

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

N E W S

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

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JANUARY 2007

VECA'S ANNUAL MEETING: JANUARY 22

The year 2007 will provide Vollintine-Evergreen residents with many different opportunities to get together – some exciting new events and some well-established traditions. The oldest tradition is VECA's annual meeting, to be held this year on Monday, January 22. We'll meet at the Cathedral of Faith located at 2212 Jackson Avenue (at Springdale Street). Rev. Calvin Booker and his congregation have done a splendid job in completely restoring this church building, after it burned several years ago. Off-street parking is available in two places: immediately behind the church and directly across Springdale Street.

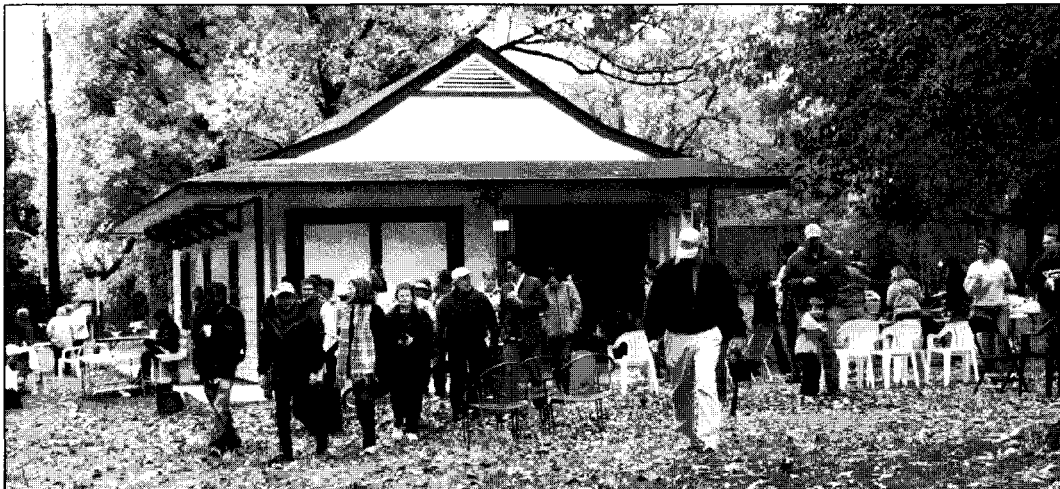
The block club committee will host a potluck social hour starting at 6:00 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. There will be brief updates from various committees, elections of board members and officers, and the presentation of VECA's three awards (Dichtel, Borys, and Heinemann). All are welcome!

FOREST FAIRE AND GREENLINE ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday, November 11, over 200 people braved the cold to gather at the neighborhood's new Greenline Stationhouse. The date marked the 10th anniversary of the neighborhood's purchase of the former L&N railroad bed, now the V&E Greenline.

The new Stationhouse was dedicated, as was nearby Keeler Bridge. Neighbors for Trees also put together its second Forest Faire, a special program featuring Trees by Touliatos and Mid-South Trees, as well as several groups with an environmental theme.

We were fortunate to have gotten electricity in the stationhouse just the day before, allowing us to escape the cold as needed. This was the first big event at the Stationhouse – there will be many more.



THE MARGARET DICHTEL AWARD

Margaret Dichtel was one of the founding members of VECA and its first president. She strongly believed that neighbors working in a community organization could accomplish together what they as individuals or government could not. Her faith in the value of neighboring and the importance of grassroots community action remains the VECA philosophy.

The Margaret Dichtel Award is presented annually to a Vollintine-Evergreen resident and VECA member who embodies the principles of neighboring and community action. There is no specific length of membership required and the awardee need not be an officer. The awardee will be an individual who strengthens relationships between community members, tackles problems that threaten the integrity of the community, makes the neighborhood a better place to live, improves VECA's image city-wide, and demonstrates a commitment to the neighborhood and the concept of a neighborhood.

