

# Vollintine Evergreen news

VECA.ORG

WINTER 2020

## Why Join VECA?

WE ARE VECA. PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

### WELCOME TO THE VECA EDITION OF THE VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS!

We are the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association, a gathering of volunteers with a consistent mission: to keep our community a place people want to live, work, shop, eat, and simply be in Memphis.

For more than 40 years, VECA members and volunteers have been engaging with and investing in our neighborhoods.

Memphis' overall success hinges on a network of healthy neighborhoods. Thanks to the decades-long efforts of VECA, Vollintine Evergreen is one of the most stable, desirable, and diverse neighborhoods in the region.



#### LANDMARK & PRESERVATION

Work is underway to create local historic guidelines allowing the community to have a say in future development.



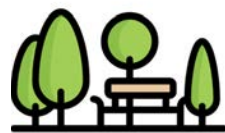
#### EVENTS

From Artwalk to town hall meetings with politicians we enable a variety of community events.



#### COMMUNITY

VECA connects neighbors with issues through events, news, and meetings.



#### GREENSPACE

We protect community greenspace and improve the enjoyment of our neighborhood.



#### RESOURCES

Housing options, business information, and our Welcome Center are all VECA supported.

**Ready Now? Go online to [veca.org/join-veca](https://veca.org/join-veca) or use the mail in form inside. Thank you!**



# Winter 2020

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## VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT PUBLICATION**  
JUNE 01, 2020

For advertising rate sheet,  
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please email  
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VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The newsletter, VECA email, 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](http://veca.org)  
Email: [veca901@gmail.com](mailto:veca901@gmail.com)

## A NOTE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The VECA Communications Committee is excited about new roles on the team this year:

K. Petersen is the new managing editor of the newsletter, Marci Hendrix, editor in chief, and Chloe Elam, art director. Jeff Riddle is the contact for the VECA website. Elizabeth Mueller is our Rhodes student volunteer. Angela Lamb will continue her great work as editor of the weekly enews. Jeannie Saltmarsh will also maintain her role as the distribution coordinator.

We are always looking for stories to feature in the newsletter. Our next issue will be focused on the arts in Vollintine Evergreen. If you or someone you know would like to be featured, pitch us an idea! The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2020.

Please submit your article ideas to [veca901@gmail.com](mailto:veca901@gmail.com).



Thank you so much VECA community! Your contributions to Snowden School help us to provide an equitable education to many deserving students. Education is one of the strongest pillars to strengthening our communities.

Thank you so much,  
Jamie Stallsmith  
Principal, Snowden School


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### Foster Care Awareness Community Festival & Parade

Saturday, April 25, 2020


Lineup begins at 8:30 a.m. and  
Parade begins at 9:30 a.m.

Klondike Smokey City CDC, 943 Vollintine St  
Route: East on Vollintine, South on Springdale to Jackson Ave.

Community Festival 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at  
Cathedral of Faith - 2212 Jackson Ave

Free food, fun, games, and giveaways

For more information: Connie Booker 901.327.1616 or Quincy Morris 901-734-6958





## IN MEMORY OF JAN KIRBY

Reflections of a beloved neighbor and dedicated VECA volunteer



Jan Kirby and her husband, Mike.

Janet (Jan) Kirby of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away on Wednesday, January 1, 2020, at the age of 77. She was born May 2, 1942, in Otsego Township, Wisconsin, to Merritt and Adeline Taylor. She is survived by her husband, Mike Kirby, her son Tom Kirby, (Betsy); her daughter Chris Floyd (Brian), grandchildren Jordan Kirby and Maddie Floyd.

We want to take a moment to celebrate the life of our dear friend, Jan Kirby. We can celebrate her love for family, friends, community, and VECA. When the Kirby family moved to Memphis in 1970 both Jan and Mike got jobs at Rhodes, and quickly became involved with the neighborhood. Probably, none of us can remember a time when Mike and Jan weren't involved. Jan has worked every annual event at one time or another. From ice cream socials, to yard sales on the V&E Greenline, to bringing casseroles to VECA hosted events, to serving on committees, to clean ups and tree plantings and being involved at the beginning of the Greenline. The list is endless.

