an ecumenical ministry that serves people experiencing homelessness. Now beginning its sixth year in Memphis, the program provides emergency shelter and meals during the coldest months of the year—November through March. It is modeled after the Room in the Inn program that started in Nashville 30 years ago.

Peace Lutheran Church is a host site on Friday evenings and looking for Volunteers. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Meredee Taylor. Phone (256) 604-7781 or Email: MDMX54@comcast.net



▲ the ▲
**GREEN
Triangles
Project**



From ASPHALT
To All
GREEN
All Year Long.

MARCH 1 - MAY 1, 2016

IOBY Challenge \$ 1,750.
Total Raised \$ 6,465.

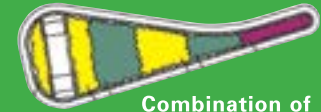
JACKSON & UNIVERSITY

Combination of
179 Evergreen
Plants



UNIVERSITY & HALLWOOD

Combination of
353 Evergreen Plants



Green Triangles Update

The plan developed by Ritchie Smith and Associates (above) for the two pedestrian triangles at Hallwood/University and Jackson has been approved by the City Engineer. The next step is to negotiate an agreement with the City for neighborhood volunteers to landscape and maintain the triangles. VECA hopes the City will assist with removal of the existing asphalt. The Green Triangle improvements are funded through donations by neighborhood residents.



Excerpts from the City of Memphis website: www.memphis3.point0.com

The City of Memphis is embarking on an exciting journey. For the first time in four decades, a strategic plan will be developed to outline a new direction for Memphis -intended to create a City of great neighborhoods and to maximize the City's ability to improve the quality of life for all residents. Core focus areas of the Memphis 3.0 plan are connectivity, sustainability, livability, and opportunity, and it will include strategies for enhancing land use, transportation, environment, city systems, growth and prosperity, neighborhoods, and civic capacity.

Memphis 3.0 couldn't come at a better time. Two and a half years from now, our city will celebrate the 200th anniversary of its founding in 1819. The best way for us to begin a third century of opportunity and growth is to start making it happen now.

Change in a city is inevitable, but with Memphis 3.0, we can control our own

future by asking and deciding who we want to be and how we want to grow. This is why Memphis 3.0 is a collaboration between the public, government, community groups, neighborhood associations, business community, artists, and more. No one is more important to this process than Memphians themselves because the best experts about our neighborhoods are the people in them.

Take our quick survey (website below) and let us know what matters most to you

The planning process begins in November 2016 and will run through November 2018. Over the next two years, there will be hundreds of opportunities for Memphians to have their voices heard. This survey is the first step in a journey of collecting and understanding the thoughts, values, and visions of Memphis residents like you. Most questions are short answer (we want to hear from you in YOUR words!) and the survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. Thank you!



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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at Dickinson
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www.stjohnmemphis.org

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jamiestephens74@gmail.com

www.jamiespetcare.com

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Great Things About V&E and Being a Member of VECA

Traditional Charm . Modern Day Living

V&E: Is a neighborhood with historic and visual character, natural and scenic settings.

V&E: Has diverse, caring, friendly, and supportive neighbors.

V&E: Is a neighborhood with beautiful tree-lined streets and a large number of well-preserved, architecturally distinctive homes with fine craftsmanship.

V&E: Has an enthusiastic group of volunteers and members with a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhood.

V&E: Is conveniently located near Overton Park, Levitt Shell, Brooks Museum, Memphis Zoo, Overton Square, Downtown, medical district, and excellent restaurants, with easy access to the interstate and suburban Memphis.

V&E: Is a strong supporter of art and sculptures in public spaces.

V&E: Has a vast and unique history with a designation on the National Register of Historic Places for all four of our historic districts.

V&E: Is a neighborhood with excellent public and private educational institutions: Snowden School, Vollentine Elementary School, St. Therese Little Flower Catholic School, KIPP Academy, VENS, and Rhodes College.

