

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

## N E W S

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

Volume XXXII, Number 3

JULY 2006

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 1

by Gloria Fulton Singleton

At 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, a candlelight vigil will be held at the VECA office in honor of National Night Out.

The Block Club Committee will host the event again, after last year's success. Neighbors will gather in front of the office and pray for our children, family, friends, schools, and community. Free refreshments will be served afterward, and Neighbors for Trees will continue its ice cream sundae with toppings fundraiser. If you have any questions, call 276-1782.

## GREENLINE ANNIVERSARY

Your V&E Greenline will be ten years old on November 11, 2006. The day will be used to celebrate the anniversary and to dedicate both the new stationhouse and Keeler Bridge.

The V&E Greenline Committee has an enormous number of photographs starting in 1995. But there are very few photographs before that time. Please let us borrow some of your photographs and we will return them after scanning.

Please also send us your personal comments about the L&N Railroad when it ran through the neighborhood. Or record your memories of when the railroad abandoned the route and the time after that when the route was a weed-choked dumping ground.

Drop your information at the VECA office, 1680 Jackson Avenue, or email to [VEGreenline@vecacdc.org](mailto:VEGreenline@vecacdc.org).

## GREENLINE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The V&E Greenline is a community park and walking trail, 1.7 miles long, which goes from Springdale in the east to Watkins in the west. It once was an abandoned railroad track. This no-man's land was bought by the neighborhood in 1995 and, through the work of tireless and dedicated volunteers, has been converted into an award winning "linear urban sanctuary." It has received national recognition, including "Trail of the Month" by the organization Rails-to-Trails.

The big plan for this year is to complete a "Stationhouse," currently under construction just west of Dickinson. Plans for the future do not include other man-made improvements. Rather, we envision the area to remain a peaceful natural habitat for wildlife and a place to engage in quiet recreation. Part of the Greenline will soon be a designated arboretum.

Money donations are tax deductible and are needed for Stationhouse construction and upkeep. Any amount, large or small, is appreciated.

We also need maintenance volunteers who can "adopt" one of the designated Greenline entrances, pick up any litter, empty the litter barrels, and weed-eat around the signs. The more people share in upkeep activities, the less there is for one person to do. The East End on Springdale especially needs help, and so does the West End between Stonewall and Watkins.

Your property does not have to be adjacent to any part of the Greenline for you to participate. Some of our most active volunteers live elsewhere in the neighborhood. All that is required is a love for nature and a desire to be part of a worthwhile project in our own back yard.

Meetings are open to all. Come join us at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month (other than July and December), usually at the VECA office on Jackson and Belvedere.

For more information, please visit our web site at [www.vegreenline.org](http://www.vegreenline.org) or call the VECA office at 276-1782.

## 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.



National Night Out	August 1
Forest Faire	October (TBA)
VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 22, 2007 (TBA)
Historic Committee (various locations; call office)	second Monday monthly, 7:00 p.m.
Neighborhood Preservation Committee	fourth 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
Neighbors for Trees	third Tuesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
V&E Greenline Committee	third Tuesday monthly, 6:30 p.m. (but not July or December)
Housing Committee	second Wednesday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
Commercial Revitalization Committee	call office to help
Managing Committee	last Monday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
VENews deadlines	August 8, October 3, November 27
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	first Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	August 7, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	September 11, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



## FOR SALE BY VECA CDC

### New construction

1902 Vollintine  
and three more houses soon (lots are being acquired now)  
Contact Steve Gadbois or Ruth Gibson of VECA CDC at 276-1782.

### Current renovations

1810 Hunter  
Contact Judith Johnson of Crye-Leike Realty at 603-0054.

## VISIT VECA'S WEBSITES



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

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

## VECA & VECA CDC STAFF

Corinthia Davis,  
Accounting Consultant

Steve Gadbois, Executive Director  
(gadbois@vecacdc.org)

Ruth Gibson, Homeowner  
Counselor and Office Manager  
(wruth@vecacdc.org)

Vernua Hanrahan,  
YouthBuild Program Manager  
(vh1956@bellsouth.net)

