UPCOMING MEETINGS & COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise marked, all of these meetings are at the VECA office at 1680 Jackson. To be certain, you can call first at 276-1782. Committee meetings and Board meetings are open to everyone.

Potluck Supper & Pool Party | July 10, 6:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
(Rhodes College)
Block Club Neighbor Fest | September 25  
(St. Theresa Little Flower Church)
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting | January 24, 2000 TBA
VECA Board | first Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC Board | fourth Saturday monthly, 9:00 a.m.
Historic Committee | second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
Block Club Committee | first Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Code Enforcement Committee | first Saturday of even months, 9:00 a.m.
V&E Greenline Committee | third Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
Cypress Creek Beautification Committee | third Tuesday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Managing Committee | first Wednesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Budget & Finance Committee | third Tuesday monthly, 7:30 a.m.
Housing Committee | second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Commercial Revitalization Committee | second Thursday monthly, noon, Dino's
Youth Committee | August 6, October 1, December 3
VENews deadlines:
VECA Board | July 5, 7:00 p.m.
VECA Board | August 2, 7:00 p.m.
VECA Board | September 13, 7:00 p.m.
CDC Board | July 24, 9:00 a.m.
CDC Board | August 28, 9:00 a.m.
CDC Board | September 25, 9:00 a.m.

POTLUCK SUPPER AND POOL PARTY

Mark your calendars, and join many of your neighbors for great food and water fun on Saturday, July 10, at the Rhodes College pool. The potluck supper will start at 6:00 p.m. and the pool will open to us at 7:00 p.m. The event is free. Just bring swimsuits and a dish to share (the more people you bring, the larger the dish!). VECA will provide eating utensils and soft drinks.

VECA FAMILY FESTIVAL

Planning is underway for September 25's VECA Family Festival sponsored by the Block Clubs. The festival will be held at St. Theresa Little Flower Catholic Church at 1644 Jackson Avenue. If you are a crafts-person or have a business that you would like to promote, reserve your booth space today by contacting Gloria Fulton at 276-1782. More information about the Family Festival will be in the September issue.
VECA NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Gary Gilbert

After working with the residents of VECA for about one year, I thought it would be good to review what we have accomplished together. New staff have brought new talents and skills to the organization (see MEET THE STAFF); the Neighborhood has a Strategic Plan that is being implemented by staff and volunteers; through the effort of staff and board members, VECA has been awarded a number of grants that have made budgeting easier; three new families have joined us in the three remodeled houses we completed; five additional houses and a four-plex are in the process of being remodeled; Commercial Revitalization activities are moving from the planning stage to the implementation stage; and there are other accomplishments too numerous to recount in this article but which you may read about in this newsletter. I look forward to working with you as the months unfold in the future. Working together we can accomplish much.

MEET THE STAFF (PART 1)

by Gary Gilbert

In this article I will write about VECA’s staff that are in the office five days a week, while in the next issue I will write about VECA’s part-time staff, interns, and volunteers.

Ruth Gibson has been with VECA for four years as the Office Manager and more recently as the Homeowner Counselor. Ruth has 23 years of office management experience. Kristen Fitzpatrick has worked with us for six months as the Volunteer Coordinator. Kristen is an Urban Studies graduate of Rhodes College. Steve Shipp is our 3/4 time Economic Developer working with commercial revitalization and other economic development activities. Steve is the treasurer of the Midtown Business Association and has ten years of economic development and real estate experience. Steve’s family owns the Daisy Basket business in Cross Town. Daryl Lewis is our Neighborhood Preservationist. Daryl is a senior architecture student at the University of Memphis, and he is a licensed real estate agent. Daryl will be helping with our housing development and other preservation activities.

Make sure to drop by the office to say hello and thanks to these hard working, talented team members of the VECA neighborhood.