V&E: Has the VECA Welcome Center, a multi-use facility serving the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood.

V&E: Neighbors are involved and empowered.



Become a VECA Member.

Please Join Now.

THANK YOU!

We invite all residents to get involved in helping to maintain and develop our beautiful historic neighborhood!

Your VECA Contribution is 100% Tax Deductible.

Ever Green means:

- Urban green infrastructure – trails, parks, streams, and community gardens.
- V&E's Greenline is a scenic 1.7 mile Rails-to-Trails greenspace for walking, biking, and enjoying the garden spaces.
- V&E's Greenline has the feel of living in an urban forest.
- University Park is 10 acres of greenspace located at University Street and Edward Avenue.
- Dlugach Park (once known as University Circle Park) is located at Jackson Avenue and University Circle.
- Snowden Field and Vollintine Park are outdoor recreational areas next to our neighborhood schools.
- Lick Creek and Cypress Creek.
- Lyndale Community Garden located at 1470 Lyndale Avenue, just west of Stonewall Street, was the Commercial Appeal's 2012 Garden of the Year Vegetable Garden Winner.
- Avalon Community Garden located on North Avalon Street near Vollintine Avenue.
- Beckwith Triangle located at Hallwood and Oakmont.

VECA's MISSION

"To maintain a quality residential neighborhood through volunteer efforts of the neighborhood's residents."

A salute to all of our residents past and present – men and women across all age groups – for their countless hours of volunteering, the untold stories of stepping up to lend a helping hand to a neighbor, and strong financial support of VECA.

We are extremely grateful for our members and residents. A successful neighborhood and community association like VECA does not happen overnight. It is the result of engaged residents and neighbors for 45 years and counting.

Your annual contributions to membership have helped in great measure to improve, maintain, preserve and protect our neighborhood's resources and amenities:

- historic character
- interesting architectural details
- beautiful tree-lined streets
- safe greenspaces and nearby parks for our young and elderly
- walkable streets
- pedestrian and bicycle-friendly environment
- public spaces
- accessible and fun public art

VECA is a 100% volunteer-run neighborhood organization.

VECA has a 45-year legacy of being a visionary community organization.

VECA has a track record of being engaged and committed to the betterment of V&E.

We Are VECA. Past, present, future.

VECA donations are 100% Tax Deductible. Renew Your Membership Today!

Your loyal support, active involvement, and strong sense of community spirit are vital to our continued success.

The money raised through membership dues during our annual campaign is vital for successful events and endeavors by VECA for 2017.

VECA Is Y·O·U·R Neighborhood Community Association Partner!

Please Renew Your Membership Now
• THANK YOU •



VECA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join your neighbors in helping Vollintine Evergreen continue to be the great neighborhood it is!

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Be one of the following types of team members:

- Membership \$25 • Family/Household Membership \$35 • Gift Membership \$45
 Neighbor \$75 • Leader \$100 • Other \$ _____

Checks payable to VECA. Mail to VECA, 1680 Jackson Avenue, Memphis, TN 38107



Block Party on Stonewall

An old-fashioned block party is a great way to meet neighbors and build community. On Saturday, October 29, several streets in the neighborhood got together to visit and reconnect with neighbors. The photos above are neighbors on Stonewall Street, one of the oldest active block clubs in the neighborhood. 🍷

Snowden's New Band Uniforms

Snowden and the Midtown community rallied last spring to raise \$30,000 to purchase new band uniforms (to replace 30-year-old uniforms). The new uniforms debuted on November 11 at the Veterans Day Parade downtown. This is what working together looks like! They sounded great too! 🎶



Peace Lutheran Church

A multi-cultural congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



We, the members of Peace Lutheran Church, as a part of the living body of Christ and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will provide a ministry of proclaiming the Gospel by worshiping, preaching, celebrating the sacraments, teaching and ministering to the needs of all people in our congregation, community and world.