Dana Hendrick,  
YouthBuild Apprentice Coordinator

Joe Kerley,  
YouthBuild Construction Manager

## VOLLINTINE - EVERGREEN

**N E W S**

1680 JACKSON AVENUE • MEMPHIS, TN 38107

Coordinating Editor ..... Nedra Bailey

Graphic Designer ..... Sherry Henson

Printer ..... Diamond Printing Company

Distribution..... Fredha Feaster

Submissions can be submitted on paper (even handwritten),  
on disk, or by email to: [veca@vecacdc.org](mailto:veca@vecacdc.org)

276-1782 phone • 276-1784 fax

email: [veca@vecacdc.org](mailto:veca@vecacdc.org) and  
[vecacdc@vecacdc.org](mailto:vecacdc@vecacdc.org)

## NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Volunteers are needed! The Neighborhood Preservation Committee (formerly Code Enforcement Committee) is looking for volunteers to help preserve the Vollintine-Evergreen community by ensuring that residents understand and follow the neighborhood standards and City of Memphis ordinances. Common complaints received by the committee include litter, parking on the lawn, and high weeds/grass. Please join the committee monthly on the fourth Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the VECA office. Also, complaints for specific properties may be submitted to the VECA office.

## NOW OPEN

Hello Midtown and adjoining areas! Opened in early June, R & R's Attic is a thrift store with yard sale prices, located at 1690 Jackson Avenue, right next to the VECA office.

Come one, come all, get those great prices on all those things you need the most. Of course there will be a nice selection of antique furniture and vintage clothing for everyone. R & R's Attic will also offer special order flower arrangements and furniture reupholstering and refinishing.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

This list of phone numbers, email addresses, and websites will become a regular feature in this newsletter if readers find it useful. Suggestions (including additions and corrections) from readers are welcome.

VECA office	276-1782, <a href="mailto:vecacdc@vecacdc.org">vecacdc@vecacdc.org</a>
Mayor's Citizens Service Center	576-6500
Property Code Enforcement	576-7380
<a href="http://www.memphistn.gov/HCDWeb/content/reportcomplaint.aspx">www.memphistn.gov/HCDWeb/content/reportcomplaint.aspx</a>	
Construction Code Enforcement	379-4200
Police North Precinct (north of Jackson)	377-3700
Police West Precinct (south of Jackson)	274-7012
Memphis Mayor's Office	576-6000
Memphis City Council	576-6786
Center for Neighborhoods	526-6627
Housing and Community Development	576-7300
Planning and Development	576-7197
Public Works	576-6742
Environmental Maintenance (sanitary sewers)	529-8025
Drain Maintenance (stormwater sewers)	357-0100
Memphis City School Board	416-5300
Cypress Middle School	416-4624
Snowden School	416-4621
Vollentine Elementary School	416-4632
Memphis Shelby County Health Department	544-7600
Shelby County Mayor's Office	545-4500
Shelby County Commission	545-4301
Shelby County Assessor of Property	379-7333
U.S. Rep Harold Ford, Jr.	544-4131
Memphis Area Legal Services	432-4663
Memphis Light Gas and Water	544-6549

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## UNITED WAY DONORS

VECA CDC is one of many worthy nonprofits/charities that benefit from donations to United Way. Some of you make unrestricted donations to United Way, which then decides how best to allocate those funds. Others of you make a "directed gift" to United Way for a specific agency of your choice. (VECA CDC's United Way donor number is 5377.)

If you have donated or currently donate to United Way in the form of a directed gift for VECA CDC, we would like to know, so that we can anticipate that funding and follow up if somehow it is not received.

## FINDING YOUR VOTING SITE

The Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood is divided between five different voting precincts. At this time, the boundaries are as follows:

Precinct 36-01	north of North Parkway and south of the V&E Greenline
Precinct 36-02	south of Vollintine and north of both Jackson and the V&E Greenline
Precinct 36-03	south of Jackson and north of the V&E Greenline
Precinct 40-02	north of Vollintine and west of Evergreen
Precinct 41-02	north of Vollintine and east of Evergreen

If you wish to check the on-line precinct locator, go to [www.shelbyvote.com](http://www.shelbyvote.com) and simply enter your home address. You'll find out your voting site and your various city, county, state, and federal districts.

On regular voting days, you must vote at your designated regular voting site, but if you take advantage of the extended early voting period, you may vote at any early voting site in Memphis.