But, there are two areas where Jan found her calling. One was in organizing the Greenline's Artwalk. From the beginning, Jan was the main contact person for the artists who had booths at the event. She worked diligently with the artists to make sure that their experience was a good one. Every year, plans were tweaked to improve the process. Jan became friends with the artists and they loved her.

The other area where Jan found her calling, was as a volunteer of the Lyndale Garden. She loved the comradery of working side by side with her neighbors and planting and growing vegetables. She loved sharing the vegetables with neighbors she

knew and those she did not know. Someone said she even loved weeding!

Jan was a believer in community. Her life was an example of service and helping others. Her neighbors were her community and she treated them like family. Folks on the V&E Greenline committee were her community, and she treated them like extended family. The Lyndale Garden team was her community, and she treated them like extended family. Rhodes was her community, and she treated her colleagues and the students who worked with her like extended family. Jan chose to live a connected life – a life of community. Over and over we saw this example, and she passes this gift on to us. A passion for choosing community over isolation for the good of the lives of others.

Jan will be greatly missed yet she leaves with us a legacy. She leaves with us her family who we cherish. The Kirby family is quite unique as no one in the family is exempt from service. Mike and Jan raised their son and daughter, Tom and Chris, here in VECA, and they in turn are serving in the neighborhood with their families. Even the grandkids, Jordan and Maddie have worked in the neighborhood all their young lives.

Somebody once said that it's hard to forget someone who gave you so much to remember. We will treasure Jan in our hearts forever.

## VECA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Be one of the following types of team members:

Membership \$25

Neighbor \$75

Family/Household Membership \$35

Leader \$100

Gift Membership \$45

Other \$

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



## MORE THAN A TRENDY NEIGHBORHOOD:

*Why Vollintine Evergreen is here to stay*  
by the VECA Historic Committee



Our neighborhood is a great place to live, raise a family, and retire. It's no secret that older neighborhoods like V&E have special charm. Our strengths as a neighborhood – a reservoir of quality-built housing stock in good condition full of architectural character and details, beautiful streetscapes, and sense of place that delights the senses in all seasons of the year. We are located close to Downtown, have good transit access, a well-connected street network, schools and parks.

Think for a moment, what do you value about where you live? What is irreplaceable to you about the neighborhood? What would you, and future generations, miss if it were no longer here?

### Local Landmarks Designation - A Tool For Neighborhood Preservation

The purpose of a landmark designation is to promote the preservation of existing structures. It's one of the best tools available to VECA for maintaining and preserving Vollintine Evergreen's architectural and visual character. Landmarks Designation seeks to preserve the overall community character of a neighborhood. Designation as a Local Landmarks District ensures that change and new development will enhance, not detract, from a district's special qualities.

### As a Historic District, Are We Not Protected Already?

Even though our neighborhood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the designation does not come with guidelines for protecting historic buildings or homes from demolition, alterations that

fundamentally change their character, nor can it prevent new development that is grossly out of character with the historic architecture of the neighborhood.

### Why now?

The need for investment and wanting to preserve community is a tough balancing act. Vollintine Evergreen is its residents, its buildings and its natural and public spaces. All residents, regardless of age and income, should have the opportunity to protect and preserve the history, architecture and diverse social fabric of our neighborhood.

Neighborhood participation is vitally important. What are your thoughts on these key areas for design review and guidelines?

Our hope is that you will join us to generate ideas and for a deeper discussion on neighborhood planning, design, the built environment (neighborhood character/context, topography, and surrounding vicinity), development history, sustainability, and sensible density.

**VECA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – WE NEED YOUR HELP!**  
**CONTACT US: VECA901@GMAIL.COM OR 901.276.1782**  
**THERE ARE A VARIETY OF COMMITTEES TO CHOOSE FROM:**

### RENTALS

Help with inspecting and maintaining VECA's rental properties

### BLIGHT BUSTERS

Be a part of identifying problem properties, litter cleanups, or help at the Lyndale Community Garden.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Help get the word out about VECA through our print, eNews and social media.

### NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

Be a part of National Night Out, block parties, and meet to discuss crime prevention topics.

### MEMBERSHIP

Recruit neighbors to join and be an ambassador for VECA in the community.

### V&E GREENLINE

Help keep the Greenline clean, safe, and enjoyable through maintenance and trail management tasks.

### V&E ARTWALK

Help plan and execute VECAs' largest annual event benefiting the Greenline. Over 50 day-of volunteers are also needed to help make the event a great success each year.

### GREENSPACE/GARDEN CLUB

Help beautify our neighborhood by gardening, litter removal, and advocate for clean and safe use of Lick and Cypress Creek.

### HISTORIC

Promote our history, architectural character, landscapes, and design characteristics through public information, special projects such as Landmarking, and events.

### YOUTH

Help let neighbors know how they can volunteer at our local schools as reading mentors, in the arts, or for special events.



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## 2020 VECA ANNUAL MEETING

*VECA looks back on another great year and to the exciting events ahead*  
by Marci Hendrix

VECA held its annual meeting on January 25, 2020. A special thank you to the congregation of St. John Orthodox Church for making us feel welcome and at home! We appreciate your hospitality and are grateful to have you as a neighbor!

Speakers at the meeting included Devin Schneipp from Multinational Ministries. This non-profit is housed in Mosaic Church at the corner of Jackson and McLean. Learn more

about them at [multinationalministries.com](http://multinationalministries.com).

The city's division of parks and neighborhoods is updating the master plan for all parks, and Marcha Allen attended the meeting to get feedback from attendees on park amenities and what are important to the group. The group was able to provide instant feedback via clickers which was fun.

Board members are elected at the annual meeting and a new president

was elected. Bob Rigus has served three consecutive one-year terms and rolls off as president. The VECA membership voted to elect Lilly Gilkey as the President of VECA. VECA is grateful to both Bob and Lilly for their service to the board.

During his term as president, Bob dug in deep to know stakeholders not only within VECA, but the city as well, and has served in a way to better our neighborhood. As president, he has

attended meetings all over Memphis to represent the neighborhood's interest. He has worked on challenges that neighbors were concerned about, especially related to the Midtown code overlay. We will miss Bob, but VECA is also in good hands with Lilly who comes to the table with experience having served as president from 2013-2016.

## VECA AWARDS

The **Richard S. Borys Award** recognizes public officials who through their work contribute to the Vollintine Evergreen community. For her service to the V&E Greenline, the V&E Artwalk, and for sharing her knowledge as the City of Memphis horticulturist, VECA presented the Boris award to **Connie Shepherd**.

The **Margaret Dichtel Award** is presented to a Vollintine Evergreen resident and VECA member who embodies the principles of community service and action. For his work in organizing the V&E Artwalk, for doing work on the V&E Greenline, and for maintaining a section of the median on Jackson Avenue by mowing and picking up trash, VECA presented the Dichtel award to **Jim Martin**.

The **Mike Kirby Award** honors a VECA volunteer who has rendered exceptional service to the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association. For his tireless work on the V&E Greenline, for his help on the V&E Artwalk, and as champion terminator of gumballs on

the Artwalk grounds, VECA presented the Kirby award to **Paul Goldstein**.

A second Mike Kirby award was presented. For his help organizing the kid's area at the V&E Artwalk and for his help organizing VECA's National Night Out event, VECA presented the Kirby award to **Brad Dunlap**.

The **Mary Wilder Award** recognizes excellence in institutions that contribute to the Vollintine Evergreen community. Serve901 is a non-profit organization that coordinates trips for college-aged young adults here in Memphis. For his organization and for connecting Serve901 student groups to work on the V&E Greenline, VECA presented the Wilder award to **Jeff Riddle**.

