

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

A Neighborhood Publication Sponsored by VECA, the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

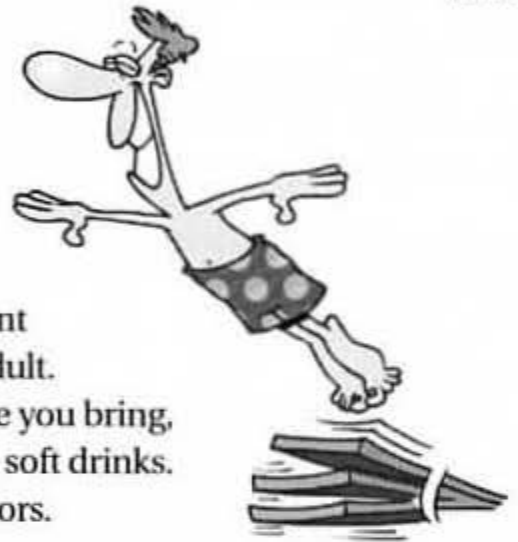
Volume XXX, Number 3

MAY 2004

## 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. Those under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

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. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the event will go on, indoors.



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## SEE WONDERS "MASTERS OF FLORENCE" EXHIBIT AND SUPPORT VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN

The Wonders exhibit "Masters of Florence: Glory and Genius at the Court of the Medici" will be at the Pyramid until October 3. Buy your vouchers through VECA at the regular adult price of \$15, and part of your purchase price will benefit our neighborhood. Vouchers can be redeemed at the Pyramid Box Office any day and time the exhibition is open. Just stop by the VECA office (1680 Jackson Avenue) during regular business hours. Remember, you will be paying the usual adult ticket price and still supporting Vollintine-Evergreen.

Memphis will be the only North American location for "Masters of Florence", an exhibit of almost 250 objects from more than 30 museums in Italy, France, and the United States. It is the story of the remarkable concentration of genius in central Italy, especially Florence, from 1300 to 1740, and will include art by da Vinci, Michelangelo, Brunelleschi, Donatello, and Raphael as well as the science of Galileo.



Leonardo da Vinci  
*Dama Scapigliata*

Do Not Place In Or On Mailboxes

## 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.



V&E Greenline yard sale	June 12 (V&E Greenline)
Potluck Supper & Pool Party	July 10 (Rhodes College)
National Night Out	August 3 (throughout neighborhood)
Ice Cream Social	September 11 (V&E Greenline)
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 24, 2005
Historic Committee	second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m. (various locations; call office)
Code Enforcement Committee	third Thursday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Block Club Committee	first Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Cypress Creek Committee	third Wednesday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Youth Committee	call office to help
V&E Greenline Committee	third Tuesday monthly, 6:30 p.m. (but not July or December)
Housing Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Commercial Revitalization Committee	second Tuesday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Managing Committee	last Monday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
VENews deadlines:	June 2, August 3, October 5, December 3
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	first Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	May 3, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	June 7, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	July 5, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

## VISIT VECA'S WEBSITE

[www.vegreenline.org](http://www.vegreenline.org)

## VECA & VECA CDC STAFF

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## VOLLINTINE - EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

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[vecacdc@vecacdc.org](mailto:vecacdc@vecacdc.org)



## FOR SALE BY VECA CDC

### RENOVATIONS:

819 McNeil • 874 Belvedere • 1522 Jackson (could be "as is")

### NEW CONSTRUCTION:

(all brick, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, vaulted ceiling, central heat and air):  
2218 Hunter • 2136 Howell • 2375 Shasta



819 McNeil

For more information, contact the VECA office at 276-1782.



2348 Hunter

## DICKINSON NEWS: A SUCCESS STORY!

On Friday, March 19, a habitual criminal was on Dickinson Street in desperate need of lawn equipment. Fortunately, an alert neighbor called the police. The police were diligent, the criminal was caught, and the neighbor got the equipment back.

To keep crime off your street:

- Know your neighbors
- Be alert
- Notify the police if something seems wrong

## VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN HISTORY BEING UPDATED

Long-time Vollintine-Evergreen residents may be familiar with the only comprehensive written history of our neighborhood, "Vollintine/Evergreen: A Diverse Community", written in 1980 by Peggy Boyce Jemison under the auspices of MIFA. (If you have not seen it, a few carefully-preserved copies are at the VECA office.) A lot of time has passed and a lot of change has occurred. Accordingly, Vollintine-Evergreen resident Mike Kirby has agreed to work with Memphis Heritage on an update.

- Do you wish to loan photos or information?
- Do you wish to be interviewed?
- Do you wish to reserve a copy for purchase later?

If any of your answers are "yes", contact the VECA office for more information.