Each nomination must be by a current dues-paying member of VECA and should consist of a letter stating the candidate's contributions and achievements. Send nominations by January 12 to the Nominating Committee, care of the VECA office.

Dichtel Award

1988	Martha Heinemann
1990	Julie Borys
1991	Mike Kirby
1993	Mary Wilder
1995	Willette Gray & Gloria Singleton
1996	Rhodes College & Terry Circle Block Club
1997	Linda Nichols
1998	Steve Gadbois
1999	Charlotte & Pete Swailes
2000	Sherry Henson & Belinda Kersch
2001	Bill Rehberg
2002	Tom Fagan
2003	Fredha Feaster
2004	Craig Jordan & Len Cobb
2005	Betty Johnson
2007	???



THE RICHARD BORYS AWARD

Richard Borys moved to the Vollintine-Evergreen community in 1975 and served on various committees in the early years of the organization. Despite dying young at the age of 44, Dick's life was an example of public service. Dick came to Memphis as a VISTA volunteer. He helped design and start the Memphis City and Shelby County Pre Trial Release Program. In 1976 he was awarded the outstanding service award from the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association for his contributions to the Criminal Justice System. At the time of his death Dick was a vice president at the Regional Medical Center ("The Med").

Dick was active with his children in soccer, coaching up to three teams at a time. He was a member St. Therese Little Flower Church, located at the center of the Vollintine-Evergreen community. Richard Borys served the community in his work, in the neighborhood, at church, and through his children, Claire, Alex and Pete. Dick's wife Julie M. Borys still resides in Vollintine-Evergreen and has served as VECA president, on the VECA CDC Board of Directors, and as active volunteer over the years.

The Richard S. Borys Award was created to recognize 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.

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Borys Award

1991	Steve Shular
1992	Vernua Hanrahan
1995	Janis Foster
1996	William Stemmler
1997	Charles Cook
1998	Barbara Swearngen Holt
1999	Carol Chumney
2000	Wayne Risher
2001	Charles Granderson
2002	Don Campbell
2003	Rickey Peete
2004	Will & Rob Keeler
2005	Twarla Guest
2007	???

THE MARTHA HEINEMANN AWARD

Martha Heinemann grew up in Hot Springs, Arkansas, graduated from Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College) in biology, and earned her Masters degree from University of Arkansas in biochemistry. She was a research chemist at the University of Tennessee and the Veterans Administration hospital. Besides her volunteer work with VECA, Martha was associated with Rhodes Alumni, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Brooks Museum, and the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

The Heinemann Award honors a Board member who has rendered exceptional service to either the VECA Board or the VECA CDC Board. The Nominating Committee will select one winner from either Board.

Each nomination must be by a current dues-paying member of VECA and should consist of a letter stating the candidate's contributions and achievements. Send nominations by January 12 to the Nominating Committee, care of the VECA office.

Heinemann Award

2003	Janis Cannon
2004	Helen Johnson
2005	Tom McGowan
2007	???



Rich Beckwith, Memphis City Park Services, planting tree (above) and with Andrée Glenn (right) at the Forest Faire on November 11.

FURNACE TIPS

by Kim Wegenke, Sierra HVAC

Cool weather is here. It is time for your annual furnace inspection. What should an inspection involve?

- A technician will check the pressure regulator inside the gas valve. If the gas pressure is out of calibration it cost you extra money during the heating season. It could also shorten the life of your furnace.
- The technician will check all the safeties on your furnace. Modern furnaces are loaded with safety devices.
- The technician will check the heat exchanger for holes. The heat exchanger separates the hot combustion gases in the furnace from the air in the house, but still allows the air from the house to be heated. Holes could cause carbon monoxide to enter your home. Even a little carbon monoxide can be dangerous. Low levels generally cause headaches or flu-like symptoms that go away when you leave the house. The symptoms return when you return to the house. Larger amounts can kill you. Holes in the heat exchanger could also cause the furnace to operate improperly. I have seen fires started because of heat exchanger holes.
- The technician could also find holes in your duct system or your furnace. These holes are the biggest drains on your heating dollars. Most people that have high utility bills have holes in their ducts. The plenum is the box that connects the round duct to the furnace. It is a common place for duct leaks. You can find many leaks yourself with a piece of incense. Just get a bright light and watch the smoke roll off the incense. Move the incense around the duct joints. It will be drawn to the holes. A roll of foil tape from your favorite hardware store could save you hundreds of dollars. Foil tape can seal those leaks if applied right, but it usually comes loose or breaks over time. Duct mastic or caulk is a more permanent solution, but is messy to apply. If it has been a while since your furnace was inspected, have a pro look at it. There is no telling what an experienced eye can see on your furnace. I could fill a book with the things I have seen during furnace inspections.