VECA & VECA CDC STAFF

Sean Fegette, Architectural Housing Intern
Kristen Fitzpatrick, Volunteer Coordinator
Gloria Fulton, Block Club Organizer
Ruth Gibson, Homeowner Counselor and Office Manager
Gary Gilbert, Executive Director
Beulah Green, VISTA Volunteer
LaTina Jones, Economic Developer intern
Belinda Kerusch, Brown & Howell Community Organizer
Daryl Lewis, Neighborhood Preservationist
Emily Passini, Cypress Creek Intern
Vhan Pham, summer volunteer
Steve Shipp, Economic Developer
Rachel Spence, summer volunteer
Wilma Vandermeer, Financial Manager

OPEN HOUSE: 899 IDLEWILD

899 Idlewild, one of the homes featured in the Old Home Expo and home tour, is currently undergoing rehabilitation by VECA CDC after a fire left it gutted in 1996. This historic English Tudor Cottage, which has three bedrooms and one bath, was originally built in 1929. Rehabilitation is expected to be completed by early July. VECA CDC will host an open house on Saturday, July 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are interested in purchasing this home or if you would like more information, please call Daryl Lewis at 276-1782.

To the Editor of the Commercial Appeal (May 31, 1999):

Your May 22 articles about the Old Home Expo once again demonstrated that hard work, perseverance and love for your community can achieve wonders.

The Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association exhibits the kind of activism that makes Midtown a great place to live.

After living for 11 years in the Vollintine-Evergreen community I now live in the Evergreen Historic District, in a new home in the former expressway right of way. While I am proud of my neighborhood, my heart is still in Vollintine-Evergreen. The activism there among neighbors, churches and schools shows what can be done if people truly care.

Eugene A. Laurenzi
Memphis

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THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MAY 20-23, 1999 OLD HOME EXPO!

In what was considered an unqualified success, approximately 1000 people attended the Old Home Expo, held May 20-23, 1999. A collaborative effort of VECA, Memphis Heritage, Memphis Landmarks Commission, and the American Institute of Architects, the Expo included a national historic district home tour that showcased ongoing and completed renovation projects.

Many attendees rode a trolley bus between the five homes featured on the tour, including 899 Idlewild — which, as a former burnout that is now for sale, received considerable interest from potential buyers. Other related events included an expo at Snowden School that featured workshops and demonstrations by vendors whose products and services can be used in old home renovations, the 1999 Preservation Awards Ceremony, a lecture by Chicago-based architect Wilbert Hasbrouck, and a photo exhibit held Otherlands Coffee Bar that featured vintage and modern views of historic landmarks. Two VECA groups also got into the spirit of the Expo weekend: the block clubs staffed a drink booth at the trade show, while the Greenline Committee held a rummage sale on, where else, the V&E Greenline.

The Expo ran exceptionally well thanks to numerous groups and volunteers.

Floral Arrangements:
Robert Germain and Gregory Francis

Memphis Heritage, Inc. Staff:
Mary Wilder, Judith Johnson, Jamie Marshall, Libra Jones

Memphis Heritage, Inc. Volunteers:

Landmarks Commission Staff:
Erin Hanafinberg, Jennifer Tucker, Darrel Cozen

Landmarks Commission Volunteers:
Jerry Benya, Lisa Krupicka, Dianne Dixon, Jessica Robinson

VECA Staff:
Kristen Fitzpatrick, Emily Passini, Gary Gilbert, Daryl Lewis, Gloria Fulton, Sean Fegette

VECA Homeowners:
Margaret & Bob Leggett, Vince Fayette & Perry Uffleman, Chuck Dille & Randall Paxton, Steve Gadbois

VECA Home Coordinators:
Bill Newberg, Helen Johnson, Robert Germain, Greg Francis, Dottie Sacritz, Andree Glenn, Gloria Tompkins

VECA Docents and Volunteers:
KENSINGTON BLOCK PARTY

by Gloria Fulton

Kensington Place’s annual block party was held May 2 under the two large shade trees at 890 Kensington. Mike and Angela Powell consented to having the traditional event in their front yard last year and this year. The weather was ideal, the setting was cafe-style, and the focus was on catching up with new and old news.

Eloise Gaston Boyd appears to be the oldest and proudest resident of Kensington, and proudly tells everyone the history of the block on which she has lived for fifty years. The youngest resident in attendance was Hamilton Green (he left an even younger brother home napping). Diane Reidling’s huge dog Max helped with food cleanup.