## U.S. DREAM ACADEMY NEEDS MENTORS

It is estimated that on any given day over 10,000 Memphis-area children have a parent in prison. There is a tragic deficit of caring, responsible adults in the lives of these young people, but aggressive intervention by strong, caring adults, can stop the cycle of multi-generational involvement in the criminal justice system. There is no group in greater need for assistance or profoundly compelling than the children of incarcerated parents.

Since 1998, the U.S. Dream Academy has provided academic remediation and mentoring programs to America's most vulnerable children. Recently expanding to Memphis, the U.S. Dream Academy offers site-based mentoring to children of prisoners at the Hollywood Community Center and other sites. The U.S. Dream Academy program is unique because mentors receive extensive training and meet with their children at one site each week where program staff offer a skills building activity. Mentors do not go to children's homes or transport them on their own.

Mentoring helps prepare youth to make positive choices for the future. The U.S. Dream Academy needs mentors. We are asking for a commitment of one hour a week for one year. Please call 901-380-9610 if you are able to make a commitment to a child and a pledge for a better Memphis.

## CAUTIONARY TALE OF TRASH DUMPSTER BURGLARY

At least two trash dumpster burglaries have occurred in Vollintine-Evergreen recently. One took place at a home on University. A big green City of Memphis trash dumpster was the means used to transport the stolen goods, which included a TV and computer, items that would have been obvious had they been carried. The burglary took place in the early afternoon, and the burglars, after filling the dumpster with loot, rolled the "getaway vehicle" down the street in open view of anyone who happened to notice. A neighbor did notice, and as soon as she realized what was going on, called the police. Unfortunately, they arrived too late to catch those who did it.

About two weeks later, two young men were ambling down the sidewalk with - you guessed it - a dumpster! The same neighbor was on her porch again and asked the boys whose dumpster they had. "Ours," was their lame response, to which she replied, "I don't think so!" Fearing they might be caught, the boys accelerated the dumpster until tipped over with a bang! - contents spilling out. Grabbing an item, they took off with two neighbors in pursuit. They left behind a computer, which the police later returned to the owner who apparently lived blocks away on Lyndale.

According to Officer Kligel at the Memphis Police Department, to discourage dumpsters from being used as getaway vehicles, residents can keep them out of reach behind locked gates or chained up. This, with other steps like having a house alarm, a dog, security signs, window locks and bars, and locking doors, can help deter such crimes. Officer Kligel also recommends that neighbors be aware of who is in the neighborhood and what they are doing. If you see someone suspicious traveling with a dumpster, call the police at 545-2677 (545-COPS). If you think you are witnessing a crime, call 911. Get a good description of the individual(s), and note where they are going so you can tell the police.

2006 HOME TOUR AND FESTIVAL



YARD OF THE MONTH HONOREES!

Congratulations! Please drive by and admire the Yards of the Month. 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 — 1900 JACKSON AVENUE

March's yard of the month winners are Chuck Dille and Randall Paxton of 1900 Jackson. Chuck, a professional architect, designed the front yard which includes a very convenient circular drive. Their yard includes crepe myrtles, silver king euonymus, boxwoods and monkey grass. During the growing season, they have urns full of colorful plants on the front porch. They also planted crepe myrtles in the median to replace some of the trees that were lost to storms.



APRIL — 850 N. AVALON STREET

April's yard of the month winners are Dolly Pierantoni and her daughter Anita of 850 N. Avalon. April is prime time for azaleas and their yard is full of them in spectacular color. Dolly planted these azaleas in 1944 when she lived on another street. She transplanted them when her family moved to this house in 1972. They grow roses in their back yard and Dolly is an honorary member of the Memphis Rose Society. In addition to this honor, she was honored as Outstanding Italian in 2005 by the Holy Rosary Men's Club at the Memphis Italian Festival.

MAY — 1941 SNOWDEN AVENUE

May's yard of the month winners are Lawrence George and S.D. Brandon of 1941 Snowden Avenue. When Lawrence and S.D. were looking for a house 3 years ago, they were given a list of 86 available houses and they ranked their house last. But they decided to look at it anyway and saw a lot of potential so they purchased. As soon as they moved in, they started adding curb appeal. They had the house painted and Lawrence created flower beds. The results were dramatic. The most striking plants in their yard are the rose bushes along the side of their front yard that are covered with hundreds of pink blooms.