- to Hands on Memphis volunteers Philana Harris, Chitia Rampersad, Dee Dee Rampersad, and Joseph Tate, as well as our own Scott Banbury, for helping install the beadboard ceiling in the kitchenette at the VECA office on April 17
- to Lynn and Hugh Dunlap, for the donation of two computer monitors and a keyboard, computer furniture, and a drawing table
- to David Hardy, for yet another repair, this time of one of VECA CDC's generators
- to Elizabeth Gates, for the donation of shelving that will be used at the VECA office to solve some storage problems
- to United Way's Larry Tifverman, for the donation of 23 lockers

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## Do you want to remodel? Do you need home repairs but don't know how to start?

Do you want to remodel? Do you need home repairs but don't know how to start? VECA CDC has staff that can assist Vollintine-Evergreen residents with inspecting and determining necessary repairs. Staff can also prepare the scope-of-work and do preliminary estimates. The fee is modest. Call the VECA office for details.



276-1782



## CYPRESS CREEK CONUNDRUM

by Jerry Loftin, CHMM, REM, REPA

A conundrum is defined as something puzzling, confusing, or mysterious. Having been involved with VECA for the last six months and having experienced the difficulty in assessing and solving the possible health issues associated with Velsicol Chemical Corporation's past pollution of Cypress Creek and the adjacent land, I must say that I am puzzled, confused, and mystified.

The history of attempts to correct a problem that began in the 1950s and 1960s is one of failed promises and basic lack of action or casual response to the issues and to the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood. I think it is reasonable to say that if the problem had been at the other end of Cypress Creek it would have been resolved. After five years, the problem as well as the risk to the neighborhood has yet to be defined.

It is obvious to me that Velsicol's intent is to spend the least amount of money over the longest period of time to deal with the problem. The state of Tennessee has been largely compliant to this strategy by being lax in requiring Velsicol to meet or even establish timely deadlines. The City of Memphis has not fully acknowledged its role and has sidestepped the issue of whether parts of the area should be designated by the EPA as a Superfund site. The Memphis Shelby County Health Department has not yet completed a promised study of cancer rates in the neighborhood.

If the cycle of lack of urgency is to end, the neighborhood must make itself heard. Please attend the next Cypress Creek committee meeting (normally at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month) and let's begin to plan a strategy to resolve the problems with Cypress Creek in a timely fashion.

## UPDATE ON CODE ENFORCEMENT

Police service technician (PST) Anthony Campbell will be in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood each Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. through at least July 1. Mr. Campbell will report to the VECA office and assist with VECA's residential code enforcement efforts. He has the training and credentials to write citations and even send our most serious violations directly to Environmental Court. He will often be accompanied by his partner, PST Russell Bailey. We are pleased to have this assistance.

## NEWS FROM OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH

Instead of hymns, there are lyrics from Eminem, 50 Cent, Jason Mraz, and Jewel... Instead of a sermon, there are video clips from The Pet Psychic, The Lord of the Rings, Bruce Almighty, and Harry Potter. No, it is not a youth ministry that has rejected the faith; it is a group of college students trying to help young people think about the world around them.

On April 16-18, a team of seven from Bryan College held a "Making Sense of Your World Weekend" for youth at Open Door Bible Church (1792 North Parkway). Young people from across the city were invited to attend free of charge. What they encountered was a fast-paced, entertaining, but provocative presentation designed to teach them the art of critical thinking. Every TV show, movie, advertisement, and song is selling a worldview. "A worldview," explains team member David Starbuck, "is the basic set of beliefs by which we explain our world and live our lives." David is a lifelong Memphian and the son of Open Door's pastor, Gary Starbuck. Using multimedia, skits, small groups, lecture, and discussion, those attending were challenged to understand and engage a culture that is often antagonistic to the biblical worldview.

Bryan College is an independent, coeducational, four-year, undergraduate Christian liberal arts college located in Dayton, TN. In the past year, over 2,000 people in 11 states have learned to better understand their world through these seminars. The congregation at Open Door Bible Church was pleased to host this fine group.



*New!* Neighborhood  
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## SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM

Southwest Tennessee Community College is offering short-term seminars to provide start-up guidance for aspiring entrepreneurs and help existing owners manage and grow their businesses. Classes are affordable and are held on both campuses at times convenient for business owners and others who are employed.

Summer 2004 course offerings are the following:

- Essentials for Business Start-Up
- Developing a Successful Business Plan
- Advanced Business Planning
- Accounting Fundamentals for Small Business
- Financial Analysis for Non-Accountants
- Building a Success Marketing Plan
- Creative Marketing for Small Business
- Strategic Management for Small Business
- Developing Great Customer Relations
- Effective Managing and Supervising for New Managers

Those who complete three courses in the series will have an opportunity to be considered for a small business loan. Call Deborah Reed at 901-333-4592, or check on-line at [www.southwest.tn.edu](http://www.southwest.tn.edu).