The **Martha Heineman Award** honors a VECA board member who has rendered exceptional service to the VECA Board. For his service as VECA President from 2017-2019, and for volunteering with the V&E Artwalk and the VECA National Night Out event, VECA presented the Heineman Award to **Bob Rigus**.



Chuck Fox with Bob Rigus and Jeff Riddle.



Connie Shepherd



Jim Martin



Paul Goldstein



Brad Dunlap with his wife, Katie



## GETHSEMANE GARDENS OCTOBER FESTIVAL

Local church community is dedicated to giving back.

by Elizabeth Mueller

Gethsemane Garden Church of God in Christ hosted their annual October Festival on the morning of October 19. Adults, children, hotdogs, and bounce houses filled the lawn outside the church with music spilling into the surrounding streets. Amidst the fun and games, Pastor Clinton Bryant highlighted the community-centered reason for the festival, "This year, the parish decided to focus more on giving." The festival's clothing closet echoed this passion. Pastor Bryant especially noted the school uniforms available at the closet. In coordinating with counselor April Hibler of Vollentine Elementary, Gethsemane discovered a need for school uniforms amongst the school's families. Through the donation and purchase of numerous sets of clothes, the church was able to accumulate several boxes filled with uniforms for girls and boys of all ages.

Not only did the clothing closet exemplify community outreach, but informational tables for One Life and Tennessee's Adult Protective Services also served this purpose. Cheryl Bonner is the founder of One Life, a support group for cancer patients and their families. One Life's table served

to educate the community about breast cancer and to remind women to take care of themselves by receiving yearly mammograms. Claudette Upshaw acts as an elderly abuse advocate for Tennessee Adult Protective Services which investigates allegations of abuse against seniors. She stated their goal as being "advocates for seniors, as we want to see them treated well."

Pastor Bryant started leading Gethsemane in 2014, and this festival has existed since then. This event occurred through the generous donations of Golden Flake, Jones Auto Sales, Kroger, and the City of Memphis. The festival joins both the church and neighborhood community for the purpose of outreach. As Karen Rogers, event coordinator of the church, states, Gethsemane Garden exists to "support the needs of the community, spiritual and natural. We invite all to be a part of our worship services."

**Gethsemane Garden Church**  
1740 Vollintine Ave, Memphis, TN 38107



Pastor Bryant preaches at the October Festival.

## IN THE DARK?

Residential street light outages should be reported to MLGW as soon as they are observed and don't worry if someone else may have already reported it!

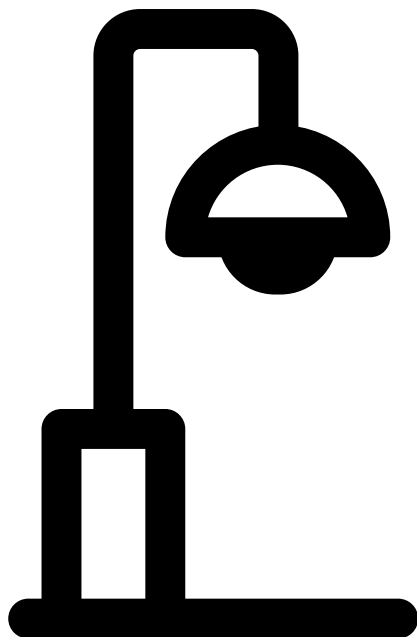
MLGW provides two ways to report streetlight outages; via an online form or by phone.

Be sure to have the location and type of streetlight, the type of problem, and your contact information handy when you complete the form. You'll be given a confirmation number you can use to check on the status of the repair which is also available on the site.

You can also report streetlight outages by calling: (901) 544-6549

You'll need the same information when calling. You can also check on the status of a previously reported outage by calling this number as well.

Reporting things like street light outages help keep our neighborhoods and streets safe!