1548 Jackson Avenue Sunday worship at 10:30 am

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901.274.3766

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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.
Come and enjoy traditional hymns,
Bible preaching, and a truly caring
family of Jesus followers."

—Dr. Kendell Easley, Pastor



ArtsAccelerator Grant Information

The ArtsAccelerator Grant Council contacted VECA recently to promote its grant application. The ArtsAccelerator grant provides five grants of \$5,000 to visual artists from the greater Memphis community to enhance their work or career. The grant deadline is January 16, 2017.

VECA hosted an information session on November 16 at the Welcome Center with Brittney Bullock, Grace Stewart and Sarah Blackburn, who explained the grant process. Artist and VECA board member Jeannie Tomlinson Saltmarsh acted as host for VECA. She said, "The grant is accessible to artists of all levels. The application process is not overly complicated and the parameters are broad. This grant is to help you do art, so apply!"

Fiber artist and neighbor Paula Kovarik won an ArtsAccelerator grant in 2016. She used the funds to buy a new sewing machine that provides maximum maneuverability. The machine will allow her work to have more intricate detail. 🧵



Paula Kovarik, recipient of a 2016 ArtsAccelerator grant

ArtsMemphis

ArtsAccelerator

An Incentive Grant for Visual Artists

Grant Opportunity for Visual Artists in Shelby County

GRANT AMOUNT
\$5,000

APPLICATION DEADLINE
January 16, 2017 by 5:00pm

DETAILS AND APPLICATION
artsmemphis.org/artsaccelerator | 901.578.2787

INFORMATION SESSIONS/WORKSHOPS

A workshop is not required but is a great place to hear about the grant expectations and from past winners. Each session is 1 hour.

Oct. 18, 6pm : Crosstown Arts - Hustle, 438 N. Cleveland St., 38104

Oct. 21, 6pm : Memphis Black Arts Alliance, 985 S. Bellevue Blvd., 38106

Nov. 2, 10:30am : Cordova Library, 8457 Trinity Rd., 38018

Nov. 16, 6pm : Vollintine Evergreen Community Association, 1680 Jackson Ave., 38107

Dec 10, 2pm : Orange Mound Gallery, 2232 Lamar Ave., 38114

Jan. date TBD, 10am : Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., 38111

2017 ArtsAccelerator Judges


Sally Frater
 CURATOR


Juan Logan
 ARTIST


Roseann Weiss
 DIRECTOR

ArtsAccelerator supports the development of Shelby County's emerging and established artists by enabling them to set aside time for artistic development or invest in their studio practice by offsetting expenses related to the creation of new work.

Ten Common Code Violations

1. Accumulation of junk, trash, and debris
2. Open storage of material and furnishings
3. Parking and storing inoperable (junk) motor vehicles
4. Excessive weeds, grass, trees and shrubs
5. Substandard structures and fences
6. Off street parking (please don't park on your yard)
7. Special use/recreational vehicles and equipment
8. Commercial vehicles and equipment
9. Abandoned and derelict structures
10. General service and repair shops

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



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Neighbor Highlight

Bryan Montgomery

Running Milestones and Bucket Lists

By Marci Hendrix

The running bug hit Bryan Montgomery after being challenged by a neighbor at a block party to train for a year and run the St. Jude half marathon. That was four years ago. Even though he wasn't a runner, Bryan accepted the challenge and so began his running story.

Bryan's training method that year was somewhat unconventional, but it worked for him. Bryan said, "I'd go out and run until I couldn't run any farther. The first time I only got a block, but each time I went a little farther." The distance grew and by the time of the St. Jude he was ready. What Bryan wasn't prepared for, though, was the emotions of the event. Bryan said, "It was electric, and intense. The support of the spectators who cheered for us along the course was overwhelming. Running through the St. Jude campus and seeing the posters for the children really touched me." From then on Bryan was sold on the importance of raising funds for St. Jude and decided to make the run an annual event.