CYPRESS CREEK MEETINGS

by Steve Gadbois

Residents living near Cypress Creek had two opportunities in August 2006 to hear about developments related to the creek and to ask questions of various officials.

On August 8, a public meeting was conducted by state of Tennessee officials. Yvonne Madlock of the Memphis Shelby County Health department was moderator. Officials from the Department of Health (TDH) presented results of their health consultation for sub-area III (the stretch of Cypress Creek from Jackson Avenue downstream to Evergreen Street), and officials from Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) presented details of its regulation of Cypress Creek. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was also represented. The results focused on past contamination attributable to, and current cleanup begun by, Velsicol Chemical Corporation (VCC). As TDH's Bonnie Bashor explained, four parties – TDH, TDEC, EPA, and VCC – used different methodologies to reach the same basic conclusion: complete cleanup should be offered to all residents of houses having a level of the pesticide dieldrin above 2.5 parts per million, while those houses having lower levels are safe.

In 2005's "phase 1" of the cleanup, 12 houses were identified. Three of those 12 were cleaned up, while owners of the other nine did not allow access. (Two clean ups were on Edward Avenue, and the other was on Vollintine Cove.) In the next "phase 2" of the cleanup, 6 more houses (for a total of 18) have been identified as eligible for cleanup.

Each cleanup is funded entirely by Velsicol, and consists of the removal of over a foot of soil from the entire yard adjacent to the creek. After installing an orange membrane to mark the bottom of the excavation, new clean soil is

brought in, and all grass, landscaping, fences, and outbuildings are completely restored or replaced. The soil removed is taken to a specially-prepared containment site at Velsicol's plant on Warford Road north of Jackson Avenue. Trucks transporting the soil are kept very clean, dust at each yard is kept to a minimum using water sprays, and sampling is done at each yard to confirm that there is no detectible contamination of the air.

Two nights later, on August 10, officials from Velsicol held a "permit modification" meeting, required by the state because Velsicol is seeking to make the storage of contaminated soil at the containment site at Velsicol's plant a permanent measure, rather than an interim measure. Kim Harper of WLOK radio was moderator. Speakers included Gary Hermann, Chuck Hanson, and Donna Jennings for Velsicol, as well as toxicologist Chris Saranko of GeoSyntec Consultants. There was an overview of the risk assessment process, a review of involvement by various regulatory agencies, a description of how properties to be cleaned up were identified, and a description of the clean up process.

Public comments in writing were invited at both meetings. Besides the local and state officials, we were fortunate to have in attendance several elected officials, including City Council members Myron Lowrey and Barbara Swearingen Holt, State Representative Beverly Marrero, and Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton. After attending both meetings, Councilman Lowery publicly expressed his support for the process, even if it has taken longer than everyone would have liked. Mr. Lowrey felt somewhat reassured that several different agencies had reached the same basic conclusion, and he was hopeful that the cleanup could now proceed quickly and would be adequate.



Chuck Fox, Sam Findley, Mary Wilder, and Matt Semko (Vollintine-Evergreen residents and Rhodes employees) and a Hein Park youngster staffing a water station for the St. Jude Marathon on December 2.