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**THE MED**

**THANK YOU!**

VECA neighborhood for your enthusiastic response to our fund raising campaign associated with the Elvis License Plate application that was included in the March issue of The Vollintine Evergreen Newsletter. Applications for the plate are still available online at [www.elvislp.com](http://www.elvislp.com) or by calling the MED Foundation Office at 545-8372.

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Weekdays  
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Saturday Great Vespers at 7 pm

1663 Tutwiler Avenue at Dickinson  
(901) 274-4119



## All Saints Presbyterian Church

5pm Sundays  
on the corner of Peabody & Mclean

*So long as man remains free he strives for  
nothing so incessantly and so painfully as  
to find someone to worship.*

-Fyodor Dostoevsky

## Little Flower Primary School

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 9:30 am Church School • 10:55 am Worship  
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## St. Therese Little Flower Catholic Community Jackson at Belvedere

**Sunday Eucharists**  
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday Vigil Mass** – 4:30 p.m.  
**Tues. and Thurs. Mass** – 5:30 p.m.  
**Wed. and Fri. Mass** – 8:15 a.m.

**Saturday Confession** – 3:45 - 4:15 p.m.

276-1412



"All Are Welcome"

## OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH

1792 North Parkway  
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 Sunday Services: 10:45 am and 6:00 pm

"A common people  
with an uncommon love"

## BATTLING BUGS MAY DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD

*contributed by Andy Williams, Manager, Lichterman Nature Center*

Summer is here, and along with the hot weather and sunshine, people are seeing and feeling more insects. While some insects actually help your garden, others can do a lot of damage. Most of the time, people battle these pesky critters with a barrage of pesticides. But the heavy use of pesticides can do more harm than good. While they do help get rid of unwanted insects, pesticides can also lead to environmental problems. The chemicals many people use on their lawn can end up in Memphis-area streams such as Cypress Creek, the Wolf River, and Nonconnah Creek in the form of runoff pollution.

Pesticides are toxic chemicals that can severely harm humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants. When it rains, the excess pesticides wash down lawns and driveways, into the streets and down the storm drains. Once down the storm drain, the untreated toxins flow into concrete channels and eventually end up in local bodies of water such as the Wolf River or McKellar Lake. Once pesticides are in the streams, they are directly toxic to aquatic wildlife and can accumulate in the food chain.

Keep the following tips in mind when treating for insect problems:

- Use a pesticide that is specifically designed to control the pest. The insect should be listed on the label.
- Approximately 90 percent of the insects that live in your lawn and garden are not harmful.
- Read labels carefully. Use products only as directed. In their zeal to control the problem, many gardeners use pesticides at more than 20 times the recommended rate.
- When disposing of empty pesticide containers, rinse the container and use the water as you would the product.
- Explore alternative pest control methods such as using traps, or biological controls like predatory insects and bacterial insecticides.

### Rules of Thumb for Herbicide Use

It is a jungle out there, or so it seems that way when weeds start growing in yards and driveways. But, a jungle of weeds is not as bad as careless and excessive herbicide use that can cause irreversible damage to the environment. Herbicides are used to kill weeds and plants and contain toxic materials that pose both environmental and human health risks. Humans, animals, aquatic organisms, and plants can be severely harmed by these toxic chemicals.

However, if herbicides are needed, here are a few tips for avoiding herbicide runoff:

- Always read and follow the product's directions.
- Apply the minimum amount necessary.
- Never apply herbicides when a heavy rain is anticipated. Avoid spraying chemicals on a windy day, and make sure the area has dried thoroughly before letting children and pets play on the grass.
- Avoid spilling or spraying excess herbicides onto the surrounding paved sidewalks or driveways. The herbicides cannot be absorbed into the ground and will wash down the storm drain when it rains. If you do spill herbicides, sweep them up, do not wash them into the streets.
- Dispose of excess herbicides at one of the Household Hazardous Waste collection events.

For more information about storm water pollution and how to keep our environment clean, call the storm water action team at 529-0237.


*This is your invitation to*  
**McLean Baptist Church**  
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**VECA NEEDS MEMBERS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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




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

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

**I'M INTERESTED IN: PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:**

- 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**  
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- \$10 dues, Individual  
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 \$35 dues, Gold Star Heritage members receive their choice of bumper sticker and the Historic Designation Plaque.
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 Bumper Sticker B   
 Historic Designation Plaque 
- Please make checks payable to VECA


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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.