After that first half, Bryan began formal training with the Breakaway Running team. He has also run half marathons in Nashville and Birmingham. He even got some of his neighbors to train with him. That was the year of the ice storm that cancelled their event. The group decided to run the course anyway, and when they arrived at the finish, they were happy to find the event team there so they were able to get their medals.

With his 50th birthday approaching, Bryan thought, what the heck, why not add a new challenge to his bucket list? He set out to run a full marathon, and he wanted to make it big. He set his sights on the New York City Marathon. With 50,000 runners, the NYC marathon uses a lottery system, a fundraising system, or a time-qualifying system for registration. Bryan and 160,000 other people took their chances on the lottery system, and he was one of 19,000 who won the opportunity to register and participate.

Prepped and raring to go, on November 6, 2016, Bryan accomplished his goal of running 26.2 miles through the five boroughs. What a day for him and his family! A logistics manager by trade, Bryan said the event was extremely well organized: "It was a well-oiled machine."

Starting in Staten Island over the Verrazano Bridge, it's a few miles before the runners reach Brooklyn and the first cheering spectators. Bryan said, "The cheering by thousands of people was so electrifying. As I ran, I didn't even realize how far I had gone."

Before he knew it, he had run through Brooklyn and Queens and was headed over the 59th Street Bridge into Manhattan. There, he said the people were lined up eight deep on the sidewalk, "They cheered us on, and not with a generic cheer – they made eye contact. It had a very personal feel." On through the Bronx, Harlem and back into Manhattan the course wound.

Around mile 20 Bryan grew weary; even the spectators couldn't cheer him up. "It wasn't fun anymore." He persevered, one foot after another. When he got into Central Park with two miles to go, he knew he would make it even if he had to crawl. The boost that got him to the finish was his wife and son, who spotted him and called out his name. He crossed the finish line for "the most awesome experience ever."

When asked what would he say to encourage new runners, Bryan said, "Take a look at me. I'm not your typical runner, at 6 feet 3 inches and close to 300 pounds. I couldn't run to the end of my street. Out of breath, my heart about to explode, I stuck with it. Plus I had a cause [St. Jude]. If I can do it, you can too!"

What's next on his bucket list? As long as he continues to run, Bryan will run and raise money to support the St. Jude half marathon. But he'd like to run a full marathon again. 🍷

Bryan and his family, wife Brooke Barnett and son Matthew, have lived in their home in Vollintine Evergreen since 2007. Bryan is also a VECA volunteer on the newsletter distribution team.





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Snowden School Discount Cards

Snowden is selling Midtown businesses discount cards for \$10.00. These discount cards offer unlimited use and are valid through December 2017. Participating businesses include Cafe Eclectic, Young Avenue Deli, ZAXBY'S, Little Italy, Broadway Pizza and many more. The cards would make great stocking stuffers! Stop by Snowden School's main office to purchase yours! Thank you for supporting Snowden School!

Some of the offers included:

- Café Eclectic: 10% off
- Lenny's (Overton Square): B1G1Free
- Backyard Burgers: 20% off
- Maggie Moo's: BOGO
- Golf & Games: BOGO mini golf
- Little Italy (on Union): \$2 off Large pizza
- Domino's: BOGO
- Papa John's: Buy a Large, get a Medium
- Sam's Burgers & More - BOGO1/2 off
- ...and more!

VECA Annual Awards

Service awards are presented at the VECA membership meeting to individuals and institutions who help make Vollintine Evergreen a better neighborhood. Your nominations are important. Please consider making nominations in the following categories:

The Richard S. Borys Award is awarded to public officials who through their work contribute to the Vollintine Evergreen community. The awardee need not be a Vollintine Evergreen resident or a VECA member.

The Mary Wilder Award recognizes institutional excellence who through their work contributes to the Vollintine Evergreen community.

The Martha Heinemann Award honors a Board member who has rendered exceptional service to the VECA Board.

The Margaret Dichtel Award is awarded to a Vollintine Evergreen resident and VECA member who embodies the principles of community service and action.