Among those who enjoyed chicken, homemade burritos, pasta, salads, desserts, and other goodies were Eloise Gaston Boyd; Jan, Ricky, and Duncan Bullard; Steve Gadbois; Harry, Harrison, and Hamilton Green; David and Margaret Hardy; Herman and Gwen Inderbitzen; Samuel, Dianna, and Wesley Jones; Bob Lenzini; Bill Lineberry and Gloria Belz; Lori and Richard McFalls; Nickie Mochow; Angela and Mike Powell; Diane Reidling; Mary Beth and William Spencer; Dell Stiner; and Ed and Mary Beth Wingfield (this year’s grillmasters!).

THE EVERGREEN BLOCK CLUB

by Margaret Williams

Charles Williams, my husband and better half, started a block club on Evergreen in August 1998 because he saw a need for neighbors to communicate and work with each other. Charles gave all of his efforts that year even though he is handicapped. He still tries to do whatever he can and is my right hand in everything I do.

With eight active and energetic members we decided to give to each resident of Evergreen between Jackson and Vollintine a Christmas gift, a spiritual gift of either Jesus and the wise men or Jesus on the cross. Donations from our own pockets went to all the sick regardless of race, color, or creed. In the future all members of the block club will receive plants and flowers for their yard. The block club continually prays for the welfare of all neighbors on the street.

The grant money that we received last year as part of VECA’s Block Club grant program went toward our block club signs located on our two corners, Evergreen/Jackson and Evergreen/Vollintine. They show numerous nationalities with colorful attire holding hands as a sign of unity, bonding, and sharing of common goals.
VECA’S SPRING CLEANUP

by Gloria Fulton

When it comes to working, the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association does not discriminate on the basis of age, class, color, weight or height, as was apparent on Saturday, April 17, 1999 during the clean-up in the Vollintine Evergreen community.

This year’s city-wide Hands on Memphis Servathon included Brown and Howell, the V&E Greenline, and the Cypress Creek bike path. Devandre Conley and Sergio Kerusch, two of the newest members of the Brown and Howell Junior Block Club, were busy picking up trash (and playing a bit) in front of an abandoned house in the Brown and Howell area across from Cypress School. There was also plenty of raking, bush cutting, and swing blading. Cypress Junior High School, White Station High School, Craigmont High School, and Hands on Memphis were well represented early this cloudy Saturday morning. Brown and Howell Block Club coordinator and activist Belinda Kerusch said “I’m grateful for these special teenagers taking time out on a Saturday morning to help clean-up.”

Francis Jackson, a Builders Club Coordinator and Science Teacher at Cypress School, works on different service projects such as reading and bringing gifts to special patients at St. Jude and LeBonheur.

The cleanup on the V&E Greenline concentrated on the area between Avalon and Dickinson. Mike and Jan Kirby and Bill Rehberg coordinated volunteers from Hands on Memphis and VECA’s Greenline Committee as they cleared brush and removed trash from the Greenline.

At Cypress Creek, Mary Wilder weeded the day before and donated plants such as zinnias, asters, lillies, and oregano for the plant swap. Plants and seeds were distributed for the first time this year — hopefully the swap will be even bigger next year.

Much of the grass was mowed at the Cypress Creek floodplain near Evergreen. John and Gail Lakey coordinated the Hands on Memphis team.

Trey Sandefur wondered if we would have other clean-ups several times a year. Rex Daniel asked, “Will the city get more involved?” Don Richardson of 899 Stonewall remarked, “If you clean it, they will come.” Scott Banbury and Amy Stewart made peace with a copperhead snake and noted that there are many native trees in the Cypress Creek area.

Craigmont High teacher Caroline Gordman noticed car parts on the creek, and then thanked VECA for letting her come and work! Connie Diamond, Allan Lumus, and five-year old Max Diamond-Lummus helped turn this event into a family outing and later enjoyed the picnic at the end of Avalon. Four young people who live near Merchant and Evergreen came out to help when they saw the activity going on. Kendra Meshan, 14, said her family has been living on Merchant for 22 years and never knew it was so beautiful. Eleven-year old Ebony responded, “That’s why they call it Evergreen.” Russell Young, 11, believes they should have their family reunion in this area and Travon agreed. Evon Scott is the guardian and matriarch of these children and encourages them to become community involved. We need more Evon Scotts in the world.