### Report Light Outages:

<http://www.mlgw.com/residential/streetlightoutage>

(901) 544-6549

## AMERICORP WORKS ON THE GREENLINE



by Elizabeth Mueller

A sunny and unseasonably warm day was perfect for replacing the 15 year old railroad ties that form the border of the Idlewild Garden on the V&E Greenline. An AmeriCorps team (pictured here) along with Second Saturday neighborhood volunteers provided the hard work to get the job done. 2nd Saturday volunteer events are family (and kid) friendly opportunities to help with needed tasks along the V&E Greenline and anyone can participate. Learn more at [veggreenline.org](http://veggreenline.org)



## SPRING PLANTING AT THE LYNDALE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Vegetables are well on their way thanks to V&E volunteers.

by VECA News Staff

Spring gardening in the midsouth can be a challenge. Feverish work to get a garden ready for the year has to be slipped in between spring rains and the chance of a freezing night or two before warmer weather finally settles in.

Seventeen local residents took what turned out to be a beautiful day on February 15th to plant a variety of spring vegetables at the VECA Lyndale Garden. The garden, created on a vacant lot donated for that purpose on Lyndale Avenue between Jackson and Stonewall, features permanent beds and perennials. A rotating selection of vegetables are planted throughout the year that neighbors care for and harvest for sharing amongst themselves and nearby homes.

"The Lyndale Garden is a real bright spot in this small corner of VECA. The fresh vegetables and the joy that comes from working together to grow, harvest, and

share them really makes a difference to these neighbors" said Christine Floyd, one of the garden organizers.

Several varieties of lettuce along with cabbages, leeks, spinach, radishes, and onions were planted for harvesting later this spring. Nearby neighbor and fellow garden organizer Tony Steinberg keeps a watchful eye on the garden, tending and watering regularly as the seasons progress. As vegetables become ready, neighbors and volunteers gather to harvest crops and everyone shares in the produce with anything extra going to neighbors.

With winter finally slipping away, this bright spot in the neighborhood will soon be abundant and volunteers will be needed throughout the year. You can learn more and stay informed by receiving the VECA enews or following the VECA calendar on Facebook.



Neighbors working hard on the Lyndale Garden.

## V&E GREENLINE SPRING STREET WALL

by Stacy Pennington



Volunteers tackle one of the most challenging Greenline tasks to date.

Over several Saturdays during January and February 2020, a group of dedicated volunteers replaced a crosstie wall in the Springs Section of the V&E Greenline trail. Over the past 20 years, the existing crosstie wall had deteriorated and needed to be completely rebuilt to prevent the trail from collapsing onto a neighbor's fence.

Planned and led by Bill Rehberg, the project drew on the expertise of Dennis Ostrow, Kjeld Petersen, Scott McDermott, Greg Lieberman, Mike Kirby, Stacy Pennington, and others to complete. During a particularly busy

day of construction, the volunteers were assisted by the Sigma Nu fraternity from Rhodes, who helped move the 200 pound crossties into place and pound rebar through them to hold the wall together.

The next time you travel on the V&E Greenline between Jackson Avenue and Springdale Street, please take a moment to admire the new wall and know that your donations to the Greenline make this and other necessary trail maintenance possible.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that assisted with this important project!



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## NATURAL LAWNS

*Native plants create a different kind of beauty.*

by Suzy Askew



*An example of the unique beauty of natural lawns.*

The only thing unnatural in our yard is the sod. We made the decision not to use pesticides or herbicides because of the cost, and because of the chemicals killing the insects and native plants. There must be a connection between that and the decline in the bird populations.

Aesthetically, I see nothing wrong with a mosaic of greens rather than one solid color. I really can't tell that the chemically treated lawns are any more lush or beautiful than ours. Our lawn gives us year-round delight with its ephemeral plants. Besides Spring Beauties, I encourage violets, which are a huge pollinator plant with 28 Tennessee native species, Oxalis, and

I plan to raid a Bluet (*Houstonia* spp) patch this spring for seed.