The Michael Kirby award honors a VECA volunteer who has rendered exceptional service to the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association.

Please send your nominations by December 28th to VECA at veca901@gmail.com. 🐦

The Richard Borys Award Recipients

1991 Steve Shular
 1992 Vernua Hanrahan
 1995 Janis Foster
 1996 William Stemmler
 1997 Charles Cook
 1998 Barbara Swearengen Holt
 1999 Carol Chumney
 2000 Wayne Risher
 2001 Charles Granderson
 2002 Don Campbell
 2003 Rickey Peete
 2004 Will Keeler
 2004 Rob Keeler
 2005 Twarla Guest
 2007 Richard Beckwith
 2009 Joe Brown
 2009 Jim Strickland
 2010 Lieutenant Steven Ware
 2012 Janet Boscarino
 2014 Emily Trenholm
 2015 Ritchie Smith
 2016 Bobby Allen

The Mary Wilder Award Recipients

2009 Rhodes College
 2010 McLean Baptist Church
 2013 Mercy Hill Church
 2015 Hyde Family Foundations
 2016 St. John Orthodox Church

The Martha Heinemann Award Recipients

2003 Janis Cannon
 2004 Helen Johnson
 2005 Tom McGowan
 2007 Renate Rosenthal
 2007 Andrée Glenn
 2009 Chuck Fox
 2010 Nedra Bailey
 2010 Mike Kirby
 2011 Chris Floyd
 2011 Lilly Gilkey
 2012 Cathy Marcinko
 2012 Garnette Stephens
 2013 Paul Herron
 2013 Natasha Strong
 2014 Jeannie Tomlinson Saltmarsh
 2015 Marci Hendrix

The Margaret Dichtel Award Recipients

1988 Martha Heinemann
 1990 Julie Borys
 1991 Mike Kirby
 1993 Mary Wilder
 1995 Willette Gray
 1995 Gloria Singleton
 1996 Rhodes College
 1996 Terry Circle Block Club
 1997 Linda Nichols
 1998 Steve Gadbois
 1999 Charlotte and Pete Swailes
 2000 Sherry Henson
 2000 Belinda Kerusch
 2001 Bill Rehberg
 2002 Tom Fagan
 2003 Fredha Feaster
 2004 Craig Jordan
 2004 Len Cobb
 2005 Bettye Johnson
 2007 Marci Hendrix
 2007 Jan Kirby
 2009 Vollintine Hills
 2010 Brad Heinz
 2011 Barbara Gavalas
 2011 Ann George
 2011 Wayne Stanfill
 2012 Andrée Glenn
 2013 Alex Smythe
 2013 Tony Steinberg
 2014 Matt Washburn
 2014 Jill Williams
 2015 Paul Goldstein
 2016 Andree Hayes
 2016 Thomas and Ellen Lacey
 on behalf of Albany Avenue

The Mike Kirby Award Recipients

2015 Angela Lamb
 2016 A D Nelson
 2016 Chris Tague

V&E Greenline Volunteer of the Year Award

Congratulations to Greg Lieberman for being awarded the Dick Mochow 2016 V&E Greenline volunteer of the year. This award comes as no surprise, as Lieberman has been involved in the Greenline since the trail was formed in the mid-1990s. He has served as chair and spokesperson of the committee for many years. His commitment to the Greenline has been demonstrated through his willingness to participate in every aspect of the Greenline, from maintenance, to events, to telling the story of the Greenline to visiting groups. Congratulations and thanks for your hard work these many years. 🐦



Pictured at the V&E Greenline annual volunteer reception held December 6th: Nicki Mochow, Scott McDermott and Greg Lieberman (on the right)



Another "First" for VECA! VECA is the first neighborhood in Memphis to be approved for a new type of historic district signage – one that is attached to street sign poles. The signs were funded by donations from residents through an ioby campaign, and are distributed throughout the neighborhood. Residents also voted on the sign design and color. 🐦



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