CITYWIDE PHOTO CONTEST

by Josh Whitehead, Coalition for Livable Communities

VECA has been chosen as one of 40 historic neighborhoods in Memphis to be invited to participate in a citywide photo contest that will showcase Memphis' unique historic architecture and city planning. VECA, like its peers in North Memphis, South Memphis, Midtown and Downtown, features an urban design developed prior to World War II that has regained popularity. Houses with large front porches. Courtyard apartment buildings along collector streets. Corner stores located in the heart of neighborhoods. Streets designed for the automobile and the pedestrian.

In 2002, Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton initiated a process that will completely retool the Shelby County Code of Ordinances so that it encourages a more balanced approach to development in the county. The Coalition for Livable Communities (CLC) invites the residents of these neighborhoods to demonstrate the design characteristics of their communities through photography to ensure greater citizen participation in this important process

A photo exhibition that will feature those photographs that exemplify the architecture of city planning of Memphis' historic neighborhoods. We want to know what makes these places special. As such, residents of VECA are invited to submit photos that demonstrate: architectural features synonymous with a particular neighborhood; the relationship between street and buildings that make a neighborhood livable, and/or design features that make a neighborhood unique.



Please direct all questions and digital photos to Josh Whitehead at josh@livablememphis.org and hard copies to Photo Contest, Coalition for Livable Communities, 1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104. Photographers should include their name, phone number, and comments on how their photos are representative of their neighborhood's design. Photographs will be posted online at www.livablememphis.org. The date and time of the photo exhibition will be announced in a forthcoming newsletter article.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS

by John Blaisdell, Rhodes College Director of Campus Safety

Rhodes College strives to be a good neighbor. However, it is recognized that students living off campus can at times impact our neighbors. The College has outlined the following steps to be taken when student behavior impacts the surrounding neighborhoods:

- Rhodes will work with any neighbor wishing to file a complaint against a Rhodes student or students for conduct violating the Rhodes College Student Handbook. Complainants may contact Carol Casey, advisor to the Social Regulations Council (SRC), at casey@rhodes.edu. The SRC is the judicial board charged with investigating alleged violations of the Standards of the Rhodes community. When a hearing is convened, complainants may be in attendance to present information and respond to questions from the Council and the accused student(s).
- Rhodes will address neighborhood concerns in writing with landlords of Rhodes students when warranted.
- Rhodes will send letters to all students residing off campus and their parents, addressing on-going concerns in the neighborhood when warranted.
- Rhodes will send letters to all students choosing to live off campus and their parents, regarding types of accommodations that offer best off-campus housing options for students wishing to commute.
- Rhodes will work closely with Memphis Code Enforcement officials to educate students on expectations for living off campus and resolution of any concerns that may arise.
- Rhodes will continue to work with the Memphis Police Department in making the neighborhood safe and comfortable for all residents.
- Rhodes will consult with neighborhood groups and arrange for social events to engage students and neighbors when warranted.

Upcoming Meetings & Schedules

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

VECA Block Club Reception & General Membership Meeting	January 22 (Cathedral of Faith)
V&E Greenline Yard Sale	TBA
Summer Jubilee Ice Cream Social	June 24 (Greenline)
Forest Faire on the V&E Greenline	October 27 (Stationhouse)
Neighborhood Preservation Committee	Fourth Thursday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Block Club Committee	First Monday monthly, 6:00 p.m.
Crime Prevention Committee	Being formed; call office to help
Cypress Creek Committee	Call office
Historic Committee	Call office
Youth Committee	Call office
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
Managing Committee	Last Monday monthly, 5:30 p.m.
VENews deadlines	February 6, April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2, December 4
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	First Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	January 8, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	February 5, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
VECA CDC & VECA Boards	March 5, 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For Sale

By
VECA CDC

New Construction

\$89,900-\$99,900
1902 Vollintine (completed)
962 Maury (underway)
950 University (underway)
956 University (underway)


Contact Steve Gadbois
at 276-1782

Current Renovation

1522 Jackson Avenue

Contact Emily Trenholm
at 725-3124

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VECA & VECA CDC Staff

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