My most favorite spring plant is *Claytonia virginica*. Its common names include: Spring Beauty, Fairy Spuds, Good Morning Spring, Grass Flower, Mayflower, and Wild Potato. Its cousin, *Claytonia caroliniana*, found mostly in the eastern part of Tennessee was given the genus name in honor of the greatest botanist in America, John Clayton (1686-1773). He botanized Virginia for 51 years and corresponded with the great botanists of the day: Linnaeus, Gronovius, Bartram, Jefferson, and Franklin.

I start watching for the long slender single green or purple leaves, from 3 to 6 inches tall, which emerge

around December. By mid-February I usually spot the first bloom. In spring time the front lawn explodes in pale pink to white blooms. Sunlight supplies the area with about 6-8 hours while the leafless deciduous trees allow maximum light energy.

*Claytonia* is an early spring perennial herb, 3" to 9" tall. It arises from a corm, which is a type of bulb. This narrow leaf blade merges into an unclearly defined petiole. Flowers are showy with 5 petals, 0.4 to 0.6 inches long, pink veined, borne in a loose raceme of 4-13 flowers from February to April. The fruits are ovoid capsules with 6 tiny black seeds when ripe.

The Wild Potato name comes from the fact that the corms may be dug and eaten like a potato. (I've never done this.) Raw, they are said to taste like a radish.

To get more coverage in our front garden we started delaying mowing until the seeds were ripe (around the 1st week of May), so that mowing distributed them. When our grandchildren were young, we could just drop the eggs in the lawn for them to hunt as the Spring Beauties provided coverage.

But the very best thing about this tiny season delight is that it has been recorded as being visited by as many as 71 different species of insect pollinators. Rita Venable, in her book, *Butterflies of Tennessee*, lists the following butterflies as nectaring on Spring Beauties: Olympia Marble (*Euchloe olympia*), Falcate Orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*), and Eastern

Blue-Tailed Butterflies (*Everes {= Cupido} comyntas*).

In my book, *Native Plants of Tennessee: A Book of Lists*, *Claytonia* is on 10 different lists. That includes: Ephemeral, Perennial, Blooms in Winter, Blooms in Spring, Blooms Pink, Grows in Shade/Part Shade, Bulbs/Corms/Tubers/Rhizomes, Used by Bees and Other Pollinators, Important for Wildlife, and Passalong Plants.

If you want to add some Spring Beauties to your lawn, you must collect the seeds yourself. I don't know anyone who has had good luck digging the corms, for such a little corm supposedly it is very deep in the soil. I suggest you sit yourself down in a patch of the early May with an envelope and examine the seed pods. If some of the seeds are missing or if they are black and dispense easily then they are ready for you to gather and scatter on your own lawn. You will be delighted with the winter phenomena of their grown and flowering spring display.

**Learn more:**

***Wildflowers of Tennessee and the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians, Horn, Calthcart, Hemmerly, Duhl 2005***

***Gardening with Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place, Margie Hunter, 2002***

## GREENLINE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: DENNIS OSTROW

*A neighbor's volunteer efforts go above and beyond.*

by Joshua First



*Dennis Ostrow receives Volunteer of the Year Award.*

On December 10, 2019, the V&E Greenline Committee awarded its annual Dick Mochow Volunteer of the Year Award to neighborhood resident Dennis Ostrow.

Ostrow, a retired member of the US military who moved to Memphis with his family in 2014, joined the committee in March this year and has been a source of limitless energy in identifying maintenance issues on the V&E Greenline. Moreover, he has helped with infrastructure projects such as a replacement retaining wall on the Springs section of the trail, and has been proactive in removing damaged trees and clearing limbs and branches from the trail.

During the 2019 Artwalk, Ostrow oversaw t-shirt production, helped to build the stage and generally

took on a leading role in set up and clean up. He has attended every volunteer event we have held during the last several months. Ostrow brings to the table sweeping knowledge and expertise that ranges from engineering to the law. Moreover, he is generous, meticulously organized and gives up his valuable time willingly. We are privileged to share this neighborhood with people like Dennis Ostrow.