## DECORATING ON A BUDGET

by Gloria Fulton (901-272-3845)

Here are some ideas I have collected and used to achieve style and flair on a limited budget.

- You can upholster a small stool or bench with jeans you no longer use by cutting them up and painting acrylic paint on the seam. Pre-teens and teens love this look in their rooms.
- Take a vintage dress or skirt apart and make pillows for your sofa or chair. You can also use beaded dresses or full skirts.
- Sponge-paint a floor cloth and you have instant color on your floor.
- Use someone else's discarded shutters as a canvas for a stylized painting.
- To make a picture in a hurry, staple scenic fabric into an old frame and hang it on the wall.
- Tie-dye your old curtains, add beads, and create instant pizzazz.
- The combination of silk and denim can make a pleasing and inexpensive window treatment.
- Make a simple window treatment by painting on canvas and then hanging it on a rod.
- For a simple valence, cut fabrics into rectangles of varying lengths, arrange according to colors or themes, and mount on a rod.
- Personalize a light switch plate by writing your child's name on it. (Remove the cover first.)

Have fun!



## ASK THE PLUMBER

by Tim Hawk, master plumber (901-274-5242)

Testing is a big part of plumbing. Pinpointing a problem saves time and money. The infamous toilet has many moving parts, and a leaking toilet can run constantly and cost many dollars.

This month's test is called the tank-to-bowl check. Take any food color (sold at your local grocery store, for cakes, etc.). Open the toilet tank (behind and usually above the seat), pour in enough food color to noticeably change the color. Wait about twenty minutes and then raise the lid of the toilet bowl. If the water in the bowl is still clear, you have no leak; if the water in the bowl is colored, you have a leak.

The best plumber to call will have good references and is one your friends and neighbors use and trust.

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276-1412



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**Want to be in the heart of Vollintine-Evergreen?**  
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## YARD OF THE MONTH HONOREES!

Congratulations to these honorees! Please drive by and admire these homes. If you would like to nominate a house for Yard of the Month, please email us at: [vehistoric@yahoo.com](mailto:vehistoric@yahoo.com) or call 278-9838.

March's yard of the month winner is Susan Ellis of 1859 Mignon. Buttercups along the walkway provided some early spring color. A nice mix of evergreens such as junipers, pampas grass, English ivy, azaleas, boxwoods and monkey grass make her yard look great even in winter. Later on, roses and hydrangeas will provide color. Susan has a great variety of trees. There's a towering oak tree providing shade while smaller ornamental trees such as cherry, dogwood, Japanese maple, cedar and apple trees add color. The cherry tree, a gift from her brother, is from the tidal basin in Washington D.C.

### MARCH — 1859 MIGNON



### APRIL — 1439 FAXON



April's yard of the month winner is Carol Warren of 1439 Faxon Avenue. Carol used a landscape designer, Tom Pellett, to help design this beautiful landscape. After losing an oak tree to old age, Carol installed a pond in the resulting hole. Outdoor furniture by the pond gives her a great spot to enjoy the sound of water and socialize with neighbors. Her landscape is a good example of a historical garden from the Arts and Craft era in its use of local materials, its informality and its blending of house and garden. Arkansas flagstone was used for walkways and for terracing. A dogwood, jasmine and azaleas are currently showing off. Her yard has a nice mixture of whimsical garden art, flowers, herbs and trees. This beautiful tree-lined section of Faxon features many great homes and yards so check it out and you're sure to get some great ideas for your yard.

## 2004 HOME TOUR A SUCCESS IN SPITE OF RAIN

Even with a cloudy and rainy day, over 300 people attended our 6th neighborhood Home Tour on Sunday, April 25. The tour began at St. John Orthodox Church, where they served free refreshments after showing off their colorful, handpainted icons depicting images of saints including St. Seraphim of Sarov.

Visitors rode the free trolley and listened to a host tell about the interesting architecture along the way to four homes: 1881 Lyndale, 1921 Lyndale, 1946 Lyndale and 861 University. Special thanks to the Historic Committee for doing a wonderful job with this year's Home Tour and making it a success in spite of the rain.

Thanks to the Block Clubs for coordinating the free home workshops at the church where visitors learned How to Decorate on a Budget, Stained Glass Windows, Plumbing Problems and Critter Control.



**VECA NEEDS MEMBERS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, 1680 JACKSON AVENUE, MEMPHIS, TN 38107

**I'M INTERESTED IN:**

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

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$10, \$20 OR \$35 PER YEAR**

AND ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE; ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO VECA CDC MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

**PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:**

- \$10 dues, Individual
- \$20 dues (household), 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 
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**VECA**

**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, Springdale 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.