Emily Passini and the Cypress Creek Beautification Committee thank Hands on Memphis, Buckman Laboratories, Pfizer Inc., block club members, residents, and others who made this project successful. Buckman donated drinks and plates, and loaned tools, radios, and a truck. Buckman employees Richard Lutey and Brad Walden were indispensable as site coordinators. Pfizer Inc. was gracious enough to provide garden rakes, bush hogs, mowers, and 25 volunteers. Lee Davis from Pfizer was an integral part of the planning and organization of this clean-up.

VECA’s Spring Cleanups Partners & Contributors:

Hands on Memphis
Buckman Laboratories
Pfizer Inc.
Garabaldi’s Pizza
Melanie’s Restaurant
Wild Bill’s
Cypress Junior High School
White Station High School
Craigmont High School
Memphis City Beautiful
Memphis Parks Commission
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Evergreen Presbyterian Church
613 University Avenue (Across from Rhodes College)
NEWS FROM THE V& E GREENLINE

by Mike Kirby

The V&E Greenline Contribution Campaign was an immense success. Compared to 1998, this second year of the contribution campaign raised more than three times the funds and had eighty percent more contributors. Even though volunteers perform most of the work on the Greenline, there are costs which are funded by contributions and fundraisers. These include property taxes, insurance, postage, photocopying, maintenance of the tractor and riding lawn mowers, gasoline, diesel fuel, and equipment such as rakes, saws, and weed eaters.


The first annual V&E Greenline fundraising yard sale was also a success. It was held on the Greenline at McLean the same weekend as the Old Home Expo. Thanks to VECA residents and Greenline members who donated items and those who served as sales clerks. A special thanks is due Jan Kirby for coordinating the yard sale and Bill Rehberg for logistical work.

The V&E Greenline Committee has been busy maintaining the Greenline and it has never looked better. The tractor is now being used for mowing — look for the orange tractor called the Carol C and the yellow mower with the VECA sign. Several volunteers regularly mow and trim grass on the various sections of the Greenline:

SPRINGS — Craig Jordan;
CUT — Len Cobb and Jason Hood;
ARBORS AND GARDENS — Pete Swailes, Mary Wilder, Gertrude Rhodes and Mike Kirby;
LICK CREEK AND UTILITY PARK — Lynn Dunlap;
WEST CREEK — Bill Rehberg.

Litter control by the users of the V&E Greenline has been impressive. Thanks for your efforts — keep up the good work.

A very special thanks is due to the City of Memphis Public Works Division. Drainage on the West End of the Greenline was a problem due to a drain blockage at Stonewall and an adjacent ditch. It was a pleasure to work with such competent and concerned city officials to clean up a problem that was beyond the technical means of the volunteers.

The Committee recently performed two service projects: spreading dirt for Evergreen Presbyterian Church on the ballfield and helping with a variety of tasks at the Cypress Creek cleanup.

The V&E Greenline Committee is currently working with Lance Andrade and the Cypress Creek Beautification Committee to link the V&E Greenline and Cypress Creek into a neighborhood-wide greenway.
VECA NEEDS MEMBERS

Name ____________________________________________

Telephone Day: ___________________________ Telephone Evening: ___________________________

Address ___________________________________________ Zip: ___________________________

MAIL TO: VECA TREASURER, 705. N. BELVEDERE, MEMPHIS, TN 38107

I’M INTERESTED IN: __________________________________________

☐ Block Club ☐ V&E Greenline ☐ Historic Home Tours ☐ Youth ☐ Newsletter Delivery
☐ Housing ☐ Newsletter Writing ☐ Commercial Revitalization ☐ Greenways ☐ Volunteer (general)

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE $10 OR $35 PER YEAR AND ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE;
ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO VECA CDC ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

☐ $10 dues, Gold Star members receive their choice of bumper sticker.
☐ $35 dues, Gold Star Heritage members receive their choice of bumper sticker and the Historic Designation Plaque.

☐ Bumper Sticker A
☐ Bumper Sticker B
☐ Historic Designation Plaque

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VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The Vollintine-Evergreen News is the way in which VECA communicates with its residents. The Vollintine-Evergreen News contains information about VECA, neighborhood residents, and business and government policies. VECA is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Trezevant on the East and North Parkway on the South. Contact VECA by writing to 1680 Jackson Avenue, Memphis, TN 38107 or call (901) 276-1782.