**In an effort to tackle needed maintenance and beautification efforts on the V&E Greenline, we are holding volunteer clean-ups on the trail every second Saturday from 10 to 12.**



## V&E GREENLINE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

*First year event recognizes the importance and value of neighborhood trees along trail*

by K. Petersen



The V&E Greenline hosted an Arbor Day celebration and annual fundraising campaign kickoff March 7th at Kirby Station. A beautiful day welcomed neighbors to the first time event for the Greenline that is designed to bring attention to the urban forest that is cared for along the trail by volunteers.

Urban Earth Nursery was on hand with a variety of plants for sale with a portion of proceeds going to the Greenline fundraising campaign. The Compost Fairy, a local business providing home composting, as well as the Tree Council and local author and native plant expert Suzy Askew were also in attendance. The Tree Council provided free sapling trees for visitors to take home as well as information about our local tree environment and conservation efforts.

The children's take home seed pots were popular as was the memorial tree planting that took place at noon. An 'Okame' cherry tree laden with pink flowers was planted in memory of longtime Greenline and VECA leader Jan Kirby along the trail between Belvedere and Evergreen with a large contingent of the Kirby family in attendance for the ceremony.

Greenline committee member Connie Shepherd led the effort to

start an annual event to coincide with Tennessee's observance of Arbor Day which officially takes place on the first Friday in March. Tennessee was one of the first states in the country to officially adopt the observance in 1875. Arbor day is celebrated nationally on the last Friday in April. Connie is also responsible for spearheading the efforts to gain recognition of the V&E Greenline's forest as an official arboretum, a task requiring countless hours of identifying tree varieties, planning, and official paperwork.

The Greenline is hoping this first year will become an annual event for the neighborhood and supporters. The Greenline's annual fundraising campaign is crucial to meet expenses throughout the year for everything from insurance to maintenance supplies. The Greenline is entirely funded by donations and from events including the annual Artwalk scheduled for April 25th also at Kirby Station.

**Individuals can make donations anytime throughout the year at [veggreenline.org](http://veggreenline.org) or by mail and monthly, on-going donations are encouraged.**

## NEW EVENT AND THEME KICKS OFF ANNUAL V&E GREENLINE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN.

*Donations are vital to keeping the trail clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.*

by VECA News Staff



The V&E Greenline is a treasured amenity in our community — used throughout the year as a place for enjoying nature, or a healthy walk or bike ride, and for connecting with neighbors. Residents from across our community use the trail for commuting to and from Rhodes College and

Crosstown, their daily run, walking their pet, or as an opportunity to get a little closer to nature right here in our own backyards.

As a 100 percent donor supported part of VECA, the V&E Greenline must raise its own funding every year. Everything from the insurance

on the trail to the water bottles for the hundreds of volunteers that help maintain the trail each year are paid for from donations. March is the V&E Greenline's traditional fundraising campaign kickoff for the year.

This year's campaign starts with a new event at Kirby Station to celebrate Tennessee Arbor Day on March 7th and continues throughout the year. The new theme — "It's Your Trail. Help It Thrive." reminds everyone that individual donations to the V&E Greenline are vital for keeping the trail clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

"The Greenline provides so many things to our community," said V&E Greenline Committee President Scott McDermott. "Both in terms of having a beautiful amenity we can all use and enjoy as well as neighborhood economic value. I cannot imagine our community without it and I encourage every VECA resident to support it to the best of their ability. 2020

promises to be a wonderful year and we appreciate the community's support."

Every maintenance and improvement task along the trail is performed by volunteers from within the community and by groups from churches, universities, and corporations. Supplies for these tasks and many more are all financed by the annual budget which also funds tasks like tree maintenance where a professional is brought in to perform the work.

Donations can be made securely online at the [VEGreenline.org](http://VEGreenline.org) website or by mail to the V&E Greenline at the VECA office on Jackson Avenue. In addition to one-time or monthly donations, individuals can also help the V&E Greenline via Amazon Smile, Kroger Rewards, and in other ways. Details can be found at the website and in the new V&E Greenline eNewsletter.